

NEW CLIMBS SECTION

With a new publication date for the Journal, the deadline for new routes each year is now 31 July. Winter routes should still be sent at the end of winter.

OUTER ISLES

LEWIS, Butt of Lewis, (Rubha Robhanais):

Immediately behind the lighthouse is a west-facing pillar. Abseil to a narrow ledge from a carefully parked car on the cliff edge (check your handbrake!).

Mondeo Man 20m HVS 5a. Charlie Henderson, Robert Durran. 9 July 2008. Climb a short steep crack above the left side of the ledge and then finish more easily rightwards.

Trojan Wall (see SMCJ 2005):

Access: abseil down the line of *Trojan Horse* from stakes 20m back (not in situ). It is possible from rocks but not advised as these are poor.

The wall can be easily viewed from the cliff-top on the west side of the geo. The wall is split into four distinct sections, from left to right these are; Seaward Buttress, Three Corner Buttress, The Wall and Right End Wall. Right of this the rock is loose and broken.

Routes are described from left to right starting at the large chimney in the corner that separates Seaward Buttress from Three Corner Buttress.

Seaward Buttress:

The buttress at the left end of the wall contains *Journey over the Sea* (2004).

Three Corner Buttress:

The buttress that extends rightwards from the large chimney in the corner. *Gneiss Achilles* (2004) climbs the left corner of the chimney.

Apple of Discord 13m VS 4c. Ross Jones, Andrew Wardle. 6 September 2008. Climb the right corner of the chimney.

Just to the right is a 5m wide wall undercut on its left-hand side.

Hector 15m HVS 5a **. Andrew Wardle, Ross Jones. 6 September 2008. The arete right of *Helen's Chimney* (2004).

Aphrodite's Promise 15m E2 5b ***. Ross Jones, Andrew Wardle. 6 September 2008.

The excellent overhanging arete right of *Odysseus* (the middle corner – 2004). Pull out right through the overhang and then left onto the wall right of *Odysseus* to finish.

The Wall:

The following routes take the wall to the right of the corner to the right of Three Corner Buttress.

How Many Husbands... 15m Hard Severe 4a. Andrew Wardle, Ross Jones. 10 September 2008.
Climb the right-facing corner, stepping right at the overhang to finish as for *Trojan Horse*.

Right End Wall:

Patroclus 15m E1 5b **. Andrew Wardle, Ross Jones. 6 September 2008.
Start by a niche and left of a short pillar. Climb the wall and step left at the overhang and climb the chimney to an airy finish.

Upper Tier:

The following routes are non-tidal. The first route on the north wall just left of the arete.

Trojan Work Ethic 25m E4 6a **. Robert Durran, Charlie Henderson. 9 July 2008.
Climb the crack and get into the groove (all hard work). Continue steadily to the top.

The remaining climbs are on the west-facing wall.

Hermione's Exit 18m VS 4c. Andrew Wardle, Ross Jones. 6 September 2008.
Climb the left-facing corner-groove on the left side of the west-facing wall. Step left and up the next short corner and traverse right under a hanging niche on the final headwall to finish. Finishing up the niche is 5b, but protection and rock are poor.

The middle of the main wall is *Trojan Horse*. *Hidden Agenda* (2004) climbs the wall 2m right of *Trojan Horse*.

Sinon 12m HVS 5a. Ross Jones, Andrew Wardle. 10 September 2008.
Pull up the right arete onto the wall left of the arete and up to an overhang (junction with *Hidden Agenda*). Pull onto the pillar above from the right and climb this in a fine position.

BEARASAIGH, Upper Hadrian's Wall Area:

Time of No Reply 15m Severe 4b. Keith Archer, Paul Headland. 14 June 2008.
From the same start as *Finger Ripping Good*, climb 2m then climb the crack in the wall to the left. Follow it to the top.

The Dancing Tiger 16m HVS 5a. Paul Headland, Keith Archer. 11 June 2008.
Climb the left-hand side of the hanging prow in the centre of the wall to a ledge and a short overhang.

Working the Seam 18m VS 5a. Keith Archer, Paul Headland. 11 June 2008.
Start from the short wall which abuts the left side of the coal face, laybacks and smears lead to the finishing niche just right of the corner.

Lower Hadrian's Wall Area, St Bees Sector:

Illicit Thursdays 19m Severe. Keith Archer, Paul Headland. 12 June 2008.

From just right of the descent crack at the centre of the buttress, climb a blocky corner, pull onto the slab above and follow it to the top.

Main Sector:

Dan's Last Day 20m Severe 4b. Paul Headland, Keith Archer. 13 June 2008.
Begin up a short scoop 3m left of the black rock band, (just right of *Birthday Route*), climb direct through two short black spiky walls.

Lick the Tins 24m HVS 5a **. Keith Archer, Paul Headland. 13 June 2008.
Start up a short corner, right of the base of the cleft where the sea cuts through the access platform. Climb to a sloping ledge, then directly up through a short overlap. Cross a rib to gain a corner and follow this to finish.

Grass with Everything 26m VS 4c. Keith Archer, Paul Headland. 14 June 2008.

Start 3m left of the base of the cleft. Climb a short corner to a sloping ledge, traverse diagonally right and climb the left arete of the cleft for 3m, then step left to go up a short slabby wall to gain the base of the long expanse of overhanging wall. Finish up the twin cracks on its left.

The Villain 28m VS 5a. Paul Headland, Keith Archer. 14 June 2008.

Start 1 metre left of the previous route. Climb blocky ledges trending slightly left to a short steep slab. Climb this and follow the right-slanting ledge for 8m until below a large crack splitting the overhang above. Climb this direct.

2nd Birthday Route 30m HVS 5a **. Paul Headland, Keith Archer. 15 June 2008.

Start 5m left of *Birthday Route* where the platform narrows and steepens. Follow the left-trending dark band of rock to reach the lower right corner of the prominent central wall. Climb the crack that splits its right side on excellent jugs and continue up the right-hand of two cracks that split the right side of the overhanging wall above.

Acairsaid Slabs:

The south-facing, easy-angled slabs at the northern end of Geodhachan Ruadha. Access to the routes is initially as for Hadrian's/Pictland, but once down the short corner turn east and walk to, and then along, the north-eastern ridge to its highest point. Abseil from here down a broad gully to a large non-tidal ledge.

...And the Nut was Good 22m Very Difficult. Paul Headland, Keith Archer. 12 June 2008.

Traverse left and step onto the main slab; continue up its centre to reach the abseil point.

Alexandra Elene Maclean Denny 23m Very Difficult. Keith Archer, Paul Headland. 12 June 2008.

From the same start, step left onto the slab and follow the flaky undercut edge leftwards. Go up to finish left of the abseil point.

I shot a Rhino in Reno 24m Very Difficult. Paul Headland, Keith Archer. 12 June 2008.

Start as for the previous routes. Leave the flaky undercut edge and traverse left again to follow the edge of the slab to the top.

The following route starts at the far left end of the slabs where they abut the big broken back wall, possibly one of the earliest routes in the Hebrides, used as a way up in 2008 but would be committing at the time of its first ascent, given a name retrospectively for the first ascensionists. For the full effect try it barefoot.

Hard Times 30m. Moderate. Neil McLeod & party. 1613.

From the boulder beach take the easiest way up the cracked slab, keeping close to the corner near the top.

Weatherman's Geodha:

The Whole of the Moon 26m E1 5a **. Keith Archer, Paul Headland. 15 June 2008.

The compelling big corner at the left end of the huge back wall. Abseil down just to one side of the route. Start from a big pedestal just above the base of the corner. Step left into the corner and follow it directly until the crack finishes. Move left onto the slab to finish.

Dental Area:

The big north-facing buttresses on the southern side of Weatherman's Geodha. Access by walking down (eastwards) the grassy ridge which forms the top of the area to reach a black gully. Descend this until possible to drop (northwards) down a second gully to arrive at ledges, non-tidal at first but becoming tidal, which give access to both areas.

The area is divided into two distinct sectors by a huge central gully. On the left (eastern side) is the NHS Sector, on first inspection rather scruffy and down at heel but will look after you! On the right of the big central gully is The Private Sector, immediately appealing and more attractive, but it may rip you off! The routes are described left to right, starting at the NHS Sector just to the right of the descent.

NHS Sector:

Los Dientes 23m Hard Severe 4b. Paul Headland, Keith Archer. 9 June 2008. Start at the left of the sector to the left of the pyramidal monolith. Go up a short narrow gully to gain a crack in the back wall. Climb this to a niche, exit up and leftwards onto a slab to finish by the descent gully.

Milk Tooth 20m VS 5a. Paul Headland, Keith Archer. 10 June 2008.

Start as for *Los Dientes*. Go up the gully to a niche behind the monolith. Follow the slab and cracked wall above to a belay next to the descent path.

Root Canal 24m VS 4c **. Keith Archer, Paul Headland. 9 June 2008.

Start 5m right, to the right of the pyramidal monolith. Climb to a niche, then exit through the cracked overhang to finish 3m right of the previous route.

Amoxicillin 22m E1 5b **. Paul Headland, Keith Archer. 9 June 2008.

Start 6m right of *Root Canal* at a short corner. Climb the corner and cracks to enter a niche. Follow a right-trending ramp to a footledge below flakes. Use these to gain a cracked wall above; follow the left-hand crack. Powerful stuff!

Flossing 35m HVS 5a. Paul Headland, Keith Archer. 13 June 2008.

Start 4m right of *Amoxicillin*. Climb the black slab on the right of the gully for 15m, step round a promontory to gain the upper wall and climb this (as for *The Tooth*) to finish.

The Tooth 37m HVS 5a *. Keith Archer, Paul Headland. 10 June 2008.

Start 8m right of *Amoxicillin* at an area of shattered rock a few metres left of a square block below a V-shaped feature. Take the right-hand exit of the V feature to gain a right-trending ramp. Follow this around an arete, then climb a slabby wall (by a niche) to a pedestal. Climb the cracked wall above via a mantelshelf to gain a slab; finish behind the tooth. Good sustained climbing.

Abscess 34m VS 4c. Paul Headland, Keith Archer. 8 June 2008.

From the non-tidal ledge start just right of a prominent square block below parallel twin cracks at 10m. Climb to these but bypass them on the right to a ramp. Follow this around a short arete, then up a short wall to a lichenous slab. Climb up and diagonally right to finish up a short corner right of the prominent tooth.

Phil McCavity BDS 36m HVS 5a, *. Keith Archer, Paul Headland. 8 June 2008.

From the platform named above, start just left of the prominent square block. Climb direct to a triangular niche and step right to another short wall. Go up this to climb a crack in the slab direct to the finish of the previous route.

Private Sector:

Extraction 34m HVS 5b. Keith Archer, Paul Headland. 8 June 2008.

Start from the far right of the sector, on a large ledge a few metres up at the base of a right-facing corner with a compelling crack-line. Climb the corner to a ledge, then layaway up the crack and mantel onto a ledge to the left. Continue up a short corner to gain the crack above, then move left to gain a left-facing slab. Go up this to a corner just left of the triangular top of the central wall.

Tottering Chloroform 40m VS. Keith Archer, Paul Headland (alt). 12 June 2008.

1. 18m 4b From the start of *Extraction* climb the corner of the slab on the right to a stance below a short wall.

2. 22m 4b Climb the short wall just left of the stacked blocks to gain a left-trending ramp. Follow this to finish up a short cracked corner at the apex of the buttress.

Nae Bother Buttress:

Situated on the south-eastern corner of the island just north of a small stack and

separated from offshore rocks by a wild channel. Access by abseil to a ledge just above a prominent block with a small inverted pyramidal pool.

Nae Bother 22m VS 4c. Keith Archer, Paul Headland. 10 June 2008.

From the ledge climb blocky rock to a right-facing corner. Follow this for 4m then step left to a flaky wall. Go up this to a ledge beneath the final 'chest of drawers' finish.

The Boatman 20m VS 4b **. Paul Headland, Keith Archer. 11 June 2008.

From the ledge traverse 2m left and climb a short slab to a jammed block. Step on to this and climb the slabby wall above direct.

Creel Boat 24m Very Difficult. Keith Archer, Paul Headland. 11 June 2008.

From the ledge climb a slabby ramp rightwards. When the ramp fades continue in the same direction to finish through a notch on the right side of the buttress.

Captain Peter Love 22m Severe 4b. Paul Headland, Keith Archer. 15 June 2008.

From the stance, follow the right-trending V-groove until possible to climb the left arete of the slab.

The Morning Ferry 24m Very Difficult. Keith Archer, Paul Headland. 15 June 2008.

Abseil to a pedestal below a corner, 8m left of the start of the previous routes. Climb the corner for 3m then follow a right-trending ramp for 5m until possible to climb cracks in the slabby wall above. Finish up the line of the abseil.

Air Mor Mangursthadh, Buaille Chuide, Screaming Geo, North West Face:

The next two routes finish in the arete of the prominent corner in the top section of the north-west face (to the left of Shonkey). Access by abseil down the corner and right of the large spike under the ledge above the overhung lower wall and left-facing corner/flake system.

Life on the Asteroid Belt 50m E2 5b *. Ross Jones, Andrew Wardle. 8 September 2008.

1. 35m 5b Climb the steep right-slanting ramp for 4m to a small overhang. Traverse left and up to a ledge (bold). Climb a right-slanting cracked groove to the left-facing overhung corner. Pull through right onto the arete and step back over the corner into another corner. Pull through an overhang and easy ground right of a large spike to the bottom of the corner.

2. 15m 4c The fine corner-crack.

Asteroid Direct 15m E1 5b *. Ross Jones, Andrew Wardle. 8 September 2008.

Five metres right of the corner is a right-facing overhung corner that borders the right of the wall. Climb this to the top.

Roinn a' Roidh:

(NB 507 658) Non-tidal North-west facing

The routes are in a geo just north of a cairn which has a stone serpent at its base and is 20mins walk from the lighthouse. The base of the climbs can be made by

a traverse of the opposite wall of the geo and stepping over a gap onto the wall. Stakes (not in situ) are needed to belay and are best used for abseil.

Knucker 25m E1 5b. Andrew Wardle, Ross Jones. 6 September 2008.
Climb the slanting crack-line on the left of the wall and right of the niche to the overhang. Traverse left around the overhang and pull right onto the wall above to finish.

Nagini 25m E2 5b ***. Ross Jones, Andrew Wardle. 6 September 2008.
Start from a ledge under the overhang on the right side of the wall and climb up leftwards to the wall just left of the right-facing hanging corner. Climb the wall and shallow capped groove-crack above to pull out left and then rightwards to a ledge and niche above to finish. Fine climbing.

Rubha na Beirghe:

Twenty metres right of *Internal Exam Crack* are some large boulders on the cliff-top. An abseil from the most north-easterly boulders through a V-groove just left (as you look at the cliff from the sea) of the edge of the overhanging cliff-top gives access to the following route.

Soaked by a Wave 25m VS 4c *. Ross Jones, Andrew Wardle. 9 September 2008.

Belay on a small ledge left of overhangs and 8m above the sea. Climb the steep crack-line up the wall to a ledge system beneath the overhanging cliff-top. Climb the wall and V-groove on the left to finish.

Above the Swell 20m Severe. Andrew Wardle, Ross Jones. 9 September 2008.
From the most north-westerly cairn follow a fault-line direct to the cliff edge. Abseil to a hanging belay on a very small ledge above the overhang. Climb cracks up the steep wall to the top.

AIRD UIG, Geodha Gunna (NB 033 363):

The big south-facing cliff holds the 1997 routes, *Rabid Wanderings* and *Lucid Visions* (SMCJ 189 p565). The western seaward side of Geodh Gunna has a retaining wall which takes the form of a lovely clean slab, facing east. 'Brilliant little black slab and corner' says p102 of the guidebook.

Little Gem 30m Severe ***. Mick Tighe, Bill Newton & co. 1980s.
Approach by abseil. Take the left-facing corner where the slab butts against the north wall. A small Friend in the right crack protects the initial tricky moves up the immaculate slab, after which the corner is followed to the top on improving holds and protection.

Gun Run 30m Hard Severe *. Mick Tighe, Angela Gillespie, Tracy McLachlan. 29 May 2000.

Approach by abseil. Start 10m left of *Little Gem* below a broken black groove. Climb the groove for 8–10m before making a difficult move out right onto the slab, which is followed direct to the top.

Around the corner from *Gun Run* is a broken wall with broken ledges just on the

high tide line. Two routes were done here on 29 May 2000 by Mick Tighe, James Armour, Roger & Tracy McLachlan. A few metres around the corner from *Gun Run* a hanging crack/chimney line gave *Pop Gun* 20m HVS, exiting on the slab part way up *Gun Run*. Left again is a fine crack/open groove which proves rather gymnastic – *Gun Crack* 30m HVS 5b.

The Legend of Finlay MacIver 25m E1 5b ***. Mick & Kathy Tighe. 29 May 2008.

At the north-west corner of Geodha Gunna, where the south-facing and west-facing walls meet, is a wee recess from which springs a fabulous crack-corner curving gently rightwards to the top of the crag. Wonderful climbing with excellent protection on perfect rock. Approach by abseil or traverse in from the north under an interesting looking wall.

Rubha Talanish (SMCJ 2005):

Notes: *Doctor MacDonald's...* is the same route as *Blackhouse Arete* but gained by a traverse pitch from boulders at base of crag rather than abseil to a sloping ledge at base of arete.

Stormy Slab is to left of *Blackhouse Arete* (not right). All other routes are to the left.

Tigh na Geal 25m E3 6a. Iain Small, Susan Jensen. 20 May 2007.

Abseil to the same ledge as *Tigh Dubh*. Climb an awkward crack to gain the hanging corner left of *Tents Away*. Follow this, then take the fine crack in the left wall. Pass a bulge and finish up the widening crack.

Gael Force 30m E4 6a. Iain Small, Susan Jensen. 20 May 2007.

The right edge of Thatch Top buttress. Start just left of *Beached Whale* from the large boulders. Delicately gain a diagonal crack left of an overhung recess; follow it to a flake-crevasse and ledges. Tackle the wall above from a recess below an overlap making bold moves out right to gain a crack leading to a sloping ledge on the arete. Surmount the overhang above on the right and follow the pocketed wall.

NORTH HARRIS, SRON ULLADALE:

Wee Eck 95m E5 6b. Iain Small, Pat Nolan. 28 June 2009.

1. 25m 5c As for pitch 1 of *Big Luigi*.
2. 25m 6b Follow *Big Luigi* into the quartzzy groove, then swing out onto the right arete to gain a good footledge. Hard moves right lead to a corner which is followed to a good square-cut ledge.
3. 25m 6a Step right off the ledge, climb a white groove to an overlap, then follow the break out right around the arete to a footledge. Take the bulges above on the right to a long thin ledge.
4. 20m Take an easy corner on the right to easier ground.

SRON A' SGAOTH:

(NB 14616 03962) Alt 304m

Sron a' Sgaoth is the western top of Sgaoth Iosal. Park opposite the quarry off the A859, 10mins drive north from Tarbert. The crags can be reached in 30mins.

Descents for all the routes lie down a gully up left (north-west) of the routes, where a grass shelf near the base leads back left to the foot of the routes. The crags lie on the west and south-west prow of the hill. Steep slabs with a prominent brown water-worn streak lie on the right, facing south-west whilst a steeper nose lies above and left, facing west. The rock is good quality gneiss, mostly very clean.

Aon 30m VS 4b/c *. John Mackenzie, Eve Austin. 5 July 2009.

The nose is split by two corners with a tier of rock below. The climb takes the right-hand corner which has an overhang at the top. A very nice climb on excellent holds which is reached by scrambling up a broken gully just right of the nose.

1. 13m Climb the lowest rocks above blocks and move up right to below the right-hand corner.
2. 17m Climb the corner, stepping left under the overhang and pull over this to the top.

The slabs are the lowest crags on the face with a steep lower wall on the left with a grass shelf above and the brown water streak to the right and less continuous slabs right again. Though the lines are aesthetically contrived, they give the best climbing.

Da 60m VS 4c *. John Mackenzie, Eve Austin. 5 July 2009.

1. 25m 4c The lower wall has a little curving crack leading to a wall and bulge at the top. Climb the crack and wall to near the bulge, move left to twin thin cracks at a rust-coloured section (obviously much easier if the route is started to the left but not so good) then up a short wall moving right (avoiding the grass shelf) to belays in a little corner above a ledge.
 2. 35m 4b Step right and climb just right of a bulge (4 Friend hole) and climb to a little ledge and corner on the right. Climb the good corner and up short walls to belay at a 'thin-sling' spike.
- 40m of scrambling leads to the top.

Tri 60m VS 4b *. John Mackenzie, Eve Austin. 5 July 2009.

This climbs the brown water worn streak 6m to the right of *Da*. Start at a gravel patch.

1. 30m 4b Climb letter-box holds up and right over shelves, including a mantelshelf, then straight up to belay by the good corner of *Da*.
2. 30m 4a Move left and climb the diagonal shelf left of the overhang to enter an arched niche and wide crack to the left of grass. Climb the wide crack to the same belay as on *Da*. Scrambling to finish.

AN CLISEAM, Coire Dubh Slabs:

(NB 14724 07288) Alt 433m

Park at the east end of Loch na Ciste off the A859 at a slip road lay-by. Follow slopes by the burn to the bealach then contour round the southern spur of An Cliseam descending to a bright green grass patch within Coire Dubh where a short ascent leads to the lowest point of the slabs; 1hr 15mins.

The Coire Dubh slabs are composed of the finest-quality clean grey gneiss

giving friction climbing. There are numerous possibilities of easier but grassy lines which are often very wet. The quickest-drying (less than 24hrs) lines are the balder slabs and the line chosen takes the most continuous rock, often straightforward, left of the straight grassy gully mentioned on p65 of the guide. The slabs are sub-divided into three by two left-slanting rakes, the first above the lowest spur of slabs and the second, starting from the gully, separating the main slabs from the upper. The main slabs are characterised by a clean line of slabs well left of the gully and the upper by a square-cut recess and three curving overlapped corners to its left.

The Original Route, mentioned in the guide, appears to take the defined rib that borders the grassy gully, avoids the upper slabs then re-enters higher to finish up broken ground.

The Harris Jig 250m HVS 5a **. John Mackenzie, Eve Austin. 10 July 2009. A very pleasant outing that can be combined with a round of the tops; pitches 2 and 4 are particularly good. Start 12m left of the base of the rocks at a left-facing corner.

1. 50m 4a Go easily up the corner to overlaps which are taken centrally to easier ground and a belay on the rake directly below a small pointed block that is left of a much bigger one.

2. 50m 5a Climb the smoother slabs below the smaller pointed block, past a short corner beneath a bigger balder slab which is bounded by a grassy (wet!) corner on the right. The slab has a partially cleaned thin crack for quite good gear nearer the corner. Climb the slab left of the cleaned crack direct to an overlap, all on lovely friction. Move right and break leftwards through the overlap to belay at the 'small' pointed block.

3. 50m Move left and up a coarsely crystalline rock to the second rake at a black wet patch of slab, taking an overlap above this to arrive below the square-cut recess.

4. 35m 5a The recess encloses a smooth friction slab, entirely without cracks. To its left the recess has a wet corner leading to a double overlap that runs across the top of the slab. Wet streaks often run beneath this overlap. Climb up the slab moving into the corner at about halfway up, depending on confidence. The alcove at the top of the corner beneath the overlaps is well protected but was very wet. Move right to a dry flange and mantel onto the slab between the overlaps then traverse back left to the alcove and up this to belays in a recess on the left.

