



Creag Lundie - Loch Cluanie – Climbing Guide

Chris Dickinson - Update August 2nd, 2020

General Background and Location



Creag Lundie is a series of granite outcrops and slabs that lie on the upper half of the hill of the same name, on the north side of Loch Cluanie. GR 152110 Creag Lundie 508m. Creag Lundie has a distinct summit and is a small southern satellite of the munro Carn Ghluasaid. The rocks are granite, and face south and southeast. This aspect means they have good exposure to wind and sunshine and routes can dry quickly. After periods of heavy rain there can be some weeps that take a while to dry out. The crags are in a fine mountain setting with great views out to the Cluanie and Glenmoriston hills. Driving the main A87, the crags are visible above the road, but the passing motorist has little idea of the scale and number of the crags above. The rock itself is rough, giving excellent friction. Protection is sparse but can be found with a little ingenuity, as many of the runnels are rounded and there are only occasional defined cracks. A range of friends/cams and hexes work well, including large ones. Belays at the top of crags also require care and a degree of ingenuity in places. The style of climbing is slabby for the most part with occasional steep walls or overlaps. Most of the routes fall into the Diff to HVS range. There are some harder lines with very sparse protection indeed. Some of the routes are a full rope length, and there are a couple that run to a second pitch. *There is an entry about the crags in the Northern Highlands South guidebook. This lists 9 routes, Lost Knuckle VS 5a on the Main Cliff, Problem Arete 4c on Slab One and*



seven routes on Slab Three, Small Gutter VD, Crackpot 4a/b, Broken Cracks VD, Low Diagonal 4b, Big Gutter VD, Bald Slab 5b and Wee Baldy 5a. All these routes appear only to have climbed the lower tier, as they are given between 15 and 20 metres. The description for Broken Cracks says “The cracks are 2m right of Small Gutter are of unknown grade but look good”. This is a description that leaves some doubt as to whether it had been climbed. Same perhaps applies to climbs given technical grades only. These climbs may have been done a while ago as in 2014 the cliffs showed little signs of being climbed on, as most lines had moss and lichen growing aplenty. In this description, which follows, about four years of regular visits, exploring and cleaning between Easter 2014 and the present, I have endeavoured to give full details of all the routes I have climbed with others or solo. Where they overlap or share sections with previous descriptions, referred to above, then I have tried to make this clear.



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- Access Path
- P Parking
- Waterslide



Approach

The best approach is to park on the old road, close to a bridge over a stream, above the A87 at GR 145105. Additional parking is available here on the Loch Cluanie side of the A87. Follow up the east side of the stream heading northeast and the broad ridge that develops (eventually the stream on the left of you is down in a ravine) and continue up towards the summit of Creag Lundie. In 25 minutes you will reach the broad platform, "the Belvedere" that runs eastwards below the upper crags. Approaching from this direction allows first time visitors to orientate themselves in this complex area of crags. An approach from the east is also possible, if you know the area and plan to climb only at the east end. Route goes up to the obvious waterslide/waterfall on the Allt Coire Lundie to the east of Craig Lundie GR 159111 and thence to the far eastern end of the crags.





BELVEDERE ZONE

As one climbs the ridge from the road, the main cliff comes into view on the right shortly before reaching the top of Creag Lundie and a very wide, obvious, terrace (The Belvedere below) crosses the hillside below the main cliff and Slabs One through Four. This area has by far the highest concentration of routes (more than 20 routes climbed to date) at Lundie.



The Belvedere and Main Crag from the approach.



The four main lines currently on the main cliff are some of the longest at Creag Lundie.



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MAIN CLIFF

This large cliff, mainly slabby, but with some short steep walls mixed in, includes some of the finest routes at Creag Lundie. It lies above the “Belvedere” and is the first crag you will come to on the regular and easiest approach. Routes are described from west to east. Descend to the west.

Lundie Groove**, Mild Very Severe (4b) 40m

Chris Dickinson, Henry Methold 14 April 2018

Climb up onto the right side of the hanging featured slab. Move up and left and then make an awkward step up rightwards to reach the deep groove and a tree. Follow the fine groove all the way to the top.



Henry Methold seconding the first ascent of Lundie Groove, now nice and clean!

