

Corrections and comments on descriptions and diagrams in the new Scottish Rock Climbs guidebook are to be found on the SMC web site at:  
[http://www.smc.org.uk/books/books\\_scottish\\_rockclimbs.htm](http://www.smc.org.uk/books/books_scottish_rockclimbs.htm). Opinions on grades are not necessarily in the majority as further opinions were collected in preparation of the book and these are not reproduced. Further corrections and comments are welcome to [anisbe@globalnet.co.uk](mailto:anisbe@globalnet.co.uk).

## OUTER ISLES

### **HARRIS, Sron Ulladale, North-East Face:**

**Note:** J.Preston and G.Ettle climbed *Inversion* on 11th June 2006. Pitch grades 5a, 4c, 5a, 4c, 4b, 4c. "Exposed and amazing positions throughout, but really very dirty. The rock is completely covered in lichen and there are some steep moves on grass and various other types of vegetation. I suppose you could give yourself one star if you get to the top alive."

*Variation:* 15m E1 5b. S.Gillies, G.Gavell. May 1997.

From the belay at the top of pitch 2, instead of "traversing left round a corner...etc" climb an obvious crack above the belay to emerge on the "edge" as described on pitch 4, thereby cutting out the traverse left and up then down and right.

### **LEWIS, Beannan a' Deas (NB 055 290):**

A south facing crag reaching a height of about 30m on the south side of Beannan a' Deas (252m). The best climbs lie on the right side on excellent rock, generally well protected. Numerous smaller crags are passed on the described approach, with many potential 15 to 30m routes. Routes are 25 to 30m.

**Approach:** Park up a short hill 200m west of the weir at the end of Loch Suaneabhal. Follow a faint path following a buried pipeline marked by occasional posts and man holes. The path skirts the east side of two unnamed lochs and then goes to the north of Loch a' Bheannain. 400m past the loch the path heads south up an unnamed valley to the west of Beannan a' Deas. Continue to the next unnamed loch and take the east side to near the end of the loch. Head due east for about 200m along the north side of a shallow valley and some small walled enclosures. Head due north up the hill and the cliff appears in 50m. It is easily identified by a prominent triangular niche in the upper centre, 35 to 45 mins.

*Wandering Zig Zag* E1 5a \*. K.Neal, A.van Lopik. 8th June 2006.

Take a left-trending diagonal crack for 4m, step right on the slab and follow a right-trending crack up and right to a hanging arête. Hand traverse left to the top (quite bold).

*Crunch* E3 5b \*. K.Neal, A.van Lopik. 10th June 2006.

Climbs directly up the highest part of the crag with some suspect rock and poor protection until half-height. Pull onto a hanging ramp and make a couple of moves rightwards before pulling through onto the main wall. Follow faint grooves bearing slightly leftwards to gain the left side of the triangular niche. From here follow shallow cracks to the top of the crag.

*Diagonal* HVS 5b \*\*. K.Neal, A.van Lopik. 10th June 2006.

Takes a right to left line. Climb a short thin crack in the slab leading to the overhang. Make a stiff pull over this and follow a continuation crack to gain the triangular niche. Bridge steeply up the corner-crack to the top.

*Commitment* E3 5b/c \*\*\*\*. K.Neal, A.van Lopik. 10th June 2006.

An absolute classic pitch of climbing, taking the stunning roof on the right-hand of the crag. Start at the right-hand crack system just below the roof. Climb up to the roof and hand traverse left. Gain the holds above the roof to a hanging semi rest. Finish out right.

*What a Day* E2/5b \*\*. K.Neal, A.van Lopik. 10th June 2006.

Starts on the same crack line as for Pump Master, and then traverses right around the arête to finish up a lovely crack to the top. (small gear)

*The Neb* VS 5a \*\*. K.Neal, A.van Lopik. 10th June 2006.

Climb up to the prominent flake at the right side of the crag and gain a standing position on it. Continue to the top via cracks.

**Note:** Grade opinions from K. Neal:

**Mangersta Slabs:** *Moscow Mule* – HVS 5b \*\*.

*Singapore Sling* – E2 5c \*\*, grade right, quality route.

*Aurora: Star of the Sea* – HVS 5a.

**Red Wall:** *Limka* – E2 5b.

### **LEWIS SEA-CLIFFS, Torasgeo:**

These routes lie on the usually sheltered west (east facing) wall and are all non-tidal, described from left to right as looking at the crag, starting with the obvious south facing slab of *Argonaut*. The first three routes are approached by a 55m abseil from a convenient boulder down a vegetated corner to a large boulder cove exposed at all states of the tide (about 30m north of the obvious decaying stack/fin).

*Argonaut* 55m HVS \*\*. P.Donnithorne, E.Alsford. 4th June 2006.

Start below the slab.

1. 35m 5a Trend up and right across broken grooves, then back up left, and up a short groove abutting the main slab. Follow the obvious red quartz seam up right, to the right edge of the slab, and follow this to a slabby ledge.
2. 20m 5a Follow the tapering ramp up rightwards to its end, then steeply up into a groove which leads past a bulge to the top.

*Triton* 55m E1 \*\*\*. E.Alsford, P.Donnithorne. 7th June 2006.

Takes the groove-line just right of the arête right of the previous route. Start immediately to its right by the largest boulder.

1. 30m 5b Traverse right just above high water mark for 3m to an obvious shallow slabby groove. Ascend this until forced right on big holds to beneath a steep corner. Go up this past a bulge to a large sloping ledge.
2. 25m 5b The corner above leads to another slabby ledge (the belay of *Argonaut*). Launch up the orange wall above slightly leftwards to finish up a short groove in the arête.

*Palace of Colchis* 80m E1 \*\*\*\*. E.Alsford, P.Donnithorne. 7th June 2006.

A spectacular traverse of the west wall starting up *Triton*.

1. 40m 5b Follow *Triton* for 13m to below the steep corner. Follow an obvious white juggy line up steeply rightwards, with good positions, until it is possible to step down right onto brown slabs. Continue traversing horizontally right to a small vegetated stance.
2. 30m 5b Continue in the same line across an orange wall, above the large roof, to a spike on the arête. Continue traversing, crossing *The Black Carrot*, to belay on a ledge in the obvious corner of *Bosphorus Groove*.
3. 10m 5b Step left and follow a fine thin crack in the streaky wall above (between *The Black Carrot* and *Bosphorus Groove*).

Below the right-hand end of the west wall is a commodious non-tidal ledge with a short chimney at its left end. The next two routes start at the bottom of the chimney. Abseil approach.

*The Black Carrot* 45m E3 5c \*\*\*. P.Donnithorne, E.Alsford. 8th June 2006.

Move left onto a ledge and pull onto a pink slab. Move left along this, under small roofs, and up with difficulty to quartz footholds on the arête. A small groove leads to big flakes. Trend up and left more easily to reach the *Black Carrot* and climb the crack forming its left side to a small ledge. Go up a short groove leftwards to finish over blocks.

*Bosphorus Groove* 45m HVS 5a \*. E.Alsford, P.Donnithorne. 7th June 2006.

From the top of the chimney move left to climb the obvious left slanting groove-line. Move left under steep ground and pull up into a corner. (optional belay, common with belay at end of second pitch on *Palace Of Colchis*). Continue up the twin cracks in the right wall to an easier angled finish.

*Symplagades* 45m E1 5b \*. P.Donnithorne, E.Alsford. 8th June 2006.

Based on the right edge of the wall, approach from the commodious ledge by scrambling rightwards along a thin ledge to a slabby corner. Climb the corner for 10m, then make a rising rightwards traverse to some gigantic flakes. Step right and climb the arête to the top.

*Ein Schiff voller Narren* 30m E5/6 6b \*\*. P.Thorburn, B.Fyffe. June 2005.

There is a large wall to the right of 42nd Street. This route takes the crack in the wall to the right of a left-leaning corner. Climb a left-slanting crack to ledges. Then climb up a vague block rib, then up a crack just right of the arête above.

### **Moac Wall:**

*Fullminate* 25m E4 6a \*. P.Thorburn, B.Fyffe. June 2005.

Climbs the right side of the pink intrusion. Climb the left-hand side of a wide groove to the pink intrusion. Gain the projecting ledge in the black wall and continue steeply up rightwards to easier ground.

*Wedge on a Ledge* 30m E2 6a. B.Fyffe, P.Thorburn. June 2005.

The wall just before *Black Wall*. Climb a thin crack above the apex of the wedge to ledges (crux). Continue up the wall to the left of the wide crack/fault.

### **Black Wall:**

The obvious black wall facing Moac Wall.

*Vital Spark* 35m E4 6a \*\*\*. P.Thorburn, B.Fyffe. June 2005.

Climbs the black wall at its highest point. Start on the ramp just left of the slime streak. Climb up to a roof, and traverse rightwards into The Black Cat. Go up this to stand on a flake. Climb slightly left and up to the first diagonal break. Boldly climb the wall just left of the pink intrusion to a second diagonal break. Continue more easily being wary of the odd loose hold.

*The Black Cat* 35m E3 5c \*. B.Fyffe, P.Thorburn. June 2005.

An attempt on the groove just to the right of the previous route. Climb up a short wall just to the right of the slime streak. Trend up and left into a shallow groove. Climb this to the first hollow blocks. Move rightwards to gain a notch on the arête. Continue up the left side of the arête past another notch to the top.

*Parahandy* 35m E4 6a \*. P.Thorburn, B.Fyffe. June 2005.

Climbs the hanging corner system in the centre of the cliff. Start at the seaward end of the ramp. Climb up rightward leaning black grooves to ledges (possible belay as the starting point is threatened by the sea). Climb a flake, step left and pull over the roof into the corner system. Continue more easily up this.

*Dark Shadows Rising* 30m E3 5c \*\*. P.Thorburn, B.Fyffe. June 2005.

To the right of the previous route, past a blank corner system is a right slanting intrusion. Abseil to small ledges near the base of the next corner system to the right. Follow a short crack into the corner. Pull left onto the wall above. Follow pink band exiting by a large block on the arête.

*Little Broomstick Route* 20m VS 4a \*. B.Fyffe, P.Thorburn. June 2005.

This route is on the wall to the right of the right-hand corner system. Start as for the previous route. Climb rightwards up a small ramp and then straight up the wall above on good holds.

#### **LEWIS SEA-CLIFFS, Aird Uig Area, Chapel Head:**

G.Ettle and J.Preston freed Sallie's Dilemma at 5c on the Black Wall, 12th June 2006; this has already been freed by Groove Armada (2002). Chapel Crack is \*\*, not \*\*\*. Three routes left of Colonel Huff were were in fact Severe to Hard Severe instead of VS to HVS.

**Dalbeg Area:** Dilithium Crystals, Tea for Two, Outlaw and First Born are all worth a \*, Navy Cut is worth \*\*.

#### **Black Wall:**

J.Lyall says that The Boardwalk Walls (SMCJ 2003) are the same as Black Wall (Hebrides guide p95). Colonel Huff (15m Severe \*) is correctly graded and the same as Northern Soul (30m HVS \*\*) - the first 15m are walking.

Diving Board (30m Severe \*) is similar to Disco Fever (30m VS 4c \*\*).

Around the Bend (30m V.Diff \*) is correctly graded and the same as Funky Corner (VS 4c \*\*), although it has a 3m direct start at Severe 4b.

Chapel Crack is correct at Hard Severe \*.

*Old Records* 30m VS 4b \*. J.Lyall, S.Gillies. 12th June 2006.

Left of Colonel Huff/Northern Soul is another rock pool with a rock pedestal on its northern end. Start from this and climb up into a recess to gain a ledge, then follow a right-slanting crack to the top.

#### **Aurora Geo, Cioch Wall:**

*The Pie Party* 28m E2. A Tibbs, H.Tibbs. 27th July 2006.

Start 4m left of President's Chimney.

1. 13m 5b Move left round the arête to an incut foot ledge which leads to a fine cracked wall. Climb the wall with a bouldery finish above good gear.

2. 15m Finish up the easy arête above.

#### **MINGULAY, Creag Dhearg - The Red Cliff:**

*Firewall* 58m E6 6a \*\*\*. S.Crowe, K.Magog. June 2006.

Sustained climbing with good protection. Start off the ledge. Pull out right from the belay and make a rising traverse to a wide pink slot and continue to the narrow ledge. Make a hard move to good undercuts, thus far shared with The Scream. Follow the right-hand side of the flake, then pull leftwards, then move up to reach a prominent white quartz band. Climb directly through the bulges above to a ledge 6m below the top, possible belay but the hard climbing is not yet over! Climb the wall above stepping right to a testing last move.

#### **Dun Mingulay:**

*Little K* 35m E5 6a \*\*\*. S.Crowe, K.Magog. June 2006.

A more often dry and splendidly bold variation on the first pitch of Big Kenneth. Follow Big Kenneth as far as the first roof to check whether it is dry. If not step down and traverse rightwards and continue slightly downwards until it is possible to pull round into a groove that leads back up to the roof of Big Kenneth (a few metres right of where you left it!) just in time to swing out strenuously right to a big jug, then trend up and slightly right to belay on a good ledge below the second roof.

#### **Cobweb Wall:**

Descent: Abseil as for The Undercut Wall and scramble round right (south-east) at barnacle level (mid-low tide and calm seas) to a good ledge system beneath a short V-slot above the initial roof.

*Bikini Dreams* 120m E3 \*\*\*. A.Lole, G.Latter. 10th June 2006.

1. 40m 5c Climb easily up to good flakes and cross the initial roof on these. Continue directly, then up a fine right-trending pegmatite ramp to a recess.
2. 30m 5c Climb directly up the wall, then trend right on good flakes to an awkward step right round into a shallow groove. Step up right onto an exposed ledge, then pull directly through a roof to better holds above. Continue more easily up a right-slanting ramp to a large ledge above.
3. 50m 4a Continue easily up slightly right, then back left and direct to finish.

#### **The North Wall:**

Located on the west wall of Seal Song Geo (opposite Seal Song Wall). This wall consists of two steep walls. The right-hand steep wall has a black slab emanating from sea-washed slabs and has a sizable roof near its top. The left-hand steep wall is capped by smaller roofs and birdy ledges. At its left-hand end (around its nose/arête) is a chimney/cleft and a sea level niche/cave. On top of the walls is a large flat platform. At the left end of the platform is a block which is used to access the first three routes. Further to the right on the platform is a huge block which is used to access the remaining routes in this area. The following routes start from high-tide ledges, which also allow one to move around most of this area easily.

*Dancing with Hens* 30m VS 4c \*\*\*. P.Hemmings, C.Pulley. 12th August 2006.

To the left of the chimney/cleft is a sea-level niche. Start to the left of this niche below an obvious orange band of rock and a corner. Climb the corner to the steep orange wall and pull up on powerful jugs to below a small roof and corner. Climb the corner and pull through the roof and step out right above the void. Space walk rightwards and pull through to a slab. Climb the slab to easy ground and the top.

*Mistaken Identity* 30m VS 4c \*\*. P.Hemmings, C.Pulley. 13th August 2006.

Start at the chimney/cleft near the left-hand end of this wall. Climb rightwards to the base of a steep crack at the left-hand end of the first steep wall. Climb this crack and a broken corner to reach the birdy ledges (possible belay). Break through the roof on the right and follow the steep and airy corner to the top.

*Castlebay Hen Party* 45m E1 \*\*. C.Pulley, P.Hemmings. 13th August 2006.

Start on the sea-washed ledges below the steep left-facing corner-line defining the right-hand end of the first steep wall. This can be reached by walking along the high tide ledge system running underneath the crag.

1. 30m 5b Climb up to the overhanging corner via blocks and a short chimney. Climb the overhanging corner until forced right onto a small ledge. Climb the continuation corner to a large ledge. Break through the awkward capping roof on the left (above a birdy ledge) to belay on the pink quartz ramp of Gneiss Helmet.
2. 15m 4c Traverse leftwards beneath the triangular roof and finish up the corner of Mistaken Identity. Alternatively, but a lot harder, traverse leftwards to finish up the bottomless groove of Gneiss Helmet.

**Note:** Gneiss Helmet is a bit of a non-route and is best described as an alternative finish to Castlebay Hen Party.

#### **Guarsay Mor, The South Pillar:**

*The Gangplank* 90m E1 \*. C.Pulley, M.Mortimer. 10th June 2006.

Start 20m above sea-level, on a ledge in a niche with a green corner (part of the way up the initial ramp line of Fisherman's Blues)

1. 20m 5b From the platform, follow flakes/grooves on the left wall of the green corner to a sloping ramp (the gangplank). Follow this boldly rightwards to step into the green corner above the belay. Move up to the roof and then swing rightwards to follow jugs to belay at the left-hand end of the big ledge one third of the way up the cliff.
2. 40m 4c Follow rounded cracks above the belay to the large roof. Swing/traverse leftwards onto the wall above. Follow the wall steeply to a large ledge below a prominent chimney.
3. 30m 5a Follow the exposed chimney steeply and then a small left-facing corner to the top.

#### **PABBAY, Hooper's Geo:**

*Rite of Passage* 30m E4 6a \*. S.Crowe, K.Magog. June 2005.

Follow the steep side of the arête just right of Squeeze Job. Powerful moves at the start lead to more technical climbing up the blunt arête above.

*Fear an Bhata* 30m E4 6a \*\*. S.Crowe, K.Magog. June 2005.

Start up the black flakes of More Lads and Molasses, after the initial moves climb boldly up and rightwards to join As Sound as Mr J.A.

### **The Great Arch:**

*Northumbrian Rhapsody* 100m E5. K.Magog, S.Crowe. June 2005.

1. 25m 6b Belay on a small ledge on the arête as for Child of the Sea. Move leftwards across the wall to cross an overlap to gain easier flakes above. Sweep right to belay on the right below a notch in the right side of the long roof.
2. 25m 6a Pull through the roof into a groove. Step left out of the top of this to gain the slabby headwall. Continue to a belay ledge.
3. 30m 5b Continue up solid but lichenous rock above.

### **Allanish Wall:**

*Youth of Today* 40m Hard Severe 4b \*\*. M.Airey, A.Dell. 16th August 2006.

This is the wall on the Allanish peninsula, at the rightmost end (looking in). The route takes the wall to the right of the big open VS "Unnamed" corner at the right end of the crag. Start from lowest of two ledges just above the sea on the left wall of the corner (abseil approach down the big corner, 35m). Traverse right from the ledge for 5m, then go up cracks past small left-facing corners and a band of black rock. Trend diagonally back left and finish up a fine thin crack just to the right of the big corner.

### **The Banded Wall:**

Further south, beyond a more broken section, a prominent wide ledge at half-height divides a fine smooth lower wall, the left section dropping straight into the sea. There are tidal ledges (mid-low tide) at its southern end.

Descents: The first five routes are accessed by a 50m abseil from a large boulder on the edge of a grass terrace. Hanging belays. For the rightmost (southern) routes, abseil from good anchors 20m further south.

*Wee Hottie* 20m E1 5b \*. G.Latter, A.Lole. 5th June 2006.

The prominent left-facing corner bounding the left end. Climbed from the start of the vertical section, the lower 10-12m left-slanting section would give a fine harder start when dry.

**Note:** Hyperballad E2 5c \*\*\* and Mollyhawk E1 5b \*\* (existing routes).

*The Posture Jedi* 25m E2 5c \*\*. G.Latter, A.Lole. 5th June 2006.

Start from the same belay as Mollyhawk. Trend up rightwards and follow superb hidden holds to break through the roof where it dwindles at its right end. Continue easily up left to a large ledge.

*A Horizontal Desire* 40m E2 5c \*. A.Lole, G.Latter. 5th June 2006.

Start from a belay in the vertical crack at the base of a right-facing groove right of the main roof system. Climb the groove to belay a roof, then break out left up a crack. Easier ground leads to the top.

*One Foot in the Grave* 45m VS 4c \*\*. A.Lole, F.Murray, G.Latter. 6th June 2006.

Climb the initial corner of Warm Up, but continue to the roof and traverse right underneath it. Finish up a fine easy groove and wall above.

*Run Daftie Run* 45m E1 5b \*\*. A.Lole, G.Latter. 5th June 2006.

The right arête of Warm Up. Climb easily up the wall on the left to protection in a black plaque. Step right to good holds on the arête, then go up the right side and continue more easily directly.

*Squat Thrust, Right Finish* 40m HVS 5a \*\*. G.Latter, A.Lole. 5th June 2006.

Climb the initial chimney corner of Squat Thrust, stepping up right to a shallow groove in the arête and finish directly.

*Wind Against Tide, Right Start* 30m E1 5b \*\*. G.Latter, A.Lole. 6th June 2006.

Start from the belay at the base of Tide Race. Step left round the arête and follow grooves to gain the wide horizontal fault at the base of the thin crack.

### **South Face:**

*The Curious Bulge* 30m HVS 5a \*. C.Pulley, M.Mortimer. 5th June 2006.

Between Grey Cossack and Yob and Yag Go Climbing Part 2 is a left-facing corner high on the face. Follow a rib to break through an overlap via a jug. Follow the orange slab to gain the bulging wall. Swing right into the corner and follow it to the top.

*Shags and the City* 30m HVS 5b \*. M.Mortimer, C.Pulley. 5th June 2006.

Climbs the right crack through the triple overhangs. After the second roof, follow a crack to the right of the final off-width crack.

*The Elephant of Surprise* 30m HVS 5a \*\*. A.Lole, G.Latter. 6th June 2006.  
The leftmost of the triple cracks, gained by traversing in from either of the adjacent routes.

*Off Wid Emily's Bikini* 35m E2 5b \*\*. C.Pulley, M.Mortimer. 5th June 2006.  
Right of The Shipping Views is a right-facing corner in the first recess. Follow this into an off-width come chimney. Cut loose right and go up an overhanging flaky corner to the roof. Swing left to join The Shipping Views.

#### **The Bay Area:**

*B.A.R.T.* 20m E5 6a. I.Small, J.Clark. 5th June 2005.  
Breaches the main roof where it narrows at the right end of the crag. Start a few meters left of Jesus Wants Me... .Climb a wall and scoop passing the left of a roof to gain a large flake-crack. This curves left and leads to a rest below large roof. Follow a handrail out right to make a long reach over the roof for improving holds. Move up and right to a large flat triangular hold, then directly to top.

#### **SANDRAY, Burrell Gallery:**

*Life Begins...* 35m E5 \*\*\*. I.Small, T.Fryer. 26th July 2006.  
A counter-diagonal to Pastiche, starting on the sea-level ledge below the leftmost black groove/corner and finishing up the main hanging corner on the right edge of Burrell. A magnificent line. Traverse in at high-tide level from La Louvre to the furthest (triangular) ledge. Calm seas only!  
1. 15m 6a A series of hard and committing moves up a left diagonal crack and arête leads to a sloping overhung ledge (good rest). From its right end, a long move up gains a good quartz jug. Step right and climb a rib on small holds to a horizontal break. Traverse left to a foot ledge and step up a groove above to a horizontal break (junction with Pastiche).  
2. 20m 6a. Traverse left on big holds to gain the corner and the right end of Burrell wall. Pull over a roof onto a slab, step left onto a wall and climb the wall and corner with interest until wild, steep finishing moves get through the hanging corner.

*Physical Graffiti* 20m E5 6b \*\*\*. G.Lennox (unsec). 26th July 2006.  
Pull onto the Burrell wall as for Muscular Art. Move up left to a crack running into a flake then a niche. Climb up left to a horizontal break, then make a couple of huge reaches up left through the grey band of rock to better holds and the top.

*Renaissance* 20m E5 6b \*\*\*. G.Lennox (unsec). 27th July 2006.  
Reached from the slab sloping into the sea right of Muscular Art, climb a crack to jugs and a rest in the corner to the right (Pastiche belay). Move back left and up on fingery holds to a thin left-facing edge and gain a jug on the left. Climb up to a break and then follow a line of holds leading out left to near the top of Muscular Art.

#### **Note: Grade Comments**

*Mohr Air* saw a couple of ascents this year and the grade confirmed as E4 6a, 6a, 5a \*\*\*.  
C.Adam & A.Robertson made early ascents of *Finger Painting* and thought E4 6a \*.  
*First Impressionist* is a good stiff E4 6a \*\*\* with a very hard long reach at the top.

#### **La Louvre:**

The lines are close together, but all very good, and independent of existing routes.

*Etch-a-sketch* 25m E1 5b \*. I.Small, T.Fryer. 24th July 2006.  
On the right-hand side of the wall, following right-trending ramp system. Up black groove on slightly suspect rock, to gain and follow ramp/ledge, until possible to go straight up small but immaculate headwall near right edge.

*Pointillist* 25m E3 5c \*\*\*. A.Robertson, J.Clark. 25th July 2006.  
A discontinuous crack-line to the left of First Impressionist. Start just left of First Impressionist and climb direct up a bulging crack-line to a large niche. Traverse 1m left and follow a faint crack to the top via good breaks.

*Art for Art's Sake* 25m E4 6a \*\*\*. I.Small, T.Fryer. 25th July 2006.  
Start at a thin crack 2m right of Dot to Dot. Follow the crack on good holds to a small triangular niche. Continue to a mini-overlap in orangey rock. Make a long move up to a good hold. Continue directly up the wall on hidden holds to the left of a hairline crack.

*Crazy Horse* 25m E5 6a \*\*\*. J.Clark, A.Robertson. 25th July 2006.  
Low in the grade. Follows the left arête to climb the amazing Rockart face. Start in a groove just right of the arête (and left of Tormented Textures). Follow the groove and crack up the wall, trending slightly left until able to make committing moves onto "Indian face". Either pull into a huge guano niche, or better, hand-traverse at eye level and step onto a mouth. Pull round using good holds on the arête and up to a big break. Finish up the top wall on the left side of the arête, with continued interest.

*Line of Beauty* 25m E4 6a \*\*\*. T.Fryer, I.Small. 25th July 2006.

A rising traverse from right to left, following obvious breaks below the wavy quartz vein. Start just left of First Impressionist (at the base of Pointillist). Traverse up and left, crossing other lines, past a huge quartz splodge in the centre of the wall, and into corner of Tormented Textures. Move up wall left of TT to the right end of the overhung guano ledge below the roof (lie-down rest if required). Committing moves gain a camouflaged incut hold. Continue boldly to the top. Gorgeous.

**MULL, Ardtun, The Blow Hole:**

*The Battle* 12m HVS 5a \*. C. Moody, A.Soloist. 24th August 2006.

The crack between Mud in your Eye and Juracell.

**ERRAID, Beach Ball Wall:**

(NM 289 194) Alt 8m South-East facing

This wall faces the left end of Mink Walls.

*Orange Streak* 10m HVS 5a \*. C.Moody, C.Grindley. 2006.

Climb the crack just left of the orange streak at the left end of the wall.

*Sun Trap* 15m HVS 5a \*. C.Moody, C.Grindley. 2006.

Start 6m right of the Orange Streak. Climb a steep corner-crack, then cracks up a right-slanting ramp.

**Mink Walls:**

(NM 289 193) Alt 8m South-West facing

Mink Walls run from a shallow gully on the left towards Asteroid Chasm on the right (to the south-east). The routes are often short but good quality. An abseil rope might be useful if climbing a few routes.

*Pond Filler* 13m VS 4c \*. C.Moody, C.Grindley. 2006.

