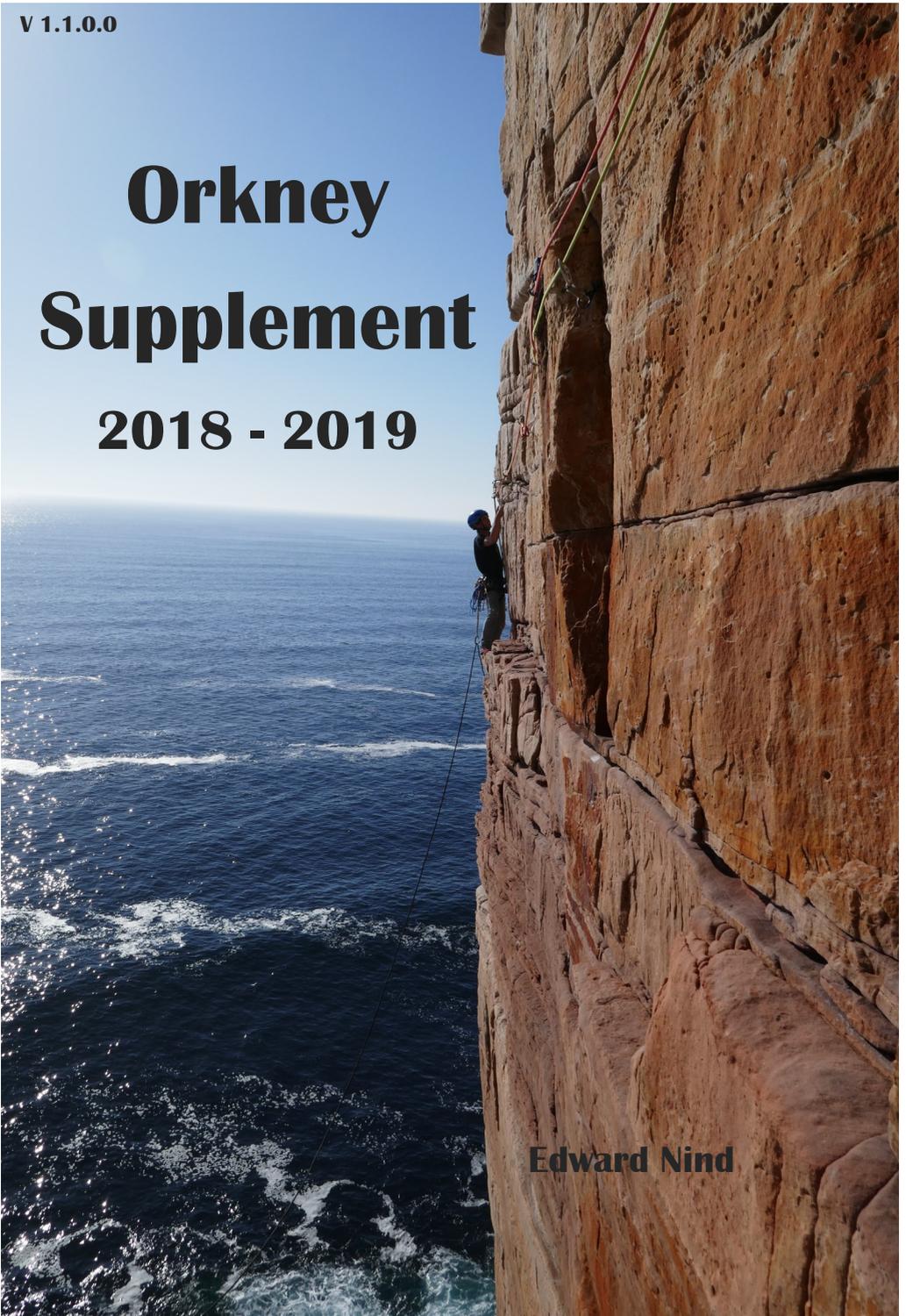


V 1.1.0.0

Orkney Supplement 2018 - 2019

Edward Nind



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Disclaimer

The author recognises that climbing, walking, mountaineering, driving, and being on ferries are activities with a danger of personal injury or death. Participants in these activities should be aware of and accept these risks and be responsible for their own actions and involvement.

The information in this guide is correct to the best of the author's knowledge but the author may not be held responsible for any injury, death, loss of earnings or any other loss of any kind arising from the use or misuse of information in this guide.

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Acknowledgements

The author would like to thank the following people for helping him in the compilation of this supplement: Ian Spence and Iain Miller for information about existing routes at Deerness. Alexia Schmidt, Henry Francis, Topher Dagg, Thomas Hugon, Thea Cupan, Frazer McCallum, Masa Sakano and Samuel Tolhurst for climbing all the new routes with the author. Highland Industrial Supplies for their excellent policy of cutting numerous stakes to size for the author and only charging for the metal used. Topher Dagg for proof reading and feedback on the layout. Finally, the author would like to acknowledge the forbearance of Alexia Schmidt on the many occasions he spent hours and days investigating new crags and the few occasions on which he precipitated a bit of an epic.



Introduction

The Orkney Islands boast a large number of sea cliffs with a wealth of potential for new routes of all lengths and grades. This volume is not a complete guide to Orkney and contains only routes climbed by the Author and others in 2018 to 2019 (earlier routes in close proximity to these have also been included, where known). It is the authors hope that this supplement will encourage more climbers to visit the Orkney islands and enjoy the wide range of quality climbing available there.

Access: Access to Orkney Mainland is by boat from Scrabster, Gills Bay or Aberdeen. All other islands in the group are accessed by boat from Orkney Mainland or via the road over the Churchill Barriers. There is a reasonable bus network on the islands. The internet should be consulted for timetables, costs and other planning concerns. If taking a vehicle on a ferry, always book in advance or risk finding the ferry full on the day. The main airport is in Kirkwall and has regular flights to and from Aberdeen, Inverness, Glasgow, Edinburgh and Manchester; there are also regular flights from Kirkwall to Eday, Stronsay, Westray, Papa Westray, Sanday and North Ronaldsay. All flights are run by Loganair and tend to be expensive.

Services: Tesco and Lidl in Kirkwall are the main supermarkets. Stromness and some villages have Coops that are smaller and more expensive but offer enough variety for a standard diet. On Hoy there is a food and sundries shop in Longhope, by the pier. The Kirkwall town centre offers other useful shops, including some with outdoor kit. There is no climbing equipment shop. On Orkney Mainland a shower can be purchased at the Pickaquooy Centre for £1 and on Hoy there is a 20p coin operated shower in the toilets on the Longhope pier. There are many public toilets dotted around, mostly next to beaches.

Climate and when to visit: April through Sept are good months to climb in Orkney, March and October can be possible but cold may stop play. Birds, particularly fulmars (damn them all to hell!!!) become more of a problem on the larger crags as the spring progresses with the author finding that nesting starts in earnest in the second half of May.

Wee Bastards: The Scottish Midge is a vile species about which much has been written, fortunately however the windy climate in Orkney means that midges are rarely a problem. The heather and generally wetter ground on Hoy means the risk is greater there than on other islands on a calm day.



Weather: The Met Office gives forecasts for Yesnaby, Stromness, Deerness, Kirkwall, Kirkwall Airport, St Margaret's Hope, Hoy Sound and other very specific areas, it is the most useful service for deciding what crag to climb on at a given day (weather can vary significantly across the islands). Forecasts are reasonably accurate for a day or two ahead of time, long-term forecasts are unreliable.

Selecting a crag: Wind direction and speed are the most important factors. Waves are driven by the wind and avoiding them by climbing in the lea of the wind pays dividends. Consider tides also (see below). The routes on Hoy are far enough above the sea to avoid waves or spray but high winds can impede climbing.

Training: There is an indoor climbing wall (and other sports facilities) in the Pickaquoy Centre in Kirkwall, wall opening times are very limited, contact details and info are on the internet. There is an Orkney Climbing Club which can be contacted through their group on Facebook: Orkney Climbing Club www.orkney-climbing-club.com

Equipment: A full traditional climbing rack, helmet and half-ropes are recommended for routes in this book. A static abseil rope will be very useful (especially for Hoy), length needed depends on the crag. Extra cams are indispensable because of the horizontal rock strata on Orkney Mainland and the preponderance of breaks on Hoy.

Tides: Knowing high and low tide times is very advantageous and smart phone apps are available for this. It takes about 12.5 hours for a full tidal cycle so high and low tide times move forward by about 1 hour each day.

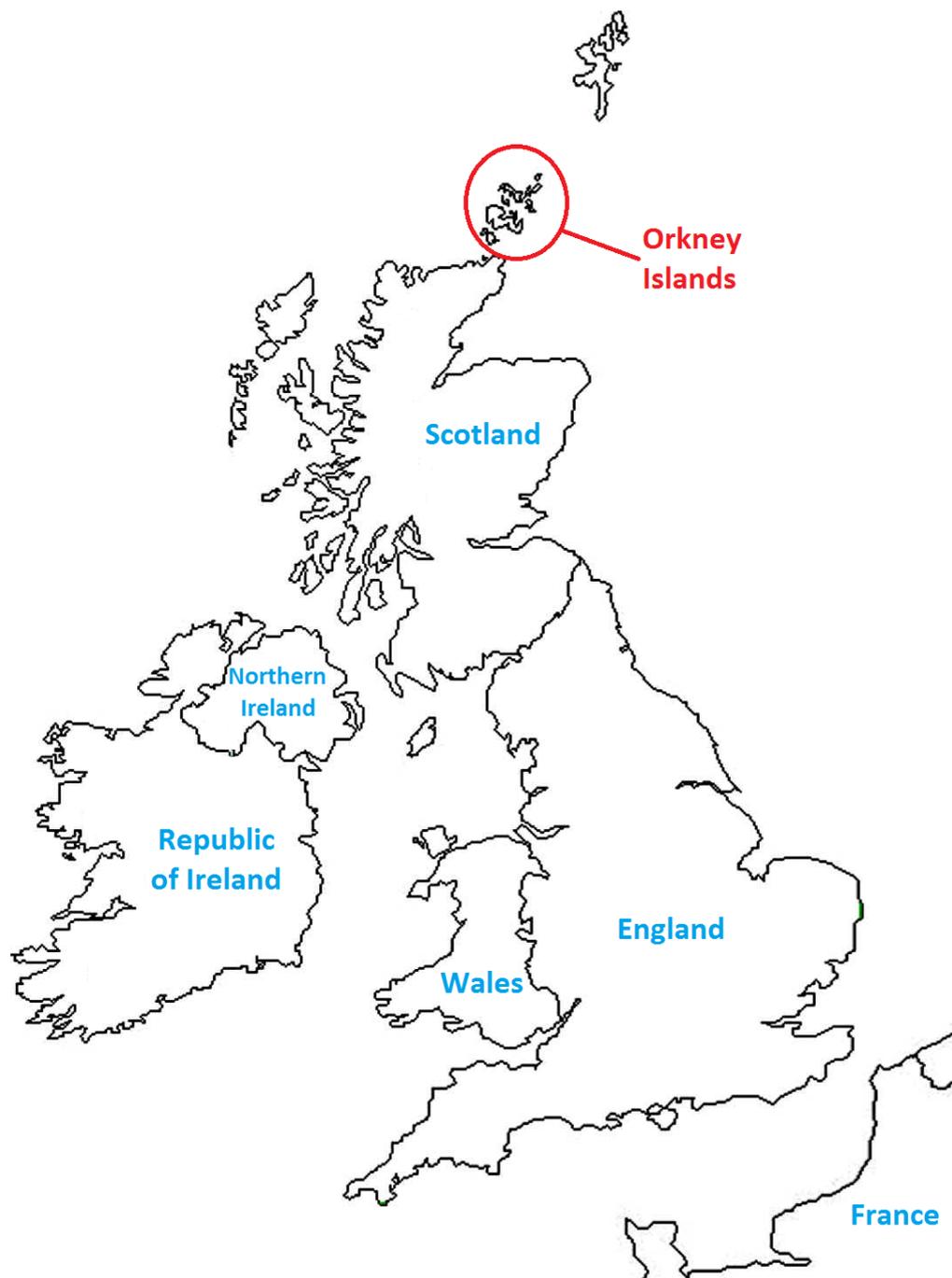


Appropriate conduct: The Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 gives a wide range of access rights in Scotland however it is still incumbent upon you, the climber, to ensure that you respect people's privacy, take litter home, keep dogs under control and act safely and responsibly. Disturbing nesting birds is a criminal offense and should be avoided.

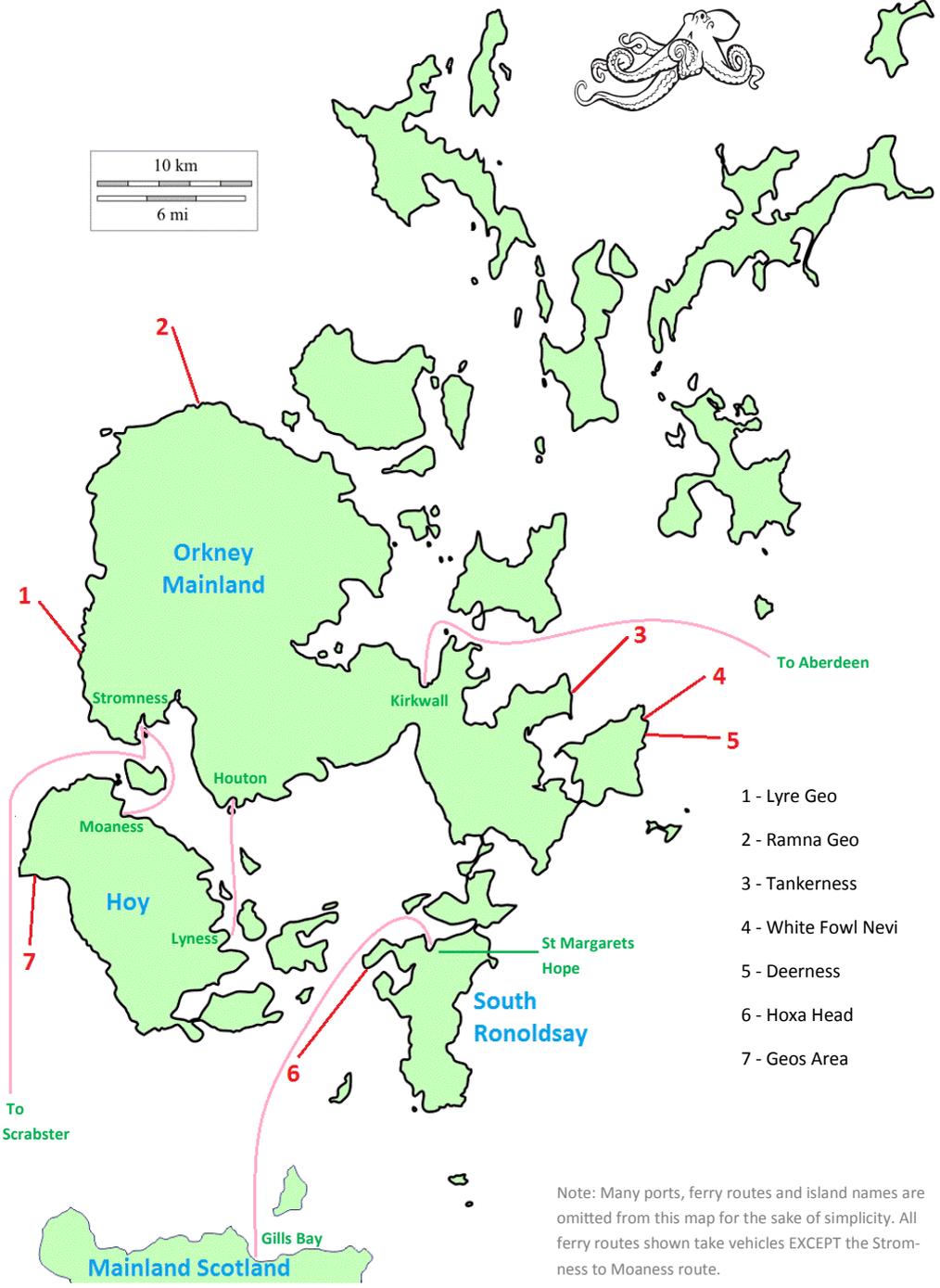
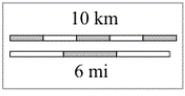
Accommodation: On Orkney Mainland there is a wide range of camping, hostel, hotel, etc. accommodation available, Tourist Information or the internet can be consulted for specifics. On Hoy there is a bothy and a youth hostel at Rackwick and a hotel near Longhope. One can wild camp anywhere on Orkney assuming common sense is applied when choosing where to pitch.