Krakatak**, HVS, 5a, 40m Chris Dickinson, Adele Pennington 3 Nov 2015

Climb the steep rib and then the slab above to reach twin cracks in the vertical wall. Climb these strenuously to reach the fine slab above and follow this to the top. A splendid route.



The initial rib of Krakatak (left) and the early step right on Mozilla. Climber Chris Dickinson

Mozilla*, HVS, 5a, 40m Chris Dickinson, Jonny Hawkins 20 Oct 2015

Climb up and make an interesting step right to reach a groove. Follow this keeping a large patch of heather on your left side to the steep wall. Climb the corner on bold lay away moves that make for a crux that then gives way to the slab above which is followed to the top.

Hashtag***, VS, 5a, 4c 45m Chris Dickinson, Adele Pennington 5 July 2015

Start at toe of lowest small buttress. Climb into the crack, reachy (5a) or use steps to left (4b), and then to heathery ledge. Step up onto left edge of slab above and head up the centre of the slab on friction towards the right trending crack in the wall above. A slightly easier version climbs the fault on the left side (See note below) Climb the committing crack (4c) and then step left onto the very fine upper slab and follow this directly to the highest rocks. *(Note: The Lost Knuckle VS 5a, climbed previously, uses the same boulder problem start and then traverses left along the heather ledge to V-chimney and then a crack running up the left side (part of Mozilla) of the big slab. The original climb then tackles the same right trending steep crack and finishes to the right onto grass, Hashtag moves left onto the fine slab.)*



The superb Hashtag.



Adele Pennington on the finishing slab pitch of Hashtag during the first ascent.

SLAB ONE

The first obvious wide slab east of Main Crag, above the “Belvedere”, bounded on the right side by an arete before a very obvious corner. There is a short left-hand section and then a slightly broken area with grass above before the main slab rises up with two further slabs above it. Descend by grassy rake to the right.

Thirty Below*, Severe, 4a, 45m Adele Pennington, Chris Dickinson 3 Nov 2015

On the main part of Slab 1 take the line of the largest crack and then continue more or less directly up the next two slabs.

Speedwatch*, Severe, 4a, 45m Adele Pennington, Chris Dickinson 5 July 2015

Takes the central cracks in Slab One to an obvious heather ledge, go straight up a shorter slab to another ledge and then climb the final excellent slab to the top.

Mahakali**, Hard Severe 4b, 40m and 15m Two pitches. Chris Dickinson, Kelly MacLennan 12 October 2014

Start just left of the arete and move towards the edge. Continue up and slightly left to reach easier climbing. Break for a belay at a flat ledge and then continue up the scooped slab above the grassy rake on really fine rock.

(Note: Problem Arete previously listed at 15m, presumably climbed the first tier only as this route described is 55m long)



Adele Pennington leading 30 Below (left) and belaying at the top of Speedwatch (right)

SLAB TWO

This slab is set at a higher angle than the slabs on either side. It is bounded on the left by a fine right-angled corner occasionally wet.

Zig Zag*** E1 5b, 15m Henry Methold, Chris Dickinson 14 April 2018. Climb the steep slab a couple of metres right of the corner on perfect rock. Sustained and protection is very sparse but exists. On first ascent two pieces were placed by abseil. The crux move is at the start and there are more features as one climbs the steep slab. Belay well back on a metal stake.

Checkout HS 4b, 15m Henry Methold, Chris Dickinson 14 April 2018

On the right-hand side of the slab, the rock becomes more broken. Just left of this there is a continuous line of flared cracks that permit a nice ascent. Follow these directly to the top. Belay well back on a belay stake.



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Above. Henry Methold making the thin first ascent of Zigzag, Slab Two. A really fine pitch



Left. Henry Methold leads Checkout HS.