The obvious crack-line at the left end of the short crag where it gets higher. Start at the left side of a pool either direct or on the left. The last few moves can be avoided at a ledge.

*Pond Life* 8m E1 5a. C.Moody, C.Grindley. 2006.

Climb the off width crack in the left-facing corner at the right side of the pool.

*Abby* 8m VS 5a \*. J.Lines. 2002.

Just right of the off width, climb the shallow corner.

*Emma* 8m E1 5a \*. J.Lines. 2002.

Just to the right are some flakes, climb these and a shallow unprotected groove.

*Orbit* 7m E2 5c \*. C.Moody, C.Grindley. 2006.

Right of Emma is a thin crack which has wider section 2m from the top, climb the crack.

*Toad Hole* 7m Severe. C.Moody, C.Grindley. 2006.

Right of Orbit is a black seam that runs up left. Climb a short right-facing corner to gain a ledge at the black seam, climb the crack above slightly leftwards.

*Toad Crack* 7m HVS 5a \*. C.Moody, C.Grindley. 2006.

The fine crack just right.

*Just Spitting* 7m HVS 4c \*. C.Moody, C.Grindley. 2006.

Gain a flake left of Jammer and continue up it, protection can be placed before the top.

*Jammer* 7m HVS 5a. C.Moody, C.Grindley. 2006.

The corner crack.

*Caroline* 8m VS 4c \*. C.Moody, C.Grindley. 2006.

Just right of Jammer climb up to an undercut flake, continue up the flake.

*Interrupted by Canoes* 8m E1 5b \*. C.Moody, C.Grindley. 2006.

The cracks and flakes to the right, good climbing.

*Wrecked* 8m HVS 5a \*. C.Moody, C.Grindley. 2006.

The next line to the right finish up a right-facing flake.

*Neanderthal* 8m E1 5b \*. C.Moody, C.Grindley. 2006.

Climb a jam crack and continue up the thinner crack.

*Need an Inch* 8m E2/3? 5c \*\*. C.Moody, C.Grindley. 2006.  
The hairline crack.

*Red* 8m VS 4c \*. C.Moody, C.Grindley. 2006.  
Climb the cracks at the right end of the short wall.

*Access Route* 8m Very Difficult.  
The vegetated corner is useful.

*The Mink* 15m E2 5b \*\*. J.Lines. 2002.

The wall is bigger at the right end with an arching overlap. Climb the right side of the slab, just right of a hairline crack, to gain the start of the overlap/arch on the right. Follow the overlap leftwards to finish up a corner-groove. A fine route.

*Helga* 15m VS 4c. C.Moody, C.Grindley. 2006.  
Just to the right climb the left facing corner crack and finish up the continuation crack.

### **IONA, Raven's Crag:**

*Quartzyness* 20m E1 5a \*. C.Moody, C.Grindley. 22nd July 2006.

Between Skinhead and Mental Torment. Start at the edge of the crag. Move up the short corner and step left. Move up (junction with Skinhead), then right and climb the left side of the quartz seam. Strenuous but well protected.

## **SKYE**

### **AN CAISTEAL, Coire Tairnelear:**

*West Buttress* II. R.McGuire, N.Urquhart. 23rd February 2006.

The prominent buttress to the right of "Grey Gully" - see Skye Scrambles. The buttress is broad lower down with bands of rock and easy ground, becoming a narrow ridge towards the first pinnacle. The imposing tower at the top is bypassed on the right, easy ground leading to the main ridge near the summit.

*Arrow Slot* 140m III. N.Urquhart, R.McGuire. 21st March 2006.

This gully lies immediately right of West Buttress, and finishes at the northernmost deep gap on the ridge. Approach by snow slopes and a lower shallow gully. A direct finish to the gap was avoided by traversing left below a huge chockstone and loose looking blocks.

### **SGURR THUILM, North Face:**

*Truish Gil* 350m II \*\*. A.Fulton, B.Wear. 22nd March 2006.

The prominent gully bisecting the north face. Start in a snow bay above scree slopes. Trend left up easy angled snow until the gully steepens. Exit left up rock and turf, or directly if ice is present (100m). Move right on easy ground until the base of the obvious large gully. Climb up steep snow to a chockstone (possible belay). Climb steeply over the chockstone (crux, may bank out with build up) and continue on steep snow to the summit (220m). Likely to have been climbed before.

### **SGURR DEARG, North-West Buttress:**

*Aesculapius, Direct Finish, Hygeia Variation* E2 5c \*\*. C.Moody, W.Hood. 10th June 2006.

Previously A2. A worthwhile finish to a very good route.

### **SGURR SGUMAIN, North Buttress:**

**Notes from J.Preston:** This is better approached direct from the loch in upper Coire Lagan up the left side of the scree slope. This is in fact the easiest descent back to sacks after climbing a route and does not include any Diff. climbing as mentioned in the guide. Once sacks have been collected, descend straight back down the line of ascent to the loch. The description has been revised for the following route:

*Purple Haze* 110m E1 5b \*\*.

Low in the grade, maybe just top end HVS but run out at the top. Start where a small orange slab leads to a break in the overhangs.

1. 30m 4b Climb up through the break and continue diagonally rightward until cutting back left up a clean slab to a small square ledge (some suspect rock and poor protection).

**Note:** Climbing further left may be slightly easier but is extremely loose, plus there is a very obvious corner further right beyond "the cut back left above a clean slab", but this has nothing to do with the route.

2. 35m 5b Follow a right-trending ramp line and groove to a horizontal dyke (much better rock now all the way to the top). Make steep moves up an undercut wall to a good ledge. Climb a steep corner above (crux) to a large sloping ledge.

3. 45m 5a Climb a steep chimney at the back of the ledge and another corner above (possible belay). Follow a dyke line into a deep corner. Traverse left near the top along a small ledge and climb a bold arête to finish.

**Note:** The deep corner can be followed to the top, as in the original Mackenzie guidebook.

Walk off right, cross a gully and traverse a ramp line rightwards to the top of the West Face of the Final Tower.

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

*Nuggets* 15m HVS 5a \*\*. G. and K.Latter. 8th May 2006.

About 10m left of the belay at the top of pitch 1 of Sunset Slab and Yellow Groove is a striking diagonal crack. Climb it, pulling out right at the top on good holds. Traverse down right to regain the parent route.

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

*Diuru* 65m E3 \*\*\*\*. J.Lines (on-sight solo). July 2005.

A combination of Dilemma and Uhuru gives probably the best climb on the wall.

1. 40m 5c Climb the crack of Dilemma and when it fades, continue up to a small overlap, then take a diagonal line out left to a further thin crack which leads past the protruding block to a ledge. Step left.

2. 25m 5b Climb Uhuru crack to the top.

#### **MARSCO, South West Buttress:**

*The Yellow Jersey* 50m E1 5b \*\*. R.Hamilton, S.Kennedy. 2nd July 2006.

A fine, well protected route following a prominent crack-line on the small buttress a few metres right of the wet gully near the far right end of the lowest band of rock. The buttress is located about 100m right of and at a slightly higher level than the waterfall just right of the start of Snark.

#### **MARSCO, North Face:**

*Wooly Gully* 150m III,4 \*. M.Lates, M.Beeston. 7th February 2007.

Follows the obvious central groove-line. This lies right of the conspicuous black overhanging wall. Five short hard pitches are linked by the easy angled gully bed. Continue easily in the same line to the summit. Frozen turf and rock under thin snow.

#### **BLA BHEINN, South Buttress:**

**Note:** *Il Dort dans les Choufleur* (SMCJ 2006) is largely the same as as Rosie's Stash.

#### **ELGOL, Schoolhouse Buttress:**

This line can be found round to the north of the overhanging face on the left-hand end of the cliff. Better than it looks - but only just.

*I'm Glad you Think it's Funny* 18m Difficult. D.McAulay and party. April 2006.

Start up the wall on the far left of the cliff, and climb a short clean wall on horizontal breaks to a V-groove. Move then up past two vegetated ledges, the second with a small tree, before finishing up and right via a corner.

#### **Suidhe Biorach:**

Right of Tree Route is a 10m stretch of wall before the big corner of Fertility Left is reached. At half-height, just below a big overlap, three short hanging cracks can be seen in parallel. The next two lines make their way up the wall taking in the left and right of these cracks.

*Busted Flush* 30m E2 5b \*. A.Holden, S.Marriott. 30th September 2006.

This takes in the left-hand of the three vertical cracks. Start below the crack. Climb the lower wall (sometimes wet but on big holds). Continue past a right-facing flake up to the short crack. Climb this and move up to a break (crux). Go up the fine headwall to the top.

*Analogue Wall* 30m E1 5b \*. A.Holden, M.Hudson. 31st May 2005.

A line 2m left of the corner of Fertility Left, via a slim hanging crack, the rightmost of the three. Move easily up the lower wall to a large sloping ledge. Continue up the steeper wall on good pockets to another ledge. Climb to the base of the hanging crack and pass this (crux) to continue pleasantly to the top.

*DIY Arête* 30m E1 5a \*\*. M.Hudson, A.Holden. 31st May 2005.

The bottomless arête right of the corner gives straightforward climbing in a spectacular position.

1. 15m 4c Follow the initial wet wall of Fertility Left to the first sloping ledge. Step out right onto the pocketed wall and climb diagonally to a belay beneath the upper arête. A direct pitch up the initial hanging arête still awaits.

2. 15m 5a Climb the higher arête past a break on the right wall at 4m (good cams) with a crucial mono hold above. The upper section is much easier.

The next lines are found 40m right of the main cliffs on a vertical wall of flakes and wafers.

*The Madcap* 20m VS 4c \*. R.Brown, N.Bassnett. 25th July 2006.

This atmospheric outing takes the left end of the wall finishing on the jutting beak, and gently overhangs for most of its length. Climb easily to the left-hand side of a tufty ledge. Continue leftwards on good holds with ankle-biting exposure, before finishing right at a made-to-measure jug.

*Big Ben* 20m VS 4b. M.Hudson, J.Sutton. 15th July 2005.

Start centrally, 10m right of Madcap, and head upwards towards a vague groove. Not much fun, as the rock becomes steeper and looser with height. Belay on the huge beak of Madcap that tops the arête 10m to the left.

One hundred metres east of Big Ben is a cave with a hidden raised entrance, Prince Charles' Cave.

*Why Why Why* 22m VS 4c. M.Hudson, R.Brown, A.Holden. 30th May 2006.

Start 10m right of Prince Charles' Cave below a seeping brown corner. Zigzag up easy wafers and ramps to the brown corner. Avoid the corner by moves up the steep wall just to its right (crux) to gain the easier-angled headwalls. Finish direct or up a right-facing flake-corner 2m left of the upper corner of Green Green Green.

Right again the cliffs gradually decrease in height and in places form huge square stack-like features riven by narrow alleyways. Access to this section is best made by walking east from the main cliff top for 400m. Follow good paths along the cliff top before a short scramble down to the shore, then double back towards the sea down a curious tilting alley filled with tidal debris. This corridor, though moist and claustrophobic, offers interesting traverses on both sides and a couple of esoteric lines.

*Otter Alley* 8m HVS 5a. A.Holden, M.Hudson. 7th July 2006.

A short technical route on the gentler northern wall of the alley, taking the extreme left-hand end of the long smooth stretch of wall, next to a smaller cleft. Good thin moves lead up the wall immediately right of the arête. Plenty of slot and pocket placements for the creative leader, none totally reassuring.

*Canale* 27m Very Difficult \*. N.Bassnett, R.Brown. 26th June 2006.

Start on the south wall of the alleyway, 20m in from the mouth, just to the right of a subsidiary alley, and almost opposite the start of Otter Alley. Climb the obvious shallow diagonal line rightwards until it lands on a massive ledge above the shoreline. Belay on the right-hand end before climbing easy flaky steps to the final steep corner shared with Scholat.

*Scholat* 15m E1 5a. R.Brown, A.Holden, M.Hudson. 30th May 2006.

This climb takes the grossly overhanging wafers left of the big corner of *Legover* (SMCJ 1998). Start 3m left of the big corner. Gain a ledge before stepping gingerly right into the short flakey scoop immediately left of the more obvious Legover. Climb jutting flakes urgently to a good ledge. Take the steep hedgehoggy wall above then finish up the big corner.

#### **SUISNISH:**

*Lelou* 35m VS 5a \*. D.McAulay, M.Bishop. 25th August 2005.

This route takes the concave slab to the right of Afternoon Tea (SMCJ 2001), via a choice of two finishes. Scramble up to the right past big blocks to a grassy bay below a damp gully and black streaked wall. The route climbs the wall to the left of the black streak to gain good holds in a horizontal break (small wires). An interesting move up to the right gains a rounded jug and before a layback up the improving rounded flakes to a large ear below the concave slab. The slab can be climbed by the right arête (bold) or by the centre (good small friend protection). Belay round a large boulder below the cliff top. The rounded flakes can also be gained from the right.

#### **DUIRINISH, Harlosh Point, Stob nan Uamha (NG 282 401):**

This remarkably slim stick-stack seems to defy nature in that it is barely two feet thick throughout, yet it stands perched like a devotional obelisk in the teeth of all south-westerly onslaughts. It offers a short but sharp route to its slender top, accessible at all but the highest tides, though big seas should be avoided.

*Stob nan Uamha* 10m VS 4b. M.Hudson, A.Holden. 8th July 2006.

Scramble round onto the seaward side and up to a spacious raised platform. Climb the vertical face above over a slight bulge. Descent by simultaneous abseil.

#### **NEIST, LOWER WALLS, Destitution Point:**

*Leftovers* 10m HVS 4c \*. M.Hudson, J.Sutton, L.Jones. 6th June 2005.

Follow the initial corner of Haggis and place protection in a small brown niche at 4m. Step out left and gain the arête by a long reach, then follow it to the top.

*Twisted* 10m E1 5b/c. J.Sutton, L.Jones, M.Hudson. 6th June 2005.

The blank corner just right of Tatties (SMCJ 2005), climbed by contorted palming and bridging. The exact grade depends on the amount of gear and holds borrowed from adjoining lines. Small cams useful on the shelves on the right.

*Sissy* 10m E1 5a \*\*. J.Sutton, L.Jones, M.Hudson. 6th June 2005.

A bold, well-positioned line up the front of the blunt rib that forms the southern side of the bay. Move up to a spike runner, then use pockets above to move right to a scary mantel on good knobbles. Easier than it looks.

#### **Euro Zone:**

Notes from C.Moody: Spindrift (SMCJ 2005) is undergraded. Rope Gripper (SMCJ 2005) is Very Difficult. There are now two belay stakes about 5m above the top of Optimum Snore Time.

#### **Shoals o' Herrin' Area (NG 128 483):**

A difficult area to locate from above, Shoals o' Herrin' is best located by first finding the seaward end of the wall that runs down from the southern end of the Financial Sector (Wish You Were Here). Going seaward for 30m in line with the wall brings you to the top of the Fallen Arch area (Bavaria and One Way Bottle - SMCJ 1999 - are probably just to the north but yet to be located). Fifty metres south from here is a slightly lower grassy headland, just after a small right-angled inlet. Shoals o' Herrin' walls are immediately below. Stakes for abseil descents are in situ (Sept 2006). There is a good ledge system below the routes, although not linked at high tide. Descriptions go from left to right (north to south) looking in. There are a stake and a crack in a boulder for Friends at the corner; abseil rope required. The cliff is a fairly uniform 25 to 30m in height.

Abseiling from the northerly stake and boulder gains the base of Yo Sea Whales. Route descriptions now start from the left corner of the wall. Around the corner on the north facing wall is a prominent white scar. A fierce little crack springs from the right side of the scar leading to fine yellow then grey corners. There's an even fiercer crack on the left side of the scar leading all the way up the black wall in a stunning position - both unled. A metre or so in from the left edge on the seaward face is a fine black crack which is the logical start to the following route, but is not led as yet.

*Mix and Match* VS 4c. M. & K.Tighe. 5th June 2005.

Climb the fine black cracked groove about 5m from the left edge; this is the left side of a gently sloping pillar that runs the full height of the crag. Avoid a fierce looking crack in the headwall by traversing left into the upper corner to finish. A bit rattly at the top.

*Yo Sea Whales* E2 5b \*. M.Tighe, I.Sykes. 6th June 2005.

The prominent groove on the right side of the pillar runs through a small overlap at one-third height and continues up through the cracks in the headwall to finish.

Right of here is a chimney-corner line as yet unclimbed. This is followed by a yellow rib, with a prominent crack covered in green lichen on the upper half - not led. Ledges are at their highest here, well above high tide. Right of here a small waterfall runs over the cliff. There are two excellent crack-lines just right again.

*Gannet Track* VS 4c \*. M. and K.Tighe. 5th June 2005.

The gently right-sloping crack going up into the yellow zone. The direct start via a small chockstone at 3m is much harder than the rest of the climb; more in keeping is to go up ledges on the right and traverse in at 6m.

*Shoals o' Herrin'* HVS 5b \*\*. M. and K.Tighe, S.Fraser, J.Hart. 14th August 2005.

Just right again is an excellent crack-line that runs up a shallow depression in the middle of the yellow wall. Fabulous climbing on excellent rock with an abundance of protection.

*The Squeeze* VS 4c. M. and K.Tighe, S.Fraser. 23rd September 2006.

The deep chimney-line in the corner. Start in the chimney proper, or gain it via giant steps from the left. Get inside at about one-third height, then get out if you can. Avoid in the nesting season.

A big rib now limits progress south to low tide. Access to the following routes is perhaps best via stakes into the next bay south. Stakes were placed for the following two routes. The first route is in the middle of this rib.

*Billy Basko* HVS 5b \*\*\*. M. and K.Tighe. 5th June 2005.

The fabulous cracked groove is hard to start but eases higher up

*Fishermen Friends* Mild VS \*\*. M. and K.Tighe, S.Fraser, J.Hart. 14th August 2005.

A wide recess lies right (south) of Billy Basko. This climbs the excellent left-hand chimney-corner of the recess.

A big green pillar forms the right-hand (southerly) side of this recess. A deep chimney recess forms its left-hand side. A small, impassable sea-inlet lies around the corner to the south.

*The Green Chimney* VS 4c. M. and K.Tighe, S.Fraser, P.Coates, J.Hart. 14th August 2005.

The route avoids the initial Green Chimney by climbing a fine and quite tricky layback crack in the middle of the wall before traversing diagonally right to finish up the corner, which is a little fragile.

#### **Dogs Head Wall:**

This is just north of Citronella Wall (see below), running north to Dogs Head Buttress. Below Wish You Were Here are belay stakes. Walk south from here till the ground rises slightly at a small outcrop. Forty metres north of the edge of the outcrop is a ditch. Twelve metres north of the ditch are two belay stakes, one stake where the ground slopes down to the cliff and one 5m inland from it. Twelve metres north of the belay stakes is a block (the back of it has been dug out a bit), there is a large block belay below it that can be threaded.

*Stop Start* 28m VS 4c \*. C.Moody, C.Grindley. 18th August 2006.

The crack-line left of Yellow Flake with a shallow chimney about 6m up. Thread a large block belay just below the top.

*Yellow Flake* 30m Severe \*\*. C.Moody, C.Grindley. 18th August 2006.

Climb the crack that goes past the right side of the big yellow flake at two-thirds height. Same belay as the last route.

*Barnacle Soles* 30m Hard Severe \*\*. C.Moody, C.Grindley. 18th August 2006.

Right of Yellow Flake is a shallow corner. Climb the crack-line to the right of the corner to a slabby ledge then the final 5m of easy grassy ground to the first belay stake.

*Rope Retiral* 30m VS 4b \*. C.Moody, C.Grindley. 18th August 2006.

Climb the crack-line just right through a slight bulge with some blocks to the slabby ledge and finish of the previous route.

*Nest Crack* 30m VS 4c \*. C.Moody, C.Grindley. 18th August 2006.

To the right is a left-facing chimney-corner. Climb the crack to the left of the chimney past a nest. A detour left, then back right at two-thirds height was made. Finish up the corner to reach a ledge.

*Dry Escape* 20m Very Difficult \*. C.Moody, C.Grindley 18th August 2006.

Round left of Dogs Head Buttress is a crack. This is close to (and may be part of) Very New Seafront Area (SMCJ 2001).

#### **Citronella Wall:**

Below Wish You Were Here are belay stakes. Walk south from here till the ground rises slightly at a small outcrop. Citronella Wall is below, at the north end of the wall where a rib runs north-west into the sea. North of the rib is Dogs Head Wall (see below).

*Another Green World* 20m VS 4c. C.Moody, C.Grindley. 30th September 2006.

The green crack at the left end of the north face of the rib. Green but positive with good protection. Move right on a large ledge below the top and climb the easy rib to flat ledges.

*Waterworld* 20m VS 4c \*. C.Moody, M.Tighe. 14th October 2006.

A thin crack in the corner left of One World to reach flat ledges.

*One World* 20m Severe \*. C.Moody, C.Grindley. 17th August 2006.

The shallow chimney at the west end of the north side of the rib to reach flat ledges.

*Short and Sweet* 8m VS 4c \*. M. and K.Tighe, C.Moody, P.Rosher. 14th October 2006.

A fine little crack off a large platform between One World and Citronella. Might be another wee crack below when the tide is out.

*Citronella* 20m Severe \*. C.Moody, C.Grindley. 17th August 2006.

The corner-crack at the south side of the rib.

*Rocas Dubh* 30m Hard Severe \*\*. M. and K.Tighe, C.Moody, P.Rosher. 14th October 2006.  
Eight metres right of Citronella a corner-crack runs the full height of the cliff. Good climbing, better than it looks from above.

*Silurian* 20m VS 4b \*. M. and K.Tighe, D.Cameron. 1st October 2006.  
A slim unclimbed crack lies in the buttress just right of Rocas Dubh. Right of this is a fine chimney-cleft.

*Rib Tickler* 20m VS 4b \*. M. and K.Tighe. 24th September 2006.  
A rib now bars southerly progress, except at very low tide. This route takes a fine recessed crack in the lower half of the rib before breaking out right and finishing up Huge Jugs.

*Huge Jugs* 20m VS 4c \*. C.Moody, C.Grindley. 30th September 2006.  
Start at the left side of the next bay to the south below twin cracks. The cliff drops into the sea just north of this route. Start up the right-hand crack, pull left and continue up the other crack on big holds. Climb a crack in a shallow yellow corner to a large ledge.

*Moodyloo* 20m VS 4c\*\* M. & K.Tighe. 24th September 2006.  
The next crack come slot to the right gives a fine tussle.

*Had to be Done* 25m VS 4c. C.Moody, C.Grindley. 30th September 2006.  
Right of Huge Jugs is a corner-crack. Start just right, make a steep layback move then follow a ramp line up right to where a short corner leads to a belay.

Right of Had to be Done progress southwards is once again difficult, except at low tide. The next bay south is best accessed by an abseil from the large boulders at the top of the grassy knoll which takes you past a large ledge with a wee pool halfway down and lands you below fine twin cracks above a prominent white scar.

*The Wedge* 30m E1 5b. M. and K.Tighe. 15th October 2006.  
The first crack-line right of the twin cracks and scar runs the full height of the cliff and has a prominent wedged block at half-height which provides the crux.

#### **The Seafront:**

The smooth upper wall right of Sofa (SMCJ 2001) is climbed by a striking line. It can be reached by abseil or by climbing the first pitch of Sofa. The first route is 40m south of The Wedge.

*If I Don't Do It, Somebody Else Will* 20m E3 6a \*\*. J.Sutton, L.Jones. May 2006.  
The blank yellow wall, 10m high and 10m wide starts from the broad ledge 12m above the sea. The route follows a series of technical laybacks up the thin crack just right of centre. Scramble to the top or traverse off.

*Pink n' Mix* 18m E1/2 5c. B.Wear, J.Sutton, M.Hudson. 30th Oct 2005.  
The line of steps across the wall to the left of Kickabout (SMCJ 2001). Start at the cracks below the beak as for Kickabout and make hard fingery moves up and left to reach a big square shelf at 4m. The grade depends on the amount of protection placed to the right in the Kickabout cracks. Move up and then traverse left to finish up a crack at the left end of the upper face.

*Kickabout, Direct Finish* E1 5c \*. J.Sutton, M.Hudson, B.Wear. 30th October 2005.  
A good logical finish following the lower crack straight through the bulges above with the hardest moves at the top.

#### **Little California:**

This name has been adopted locally for the routes in the sunny bay just south of the descent containing the routes Smeg, Senora etc.

*Gloominous* 20m HVS 5b. J.Sutton, B.Wear. July 2005.  
About 10m south of the descent, and just left of a sharp arête, is a crack starting from a higher ledge. Gain the crack and wriggle up over a small roof (crux), before easier climbing follows an obvious corner to the top.

#### **South of Bay 4:**

*End of the Era* 14m VS 4b \*. C.Moody, C.Grindley. 1st October 2006.  
North of Headless Chicking (SMCJ 2006) are twin cracks. Abseil down the northerly of the cracks to a small platform. Climb the wide crack and then the twin cracks.

#### **Foghorn Cove:**

This is the cove south of the lighthouse, containing the route Horny Corner and various DWS's on the other side. West of Horny Corner a 15m-high wall of compact rock has two faces that drop straight into the sea. These lines are just left of Gary Latter's existing DWS's.

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

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

*Diaper Mention* 5m E1 5c \*\*. B.Wear, J.Sutton. August 2005

The next line 4m to the right of Hypertension needs very low water to traverse in to and gives a superb deep water solo. Gain the bottom of the crack – a lot harder at high tide – and climb it to a brilliant cross-through to gain a flat ledge. Take a deep breath, mantel, and blast on up for the top.

#### **Narrow Buttress:**

*Patsy Says* 18m VS 4c \*. M.Hudson, M.Francis. 4th June 2005.

A steep right-facing corner in the middle of the west face, the leftmost of the three obvious cracks. Abseil to a ledge below the corner, or scramble in from the grassy gully to the left.

The next three routes all start from the same ledge, a block jammed 15m down the wide chimney at the seaward end of Narrow Buttress. Approach by abseil down the chimney.

*Thunderland* 15m Hard Severe 4b. M.Hudson, M.Francis. 4th June 2005.

From the ledge, step up left and follow a ramp blindly onto the left-hand face. A short crack above, 3m right of Patsy Says, leads back to the top of the buttress on gritty jams.

#### **KILMALUAG AREA:**

A large inlet defines the northern end of Sgeir nan Eathar Bana. Two routes lie 20m north of here, clustered around a much narrower sea-slot at NG 446 747, sharing the same abseil access. The clifftop fence turns a sharp corner 30m north of these routes, and a slumped terrace of huge boulders above the routes makes a good sheltered base. The first line is a north-facing corner-crack, visible from terraces just below the clifftop a little to the north. Abseil to good sloping ledges next to the dark sea-slot.

*Goodbye Arthur* 20m VS 4c \*. M.Hudson, R.Brown. 5th August 2006.

Bridge and layback up the excellent corner past a steepening near the top.

*Golf Girl* 15m Severe. R.Brown, M.Hudson. 5th August 2006.

Using the same abseil, the next route can be reached a few metres north across the sea-slot. Start below a stepped crack opposite the previous line, which gives straightforward climbing over bulges to a good ledge and block belays.

