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## OUTER ISLES

### **LEWIS, AIRD MHOR BHRAGAIR, Arch Wall:**

*Sea an Enema* 20m E2 5c \*. G.Latter. 10th August 2005.

The overhanging right-slanting crack above the right end of the upper ledge (left of Children of the Sea).

### **Lagoon Wall:**

*Sleight of Hand* 20m E1 5b \*. G. & K.Latter. 10th August 2005.

The shallow hanging groove in the centre of the wall. Start up a short left-slanting crack, then the groove, finishing up an easy short crack above a ledge at the top.

### **UIG SEA CLIFFS, AIRD UIG AREA, Screaming Geo:**

*Whirlwind* 20m E8 6c \*\*. D.MacLeod. 6th May 2005.

The 'YY unclimbed crack' shown in the crag topo in the guide. The first section of crack up to the horizontal is serious with poor gear and snappy holds. Above, the climbing gets steadily harder towards the top but better protected, culminating in a tricky crux right at the top. F8a climbing and awesomely exposed. FA headpointed.

### **SANDRAY, The Galleries:**

The Galleries are situated at a geo on the south-west coast of Sandray (NL 635 909). There are three main walls described from the north. The Tait Gallery is the first tapering wall with many short routes. The Burrel Gallery is the next wall, reached by walking past the Tait. The back wall gains more height and is tidal towards the right side, where an inlet separates it from La Louvre. La Louvre is reached by descending to the south.

### **Tait Gallery:**

*Art Deco* 15m E2 5b. G.Lennox, K.Howett, G.Little. 1st May 1999.

Climb a groove to a roof below a flaky crack. Move right round the roof and back left to finish up the flaky crack.

*Art Nouveau* 15m E3 5b. G.Lennox, K.Howett, G.Little. 1st May 1999.

Climb to the small roof left of Art Deco. A thin crack on the right provides runners for moves up left to a good quartz jug. Finish straight up.

*Clean Sheet* 15m VS 4c. G.Lennox, K.Howett. 5th May 1999.

Climbs the wall right of the corner, moving out near the arête.

### **Burrel Gallery:**

*Finger Painting* 15m E3 5c \*. G. Lennox, K. Howett, G. Little. 2nd May 1999.

Climbs a short wall at the left end of the back wall. From the block ledge follow breaks up rightwards and make tentative moves up square edges.

*Muscular Art* 25m E6 6b \*\*\*. G.Lennox, K.Howett. 4th May 1999.

This spectacular route climbs up the largest section of the continuously overhanging back wall. Start where the lip of the cave is closest to the slab. Hard moves lead to a flared crack. This is climbed to a juggy ledge in the centre of the wall. Move out left and up to jugs. Climb up right passing a rounded edge and finish straight up.

*Pastiche* 35m E5 \*\* K.Howett, G.Lennox. 6th May 1999.

Abseil nutting in to gain the a small ledge towards the right edge of the back wall.

1. 15m 6a. Climb up left using breaks to gain the open groove above.
2. 20m 6a. Follow ledges rightwards to the arête. Climb this and then the right wall on big holds.

### **La Louvre:**

*Tormented Textures* 20m E4 5c \*\*\*. G.Lennox, K.Howett. 2nd May 1999.

Climb up the rounded grey wall, following a crack which becomes a corner before the roof. Pull over the roof and climb the orange wall above.

### **Creag Mhor:**

Creag Mhor is a long cliff on the west side of the south-west tip of the island (NL 639 903). The routes described are situated towards the north end of this cliff, where the rock is cleaner. The first routes are approached by descending

slabs from the north which run round the base of the cliff. Farther south the routes must be approached by abseil. The crag reaches only approximately 50m above the sea, but many of the routes involve significant amounts of traversing to turn the many roofs and overhangs. The following three routes are situated on the initial wall above the descent slabs, before the start of the huge cave.

*Creag's Big Break* 25m E3 5c \*\*. C.Adam, G.Lennox. 25th July 2005.

Start right of the blocky corner at the far left of the wall. Gain the obvious break and climb this almost to its end before pulling up rightwards across to and up a right-facing corner. (Think this route was climbed previously by Kev Howett).

*Nurse Ratchitt* 13m E4 6b \*. C.Adam, G.Lennox. 25th July 2005.

Start as for Creag's Big Break to gain the start of the break. Layback up to holds leading left, then traverse right to a flake hold (crux). Climb up to the block and gain the ledge above. Finish straight up.

*Trap Door* 15m E6 6a/b \*\*. C.Adam, G.Lennox. 25th July 2005.

Climbs directly to Creag's Big Break, then finishes straight up the wall above. Start at a small right-facing corner and up on layaways with poor RPs on the right. Move up and right to more layaways and make committing balancy moves to gain the break (serious). Pull straight up to obvious jugs and follow the faint groove above with more balancy moves to a slight niche. Make a difficult move up and left to a good flat hold and pull through the short V-corner to finish (very run out).

*Crowbar Corner* 20m E1 5b \*\*. C.Adam, G.Lennox. 31st July 2005.

Climbs a black corner above the big cave. Abseil down to the hanging ledges. Traverse left, move diagonally left up a short wall to gain the black corner and finish up this passing some rattling flakes.

*Central Reservations* 20m E1 5b \*. C.Adam, G.Lennox. 26th July 2005.

Abseil down the central fault, nutting in to a birdy ledge. Climb a wide crack above the ledge and continue steeply up the fault on huge holds.

*Tangoed* 30m E5 6b \*\*\*. G.Lennox, C.Adam. 26th July 2005.

Abseil down the central fault, but continue to a semi-hanging stance above the lower overhangs. Climb up the fault and out to a spike on the left. Move up and left passing cracks through a black band to a shake-out flake in the centre of the wall. Climb up to the overlap and cross it rightwards to below another small overlap (crux). Turn the small overlap on the left and finish straight up.

*Pissin' in the Wind* 30m E4 6a \*\*\*. G.Lennox, C.Adam. 30th July 2005.

Follow Tangoed to the black band, then traverse left to the juggy ledges at the left arête. Move up and right to gain the thin cracks in the leaning headwall (crux). Finish up these.

*The Don Mac Highway* 30m E4 \*\*\*. C.Adam, G.Lennox. 27th July 2005.

Abseil down the central fault to the semi-hanging stance as for Tangoed.

1. 20m 6a. Climb the fault swinging out left to a large flake. Sling the flake and traverse horizontally left with difficulty and continue boldly to a good square jug. Step down to foot holds at the lip of the roof. Move left to gain a thin crack and climb this with difficulty to gain better holds. Continue up round the arête to a stance.
2. 10m 5c. Climb the bulging crack above.

*Orangoutang* 55m E6 \*\*\*\* G.Lennox, C.Adam. 27th July 2005.

Abseil down the main corner right of the southerly orange wall, nut in at the big slab and continue down to lower ledges (the abseil is 50m if rigged close to the edge, but a buried rock well back gives the best anchor).

1. 10m 5b. Traverse left along breaks for 10m to gain a semi-hanging stance at foot ledges.
2. 25m 6b. Take a rising leftwards fault heading towards an obvious block. Swing round this and continue in the same line to a second block and do the same. Move left and up to the main roof and climb through this rightwards. Pull through on the incredibly formed rock and climb up the birdy ledge of Central Reservations. A wildly steep pitch.
3. 20m 5c. Cut across the steep fault to a square roof, turn this on the left and continue up a steep groove at the right edge of the north orange wall.

*The Gift* 30m E5 6a \*\*\*. G.Lennox, C.Adam. 30th July 2005.

Abseil down the main corner and belay at the left end of the ledge. Traverse out left onto the south orange wall, then up to gain sloping ledges. Move up left to a line of edges. Follow these until they peter out. Make a move out right to a quartz hold and climb up to a pocket. Trend left to flakes, and finish more easily up to follow the huge break left.

*One Flew Over The Kittiwake's Nest* 55m E5 \*. C.Adam, G.Lennox. 29th July 2005.

An adventurous line weaving through the enormous roofs right of the main corner. Abseil down the main corner to the big birdy slab.

1. 20m 5b. Scramble up right across the birdy slab to a ledge and climb the break back left across the first roof. Move up to a stance.
2. 20m 5c. Traverse the grey wall rightwards to jugs on the arête where the roof above recedes. Climb up steeply to belay at a short corner in the black rock band, below the final capping roof (more belay anchors can be found in the harder yellow rock up right).
3. 15m 6b. Traverse left with increasing difficulty along a narrowing corridor, in an incredible situation, until the capping roof is passed.

**MINGULAY, Trevor's Hole:**

(NL 573 848) Alt. 40m SE-facing

A small sheltered cave which is a real suntrap, at the right end of a terrace.

**Approach:** Continue north along the coast past Haunted Geo, to scramble down the left end of a small band of crags to gain a terrace leading north to the base. 45mins from the beach.

*Liposuction* 20m E5 6a \*\*. T.Wood, G.Latter. 11th June 2005.

The prominent left-rising crack along the lip of the cave. Move in from the right using a dubious pegmatite lump to gain good flakes. Continue into the niche and some gear. "You should have shed a few pounds by now." Continue traversing to gain easier ground, then step left round the arête and finish direct on good holds. Descend by traversing off left.

**PABBAY, Pink Wall:**

*Huffin' 'n' Puffin* 75m E6 \*\*\*. T.Wood, G.Latter. 5th June 2005.

Another excellent sustained main pitch.

1. 30m 6b. Start up a short crack between The Bonxie and I Suppose a Cormorant's Out of the Question, Then? Climb the crack to a break, stand on this and reach a small flake. Make hard moves up the wall to reach another flake, then trend left following flakes. Atop the second flake/plinth, make hard moves up a shield to a break. Traverse left to the original hanging belay on The Bonxie.
2. 45m 6b. Follow The Bonxie until the jugs after the undercuts. Then direct through a black niche and bulges until below an obvious weakness. Pull through this on slopey holds (crux) and continue more easily to top.

**Note:** The Bonxie was climbed several times omitting the hanging belay at 25m, to give a superb sustained 35m pitch. First climbed this way by P.Thorburn and R.Campbell in June 2005. The grade remains at E6 6b,5c.

**Guarsay Mor – The Undercut Wall**

Between The South Pillar and Cobweb Wall, just left of the latter, is an impressive undercut wall, capped by a band of large roofs at the top, with a convenient non-tidal shelf at its base. Bird Restrictions. Routes at the left side are unaffected by birds, though the centre is heavily birded; avoid May to August.

**Note:** Rayburnt, E4 6a,6a,5b \*\*\* and Burning Desire, E5 5c,6b,5c,6a. Both take lines up this wall, the former starting up the fantastic right-facing corner bounding the left side, though the whereabouts of *Burning Desire* are still unknown, as the routes have never been formally recorded.

**Descent:** Make a 100m abseil, from a good block in a recess about 40m south of The South Pillar abseil point (in line with a smaller white stone 50m back from the edge), to gain the centre of the shelf at the base.

*Taking the Hump* 135m E5 6a \*\*\*. T.Wood, G.Latter. 10th June 2005.

A line breaching the centre of the wall, spectacularly breaking through the capping roofs.

1. 35m 6a. Climb a prominent right-facing capped groove. Break out right at a roof and continue up to a prominent horizontal break. Move up left through bulges and continue to a good ledge.
2. 35m 5c. Continue straight up to the first small roof, move right and follow a rising right-trending line to a commodious ledge.
3. 30m 5b. Continue right along the ledge until a weakness in the bulging wall. Climb this then move right to a block belay on a ledge below roofs.
4. 35m 6a. Pull through the roof using a quartz rail clump, then follow crazy runnels to a second roof. A long stretch reaches good holds. Continue to a third roof which is surmounted via a diagonal left-trending crack. Traverse right along an easy break (birdy!) under final large capping roofs past a lichenous yellow hanging corner. Climb a groove right of this on good holds to the top.

**Banded Geo:**

*Treasure Island* Mild VS 4b. J.Preston, G.Ettle. 7th June 2004.

Start midway between Silver Fox and Grey Cossack, below a small roof. Climb a black slabby wall to the roof (a ragged crack on the left). Pass the roof on the right and continue up to a superb flake-crack which is followed to the top.

**RUM, Barkeval, South Crag:**

**Note:** D.F.Lang and D.Guild climbed Broad Buttress from bottom right to top left, with a Severe exit up a slightly overhanging crack. The length was 150m not 120m as in the guidebook.

*Slab of Tranquillity* 130m Severe. D.F.Lang, D.Guild. 14th May 2005.

Descend an open grassy gully to the east of Honeycomb Arête and Aficionado to arrive at the base of an area of slabs.

1. 45m. Ascend a raised red coloured slab (with lower dark slabs either side). Climb directly to a triangular niche.
2. 35m. Exit the niche on the left and ascend a fault-line for 4m until able to gain the right-hand fault-line which is ascended passing two largish blocks. Go up a steeper groove, move left and up to large ledge with a conspicuous block at its extremity.
3. 50m. Continue scraggly to cross a grassy rake, ascend a prow and continue to finish near the top of Honeycomb Arête.

**MULL, Port Langamull:**

Take the B8073 west from Dervaig for about 5km. At a left-hand bend take a dirt road right (Forestry Commission signed) into the forest for approx. 2km. Go through a gate to a small parking area on the right just before a building at Langamull. Walk left down a track through three gates to the beach (10-15mins). Head north-east over a wide sandy area across a stream draining into the sea and over towards a small cliff-line that becomes visible. Head to a very large black rock in the sea. The climbs begin on the cliff behind this rock.

*Buttongrass Crack* 12m VS 4a. D.Eckstein, J.Croft. 1st September 2003.

Climb a right-facing corner to an awkward move as the crack veers right. Pass a large loose flake to a much larger flake on the right. Go up to the next ledge and the top.

*Ewan's View* 22m HVS. J.Croft, D.Eckstein. 1st September 2003.

Start right of a sharp nose.

1. 14m 5a. Pull up a steep wall and move into an S-shaped crack. Go up towards the slabby headwall, then traverse left around the nose to a good ledge.
2. 8m 4a. Move left and mantel up onto the corner of a large block, then continue easily to the top.

**Ardtun, Waterfall Wall:**

*Jimmy Heron* 20m E3 5c \*\*. G.Latter, C.Moody. 12th May 2005.

Climb the finger crack left of Little Red Rooster. Step right, then climb a bulging right-facing corner-crack.

**Ardtun, Yellow Block:**

*That's Horrible* 12m HVS 5a \*. C.Moody, C.Grindley. 15th October 2005.

The crack right of Caterpillar.

*Soaking Staffa* 12m HVS 5a \*. C.Moody, C.Grindley. 15th October 2005.

Start to the right and climb the left side of the short pinnacle, then the crack above with a bulge near the top.

*Rally Carnage* 12m E2 5c \*\*. C.Moody, C.Grindley. 15th October 2005.

Climb the crack on the right side of the short pinnacle to gain the top. Step right and climb an awkward finger crack, go over a bulge and finish at a chockstone.

Easy for the grade.

**Ardtun, The Blow Hole:**

*Kinetic* 9m VS 4b \*. C.Moody, C.Grindley. 6th August 2005.

The crack left of Kiribati.

*White Stuff* 12m E1 5b \*. C.Moody, C.Grindley. 29th June 2005.

The awkward finger-crack between Bunty's Ducks and Oot Ma Rays, going slightly left at the top bulge.

**Erraid, Asteroid Chasm:**

*Solar Collector* 20m E2 5b \*\*\*. C.Moody, C.Grindley. 7th August 2005.

Twin cracks up the corner across from Asteroid Groove. There is a big boulder at the start.

**Notes:** Space Traveller is 28m; Black Hole is 26m E1 5c (SMCJ 2003).

**IONA, Raven's Crag:**

**Note:** A large block has been moved to the start of Passage in the last two or three years changing the grade from VS 5a to VS 4b.

### **SGURR NA H-UAMHA:**

*Left Hand Route* 295m III. M.Shaw, D.Paterson. 30th December 2000.

This is the left-hand of the two parallel gullies in the middle of the south-east face. Approach from An Glas-Choire until below the climbs on the east face and continue traversing leftwards around a terrace until the left-hand gully is reached. Climb the gully that is mainly easy angled up and over some steps for 150m, until a short steep section is reached. Climb this and continue until the gully ends. Climb slabby rocks above bearing right for two pitches and move over easier ground to reach the summit ridge.

**Note:** The route recorded as Cuill Climb (SMCJ 1999 p77) follows the lower section of the original summer route of 1887 but has a direct finish. It is now recorded in *Skye Scrambles* pp91-92 as North-East Face.(diagram p92). Cuill Climb is much of North-East Face but was finished more directly and ignored both the Original and Right-Hand finishes. Perhaps this would be better recorded as North-East Face – Direct Finish II/III. Here is a clearer route description.

Start 20m right of the gully on the North-East Face face. Climb a short icefall and continue up a left-slanting groove to join a broader part of the gully after 30m. Climb this until it swings to the right and as it turns upwards again follow it past an exit left towards the eastern flank. Continue until the gully makes a small diversion rightwards. At this point climb up the slabs ahead, moving slightly left to link up the two right-facing overlaps above, before finishing more directly to the summit.

### **SGURR NAN GILLEAN, Knights Peak, West Face:**

*Synchronicity* 210m Hard Severe 4b \*. S.Kennedy, R.Hamilton. 15th September 2002.

A prominent corner/groove runs almost the full length of the buttress just right of centre (right of West Face Direct). Start at the foot of a slabby corner system just left of the foot of Subsidiary Gully. Climb the initial easy angled corner to a wide ledge beneath the main corner (cutting across West Face which comes in from the right) (40m). Climb the corner directly, surmounting a bulge near the top, to a ledge (40m). Continue directly up a groove and corners to the top of the pinnacle in three pitches (130m).

### **SGURR AN FHEADAIN:**

*What have I Becombe* 80m E6 \*\*\*\*. D.Birkett, M.Edwards. May 2004.

The obvious overhanging off-width crack to the right of The Rent.

1. 40m 6b. Climb the crack with a bold start leftwards past a peg runner and continue rightwards up the crack.. Make hard moves over a bulge to a big flake ledge to the right.
2. 40m 6a/b. Continue up the crack with a hard start leading to easier climbing over ledges to a big grassy ledge. Descend by an easy walk off left.

### **SGURR A' MHADAIDH, North West Face:**

*Day Tripper* 400m IV,3. E.Brunskill, D.Morris. 19th February 2006.

A fine mountaineering route taking a rising rightwards traverse from Foxes Rake to join the top section of Deep Gash Gully. Start at the foot of Foxes Rake and climb snow grooves, ramps and icy slabby steps on the right edge of the rake aiming for a ramp system and ledge below the prominent tower at the top of Pye and Mallory's Route (300m). Traverse rightwards along the ledge until it stops at an area of slabby ground. Traverse boldly rightwards across the slabs in an exposed position following the line of least resistance (poor but usable snow on the slabs on this ascent, may be easier or harder depending on snow conditions) to reach a shallow gully, which is the top of Deep Gash Gully (50m). Climb the gully to join the NW ridge (50m).

### **COIRE NA BANACHDICH, North-West Buttress:**

*Toolie Grooves Direct Finish* 20m VS 4c \*\*. J. & D.Preston. 23rd April 2005.

Climb the crack immediately above the notch. Steep but on good holds and well protected. The route with the normal finish was also thought to be VS 4c \*\*.

*Hippocratic Oath* 70m HVS \*\*. J. & D.Preston. 23rd April 2005.

A fine direct line on the wall well to the right of Valkyrie corner gives steep climbing on perfect rock. Start from the scree ledge at a broken dyke slanting right. The start is probably as for Aesculapius but going straight up where this traverses left.

1. 40m 5a. Climb up easily to steeper compact rock. Continue boldly up the steep open face to a hanging corner-crack high up. Pull through to a ledge on the left.
2. 30m 5a. Step right and climb a vertical 3m wall. Squirm behind a huge block to mantel on to a sloping shelf below a final corner-crack, climbed to the top.

### **SGURR SGUMAIN, West Buttress:**

**Note:** In an ascent of Sunset Slab and Yellow Groove on 24th April 2005, J. & D.Preston climbed both the grooves with yellow left walls (30m 5a, 30m 4c; HVS 5a \*\* overall). In the current guide, Yellow Groove seems to be to their right and The Klondyker to their left. The first groove seemed to have been climbed before but not the second.

*Tam's Corner* 45m VS 4b. S.Kennedy, T.Hamilton, R.Hamilton. 16th May 2005.

An alternative finish to The Slant. Follow The Slant to a wide ledge beyond the vertical wall. Instead of following the chimney finish climb a corner system on the undercut buttress to the left. Finish up rough rock to join the final rocks of The Slant.

#### **SRON NA CICHE, Crack of Doom Area:**

*Pillar Crack (Rib of Doom Direct Start)* 35m HVS 4c. A.Glasgow, J.Bankhead. 6th June 2005.

Start from the Terrace. Go left to gain and climb the centre of a long smooth slab via a thin vertical crack-line and two thin horizontal breaks, then a crossing a short terrace to reach the top of the slab. Move right to join the normal route.

#### **The Cioch:**

*Lowlander* 45m E2 5c. C.Pettigrew, T.Cooper. 25th June 2005.

Located to the right of Erotica and just left of Cioch Nose on a vertical wall with a faint crack-line. Start where the slab dropping from the Cioch meets the Terrace. Climb an easy angled slab to the steeper wall of the Cioch, just right of an obvious corner. Climb the faint crackline to a slab. Follow the crack left below an overlap on the slab. Join and finish up Cioch Nose.

#### **SGURR NAN EAG, North-East Face:**

*Reverse Thrust* 80m VS 5a. R.Archbold, B.Findlay. G.Strange. 31st May 1997.

On the face well right of The Chasm is a recessed area. This route follows a big corner bounding the right side of the recessed area and finishes just right of a prominent white scar. Climb the corner over a basalt bulge at 10m and continue into a recess (30m). Continue up a crack-line, climb a bulge into a V-groove (crux) and go up to a glacis (20m). Climb slabs, then trend left below a monster block to easy ground.

#### **BLA BHEINN, Winter Buttress:**

*Where Eagles Dare* 50m Severe. P.Mather, R.Mather. 12th June 2005.

Climb the slabby buttress a few metres left of Escape from Colditz more or less directly (Difficult climbing but no gear) to a grassy ledge (20m). Climb awkwardly through the crux bulge above the ledge (bold) heading towards a left-slanting diagonal crack underneath an overlap. Climb the crack then follow the line of least resistance to the top. A pleasant route, largely on immaculate rock, though very bold, the crux is Severe with no gear above a poor belay.