Belay stake useful for Zigzag and Mahakali

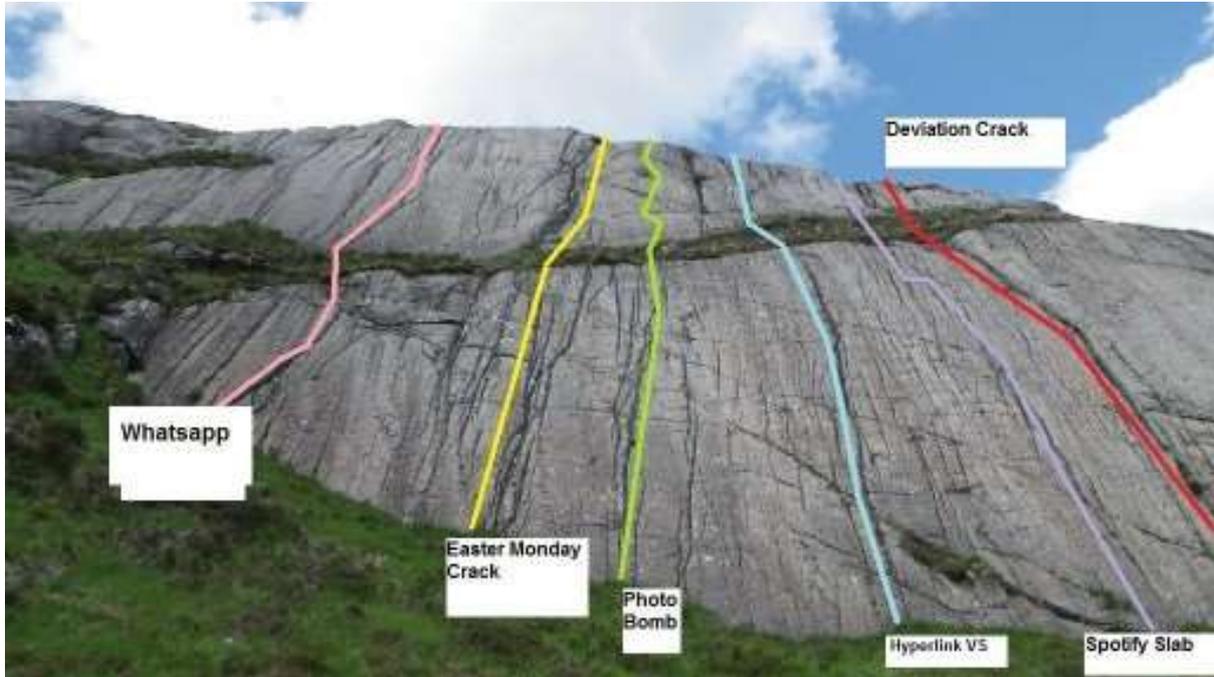


SLAB THREE

This is the largest slab, and above it there is another tier of slab which is highest on the left side. The left part of the slab has many natural lines on it, as far as the very obvious Deviation Crack. Beyond this climb the slab gets steeper and more featureless. Climbs described from left (west) to right (east).

Whatsapp**, Hard Severe, 4b, 40m Chris Dickinson, Adele Pennington 3 November 2015 Start at left side of slab, just right of the short obvious fault. Climb rightwards at first and then directly up to the grassy terrace and then rightwards again before finishing directly up beautiful rock on the upper tier.

Easter Monday Crack, Severe 4a 40m Chris Dickinson solo 21 April 2014 Climbs the cracks that lead beyond the terrace at 20m to the most obvious fault line in the upper tier. *(Note: The first pitch of this climb is probably Small Gutter 20m VD as described in guidebook)*



The double tiered left side of Slab 3. Routes here run to 40 metres and the upper tier is very fine climbing and bigger than it looks from below.

Photo Bomb*, Severe, 4a 40m Chris Dickinson, Adele Pennington 5 July 2015 Climbs cracks to the right of previous route to the terrace at 20m and then the upper tier by a zig zag line. *(Note: The first pitch of this climb is probably Crackpot 20m 4a/b as described in guidebook)*



Chris Dickinson high on the upper tier of Photo Bomb.

Hyperlink*, VS 4c 40m, Jonny Hawkins, Chris Dickinson 19 Oct 2015 A further 5 metres to the right this fine route starts just left of an obvious diagonal feature (*Low Diagonal 4b 25m*) and climbs the continuous crack system very directly with increasing difficulty to the terrace and then continues straight up the upper tier. (*Note: The first pitch of this climb is probably Broken Cracks 20m VD as described in guidebook – the grade originally given is questionable as the first slab pitch is significantly harder and more serious than VD*)

Spotify Slab*, Hard Severe 4b, 40m Chris Dickinson, Jonny Hawkins 19 Oct 2015 This fine route takes the shallow crack a couple of metres left of the deep fault line of Deviation Crack. A slight step left gives access to the terrace after 25 metres or so and then climb the upper tier left of the obvious fault line.