United Kingdom Map



Orkney Islands Map



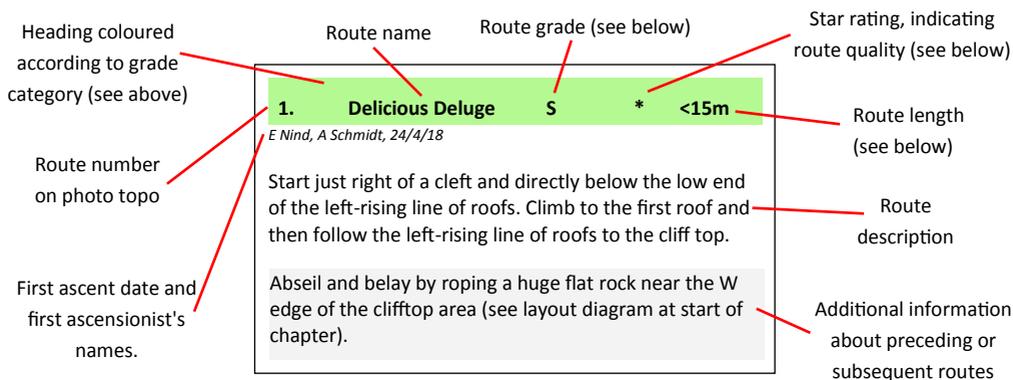
- 1 - Lyre Geo
- 2 - Ramna Geo
- 3 - Tankerness
- 4 - White Fowl Nevi
- 5 - Deerness
- 6 - Hoxa Head
- 7 - Geos Area

Note: Many ports, ferry routes and island names are omitted from this map for the sake of simplicity. All ferry routes shown take vehicles EXCEPT the Stromness to Moaness route.

Key

Thing	Explanation
Exposure	Compass direction(s) the crag faces in.
Routes	Number of routes at each grade: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; font-size: small;"> Mod to S HS to HVS E1 to E3 E4 to E7 </div>
Crag Height	The height from the base of the routes to the top the top of the crag.
Rock Type	An attempt has been made to describe rock type. The author is no geologist!
	Coordinates of the parking area, given as degrees N and W.

Thing	Explanation
	Coordinates of the crag in °N and °W.
Approach time	As measured using the authors long, but not very fit, legs.
[map symbols]	Maps are excerpts from 1:25000 OS maps and the key for these applies.
	Line of route on photo topo (numbered).
	Line of scramble descent on photo topo.



Understanding the Guide

Grading: The standard UK system of adjectival and technical grades are used for grading. Some boulder problems are given a British technical grade only. Grades are subjective and the author encourages you, the reader, to make a personal judgement before starting a route. More information on the grading scale can be found on the internet.

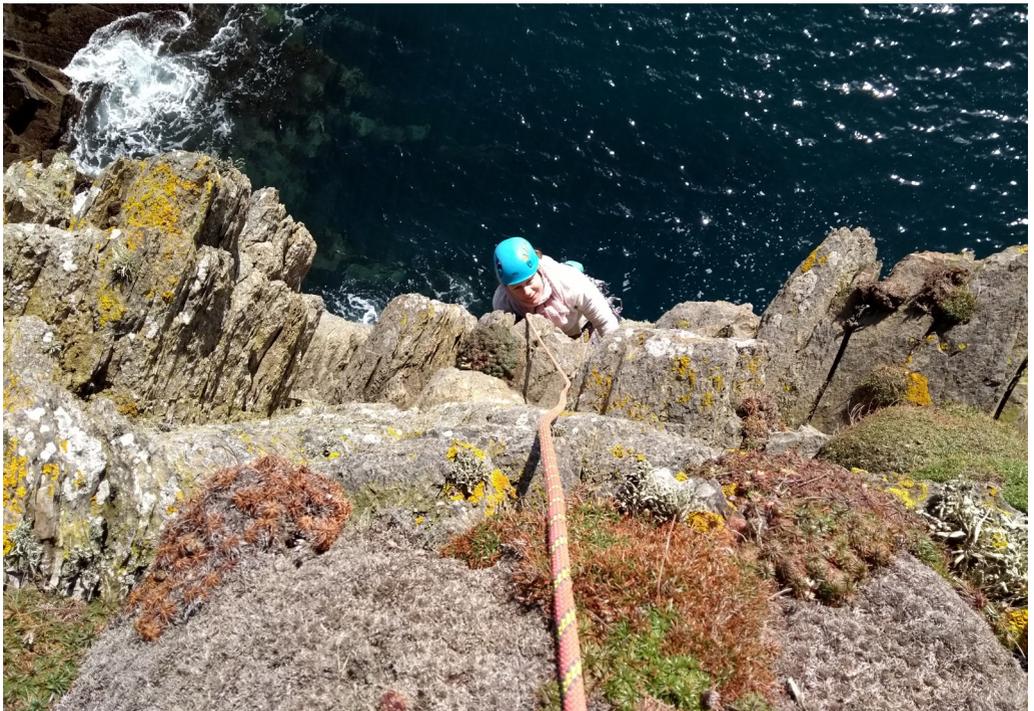
Quality: The standard system of no stars to four stars has been used to indicate quality. The author has tried to avoid giving too many stars as he would rather not overhype the climbing, particularly for short routes that were soloed. Many of the routes in this supplement with no stars are very pleasant bits of climbing. Where quality is actually poor, rather than merely nondescript, this has been noted in the text.

Directions: Routes are sometimes listed left to right and sometimes right to left, the direction is obvious from the photo-topos. Directions on a climb are given for the climber facing the cliff. All layouts and maps are made with N in the up direction. Compass directions are abbreviated to save space.

Route Length: Routes that are 15m or less long are generically listed as "<15m", other lengths are to the closest 5m.

Crag Summary

Crag name	Routes					Exposure	Route length	Approach time	Tidal or non-tidal
	Mod - S	HS - HVS	E1 - E3	E4 - E7	Total				
Lyre Geo		1	6		7	NW, S, W	40 - 50m	30 min	Mixture
Ramna Geo			1		1	NW	80m	15 min	Non-tidal
Tankerness	29	23	6		58	Mainly E and SE	8 - 15m	10 min	Mostly tidal
White Fowl Nevi			1		1	E	25m	20 min	Non-tidal
Deerness	12	24	15		51	Mainly E	8 - 15m	5 - 15 min	Mostly non-tidal
Hoxa Head	1	11	6		18	SE, S, SW	10 - 25m	15 min	Mixture
Geos Area		5	23	9	37	W, S	15 - 55m	45 min	Non-tidal



Lyre Geo Area

Exposure NW, S, W

Routes 1 6

Crag Height 40 - 50m

Rock Type: Silt, mud and sand-stone layers



59.02475°N
3.35897°W



Varies by sector

Approach time: 30 mins

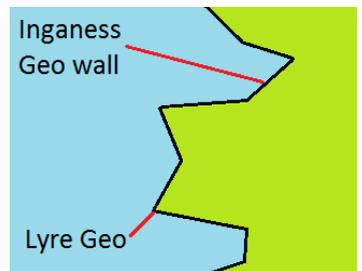


Character: The rock has a horizontal strata with generally lots of flat holds. Many cams are essential. Rock quality is moderate with a lot of thin, friable layers but generally well protected at Lyre Geo itself. The pitches feel quite big and committing.

Approach: From the parking, follow paths S past the Yesnaby climbing area, at the end of this, go through a kissing gate. Continue S along the clifftops to the first deep geo (Geo of Inganess), Inganess Geo wall is on the S side of this geo, stakes for the abseil can be seen beside the path just after crossing the small stream at the head of the geo. To reach Lyre Geo itself, continue along the clifftops to reach another kissing gate, go through this. The crag lies about 100m SW of this gate, the stakes are obvious.

Access: Abseil to sea level ledges for both walls, a separate abseil rope is needed. At Lyre Geo itself place gear on abseil to stay in contact with the wall, especially to reach the start of routes 1 and 2. All 3 stakes at Lyre Geo should be carefully equalised for an anchor as they are short and only 1 is buried deep. Both stakes at Geo of Inganess are buried deep.

Layout:





1. All Your Fears Are My Desires E2 5b ** 45m

E Nind, T Dagg, 19/4/18

Belay in the S mouth of the arch (tidal). Climb up and left across the slab to stand above the sea on an arête immediately below a roof. Move round onto the seaward (W) face and climb more steeply up and a little left. Where the face becomes more blocky, weave a path of least resistance to a huge ledge and break. Climb the right-hand of two large clean cracks in the headwall and finish direct. Rope drag can be an issue.

2. Beating Heart E3 5c *** 45m

E Nind, T Hugon, 10/6/18

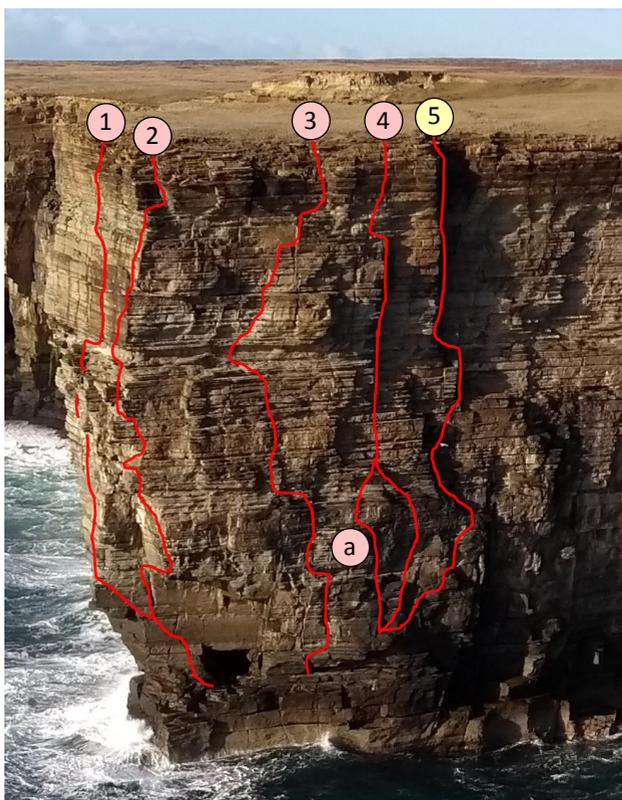
A superb line that follows the impressive SW arête of the headland. Climb the slab left of the cave to the main corner above. Traverse the hanging wall on the right to a tiny stance on the end of the giant roof. Climb a short arête to a large ledge. Move up and left off this below a left-pointing spike, pull left round the arête to another stance. Move right back round the arête (stand on the spike) then up and left round it again to a large ledge and continue easily to the giant central break. Pull onto the upper wall just left of the arête and move right and up to regain the arête, climb it on the left side to near the top and finish on its right side. Top of the grade.

3. Ill Omens E3 6a * 40m

E Nind, S Tolhurst, 24/6/18

Belay under a right-facing flake line at the same level as the cave and a few m to the right of it. Use the small right-facing corner to gain the flake line and climb this to a grey ledge, step left and climb the obvious weakness on the right side of the black rock to a large black ledge. Move 3m left along the ledge and climb blocks and an orange wall to reach a vertical crack in the upper part of the orange wall, climb this to a giant ledge. Arrange gear on the right then move back left and make a steep, hard move up into the left-facing scoop. Climb with increasing ease up and right over some small ledges to reach and finish at a small left-facing corner.

Route 4. and 5. start from a comfy ledge a few metres above and 10m right of the arch. This stays dry even in quite a big swell (see next page).



Lyre Geo wall

4. Deja Vu E2 5c * 40m

E Nind, T Dagg, 19/4/18

Move up and right from the ledge to below a short steep wall, attack this directly (crux) to gain a large ledge above. Move slightly left and then climb direct to a worrying entry into the obvious corner (the tongue of rock is solid). Climb the corner and exit left at its top. Finish direct through rock that looks worse than it is.

4a. Left-hand start, E2 5b* - *S Tolhurst, E Nind, 24/6/18*

Move directly up from the belay into a scooped pea pod, climb this, exit left and then trend back right to join 4.

5. Ma Petite Fleur HVS 5a ** 40m

E Nind, A Schmidt, 28/4/18

Follow a right rising line up large foot ledges, staying below the line of Deja Vous, until some tricky moves lead up and right to a large ledge. Climb easily left up ledges to a short sandstone corner then up and right to another short corner. Climb this and then finish up the huge main corner above.

Ingness Geo Wall



59.00918°N

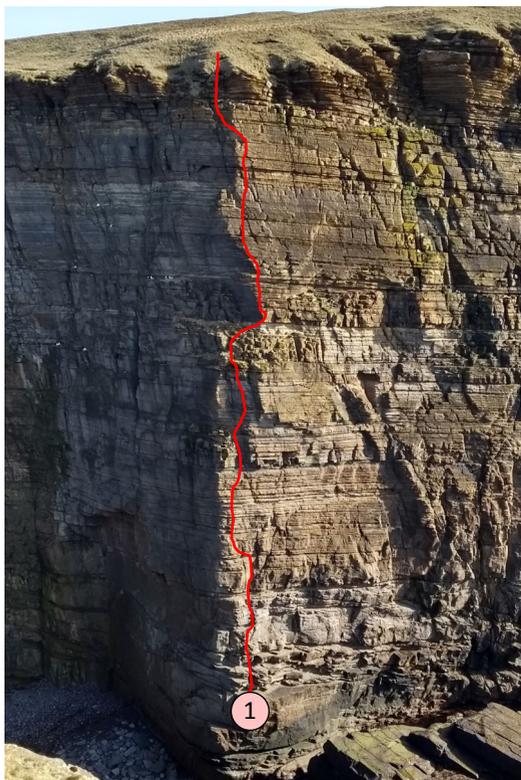
3.35802°W

2 good stakes are in place for abseiling. Fulmars nest close to the route but not on it and can be avoided (check on abseil if unsure).

1.	Fortunate Son	E2 5b	50m
----	---------------	-------	-----

E Nind, T Hugon, 10/6/18

A fine line but with some dubious rock and protection. Start at a giant ledge (non-tidal) and climb the main arête on its right side, following the easiest line. At a pile of blocks and fulmar (on left), move right slightly and climb poor rock between two small grooves. Exit left onto the grassy terrace (fulmar on right). Climb the grassy terrace and ascent the upper arête on its right side easily but with spaced gear. Exit slightly left of the arête with care.



Geo of Ingness wall



Ramna Geo

Exposure NW

Routes 1

Crag Height 80m

Rock Type: Silt, mud and sand-stone layers



59.14720°N
3.21805°W



59.15361°N
3.21602°W

Approach time: 15 mins



Character: A repugnant chosspile of disintegrating rubble cemented with guano and garnished with vomit. Some care is needed to avoid fulmars and the associated vomit bath. There are harmless razorbills also present.

Approach: Park at a small access track next to the loch. Walk E along the road to the last field boundary on the N side of it. Cross onto Costa Hill and follow the E side of the boundary fence generally N all the way to Ramna Geo. The route is at its NE tip.