#### **South Buttress:**

*Il Dort dans les Choufleur* 195m Severe. P.Mather, R.Mather. 12th June 2005.

This climbs the arête high up between Birthday Groove and Virgo. Climb Birthday Groove to the large grassy ledge. Climb the slabby arête above to a large roof, turn this on the right with considerable exposure and climb steeply to a large ledge. Climb a short corner above then a slabby wall above directly.

#### **Clach Glas:**

*Sickle, Variation Finish* E1 5b \*. S.Brown, G.Smith. 8th September 2005.

An imposing steep wall directly above the stance at the base of the final pitch. From the belay, traverse left around a corner to reach a vague weakness. Follow this firstly up to a small roof (protection) and then traverse left on small holds (crux) to more positive holds on the left arête which is followed to the summit and belay.

#### **Clach Glas to Blaven Traverse:**

The terminal tower of Clach Glas is usually taken by the chimney/gully right of the crest or by a Mild Severe wall leading to a loose chimney above the crest. The following offers a more pleasant if bold alternative.

*The Groovey Alternative* 45m Very Difficult. J.R.Mackenzie, J.C.Mackenzie. 25th June 2005.

1. 25m. Start just left of the chimney/gully and go up shelves to step left into a groove overlooking the gully below. Follow the groove up and left to a block in the loose chimney above the crest.
2. 20m. Move up right and traverse around a steep nose to a shallow cracked corner. Climb up just left of this to a groove below the final slabs of the ordinary route to the summit. A nice exposed pitch.

#### **NEIST, Lighthouse Wall:**

*Rising Tide* 16m Mild VS 4b \*. B.Barnard, T.Allman, S.Chislett. 23rd May 2005.

An interesting, sustained and strenuous route with good protection. The route is best reached by abseil and is located opposite the small island with the squat sea-stack, a few metres right (facing) of Horny Corner. Here is an obvious

plinth, just above barnacle level. Start on this. Climb the corner-groove to an overhanging block. Move up and slightly right to gain a continuation groove. Climb this to its end. Belay here or scramble to the top.

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

*Maggots* 55m E1. C.Moody, C.Grindley. 31st July 2005.

Between Worm's Eye View and Bad Dream is a straight crack split by heather ledges above the left side of a grassy bay. Start below and left of the grassy bay at a right-facing corner.

1. 30m 5a/b. Move up the corner, then the rib on the right to gain the grassy bay. Climb a crack on the left side of the bay; belay after a wide section.

2. 25m 4c. Continue up the crack, then more easily up the shallow corner.

*Have a Nice Day* 30m E3 6a \*\*. G.Latter, J.Rabey. 8th September 2005.

Sustained well protected climbing up the prominent right-facing groove just left of Wish You Were Here. Climb the groove with increasing difficulty, moving rightwards at the top past a triangular flake to pull over the capping roof spectacularly on good holds at a large thread.

### **Down and Out Wall:**

This is between Poverty and Destitution Points. Abseil in from a stake.

*The Wind of Freedom* 15m Severe. C.Moody, C.Grindley. 5th June 2005.

The right-facing corner at the left side of the crag.

*The Wind of Change* 15m VS. C.Moody, C.Grindley. 5th June 2005.

The easy looking crack left of the right-facing crack at the right end of the crag.

### **The Euro Zone, Fulmar Wall:**

This is the wall at the north end of the zone. Near the top is a ledge which has a number of nests. Near the left end of the wall is a deep crack forming a slot.

*Death of a Parrot* 20m VS 5a \*. C.Moody, C.Grindley. 22nd October 2005.

Climb a crack right of the deep crack. Move left, then back right high up, and finish up the continuation crack, which is left of a rib.

*Death Flock* 20m Severe \*. C.Moody, C.Grindley. 22nd October 2005.

A crack just right. Step right at Fulmar Ledge and continue to the top.

*Maybe a Dead Whale* 20m Hard Severe \*. C.Moody, C.Grindley. 22nd October 2005.

A crack to the right. Finish up Death Flock after Fulmar Ledge.

*Zig Zag* 20m Very Difficult \*. C.Moody, C.Grindley. 22nd October 2005.

At the right end of the wall is a left-facing corner with an obvious crack just left. Climb up, moving back and forth between these features to gain Fulmar Ledge. A short section leads to the top.

*A Non Parrot* 20m VS 4b \*. C.Moody, C.Grindley. 22nd October 2005.

From the platform of the previous route, step right and follow the crack and corners to Fulmar Ledge. Step left and finish up the previous route. A direct start would make a longer route. Still Wet (SMCJ 2005) is just round right.

*Sinus* 22m VS 4c \*\*. C.Moody, C.Grindley. 30th July 2005.

Climb the corner on the left side of the pillar left of Staircase (SMCJ 2005).

**Note:** Rope Gripper (SMCJ 2005) is probably undergraded.

*Broozez* 18m VS 4c \*. C.Moody, C.Grindley. 30th July 2005.

Start 2m right of Rope Jammer (SMCJ 2005) and climb a steepening crack.

*The Key* 20m VS 4c \*. C.Moody, C.Grindley. 30th July 2005.

Start 3m right and climb a fault-line through the wall.

*Echo* 22m VS 5a \*. C.Moody, C.Grindley. 30th July 2005.

Just to the right, make thin moves to gain a left-facing corner and continue up corners.

*Fish out of Water* 25m VS 4c \*. C.Moody, C.Grindley. 30th July 2005.

Start up a wide crack round to the right. Continue up, then follow a fine ramp left, below the yellow headwall.

*Silence* 25m Severe. C.Moody, C.Grindley. 30th July 2005.

Climb a rib just right of Fish Out of Water and continue up right-facing corners.

*Optimum Snore Time* 25m E1 5b \*\*\*. C.Moody, C.Grindley. 31st July 2005.  
The left-facing corner, a fine line.

**Cumhann Geodha:**

*Curry Island* 15m E1 5a \*. C.Moody, C.Grindley. 23rd October 2005.

The rib left of The Old Warden. From the big ledge, step down onto a sloping foot ledge. Climb up a rib and wall just right, finishing on the rib, protection could be better. This is probably the same as Low Potential (SMCJ 2001) without the "rightward rising traverse".

**Note:** The Old Warden (SMCJ 1999) was climbed finishing directly up the corner with no change of grade.

*The Old Hex* 15m HVS 5a \*. C.Moody, C.Grindley. 23rd October 2005.

The crack between The Old Warden and Quite Fatigued (SMCJ 1999). Climb the crack and pull left onto a ledge, continue easily up (next to The Old Warden) then step right and follow the continuation crack.

*Bagpipe Deadline* 15m Severe. C.Moody, M.MacLeod, B.Taylor. 18th February 2006.

About 10m right of Quantum Tunneling are three lines, the middle line has a short chimney just above high tide level. Abseil to a tidal ledge (or start on a smaller ledge higher up). Climb up through the short chimney to a bulge, move left then back right above the bulge and continue up the rib.

*Clam Dredger* 15m VS 4b. C.Moody, B.Taylor. 19th February 2006.

Well right is a detached pillar. Climb the crack on the right side of the pillar with a bulge to start.

**Wall Between Bay 4 and Cumhann Geodha:**

*Headless Chicking* 15m VS 4b \*. C.Moody, B.Taylor. 13th November 2005.

Round left of Curry Island is a finger crack in a right-facing corner. Climb it passing a large block. The grade is unsure, being cold and damp.

*G&T Shocker* 12m HVS 5a \*. C.Moody, M.MacLeod. 18th February 2006.

Start at the same ledge as Headless Chicking. Climb the right-hand corner crack, steep low down.

**TROTTERNISH, Old Man of Storr:**

**Note:** L.Houlding made a free ascent of the Portree Face in 2004 at E4 5c.

**KILT ROCK, Gully Wall:**

*Joik* 40m E2 5c \*\*. G.Latter, C.Pulley. 5th October 2005.

The obvious line between Brazen and Secret Service. Start just left of a large flat boulder, beneath twin intermittent cracks high in the wall. Climb up onto a small protruding ledge and a wee left-facing corner. Continue up the cracks which soon lead to easier climbing up hand cracks and a flake to a ledge. Finish up a short sporting off-width forming the left side of a huge flake at the top.

## NORTHERN HIGHLANDS NORTH

**BEINN DEARG, West Buttress:**

*Niccy's Rib* 205m III,4. P.Macpherson, D.Williamson. 22nd February 2006.

An enjoyable mountaineering route with varied climbing. Start right of Inverlael Gully at a small gully/snow bay left of Inverlael Buttress.

1. 30m. Go up the gully for 5m, step up and right onto an icy ramp and pull over its top on turf; continue on easy ground to a left-facing wall.
2. 45m. Move back right 2m onto a rib and continue up via grooves and short steps to below an obvious steep corner/groove.
3. 35m. Go up a ramp to below the corner/groove. Climb the helpful corner/groove (crux) and continue on easy ground.
4. 45m. Go up grooves to a slabby wall below and left of a square hole. Climb up and left to a perched block. Step on to the block, pull over and exit onto easy ground.
5. 50m. Continue for 50m on easy ground to the stone dyke at the top.

**Note:** J.Workman repeated the Right-Hand Finish to The Ice Hose on 17th March 2006 with good ice and thought it worth V,5 at most, maybe IV,5.

**RHUE SEA-CLIFFS:**

*Rhue-Barb* 25m E5 6a/b \*\*. I.Taylor, T.Fryer. 20th August 2005.

Lies between Perestroika and Rhue-Rhapsody. Start at a big corner that leads to a huge roof. Ascend the corner easily to its top, then hand traverse a break rightwards to the end of the roof. From here take a thin crack up the wall above to an easier finish. A Friend 4 is useful for the traverse. Strenuous, sustained climbing with good protection.

**Notes from I.Taylor:** Rhue-Rhapsody is underplayed in the current guide. E4 6a \*\*\* and a wild trip. One the best routes in the area (but not \*\*\*\*).

**Notes from N.Morrison:** Firing Line is harder than E1 even with a very large Cam for the top break. Also unpleasant rock and vegetation. Midget Gems (Gem Walls) is a nice route but not three stars; we thought one star would be more appropriate.

**ARDMAIR, Arapiles Wall:**

*Maralinga* 15m E5 6a \*\*. I.Taylor, T.Fryer. 2nd July 2005.

The deceptively steep pillar at the right end of Arapiles Wall. Start just right of Biological Warfare at a short crack. Follow a line slightly rightwards to a big flake hold below a dubious thread. Go diagonally left past the thread to reach good holds and a big break. Finish by easier climbing up the left arête of the pillar.

**Beast Buttress:**

*Tinsel Town* 20m E6 6b \*. I.Taylor, T.Fryer. 26th December 2005.

A route between Market Day and On the Western Skyline. Start just left of the Direct Start to On Western Skyline at a thin crack. Boulder up the thin crack, then easier climbing leads to the good ledge. On the wall above, just right of Market Day, is a short flake. From the flake bold and insecure moves up and rightwards lead to better holds. Step left and climb directly to easier ground. Head pointed without any side runners in Market Day.

*Timorous Beastie* 25m E6 6b \*\*. I.Taylor, T.Fryer. 21st April 2005.

Start as for Beastmaster. Where that route takes a short diagonal crack into Unleash the Beast, reach up and left to a good hold and make hard move through a poor break, to gain a flake. Finish up and right to gain the top of Unleash the Beast.

**CAMUS MOR:**

*Blitzkrieg!* 60m E5 6a. J.Clark, N.McNair, I.Small. June 2005.

Walk another 20mins beyond Camus Mor to an obvious headland. Descend to the right. The route takes the middle and deepest open groove, roughly in the centre of the crag at the bottom of the descent gully, above a grassy bay. Start in a broken corner, then traverse out on purple rock boldly to better rock and gear just to right of a square-cut roof. Take this on the right, then step left to gain slanting grooves (crux). Go up these to a shelf, then right to gain a ramp and belay at the bottom of a corner. The second pitch is up a corner and wall on the left (5b). Comes with a health and safety warning – very loose!

**STAC POLLAIDH, North Face:**

*Pollaidhstyrene* 140m IV,6 \*. I.Taylor, T.Fryer. 6th March 2006.

Climbs the buttress left of North Gully. Based on a summer Difficult not in the current guide (First Rib 1945?). Good though escapable climbing. Start at the lowest rocks at an obvious turfey gully.

1. 30m. Climb the gully to a ledge on the left.
2. 40m. Using a wide crack on the right, climb the arête above to a ledge. Continue up the arête to gain a level ridge below the upper buttress.
3. 40m. Climb turfey grooves, then broken ground before a short descent gains a col.
4. 30m. Finish up easier ground to the top.

**West Buttress, South Face:**

*Original Route* 100m IV,5. A.Tibbs, M.Shaw. 13th March 2005.

Start about 10m right of Baird's Pinnacle.

1. 15m. Follow ledges up leftwards to beneath a 5m corner (directly above the pinnacle).
2. 20m. Climb a short corner and move right with difficulty to easier ground. A V-corner with a thread runner leads to a ledge.
3. 20m. Go directly up easier ground until it steepens.
4. 25m. Follow a right-slanting turfey line towards the buttress crest and a good ledge.
5. 10m. Leave the ledge on the right by a short crack, then follow a right-trending crack at the top of a slab to disappear round the buttress edge.
6. 10m. An awkward pull leads to easy ground.

**Note:** The well protected corner-crack 3m right of the second pitch of Enigma Grooves gives a good pitch (25m E2 5b, A.Tibbs, I.Blackwood, 10th September 2005).

**REIFF:**

**Notes from I.Taylor:** Headstrong at Stone Pig Cliff is E4 5c \*\* and Great Black Back at Black Rocks is E4 6a \*.

**Mechanics Geo:**

*Sump* 8m HVS 5b \*. I.Taylor, T.Fryer. 31st October 2005.

Start right of Shifting Spanner. Climb the bulging right-hand crack, finishing rightwards up a short hanging corner.

**Black Rocks, Orange Wall Area:**

*Autumn Colours* 8m E2/3 5c/6a \*. P.Mather (unsec). 15th October 2005.

Climb the distinctly overhanging wall between Hanging Groove and Slanting Corner. Climb onto the ledge at the bottom of Slanting Corner, then launch up the left side of the wall heading for two deep horizontal breaks. Move right and climb the headwall centrally (crux). The grade was hard E2 or easy E3.

**ACHMELVICH, Clean Cut:**

*Flawless* 16m E7 6c \*\*\*. J.Lines. 22nd August 2004.

Scotland's answer to Master's Edge, and not a bad attempt too! The second arête from the left, the first being bottomless. Climb this most prominent arête first on the left and then on the right to a big jug and gear just above. Deep breath and layback the arête with commitment and technical finesse. Superb! Headpointed.

*Unnamed* 8m VS 5a. A.Nisbet, D.McGimpsey. 22nd August 2004.

At the top right end of the cliff are two clean corners above a slabby platform half-way up the cliff. The route starts from the platform (reached by abseil) and climbs the left corner, which has a crack on its right wall. Just when it starts to get hard, a ledge on the right arête can be reached.

*Hed Kandi* 8m VS 4c \*. D.McGimpsey, A.Nisbet. 15th August 2004.

At the seaward (north) end of the easy descent shelf, there is a short wall facing the main crag and with a corner on its right. This gains and climbs the left arête.

**Loch Roe West Crag (NC 055 241):**

*Eye Spy Corner* 12m VS 4c. D.McGimpsey, J.Lines. 14th August 2004.

Climb the central corner.

**OLD MAN OF STOER:**

*Original Route, No Comfort Variation* 25m HVS 5b. A.Wallace, R.Wallace. 27th March 2005.

Traverse onto the landward face on the fourth pitch, but after a few metres climb a short chimney to an evil looking overhanging off-width. Go up onto a ledge on the right, then swing back left into the off-width and gain a big ledge and a possible belay. Climb diagonally right over large ledges to join Original Route at the top of the V-chimney.

**Note:** A large block has fallen off near Diamond Face Route but it is not known whether it has affected the route.

**QUINAG, Barrel Buttress:**

**Note:** G.Robertson and P.Benson repeated the direct version of the Raeburn, Mackay and Ling Route on 4th March 2006 and thought VII,7.

**FAR NORTH WEST CRAGS, Creag an Sgriodain:**

**Note:** Friends Essential. J.Lyall notes that the line described in *Northern Highlands North* is not the same as the original line. The Variation Start is the original line and therefore should be 1996, not 2002. The described line was climbed by A. & G.Nisbet on 30th June 2000, by accident! Pitch 2 of Scavenger is only 5a if climbed on big holds immediately right of the corner.

**TARBET SEA CLIFFS, Balmy Slabs, White Slab:**

*Jeepers Creepers* 30m E1 5b \*. S.Kennedy, R.Hamilton, T.Hamilton. 5th June 2005.

Follows a corner-line starting about 15m right of Writer's Cramp at the right end of a series of small overlaps on the right side of the White Slab. Start from a small pointed block just below the high-water mark. Step off the block and make some thin moves on the wall just right of a small corner. Move up to better holds on the left arête of the corner, then move back right under a small roof into the large upper corner. Finish up the corner.

*Cornucopia, Rooftop Finish* E1 5b \*\*. S.Kennedy, T.Hamilton, R.Hamilton. 5th June 2005.

A fine airy finish to Cornucopia taking the hanging slab left of the finishing chimney. From a point a few metres below the chimney move left and climb diagonally left following the lower edge of the slab in a sensational position.

**Geo an Amair (NC 161 506):**

The next narrow geo north of Aarseid Mhic Mhurchaidh Oig. The sea-cliff on the north side of the zawn consists of a large south-facing slab containing a number of vertical crack-lines running from an overlap in the lower section. The slab is bounded on the right by a large corner (Loan Shark) and right again by a long tapering slab with a bulge at about half-height. Right of the tapering slab is a steep overhanging red wall with a prominent right arête (Marinator) which contains the crack-line of The Boardmaster. Approach as for The Grey Slabs. An abseil approach is necessary to reach the base of most of the routes. A 60m rope is useful.

*Loan Shark* 45m Hard Severe 4a \*. R.Hamilton, S.Kennedy. 18th June 2005.

The corner defining the right edge of the main slab (looking up). Abseil to small ledges on a narrow rock tongue which stands proud of the slab just above the high-water mark. This is just left of a dark recess at the foot of the corner. From the top of the tongue step onto a thin slab, then move rightwards above a dark recess into the main corner. Climb the corner.

*Prawn Stars* 45m Hard Severe 4a \*. S.Kennedy, R.Hamilton. 18th June 2005.

The slim corner in the upper slab a few metres left of Loan Shark. Start from the tongue and climb the initial thin slab of Loan Shark. Instead of moving up rightwards into the main corner, climb the cracked slabs directly above and climb the slim corner.

*Prawn again Christian* 45m Very Difficult \*. S.Kennedy, R.Hamilton. 18th June 2005.

The first obvious crack-line running up the slab just left of Prawn Stars. Start from the tongue and step left into a small recess in the overlap at the foot of the crack-line. Climb the crack and slabs directly above.

*Prawnography* 45m Severe \*. S.Kennedy, R.Hamilton. 25th June 2005.

The next obvious break through the overlap about 4m left of Prawn again Christian. This and the following routes on the main slab start at small ledges left of the tongue just above the high-water mark. Climb the slab to a small right-facing corner breaking the overlap. Surmount the overlap and climb the slab left of some small overlaps, then step right and finish directly.

*Prawnconnerly* 40m Severe \*. R.Hamilton, S.Kennedy. 25th June 2005.

The crack-line breaking through the overlap about 6m left of Prawnography by a small left-facing corner. Pull through the overlap, then step right and take a line up leftwards under some small overlaps finishing up a slab above a corner.

*Creelman* 30m Very Difficult \*. S.Kennedy, R.Hamilton. 25th June 2005.

The left-facing corner near the left edge of the main slab.

*Save the Prawn* 30m VS 4c \*\*. R.Hamilton, S.Kennedy, A.MacDonald. 5th July 2005.

The leftmost edge of the narrow slab just left of the corner of Creelman. Start at the foot of the corner and take a line as close to the left edge as possible.

*Curse the Trawlers* 47m VS 4b \*. R.Hamilton, S.Kennedy. 25th June 2005.

An atmospheric route up the tapering slab right of the main slab. A long abseil leads to a promontory by a large cavern. Start up a left-facing corner come groove on the left edge to a steepening which is climbed via a small recess near the left end. Move right and climb the middle of the slab to the top. Block belay available well back up the slope.

**The Red Wall:**

*The Boardmaster* 40m E3 5c \*\*. S.Kennedy, R.Hamilton, G.Reid. 20th August 2005.

A fine and sustained route taking the striking left-trending crack-line in the middle of the Red Wall. Steep and very exposed but well protected. Abseil to the rocky promontory at the foot of the crack-line. Pull into the crack by an airy step left off the promontory, then make a series of strenuous moves up the crack until a small black sloping ramp is reached. An awkward move leads left onto the ramp. Continue up leftwards by cracks, then move back right onto a steep slab and easier ground. Finish in the same general line bearing leftwards up much easier cracks. Possibly E2.

*Marinator* 40m Hard Severe 4b \*. S.Kennedy, R.Hamilton. 25th June 2005.

The prominent right arête which is accessed by abseil. Start up a slabby left-trending ramp to a black chimney. Step left onto the exposed edge which is followed directly to the top.

Right of Marinator is a smaller buttress characterised by a small but prominent quartz pinnacle just right of some steep crack-lines.

*Quartz Pinnacle* 35m Very Difficult \*. S.Kennedy, R.Hamilton. 24th July 2005.

Start just left of the quartz pinnacle and traverse rightwards via the pinnacle to the edge which forms the right side of a large flake. Climb the outside wall of the flake then directly to the top.

*Crack of the Ancient Mariner* 35m E1 5b \*\*. R.Hamilton, S.Kennedy. 24th July 2005.

A couple of metres left of Quartz Pinnacle is an overhanging crack with an undercut start. Surmount the short overhang to reach the base of the crack then make strenuous moves up the crack to a ledge. Finish directly up a short wall which leads to easier ground.

At the back of the narrow inlet well right of Quartz Pinnacle are two south-facing slabs. Approach at low tide by scrambling down easy slabs from the base of Q.P.

*Minnow* 30m Very Difficult. R.Hamilton, S.Kennedy. 24th July 2005.

The left edge of the left-hand slab. Disappointing.

*Sea Wasp* 25m VS 4c \*. S.Kennedy, R.Hamilton. 24th July 2005.

The left side of the black right-hand slab. Start by some boulders and move out left to the edge. Climb the slab close to the edge and finish via a crack.