5. 40m Step left and up a red feldspar slab easily followed by scrambling to belays beneath a nice slab on the right.

6. 25m Climb the pleasant slab.

Scrambling remains to the top. An escape rightwards into the top of the grass gully should be possible after pitch 4.

TEALASDALE SLABS:

These are slow to dry after the winter as they were seeping in a very dry spell in May.

Islivig Direct has a helpful cairn at the start of the route.

Top: John Lyall on Pitch 1 of Grand Slam (V.7), Beinn Eighe, during the first ascent.

Bottom: Andy Nisbet enjoying the sunshine, also on the first ascent of Grand Slam (V.7).

Both photos: Pete MacPherson





CAITIOSBHA:

(NB 403 171) Alt 100m South-West facing

These roadside crags are of good quality gneiss but unfortunately not very steep. From the road walk uphill to arrive at the slab in one minute.

Left-Hand Slab:

Far Left 28m Moderate *.

There are two lines on the slab. Climb the left one.

Yellow Patches 28m Moderate *.

The right route on the slab.

Upper Cracks 18m Very Difficult *.

Up and right of the slab is a crack in a short wall, climb this to a grassy ledge then move left and climb another crack.

Right-Hand Slab:

One 20m Moderate.

The far left-hand route.

Two 22m Moderate **.

The fine left-hand easy-angled crack.

Three 24m Moderate **.

Walk up the right-hand crack.

Juniper Buttress:

This is right of the slabs and slightly steeper.

Ceilidh Minogue 40m Very Difficult **. Colin Moody, Cynthia Grindley. 12 May 2008.

Fine climbing up the longest bit of rock. Start at the toe of the buttress left of a spike. Climb up then move right above a large juniper bush and climb the rib.

Black Blobs 25m VS 4b *. Cynthia Grindley, Colin Moody. 12 May 2008.

Right of *Ceilidh Minogue* is a grassy corner then a rib, start at this. Climb up on black blobs then continue up the rounded rib above.

Vitamin T 25m Severe *. Cynthia Grindley, Colin Moody. 12 May 2008.

Just right of *Black Blobs* is a right-slanting corner with heather patches. Climb up just right of these.

The Jimmy Shandrix Experience 15m Difficult *. Colin Moody, Cynthia Grindley. 12 May 2008.

Right of the previous route is a vegetated corner. Climb the fine scoop to the right.

The Battersea Boys 15m Difficult *. Colin Moody. 12 May 2008.

Start 2m right of *The Jimmy Shandrix Experience* and climb another scoop past a clump of heather at 4m.

Tess Fryer on Sugar Cane Country (E4 6a), Pabbay, Hebrides.

Photo: Neil Carnegie.

Brown Scoop 15m Difficult *. Colin Moody. 12 May 2008.
Start 5m right at quartz crystals; climb pleasantly up.

SOUTH UIST, Maol na h-Ordaig, Corner Crag (NF 839 151):

A crag formed by an open-book corner with an undercut left wall.

Slob Trout 10m Hard Severe 4b. Graham Stein, Ian Hall, Claire Stein. 10 June 2008.

Start on a boulder below the main crack in the left wall. Follow the crack, mostly on its left, exiting left at the top.

Loch Aineort, Creag Mor Sea Cliffs (NF 821 272):

A west-facing crag bounded on the left by a steep grassy gully with a huge chockstone at its top. The upper half of the crag is dominated by impressive overhangs. Beneath the overhangs runs a marked left-rising discontinuous break finishing above the chockstone in the grassy gully. The approach on the FA was from the sea, but abseil from the west (left side of cliff looking from bottom) should be possible, to reach rocks at sea-level. The crag is visible from a promontory at the west side of the green gully.

Captain Zim's Drascombe Longboat 55m E1. Graham Stein, Ian Hall, Claire Stein. 12 June 2008.

1. 25m 5b Climb an obvious crack-line immediately left of the black and white streaked section of wall for 20m until it is possible to pull right onto a small ledge (steep, well-protected). Move more easily up and left to a small ledge.
2. 15m 4b Follow the left-rising line of weakness, pulling up awkwardly behind a detached flake to a good ledge with a white-streaked wall at its right end.
3. 15m 4c Continue up the line of weakness by climbing a wide crack (teetering pile of loose rocks on left) followed by a hand-traverse to gain a grassy terrace. Belay from large blocks just above the large chockstone, from where the top of the grassy gully may be reached by an easy scramble.

BARRA:

Many routes have been climbed here by Kevin Howett, Colin Moody, Pete Whillance, Steve Crowe and others. With confusion about who was first, details will have to await the new guide.

MINGULAY, Guarsay Beag, Shag's Point:

Artificial Shag 35m VS 4c. James Thacker, Mark Edmonds. 1 June 2008.

From the same abseil ascend the groove, as for *Easy Day for a Shag*, to pull through the overlap at its widest point. Step left to climb the arete in a pleasant situation.

First in Line 45m VS **. Mark Edmonds, James Thacker. 1 June 2008.

1. 25m 4b From the base of *Easy Day for a Shag*, make a rising traverse to a bird-filled cave-niche. Belay on the left-hand side at an obvious pink thread.
2. 25m 4c Step left to follow the left edge of the pink overhang, pulling through on excellent black juggy rock, finishing up a faint groove system.

Note: John Sanders made the first ascent of *Condemned to Happiness* in 1998 and the current route description of the first pitch is inaccurate. It should read: Belay beneath a cave. Bridge up the right side of the cave until established in the crack.

The grade should be 4b, and not 4c; the second pitch is 5a.

C2H2 40m Hard Severe **. John Sanders, Alison Sanders. 2 June 2008.

1. 20m 4b Climb the first pitch of *Condemned to Happiness*.
2. 20m 4b From the belay, move left to the open-book corner; climb this and then move awkwardly onto the right wall of the hanging pillar (crux). Climb this direct to the top.

Choctaw Bingo 40m Severe 4b. John Sanders, Alison Sanders. 2 June 2008.

Belay in a small chimney approx. 4m left of the stance for *With a view to a Shag*. Move up and left in a rising traverse to where the crag changes aspect, to be beneath a small overlap split by a mossy crack. Breach the overlap using the crack (crux) and climb direct to the top.

The Ultimate Fascinator 40m Hard Severe 4b ***. John Sanders, Alison Sanders. 5 June 2008.

From the same belay as *Choctaw Bingo*, climb straight up the short chimney and the wall above on excellent holds to a corner (poorly protected – No. 3 Camelot required for the letterbox). From the corner move right, around the overlap, to climb the delicate wall above, and then jugs to the top – superb and sustained throughout.

Guarsay Mor:

Guanomala City 60m VS. John Dale, Mike Coleman. 3 August 2000.

Takes a line between *No Puke Here* and *Grey Rib*. Start as for *No Puke Here*.

1. 40m 4c Climb rightwards via a groove and awkward scoop to a right-trending flake-groove. Follow this for a few metres, then step left and climb directly up the right side of the rounded rib to narrow ledges above a bulge.
2. 20m 4a Climb directly to the top on large holds, passing through the centre of the bulge above.

Dun Mingulay:

Storm Warning Direct Finish 45m VS 4b. Mark Edmonds, Graham Stein, James Thacker. 3 June 2008.

The following variation forms a true finish from the top of pitch 2 (the 5c crux). Follow a direct line, trending rightwards through steep but steady terrain to the top. The original finish scuttles off left to join *15 Fathoms*.

Sula Direct Start 30m E3 5c. James Thacker, Graham Stein. June 2004.

Start 5m to the left of *The Silkie* directly below the left end of the crescent-shaped roof. Climb up towards the bottom of an open groove at approximately half-height, move out right and climb directly to enter a shallow scoop. Move up under the crescent-shaped roof (good runners) before moving right and up to the first stance on *Sula*.

Dun Mingulay, Sron an Duin:

The Swell 210m E4. D. O'Sullivan, Ross Cowie, Tim Marsh. 5 June 2008.

A right to left girdle of Sron An Duin. For the most part it follows an obvious fault-line. Amazing climbing. At least half of the ground covered is new.

1. 40m 5c Start up *Dun Moaning* and follow this till level with the roof of *Rory Rum*. Traverse left around the arete and gain *Rory Rum* which is followed left under the roof to belay at a slot just beyond where *Big Ken* breaches the roof.
2. 30m 6a Follow the fault strenuously left to the arete and then easily for another 20m.
3. 30m 4c Cruise the juggy fault-line to belay above the plinth of *The Silkie*.
4. 40m 5b Continue easily left for 20m and then descend a few metres to a lower break. This leads left past an orange shield to a comfortable belay on the edge of the huge arch. (This is the *Ray of Light* belay below the 'tusk'.)
5. 40m 5c Now take a diagonal line up and left to gain the break under the huge roof. Traverse easily left for 7m and belay on *Perfect Monsters*.
6. 30m 5c An exposed traverse left on the lip of the roof gains a small ledge. Finish direct.

Searching in the Sun E4 6a. D. O'Sullivan, Ross Cowie, Tim Marsh. 6 June 2008.

An intimidating line which breaches the lower central area of the huge arch at the north end of the cliff. Belay on ledges at the bottom right-hand side of the huge arch below the wet off-width chimney (left of *Les Voyageurs*).

1. 40m Traverse easily up and left to the bottom of a short black left-facing corner. Climb this and then traverse horizontally left along the lip of the overhang for 5m. Now launch up the bulging arete to a good rest. Continue up and left to belay among the birds at the prominent horizontal break.
2. Traverse left to gain the upper section of *Ray of Light* pitch 1. Follow this to belay at the big roof.
3. Finish as for *Ray of Light*.

Note from Steve Crowe: On Dun Mingulay we climbed the crack just left of the start of *Perfectly Normal Paranoia* to give an independent (E4 6a) start to *Call of the Sea*, named *Last Call*.

We climbed *Voyage of Faith* into *Perfect Monsters*. We call this *Voyage of Faith* with the *Ocean of Air finish*. E4 6a ****. Phenomenal exposure. Unbelievable territory at the grade. Competent second essential.

The Geirum Walls, Hidden Wall Area:

Sunnyside Up 25m VS 5a **. Claire Stein, Alison Sanders, Ian Hall. 6 June 2008.

The corner to the right of *Whiplash*, gained by an abseil descent as for *The Gull Who Shagged Me* to the elevated ledge. Start at the big hole beneath the obvious right-facing corner. Climb up the hole either on its right or by bridging to gain the bottom of the main corner-crack and twin crack on the right. Climb the strenuous corner and mantelshelf onto a square ledge. Follow the series of short continuation corners to gain the right end of a guillemot ledge under a roof. Step right and reach top by an easy rightwards traverse on a ledge and continue to belay on the Platform Wall platform.

Over Easy 25m Very Difficult. Claire Stein, Alison Sanders, Ian Hall. 6 June 2008.

The vague arete to the right of *Sunnyside Up*. Start at the right end of the elevated ledge (facing in). Follow a groove to a ledge on the arete and climb a series of short walls and ledges to belay as for *Sunnyside Up*.

Geirum Walls:

The following routes are east of the Geirum Walls, at the southern end of the island.

Right of Skipisdale Wall is an attractive tidal buttress, Skipisdale Buttress? The first route climbs the left arete. Low tide required.

My Gull's Mad At Me 15m VS 4c. John Dale, Pippa Curtis. 30 May 2001.
Climb the arete, pulling leftward through the bulges, and finish direct.

Happy Landings 15m HVS 5a. John Dale, Nigel Murphy. 30 May 2001.
Start immediately right of *My Gull...* Bridge up the groove for a few moves, then swing right into a shallow scoop. Climb directly up the front face of the buttress, finishing in a short corner. Not overly well protected.

PABBAY:

Note: John Grieve, Will Thompson and Hamish MacInnes were thought to have climbed on Pabbay about 1972.

Hooper's Headland (The Box):

Tick-tack 20m VS 4c. Paul Drew, Ian Lewis. 9 August 1999.
Start at the foot of the obvious corner. Climb the corner to the top.

Another Tick 20m HVS 5a. Ian Lewis, Paul Drew. 9 August 1999.
Climb the middle of the wall to the right of *Tick-tack*.

Double Tick 20m E1 5c. Ian Lewis, Paul Drew. 9 August 1999.
Start just around the arete forming the right end of the recess. Climb the steep wall with an overhanging start.

Hooper's Geo:

Wee Bill 15m Severe. Steve Thompson, Paul Drew. 3 July 2007.
Left of the descent. Start on ledges 15m above the sea. Climb the obvious corner with a step start.

More Whine and Whiskey 25m Hard Severe. Paul Drew, Steve Thompson. 3 July 2007.
Wall and pillar to the left of the easy corner-crack. Starts on a good ledge to the left of the deep chimney bounded on the right by the beak-like overhang taken by *Harry Hooper*.

Tick, Tack, Toe 28m VS 4c *. Paul Drew, Steve Thompson. 3 July 2007.
Takes the wall and arete left of the deep chimney to a fine finish up a crack overlooking the chimney/gash. Start as for *More Whine and Whiskey*.

Palm Tree Wall:

The first cliff reached on the Allanish Peninsula, located about 50m south of Allanish Wall and visible from the approach path to the Arch Cliff. Scramble down ledges on the left (facing out) until a sea-level platform can be reached (not tidal).

One Armed Bandit 15m VS 5a. John Dale, Yvonne Sell. 4 July 2007.

Start at the extreme left end of the wall. Climb up and rightwards to gain the obvious crack leading to the top.

The Missing Arm 10m VS 4c. David Barlow, Richard Spillett. 5 July 2007.

Follows the first crack-line. Effectively a direct start to *One Armed Bandit*.

Afternoon Showers 10m E1 5b *. Des Chadderton, Hugh Merritt. 5 July 2007.

Follow the second crack-line.

Thirty Metre Cheese Course 10m HVS 5a *. Richard Spillett, David Barlow. 5 July 2007.

Follow the third crack-line.

Barra Crack 15m VS 5a. John Dale, S.Thompson, Yvonne Sell. 4 July 2007.

Follow the fourth crack-line.

Note: The route was repeated with a more direct finish (not going into the big corner) by Alasdair Fulton & Malcolm Airey on 25 June 2008 (*Frailty of Life* 18m E2 5c **).

Ta Mo Chridhe 25m Severe. Steve Thompson, John Dale, Yvonne Sell. 4 July 2007.

The corner-crack followed directly.

Black Guillemot 20m VS 4b *. John Dale, Steve Thompson, Yvonne Sell. 4 July 2007.

Good climbing up the slab to the right of the corner. Following the right-trending crack to the top.

Mr Dressup 20m Severe 4a. Yvonne Sell, John Dale. 4 July 2007.

Around the corner from the Black Guillemot slab. The route follows two short walls split by a large ledge.

The Galley, East Wall:

The Engine Room 15m VS 4c. Richard Spillett, David Barlow. 3 July 2007.

Climbs the wall on the opposite side of the geo from *The Galley*, further down from *Wiggly Wall*. Starts from sea-level ledges. Climb a vertical crack which then slants rightwards towards the top of the wall.

Banded Wall:

Parting Shot 50m E5 6a **. Steve Crowe, Karen Magog. 2008.

A finish to the uncompleted line right of *Geomancer*. Climb the corner left of *Geomancer* to the large sloping ledge. Continue up the wall above to eventually

join *Geomancer* at the sling runner below the final bulge. Sprint up the headwall as for *Geomancer*.

Banded Wall, South Face, Platform Buttress:

Platform buttress is the lower south-west-facing 10m crag, accessed by abseiling from the left end (looking in) of the platform used to access the Banded Wall South Face routes. Very quick drying, no seepage.

Raindance 15m E1 5b *. Alasdair Fulton, Malcolm Airey. 22 June 2008.

Start at the left end of the ledge, beside a deep man-sized chimney on the left. Climb a small shallow, right-facing groove/crack, over a slight bulge on small but positive holds. Continue up and slightly left on easier ground, then up the steep juggy headwall above to finish on the VDiff spur of *Bald Eagle*.

Beast it Like a Kipper 10m VS 5a *. Malcolm Airey, Alasdair Fulton. 22 June 2008.

Start 4m right of the chimney. Climb a steep wide left-slanting crack to where the crack becomes horizontal. Trend right on good holds up the wall above.

Pink Wall:

Aukward Eascape 45m E4 6a **. Jon Morgan, Martin Cooper, Stan Halstead. 13 June 2009.

Follows a flake-line a few metres left of *Where Seagulls Dare* and finishes at the top of the second pitch of *Tickled Pink*. From the left-hand end of the main Pink Wall platform cross a gully, then up a right-facing corner and traverse left the ledge beneath the obvious flakes of *Where Seagulls Dare* (possible belay) to another line of flakes. Climb these, and where the flakes run out pull up and leftwards onto a pink slab with two useful finger pockets. Pull up left into a smaller flake system and follow it with increasing difficulty until you can step left into the top of the chimney of *Tickled Pink*, and block belay as for that route.

The following route was approached by a mistaken abseil. Instead of abseiling east from the large flat block, an abseil was made from the west end of the ledge, 85m to a ledge 20m above the sea. The rock is quite sandy. Picture provided.

What the Eagle? 90m E3 5b/c **. David Toon, Richard Toon. 30 May 2008.

A steep and character-building climb!

1. 40m 5b Climb a grey groove above the stance to where a traverse right gains a black corner. Climb this to a yellow wall with a down-pointing flake. Climb this on its left to a red firebrick ledge. Belay below the left end of the big long roof.
2. 30m 5b/5c Step left back in to a crack and follow this to an overhang. Surmount this (crux). Continue up until a move left brings another crack. Finish steeply up this and belay on the ledge.
3. 20m 4b Climb over broken ledges to finish.

Bay Area:

Every Cormorant is a Potential Shag E7 6b. Dave Birkett (unsec). 8 June 2008.

Start 10m right of *The Herbrudean* at the left-hand side of the big cave beneath the obvious stepped right-facing corner. Make a boulder problem start into the

first hanging corner. Traverse right to good holds and back left to the V-groove. Move up and rightwards into a shallow groove (good holds and gear on the left). Gain the big break under the roof (big Friends). Traverse left for 3m using a shattered handrail, then pull through the roof into a shallow corner. Finish up and right.

Big Bloc Sloc:

Two routes at the seaward tip of the wedge. From the large wedged block climb down above the left side of the wall until the top of an obvious corner is reached; abseil from here to a small tidal ledge.

Wee Bairns 20m VS 4c. Matt Kingsley, John Dale. 6 July 2007.

Climb the left side of the wall and continue by lichenous rock to the top.

Two Skulls in the Sunset 20m VS 4c *. John Dale, Matt Kingsley. 6 July 2007.

Climbs an obvious corner to a triangular roof. Pull through to a flake and follow this to the top.

Rosinish Wall:

Lottie 10m HVS 5b. Richard Spillett, David Barlow. 3 July 2007.

Just to the left of the fetid pool is a deceptively steep series of cracks up a wall, just to the right of an arete. Climb the cracks, trending rightwards.

More Training Required 20m E1 5b. Richard Spillett, David Barlow. 7 July 2007.

The groove to the left of the *The Ethics Police* arete, moving onto the arete to avoid the loose yellow exit.

Thuggy Crystal 20m HVS 5a. David Barlow, Richard Spillett. 3 July 2007.

About 6m right of *Rising Damp* is a black slab, bounded on its right by a V-groove. Climb the groove and the continuation crack to the capping crystal overhang. Pull and hop over it to finish more easily.

No More Ticks 15m HVS 4c. Paul Drew, Yvonne Sell. 7 July 2007.

On the right of the overhang (see *The Whoop of The Aviator*) is a left-facing corner. Pull into this and reach up awkwardly to a flat hold. Pull up and continue more easily to the top of the crag.

Rosinish Wall:

Squeak E2 5c. David Toon. 31 May 2008.

The wall right of *Rising Damp*. The move left is the crux.

There is a small 10m wall to the right (looking out) from the Rosinish Wall; it has three cracks.

Wing n' Prayer 10m E2 5c. David Toon. 31 May 2008.

Climb the right-hand of the three cracks, stepping left at the top.

Lengeigh Point:

This is the most northerly point on Pabbay opposite the small island of Lengeigh. Its west wall forms a series of small buttresses up to 15m high. Go to

the northern seaward end of Lengeigh Point and scramble down ledges on the west side until the first rock step into a deep gully is reached.

Seal Wall 15m Very Difficult. Paul Drew, Matt Kingsley. 5 July 2007.
Climbs the wall left of a deep gully.

Too Hard for the SMC 15m Severe. Paul Drew, Matt Kingsley. 5 July 2007.
Climbs wall right of deep gully.

RUM, Stac nam Faoileann:

(NM 407 932) Tidal South and North-facing

There are two stacks here, about 1.5 km from Dibidil on the path to Kinloch. The first has a broad flat top, the second (at Stoatir Point, and lies a little to the south) is more shapely. Stac nam Faoileann is the broad squat stack connected to the land by a collapsed arch leading to a groove taken by *Faoileann Corner* (1967).

Faoileann Arete 8m Very Difficult. Brian Davison. 30 June 2009.

The arete at the western landward end of the stack. Originally climbed at high tide, this involved swimming to the stack and gaining a ledge above an overhang before following easier ground to the top. This can probably be reached by boulder hopping at low tide.

Faoileann Chimney 10m Moderate. Brian Davison. 30 June 2009.

From the west end of the stack traverse around on ledges to the seaward side to a broad chimney or stepped dyke system which is followed easily to the top.

RUM, Dibidil Bay, Dibidil East Headland:

(NM 395 927) Partially Tidal South-facing

Approach: From the bothy to the east side of the bay avoiding the large geo which cuts back inland just before the headland starts to gain height. Once round the geo scramble down to a large platform. The first routes facing west are on a small wall with a tapering black streak down the middle, taken by *Black Streak* and a smoother shield of rock up to its right. Further right, beyond an undercut arete, the wall offers three groove systems in its top third.

Black Streak 10m Hard Severe 4b. Brian Davison. 29 June 2009.
Climb the centre of the black streak.

Dibidil Wall 10m VS 4c. Brian Davison. 29 June 2009.

Start 2m right at an undercut start and climb the wall to a small overlap to gain the shield of rock. Climb this to the top.

Easy Wall 10m Difficult. Brian Davison. 29 June 2009.

Right of the shield the wall leans back and offers plenty of holds.

Easy Edge 10m Very Difficult. Brian Davison. 29 June 2009.

The right edge before the cliff turns the corner; an undercut start is the crux.

The next three routes are found around the arete and have obvious grooves in their top third; the first starts right of an overhanging recess.

Rum 15m VS 4c. Brian Davison. 29 June 2009.

Start right of the overhanging recess and climb a wall to a ledge. Finish up the left-hand groove.

Sodomy 15m VS 5a. Brian Davison. 29 June 2009.

Start up the steep wall directly below the less well-defined middle groove. From the ledge finish up the middle groove.

Lash 15m VS 4c. Brian Davison. 29 June 2009.

The right-hand groove is steeper near the top but starts up easier-angled rock below.

Dibidil Pinnacle:

(NM 394 925) Tidal

At the west side of the bay is a 10m stack with a smaller stumpier stack or boulder to its west. The stack can be reached at low tide by stepping across. The west face contains some hairy lichen and *Wilderness Experience* (10m VS 4c) goes up the wall and a faint V-depression near the top at the right-hand side of the face. The seaward side of the stack offers an easy scrambling descent. The black east face offers *Deep Water Solo* (10m VS 4c) up the more broken features of the face immediately left of a blank and compact section of wall. There is some loose rock at the top.