Access: Abseil from 2 stakes to a huge ledge a few m above the sea. Rigging rope + 80m ab rope needed.

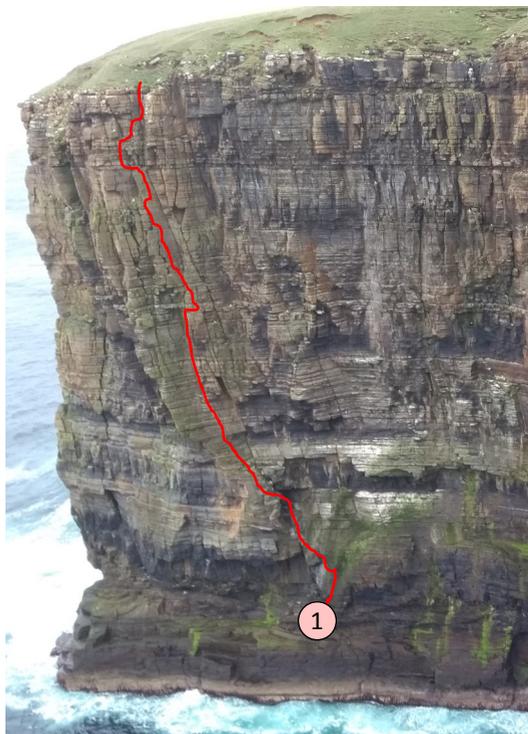
1.	Discordant Cacophony	Scottish VS	80m
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E Nind, A Schmidt, 9/6/18

Abseil down the line to giant ledges at the base.

1. 35m 5a Climb a slimy and un-protected slab up and right till a move can be made back left to an overhanging block and gear. Continue up and left to an filthy easy groove, razorbills. Climb the groove then ascend left with a tricky move squeezing under an overhang and exit left to a ledge. Move left to a small arête and go up this to ledges and a belay.

2. 45m 5b Ascent a large slab leftwards until its right side becomes a corner, climb this (steeper) to an overhang on the left, ascend right (fulmar on left ledge) then return left above the fulmar, step left again to an easy wide crack. Climb this, razorbills, to its finish, step right to avoid fulmars on the left ledge and climb the short slab or corner to another ledge. Step left off this ledge to climb a short steep wall, pull over and move up and right above fulmars to regain the main corner and finish up this.



Tankerness

Exposure	Mainly E and SE
Routes	29 23 6
Crag Height	Up to 15m
Rock Type:	Silt, mud and sandstone layers
	58.97758°N 2.80111°W
	Varies by sector
Approach time:	10 mins



Character: The rock is made up of horizontal bands of various quality. While generally good, the top few metres is often poorer rock. There is some lichen of various types but little Old Man's Beard. The routes avoid nesting birds and guano is a minimal problem.

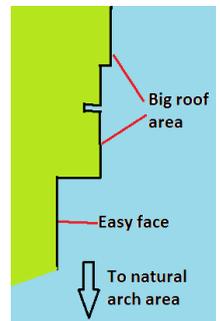
Approach: Park at a passing place on a sharp bend in the road, there is space for 2 cars (don't block the field entrance).

Approach 1: Walk E along the N side of a drainage trench. After passing the second trench joining from the S, cross the main trench and walk SE through a bog to reach the crag at the Hangie Bay area.

Approach 2: Walk 100m N along the road, cross the fence on the E side and walk ENE to reach the crag at the Lea Taing area (crossing another fence when nearly there). Much dryer.

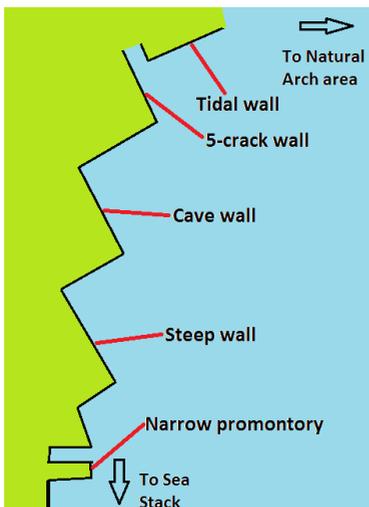
Access: Various abseils offer access to comfortable belay platforms. Some of the platforms are tidal. Abseils and belays are from large blocks or belay stakes.

Lea Taing Layout:

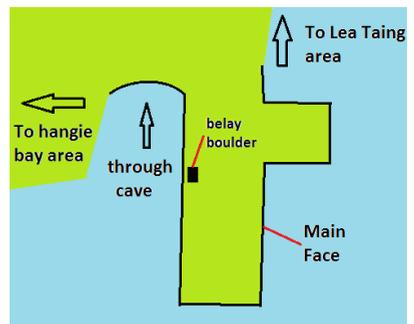


Hangie Bay

Layout:



Natural Arch Layout:



Hangie Bay Area



58.97718°N

2.79403°W

Scramble or abseil to a tidal platform (descent line on topo on next page). From here, routes 1 to 5 are accessed by soloing S along the base of the cliff.

1. Fluorine S <15m

E Nind, solo, 5/5/18

The front of the narrow promontory, just left of the deep chimney-cleft was climbed. Start at the large black ledge on the left side of the promontory 2-3 metres above the sea (to avoid a wet and slimy start).

2. Europium S <15m

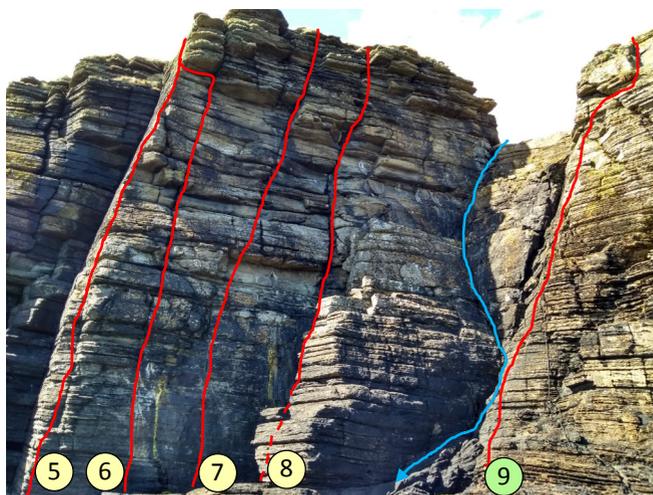
E Nind, solo, 5/5/18

Start at the bottom and seaward end of the deep cleft. Climb the wall on the right side of it to a ledge. Continue up large blocks to gain the vague arête above and finish up this.

3. Einsteinium S <15m

E Nind, solo, 5/5/18

Just left of the main corner, climb up blocks to access and finish up a short corner above.



Steep wall and scramble descent



Narrow promontory and corners

4. Erbium S <15m

T Dagg, solo, 22/4/18

From a triangular platform, climb the main, clean corner.

5. Dysprosium VS 4c * <15m

E Nind, A Schmidt, 5/5/18

Climb the left side of the prominent arête. Rock at the top is delicate.

The steep wall right of the prominent arête has 3 obvious crack lines.

6. Darmstadtium HVS 5a <15m

E Nind, A Schmidt, 5/5/18

The left-most crack in the steep wall is climbed to the final overhang, then move left round the arête and finish as for 5.

7. Dubnium HVS * <15m 5b

E Nind, A Schmidt, 5/5/18

Pull onto an obvious small ledge then climb up and slightly right to gain and finish up the central crack line.

8. Copper HVS 5b <15m

E Nind, A Schmidt, 5/5/18

Scramble easily up the left-facing corner/cleft to a large ledge half way up. Finish up the right hand crack line.

9. Caesium V dif <15m

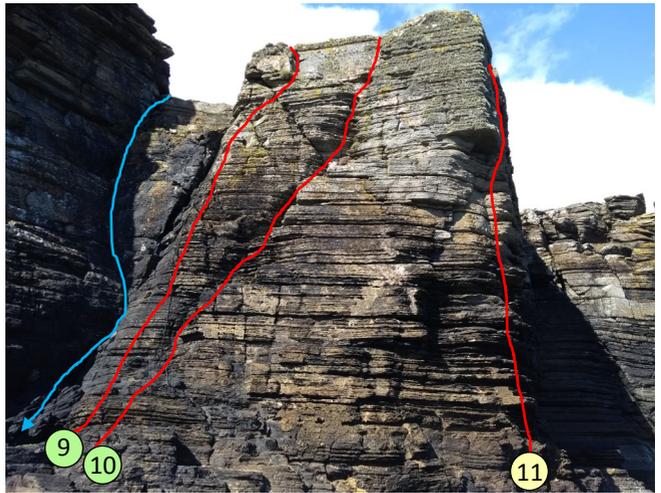
E Nind, solo, 5/5/18

Climb the blunt arête right of the scramble descent, move slightly right to finish. Rather arbitrary.

10. Chromium V dif <15m

E Nind, solo, 5/5/18

From the base of the scramble descent, climb the obvious right-trending rising ledge system and crack line.



Descent route wall

11. Cobalt HS <15m

E Nind, A Schmidt, 5/5/18

Climb the right arête of Descent Route wall to an obvious square-cut roof. Pull up and right to finish on the right side of the arête.

12. Copernicium S <15m

E Nind, A Schmidt, 5/5/18

Climb the main vertical weakness in the centre of the wall that is left of the cave. Top out on the left side of the awkward block at the top.

13. Curium HS <15m

E Nind, A Schmidt, 5/5/18

Start just left of the cave at a vertical crack. Climb straight up.

An abseil descent down line 18 is used to access lines 14 to 23

14. Chlorine S * <15m

E Nind, solo, 5/5/18

Climb the corner in the cave as for route 15. From the roof of the cave, scooch left along a shelf into the bowls of the earth and then climb up into daylight.

15. Californium V dif <15m

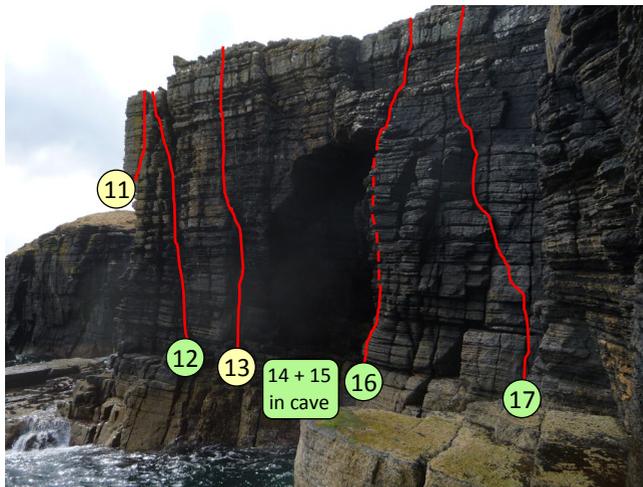
T Dagg, solo, 22/4/18

Traverse left into the mouth of the cave. Climb the corner to the roof of the cave, exit by pulling out right to gain the slabby headwall and finish directly.

16. Cerium V dif <15m

E Nind, solo, 22/4/18

Climb the arête which forms the right boundary of the cave. Joins and finishes up route 15 at the top.



Cave Wall

17. Cadmium Mod <15m

T Dagg, solo, 22/4/18

From the start of the main corner, follow a left-trending line of ledges up and left across the slabby face.

18. Calcium Mod <15m

E Nind, solo, 22/4/18

Follow the main corner line at the back of the almost non-tidal ledge.

19. Carbon V dif <15m

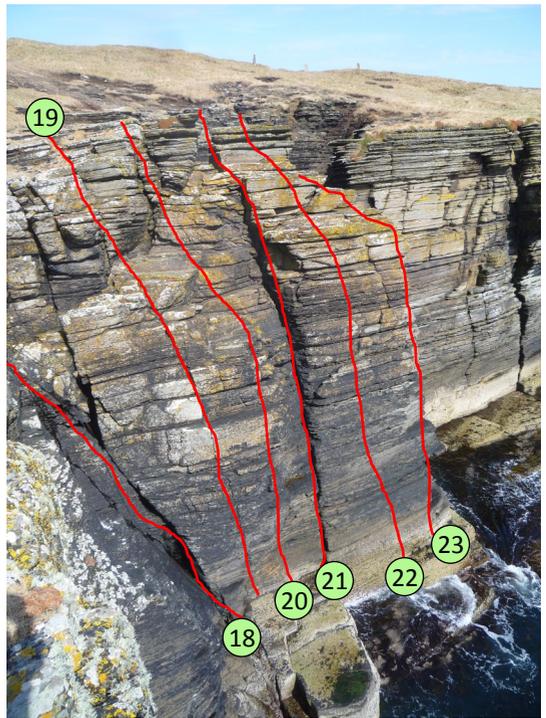
T Dagg, solo, 22/4/18

Follow a faint crack in the wall just right of the main corner.

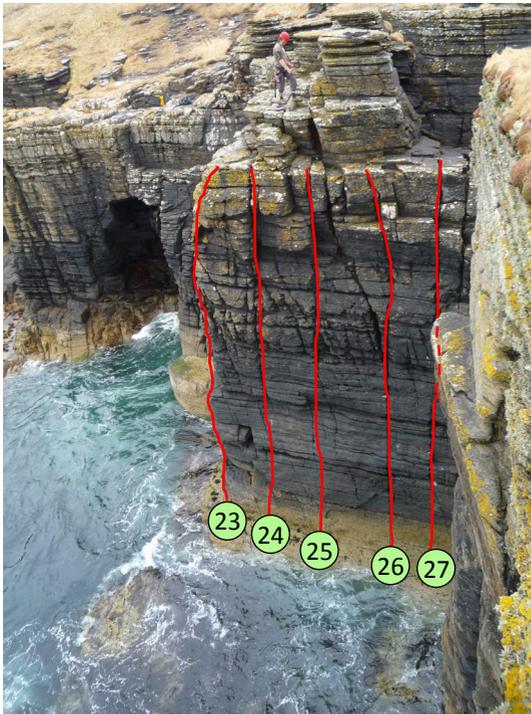
20. Bromine V dif <15m

E Nind, solo, 22/4/18

Climb the wall just left of the obvious and central full-height crack.



Wall right of the cave



5 Crack wall

21. Berkelium V dif * <15m

E Nind, solo, 22/4/18

Climb the obvious full-height crack in the centre of the wall right of the main corner.

22. Bismuth S * <15m

E Nind, solo, 22/4/18

Climb the wall right of the full-height crack and left of the arête.

For routes 23-28, abseil to a barnacle ledge. Low tide needed. The wall has 5 well defined cracks.

23. Bohrium V dif <15m

T Dagg, solo, 22/4/18

Climb the left arête of 5 crack wall via ledges and a flake feature.

24. Beryllium V dif <15m

T Dagg, solo, 22/4/18

Climb the crack immediately right of the arête.

25. Barium V dif <15m

E Nind, solo, 22/4/18

Climb the 2nd crack right of the arête. Differentiated from the others by an obvious flat foothold in the barnacles.

26. Boron S <15m

E Nind, solo, 22/4/18

The central and most well-defined crack. Where it divides near the top, follow the right (direct) branch.

27. Gold V dif <15m

T Dagg, solo, 22/4/18

The 2nd crack left of the right-hand end of the wall, identified by a small l-facing corner shortly after the start.

28. Astatine V dif <15m

T Dagg, solo, 22/4/18

The rightmost crack line on the wall (not visible on the topo).

The barnacle ledge of Tidal Wall (routes 29 to 34) is only accessible at low tide. Belay and abseil is from 2 stakes, well back.

29. Arsenic S <15m

E Nind, A Schmidt, 14/5/18

Start at the left end of the face, climb up to a crack which leads to a ledge, continue up above this, finishing up an obvious vertical crack.