*Piranha* 25m Severe. S.Kennedy, R.Hamilton. 24th July 2005.

Takes a direct line up the right side of the right-hand slab starting from the boulders.

*Orchid* 40m Very Difficult \*. A.MacDonald, S.Kennedy, R.Hamilton. 5th July 2005.

The dark north wall of the geo contains an obvious right-trending fault line low down. This route starts at the left end and follows the initial section of the fault before taking a steeper and higher line where the fault splits at about halfway. Steep and juggy. Reached by abseil.

*Queuing Up* 20m Very Difficult \*. C.Grindley, W.Hood, C.Moody. 24th July 2005.

At the left end of the traverse of Orchid is a crack that goes up slightly leftwards to grass high up. Start at another crack just left of it. Climb up and step right to cross the other crack, then continue up to a ledge.

*Another Tiger Beetle* 20m Very Difficult \*\*. C.Grindley, W.Hood, C.Moody. 24th July 2005.

To the right is an overhanging left-facing corner. Climb the prominent crack on the left to the ledge. Steep and juggy.

### **Upper Tier:**

Above the Geo is a long wall of good quality containing a number of grooves and with a slabby right edge. The right edge offers a convenient descent down slabs (Difficult in ascent).

*Son of a Pitch* 25m Severe \*. S.Kennedy, R.Hamilton, G.Reid. 20th August 2005.

On the left side of the wall is a prominent chimney-groove and right again is a rib with pockets. This route takes the corner right of the rib. Climb the corner, then move left onto a sloping shelf. Finish directly up from the left end of the shelf.

*Sundance Kid* 25m HVS 5a \*. R.Hamilton, S.Kennedy, G.Reid. 20th August 2005.

The rib starting 3m left of the above route. Climb the rib using large pockets, then steeply up a crack to pull awkwardly onto a sloping shelf. Finish up Son of a Pitch.

### **Creag Cnoc Thull, Pygmy Slab (NC 250 500):**

A pink slab lies to the right of the overhanging crag on the south shore of Loch na Thull, 10 mins from the road. The slab has an inset wall and overhang to the north and a more benign western facet.

*Sugar Pygmy* 20m E1 5c \*. J.R.Mackenzie, R.Brown. 27th July 2005.

Guaranteed to put a smile on your face. Climbs the overhang and groove at the inset base of the slab. Climb the overhang cleverly and groove above; step left and up the broken wall to the top.3

*Sweet Nothings* 15m Very Difficult. R.Brown, J.R.Mackenzie. 27th July 2005.

The left side of the slab right of a wider crack or via a short crack to the right.

*A Little Something* 12m Hard Severe 4b \*. J.R.Mackenzie, R.Brown. 27th July 2005.

The straight thin crack to the top, quite good.

*Something for a Pygmy* 10m Severe. J.R.Mackenzie, R.Brown. 27th July 2005.  
The crack and scoop at the right end.

**Ridgeway View Crag (Guide p250):**

Starry Saxifrage and The Silk Glove Memorial Route (SMCJ 2005) are the same route. The routes in the guide are overstarred for a small crag.

**Notes from I.Taylor. Creag an Fhithich:** A bit over-starred; The Swirl E3 6a \*\*\*, Ruby Wall E3 5c \*\*, Sapphires E3 5c \*\*, A Diamond is Forever E4 6a \*\*, Honey Monster E2 5c \*. Rayfish (Fisherman's View Crag) E4 6a \*\*.

**Notes from N.Morrison:** Sapphires is good but felt more like E2 5c than E3 while The Swirl is pretty stiff at E3. Ruby Wall is fairly redundant with the other two described as they are.

**SHEIGRA, Na Stacain:**

The following routes were climbed by C.Grindley, W.Hood, C.Moody on 22nd and 23rd July 2005.

*Swirl* 12m Severe.

This is on the south-east (?) wall that faces Tall Pall. Traverse right to a barnacle ledge that slants down right into the sea. Move up right under bulges, then climb a cracked wall.

Just west of the southern tip of the island is a deep chimney, Very Difficult.

*Garlic Wall* 15m HVS 5a \*\*.

About 12m left (north) of the Very Difficult chimney is a block before a small pool. Start right of the block. Move up, then rightwards up a steep wall.

*Gannet Squadren* 15m Severe \*\*.

Start up Garlic Wall, then climb a crack up leftwards.

*One Blind Mouse* 15m HVS 5a \*.

About 5m left are two blind corners. Start up the left corner, then climb a cracked wall above and pull out left at a flake.

*Unusual* 15m VS 4c \*.

Just left are two shallow corner-cracks. Climb the right corner, then a flake-crack.

*Bizarre* 15m Severe \*.

The left corner, then move easily left and climb another short corner.

*Arête Crack* 15m E1 5a \*\*.

Climb the arête, starting slightly right of it.

A Difficult crack was climbed on the wall to the left. Left of it are easy descent ramps. Left again is a tidal wall (perhaps containing Diff Crack, Mod Crack and VS Wall – *Northern Highlands North* p281).

*Vienneta* 18m Very Difficult \*\*.

Climb the right side of the wall past a ledge and small overlap.

*Unnamed* 15m Difficult \*.

To the left is a shelf above the barnacle line. Climb a crack straight up from the right side of the shelf.

*Unnamed* 15m Severe \*\*.

A wall just left.

*Unnamed* 15m VS 4b \*\*.

Start right of Left End Corner. Climb small right-facing corners, go over a bulge and continue up.

*Left End Corner* 15m Very Difficult \*\*.

A corner at the left end of the shelf. Continue up a chimney.

*Squeek* Severe \*.

Traverse left above the sea to a sloping shelf. Move up right, then continue just left of the rib overlooking Left End Corner.

### **MEALL HORN, Creag an Lochan Ulbha:**

*Goldie Horn* 90m VI,5. M.Edwards, D.McGimpsey, A.Nisbet. 2nd March 2006.

An icefall which flows down the big hanging slab at the left end of the cliff and which would, given cold enough conditions, form down the overhanging base. Start 10m right of the icicles at the base. Serious, but with fully frozen turf on pitch 1 and thicker ice, the grade would drop.

1. 15m. Gain and climb a turfy groove to reach a ledge on the left.
2. 30m. Return to the groove and gain a higher ledge above. Climb thin ice above and traverse left to the main icefall. Follow this to under the left end of a big roof (ice belay).
3. 45m. Traverse right under the roof and pass its right end (thin ice). Go leftwards up the hanging slab in a superb position, then up ice to easy ground.

### **FOINAVEN, Lord Reay's Seat:**

*Pobble* 220m VII,7 \*\*. M.Bass, S.Yearsley. 3rd March 2006.

A sustained and varied route with strenuous and helpful chimneys and delicate slab climbing. Start at a large right-facing flake 10m right from the toe of the buttress, well right of the summer start.

1. 50m. Climb the flake, then the wall above for 2m. Traverse left, aiming for the block on the skyline. Continue horizontally left, then up to the base of the first chimney.
2. 25m. Follow the summer second pitch, direct through the overhanging chimney.
3. 20m. As for the summer route, but belay directly below the chockstone.
4. 25m. Climb the chockstone direct, to the bottom of the crinkly slab, move out onto a rib on the right and follow this to a belay below an obvious large crack in the right wall below the line of the direct finish.
5. 35m. Descend to the top right of the crinkly slab. Follow the top edge of the slab delicately leftwards and then climb the steep rockfall scar to the ill-defined arête. Move easily leftwards then up to a bay below the steep corner of Breakaway.
6. 35m. As for the summer route.
7. 30m. Climb direct to the summit of Lord Reay's Seat.

### **BEN LOYAL, Sgor a' Chleirich:**

This impressive crag dries quickly and receives sun in the afternoon. Walking in from the south is the most straightforward, following a faint Land-Rover track from the A836 bridge at the south end of Loch Loyal (NC 598 444) and then contouring around the hillside near the 450m level, to reach Loch Fhionnaich. Note that the existing routes, Marathon Corner and Priests Rake take the most vegetated lines; the intervening areas contain plenty of good rock.

*Milky Way* 210m E2 5c \*\*. K.Milne, S.Helmore. 18th April 2003.

Takes the clean slabs at the left-hand side of the crag. Approach by walking up about 80m in elevation from the toe of the crag, opposite the north end of Loch Fhionnaich. The start is where a tongue of grass leads back right to the base of the slabs. The first part of the route follows the left hand of two clean crack-lines. The small left-facing corner on pitch 3 is also visible from the ground and provides another reference point.

1. 40m 4c. Climb somewhat vegetated slabs to reach the crack proper. Belay just above a horizontal weakness where the rock steepens.
2. 45m 5b. Continue up the cleaned hand-jam crack to a grassy groove and ledges. With good protection here (optional belay), move back on to the slab and make a rising traverse leftwards, almost reaching a slanting blank groove on the left. Continue up the slab boldly to a triangular heather ledge and a small flake.
3. 45m 5b. Traverse 2m right easily to a prominent flake and up to reach a thin crack. Continue up the crack, climbing through a short left-facing corner. Where the crack fades into slabs above, traverse delicately left 4m to easier ground and up on to a small low angle slab. Traverse left 3m to a wide grassy ledge.
4. 40m 5c. Walk along the ledge for 5m and climb the gritstone-like overhang with difficulty into a cracked groove. Move leftwards out of the groove to reach a line of interesting flakes. A sloping heather ledge leads up and right.
5. 40m 4c. Step on to the grey slab on the right and continue up the right-trending weakness to a good horizontal crack 5m below the summit (664m).

*Mars* 230m E3 5c \*. M.Atkins, K.Milne. 11th September 2005.

Tackles the walls and slabs on the impressive right-hand side of the crag. Start 75m right of the grassy gully of Marathon corner. Scramble up steep heather to belay 20m below the left hand side of a prominent line of overhangs.

1. 35m 5c. Climb a poorly protected vegetated slab (5a) to reach a grassy gully. Step right on to a rib and climb this pleasantly until the rock steepens. At a line of overhangs, a tricky step right leads into a clean groove. Climb this for 4m and move back left with difficulty. Go steeply up flakes and then left on to a spacious ledge.

2. 35m 5c. Climb the left side of a black lichen covered corner (a good marker from the ground) through a bulge (thread) to a difficult exit on to a sloping ledge. Continue more easily via clean slabs trending left to a groove-line and huge block (passing a suspect block below this).
3. 30m 5b. Step on to the rib on the left side of the block and continue in this line for 15m until it is possible to traverse right and slightly down to reach a heather patch (a more direct alternative may be to climb unprotected slabs to reach the same point). Climb up the easier slabby groove to good cracks.
4. 45m 5b. A system of grassy cracks leads to a small ledge. Step right on to slabs and then trend back left up a series of interesting steps. Move right and up a groove in slabs to reach the prominent grassy section of Priests Rake.
5. 45m 4a. Make a rising traverse along the rake and climb up a heathery groove to clean rock on the right.
6. 40m 5a/b. Continue the rising traverse, taking in a grooved slab, to finish about 20m right of the crest of the buttress.

**Note:** A better more direct finish looks feasible, but darkness was approaching on the first ascent.

### **AUCKENGILL, Orange Wall:**

*The Happy Pineapple* 6m Severe 4b. G.Richard, R.Wallace. 8th July 2005.

Entering the quarry one is faced with the left edge of the Orange Wall. Climb the deep crack through ledges and red bands of rock to a shaky finish.

*Auck and Gull* 8m S 4b. R.Wallace, R.Christie. 13th September 2005.

Climb the corner at the left edge of the Orange Wall bridging through a roof and onto the top.

*Push up to the Bumper* 8m E1 5a. R.Christie, R.Wallace. 13th September 2005.

Tackle the thin crack 2m right of Turbodiesel and awkwardly overcome the roof above.

### **SOUTH HEAD OF WICK:**

*King Tubby and the Fat Boys of Lard* 10m E2 5c. N.Morrison, P.Allen, W.Moir. August 2005.

The next line left of Wick and Feeble (SMCJ 2005). Left of Wick and Feeble is a left-facing corner at the base of the cliff. Start on the wall just right of this and climb up to the main bulge. Surmount the bulge and follow the cracks to the top at a notch. Strenuous but very well protected. Cleaned on the lead then redpointed.

Left of The Darkness of Lard (SMCJ 2005) is a vicious overhanging roof crack with corner systems to its left. Left of these and at a slightly lower level is a long wall characterised by the compacted shale band low down and the sandstone band at the top. The following route lies several metres along the wall where a shallow right-facing groove leads to a vertical crack in the sandstone band.

*Spaced Out Lardboys On The Road To Obesity* 10m E1 5b \*\*. W.Moir, N.Morrison, P.Allen. August 2005.

Climb the groove on to its left edge, then pull slightly right into the crack.

### **SARCLET, Cave Bay Area:**

**Note from N. Morrison:** Occum's Razor, grade confirmed. The part in the description about using the right arête is a red herring. It should read: "Climb directly up to roof and follow the crack-line through the roof to gain the big jug on the right, continue up the crack using the wall on the right to a rest before the final headwall. Climb this to an exciting top-out."

### **Big Buttress, East Face:**

**Notes from N.Morrison:** Sarclet Pimpernel is one of the best single pitch routes of its grade that I have done on a sea-cliff. We thought E1 5a appropriate. Well protected, sustained and continuous. Groove Armada is equally good but we felt VS 4c was the grade and straightforward at that.

### **Djapana Buttress:**

**Note from N.Morrison:** Djapana is a great route, starting from the chimney at the base it is about 28m long not 20m.

The left-hand edge of the buttress is bounded by a magnificent arch. At the base of the buttress is a sloping ledge at its left and on the right, a pink platform separated from the buttress by a gap. At the middle is a small platform. Access by abseil from a tombstone-like rock.

*Arch Rival* 25m HVS 5a \*. R.Wallace, B.Tosh. 20th August 2005.

From the small platform make easy moves up a shallow groove over a horizontal break to the base of a left-facing curved flake. Surmount a large ledge at the top of the flake and tackle the groove and flake above until forced into some delicate moves on the left wall, then pull back onto the top of the flake and scramble to the top.

*Like it or Limpet* 25m Very Difficult. B.Tosh, R.Wallace. 21st August 2005.

Step across the narrowest point between the pink platform and the buttress and ascend grooves and blocky ledges aiming for a jutting nose. Ascend the left side of the nose, mounting its bridge and continue easily to the top.

#### **Oily Buttress:**

This small buttress sits at the north end of the entrance to Oily Geo (ND 345 424). Access is by abseil onto a non-tidal ledge.

*That Petrel Emotion* 15m E1 5b \*. R.Wallace, R.Christie. 7th August 2005.

Climb a shallow left-facing corner 2m right of a roofed corner on to a ledge below hanging flakes on the right and an arête on the left. Move up the smooth wall using a forearm brace between the flakes to bridge between the arête and flakes. Make a few steep moves up and left to a break below a small roof. Turn this to the right on to the top of a small pillar, then a short wall.

*Cold Halo* 15m VS 4b. R.Christie, R.Wallace. 12th July 2005.

Start at the left end of the ledge, 2m left of That Petrel Emotion. Climb on to a rectangular block, then up a short shallow left-facing corner to the base of a big left-trending flake. Move up the wall and flake to a platform on top of the flake. Continue on the same line up a short groove.

*Fancy Dancing with the Fleas?* 15m VS 4c. R.Christie, R.Wallace. 15th July 2005.

From the left edge of the ledge traverse 1m left onto the top of a flake. Climb a shallow left-facing corner and move up right onto a ledge on the arête. Continue up the corner to a ledge on the right. Traverse along the ledge across Cold Halo to a small roof below an open groove that is tackled directly.

*Oiled Up* 15m VS 4b. R.Wallace, R.Christie. 15th July 2005.

From the left end of the ledge traverse 3m left into a left-facing corner. Climb this to a small roof, then move left to another corner and climb this by a roof on the left onto a sloping slab overhung with a roof. Climb the corner formed by the roof and the right-hand wall, then continue up an open corner to the left and top.

At the northern arête of the buttress, 20m north of That Petrel Emotion, is a large corner with a non-tidal square platform at its base, accessible by abseil. The next three routes depart from the square platform.

*I Heard it Down the Pub* 15m Severe 4b. R.Christie, R.Wallace. 7th August 2005.

Start from a ledge on the front of the face 3m left of the square platform. Diagonally down climb 3m left to the base of a crack. Follow the crack up the fine wall to a small overlap then move right and follow the edge of a flake to the top.

*I Saw it in a Picture* 18m Severe 4a. R.Wallace, R.Christie. 7th August 2005.

Climb the open corner to a small hanging arête. Move right into an opening groove and finish straight up the short wall above.

*I Smelt it on the Breeze* 18m Severe 4b. R.Christie, R.Wallace. 7th August 2005.

Teeter up the arête bounding the right wall of the corner and follow it as it curves away and peters out. Continue directly up the open crack above to the top.

#### **Black Lagoon (ND 346 246):**

Ten metres north of Oily Geo Buttress, beyond a broken buttress and arête, is a rocky bay with ramparts leading up to a black oily pool. Just north again from the rocky bay is a large open corner atop a triangular platform. The next three routes can be accessed by abseiling from a jutting boulder above the corner.

*Sartorius Stretch* 20m VS 4c \*. R.Christie, R.Wallace. 31st August 2005.

Superb bridging up the open corner to a tricky move at mid-height leading to more delicate moves towards the top.

*Nag's Head* 20m HVS 5a \*. R.Wallace, R.Christie. 14th September 2005.

Starting from just above the black pool, this route climbs the left corner of the rocky bay, initially following a large flake to a horizontal break. From the break, bridge up a black open groove to a narrowing and gain a hanging corner. Climb past the black horse-head shaped jammed boulder (this can be made to nod up and down, but not removed) to a hanging arête. Move up a short groove to the left and surmount ledges on the left wall to gain the top.

*Geezer from the Black Lagoon* 16m HVS 5a. R.Wallace, R.Christie. 28th September 2005.

From the north end of the black pool, surmount a couple of blocks to gain access to a crack. The crack steepens through a bulge leading to a niche, then some broken climbing to the top.

#### **Hidden Bay (ND 342 420):**

Access is via abseil to a massive ledge that stretches as far north as Djapana Buttress, giving great views of the impressive arch.

*Hard of Herring* 25m Severe 4b. R.Wallace, G.Richard. 7th July 2005.

Start at the right-hand base of the triangular pinnacle and climb to the apex. Continue up and right under flakes and through a narrow chimney to the top.

*On the Rebound* 25m HVS 5a \*. R.Wallace, R.Christie. 16th August 2005.

At the left-hand base of the triangular pillar is a short chimney. Bridge up the short chimney exiting at its top to the right into a narrow corner passing a small roof on the left. Mount a sloping slab above the roof and follow twin cracks through a pair of steep overlaps until it is possible to step right into a corner. The corner has an interesting leaning pillar in it that is tackled directly.

#### **Tilted Ledge:**

In the middle of the bay north of the Tilted Ledge is a jutting headland (ND 341 419) with a non-tidal ledge running along the southern edge of its base. Access by abseil.

*Tug of the Tide* 35m Severe \*. R.Wallace, R.Christie. 22nd July 2005.

A deep tidal pool splits the ledge and its rear juts against the base of a wide cracked pillar. Start on a ledge at the base of a chimney and climb the left edge of the chimney to an overlap. Follow a crack by the overlap that leads to a pedestal in another short chimney with a deep shaft in its rear. Bridge the chimney and follow a crack up left to a grassy ledge. The slab above has a right diagonal crack running up it. Climb straight up the slab, crossing the crack and up onto the arête that is followed to the top and a surprising block belay.

*Kaleidoscope* 30m HVS 5a \*. R.Christie, R.Wallace. 22nd July 2005.

Start from the ledge directly below the prow of the headland. Use an overlap and edge to pull up onto a sloping ledge at the base of a diamond shaped niche in a groove. Continue up the groove until it peters out then follow the crack till it stops. Make a wee jiggle over to the right using some side pulls and continue up into a shallow groove and an easier angle. Finish up the open blocky corner above.

Directly landward from the north end of the Tilted Ledge is a grey slabby pillar with corners on either side of it (ND 34150 41855). Access by abseil.

*Donnie Darko* 35m VS 4b. R.Christie, A.Wallace, R.Wallace. 5th September 2004.

To the left of the grey slabby pillar is a large non-tidal platform with an open book corner at its left end. Climb the corner, then move right under spikes and up a black chute.

#### **WHALIGOE, Neapolitan Buttress (ND 327 407):**

This huge south-east facing buttress lies directly to the south of Ellens Geo.

**Approach:** From the Whaligoe Steps car park, walk 1km north along the cliff tops through a few fields until some small rocky outcrops are reached. The main buttress lies below these and its northern end is marked from above by a large block at the cliff edge just before a grassy gallery.

*Layer Cake* 40m HVS 5a \*\*\*. R.Wallace, R.Christie. 5th July 2005.

At the northern end of the high cliff, a steep tidal ledge runs south into the sea. From this ledge start by climbing a brown sandstone corner with ledges to a good belay ledge at 12m. Continue through the red sandstone up steep corners to a large ledge at the start of the conglomerate. The right-hand wall of the layback corner above overhangs.

The following routes are reached by scrambling down to a grassy gallery at the north end of the big wall, then abbing off a large block northwards down big ledges to a non-tidal ledge. The next routes start on the wall to the right (facing inland).

*Razorbill Redirection* 20m HVS 5a. B.Tosh, R.Wallace, R.Christie. 3rd July 2005.

Start below and right of a triangular niche. Climb on to the wall and traverse right to an arête. Make some shaky moves up on to a ledge. Climb a right-facing corner on to a ledge, then follow a short crack to easier ground.

*Akimbo* 20m HVS 5a. R.Christie, R.Wallace, B.Tosh. 3rd July 2005.

Start to the right of Razorbill Redirection around an arête. Bridge up a steep open corner to a roof that is awkwardly turned to the right. Continue up the middle of the broken slabs above.

*Escape from Misery* 15m Difficult. R.Wallace, B.Tosh, R.Christie. 3rd July 2005.

Move right around the next arête and follow a stepped chimney and crack against the right wall.

After the abseil, the following route is the corner right of centre of the crag, clearly marked by white Razorbill droppings near the top.

*Pilot Whale Play Time* 35m E1 5a. B.Tosh, R.Christie, R.Wallace. 11th September 2005.

1. 15m 4a/4b. Climb the obvious stepped buttress until just below the sandstone rock band.
2. 20m 5a. Move up to the sandstone rock band and pull over a bulge. Continue up on good holds with limited protection into the corner and carry on to a cave. From here make the final hard but well protected moves on to the grassy gallery.