RUM, Guirdil Bay:

(NG 317 014) Tidal North-West facing

The western headland of the bay has an archway clearly seen from the descent into the bay. The arch and the small bay beyond may be reached at low tide either by traversing along the landward wall on a shelf above the water, or by paddling westward into the smaller bay. The seaward leg of the arch may be reached by wading to chest height.

Underneath the Arches 25m Severe. Brian Davison. 30 June 2009.

From the sea gain a ledge on the west side of the arch. The remainder of the arch is easy with care being required with loose rock near the top.

Guirdil Pinnacle 20m Severe. Brian Davison. 30 June 2009.

The small bay to the west of Guirdil Bay accessed under the arch contains a small stack accessible at low tide.

Climb a corner or wall to a steep move onto a shoulder on the seaward side of the stack. Continue up the seaward side to the summit. A descent was made by climbing down the landward side for a few metres to a sloping ledge which allowed access back to the seaward face to downclimb the ascent route.

COLONSAY, Arch Crag:

Toberoran 10m Very Difficult. Phil Latham, Jane Latham. 28 May 2008.

As you descend into the shingle cove towards the arch there is a long slab wall on the right running for about 40m. About three-quarters of the way down the wall there is a very obvious large boulder. The climb starts immediately in front

of this boulder. The route climbs up trending gradually right just under a obvious band of overlaps.

ORONSAY:

Stranded 8m Difficult. Gwilym Lynn. 6 August 2008.

In the small bay behind Eilean Fhionnlaidh beside the track across The Strand is an obvious cave and chimney (NR 363 895). Climb the left rib of the cave and continuing chimney.

Beinn Oronsay:

Columba's Ramp 30m Moderate. Gwilym Lynn. 6 August 2008

About 50m left of *Priory Slab* is a right-trending ramp. Climb the ramp, vegetated near the base.

MULL, Scoor, Urchin Slab (NM 413 182):

The easier routes have been soloed before by Colin Moody but not yet written up. Approach: The tidal sea-stack is clearly visible to the east of Scoor bay, approached along the boulders beyond The Slab. On reaching the stack, pass the 'hanging garden-like' taller stack on the left and round a further lower block to find the clean west-facing wall with a prominent brown smear.

Descent: The north-west side of the wall holds a surprise in the form of a staircase descent down a narrow passageway that takes you straight out to the base of the routes.

Quartz Vein Crack 9m Severe. Stuart Macfarlane, Jeannie Northover. 11 May 2009.

The left-hand of the two narrow cracks in the centre of the wall. Start with a step containing a quartz vein.

Andrea 9m Very Difficult. Jeannie Northover, Stuart Macfarlane. 11 May 2009. The obvious larger crack to the left of *Quartz Vein Crack*.

Urchin Crack 9m Severe. Stuart Macfarlane, Jeannie Northover. 11 May 2009. The right-hand of two narrow cracks in the centre of the wall.

Mull Childhood 9m Difficult. Jeannie Northover, Stuart Macfarlane. 11 May 2009.

The obvious larger crack to the right of *Urchin Crack*.

Rushing For The Ferry 9m Difficult. Jeannie Northover, Stuart Macfarlane. 11 May 2009.

The arete at the right end of the slab.

Tioran, Burg Peninsula, Creag Ghillean:

(NM 455 274) Alt 50m South-facing

A steep sound basalt escarpment approx. 400m long. The routes are on good sound rock, with cracks, corners and steep faces. It dries quickly but does have seepage; three days of good dry weather will see crag climbable. Belays are found on pine trees 10–30m behind the lip of the crag, a rigging rope useful.

Colin Moody and Laurie Skoudas climbed here in 1981 but did not record their routes.

Approach: Park at the National Trust car park at Tioran. Follow an estate track. The crag lies off the track down towards the sea, 5mins walk downhill by following old fence line and down over short rock step. Abseil in centrally or walk around from right end facing out to sea.

1. *Thron* 10m (Grade?) ***. Not led.

Follow the excellent fingery moves to a slopy niche and undercut to side pulls in obvious small niches above. Powerful and interesting climbing.

2. *Indecision Cracks* 10m Hard Severe **. Andy Spink, Unai Laronte, Crystal Lanageveld. 14 July 2008.

Steep narrow chimney and crack-line, follows bulgy cracks direct to the top.

3. *Starting Again!* 10m VS 4b ***. Andy Spink, Liam Irvin. March 2008.

Steep bridging up a thin corner-crack, leading to a direct finish on good holds.

4. *It's Starting to Stop* 12m HVS 5a ***. Ryan Glass, Andy Spink. 6 July 2008.

Bridging leads to a large undercut flake. Pull over this to finish.

5. *The Now and Then* Hard Severe 4a. Andy Spink, Sam Harrison, 30 June 2008.

An easy rib is followed to short steep headwall and flat top.

6. *Little Ben* 8m Hard Severe *. Andy Spink. 13 July 2008.

A thin open groove and crack followed direct to the top.

Knockvologan Area:

Cracks in a hanging slab at NM 315 184 gave Andy Spink (1991) *The Early Days* (7m Mild VS).

Two crack-lines parallel to each other can be seen high above small beach and bay at NM 309 188.

Chris 10m Mild VS. Follows a crack-line on the right.

Camilla 10m HVS. Follows a crack-line on the left.

Torr Mor a' Choriarst, School Crag (NM 312 186):

A fine 15m crag with amazing views of the coastline and to Jura. It has been climbed on for many years but routes not recorded. Right to left as viewed.

Red Kite Difficult. Climbs wrinkly rock easily to top. (Andy Spink. 1990.)

Red Coats Hard Severe. Follow slab to finger jams in crack-line, moving back left at top. (Andy Spink, Dick Carter. 1999.)

Red Fox XS. Thin slab climb up centre to obvious small pocket, then niche and so to top.

Kidnapped Severe. Easy groove is followed to nice finishing cracks. (Andy Spink, Dick Carter. 1999.)

Ross of Mull, Torr Mor Crag (NM 30443 24312):

Situated north of Fionnphort, take the minor road to Bruach Mhor shortly before reaching the village and park by the gate. Walk past the Torr Mor quarry and down steps and a track before heading north before the last house on the right. The crags are over the brow of the hill in front in a defile, 20–25mins. A typically perfect pair of granite crags facing north and south but with the problem of grassy cracks in the bigger north-facing crag of 12m. An unknown hero has left a nut near the top of the grassiest crack on the right of the crag. The

central area is now clean including the crest giving excellent varied and sustained climbing for its length. The shorter south-facing crag opposite has a variety of overhanging cracks. There is also good bouldering to the left of the south crag and behind it.

North Crag:

Toffs 12m E1 5b ***. John Mackenzie. 20 July 2008.

Climbs the right-hand leg of the obvious central A-shaped crack. Start at a horizontal pod-like break to the right of the crack and climb the wall past breaks to reach the crack and the crux at the top.

South Crag:

Left of the overhanging cracks is a gentle slab with an overlap.

Almost a Stroll 10m Hard Difficult. John Mackenzie. 13 July 2008.

Climb the slab centrally.

Wave Buttress (NM 411 186):

Ripple 10m HVS 5a. Brian Davison, N. Mullinger. 21 May 2008.

The thin crack up the rib between *Tern* and *Wavey Crack* passing rightwards under a bulge at the top. The central section of crack contains loose flakes.

Note: Colin Moody had previously top-roped the route and the flakes appeared to be keyed in. He thought it was harder than *Wavey Crack* which is graded HVS.

ERRAID, Pink Wall:

Five Naked Women 7m HVS 4c *. Colin Moody, Cynthia Grindley. 5 October 2008.

Left of *Panther* is a steep crack which gives the climb.

Note: Left of *Five Naked Women* is a recess. Two corner-cracks in the recess are both Severe.

Mink Wall:

Tower Crack 8m Hard Severe *. Colin Moody, Cynthia Grindley. 18 May 2008.

At the left end of Mink Wall (and slightly higher) is a small buttress with a prominent south-facing crack. Scramble up to the crack and climb it.

Aspen Grove 22m HVS 5a *. Colin Moody, Cynthia Grindley. 14 June 2008.

Start at the right side of the left pool. Climb a short flake-crack, then move left on the large ledge. Follow twin cracks then a jam crack to a grass ledge. Continue up flake-cracks to another grass ledge with small aspen trees.

Guantanamo 13m Hard Severe *. Colin Moody, Cynthia Grindley. 14 June 2008.

Start just right of *Aspen Grove* and left of *Pond Filler*. Climb the cracks above to a ledge then move right and climb a short wide crack to another ledge and easy escape.

Fussing 8m E1 5b *. Colin Moody, Cynthia Grindley. 18 May 2008.

Right of *Red* is a shallow right-facing corner. Climb the corner and continuation crack.

Another Access Route 8m Severe *. Colin Moody, Cynthia Grindley. 18 May 2008.

The arete right of *Access Route*. Start on the left side and make an awkward move to get started, then climb easily up and right.

Thrutchless Chimneys 10m Very Difficult. Colin Moody, Cynthia Grindley. 18 May 2008.

Climb the short chimney at the left side of Mink to a big ledge, then climb the short chimney above.

The Sair Finger HVS 5a *. Cynthia Grindley, Colin Moody. 14 June 2008.

The right-facing corner-crack at the right side of the crag (left of *The Mink*). Move right before reaching the roof, pull over the bulge and continue as for *The Mink*.

Asteroid Chasm:

Venus 10m E1 5a *. Cynthia Grindley, Colin Moody. 15 August 2008.

Climb the slightly overhanging cracks left of *Infinitesimal*.

IONA, Dun Lathraichean:

(NM 262 218) Alt 30m South-West facing

Approach: As for the other crags to Loch Staonaig, then follow the path round the east side of the loch down to Columba's Bay. The crags are on the hill right (west) of the bay. 45mins from the ferry.

There are two short crags on the south side of the small hill to the west of Columba's Bay. Climbs have been done on the right-hand crag by Cynthia Grindley and Colin Moody in 2008.

Buckets 6m Very Difficult *.

Climb the short wall at the left end of the crag.

Matthew 10m HVS 5a *.

The crack at the left side of the crag.

Mark 10m E1 5a *.

The shallow corner just to the right, then step left at the bulge. Strenuous with adequate protection.

Luke 8m VS 4c *.

Climb the right-slanting crack at the right side of the crag.

John 6m E2 5b *.

Climb the wall at the right side of the crag.

SKYE

In the expectation that the new Skye guidebook will be out soon, and has many routes which have never appeared in an SMC Journal, no routes are recorded here this year.

NORTHERN HIGHLANDS NORTH

BEINN DEARG, Glensquaib Cliffs:

Waiting for Nemo 170m II/III. Martin Holland, Pamela Millar. 3 December 2008.

1. 40m Start at a 2m wide slot forming a gully/groove 100m right of *WhatawaytospendEaster* and climb it via ice and turf to below a steep icicled wall on the right.
2. 30m Descend a few metres from the stance and make a left-rising traverse to a groove on the left of a small rectangular nose. Follow this to easy ground and a stance near a small pinnacle.
3. and 4. 100m A variety of easy finishes are now possible to the ridge, the easiest being a rightwards rising line finishing through an icy funnel-shaped gully.

Storming Stormont 220m III. John Mackenzie, Andy Nisbet, Neil Wilson. 10 March 2009.

A slightly indirect but still enjoyable line up the buttress to the left of *Rev Ian Paisley Memorial Gully*. Start to the left of the buttress and follow an easy narrow gully to a blockage where the route starts.

1. 45m Follow a right-trending ramp line to where it straightens. Continue up to a narrows then move hard left along a ledge to below a slab.
2. 50m Climb the slab, then move up and left and climb over two short chimneys.
3. 25m Climb a groove to a steep wall, then move horizontally right along a ledge, past a block.
4. 50m Climb up and left to a terrace and up this to the base of the headwall near a right then left-trending ramp.
5. 50m Follow the ramp, moving up and left to the top.

No Falls Road 280m IV,5 **. John Mackenzie, Neil Wilson. 31 December 2008.

An excellent line taking the curving corner in the centre of the buttress between *Emerald Edge* and *Red Handed*. Start in a snow bay below a steep groove left of an overhang and right of an icefall.

1. 45m Climb the groove to the icefall and follow this to belays on the left.
2. 45m Move right back to the corner and climb the icefall to belays on the right below a slabby section. A prominent pinnacle lies above.
3. 35m Climb the thin corner then move left then back right to a steep exit up the corner; move up right into a hidden chimney and up this to a ledge.
4. 45m Continue up the chimney, then follow the ice to a turf section on the left leading to a small ledge below a steep wall. Climb the tricky wall, crux, to a cave on the right.
5. 45m The easier chimney leads to more broken ground and follow this to the barrier headwall.
6. 35m Move right round a small buttress to a hidden gully/groove which curves round to the left. Climb this to arrive below a steep chimney.
7. 30m Climb the awkward chimney, moving onto its right edge once past an overhang. The rib leads to a short, thin slab and the top.

Note: *Finlay's Buttress* (SMCJ 2007) should have been described as the arete between *Fenian Gully* and *Centre Party*.

West Buttress:

Toffs on the Rocks 250m III. John Mackenzie. 27 December 2008.

A pleasant route, which comes rapidly into condition after a freeze, on the buttress between *Inverlael Gully* and *Gastronomes' Gully*. A turf or snow runnel lies in the upper central section of the buttress which leads to the arete overlooking *Gastronomes' Gully*. Start to left of *Inverlael Gully* before the gully narrows at a left-slanting diagonal line between two rock masses. Follow the diagonal over turf steps quite steeply to an easing, moving up and left to reach the steeper runnel which provides some interest before easier ground leading to the arete overlooking *Gastronomes' Gully*. Follow this edge to the top (not included in length).

Snowseekers' Allowance 350m II. John Mackenzie, Andy Nisbet; Sonya Drummond, Matt Griffin. 2 January 2009.

Takes the rib to the left of *Gastronomes' Gully*. Start in a recessed gully-groove directly below the gully and right of the Direct Start icefall. Climb a turf or ice ramp out left and move up and left to reach the rib. Follow the crest directly, some optional difficulties, to finish up a fine snow arete.

BEINN DEARG, Silver Slabs (NH 2568 7920, Alt 560m):

These are the rectangle of slabs on the south-east face of Creag a' Choire Ghranda (point 885) overlooking Gleann Mucarnaich. Park at the west end of Loch Droma and follow the track north from Lochdrum house over the col between Meallan Mhurchaidh and Meall Feith Dhiongaig and down to Gleann Mucarnaich, crossing the Allt Mhucarnaich. The slabs are on the left side of the hill in front. Allow 1hr 30mins.

The slabs are of silver-coloured massive schist with numerous black areas of water-worn smooth rock. Numerous overlaps cross the slabs with prominent ones at the base and the top. Much of the padding is easy with harder areas very much depending on the line chosen. The rock is mostly clean and sound with some loose flakes in places but almost devoid of cracks save at the overlaps. Friends are particularly useful. The climbing is more interesting than initial appearances suggest and quite varied, though the second pitches are open to variation. The top overlaps are in three sections moving from left to right; the 'tower of blocks' on the left which is separated from the steepest section (usually wet), the overlaps below and above a triangular niche with a white spot, the brown middle overlaps right again, and, just right of a wet corner, the blockier square-cut overlaps that are bordered by black wet walls.

Descent: the safest way is to contour left (looking up), then descend towards the waterslide of the burn before contouring above the scree back to the slabs.

Lost in Translation 160m VS 4c **. Rick Weld, John Mackenzie. 8 August 2008.

The best route on the slabs taking the top overlaps in an unlikely position for the grade.

1. 45m Start below the jutting block (see *Boom Time*) and climb up to and over

Pete MacPherson on Blood, Sweat and Frozen Tears (VIII,8), Beinn Eighe.

Photo: Mark 'Ed' Edwards.





flakes by its left side to reach clean slabs. Climb these to the long overlap traversed under by *Boom Time* and belay below it on its left side.

2. 45m 4b Step left around the overlap and move slightly rightward to reach and climb a superb smooth slab to belays on a small ledge.

3. 35m 4b Head up the slabs for a triangular niche with a white spot on the left that lies just right of the steepest section of overlaps. Climb the initial overlap just right of the niche then step left into it.

4. 35m 4c Climb the large flake edge to an overlap, step left (crux), then move up to a crack with a downward-pointing spike. Pull over and head up slabs trending left to the top.

Boom Time 125m Hard Severe 4b *. John Mackenzie, Eve Austin. 6 July 2008.

Takes the centre-left side of the slabs. Start below a jutting block in the centre of the large overlap at the base of the slabs. Some interesting and not-too-arduous climbing but very little protection.

1. 50m 4b Climb slabs direct to the block and into its right-hand corner, then mantel onto the block and onto the slabs. Easily at first then up a blanker black smooth slab on the right to reach a corner with grass at its top on the left and up this to a large overlap. Traverse right directly under it, then over it before a loose-looking flake and up slabs to a cracked block directly above.

2. 50m Climb the smaller overlap above the belay and up to a line of weakness on the right moving gradually left to reach the grass ledge below the top black overlaps. Harder variations left of the line of weakness should be better, such as part of the second pitch of *Lost in Translation*. Traverse left to a niche and small flake left of the black overlaps (which are often wet) and directly below a 'tower of flakes' which forms on the left of the black overlaps.

3. 25m 4a Climb the right edge above to a short wall and juniper. Move left on the glacia and up the booming but massive flakes by a series of cracks and edges in a good position to reach a juniper ledge at the top.

Slideshow 135m E1 5a *. Rick Weld, John Mackenzie. 8 August 2008.

An excellent and bold first pitch and a good third pitch.

1. 40m 5a Start as for *Misty Mountain Hop* but climb straight up to a right-trending ramp, vital No. 1 Friend in a pocket up left. Continue boldly direct to the big overlap (good Friend runners), step left and climb the nose of the overlap by stepping right with faith. Continue up the slabs to belay as for *Misty Mountain Hop* at the parallel crack.

2. 40m Continue up left towards the middle set of overlaps to belays under an overlap.

3. 35m 4b Continue up slabs leftwards to the middle overlaps and climb the first overlap at a notch, then move up right to a prominent crack.

4. 35m Continue up to and around the overlap above, then step right and climb a short corner. Move right above to reach the thread of *Misty Mountain Hop* but then step left and climb to the top.

Misty Mountain Hop 125m VS 4c **. John Mackenzie, Eve Austin. 23 July 2008.

Climbs the right-hand side of the slabs taking the most continuous area of rock.

*Top: Eddie Barbour on Zebedee (E4 6a), The Burren, County Clare, Ireland. Photo: Ian Taylor.
Bottom: Unclimbed cliff on the Aran Islands, Ireland. There are 9km of cliffs like these!*

A fine climb with lots of variety, more protection (save on pitch 1) and opportunities for more direct lines if completely dry (rare!). Start at a pair of right-curving overlaps, aiming for the left end of a heather ledge above.

1. 45m 4b Climb to an overlap and move right under it to step over to reach the ledge. Move left and step on to the upper slab, then climb directly to a hollow block and parallel crack.
2. 35m 4b. Climb the slab right of the stance and move up and slightly left aiming for the large overlaps right of centre but left of the wet black walls.
3. 35m 4c Climb to the overlaps and take the lower of the two big ones just right of a wet area (black rock if dry), then move right to a well protected crack in the top one. The wet corner to the left of the upper overlap would be easier but not so good.
4. 10m Rather than risk sloping heather to the left, continue easily up shelves above to safer ground.

Note: The diamond-shaped slab up and right of the main slabs was investigated on the 23 July by the same party and gave an awful route of about VS 4b in five shortish pitches.

CORRIESHALLOCH AREA:

Arnisdale Falls V.5. Guy Roberston, Tony Stone. 3 January 2009.

The rarely-in-condition icefall at about NH 186 780 climbed in two pitches. Looks steeper than it is. Ten minutes from the A832, crossing the ageing footbridge at NH 186 778 over the Abhainn Cuileig. Worth a couple of stars for esoterica!

Strone Nea:

The crag is called Mac'us Mathair on the 1:25,000 map. There are two approaches:

1. The steep way; leave the A835 at a whin-lined track, NH 185 845, parking in a large clearing. Old tyres on the right lead through 15m of whin, small cairn. Follow the emerging track on the left and follow this to larch trees just left of the main scree slopes and follow to the crag. Move right to the main West Gully which serves as an approach to *The Shaft* and *Summit Slabs*.
2. The long way, leave the A835 at the new car park at the foot of Gleann na Squaib and after the second gate turn right at the Scottish Water hut and follow the clearing via tracks to the crag. Both ways about 30–40mins.

The rock is a juggy schist, mostly solid on the routes but numerous loose blocks on easy ground and ledges, a little traffic would improve matters hugely.

Shafted 105m HVS 5a *. John Mackenzie, Eve Austin. 21 June 2009.

A more direct ascent of The Shaft which follows less satisfactory ground and is probably Severe rather than VDiff. Shafted follows steep walls and commodious ledges. Good belays and well protected in general save the initial pitch. Some good exposed moves on excellent holds. Approach via the main West Gully, an easy scramble to the Memorial Cairn at the foot of the ridge on the left.

1. 20m Climb a slabby rib above the cairn to a good stance on the left side of the ridge.

2. 15m 4a Climb the side wall via a juggy crack to another ledge.
 3. 35m 4b Climb a steep wall just right of the edge, move left along a crack to the edge and follow this more easily to a ledge. Continue on the right over blocky ledges and two short walls to a ledge. Climb easily left of the arete to a sloping glacial on the right of the edge to below a short overhanging crack.
 4. 10m 5a Climb the excellent slanting crack to below the final rocks.
 5. 25m Climb the nose and then along the horizontal arete to a block.
- Descend to the neck at the top of the West Gully and East Gully. Abseil or scramble down West Gully to the foot via numerous trees.

OYKEL BRIDGE:

Broken Tooth Gully 70m III,4. Dave Allan, Dave Cumming. 22 December 2007. A frozen waterfall beside the River Oykell (NH 396 999).

SEANA BHRAIGH:

Pelican Buttress 150m III. Billy Burnside, Mike Dunn. 24 January 2009. A direct line close to *Pelican Gully* was taken (with scope for a longer approach up the easier-angled crest close to *Diamond Diedre*). Scrambling led to a steepening very close to the gully. Two long pitches of 50m and 60m led to a rock belay just below a large problematic cornice which was outflanked by a long traverse to the right across the top of *Pelican Gully*.

RHUE SEA-CLIFFS, Main Cliff:

Fat Monkey 25m E4 6a **. Tess Fryer, Ian Taylor. 6 July 2008. A line up the left wall of the giant prow. Climb *Rhue Rhapsody* to a ledge at 8m. Go left 3m, then up to gain the rightmost hanging flake and follow this until below a narrow roof. Traverse right below the roof in an exposed position to a hanging ledge and an easier finish.

Gem Walls:

Welly Direct 8m Severe. G.J. Lynn. 7 July 2008. Climb directly up the wall to the left of *Wellyboot Route* to join this route at its top.

ARDMAIR note:

Martin Holland notes that *Peace at Last* on the Fish Farm Walls has a large dangerous block on pitch 3. Also pitch 2 was thought hard 5c rather than 5b.

