

Grudie Crag, Kinlochewe GR 974664 – 969660

The line of the main crags can be seen on the hillside from the road at Bridge of Grudie, and one could approach from here to maintain a good visual of the various sections.

However, a slightly more direct approach is from the large parking bay overlooking Loch Maree at 982 671. Cross the road & head directly up through some trees onto the open hillside of Meall a Ghiubhais. Head SW up the hillside, following a rocky band just left of the edge of the hillside proper. A couple of bouldering outcrops are passed en route. At approx 200m the hillside flattens out into a small plateau: cross this flat area aiming for the next rise approx 50m right of where another rocky band joins from the left – the Main Crag starts just over this rise. 30mins.

Main Crag Alt 300-350m Mostly W / NW-facing. Sandstone. Sections and routes described L (east) to R (west), unless stated otherwise. **See overview photo below.**



Eastern Sector Descents for this sector are either to the east (joining the approach route), or at this sector's western end via a steep heathery bay.

First Wall The first (most easterly) continuous section of rock, approx 100m in length.

1. **Left Crack** VS 4c 15m Ben Sparham Dave Porter May 23rd 2010
The left-most of two obvious crack lines near RHS of this wall.
2. **Right Crack** VS 4c 15m Dave Porter Ben Sparham May 23rd 2010
The next obvious crack line, 3m to the right of Left Crack.



First ascent of Right Crack Climber Dave Porter

Brown Wall Moving west, the crag line is 'interrupted' by a much browner, easy-angled sandstone section 30m wide.
(no routes)

Big Wall Just right again, the highest wall of the crag has a slightly lichenous veneer and a green undercut right-hand-side.
(no routes yet)

The ground rises past the end of Big Wall, culminating in a short compact clean buttress before one can then switch back above to access a tier of cleaner sandstone (Upper Tier) or continue up into a steep heathery bay bounded on the top left by a heavily-striated but compact wall (Compact Wall). The upper tier is defined on it's right side by a pillar sitting against the main crag, the crags becoming more broken until one gets to Compact Wall.

Upper Tier The routes on this tier are described Right to Left (West to East) as this is the order in which they are met.

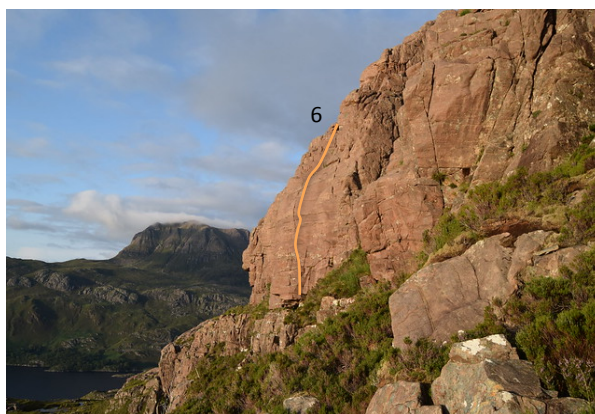
3. **Midgy Arete** S 8m Ben Sparham, Dave Porter, Maurice O'Connell August 1st 2019
Climbs the short right arête of the detached pillar, the first main feature left of the compact wall.

4. **On No Account** HVS 4c 10m Ben Sparham, Dave Porter, Simon Clark April 10th 2010
Left of Midgy Arete, this is the corner formed by the left side of the detached tower. Protection could be better.

5. **Pass Book** HVS 5a** 10m Dave Porter, Simon Clark April 10th 2010
The obvious open book corner set into the arête. Strenuous well-protected corner.

Continuing along the upper tier terrace, past broken and vegetated ribs, in 30m you come to a clean light-brown slab.

6. **New Account** VS 4c** 15m Dave Porter, Simon Clark, Ben Sparham, April 10th 2010
Very pleasant climbing up the slab using intermittent cracks.



Midgy Arete (S) First ascent - Ben Sparham



New Account (VS 4c) First Ascent Climber: Dave Porter

Compact Wall Short & steep. Up and right from Midgy Arete (50m)
(no routes yet)

Western Sector Cutting directly across the heathery bay, from the edge of the 'Eastern Sector - Upper Tier', the main crag line is joined once more after about 300m at a short grey wall on sloping ground, split by a steep jam-crack. Just round the corner are a series of buttresses, beyond an initial slab and roof / corner crack (Yorkshire VS) and a couple of vegetated faults. Descent: Down a shallow gully into the central bay between Buttress Area and Hidden Wall, on the right facing out.

Buttress Area

7. **"Yorkshire VS"** E1 5c * 15m Simon Clark Dave Porter August 15th 2020

On the first buttress, climb the deceptive crack just left of centre on the lower wall, then step right and fight up the hanging corner crack. Will be more pleasant after brushing the hanging crack.