The next routes lie 100m north again on the short cliffs at the south end of the bay at Balmacquienn. The first route is a crack-line leading to a final overhanging brown corner found just past the easy-angled slabs, and opposite a small golden-topped islet. Abseil in or traverse in across the slabs, with mid to low tide helpful.

*Secret Weapon* 18m Severe 4b. M.Hudson, R.Brown. 5th August 2006.

Climb easy flakes and bulges to the well-protected crux up the final corner. Belay on huge blocks 6m back.

*Nomoreagain* 25m Hard Easy. M.Hudson, R.Brown. 5th August 2006.

Twenty metres right again a diagonal route takes the slabs to the same belay. Start at the bottom right of the slabs by an overlap and take a diagonal stroll towards a small overlap, finishing up the well-positioned left edge of the higher slab.

#### **TROTTERNISH, Storr Area:**

One hundred metres south of the Old Man is a cluster of three pinnacles. The southernmost of these is the tallest, clearly seen on the approach from Portree as a conical mound to the left of the Old Man, and providing a reasonably solid route to the summit. Scramble up to a sloping shelf on the southern side of the feature, and belay at two large blocks on the shoulder.

*The Big Sister* 20m Severe. M.Hudson, R.Brown. July 2006.

Climb the arête above the blocks to a sling runner, step right to an airy footledge making use of crystal portholes and so reach the other arête. Brief but airy moves up the arête above lead to the turfy top.

**Carn Liath, The Macleods:**

Parallel and 100m west of the Thief Buttress walls, this row of five huge pinnacles towers over a highly complex and impenetrable area of mammoth blocks and crevasses. The following clean and elegant jamming route is worth seeking out, on the west side of the fourth MacLeod, heading downhill from the Main Cliff.

*Frajar* 12m HVS 5b. M.Hudson, J.Sutton. 3rd August 2006.

Start steeply to reach a jammed block. The fist-sized crack eases above.

*The Blade Variation, Left-Hand Start* HVS 5a. J.Sutton, M.Hudson. 3rd August 2006.

Follow a well protected zigzag jam crack low down on the left side of The Blade to a big ledge. Make a grovel traverse rightwards along this under the nose to join the original route.

## NORTHERN HIGHLANDS NORTH

**BEINN DEARG:**

*Finlay's Buttress* 250m V,8. O.Metherell, J.Edwards. 8th February 2007.

The arête between Fenian Gully and No Surrender.

1. 60m Start at the lowest point of the arête. Climb a ramp going leftwards towards the edge of the arête. Go up and back right at around 45m up a line of weakness. An airy move leads to a good stance below a slab.
2. 20m Go up the slab and traverse leftwards along a moustache of turf (in-situ high hex for a back rope) to a comfortable ledge below an overhang. Climb the overhang on the flying prow on excellent hooks and gear (crux) to easier ground.
3. 30m Move right on easy ground around the buttress and go up an icy wall to easier ground.
4. 30m Go up the easier ground the base of a triangular capped chimney in the middle of the wall.
5. 25m Climb the chimney and move out right and continue up and right on excellent turf to easier ground.
6. and 7. 85m Easier ground leads to the top.

**RHUE SEA-CLIFFS, Main Cliff:**

*Rhue-Mania* 25m E4 6a \*\*. I.Taylor, T.Fryer. 7th June 2006.

Round to the left of Cat's Whisker is a steep wall. Start at the right end of this wall. Climb straight up on sculpted rock to a big break, then go up and slightly rightwards to gain a hanging groove. Follow the groove to a roof, then traverse left to a big corner and finish up this. A rattling flake at the top of the corner appears to be well keyed in!

*Kanga-Rhue* 25m E6 6b \*\*. I.Taylor, T.Fryer. 4th September 2006.

Starting left of Rhue-Mania, climb a thin crack-line until it fades, then move left to good holds in a break. Continue up and rightwards via difficult moves, then move left and up to gain the big corner (junction with Rhue-Mania). Finish up the corner. Headpointed.

**Trawler Walls:**

*Paddling With Pollock* 8m HVS 5a. M.Robson, S.M.Richardson  
24th September 2006.

The hanging corner between Swimming with Sharks and The Jester is gained from the left by a steep pull onto the ledge at its base. Follow the corner to finish as for Swimming With Sharks.

*Rhued Kid* 12m E1 5c. M.Robson, S.M.Richardson. 24th September 2006.

Start between Midget Gems and Buoys in Blue and climb up to a small rattly thread beneath the roof. The thin crack splitting the roof takes good wires and is followed to the top.

**CAMAS MOR AREA, Creag an Airgid (NC 092 012):**

The crag previously named Camas Beag, see Blitzkrieg (SMCJ 2006). Approach as for Camas Mor but continue for further 1km, crossing a small gorge. Soon after, the crag comes into profile on the left. Descend to a large boulder beach at its base via a gully at the landward end of the crag. This steep crag faces west overlooking a pleasant bay. Routes on the main face are non-tidal. At low tide it is possible to boulder hop around to the far end of the south face and gain a small tidal geo (Broken Barrel Geo).

**Main Face:**

*Walking the Rock* 60m E4. I.Small, J.Clark, N.McNair. 25th June 2005.

Takes the striking crack-line up the overhanging right face of the prominent central prow to the right of Blitzkrieg. A fantastic, sustained pitch.

1. 30m 5b Previously climbed by C.Cartwright, I.Small, 24th September 2000. Start directly below the prow at a ledge with two rowan trees at the base of an arête. Climb the right side of the arête to a crack, then traverse hard right to gain another crack. Follow this past a large flake to a comfortable ledge below the prow.
2. 30m 6a The continuously overhanging crack above. Make a hard entry into the crack and climb past a wedged block and an easing. Follow the wider crack above into a corner and over a roof. Finally, pull out left from a large undercut to finish.

**Broken Barrel Geo:**

*Stave* 20m E1 5b. I.Small, C.Cartwright. 24th September 2000.

Start up a large flake in the centre of the west face, then gain a hanging corner above.

**ARDMAIR, Beast Buttress:**

**Note:** Timorous Beastie (SMCJ 2006) was headpointed.

**Monster Buttress:**

*Soor Plums* 20m E5 6a\*\*. I.Taylor, T.Fryer. 7th September 2006

The arête right of Summer Isles City. Using a thin crack, climb the wall directly below the arête to gain a ledge. Continue up the technical arête, then finish by the final crack of Summer Isles City.

*All-Day-Buckfast* 20m E4 6b \*. I.Taylor, A.Cunningham. 20th February 2007.

The arête right of Breakfast Corner. Climb Breakfast Corner to a large flake, then traverse right to good holds on the arête. Make a long move to a pocket and continue to a ledge. Finish up the pleasant cracked wall above.

**Roof Buttress:**

*How Soon Is Now?* 18m E7 6c \*\*. T.Rankin, C.Adam. 13th May 2006.

A fine fading diagonal crack-line up the wall left of Siesta. Start up the left-facing groove of 99 to gain the crack. Follow it easily at first to a good break, then move up using a hollow flake and side pulls to gain a thin break and crucial protection (Friend 00 hard to place and two RPIs). From here, hard sustained climbing leads slightly right up the immaculate orange wall to the top. Best to belay up left from the large boulder. Red pointed with the crucial protection in place.

**KEANCHULISH INLAND CRAGS, Evening Wall:**

*Plan B* 10m E3 6a \*. I.Taylor, T.Fryer. 14th October 2006.

A short action-packed route starting right of Tick Collector. Climb steeply to gain a left-slanting crack in the slab above. Pull onto the slab and finish more easily.

**CUL MOR, Coire Gorm:**

*Four Eagles* 150m IV,5. J.Edwards, R.Webb. 5th March 2006.

Start at the foot of Easy Gully about 10m down from the start of Three Chimneys, at the very right-hand base of the gully. Climb the buttress above by the easiest line to below the upper wall. This is split by two prominent chimneys, with Three Chimneys finishing up the left one. Climb the right one, with the crux at the top.

**CUL MOR, Creag nan Calman:**

*Inverpolly Pillar* 65m E2 5c. I.Small, S.Jensen. Summer 2005.

Takes the obvious steep pillar in the centre of the crag to the left of a large overhanging bay. Start from a grass ledge on the right side of the pillar.

1. 20m 5c Gain and climb a black corner to its top (crux). Exit left onto a slab and go up a further corner to a large ledge on the left.
2. 45m 5b Step delicately back right across wall into a corner and follow a continuation groove to jam cracks and large perched boulder on ledge. Climb a slab above and a crack through a bulge to easier ground. Scramble up easy ground to finish.

**BEN MOR COIGACH, North Face:**

To the left of Consolation Gully is a deep easy cleft and left of this are two right-slanting fault lines that lie on the right side of the extensive north face. The following route climbs the right-hand fault line. Optimum conditions would be hard frost and little snow as it is a watercourse.

*Nobody's Fault* 300m II. J.R.Mackenzie, N.Wilson. 10th February 2007.

Climb the thinner right-hand fault over ice pitches to easier ground to near the top where a narrow icefall leads up to the left-hand fault and the top. Optional, but more interesting than continuing up the right-hand fault.

**BEN MOR COIGACH, Cona' Mheall, Crucifix Buttress:**

*Da Vinci* 25m E2 5c \*\*. A.Nisbet, J.R.Mackenzie. 23rd September 2006.

The right-hand companion crack to Crucifixion Crack, giving good technical climbing, well protected and low in the grade. Climb the little corner that leads into the main crack and climb this past the first crux, a constriction, then more easily to the roof which gives the second crux and so to the top.

*Class War* 40m HVS 5b \*. J.R.Mackenzie, A.Nisbet. 23rd September 2006.

This is the left-facing corner crack immediately left of Anarchist Crack. Well protected with a strenuous but entertaining crux. Either start at the base and climb the lower dirty groove (4c) into the main corner or step left into the corner from the ledge that runs below Crucifixion Crack. Climb the corner, up an overhanging crack and then more reasonably to the top. A perfect thread belay can be found up and right.

#### **REIFF:**

##### **Stone Pig Cliff:**

*Bond to See You, M* 15m E5 6a. I.Small, T.Fryer. 8th September 2006.

Starts just left of One for Q. Takes the left side of the cave recess by a small hanging corner with a tricky entry. A thin crack leads to a break. Arrange gear, then tackle the overhang directly and strenuously move left to finish up the arête.

The following routes are not in the new guide, but were thought worthwhile although they may have been climbed before.

##### **Pinnacle Walls:**

*Little Old Wine* 10m Severe 4a \*. R.Hamilton, T.Hamilton, S.Kennedy. 2nd September 2006.

Right of the slabby corner at the foot of Sip from Wine are twin breaks running horizontally right. From the corner step right then pull up onto the first break under a small roof. Pull right into a corner then directly up via a large rounded hold to finish up the edge.

*Barrier Reiff, Left-Hand Finish* 8m HVS 5b \*. S.Kennedy, R.Hamilton. 2nd September 2006.

Surmount the small roof, then move left and finish up the hanging corner.

##### **Pooh Cliff**

*Tigger Happy* Difficult. J.R.Mackenzie. 21st February 2007.

Climb the generous wall left of Rose Root.

*Heffalump Trap* VS 5b \*. J.R.Mackenzie. 21st February 2007.

Two metres right of Rose Root and left of the short corner leading to the raised platform is a pink alcove bottomed by an overhanging wall; this gives a good problem if climbed straight up.

##### **Note from I.Small: Spaced Out Rocker's Cliff:**

A better description for the start of Headlong would be, "Climb the wall to below the thin diagonal crack then traverse horizontally left along a break to gain the arête at the right end of the big roofed area."

##### **Rubha Ploytach:**

*Aquarium Arête* 8m Severe \*\*. M Barnard. June 2006.

Climb beside the left edge of the black seaward wall, to the left of Marie Celeste.

##### **ACHMELVICH, Clean Cut:**

*Calypso* 14m E3 6a \*\*. D.McGimpsey. 2nd September 2006.

The fine bottomless corner left of Flawless. Bold moves in the upper half, protected adequately with RPs (two RP2s useful). Pre-practiced.

*Stereo Sushi* 7m Severe. E.Christison, D.McGimpsey. 2nd September 2006.

The short but very pleasant corner right of Hed Kandi.

**Note:** FA date of Hed Kandi should be 22nd August 2004. Also, the guidebook approach to the crag doesn't go past the Hermit's Castle, which is on the north side of the campsite inlet.

**Ardroe Slab (Guide p199):** Note from D.McGimpsey. Both Loch Dubh Arête and Tease and Seize are good, relatively clean and avoid the worst of the seepage. The crux on Tease and Seize is hard and a long way above gear, E2 5b.

##### **OLD MAN OF STOER:**

*Original Route, Variation to Pitch 4* 25m HVS 5a. P.Allen, W.Moir. 9th September 2006.

On pitch 4, traverse and trend up right until you reach the point in the description "avoiding the first upward break". Climb the chimney and right edge above, poorly protected. Belay at the big ledge common to final pitch of Original Route.

**Note:** The current description for pitch 4 says to "avoid the first upward break". Maybe it should say "avoid the first chimney and go right to below another chimney-groove."

### **INCHNADAMPH CRAGS:**

*Straven Route* 50m VS. R.Manby, J.McKinley. 13th May 2006.

Some way left of the right end of the left sector, directly above a gate on the road and an easy way through the lower tier, the base of the crag rises somewhat for a short way. There is an obvious double facing corner and just to the right a small cave with a level grass floor. The cave is reached by steep grass.

1. 35m 4c From a belay in the cave step down right under a small roof and go up a broad rib with mainly vertical cracks. Continue past a small grass ledge stepping right past a large block. Go up slightly left to gain a steep ledge and traverse delicately right and then up. Gain a good belay on a steep sloping grass ledge.

2. 15m Go up with care to the left and then up over poor rock to reach a good belay.

**Note:** There was as much good rock as bad and the runners were good making the climb worthwhile. Basically the party couldn't find any of the routes described and settled for this line.

### **SCOURIE CRAGS, Rubh' Aird An t-Sionnach:**

J.Preston thought the crag was in a stunning setting. The approach takes 20mins. All the other starred routes on the crag were good, well worth a visit. Pugwash Ahoy was probably Severe, needs low tide and was a bit awkward traversing into it.

*Blistering Barnacles* 20m HVS 5a \*. J. and D.Preston. 24th September 2006.

An obvious line to the right of Chokestone Corner. Start as for Chokestone Corner, at the first large jammed stone in the gully. Climb up and right (Chokestone Corner goes up and left). Continue right under the leaning headwall following an obvious crack. The final steep well protected moves to the top are the crux, in a fine position.

### **Notes: TARBET CRAGS AND SEA-CLIFFS:**

Creag an Dubh Loch: Very vegetated, nice setting. Updraught not a 2\* route.

Warm Up Buttress: Black Wall Special, Severe (poss. Hard Severe), not VS. Scottish Layabout, bit loose and vegetated, possibly VS. Barmy, VS worth a \*.

### **Tarbet Sea-Cliffs, Balmy Slabs, Western Sector:**

*Violator* 30m E1 5b \*\*. S.Kennedy, R.Hamilton. 25th June 2006.

A sustained route climbing the steep wall left of Cornucopia. Best at low tide. Abseil descent to start on small ledges just right of a chimney-groove about 4m left of Cornucopia. Steep initial moves lead to small ledges. Continue up a thin crack-line (crux) then pull onto a slab (Rooftop Finish, see SM CJ 2006). Make thin, exposed moves out left on the lowest lip of the slab to finish up a crack near the edge.

*Captain Hook* 30m HVS 4c \*. R.Hamilton, S.Kennedy. 25th June 2006.

The slab forming the left wall of the deep chimney of Black Tidings. Keep to the centre of the slab all the way before pulling onto the left arête at a point just above the level of the chockstone in the chimney.

### **Dolphin Crag:**

*Inshallah* 30m E1 5b \*. S.Kennedy, R.Hamilton, D.McGimpsey. 9th September 2006.

The current guide mentions (p244) the existence of "a suicidal downward pointing flake" near the top of the slab right of Central Crack. This route takes a line up the slab starting directly beneath the flake. On an earlier visit the flake resisted a spirited attempt to liberate same by the heaviest member of the party who gained the flake by abseil. Climb the initial slab moving rightwards into right-facing grooves which lead up and left. Continue directly up the thin slab above which leads to the dreaded flake. Step gingerly onto the flake from the right then finish directly up a rust coloured slab.

*Last Train to Satansville* 30m E1 5b \*\*. S.Kennedy, R.Hamilton, A.MacDonald. 22nd July 2006.

Climbs the slab midway between Meal for a Seal and Central Crack. Start directly below a right-facing corner situated just above mid-height. Climb the slab to a small overlap. Surmount the overlap using a finger crack then climb the corner to the upper overlap. Step up left, then traverse horizontally left under the overlap to reach a sharp edge. Climb a cracked slab right of a groove to finish.

*Sneak Preview* 30m E1 5b \*. D.McGimpsey, R.Hamilton, S.Kennedy. 9th September 2006.

A jagged overlap runs diagonally leftwards across the lower section of slab left of the groove of Meal for a Seal. Belay in a small corner just above the high tide mark. Climb the slab on the left for 3m, then surmount the overlap between

two downward pointing sections. Negotiate a small overlap above and pull into a short left-facing corner. Continue fairly directly up the thin slab above to finish.

*Solitary Man* 30m E1 5b \*. R.Hamilton, S.Kennedy, A.MacDonald. 22nd July 2006.

Takes a line up the slab left of Sneak Preview. Traverse to the left end of the jagged overlap, then climb directly up through a bulge by a thin crack (crux) onto the slab. Climb the slab moving slightly left then back right to finish.

*The Fin* 10m Hard Severe 4a \*\*. R.Hamilton, D.McGimpsey, S.Kennedy. 9th September 2006.

On the leaning black wall on the south side of the geo are two obvious breaks near the centre. This route follows the steeper right-hand break. Abseil down the left-hand break to a huge boulder. Traverse rightwards to the base of a crack which leads into a pod. From the pod pull out left onto a narrow fin of rock which is climbed to the top in a fine position.

#### **Rock Garden Crags:**

*Philosophers Stone* 10m VS 4c. J.R. and J.C.Mackenzie. 29th July 2006.

Takes a direct line via a crack on the left of the downward pointing flake of Gold Rush.

#### **SHEIGRA, First Geo, South Side Inner Wall:**

*Maybe Later* E7 6c \*\*\*. D.MacLeod. 4th May 2006 .

The thin seam between Ape Escape and Here and Now gives hard and technical climbing. Start up the diagonal crack as for Here and Now, but move left and up the wall to good undercuts. Climb the right side of the seam and place crucial runners with difficulty (BD stopper 3, microstopper 2). Step left and make a hard move to gain the undercut break and good runners. Traverse slightly left and make another hard move to gain good holds leading up the overhang to finish. FA: Abseil inspected, a few moves practised.

#### **South Wall:**

**Note from I.Taylor:** *Tell Tale Signs:* Climbing the crack direct is E3 6a.

#### **CREAG RIABHACH:**

**Note:** The Map Ref should be NC 280 639 (Guide p317).

#### **WHITEN HEAD, Stac Thormaid (NC 5485 6780 Tidal):**

This is a fine looking 35m stack that deserves more ascents based on its easy access, situation and climbing. The stack has remained unreported. Mick Tighe made an ascent with a party on 20th May 1993 by the landward arête (Original Route). This was assumed to be a second ascent as halfway up, a wooden wedge with a small hemp rope tie was found. Approach: Park at Achiniver and follow a track west through a farm yard and up the hill until it ends. Continue across moor to where the burn cascades into the sea at Rubha Thormaid (1hr). The stack can be seen to the east. Access is gained up an easy scramble to the bay and wading across ledges 1.5hrs either side of low tide.

*Original Route* 40m Hard Severe 4b \*\*.

A fine route that takes the landward arête. From the base climb to a ledge and then up to a steep wall. Step left around the arête and climb a wall for 2m, then the arête to the top.

*Run-diomhair* 40m HVS 4c. R.I.Jones, R.Regliniski. 22nd April 2006.

Start at the chimney to the left of the seaward face. Climb the wall above for 3m before making bold moves right and upwards to sidestep an overhanging wall. Pull through blocks to a large ledge and an easy scramble to the summit.

#### **NORTH CAITHNESS, Brims Ness:**

The following routes are located in a rocky bay immediately before the recorded routes of Pure Caithness Crack and X Club. Bring turf spikes for anchors to abseil onto a non-tidal ledge that runs the width of the bay. Three metres above the starting ledge, a terrace ledge runs along most of the width of the bay.

*Brim Pin* 16m Severe 4b. R.Wallace, R.Christie. 15th August 2006.

The left end of the ledge is bounded by a pillar. Climb a crack and groove in the middle of the pillar to a blocky overhang, then go directly up the wall above on horizontal breaks taking care on friable edges at the top.

*The Outer Brim* 16m Severe 4b. R.Wallace, R.Christie. 6th August 2006.

Climb a crack up to the left end of the terrace. Surmount a couple of large blocks and climb the sharp corner above and left.

*Point Break* 16m VS 4c. R.Christie, R.Wallace. 6th August 2006

Climb a curving crack 2m right of the previous route, then an open corner to the terrace. Climb an open groove, directly over a jutting nose at mid-height.

*Brimstone and Treacle* 16m VS 4c. R.Wallace, R.Christie. 19th July 2006.

Starting in the middle of the cliff, climb a short tapering groove and crack up to the terrace. Continue up an undercut groove and exit out an easy wide chimney.

*Answer the Inky Calling* 16m VS 4c. R.Christie, R.Wallace. 19th July 2006.

Climb a flake 2m right of the previous route to a small roof that is turned to the left, move into a groove and onto the terrace. Climb a corner onto a large black block, then continue up onto a sandy coloured ledge. Layback a cracked corner.

#### **CAITHNESS, AUCKENGILL, North Auckengill:**

*Ziguratt* 10m HVS 5a. R.Christie, R.Wallace. 5th June 2006.

Around the right wall from Bonsai Baby is a roofed corner. Bridge up the corner, then traverse under the roof on the overhanging right wall to break free on the overhanging front wall.

*Snappy When Wet* 8m VS 4c. R.Wallace, R.Christie. 5th June 2006.

Starting 5m right of Ziguratt, bridge this corner on occasionally friable rock.

#### **SARCLET, First Bay:**

*Seek'n'Seal* 10m VS 4c. R.Wallace, S.Ross, D.Pain. 29th April 2006.

Climb an open book groove 2m left of In the Pinks, with brief excursions onto its left-hand arête.

#### **Split Rock (ND 352 430):**

This small square-cut buttress sits on the sea 100m north of First Bay and provides some varied mini routes. Access is by scrambling down its north side and along non-tidal ledges on the seaward side. Routes are described from right to left.

*Remembrance of Fast Things* 9m Severe 4b. R.Christie, R.Wallace. 21st May 2006.

Climb an open groove at the right side of the wall finishing with a layback at the top.

*Terns of Endearment* 9m E1 5b \*. R.Wallace, R.Christie. 21st May 2006.

Climb the centre of a smooth looking wall on small pockets and edges keeping off the left arête.

*Madeleine* 9m VS 4b. R.Christie, R.Wallace. 21st May 2006.

The overhanging left wall has a black crack running up its right side. Climb the steep crack on large jugs.

*Tern It Up* 9m E1 5a. R.Wallace, R.Christie. 21st May 2006.

Climb the left side of the overhanging wall with barely adequate protection.

*Achtern* 9m Severe 4a. R.Wallace, R.Christie. 21st May 2006.

Back and foot up a narrow groove on the left.

#### **Cave Bay:**

*Thrumster Regatta* 25m E1 5b. I Small, S Jensen. 13th May 2006.

Climbs the left side of the prow of Occum's Razor. Abseil to a ledge at sea-level below Occum's Razor's pedestal. Climb the corner to a steep crack and follow it, passing two ledges. From the second, climb the blank-looking wall out right to finish.

#### **Big Buttress:**

*The Orchid Hunter* 35m E3 5c. I.Small, J.Walker. 1st July 2006.

Follows the groove and flake line on the left side of the rounded pillar to the left of The Adventures of Baron von Midgehousen. Abseil to small ledges at the base of the route. Tricky moves gain the groove which is followed with interest until it becomes a flake, forming the large top of the rounded pillar. Step off this to finish up the short wall.

#### **MID CLYTH, North Geo:**

*A Wing and a Prayer* 30m E2 \*. R.I.Jones, J.Sanders. 30th April 2006.

Start 2m right of Cormorant Crumble.

1. 18m 5a Climb the wall below an overhang and traverse rightwards to a corner. Step up and right onto the hanging corner and climb the wall above to a large ledge (belay here on micro cams placed 2m up the wall above or use the abseil rope).

2. 12m 5b Bold and technical climbing up the middle of the vertical wall and hanging right-facing corner at mid-height (small micro wires and cams essential).

**Over the Water:**

*Scooter's Last Scoot* 15m HVS 5a. R.Wallace, R.Christie. 2nd July 2006.

Between Velvet Scooter and Mac-attacked is an overhanging capped groove. Climb the groove until forced right onto an undercut ledge. Scramble up onto the next ledge and make a few moves up the short steep headwall to the top.

*Born to Bloom Unseen* 15m HVS 5a. R.Christie, R.Wallace 2nd July 2006.

Start up the corner left of Mac-attacked and squirm up the top of the off-width. Exit right into a capped chimney and climb this to its roof, then move right around the pillar into Mac-attacked and bridge directly through the roof.

**OCCUMSTER, The Gully:**

*Perseus* 15m HVS 5a \*. R.Wallace, R.Christie. 3rd June 2006.

Directly opposite Andromeda, climb a steep sustained layback crack to a good ledge, then diagonally up the slab to the left and some big ledges to the top.

**LATHERONWHEEL, Pinnacle Area:**

The following route climbs the other side of the arête of More Noise. Access is gained through the arch on the right as you first enter the Pinnacle Area before the stacks. The bottom of the route is accessible 1hr either side of low tide.

*Mystic* 15m Hard Severe 4b. R.I.Jones, R.Regliniski. 23rd April 2006.

The route climbs the left wall of the narrow inlet as you come through the arch. Climb the wall for 2m, traverse right to a right-facing corner and climb this to the top.

Immediately north of the Pinnacle Area is a north facing wall with a distinctive 2m diving plinth at its left end and a small roof running along its left side at mid-height. Access is by abseil onto non-tidal platforms at the base. The first two routes start from platforms below the central open groove.

*Accapulco Lathero* 12m Severe 4b. R.Wallace, S.Ross, D.Pain. 20th May 2006.

Traverse right onto the hanging arête on sharp jugs and continue up the front of the arête avoiding loose blocks on the left.

*Stick Up* 12m VS 4c. R.Wallace, R.Christie. 19th May 2006.

Move onto the left wall aiming for a tiny block below the small roof. Pull over the roof and follow twin cracks to a ledge then step right and climb the narrowing groove.

*Sysygy* 12m VS 4c. R.Christie, R.Wallace. 19th May 2006.

From a platform at the left side of the wall, move left onto the arête. Climb towards the left arm of a V-crack and follow this through the roof, passing the left side of the diving plinth.

**Stack Area:**

*Salt and Sauce* 10m Severe 4a. R.Christie, J.Nicol. May 2006.

Start on the flat ledge 3m right of Personalised Dwarf. Climb directly to the grassy ledge, finishing left of a small corner.