CAMUS MOR:

Ram Raider 25m E4 6a. Iain Small, Susan Jensen. 6 July 2008. Start at the heathery ledge below *Hit and Run*. Step off the far right end of the ledge using breaks to gain a crack, then a flake to reach a break. Climb a diagonal crack and pocketed wall to better holds and the left end of a rounded ramp. Continue left along the break, then take the wall above on rounded breaks.

CAIRN CONMHEALL, Crucifix Buttress:

Dragon Rider 30m E1 5b. Andy Tibbs, Andrew Fraser. 24 June 2007. Start 5m left of the buttress nose (about 4m left of *Anarchist Crack*). The route climbs a steep slabby feature bounded by diverging cracks. Climb up to the

diverging cracks and follow the right crack which is actually a shallow corner to flop right onto a pedestal. Finish by cracks on the left.

Note: The route is thought to be just left of *Class War*.

CAIRN CONMHEALL, Middle Crag (above Crucifix Buttress):

Am Fuhran 10m E2 5c. Andy Tibbs, Andrew Fraser. 24 June 2007.

At the extreme right of the crag is a clean corner with a crack in its right wall. Climb it.

COIGACH, Beinn an Eoin:

Sgorr Deas Chimney 120m IV,4 *. Davy Moy, Dave Allan. 3 March 2004.

The obvious chimney at the north end of the west face of Sgorr Deas. Best approached from the east end of Loch Lurgainn past the lochan between the two peaks of Beinn an Eoin. Climb the chimney direct, passing the halfway chockstone on the left side. Descend by traversing left, then head to the south end of the lochan.

SGURR AN FHIDHLEIR:

Castro 280m VII,7. Iain Small, Simon Richardson. 8 February 2009.

A winter ascent of the summer line resulted in a magnificent and sustained eight-pitch expedition. The 4c summer corner (pitch 3) was the crux.

CUL MOR, Coire Gorm:

Steeplejacks' Climb 200m IV,5 *. Dave Allan, Davy Moy. 21 January 2004.

Start about 10m up and left of *Three Chimneys Route*.

1. 40m Traverse rightwards up an easy ramp, then cross the *Three Chimneys* ice pitch to continue up a turf rib. Traverse up left about 15m, bypassing the short continuation chimney and a further blocky break in the wall above. Where the ground steepens, step up on to the wall beneath a small semi-detached block and swing right. Continue up awkward turf steps (crux).

2. 50m Follow easier ground to beneath two obvious chimneys.

3. 45m Traverse right beneath both chimneys and climb a fine open turf groove.

4. 50m Follow an easy gully above.

5. 15m Climb up to the start of the summit slopes.

CUL BEAG note:

Cul of the Wild is to the right of *Lurgainn Edge*, not right of *Kveldro Ridge* as stated in the Northern Highlands North guide.

STAC POLLAIDH, Pinnacle Basin, Virgin and Child Pinnacle:

Madonna 45m E1 5b *. John Mackenzie, Andy Nisbet. 26 May 2008.

Climbs the south (long or Loch Lurgainn) side of the pinnacle. A fine sustained and varied route on the mountain's most spectacular pinnacle. It has potential quality, given a little traffic.

1. 15m 5b Climb the front of the lower buttress over a cracked bulge to step left and up to a stance.

2. 15m 5b Climb a thin crack on the right to move right to the col.

3. 15m 5b Return left and climb over a bulge via twin cracks to a ledge. Climb

a classic layback and jam crack to thread a keyhole between the twin summits. Abseil descent down the short side.

Vlad the Impaler, Continuation Arete 40m Severe. John Mackenzie, Eve Austin. 12 June 2009.

From the top of the normal route, either continue up and over the pinnacled arete to arrive at a col overlooking a gully or scramble up the back to arrive at the same place.

1. 30m Climb the arete overlooking the gully via short corners to move right into a little gully and belays near the top.
2. 10m 4c On the left is a short sharp crack which is climbed to reach the secondary top of Stac Pollaidh.

Carragh Dearg:

This prominent north-west-facing crag lies at the east end of Loch Bad a' Ghail, 2km west of Stac Pollaidh (NC 091 093). Park at a bend in the road, at the bouldering area known as Reiff-in-the-Woods. Zigzag down some steep slopes, then go across some rough ground to the crag. Not as far as it looks, 5mins.

Ossuary 10m E4/5 6a **. Ian Taylor, Tess Fryer. 15 May 2008.

Takes the front face of the towering crag. Climb up to a ledge on the left, then shuffle right along the break (which contains some mysterious bones!) until able to make a long move to the next break. Continue straight up, pull onto the wall above and finish up shallow cracks.

ALTANDHU BOULDERING: See the topo and photo opposite page 443.

REIFF, Stone Pig Cliffs:

Man and Buoy 25m E1 5b. James Edwards, Martin Hind. 13 June 2009.

This is on the left side of the smooth black concave wall some 5m from the left end. Climb a line of discontinuous cracks with a hard move to gain a rest on the arete. Step left and go up to finish.

Pigeon Pants 15m HVS 5a. Ian Taylor, Tess Fryer. August 2008.

The dank chimney left of *Die Another Day*, climbed via flake-cracks on the right wall. Not recommended, but it seemed like a good idea at the time.

Cloud Appreciation Society 18m Hard Severe 4b *. John Bull. 25 June 2009.

Climb the arete between *Automaton* and *Nalaxone*, trending right in the slabby corners above.

Pinnacle Area:

Droga Artura (Arthur's Route) 15m E2 5c. Mariusz 'Gienek' Rogus, Grzesiek Bargiel. 29 September 2007.

Starts left of *Tongue 'n' Groove* (Second Geo). Climb the inverted triangular slab. Surmount the overhang to the platform. Finish straight up.

Pool Wall 8m HVS 5b. Ian Taylor, Murdoch Jamieson. 9 July 2009.

The steepening wall right of *Chimney Corner*.

The Point:

F Crack 8m Difficult *.

The flake-crack right of *OH Crack*.

Lapwing 6m VS 5a.

The wall just left of *Rampline*.

Minch Wall:

The Mover 10m VS 5a.

The arete right of *Slip Jig*. A slightly worrying rocking flake wouldn't budge on abseil.

Bay of Pigs:

Nefertiti 20m E5 6a. Iain Small, Es Tressider. 7 October 2007.

Takes the overhanging wall between *The Thistle* and *Walks Like...* Start just left of *The Thistle* and follow the flake-ramp to its top. Make a long reach to the big break then traverse it to the right arete and make committing moves up the left side of the arete to give a spectacular finish.

Piglet Wall:

Swinelet 4m 4c.

The wall and sharp arete left of *Jackie in the Box*.

Leaning Block Cliffs:

Adventures on the High Seas 20m VS 4c *. Michael Barnard. 28 April 2009.

The obvious diagonal fault-line on the back wall of the descent gully (right of *Pirates of Coigach*). Start from the same overhung ledge as for *Pirates of Coigach* and climb the corner-crack in three steps all the way to the top. Escapable but good sustained climbing.

Sixteen Men on a Dead Man's Chest 15m HVS 5b ***. Michael Barnard, Jonnie Williams. 31 May 2008.

The fine arete left of *Harold*. From the smaller ledge at the base of the corner, hand-traverse left to gain the edge, which is climbed all the way to the top.

Gilt Edge 20m E4 6a **. Ian Taylor, Tess Fryer. 5 July 2008.

The arete left of *Hydraulic Dogs* gives some excellent climbing. Start just left of the arete at the steep unclimbed corner. Go up the corner for a few metres until able to hand-traverse right onto a ledge on the arete, then follow the arete to the top.

Veedon Fleece 20m E1 5b **. Michael Barnard, Alex Clarke-Williams. 6 June 2008.

Lies halfway between *Waigwa* and *Golden Fleece*. Climb directly up the twin-cracked wall left of *Waigwa*, starting up a short corner and finishing as for that route.

Crossfire 15m E2 5c **. Michael Barnard (unsec). 6 June 2008.

Lies just east of the leaning block (between *Crossover* and *Bow Wave*). The

north-facing wall immediately left of the block is split in its upper half by an impressive short prow with two obvious breaks. Start as for the above, then zigzag up easy ground to below the breaks. Trend left up these (good cams), before breaking out right on small holds to slap for the top.

The Bonus 12m E5 6a **. Ian Taylor, Tess Fryer. April 2009.

The wall right of Losgaidh. Start as for *The Gift* to the cave, then blast straight up the wall above with long reaches between breaks.

Root on the Rampage 10m Very Difficult *. Alex Clarke-Williams, Michael Barnard. 6 June 2008.

Located just left of *Blotto*. Good climbing up the next corner to the left, unfortunately with no belay at the top!

Amphitheatre Bay:

Hyper Oceanic 30m E6 6b. Iain Small, Gary Latter. 4 August 2007.

Takes the prominent roof-capped groove left of the big square-cut corner with a large raised platform at its base. Bold and scary gaining the main corner. From behind a large boulder climb a wide easy crack to the right end of the first roof. Difficult moves out left lead to a large incut hold (sling over this), then pull over on breaks before delicate moves left into the groove and gear. Climb leftwards up the wall then make further difficult moves over the next two roofs to good holds. Continue to a capping block, then hand-traverse left to good finishing holds.

Note: Grade confirmed by Niall McNair.

Lost at Sea 25m E4 6a. Iain Small, Gary Latter. 4 August 2007.

The obvious groove starting just right of the large raised platform. Climb the groove and right-trending line leading to a roof. Traverse left then up with difficulty to better holds, finishing more easily up a crack in the headwall.

Note: A line up the left wall of the square-cut corner, finishing up the fine cracked headwall, was also climbed and thought E5 6b. A Glasgow team had been on it earlier in summer and it was assumed they made the first ascent.

Jig-Saw Wall Point:

The following two routes lie on the tidal east face. Low- to mid-tide access is possible by traversing in from the boulder beach to the left of the wall. At high tide, abseil to small ledges at the base. The wall has a slabby lower section then steepens markedly near the top.

Creative Juices 15m E1 5a *. Ian Taylor, Tess Fryer. 16 June 2009.

This climbs a bold line a metre or so left of the right arete.

Crossword Puzzle 15m E2 6a *. Ian Taylor, Tess Fryer. 16 June 2009.

The central line of disjointed cracks. Start from a niche and climb the cracks until a steep hard move gains a ledge and an awkward top-out.

Rubha Ploytach:

Red Nose Day 12m Hard Severe 4b. Jonathan Preston. 19 April 2009.

The rib between *Fancy Free* and *Labrador Chimney*. Start just left of *Labrador*

Chimney beneath the undercut prow. Make committing moves up the right side of the prow to the crest. Finish more easily up the deep groove above.

Lone Ranger 8m VS 4b. Jonathan Preston. 19 April 2009.
The crack left of *Celtic Horizons* (escapable).

Beach Life 15m E3 5c. Iain Small, Susan Jensen. 6 October 2007.
The right-facing corner to left of *Making Waves*. Climb the corner to a break. Pull out left, then back right to a thin crack.

Note from Ian Taylor: Right of the descent to *Marie Celeste* (facing in) is an obvious corner. This is *RP Corner* (6m Severe). The wall left of the corner is *Rehab* (6m Hard Severe 4c). The arete right of the corner is *Smart Arete* (6m VS 5a *).

Silver Foil 10m VS 5b *
The wall right of *Trefoil*.

LOCHINVER CRAGS, Strone Crag:

Party Pooper 25m Very Difficult. Jonathan & Diana Preston. 30 May 2008.
A route at the far left end of the crag, beyond a big heather ledge that runs across the slab. Start 8m down and left of *Whitewash*, just left of a rowan sapling. Climb steeply on good holds to a V-groove. Go up this to a ledge. Climb the slab above with the crux just below the top.

Note: The same party climbed on a gneiss crag just inland from Split Rock at NC 041 269. The clean slab on the left side of the crag gave a pleasant Difficult; the rest of the crag is a bit broken (31 May 2008).

OLD MAN OF STOER Notes:

Andy Innes and Neil McGeachy linked pitch 1 of *Diamond Face Route* with pitch 3 of *North-West Corner* by climbing diagonally right across *Original Route* at a sandy E1 5a (17 April 2008).

The note in SMCJ 2008 should have had the names Dave Cronshaw and John Ryden.

POINT OF STOER, Clashnessie Bay Crag:

Joachim's Spuds 8m Very Difficult. Tim Bourne, Gethin Jenkins. 6 June 2008.
This route is reached by scrambling down the east side of the headland from the top, and then turning left and scrambling towards the seaward point of the headland until a platform is reached beyond which there is a foot traverse continuing round. The route takes the traverse for 2–3m until one can climb up a V-shaped corner. Somewhat tidal.

QUINAG, Bucket Buttress:

The Great Gig in the Sky 45m VII,7 ***. Pete MacPherson, John Lyall. 2 December 2008.

1. 30m Climb cracks and a groove up the arete right of *The Touchline*, to a ledge on the right.

2. 15m Follow cracks above to the top.

QUINAG, Western Cliffs:

Popgun 150m II/III. Ed Edwards, John Lyall, Andy Nisbet. 12 February 2009. A gully which separates *Tenement Ridge* and *Drumbeg Tower*. All easy except for a short chimney section at mid-height. This will vary in difficulty according to the build-up.

Assynt of Man 150m VI,6. Ed Edwards, John Lyall, Andy Nisbet. 12 February 2009.

The gully right of *The Pillar of Assynt*. Climb steep turf to the base of its impressive chimney. Follow this over several bulges to easy ground (45m).

Jack the Lad 150m III,5. Sonya Drummond, Andy Nisbet. 13 February 2009.

The gully left of *The Pillar of Assynt*. A steep initial section was climbed just right of thin ice. This led to a long easy section. The main gully jinks left up a short wall, climbed on the left. Again the ice was too thin, so a subsequent steep section was climbed by a well protected short corner on the right, returning to the gully to finish on snow.

Ricketty Ridge 150m V,7. John Lyall, Andy Nisbet. 11 February 2009.

The winter route followed a corner line just right of the crest. Start up a broad scoop right of the summer line and follow this, then go left to the base of the corner line (80m). Follow the corner to where there is a prominent crack in its right wall (25m). Climb the crack and return to the corner which leads to the upper crest (25m). Follow this past the left side of a short wall to the easy upper slopes (15m).

The Am Fasgadh Alternative 120m IV,4. Ian Taylor, Tess Fryer. 8 February 2009.

The first ridge right of the second col gully. Starting from a corner at the toe of the ridge, follow the crest of the ridge with occasional deviations to the left. The ridge ends at a small col with some pinnacles. Either descend easily leftwards or continue up Grade I/II ground for a long way to the main ridge.

QUINAG AREA, Accessible Pinnacle (NC 241 295):

This is a spire-like quartzite pinnacle a few minutes from the road. A lay-by exists by the bridge. Slightly wobbly but sound in principal and gives a good exposed climb with the loose bits adding to the atmosphere. To descend, either abseil or downclimb the East Arete.

East Arete 10m Difficult. John Mackenzie, Eve Austin. 18 April 2008.

The short side reached by scrambling up the narrow scree gully. An easy level section followed by a short exposed wall to the top (three joined 8ft slings will encircle the summit).

Birthday Party Arete (West Arete) 20m VS 4b *. John Mackenzie, Bob

Brown, Andy Nisbet, Eve Austin, Colin Tarbat, Charles White. 15 June 2008.

The long side! A narrow and exciting route up the west arete on square-cut holds. Some good gear but go gently with the rock though most is quite sound. Traffic will rapidly either improve the stability or demolish the pinnacle.

BEINN AN FHURAIN:

Reign Fall 250m IV,4 *. Dave Allan, Simon Nadin. 22 January 2008.
Start approx. 200m right of Fhuaran Fall at a big icefall in a bay. Climb the icefall to easy snow (60m). Climb the next quartzite tier diagonally leftwards, starting just left of a rockfall scar (60m). Continue up the buttress and easy snow heading for a prominent ice chimney (60m). Climb the chimney (55m).

GLAS BHEINN:

Eas a' Chual Allan 75m IV,4. Dave Allan, Davy Moy. 2 March 2004.
Unlike its illustrious neighbour and near namesake, this is one of the shorter waterfalls in Britain. The icefall is visible from the road (NC 248 281) and 20mins approach. A near vertical 15m start leads to a belay at 25m, 4m left of the ice. Continue to the top.

TARBET SEA-CLIFFS, Raven's Crag:

The following two routes lie on the impressive sweep of wall right of *Black Ross*.

Raving 25m E4 6a **. Ian Taylor, Tess Fryer. 18 August 2008.

Follow *Black Ross* to the ledge and a possible belay. On the wall above the ledge is a narrow black ramp. From the start of the ramp go up to a hand ledge, then traverse right until able to gain the ramp at a worrying flake. Make a move right, then climb up to a crack which leads into a groove and the top. Climbing the ramp directly would be possible but would be very bold.

Losing the Plot 45m E4 **. Ian Taylor, Tess Fryer. 18 August 2008.

Start at sea-level ledges just left of the central leaning corner and below a large round hole.

1. 25m 6a Climb up to the hole, step down and left to a thin crack and go up with difficulty to flat holds below a big roof. Traverse left via a horizontal flake to gain a big ledge. Belay below a right-trending crack in black biotite.
2. 20m 5c Steep moves up the crack and its vertical continuation lead to a steepening with some poor rock. Make an energetic move out right to finish up easier ground.

Balmy Slabs, White Slab:

The highest point above White Slab is at NC 1590 4978.

Camouflage 20m HVS 5b **. Andy Nisbet, Jonathan Preston. 28 April 2009.
A clean and very well protected (small wires) route. Start at a right-facing corner 5m right of *Writer's Cramp*. Climb the corner and a left-slanting thin crack to reach a 2m narrow sloping ledge. Make a move up a shallow corner, then move right to a final slab.

The Balmy Boys 20m HVS 5a *. Jonathan Preston, Andy Nisbet. 28 April 2009.
A slab between *Camouflage* and *Writer's Cramp*. Start 1m left of the corner of Unnamed. Climb straight up to a left-trending overlap. Follow this to the narrow sloping ledge. Climb the corner of *Camouflage* but continue left under the subsequent overlap to finish near *Writer's Cramp*.

Western Sector:

Round the Horn 20m E1 5b **. Jonathan Preston, Andy Nisbet. 28 April 2009. *Cornucopia* requires middle to low tide and was thought only worth two stars. This route climbs the wall to its right. Start from the barnacled ledge from which *Cornucopia* steps left. Pull up into a short right-facing corner, then move up left under a bulge into a left-facing corner. Go up this, then step right across the corner on to a hanging slab and a small ledge. Move back left into a crack and finish up this.

The following three routes lie on the far west side of the western sector. The wall can be viewed by scrambling down at the far end to the foot of *Black Tidings*. Continue round left (looking out) to the edge of a rocky promontory. Looking back from here is a fine area of steep but well-featured rock. Just visible on the right is a huge cleft cutting into the lower half of the cliff; this is the line of *A Bridge Too Far*. The routes can be accessed at low tide by scrambling round on ledges, while at low-mid tide they can be gained by abseil. For the latter, locate the top of *Black Tidings* (the obvious fault splitting the end of the headland). Abseil to ledges from cracks in the vicinity of the smaller of two pools of water.

Barmy Slab 15m VS 5a **. James Duthie, Michael Barnard. 25 July 2009. Belay on ledges 4m right of the huge cleft. Start up a crack in the initial steep wall; where this gets difficult a move right gains the slab above. Step back left on the edge of the slab to finish up the crack immediately left of the large open corner.

A Bridge Too Far 20m HVS 5a ***. James Duthie, Michael Barnard. 25 July 2009.

An excellent and contrasting route giving memorable positions. Start at the foot of the huge cleft. Back and foot up this to gain the slab on the left, step left under the overlap above and climb straight up to finish.

Variation: Direct Finish E1 5c **. Michael Barnard, James Duthie. 25 July 2009. From the slab follow the crack straight through the overlap.

Fantabulous Flake 20m E1 5c ***. Michael Barnard, James Duthie. 25 July 2009.

The superb diagonal flake-crack left of the huge cleft. Climb this to its top, before finishing directly up the headwall above.

Dolphin Crag:

Split Decision 20m VS 4c *. Bob Hamilton, Steve Kennedy. 5 May 2008.

On the seaward-facing wall left of *Misty Arete* is an obvious right-facing corner with a dark right wall. Climb the corner directly.

Dementia 20m Very Difficult. Steve Kennedy, Bob Hamilton. 5 May 2008. Climb the blunt edge about 5m right of *Split Decision* just left of a large flake. Finish up the wall above.

Tiptoe Slab 20m VS 4c *. Steve Kennedy, Bob Hamilton. 5 May 2008.

Start at the foot of the corner of *Split Decision* and climb the hanging slab on the

left. Move rightwards from the top of the slab and finish up a system of shallow corners.

No Sign of Life 20m Severe 4a *. Bob Hamilton, Steve Kennedy. 5 May 2008. Climb the initial slab of *Tiptoe Slab*. From the top of the slab move left for 2m then finish up a prominent corner.

FAR NORTH-WEST CRAGS, Ridgeway View Crag:

Leaping Wolf 20m E2 5b *. John Mackenzie, Eve Austin. 24 May 2008.

Right of the cracked slab of *Oars Aft* is a short chimney. Climb this to move left onto a ledge and block. Climb the overhanging wall right of a groove up past a crack and onto the slab nose up which the climb finishes leftwards. Good strenuous pocket pulling.

Creag an Fhithich:

Pap, Snackle & Crop 25m E2 5c. Ian Taylor, Tess Fryer. 25 May 2008.

Start right of *Honey Monster* where the shelf reaches ground level. Climb a shallow groove in the right rib of the main wall, trending left to finish up the last few moves of *Honey Monster*.

Note: The abseil descent off the worrying sapling (at the top of *The Swirl*) is not recommended. It is far better to gain the terrace above, then walk to its right end, where there is an in-situ thread, and abseil from here.

Sandwood Bay, Crag 2:

Mustard Pickle 15m Hard Severe 4b. Andy Moles. 26 May 2009.

Climb the obvious right-trending crack to the left of *Sandal Wood* to finish just next to that route. A good obvious line.

Sea Rocket 40m HVS 5a *. Bob Hamilton, Steve Kennedy. 27 September 2008.

A line between *Marram* and *Sea Champion*. The thin crack of *Sea Champion* is about 2m left of *Marram*. Left again is a stepped crack leading slightly leftwards up the slab (directly below the prominent flake). Climb the crack and the slab above to reach the flake (*S.C.* reaches the flake from the corner on the right). Finish up the right edge of the flake (as for *S.C.*).

SHEIGRA, First Geo, South Side Inner Wall:

Hanuman for a Day 25m E5 6a **. Ian Taylor, Tess Fryer. 25 May 2008.

Start just left of *Monkey Man*. Go up to some hanging flakes, then follow a thin crack slightly left to easier ground (junction with *Blind Faith*). Step right and climb a hard thin crack in the leaning headwall. Low in the grade.

First Geo, Outer Walls:

Flotsam 20m E6 6b **. Ian Taylor, Tess Fryer. 18 May 2009.

Start just left of *Sound of the Surf* and climb more or less directly to a crack at a steepening. Hard but well protected moves lead to better holds and a sloping ledge. Sidle left along the ledge to better holds, then go steeply up via large holds and ledges to the top.

Note: Second Geo – *The Black Edge* is the same route as *Lucifer's Link*, which also originally climbed to the Black Pedestal from the belay at the base of *Shark Crack*.