Steady climbing on Spotify Slab (left) and Deviation Crack (right), climber Chris Dickinson

Deviation Crack**, Severe 4a, 40m Chris Dickinson, Kelly MacLennan 2 May 2014
The largest crack to the right side of the slab has a bend to the left at three-quarter height. A good climb with reasonable protection. Continue up the upper rocks by the obvious fault before belaying. An excellent route of character. *(Described previously to the terrace only as Big Gutter 20m VD. To the right of this is a high blank area of slabs and although the rock is beautiful there are almost no protection possibilities. Two previously recorded routes lie in this area Bald Slab 20m 5b and Wee Baldy 20m 5a)*

Antisocial Media Severe 4°, 15m. Ewan Lyons (solo). 20 Sep 2019.

This route is situated on Slab Three in the Belvedere Zone. Start 10m left of Instagram and climb vague cracks that lead to a flake in a shallow groove.

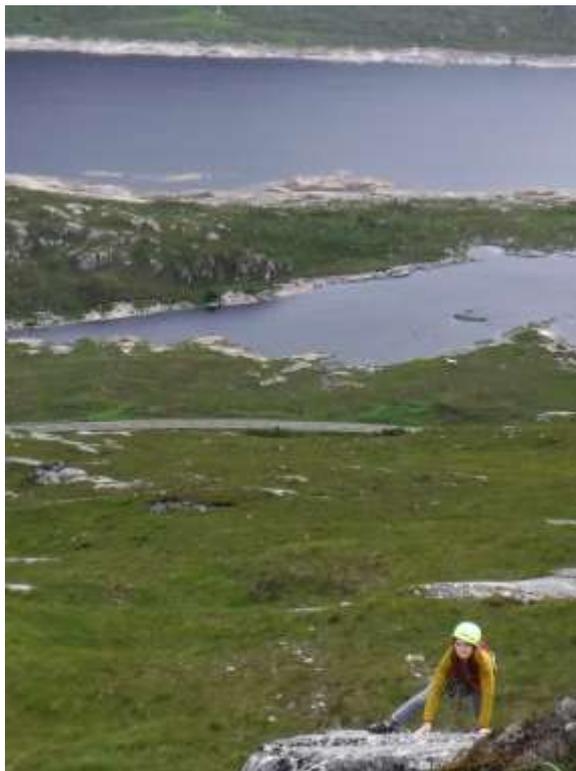
Instagram** Severe 4b, 25m Chris Dickinson, Henry Methold, 14 April 2018

Beyond Deviation Crack Slab 3 has few cracks or features. At the far-right end of the slab climb a crack onto a ledge and follow this leftwards before climbing up, at first with difficulty then by obvious cracks or a flake to reach easier ground.

Just above and to the right of Instagram is a separate higher slab. A descent route from that route angles down past it. The following nice route starts up this towards the left side.



Social Distance*, Difficult, 15m Chris Dickinson & Grace Peach Perry 9 July 2020
Climb up featured rock, with good protection, until a move up and right into a recess. Climb out of the recess on the left side and then up the slab above to the top.



Grace Peach Perry on Instagram



SLAB FOUR

Slab Three fades after Instagram, excepting for the Social Distance slab described above, and then a short wall develops with a slab above it and above that a fine protruding rib leading up onto a top slab. The following route has been climbed.

Pen Drive*, Severe, 4a, 35m Chris Dickinson (solo) 14 July 2015 Start at the centre of the short wall and make a tricky move up to gain the slab above. Trend left towards the rib and climb this on the right at first before moving onto the top of the rib and then climb more directly up the finishing slab.



Solo first ascent of Pen Drive, climber Chris Dickinson surmounting the rib that leads to the second slab

RAMBLER CRAG

Rambler Difficult 40 m Chris Dickinson, Kelly Maclennan 2 May 2014 This lies on a rib and then a large slab some 50m to the right and uphill of Slab Four. Follow the right edge of the rib and then step onto the fine slab and climb this up the middle to the top of Creag Lundie.