30. Argon HS <15m

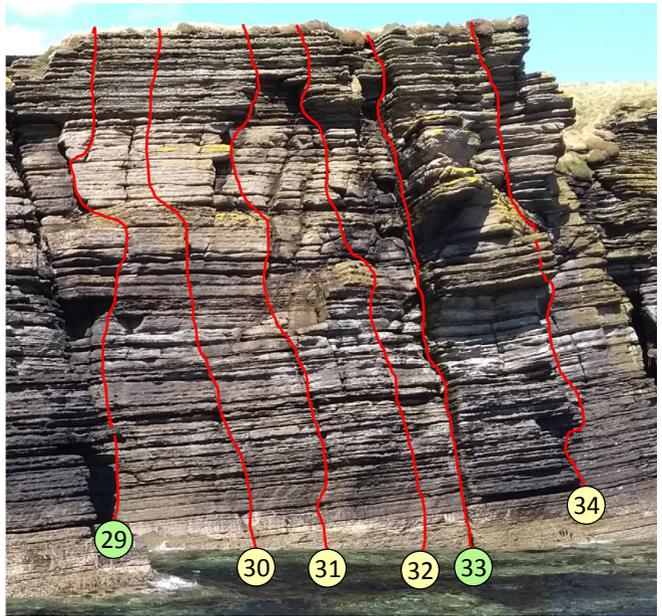
E Nind, A Schmidt, 14/5/18

Start at the base of a left-trending ramp line. Climb this and where it stops, move up and pull over onto the same ledge as the above route, but a bit further right. Finish up an ill-defined line between routes 29 and 31.

31. Americium VS 4c <15m

E Nind, A Schmidt, 14/5/18

Start at the left-trending ramp line but climb the crack to its right. From the top of the crack, move up and left to the right end of the ledge. Climb the corner above and break through the roof at its left side to finish.



Tidal wall

32. Aluminium VS 4c <15m

E Nind, A Schmidt, 14/5/18

Start just left of the prominent corner. Climb up and slightly left, aiming for the small left-facing corner in the roof near the top. Pull through the roof at this corner to finish.

33. Silver S * <15m

E Nind, A Schmidt, 14/5/18

Climb the obvious corner.

34. Actinium HS <15m

E Nind, A Schmidt, 14/5/18

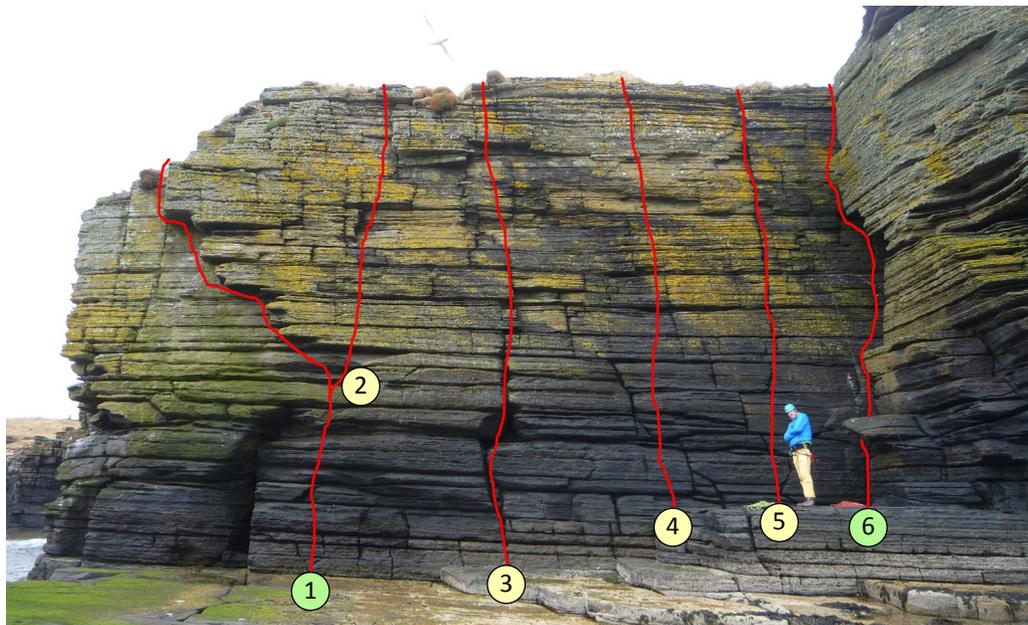
A few metres right of the previous route, start on a less tidal ledge (2 metres higher). Climb the left wall of the huge, but vague, corner with a couple of tricky overlaps. Continue up and left in the same line to finish just right of the previous route.



Natural Arch area



58.97803°N
2.79275°W



Main Face

Abseil and belay by roping a huge flat rock near the W edge of the clifftop area (see layout diagram at start of chapter).

1. Delicious Deluge S * <15m

E Nind, A Schmidt, 24/4/18

Start just right of a cleft and directly below the low end of the left-rising line of roofs. Climb to the first roof and then follow the left-rising line of roofs to the cliff top.

2. Dodging Downpours HS <15m

E Nind, A Schmidt, 24/4/18

Start as for the previous route. Climb to the first roof then continue straight up to a small left-facing corner, finish up this.

3. Chasing storms VS 4c <15m

E Nind, T Dagg, 22/4/18

Start below a triangular niche and crack line in the centre of the wall. Climb the crack to the centre of the over-lap near the top. Surmount this and finish.

4. The Opportunist VS 4c <15m

E Nind, A Schmidt, 24/4/18

Start from the edge of the higher part of the belay platform (half way between routes 3 and 5). Climb straight up and finish via a thin crack in the headwall. Lichenous and some of the worst rock hereabouts.

5. A Quest For Rock HS <15m

T Dagg, E Nind, 22/4/18

Climb the right-most crack line on the face (just left of the vile guano filled chimney/cleft).

6. Disastrous Drenching V dif <15m

E Nind, A Schmidt, 24/4/18

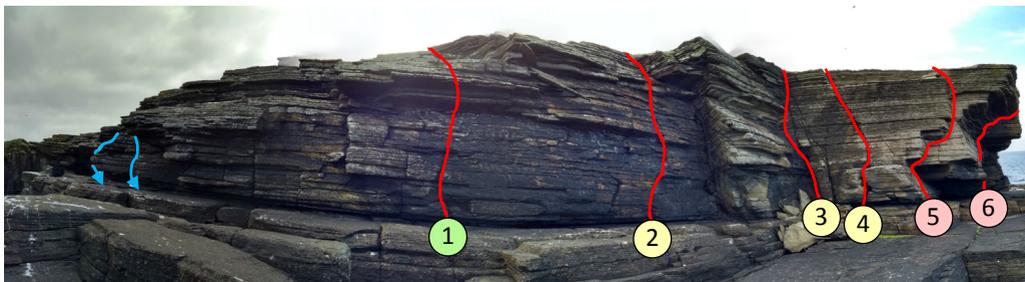
At the right-hand end of the face, bridge up the outside of the huge chimney cleft. The climbing is only vile if you venture inside.



Lea Taing area



58.97950°N
2.792563°W



Easy Face

Descent is by easy scrambles as marked on the topos. Most routes use 2 belay stakes that are well back from the edge, routes 15 to 18 are at a rather oblique angle to the stakes so care must be taken.

1. Final Wall S <15m

E Nind, solo, 22/5/18

Start just left of the dangerous hanging spike. Climb up the intermittent crack with a tricky rockover in the middle.

2. Shadows And Lights VS 4c <15m

E Nind, solo, 13/5/18

Start 2m left of a large corner. Climb the crack line, aiming for the short corner at the top of the wall. Finish up this.

3. Rubble Trouble VS 4c <15m

E Nind, solo, 5/5/18

The main corner, just left of the striking diagonal crack, has a tricky start.

4. Shale Trail VS 4c * <15m

H Francis, A Schmidt, 22/5/18

The striking diagonal crack is climbed on rather snappy rock.

5. Reluctant Truce E1 5b <15m

E Nind, unseeded, 5/5/18

Start down and right of a bottomless corner. Use the slab to gain this corner then climb up and right to a respite. Finish up the upper corner.

6. Faith, Hope and Blind Luck E2 5c ** <15m

E Nind, unseeded, 4/6/18

The spectacular roof corner. A deceptively tricky start overcomes the undercut base. Move up to the roof corner above, climb this (dubious protection) to an easy exit and finish.



Big Roof Face

7. Bull Shale E1 5c * <15m

H Francis, E Nind, 22/5/18

Climb direct to the central crack line in the roof. Surmount the roof and finish easily.

8. Pieces I've Ate E1 5c * <15m

E Nind, H Francis, 22/5/18

Start just left of a second very undercut section. Climb up and then right to a left-facing roof flake, surmount the roof and finish easily.

9. OctoPie E1 5c <15m

E Nind, unseeded, 4/6/18

Climb the arête at the far right end of the big roof, trend left to a right-facing roof flake, surmount the roof and finish easily.

10. Pile Of Shale E1 5c <15m

H Francis, E Nind, 22/5/18

Climb the arête at the far right end of the big roof, surmount the roof directly at 2 cracks and finish easily.

11. Peace of Shale HS <15m

E Nind, solo, 13/5/18

There is a wide, deep chimney, climb the narrow corner/flake line on its right wall.

12. Triple Tear VS 5a <15m

E Nind, H Francis, 22/5/18

Start below the centre of the big roof, climb up to the lower roof, wriggle left onto a ledge, move up and right to the centre of the next roof, pull over and finish direct.

13. Deep Shale S <15m

E Nind, solo, 13/5/18

Start just left of the descent ramp. Climb small blocks to pull right onto a ledge. Move slightly right and finish straight up.

14. Saucy Sorority Shenanigans S <15m

E Nind, solo, 13/5/18

The crack/corner line immediately right of the descent ramp.

15. Shoddy Shelving HVS 5b <15m

E Nind, unseeded, 4/6/18

Climb the arête to the huge roof, pull up to the lip and traverse it left till a foothold lower on the lip allows a rockover and direct finish.

16. Fickle Plate Of Fate HS <15m

E Nind, A Schmidt, 5/18

Start in a notch in the black ledge. Climb to the highest point in the line of roofs, move left onto the giant plate and finish direct.

17. Felicity's Folly VS 5a <15m

E Nind, solo, 13/5/18

Start just right of a notch in the black ledge. Climb to the highest point of the line of roofs, break through on the right using dinner plates for feet and finish direct.

18. Herbivore's Delight V dif <15m

E Nind, solo, 13/5/18

Climb up and right to the lower roof, break right through it and finish direct.



White Fowl Nevi

Exposure	E
Routes	1
Crag Height	25m
Rock Type:	Sandstone
	58.95624°N 2.714664°W
	59.15361°N 3.21602°W
Approach time:	20 mins



Character: The sandstone is reminiscent of Hoy but a bit less sandy and a bit more snappy. Quality is very acceptable up to the ledge a few m from the top, the final few m are very poor.

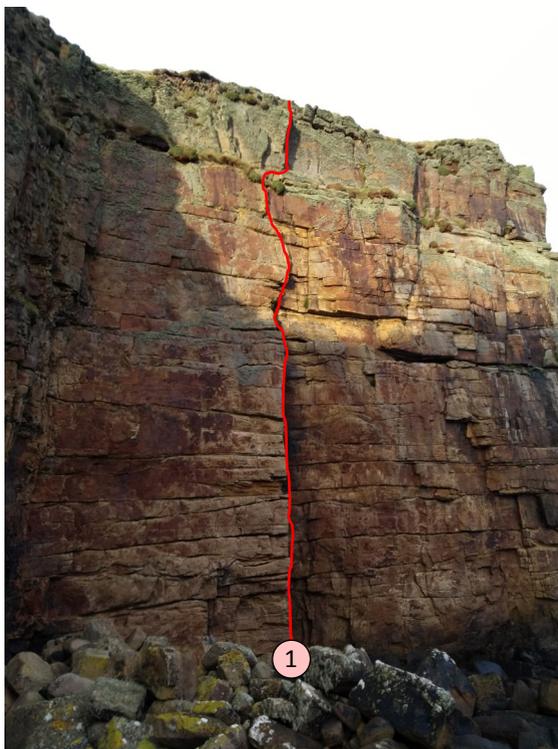
Approach: Park at a large parking area at the public road end. Follow the signed public path past the Gloup to the coast. Walk N along the clifftops for 1km past Brough of Deerness to reach the large N-facing bay. The wall is on the W side of the bay.

Access: Either scramble down an easy gully just S of the route to the W end of the boulder beach or walk along the whole boulder beach from the Brough of Deerness access path or abseil from two situ stakes well back from the top of the route.

1. Afterglow E3 5c ** 25m

E Nind, Unseeded, 16/6/18

Non-tidal (just) when the sea is calm. The steep central corner is climbed to a flake then a ledge. The top few metres is very loose; step right on the ledge to a right-facing corner which has been cleaned and climb this with care.



W side of the bay

Deerness

Exposure Mainly E

Routes 12 24 15

Crag Height Up to 15m

Rock Type: Silt, mud and sand-stone layers



58.95624°N
2.714664°W



Varies by sector

Approach time: 5 to 15 mins

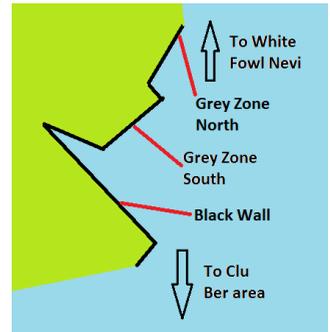


Character: The rock has a horizontal strata with generally lots of flat holds. Cams are needed. Rock quality is good (probably due to pounding by the sea during winter storms). Much of the rock is fine-grained and very slippery when damp or wet.

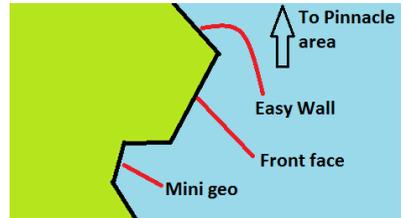
Approach: Park at a large parking area at the public road end. Follow the signed public path past the Gloop to the coast. Walk N along the clifftops for about 50m to Gloop North sector, other sectors are reached by walking N along the clifftops. Avoid the inland path as it is much wetter.

Access: Some sectors have short abseils, some have easy scrambles to get to the base. Huge gently sloping platforms at the base of the cliffs make getting to the routes easy. These platforms are extremely slippery when damp or wet.

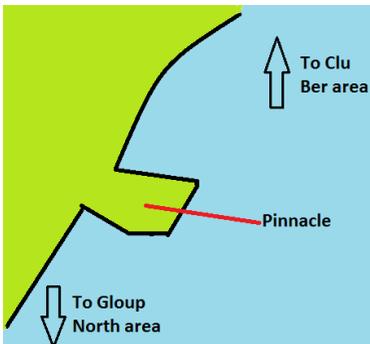
Grey Zone area layout:



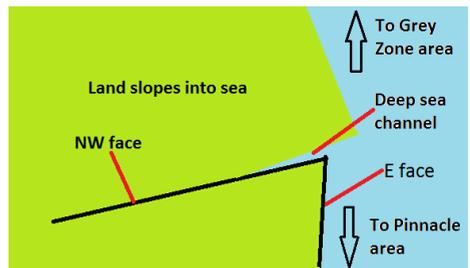
Gloop North area layout:



Pinnacle area layout:



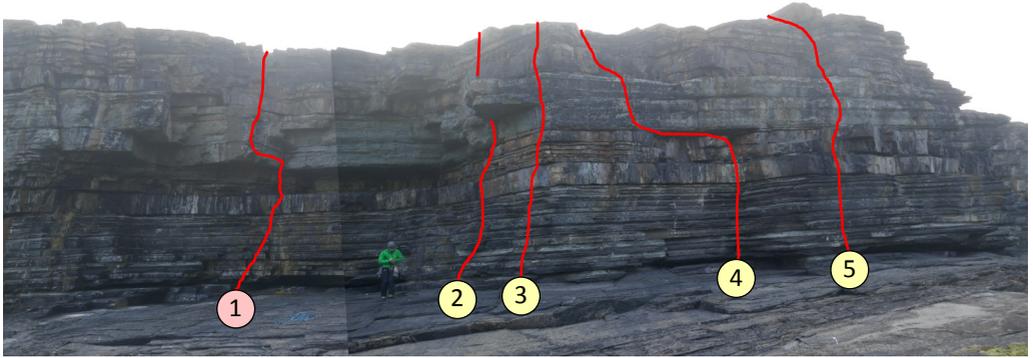
Clu Ber area layout:



Gloup North Area



58.95641°N
2.70791°W



Mini geo and front face

1. Solstice Line E2 6a <15m

S Tolhurst, E Nind, 21/6/18

Climb easily to the left side of the giant cave slot, make hard moves up and left to get established on the hanging arête. Finish easily.