**SOUTH CAITHNESS SEA-STACKS:**

*Cleit Mhor* 40m HVS. R.I.Jones, J.Sanders. 29th April 2006.

Cleit Mhor is the largest of the three stacks. Access was gained by abseil from the solid fence (no stake required) and the stack can be accessed by traversing around the south side at low tide. The return is a swim or a long wait.

1. 20m 4c From ledges on the right side of the seaward face pull through a hanging crack and climb the wall above to a wide ledge traverse 5m left and ascend 2m to belay on the wall.

2. 15m 4c Climb up 5m to a ledge of loose blocks on the left arête. Pull up on to the arête with care and climb the groove on the left to the top.

**Note:** No previous evidence of ascent was found. The local farmer has seen repeat ascents of Cleit Bheag and Cleit Ruadh, but not Cleit Mhor.

**SHETLAND, ST NINIAN'S ISLE, Loose Head Stack (HU 3605 2194):**

The 40m stack at the northern tip is separated by a deep 5m channel. Access is gained by a 40m free hanging abseil from the cliff face opposite to a niche in the centre of the south side of the stack. A 50m rope attached to the trig point provides an anchor.

*The Cheesegrater* 70m VS 4b. S.Calvin, R.I.Jones. 27th May 2006.

1. 40m Pull out of the niche (crux) and climb up leftwards on a rising cracked ramp.
2. 30m Scramble up easy ground to the summit.

**NESS OF HAMAR, Dragon Geo:**

(HU 2972 7432) Partly Tidal South-West facing  
Only affected at high tide.

*Smaug* 20m E2 5b \*\*. R.I.Jones, P.Sawford. 30th May 2006.

Right of the corner of Taming the Dragon is a buttress with a chimney on the left. Start in a small corner to the right. Climb the short corner to a roof and pull round onto the face. Climb a crack before pulling right onto a sloping ramp. Finish direct up a hanging wall.

**Lamp Geo:**

(HU 3010 7424) Tidal North-West facing  
Accessible near low tide.

*Lamp Crack* 20m HVS 5a. P.Sawford, R.I.Jones. 30th May 2006.

The crack-line up the prominent left-facing corner. Poorer rock on the final headwall.

**ESHANESS:**

*The Silmaril* 40m HVS 5a \*\*\*. R.I.Jones, P.Sawford. 9th June 2006.

Start from a small ledge just above the sea at the bottom of a small left-facing groove to the right of Scooty Alan. Climb the crack-line to a ledge at half-height. Climb the wall just left of the arête for 5m and then the arête direct in a fine position.

The next two routes take the grooves to the half-way ledge and the wall above just left of the chimney-groove below the fence.

*Anglachel* 40m E1 5a. R.I.Jones, J.Sanders. 8th June 2006.

From a ledge above the sea, climb the prominent groove/corner to the half-way ledge and climb the wall just left of the arête.

*Anguirel* 40m E1 5b \*. R.I.Jones, J.Sanders. 8th June 2006.

A fine route let down by the rather intrepid nature of the second pitch.

1. 18m 5b From the ledge climb the small groove/corner to the half-way ledge. A fine pitch.
2. 22m 5a Climb the centre of the wall above to finish up a broken groove at the top.

*Foy Corner* 40m VS 4c \*\*\*. P.Sawford, P.Whitworth. 5th June 2006.

The large right-facing corner. Start from ledges and pull out of the chimney into the corner.

*Ringil* 30m HVS 5a \*\*. R.I.Jones, N.Carline. 3rd June 2006.

Climbs a small left-facing corner to the right of Foy Corner. Start from a narrow ledge 6m above the undercut wall. In calm seas it is possible to climb the left-facing corner below the ledge.

*Guthwine* 35m E1 5b \*. R.I.Jones, N.Carline. 3rd June 2006.

Start from a hanging belay just above the centre of the overhang. Climb to a narrow ledge at 5m and the direct up the centre of the wall right of Ringil.

*Glamdring* 35m E1 5b \*. R.I.Jones, J.Sanders. 6th June 2006.

Start from a hanging belay on the right arête of the overhang. Climb the right side of the wall.

The next lines are right of the wall of Aisha.

*Herugrim* 35m E1 5b. R.I.Jones, S.Calvin. 27th May 2006.

Climbs the wall starting just left of Mhairi and right of a right-facing corner. Climb the middle of the wall direct to the overhang. Pull up onto the right-hanging arête and traverse left on to the wall above. Climb up the wall and then the small right-facing groove to the top.

**Corrected wording for the existing route:**

*Mhairi* 35m Hard Severe (1989)

About 15m right of Atlantic City is a fine grooved rib which climbs through the second right-facing corner before a cave. Start from a ledge just above the sea. Climb the grooved rib for 15m, then the right wall to an overhang. Climb the wall on its left and finish up the right-facing corner.

*Aranruth* 35m VS 4c \*. R.I.Jones, S.Calvin. 27th May 2006.

Right of the cave is a fine large rib that divides two narrow caves. From ledges above the sea climb the centre of the wall and shallow groove near the top to a ledge just short of the top and then the final wall direct.

Behind the wall that is breeched by Team Specsavers (2005) is a smaller zawn. The following climbs are on the south-west and south facing walls.

*Swell's Up* 25m Severe. R.I.Jones, N.Carline, P.Whitworth. 3rd June 2006.

Climbs the right-slanting crack up the wall furthest left. Belay in a small alcove and pull up onto the wall at the bottom of the crack (crux) and climb to the top.

*Watching Whales* 25m HVS 5b. R.I.Jones, P.Whitworth. 11th June 2006.

Right of Swell's Up is a chimney. Just right of this is a wall with a roofed groove/cave at its base. From the cave, make hard moves on damp rock to pull up and out leftwards on to the wall above. Climb this and the arête above to finish the final moves on the left of the arête.

Right of this wall is an arch through to a zawn to the north. The corner and crack-line above this has been climbed and called Overhole (20m VS 4c 2005) by P.Sawford & P.Whitworth. Right of the arch is a wall that caps the arch and has a crack-line that runs up and rightwards to a large right-facing corner/flake. The following line climbs this.

*Fated Seal* 20m HVS 5a. R.I.Jones, P.Whitworth. 11th June 2006.

From a hanging belay on the abseil rope, climb the right-slanting crack and right-facing corner/flake. Not as good as it looks and damp lower down.

#### **Stuvva Cave Area:**

A small shallow cave lies 150m south of Stuvva Cave. The first route climbs the rib to the right. From the cliff-top the route finishes 10m north of a cairn of large blocks.

*The Charles Jones* 25m E2 5b \*. R.I.Jones, N.Carline. 3rd June 2006.

From a ledge above the sea climb the wall to a large V-groove. Pull up onto a ledge on the right and then climb the wall on the left of the groove to beneath the capping overhang and pull through on the left up a small hanging groove.

The Charles Jones was a ship that was wrecked with all souls lost a couple of decades ago in Stuvva Cave.

Fifty metres south of the route is large left-slanting ramp and corner with two routes.

*One Way Ticket* 25m VS 4c \*. R.I.Jones, P.Sawford, J.Sanders. 9th June 2006.

Climb the middle of the slab and the wall above.

*Lost Hopes* 25m Mild Severe. J.Sanders, R.I.Jones, P.Sawford. 9th June 2006.

The corner-groove which can be damp.

#### **THE FAITHER, Arched Wall:**

*You Need Look No Faither* 40m Hard Severe 4b \*. J.Sanders, R.I.Jones. 5th June 2006.

Belay in a niche next to Sea of Change. Climb the left-facing corner for 6m and pull on the ledge on the right below a capping bulge. Traverse right 2m and then up and traverse back left 2m above. Pull up on to another ledge below a roof and traverse out left onto a hanging rib. Climb this and the pocketed wall above. Large slings are useful as protection is limited.

#### **Prophecy Wall:**

Partly tidal South-West facing

This is the next wall easily seen to the north of the Arched Wall. The routes can be climbed at mid to high tide from a hanging belay.

*The Oracle* 50m E2 5c \*\*. R.I.Jones, J.Sanders. 6th June 2006.

This climbs the left arête. Climb the smooth black rounded and poorly protected wall of the arête (crux) to a break at 7m and then climb the wall above trending right and then leftwards to a large ledge at 15m (possible belay). Climb the corner-grooves of the arête to a larger ledge at 30m and an easy scramble up the pocketed wall to the top.

Variation: Traversing into the route by climbing the first 8-10m of The Faither Prophecy reduces the grade to HVS 5a, but not the quality.

*The Faither Prophecy* 55m E1 5b \*\*\*. R.I.Jones, J.Sanders. 5th June 2006.

An outstanding route which follows a slanting line of weakness through hanging roofs up the wall. Start at the bottom left of the wall.

1. 35m 5b Traverse right for 3m and pull up through a bulge onto the wall. Climb up and rightwards to a roof and pull up on the wall on the right. Pull through a roof into a niche below a roof and pull out of this on the right into a right-slanting crack-line and belay on a small ledge 5m higher on the right.

2. 20m 5a Traverse left 4m and pull up on to the wall on the left of the crack-line. Climb up and leftwards to finish on the arête.

#### **Hidden Wall:**

Tidal North-West facing

The wall cannot be viewed from the land and is accessed by abseil just left of the arête of Prophecy Wall.

*The Seer* 50m E1 5b. R.I.Jones, J.Sanders. 6th June 2006.

1. 10m 5b From green ledges climb up to a large hanging crack-line. Climb this and pull out onto the wall on the right. Pull up on a ledge on the right and then pull back left into a niche above the crack-line and belay on the abseil rope.

2. 40m 5b Climb the slab wall above to an overhang with a left-facing corner-niche. Pull up in the niche and climb the crack-line above followed by easy climbing up the pocketed wall to the top.

#### **LUNNASTIN:**

The cliffs north of Lunning and around Lunning Head provide a range of short 10 to 20m climbs on gneiss rock. Most of the climbs are found a few hundred metres to the west of the bay of Orra Wick and a few more lines have been climbed on the crags on the hillside above Lunning.

#### **Lunning Crags, East Wall:**

(HU 5030 6735) Tidal North-East facing

Approaching from the east this is the first wall that has been climbed and is accessible at mid to low tide. It has a triangular sloping slab with a right-facing V-groove on the left.

*Into the Groove* 15m Mild Severe. P.Sawford, P.Whitworth. 22nd May 2006.

Difficult moves up to the V-groove and then easier climbing to the top.

*New Computer* 15m E1 5b. P.Sawford, P.Whitworth. 22nd May 2006.

Pull up on to the hanging wall right of the V-groove. Pull through this and climb the wall above.

#### **West Wall:**

(HU 50406 86738) Partially Tidal North-West and North-East facing

The climbing is around a small geo. The first two routes are approached by abseil.

*Hidden Corner* 15m Very Difficult \*. P.Sawford, P.Whitworth. 22nd May 2006.

The left-facing corner on the left of the left-hand wall.

*Rising Crack* 25m Severe. P.Sawford, P.Whitworth. 22nd May 2006.

Just right of the corner, climb a rising crack-line up the wall to the top.

The following routes are accessed by an easy scramble to the right of the climbs.

*Lunning Corner* 20m VS 4b. R.I.Jones, P.Sawford. 29th May 2006.

The black corner that splits the two walls.

To the right of the corner is a wall with an overlapping rock wall above.

*Dallicam Wall* 12m Hard Severe 4b. R.I.Jones, P.Sawford. 29th May 2006.

The shallow groove to a ledge at 8m and a pull through the overlap on the crack-line above.

*Orra Crack* 12m Very Difficult. P.Sawford, R.I.Jones. 29th May 2006.

The central crack-line up the wall and groove above the ledge.

*The Vidlin* 12m Severe. P.Sawford, R.I.Jones. 29th May 2006.

Climbs the wall right of the central crack and the overlap above.

#### **Lunning Head:**

There are a number of small crags but only a few lines worth climbing. The first route is non-tidal and can be found in a small geo at HU 5090 6740.

*Split Personality* 15m E2 5b. R.I.Jones, P.Sawford. 29th May 2006.

A climb in two parts. Climb a thin crack-line up the centre of the wall on crimps and smears to a small niche. Pull up and rightwards onto the overhang and pull through in an exposed and poorly protected position.

The next route is non-tidal and can be found by scrambling down to the cliffs from the east at HU 5150 6745.

*Single Minded* 15m E1 5b. P.Sawford, R.I.Jones. 29th May 2006.

The fine looking crack-line up the large groove.

### **RONAS VOE:**

The crags are easily accessible by boat from Heylor, or by a 1.5 to 2hr walk from the east. Most of the routes are on granite outcrops set back from the sea. Hollanders' Crag is the name given to it by local climbers. It is referred to as Low Crag in the SMCJ2006. Hollanders' refers to an incident in 1674 when a crippled Dutch East Indiaman, the Wapen Van Rotterdam, sheltered in the voe and was captured after a fight with an English frigate, having stayed and traded with the locals for 4 months due to strong winds and storms. Five routes in SMCJ 2006 are also included.

### **Hollanders' Crag:**

South-West facing (HU 2968 8137)

The clean crag 50m above the beach. The following routes climb the wall to the left of the bulging nose.

*Unnamed* 8m Very Difficult. P.Whitworth. July 2004.

The crack-line furthest left of Hollanders' Corner.

*Hollanders' Corner* 10m Mild Severe. A.Whitworth, T.Robertson. July 2004.

The left-facing corner.

*Ronas' Herring* 10m E2 5b \*. P.Sawford, R.I.Jones. 31st May 2006.

Climbs the wall just right of the arête. Low in the grade.

*Houllan* 10m VS 5a. P.Sawford, R.I.Jones. 31st May 2006.

From the niche 2m right of the arête, pull up onto the wall and climb the wall and small crack to finish with a pull through onto the left of the hanging slab.

*Abram's Crack* 10m E1 5b \*. R.I.Jones, P.Sawford. 31st May 2006.

Climbs the small central crack-line and then direct up the final hanging slab.

*Grunafirth Watch* 10m HVS 5a. R.I.Jones, P.Sawford. 31st May 2006.

Pull up onto the wall from the niche to the left of the bulge and then the shallow niche/cracks to finish right of the hanging slab.

*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.

*Hollanders' Slab* 12m Very Difficult. P.Whitworth, R.I.Jones, J.Sanders. 7th June 2006.

The rising slab right of the bulge to finish up a break in the wall.

*Wapen van Rotterdam* 10m HVS 4c R.I.Jones, P.Whitworth, J.Sanders. 7th June 2006.

Climb a short rib that crosses Hollanders' Slab and pull up through the overhang onto the wall above.

*The East Indiaman* 12m Hard Severe 4b. J.Sanders, P.Whitworth, R.I.Jones. 7th June 2006.

Climb the large detached flake to the left of the overhang and the wall above.

*1674 Route* 10m HVS 5a \*. R.I.Jones, P.Whitworth, J.Sanders. 7th June 2006.

On the next wall right of a narrow steep band of grass. Pull up on to the wall and climb cracks and the wall to the top.

*Trade Winds* 10m Hard Severe 4b \*. J.Sanders, P.Whitworth, R.I.Jones. 7th June 2006.

Climb the right-slanting crack-line and then the wall to finish up the bulge to its left.

### **Gulliver's Wall:**

This is the small triangle-shaped wall 50m to the left of Hollanders' Wall.

*Gulliver's Crack* 10m VS 4c \*\*. P.Whitworth, J.Posnett. July 2004.  
The right-trending crack-line and bulge above on its right. The bulge direct makes this HVS 5a.

*Gulliver's Toe* 10m VS 4b \*. P.Whitworth, J.Posnett. July 2004.  
Climb horizontal crack-lines left of the arête.

*Unnamed* 8m Very Difficult. J.Posnett, P.Whitworth. July 2004.  
The crack-line to the left.

#### **Sea Walls:**

These are the walls 100m to the left of the abandoned fishing station which separate the beach from the beach below The Trip. There are three walls. Ripple Wall is the farthest to the left and is capped by a hanging roof and bounded by a left-facing corner on its right.

*Ripple Effect* 25m VS 4c. R.I.Jones, P.Whitworth. 7th June 2006.  
Climb the rising left-slanting corner to a V-groove. Pull into this and traverse up and rightwards through the hanging wall above to finish.

To the right of this is Beach Wall provides three lines.

*Old Puffer* 18m VS 4c \*. R.I.Jones, P.Whitworth. 7th June 2006.  
Climb the left side of the wall with a tricky mantel onto the higher section and the left-facing shallow corner to finish.

*Kermit* 18m Severe 4a. J.Sanders, R.I.Jones. 7th June 2006.  
The central crack-line.

*It's Not Easy Being Green* 18m Very Difficult. J.Sanders, P.Whitworth, R.I.Jones. 7th June 2006.  
The right crack and wall to its right.

#### **Upper Teog's Crag (Called High Crag in SMCJ 2006):**

The slabby upper tier.

*Up on the Hill* 10m Severe \*. W.Moir, A.Whitworth. 23rd July 2005.  
The obvious right-facing corner.

*Up the Hill Backwards* 10m VS 4c \*. W.Moir, A.Whitworth. 23rd July 2005.  
Takes the thin crack through the bulge left of previous route.

*Breech* 35m Severe \*. P.Whitworth, A.Whitworth. 23rd July 2005.  
Climb the crack-lines on the lower and upper tier to the right of Up on the Hill.

#### **Lower Teog's Crag:**

*Self Sufficiency* 30m VS 4c \*\*. P.Whitworth, J.Posnett. July 2005.  
1. 15m 4c Climb the obvious crack-line from the lowest point of the crag.  
2. 15m 4b The wall above.

#### **Unnamed Crag (Right-Hand Crag):**

The crag below and right of the Teog's Crags

*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.

#### **RONAS HILL CRAGS:**

There are a number of good short granite crags which are being developed around the area of Hevdadale Water (HU 29 89) a few miles north of Ronas Hill. They provide a good range of graded routes up to 10m from Very Difficult to E2. There are around 40 routes, mainly by P.Whitworth, A.Whitworth and P.Sawford. The following is not a complete set. Approach: Take a gravel track from North Roe, which leaves the public road at HU 366 897 drive along this for 3km and park at the side of the track at HU 336 897. The 1:25000 map shows a track that heads south west between the Beorgs of Uyea before heading west. The path is ill defined, but follow the course of this to the north of the lochs

Brettoo Loch before heading south west to Heevdadale Water. The crags are spread across the area to the east and south east of the loch.

**Hevda Wall (HU 294 896):**

A 6–10m high wall on the edge of the loch. Routes are from left to right.

*There She Goes* 7m Hard Severe. R.I.Jones (solo). 10th June 2006.

The crack-line up the left-facing shallow corner.

*By The Water* 8m Hard Severe 4b. R.I.Jones (solo). 10th June 2006.

Three metres right. Pull through onto the hanging wall and climb this direct.

*Sunshine* 10m Severe. J.Sanders, P.Sawford, T.Robertson. 10th June 2006.

Four metres right. Climb the shallow V-groove. Trend leftward 2m and then the wall above. A direct start is possible at 4c.

*Singing in the Rain* 8m Hard Severe 4a. J.Sanders, P.Sawford, T.Robertson. 10th June 2006.

Two metres right. Climb the wall direct just left of the stepped ramp. A direct start is possible at 5b.

*Bumble* 9m Very Difficult. J.Posnett, P.Whitworth. 2004.

The stepped left-trending ramp.

*A Pale Blue Colour* 8m HVS 5a \*. P.Sawford, J.Sanders, T.Robertson. 10th June 2006.

From the bottom of the ramp climb the wall direct and up the left side of the hanging groove/wall.

*Is That an Angel?* 8m E1 5b \*. R.I.Jones, P.Whitworth, P.Sawford. 10th June 2006.

Two metres right. Climb the wall to a hanging flake. Pull through to its right.

*No It's Pete* 8m HVS 5a \*. P.Whitworth, R.I.Jones. 10th June 2006.

Two metres right. Climb the wall and hanging wall above.

*Eazzy* 7m Very Difficult. P.Sawford, J.Sanders, T.Robertson. 10th June 2006.

Two metres right. The left-facing broken scoop.

*Right of the Scoop* 7m HVS 5a. P.Sawford, J.Sanders, R.I.Jones. 10th June 2006.

The wall right of the scoop.

*Beat the Bulge* 6m HVS 5a. P.Whitworth, R.I.Jones. 10th June 2006.

Two metres right. The wall and mantelshelf onto the wall above.

**Notes from R.I.Jones:**

The Trollcatcher (SMCJ 2006), at Picts Ness, Muckle Roe should be \*\*.

**PAPA STOUR, Breigeo Head Area (HU 154 603):**

The following routes were climbed by S.Calvin in May and August 2005.

**Perched Block Crag:**

The most northerly of these geos with a huge block hanging above its back. There is a big cave at the back of the geo. Approach by abseil to good ledges.

*Push me, Pull me* 10m Severe.

A big corner come groove at the seaward end of the crag. Good climbing, good pro.

*A Bonxie Stole my Piece* 10m Hard Severe.

An obvious flake-line 12m right of The Trundler.

*Foula Doon* 10m VS 4b.

A wall and flakes left of the previous route. Bold.

*A Kingdom for my Crowbar* 10m VS 4b.

A vague groove/wall just left of Foula Doon; go right at roofs at top.

*The Trundler* 10m HVS 5b \*\*.

An obvious fine crack at the left end of the wall. Good route.

*Old Man Watching* 10m HVS 5b \*.

A steep groove to the right of The Trundler. Start from the same ledge. Crux at top, seepage.

*The Prow* 13m HVS 5b \*\*.

A fantastic line up a prow between two sea caves to the right of the perched block. Follow quartz cracks above a good ledge and a steep, reachy crux at the top.

### **Stack Crag:**

The next big geo to the south containing a fine unclimbed stack. Routes are left of a stepped rake in the centre of the crag. Abseil down into a "crevasse" close to an impressive unclimbed prow.

*The Jaffa* 10m Severe 4a. S.Calvin, J.Eves.

Climb a line of flakes just left of the rake.

*Papa Mike* 10m VS 4c. J.Eves, S.Calvin.

Thin flakes just left of The Jaffa. Bold.

*Shutting up Shop* 10m VS 4b. S.Calvin, J.Eves.

Climb the crozzly prow from the left end of the belay ledge. Reach a ledge and climb a wall to the right of a corner above. Bold start.

### **Breigeo Crag:**

The most southerly of the three geos. Climb down the landward side of the north facing wall. There is a double barrel sea cave at the back of the geo.

*Knife Edge Groove* 10m Very Difficult.

An obvious groove at the seaward end of the wall.

*Irish R'n'R* 10m Severe.

Flakes to the left of the previous route.

*Mamas and the Papas* 10m Severe.

A fine crack at the left side of the wall.

*Papa Smurf* 10m VS 4c.

Start up Papa Smurf and branch out right up the wall.

## **NORTHERN HIGHLANDS CENTRAL**

### **BEINN LAIR:**

*Monster Munch* 280m VI,6. S.M.Richardson, I.Small. 10th February 2007.

A natural winter mixed line taking the groove system on the right flank of Molar Buttress. Good sustained climbing with some good positions overlooking Y Gully.

1. 40m Climb the first pitch of Y Gully and move left to the foot of the chimney-groove.

2. 50m Climb the chimney-groove past several steep sections to an easing below a steep hanging chimney.

3. 40m Move up into the chimney and back and foot on a jammed flake to a rest. Continue past a large perched chokestone (crux) and move up and right to easier ground to belay below twin short grooves. A sustained and serious pitch.

4. 50m Climb the right-hand twin groove and continue up and left to where the buttress steepens.

5. 50m Move up and climb a short steep wall, then move right to gain a narrow slanting shelf overlooking Y Gully Left Branch. Climb this and make steep exit to a good stance.

6. 50m Move up and left up easier ground and finish along a shallow neck to reach the summit slopes.

*Marathon Ridge* III,4 \*\*\*. M.Edwards, D.McGimpsey, A.Nisbet, D.Bell. 9th February 2007.

ME/AN started up a groove at the very toe of the buttress, left of the summer route, but this was Grade IV,3. DM/DB started higher up on the left and traversed in, then descended to the top of the groove. Thereafter the summer route was followed via its tricky chimney (crux). The thin fissure on the crest was the highlight.

### **MULLACH COIRE MHIC FEARCHAIR:**

*No Place for Hubris* 120m IV,4. S.M.Richardson, R.G.Webb. 21st January 2007.

The prominent gully line right of centre that climbs into a deep V-slot in the skyline.

1. 50m Climb the lower gully over a couple of steep sections to an easing.
2. 40m Move up deceptively awkward mixed ground to enter the V-slot. Climb this to a square-cut amphitheatre.
3. 30m Exit right up a steep chimney-groove to easier ground and the top.

### **GRUINARD CRAGS, Pink Streak Slab:**

(NG 960 889) Alt 120m South-West facing

This is an area of scrappy looking rock on the hillside above left of the waterfall. A prominent pink streak runs centrally and a short steep lower tier lies below an area of glaxis. Descend to the left (facing).

*Scrooge* 35m HVS 5a. A.Cunningham, A.Fyffe. 10th December 2002.

A more or less direct line left of the pink streak. Start at the top left of the glaxis and climb the initial short wall to a heather ledge. Step right and climb by a vague groove to a left-curving overlap. Move left and up to below a small Rowan, traverse right by a horizontal crack and climb up to finish at the top of the diagonal crack of Pink Streak.

*Humbug Rib* 40m VS 4c \*. A.Cunningham, A.Fyffe. 10th December 2002.

A direct line right of Pink Streak finishing up the pale blunt rib. Start at the glaxis of Pink Streak and climb direct by the right side of the pink rock into a vague scoop. Work up and left into the top of a flake-crack and finish up the rib directly above.

*The Artful Dodger* 45m Mild VS 4b. A.Fyffe, A.Cunningham. 10th December 2002.

Climbs the cleanest rock diagonally right from the start of Pink Streak and Humbug Rib. Start by a big block and climb up into a large vague scoop past a flake-block. Continue trending up and right on pink rock to a move right again and up a left-facing slab corner to below a steeper wall. Climb the cracks in this to a heather ledge and finish by the cracks in the wall above.

### **The Sidewalls:**

Up and right of Pink Streak Slab and directly above the waterfall is a short sidewall narrowing into a small gully. Just below the narrows is a buttress with an overhung recess at its base. Descend to the right (facing).

*Dusty Rib* 20m VS 4c. A.Cunningham, A.Fyffe. 17th December 2002.

From the base of the recess move left into a short hanging corner and climb this to a ledge. Move right and climb cracks in the crest to the top.

*Little By Little* 20m Very Difficult. A.Fyffe, A.Cunningham. 17th December 2002.

Climb bubbly rock right of the recess and a steeper section between roofs to gain a ledge. Climb the crack in the brown rock to the top.

In the narrows is a short compact wall leading to a terrace

*Nut Cracker* 25m VS 4c \*. A.Fyffe, A.Cunningham. 17th December 2002.

Climb cracks in the left edge of the short wall to the terrace. Pull over directly above and follow cracks to the top passing a prominent black pegmatite inclusion.

*Choughed to Bits* 25m Very Difficult. A.Cunningham, A.Fyffe. 17th December 2002.

Climb the wide crack in the middle of the short wall to the terrace, move right and climb centrally via an open stepped groove line.