EASTERN ZONE

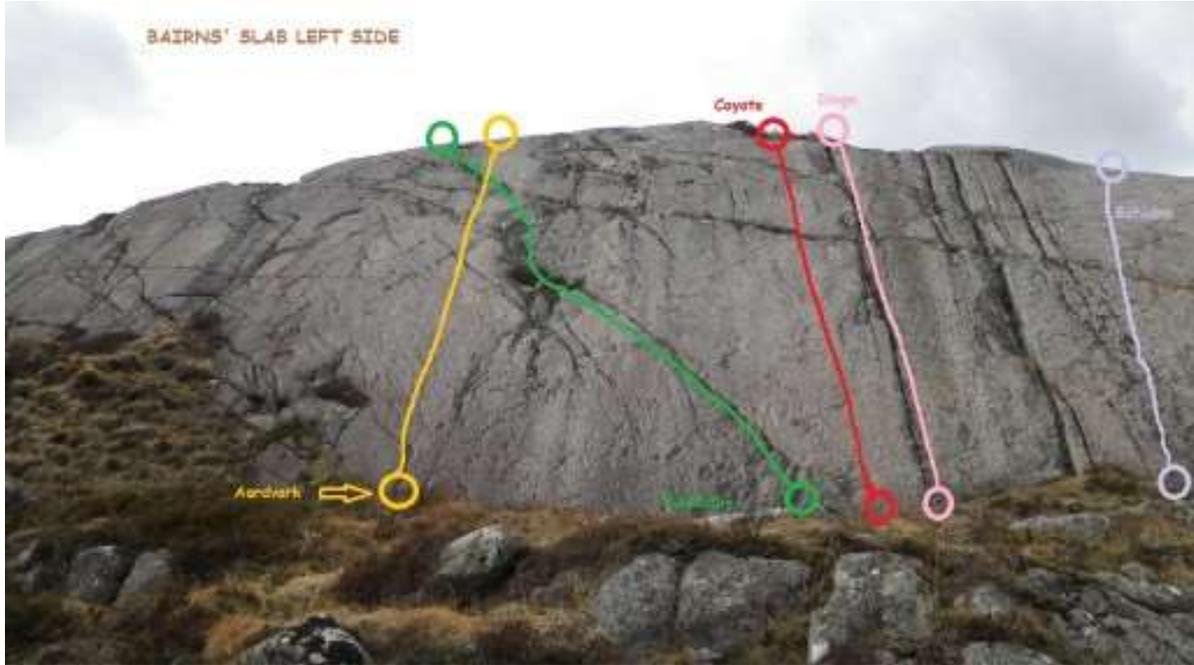
BAIRNS' SLABS

From the Belvedere, walk east past Slab Four and then climb up a little onto an obvious bench. Continue to contour a little and just before the ground to the east begins to fall away steeply you will come to Bairn's Slabs, an excellent beginner area of perfect rock. Belays on the top of the feature are scarce to say the least.



Aardvark* Very Difficult 20m 6 May 2014 Chris Dickinson and J Jennings
 A fine and direct friction climbing line up the left side.

Bushbaby* Difficult 25m 2 May 2014 Chris Dickinson and Kelly MacLennan
 An entertaining route that follows the main diagonal, then at a recess in mid slab climb up and continue to a finish in a higher diagonal feature. Well protected.



Coyote* Very Difficult 18m 2 May 2014 Chris Dickinson and Kelly MacLennan. Another direct line climbing the cleanest rock just left of the obvious fault of Dingo.



Dingo (left) and Coyote (R)

Dingo* Difficult 14m 2 May 2014 Chris Dickinson and Kelly MacLennan
 Climbs the left hand of two obvious vertical faults in the slab.



Echidna* Very Difficult 12m 6 May 2014 Chris Dickinson and J Jennings
Another pleasant friction climb to the right of the two faults previously described.

Fox** Severe 15m 2 May 2014 Chris Dickinson and Kelly MacLennan
The best route at Bairns. Climb a diagonal fault form just around the right-hand corner its continuation onto the main slab, and then friction up and right through a vague depression.