Back from the cliff edge, a line of small outcrops run south to almost meet the southern edge of the cliff at a large corner with a large boulder (abseil anchor) at its top.

*Where the Taut Wave Hangs* HVS 5a \*\*\*. R.Christie, B.Tosh, R.Wallace. 11th September 2005.

This fine route follows the corner with a deep off-width crack at its rear. Start from a ledge above the water.

1. 10m 4b. Follow the off-width to a ledge below a roof.
2. 20m 5a. Climb past the roof and stick to the right wall of the corner, stretching right to a crack for protection. Finish up a small chimney.

### **MID CLYTH, Over the Water:**

*Cellar Door* 10m E1 5b \*\*. R.Christie, A.Wallace, R.Wallace. 6th September 2004.

Six metres left of the arête of Friends in High Places is a deep capped corner. Climb the corner until a roof is reached at two-thirds height. Exit the roof to the right and make difficult moves up to a notch.

### **LATHERONWHEEL:**

**Notes from R.Anderson:** A very good little cliff. On the approach cross the old bridge and follow the coastal path.

The routes on p384 starting with Sticky Fingers are all on what should be called Peninsula Wall, since they lie on the south facing wall of the peninsula which runs northwards from Big Flat Wall. Access is on foot down the gully on the north side of the peninsula into the dry bay with four stacks and around the end of the peninsula onto a non-tidal shelf, from which all of the routes from Sticky Fingers to More Noise start. A tidal cave/arch cuts right through the peninsula at the end of the shelf and to the right of this above the shelf are two arches, or caves.

Far East Arête should come after Reach for the Sky, which it appears remarkably similar to despite the difference in grades.

Coprolyte is the similar to the later route Pray and should be on p385.

The comment: "To the south of Coprolyte are two fine arches" is incorrect since the tidal through cave is to the south, or left of Coprolyte. With Coprolyte in its right place there are only two routes to its left before the end of the shelf and the tidal through cave. The comment should read: "To the south (left) of Footloose are two fine arches, or caves." The cave referred to in the description for Footloose is the right-hand arch.

Don't think Twice should only be two stars since the final short easy bit is not good and there is likely to be a vomiting Fulmar just to your left when you pull over after the steep bit! There is no proper belay at the top of this route and it might be better to belay on the ledge (Fulmar allowing) just below the top and then over the back of the grassy peninsula. This may also apply to some of the other routes here.

Freakers Crack is only worth one star, and between this and Pippet at the Post are two new routes. This area is generally best approached by abseil down Pippet at the Post from the large boulder on the cliff top to a non-tidal ledge.

*Chance Encounter* 15m HVS 5a. R.Wallace, B.Tosh. 14th May 2005.

Start 1m north of Freaker's Crack. Climb an overhanging crack to a bay. Easier climbing up a corner leads to a jutting prow that is turned to the left up another clean corner.

**Note:** R.Anderson stepped left to avoid some guano and climbed the centre of the wall to finish up short cracks (E2 5b).

*Voodoo People* 14m HVS 5a. R.Wallace, R.Christie, J.Malcolm. 7th June 2005.

The crack springing from above the right end of the ledge at the foot of Pippet at the Post.

**Note:** Repeated by R.Anderson, C.Anderson on 26th June 2005. Their name Light Work appears in *Scottish Rock Climbs*, as the earlier ascent was not known at the time.

*Imperial Lather* 15m E1 5a \*\*\*. R.Anderson, C.Anderson. 26th June 2005.

Just right of Pippet at the Post, climb a thin crack, then step right and steeply climb horizontal breaks to the top.

*Belarusk* 16m E1 5b \*. J.Malcolm, R.Wallace. 8th June 2005.

Climbs the wall between Border Raid and Angel of Sleep without using the right-hand wall of Border Raid. Start up the mini chimney, move left and pull through the roof using the twin cracks. Follow the right-hand crack up the slab on to a narrow ledge, then trend right and pull over another roof to the top.

*The Grey Coastline* 15m VS 4b. R.Wallace, J.Malcolm. 15th May 2005.

Climb the Grey Coast alcove on to the wall above. Branch diagonally left and follow the crack past the big ledge and straight to the top (probably climbed before).

### **The Big Flat Wall (GPS – ND 18789 31771)**

**Note from R.Anderson:** Routes are generally over starred, the climbing is good but the upper right side of the face has a grass ledge cutting across it occupied by gulls. It also weeps here. Cask Strength should be to the left of Macallan's Choice. The Other Landscape is probably only 4c. Laphroaig is probably VS 5a. Two Good Friends is eliminate and if removed from the equation Puffin Attack is probably worth three stars.

The next three routes start from the ledge of Primary Corner.

*Soap on Tyre* 16m VS 4c. R.Wallace, R.Christie. 17th October 2005.

Start up the right-hand wall of the corner and move up and right to stand on a good foothold at the base of the hanging arête. Delicately climb the left wall of the arête to a platform at the top of a crack. Climb past a big ledge to a bigger ledge below another hanging arête. Climb the wall just to its left.

*Kelp Line* 16m Severe 4b. R.Christie, R.Wallace. 17th October 2005.

From the ledge, traverse left round the arête to the base of V-cracks in the middle of the wall. Follow the right-hand crack to a platform on the arête. Continue to a grassy ledge and join Primary Corner for a short open corner, then move left to finish up a separate crack.

*Thank Cod for Friends* 16m HVS 5a. R.Wallace, R.Christie. 17th October 2005.

From the base of the V-cracks, delicately follow the thin left crack. At its top, move up left into a large triangular niche, then up and left again to finish up a corner.

### **Stack Area:**

*Personalized Dwarf* 12m Severe. J.Malcolm, R.Wallace, R.Christie. 31st May 2005.

Start on the seaward side of the wall to the right of Sunspot. Climb by a small alcove to a ledge below the main overhanging arête, then continue up the right-hand side of the arête.

*Silly Blunt* 12m VS 4b. J. & D. Preston. 29th October 2005.

The blunt arête left of Out of Reach. Climb the initial wall to a ledge. Continue up the blunt arête, using holds mainly on the right, to ledges at the top.

*Yellow Streak* 12m VS 4c. J. & D. Preston. 29th October 2005.

The steep recessed lichenous wall to the left of the blunt arête. Climb easily up to a large chockstone on the right. Finish slightly rightwards up the steep wall above. Escapable but a good direct line. Possibly a more direct line of the following route – Ed?

*Dabble* 10m Severe 4a. R.Wallace, S.Ross. 10th July 2005.

From the base of Out of Reach, start a couple of metres to the left up a step. Follow a right diagonal crack then up onto a ledge. Step left and pull round a flake to the top.

*Dibble* 10m Severe 4a. R.Christie, G.Milne. 23rd April 2005.

Left of Dabble, climb the sweeping crack and climb directly to finish up the arête.

*Catching The Worm* 12m Severe 4b. R.Wallace (unsec). 27th March 2005.

Climb a wide crack between the stack and the wall of Coaster into a huge niche. Move up left to climb the narrow chimney.

### **Bedrock:**

*Freddie Flintoff* 12m Hard Severe 4b \*\*. J.Lyall, J.Preston. 2nd September 2005.

The crack and wall just right of Bam Bam.

*Rubble Trubble* 12m VS 4b \*. J.Lyall, J.Preston. 2nd September 2005.

Climbs the wall direct between Bully for Brontosaurus and Sorry Scorry.

*Right Barney* 12m VS 4c \*. J.Preston, J.Lyall. 2nd September 2005.

Climb the wall right of Pebbles Dash by an obvious sidepull to gain the ledge at a slight ramp and go straight up.

*Pebbles Dash* 12m VS 4c \*. J.Preston, J.Lyall. 2nd September 2005.

Climb the wall just right of the left arête (Thinking of Wilma) by flakes to a ledge and go straight up the top wall.

### **ORKNEY, Yesnaby, Qui Ayre Point, Point Wall:**

An excellent wall of superb weathered sandstone, packed with lines. Most are strenuous but well protected, particularly with small cams. All are close together but independent and their proximity does not detract from them. The wall faces due south. It is in an exposed position and the bulk of the routes require calm seas and a mid to low tide for access.

**Descent:** At low tide the base of the routes can be accessed by a steep little down climb from the west, left (looking in) from Half Buoy or from the East by The Crevasse descent then along the wave cut platform below The Tower. Easier, and so that a number of routes can be bagged, is to abseil. The routes from The Bends rightwards can be accessed at higher states of the tide by abseil with belays taken on tapering ledges below Tuttie's Wall etc.

*The Fantastic Mr Fox* 10m E2 6a \*. T.Rankin, D.Fox. July 2005.

This route climbs the wall between Route 91 and Up tae High Doh. Start 2m left of Up tae... climb the wall direct using an obvious two finger pocket to overcome the blankest section (crux). Well protected.

*Up tae High Doh* 10m E1 5b \*\*\*. T.Rankin, D.Fox. July 2005.

Five metres right of Route 91 is another fine crack running the full height of the wall. A superb well protected pitch.

*Billy Bean's Dream* 12m E3 5c \*\*. T.Rankin, D.Fox. July 2005.

Right of Deep Blue is a white calcite mark at one-third height on the cliff. Start below this and climb the steep wall direct to jugs just right of the mark, stand up right then step back left to follow superb breaks direct to the top always to the left of the stepped corner-line. Low in the grade.

The following routes can be accessed at higher tide levels by abseiling down near Tuttie's Neuk and belaying along the tapering ledge.

*The Bends* 12m E2 5c \*\*. N.Morrison, D.Fox. July 2005.

Right again and at half-height on the cliff are two left facing overlapping corners. Gain these from below and right (the leftmost end of the tapering ledges) and finish direct from their top left-hand side.

*Blue Crush* 12m E1 5b \*. N.Morrison, D.Fox. July 2005.

Right of the overlapping corners is a right-slanting crack running between horizontal breaks. Start as for the previous route. Lovely climbing.

*Birdman* 11m E1 5b \*. N.Morrison, D.Fox. July 2005.

Right again and before the vague black crack of Tuttie's Wall there is a thin crack-line with a small triangular jutting block above a break at half-height. Climb to, then up the crack and the wall above.

### **Tower Area:**

*Standing Stone* 20m E3 5c \*\*. N.Morrison, D.Fox July 2005.

Climbs the cracks on the edge of the impending wall immediately right of The Quarryman. Climb through a niche into the cracks (common to The Big Swall), then continue up the edge. This soon leads to into The Quarryman for a rest of sorts. From the rest step back right onto the wall and forge on up the cracks to the top.

### **The Clett:**

**Note:** The route in SMCJ 2005 is called Things Complete.

### **HOY, The Berry:**

*General Sheridan* 245m XS. S.Sustad, M.Fowler (alt.). 10th September 2005.

Takes the highest headland of The Berry. From the top of Beriberi walk north to a deep gully after 100m. Descend the gully (abseil required over a 15m steep section) to sea-level. Wade north (low tide essential), pass through an arch and continue over large slippery boulders until the boulders run out and the cliffs drop sheer into the sea. Swim 15m to pull out on ledges above high tide level. Traverse these to belay 6m right of an obvious corner just short of the crest of the buttress.

1. 20m 5b/c. Go up steeply, traverse into the corner and follow it to an obvious break.
2. 15m. Traverse horizontally left, drop down left again, then back up to a ledge.
3. 15m. Continue the traverse easily, then move up when possible to belay beneath two parallel cracks just left of the crest of the buttress.
4. 20m 5b. Go up the right crack for 3m, transfer to the left crack and continue to a break.
5. 10m. Go up and then traverse left for 8m on the next break. Move up to beneath red overhangs.
6. 20m 5b. Climb a short right-trending overhanging crack and continue up a groove line.
7. 30m. Continue up a groove on the right wall to a terrace. Trend up right to a block beneath a wide crack.

8. 40m. Climb the crack and easier ground above to below a red band.
9. 30m 5a. Climb a crack in the centre of a depression in the red band to belay on a break above.
10. 30m. Continue straight up to reach the left-bounding edge of the buttress. Climb the edge for 10m.
11. 15m 5a. Move right and climb a break to a fine finish.

### **SHETLAND, MUCKLE ROE**

*Da Kist* 65m E1 \*\*. M.Tighe, D.Lee, J.McClenaghan. 25th June 2005.

An excellent 50m stack of superb red granite off the west side of Muckle Roe (HU 652 293). From a small ledge at the north-west corner go up and left along airy off-balance ledges on the landward face until progress is barred by a gently overhanging wall with a diagonal crack. From runners in the crack, tension down and left to gain the central fault system, which leads to the fine panoramic summit. Though bone dry on the first ascent the central fault-line is the natural drainage line and could be very wet. Approach was made by fish farm boat, though a long swim is possible from good ledges on the shore opposite.

### **Picts Ness, Walls of Troll: (HU 2973 8681) Partly Tidal East Facing:**

The spectacular red granite cliffs on the west coast of Muckle Roe mainly consists of poor quality rock. The Walls of Troll provide some good lines on weathered granite and an igneous plug in a sheltered geo.

**Approach:** From Brae follow the A970 west for 1 km and turn left onto the road for Muckle Roe. Follow this south almost to the end and take a track on the right 100m west of Narwood at HU 3261 6310. The track splits after 1km (this short connecting section of track is not shown on the latest OS map). Take the left fork and follow this to park at HU 3092 6425 before the track descends steeply to a bridge. Contour from the parking space through Leftie Scord to Picts Ness. The walls and prominent hanging corner of the Troll Catcher are easily seen from the cliff top. All routes are gained by abseil and only affected at high tide when there is a large swell.

*The Troll Catcher* 35m Hard Severe 4b \*\*\*. R.I.Jones, J.Sanders. 13th June 2005.

The prominent hanging corner-crack of weathered red granite against a wall of igneous rock provides a great jamming crack for those with hands the size of trolls. For humans a couple of large cams (4 or 5) will help protect the lower section. Start 3m right of the corner and climb up to join the crack at 4m. Continue up the wall/crack to the top.

*Who's Afraid of The Light?* 30m HVS 4c. R.I.Jones, J.Sanders. 13th June 2005.

Right of the corner is a broken crack-line. Climb this on poor rock.

To the right of this route the wall of igneous rock deteriorates. The next wall of blackened granite provides good climbing on solid rock from ledges that run along the bottom of the wall. The first route starts 3m right of a hidden grooved chimney.

*Hobbits For Dinner* 20m Hard Severe 4b. R.I.Jones, J.Sanders. 13th June 2005.

Climb the wall just left of a small right-facing corner to a break at 5m and climb the crack-line above.

*Troll Wall* 20m HVS 5a \*\*. R.I.Jones, J.Sanders. 13th June 2005.

Start 2m right of a short rightward slanting crack-line/break and below a thin crack-line that starts at the break. Climb the wall and crack-line to the top. Good balanced climbing.

*Slapping The Troll In The Face* 20m Mild VS 4b \*. J.Sanders, R.I.Jones. 13th June 2005.

Start from the ledge at the bottom of the chimney. Step left onto the face and climb the wall on small broken crack-lines left of the two large crack-lines.

*Bad Troll* 20m Very Difficult. J.Sanders, R.I.Jones. 13th June 2005.

Climb the chimney to the two crack-lines on the wall and climb these to the top. A disappointing route up two good looking crack-lines.

*All Trolled Up And No Where To Go* 20m Difficult \*\*. J.Sanders, R.I.Jones. 13th June 2005.

Climb the chimney and the short final wall.

Right of the chimney is another wall of clean granite with a slightly right-slanting crack-line up the centre.

*Party Troll* 20m Hard Severe 4b \*. J.Sanders, R.I.Jones. 13th June 2005.

Climb the crack easily to a steep pull through a bulge at a hanging flake at two-thirds height and then to the top.

### **NESS OF HAMAR:**

The coast around Riva Geo, Red Head and along to Silvi Geo provide a range of climbs up 20m which are being developed by local climbers, but the routes have not yet been written up. The following routes had not been tackled prior to the ascents listed below.

**Approach:** Red Head is best approached by parking just before the gate to the croft at The Berg (HU 3119 7606) and then contouring around the hills.

**Medusa Wall:**

(HU 2968 7442) Partly Tidal West Facing

The routes are only affected at high tide and with a large swell.

*Snake Face* 15m VS 4b. J.Sanders, R.I.Jones. 11th June 2005.

Start at the centre of the first wall on the left from the descent to the beach. Climb the broken crack-line and then the face direct where the crack-line slants rightwards.

*The Gorgan* 20m E1 5b. R.I.Jones, J.Sanders. 11th June 2005.

10-15m right of Snake Face is a hanging crack-line which is undercut with a lighter band of rock. Start below the hanging crack-line and climb to the small left facing overhanging corner. Pull around this into the crack and climb this to the top.

*Medusa* 20m HVS 5a \*. R.I.Jones, J.Sanders. 11th June 2005.

Start 2m right of The Gorgan and climb up and rightwards to the base of the crack-line. Climb this to the top. High in the grade.

Dragon Geo:

(HU 2972 7432) Partly Tidal South-West facing:

Only affected at high tide.

*Taming the Dragon* 20m E2 5c \*\*. R.I.Jones, J.Sanders. 14th June 2005.

The corner crack-line provides good climbing and an awkward crux at the top.

**ESHANESS:**

*Goblin Cleaver* 40m E2 5c \*\*\*. R.I.Jones, J.Sanders. 18th June 2005.

This route climbs a curving crack-line on an overhanging left-facing corner system in the north-west wall below the lighthouse and has very different character to the other climbs nearby. From the car park head west to a concreted pipeline north-west of the blow hole. Follow the pipeline to its end, then head directly north to the cliff top to the top of a corner-groove that forms the exit to the route. The route suffers from a small amount of seepage after rain at the crux. Abseil to a triangular ledge beneath the overhanging cliff face. From the ledge climb a rib to the hanging crack-line. Pull around into this and make difficult moves to easier ground and a final lay back crack to the top.

*Aisha* 35m E1 5a \*. R.I.Jones, J.McClenaghan. 19th June 2005.

Climb the centre of the wall right of Atlantic Sea. Bold but never strenuous. A large rack helps creative gear placement!

**Notes:** Black Watch is VS 4c \*\*, not HVS.

The Wind Cries... the description for this route seems to climb the same rib and groove/scoop as Mary?

*Living the Dream* 30m E3 5c. A.Wainright, A.Cave. 7th June 2005.

The chimney line immediately right of Cave Crack (Lost for Words?). Climb the groove in the left wall of the chimney, over an overlap, to reach and follow the chimney.

*Aero Arête* 30m HVS 4c. A.Long, P.Robins, B.Bransby. 7th June 2005.

The attractive slabby stepped arête, half-way between Black Watch (?) and the next wall. The route is a lot easier than it looks though quite bold. Abseil down to a sloping ledge above the sea on the slabby right wall. Climb the slabby right wall of the arête to a roof. Steep moves left through this with good holds, leads to a jug romp up the upper arête.

*Team Specsavers* 30m E5 6a. P.Robins, B.Bransby. 7th June 2005.

The next major zawn, and perhaps the last, to the south of Black Watch has a large 30m north facing wall with an arching roof at two-thirds height. The wall is bounded by a steep smooth corner, high up on the right above a ledge. This route climbs the centre of the wall, crossing the roof to finish up a short hanging groove on the right. Abseil to a small ledge, just above the sea, at the base of the right-hand of two cracks below the roof. Climb the crack and continue rightwards up an easy large flake. Move up to the roof and awkwardly left, then up to a rail leading through

the roof, crux, and onto the upper wall. Easier but bold climbing leads up and right, aiming for the left-facing hanging groove and gear.

### **THE FAITHER:**

The Faither (far point) is the most northerly point of land to the west of Ronas Voe.

**Approach:** From the parking spot for Warie Gill (HU 2460 8245) walk north to the headland.

Faither Stack:

(HU 2564 8590) Tidal South-West and North-East facing:

This fine 35m stack is hidden away from view by the surrounding cliffs. Access to the stack is gained by a 50m free hanging abseil from the cliff-top north-west of the stack to a wave washed platform, followed by a dash to the stack across a channel between waves up to mid tide. A 100m abseil rope is required as anchor points are spaced out.

*Don't Even Think About Going To Spain* 35m Hard Severe 4b \*\*. J.Sanders, R.I.Jones. 15th June 2005.

Start to the left-hand side of the face below a right-slanting groove that starts at one-third height. Climb this and the groove to the top on good rock.

*Cheshire Cat* 30m VS 4c \*\*\*\*. R.I.Jones, J.Sanders. 15th June 2005.

Guaranteed to bring out a big smile in all who climb it. Climbs the centre of the face on excellent rock. Climb to a small left-facing corner, climb the wall to its right and the crack-line above. Step left into a shallow groove and then to the top.

*Faither's Day* 30m Hard Severe 4b. J.Sanders, R.I.Jones. 15th June 2005.

Climb the V-groove to the right of the wall, then traverse around on the south-east wall which is climbed to the top.

There is a poor quality line on the north-east facing wall which is best approached by abseil from the top of the stack.

*It Never Rains, It Pours* 35m Hard Severe 4a. R.I.Jones, J.Sanders. 15th June 2005.

Climbs the wall to the left of the large hanging left-slanting crack-line on poor rock. (Climbed in the rain while waiting for the tide).

Arched Wall:

(HU 2565 8590) Non-tidal South-West facing:

This is the wall opposite Faither stack which is descended by the line of the abseil for approaching the stack. Both routes can be climbed from the tidal platform as an alternative to a long jumar up the wall after climbing the stack. The wall is broken in its lower half by a black right-slanting ramp line and is made up of large pockets. A wide range of cams are useful.

*Memory Games* 55m VS 4b \*. R.I.Jones, J.Sanders, P.Whitworth. 16th June 2005.

Abseil to a large ledge at the bottom of a right-slanting ramp/crack.

1. 20m 4a. Climb the ramp/crack to a large spike.

2. 35m 4b. Climb the wall to the left for 3m, then traverse along a ledge (possible belay) before making an exposed pull around the arête onto a wall. Climb large pockets up easier ground to beneath an overhang to reach a corner and climb the wall on the left to finish.

*Sea of Change* 40m HVS 5a \*\*\*. R.I.Jones, P.Whitworth. 16th June 2005.

Abseil to a small niche to the left and slightly lower than the start of Memory Games and just right of a left-facing corner. Climb the arête to another smaller corner at 12m. Step right back onto the arête and climb this in a fine position to a short steep groove. Climb this direct and the wall above to easier ground. Finish at the same short final wall as for Memory Games.