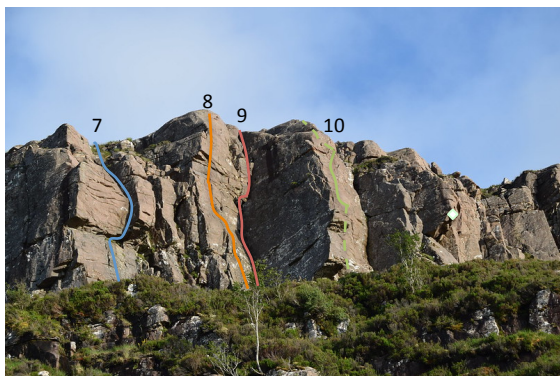
8. **Statement of Middle Age** HVS 5a* 16m Ben Sparham Dave Porter September 4th 2010

On next buttress, obvious crack line up centre of buttress before moving slightly left to tackle the top crack above a bulge. Escapable at bulge, so loses a *.

9. **Mossemite** Severe 16m Ben Sparham Simon Clark Dave Porter April 10th 2010

Corner to the right of Statement of Middle Age – a bit manky!

The right wall of the Mossemite corner forms the left side of the first of a pair of prows. These prows form a bay which contains a clean slab of immaculate sandstone. The two corners of the bay are both unclimbed, the left corner being off-width.



Buttress Area



◇ Pig Prow

10. **Run, Parthians, Run** E2 5b** 20m Ben Sparham Dave Porter May 23rd 2010

Start at the base of the left-hand corner of the bay. Move up to an 'Australia' shaped block on the side of the prow, level with the square-cut roof in the front face. Use the edge of the prow above and face holds to move up to a shallow pocket on the arête. Swing left from this around onto the front face of the prow at a ledge. Move up the prow to finish.



Starting up *Run, Parthians, Run* (E2) The clean immaculate inset slab can be seen right of the climber.
First ascent photo, climber Ben Sparham

To the right, the clean immaculate inset wall is defined by a series of thin shallow cracks running up the centre of the wall. These provide fine climbing with adequate protection. It was led with pre-placed gear and awaits an ascent in better style. Probably E5 6a for the onsight.

Beyond the second prow, the final section of the Buttress Area contains a buttress with a prominent prow at half height (Pig Prow) and beyond this a vertical crack (unclimbed).

11. **Tarvie's Six-Million Dollar Man** HVS 5a* 15m Ben Sparham Dave Porter September 20th 2010
The thin crack to the right of Pig Prow.

After this a wide bay opens out (descent comes down here). The right side of this bay contains a large cracked buttress with many potential routes (dirty).

From here, continue westwards around a corner to find Hidden Wall.

Hidden Wall (West-facing)

Hidden wall is composed of a central corner (Jenny's Gem), flanked by left and right walls. The left wall is more extensive, increasing in height towards the corner, forming a reverse L shape against the central corner. The lower left wall is made up a series of flutings and cracks running up the face. The upper left wall is more compact with a prominent large square niche capped by a narrow roof. 'Gift for Laura' cuts through the right side of this roof. The right wall is less well defined and less extensive.



12. **Hitting the Sack** HVS 5b * 20m Simon Clark Dave Porter August 15th 2020

Start as for Gift for Laura, but trend left up the wall, passing through a shallow niche to reach the right end of ledges. Now move right and climb the left side of the square recess in the upper wall.

13. **Gift for Laura** E1 5b** 20m Ben Sparham Dave Porter Simon Clark April 10th 2010

Start 5m left from the central corner, below an obvious crack in the upper wall. Surmount the lower wall via a slim left-facing corner and bulge to gain a central ledge. Follow the upper crack, which is initially a slim left-facing corner, pulling through a small roof to gain the upper crack.

14. **Jenny's Gem** VS 4c*** 20m Dave Porter Simon Clark Ben Sparham April 10th 2010

The excellent big central corner with short deviations to the right to avoid a prominent weep.

14a. **The Exit Cracks** E2 5b* 10m A left-hand variation finish to Jenny's Gem. Halfway up the corner, move left into cracks in the smooth wall, finishing more easily above. (Simon Clark, Dave Porter, 15/08/20)

15. **Sedgehog** VS 4c* 18m Simon Clark Dave Porter Ben Sparham April 10th 2010

On the right side of the right wall, 10m right of the corner. Climb the prominent clean arête, on it's right-hand side, passing a break at one third height.

Further right is another clean buttress with a series of cracks running up it.

16. **Memory Loss** Severe 20m Simon Clark Dave Porter Ben Sparham April 10th 2010

Start 20m to the right of Sedgehog. Go up an easy crack on right side of a black water mark to reach a steeper crack splitting an arête above. Follow this to the top.



Simon Clark on the first ascent of Sedgehog (VS). Main Hidden Wall is in the sun on the left.



Ben Sparham leading the first ascent of 'Gift for Laura' (E1), Hidden Wall



Two photographs of Dave Porter leading the first ascent of Jenny's Gem (VS), Hidden Wall.