2. One Move Wonder VS 5b <15m

E Nind, A Schmidt, 27/6/18

Climb easily to a ledge below an overhanging crack just left of a roof, Move up the crack to the ledge above (crux) and finish easily.

3. Har Haar VS 5a * <15m

E Nind, A Schmidt, L Somerville, 27/6/18

Climb the main arête on its left side.

4. Dapper Squid HS <15m

E Nind, solo, 27/6/18

Climb the corner into the horizontal slot cave. Graunch left then climb a short wall (crux) to a ledge and another wall to finish.

5. So Long Orkney VS 5b <15m

E Nind, L Somerville, 27/6/18

Make a hard move up a steep flaky wall to a ledge. Climb the obvious line of weakness above to finish.

6. Bar Na Cool V dif <15m

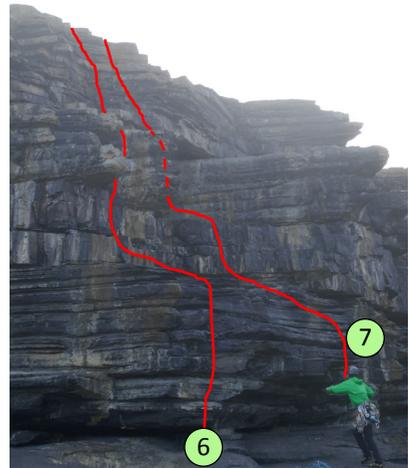
L Somerville, A Schmidt, 27/6/18

Climb over the undercut base at its easiest point. Ascend easily into the left-hand corner and climb this to the top.

7. Bon Voyage S 4c <15m

L Somerville, E Nind, 27/6/18

Make a tricky mantleshelf just left of an easy corner. Climb easily up and left to the corner just right of 6. Climb this and finish at the same point as 6.



Easy Wall



Pinnacle Area

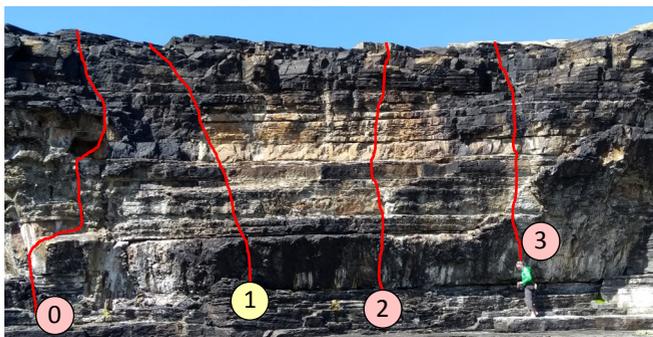


58.96078°N
2.70590°W

0. Zimwi E2 5c <15m

S Tolhurst, E Nind, 21/6/18

Start below the left end of a ledge. Climb to the ledge, traverse it right to below a square niche. Enter the niche, exit it up and right, then finish up and leftwards more easily.



Steep wall South of the Pinnacle

1. Faecal Avoidance VS 4c <15m Strategy

T Dagg, solo, 21/4/18

At the left-hand end of the black overhang, boulder up onto the ledge, move up and follow the stepped ramp left until it is possible to finish direct.

2. The Completist E1 5c <15m

T Dagg, E Nind, 21/4/18

Start below the lowest mini-corner in the centre of the wall. Start from a sharp undercut pocket, pull steeply up to gain the ledge, finish directly.

3. Short Sharp Shock E2 6a * <15m

T Dagg, E Nind, 21/4/18

Make a very hard first move to gain a small ledge (small cam) and then stand on it. Finish straight up.

A short wall on the S side of the pinnacle is climbed by 5 problems (routes 4 to 8). All finish via an easy scramble between cliff and Pinnacle.

4. Ca C'est Facile 4a <15m

A Schmidt, solo, 29/4/18

Climb the corner between the short wall and the very steep face to the left.

5. Seawhores 4c <15m

E Nind, solo, 29/4/18

Start 2m right of Ca C'est Facile, climb direct on flat jugs.

6. Cockless 5b <15m

E Nind, solo, 29/4/18

3m right again the wall changes from black to brown, climb straight up at the boundary of the colour change.

7. Bum Shuffle 5b <15m

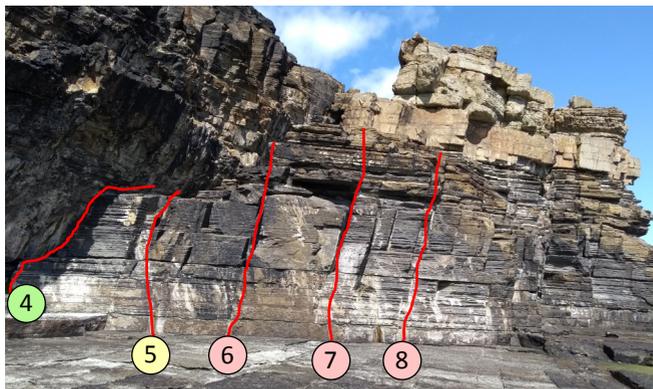
E Nind, solo, 29/4/18

Start below the prominent roof, climb up to its right side and finish direct.

8. Gender Chaos 5b <15m

E Nind, solo, 29/4/18

The right-most line on the wall. Start below two parallel vertical cracks that are close together. Climb Directly.



Short Wall on the S side of the Pinnacle

9. Put Your Feet Up HS 4c <15m

E Nind, A Schmidt, 21/4/18

Climb ledges up and left to a niche below a big roof. Pull up and left onto the next ledge with difficulty and then finish fairly directly.

10. Sexy Seals S <15m

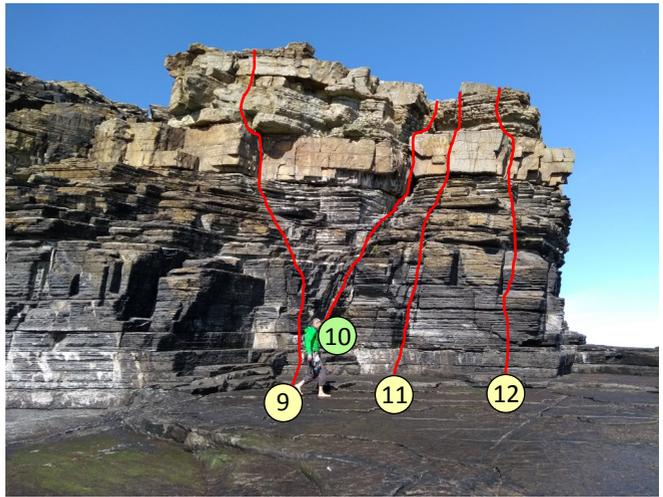
E Nind, solo, 21/4/18

The main corner in the Pinnacles S side

11. Tram Track VS 4c <15m

T Dagg, solo, 21/4/18

Climb the crack just right of, and parallel to, the main corner on the S side of the Pinnacle.



South side of the Pinnacle

12. Limb Pets HS 4c <15m

E Nind, A Schmidt, 29/4/18

Start at the bottom of the SE arête of the pinnacle. Climb easily up ledges to a right-facing corner in the 2m deep clean band of rock near the top. Climb up left onto a large ledge and finish directly.

13. Snot Rocket HVS 5b * <15m

T Dagg, solo, 21/4/18

Start at the S end of the E face of the Pinnacle at a small left-facing corner. Climb directly up on flat holds until a step left can be made to a large ledge. Go up and right to the projecting nose, surmount it and finish directly.

14. Fear Of Flared Friends E2 5c * <15m

E Nind, A Schmidt 29/4/18

The right-hand crack line on the E face of the pinnacle. Climb up to a square notch at 4m (crux) then continue direct up steep ground and pull onto a ledge. Climb the corner in the blocky band and finish direct.

15. The Giants Toe VS 5a <15m

T Dagg, solo, 21/4/18

Start up the toe at the seaward end of the N face of the Pinnacle. Climb the easy slab and make committing moves through the bulge to finish on lichenous but good rock.

16. 20 Second Route Mod <15m

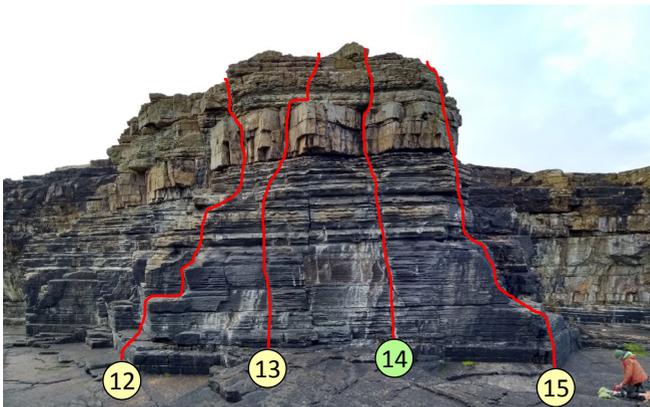
E Nind, solo, 21/4/18

Climb the deep groove in the N face of the Pinnacle.

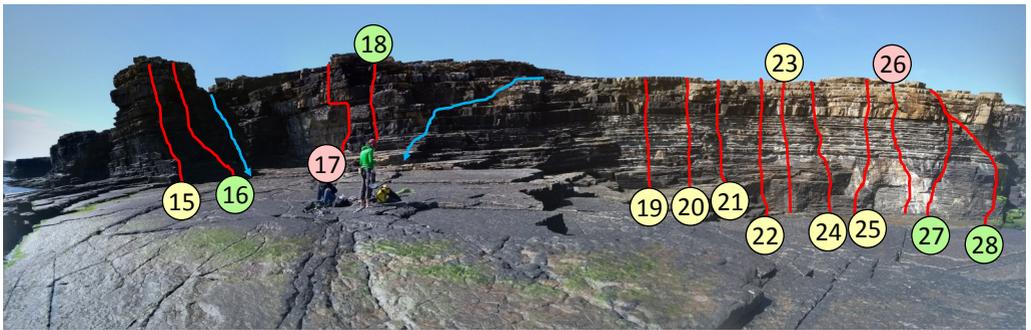
17. Avoiding The Issue E1 5c * <15m

E Nind, T Dagg, 21/4/18

Start in the corner at the right end of the steep white wall. Climb up to the first break then continue up and left steeply to finish immediately left of the large pale block on the clifftop.



East side of the Pinnacle



Cliff face N of the Pinnacle

18. Pedantry Is A Virtue S <15m

E Nind, solo, 21/4/18

just right of the very steep white wall there is a short black crack. Climb the crack and ledges to finish.

19. Noodle Session HS <15m

T Dagg, solo, 21/4/18

Start at the left end of this section of wall just below a black notch in the thick black band at the cliff top. Climb directly to this and finish through it.

20. Guano Art HS <15m

E Nind, solo, 21/4/18

Climb the wall 2m left of Sunny Bliss to pull over the top black band with the aid of an obvious jammed block.

21. Sunny Bliss HS <15m

E Nind, solo, 21/4/18

Climb the vertical weakness with large square-cut feature in the capping band.

22. Pocketfull A' Sunshine VS 4c <15m

E Nind, A Schmidt, 29/4/18

Start 2m left of route 23. Climb the black lower wall to a ledge then climb the wall direct half way between routes 21 and 23.

23. Forgery and Fraud VS 4c <15m

E Nind, A Schmidt, 29/4/18

Start below two white plaques in the banded wall. Climb the black lower wall to a ledge then climb through these white plaques and finish direct.

24. The Early Corncrake HS <15m

T Dagg, solo, 21/4/18

Climb up ledges to a right-facing weakness just left of The Wrong Eye of the Golem. Follow this weakness to the top.

25. The Wrong Eye of the Golem HVS 5b * <15m

T Dagg, E Nind, 21/4/18

Start in the corner at the right end of the steep white wall. Climb up to the first break then continue up and left steeply to finish immediately left of the large pale block on the clifftop.

26. Right Eye of the E1 5c * <15m

E Nind, T Dagg, 21/4/18

Start under the right side of the white arch. Boulder up through it and move a bit left to better holds and gear. Finish straight up through a vague niche just left of the large orange patch of rock.

27. Cornered Direct S 4a * <15m

E Nind, solo, 21/4/18

Start below a small niche just right of the white arch. Climb into the niche and continue straight up to join Cornered at its finish.

28. Cornered S 4a <15m

E Nind, solo, 21/4/18

Start at the left hand border of the green carpet, climb up and right to gain the corner/ledge system, climb this up and left.

Clu Ber Area



58.95832°N
2.70661°W

The NW face of Clu Ber is composed of less solid rock than other faces hereabouts. Walking from top to base is straightforward.

1. Nickel HS <15m

E Nind, A Schmidt, 29/4/18

Just left of a grassy and unpleasant looking groove is a vague blunt arête. Climb this directly.

2. Dime HS <15m

E Nind, A Schmidt, 29/4/18

Climb the wall half way between routes 1. and 3.

3. Penny HS <15m

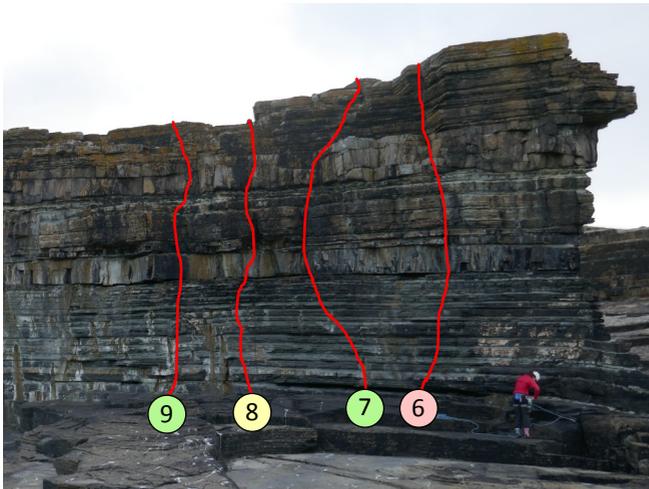
E Nind, A Schmidt, 29/4/18

Just left of 2 the clean top band has a black-backed groove in it. Climb to this and finish through it.

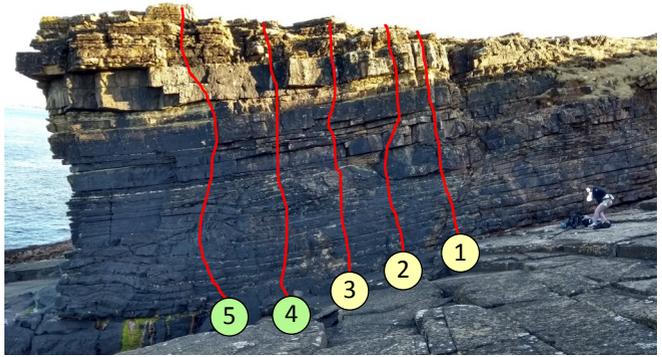
4. Hapenny S <15m

E Nind, solo, 29/4/18

The next feature in the clean top band is a left-facing short corner. Climb directly to this and finish through it.



Clu Ber E face



Clu Ber NW face

5. Broken Toys S <15m

E Nind, A Schmidt, 29/4/18

Start below the first of the big roofs . Climb up and slightly right to just avoid the roof on its right side. Finish direct.