Below the terrace that lies at the foot of Bairns' Slab there are some extensive areas of rock. The following routes have been completed. The easiest access is to descend from anywhere along the Belvedere into a small valley feature that runs from west to east and finally falls to the south as the drainage steepens. All of the three climbs noted here lie on the rock formations to the left as the valley begins to fall away into Central Gully, or beyond this point.

Double Fantasy 50m Severe Chris Dickinson & J Jennings 6th May 2014
A double slab angles from bottom right to top left, with a small break between them. Climb the obvious line diagonally through the two slabs. The first slab is more difficult than the second.

Feed the Bairns 50m Very Difficult Chris Dickinson & J Jennings 6th May 2014
Lying below the Bairns' Slabs is this lengthy pitch that finishes at some prominent boulders that make a good top belay. Pleasant slab climbing with one slightly harder move at the steeper finish.

Bits and Pieces 80m Difficult Chris Dickinson solo 28 August 2014
As the small valley falls away to the south into Central Gully, contour east across the hillside to reach some very large rightwards trending slabs. This route links together the most continuous sections of slabby rock and finishes below and down right from the area of Bairns' Slab.



FAR EASTERN ZONE

The Far Eastern sector of Creag Lundie comprises the large area of craggy hillside that lies east of a broad open gully, mainly grassy. A number of ribs of rock fall from the top of Creag Lundie diagonally downwards to the right, when seen from the south. Beyond these rock masses is the Allt Coire Lundie and the distinctive waterslide that runs over a fine sheet of exposed granite.

FAR EAST

The following route (GR 155111) lies on a large slab which is adjacent to and on the north side of the large open grassy gully. The slab has distinctive orange sections on it.



Firewall***, Difficult, 50m Chris Dickinson (solo) 14 July 2015

This climbs up the centre of a beautiful featured slab. Protection is good and the route climbs through some unusual orange bands of rock. Start at the foot of the crag, passing just left of a small steep wall at about 15m. Go straight up from there. Route finishes on a flat ledge.



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Chris Dickinson soloing Firewall



Beyond the gully of “Firewall” is another gully (far far east) where you can find the following routes:



View of Far East Zone from below.

Extension*, Severe, 30m Chris Dickinson, Grace Peach Perry 18 June 2020
Make steep moves through an overhang (crux) and then onto the easier slab above trending up and rightwards. Top belay is scarce, so belay well back. Line of route shown below.





Between the gully of Firewall and the gully of Extension, there is a very clean looking wall of granite high up that gives the fine route, "George Floyd".



George Floyd**, Very Severe 4c, 20m Chris Dickinson, Grace Peach Perry 18 June 2020. This exciting route is well protected. Climb the right hand and very obvious diagonal crack. Where the crack becomes vertical make hard face moves right into twin flared cracks which lead to the top. A tribute to George Floyd in Minneapolis. RIP.

ALLT COIRE LUNDIE

Slip Slidin'*, Very Difficult, 25m Chris Dickinson (solo) 14 July 2015.

The Allt Coire Lundie pours down a fine slab of granite. In drier weather the slab can be climbed left of the river, looking up, whereby a few moves lead to a big horizontal cleft. Cross this and exit onto the upper slab which eases gradually in angle as you climb. A really nice place. Most easily accessed from the A87 and this approach also allows access to the Far East and Eastern Zones directly.

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Slip Slidin' solo, Chris Dickinson



Above and to the right of the bottom of the main falls is another small stream. “Tweedle Slab”, on its left, looking up, has four nice short routes. A belay can be arranged at a crack on the rib above, before the gutter of water behind is reached. Routes described from L to R

Tweedle Dum Very Difficult, 15m Chris Dickinson (solo), 20 May 2020
Start left of the pool and climb the clean slab to the top

Tweedle Dee * Severe, 20m Chris Dickinson (solo), 20 May 2020
Start below the pool and climb round the rock hanging over the pool, make thin moves diagonally left on the slab and then climb the slab directly to the top, just right of Tweedle Dum. A nice outing

Humpty Difficult, 15m Chris Dickinson (solo), 20 May 2020
Climb up the left slanting recess and where it finished go straight up.

Dumpty * Difficult, 15m Chris Dickinson (solo), 13 June 2020
Start as for Humpty, but this time take the clean steep crack on the right and follow to the top.