### **Riverside Slabs:**

*Fade To Grey* 20m E1 5b \*. A.Fyffe, A.Cunningham. 17 December 2002.

A worthwhile route crossing Sunlight Slab. Start just right of Sunlight Slab and climb diagonally right towards the edge. Pull over the bulge and trend left up to the highest point of rock and junction with Sunlight Slab. Step left and climb the slab direct through a left-trending crack and horizontal break.

### **GRUINARD CRAGS, Jetty Buttress:**

*Hopes and Expectations* 30m HVS 5a \*. A.Wallace, R.Wallace. 13th August 2006.

Starting 3m right of Route 11, follow a slightly vegetated crack. At the top pull out right, onto the ramp of Route 11. Make an exciting bridge left into a hanging corner and climb this onto a ledge below a slightly scooped area of yellowish rock. Interesting moves over this lead to an easy slabby finish.

*Hands, Knees and Bumpy-daisies, Rib Finish* 25m E3 6a. I.Small. 15th October 2006.

A better finish giving a more sustained climb. Follow the original line over the roof, then step right and follow the rounded rib over two bulges and a final wall.

### **BEINN DEARG MHOR:**

*Finny's Cave* 400m V,6. J.Edwards, R.Webb. February 2007.

The wall on the east side of the corrie, near the rocks climbed by Sang and Morrison in 1899. An obvious cave feature lies high in the middle of the wall with an ice gully below it. On the first ascent the true direct start was not formed so a traverse was made to the line along a ledge on the left. Climb the gully on ice into the cave. From the cave an iced wall on the right allows escape (crux). Continue up and rightwards till easier ground is reached. Continue diagonally leftwards on easier ground to overlook a gully coming up from below. Climb across to gain the gully and up to the top.

### **AN TEALLACH, Glas Tholl:**

*Crashed Out* 80m VII,7. G.Hughes, V.Scott. 7th February 2007.

Climbs the upper section of the left wall of Hayfork Gully. Start just below the fork in Hayfork Gully.

1. 25m Climb a slabby ramp leftwards to gain a ledge. Traverse an airy foot ledge leftwards to just left of an overhanging band above a slabby wall.
2. 25m Climb straight up on spaced turf to gain a small left-facing corner beneath a vertical wall just above and left of overhangs. Swing rightwards above the overhangs and traverse right for a few moves until the corner of an upper slabby ramp can be gained. Go up this then rightwards across slabs to the base of an upper chimney. A serious pitch.
3. 30m Climb the chimney above direct through a blocking roof and continue to the top of the wall. Well protected with good hooks and turf.

### **Toll an Lochain, Sail Liath:**

*The Upper House* 200m VI,6 \*\*. M.Edwards, A.Nisbet. 11th February 2007.

Climbs the face of the left buttress, left of Opposition Couloir. Some bold climbing leads to a well protected technical crux. Start below a grooved ramp which is parallel and left of Opposition Couloir.

1. 30m Climb easily up the initial groove.
2. 35m Continue up the groove over two steep sections.
3. 45m A steeper and thin section of groove leads to an easier continuation up right.
4. 50m Gain a ledge above and traverse it right for 25m. Climb turf to a bulge and up sods in a smooth slab to below an overhung niche.
5. 40m Climb through the roof of the niche, overhanging but very helpful, to an easier line of turf which leads to easy ground.

### **SGURR NAN CLACH GEALA:**

*Skyscraper Direct* 240m VI,7 \*\*\*. P.Benson, G.Robertson. 21st January 2007.

This version follows the true crest all the way, with some strenuous and exposed climbing. Start by either of the variations described, then belay directly beneath the overhanging nose of the upper buttress, about 15m right of Gamma Gully.

1. 30m Climb the obvious open groove up left to a perch on the very edge, then pull wildly out right before stepping back left into a flying groove. Follow this to a step right and a commodious perch on the crest.
2. 30m Move directly up, then go back right onto the crest of the buttress. Follow this more easily for 10m or so, then climb parallel cracks to an excellent stance where the buttress rears up again.
3. 30m Continue directly up cracks through improbable ground to where the angle eases.
4. 30m Continue less steeply but still with interest in the same line to where the angle eases.
5. 50m Follow the horizontal ridge to the top as for the normal route.

### **SGURR NA MUICE, North-East Face:**

There is a serious error in the diagram in the new Northern Highlands Central guide (page 338), due to the late addition of a route. The key is correct but each number on the picture needs to be increased by one, except 14 which is correct.

### **STRATHFARRAR, Sgurr na Fearstaig, South Top, East Face:**

*Rising Damp, Direct Start and Finish* III. S.Nadin, N.Wilson, J.R.Mackenzie, A.Nisbet, D.McGimpsey. 3rd March 2007.

To the right of the gully start of Rising Damp is a broken buttress. Either climb up the rib to the right of the gully, joining the parent route where it bends back right, or take the buttress edge left of Sea Pink Gully, joining Rising Damp at the saddle stance. Follow the normal route to near the final pitch but belay at a big block, and finish directly up a fine narrow groove, crux.

### **BEN WYVIS, Coire na Feola:**

*Proletariat* 215m V,5. M.Edwards, D.McGimpsey, A.Nisbet. 7th February 2007.

Climbs a mixed line based on the central icefall left of Laird of the Rings (and which very rarely forms). Start 5m up right from the toe of the buttress.

1. 35m Gain a ledge at 2m on the left, then climb a short vertical wall. Trend right up turf ground and a short icy ramp, then traverse back left along a ledge into the centre of the wall.
2. 30m Continue to the left end of the ledge and move left round an arête. Go up trending right to easier ground.
3. 50m Move left into the icefall and either climb this or turf ground on the right to a ledge below overhangs.
4. 30m The ice line goes right up a ramp but Laird follows this. Instead, move left round an arête and climb near the arête to an airy platform and the steep wall above to easy ground.
5. and 6. 80m Climb to a final tier and finish through this by a turf groove (common to Discovery Buttress).

#### **BEN WYVIS, Coire Mor:**

*Swine before Earls* 180m III,4. R.G.Webb, S.M.Richardson. 2nd January 2007.

The right edge of No.1 Spur (overlooking the Grade I gully to the right), gives a pleasant mountaineering route. Start below the steep lower tier that is characterised by a right-facing corner-chimney in its top half.

1. 30m From directly below the corner-chimney, move right along a shelf and climb a corner-crack on the right edge for 5m before moving back left to a bay just right of the corner-chimney.
2. 40m Climb the corner-chimney and pull over the capping bulge to easy ground. Move up the right edge of the spur and belay in a small col.
3. and 4. 100m Continue up an easy ramp on the right, then break out left on blocky mixed ground to reach the flat top of the spur. The climb ends here and 100m of easy ground leads to the An Socach spur.

### **NORTHERN HIGHLANDS SOUTH**

The following routes just missed the new guide.

#### **GLEOURAICH:**

*Flatiron* 60m II. R.Hamilton, S.Kennedy. 11th February 2007.

Situated on the sprawling, slabby buttress in the northern corrie between Gleouraich and its east top, Creag Coire na Fiar Bhealaich. The buttress is crossed by two diagonal terraces. Start at the toe of the buttress and climb a right-trending ramp (just right of a slabby rib) leading to open ground. Climb a short wall on the left then mixed ground to finish.

#### **BEINN EIGHE, COIRE MHIC FHEARCHAIR, Eastern Ramparts:**

*Olympus* VII,8 \*\*\*. B.Fyffe, M.Moran. 20th March 2007.

By the summer line. Continuously steep but highly amenable climbing in good cracks but a thin scary crux reaching the big flake near the top.

### **CAIRNGORMS**

#### **LOCHNAGAR, The Sentinel:**

*Left Spiral* 60m II. S.M.Richardson. 10th December 2006.

Start below the left edge of the crag and climb a line up turf flanking the steep left edge to an easing. Continue up and right over steep steps to reach the neck.

*Starlight and Storm* 70m V,5. S.M.Richardson, J.Edwards. 18th November 2006.

A good mixed climb based on the well defined right edge of the buttress.

1. 20m Start below the right edge and climb up to a small right-facing corner-flake leading to a crack through a bulge. Continue up the easier crack above to a stance on the arête.
2. 50m Step left onto the front face, climb a short crack and make a long reach to turf. Move diagonally left, then up and right to regain the right crest after 15m. Continue up the easier right edge to reach the neck and finish along the easy ridge.

*Sentinel Couloir* 70m II. J.Edwards, S.M.Richardson. 18th November 2006.

Climb the attractive gully tucked into the right edge of the buttress to the neck and finish along the easy ridge to the top.

*Red Lightning* 60m II. S.M.Richardson. 10th December 2006.

The short buttress just left of The Sentinel. Start at the lowest rocks and climb the crest via a line of short stepped corners to reach the plateau.

### **The Cathedral:**

*Ghost Dance* 90m V,6 \*. S.M.Richardson, J.Edwards. 18th November 2006.

The groove and pillar defining the left edge of the crag. Good climbing but escapable at half-height.

1. 45m Start as for Transept Groove and climb the left-hand of twin fault lines. Move on to the left bounding rib just below a prominent chokestone and move up to a stance below the imposing final tower.
2. 35m Move up and right below the stepped roof and pull over it at its right end. Climb the steep wall above on good hooks and step left into easier ground. Continue up the flake-chimney and stand on the pinnacle to gain the steep wall above to finish just below the plateau. An enjoyable pitch.

### **Eagle Buttress:**

*State of Independence* 65m VII,8. E.Tresidder, V.Scott. 18th December 2006.

An excellent mixed climb taking the superb right arête of the Where Eagles Dare wall.

1. 30m Start at the top of the easier ground of Eagle Buttress, directly below the soaring arête. Climb icy and turfy grooves leading up and slightly right, before a short horizontal traverse leads to a large flake at the foot of the arête.
2. 35m Step left then up on to the top of the flake, then traverse easily rightwards on a ledge to underneath an overhang. Arrange some protection beneath the overhang, then step out and right onto a steep wall (involves some guile and cunning). Climb the wall to turf on the right hand end of the ledge above. Walk back along the ledge to the foot of the superb crack in the arête. Climb this, strenuous and in a superb position, to more broken ground. Continue in the same line over several steep walls to gain the top

### **The Stuic:**

*Serendipity Pillar* 90m IV,5. S.M.Richardson, I.Small. 14th January 2007.

The corner and pillar left of Morning Has Broken. Good climbing, but interchangeable with adjacent routes.

1. 40m Start just right of New Boot Groove and climb the open right-facing corner to a stance below the upper pillar.
2. 25m Climb the pillar to a good stance at its top. Junction with Morning Has Broken.
3. 15m Step left and climb the left-hand crack in the headwall to reach the left arête. Finish easily up this to the top.

### **Coire Lochan na Feadaige:**

*Cleft Chimney* 70m V,5. S.M.Richardson, I.Small. 14th January 2007.

A counter-diagonal to Feadaige Buttress.

1. 30m Start 5m left of Feadaige Buttress and climb a short steep wall to enter a wide chimney. Climb this to where it splits into two and climb the right branch to a large turfy ledge.
2. 40m Move right across the ledge and climb a short steep crack to easier ground that leads up right of the crest to the top.

### **GLEN MUICK, Creag na Slabhraidh, Darrarie Slabs (NO 315 843):**

*The Chain* 40m VS 4b. R.Archbold, G.Strange. 18th June 2006.

On the most continuous rock above a solitary rowan. Start just left of black mossy streak. Climb to a prominent horizontal undercut crack. Move right below this, go up left, then right and up to reach heather at the top of the lower slab. Belay up right on an upper slab (30m). Climb the upper slab by cracks going left to a flake, then up right to finish.

### **BEINN A' BHUIRD, Coire an Dubh Lochain:**

*The Scent* IX,8. R.Cross, G.Robertson. 2nd March 2007.

Follow the summer line throughout, except on pitch two, quit the corner above the belay and go up an obvious short flared crack. On the first ascent there was useful snow on the ledges, perhaps crucial, particularly to gain and climb the "awkward ramp" on pitch two. The step right to the first belay is hard, and pitches two and three are sustained in difficulty throughout, pitch 2 being serious, but pitch 3 being relatively well protected. Hooks or warthogs are essential for protection.

### **COIRE SPUTAN DEARG, The Red Slabs:**

Fifty metres left of Sundance is a wet recessed area of pink rock. Left again is a clean east-facing slab of green rock. The following three routes climb this slab and all are worthwhile solos.

*Rooibos* 20m E5 6a. J.Lines. 30th August 2006.

Link the blind runnels up the left edge of the slab. Absorbing and bold (on-sight solo).

*Echinacea* 30m E4 6a/b. J.Lines. 24th August 2006.

Climbs the centre of the slab, stepping off the right end of the higher ledge, make thin moves up and right to gain the flake, easier but bold climbing remains.

*Ginseng* 30m E4 6c. J.Lines. 30th August 2006.

The right-hand line. Start from the lower ledge just right of a small corner. Heinous scratching up the centre of the slab leads to the centre of a diagonal crease. Move right to the end of the crease and climb the slab to the top.

Variation: Alternative Start (June 1996): Climb on tiny edges just to the right of the true start (6a/b) to gain the crease.

*Rain Shadow* 100m VS 4b. A.Nisbet. 29th July 2006.

A quicker drying line up a rib right of Umbrella. Start at the same place as Umbrella, just right of any overlaps at the cliff base. Climb the vague rib formed right of various corners to reach the right end of the main overlap, where it turns into a corner. Descend a small hanging slab through the overlap and finish slightly rightwards up friction slabs.

#### **Grey Man's Crag:**

*Little Gem* 100m V,6 \*. R.G.Webb, S.M.Richardson. 7th January 2007.

The well defined V-shaped buttress between the two branches of Slab Gully. Excellent varied climbing in a superb position.

1. 35m From the junction in Slab Gully move up the main (right) branch for 5m, then move left onto a wide hidden ramp. Follow this up to a stance on flakes on the buttress crest.
2. 25m The headwall above is cut by a narrow right-facing corner. Climb the corner for 5m to where it becomes blank. Hand traverse right along a flake; move up 3m, then foot traverse left along a parallel ledge back into the corner. Surmount a small roof and continue up the corner to easier ground.
3. 40m Continue up the buttress crest to the top.

*Rough Diamond* 100m V,7. R.G.Webb, S.M.Richardson. 17th December 2006.

The steep crack system cutting the vertical left wall of Grey Man's Crag (hidden behind the arête taken by Sapphire) overlooking the right branch of Slab Gully. Thuggy climbing up steep, well protected cracks.

1. 15m Start from the junction in Slab Gully, make an awkward move up a steep wall and continue up turf to a good stance below the steep cracks.
2. 35m Climb the cracks to the buttress crest. Junction with Plumblin etc.
3. 50m Continue up the crest overlooking Slab Gully to the top.

#### **Anchor Buttress:**

*Lanyard* 130m III. D.McGimpsey, A.Nisbet, J.Preston. 9th December 2006.

Climbs the right face of the buttress containing Anchor Route. Start just right of its toe. Climb a snow groove, then slabby ground as directly as conditions allow to reach the upper tier. Climb a central groove in two pitches to the top.

#### **Snake Ridge Area:**

*Mousehole Gully* 120m II. A.Nisbet. 19th December 2006.

The next gully to the right of The Ladders starts easily, then steepens to a big corner. Above this is a huge chokestone which blocks the gully. Climb a groove slanting up left almost into The Ladders, then return right and cross a ridge to enter the upper gully above the chokestone. Follow this to the top.

*Narrow Buttress* 100m II. A.Nisbet. 19th December 2006.

A ridge formed on the left wall of Narrow Gully. The upper part has a well defined crest. The lower part would merge with the gully given a big build-up. Start about 50m up Narrow Gully (depends on the definition of the start). Climb the slabby lower crest to where a shallow gully cuts across. Continue up the steeper upper section, which has many flakes, to the top.

#### **Spider Buttress, Lower Tier:**

In the centre of the lower tier is an impressive arête bounded on the right by a prominent chimney-groove.

*Ataraxia* 25m E6 6b \*\*. J.Lines. 30th August 2006.

A fine varied route, which might be slow to dry at the bottom. Start 10m right of the chimney-groove at a fine layback corner. Climb the corner to below a roof and jam left under the overlap to reach the base of a slabby rib (escape left here gives a good E2 5c). Step onto the rib from the right and climb it cautiously before mantelling into a scoop. Trend left and up to the top. Bold but technically straightforward. The crux rib was pre-rehearsed after two previously failed on-sight solo attempts.

#### **Terminal Buttress:**

*Remontado* 30m E6 6a \*. J.Lines (on-sight solo). 30th July 2006.

A stunning line taking the challenge of the blind crack up the blank wall to the left of The Chute, is ultra-serious and only for those with a death wish. Wander up a slab to the base of the crack. Climb the crack, which is sequential for 8m after which it eases dramatically and joins Contra Flow.

**Note:** A hollow flake at the base of the wall may just prevent a leader falling 20m into the gully. Then again it may snap!

#### **ANGEL'S PEAK, Corrie of the Chokestone Gully:**

*Big Foot* 100m V,5. D.McGimpsey, A.Nisbet. 7th March 2007.

The rib right of The White Hotel is pleasant but escapable. Start in the centre of the rib where a groove leads up and slightly left. Follow the steep groove, moving left and back right high up, to reach easier ground. Follow this to a steepening (Sasquatch is close on the right) – 40m. Move left on to a middle section of rib, then climb a groove on the left side of an upper section. The easy upper corner of The White Hotel is close on the left.

*Slovenian Death Water* 90m V,6. S.M.Richardson, S.Isaac. 26th February 2007.

The rib between The Waster and The Wanderer defined by a prominent overhanging slot at half-height.

1. 45m Start just right of The Waster and climb easy ground for 20m to a small breche. Move up and right on to deceptively steep mixed ground and climb this to a small platform on the left below good cracks.
2. 30m Move up into the slot and exit through its roof on the left. Continue for a further 15m up mixed ground to a stance.
3. 15m Finish up more mixed ground to the cornice.

### **BRAERIACH, Garbh Choire Dhaidh:**

*Wombat* 130m VS \*. A.Nisbet, J.Preston. 30th September 2006.

The rib right of the corner of Koala. Start at the same place as Koala.

1. 30m 4b Climb cracks immediately right of the rib to gain its crest. Step right and follow wider cracks.
2. 40m 4b Continue up steps with wide cracks and some hollow blocks to an easier section gaining the top of the rib.
3. 50m 4c Go up to the final slabby wall and move right to below a wide crack left of a left-facing corner (which is Kangaroo). Gain and climb the crack. Finish through a bulge and the wall above.

Winter: V,6. G.Ettle, J.Lyall. February 2007.

By the summer route for the first two pitches but finishing up Koala.

### **Coire Bhrochain, Braeriach Pinnacle:**

*East of Eden* 140m VI,5 \*. M.Edwards, A.Nisbet. 17th February 2007.

A groove line mid-way between West Wall Route and a more obvious chimney line taken by The Lampie. Start from Slab Terrace below the groove.

1. 30m Climb easily to below the groove.
2. 30m Climb the groove to a ledge on the left.
3. 30m Continue up the groove, thin and poorly protected unless icy.
4. 50m Follow the airy ridge to the top of the pinnacle.

### **BEINN MHEADHOIN, Summit Tor:**

*Silk Worm* 10m E3 5c \*. J.Lines. 30th August 2006.

Takes the obvious quartz vein in the west face.

*Classic Crack* 10m HVS 5a \*. J.Lines. 30th August 2006.

Climbs the superb central crack up the west face.

### **SHELTER STONE CRAG:**

*The Pin True Start* 85m VS. A.Kassyk, A.Tibbs. 28th July 1994.

Start 15m left of a wet mossy patch at the base of the crag below a grass ledge 5m up.

1. 50m 4c Climb up directly passing two grass ledges to a blocky bulge. Climb this and continue up the corner above to a belay. A good pitch.
2. 35m Easier climbing leads to the lower ledge.

*The Camel* 255m E5. I.Small, T.Fryer. 5th August 2006.

(Pitches 1, 2, 6 climbed previously; I.Small, C.Cartwright, July 2005)

Sustained, independent climbing threading around the line of The Needle; leads to a final crux pitch tackling the exposed headwall right of The Needle Crack. A double set of small cams is useful. Start right of Stone Bastion at grassy ledges.

1. 50m 5c Climb easily up right to an overlap and gain a grassy fault above. Step left onto the slab and follow a seam leftwards to its end (bold). Move up to a steep wall, take the left-facing inset corner in the arête, continue up the rib then step right onto a slab and traverse rightwards to a good ledge.
2. 35m 5b Move up left-trending ramps heading for a steep alcove right of the Needle Rib. Climb the steep wall (stubby spike runner), to the terrace.
3. 45m 5c From the left end of a long narrow ledge above, make tricky moves up thin flakes then swing right to a grassy ledge. Step back left into a groove leading to a steep wall and take a crack on perfect spaced slots to a footledge. Move out left onto a rib, finishing up its left side to a square-cut ledge.
4. 20m 4c Move right and up to a bigger ledge and follow the flake-crack, then a dirty groove onto a big ledge below a leaning wall.

5. 30m 5c Start up the Crack for Thin Fingers and make a long reach left for a handrail flake leading to a ledge. Take the corner at its right end and climb easier ground up left to the foot of the Steeple corner.
6. 25m 5c Follow a diagonal crack in the fine right wall (awkward start) to gain a small corner leading to a narrow ledge below the Needle Crack.
7. 45m 6a Sustained and intricate face climbing aiming for the niche at the source of the pink weep. Step down right off the ledge making steep moves past a rounded spike and up to a disappointing crack-line and break. Move left to follow a thin flake, then back right to gain the pink streak. Move up to a thin break and traverse right to a footledge. Arrange RPs and make committing moves up the wall, then step right to a haven in the niche. Move out right to finish up the headwall on excellent breaks with a blocky exit.

*Lectern* 80m V,8. J.Edwards, P.Warnock. 25th January 2007.

1. 40m Start high on the side of Pinnacle Gully and climb up and onto a pyramid of blocks below a smooth steep corner. Belay on the Lectern block.
2. 20m Climb the corner and left wall using very small footholds and a hidden hook at the top of the wall behind a block. Move left onto a sod of turf and go up to belay when easier ground is reached.
3. 20m Climb blocky easier ground above with the occasional step to the top.

### **HELL'S LUM CRAG:**

*Cruella De Vil* 50m E1 5b. A.Fyffe, I.Peter, S.Peter. 2nd July 2006.

Takes a line of discontinuous cracks up the lower slab just right of The Bats, The Bats. Descend by traversing left or right down the diagonal fault. Start at a short, mossy left-facing corner just up from the lowest point of the slabs and about 3m left of The Bats, The Bats. Climb a short crack just left of the corner and gain the crack above its mossy start. Follow this crack up and right to gain another hair-line crack in a pink slab. Climb the slab up and right to an overlap and follow this left to gain a short but obvious left facing corner. Climb this and the continuation crack to the next overlap, go right below it till possible to move left on to the upper slab and up to the terrace.

**Note:** I.Small and J.Clark climbed a similar line to Unleashing Hell (SMCJ 2001) but felt it deserved hard E4 6a. Follow the right-facing corner to pull out right at the roof to join Evil Spirits.

### **The Lower Slab:**

*Noddy* 35m Severe. A.Nisbet. August 2006.

An easier mossy crack-line which leads into the upper corner of Hell's Gate. Finish up the easier slab 2m right of the corner.

### **SADDLE SLABS (NJ 015 037):**

The slab consists of two sections separated by a wide flat rib between two right-slanting parallel faults. The left section is a wide open area of smooth slab. The right section is steeper low down and with a central pink streak. There are two routes on the right section in SMCJ 2001. Much of the slab is low angled and can be walked up by those used to padding on granite, although this is still fun. The routes may have been climbed before.

*Side Saddle* 120m Difficult. A.Nisbet. 5th July 2006.

Start just left of the left parallel fault. Climb a slight rib left of the fault to a crack in a bright pink streak. Climb this into a layback groove which leads to an easing. Go diagonally left across low angled smooth slabs and use a dyke to finish up a slightly steeper section. Probably slow to dry.

*Saddleback* 100m Difficult. A.Nisbet. 5th July 2006.

Climbs the flat rib between the two parallel faults. Easy angled slab gains a prominent central crack shaped as a slight S. Climb this (crux) and finish by easy padding.

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

*Crack Pot* Severe \*. A.Nisbet, K.Haldane. 22nd July 2006.

A version of the winter route on clean rock. Start up Opening Break and climb its crack-line direct to the base of the corner to join the winter route. Follow this to the final buttress climbed by a slightly different line. A start up the middle led to the same delicate left traverse, but then the arête and back right gained the top.

*Melting Pot* Hard Severe. A.Nisbet. 24th July 2006.

As for the winter line except that the middle pitch followed pleasant but scrappy blocky ground left of the diagonal fault to reach the top groove which was the crux (4b).

**Note:** On an ascent of Pot of Gold by A.Nisbet on 24th July 2006, instead of climbing the easy final chimney, moves left gained a fine crack in a slabby buttress. The route overall was thought possibly to be worth three stars on immaculate crampon cleaned rock.

**Aladdin's Buttress:**

*Witchcraft* 40m E2 5b. A.Nisbet, J.Preston. 2nd July 2006.

The slab between the Magic Crack and Damnation corner. Start from the base of Damnation corner either by a 40m abseil from the top of Magic Crack or by climbing the start of Damnation or Genie. Go out leftwards on low angled slab to reach and climb a shallow left-facing corner in the centre of the slab. Where this merges with a left-rising overlap, follow it to near Magic Crack. Reach over the overlap to a crampon scratched hold, then move back right into the centre again before climbing boldly to the overlap of the White Magic traverse into Damnation. Step left to a big ledge on Magic Crack (25m). Follow Magic Crack to its abseil point.

**Fiacail Buttress:**

*Cap in Hand* 75m IV,4. J.Lyall, A.Nisbet. 19th January 2007.

A counter diagonal to Trampled Underfoot. Start as for Rampant where a short step out of Fiacail Couloir leads to the big ledge (5m). Go left up the lower of two ramps (Rampant is the higher) to gain and climb the short corner of Trampled Underfoot. Move left to another ramp which leads left (40m). Follow this left until a short wall leads right to easier ground and the top (30m).

*Physical Graffiti* 70m V,6 \*. A.Fyffe, J.Lyall. February 2007.

A fairly direct line up the vague buttress below the big top groove of Rampant. Start on the big ledge 75m up the gully as for Rampant.

1. 35m Climb a short way up the start of Rampant, then go straight up into a V shaped niche. From the top right-facing corner of the niche, make awkward moves to exit left, then follow the fault passing the left side of a block roof to gain a ledge.
2. 35m Climb up to the foot of the main groove of Rampant and take a short chimney cutting the left wall to gain a big pinnacle. Alternatively, gain the pinnacle by the fault on its left side. From its top move up a wall to a niche below an overhang, then climb the slanting groove on its right to gain blocky ground which is followed to the ridge.

*Swan Song* 70m V,6 \*. G.Ettle, J.Lyall. 17th February 2007.

Takes a parallel line to Physical Graffiti to finish up the obvious crack in the left wall of the sharp rib on the right of Rampant. Start on the big ledge.