The E face of Clu Ber is best reached by a short abseil, it is much more solid than the NW face.

6. The Wilting E1 5c <15m

E Nind, T Cupan, 18/6/18

Climb direct to the ledge then, at a small niche, gain the obvious vertical crack and climb steeply into a small corner, finish easily.

7. Exodus of the Meek S 4c <15m

E Nind, solo, 21/4/18

Take the obvious easy line onto the mid-height ledge, move left to an easy corner, climb it and trend up and right to finish.

8. Mantle HVS 5c <15m

E Nind, T Cupan, 18/6/18

Start just right of water streaks at the base, climb to the ledge and mantle onto it (crux). Climb to obvious corner above and finish direct.

9. Splat Art S 4c <15m

T Dagg, solo, 21/4/18

Climb the lower wall below the left end of the mid-height ledge (crux) then continue to the top more easily.

Grey Zone Area



58.96064°N
2.70616°W

Abseil down any of the lines to reach platforms at the base of the crag.

1. Noir Désir E2 5b * <15m

E Nind, T Dagg, 20/4/18

Climb the black wall just left of the corner of Rough and Tumble until it is possible to move a little left onto the arête. Finish up this.

2. Rough and Tumble VS 4c <15m

I Miller, C Webb, 18/5/04

This route climbs the larger (left-hand) and more prominent corner.

3. Dark Island E2 5b * <15m

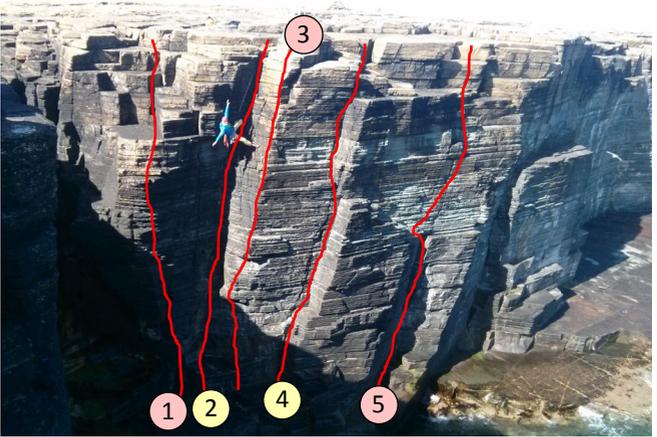
T Dagg, E Nind, 20/4/18

The blunt arête between Rough and Tumble and Scapa Special has a steep start but is escapable in its upper section.

4. Scapa Special VS 4c ** <15m

T Dagg, E Nind, 20/4/18

Climb the smaller, right-hand, corner.



Grey Zone South

5. Seal of Approval E2 5b * <15m

E Nind, T Dagg, 20/4/18

Climb the right-facing corner 4m right of Scapa Special to a ledge at the end of the corner. Move diagonally right up the dubious but solid blue/grey breaks to blocks/ledges and finish directly.

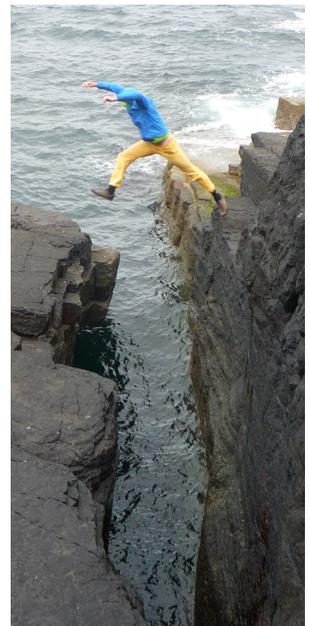
6. Rainbow Bridge E1 5b * <15m

T Dagg, E Nind, 20/4/18

Climb the corner system, starting on the left and passing a large ledge. Exit on the left.

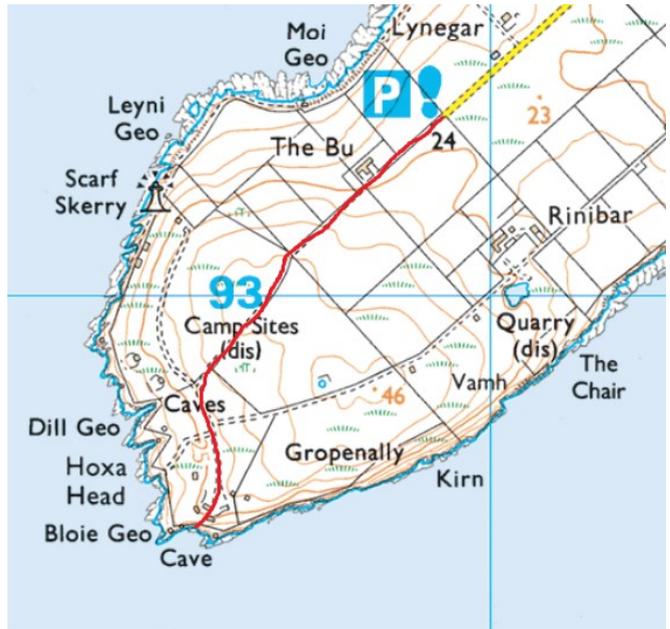


Grey Zone North



Hoxa Head

Exposure	SE, S, SW
Routes	1 11 6
Crag Height	25m
Rock Type:	Silt, mud and sand-stone chaotic layers
	58.82359°N 3.02474°W
	58.81632°N 3.033014°W
Approach time:	15 mins

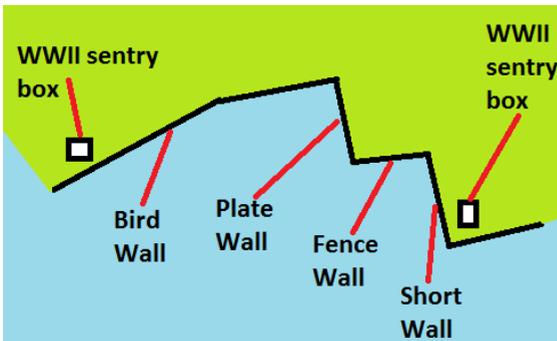


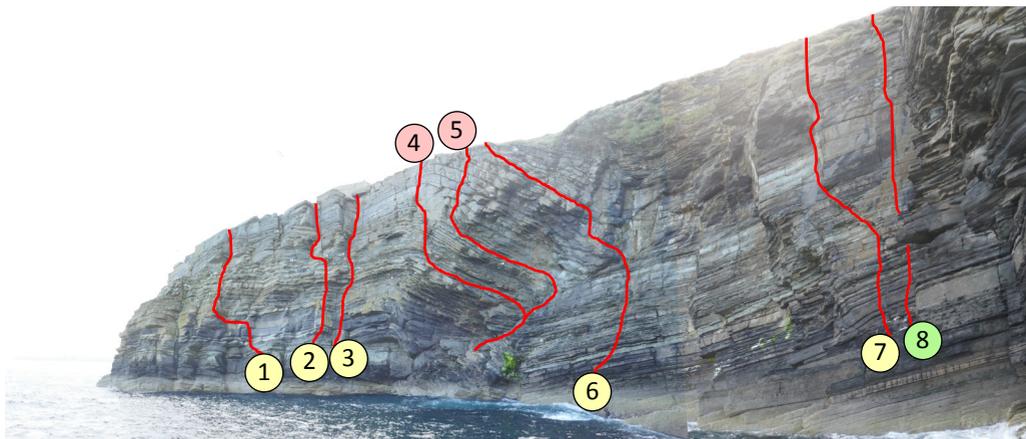
Character: The rock has a horizontal strata with generally lots of flat holds. Cams are needed. Quality is fairly good from the centre to the E end of the crag but deteriorates toward the W end, the W end also has some birds and guano.

Approach: From the parking, walk SW along the road/track passing through some gates. At the old WWII buildings, continue directly towards the sea and pass through a kissing gate. The centre of the cliff is directly below.

Access: Abseil to the start of the routes. Belays and abseils are from fence-posts (well back) or putting a rope around a WWII sentry box. Belays at the base vary from comfortable ledges to large platforms, none are hanging, a couple near the W end could use backup from the ab rope.

Layout:





Bird wall

1. Abortive Jenga HVS 5b 15m

E Nind, A Schmidt, 31/3/18

Make a poor belay on the grey ledge a few metres above the sea and just right of the stacked Jenga blocks. Climb up and left to the stacked blocks, at these, traverse left into a corner and then pull up and left onto a jutting nose. Climb easily to a short awkward chimney and finish up this.

2. Vomit VS 4b 15m

E Nind, A Schmidt, 31/3/18

Start from a green ledge a few metres above the sea, poor belay. Climb the arête above, poorly protected. Pull round the overhang and move a little left. Climb the corner to finish. A poor route.

3. Fading Beauty HS 4b 15m

E Nind, A Schmidt, 31/3/18

Climb the corner, move slightly right to bypass a small roof and then finish by the continuation corner above.

4. Mickle Gogarth E1 5a * 20m

E Nind, A Schmidt, 2/4/18

From the base of the large central depression, climb up and right a few metres to reach the central ledge system. Traverse this left until the angle eases at a hole filled with guano. Finish straight up.

5. Peedie Gogarth E1 5a * 20m

E Nind, A Schmidt, 2/4/18

As for Mickle Gogarth but continue up and right till the upper ledge system is reached, traverse this and then finish straight up where the angle eases.

6. Fish 'N Ships HS 4b * 25m

E Nind, A Schmidt, 24/3/18

From ledges a few metres above the sea, climb easily up and right into a niche with grass tufts. Exit this up and left to a ledge. Move up and make an airy step left to a ledge on the lip of the main overhang. Continue up and left easily to finish.

7. Bitter Darkness HS 4b * 20m

E Nind, A Schmidt, 24/3/18

Climb the corner immediately left of First Day of Summer. At the large overhang near the top, move right out of the corner and finish directly.

8. First Day of Summer S 4a 20m

E Nind, A Schmidt, 24/3/18

Climb the centre of the slab a little left of the corner between bird wall and plate wall, well protected.



9. Drums In The Deep E2 5c * 20m

E Nind, Unseeded, 16/6/18

Climb the main corner between bird wall and plate wall until moves can be made 2m right into a niche. Move steeply up and left into a hanging corner and up this to a large ledge. Climb twin crack off the right side of the ledge to a wide and large ledge and finish steeply but easily up the small wall above.

10. Not All Irish Are Lucky E2 5c ** 15m

E Nind, T Cupan, 20/6/18

Climb the steep right-facing corner to a steeper pull left round the roof, climb cracks above to a large ledge and then finish up the short wall behind this.

11. Fading Beauty VS 4b * 25m

E Nind, A Schmidt, 24/3/18

From a barnacle covered ledge, climb the protruding tower on its seaward side. Where the tower merges into the cliff, climb directly to the large ledge (crux) and finish rightwards easily.

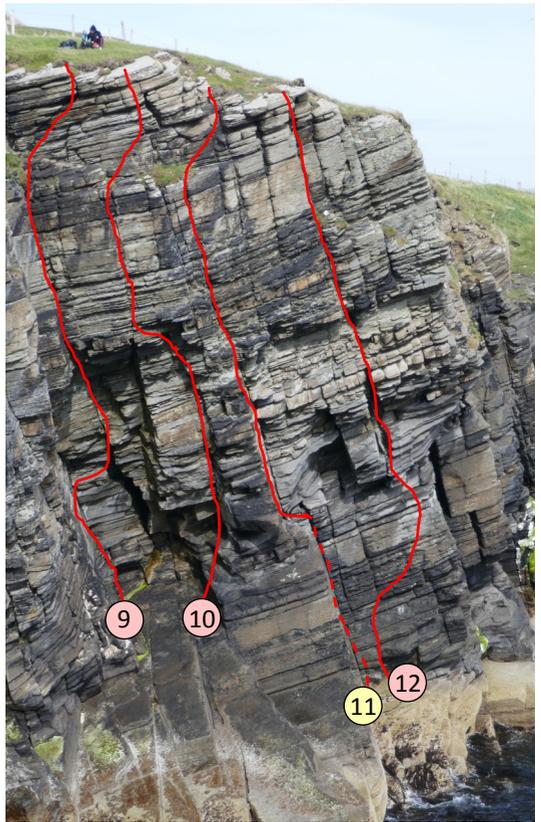


Plate wall

12. Fulmar Surprise E1 5b ** 25m

E Nind, Unseeded, 16/6/18

From a barnacle-covered ledge ascend the wall up and right to below an overhang, pull up and left into a niche. Continue straight up the crack above to a corner, follow this to the top of the cliff.

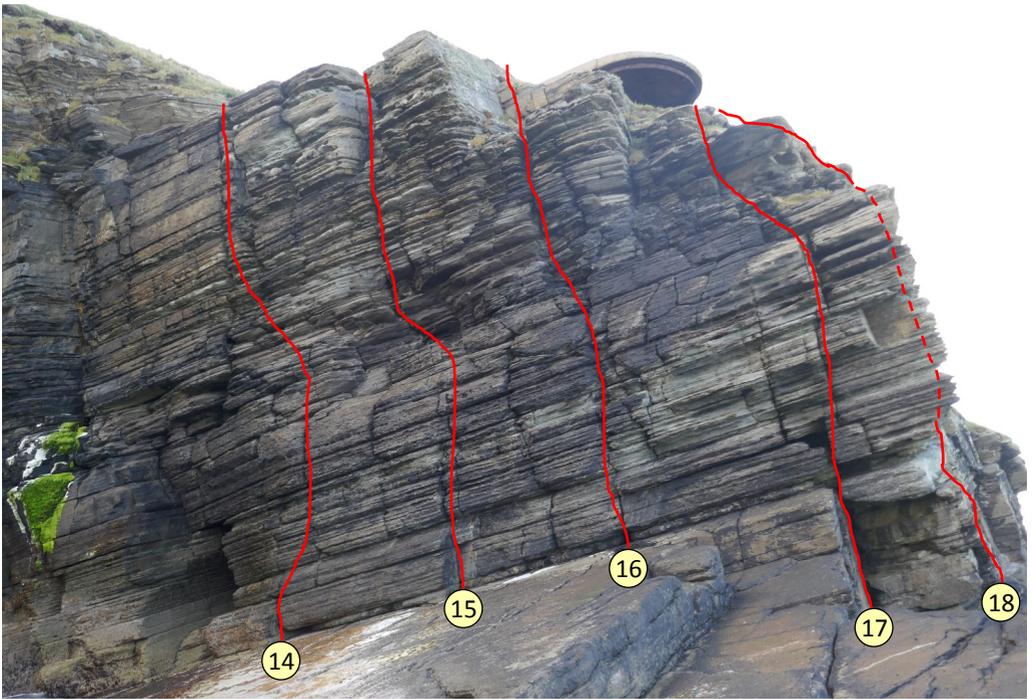
13. Non! E1 5b 25m

E Nind, Unseeded, 16/6/18

Takes the obvious large corner in the arête boundary between plate wall and fence wall. Climb to large roof and break directly through its centre. From above this, step left to avoid grass and finish up the slabby arête and wall above.



Fence wall



Short wall

14. Butch Err HVS 5a * <15m

E Nind, A Schmidt, 31/3/18

Starting from the barnacle line, climb the twin cracks to a ledge. Move slightly left and finish up the twin cracks above. Sustained.

15. Gimme Shelter VS 5a <15m

E Nind, T Cupan, 20/6/18

Climb the crack in the middle of the wall that starts with a tiny right-facing corner at ground level. Make a tricky move onto the ledge and step left into a large niche. Finish easily up the wide crack above.

16. Wake Of The Storm HS <15m

E Nind, solo, 25/6/18

Climb the obvious and easiest crack line midway between 15 and 17

17. Pointless Crack VS 5a <15m

E Nind, A Schmidt, 2/4/18

Climb the crack a few metres left of the arête . Harder than it looks.