### **RONAS VOE:**

Many other routes have been climbed by the Whitworth brothers. The crag is easily accessible by boat from Heylor, or by a long walk from the east. All the routes here are on granite outcrops set back from the sea.

#### **High Crag:**

The slabby upper tier.

*Up on the Hill* 10m Severe \*. W.Moir, T. Whitworth. 23rd July 2005.

The obvious right-facing corner.

*Up the Hill Backwards* 10m VS 4c \*. W.Moir, T.Whitworth. 23rd July 2005.

Takes the thin crack through the bulge left of previous route.

#### **Low Crag:**

The squat crag just off the beach.

*Mussel Beach* 10m E3 6a \*. W.Moir, P.Whitworth. 23rd July 2005.

The central crack-line through a bulging nose. Go up right of the crack, then pull back left and up via twin cracks.

**Right-Hand Crag:**

Below and right of High Crag.

*The Blade* 14m E2 5c \*\*. W.Moir, P.Whitworth. 23rd July 2005.

A fine route up the left-slanting crack-line.

*Heylor High Water* 10m E1 5b \*. W.Moir, P.Whitworth. 23rd July 2005.

A crack left of The Blade, joining it at the top.

**PAPA STOUR, Kirsten Stacks (HU 1525 6040):**

Two fine 20m stacks guard the entrance to Kirsten Hole. The stacks are separated in places by only 10cms, but they remain two separate stacks.

**Approach:** Abseil from stakes to a tidal corner directly north of the stacks and swim to the platform on the west end of the west stack with the end of the rope. The second then relocates the abseil to a block opposite the stack to make a 40m abseil/tyrolean straight onto the stack. 100m rope is required. Retreat is by tyrolean from the top of the stack.

*The Guardian* 15m Very Difficult. R.I.Jones, S.Calvin, J.Sanders. 12th June 2005.

Climb the west arête direct. It is possible to step on the summit of the east stack from the west summit.

**Bordie Head:**

A good cliff made of hardened red sandstone, just west of Redbeard's through cave. A scramble down some ledges over to the west of the cliff leads to a big rock platform beneath the crag. Walking east beneath the crag, a step up gains a narrower ledge as the cliff rises in height.

*The Forewick Stud* 25m E5 6a. P.Robins, B.Bransby. 8th June 2005.

The HVS-looking line almost immediately as one gains the upper ledge. Climb onto a ledge on the left at 3m. Step right into a slabby groove and boldly shimmy up to a ledge on the right. Attack the steep crack above till a hard move left gains an easier groove and the top.

*Holy Shit* 25m E5 6a. B.Bransby, P.Robins, A.Cave, A.Wainright. 9th June 2005.

A steep line in the middle of the wall, leading to an obvious hanging flake on the upper wall. Climb up the wall, with a hard move to gain a small ledge beneath the steepening. Continue up on good holds, gaining the right-facing flaky groove. Continue up this to its top, then step up and rightwards to finish. Low in the grade.

*Papa Don't Preach* 35m E5 5c/6a. P.Robins, B.Bransby. 9th June 2005.

An amazing route, traversing left from the eastern end of the upper ledge to gain a hidden hanging sweeping slabby corner. From the end of the ledge, traverse boldly left for 7m, then go up to an obvious small ledge. Climb the short right-facing black corner above, crux, then step left onto a slab beneath the right-facing continuation corner. Climb the slab and corner, in a wild position, until a steepening gains an upper corner and the top. Low in the grade.

**The Nose Tirls of Nort Lungie Geo:**

*Deeper Darker* 30m E5 6a. A.Cave, B.Bransby. 9th June 2005.

This is a huge and complex cave/geo, reminiscent of a giant Swiss Cheese and largely capped by rock, to the south of Kirsten Hole. A bridge of capping rock remains near the edge of the cave then it opens out before becoming mainly covered again. From the depths of the cave, a chimney extends some 20m across the centre of the roof to emerge through a small hole in the roof. The route can be gained by climbing down through a large hole, some 50m back from the coast. A ledge runs down the south side of the cave from which the route can be viewed. From the back of the cave, climb through a body-sized thread to gain the chimney. Climb up some way into the darkness to belay. Wriggle and shuffle outwards on mainly good features for 20m, heading for the small source of light. A very traditional and enjoyable outing.

**WESTERWICK, Two Towers Stack (HU 2763 4210):**

The stack has two distinct towers which are separate in only the largest of seas.

**Approach:** Abseil from stakes or blocks to ledges opposite the stack and swim the 7m channel to the stack and set up a 50m abseil/tyrolean on the connecting platform between the stacks. Retreat is by jumaring back up the tyrolean to the cliff-top.

**West Tower:**

*Building Blocks on a Rockin' Top* 15m VS 4b \*. R.I.Jones, P.Whitworth, J.Sanders. 17th June 2005.

Climb the south-west arête on good rock for 7m, then step right and climb the corner to the top. Descent is by abseil.

**East Tower:**

*Climbing with a Porpoise* 15m Hard Severe 4a. J.Sanders, R.I.Jones. 17th June 2005.

Climb the stepped wall between the towers to a corner and climb the wall on the right to the top. The corner climbed direct is 4c. Descent is by an easy scramble down the east ramp.

#### **UNST**

A nice little crag on this small headland of granite, previously occupied by the MOD, right on the north-eastern tip of Unst. Park at the end of the road (some routes in the guidebook are found on the eastern coast down) and walk north through the ruined military units towards the coast. A small NE-facing (?) cliff can be found to the west of a small arch. The crag has an obvious finger crack running up the centre.

*The Most Northerly Route in Britain* 10m E5 6b. P.Robins, B.Bransby. 13th June 2005.

The obvious central finger crack. A bold start leads to surprisingly awkward and strenuous climbing, easing towards the top.

**Note:** Not quite the most northerly, since M.Fowler, C.Jones and A.Nisbet climbed the Outstack in 1992, albeit at a lesser grade (Easy).

### **NORTHERN HIGHLANDS CENTRAL**

No routes here as the new guide should already be out.

### **NORTHERN HIGHLANDS SOUTH**

No routes here as the new guide is due out soon.

### **CAIRNGORMS**

#### **LOCHNAGAR, Southern Sector:**

*Triangle Buttress* 70m II. S.M.Richardson. 18th November 2005.

Start from the foot of the Red Spout and climb the left-trending ramp running across the front face of the buttress. Climb straight up over a steeper section and continue up the easier buttress crest to the top. The route is a Moderate scramble in summer.

#### **Perseverance Wall:**

*Starburst* 70m II. S.M.Richardson. 18th November 2005.

The first line on the second rib of Perseverance Wall. Start 15m left of Gale Force Groove and follow a groove-line characterised with a steep left wall. Move right and finish up the final ridge near the top.

*The Gift* 80m II. S.M.Richardson. 18th November 2005.

The prominent curving right narrow gully line on the fourth rib. Follow the gully past a steep bulge at one-third height and finish right of the final tower. A sweet little route and one of the best of the easier climbs in the Southern Sector.

*Temptress* 80m III. S.M.Richardson. 18th November 2005.

The groove line up the centre of the fourth rib. Climb this over three bulges to finish just right of the exit slope of The Gift.

*Perseverance Groove* 80m II. S.Stronach, A.Lyons. 18th March 2006.

The gully bounding the left side of Perseverance Rib. Climb the gully to half-height (where a snow slope exits left) and continue up the line of the gully into a groove that leads back up and right to a ledge. Continue up a thinly iced slab for 10m and finish up an easy chimney to exit onto the crest of the rib.

#### **Central Buttress:**

*The Finalist* 100m V,6. S.M.Richardson, C.Cartwright. 8th January 2006.

The prominent groove in the centre of the face.

1. 50m. Start at the foot of Shallow Gully and climb straight up over turfy mixed ground towards the groove. Cross the diagonal faults taken by Magical Mystery Tour and Sciolist and climb up right of a smooth undercut wall. Step left across the wall and move up to easier ground below the corner.

2. 30m. Move up into the corner and make a difficult exit right at its top. Belay on blocks up and right.

3. 20m. Continue up grooves in the line of the corner to join the crest of Central Buttress.

#### **Eagle Buttress:**

*Where Eagles Dare* 250m VII,8. G.Robertson, S.M.Richardson. 10th February 2006.

An outstanding route taking the vertical headwall at the top of Eagle Buttress. The climbing is sustained, well protected and sensationally exposed, and the second pitch is one of the finest mixed pitches on the mountain.

1. to 3. Climb Eagle Buttress to where the original line bears right. Move up to the foot of a broad left-slanting groove system that cuts through the lower half of the headwall.
4. 35m. Climb the left wall of the groove with increasing difficulty and step right into a short corner near the top. Move up this to reach a good ledge below the vertical headwall.
5. 35m. Starting from near the left edge of the wall, climb a right-slanting crack to reach the central crack system. Follow this to a good ledge just below the top of the wall.
6. 30m. Continue up the wall to its top then move right and climb a short corner-crack cutting in to the final ridge that leads easily to the top.

#### **Scarface Wall:**

*Scarface Wall* 140m VIII,8 \*\*. I.Parnell, G.Robertson. 8th April 2006.

A superb exposed route, with varied and very sustained climbing, taking a natural line of weakness curving leftwards across the right wall of Raeburn's Gully. The final 60m are common with The Straight-Jacket. On this ascent, in good conditions, the Straight Jacket off-width held some ice, but the steep corner above it did not and was harder. Start below twin grooves at a point midway between the Scarface icefall and the cave pitch of Raeburn's Gully.

1. 25m. Place a high side runner in the base of the right-hand groove and make a thin traverse horizontally right past a crack to gain turf in a little right-facing groove. Go up this and step left to gain and follow a steep fault which leads to snow bay. Belay at the back of the bay below a tapering groove.
2. 25m. Climb a short way up the groove, then pull out left onto a ledge. Traverse left across the smooth wall to gain an easier groove which leads to another snow bay. Move left again to belay below a short left-facing corner sporting a wide crack in its slabby left wall.
3. 30m. Climb the corner with difficulty and continue on leftwards into a slot formed by a precarious block. From the top of the block, step down left to gain and follow a strenuous groove, then move up right to a spacious platform below a wide chimney-crack.
- 4 to 6. 60m. Follow The Straight-Jacket to the top.

#### **CREAG AN DUBH LOCH, False Gully Wall:**

*Coon's Yard* 40m E1 5b. R.J.Archbold, G.S.Strange. 25th May 1980.

From the grass slope beneath The Gathering and The Quickening, go left up an obvious slanting fault and climb a left-facing corner to belay at a grass ledge below a grey wall (left of the prominent pink wall). Climb the grey wall to easy ground (IPA used on the grey wall due to onset of rain).

#### **GLEN CLOVA, Winter Corrie:**

*Wild Cat Wall* 180m V,6. C.Cartwright, S.M.Richardson. 27th November 2005.

A direct mixed line up the centre of the cliff. Start 40m right of Diagonal Gully below a hidden left-slanting chimney-ramp.

1. and 2. 80m. Climb the gully over a chokestone to the Basin. Move up to the foot of the headwall shaped like an inverted triangle.
3. 40m Gain the headwall steeply from the left, then climb easier ground to the foot of the vertical final wall. Belay below a prominent off-width crack.
4. 20m. Climb the off-width and continue up the steep continuation crack to a good ledge below and right of a large sloping roof.
5. 40m. Continue up the right of twin corners above and exit on to a left-trending ramp that leads to a long horizontal ledge. A superb pitch.
6. 20m. Move right along the dwindling ledge to a break that leads to the top.

#### **BEINN A' BHUIRD, Coire nan Clach:**

*Unnamed* 80m II. S.M.Richardson. 5th February 2006.

The broader buttress right of Ribeye. Gain the crest from the left and follow it over a short ice step to a steep exit.

#### **Garbh Choire:**

*Unnamed* 175m E2 \*\*. S.M.Richardson, I.Small. 15th July 2005.

An excellent route taking the right edge of the front face of Mitre Ridge. The third pitch is sensationally exposed. Start directly below the well defined pillar split by a crack that lies just left of the initial chimney of Cumming-Crofton Route.

1. 30m 5a. Scramble up to the crack and climb it through an overlap to a good platform on top of the pillar.
2. 30m 5b. The route continues up the slim hanging groove in the edge between the corners of The Sacrament and Cumming-Crofton Route. Move right, then back left into the hanging groove and climb it to exit on easier ground on the front face of Mitre Ridge. Continue easily up the edge to belay where Mitre Link Variation joins from the right.

3. 35m 5c. Go up to the foot of the First Tower and climb the right edge on hidden holds.
4. 20m Scramble along the ridge to the notch below the Second Tower.
5. 20m 5c. Climb the wall on the front face of the tower (to the left of pitch 6 of The Sacrament) past a prominent protruding flake. Strenuous and awkward to protect.
6. 40m. Scramble to the plateau.

#### **BEINN BHROTAIN, Coire Cath nam Fionn:**

The following were climbed in lean icy conditions and may bank out under heavy snow. They may have been climbed before.

*A Minus Gully* 150m I. M.W.Holland. 31st January 2006.

The large dog-leg gully on the right of Fingal's Buttress gives an easy line to the summit dome. Follow easy-angled snow into an amphitheatre, then a large open right-trending ramp, finishing up a narrowing and steepening gully.

*Skirmish* 120m II. M.W.Holland. 31st January 2006.

Approx. 150m below the Beinn Bhrotain/Monadh Mor col a big ramp leads right below a short buttress to gain a snowfield below a larger buttress. The route takes the gully on the left of the larger buttress and is seen as a right-trending ramp on approach to the corrie.

*Finn's Tale* 200m II. M.W.Holland. 1st February 2006.

A Y-shaped gully which leads up from the left side of the second basin right of the Beinn Bhrotain/Monadh Mor col (at NN 946 933).

#### **BRAERLACH, Garbh Choire Mor:**

*She-Devil's Buttress, Left-Hand Finish* 30m V,5. S.M.Richardson, C.Cartwright. 27th December 2005.

In lean conditions, She-Devil's Buttress can provide a worthwhile mixed route. If the final wall is unconsolidated, traverse left for 5m into an overhung corner and climb this to finish on the crest of the buttress directly below the snow prow.

#### **Garbh Choire Dhaidh:**

**Note:** O.Metherell and I.Parnell made a free ascent of Digeridoo on 29th December 2005 after belaying at the wedge of blocks.

*Pea Soup* 250m II. A.Nisbet. 3rd February 2006.

Roughly in the centre of the south-west wall of the corrie and left of two steeper buttresses is this shallow gully. Start up a lower continuation which ends with an 8m ice pitch, potentially quite steep and leading to snow slopes at mid-height. Move left to the main gully which steepens to finish with an easier angled ice pitch. A rib on the left is a likely break in the cornice.

*Chewing' the Fat* 250m II. A.Nisbet, J.Preston. 31st January 2006.

Right of centre on the south-west wall of the corrie are the two steeper buttresses under the plateau, the left being larger. Between the two is a groove and ramp which leads into a high bay. A lower shallow snow gully leads into the groove and ramp which in lean icy conditions may hold continuous ice. A break in the cornice on the left is essential.

#### **Coire Bhrochain, West Buttress:**

*Molar* 80m Severe. A.Nisbet. 13th July 2005.

The leftmost ridge on the West Buttress. It looks more impressive than The Fang from the corrie floor but turns out to be much less prominent and therefore a bit artificial. A direct line at about VS would be better.

1. 30m. Climb slabby ground near the crest to a steepening.
2. 50m 4a. Move left and back right on waterwashed slabs to gain the top of a wide crack which is just left of the crest. At a second steepening, move into the base of a V-groove on the gully wall, then immediately swing back out left on to the crest which is climbed to a final steepening. Traverse right and climb the gully wall to reach a final horizontal crest.

*Powerpoint* 250m II. A.Nisbet. 26th January 2006.

In lean but cold conditions, a low-angled icefall forms on the broken ground left of the main buttress. Climb this and finish up the gully between Molar and The Fang, sometimes passing under a wedged block.

#### **CARN ETCHACHAN, Lower Tier:**

*Starting Pistol* 100m IV,4. J.Lyall, E.Pirie. 2nd January 2006.

A line up the scooped depression on the far left of the lower tier. Start at the foot of Eastern Approach Route.

1. 35m. Slant up left past the corner of Far East, breaking up right at the first chance to belay on a snow shelf.

2. 30m. Move right and climb up rightwards by a narrow groove (avoiding the easy snow ramp on the right) to a ledge and block.
3. 35m. Go up left by icy steps to climb a turf groove, to the left of a loose blocky corner, and work up left to the Great Terrace.

**Note:** Finishing Line (SMCJ 2003) was climbed above and thought IV,6 (J.Preston agrees).

#### **SHELTERSTONE CRAG:**

**Note:** The note in SMCJ 2001 that G.Ettle and S.Koch climbed Citadel Winter Variation free at VI,7 suggests that this was the first free ascent, but the original ascent of this variation by R.Anderson was free. The grade is G.Ettle's opinion.

#### **GARBH UISGE CRAG:**

*Feld Spur* 100m III. J.Lyall. 3rd January 2004.

The spur right of Quartz Gully.

#### **STAG ROCKS:**

*Ashes Fever* 40m HVS 5a \*. J.Lyall, J.Preston. 12th September 2005.

Start up the left-slanting ramp of The Troglodyte and make an airy traverse right into the large corner which is followed to an old peg. Move left across the slab and up the edge to gain left-slating cracks which are followed to the belay on Quartz Diggers Cave route. Two old pegs indicate a previous ascent or attempt close to this line.

#### **COIRE AN T-SNEACHDA, Mess of Pottage:**

*Crack Pot* 120m V,6. G.Ettle, J.Lyall. 2nd December 2004.

The buttress edge right of Opening Break. Start at the diagonal fault as for Honey-pot.

1. 20m. Climb the initial diagonal break, then slant left to belay at the foot of the corner of Opening Break.
2. 50m. Step right onto a ledge, move right and up to a crack-line which is followed to easy ground and the base of the slanting fault of Opening Break.
3. 50m. Gain the buttress on the right by large blocks and slant up right to a flake-crack. Traverse delicately left and up the edge of the wall moving left round the edge to a steep finish. Easy ground to the top.

#### **COIRE AN LOCHAIN, No.1 Buttress:**

*Open Heart* 100m VIII,9 \*\*. I.Parnell, G.Robertson. 10th April 2006.

This excellent and very strenuous route links the first pitch of Ventricle to the crux of Ventriloquist. Protection is generally good, but hard won in the initial groove.

1. 10m. Climb the initial overhanging crack of Ventricle, traverse right for a couple of metres, then pull up to a good ledge beneath an overhanging groove with an in-situ peg at its base.
2. 30m. Climb the groove with increasing difficulty to hard moves rightwards over the bulge and a welcome rest. Step delicately back left into the continuation groove then climb this with sustained interest to a hard exit onto the big ledge. Traverse left to belay below the crux crack of Ventriloquist.
3. etc. 60m. Follow Ventriloquist to the top.

#### **No. 4 Buttress:**

*Swallow-tail Pillar* 70m VS \*. A.Gilmour, J.Lyall. 7th September 2005.

The pillar between Deep Throat and Gaffers Groove. Start below a right-curving corner just right of Deep Throat as for Aqualung.

1. 20m 4a. Start up the curving corner then traverse out right and climb the rib to belay just right of where the pillar eases in angle.
2. 30m 4c. Move left and up a quartz-lined groove on the right side of the pillar, then cracks lead to an awkward mantelshelf ledge. Follow faint cracks up the middle to the top (block belay.)
3. 20m. Scramble up the easy gully or abseil down the line of Deep Throat.

*Cut Adrift* 105m III,4. J.Lyall, E.Pirie. 19th December 2005.

Follows the parallel fault to Torquing Heads, starting about 15m farther right.

1. 30m. Follow the narrow icy fault (or traverse in along an icy ledge 5m further right if the initial ice is too thin) and continue up to the wider blocky fault.
2. 40m. Continue up the fault, then slant up left to a short chimney. Exit right and go up a left-slanting corner to a ledge just above. The easy upper gully of Torquing Heads is just to the left.
3. 35m. Step out right, then go straight up to finish by a tricky crack in the final rocks.

#### **SGORR GAOITH, A' Pocaith:**

*Spyglass Gully* 150m III. C.Cartwright, S.M.Richardson. 29th January 2006.

About 40m right of Pick Pocket, a well defined icy gully cuts up through the right side of the cliff. Climb this in three pitches to the top.

#### **GLEN FESHIE, Creag an t-Sluic (NN 834 907):**

A broken crag lying above the track contouring round to Lochan an t-Sluic but with a impressive large dark recess with a very steep back and right wall. A pinnacle marks the left side of the recess (Alt. 600m, North-West facing). Approach via Glen Feshie and the track leading from Carnachuin.

*Fifer's Fall* 70m IV,4 \*\*. R.McMurray, C.McGregor. 6th March 2005.

The large, obvious icefall at the left hand side of the recess.

1. 25m. Climb the ice-fall trending left to belay in the side wall.
2. 45m. Step back right and climb the steep icefall direct until it eventually terminates in the heather above. Belay well back in rocks on the right. Ice screw protection throughout.

*Rambler's Ruin* 115m III. C.McGregor, A.Carver, M.Dean. 5th March 2005.

Start at a long obvious gully at the right-hand side of the cliff at the lowest rocks.

1. 45m. Climb easily up the gully to a short steepening. Climb this to a large sloping ledge below the steep icefall.
- 2 and 3. 70m. Climb steeply up the middle of the fall, continuing on slightly easier ground to the final bulge. Surmount this and follow the ice, now much easier, to its finish. The technical grade can be upped slightly depending on the line taken.

## NORTH EAST OUTCROPS

**Note from N.Morrison:** "I would like to use the Journal to apologise for my mistake in failing to fully credit Mike Reed and Scott Muir for their work on the Rosehearty section of the North East Outcrops guide. Mike wrote a substantial section on Murcurry which I checked and edited, while Scott wrote many of the descriptions for the area to the east of Quarry Head which I checked and blended in with the other routes done in this area. Apologies to them and to anyone else who has not been fully credited for their part in the guide."

### CLACH NA BEINN:

*No.2 Gully* III,4. I.Munro. 11th March 2006.

There were two tricky sections, one at mid-height surmounting a slight bulge and the crux was the final exit moves. The key seemed to be using the right wall, as the guidebook suggests for summer. Protection was superb the whole way.

### LOGIE HEAD, Embankment 1:

*Dennis* 14m VS 4c. P.Hill, P.Griffin. 15th June 2003.

Follow the obvious diagonal fault from right to left, keeping feet in the fault-line all the way, finishing past Mousehole.