1. 35m Climb steeply up the fault just left of the big block as for Burning and Looting but continue straight up into a curving corner. Climb a thin crack in a slab to climb a tricky fault through a short slot to a big ledge. This is right of the block roof of the previous route.
2. 35m Take the ramp on the right, below the main groove of Rampant, then pull out right and climb the prominent crack on the left of the sharp rib.

*The Seam* Difficult. A.Nisbet. 27th July 2006.

By the winter line via Fiacail Couloir and Invernookie. An unpleasant start but the chimney was on good clean rock.

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

*Cardiac Arête* 85m HVS \*\*. J.R.Mackenzie, A.Nisbet. 13th July 2006.

The arête left of Ventricle is impressive but has good holds and protection. Start as for Ventricle.

1. 20m 5a Climb the overhanging crack of Ventricle, then move left to below the groove of Open Heart (SMCJ 2006). Continue easily left to a smaller groove (Ventriloquist).
2. 20m 5a Climb this groove for 5m, then make an impressive but easy traverse right to the upper section of Open Heart's groove. Climb this to the big sloping rock ledge. Move right to the arête.
3. 35m 5a Step round the arête into the left-hand of two shallow grooves (Ventricle climbs the right one). Climb this to near its top, then step back on to the arête. Climb immediately right of the arête, then the arête itself to a ledge. Make a move up the wall 3m left of the arête and traverse back to the arête. Go up to a bulge again passed 3m on the left followed by an immediate return to the arête. The bulge direct is 5b. Climb the arête to a ledge at the top of Ventricle's wide crack.
4. 10m 4a Finish up the wall above as for Ventricle.

**LURCHERS CRAG:**

*Drystane Ridge* 100m II. A.Nisbet. 14th January 2007.

The ridge forming the left side of the amphitheatre at the south end of the crag is pleasant but slightly artificial. The crux is at mid-height, a steep blocky section with some good flakes.

*Collie's Ridge* 120m II. A.Nisbet. 8th January 2007.

A ridge which forms the right side of the amphitheatre. The gully of Quinn joins it high up.

**SRON NA LAIRIGE:**

High on the left is a short but prominent ridge with a steep front (50m III,4), starting at the first break up on its right side. Climbed by D.Crawford, J.Lyall, D.McGimpsey, A.Nisbet on 10th January 2007.

*Neon Ridge* 120m II \*. J.Lyall, A.Nisbet, J.Preston. 20th December 2006.

A ridge left of Lairig Ridge and starting higher up. It has a steep but very helpful lower wall composed of flakes and blocks. This is right of a well defined groove which would be an alternative start. After this lower wall, follow the crest as closely as possible on flakes and blocks.

*Lairig Gully* 120m I/II. J.Lyall, A.Nisbet, J.Preston. 20th December 2006.  
A narrow gully between Neon and Lairig Ridges. Grade II when lean but banks out.

*Lairig Rib* 200m II \*. D.Crawford, J.Lyall, D.McGimpsey, A.Nisbet. 10th January 2007.  
Follow the rib which overlooks Lairig Gully throughout. Steep but helpful and quite exposed in places. The start is a bit scrappy but excellent higher up when Lairig Ridge joins.  
*Sinclair's Last Stand, Cerro Norrie Finish* 40m V,5. D.McGimpsey, D.Crawford. 9th March 2007.  
Climbs the thin groove avoided by the normal route to reach the ridge. This was a thinly iced and poorly protected groove containing a bizarre snow mushroom.

*Braer Rabbit* 130m IV,4. J.Lyall, A.Nisbet, J.Preston. 20th December 2006.  
The ridge right of Gormless. Start up and right from the base of the ridge and climb a steep groove for 25m before moving left to the crest (45m). Continue more easily up the crest to the plateau (50m, 35m).

#### **GLEANN EINICH, Fan Corrie:**

*Nig* III. J.Lyall, D.McGimpsey, A.Nisbet. 15th November 2006.  
By the summer route.

*Nog* II. J.Lyall, D.McGimpsey, A.Nisbet. 15th November 2006.  
An easier route just left of the summer line. From near the pinnacle, an easier descent to the south was made rather than the probable summer descent to the north.

*Fan Rib* III. J.Lyall, D.McGimpsey, A.Nisbet. 15th November 2006.  
The route, which starts much lower than Nig and Nog, had some thin moves near the start, then easier.

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

*Gooley Rib* 150m III. J.Lyall, D.McGimpsey, A.Nisbet. 19th November 2006.  
The right rib (Einich Rib being the central). Start on its right side and climb a shallow groove. Continue under steep walls which form the crest and gain the crest beyond them (50m). Finish up the small but well defined crest.

#### **A' Phocaid:**

*Eureka Ridge* 160m III,4. S.Allan, K.Grindrod, J.Lyall. 23rd January 2007.  
Start at the foot of the rocks just left of the deep gully and climb easily to a block below a steep wall (60m). Slant right up a groove, then move left onto a ledge. Cross the ledge before going back up to belay on the ridge (35m). Continue directly up the crest and its easier top section.

*Mixed Spice* 150m III \*. J.Lyall. 5th February 2007.  
Start 20m up Deep Pockets and climb a thinly iced open corner on the right wall to reach a ledge. Climb an icy vegetated groove on to a faint rib and follow this on thin turf to the top.

*Deep Pockets* 150m I/III. J.Lyall. 24th December 2006.  
The deep gully contains two chokestones which can be tricky to pass, or banked out to straightforward snow.

*Tangy Edge* 150m III,4 \*. H.Burns, J.Lyall. 7th March 2007.  
The rib to the left of The Sporrán. Head up rightwards into an easy amphitheatre right of Deep Pockets and go up the crest of the rocky rib in one good pitch. Follow easier ground up and left to the top.

*Pursed Lips* 150m II. J.Lyall. 5th February 2007.  
Start 10m right of Pick Pocket and follow a right-slanting fault which runs out at a rock wall after 90m. Traverse left around a rib 5m below the rock wall to gain easy slopes.

*Pouch Gully* 150m II. J.Lyall. 24th December 2006.  
Start just right of Spyglass Gully. Go up a slanting chimney, then continue up the easier gully to a possibly large cornice, which had a helpful fissure on the first ascent.

*Chili Seasoning* 150m III. J.Lyall. 5th February 2007.  
Start 10m right of Spyglass/Pouch Gullies. Slant up right to gain the crest of the rib overlooking Spyglass Gully. Climb up, keeping left of the edge, until the final tower which is climbed direct.

## NORTH EAST OUTCROPS

### **FINDON NESS, Findon Ness South:**

*The Peacemaker* 12m E1 5a \*. R.Birkett, M.Reed. 8th August 2005.

Follow the steep juggy line up the right-trending crack right of Warzone to an interesting finish.

### **Pow Kebbuck:**

*Rest in Peace* 12m E3/4 5c \*\*. R.Birkett, M.Reed. 8th August 2005.

The line left of Pow-Wow gives good sustained climbing. Climb a small left-facing corner to move right at a break. Go direct up a black wall (crux) to gain a big flat hold above. Finish direct.

### **SPORTLETHEN:**

*Power Hound Variation* 10m 8a+ \*. T.Rankin. September 2006.

A super direct variation to The Portlethen Terrier missing out all the big holds! Eliminate but superb sustained climbing. Climb the boulder problem start to The Terrier, then use only holds on the hanging ramp to the left to gain a break. Take the wall above direct on small crimps to join The Terrier at the 5th bolt; finish up this.

### **BOLTSHEUGH, Upper Right:**

*The Grand Masters Traverse* F8a/8a+, Font 7c. W.Moir. Spring 2003.

A very sustained left to right super low traverse. Start sitting below the crack of The Enemy Within. Traverse right on the lowest holds around the arete to a low flake where hard moves gain a rest at a ledge. Continue right and use a crimp block to cross a corner (no feet on low blocks in the corner) and gain a good long flat edge in another small corner. Drop very low around the next arete to good low flakes above the pool. A big move gains a flange on the lip of the roof and slopers on the lip lead to a good low triangular hold. Use the sloping lip again to cross the next corner. Super low heel hooking now leads slightly up to an obvious little slot on a faint arete and a finish up the wall and crack above.

### **Lower South:**

*Cheeky Madam* 15m 6b \*. T.Rankin. July 2006.

The line of bolts climbing out of the left side of the big cave to join Trouble Monkey at the lip. Finish up this.

*Hunchback Direct* E2 5c. N.Morrison, W.Moir. 7th July 2006.

Climb over the capping roof where the original escapes left along the slab, then take the next roof direct.

*Three Roofs* 10m E3 5c \*. T.Rankin (solo). 30th December 2006.

An exciting little solo or reasonably safe boulder problem with a mat and spotters. Climb the three roofs direct just right of the start of Trouble Monkey. Finish up the easy ramp above.

### **JOHNS HEUGH:**

*Rhythm of the Heart* 25m E4 6a \*\*. T.Rankin, A.Coull. August 2006.

The crack and groove-line right of Vein Spotting gives another excellent well protected route. Start below a short right-facing corner at 6m. Climb to the corner, surmount the roof above using a crack on the right and move up to the large break. Move slightly left and up to excellent holds below the groove. Make an awkward move up to get stood in the groove (Walnut 2 in the break above), then reach up right to good holds that lead onto a slab above. Step left and continue direct to the top left of the easy upper groove.

*Asystole* 25m E5 6a \*. T.Rankin, A.Coull. August 2006.

A wild route based on the roof and shield feature right of Rhythm of the Heart. Start below a left-trending thin crack-line right of Rhythm of the Heart. Follow the crack to a guano ledge below a roof. Cross the roof rightwards (hard) to an excellent quartz pocket and move up and slightly left to the large break. Use an undercut at the back of the roof to reach good holds over the lip (Tri-cam 1 in a quartz pocket on the lip and Quadcam 00 above). Move up slightly left, then back right to a good hidden hold above the shield (crux). Rock up right onto a slab, step left and climb a shallow groove leading to the easy upper groove. Well protected but strenuous to place at the crux.

*Spanked Roof Monkey* 25m E5 6a \*\*. T.Rankin, R.Birkett. August 2006.

A sensational line over the roof and up the wall between the two crack-lines. Climb the overhanging right arete of the cave to ledges. Follow thin cracks up the wall to a break below the roof. Use a flake in the roof to gain a good hold on the lip and pull over leftwards. Step up right to a break and junction with Jaded Ledge Lizard after it moves left. Follow Jaded up the wall to a good break where it returns right to the crack, but continue straight up the wall above to a roof. Pass the roof on the left to finish in a fine position. Very well protected steep and sustained climbing, which is low in the grade.

**DOONIE POINT (NEO p196):**

*Magical Mystery Tour* 12m E2 5b \*. P.Mather. 27th May 2006.

This takes an unusual line, providing a daft exercise in bridging. There are two arches at Doonie point. Start underneath the arch furthest inland. Climb the slabby north side of the arch to a roof, then pull up into a bridging position. Traverse the roof of the arch in an easterly direction, until forced onto the steep southern wall. Continue a rising traverse on jugs above the second arch. Well protected.

*I am the Walrus* 10m HVS 5a \*. P.Mather, R.Mather. 27th May 2006.

This is the arete to the left of Hang Fire. Start just left of Hang Fire and take a diagonal line of jugs up and left to the break on the arete. Continue directly up the arete on good holds. A good climb, similar to routes on the Back Door Wall of Newtonhill.

**COLLIESTON, The Graip:**

*The Seedless Graip Variation* 15m HVS 5a \*. R.Birkett, B.Jermieson. 29th September 2006.

Start as for Graip Vine to below its main crack. Move left along a horizontal break to gain a small roofed left-facing corner. Go up this and left to an arete through a steep grey bulge on good holds to regain and follow the original up the left arete.

*Never mix Graip and Grain* 15m Hard Severe \*. B. Jermieson, R.Birkett. 29th September 2006.

Climb the start of Bogus Corner till just past the roof on the right. Use an obvious big foothold to swing right onto the hanging arete which is followed to the top.

*Variation: Graip and Pillage* 15m VS 4b \*. R.Birkett, B.Jamieson. 29th September 2006.

Pull through the roof on the right direct using a good hold above the lip on the right. Step left to follow the arete to the top.

**GREY MARE SLABS, Southern Rocks:**

An easily accessible wall of superb pink granite essentially a continuation round the arete from the Pocket Wall. All climbed on-sight.

*Jargon* 25m VS 4c \*. T.Rankin, M.Reed. 6th August 2006.

At the right of the wall is a fine little corner. Climb this and slabs to the fault line of Ledgeway. Pull left into a hanging groove. Follow this to a ledge on the right, then step left onto a slab. Climb this trending left to a pedestal on the left edge of the wall.

*To Far for Grampa* 20m E5 6b. T.Rankin, M.Reed. 6th August 2006.

A line based on the hanging flake-crack in the wall right of Gobbledygook. Good climbing but it involves a short committing crux. Start just left of Ledgeway and climb the wall to a junction with Gobbledygook below the bulging crack. Arrange protection (good thread on the arete above), then swing right around the nose to gain the crack. Hard moves up this lead to better holds and welcome protection. Move right then back left on to the slab above. Climb this to the belay pedestal on the edge.

*Not Bad for Grandad* 15m E3 6b \*. T.Rankin, M.Reed. 6th August 2006.

Left of Gobbledygook is an innocuous hanging crack in the arete. Climb the lower wall direct to the crack. Powerful laybacking leads to an easier finish.

**LONG HAVEN QUARRIES, Scimitar Ridge, Seaward Walls:**

*High Hopes* 25m E4 6a \*\*. T.Rankin, C.Adams. 29th October 2006.

An excellent exposed pitch up the right side of the impressive arete. Abseil to the Sea-Scoop belay perch. Climb the left-hand groove as for Sea-Scoop but continue up the large flake corner to below a bulge. Undercut the bulge left to reach a good break above. Gain a standing position above the bulge (crux) and step left to a thin crack. Follow this with sustained interest to an easy finish up the upper wall.

*Comfortably Numb* 20m E8 6c \*\*\*\*. T.Rankin. 23rd April 2006.

The challenge of the overhanging south wall. Red Pointed with all gear in place. Abseil in to the spacious platform below the wall. Climb the left-hand crack directly above the platform until you can make hard moves right into the right-hand crack. Further hard and very committing moves gain the break and the more positive upper crack. A stunning line with equally stunning climbing. Generally well protected. Escape is difficult so it is probably best to abseil in from the old quarry building and leave the rope in place.

**ROSEHEARTY, Quarry Head:**

*Egg On Face* 10m E4 5c \*. T.Rankin, C.Adam. May 2006.

Climb Free Range until it moves left. Step right and climb the shallow crack-line to the top. Sustained and well protected.

### **CUMMINGSTON, Doubt Wall:**

*No Doubt about It* 10m Hard Severe. J.Preston, J.Lyall. 24th April 2006.

Climbs the wall left of the "chossy ramp". Start at the base of the chossy ramp and without setting foot on this, climb the steep wall left of the ramp, finishing on the arete in a fine position.

### **Sunshine Stack:**

A small stack in between The Stack and Sentinel Stack. It is situated 25m north of Easy Arete on Sunshine Wall. The route has almost certainly been climbed before.

*Sea Lichen* 10m Severe. S.Lynch, J.Roberts. 28th August 2006.

A seam of hard rock on the south-east face of the stack.

### **COVESEA:**

**Note:** M.Reed climbed Paul Tax on 22nd September 2006, the first ascent after its rockfall, at E5 6b. M.Reed thinks Sandanista (E2 5c) is not as sustained as the (excellent) Domino Effect but might warrant E3 also as the gear is mostly dubious cams, and hard fought at the start. The Domino Effect – finish straight up, not as for Sandanista. There are no belays above the Family Affair routes, and really nasty gorse to wade through in the vain search. Banana Republic, bordering 3 stars.

### **REDHYTHE POINT, West Head Area (NJ 573 671):**

This area is located west of Redhythe Point just beyond a line of rocks jutting out to sea (West Head). The first routes are in an inlet with a 15m high east facing wall, the Black Wall. This has two corner-lines, the right of which is Black Wall Corner. The left section of the wall beyond the left corner is of poor rock and seeps continuously. The seaward end of the wall leads round to a short steep wall dropping direct into the brine. The routes require low tide.

### **The Black Wall:**

The first route starts just right of the left-hand corner. Care is required with the rock at the top.

*Paint it Black* 15m E1 5b. P.Greene, B.Duthie. 16th May 2004.

Good sustained climbing. Climb twin cracks to a break, then move slightly left along the slanting break. Pull directly over a bulge to easier ground.

*Black Wall Corner* 15m Hard Severe. B.Duthie, P.Greene. 16th May 2004.

Step off a boulder and climb the corner direct.

*News Story* 15m VS 4c. B.Duthie, P.Greene. 16th May 2004.

Step off the boulder and climb the first obvious scoop direct. Follow the crack-line to the next scoop, climbed direct again, finishing straight up.

*The Darkness* 15m VS 4c. P.Greene, B.Duthie. 16th May 2004.

Start up News Story but traverse right out of the first scoop below a small overlap. Climb up round to the right of this.

### **Rolling Stones Buttress:**

This is the steep blocky buttress facing the Black Wall.

*The Rolling Stones* 20m E1 5b. B.Duthie, P.Greene. 30th May 2004.

This climbs the wall via hanging flakes at mid-height. Starting at the left side of the wall, climb the crack-line moving right at the sloping ledge to gain the lower flake. Layback up the flakes to good ledges leading to a big shelf at two-thirds height. Finish up an obvious corner crack.

### **Wee West Wall:**

Forty metres west of the top of Black Wall is the Logie-esque Wee West Wall, cut by the left to right slanting crack of Doon the Watter. Routes are semi-tidal.

*Ferry Cross the Mearnsy* 10m HVS 5a. P.Greene, B.Duthie. 30th May 2004.

Start at the left side of the wall beneath a right-trending crack. Climb the crack and pull over the bulge. Avoid stepping left to the arete and pull over the next bulge to finish directly.

*Doon the Watter* 10m Hard Severe. P.Greene, B.Duthie. 16th May 2004.

The central crack-line is harder than it looks.

*Abstemious* 8m E1 5b. B.Duthie, P.Greene. 30th May 2004.

Quite a bold start but difficulties ease with height. Start just left of twin cracks. Move up trending right over the bulge to a rest. Pull up moving slightly left and finish towards the highest point.

*Wide Crack* 6m Very Difficult. B.Duthie, P.Greene. 16th May 2004.  
The right-hand crack-line.

#### **The Warm up:**

This area lies around the left arete of Wee West Wall and is accessed by downclimbing a short north-west facing corner. The right wall has three short lines from left to right; the crack (Very Difficult), the corner (Difficult) and a line 2m right of the corner (Severe). The left wall has four routes from left to right; the slabby scoops (Very Difficult), the crack (Difficult), a line through a niche to a ledge and up a tiny right-facing corner (Hard Severe) and the deceptive wide crack (Severe). All routes by P.Greene and B. Duthie on 30th May 2004. Several hundred metres further west is a grassy gully with an obvious open-book corner on the right wall. There is an ancient rusty peg in-situ. An ascent on 11th May 2005 by B.Duthie and P.Greene gave a grade of HVS 5a.

#### **GLEN CLOVA, The Red Craigs, Central Crag:**

*Sunset Song* 30m E5 6b. I.Small, J.Clark. 18th September 2005.

A forceful route climbing the wall right of Empire of the Sun. Start below and right of the orange patch of rock. Climb the slab to an overlap, pull over and move left over shattered rock to gain a slabby ledge. Step right onto the impending wall and gain a flake. From its top make committing moves up and left to a small overlap. Pull out right to a short slot/crack. Final steep moves lead to a good hold from which balancy moves right allow a hanging corner to be gained. Finish up this to a ledge and large thread.

### **HIGHLAND OUTCROPS**

**Note from M.Gear:** Edge of Perfection on Carn Mhic a'Ghille-Chaim is very dirty but E1 grade is probably about right. No belay at the end of pitch 2 as described, so had to carry on an extra 15m (of very mossy and poorly protected VS climbing) to excavate an anchor. Pitch lengths become 20m, 35m, 25m and 15m. It's a great line, but given the awful state of the rock, hard to justify even one star.

#### **STRATHNAIRN, Ashie Fort:**

**Note:** Website (Highland Outcrops, p159) was first climbed by R.B.Frere around 1937. He named the crag Dun Riach. Kenny's Revenge (SMCJ 1999) was climbed by R.B.Frere on 27th July 1938, named The Big Crack and Pickpocket climbed and named as The Wall. Three other routes, now dirty, were also climbed, including a line past a block some 10m from the left end of the crag, with K.A.Robertson.

#### **INVERFARIGAIG:**

A suggested name of Dun Dearduil Crag after the hilltop forts. The other routes on the crag were repeated and confirmed as worthwhile.

*Echo Beach* 15m E1 5c. A.Tibbs, D.Moy. 30th August 2006.

Start from the belay at the top of pitch 1 of Wild Roses. Climb a wall and the short steep groove above to a tree. Finish direct.

#### **DUNTELCHAIG, Dracula Buttress:**

*Mummy* 20m E1 5b \*\*. R.Mackenzie, D.Moy. Summer 2006.

Start 15m left of Balrog. Climb a slabby arête to a small overlap. Go over this to a hollow flake (gear). Step right and up 1m to a crack. Finish directly to the top .

*BFG* 10m VS 5a. D.Moy, D.Allan. 27th July 2006.

Just right of Balrog is a left-facing corner. Climb it and into a right-facing corner.

*Puff* 9m Severe. D.Moy, D.Allan. 27th July 2006.

An arête 3m right of BFG.

*Scrag End* 9m Very Difficult. D.Moy. 20th July 2006.

Just right of Puff is a right-facing corner. Ascend this and break out left at the top.

#### **The Main Crag:**

Between Top Corner and Edir there is a 40m slab which is overhanging at the right side. At the top right of the slab Mica Slab slants up right. Hours of cleaning produced the following routes.

*Mica Direct* 35m Mild Severe. D.Williamson, H.Wyllie. June 2005.

Go up the left side of a blank slab to a steeping. Pull through on cracks and flakes and continue direct up the cracked slab to the top. Pleasant well protected climbing.

*Mica Crack* 35m Hard Severe. H.Wyllie, D.Williamson. 8th May 2006.

Start at the middle of the slab, 4m right of Mica Direct. Climb the right edge of the lower slab to the ledge below the overhang. Step left into a niche, and then follow an obvious crack-line straight up. When the angle eases, continue up right to the highest point of the upper slab.

*Dennis the Menace* 30m E2 5c \*\*. P.Macpherson (unsec). 30th April 2006.

Start at the right end of the slab below blocks under an overhang. Go easily up the slab to the blocks. Pull strenuously through the overhang to a crack which splits. Climb up to an obvious hand jam and pull over a bulge on to the upper slab. Continue more easily up the cracked slab.

#### **DIRC MHOR:**

*Bogart Corner* 55m E2 5b \*\*. H.Burrows-Smith, J.Lyall. 15th June 2006.

Start down right of Bournville below a striking grey corner which lies on the right wall. Scramble up into a rock bay.

1. 40m 5b Climb black rock at a break right of a quartz dyke and go boldly up into the corner. Follow the corner and go round a roof on the left to a ledge.
2. 15m Finish up a short wet wall and easy heather.

#### **West Flank:**

*White Tower* 45m Very Difficult. J.Lyall. 5th November 1983.

Climbs an obvious white tower beyond Schist Hot and opposite Carry on up the Khyber. Climb a crack up the front and continue to the top of a tower. Descend into a gap and climb the next tower to finish.

**Note:** This route is a good landmark for finding the top of the descent gully beside Carry on up the Khyber, as it is directly opposite this gully and easily seen.

#### **ARDVERIKIE, White Slab:**

(NN 505 852) Alt 500m North-North-West facing

The climbs located on Creag a' Chuir. To approach, cycle in past Adverikie House and strike straight uphill at two prominent clumps of rhododendrons. White Slab is close to the crest of the ridge, left of a prominent rocky ridge with a small pine tree growing at the top.

*M.O.G.* 55m Severe. N Crookston, C Prowse. 21st September 2002.

On the left-hand side of the slab, climb shallow cracks to an easier finish above.

*Hector* 55m Hard Severe 4a \*. C Prowse, S Grove. 28th September 2002.

Start 3m right of M.O.G. Climb the slab on small quartzite holds to a runner at 10m, then the easy slab above.

*Hextor* 50m Difficult. S.Grove, C.Prowse. 28th September 2002.

At the right side of the slab, climb a shallow cracked groove to a steepening at a niche and an easy slab to finish.

Behind the white slab is a shorter reddish slab, Red Slab. The four crack-lines have been climbed at around Difficult by N.Crookston, S.Grove and C.Prowse.

Fifty metres to the left of Red Slab is a narrow whaleback slab.

*She Likes Eels* 20m VS 4b \*. S.Grove, C.Prowse. 28th September 2002.

Climb the whaleback slab to a bulge. Pull over this boldly and continue to the top.

At the east end of the hill two prominent crags sit not far above tree level. The right-hand crag has a slabby left-hand side and an arête with a prominent groove on the right-hand side.

*Lexie* 25m Hard Severe 4a \*\*. C.Prowse, S.Grove. 29th September 2002.

Climb up the left-hand side of the slab to runners at 10m. Traverse hard right across a hanging slab to gain the groove in the arête. Finish up the groove.

The left-hand crag has a slabby front face and a pile of boulders on its right-hand side.

*Gardeners Question Time* 25m Severe. S.Grove, C.Prowse. 29th September 2002.

Start at the left-hand side of the crag. Climb up the slab and traverse left along heathery ledges until below a prominent flake. Gain the top of the flake by good moves. Traverse right and up the slab to finish. Better than it sounds, should improve with more cleaning.

### **CRAIG A' BARNES, Upper Cave Crag:**

*Ching* F8a \*\*. G.Lennox (Second ascent by T.Rankin). 3rd April 2006.

A new sport route between Silk Purse and Marlina. Follow Silk Purse to the second bolt, then move out left to new bolts and take a direct route cutting through the horizontal break of Marlina to rejoin Silk Purse half-way up the left-slanting diagonal crack (points will be deducted for traversing to the resting jugs on Silk Purse).

### **GLEN LEDNOCK, Low Wall:**

*Brokeback Mounting* 12m E1 6a \*. A.Fulton, A.Inglis. 30th April 2006.

Start on top of a small boulder, below a groove with twin cracks, midway between the original and direct start to Sultans of Swing. Make a bouldery start on a left-hand sidepull and reach for a high left-hand layaway. Follow the groove directly to the top, crossing over Sultans of Swing. RPs can be placed from the ground to avoid spinal injury on the boulder below.

## **BEN NEVIS, AONACHS, CREAG MEAGHAIDH**

### **BEN NEVIS, Little Brenva Face:**

*Wall of the Winds* 320m VI,5. S.M.Richardson, I.Small. 27th January 2007.

A major line up the previously unclimbed headwall right of Super G. Climbed on ice.

1. to 4. 180m Start as for Slalom and climb straight up the vague rib on moderate mixed ground to the foot of the headwall.
5. 20m The foot of the wall is undercut, but 25m right of the Super G icefall, a short blocky ramp leads onto the wall. Climb the ramp, traverse right for 10m and climb a steep groove to reach a snow bay.
6. 40m Traverse up and right for 20m to reach the left-facing corner system that cuts through the wall. Move right to belay in a large niche.
7. 30m Continue up the corner to reach a large vertical square-cut corner.
8. 50m Climb the left wall of the corner and continue up the corner-line to reach the plateau at the same point as Super G.