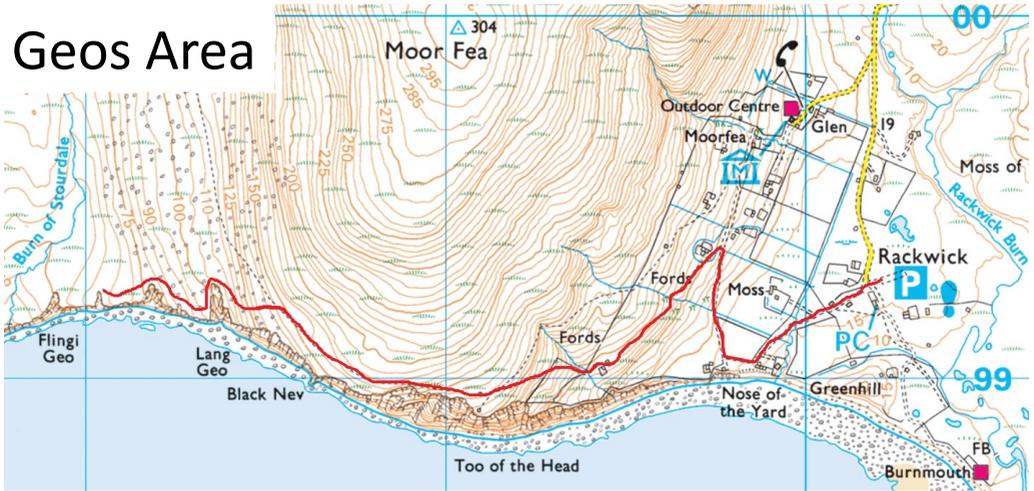
18. Arête Right Hand VS 4b <15m

E Nind, A Schmidt, 2/4/18

Climb the right side of the arête. Poorly protected.



Geos Area



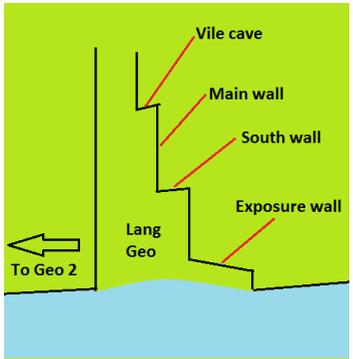
Exposure	W and S
Routes	5 23 9
Crag Height	15 - 55m
Rock Type:	Sandstone
	58.87346°N 3.38510°W
	Varies by sector
Approach time:	45 mins

Character: The quality of the sandstone varies greatly according to colour, black/brown/dark orange is generally excellent while white/red/pink is generally sandy and less good. The poorer quality rock has a lot more Old Mans Beard growing on it. Geo 3 and Exposure Wall have the highest rock quality but none of the routes climbed were real chosspiles. Although all routes were cleaned on abseil first, worrying blocks, lichen and delicate holds are certain to remain and one should climb accordingly. A double or even triple set of cams down to micros is needed on some of the longer pitches.

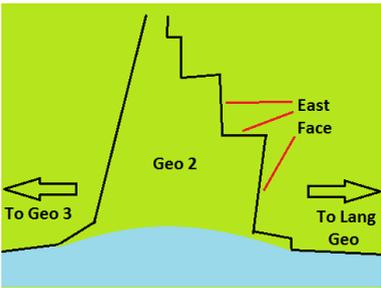
Approach: From the parking, follow the well-signposted path towards the Old Man of Hoy. The path climbs to a high-point on the flank of Moor Fea and becomes somewhat level, at this point strike off left to join a smaller path that descends westwards to the geos.

Access: Routes on the main wall in Lang Geo are reached by an easy walk down the geo (from the landward end). All other routes are reached by abseils to ledges or grass terraces. Anchors at the clifftop are mostly stakes, these can be 10m or more back from the edge and tricky to find in the heather. An 80m abseil rope is sufficient for the anchor and abseil of every route thus far climbed.

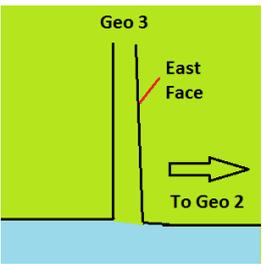
Lang Geo Layout:



Geo 2 layout:



Geo 3 Layout:



Lang Geo - Exposure Wall



58.87197°N

3.41673°W

All routes are reached by abseil from stakes that are well back from the cliff edge. The top of the photo-topo is fulmar city, a further short, easy band of rock must be climbed to top out on heather.

1. Aching Bodies and Burned Minds

E3 6a * 40m

E Nind, S Tolhurst, 8/5/19

Start from the lowest and eye-shaped platform below the corner (only visible on the topo on page 35). Belay at the left end of the ledge on small gear. Climb up to the ledge above, move right and then climb up a small corner left of the main corner until an airy move can be made around the arete onto a ledge in the main corner. Climb the main corner (past 2 worrying jammed blocks) passing several large ledges. Exit left at the top.

2. Ocelot Arse Coffee

E5 6b *** 40m

S Tolhurst, E Nind, 7/5/19

Start from a white triangular ledge at the left end of the clean wall. Climb a flake to a short, hard crack, climb the crack (crux) for 3m and mantle onto a ledge. Follow the line of weakness above to a large undercut flake. Make hard moves up and left to a final layback crack. Pull over into fulmar city and finish via the corner above.

3. Rain

E6 6b ** 40m

E Nind, S Tolhurst, 2/5/19

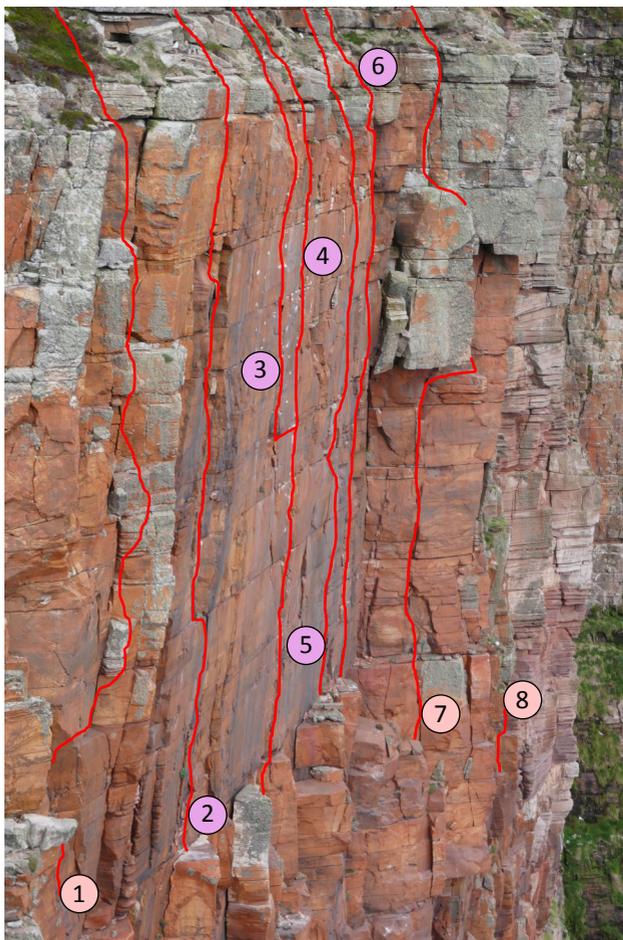
Climb the crack of Wind until it closes into a tight finger crack. From here move 2m left to gain a wider crack and jugs, follow this crack through breaks to a crux sequence leading to a top out 2m left of Wind.

4. Wind

E7 6c ** 40m

E Nind, S Tolhurst, 1/5/19

Start on a square ledge, next to a giant lichenous detached block (large cam belay). Climb up and right to a higher ledge and then climb the crack, easily at first and then on tight finger jams to the top of the crag without variation and with increasing difficulty.



Exposure Wall - from Geo 1

5. Dogburgers For Dinner

E5 6a *** 40m

E Nind, S Tolhurst, 8/5/19

Start at the right end of a triangular ledge with microwire belay. Climb the face, via thin cracks, to a niche. Exit left out of the niche and follow the main crack/flake to fulmar city. Finish up the corner on the left.



6. Fire Woman E4 5c * 40m

E Nind, S Tolhurst, 27/4/19

Climb the wall near the corner via a line of jugs that lead to a position just left of huge jammed blocks in the corner. Continue in the same line, initially by bridging off the blocks (worrying). At the overhang near the top of the wall, move left to a white block in a niche to gain an exit into fulmar city. Scramble right up blocks and grass to finish.

7. Angel of Death E3 5c ** 40m

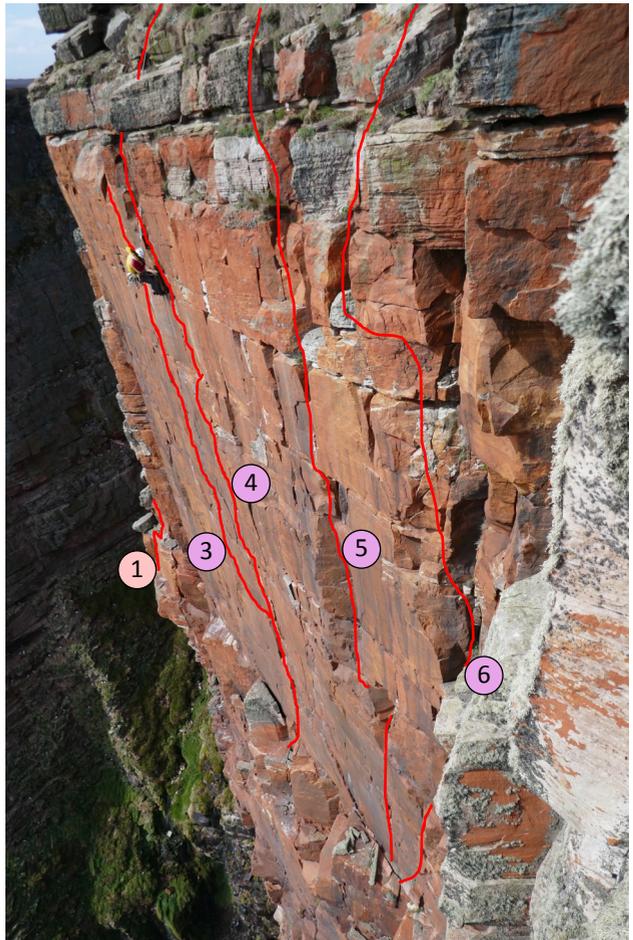
E Nind, S Tolhurst, 26/4/19

Climb the sustained crack in the centre of the face to a roof then pull out right to a ledge. Climb the corner above to a huge roof. Make hard, spectacular moves left under the roof to gain a hanging corner and climb this to a ledge. Climb two further easy but grassy corners to top out.

8. Unfinished Business E1 5c ** 50m

E Nind, S Tolhurst, 6/5/19

The long corner round the right arete (facing into the cliff) of Angel of Death. Belay on a ledge at the base of the corner with steep, hard ground below - see topo on page 34. Climb the corner. The crux is just below the exit onto fulmar city. From fulmar city, climb the right (and more solid) of two corners to finish.



Exposure Wall - from an adjacent position



Lang Geo - Main Wall

Access the routes by walking down the geo from the landward end. Belay stakes at the top are well back from the cliff edge.



58.87241°N
3.41721°W

4. Limb Pets E2 5c * 25m

E Nind, F McCallum, 17/4/19

The left-hand of 3 prominent cracks. Scramble into the obvious but unappetising cave. Pull round the roof to enter the crack (crux) and climb it to the top.

1. Ben Doone HVS 5a * 20m

A Evans, C Rolfe, 8/97

The centre of the prominent grey buttress at the head of the geo, finishing by the right arete. A very poor route.

2. See An Enemy E1 5b ** 25m

E Nind, F McCallum, 17/4/19

Climb the obvious corner at the left end of the wall. Much more solid than it looks.

3. Guinness, Sex, Techno and a Crafty Fag. E4 6a * 25m

S Tolhurst, E Nind, 17/4/19

Climb the cracked wall between See An Enemy and Limb Pets. Escapable but on quality rock, enjoyable moves.

5. Fulmar Cavity VS 4b * 30m

A Evans, C Rolfe, R Carter, D Moss, 23/7/97

The central crack, right of Limb Pets.

6. Craa'nest E1 5b * 30m

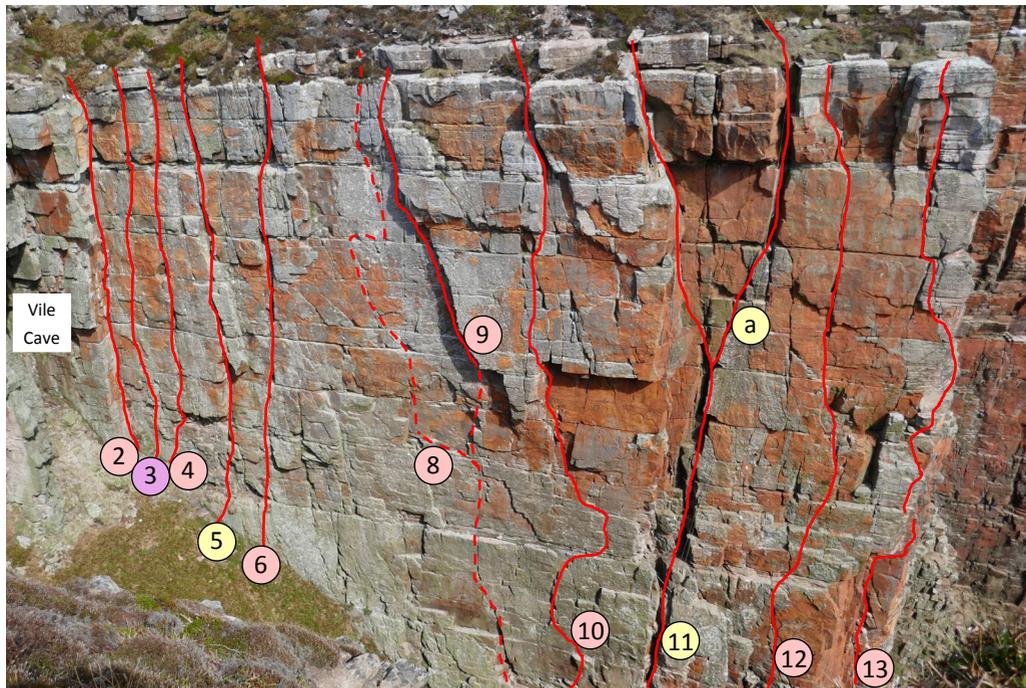
K Pyke, A Donson, 17/9/96

The right crack.

7. Banana Transfer Theory E1 5b ** 45m

A Hein, T Spreyer, O Metherell, 7/7/04

Start at the same place as Craa'nest. Traverse right along a ledge for 4m to the base of a steep crack. Climb the crack for 5m to a break then step right onto a ledge. Go up and right to join Hewin's Route at the base of the crack. Traverse right along a small ledge into the corner of Mater and climb this until it is possible to step right onto the arete. Hand traverse right to finish up Paneer.



Main Wall - left and upper sections

Dashes indicate route lines the author is unsure of

8. Hewin's Route E2 5c * 35m

T Spreyer, A Hein, 7/7/2004

Climb the initial finger-crack of Mater then step left and climb between horizontal breaks (crux) to the base of a prominent right diagonal crack in the centre of the upper wall. Climb this then step right to finish direct.

9. Mater E2 5b ** 35m

A Donson, K Pyke, 17/9/96

The obvious bottomless left-facing groove in the centre of the face. Approach via an indefinite finger-crack.

10. Paneer E2 5b * 35m

A Donson, K Pyke, 17/9/96

The wall right of Mater. Attain a jutting ledge at 10m and follow a flake line above to a break. Step right and climb up, trending left to a niche beneath the left end of the roof. Pull over to fine finishing cracks.