*Autonomous Collective* 14m Severe 4a. P.Hill, P.Griffin. 15th June 2003.

Follow the obvious diagonal fault-line from right to left, keeping your hands in the fault-line. Well protected and a good introduction to traversing.

### REDHYTHE POINT, The Gully Buttress (NJ 576 672), South-East Face:

*Ministry of Silly Walks* 35m Hard Severe 4b \*. P.Hill, P.Griffin. 1st September 2005.

From a platform at the base of the descent, traverse right no higher than the high-tide mark to belay at the foot of Rampage. Either escape up here (Very Difficult overall) or continue along the channel wall to a character-building hop-off at the far end (protectable). Calm seas desirable.

*I'm Brian* 10m Moderate. P.Hill, P.Griffin. 1st September 2005.

Just right of the descent is a chimney-corner. Follow this with little difficulty to the top.

*And So's My Wife* 10m Moderate. P.Hill, P.Griffin. 1st September 2005.

Start 3m right of I'm Brian and follow the pillar to the top.

### North-East Face:

*Cardinal Fang* 10m Very Difficult \*. P.Hill, P.Griffin. 1st September 2005.

From the base of Rampage, step left on to the grooved arête and follow this to the top.

### Gully Wall:

*Flying Circus* 12m Hard Severe 4b. P.Hill, P.Griffin. 1st September 2005.

From a small ledge opposite the undercut base of the arête, make a bold move to gain a small ledge and groove. Follow this and a subsequent groove to join Lobster Line at half-height.

### **REDHYTHE POINT, The Stack:**

The Stack provides a few clean climbs, although the main point of interest is the crossing of the narrow channel separating it from the main crag. It also provides a good deep-water solo traverse at high tide mark above the channel.

**Approach:** From the stance at the bottom of Rampage on the Gully Buttress, a 3m channel needs to be crossed. A ladder is ideal, and a small flat platform allows one to be used. Alternatively, if an abseil rope has been used to access the Rampage stance a character-building leap of faith using the rope for support can be made. In calm seas, swimming across will most likely be the quickest and easiest method. There are adequate anchors on both sides with which to set up a rope for others to use when crossing. Descent from the top of the stack is via a scramble down the south-east arête.

*Bridge of Death* DWS 5b. P.Hill. 28th September 2005.

Start at the bottom of the huge crack splitting the main section of the stack, at the high water mark above the channel. Traverse left keeping low to the north-east arête. Either climb out or continue at a slightly higher level (care needed with the state of the sea) all the way round to finish at broken ground on the east face.

*Mr Creosote* 10m HVS 5a. P.Hill, P.Griffin. 28th September 2005.

This takes the obvious overhanging wall facing the channel. Start at the base of a huge crack and climb a series of scoops direct to the top.

*Unladen Swallow* 12m Moderate. P.Hill, P.Griffin. 28th September 2005.

Climb the arête starting at the crossing point. Staying left makes the trip more worthwhile.

*Coconut* 12m Moderate. P.Hill, P.Griffin. 28th September 2005.

On the south face there is a large pointed block leant against the wall. Start just right of this and go straight up clean rock to the summit.

*Castle Aargh* 5m Severe 4a. P.Hill, P.Griffin. 28th September 2005.

Around the corner to the right from Coconut (and past the descent arête) is a step down above an inlet. Above is a short clean slab of rock with a crack just in from its right edge. Climb the edge direct.

### **PASS OF BALLATER, Western Section, Middle Tier:**

*Cavemen Go Clubbing* 15m E4 5c. A.Robertson (unsec). 2nd July 2005.

A line between Juniper Crush and Lucky Strike. Start 2m left of Lucky Strike at an obvious white streak and climb this to a good hold at 3m. Continue directly up to a slot (crucial Friend 2.5) under the overlap and surmount this (crux) using a sidepull and nubbin on the lip out left. Move up the slab to a large loose block (care) and a good wire next to the peg. Move up and right to a rest and gear on the big ledge of Lucky Strike. From the ledge foot traverse a shelf 2m leftwards until below a small triangular overhang. Climb this and the continuation groove above.

*She's Not So Special* 15m E1 5b. A.Robertson (back-roped). 30th July 2005.

Climb Lucky Strike to the ledge and then take the obvious corner straight above the left edge of the ledge (right of the Cavemen Go Clubbing finish). Hard moves gaining and leaving the obvious slot lead to a slightly dirty finish.

### **Western Section, Upper Tier:**

*Variation Finish to Dod's Dead Cat* E3 6a. A.Robertson, Alasdair Robertson. 24th August 2005.

An interesting variation finish to this or Smith's Arête. From the resting ledge, traverse delicately left for 2m to a finger ledge on the slab (right of the right-hand finish to Peel's Wall). Climb the slab directly via a couple of tricky rock-overs. Low in the grade but harder than the original finish.

### **MINOR CRAGS, Black Crag (p 480):**

*The Rib* 20m Very Difficult. D.F.Lang, Q.T.Crichton. 24th May 2005.

The most prominent arête ('broken ridge') right of the prow is right of Abernyte Corner and has a small rowan tree at its top. Start at a small overhung recess directly below the line of the arête. Move over a block and ascend a slight overhang to enter a groove. Step left onto a narrow edge and up this to finish. A pleasant little route with good protection.

## **HIGHLAND OUTCROPS**

### **STRATHNAIRN, Duntelchaig, Seventy Foot Wall:**

*Kill That Crazy Frog!* E4 6a. N.Duboust, M.Lee. 19th June 2005.

Left of Slings is a blank wall. Technical 6a climbing with a potential ground fall leads to the halfway break and a peg runner. Traverse the break right and finish on Slings.

*Ping-pong* 15m E1 5c. M.Lee, N.Duboust. 14th May 2005.

Some 3m right of Swastika is a cracked wall. Follow a right-hand crack to a large ledge below a short overhanging wall. Climb this using flakes and with difficulty over the lip. Easier to the top.

**Pinnacle Crag:**

*Soixante* 10m E1 5c. D.Moy, R.Beaumont, G.Andrew. 24th February 2003.

Start at the foot of Tapered Groove and go diagonally right up to the ledge on The Wall. Traverse left into the middle of the wall and go up via a thin crack to the top.

**CREAG NA H-EIGHE (TULLIMET):**

The crag is known locally as Tullimet.

*The Wide Awake Club* 15m E4 5c. D.Cassidy, A.Cassidy. 1997.

Takes the short crack-line on the right side of the steep wall of Sleeping Sickness. Bold but never desperate.

*Culpable Homicide* 20m E5 6b \*\*. G.Lennox, K.Howett. 17th June 1999.

This climb is right of Hunt the Gunman, climbing through the main roof. Climb the overhanging wall past ledges to a large break directly beneath the largest section of roof. Follow the holds through the roof, pulling out slightly right and up via slopers.

**CRAIG A' BARNS, Polney Crag:**

*Cold Tips* 10m E5 6c \*. G.Lennox (solo). 13th May 1998.

Start up Hot Tips, then swing left to the obvious undercling. Stolen Ivy (SMCJ 2002) climbs the arête direct from this. For this route, make a long reach left to finish up Side Line.

**Note:** S.Holmes climbed the small buttress below large stacked boulders as a start to Pop (Very Difficult). Pleasant, but has been climbed before.

**Upper Cave Crag:**

*Natural High* 20m E7 6b \*\*\*. G.Lennox, R.Fielding. 14th September 1998.

This route climbs the arête left of High Performance, finishing up the slab right of Coffin Corner. Climb the wall below the arête, stepping right onto the ramp of High Performance. Move round to the left of the square-cut face of the arête (wires 3 & 4 in crack above). Make powerful moves to slap for a jug beside a peg. Clip this (the last runner) and move up the face to where it bulges. Swing round left onto the slab and step up tentatively for the top.

**GLEN LEDNOCK, Ballandalloch Farm Crag:**

*Mighty Mouse* 15m E6 6b \*\*. G.Lennox. 4th June 1998.

Climbs the left arête of the crag.

*Hong Kong Fuey* 25m E6 6b \*\*. G.Lennox. 22nd May 2004.

A direct line up the clean wall right of Solutions to a Small Problem. Place a side runner at the first bulge in Jungle Warfare. Start at a jug in the centre of the wall and climb up to the sloping ledge in the middle of the wall, bold and committing. Continue with interest to a good jug and better protection. Move up to the overlap and pull straight over on jugs.

**Glen Lednock, Hanging Buttress:**

*Hard Shoulder* 20m VS 4c. S.Campbell, C.Adam. 31st May 1998.

Climb a bold slabby rib at the right end of the crag to a stance and gear, then over a bulge to finish right.

**Glen Lednock, Balnacoul Castle (Base Crag):**

*Strychnine* 10m E3 5b \*. C.Adam, J.Lennox. 14th June 1998.

Takes the obvious corner to the left end of Base Crag, bold.

*Adrenaline* 8m E2 5c \*. G.Lennox (solo). 5th July 1998.

Climbs the steep arête down left from White Lines.

**Glen Lednock, Diamond Buttress:**

*Diamond Blade* 20m E6 6b \*\*\*. G.Lennox, C.Adam. 7th July 1998.

Climb the arête and move left to gain the obvious left-slanting crack (crux). Climb the crack and wall above slightly rightwards.

*Sick Boy* 8m E2 6a. C.Adam, G.Lennox. 15th July 1998.

From the recess left of The Branch, climb the shallow overhanging corner past a jammed block, with hard moves at the top.

#### **Glen Lednock, Codgers Crag:**

The following two routes are on the first crag on the left on entering the start of the glen. It is believed that the routes have since been retro-bolted by S.Muir.

*Codgers Corner* 25m Very Difficult. C.Adam, G.Lennox. 8th August 1998.

Climbs the left-slanting corner to a tree and step off right to another tree.

*Stiff Rib* 25m HVS 5a. G.Lennox, C.Adam. 9th August 1998.

Climbs the arête left of Codgers Corner. Start at the lowest rocks and finish up Codgers Corner after the first tree (bold).

## **BEN NEVIS, AONACHS, CREAG MEAGAI DH**

#### **BEN NEVIS, North-East Buttress, First Platform:**

*Green and Napier's Route* 130m III. S.M.Richardson, C.Cartwright. 5th April 2006.

Follow the summer line, except avoid the lower slab by traversing in from the right. The climb coincides with Raeburn's 18 Minute Route high up and it has probably climbed in winter before but not recorded.

#### **Secondary Tower Ridge:**

*The Italian Job* 200m VIII,9 \*. D.MacLeod, T.Emmett. February 2006.

A true finish to Italian Climb, taking the gully the whole way, through the huge overhang at the top. Climb the gully in three pitches to a belay right inside the cave (spooky!). Work up and left from the belay across the overhanging wall using thin hooking cracks. Once established in the groove above, climb this direct to the top. The top groove is bold but maybe easier if iced.

#### **Number Two Gully Buttress:**

*The Hard Right Edge* 170m IV,4. S.M.Richardson, C.Cartwright. 4th April 2006.

A pleasant mixed route following the exact right edge of Number Two Gully Buttress.

1. and 2. 80m. Climb the lower arête, first up snow, then through a couple of mixed sections to reach a fine snow arête that leads to a belay below the right edge of the headwall.

3. 30m. Climb a steep corner just left of the crest (this is 5m right of the groove-line taken by the Direct Variation), move left below a blank bulging section into a narrow scoop and follow this back right to the crest.

4 and 5. 60m. Continue directly up the crest (with interest at first) to the easier upper slopes.

#### **The Comb:**

*Anubis* 40m E8 6c \*\*\*. D.MacLeod. 31st July 2005.

The first route to breach the lower overhanging barrier on the front face of The Comb. The line is the thin intermittent crack running up the huge roofed prow right of the open book corner in the centre. It gives steep and potentially serious climbing in an amazing situation. Walk up the ramp of Pigott's Route and belay to the right of the line. Move up past some cracked blocks to gain the big diagonal fault (gear in suspect rock). Work leftwards across the roof to boldly climb the committing bouldery arête, eventually moving left to a good hold and gear in the crack. Climb the easier wall above to a no-hands rest in a niche. Continue up the line of the crack with further interest to gain big ledges at the foot of The Flying Groove. Descend by abseil or continue up V.Diff terrain to the plateau if desired. Cleaned on abseil, then led with no falls.

#### **Number Three Gully Buttress:**

*Sioux Wall* VIII,8. O.Metherell, I.Parnell. 1st January 2006.

A more direct start rather than taking the easy ramp of The Banshee gained the obvious belay niche. Pitch 2 (crux, very strenuous but well protected) was the steep wall up into a ledge at the base of the "obvious corner groove". Pitch 3 was the groove, with surprisingly good protection. From here the summer pitch 3 continues with a crack (looked very good but hard). Instead, a rightward line was chosen which proved fairly serious.

*Thompson's Route Direct Finish* 140m VII,7. G.Hughes, T.Stone. 16th April 2005.

A direct finish to Thompson's Route, taking the deep right-facing corner from the right end of the platform. Climb Thompson's Route for two pitches to reach the right side of the platform of No.3 Gully Buttress, and move up into the snowy bay below a deep right-facing corner, 10m left of Gremlins (90m). Climb the corner (sustained) to reach a block belay (25m). Step right and finish up cracks (30m).

**Note:** Climbed under snowed up rock conditions, but probably climbed before when the buttress was well iced.

#### **Creag Coire na Ciste:**

*Avenging Angel* 105m VII,8. \*\*. N.Bullock, O.Samuels. 19th March 2006.

The innocuous and obvious system of corners, cracks and ledges in the scooped wall to the right of Darth Vader. The first 40m are common with Archangel. Four pitches of sustained climbing, the first two giving a warm up, the third tackling an overhanging off-width above a small cave, and the very steep wall above the off-width providing the crux on the final pitch. Start beneath a broken groove and left-slanting slabby corner on the left of the crag and at the lowest point.

1. 30m. Climb the groove and slabby corner moving right at its top into a steep corner. Climb this, pulling right onto a rib, which is climbed until another corner and steep wall, beneath a off-width flake is reached.
2. 25m. Climb the wall directly above and pull right onto the rib and large ledge. At the back of the ledge the overhanging open-book corner is climbed direct on perfect torques and edges to take a hanging belay on a ledge in the corner directly beneath the small cave and the very overhanging off-width.
3. 20m. Climb the corner directly to the niche. Fight directly up the overhang using various techniques before thrashing a way to the top. Belay to the right.
4. 30m. Left of the belay, the striking corner clearly seen from the start of the route forms the final barrier. Move left from the base of the corner and climb two cracks in the deceptively steep wall. Pull onto a big ledge at the top of the left-hand crack. Finish easily and direct following a narrow gully.

#### **South Trident Buttress:**

*Triton Corners* 100m IV,5. C.Cartwright, S.M.Richardson. 3rd April 2006.

1. 40m. Start 25m right of Poseidon Groove (SMCJ 2004) and climb a short bulging off-width to gain a stepped corner system that leads up and right. Continue straight up to a good stance under a steep wall.
- 2 and 3. 60m. Step left and climb an icy gully to exit into a wide snow chute. Continue up this to the plateau.

#### **STOB BAN (Mamores), South Buttress:**

*East Wing* 180m V,5. D.McGimpsey, A.Nisbet. 26th February 2006.

A devious but spectacular line near the crest of the very steep East Wing. Start about 15m up South Gully at the highest ramp leading out left.

1. 35m. Work out leftwards to the crest, always keeping above steep lower walls.
2. 25m. Gain the highest ledge up thick moss, then traverse it leftwards to a vertical column of wedged blocks.
3. 10m. Climb the column to a ramp leading up right.
4. 30m. Climb the ramp to easy ground.
5. 80m. Climb the easy crest to the top of the buttress.

**Note:** Climbed in 'summer conditions' by D.McGimpsey, A.Nisbet on 30th January 2006 at VS, frozen but no snow. The column of wedged blocks would collapse unless frozen.

*Banter* 200m III. M.Edwards, D.McGimpsey, A.Nisbet. 24th February 2006.

The buttress right of North Gully, starting right at the toe and closely following the crest. It offered a short tricky move at a nose low down and higher up, some slabby ground which might become much easier under good snow.

#### **MULLACH NAN COIREAN (Mamores):**

A crag at NN 135 656 between Mullach nan Coirean and Stob Ban, facing north. The base is at 850m and the crag is 80m high with a very steep bottom 25m. The routes are purely snowed up rock climbing. There are some great moderate ridges there as well up to 200m long and about Grade II or III.

*Captain Caveman* 70m III,4. M.Brownlow, D.King, M.Pescod. 17th January 2006.

The obvious line on the left end of the crag passing several caves.

*Not Bad for a Dad* 80m VI,7. D.King, A.Turner. 27th November 2005.

An undercut chimney at the left end of the main section of cliff. Climb into the steep chimney with bold initial moves to an alcove (30m). Continue with tricky moves exiting the alcove to the top (50m).

*Himalayan Shuffle* 80m VII,8. D.King, A.Turner. 27th November 2005.

A central left-slanting crack-line on the front face of the crag. Bouldery starting moves involving a can-opener mantelshelf move, no protection for 8m and sustained tenuous climbing with difficult protection leads to the right side

of the same alcove as on the previous route. Move right from a big block to stand on a small pinnacle and go straight up to the top.

*Kid Gloves* 70m IV,4. M.Brownlow, D.King, M.Pescod. 17th January 2006.  
The right arête of the crag.

*Kindergarten Corner* 50m VII,8. M.Brownlow, D.King, M.Pescod. 17th January 2006.  
A right-facing corner on the right face of the crag finishing with a steep move left at the top. Easy to finish up the arête of Kid Gloves. This route gives fantastic sustained climbing with good protection apart from the last 6m. The crux moves are getting off the ground and the move left at the top.

#### **AONACH MOR, Coire an Lochain, North Buttress:**

*Perplexed* 80m IV,4. P.Chapman, P.Andersen. 16th February 2006.

1. 35m. Follow the rightmost gully until it narrows at half-height and belay against the rock wall on the left.
2. 35m. Move left on a ledge and climb a short corner before stepping right on steep ground and climbing up past a spike. Trend leftwards over easing ground to a large block on the crest.
3. 10m. Follow easier snow to the cornice.

#### **Ribbed Walls:**

*Twisted Blood* 110m V,6. C.Cartwright, S.M.Richardson. 4th December 2005.

A interesting mixed route taking the unclimbed buttress left of Aquafresh.

1. 20m. Start 10m left of Aquafresh below a shallow gully and climb to a large sloping ledge.
2. 50m. Climb the right-facing corner-line in the series of stepped slabs above (crux, good intricate climbing), then exit right into the snow basin above. Junction with Aquafresh.
3. 40m. Aquafresh trends left from here and exits up the depression on the left. Instead move up to the base of the steep tower above and climb the left to right stepped groove line to its end. Finish up the left side of the exit bowl of White Shark.

#### **AONACH BEAG, An Ghaidh Garbh:**

*Compressor* 150m VI,6. A.Nisbet, J.Preston. 18th March 2006.

A direct ascent of the central groove on the SE side of Munro's Last Ridge (SMCJ 2003). Ice is essential and previous visits saw little. Heavy snow followed by a sunny day caused much melting into the deep upper groove and just sufficient ice formed. Two long pitches on wet ice and snow led to the deep upper groove. Enter it over a bulging chockstone and climb a steep, thinly iced and unprotected corner (25m). Continue up another iced corner to the easy crest (25m). A long way up the crest, over the Munro top and up to finish at the same place as NE Ridge.

#### **An Ghaidh Garbh, Braxton-Hicks Buttress:**

**Note:** Inducement (SMCJ 2004) is described as starting down and right of Catabasis but appears to be the obvious gully to the left of that route (?). The following route takes a line up the buttress right of the gully.

*Ginger Peachy* 100m III. S.Kennedy, A.MacDonald. 29th January 2006.

Start from the foot of the slanting gully bounding the left of the buttress. Climb icy slabs right of the gully into a corner system. Climb the corner and groove above to the upper snow slopes. No cornice on this occasion.

*Jericho Ridge* 150m III,4. R.Hamilton, S.Kennedy. 18th March 2006.

To the left of the 'Goblet' Buttress is a long easy gully. The gully is bounded on the left by a ridge with small pinnacles in the mid section. This route follows the ridge. Start below a snow bay dividing this ridge from another higher ridge to the left (the two ridges converge about 35m below the cornice). Follow the ridge by the easiest line to below a prominent tower on the left. Move up right of the tower to reach the top of an easy gully leading up from the right. Steep snow leads to the cornice which is overcome by a ridge well to the right.

#### **Stob Coire Bhealach:**

*Rip Curl* 125m IV,5 \*. S.Kennedy, R.Hamilton. 30th January 2006.

The buttress immediately left of The Clare Effect contains a band of overhanging rock at just over mid-height. This route negotiates the band by an obvious break in the centre. Start at the foot of The Clare Effect and climb a narrow gangway up left (may bank out) then up to a belay at the foot of slabs leading to the band (40m). Take the easiest line up the slabs aiming for a point just right of the break in the band. Move left under the overhanging wall, then climb a steep wall (crux) leading into the break (35m). Make an exposed traverse out right on the lip of the overhang, then up into a left-slanting groove which is followed to the upper snow slopes and cornice (50m).

#### **STOB COIRE AN LAOIGH:**

*Pentagon* 50m VI,7. S.Allan, A.Nisbet. 16th April 2005.

A steep line up the wall which forms the left side of the rib left of Taliballan. Start as for Serve Chilled.

1. 15m. The short chimney and right traverse, as for Serve Chilled.

2. 20m. The wall above is overhanging so climb up left for 6m, as for Serve Chilled, before a short traverse right gains a ledge. Gain a second ledge. Steep moves slightly right, then back left over a bulge gain a shallow corner which leads to the base of a big left-facing flake-line, an obvious feature on the upper half of the wall.
3. 15m. Climb the flake-line, then a corner on the right to pass a smooth wall and finish back in the original line. Abseil descent.

*Easy So Gully* 150m I. M.W.Holland. 3rd February 2006.

At NN 238 731, to the right of the final hanging corrie west of the crags of Stob Coire an Laoigh, an obvious gully heads up right to emerge at the Stob Coire Easain/Beinn na Socaich col. One water ice section at the narrows, otherwise easy snow.