### **Indicator Wall:**

*Ship of Fools* 150m VIII,7. S.M.Richardson, I.Small. 1st April 2007.

An outstanding icy mixed climb taking the steep pillar between Riders on the Storm and Albatross. The route uses the narrow sinuous groove just right of Riders on the Storm to bypass the huge overhang defending the lower pillar, and then continues up the crest.

1. 30m Start directly below the pillar and climb a discontinuous icy groove up the crest of a broad rib to belay below the steep lower section of the pillar.
2. 30m Move up the hanging slab right of Riders on the Storm. Climb this on thin ice and pull over an overlap (crux) and climb a second slab to a foothold ledge. Continue up the narrow groove right of Riders on the Storm to its top. Move right for 3m above the overhang along an exposed break and belay at the foot of the upper pillar. A demanding and serious pitch climbed on very thin ice.
3. 60m Climb a steep break in the centre of the wall above and move up then right to the edge of the pillar overlooking the depression of Albatross on the right. Move left along a horizontal crack for 2m then pull onto a thinly iced slab above topped by a roof. Pull through the roof onto a second thinly iced slab and climb this to easier ground. Continue up the crest of the buttress via a short steep gully section and belay at the foot of the final icefall of Le Nid d'Aigle. Another difficult pitch.
4. 30m Climb an icy fault diverging left from the icefall for 10m, then step left onto the sharp front arête of the buttress. Climb this on ice in a sensational position to reach the upper ice slopes. Follow these easily to the top.

*Arctic Tern* 140m VII,5. S.M.Richardson, I.Small. 25th March 2007.

A good thin face route based on the icy grooves cutting into the left side of the pillar between Riders on the Storm and Albatross.

1. 30m Start as for the Left-Hand Start to Albatross and climb straight up icy slabs to belay in the steep V-corner 5m left of the twinned groove of Albatross.
2. 45m Step left and climb a steep ice runnel to exit at the top of the slab of Fascist Groove, and continue up an easier groove for 10m. The left wall is cut by a thinly iced, stepped groove-line. Delicately climb this for 20m then continue up the crest of the rib to reach the traverse line of Flight of the Condor.

3. 45m Step right and climb a 5m icy chimney to reach an open left-facing groove. Follow this for 20m and step right onto the blunt rib between the exit gullies of Nid d'Aigle and Riders on the Storm. Climb the rib until below a final steepening.
4. 20m Climb ice on the right edge of the steepening and finish up a short snow slope to the top.

*Rhyme of the Ancient Mariner Direct Start* 90m VII,7. I.Parnell, V.Scott. 24th March 2007.

A more direct start to Rhyme of the Ancient Mariner. Start just left of Stormy Petrel (the original attempt on Rhyme also started up here).

1. 50m Climb icy slabs just left of Stormy Petrel for 30m to a steep rock prow. Arrange gear in a crack on a right-facing wall, then descend slightly and climb an obvious steep corner-groove. From the top of this, step left onto a hanging icy slab and traverse this leftwards to gain ice leading to an obvious hanging icicle. Belay below and right of the hanging icicle.
2. 40m Steep mixed moves up an overhanging groove gain the icicle (good small to medium cams in a crack at the back of the groove). Pull over on ice to join Rhyme and follow icy grooves above to the base of the headwall.
3. Break through the headwall as for Rhyme.

#### **Gardylloo Buttress:**

*Close to the Edge* 100m IV,4 \*. R.Hamilton, S.Kennedy. 3rd February 2007.

Takes a line close to the true north-west edge/arête of the buttress. Right Edge follows a line further to the right. Requires a good build-up of ice. Start almost directly below the edge at the lowest rocks. Follow a narrow left-trending groove just right of the edge. From the top of the groove move right then back leftwards onto a slab. Climb the slab to a small bulge close to the edge which leads to another icy slab trending rightwards to below a cracked wall. Move left under the wall then up to a small overlap with an icicle fringe. The overlap leads leftwards to a snow shelf which leads left to an exposed belay on the edge below a rock wall (50m). Step right onto the icy upper slab below a right-trending overlap. Climb the slab over a bulge, then trend right to easier ground (30m). Easy snow slopes lead to the cornice (20m).

**Note from R.Webb:** The guide should say that Murphy's Variation to Kellett's Route starts midway between Kellett's and Smith's beneath a groove and climbs direct to the icicle fringe, then pulls through the fringe to join Smith's at the end of its second pitch.

#### **Raeburn's Wall:**

*Life on Mars* 100m VI,6. D.McGimpsey, A.Nisbet. 2nd April 2007.

A large iced hanging slab right of The Upper Cascade. Climb steep ice to an alcove underneath the the roof (two spike runners). Step right on to a bottomless ice pillar which leads on to the hanging slab. Climb this (50m). Continue up the groove above to the cornice; on this occasion the first break was about 30m left.

*Chiquita* 100m VI,5. D.McGimpsey, A.Nisbet. 31st March 2007.

A thinner icefall left of Adieu and Farewell (shown as an unclimbed white stripe on the diagram on p126-127, Ben Nevis guide). The icefall started up an inset slab under a left curving overlap. The overlap was crossed by moving left and back right to gain the thicker upper section which flowed out of a banana shaped groove curving right. A direct line led to a fortunate weakness in the cornice.

#### **The Comb:**

*Isami* 130m VIII,8. D.McLeod, H.Manome, K.Yokoyama. March 2006.

Climb the first pitch of The Good Groove. Instead of heading up the right-slanting ramp, step left and up (onto Comb Left Flank for a move) and then back right to gain a higher right-slanting ramp. Climb a steep corner above (good gear) and take a belay above this at the foot of the next right-slanting ramp (40m). Move along this into the right-hand of two short but blank looking overhanging corners. Climb the corner with good gear initially to a strenuous and bold finish (good belay on the slabby arête above, 30m). Step right into a deep groove and climb it to the knife edge finishing ridge of the buttress (30m).

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

*Unleashed* 170m VII,6 \*\*\*. M."Ed" Edwards, A.Nisbet. 23rd March 2007.

A line up the left side of the large ice sheet which is climbed less directly by Vulture.

1. 50m Start as for Vulture (Aphrodite) to a rock outcrop below the left side of the overhangs which block access to the ice sheet.
2. 40m Climb a right-slanting weakness through steep ice left of the outcrop. This is as for Vulture, but then continue straight up to a point 6m from the left end of the overhangs.
3. 35m Pull through the left end of the overhangs (crucial there is enough ice here) and climb the left side of the ice sheet to where a ramp leads off left.
4. 25m Go left up the ramp and leave it by steep thin ice above, then snow to a rock outcrop.
5. 20m The finish was direct but very steep to a small cornice.

*Knuckleduster* 120m VIII,9 \*\*\* B.Fyffe, S.Ashworth. 12th February 2007.

A winter ascent of the summer route. The summer route was followed except on pitch three where instead of traversing back into the main groove, smaller grooves in the arête were climbed (this may be part of Last Stand). The route was sustained with the second pitch being the crux.

*Curly's Arête* 175m VIII,8. S.Isaac, I.Parnell. 8th March 2007.

A committing and sustained line based on Last Stand.

1. 15m From the foot of the big Knuckleduster groove, head diagonally up right to below deep cracks in a slab in the arête.
2. 35m Follow the deep cracks to a ledge beneath the steepest section of the arête. A thin traverse right gains a ledge on the right side of the arête. Boldly traverse diagonally up right to a junction with Sioux Wall. Make one move up Sioux Wall and then traverse back left to a short crack just before the arête. Very committing climbing leads up and left to a belay on the arête itself.
3. 40m The groove above leads to a steepening below which a serious pull right gains another right-angled groove. Follow this until below the capping bulges where a traverse line leads 6m right to a belay on Sioux Wall.
4. 30m Follow the direct finish to Sioux Wall to the platform of Number Three Gully Buttress.
5. 55m Follow Number Three Gully Buttress to the summit plateau.

**Note:** An ascent of Sioux Wall including the upper pitches by F.Wilkinson and R.Zalokar on 1st March 2007.

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

*Salva Mea* 90m VIII,8. V.Scott, D.Bojko. 1st March 2007.

Gains, climbs and leaves the obvious left-slanting hanging chimney just left of the icicle on South Sea Bubble. A serious route on blind and brittle rock.

1. 30m Start just right of directly below the hanging chimney. Climb up and leftwards to gain a broad easy groove. This leads to the base of a steep right-facing corner/ramp with a steep smooth left wall. Climb this corner on good turf into the chimney. Much of this ground is shared with South Sea Bubble.
2. 60m Climb the wildly leaning chimney to its top. Move up to beneath an obvious slot and pull steeply through this to gain a steep groove above. From the groove climb up and leftwards to gain steep blocky ground (possible belay) which leads (moving rightwards) to the snowslope and cornice. A serious pitch with very little and poor gear on blind shattered rock.

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

*Wall Street* 120m VII,7. R.G.Webb, S.M.Richardson. 23rd March 2007.

The ramp and groove right of South Sea Bubble. The second pitch is steep and not well protected, but overall the route is low in the grade.

1. 30m Climb South Gully as for South Sea Bubble.
2. 20m Climb mixed ground just right of the entry gully of South Sea Bubble to gain the ramp. Follow this up and right to the foot of the steep corner.
3. 30m Climb the corner (1 rest) to reach a tongue of ice that leads to a stance by a large block overlooking South Gully.
4. 40m Continue up the crest of the buttress above on thinly iced slabs and finish up snow to the cornice.

*Fore "n" Daft* 120m IV,4. J.Lyall, S.Frazer, M.Twomey. 10th March 2003.

The shallow icy chimney right of Fore Play leads to a ledge, then a left-slanting fault is followed to belay on Four Play. Go back right onto the edge and up by a short wall and crack to the easier upper slopes.

**Note:** This would seem to be the same as a line climbed by S.M.Richardson, R.G.Webb, 23rd March 2007.

*The Girdle Traverse* 4000m V,4. S.M.Richardson, B.Davison. 21st April 2006.

A right to left girdle traverse from Castle Ridge to North-East Buttress. Loosely based on Bell's summer Girdle Traverse, but climbed in the opposite direction to minimise the amount of direct sun on the route. Climb North Castle Gully to gain the top of Castle Ridge, head over The Castle, then move down across mixed ground into Castle Corrie. Climb the upper section of Ledge Route, cross the Trident Buttresses, descend Number Four Gully, climb North Gully, and traverse across Creag Coire na Ciste into Number Three Gully. Climb Thompson's Route, descend Number Three Gully Buttress, climb Green Gully and descend Hesperides Ledge. Traverse across Comb Gully Buttress, move along the first part of Raeburn's Easy Route and continue left into Glover's Chimney. Drop down from the Gap into Observatory Gully and head off under Indicator Wall and across Observatory Buttress and enter Point Five Gully above the Rogue Pitch. Exit Point Five via the Left-Hand Finish, continue across Hadrian's Wall, Observatory Ridge and Zero Gully to finish up Slav Route and reach the crest of North-East Buttress.

#### **AONACH MOR, Coire an Lochain, North-East Face:**

*South Pole* 60m IV,5. D.McGimpsey, A.Nisbet. 16th January 2007.

An icefall in the centre of the leftmost buttress, left of Sprint Gully. Start below the right side of an inverted-V recess capped by a very steep groove. Climb up into the recess, then pull over its right wall on ice. Continue up the icefall (40m). A short step gains the easier upper crest (20m). Either continue to the plateau (often no cornice here) or descend to the south for another route.

*Sixty Metre Dash* 60m III,4. A.Nisbet. 18th February 2007.

A parallel line, more of a right-facing corner, 10m left of Sprint Gully. Climb to a barrier overhang, pass it on the right on ice overlooking Sprint Gully, then continue up and left on increasingly easy ground to open slopes. Finish as for South Pole (not included in length).

*Ribbing Corner* 100m IV,4. D.McGimpsey, A.Nisbet. 16th January 2007.

Right of Ribbon on Edge is a steep gully curving right. Next right is a steep ice-filled corner which leads direct to the top of the gully. Climb the corner and continue to below a chimney (40m). Move right and climb steep snow to the top.

*Two Queens* 70m IV,5 \*. D.McGimpsey, A.Nisbet. 16th January 2007.

Start 5m left of Three Kings. Climb a steep groove, then an easier corner leading into a shallow gully. Climb the gully (50m). Climb a short wall and the upper slope (20m).

*Whitecap Gully* 80m IV,5. M."Ed" Edwards, A.Nisbet, C.Plant. 18th February 2007.

The gully left of Back Street Boogie, often topped by huge cornice. Start at the short gully below Back Street Boogie but climb leftwards on ice close under the buttress to join an easier line which comes up from the left (this may have been climbed by R.Payne and partner who then finished as for Sideline). Continue up the combined gully line to the cornice, which on this occasion was climbed by chimneying an overhanging fracture line which separated the snow arête on the left from the main cornice.

#### **Ribbed Walls:**

*Man Friday* 90m III,4. A.Nisbet. 23rd February 2007.

The gully right of Pernille is mostly easy but has a short steep ice pitch. There were footsteps already in it (and finishing!), so this was not the first ascent.

*Castaway* 90m II. A.Nisbet. 23rd February 2007.

Start 10m right of Pernille. Climb an iced groove into a bay on the right. Continue on ice above the bay, then move left to finish through the cornice as for the above gully (actually as for Pernille).

*Muppet Show* 90m III. M.Green, A.Nisbet, E.Wardle. 3rd February 2007.

A line up the centre of the often heavily corniced area right of Pernille. Start about 20m right of Pernille and climb to below a wide rectangular ice-filled gully. This led to a big cornice so go diagonally right into a smaller runnel of ice which led to the upper slopes and a rock outcrop. The finish on the right was 10m of 80 degree snow (a noteworthy crux) topped by a short overhanging ice wall.

*Hidden Pinnacle Gully* 70m III. S.M.Richardson, R.G.Webb. 4th February 2007.

The right half of the Ribbed Walls is defined by four large towers. This route takes the gully defining the left edge of this section. Climb the gully to where it narrows and climb ice past the hidden pinnacle to where the angle eases. Continue up the wide upper gully and pass the cornice on the right.

*Unnamed* 70m IV,5. S.M.Richardson, R.G.Webb. 4th February 2007.

The right edge of Hidden Pinnacle Gully finishing up the hanging chimney on the left side of the fourth tower.

1. 40m Climb the edge and move up to a snow-field. Continue up this to a wide overhanging slot. Climb this (crux) to belay below the headwall of the fourth tower.
2. 30m Move up and right to enter the chimney. Climb it and surmount the cornice on the left.

#### **Twins Area:**

On an ascent of Lost Boys, A.Nisbet climbed straight up a line of shallow icy grooves about 8m right of Right Twin. This may have been more direct than the previous complex description. The following route was then climbed up a central line of ice.

*White Noise* 100m IV,5. A.Nisbet. 23rd February 2007.

Start just right of Lost Boys. Climb to the barrier wall where the ice was too steep and thin in the thawing conditions. Move steeply out left on mixed ground and traverse back right to the ice immediately above the steep section. Continue on easier ice to a steeper mixed section which led to the upper slopes. An arête on the left finished with no cornice (same finish as used for Lost Boys).

*White Bait* 100m IV,5. M."Ed" Edwards, D.McGimpsey. 5th February 2007.

Climbs the right-hand side of the icy wall containing The Lost Boys. Start just left of the lowest rocks, approx. 20m right of Right Twin.

1. 40m Climb a short ice groove, then up and right into an icy bay. Follow this up and left to its top, then gain a narrow ledge on the right and break out through steep walls to a ledge.
2. 30m Continue up then move right into a large snowy bay. Climb up the left side to the top of the bay.
3. 30m Exit the bay and continue out left, then straight up to the cornice.

#### **AONACH BEAG, West Face:**

*Stalking Horse* VI,7. D.Hollinger, A.Turner. 18th January 2007.

Follow the summer line. A very good main pitch was split under the overhang. The wide crack was the crux, involving successive can opener moves. The moves around the overhang were exciting but a helpful crack on the left wall provided good hooks.

#### **An Aghaidh Garbh, Summit Buttress:**

*Close Encounters* 65m IV,5 \*\*. R.Hamilton, S.Kennedy. 18th February 2007.

The steep open slopes to the right (north) of the "Goblet" buttress lead to a small steep buttress which is two tiered and usually crowned by large summit cornices. The buttress is bounded on the left by a small amphitheatre overhung by huge cornices and a further buttress to the left again. To the right, straightforward snow slopes lead to the top section of the North-East Ridge. This route takes a line of icy grooves left of centre. Start left of the toe of the buttress and climb an icy slab to a snow slope and a slabby wall. Climb the wall on the left to a snow bay then the steep groove above to a snow terrace. From the terrace an icy ramp leads up leftwards to the base of a V-shaped groove. Follow the groove to the top of the buttress (50m). Steep snow leads to a problematic cornice finish not far from the summit cairn (15m). The ascent was notable due to the leader taking a 20m peel from the cornice (unscathed).

#### **STOB COIRE AN LAOIGH:**

*Some Like it Hot* 70m VII,7 \*\*\*. M."Ed" Edwards, D.McGimpsey, A.Nisbet. 13th February 2007.

Climbs a right-facing corner in the steep wall between Jammy Dodger and Serve Chilled. A fine line, steep and sustained. Start about halfway along the wall, below and just right of the corner, which starts 20m up.

1. 25m Climb over a short wall into a roofed V-groove. Pull out left from the groove and step back right on to a "diving board" above its roof. Climb a steep wall above to turf. An earlier attempt climbed direct to the base of the corner, but this ascent stepped right, moved up and returned left to below the corner.
2. 45m Climb the corner!

*White Heat* 65m VI,7 \*. M."Ed" Edwards, J.Edwards-Lihocka, A.Nisbet. 20th March 2007.

Based on the opposing left-facing corner right of Some Like it Hot but forced out on to its sensational right arête. Start as for Some Like it Hot.

1. 15m Climb into its roofed groove but pull out right on to blocks. Climb a shallow groove on the right to below the corner.
2. 30m Climb the corner to a block pinnacle below overhangs. Stand on the pinnacle and step out right, then move up to a small platform on the arête. Climb blocks and cracks mostly just left of the arête to a ledge below a roof.
3. 20m Move right into the finishing groove of Serve Chilled. Go up this for 10m but move left and finish up the rib on the left.

#### **CENTRAL HIGHLANDS, Carn Liath, Coire Dubh:**

*Stormrunner* 100m II. S.M.Richardson. 3rd December 2006.

The corrie is ringed by a frieze of schist crags. The most prominent line is the central buttress that descends furthest into the corrie. Start below the left edge of the buttress and climb a short ramp that leads up to the right edge. Follow this to a short easing at half-height, then continue up mixed ground to the top.

### **GLEN COE**

#### **BUACHAILLE ETIVE MOR, Eagle Buttress:**

**Note:** Raptor was climbed by D.McGimpsey and A.Nisbet, grade HVS 4c, 5a \*\*. A star less than Pontoon, climbed that day and an excellent route.

#### **Curved Ridge Area:**

*Cracked Rib* 150m II/III. D.Bell, R.McGibbon. 18th March 2006.

Probably climbed before but worth documenting for crowd-avoidance. Go up Easy Gully to where it splits (the left fork is often used to bypass the steep start of Curved Ridge). Head instead onto the rib. After 50m the rib becomes a deep runnel leading to a cave. Exit on the right (or tunnel). Go left onto the obvious rib for another long pitch to rejoin Curved Ridge.

#### **CHURCH DOOR BUTTRESS:**

*Templer Knights* 150m VII,8 \*\*. I.Small, B.Fyffe. January 2007.

A fine direct line following the crest of the buttress and cutting across West Chimney. Start just to the left of the toe of the buttress.

1. 20m Climb a wide crack, sometimes on the wall to the left of the crack to a terrace. Belay on the right below an obvious groove.
2. 40m Climb the groove to a steep exit. Continue up easier ground to beside a hole/cave. Flake Route comes in around here.
3. 50m Continue up moderate ground to belay by the boulder (above the Arch) on West Chimney route.
4. 40m Climb a steep groove in the arête just behind the boulder to a shelf. From the left end of the shelf, climb up a groove to step right at a spike to another groove. Follow this to a chimney-groove. Climb this to easier ground.

#### **AONACH DUBH, Far Eastern Buttress:**

*Fraoch* 60m V,7. J.Abbott, V.Scott. 30th December 2003.

A winter line in the vicinity of Buckshee Groove. Start just right of the bottom left arête of the crag.

1. 25m Pull over the undercut base of the crag onto a slab. Make a thin rightwards-rising traverse beneath the overlap and swing round a projecting nose (crux) to gain the base of an obvious groove. Climb this to its top.
2. 20m Go up and right to gain a good ledge. Follow this rightwards until overlooking a chimney. Climb steep heathery rock on the arête and a wall above to a large platform.
3. 15m The short obvious corner behind the platform leads to snow slopes.

#### **AN T-SRON, East Face:**

*Perilous Journey* 48m E1 5b. R.Hamilton, S.Kennedy. 25th July 2006.

Situated a short distance right of Cornerstone (see SMCJ 2005, p369). Good in the lower part but the easier arête is a bit dirty although much easier. The base of the arête is severely undercut by a large overhang which is topped by a slab. A crack springs up from the right end of the overhang. Climb the crack for 5m. Place gear then step left onto the slab and make exposed moves across the slab to reach the left edge. Step left around the edge then climb the arête fairly directly to the top.

*Petite Arête* 85m II. R.Hamilton, S.Kennedy. 21st January 2007.

Climbs the most prominent ridge on the right side of the upper east corrie (opposite Hidden Gully) starting just right of a narrow gully. This is the corrie to the right of Daytripper Slab and at a higher level. Broad in the lower section with an airy upper ridge. From the base the ridge climb left of centre before moving back right below a slabby wall. Climb a groove on the right to a block belay (40m). Finish directly up the narrow rocky ridge to reach open ground below the summit ridge (45m). Useful when the higher routes are affected by heavy snowfall.

#### **GARBH BHEINN (ARDGOUR):**

The following route probably shares part of Bodkin or Poniard at the start, then climbs through the overhangs between the two (it has also been suggested that Bodkin and Poniard may share a start!).

*Jambia* 80m E2 \*. J.Cox, A.Brown. 15th May 2005.

1. 40m 5b A line through the overhangs between Bodkin and Mournblade, starting at the second shallow groove right of Butterknife. Climb straight up until a tricky move left gains a small ramp. Move back right towards the overhangs and across to a prominent block on the lip. From this pull up and left through the roof on small hidden incuts (crux) to gain a shallow groove and easy ground.
2. 40m Scramble to the terrace.

#### **Great Ridge:**

*Blood of the Son* 180m (to base of Great Ridge) IV,5 \*. S.Kennedy, A.MacDonald. 9th April 2006.

Basically a variation start to Great Ridge situated on the slabby buttress a short distance left of Great Gully with one short hard section. Some sections correspond with one of the original summer starts but the route described is fairly direct and when combined with Great Ridge results in a more sustained route overall. About 40m left of the foot of GG is a narrow rightward-slanting rake. This should not be mistaken for the more obvious diagonal line above which seems to be the line of one of the summer starts. Follow the rake until it peters out close to the edge of GG. Climb snow slopes on the left to below a short, slabby rock wall. Surmount the wall awkwardly (crux) then climb a groove above. This leads to the obvious left-facing corner/groove on the left which is followed to easy ground just left of the base of Great Ridge.

#### **ARDNAMURCHAN,**

##### **Notes from M.Gear:**

Achnaha Buttress: Wheest! - Perhaps E3?

Sgurr nan Gabhar: agree with previous SMCJ, Solar Wind does not appear to exist.

Meall an Fhir-eoin Beag: Yir - reference to starting up Minky looks daft.

Meall an Fhir-eoin, Summit Buttresses: Ring of Fire is only 30m. There is a fragile looking flake on the hand traverse which may not survive much more handling!

## SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS

### BEINN AN DOTHaidH, North-East Corrie:

*Sleipnir* III,5. S.Burns, D.Crawford, G.Gray. 21st January 2007.

The gully line to the left of Thor gives an alternative start to Stairway to Heaven. Climb the gully (60m) in two pitches passing several chockstones to gain the ridge of Stairway to Heaven. Finish up this route.

**Note:** Thor (SMCJ 2006) should be IV,6.

### BEINN DORAIN:

*Due South* 150m IV,4. T.Lenehan, A.Ogilvie. 5th January 1997.

The route follows the largest of a group of icefalls which form on the south facing aspect of Ben Dorain above the Auch Glen at NN 331 381. An easy pitch leads to the base of an open corner iced in the angle (20m). Climb the icy corner (40m). An easy terrace leads to the base of a long groove line. Follow the groove line (90m Grade II) onto open slopes close to the Meall Garbh to Ben Dorain col.

### BEINN UDLAIDH:

*Screw Loose* 90m IV,4. R.McGibbon, D.Bell. 8th March 2005.

Starts in the bay immediately to the left of Quartzvein Scoop. Follow a steep corner on the left side of the bay, which then leads to a steep wall followed by easier ground. This is between Tick Tock (SMCJ 2001) and Quartzvein Scoop.

### BEINN IME:

**Note:** Friday the Twelfth (guide p210) has been re-named Thursday the Twelfth by the FAists.

### SUB STATION CRAG:

**C.Moody notes:** A hold that 'appeared' on White Meter in the 90s has been filled with cement.

## LOWLAND OUTCROPS

### BEN A'N:

**Note:** In Tom Weir's book, *Highland Days*, there is a description of a fall on the third ascent of a route just left of The Last Eighty. The route was first climbed by L.Lovat probably in 1968 and D.Stewart wonders if this was the route Coriander, predating the current first ascent.

### AYRSHIRE, The Quadrocks:

*Sweepstake* 12m E1 5a. K.Shields (solo). February 2007.

Take the direct line up the face to the left of Vee Groove. Slopey holds but good climbing. Beware loose rock on first moves.

*Numbers Game* 10m E2 6a. K.Shields (solo). 27th March 2007.

Start to the left of Vee Groove on top of the boulder. Head directly up the overhang (beware loose blocks). Small holds at first easing towards the top.

*V For Vendetta* 14m E1 5b. K.Shields (solo). 31st March 2007.

Climb the face immediately to the right of Vee Groove, with sketchy moves to good protection at half-height.

*Lichen Angel* 10m E1 5b. A.Mallinson. 16th September 2006.

A direct line taking the shallow groove and crack-line 3m left of Big Corner. Ascend the initial shallow groove on small flakes to an undercling. Make difficult moves to continue up the groove, then follow the crack to the top. Led on-sight.

*The Dark Side* 10m E4 6a. K.Shields (solo). 19th December 2006.

Climb the face between Big Corner and The Arête, without using either of these routes for bridging etc.

*Absence of Hope* 9m E3 6c. K.Shields. 16th September 2006.

At the far right of main crag face, between The Fatal Kiss and an arête. Climb this line direct, committing, protectionless and with potential for a very bad landing.

*End of the Line* 10m E2 6a. K.Shields (solo). February 2007.

From the corner at the bottom of the end of The Traverse, take the direct line up obvious pinches and smears, then direct up the slabby face to finish as The Traverse.