WHITEN HEAD, The Maiden:

The Gaelic name for these stacks is Stacan Bàna (White Stacks). The western stack is 46m and the eastern stack 56m.

Western Stack:

Waterfront Wall Direct 45m VS 4b **. Ross Jones, Neil Wilson. 10 May 2008. This direct route appears to cover better ground than the original route.

1. 25m 4a As for *Waterfront Wall*.

2. 20m 4b Climb up for 4m and rightwards to a broken crack-line. Climb this, then the crack-line on the left on the vertical wall and easy ground to the top.

Eastern Stack:

The west face was climbed by Ross Jones & Neil Wilson by the obvious line of weakness through the first and second overhangs and combined pitches of *March's Route* (1970) and *Ode* (1988). The first overhang is common to both routes. *March's Route* then uses the hanging crack through the second overhang and is 5b not 5a (*Ode* goes off right and joins the route again at the belay). The second pitch is the same as *Ode* and the big block does feel dangerous and loose! (*March's Route* heads off leftwards).

NEAVE ISLAND, Rubha Dubh:

(NC 664 647) Non-tidal Various aspects

This is the sea arch on the most northerly point of the island and was home to St Columba's missionaries in the seventh and eighth centuries. Approach either by a scramble to the top of the arch and abseil, or by boat direct to the base.

West Face:

Arch Arete 35m Severe. Neil Wilson, Simon Nadin. 2 August 2008.

Start just right of a short left-facing ramp and climb the broken west-facing wall and the arete above to finish up easy ground on the north face at the top.

Splash Landing 35m Severe. Simon Nadin, Neil Wilson. 2 August 2008.

Start 4m to the right. Climb broken corners that split the west and south wall to join the arete and finish up *Arch Arete*.

Monastic Life 35m E1 5b **. Ross Jones, Clare Bradley. 2 August 2008.

Traverse right 4m along ledges on the south face to the furthest overhang. Pull through this with a hanging pull-up and then the next overhang, stepping right into the corner. When the corner meets the arete, step out right onto the hanging west wall and climb this to the top (missing the final headwall reduces the overall grade to HVS 5a).

The next route starts as for *Splash Landing* and crosses *Monastic Life*.

Heathen's Door 35m E3 6a ***. Simon Nadin, Ross Jones. 2 August 2008.

Start left of overhangs. Climb up 3m and traverse rightwards above overhangs for 5m to an overhang. Pull through this and traverse under the corner and the hanging roof of the arch. Climb the hanging crack to an alcove beneath another overhang. Pull out left onto the hanging crack and climb this to the top. A superb finish.

East Wall:

The Warrior Saint 25m Hard Severe 4b *. Ross Jones, Clare Bradley. 2 August 2008.

The broken/striated wall right of the arch to a ledge at 15m. Finish up the corner-groove above.

St Finian's Apostle 25m Severe. Ross Jones, Clare Bradley. 2 August 2008.

The corner to the right to the ledge. Finish as for the route above.

Note:

The grid refs for the two routes mentioned in the guide (p336) are *Bonxie* (NC 659 646) and *Northern Exposure* (NC 663 646).

BEN LOYAL, Sgor a' Bhatain:

Hazard 35m E6 6b. Simon Nadin (unsec). May 2009.

Start to the right of *Loyal Flush* behind a prominent finger of rock. Climb easily to the first bulge where an awkward move leads to the start of the crack system. Follow this to where the wall steepens considerably. Difficult moves are made to gain a good but very steep jamming crack and then a ledge above. Step off the right of the ledge into a flared crack leading with tricky moves to the roof/bulge. Launch through this via open cracks to gain a standing position on the headwall. Finish airily rightwards up this. Well protected. Either scramble leftwards down the rake or finish up the next route.

The Rigging Finish 20m E5 6c. Simon Nadin (unsec) June 2009.

This follows the overhung flared crack splitting the prow of the crag. Access is by scrambling up the diagonal rake from the left side of the crag until the belay of *Hazard* is reached, from where it is sensible to rope across the exposed ledge to a belay below the crack (just before the ledge peters out). The crack is climbed first on poor hand jams, then fist before finally resorting to head or body jams or anything else that aids progress.

SKERRAY SEA-CLIFFS:

Sidestep 20m E1 5b. Simon Nadin, Neil Wilson. June 2009.

Absail to a small platform to the left of the start of *Arch*, and climb a steep crack marking the boundary between pink and grey rock to join *Arch* at half-height.

CULFERN CRAG:

See Northern Highlands North p345. This should have a separate heading in the guide, as it is not part of Indian Chiefs. Culfern Crag is situated about 6km south of Melvich, at the northern end of Strath Halladale (NC 901 587). This collection of gneiss outcrops is located above Culfern Farm on the east side of the Strath, and can be easily seen on the hillside to the left of the A897 when

travelling south. The rock is solid gneiss, varying from very steep clean walls to more lichenous slabs. The compact nature of the rock means that protection is often scarce, with some marked exceptions. Predominantly facing south and west, the crag is a sun-trap in the afternoon and evening. The crag is split into three sectors, which form a line from south to north.

Southern Sector (Creag an Daimh) NC 900 585:

The most disparate sector of Culfern is easily approached from the gated farm track a few hundred metres south of the farm, weaving past a small wall before passing under an obvious 10m slab (seen from the road when coming from the south).

Easy Slab 10m Difficult.

Assumed to have been climbed previously. The obvious unprotected slab above the track.

Run for Cover 10m HVS 5a *. Gareth Marshall, Chris Edwards. 28 September 2008.

Fifty metres left of *Easy Slab* is a prominent blunt slabby arete. Initially bold, but protection improves once the crack to the right is reached. An obvious and rewarding line.

Turtle Head Ridge 8m Very Difficult. Chris Edwards, Gareth Marshall. 28 September 2008.

A slabby ridge protrudes from the rocky slope another 30m left, and is broken by a left-trending flake leading to an arete. The flake leads to a tiny spike at the foot of the arete, which is taken direct, or via the crack to the right.

Central Sector (NC 901 587):

The obvious wall is the most continuous area of rock at Culfern, but also the steepest and blankest! One route has been climbed, skirting the steepest section.

Eka Be 12m E1 5c **. Gareth Marshall, Chris Edwards. 27 September 2008.

Toward the right end of the wall twin vertical cracks lead to a small hanging corner on the left. Hard moves from a ledge at 2m gain the cracks, which are followed to the top. An excellent route, sustained and well protected.

Northern Sector (Creag nan Iolair) NC 904 589:

A hundred metres north of Central Wall, this unassuming looking collection of wooded crags provides a series of slabs and steep walls with up to 10m of clean rock. Cleaning of the slabbiest sections would yield several worthwhile lines. From the south, the first routes climb the obvious south-facing slab with a dark lichen stripe down the centre.

Prickly Pear 8m Severe. Chris Edwards, Gareth Marshall. 27 September 2008.

Start from the heather ramp at the right of the slab and climb the vague groove to the right of the dark stripe, finishing directly through the orange band.

Flow Country Scene 10m HVS 5a *. Gareth Marshall, Chris Edwards. 27 September 2008.

This route climbs to the left of the dark stripe, linking the obvious break at 4m with the thin cracks above. Good, but spaced, protection.

The next route is found further north. Beyond lichenous slabs and a gently leaning 10m wall is a smaller wall with an attractive orange band rising diagonally from right to left. Vertical cracks are found at either ends of the wall.

The Merlin 6m E1 5c *. Gareth Marshall. 11 September 2008.

The left-hand crack: more of a highball problem than a route, though protection is available. Edges lead to holds in the orange band, from where the crack is gained and climbed direct.

SARCLET, Waterfall Stack (ND 336 414):

Waterfall Stack 25m HVS 4b. Duncan Tunstall, Françoise Call. 28 May 2009.

Approach the stack by descending easily just to the east of a sea-cove waterfall. At low tide the wee zawn can be by traversed to the south or a 3m swim solves the problem. Climb the west face close to the arete to a ledge after 15m. Climb the left end of the wall above, finishing on the arete. Rock less than perfect. The summit was made of loose blocks with no belay or abseil anchors, so descent was made by down climbing the *East Face* (Moderate). There were signs of previous visitors on the descent in the form of a tissue paper. The stack has two summits and the slightly lower looks like it can be reached more easily by taking the descent scramble up and left.

MID CLYTH, Inset Wall:

The description of Inset Wall as 'non-tidal' is not strictly correct! This is a good route to do when the tide is high.

The Tide is High 10m E1 5b. Andy Tibbs, Davy Moy. 12 September 2008.

Abseil off a thread from a cliff-top boulder to gain an obvious ledge above the sea (the ledge is on *Adagio* and *Oxter*, and could be reached from below at lower tide). Climb the centre of the wall right of *Adagio* to finish just left of a short smooth corner. Well protected.

ORKNEY, YESNABY, False Stack Area:

Mist, Rain and Sunshine 15m E1 5b. Ross Jones, Clare Bradley. 5 July 2008.

Climb the starting groove of *Crow's Nest* and the wall above and slightly left.

Ain't No Strange As Folk 18m E2 5b *. Ross Jones, Iain Miller. 7 July 2008.

From the non-tidal platform at the base of the arete of *Three Wise Idiots*, start 2m left and climb up and leftwards up the side of the first overhang to the roof of the second large overhang. Traverse out right over the first overhang and beneath the second overhang and then straight up to the top of the drawbridge.

Gardyloo Wall:

Dream Weaver 22m E3 5c **. Tim Rankin, Neil Morrison. 28 July 2008.

The wall and flake-crack just right of *Dream Catcher* gives another fine pitch. Abseil into the small triangular perch just above high tide mark as for *Dream*

Catcher. Make a move up *Dream Catcher* and span right to a horizontal break, follow this right to below the upper crack-line. Climb the wall to below a small roof then gain an obvious jug up and left. Step back right and continue up the crack to the top.

Yesnaby 500 25m E4 6a ***. Tim Rankin, Neil Morrison. 28 July 2008.

Yet another excellent sustained route; abseil from the concrete strainer post down the back north corner of the inlet to a big tidal ledge (45m rope and swing required or gear to keep in). Traverse left off the ledge and either hand-traverse the low break or step up and use slopers to gain a groove leading to the left end of the roof. Climb the groove and its left arete up over the roof into a shallow groove. Continue over a small roof above and finish up the crack and layback flake. Cleaned on abseil.

Dream Tipper 22m E3 6a ***. Tim Rankin, Neil Morrison. 8 August 2008.

A superb unlikely-looking route through roofs at the right end of the wall; abseil to the large tidal ledge as for Yesnaby 500. Climb a flake-crack above the left end of the ledge to another ledge below a roof. Step back down and traverse right to a thin crack; climb this to jugs below another roof. Gain a good hold over the lip with interest (crux) and swing left into a groove. Pull over the roof on to a slab and continue up the easier groove above exiting right. Inspected on abseil.

Tower Area:

Superlupo 18m E7 6c **. Tim Rankin (head pointed). 30 July 2008.

Excellent hard bold climbing direct up the right side of the tower face breaching the seemingly smooth lower wall. Start 2m left of *No Maybes* and climb to the break past a small shallow niche. Climb the smooth wall directly above on tiny crimps to the next break (bold). Move right along the break to a jug and climb the wall above just left of the right-hand of three thin cracks (*Big Swall* climbs between the first two) to another break. Continue more easily up flakes and breaks directly to the top.

Arch Wall:

Überwölfe 22m E6 6b **. Tim Rankin, Neil Morrison (head pointed). August 2008.

The thin crack and quartz headwall between *Nuckelavee* and *Long Hard Winter*. Climb a crack just left of the start of *Long Hard Winter* to ledges; continue up the left-curving crack and up to a flat break 2m below the roof. A hard move gains a jug under the roof at small jammed blocks. Reach over and pull up left to a good break and protection. Cross the roof with difficulty rightwards and finish straight up on great holds.

Mally the Mallet 22m E6 6b **. Tim Rankin, Neil Morrison (head pointed). 8 August 2008.

Between *Ronnie the Axe* and *Mack the Knife* a black streak runs the full height of the cliff giving a fine route with excellent technical climbing but with only thin marginal protection on the upper wall. Start off the stepped ledge and climb a thin crack to below the roof and fail-safe protection in a crack over the lip. Use

an undercut pocket in the roof to reach small breaks above, and use these to pull over the roof rightwards to a good break right of the crack. Move up to stand on the ramp of *Ronnie the Axe* and arrange protection (small Friends and RPs), step up again to a quartz sidepull and use this to place crucial RPs in the thin crack on the left. Climb direct up the black streak to a good hold and gain a good ledge out right, continue straight up from this to finish.

The Langer Huddauf Direct Start 7m Severe 4a or S0 4+. John Bull. 20 June 2009.

A DWS start up the little wall of perfect rock left of *Wee Lum*, reversing down *The Langer Huddauf* to escape. Trivial but fun.

Quarry Walls:

There are two main quarries on the headland of Qui Arye Point, both to the north of the superior south-facing sea-cliffs. The most southerly lies a mere 5m north of the sea-cliffs in some places and can easily be descended from the east to gain several sport routes. The following routes climb a fine steep black north-facing slab at the west (seaward end) of the southerly quarry works. Gain the wall from the west by descending easy shelves and ledges.

Iron Stone 8m E2 5c *. Tim Rankin, Neil Morrison (on-sight). July 2008.

Just left of the descent ledges are two small slanting crack-lines. Start below the left-hand crack and climb this to a break with small cams. Step right to the right-hand crack and use a positive ironstone hold to boldly gain the final break. Finish up the central crack in the little headwall.

Secret Pocket 12m E2 5b *. Tim Rankin, Neil Morrison. July 2008.

Five metres left of *Iron Stone* is an obvious left-slanting crack leading to a hanging groove (unclimbed?) and further left a right-facing groove. This fine bold route climbs the blank slab between these two lines. Gain a ledge and good micro-wires, then boldly climb the wall above trending right then back left to a break and good small cams. Continue straight up on small holds to a square pocket and crucial Friend 0.5. Final hard moves on small holds (crux) lead to the top. Inspected on abseil.

ORKNEY, HOY:

An improved description after a repeat in 12hrs, with more direct first and last pitches, combining some smaller pitches, removing the aid point and changing a few of the technical grades.

Testament to the Insane 470m XS 5b. FFA: Ross Jones, Iain Miller. 9 July 2008.

1. 30m To the left of the boulder beach, directly below the arete, climb the short seaward wall of excellent rock and scramble to the only boulder and prominent scar.
2. 35m Scramble easily up the grass to the rock band; belay in cracks at its right-hand end.
3. 40m Continue up the steepening grass to the base of the towering arete; belay at the bottom of the big chimney-groove.

4. 55m 5a Climb the chimney-groove, pull out left at its top to a sloping grassy stance. Climb up steep ledges to another groove and pull out through the roof at its top and follow the short corner to a small stance. Continue up a grassy arete on the right to a superb ledge at the bottom of a right-facing corner.
5. 40m 4a From the right-hand end of the ledge, climb the slabby right-facing corner to easier ground. Ascend this swiftly to a second right-facing corner and climb this to a good stance.
6. 40m 4b Climb up trending left gently to the base of a steep red wall below a huge precarious capping boulder. Traverse right and ascend the steep ramp on better rock to a steep and extremely loose vegetated slope. Climb this delicately to the landward side of another massive perched boulder.
7. 45m 5b Traverse along the grassy ledge to the bottom of the prominent arete, which bounds the right-hand end of the huge slabby upper wall. Pull around the arete on good holds in an exposed position to gain the base of a left-facing corner. Climb the corner steeply to an exposed ledge (several pegs) and belay at the back below a wide groove.
8. 12m 4a Climb up the wide groove and up grass to a good stance.
9. 45m 5a Climb the steep right-trending corner through a wee roof to steep vegetation. Climb this to a recess on the left. Climb the centre of the recess to a huge boulder.
10. 48m Scramble through deep vegetation to the bottom of the headwall. Belay on the high point of vegetation directly below the huge central fault-line.
11. 25m 4b Climb the left-facing corner on the left and up to and into a cave with a huge block on the floor, Climb through the niche in the roof of the cave to the bottom of a big left-facing corner.
12. 20m 5a Climb a hand crack 3m to the left of the vegetated open-book corner to a good triangular niche. At the back of the niche climb the steep hand cracks.
13. 35m 5a Continue up direct in classic chimney fashion to the summit.

Note: Alan Macleay notes that as it says in the Northern Highlands North guide there was unrecorded climbing in Orkney from the late 1960s. In particular Cam Macleay, Ken Martin, Hamish Ross, Cliffy Leonard, Bob Grant and co. climbed there for many years and put up new routes in particular at Yesnaby, Roseness and South Ronaldsay. There must have been at least 50 more decent routes at Roseness than appear in the guidebook.

SHETLAND, ESHANESS:

From the car park head north for 50m. Abseil using large blocks set back from the cliff to a belay ledge 10m above the sea below a series of overhangs. The rock here is generally poor.

Lazy Alien 30m VS 4c. Ross Jones, Paul Whitworth. 15 May 2008.

Climb ledges up and rightwards and a broken crack-line to the right of overhangs, finishing left around a final overhang.

The next three routes are on the groove corners in the north-west wall below the lighthouse. They have a very different character to the other climbs nearby. From the car park head west to a concreted pipeline north-west of the blow hole.

Follow the pipeline to its end, then head directly north to the cliff-top to the top of a corner-groove that forms the exit to the following two routes.

Sting 35m E2 5c **. Ross Jones, Paul Whitworth. 22 May 2008.

Belay on ledges below the hanging crack-line of *Goblin Cleaver*. Climb twin cracks to a ledge below a hanging crack-line left of *Goblin Cleaver*. Pull through this onto a ledge and the left-facing corner above.

Goblin Cleaver 40m E2 5c *** (SMCJ 2006)

South of the groove for *Goblin Cleaver* are two more grooves before the wall turns south. The second one is broken and of poor rock. The first provides the following line.

Nenya 35m E1 5a ****. Ross Jones, Alison Campbell. 17 August 2008.

Start from a small ledge at the base of groove 8m above the sea. Climb the wall on the left to a ledge at 15m. Climb the arete and wall to the top.

Note: *Hanging Arete* (SMCJ 2008) is 30m not 20m.

Narya 35m E1 5b *. Ross Jones, David (Sid) Rayner. 19 August 2008.

Start as for *Solan* and pull out left onto the wall above the belay niche. Climb the wall just to the right of the arete.

Shetland Girls Are Sturdy 40m E2 5b *. David (Sid) Rayner, Ross Jones. 19 August 2008.

Start from a hanging belay in the middle of the wall between *Solan* and *Angrist*. Climb up the wall, through a small overhang at 15m and direct up the hanging wall to the top.

Note: *Foy Corner* VS 4c *** (SMCJ 2007) was first climbed by Mick Tighe and party on 20 June 2005.

Vilya 40m HVS 4c. Ross Jones, Andrew Hunter, David (Sid) Rayner. 24 May 2008.

From the ledge below *Aisha*, climb the groove on the right to overhangs. Pull through the overhangs and climb the groove and wall above.

Note: *Shetland Girls* (SMCJ 2008). The full name for the route is *Shetland Girls Are Easy*.

A Lightness of Heart 35m HVS 5a. Ross Jones, Paul Whitworth. 21 May 2008.

Start from ledges and climb the hanging arete/rib 5m right of *The Darkness of My Mind*, stepping onto the hanging wall on the left at the top to pull through the hanging crack above.

Stuvva Cave Area:

The cliff right of *Lost Hopes* (2005) then turns southwards into a geo with a blow hole (The Cannon). The rock here is very rough and brittle in places.

Captain Todd 25m E1 5a. Ross Jones, Carlos Las Heras. 27 May 2008.

From the left end of the wall a ramp rises up rightwards to a hanging crack-line at mid-height. Climb ramp and crack-line.

Last Passage 25m VS 4c. Carlos Las Heras, Ross Jones. 27 May 2008.

Five metres right of *Cruel Sea* is another steep ramp that leads to a broken groove with poor rock. A further 5m right is another less defined groove/ramp left of a cave. Climb this, traversing rightwards at mid-height for 3m to avoid poor and unprotected ground before finishing up the wall above.

THE FAITHER, Arched Wall:

Look Faither Than This 40m HVS 4c. Ross Jones, Carlos Las Heras. 30 May 2008.

Belay in a large niche to the right of the arete on the left side of the wall. Climb up into a corner and pull up and out onto the arete. Climb this for 3m and traverse back into a capped niche to the left of the hanging rib. At the top step left and climb direct to the top.

North West Corner:

Non-Tidal North-West facing

50m north of Hidden Wall is large corner with a hanging crack in the right wall.

The Auspex 35m Hard Severe 4b. Carlos Las Heras, Ross Jones. 30 May 2008. The large corner, starting from a large ledge on the left.

North Wall:

Non-tidal North facing

100m to the north of the Arch Wall is a black north-facing wall. A good alternative when the sun hasn't come around onto the other walls. Abseil down the corner to the right side to the wall to a ledge 10m above the sea.

The Soothsayer 35m E1 5a. Ross Jones, Carlos Las Heras. 30 May 2008.

From the ledge pull up on to a narrow ledge on the right and traverse with difficulty 5m right into a groove. Climb this to the top.

The Sibyl 35m E1 5a. Ross Jones, Carlos Las Heras. 30 May 2008.

Traverse 5m left from the ledge. Climb up to a small left-facing corner and then the wall above.

WARIE ARCH WALL:

(HU 239 833) Non-tidal West facing

150m north of Warie Gill is a west-facing wall with a cave to the north and arch to the south. A prominent flake-crack runs up the face of poor rock. Access by abseil.

Wary Warie Crack 40m MXS 5a. Ross Jones, Paul Whitworth. 16 August 2008.

Climb the crack and the wide hanging flake-crack above.

North Head:

(HU 239 839) Non-tidal North facing

This is the headland west of the Geo of Ockran. A fine corner of black rock can be seen on the most northerly point of North Head from the cliffs north of the Geo of Ockran. The corner is 100m north of the Hole of Geuda, a deep blow hole. Access by abseil to a ledge below the corner 8m above the sea.

Ockran Corner 30m VS 4c ***. Paul Whitworth, Ross Jones. 16 August 2008. The corner-crack on excellent rock.

Geuda Wall 30m E1 5b **. Ross Jones, Paul Whitworth. 16 August 2008. From the corner belay traverse out left and up the centre of the wall to a small shelf below an overhang. Pull out rightwards onto the wall above and climb this direct to the top.

NIBON:

Thule Groove VS 4c was climbed by Al Whitworth and Andrew Hunter and reckoned to be worth two stars.

The following routes are in the geo that contains: *Yogi Braer*, *Puissance* etc. The north side of the geo is a huge arch and the next two routes start from belays on good ledges, well back from the sea, at the back of the arch and immediately under the apex.

Sweetness & Light 45m HVS 5a **. Mick Tighe, Doug Lee, James Armour, John McClenaghan. 24 June 2005.

Climb cracks and corners in the north-west corner of the geo, trending up and left initially to a small ledge at halfway. A harder direct start leads to the same place. From here climb the corner, a few metres right of the twin cracks of *Yogi Braer*, before breaking out right to finish steeply under a huge boulder.

Black Eyed Biddy 45m VS 4c *. Mick Tighe, James Armour, Doug Lee. 6 May 2008.

Climbs the fine black diagonal crack-line in the north-east corner of the geo, starting from the same belay as *Sweetness & Light* and finishing up a broken corner where a low stone dyke meets the top of the geo.