11. Paternoster HVS 4c * 50m

A Evans, C Rolfe, R Carter, D Moss, 23/7/97

A good climb, low in the grade, taking the prominent crack and corner on the right side of the wall.

- 1. 25m 4c** Climb the crack on slightly worrying rock to belay ledges with an in situ piton and fulmar chick.
- 2. 25m 4b** Continue up the crack and corner on superb rock, exiting left below the roof.

11a. Chimney Finish HVS 4c * 50m

FA unknown

Ignore the corner on pitch 2 of Paternoster and finish up the wide crack on the right instead.

12. Out of the Darkness and Into the Light E2 5c * 45m

E Nind, F McCallum, 19/4/19

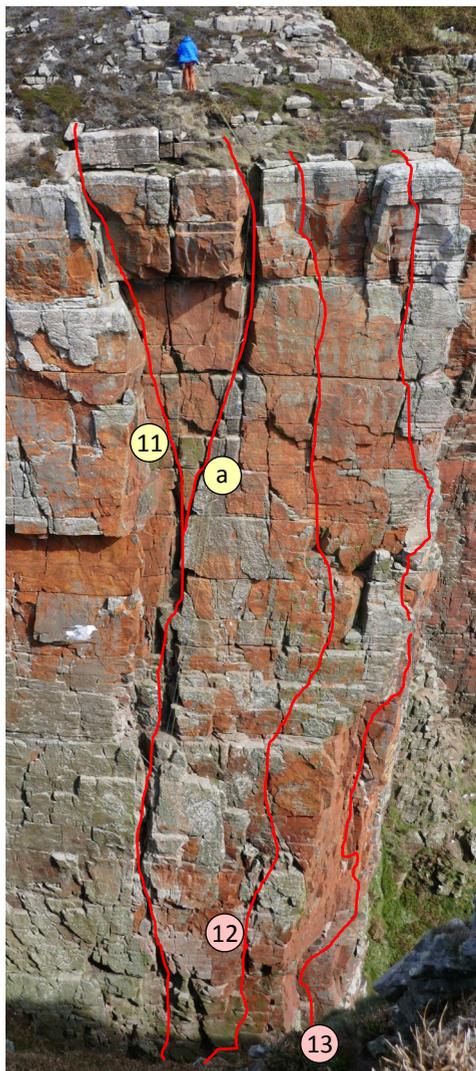
Start just right of Paternoster. Climb diagonally up and right to a short, steep, red corner. From here climb cracks and ledges (ill-defined line) to reach a thin crack in the centre of the orange wall at the top of the face. Climb this (crux) and then move up and left to finish just next to the Paternoster Chimney Finish.



13. When the Wind Blows E3 5c * 55m**

E Nind, S Tolhurst, 28/1/19

Start immediately right of the spring/waterfall and climb up into the huge groove above (grassy at the start). Climb the groove and exit right onto a big ledge just below the huge roof. From the ledge, climb up and left (crux) to regain the central groove and climb it. At the next roof (with dangerous blocks in its underside), step right, climb a small arete and step back left above the roof to gain the left side of the giant main arete. Climb the main arete on the left side, then its edge and finally finish up steep blocks on its left side.



Main Wall - right section

Lang Geo - South Wall



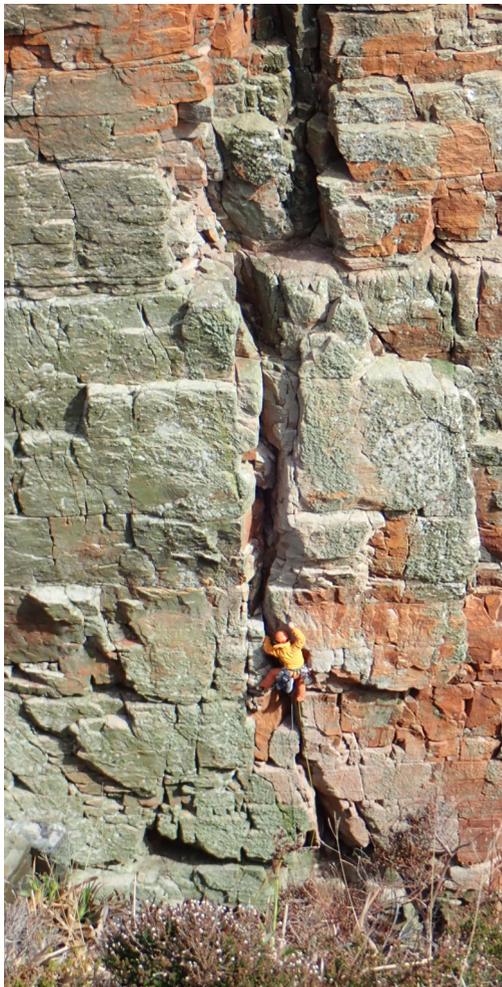
58.87241°N

3.41721°W

14. Russian Jenga E2 5b ** 45m

E Nind, M Sakano, 21/4/19

Abseil to an obvious cracked platform at the base of the red rock and about 10m above marshy ground. Belay on the ledge. Climb the steep central crack system above the ledge on good holds to about half-height. At half-height the crack becomes a jumble of lichenous giant blocks which should be climbed with care to a final short off-width.



Lang Geo - South Wall

Geo 2 - East Face



58.87264°N

3.42016°W

All routes are reached by abseil from stakes that are well back from the cliff edge. All routes have reasonable ledges of turf or rock at their bases.

1. Body Swerve E2 5c 30m

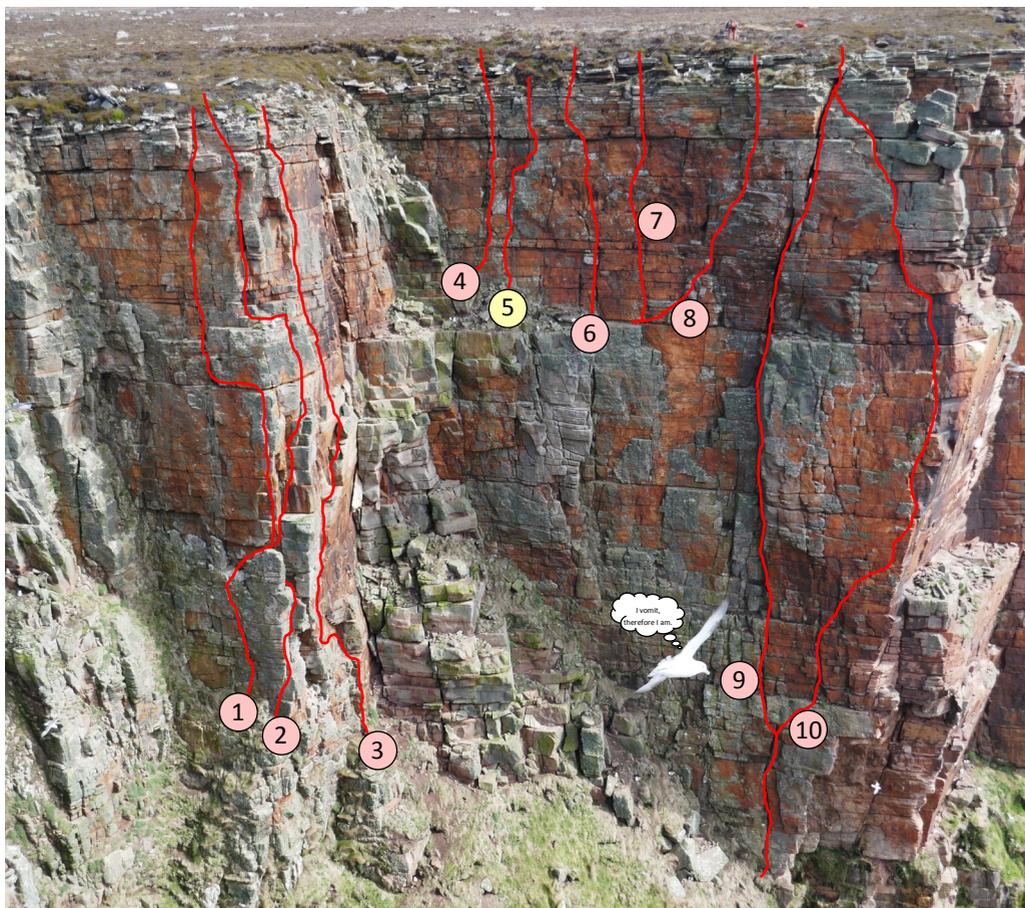
E Nind, S Tolhurst, 28/4/19

Climb cracks to a good ledge with a large disintegrating block to either side. Mount the block on the right and move right to the arete. Climb the arete on its left side for 4m and then move back left at a break to gain ledges. Climb the ledges and continue into a lovely orange crack finale.

2. German Dungeon Torture Porn E2 5c 30m

E Nind, S Tolhurst, 6/5/19

Start on the arete right of Body Swerve. Climb the arete to below a giant block, stand on a flake to the right and uge into the chimney cleft above. Climb out of the cleft (junction with Body Swerve) and step right onto a large ledge. Climb ledges up and right, then make tricky moves up to a huge ledge. Move left to the left side of the arete and climb it. Top out by moving left and finishing at the same point as Body Swerve. Rock quality is disappointing.



Geo 2 - East Wall

3. Fools Rush In E3 5c ** 40m

E Nind, M Sakano, 18/4/19

Start in front of a short arete. Climb the arete till just below the ledge at its top. Step left onto a steep face and climb directly to a triangular ledge - sustained. Climb blocks and ledges rightwards until the upper open book feature can be gained by moving up and left, climb this to the top.

4. L'uniquatic E1 5b 15m

E Nind, S Tolhurst, 30/4/19

Climb the leftmost crack-line on the short wall, finishing slightly rightwards.

5. Exodus of the Meek HVS 5a 15m

E Nind, S Tolhurst, 30/4/19

Start just right of One and Only and climb directly to a large, dubious flake. Move up and right to a ledge then up and left to finish at the same point as One and Only.

6. Troisième Téton E2 5c * 20m

E Nind, S Tolhurst, 30/4/19

Climb twin cracks a few metres right of Exodus of the Meek. Where they stop, climb directly up a tricky wall to a square ledge. Finish direct.

7. Midnight Sun E1 5b * 20m

E Nind, S Tolhurst, 1/5/19

Start at the rightmost end of the large ledge and climb intermittent cracks directly up the wall. Microcams useful.

8. The Sweet Curative Powers of Nowhere and Nothing E1 5b * 20m

E Nind, S Tolhurst, 1/5/19

Start at the same point as Midnight Sun. Follow the line of ledges and huge holds right and up, then more directly up to top out steeply.

9. Crackin Hoy E1 5b ** 45m

M Sakano, E Nind, 21/4/19

Sustained. Climb the crack which leads towards the obvious corner above. Climb the corner. From the ledge at the top of the corner, climb a short and very steep crack to top out.

10. Air in a G-String E2 5c ** 45m

E Nind, S Tolhurst, 1/5/19

Climb the initial crack of Crackin Hoy to a white ledge where it is easy to move right. Move right along the ledge then up a crack, then up and right again to reach the arete. Climb the left side of the arete until a black section of wall is reached. Climb up and left through a small overlap to a point where the wall gets lichenous. Climb up into a niche, exit this up and left, continue up and left to finish at the same point as Crackin Hoy.

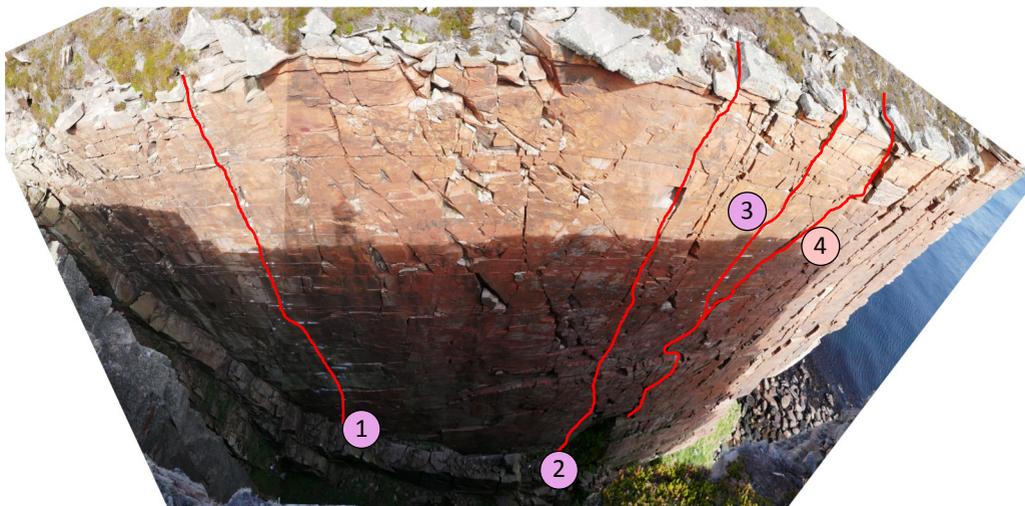


Geo 3 - East Face



58.87251°N

3.42314°W



Geo 3 - East Wall

All routes are reached by abseil from stakes that are well back from the cliff edge. All routes have reasonable ledges to belay on.

1. A Curious Tale of a Lonely Snail E5 6a *** 20m

S Tolhurst, E Nind, M Sakano, 18/4/19

Start from a platform at the base of the chossy ramp at the left end of the wall. Climb up to and then ascend the left-most crack. Sustained with fiddly gear.

2. Strong Coffee E4 6a *** 25m

S Tolhurst, M Sakano, 19/4/19

Start from the right-hand end of the obvious ledge (before it drops away into a green swamp) at the foot of the wall. If short jump/dynamic pull onto small hand rails then climb up 2m to and through a pod. Move slightly left and continue up to the half-height ledge. Climb the wall above following the crack to the top.

3. A Dragon Amongst the Thistles E5 6a *** 20m

S Tolhurst, F McCallum, 21/4/19

Start on Deep Dish at the half-height ledge. Follow Deep Dish for 2m to the base of the big crack then step left into a hands off double kneebar (enjoy feeling like a hero). Climb straight up the wall to join and follow a thin crack. Arm bars, knee bars, crimps, gastons, ringlocks, hand jams, laybacks, pumpy, fiddly but bomber gear and all in 20m.

4. Deep Dish E3 5c ** 30m

H Francis, E Nind, 11/6/18

Start from a semi-hanging belay on a ledge in the right side of a cave at the base of the wall. Climb cracks fairly directly to the ledge, step left and climb the obvious wide crack to the to a niche and finish up this.



Q & A

Q: I found some errors, should I tell you?

A: Yes please, an online document is easy enough to add corrections to, contact details for me are below.

Q: I climbed some new routes in Orkney, who should I send the information to?

A: Iain Spence (iainspence1@hotmail.com) in Kirkwall, Orkney Mainland or the SMC.

Q: Is there still much new routeing to be done in Orkney?

A: YES! A lifetime's worth; the entire W coast of Hoy holds huge potential, Orkney Mainland has many crags with huge potential and the islands North of Orkney Mainland have many likely crags, most of which the author has not inspected.

Q: How come lots of other peoples new routes are not in your guide?

A: It is easy to make a supplement of all the routes the author and friends did in a few months and this was only ever intended to be a supplement. Starting on the routes of others rapidly results in researching a couple of decades of new routes and compiling a proper guidebook is not easy, not quick and not something for which the author presently has sufficient masochistic tendencies!

Q: I did a first ascent of something you are claiming before you, please can you credit me?

A: Yes, let me know the date and names of the climbers and I'd be happy to update the supplement.

Q: Do you still live in Orkney? Maybe we can go climbing sometime?

A: No, I move about a lot but I will be back. Yes, lets go climbing!

Q: Is this the end?

A: Only till next spring....



Contact details

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