A Main Fall, B Tweedle Slab



FRONT ZONE WEST

This area lies below the Belvedere and comprises various areas of slabby granite, some small and some a full pitch long. Best approach is to take the normal route up, and before you reach the elevation of the Belvedere, traverse east across the top of the steepest ground.

Alternatively descend from the Belvedere. The first climb reached is identified by a massive boulder perched right on the top of the slab below you. It is an easy scramble down to the boulder. Can either arrange a rappel to get to the foot of the route or scramble down further east. This route can also be approached from the road below.



"The boulder"



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AMAZING GRACE SLAB

Amazing Grace * Mild Severe, 40m Chris Dickinson & Grace Peach Perry, 13 June 2020
Climb the slab, left of a corner feature, with occasional runners. Climb up beside a grassy patch and then continue up the fine slab above to the great boulder. A satisfying stroll with little protection in the upper part. Beautiful outlook over Loch Cluanie.



Chris Dickinson on first ascent of *Amazing Grace*

PERRY ZONE

About 200 metres farther east a dome of fine rock can be seen protruding from the hillside.. The next two routes climb a double slab behind and above this feature, to a prominent boulder. The final route climbs a steep slab below the dome, finishing up on top of the dome.

Perrywinkle * Mild Severe, 30m Grace Peach Perry & Chris Dickinson , 13 June 2020
Climb the left side of the lowest slab to a grassy ledge. Awkward moves with protection surmount the short wall on the left side. Continue up the easier angled slab above to finish at the boulder.



Chrisgraceful * Severe, 30m Chris Dickinson & Grace Peach Perry, 13 June 2020
Start about 5 metres right of Perrywinkle. Climb directly up the right end of the lower slab, joined to the wall above by some rocky bulges. Climb the steeper wall and then the slab above, finishing on the cleanest part of the slab directly below the obvious boulder. Belay using the boulder, or better, use belays up and left.

Black Lives Matter ** Severe, 40m Chris Dickinson & Grace Peach Perry, 13 June 2020
Descend easy ground to the right, looking down, from the rocky dome. Cut back left to the foot of a steep slab with a weep in the centre at the bottom. This route gives beautiful climbing despite its appearance. Ascend the right side of the slab, moving into the centre, on nice holds, with good protection. Pull onto the grassy break, runners on right side above, and then take the fine leftwards slanting features, before moving slightly right to climb onto the top of the rocky dome. Sneaky belays just to the right side. (photo overleaf)