NIBON, Cavity Walls:

(HU 2995 7185) Partly Tidal West and South facing

50m south of Moo Stack is a small geo bounded on its right by a brown wall. 100m south of this is the wall that includes the route *Cattle Rustler*. A small narrow cave flows under the headland and out through a tidal entrance near Moo Stack. The following routes are on the walls of the small headland between the cave opposite the stack and the central wall of the geo. All routes require abseil to tidal ledges which are accessible at most states of the tide.

Right of the cave opposite the stack is a black wall.

Amalgam 20m VS 4c. Andrew Hunter, Al Whitworth. 24 May 2008.

Climb a broken corner on the left of the wall, then trend rightwards at mid-height under a hanging crack-line of poorer rock and up the wall above.

Cavity Crack 18m E3 5c *. Paul Whitworth, Ross Jones, Andrew Hunter. 24 May 2008.

Climb the steep crack-line up the centre of the wall, pulling left onto easier ground at mid-height.

Right of the wall is a slanting left-facing corner/ramp capped by a roof.

All Gum and No Teeth 12m Hard Severe 4b. Ross Jones, Paul Whitworth, Andy Long. 24 May 2008.

The wall and arete left of the corner.

Capped Root 12m VS 4c. Peter Sawford, Paul Whitworth. April 2005.

The corner finishing out leftwards under the capping roof.

Right of the corner is a left-slanting ramp.

Abscess 12m Hard Severe 4a. Ross Jones. 24 May 2008.

The arete left of the ramp (4b if the lower 5m is also climbed).

Molar Case 12m Severe *. Paul Whitworth, Peter Sawford. April 2005.

The left-slanting ramp.

Right of the ramp is the headwall that splits the seaward wall and the geo.

Ache 12m Severe. Peter Sawford (roped solo). April 2005.

The left side of the wall and arete.

Incisor Information 12m Severe. Paul Whitworth, Peter Sawford. April 2005.

The central crack-line up the headwall.

Pain 12m Severe. Paul Whitworth (roped solo). April 2005.

The right side of the wall and arete.

At the back of the geo and right of a narrow cave entrance is a hanging pillar of rock with a steep hanging right slanting wall/ramp under it.

Local Anaesthetic 20m E2 5b ***. Ross Jones, Paul Whitworth. 24 May 2008.

From a belay on the left side of the pillar climb to a hanging steep ramp. Pull onto this and climb up to hanging cracks above and a ledge. Climb the small right-facing corner and crack to the top. Great route up a compelling line.

AREA OF LANG HEAD (HU 303 704):

A wee lochan drains almost due west. Just south of this there are two sea inlets with a ridge of rock running between. The first two routes are on the south side of this ridge and can be reached by scrambling down seawards and abseiling down to a ledge system at sea-level below a chimney-crack topped by an excellent black open slabby corner.

Come What May 25m Severe *. M. Tighe, D. Lee, J. Armour, N. Kale. 2 May 2008.

Follow the chimney-crack and black corner as described above. A fine outing.

The 'S' Bend 25m Very Difficult. J. Armour, N. Kale, D. Lee, M. Tighe. 2 May 2008.

Follow the chimney-crack as for *Come What May* and break out right below the black slab/crack to follow a sinuous crack-cum-fault-line to the top.

There is a larger headland just south of here, north of Stivva. It holds a big black north-west facing wall with several unclimbed 25m crack-lines. At the seaward end a lovely pink slab holds the following routes:

May Two Crack 40m Severe. M. Tighe, N. Kale, J. Armour, D. Lee. 2 May 2008.

The excellent little crack-line just left of centre and broken ground above.

May Two Corner 40m Mild VS. M. Tighe, N. Kale. 2 May 2008.

A tricky little corner 2m right of *May Two Crack*, and nice easier ground above.

SKELDA NESS:

Two areas have been climbed here on the crags north of West Moulie Geo opposite Moo Stack and at Spoot-hellier the most southerly point. The rock is red granite and provides plenty of variety and some impeccable rock.

Approach: Park at the small lay-by at HU 303 425 by the gate before Scarvister croft and follow the track south to the crags (30mins). Moo Stack is can be easily seen on the approach. Spoot-hellier is south of West Moulie Geo.

West Moulie Geo/Moo Stack:

(HU 298 405) Mainly non-tidal. North-West, West and South facing

The walls opposite Moo Stack provide a number of lines. Access for the first two lines is through a slot in the headland opposite the stack that leads to a small terrace with a small steep wall on the left.

Seagull Slayer 15m VS 4b. Andrew Hunter, Ruairidh Mackenzie. 8 July 2008.

The arete at the southern most edge of the wall.

Three Litre Block 10m Hard Severe. Andrew Hunter, Ruairidh Mackenzie. 8 July 2008.

From the terrace climb the left-facing corner on the left side of the wall to finish up an exposed block.

Immediately south of geo that contains Moo Stack is a long narrow geo with a large big slab which is accessed from the north.

Jammin Nut 10m HVS 5c *. Ruairidh Mackenzie, Andrew Hunter. 21 July 2008.

From a hanging belay on a ledge above the sea, make a hard move straight up over a roof section and pull up onto a slab; climb the corner above.

SPOOT-HELLIER:

(HU 299 403) Non-tidal and partly tidal East and South facing

Arch Wall Area:

The fine corner of *The Spoot* can be seen easily from the cliff. Access is by a

scramble down a narrow geo to the east and along ledges or by abseil.

Shoostran 25m E3 5c **. Ross Jones, Paul Whitworth. 18 August 2008.
Start from tidal ledges below the corner of *The Spoot*. Climb the wall on the left below the hanging arete and make an airy traverse around the bottom of the arete and pull onto the wall. Climb this to the top. Micro-wires and cams essential.

The Spoot 20m E2 5c ***. Paul Whitworth, Ross Jones, David (Sid) Rayner. 23 August 2008.
Perfect climbing all the way up the wall and corner above.

Right of the corner is a hanging wall which is bordered by another steep wall with creaking flakes. To the right of this is a right-facing stepped corner.

Get Out Clause 20m VS 4c. Andrew Hunter, Ruairidh Mackenzie. 21 July 2008.
The right-facing stepped corner.

Death Tae Da Maet Trowe 20m VS 4c. David (Sid) Rayner, Paul Whitworth. 23 August 2008.
Climb up ledges and the arete to the right of the corner.

Ian & Jen's Route 20m E2 5b *. David (Sid) Rayner, Paul Whitworth. 21 July 2008.
Climb up ledges and a short corner right of the arete to a ledge under a left-slanting hanging corner above. Climb this with difficulty.

Suntoucher 15m VS 4b. Al Whitworth, Andrew Hunter, Anna Pigott. 7 September 2008.
Right of *Ian & Jen's Route* is a deceptively easy-looking corner of cracks and breaks. Well protected but still high in the grade.

Attack of the M&Ms 15m Very Difficult. Andrew Hunter, Anna Pigott, Al Whitworth. 7 September 2008.
Further right still is a stepped corner. Starting on the ledge above the stinking chimney, climb the corner-crack.

Hellier Wall:

To the south-west of Arch Wall is another geo with an arch at the east end that goes straight through to the east side of Spoot-hellier. Hellier Wall is the north wall of the geo. The left-facing corner of *Lambigart* can be easily seen from the south side of the geo. Access by abseil to ledges or at low tide the scramble descent for the Arch Wall area and then traversing around the bottom of fin on seaweed-covered ledges.

Scarface 25m HVS 5a ** Al Whitworth, Anna Pigott, Andrew Hunter. 7 September 2008.
The obvious diagonal break running from the bottom right to the top left of the wall at the left end of the Hellier Wall. Good, exposed and technical climbing. High in the grade.

Tetris 25m Severe. Ruairidh Mackenzie, Andrew Hunter August 2008
The stepped ledges to the 3m right of *Scarface*.

Prickly Heat 25m HVS 5a Andrew Hunter, Ruairidh Mackenzie. August 2008.

The small broken left-facing corner right of the ledges and to the left of a steep flat wall capped at the top by a small overhang. Climb the corner and through the groove above to the top.

Scarvister Crack 25m E1 5b *. Ross Jones, Paul Whitworth. 18 August 2008. Start 10m left of *Lambigart*. Climb ledges and the crack-line to the right of the wall capped at the top by a small overhang. Continue up the crack as it forms a small left-facing corner at the overhang and pull through the capping roof above.

Da Maet Trowe 25m HVS 5a **. Ross Jones, Paul Whitworth. 18 August 2008.

Climb the wall 2m left of *Lambigart* and the excellent hanging flakes above.

Lambigart 25m VS 4c *. Paul Whitworth, Ross Jones. 18 August 2008. Stepped ledges and the left-facing corner above.

Hail Da Maet Trowe 25m E2 5b. David (Sid) Rayner, Ross Jones. 23 August 2008.

The wall right of *Lambigart*. Pull up on to a ledge just right of the arete. Climb the wall right of the arete. Stepping on to the arete at mid-height, before pulling back onto the wall and climbing this to the top.

BRESSAY, Muckle Hell:

(HU 527 401) Party Tidal and Non-Tidal South and East facing

These are sandstone crags just to the north of Muckle Hell.

Approach: Park at the car park at HU 525 408 and head south-south-east to the crag. All routes can be accessed by scrambling down nearby except where stated. Crags are listed from north to south as you approach.

Crocodile Wall:

South facing

Broken by the slanting left-facing black corner system of *Crocodile Corner* in the middle. Provides a number of low-grade short routes up to E1 along the wall which descends to sea-level on the right in addition to those listed below:

Unnamed 10m Severe. Peter Sawford, Julie Maguire. Summer 2007.

The large crack through the broken wall 30m left of the main wall.

Crocodile Corner 9m Severe. Peter Sawford, Julie Maguire. Summer 2007.

The black left-facing corner.

Unnamed 8m E1 5b. Peter Sawford, Al Whitworth. Summer 2007.

3m right of the overhang and blunt arete at mid-height. Climb direct pulling through the overhang.

Main Wall:

South facing

The main wall above a right downwards-sloping shelf into the geo, with a prominent arete in the top section of the central wall and a large right-facing hanging corner on the right.

Pull Through 12m HVS 4c *. Peter Sawford, Ross Jones. 14 May 2008.

Start 4m left of the arete. Climb up into a groove to a ledge and climb the hanging wall above just right of the short blunt arete.

Vir dick Flake 10m HVS 4c *. Ross Jones, František Horák. 20 May 2008.

The hanging crack 2m left of the arete to the ledge. Finish as for Route 1.

Unnamed 12m HVS 5a **. Peter Sawford, Julie Maguire. Summer 2007.

Climb the flaked crack below the arete and the groove to the left.

Danté's Traverse 15m Very Difficult. Tommy Robertson. Summer 2007.

Climb the wall under the right side of the arete to mid-height and the right-rising traverse to the top.

Czech Made 12m E1 5b. František Horák, Ross Jones. 20 May 2008.

The wall right of *Danté's Traverse* to a hanging flake and then the short wall above the traverse.

Unnamed 12m Very Difficult. Peter Sawford, Julie Maguire. Summer 2007.

The shallow corner and wall above left of the arete.

Fine Mantel Man 12m Hard Severe 4b *. Peter Sawford, Ross Jones. 14 May 2008.

Start just right of the arete below a right-facing corner at mid-height. Climb grooves to the arete and climb the wall on its left to a fine finishing mantelshelf.

Leirna 12m VS 4c. Ross Jones, Peter Sawford. 14 May 2008.

Start as for *Fine Mantel Man* and climb the right-facing corner.

Pocketful of Faith 12m HVS 5a *. Ross Jones, František Horák. 20 May 2008.

Start just right of *Leirna* and climb to the ledge below the wall. Climb the wall using the perfect central pocket.

Grima 12m HVS 5a *. Ross Jones, Peter Sawford. 14 May 2008.

Climb the wall and small arete to the right and the hanging wall and arete to finish.

Hanging Crack 12m HVS 5a. Ross Jones, František Horák. 20 May 2008.

The slabby wall right of the hanging corner. Traverse in from the right to the hanging thin crack-line. Climb this and the wall above. Good technical climbing.

The bounding wall is Severe and the black wall, just right of the arete of the black wall 10m to the right, has been climbed at Severe (Peter Sawford, Julie Maguire, Summer 2007). Left of the rift that bounds the broken end of the main

wall is an undercut wall just under mid-height with thin cracks going through it and a left-facing corner to the right on the mainly broken east-facing wall. Left of this the wall turns south to the next geo with *Black Wall*. On the south-facing wall are two routes:

Unnamed 15m Severe. Peter Sawford, Julie Maguire. Summer 2007.
Climb a shallow left-facing corner from sea-level and the wall above the ledge at half-height.

Unnamed 8m Very Difficult. Peter Sawford, Julie Maguire. Summer 2007.
The wall from the ledge using flakes and cracks on the right.

Black Wall:

East facing

Silent Man 18m E1 5b *. Paul Whitworth, Ross Jones. 16 May 2008.
Abseil to the ledge at the left end of the wall. From the left end of the ledge, climb up and into the left-facing corner and pull through the overhang above.

Dark Noise 18m VS 4c. Ross Jones, Paul Whitworth. 16 May 2008.
Climb the crack from the ledge to the overhang. Pull out rightwards onto the wall and climb the crack-line to the top.

Echos from the Deep 20m E2 5b **. Ross Jones, David (Sid) Rayner. 21 August 2008.
Belay in a niche below a large ledge. Pull out on to the wall and climb wall direct between *Dark Noise* and *Grimsetter Crack*.

Grimsetter Crack 22m E1 5b ***. Ross Jones, František Horák. 20 May 2008.
Belay in a small niche 2m right of and lower than the ledge. Climb the hanging crack to the right and wall direct to the top.

The Brigdi 25m HVS 5a *. Ross Jones, Paul Whitworth. 16 May 2008.
Abseil and belay at the base of the left-slanting crack-line across the face. Climb this.

Unnamed 20m Severe. Peter Sawford, Julie Maguire. Summer 2007.
At the far left end of the black wall is a pale rib that bounds the right side of next wall. Start at the first groove and climb it direct to the top.

ROUND POINT:

(HU 518 373) Mainly Non-tidal South and East Facing

This is one of the headlands to the east of the Sand Vatn Loch. The prominent corner-line of *Shetland Girls* can be seen from the headland of Hamar. Right of the corner is a fine hanging wall with a perfect open corner at the bottom that leads to a ledge at 10m below excellent looking hanging crack-lines (The Main Issue!). To the north of the Round Point is an 80m section of cliff which decreases in height with a right-slanting crack-cum-groove-line in the most northerly corner.

Approach: Abseil from ledges down the most northerly corner and traverse along ledges. Alternatively abseil from stakes (not in situ) or Camalots 5 and 6 can be used in breaks above *Nyuggel*.

Shetland Girls Are Dreamy 40m E1 5b. David (Sid) Rayner, Ross Jones. 21 August 2008.

Climb the steep wall just right of the corner through a small break and up a thin crack to a ledge to the right at 6m. Climb the fine slanting corner-crack above to finish on more broken rock at the top. The section above the ledge is Hard Severe. Climbing the right-hand crack under the ledge at the start may decrease the overall grade.

Right of the corner is an arete to a hanging east-facing wall. Right of the arete is a perfect open corner beneath a ledge. Right of this a 12m east-facing wall split by a groove that leads to the ledge.

Right of the Main Issue 50m E2. Ross Jones, David (Sid) Rayner. 21 August 2008.

1. 15m 5a Climb the hanging groove to the ledge.
2. 35m 5b Climb the large right-slanting corner to a ledge and the hanging wall above to another ledge with a large block. Make an awkward mantelshelf onto another ledge and traverse leftwards and then up the centre of the wall by cracks to a small capping roof of overhangs. Traverse 5m rightwards under the overhangs and finish up the corner.

15–20m right of the hanging wall is a left-slanting corner-crack beneath a large V-groove at the top of the cliff.

Nyuggel 30m HVS 5b. David (Sid) Rayner, Ross Jones. 22 August 2008.

Start from the top of ledges at 10m, beneath an overhang and just right of the corner-crack. Make difficult but protected moves to pull up to the crack. Climb this to the large stepped groove and traverse out right to a mantelshelf. Finish up the arete to avoid loose rock in the corner.

The next route takes the right-slanting crack-cum-groove-line in the most northerly corner of the ledges by the abseil.

Nyif 25m E1 5b *. Ross Jones, David (Sid) Rayner. 22 August 2008.

Awkward moves to get established on a right-slanting crack-cum groove, then a serious of easier V-grooves and crack-line above.

LAMBHOGA HEAD:

Two areas have been climbed here and there is plenty of potential to the south at Vaakel Craigs. The rock is sandstone. Routes are 8–10m.

North Wall:

(HU 409 139) Non-tidal North facing

The rock is sound and fluted with very good gear. The crag overhangs slightly so, although only 10m in height, the routes are surprisingly strenuous. All routes were climbed on 27 August 2007.

Lost Perspective HVS 5a *. Al Whitworth, Peter Sawford.

The crack and then around the bulge at the top to finish

Pringle VS 4c *. Peter Sawford, Al Whitworth, Julie Maguire.
Up the middle of the least steep wall following the broken cracks

Lambhoga HVS 5a *. Al Whitworth, Peter Sawford, Julie Maguire.
The first main crack-line 4m in from the right end of the crag

Wailing Wall:

(HU 408 138) Non-tidal South facing

On the south side of Lambhoga Head. The featured sandstone is sandy and softer than the North Wall. All routes climbed by Pete Richardson and parties in 1990s and 2000s. Named by the first ascensionists of North Wall.

Entrée Mild Severe.

Climb the leftmost crack and finish right up the corner.

Headrest Severe 4a.

Climb the thin crack and finish right up the wide crack.

Slip Sliding VS 4b *.

The broken cracks straight up the wall.

Off the Mark HVS 5b *.

Climb the middle of the wall avoiding the cave at mid-height.

Thread the Hole VS 4c.

Climb above the niche to the large ledge and finish up the wide crack.

NORTHERN HIGHLANDS CENTRAL

BEINN A' MHUINIDH:

The Tallon – Ewan Lyons found it an enjoyable route with modern grade VS 4a, 5a, 4b, 4b **. Pitch 2 only involved one strenuous move (well-protected and short-lived) of 5a pulling over the overhang from the belay. There followed pleasant 4c climbing for the rest of the pitch.

BONAI DTHONN:

Route 1 III,6. Roger Webb, James Edwards. 4 December 2008.

Follow the summer line. A route for when all else has failed! Nice views though.

STONE VALLEY CRAGS, Red Wall Area:

The route is left of the Red Wall Area and left of *Bold as Brass* on the other side of the descent path.

Fat Freddy's Drop 10m HVS 5b. Alex Moran, Martin Moran. 4 May 2008.

The gritstone-like overhanging off-width crack above the descent path. Good but hard to find protection (without a very large cam).

BAOSBHEINN, North-West Face:

Ramblin' On 150m II. Martin Hind. 31 October 2008.

A thin runnel of ice and snow just on the left of *Direct Route*. It should be easier if it fills up later in the winter. Take the right-hand line at each amphitheatre continuing up to the top.

Sgòrr Dubh:

Donald Morris has found this old Gaelic name for Rona Face, which was invented in the absence of anything else. Left of *Merlinswanda*, above its descent route is a scooped face (this faces just west of north and never gets the sun as the left arete of the face completely shades it). There are two obvious chimney lines, one on the left and one on the right.

Left-Hand Route 150m IV,5. James Edwards, Roger Webb. 30 October 2008. Start as for *Right-Hand Route*, then move leftwards on easy ground. Go up the left gully to a move rightwards to gain an awkward slot. Above this, trend rightwards on easier ground and then up.

Right-Hand Route 130m V,6. James Edwards, Roger Webb. 30 October 2008. This is the obvious gully on the right side of the face. It is steeper than it looks. Climb the gully to an impasse at half-height which is climbed on good hooks. Continue up to the top of the gully, then move left and climb up to the summit.

AZTEC TOWER:

On the far left of the 'broken NW face left of the main wall'. Left of *Quickstep* is a heather terrace and a gully. Immediately left of this is a small buttress with two routes.

Montezuma's Revenge 10m VS 4c. Jonathan Preston, Hamish Burns. 15 May 2009.

On the right side of the buttress (just left of the heathery gully). A slab, steep wall and another slab lead to a steep finishing crack and heathery finish.

Mexican Wave 10m VS 4c. Jonathan Preston, Hamish Burns. 15 May 2009. A wide right-facing corner-crack formed by a large block on the left side of the buttress is climbed to a slab and steep finish.

Blank Wall 15m E1 5a. Michael Barnard. 7 June 2009.

An eliminate up the steep wall left of *Astriding Edge*. Start on a flat boulder and climb directly up the wall, reaching for the arete at the point at which it bulges.

RUBHA MOR, Opinan Slabs, Camas Buidhe Eoghainn:

(NG 877 978) South-East facing Largely non-tidal

On the east side of the Opinan Slabs headland is a narrow bay filled with huge boulders. The west side of the bay forms a clean wall initially with some pleasant non-tidal micro-routes before a step leads down to a slippery tidal platform where the routes begin. As with the rest of Opinan Slabs the rock is solid and protection is good. The routes described are quick drying.

Flaky Surprise 9m Hard Severe 4b. Andrew James. 20 February 2009.

The main wall is split into three sections by a couple of large dark and often damp cracks. Start up the steep wall just right of the left crack and continue past ledges to follow a thin crack up the enjoyable slab above.

Summer Isle Wall 9m VS 4c. Conor Brown. 20 February 2009.

Trickier than it appears. A strenuous start up the corner 2m right of *Flaky Surprise* leads past ledges to a delicate move on the slab above.

MEALL MHEINNIDH:

There are many ridges which can each be central according to the viewpoint, so *Glasgow Ridge* was not identified. The first route below is a possibility, but it was longer and better defined than the description of *Glasgow Ridge*.

Weegie Ridge 300m Very Difficult. Andy Nisbet. 27 May 2008.

The apparently cleanest ridge, starting from a terrace at NG 957 752. The terrace leads right from two gullies which feed the west branch of the stream shown on the 1:50,000 map. The ridge started 100m right of one gully and 50m right of the other. A direct start was made at VDiff but a less direct and more vegetated start might have made the route a poorly protected Diff. The middle section was cleaner and pleasant.

The Meanie 150m Hard Severe. Andy Nisbet. 27 May 2008.

A steep ridge, almost an arete, at NG 960 745, on a southern extension of the cliff which is shown beyond a gap in the cliff shown on the 1:50,000 map. The gap is a steep ramp which was used for descent. Start just right of an overhanging section of cliff base, where the base takes a curve and rises up left. The right end of the overhanging section forms a narrow chimney. Climb on its right rib and finish up it to a ledge. Gain the main arete on the right and follow it to a bulging section. Pass this on the left where the holds are clean but more sloping (4a but more serious), then return to the crest and follow it to a terrace. The way is blocked by a 5m vertical wall (4b) which leads to an easier crest.

A' MHAIGHDEAN:

White Louse 90m Very Difficult. Sonya Drummond, Andy Nisbet. 5 August 2008.

A direct but grassier line up the slabs containing *Gladiator*. Start 10m up left from the lowest point of the slabs. Climb direct, crossing *Gladiator* high up, to below a chimney-fault right of the one on *Gladiator* (40m). Go up to the base of the right wall of this chimney-fault, then pull out right. Traverse right under a steep wall and pull round its left end. Go up and return left, then move rightwards again to easier but grassy finishing ground.