#### **BEINN A' CLACHAIR:**

**Note:** M.Holland on 7th December 2005, struggled to identify the Eiffel Tower-shaped buttress as described in the guidebook on the far right side of the corrie. The obvious feature of the corrie is a distinct ridge leading direct to the summit with a long gully on its left-hand side and a short ridge bounding the gully on the left higher up. The distinct ridge has a triangular buttress at its bottom. The right-hand side of the lower triangular buttress was taken on turf until it steepened and became more distinct, moving left at this point (obvious flake bollard) giving access to turf and stepped grooves leading to the main distinct ridge, which was followed to the top. Suggested name – The Blackpool variation.

#### **CREAG MEAGAI DH, Bellevue Buttress:**

*Bellevue, Bienvenue* 150m V,5. C.Cartwright, S.M.Richardson. 1st January 2006.

1. 50m. Start at the foot of The Scene, climb a short snow slope, then a left-facing V-groove to reach a small snow bowl.
2. 50m. Move up and left across the bowl to gain a right-facing corner system.
3. 50m. Climb the corner to a long capping roof, traverse right below the roof for 5m, then exit up a groove to reach the final snow slopes.

#### **BEN ALDER, Garbh Coire Beag:**

*Alderweiss* 300m II. A.Nisbet. 17th January 2006.

The rib left of Culra Couloir. A stream runs down the centre of the lower half of the rib. Climb this on ice, although in full conditions, all but the lowest and top tier may bank out. From the top of the ice move right on to the crest at a slight col. Follow the crest to the top, sometimes slightly on its left. This is close to Grade III, but there are easier options further left. The cornice is often small here, as the top 20m is low angled.

*Aldermen* 250m II/III \*\*. D.McGimpsey, A.Nisbet, J.Preston. 3rd January 2006.

Approach as for Pat-a-Cake but head right to climb an iced corner left of an easy gully. This is Alderwand, but was gained from the left instead of direct. Alderwand now trends right but continue slightly left on ice to the terrace which crosses the face. Traverse left, then return back right towards a distinctive smooth wall which is left of Alderwand. Go left through a weakness to enter a long final trough of snow. The finish may form a large cornice; a slight ridge where McCook's Gully finishes might then be an option.

*Smallville* 250m IV,5 \*. D.McGimpsey, A.Nisbet, J.Preston. 28th January 2006.

Climbs the left side of the triangular buttress between McCook's Gully and Left Gully. Avoid the lowest tier and start at the base of the main gully line of McCook's Gully. The gully line goes left; instead go up an icy groove slightly right to the terrace. Continue straight up a steep groove (the left of three). This is the crux but could be avoided by traversing the terrace right and returning back diagonally left, making the route Grade III overall. Take turfy grooves leading right for about 60m, then break back left into a large bay below the plateau. Climb the right side of the bay, then a groove leading right onto the final crest of the buttress and a break in the cornice.

#### **MONADHLIATH, Carn Dearg:**

The crag is directly beneath the summit of Carn Dearg (NH 635 024, Alt 860m, North-East facing). It has five pillars separated by faults. Descend to the right or left of the crag depending on the cornice.

*Soul Survivor* 90m IV,4. J.Lyall. 10th February 2006.

Climbs the turfy fault between the first and second pillars from the left. Direct entry to the fault is barred by an overhanging wall at its base. On the left of this wall two short ramps are followed on to a slight rib, then up to a ledge. Go to the right end of the ledge and make very exposed moves right on turf, then go up into the fault which is followed to the top.

*Cold Turkey* 90m III,4. J.Lyall, D.MacDonald. 28th December 2005.

1. 30m. Climb steeply into the left side of the amphitheatre between the second and third pillars.
2. 40m. Slant up left on a narrowing ramp to the crest of the buttress and climb this by a short slabby corner.
3. 20m. Easily straight up to the summit cairn.

*Cold Blooded* 100m II. J.Lyall. 10th February 2006.

Start under the third pillar and slant up left to follow the faint gully between the second and third pillars, initially close to the right wall but moving left, then back right near the top.

*Monadh Lisa* 100m III. J.Lyall, D.MacDonald. 28th December 2005.

1. 50m. Climb the gully between the third and fourth pillars into an overhanging amphitheatre, then climb the turfy left wall to gain the edge.
2. 50m. Easier slopes to the cornice.

*Arctic Monkey* 110m IV,5. J.Lyall. 10th February 2006.

A line up the fourth pillar. Start at the toe of the buttress and slant up left by ledges and walls to climb the left-hand of two left-leaning corners. Gain a ledge on the left side of the steep tower. Move steeply up right and climb the corner in the tower, then over the crest of a short ridge to finish up easier slopes.

*CRC Gully* 110m II. G.Clowes, J.Lyall, J.Marsh, S.Pavelin, J. & K.Penrose, J.Preston, N.Wells. 16th February 2006. The easiest line on the face, taking the left-slanting gully between the fourth and fifth pillars, to join the easier upper part of Arctic Monkey.

*Sink or Swim* 110m III. H.Burrows-Smith, A.Rock, D.Parsons, N.Easton. 16th February 2006.

A groove line on the right edge of the right-hand ridge.

## GLEN COE

### **BUACHAILLE ETIVE MOR, North Blackmount Buttress:**

**Note:** A.Campbell thinks The Snake should be HVS 4c (not VS).

### **CHURCH DOOR BUTTRESS:**

**Note:** Un Poco Loco was climbed by the summer start (VI,7) by S.McFarlane, A.Clark on 26th February 2006. Still VII,7 overall and sustained.

### **STOB COIRE NAM BEITH, Zero Buttress:**

*Zero Buttress* 115m IV,4 \*. S.Kennedy, R.Hamilton. 26th February 2006.

The buttress immediately left of The Corridors is characterised by a huge recessed area forming a prominent right-facing corner. Climb directly into the base of the corner, then traverse out right to the foot of the slabs right of the corner (25m). Traverse the slab diagonally rightwards to a large block on the right edge, overlooking The Corridors. Surmount the block and follow an open groove to a short wall (45m). Climb a steep slab just left of the wall, then mixed ground before moving left on snow to finish by an easy groove (40m). Climbed in thin conditions.

### **AN T-SRON, East Face (NN 137 554):**

*Cornerstone* 48m E1 5b \*. S.Kennedy, T.Hamilton, R.Hamilton. 14th August 2005.

Follows the line of a prominent arête situated on a small buttress about 100m above the path which leads into the upper part of Coire nam Beitheach. Start 2m left of the arête and climb a steep wall trending rightwards to the edge. Continue to a grassy ledge, then climb a short slab on the right. Follow the edge to the top. Traverse off right some distance to descend.

### **GARBH BHEINN (ARDGOUR), North Face:**

*Too Cave to be Brave* 220m III. D.Johnson, G.Macfie. 4th March 2006.

This mountaineering line starts from the lowest rocks. Climb the buttress for 50m before traversing left to a snow ramp. Follow the left edge of the north face for two further pitches to a large cave. From the cave, traverse left along a ledge. Climb two further pitches of snow to the top. Two finishes are possible, a left-hand snow slope or a right-hand chimney pitch.

**Note:** The above route does not fit the guidebook description for North Face, although it may be near.

### **ARDNAMURCHAN, Meall an Fhir-Eoin Beag:**

Round to the left of the main crag is a short vertical west facing wall with a diamond-shaped boulder at its base. Described right to left.

*Jedi Crack* 10m Hard Severe 4b \*. J.Bankhead, G.Steven. 21st April 2005.

Follow the right-hand crack up a rough slabby wall and through a steepening.

*Yoda's Crack* 10m Severe 4a. G.Steven, J.Bankhead. 21st April 2005.

Just to the left is a wider, stepped crack.

*Eruption* 14m E2 5c \*\*. J.Smith, R.Parker. 21st April 2005.

Left of the grassy fault is a vertical wall with a prominent T-crack. Climb the crack strenuously to a bold finish.

*Split Shift* 10m VS 5a. A.Halewood, J.Bankhead. 21st April 2005.

Climb the steep Y-crack left of the corner then finish more easily up the corner.

## SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS

### **BEINN AN DOTHAIDH, North-East Corrie:**

*Heyerdahl* 145m IV,5. E Brunskill, G.Macfie. 29th November 2005.

Bold climbing up the buttress crest left of The Skraeling. Start at the terrace below the main buttress 20m left of The Skraeling at a left-facing corner. Climb the corner to a poor belay below the slabby wall of the main buttress (30m, easy escape off left). Climb boldly up the wall slightly left of centre on spaced tufts to a ledge below a prominent finger crack in a wall. Make hard moves round the crest on the left to a good belay (15m). Climb up and right onto a huge triangular block and climb the steep walls above to reach a prominent groove system. Climb this to a belay in the Thor fault-line, where the angle eases (40m). Follow the fault-line rightwards to join The Skraeling near the top and easy ground (60m).

*Thor* 110m IV,5. S.Burns, D.Crawford. 27th November 2005.

To the left of The Skraeling (and Heyerdahl) are two obvious deep groove come gully lines. This route takes the right groove and follows a fairly direct line above.

1. 30m. Climb the deep groove, passing a bulge to reach easier ground. Belay at the foot of an obvious very narrow chimney slot in a snow bay
2. 40m. Climb the narrow V-chimney above and follow a turfy groove aiming for an overhanging left-facing corner above.
3. 40m. Climb the corner to gain an obvious rightward foot traverse leading round a short arête. Traverse right and then climb the centre of a turfy wall aiming for a notch in the skyline.

*Unnamed* 200m VI,6. I.Small, S.M.Richardson. 5th March 2006.

A direct mixed line up the steep left wall of West Gully, crossing the ramp of The Upper Circle.

1. 50m. Start 20m right of The Upper Circle and climb a steep groove over a turfy bulge to a ledge. Step down and right onto an icefall and climb this and the open corner above to a stance on The Upper Circle.
2. 50m. Move up and right into a deep cleft and climb this to exit on a ledge. Climb the right of two corners to the crest of the buttress.
3. 50m. Move up to an off-width crack splitting the crest; climb this and continue along the crest and down into the saddle of The Beechgrove Garden.
4. 50m. Move up and left to a gully line cutting the headwall above, and follow this to the top.

### **BEINN DORAIN, Creag an Socach:**

*Defenders of the Faith* 85m IX,9 \*\*\*. D.MacLeod, F.Murray. 16th March 2006.

The overhanging wall left of Messiah. Start not far left of Messiah. Climb a turfy ramp to gain the foot of a line of overhanging thin corners. Climb these (poor protection at first) to a rest below a roof. Pull through and get established on the headwall (crux). Traverse right in an airy position to gain a hanging corner. Mantel onto a turfy ledge at its top and follow a turfy fault for another 30m to a good belay on the left at a detached block (60m pitch). Step left and climb much easier ground to the top (25m).

### **BEINN A' CHREACHAIN, Coire an Lochain, West Buttress:**

From left to right (looking up):

*Rubadub Ridge* 90m IV,4. E.Brunskill, D.Morris. 4th March 2006.

The last buttress up the gully up and left of The Bells. Climb the crest of the buttress via the obvious groove system in two pitches.

*Detroit Grooves* 185m IV,5. E.Brunskill, J.Hall. 27th February 2006.

High up on the front face of West Buttress (to the right of The Bells) are three prominent parallel groove lines. This route takes the right-hand groove. Start near the top of the gully rock island below a pyramid shaped buttress split by a two-stepped icy groove. Climb the groove in two pitches turning the steps via the buttress on the left to a terrace below the three parallel groove lines (80m). Climb the right-hand groove to a fine cave (25m). Climb the left wall of the cave (crux) and continue up the steep corner-line above (30m). Continue up the buttress above to the top (50m).

*Strings of Life* 175m V,6. E.Brunskill, D.Morris. 3rd March 2006.

A good icy mixed route taking in the very steep tower which forms the right wall of the upper section of Detroit Grooves. Start at a prominent large icy recess 35m up the easy rightward-trending wide gully/ramp from the start of Detroit Grooves. Traverse a thinly iced slab up and left heading for a shallow groove breaking out left to the crest of the buttress (35m). Climb the crest of the buttress to the terrace and belay at a prominent icicle fringe 15m to the right of the upper groove of Detroit Grooves (45m). Climb the icy left-facing rocky corner and climb steep ground up and

left to an inverted triangular shaped slabby recess. Traverse the slab left and climb up to below a cracked roof (30m). Climb up and right on small ledges to a small V-groove breaking through the overhangs. Climb up this to a good thread (15m). Climb straight up the buttress above to the summit (50m).

*Bumble Buttress* 200m II. E.Brunskill, D.Morris. 23rd February 2006.

The crest of the buttress immediately to the right of So Where's the Window and Door Buttress, followed by easy snow slopes to the summit ridge.

*Wallace & Gromit* 250m III,4. A.Mallinson, K.Bromelow. 25th February 2006.

This route climbs the ice walls, chimney and shallow snow gully cutting up through the steep buttress on the right of the West Buttress. Start at the beginning of the obvious rightward-trending ramp at the lowest part of the face. Ascend the ramp to a prominent nose (30m). Traverse 10m right to bottom of ice walls and climb these, followed by steep snow, to an overhang below a chimney (40m). Climb the chimney and vertical rock/ice step above to the top of a gully (40m). Cross a snow bay to the base of the shallow steep snow gully (40m). Ascend the gully and broken rocks above to the ridge (100m).

### **BEINN TULAICHEAN, Creag an Sputan:**

*Rob Roy's Falls* 70m II/III. D.Crawford, S.Mearns. 5th March 2006.

Approaching via Inverlochlarig (from Balquhider), the parallel frozen waterfalls will be obvious up on hillside at 600-700m, on the crag of Creag an Sputan on the 1:25000 map. About 70m long at the steepest bits, but the burn flows right down to the base of the valley so could be as long or short as required. There is a left-hand line of a similar grade but too sunny on the day.

### **BEN LOMOND, B Buttress:**

*Roamin in the Lomond* 140m IV,3. E.Brunskill, J.Hall. 28th February 2006.

This route takes in the prominent chimney-groove line towards the left side of B Buttress and is capped by a huge chockstone at three-quarters height. Climb easy slabs up to the bottom of the groove (45m). Climb the groove into a chimney and belay in a small cave formed by a chockstone (40m). Continue up the chimney into an open bay just below the huge capping chockstone (15m). Climb a left-slanting turf groove to the top (40m).

### **C Buttress:**

*Endrick Corner* 105m V,6 \*\*. D.Crawford, S.McFarlane. 3rd March 2006.

The line is about 200m down and left of Lomond Corner and is identifiable as being a direct line up the turf buttress up through a prominent right-facing corner.

1. 40m. Start in a recess directly below the large right-facing corner. Go up and step left into a groove. Continue up turf to a steep wall leading to the main corner.
2. 40m. Climb the corner. Move right beneath the roof into a body width chimney and reach groove above (crux). Continue to a large ledge above.
3. 25m. Move left then right to a continuation groove through an obvious slot in the skyline.

### **BEN CRUACHAN, Meall nan Each (NN 055 317):**

The main cliff, some 100m in height, is dominated by a band of overlaps at two-thirds height.

*Steinway* 100m E2 5b. S.Richardson, C.Cartwright. 22nd August 2004.

This natural line climbs through the band of overlaps on predominantly excellent red granite. The route starts to the left of the overlaps, climbing a groove to gain a right-trending ramp-line.

1. 25m. Climb the groove (slightly dirty) for 10m to gain the ramp-line. Follow the ramp sharply rightwards for 15m to belay as it runs out.
2. 20m. Step rightwards on to slabs, working right and stepping down under the overlap. Break through the overlap at a crack with a wedged block, then up shallow corners above.
3. 25m. Follow easier corners to the top.

### **Coire Chat, Noe Buttress:**

*In Cold Blood* 85m VII,7. S.M.Richardson, C.Cartwright. 27th February 2006.

The steep groove left and parallel to In the Knoe. Sustained from start to finish.

1. 25m. Start 3m left of the left-facing corner of Fat Lip Fandango and make a difficult move onto an undercut slab. Move up to the wide cleft of Fat Lip Fandango and then traverse right to the good stance at the top of the first pitch of In the Knoe.

2. 25m. Follow the shallow chimney of In the Knoe for 10m then make a difficult move left into the base of the left-hand parallel groove system. Climb this with increasing difficulty to a small undercut ledge on the left.
3. 35m. Continue steeply up the groove to a terrace, then exit up an easy gully on the right as for In the Knoe.

**Stob Garbh:**

*East Ridge* 300m II \*\*.

The prominent ridge on the left side of Coire Chreachainn. The easiest line avoids the steep lower nose by ascending easy snow on the right and cutting back to the crest soon after. Climb the next steepening direct or make a step right, around a corner to gain the broad snow field above. A narrow notch and short twisting arête complete a fine mountaineering route.

**Note:** An older guide gives the ridge Grade I. But a recent ascent by P. and J.Hageman thought there were a couple of sections which would merit Grade II, and the length and lack of escape would also point towards II.

## ARRAN

**A'CHIR:**

**Note:** Lower Right Chimney (Severe 4b) should read: Start to the right of the chimney. Start up a thin slab, then follow a wide left-slanting crack to a ledge. Traverse left and climb the chimney.

*Lower Right Flakes* 40m Severe 4b. C.Moody, C.Grindley. 10th July 2005.

Climb Lower Right Chimney to the ledge, then follow flakes and slabs above.

**CIR MHOR, South Face: Note:** C.Moody notes that pitch 2 of Ne Parl Pas is missing from the Arran guide. Whether it had been done before or not (SMCJ 1990), it is independent and worthwhile.

*Hammer, Pocket Slab* VS 4b \*\*. C.Moody, C.Grindley. 9th July 2005.

Climb pitch 3 to where it goes rightwards. Follow a line of pockets up slightly left, then back right. Climb straight up to join South Ridge. Much better than the original pitch 3. It seemed better to run together Pitches 1 and 2. Pitch 3 seems to go right following "a downward-pointing flake" rather than "a microgranite vein".

*Anvil, Right Hand Start* 30m VS 4c \*. C.Moody, W.Hood. 15th May 1982.

Start right of Anvil Recess Start below two large overlaps. Go up to the first overlap and climb a scoop rightwards through it. Continue to the bigger second overlap, then traverse left to join Anvil Recess Start. Presumably, Fraser's Variation starts to the right of this pitch and not at Anvil Recess Start.

## LOWLAND OUTCROPS

**GLASGOW AREA, Dumbarton Rock:**

*Rhapsody* 35m E11 7a \*\*. D.MacLeod. 9th April 2006.

An exceptionally arduous experience in every way. This climb takes the true line of the Requiem crack, following it to the top of the wall. Start up Persistence of Vision to gain the ledge. Climb the main Requiem crack to where it fades and Requiem goes right. Step left (good shake out). Launch directly up the wall, climbing a thin flange to gain better edges in a thin horizontal (avoiding escape left). Traverse desperately right along the horizontal to regain the crack; get established in this (crux) and continue up the crack without respite to the top. F8c/8c+ climbing with the prospect of falling the length of the pitch from the final moves. FA headpointed, placing gear on lead.

**Note:** Some first ascent details from G.Latter:

**Dumbarton Rock:**

1980 – Mestizo, Physical Graffiti, Toto and Pongo; FFA (not 1985) all G.Latter.

1982 May. Cyclops FFA by D.Cuthbertson & Neil Cockburn.

1983 September. The Big Zipper FFA.

1984 April. Alpha, Beta.

1984 April 4. Gamma.

1984 April 15. Samora, Rising Power.

**Auchinstarry Quarry:**

1983 February 3. Dream Machine.  
1983 February 24. Carouselambra.  
1983 April 18. Blade Runner.  
1983 September 18. Death is the Hunter.  
1984 High Dive.  
1984 October 16. Surface Tension.  
1986 March 1. Surface Tension Direct.

**Cambusbarron, Thorntons Quarry:**

1984 July 31. Grace Under Pressure.  
1984 August 4. Power of Endurance.

**Carron Glen, Kamikaze Squirrel Crag:**

*Wise Eskimo* 9m Severe. S.Macfarlane, J.Dyble. 10th May 2005.

Start right of the block at the left end of the crag on a low slab. Move rightwards up the left side of a semi-detached pinnacle and continue up an obvious right-slanting crack to a hilarious finish over the cornice of vegetation using the tree on the left. Ho, ho, ho!

*Funbags* 7m HVS 5a. J.Dyble, S.Macfarlane. 10th May 2005.

Start at the same place as previous route. Climb onto a block on the left and continue up leftwards under bulge to finish in a thin groove.

*Death to the Greys* 9m E1 5b. J.Dyble, S.Macfarlane. 31st May 2005.

Climb the slab and thin crack between the previous routes over a poorly protected bulge at half-height. Gear may be placed in the crack of Wise Eskimo. After a couple of hard moves, poor for the feet, finish more easily on the left of the tree.

*Hippos in Space* 9m E2 5c \*\*. J.Dyble, S.Macfarlane. 31st May 2005.

Start as for The Carronade and move up to the overlap. Move out of the recess through the left side of the overlap to the slab using an obvious poor hold. Pull onto a sloping ledge and upwards to a crozzly double pocket on the right, great technical climbing. Finish straight up over an even more hilarious finish. Crampons and axes recommended for the finish!

*Auf Wiedersehen Berg Heil!* 10m HVS 5a \*. J.Dyble, S.Macfarlane. 6th June 2005.

Carronbridge climbs the left side of the wide mossy scoop. This route starts to its right and climbs the crack in the left-facing short corner to a shelf. Continue upwards, place gear, then traverse the obvious narrow foot-rail leftwards to reach the arête. Continue upwards to yet another hilarious finish.

**AYRSHIRE, The Quadrocks:**

*The Benny Hill Show* 12m E4 6a. K.Shields. August 2005.

Takes the line directly to the right of The Arête. Top-rope rehearsal, then led on two small wires at half-height.

*The Fatal Kiss* 10m E4 6c. K.Shields. 21st March 2006.

Takes the line of the usually running watercourse between the Traverse Face Direct and The Nose. Top-roped, then soloed.

**GALLOWAY HILLS, The Merrick:**

*White Rhino* 180m III/IV \*. L.Biggar, J.Biggar. 5th March 2006 (Left Variation).

D.McNicol, A.Brooke-Mee. 5th March 2006 (Right Variation).

The obvious icefall which forms in cold but generally snow free conditions about 30-40m right of the Black Gutter. A first introductory pitch of 40m leads to a branch in the icefall. Both the left and right variations have been climbed from here to the top at Grade III/IV; the grade could probably be reduced to III by weaving between them. Poor rock gear so take ice-screws and warthogs.

The following two routes share a common start up a short gully to a snow bay about 100m right of the Black Gutter. They take twin icefalls to the left of the overhanging square black wall mentioned in the description of the Lang Scots Miles.

*The Icicle Thief* 175m III \*\*. S.Reid, C.Wells. 16th March 2006.