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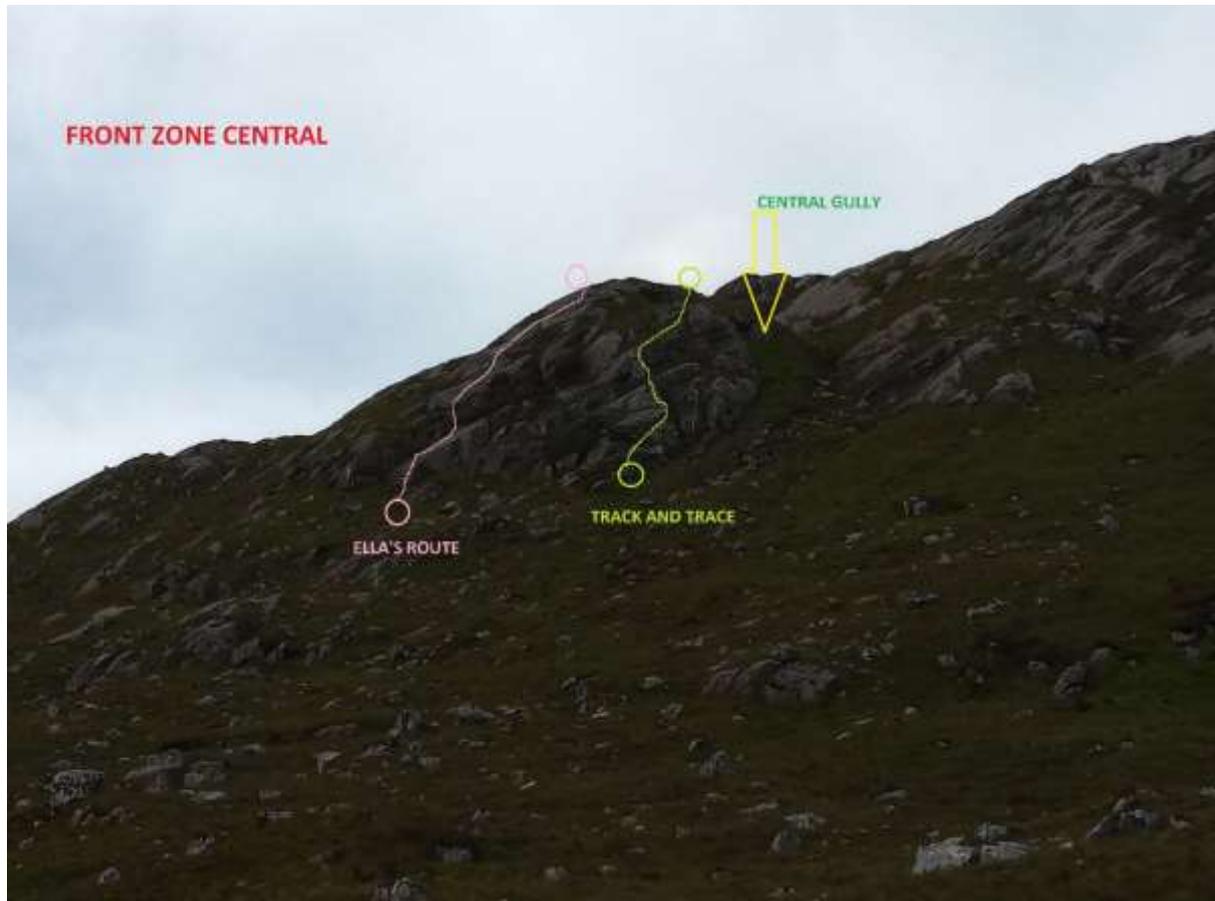


Black Lives Matter, climbs to top of the rock dome



FRONT ZONE CENTRAL

This area lies just to the west of “Central Gully”. Best approach is directly from the road below or by descending Central Gully from areas higher up.



Track and Trace * Difficult, 45m Chris Dickinson solo, 21 July 2020

A pleasant route with varied situations that takes the best line up the right hand side of the rock formations that lie to the west of Central Gully. Start at a small ramped slab that leads left to the edge. Each time the edge steepens, climb the right wall to regain it. Then follow a slab rightwards on the edge and rightwards to a finish. Belay on threaded boulder in a dip.

Ella's Route * Very Severe 4c, 60m Chris Dickinson & Anna Guy, 2nd August 2020

First pitch. 35m Start some 40 metres left of Track and Trace at the base of an obvious slab, bounded on the left side by a steep wall that curves round the top of the slab. Climb the slab to runners on the left wall (15m), then step right and continue up a thin, sometimes wet, slab (4c) to reach a runner, before making an awkward step up left (4c) onto a sloping ledge. Climb up onto heather and then onto the slabs above. Continue without further protection until you reach a sparse stance before a steepening, Second pitch. Climb the slabs above by



the easiest line with little or no protection. Finish by a fine final steeper slab to a good belay at two obvious boulders. A serious excursion, best undertaken after a couple of dry days.



Ella's Route, Chris Dickinson tackling the crux step left at the top of the first slab.



Anna Guy, top of Ella's Route.



Descriptions by Chris Dickinson speanbridge@googlemail.com 30 June 2018, (updated 10 July 2020). I would be happy to hear from anyone who puts up any new routes at Creag Lundie. Living as close to the crag, as I do, the place has given me a lot of pleasure and I hope to have many more outings there in the future. There remains scope for some further routes. Have fun. Feedback on gradings is also welcome. Feel free to share this file.

Acknowledgements. Thanks, in particular to Adele Pennington, Jonny Hawkins, Henry Methold, Grace Peach Perry, Anna Guy, Andy Nisbet, Ewan Lyons and also K MacLennan and J Jennings for their company and contributions on climbs at Creag Lundie.

Chris Dickinson



Henry Methold



Adele Pennington



Chris Dickinson (author)



Grace Peach Perry



Creag Lundie wildflowers