Note: The guide describes approaching the climbs by descending the 'nearby big grassy gully (*Trident West Gully*)'. Previous guides also described this. *Trident West Gully* cannot be descended without abseiling. The correct gully to descend is *Pinnacle Gully*, easily identified by Hodge's Pinnacle.

A' MHAIGHDEAN, Stac a' Chaorruinn:

99 180m Hard Severe. Andy Nisbet, Jonathan & Diana Preston. 24 May 2008.

A second route on the crag, 99 years on from Ling and Glover. Approached from

Corrie Hallie in 4hrs 45mins. The route climbs the slabby section of the north face, starting at the lowest point of the face 50m right of the large gully. Climb a short rib and step left at its top (4b, crux). Go up to a steepening and move right up a fault (30m). Return left and climb rough slabs in four 30m pitches, crossing two diagonal faults. The descent is a grassy ramp about 100m to the west and which slopes down westwards. A final rock step is easy.

Pocket Money 160m VS 4b. Andy Nisbet. 1 June 2008.

A line up the left side of the slabby face. Start at the left end of an overhanging section of the cliff base. This is about 10m right of the gully. Climb up for 10m to a corner which forms the left end of a red vertical wall. Climb this juggy corner past a clump of vegetation which doesn't affect the climbing and move 5m right to the base of a big scoop in the slabs above. Move up left for 3m, then take a line diagonally right across the scoop on good pockets. One steep move at the end (crux) leads to a red V-groove. Climb the slabs just left of this (or the groove itself) to an easing in angle. Go left across smooth rippling slabs to below a steeper red slab, the main feature of the route. Climb two sections of red slab on positive holds to a ledge below a steep wall. Pass this on the left, then continue slightly leftwards on easier sections of slab overlooking the gully until the slabs become walking angle.

Ling Ylang 110m Very Difficult. Sonya Drummond, Andy Nisbet. 5 August 2008.

Possibly the line which Ling and Glover attempted, being on the more broken east face. The route is based on a rib which forms the first change from east facing to more north. This is left of a left-facing corner system and has a steep clean wall below it. Walk up right from a lower wall to the steep clean wall, then move up left over a step to its left end.

1. 45m Pull into a short corner, then climb a ramp rightwards to a terrace. Continue up terraces and short walls to the base of the rib.
2. 40m Climb the rib to a ledge.
3. 25m Continue easily up the rib to grassy ground at the top of the buttress.

GRUINARD CRAGS, Car Park Area, Triangular Slab:

Gneiss as Pie 15m VS 4c. Jo Horne, Nick Horne. May 2005.

Follow the slab between *Gneisser* and *Gneissest* avoiding any of the obvious cracks.

Goat Crag:

The Eightsome Reel 25m E5 6c **. Ian Taylor. 8 August 2008.

Climbs the thin hanging crack in the upper wall right of *Freakshow*. Start right of *Freakshow* and follow a couple of stepped corners to gain a sloping shelf below and right of the crack. Swing left and follow the crack past a hard section to good holds then continue via sustained climbing to an easing of angle. Move left to the in-situ belay of *Freakshow* and abseil from here.

The Last of the Grand Old Masters 20m E4/5 6a *. Ian Taylor, Tess Fryer. 26 May 2008.

Start 15m right of *Freakshow* where a white crack runs up to the left side of

some square-cut roofs. Climb the crack to a good shake-out at the roofs, and then make committing moves rightwards to a rest at the right end of a sloping niche. Go up a groove immediately right of the niche and continue more easily to a fixed abseil point.

Jetty Buttress, First South Wall:

Easy Jet 15m HVS 5a. Charles White, John Mackenzie, Andy Nisbet. 15 June 2008.

Squeezed in between *Limited Stop* and *Bus Stop*. Climb the wall between the two routes, then trend left after touching *Bus Stop* at the top of its corner.

Note: *Dave's Dilemma* and *South-West Arete* were both thought to be HVS 5a. *North-West Arete* doesn't use the crack on the right, although it is useful for a good small runner.

Creag Ghiubhsachain:

Sylvestris 30m Hard Severe 4a. Andy Nisbet. July 2007.

The left and right areas of cliff are separated by a line of weakness. Start off a triangular block at the very left end of this. Climb up 3m, then traverse right for 10m to reach an easier break leading to the top.

Slip Up 25m E2 5c *. Jonathan Preston, Andy Nisbet. 4 June 2008.

A stack of piled blocks lie at the cliff base just left of the overhanging wall which forms most of the right side of the cliff. Start up the right end of these blocks to stand on the rightmost one. Climb a groove slanting slightly left and forming the left end of the overhanging wall. This leads into an easier V-groove.

Lucy Locket 25m E1 5b ***. Andy Nisbet, Jonathan Preston. 4 June 2008.

Climbs the pocketed left edge of the overhanging wall. Start 3m right of the stack of blocks. Climb straight up the left edge of the wall on excellent pockets.

Holy Handrail 25m E1 5b *. Jonathan Preston, Andy Nisbet. 4 June 2008.

Climbs out the left side of the hole and out across the overhanging wall on the left. Climb straight up to the left end of the hole (slow to dry), then swing out left on a handrail and move up into a shallow corner. Finish by a jamming crack.

Mungasdale Crag:

Judgement Day 15m E6 6b. Nick Duboust, Andrew Wilby. 27 July 2009.

Start 3m left of *Officer Jesus* at a shallow left-facing undercut corner. Make hard moves to gain the sloping ledge, then hand-traverse right to the middle of the overhanging wall. Gain big loose flakes and climb straight up the wall. Top-roped, then both led.

AN TEALLACH AREA, The Sidings:

Muice Express 110m VS 4b. Andy Nisbet. 31 May 2008.

Start at a clean tongue of distinctly pocketed slab at a low point of the cliff base 20m right of *The Funnel* and 30m left of *Route 1*. Climb the tongue to its top, then move slightly left and up a thin crack, then slightly left again to cross a prominent right-rising crack. Go up over bulges (crux) towards the left end of a roof, which is clearly seen on the skyline from the start of the route. Take a line

of weakness rightwards under the roof and climb a corner-flake which forms its right end. Finish up mucky slabby ground.

Thomas 140m HVS. Sonya Drummond, Andy Nisbet. 6 August 2008.

A clean band of slabs left of *The Funnel*. This leads into a chimney-corner which *The Funnel* uses to finish. Start below a flake-line at the base of the first slab.

1. 30m 5a Climb to the top of the flake-line, which is below a vertical grass-filled crack. Traverse right into a scoop and go up this to break out left from a corner on to the main slab. Go up to a terrace.
2. 40m 4c Start up a right-slanting ramp, then climb straight up (bold) to a ledge. Climb the next slab just right of a grass-filled crack, then move right on to its crest to reach a hollow flake where *The Funnel* joins.
3. 40m 4a Climb the chimney-corner (as for *The Funnel*).
4. 30m Move left and climb two tiers of clean slabs to the top.

Little Red Train 110m Hard Severe 4a. Andy Nisbet. 14 August 2008.

Towards the left end of the cliff is a more prominent buttress bounded from the main smoother face by right-facing corners. Right of these corners (the left side of the main face) is a vertical band of red rock. The route climbs this, mostly on clean rock, although there is some moss high up (dry conditions recommended). Protection may be limited.

Flying Scotsman 120m E1 **. Andy Nisbet, Duncan Tunstall. 20 August 2008.

Climbs the clean front face of the prominent buttress near the left end of the cliff. Start below a clean white patch of slab.

1. 30m 4c Climb this lower slab to the left end of a ledge below an overlap. There is a large detached block on the ledge to the right.
2. 40m 5b Pull left into a corner, then step right through the overlap to gain an upper slab. Climb this slightly leftwards to a steepening (runners). Step back down and make a short thin traverse right to a crack. Climb this trending slightly left (bold), then back right to a small tree at the right end of an overlap.
3. 50m 5a Layback into a hanging corner, and climb this before stepping left on to a slab. Gain grassy ledges which lead to an upper slab. Climb this to the top.

AN TEALLACH, Ghlas Tholl:

Minor Rib, Flake Chimney Variation 150m V.5. Iain Small, Simon Richardson. 25 January 2009.

The prominent right-facing corner on the right flank of the rib is cut by a steep chimney-flake.

1. 50m Start 15m right of *Minor Rib* directly below the corner. Climb a series of shallow gullies and short walls to belay below a prominent chimney formed by a huge hanging flake on its right side.
2. 50m Climb the corner and belay on a large chockstone below the continuation chimney.
3. 50m Continue up the chimney, passing a large chockstone to reach a girdling ledge. The chimney-line continues above but is blocked by a huge 'impossible' chockstone. Traverse left along the ledge for 20m to reach the tower pitch of *Minor Rib* and follow this to the top.

Right-Hand Chimneys 240m IV,5. Simon Nadin, Neil Wilson. 1 February 2009.

Start just to the right of *Sixpence* and climb a line of chimneys on the right-hand side of the buttress to reach a small saddle overlooking *Third Prong*. From here finish up a short flared chimney on the left.

Post Hole Prong Phewy! 300m II *. Will Wilkinson, Davy Moy. 8 February 2009.

A line up the obvious buttress between the *Third* and *Fourth Prong*. Follow a turf groove up the right side of the buttress. At 150m the buttress splits with a through route up a 3m gully in the centre of the buttress. Climb down and right into this gully and follow it through the gateway and exit right at the top (35m). Continue up the obvious gully to the top (130m).

Note: On the lower buttress, a good option takes a 15m chimney (tech 4).

The Great Dundonnell Slabs:

NH 08135 87143 Alt 432m

These are on the north-west face of Meall Garbh, an outlier of An Teallach. Park in the lay-by 250m west of the hotel and walk up and left to join a track before heading up the hillside, 45mins. The slabs consist of the best quality pink sandstone, water washed and clean, but most of the cracks are grass filled and need cleaning in order to place protection. The Main Slab is on the right of the crags and is split into two tiers separated by a heather ledge, accessible both up and down from the right by a scramble. The climbing is delicate and on excellent friction, often bold but where cracks exist a good range of cams (including No 4), wires, and some larger nuts will be found useful. The lower slab can obviously be used to split routes if required. A bad midge spot in the wrong conditions.

Longer, Steeper, Better 100m HVS 5a **. John Mackenzie, Eve Austin. 16th and 29 June 2009.

Climbed on two separate days, the lower pitch partially cleaned on abseil, the top two pitches led on sight. Start at the lowest point of the lower slab where a shallow rib lies below the right-hand of two vertical cracks.

1. 55m 5a Climb the rib then the slabby nose to the right of a grassy groove to a good horizontal crack. Move up into a scoop below an overhang bottoming the right-hand crack and traverse right along a shallow break to below discontinuous cracks and climb these to a podded crack. Continue to horizontal holds and move right into a shallow curved corner. Move back left and up to a slanting flake-crack which is followed (Friend 4) to a small overhang near the top. Step left and finish up easier rock to the heather ledge and tree belay. 50m ropes will not reach the tree unless the second moves up 5m.

2. 30m 4b Climb up to the flake-crack above, then move right and climb the good slab to a narrow heather ledge. Climb the lesser-angled but smoother upper slab near a crack above a loose flake. Follow the crack to move right to a little ledge and a narrow horizontal crack.

3. 15m 4c Move back left to the crack and a heather pull over to a block with fixed abseil gear.

Corrieshalloch Area:

Arnisdale Falls 60m V,5. Guy Roberston, Tony Stone. 3rd January 2009.

The rarely in condition icefall at about NH 186 780 in two 30m pitches. 10mins from the A832, crossing the ageing footbridge at NH 186 778 over the Abhainn Cuileig. Approached by abseil. Worth a couple of stars for esoterica!

THE FANNAICHS, Sgurr nan Clach Geala:

Alpha Crest 140m IV,4. Sonya Drummond, Andy Nisbet. 14 December 2008.

Based on the summer line. Protection is limited, but there is some on the hard sections. Climb the lower crest to a terrace at half-height. Continue more steeply up the crest to a corner on the left (belay), from where a grass ledge leads left. Follow this to its end, then make an axe-traverse left across a diminishing slab to gain a steep groove which is followed to easier ground and the summit of the buttress.

STRATHCONON, Creag Ghlas:

Bearded Lady 70m E2. Brian Duthie, Forrest Tempelton. 25 July 2008.

The stepped buttress left of *Hall of Mirrors*. Start at the toe of the lower buttress.

1. 25m 5b Climb up to a horizontal break. Pull over the bulge above and climb steepening cracks as close to the arete as possible. Break out left at the top onto a heather ledge and two small trees.

2. 45m 5b Climb rightwards around the edge directly above and climb the cracks immediately to the right of the edge and left of *Hall of Mirrors*. Break out left onto an easier-angled ramp at the top, a sustained pitch. To finish follow *Hall of Mirrors* to the top or abseil down its main pitch.

Both pitches were climbed on sight and would benefit from cleaning. Good climbing but protection less obvious than *Hall of Mirrors*.

MOY ROCK:

Breakdown 50m E3/4 5b. Robin Thomas, Sheila van Lieshout. June 2009.

This route has been added since the others were bolted. It climbs the obvious flake-crack right of *The Fly*. To reach a decent belay at the top, 60m ropes are required. Climb rightwards along an easy ramp from base of *The Fly* to gain the crack. Follow this steeply and boldly until it eases and fades; from its top traverse rightwards past a tottering block to an easier exit. Take a large rack and don't fall off! Interesting climbing throughout but never harder than 5b (poorly protected in several places, lots of gear but very suspicious rock!). Robin Thomas requests no bolts near this route as they will detract from its exciting nature.

Note: There are more sport routes – see:

http://www.scottishclimbs.com/wiki/Moy_Rock

NORTHERN HIGHLANDS SOUTH**MEALL NA TEANGA:**

Left Central Route 200m IV,4. Roger Webb, Simon Richardson. 6 December 2008.

A line of weakness up the steepest part of the face left of *Central Gully*. Start up a wide open gully and follow this for three pitches to below the steep central section defined by a right-facing corner system. Move up right of the corner and climb a stepped groove to a ledge. Climb up and right to a terrace and follow mixed grooves to the top.

GLEOURAICH:

Rusty Rib 120m II. Roger Webb, Simon Richardson. 23 November 2008.

The easiest line up the broken grooves defining the left flank of the buttress at the head of Coire na Fiar Bhealaich.

DRUIM SHIONNACH, West Face:

Sunny Slab 70m VS 4b. Andy Nisbet. 28 June 2009.

A clean slab on the right side of the buttress left of *Deceptive Chimney* (*Eurhythmics* takes the left side of the buttress). Scramble up to a ledge below the slab (10m). Climb the centre of the slab, with a section moving right and back left on quartz holds, to reach a groove below a roof. Climb the groove and roof, then continue slightly rightwards before moving back left to a corner. Climb this and easy loose ground (50m). Scramble to the top (10m).

The Gust 90m IV,4. Donnie Williamson, Hamish Burns. 3 February 2009.

Climbs an icy groove which defines the buttress with *Eurhythmics* on the left. Start below a bay with a short buttress below.

1. 30m Climb a corner in the short buttress to snow in the bay and belay on the left wall.
2. 30m Climb the icy groove and trend left at the top over blocks.
3. 30m Climb easy slopes to the top.

Aye 40m III,4. Donnie Williamson, Dave Bowden, Mark Francis. January 2009.

The buttress left of *The Gust*. Start up a corner left of two steeper parallel chimneys. Continue up a turfy groove straight up to easier ground.

GLEN ELG, Scallasaig Crag (NG 853 205):

These climbs are on the lowest and rightmost crags in the area. Park in the lay-by heading in to Glenelg just before the cattle pens at Scallasaig. Go through a closed gate and walk up rightwards for a 200m. Good clean rock.

Beolary Craic 15m VS 4b *. Eachann Hawthorn, Eric Hawthorn. 1 August 2008.

The most obvious crack right of centre on the face has a small sapling at the top. The crack becomes more prominent with height.

Black Ripple 12m E1 5c ***. Eachann Hawthorn. 1 August 2008.

This climb is on a small crag immediately above the first climb. It goes up the obvious left-slanting crack-line in the centre of the wall. Well protected; steep and strenuous at the top.

BEINN FHADA, Sgùrr a' Choire Ghairbh, North-East Face:

Birthday Ramp 100m I. Neil Wilson. 22 November 2008
Climbs a slanting line immediately to the left of *The Needle*.

Summit Left Buttress 290m III. Simon Nadin, Neil Wilson. 6 December 2008.
Climbs the right edge of the buttress immediately left of *Left-hand Gully* in six pitches, utilising a short chimney slightly to the left on the fourth pitch. The bottom of the route is avoidable, but it improved with height. Generally the turf was semi-frozen, and the rock slabby and unhelpful. The grade assumes better conditions.

BEINN LIATH MHOR, South Face:

Artemis 350m II. Sonya Drummond, Diana Preston. 8 February 2009.
Follow the Coire Lair path and break off the path about 500m before Loch Coire Lair, to go up south-south-west-facing slopes to the cliff. Start at the foot of the third buttress from the left (NG 983 511). Climb directly up rock bands broken by snow slopes until below a steep wall. Avoid the steep wall by a left traverse, up and round to a snow field. Continue directly up the snowfield, then go slightly right and then back left to an awkward slabby corner (crux). Go up the corner to the crest of a rib and climb the rib up to another steepening, before breaking left into a fine gully. Climb the gully to its termination, where it rejoins the rib. Carry on easily up the rib to the top.

Note: Iain Thow notes that the *South-East Rib* is marked wrongly on the diagram in Highland Scrambles North. The description is correct but the line is just off the diagram to the right. Also, the buttress towards the left of the face, as it starts to turn the corner and rise up the hillside, is a good Moderate. There is scope for good two-pitch routes in the middle of the face, some perhaps quite hard. Raeburn climbed something around 1909.

SGORR RUADH, Central Couloir:

Eddie the Eagle 130m V,4. Andy Nisbet, Jonathan Preston. 9 December 2008.
Gains a high hanging gully in the buttress right of *High Gully*. Start 15m right of *High Gully*.

1. 45m Climb a large icy ramp leftwards towards *High Gully* (serious, IV,4 with good ice). Gain a ledge, move right and climb a short blocky ramp leftwards to just below its top.
2. 30m Gain a ledge above and traverse it rightwards until it would become much more difficult to continue.
3. 55m Go up over a bulge, then leftwards on turf to gain the hanging gully. Climb it easily to just below the top (50m), then finish (5m).

Raeburn's Buttress:

Narrow Ridge 160m V,6. Sonya Drummond, Andy Nisbet. 1 December 2008.
The ridge which forms the left side of *Narrow Gully* has one hard tier. The lowest wall was unfrozen so the route started up *Narrow Gully* for 10m, then traversed left on to the crest (20m). Go up to the next steep tier and climb it by a left-slanting grooved ramp, before returning to the crest (50m). Go up the easy crest to the next tier (30m). Climb this near the crest, where slabby ground leads to a steep V-groove topped by a big flake. Move left and climb another steep

groove (15m, crux). Go up to the final tier and climb a groove on the crest. This leads to a small pinnacle on the right, then a larger one at the top. Step down to the easier top of the lower buttress (45m).

Too Late to Tango 105m IV,5. Mark Walker, James Edwards. 20 January 2009.

1. 70m Start just left of *Raeburn's Superdirect* and climb up near its edge to a large ledge.
2. 35m Climb easily for a few metres to overlook the gully. Go up on turf to easier ground and belay below the steep wall.
3. etc. Traverse leftwards on the line of *Jigsaw*.

Note: The following route should be added to the guide, as the first ascentionists are listed.

Wildcat Gully 140m I. (1983).

An uncomplicated snow gully to the right of *Riotous Ridge*. It has a detached splintery pinnacle splitting it some way up and the route goes to the right of this.

SGURRA' CHAORACHAIN, No. 3 Buttress:

Kruth 250m II. Finlay Bennet, Mark Robson. 2 February 2008.

This route follows the right side of No. 3 Buttress. Start near the base of *No. 3 Gully* and trend upwards and leftwards over easy but interesting ground for four pitches to gain a fine position on the crest of the buttress. From here a short but shapely ridge leads with interest to the summit.

SGURRA' CHAORACHAIN, Summit Buttress:

Bantam 65m VII,7 *. Dave MacLeod, Blair Fyffe. 10 February 2009.

Near the left end of the wall is a prominent icefall on the lower half of the buttress.

1. 30m Start on the left below the hanging fang of ice. Move up and get a low runner on the left. Difficult and bold mixed moves gain a hole behind the icicle where it meets a protrusion of rock (may be easier with ice on this section). Climb the icicle and its continuation to a large ledge below broken ground above.
2. 35m Easy turf climbing leads to the top.

SGURRA' CHAORACHAIN, Upper Cliff, Continuation Buttress:

Inaugural 55m Hard Severe 4a. Andrew Wardle, Ross Jones. 6 May 2008.

Start at the short open corner just left of the main left corner system left of *Pommel*.

1. 25m Climb the corner and the wall above to the left of the arete to a ledge.
2. 30m Climb the broken corner above and continue to the top.

BEINN BHAN, Coire nan Fhamair:

The God Delusion 240m IX,9 ****. Guy Robertson, Pete Benson. 10 December 2008.

An outstanding, complex and aggressive voyage up the heart of the mighty *Godfather* wall. The climbing is sustained all the way, and in places bold and strenuous. The lower wall is based on the left-hand of the two right-trending weaknesses. Start about 20m left of *Godfather*, at a prominent chimney-slot.

1. 20m Climb the slot, then go left for a few metres before climbing back up right to a ledge and belay by a short groove and rib.
2. 30m Step right to gain and follow the awkward slim ramps trending right past a wide crack and hard mantelshelf. Continue up the easier fault to gain the snow bay then move up and left to belay left of the corner.
3. 20m Climb the short wall on the left, then traverse hard right below an overhanging fault to a difficult step down across the top of the corner.
4. 40m Steep cracks up the left-hand diagonal weakness are followed with sustained interest to the balcony, then continue direct to belay below huge overhangs.
5. 30m Traverse left to join *Godfather* pitch 3 at the short fierce groove, but above this go hard right to belay below a prominent crack above the overhangs overhead.
6. 40m Go up to below the first groove left of the crack. Pull over the overhang into the groove and follow it to a ledge. Work up first right then back left to another ledge below a more substantial overhanging section. Above is a smooth corner-groove. Right of this, and using a good thin crack to get started, pull desperately up right into a turfy niche. Swing out right onto the edge, then climb steeply up moving back slightly leftwards to a good ledge.
7. 30m Mantel up into the corner above, then go hard left under a nose into a turfy fault which is followed to the upper terrace. Go left along this to an enormous block and cave belay below a wide crack.
8. 30m Climb the blocky overhanging corner-fault on the left to easier ground and the top.

BEN DAMPH, Creagan Dubh Toll nam Biast:

Genghis Khan 350m III,5. Andy Nisbet, Sandy Scott. 4 March 2009.

A shallow gully line left of *Boundary Gully*. Start close to *Boundary Gully* and climb turf leftwards to join the gully. Follow this over a short difficult slot and two more short pitches to a barrier wall. Move right and back left to gain the upper gully which is followed to a steeper finish. With ice or the difficult slot banked out, the route would be Grade II.

Leprechaun 400m III,4. Andy Nisbet. 10 February 2009.