*Point Proven* 10m E3 6b. K.Shields. 26th July 2006.

Start at the bottom of the large boulder below The Traverse Finish. Bridge off this and move left. Climb to the good rest and place the only bit of available pro. Make a tricky layback right, then continue up technical climbing. Committing.

*The Calling* 10m E2 6b. K.Shields. 26th July 2006.

At the left edge of Sunburst Red, climb the lower face to gain the boulder arête. Bridge left to place gear in a crack. Gain the top of a boulder and climb the tricky and committing left face.

*Spite yer Face* 10m HVS 4c. A.McDonald. 25th July 2006.

Takes the direct line The Nose should take. Immediately below the overhanging broken arête, climb by jamming an open flake (very loose!) and finish up the hanging crack above. Protection is limited due to the loose nature of the rock and may improve with traffic and bring down the grade a little.

*G-Funk* 8m E2 5b. A.McDonald. 25th July 2006.

Slightly up and right of Sunburst Red is a small buttress with a prominent break at half-height. The route climbs the black crack straight up on good holds but sparse protection to the break. Small brushed holds and zero gear take you through an exhilarating finish.

### **GALLOWAY HILLS, DUNGEON OF BUCHAN:**

*Jailhouse Rock* 45m HVS \*\*. A.Fraser, I.Magill. June 2005.

At the top of the crag and 100m right of Cooran Gully is a triangular wall, highest at its left side where a prominent crack slopes left up a headwall. The headwall is visible from the top of Cooran Buttress and the climb is best accessed by a straightforward abseil from its top. Start at the lowest point. Climb a boulder, then a tricky bulge above, followed by a delicate toe traverse left into a ledge in the corner. Climb the corner to a cracked bulge (possible belay – 20m 4c). Surmount the bulge, then follow cracks to the top. These give sustained and delicate bridging in a great position (25m 5a).

### **CRAIGNAW, Memorial Crag:**

(NX 458 833) Alt 600m West facing:

This small crag of impeccably clean granite sits immediately below the summit of Craignaw and overlooks Loch Neldricken. Just below the crag is a memorial to two US Airforce pilots who were killed in a plane crash there in 1979. On a sunny day it is an idyllic spot with wonderful views. It is, however, also a long way from anywhere and can be approached (by the ultra enthusiastic) either as for the Dungeon of Buchan, or from Glen Trool (2hrs 30mins minimum). However, from a campsite on the shore on Loch Neldricken, the crag could be easily reached in 30mins. Although the routes are short, a double rack of Cams up to size 4 should be considered the minimum, whilst wires are of little use.

### **Main Wall:**

Main Wall is very steep, and home to some of the hardest routes in the Galloway Hills. At the left end of Main Wall are easy angled slabs leading to a grass ledge below a steep headwall.

*Mij's Slab* 10m Difficult. J.Biggar. 2nd June 2006.

The slab can be climbed anywhere to a walk off left, or continue up Mij's Chimney on the left which is steep to start (8m Very Difficult). This was descended immediately beforehand (solo) by Mij the Border Terrier (in full control) much to the astonishment of the rest of the party! Mij's Chimney added by S.J.H.Reid, J.Biggar, 15th June 2006.

Just left of centre of Main Wall is an obvious slightly left-slanting crack system.

*Captains' Crack* 22m E1 5b \*\*. S.J.H.Reid, J.Biggar, L.Biggar, S.Baxendale. 1st June 2006.

Steep and strenuous, but juggy, and well protected with Cams. Follow the crack system to awkward moves to overcome a bulge and gain a grass ledge. Move up to a smaller grass ledge on the right and finish up the left-slanting cracks above.

*Memorial Wall* 22m E2 5c \*\*\*. C.King, S.J.H.Reid. 15th June 2006.

Excellent steep, strenuous and well-protected climbing up the centre of the wall. Start in the centre of the wall, just left of Dynamics Direct. Climb a short layaway crack and swing left to a flat jug. Climb up slightly leftwards to an illusory rest and then make hard up rightwards to grab a hollow horizontal spike and gain a narrow ledge. The short wall and crack above hold interest to the last.

*Aerial Combat* 22m E1 5b \*\*. C.King, J.Biggar, S.J.H.Reid. 15th June 2006.

Another fine well protected wall climb. The next obvious feature, some 5m to the right, is a short left-facing groove that leads at 4m to a long, almost horizontal, crack leading rightwards. Climb the groove and gain the ledge at the start

of the horizontal flake, then climb up leftwards via hollow flakes to a block. Move left and climb the wall above trending rightwards to a hard finishing move.

*General Dynamics* 25m E1 5b \*\*. J.Biggar, L.Biggar, S.J.H.Reid. 1st June 2006.

A great route, mainly HVS but with a puzzling and reachy crux. Start as for Aerial Combat. Climb the groove and hand traverse the crack rightwards with a long thin reach to gain a good hold on a block. Commit to this to make a wild swing right into a shallow groove up which the climb finishes.

Towards the right side of Main Wall are two grooves capped by overhangs.

*The Murder Hole* 14m E2 6a \*. C.King, S.J.H.Reid. 15th June 2006.

The left-hand groove gives a very sustained and technical route. Climb the groove up to the roof and make tenuous moves up and leftwards to finish up the last few moves of General Dynamics. Hard for the grade.

*Granny Eggface* 12m E2 5c \*. C.King, S.J.H.Reid. 15th June 2006.

The right-hand groove is also quite a toughie. Step up rightwards from two blocks, then move left to a slot. Pull directly over the roof with difficulty and continue with more difficulty leftwards to the top.

*Aardvark* 10m VS 4b. J.Biggar, S.J.H.Reid. 2002.

Immediately round to the right of Main Wall is a short left-leaning slab with a crack on its left side in the upper half. Climb the poorly protected slab.

*Back to Bax* 10m Severe 4a. S.Baxendale, L.Biggar. 1st June 2006.

Just right of the slab of Aardvark is a short trench-like groove/crack system. Climb this to a ledge, then make a hard move up right to finish. Better (and harder) than it looks.

*Unnamed* 15m VS 4c. L.Biggar, J.Biggar, S.J.H.Reid. 1st June 2006.

Down and left of Back to Bax is a cleaner parallel line. Climb this to an exit right on to a grass ramp, or continue direct (harder). Finish up the wall above the ramp.

#### **Zebra Wall:**

To the right of Main Wall is a short wall below a long grass ledge and above this is a more attractive and slightly larger wall. The following climbs lie on the upper wall, just left of the scramble up to the grass ledge.

*F-111* 8m VS 4c. J.Biggar, S.J.H.Reid, C.King. 1st June 2006.

A wide crack on the left side of the wall becomes easier after a hard start.

*Zebra* 10m VS 4c \*. L.Biggar, J.Biggar. 15th June 2006.

Start towards the left side of the upper wall and climb a prominent left-slanting crack system with a hard move near the middle. A good sustained route.

*Craignaw Corner* 15m E1 5b \*. S.J.H.Reid, C.King, J.Biggar. 15th June 2006.

Just right again is a smooth left-facing corner. Bridge strenuously up the corner, then tackle twin cracks in the headwall. A good wee pitch.

Just right again are twin crack systems.

*Cameater Crack* 15m VS 4c. J.Biggar, S.J.H.Reid, C.King. 15th June 2006.

The left-hand crack soon eases off.

*Sword of Damocles* 15m Severe 4b \*. J.Biggar, S.J.H.Reid. 15th June 2006.

The right-hand crack is more sustained and interesting. The sword, which was of an impressive size, was removed by the second en route and can be inspected at the foot of the crag.

#### **CRAIGNAW, Scotland Slab:**

This slab lies low down on the north-east end of Craignaw, just a short detour from the approach to the excellent crags on the Dungeon Hill. Approach as for the Dungeon crags, in about 30mins across the Silver Flowe from Backhill of Bush bothy. The slab is named for the resemblance of the upper slab to a map of Scotland and is a nice relatively low angled granite slab. It steepens from roughly 35° at the base in deepest Cumbria to nearly 50° in Sutherland. Protection is very sparse, but the belays are good, 60m ropes recommended. The route still has some lichen on the easier sections, but the hardest moves have been cleaned. The slab will need several days to dry after heavy rain.

*The Road to Wrath* 100m Hard Severe 4a \*. L.Biggar, J.Biggar, J.Kinnaird. 25th June 2006.

1. 50m 3c From the lowest point of the slab climb easily up and right to cracks and runners at 30m (The Border). Continue straight up between two grass patches, then traverse leftwards to belay on the lower rocks of the upper slab, just west of Glasgow.

2. 50m 4a Step over the overlap and traverse further leftwards to reach a thin crack through the steeper slab above. Climb this crack for a few metres before a traverse can be made back right to Inverness. Make a tenuous move to a

good pocket here then up diagonally left to Cape Wrath. Belay using a cracked block a few metres up and left. (The direct line up the A9 from Glasgow to Inverness is also good, but a very unprotected lead).

### **CRAIGNAW, Point of the Snibe (NX 465 815):**

The rocky south-eastern tip of Craignaw consists of a number of clean buttresses of premium-quality granite, unaccountably overlooked in the past. The crag is south-facing and has all day sun (with a consequent lack of midges).

Approach: Either from Craignecallie up the Backhill of Bush Road until directly opposite the crag at NX 478 817 in an area of recent felling, at which point it is possible to cross the Cooran Lane and approach the crag directly. The location of faint goat tracks across the moor tend to indicate the best places to cross the otherwise deep and sinister Cooran Lane (1hr by bike, 1hr30mins on foot); or from Loch Trool by way of Loch Valley (1hr30mins).

The cliffs consist of five main areas. These, and the climbs on them are described right to left.

### **The Seven Pillars:**

The right edge of the crag is marked by a rib, steep at its bottom and with a series of pillars on its left side. The rock is excellent and the climbs are easier than they look.

*Swamp Fever* 13m Severe 4a. A.Fraser, I.Magill. 20th August 2005.

A pleasant climb up the bottom of the rib. Start up the boulder at the bottom left of the rib, then follow the arête above, on its left side where necessary.

The following routes take the series of pillars on the left side of the rib.

*McKinlay Murmerings* 5m Very Difficult. R. Pontefract. 24th July 2005.

Climb the first short rib.

*Denali De-Brief* 10m Hard Severe 4b \*. R.Pontefract, I.Magill, A.Fraser. 24th July 2005.

This climbs the first of the larger pillars, starting up cracks on its right side, then when the angle eases, climbing cracks up the centre.

*Cleanliness is Next to ...* 12m Severe 4a \*\*. A.Fraser, A.Gillies. 14th May 2005.

Lovely steep climbing on huge holds. To the left of Denali De-Brief is a vegetated area, then a steep buttress above a large boulder. Climb this on its right side, then to the left of a prominent detached block.

*Goatlines* 12m Hard Severe 4b \*. I.Magill, R.Pontefract, A.Fraser. 24th July 2005.

Another steep route with surprisingly cooperative holds. Start at the left edge of the same buttress as the previous route. Climb slightly right, then back left till feet are in the wide horizontal crack near the top. Traverse left into the chimney and up this to finish.

*Burning the Goats* 10m Hard Severe 4b \*. I.Magill, R.Pontefract. 24th July 2005.

Immediately left of the previous route is a blanker pillar, which nonetheless provides a good route at a reasonable grade.

*Arabian Nights* 10m Very Difficult. R.Pontefract, I.Magill, A.Fraser. 24th July 2005.

Left of the previous route is an area of more broken ground then a paler buttress. Climb the pale buttress then the groove above with surprising ease.

### **The Uncarved Block:**

To the left of the Seven Pillars is a cracked wall.

*Pointless of the Snibe* 9m Severe 4a. A. Fraser, D.MGimpsey. 24th July 2006.

The rounded rib at the right edge of the wall, unsatisfactorily requiring use of the turfy blocks on the right of its lower section. Continue up the wall above if desired.

*Timorous Cooran Beastie* 10m E1 5b \*\*. A.Fraser, I.Magill. 17th September 2006.

Superb sustained climbing up the right-hand crack. The easiest line on the top section is not obvious.

*Springs of Enchantment* 15m E1 5b \*\*\*. A.Fraser, I.Magill, R.Pontefract. 24th July 2005.

A classic route which climbs the disjointed cracks in the middle of the wall. While it dries quickly after showers, drainage from farther up the hill emerges at the crux, meaning that it is rarely dry earlier in the season. Worth waiting for!

*Ram Attang* 16m VS 4c \*. A.Gillies, A.Fraser. 14th May 2005.

A wider right-sloping crack 5m left of Springs of Enchantment gives a fine sustained climb. Start direct by a 5b boulder problem or as for pitch 2 of the following route. Pitches 1 and 3 of the following route can also be added for taste.

*Silver Sand* 41m VS 4c \*\*. A.Fraser, A.Gillies. 14th May 2005.

Another good route in a fine position. Down left of the main wall is a lower buttress with two parallel cracks at its left side. Climb the left one (9m 4b). Climb the crack up the left edge of the main wall to the heather terrace (20m 4c). Continue up past a higher heather ledge. Move left to gain and climb a final friction slab (12m 4b).

### **The Arête:**

Across a vegetated gully from The Uncarved Block is the soaring Arête, the longest feature on the crag.

*The Call of the Weird* 45m VS \*. A.Fraser, I.Magill 20th August 2005.

This route takes cracks on the right side of The Arête. Although the start is mediocre, the crux is a not-to-be-missed piece of climbing. Scramble up to gain and climb the crack on the right side of The Arête. Go up this till it becomes vegetated, at which point a hitherto hidden series of foot ledges leads memorably left across the wall to gain, then climb The Arête to a large heather ledge (25m 5a). Climb the crack behind the belay, exiting right at its top to climb a right-sloping gangway. Continue directly to the top (20m 4b).

*The Arête* 50m VS \*. A.Plumb, S.Aird. 1987.

Some excellent climbing, improving with gradual vegetation removal. Start on the left side of the arête and climb short walls to gain a corner just left of the arête. Climb the corner (not the cleaned crack to its left) exiting left onto a large heather ledge (22m 4b). Easy cracks lead back to the crest of the arête at a heather ledge. Follow the crack behind the ledge, exiting left onto a ramp. Follow this with difficulty to the very top, ignoring the cleaned crack near the end (28m 4c).

*Walk on Hot Coals* 47m VS \*\*. A.Fraser, I.Magill. 17th September 2006.

The meat of the route is the improbable slab crossed by the ramp of The Arête's top pitch. Follow The Arête to the foot of the corner on its first pitch, then climb the cleaned crack on the left wall of the corner (22m 4c). Move left to climb a crack at the right end of the slab, traverse left for 4m to gain a crack and gear, then move slightly back right and commit yourself to the centre of the slab. Follow this to the ramp of The Arête, which is followed left until it is possible to finish up a crack on the right wall of the ramp (25m 4b).

### **Cornarroch Walls:**

The following climbs are on the walls, which run up to the left of the Arête.

*Cat Goat your Tongue?* 25m VS 4c \*. A.Gillies, A.Fraser. 14th May 2005.

About 10m left of The Arête is a black left-facing corner. Climb this, then move up and left to gain and climb cracks on the right side of a prominent large overhang. Follow the easier upper buttress to the top.

To the left are two vegetatious chimneys.

*Cornarroch Chimney* 21m Very Difficult. A.Fraser, K.Donaldson. 23rd May 1978.

Climb the left-hand chimney to the heather terrace, traverse this up and left until a right-sloping crack can be climbed to outflank the overhang. Finish up the buttress above.

*Original Route* 20m Difficult. A.Fraser, K.Donaldson. 23rd May 1978.

This is 3m to the left of Cornarroch Chimney. Follow the easiest line up a shallow corner to gain the heather terrace. Cross this and climb the jug-infested upper buttress to the top.

*Man the Lifegoats* 9m VS 4c \*. I.Magill, A.Fraser. 17th September 2006.

At the top of the wide grassy gully to the left of the Cornarroch Walls is a tower with a conspicuous steep crack on its left side. This gives steep climbing on good holds.

### **The Philosopher's Stone:**

Down left from The Arête is a blank wall with intermittent cracks. Below this is a short lower tier of slabs.

*Beltie* 15m E3 5c \*\*\*. D.MGimpsey, A.Fraser. 24th July 2006.

Good climbing up the cracks in the centre of the wall. Low in the grade, the grade being merited by its sustained nature.

### **Lower Slabs:**

The following three routes are on the slabs underneath the Philosopher's Stone.

*The Goat, the Bad and the Ugly* 7m VS 5a. D.McGimpsey, A.Fraser. 24th July 2006.

An awkward little blighter, taking the groove at the right side of the wall.

*Let the Goat Times Roll* 8m VS 4c \*. A.Fraser, D.MGimpsey. 24th July 2006.

A fine climb up the cracks left of centre.

*Kids Play* 8m Moderate. A.Fraser. 24th July 2006.

Delightfully easy climbing up cracks on the left edge.

### **The Pearly Goats:**

Left again, at the left edge of the crag, is a two-tier buttress, the upper section of which is marked by wide parallel cracks.

*Rivergoat Gambler* 28m VS 4c. I.Magill, A.Fraser. 17th September 2006.

Much better than appearances suggest. The right side of the buttress is a vegetatious gully, capped by a fine corner. To the right of the gully are two stepped ribs. Climb the scoop between these, then continue up left to the fine corner. This is climbed until it is possible to escape onto a ledge on the left. Follow the rib above (crux), avoiding the easier cracks on the left.

*The Alchemists Dream* 35m E1 \*\*\*. I.Magill, A.Fraser, E.Magill. 29th August 2005.

A powerful line giving steep jamming up the right-hand crack. Start up the right crack on the lower buttress, moving left into the scoop at mid-height, then continue up the centre of the buttress to the heather terrace below the upper wall

(10m 4a). Sustained and excellent climbing up the right crack leads to a rightward-slanting scoop and cracks which are climbed to the top (25m 5b).

*Juniper Cracks* 32m HVS \*. A.Fraser, E.Magill I.Magill. 29th August 2005.

Climb the left crack on the lower buttress (9m 4b). The third crack from the right is Y shaped with much juniper in the right branch of the Y. Climb a combination of the next crack to the left and the left branch of the Y until it is possible to move right above the juniper to gain a groove. Climb this groove to a heather ledge then climb the short wall above (23m 5a).

*Little Egypt* 30m VS \*. A.Fraser, E.Magill I.Magill. 29th August 2005.

Five metres left and down from pitch 2 of Juniper Cracks is a recessed cracked slab. Climb cracks at the right side of this, before moves lead up left across the slab to gain the thank god grass ledge at its left end. The steeper wall above is liberally endowed with holds and provides very agreeable climbing to the top.

*The Faa Side* 45m Very Difficult. A.Fraser, E.Magill, I.Magill. 29th August 2005.

The ridge at the left end of the crag. The second and third tiers are climbed on the left side by a crack and slab respectively. The climb includes the slabby buttress of clean rock lying just above the main ridge.

#### **CRAIGDEWS:**

*Pushing the Goat Out* 62m VS \*. A.Fraser, I.Magill. 19th July 2006.

A sustained and interesting slab climb. Another series of rightward-sloping slabs lies 15m right of the start of The Dark Side. Start at the right end of the blank lower slab. Climb 8m to a small grass niche, then move 2m up and right into a shallow niche. Leave this on its left side and continue up for 6m to a ledge from where it is possible to move 3m up and right to another ledge. Climb the left side of the slabs above to gain the upper slab. Traverse 3m right and pad the slab to exit just right of a prickly bush. Continue up right to gain and climb the arête above (47m 4c). A steep wall lies 4m to the right. Claim the central nose of this, finishing to the right of the nose (15m 4c). Exit by scrambling up the ramps to the right.

#### **CLIFTON CRAG:**

*Elders Traverse* 12m Hard Severe 4b. S.Reid, S.Baxendale. 24th March 2007.

A mini girdle. Start at the bottom of The Esplanade and follow a wiggly hand/finger traverse (2m below The Esplanade) leftwards across the wall, crossing Muckle Knob and Elders Crack, to finish up the final crack of The Arête.

#### **Little Clifton:**

This is a short outcrop under the descent ramp, between the Red Slab Area and Twin Cracks Buttress. Belays are well back.

*Gorilla Warfare* 10m VS 5a. J.Biggar, L.Biggar. 3rd May 2006.

The clean narrow slab on the left side of the buttress. Start just before a step down in the path under the crag, above two blocks. Use a pinch grip to make an awkward start and then continue up the right side of the arête, moving right to a crack towards the top.

The next routes start in a pleasant grassy bay up and to the right.

*Gordon Bennett* 10m VS 4c. S.Reid, S.Baxendale. 25th May 2006.

Towards its right-hand side, the upper wall is dominated by a hanging shield of rock; the main aim of this climb. Start 4m left of this and climb a slim clean(ish) rib to a huge flat block. Stand on the block and traverse rightwards, step down off its end, and make a long stride out right to stand on a small protruding block under the shield: then climb the shield (bridging out right is cheating!).

*Chimpish* 8m Hard Severe 4a. J.Biggar, K.Berry. 3rd May 2006.

Start towards the right-hand side of the grassy bay, under the hanging shield of rock. Climb rock and grass in equal quantity, leftwards and then back right to gain a ledge. Finish up a crack to the left of the shield.

*Piece of Cake* 8m VS 4b. L.Biggar, A.Brooke-Mee. 3rd May 2006.

Just right of the hanging shield is a slim red slab - climb it (quite bold).

#### **GALLOWAY SEA-CLIFFS, Meikle Ross, Fox Craig:**

*Left Arête* 10m VS 4b \*\*. L.Biggar, J.Biggar, D.McNicol. 7th June 2006.

Climb a diagonal finger crack to reach the juggy arête left of Rez Route.

*Twin Cracks* 10m Severe 4a \*. D.McNicol, I.Cameron. 2002 or 2003.

Twin cracks just left of the corner groove of Sharks Tooth.

#### **Burrow Head, Camp Site Walls:**

*Diagonal Crack* 20m Severe. D.McGimpsey, B.Davison. 31st May 2006.

The prominent right to left diagonal crack mentioned in the guidebook description.

*Opening Gambit* 20m HVS 5a \*. B.Davison, D.McGimpsey. 1st June 2006.

Two metres right of Left-Hand Crack and 4m left of a rock island exposed at most states of tide in calm seas is a diagonal fault running up right to a shallow groove at the top of the wall. Climb the wall around the narrow crack and enter the shallow groove above (crux); follow this to the top. The base is only accessible at low tide

*Variation: High Tide Start* 20m E1 5a. B.Davison, D.McGimpsey. 31st May 2006.

A high tide start from the top of the exposed rock island to the right. Climb up diagonally left to a squarish recess and then to a ledge a metre above, poorly protected. Hand traverse the ledge leftwards, then move up and diagonally leftwards to finish up the shallow groove above.

*Delilah* 15m VS 4c \*. D.McGimpsey, B.Davison. 1st June 2006.

The obvious crack-line at the left-hand side of the wall about 4m in from the left arête is only accessible at low tide. Climb the crack with an awkward move at two-third height.

**Note:** The two existing routes (Goblin's Eyes and Killer on the Loose) are closer to 20m than the 25m in the guide.

### **Portobello, Mare Rock (Partially tidal, South facing):**

A steep crag which forms a long wall in a cove south of Portobello. The cliff has a steep crack at its landward end, a left-trending ledge at two-thirds height in its central section, and a compact wall at its seaward end. The rock is sound, but very compact and less gear-friendly than Portobello. No nesting birds. The climbs are on the seaward wall.

Approach: Park as for Portobello and follow the coast south for about 1.5km (20mins), the cliff coming into view once it is passed.

*Horse to the Water* 15m HVS 5a \*. A.Fraser, I.Magill. 2nd June 2006.

At the left end of the cliff an easy, leftward ramp leads up from the boulders at the foot of the crag. At low tide climb this (at high tide start at the top of the ramp by scrambling down the end of the crag). From here climb the rightward trending crack, then move leftward over the bulge. Continue directly to the top

*Dancing White Horses* 15m E2 5c \*\*\*. I.Magill, A.Fraser. 2nd June 2006.

A superb sustained outing through some intimidating territory. It climbs the centre of the seaward wall, starting from the largest of the sea boulders, and climbing directly to an obvious spike above the overlap. Micro friends and nuts required, but easy for the grade.

**ROSYTH QUARRY:** As a fairly popular venue, some of the lines are likely to have been climbed before.

*Poison Dwarf* 7m E1 5c. R.Wallace, A.Wallace. 5th February 2006.

The steep wall immediately right of Andy's Route has a line of sidepulls leading to a thin flake-crack. This gives a great wee bouldery eliminate route.

*Forth Bridge* 10m HVS 5a. R.Wallace, A.Wallace. 4th February 2006.

Just right of Hands Off is a wide open groove, often damp. Bridge up this till it steepens and narrows, then stand on a hanging block to the right. An undercling and a crack gain easier ground.

*Fog on the Forth* 10m E1 5b. A.Wallace, R.Wallace. 5th February 2006.

Climb directly up the front of the pillar, over the roof and onto the top of the block. Finish up the previous route.

*Gumball 3000* 10m HVS 5c. R.Wallace, A.Wallace. 17th June 2006.

Climb easily up the right side of the pillar, onto the block. Move up to gain a short left-facing arête. Layaway the arête to gain a good ledge, then jug haul to the top.

*Named and Shamed* 15m Hard Severe. R.Wallace, A.Wallace. 17th June 2006.

Starting just to the left of Grenville, a few tricky moves lead into a chimney groove. This gives easy bridging to a harder move through a small overhang. Finish over a concave overlap.

*Life during Wartime* 15m E1 5b \*. A.Wallace, R.Wallace. 17th June 2006.

An eliminate but excellent boulder problem start between Grenville and Heathy gains a standing position on the bottom of a wee ramp. Follow the left arête of a steep slab onto a big ledge, then climb up by the left side of a fin to gain a flat jug on the arête. A dyno gains a similar hold directly above before turning the rectangular overhang to the right and finishing up a short flake-crack.

*Fire in the Quarry* 15m Mild Severe. R.Wallace, A.Wallace. 5th February 2006.

On the left of Corpuscle are two narrow grooves. Start up these, then carry on up a prominent groove system.

### **FIFE, Limekilns:**

*Muffintop Blues* 13m E3 5c \*. C.Adam, P.Ebert. June 2006.

Climbs the arête right of Grasp the Nettle. Start as for Edge of Fear, where this route moves right continue straight up to gear and a rest below a small overlap. Step left and tackle the bulge with fingery moves (crux) right to the obvious hole. Continue straight up the arête boldly but more easily and over a final bulge to finish.

### **EDINBURGH AREA, Ratho Quarry:**

*Stupid Boy* 20m E3 6a. I.Small. 19th June 2006.

The wall left of Sheer Fear. Climb a clean corner to a ledge, take a crack on the right to an inverted V feature. Undercut from this to the left, gaining a shallow groove, then a flake to reach a triangular ledge. Finish up the top groove of Sheer Fear.

**EAST LOTHIAN, Traprain Law:**

*Sod Dangling* 20m Hard Severe 4b \*. F.Hughes. 1st May 2006.

Start up Dangle, but trend right following the slab to its top to where it becomes simple to pass the overlap. Trend leftwards towards a thread belay (in-situ tat).