1. 50m. After a steep start, easier snow leads to the foot of the main fall.
2. 25m. The icefall is climbed to a large spike on the left, about 45m below its top.
3. 50m. Continue up the icefall to exit right, and follow the ice ramp leftwards to

easier ground and a poor belay (warthogs in turf).  
4. 50m. Run the rope out to the top.

*The Lonely Warthog* 180m III/IV,3 \*. J. & L. Biggar. 16th March 2006.

The right-hand icefall is called the Lonely Warthog for good reason, don't expect much more protection! Climb a short, easy angled icy gully to a platform (this pitch is also used to access The Icicle Thief). From here two pitches of narrow ice and/or turf, depending on conditions, lead to easier ground. Highlight of the route is a reassuringly large and chunky spike belay at the left-hand end of a square wall after the first protectionless 40m. Above these two pitches another 100m of easy angled ice, or Grade I snow, lead to the plateau.

*Lower Icefall* 50m II. C. Hossack, J. Biggar, ANO. 17th March 1996.

This is the short icefall near the right end of the crag, below Kenny's Folly and Chippy's Downfall.

#### **CLIFTON CRAG, Dirl Chimney Area:**

*Dirl Chimney Variations* 13m VS 4c \*\*. S. Reid, C. Bunker. 4th September 2005.

A good way up the crag although not a new route. Start as for Monkey Business. Climb the corner-crack as for Monkey Business and struggle left into Dirl Chimney. Go up this a short way until it is possible to stride out left onto the lip of the overhang. Climb up leftwards to a big flake and mantelshelf to the top (as for Gramercy).

#### **CLINTS OF DROMORE, Central Buttress:**

*It Tolls for Thee* 40m VS 4b \*. S. Reid, C. King. 5th February 2006.

A bold route on great rock. There are two large slabs on the left flank of Central Buttress, one above and left of the other. Start 10m up left from the start of Left Edge, just below where the grassy bank steepens into a gully. Climb steep cracks and pull out left onto the lower slab. Traverse left into its centre and climb straight up to a large heather ledge. Traverse left to the next large slab (Friend 3 near the start) which is climbed up the centre without further protection.

#### **Jigsaw Buttress:**

Just left of the Deep Nick of Dromore (and about 100m right of the Black and White Walls) is a tall slim broken buttress with some dead trees growing out of its left-hand side.

*Jigsaw* 50m VS 4c. C. King, S. Reid. 5th February 2006.

Start on the right side of the buttress, up a grass slope to the right of a large sloping roof. Gain a horizontal crack and hand-traverse leftwards above the lip of the roof to a ledge. Follow the ridge above to the left-hand and lower of two large grass ledges under the steep headwall. Climb the wall above (crux), just left of the rib. It looks possible to finish up the right-hand wall above the upper ledge at an easier grade – this would probably reduce the route to Severe.

#### **Far Buttress:**

This is the small buttress 100m to the left of the Black and White Walls. It has a large clean ledge high up in its centre, and a lower heather ledge on the right. The rock is a little friable.

*Under the Far Away Tree* 10m HVS 5a. S. Reid, C. King. 5th February 2006.

A route with a rather serious feel, and quite hard for the grade. Starting on the left side of the buttress, climb up into a shallow scoop and make a rising traverse rightwards to gain the large upper ledge with difficulty. Pull straight over the centre of the roof and finish up a short groove. The right-hand rib of this buttress has also been climbed (Very Difficult).

#### **THE BORDERS, Craighoar (Lowland Outcrops p209):**

This miniscule buttress is more like 10m than 12m, but the rock is excellent sandstone, dries almost instantly and the crag is easily reached from the M74. The existing routes are re-described and others added.

*Hoars d'Oeuvre* 20m HVS 5a. S.J.H. Reid, C. King. 26th January 2006.

A left-to-right rising girdle. Start just left of the arête, at a rock pillar with sloping holds. Climb this directly to a sloping ledge. Make a move up the arête, and step right (wire). Make a rising traverse rightwards (several levels are possible) to gain the sanctuary of the deep crack of Hoar Cleft. Quit this to traverse right as for Crooked Brae, but continue the traverse to the right arête, and climb this, moving leftwards to finish.

*The Hoardinary Route* 10m E1 5a \*. S. Reid, J. Biggar, L. Biggar. 25th August 2005.

The left arête. Start just left of Silence of the Ram and climb up to a vague break (runner up and right by the block on Silence of the Ram for the nervous). Traverse left to the arête and climb it.

*Silence of the Ram* 10m VS 5a \* (2002).

The left-hand of three crack systems. Start just right of the lowest point of the crag and climb up to the crack which is followed past a large square block at half-height.

*Scobie-Doo* 10m HVS 5a (2002).

Takes the dark coloured wall in between the left-hand crack of Silence of the Ram and the central Hoar Crack. A steep and fairly sustained route. Climb directly up the wall passing the right end of a ledge near the top.

*Hoar Crack* 9m VS 4c (2002).

Start beneath the central right-leaning crack with a high thin vertical crack to its left. After a hard start climb up to the thin crack and finish directly up it or slightly to the right up the main crack.

*Hoar Cleft* 9m Hard Severe \* (2002).

The right-hand crack, starting just left of the roof on the right half of the crag. After a hard start, climb directly up with a steep pull to finish.

*Crooked Brae* 9m VS 4c (2002).

Follow for Hoar Cleft for 5m, then traverse rightwards across the short wall above the roof to a vertical crack. Climb this to the top.

*Hoar's Draws* 9m HVS 5a \*. S.Reid, L.Biggar, J.Biggar. 25th August 2005.

Starting on the right, climb up leftwards under the overhang on the right of the crag. Reach out rightwards over the roof to a good spike, pull up, and then climb the crack in the wall above (as for Crooked Brae).

Up and left of the main buttress is a promising looking area of easier angle rock – unfortunately it is a false promise. *Hoarible* (Mild Severe, S.J.H.Reid, C.King, 26th January 2006) takes the central rib starting via mossy slabs on the right, but is loose, unprotected and unrecommended.

#### **GALLOWAY SEA-CLIFFS, The Lookout – Tombstone Slab:**

The clean slab to the east of Lookout Slab. The rock and protection are not bad (for greywacke). The Tombstone climbs the main slab on the right.

*The Old Grey Wacke Test* 13m VS 4c \*. S.Reid, L.Biggar, J.Biggar. 26th August 2005.

Climb the main slab on the left, crossing the overlap via a thin crack near the left arête, and finish via a left-facing groove.

*The Long and Winding Road* 13m Very Difficult \*. J.Biggar, L.Biggar, S.Reid. 26th August 2005.

Climb the main slab via its right edge until it is possible to step right over the off-width crack onto the hanging slab. Go up this and finish up the diamond shaped top slab via cracks on the right.

#### **AUCHINSTARRY:**

*Whimper* 10m Severe. A.Wallace. 15th June 2005.

Start up *Scream*, then gain and climb the parallel crack to its right. Stay strictly in the crack for a decent climb.

#### **CAMBUSBARRON, Fourth Quarry:**

*Rubbatiti* 10m F6c+. C.Pettigrew, T.Cooper. 5th June 2005.

This climbs the front face of the sarcophagus shaped pinnacle to the left of *Chisel*. Climb the slightly overhanging front face of the pinnacle to the lower-off.

#### **FORESTHILL (NS 859 667):**

This old dolerite quarry faces north and from the road appears wet and vegetated, but appearances are deceptive. The routes are on either side of the entrance and face south, west and east on mainly sound, clean rock with an assortment of slabby walls and well-defined arêtes. All the first ascents were soloed by A.Wallace above a bouldering mat; therefore only technical grades are given.

The crag is visible close to the working quarry at Cairneyhill, immediately south of the A89 Airdrie to Bathgate road. There is also a good cycle path running parallel to the road. Park carefully opposite the quarry without blocking the gate, and follow the muddy track (wellies or big boots advisable), 2mins. The quarry is on farmland but the farmer is fine with climbers visiting.

There are a couple of small bits of rock on the left as you enter, which could give a few short problems. Past this is a wee wall with a good sidepull, a flat hold at head-height and a horizontal break just above.

*Love Kraft* 4m 5b \*

There are various ways to climb this wall but the best goes straight up the centre without using the sidepull or big hold. Pull on using tiny crimps and wee footholds to gain the break, then poor sidepulls help you get your feet high enough to teeter to the top. It's also possible but not as interesting, to jump for the break then dyno to the top.

*Rarete* 4m 5a. A hard pull, then direct up the arête.

*Pop Gun* 4m 4b. The groove immediately to the right.

*Spud Gun* 3m 4c. Right again, the crack is harder than it looks.

The bigger wall to the right is seamed by a horizontal fault.

*Fern Face* 5m 4c. At the left side of the wall gain the horizontal fault then reach up to slanting sidepulls. Balance up to more sidepulls then make a quick scary slap to the top.

*Easterling* 7m 4c. In the middle of the wall, climb stepped holds to cracks and an exit right to avoid loose dirty rock.

*Frontier Town* 9m 5a. Boulder up small holds to a good flat hold, then twin cracks.

*Cowboys* 9m 4a. The easy left side of the arête.

*Injuns* 9m 4c. The right side is harder.

There now follows a stretch of broken rock, which might give a few short climbs. A better buttress follows this, with a prominent overhang pierced by a borehole.

*Rifle Barrel* 9m 5a. Bridge up to undercling the borehole, then reach its top. Commit to a pull and a high-stepping mantel, finish easily.

*Kings of the Mild Frontier* 9m 4b. The left side of the arête gives a steady climb.

*Guns 'n' Thistles* 9m 5a. The right side gives more steady climbing, then it surprises with an awkward crux near the top.

*Cap Gun* 9m 4c. Climb the overhung corner onto a big ledge and finish up the cracks.

The west wing of the quarry starts with a short clean-cut arête.

*Wild West* 5m 4c. The arête climbed on its right side.

*Gun Free* 5m 5a. The left side is a little harder.

*Free Guns* 5m 4c. The groove is trickier than it appears.

*Raygun* 7m 5a. Use side holds to climb the arête to a jug and a finish up the right side of the hanging prow.

*Bullet Ballet* 7m 5c \*\*. The excellent direct line up the centre of the steep slab. Pulling up on shallow pockets as you stand on a toehold gains a wee sloping finger edge. Latch the bottom of a sloping ramp then with a foot on a tiny inset edge, pull up and smear with your right foot. Gain a flat hold on the ramp (don't use the jug at the top) then a big shallow pocket and go straight up to swing directly up the hanging prow.

*Bubububibububu* 7m 4c. The layback crack is finished via a slightly loose groove.

*Skylarking* 7m 5a \*. Use a borehole to reach a small sloping slab and a wee edge above. Span right to gain the break and finish up the curving vertical cracks.

*Bug In Brandy* 7m 4a. Climb the chimney to an interesting contortion round into a finger crack.

*The Big Express* 7m 5a. A good eliminate. Climb the short speckled pillar to gain holds on the hanging arête, then a spike. Swing round onto the Skylarking face and finish up the arête without using the curving cracks.

To the left the rock becomes more broken and vegetated but the climbing is better than it looks.

*Easy Day For a Laddy* 7m 3c. Climb an open groove to easy ground.

*Drums and Wires* 7m 4a. Climb a short slab then head for a long slim jammed flake. Use the flake to climb the wall on its right.

*The Somnambulist* 9m 4b. A grassy groove leads to the left side of the flake.

*Sgt. Rock* 9m 4b. A slim pillar leads to a grassy ledge, then a thin groove.

*Capt. Chock* 9m 4c. A small slab onto the ledge, then a jamming crack containing a jammed stone.

*Etc.* 9m 4c. Climb a leaning orange wall onto a grassy ledge then a slab split by a horizontal break.

*Extras* 9m 5a. A short black arête is 3m to the left. Go directly over it onto a wee slab then follow a right-trending line.

*Afterthought* 9m 5a. The left wall of the arête is seamed with hairline cracks. Climb it directly without using the ledges on the left, to a finish up a vegetated crack.

### **Rosyth Quarry:**

*Andy's Leg* 4m Font 4. A.Wallace. 11th December 2005.

A nice wee eliminate between Legover Groove and Andy's Wall. Wobble to the top of the zigzag crack then pick your own finish.

*Pis Aller* 5m Font 4. A.Wallace. 11th December 2005.

The left arête of Philistine without going into Drizzle. Start with hands on a ledge at head height then go up to inset edge on right. Follow the flake arête then balance over a rounded bulge to slap onto a sloping ledge, downclimb or finish up Philistine.

The route CND is described as climbing "The wall just right of The Waullie", but local opinion (and the diagram in the guidebook) seems to suggest it climbs the groove bounding the left side of this wall.

*Gonnae No' Dae That* 10m Severe. A.Wallace, R.Wallace. 11th December 2005.

A trio of mantels up the wall between CND and Hands Off gains a sloping ledge. Move right and climb a tiny inverted staircase forming a slim groove.

*You J'st Took That Too Far* 10m E1 5b. R.Wallace, A.Wallace. 11th December 2005.

Start two metres right of Hands Off, below an overhanging block. Climb the crack on it's left to ledges above it. Regain the crack then a step up and a long reach across a sloping ledge gains a better hold. Match on it then highstep and rockover to gain the top.

*Shady Character* 10m E1 5a. A.Wallace, R.Wallace. 11th December 2005.

Just right of Suspect Device climb a crack onto a ledge. A precarious rock-over leads to a suspicious layback crack then a short dubious wall.

*Whithering Heights* 4m Font 5. R.Wallace. 11th December 2005.

To the right again is a low overhang, sit start below this with your feet at the back and use a good sidepull on the right to gain flat lip holds. Up to wee crimps then hoop left foot onto lip hold, rockover and slap up left to a sloping ramp, then a big ledge.

### **FIFE, Limekilns, South Face of the Sentinel:**

*Stag Dubh* 12m E1 5a \*\*. J.Dyble, J.Shanks. 5th March 2005.

Climb between the crack-lines of Humbug and Kiln Dance without recourse to either route for holds or gear. Stay true to the rules (and route!) for maximum effect as the crack-lines draw closer together nearing the top. Unprotected and serious with the crux right at the top, but a rather good eliminate.

### **West Face of the Gellet Block:**

*DT's Direct Shaker Finish* 10m HVS 5a \*. J.Dyble, D.Monteith, I.McCabe. 24th April 2005.

Climb DT's until the point where the original route moves towards the right-hand crack. Continue straight up the left-hand crack on wobbly jams to finish direct. Probably done before.

*DT's Direct Wobbly Start* 10m E2 5b \*\*. J.Dyble, S.Macfarlane. 6th November 2005.

Start directly below the right-hand finishing crack of DT's and climb very boldly up to an obvious blunt spike on the right. There is gear in a short crack to the left at 5m. A tricky move before the gear leads to an easier finish.

### **BERWICKSHIRE COAST, Fast Castle, Little Rooks Stacks:**

There are a number of small fins of rock and two larger stacks. These are accessible by scrambling down the cliff.

#### **West Stack (NT 8502 7085 Tidal):**

A narrow channel and a short gendarme defend this 18m stack.

*The Gendarme and the Shrew* 35m VS 4c. R.I.Jones, J.Sanders, R.Benton. 11th December 2005.

1. 5m 4c. Step across the channel onto a steep wall and climb a crack-line. Scramble across a sloping block to the bottom of the stack wall.

2. 10m 4a. Traverse right along the landward face to the eastern corner of the stack.

3. 20m 4a. Climb the eastern face for 5m just right of the arête, then up rightwards on poor rock.

#### **East Stack (NT 8510 7088 Tidal):**

A 19m stack that runs parallel to the coast and has a grubby landward face. The western face has clean rock.

*Big Dipper* 20m VS 4b. R.Benton, J.Sanders, R.I.Jones. 11th December 2005.

Start from the platform at the western end of the stack. Traverse leftwards on to the west wall and climb the centre to easier ground and belay. The top is a gentle 5m scramble above this. On the first ascent a hold broke and the leader took a big dip in the sea, before completing the lead.

A small 10m land based stack on the beach to the east of East Stack at NT 8516 7088 has been soloed at Very Difficult (R.I.Jones. 11th December 2005).

**East Brander Bay. Notes from C.Lesenger:** suggested grades of The Bat Crack at Hard Severe, The Buoy Wonder at E2 5b and Cockle Shell Cracks at E1 5b.

*Lumsdaine Groove* 25m VS 4c. C.Lesenger, J.Davidson. 14th October 1995.

From the foot of The Buoy Wonder step across right to a good belay ledge and climb the groove.

*Direct Start* 30m HVS 5a \*. C.Lesenger, T.Lauder. 29th March 1998.

Climb the crack left of Carapus through the bulge direct to the good ledge.

*Tripwire* 40m E1 5b. C.Lesenger, C.Berry. 25th August 1996.

Climb a vague crack-line up the steep wall 5m left of Cockle Shell Cracks to join that route at a sentry box. Follow Cockle Shell to the bulge and pull through awkwardly to gain the clean vertical crack. Finish up a short wall.

### **Ladywell Craigs:**

These crags while facing north have some of the best rock in the area and lie about 600m west of Midden Craig. They can be approached from there at low tide, or from the quarry, cross into the field and follow the dyke downhill into another field to a makeshift metal gate above a grassy gully. Follow the faint track west for 200m then the fence north to the bottom corner of the field. Pass a prominent clump of gorse to descend between the two upper crags.

#### **Ladywell Craig, Lower Crag:**

This partly tidal crag is distinguished by a deep cave and undercut pinnacle to its right.

*Free Wullie* 20m E1 5b \*\*. C.Lesenger, C.Brown. 23rd March 1997.

Start in a recess at the left end of the central slab and gain the left-hand of two thin crack-lines. Climb the crack to gain the sloping ledge with difficulty. Cut through the traverse of Speed Trap trending slightly right to good finishing holds.

*Slot Machine* 20m HVS 5a \*. C.Lesenger, I.Macmillan. 22nd March 1997.

The right-hand dogleg crack starting just right of the recess. From the ledge finish direct up a slim right-facing corner.

*Cold Start* 20m Severe. C.Lesenger, I.Macmillan. 22nd March 1997.

The prominent ragged crack-line gained by a tricky wall.

*Speed Trap* 25m Severe. C.Lesenger, C.Brown. 23rd March 1997.

The right to left diagonal fault-line starting just left of the cave.

*Ingleneuk* 20m Severe. C.Lesenger, T.Lauder. 9th November 1996.  
The wide crack springing from the cave.

*Boot to Touch* 20m E2 5b. C.Lesenger, G.Gray, T.Lauder. 20th April 1997.  
Start just right of the cave and climb the slabby wall passing a sloping ledge to finish up the main crack-line. Scramble up left to belay.

*Fox on the Rocks* 20m VS 4c. C.Lesenger, G.Gray. 20th April 1997.  
Climb the prominent left-facing corner to the top of the huge boulder, then step left to finish up an awkward crack. Scramble up left to belay.

*Bowstring* 15m Severe. G.Gray, T.Lauder. 20th April 1997.  
Climb the juggy arête to join Shortbow at the huge boulder. Finish up that route.

*Shortbow* 15m Severe \*. T.Lauder, C.Lesenger. 3rd April 1997.  
Surmount a bulge to gain the bottomless corner bounding the left side of the pinnacle. Reach the top over an awkward chockstone.

*Pinnacle Face* 20m E2 5b \*\*. C.Lesenger, T.Lauder, G.Gray. 20th April 1997.  
Start below the right end of the overhang and climb a short wall till a traverse on the lip of the overhang leads onto the front face of the pinnacle. Step left and climb the face trending slightly left. Pull out right at the top.

*Dying Breed* 15m VS 4b. C.Lesenger, T.Lauder. 2nd April 1997.  
Start at a jug on the arête right of Pinnacle Face and climb a narrow slab to an overhung niche. Step delicately right and follow a crack to the top.

#### **Ladywell Craig, Upper Crag Left:**

Above and to the right of the lower crag is a steep compact slate-like slab with two fine cracks. These were cleaned by someone unknown in 1997 and belay stakes placed above but not claimed. C.Lesenger and C.Brown climbed the right-hand crack on 5th October 1997 at 20m HVS 5b \*. From the grassy ledge a committing move gains the base of the crack which is followed to the top.

#### **Upper Crag Right (Green Slab):**

This slab lies a short distance to the right at the same level.

*Verdant Works* 20m VS 4c. C.Lesenger, G.Brimlow. May 1999.  
Start just right of the lowest point of the slab. Climb thin cracks direct to a grass cornice finish. Friend 3.5 and in-situ peg belay in the short wall above.

*Microlight* 15m VS 4b. C.Lesenger, G.Brimlow. May 1999.  
Ten metres right is a narrow slab wedged between vertical grass columns. Climb the slab trending left then right via a shallow recess.

#### **Burnmouth Area, Breeches Rock:**

*Early Days* 60m VS. T.Blakemore, S.Thompson. 5th June 2005.

A descending traverse of the north face before climbing the east (seaward) face directly.

1. 20m A line of flakes lead to a diagonal descending crack. Follow this, then turn the corner to a large bay. Climbed at high water, the pitch may be avoidable at low tide.
2. 20m 4b From the right-hand side of the bay, follow a crack until it steepens (crux) to reach a large block on the ledge above.
3. 20m Continue up the arête in a spectacular position to the top.  
Descend by abseil from an *in-situ* anchor.

*Loose Breeches* 35m HVS 4c. J.Sanders, R.I.Jones. 15th October 2005.

Climb the left-facing corner in the middle of the landward face to join the arête 5m before the top. Climb the arête to the top. Care must be taken not to dislodge the loose blocks on the left near the top of the corner.

**Note:** The stack is impressive as the guide states, but only 35m not 50m high.

**Breeches Arch (NT 957 621 Non-tidal):**

This stack lies just to the south of the main stack.

*Gardener's Choice* 15m Severe 4a. R.I.Jones, J.Sanders. 15th October 2005.

Climb the landward face by the right-hand arête. Vegetated.

**Maiden's Stone (NT 966 603 Tidal):**

*Scotland's Last Old Man* 20m HVS 4c. D.Rubens, G.Cohen, W.Jeffery. 2003.

The route was led despite the current guide saying it was top-roped. Climb the centre of the seaward face/leaning flake and then the wall above on the left on soft sandstone.

**Linkim Stack (NT 928 654 Tidal):**

Park by Hallydown Farm at NT 923 646 and follow the track to the coast and down to the beach.

*No Gear Required* 20m Severely Loose. R.I.Jones, J.Sanders. 5th November 2005.

Climbs the landward face. Descent is by simultaneous abseil.