Based on the next gully line between *Genghis Khan* and *Mystic Gully*, but some of the difficulties were avoided by the rib on the right. A direct ascent would need very good ice conditions and perhaps be V,5. Start up turf and ice below the gully line. Climb up into the gully but avoid the first steep section by turfy walls on the right. Gain and climb a left-slanting ramp, then traverse left back into the gully below a deep enclosed section. Steep ice forms down its back left corner but take a hidden right branch to its top. Traverse right on turf above an icy slab to exit on to the rib. Climb a short vertical wall (technical crux) before returning left into the gully. Follow the gully to where it ends in an icefall below an overhang. Move right and climb turf, returning left to the easier upper rib where *Mystic Gully* joins.

Creag an Fhithich:

There is good bouldering on another area of rock down and left of *Maculate*

Slab. A slim right-facing corner in the middle of the lower left-hand wall, finishing direct via a triangular block, is 8m Severe.

Mercury Rising 25m VS 4c. Jonathan & Diana Preston. 30 May 2009.

The groove and twin cracks between *Crystal Horizon* and *Gem Find*. Start 5m left of the big tree at the base of *Gem Find* at some blocks. Step off the blocks and attain a standing position on a heathery ledge on the right. Step left and make a move up to turf and the base of the groove (this turf could be avoided by stepping right to near the left end of the *Gem Find* ledge, then back left; a bit bold). Climb the groove and move up and slightly right to base of twin cracks. Climb the left-hand finger crack (crux) and finish direct. The right-hand crack is marginally easier.

Holly Tree Groove 25m Very Difficult. Jonathan & Diana Preston. 30 May 2009.

At the left end of the right section is a holly tree. Bridge up the initial corner on the right behind the holly tree. Move left before a small roof and climb up and left to a corner which is followed to the top.

SEANA MHEALLAN:

Kolus 25m E8 6c ***. Dave Macleod. 20 June 2009.

The superb overhanging arete left of *The Torridonian*. Climb the arete with increasing difficulty and sparse protection to a culmination just before the slabby upper section. Powerful climbing.

Present Tense 25m E9 7a ***. Dave MacLeod. 11 July 2009.

A hard and sparsely protected line taking the front face of the buttress left of *The Torridonian*. Climb the lower wall near the right arete to a good break and gear. Pull through the roof and up to an undercut on the hanging rectangular block (marginal micro-wires in thin horizontal). Continue directly with a desperate bouldery sequence through the bulge to gain easy ground on the upper slab. F8b climbing with groundfall potential.

Kelvinator 25m E8 6c **. Dave MacLeod. 9 July 2009.

A much easier and less death-defying alternative to *Present Tense*, but still technical and excellent moves. Follow *Present Tense* to the micro-wires. Smear and palm leftwards to gain an improving horizontal break. Finish up *Sandstorm*.

Cook the Shooter 30m E3 5c *. Ed Edwards, Martin Moran. 2 April 2009.

Start up the corner 3m right of *Shoot the Cuckoo* and step left under the first roof to join it. Climb this to level with another roof on the left, step left out of the corner and climb a flake in the wall to a small ledge. Climb the wall above direct to a large break. Mantel onto the break and climb the wall above on the right side of the blunt arete to the top.

Western Sector:

Rare Breed 10m VS 5a. John Lyall, Jonathan Preston. 14 May 2009.

Just right of *Neville the Hedgehog*. Go straight up the slab to the right-hand crack and at its top follow the steep rippled slab right of the short corner.

LIATHACH CRAGS, Path Crag, Upper Tier:

Two stepped grooves lie 10–15m left of *Pitching* and break through the overhanging walls at half-height. The left groove has loose rock at the overhang.

Debut 20m E1 5a. Andrew Wardle, Ross Jones. 7 May 2008.

Start 6m left of the left-hand groove by a shallow right-facing corner-crack under an overhang. Climb the corner and step left and climb up the side of the overhang to a roof before pulling right onto the overhang. Climb the wall and corner-groove to finish.

Better Higher Up 20m HVS 5a. Ross Jones, Andrew Wardle. 7 May 2008.

Start just right of the arete that splits the two stepped grooves. Climb the wall to a small overhang and pull out left onto the arete. Climb the arete and the centre of the wall left of the groove above on perfect rock.

Lower Tier:

Frogmarch 15m Hard Severe 4b. Jonathan & Diana Preston. 17 May 2009.

The right side of the huge block (*Lower Leftist* takes the left side). Climb the wide right-facing corner-crack to a ledge in a chimney. Shuffle right to the edge and climb to the top of the huge block. Finish up a short steep wall.

Note: *Digitalis* was finished, instead of stepping right, by laybacking up the left edge of a wide crack above to a ledge. Finish up a corner with a chockstone and another natural thread.

Black Wall 15m E1 5b. Jonathan & Diana Preston. 17 May 2009.

The black wall between *Digitalis* and *Foxglove Crack*. Start up a short right-slanting crack. Continue up steeply using horizontal breaks. Make an awkward move left to finish up a layback flake (as for *Digitalis*).

Fence Crag:

(NG 917 558) Alt 90m South-East facing

Close to the road, this little Torridonian sandstone crag is situated by the fence line running near the plantations outside Torridon village (just to the east of the Celtic Boulders). It is an easily accessible alternative for mid-grade climbers with a few hours to spare, and the routes, although short (8–10m), are pleasant with often fine cruxes.

Approach: Park in the same lay-by as for Seana Mheallan, just before the fence and cattle grid. Cross the road and follow the fence north-west to the crag, 10mins. Topos provided.

Jock's Groove Mild VS 4b *. Matthew Thompson, Mark Davies. 10 May 2008.

The obvious left-hand corner on the main buttress is pleasant. Bold in places.

Left Behind E1 5b. Matthew Thompson, Mark Davies. 10 May 2008.

The left edge of the buttress. Climb easily up the arete, then pull directly over the bulge above to distant flakes. Crucial side-runner in *Lucky Strike*.

Lucky Strike E2 5c *. Matthew Thompson. 10 May 2008.

A minor technical test piece. Climb the steady slab to the ledge, then attack the

subtle weakness above by hard pulls on distant holds. Tiny cams essential.

Suspect Cylinder HVS 5b **. Matthew Thompson, Mark Davies. 10 May 2008.

Safe and stimulating. The central groove is easy to the ledge, then has a great layback move to an easier finish.

Laddow Babster VS 4b *. Mark Davies, Matthew Thompson. 10 May 2008.
The pleasant slab left of the vegetated corner has sparse protection.

Fiend's Finish VS 4b ***. Matthew Thompson. 10 May 2008.

A line of most spectacle yet probably least resistance. Climb the tricky groove to the roof, then reach out left and swing merrily upwards on huge holds.

Pylon King's Groove VS 4c ***. Mark Davies, Matthew Thompson. 10 May 2008.

The excellent grooved arete right of the vegetated corner. Tricky moves into the corner followed by easy bridging up to the roof then a tricky move out right (crux). A delicate slab finishes the route off very nicely.

Fence Crack Severe. Mark Davies, Matthew Thompson. 10 May 2008.

Twenty metres right of the last route is a slab, the Right Wing; take the crack on the left part of the slab.

Sethbury Slab E1 5b/c *. Mark Davies, Matthew Thompson. 10 May 2008.

The centre of the slab with a tricky crux move to reach the ledge.

Marmot Hard Severe 4c. Matthew Thompson. 10 May 2008.

The flake at the end of the slab. Graunch over the ugly bulge, then continue much more easily.

Far Right Wing Direct Severe 4a. Mark Davies, Matthew Thompson. 10 May 2008.

A right-hand line on a buttress 30m right of the last route.

DIABAIG:

To the left of *Dead Mouse Crack* is a steep gully/bay area, consisting of several broken corners and aretes. The following route climbs the fine corner-crack on the far left.

Dire Leg 20m VS 4c. Michael Barnard (unseconded). 13 April 2009.

Zigzag up easy slabs to the base of the crack. Climb this to its top (abseil descent).

The following is a variation finish to *Dead Mouse Crack* itself:

Variation: Dire Finish E1 5c *. Michael Barnard (unseconded). 13 April 2009.

Step left below the top crack and climb the obvious steep shallow groove.

Dead Tree Crag:

(NG 801 580) South-West facing

This crag has some fine routes and is a good choice in showery weather, its overhangs providing welcome shelter from the rain (though not the midges).

Approach: The right-hand side of the crag, a large overhang and cracked slab, is just visible from the White House on the approach from Alligin Shuas. When approaching from Diabaig, cross the outflow of Loch a' Bhealaich Mhor (passing beneath the crag of the same name) to follow a line leading across the next hill, keeping roughly to the same height. A light sheep path is picked up at this point – this leads around and down past some boulders to the foot of the crag (50mins). Photos provided. The main feature of the crag is a hanging slab sporting a system of cracks and lying above a huge overhang.

Dead Tree Wall 20m HVS 5b **. Michael Barnard, Ron Dempster. 6 June 2009.

A good route with the crux at the top. Start directly below the middle of the huge overhang. Traverse out right to gain a right-trending crack in the hanging slab above. Step right and move up to a big flake, before stepping back left along a footledge to follow another right-trending crack to the top.

Token V.Diff 15m Very Difficult. Michael Barnard. 6 June 2009.

To the left of the huge roof is a grassy corner-gully. Climb the crack immediately right of this.

Left again is a shorter wall which is overhung at the base. On the right-hand side of this, and just right of a hard-looking roof crack, is an obvious line of flakes.

Flaking It 10m HVS 5b *. Michael Barnard, Ron Dempster. 6 June 2009.

Strenuous climbing up the line of flakes.

A short walk up the hill from the top of the main crag leads to some interesting shorter outcrops.

Yosemite Crack 6m E1 5c *. Michael Barnard (unseconded). 6 June 2009.

The overhanging diagonal crack on the far right wall gives a great wee struggle.

Rolling Wall Note:

The crack of *Brave New World* can be followed throughout at E3 6a (Iain Small).

BEINN ALLIGIN, Horns of Alligin:

Scorpion 260m V.6. Pete McConnell, Pamela-Jane Monaghan; Anthony Feeney, Mike Hassan. 8 March 2009.

On the NE side of the Horns of Alligin below the First Horn there is a distinct A-shape on the mountain flank. *Deep South Gully* creates the right edge of this while this route goes up the left. The route is Grade II apart from the finish. Ascend a snow gully rightwards to 750m height. Exit the gully onto a shoulder overlooking *Deep South Gully*, head left and directly up for 30m of mixed climbing to a sheltered alcove. Climb up and slightly left for 15m, then traverse left on thin ledges aiming to round the corner. Finally straight up for the last 10m.

LIATHACH, Coire na Caime:

The Dru V,6 ***. Roger Webb, Phil Ashby. 11 December 2008.

Follow the summer line to easier ground. To make it more fun, move left along a ledge on the left side of the arete above and climb the first obvious turf and well protected chimney-groove.

BEINN EIGHE, Far East Wall:

Note: The peg on *Seeds of Destruction* is no more. No change in grade.

Eastern Ramparts:

Beyond the Pale 110m E2 **. John Lyall, Andy Nisbet, Jonathan Preston. 26 June 2009.

The rib right of Pale Diedre. Start as for *Rampage*.

1. 35m 5b Climb 3m rightwards up *Rampage*, then take a prominent crack leading straight up over a bulge and below a bigger bulge. Walk left along a ledge and climb a shallow corner to a good ledge.

2. 10m 5a Climb a continuation crack-line to the Upper Girdle below *Boggle*.

3. 40m 5c Climb the central of three corners (*Boggle* probably takes the right corner) to below a steep crack-line which continues straight up. Move up and left to gain and climb a corner before returning to the crack and climbing it to an easing. A continuation crack is hard, so move left into a corner. Climb this past a break before making thin moves back right into the crack. Climb this to a ledge which leads into *Pale Diedre*.

4. 25m 4a Climb cracks in the wall above to gain a ledge on the right. Move right along this and climb a short wall close to *Boggle*. Finish up an easy rib.

Gnome Wall Direct Start 45m VII,7. Iain Small, Blair Fyffe, Tony Stone. 7 December 2008.

Start at the same spot.

1. 30m Climb the steep corner-groove that leads to and takes the right side of the large protruding nose. Follow the corner over a roof, then gain a hanging recess on the right before pulling back left onto a ledge.

2. 15m Climb a steep groove at the left end of the ledge to gain the Upper Girdle by the recess belay on *Gnome Wall*.

The route now joins the original winter line, which was thought to be VI,7.

East Buttress:

East Buttress Left-Hand 210m V,5 ***. Ed Edwards, Andy Hyslop, Andy Nisbet. 28 March 2009.

An alternative line up East Buttress, starting up a chimney left of the crest, then following the crest itself (noted in the guide as Very Difficult in summer). Much will have been done before but it makes an excellent route which is completely separate to the line drawn in the diagram in Northern Highlands South. Start up a prominent chimney which is immediately left of the crest and some 15m left of the normal start.

1. 45m Climb the chimney, which may be on ice, to a terrace.

2. 30m Above are two grooves. The left is much steeper and more direct but the right was climbed, followed by a short traverse left into the left one. Continue up to a groove with a deep crack.

3. 40m Climb the groove, then move left below a second groove and climb blocky ground to a ledge. Traverse left to below a chimney.
4. 45m Climb the chimney to below a steep wide crack. Climb clean smooth rock to its right with just enough holds and runners to easy ground.
5. 50m For an independent finish, move left and climb a short bulging corner. Continue left and climb a chimney and blocks above to reach the low-angled upper crest.

Central Buttress Note:

A route was climbed following icy slabs near the summer line of *Slab Route* on the lower sandstone tier. *Desperado Jigsaw* 110m V,6. A. Buchanan, G.W. Hughes. 22 January 2005.

In snowier days it used to cover with snow and ice, and has been climbed as a start to *Central Buttress*.

West Central Wall:

Balla na Gaoithe 100m HVS **. Sonya Drummond, Andy Nisbet. 8 August 2008.

A smaller corner system set between the big corners of *Maelstrom* and *Earth, Wind and Fire*. Start from the Second Terrace at the left end of a long overhanging wall.

1. 30m 5b Climb a wet groove for 5m (this may be the same start as *Maelstrom*), move right round its right arete and return left to a continuation groove. Follow this to the lower Girdle ledge and move right to blocks.
2. 20m 4c Climb the wall just to the left to reach the upper ledge, then traverse right to a break in overhangs. Go through this and up a slabby wall above (bold) to belay on the arete.
3. 50m 5a Continue near the arete to cross an overlap below a corner. Climb the corner bending right until nearly into the easy finish of *Earth, Wind and Fire*. Traverse left until just above a small rockfall scar, then make a tricky move up into a corner. Follow this corner which finally forms the left side of a large pile of wedged blocks (the initial approach abseil was from the right side of these blocks).

Note: *Earth, Wind and Fire* is worth at least a star also.

Note: The route described as *Maelstrom, Direct Start and Right-Hand Finish* in SMCJ 2008 was in fact a direct line through the start of *Maelstrom* and up via a lower continuation of the parallel corner which *Maelstrom* joins during its third pitch, therefore only joining *Maelstrom* to finish (photodiagram provided). High in the grade at VII,7.

Chop Suey VIII,8 **. Tony Stone, Guy Robertson. 9 February 2009.
By the summer route.

Bruised Violet 90m VIII,8. Ian Parnell, Andy Turner. 10 March 2009.

A phenomenal direct line through the very steep ground *Chop Suey* avoids. Very sustained climbing at the top of the grade.

1. 30m *Chop Suey* pitch 1.
2. 20m Climb cracks up the right wall of the groove (as for *Chop Suey*) to *The Upper Girdle* ledge then pull through the roof and follow the committing groove

for 8m to where the ramp of *Force Ten* heads up leftwards. Arrange gear here (in-situ pecker used as back rope for second) from two good footholds on the left wall before dropping back down into the groove and making an unlikely thin traverse on the lip of the overhangs across the right wall. A good crack in the right arete leads to a small ledge where a complex belay can be made (with enough gear it might be better to continue or alternatively combine pitches 3 and 4).

3. 8m Step up until level with big roofs on the left and swing into a bottomless steep groove which leads to good cracks and possible hanging belay (used since the abseil point was here).

4. 20m Pull up right to a sloping ledge and follow very steep grooves and cracks up slightly leftwards until a final pull round a roof gains a big flake. Pull up left onto ledges atop the prow. Traverse 3m left to a crack which leads to big turfey ledges.

5. 12m Blocky steps via a wide crack to the top.

West Buttress:

Dambusters 60m HVS *. Andy Nisbet, Simon Richardson, Duncan Tunstall. 23 August 2008.

A route up the front face of the final tower of *West Buttress*.

1. 30m 5a Climb a corner which forms the right side of the frontal wall (the bigger corner of Corner Finish is further right), then go up to a roof below the upper face.

2. 15m 5a Move right to where a flake breaks the roof. Layback up this and hand-traverse back left. Climb a crack and good holds above to a ledge with a huge rocking block.

3. 15m Climb a final wall as for the *Direct Finish* (left of the narrow chimney of the normal route).

Grand Slam 80m V,7. John Lyall, Pete Macpherson, Andy Nisbet. 21 January 2009.

Climbs the right side of the frontal wall of the upper tier of *West Buttress*.

1. 35m Start up a flake-line just left of the corner of *Dambusters* and move right after 10m to join the corner. Follow the corner to where a blank section forced a step left on *Dambusters*. Stay in the flake-line on the left and join *Dambusters* at a big ledge above. Move up and traverse right to beneath the flake of *Dambusters*.

2. 20m Traverse right under the roof to reach the right arete of the wall. Climb flakes and cracks immediately right of the arete to where the angle eases.

3. 25m Finish as for *West Buttress*, via the narrow chimney.

Still Game VS *. Andy Nisbet, Simon Richardson, Duncan Tunstall. 23 August 2008.

By the winter line (4c, 4b), good clean rock.

Fuselage Wall:

Pension Plan Hard Severe. Andy Nisbet, Jonathan Preston. 22 May 2008.

A summer ascent of the winter line. Pitch 1 was loose, 4a if you could pull on everything, but actually the crux. Pitches 2 and 3 were run together, 4b and good.

Spitfire 50m HVS *. Jonathan Preston, Andy Nisbet. 22 May 2008.

The pillar right of *Flying Fortress*. Start on its right side.

1. 15m Climb slightly leftwards on to the crest and up this to a big block below the steepest section.
2. 25m 5a The steepest section has a big roof in its centre. Climb a finger-crack leading to the right side of the roof, then either climb a corner on its right and move left or swing left shortly above the roof. Continue up the pillar to a final steep wall.
3. 10m 4c Starting at the right edge, pull on to the wall and climb a wide crack on its right side.

Bandit 65m VII,8 ***. Steve Ashworth, Viv Scott. 29 October 2008.

Quality technical climbing in a stunning position up the pillar containing *Spitfire*. Pitches 2 and 3 are as for *Spitfire* (despite the difference in length).

1. 15m Start as for *Pension Plan* but continue right up easy blocky ground rightwards to a big block on a ledge.
2. 10m Step up right onto a big flake, then up a corner and thin crack above to small ledge under overlaps.
3. 20m Go up and leftwards through overlaps, then up an exposed rib moving left at top to gain ledge under the headwall.
4. 20m From the right of the ledge, go up to beneath the final wall. Pull onto the wall and climb cracks up the centre to a ledge under a capping block. Exit left in a spectacular position.

War Games 55m VI,7 **. John Lyall, Andy Nisbet. 22 November 2008.

An alternative line up the pillar containing *Spitfire*. Start as for the summer line of *Spitfire*.

1. 30m Climb to the big block. Crossing *Bandit*, climb up the steep wall above the left end of the block and move left past a large sharp spike into a groove above an overhung recess. Climb the groove and right-facing corner above.
2. 15m Move right into a small hanging corner between a higher left roof and a lower right roof. Step out right above the right roof on to the crest of the pillar. Climb a crack-line to a ledge, then step left and climb near the right arete of *Flying Fortress* corner to a roof guarding the headwall. Traverse right under the roof to its right edge (*Bandit* also belays here).
3. 10m Step left above the roof on to the headwall and climb a wide crack up the right side of the headwall.

Mosquito 60m Severe *. Andy Nisbet. 26 September 2008.

Start as for *Fight or Flight* (winter). Climb the groove but continue trending left to an overhung recess. Step up right to a ledge, stand on a big flake, then step back left above the overhang. Step right again and go up to the diagonal ledge just right of the pinnacle (30m 4a). Move right into cracks which lead up into a short chimney, then a right-facing corner which forms an opposing pair with *Fight or Flight*'s corner. Climb this fine corner and over its capping roof. Finish direct over a bulge (30m 4b).

Winter: V,7 **. John Lyall, Andy Nisbet, Jonathan Preston. 30 October 2008.

By the summer route, except for the first pitch. From the overhung recess, the

overhang and grooves above were climbed, leading direct to the belay. The second pitch was superb and extremely well protected.

Fight or Flight Severe. Andy Nisbet, Simon Richardson, Duncan Tunstall. 23 August 2008.

By the winter line, but the first pitch started more direct and continued to above the big flake (4a). The third winter pitch was climbed as a continuation to the second pitch by traversing left into the right-facing corner of *Mosquito* under its capping roof, then pulling through the roof (crux, 4b). Finish on the right.

Ace 60m VI,7 **. Malcolm Bass, Simon Yearsley. 25 January 2009.

Excellent climbing, taking a direct line up the steep and impressive ground between *Fight or Flight* and *Bombs Away*. Start 2m right of the toe of the buttress.

1. 25m Climb the steep wall then easier ground to a short square-cut chimney leading through a roof. Climb this, then move up and right on blocks and flakes to the ledge below the steep wall at the top of pitch 2 of *Bombs Away*.
2. 25m Climb the compelling steep crack in the wall, moving slightly left at its top (strenuous but well protected). Move up and right to a niche, junction with *Bombs Away*, but then continue immediately straight up to below the impressive capping roofs. Climb directly through these at a surprisingly amenable grade to reach a small alcove just below the skyline. Exit the alcove in a superb position with a steep pull up to easier ground.
3. 10m Easier ground to the top of the buttress.

Sail Mhor:

Cave Gully 100m V,5 *. Peter Davies, Tim Marsh. 26 Jan 2009.

Climbs a narrow gully cutting into the left wall of *White's Gully*, leading to a large cave. The first steepening in *White's Gully* is level with a prominent overhang on the left; start 10m above this. The route is probably a grade easier with more ice.

1. 30m Follow the gully.
2. 30m Continue past a large chockstone to the base of the large cave.
2. 10m Traverse a snow ledge past an arete to belay beneath an ice-filled chimney.
3. 30m Climb the chimney to reach easier ground leading to the ridge.

CAIRNGORMS

COIRE AN T-SNEACHDA, Mess of Pottage:

The Truncator 100m VS *. John Lyall, Andy Nisbet. 24 June 2009.

Good climbing but close to other routes.

1. 45m 4c Follow the first pitch of the winter route, then the second to where it joins *The Melting Pot*.
2. 35m 4b The aim was to climb the pillar above but the start is difficult. On its right is a worn groove, close to *The Message* and sometimes climbed as a more difficult option to that route. From the top of the worn groove, go left up a

roofed groove and make an improbable step left on to the pillar. Climb a corner-crack on the crest of the pillar, then the crest itself (close to *Trunk-Line*) to a ledge near *The Message*.

3. 20m Move right and climb slabs right of *Trunk-Line/Truncator* finish).

Droidless (no longer so!) Hard Severe 4b *. Andy Nisbet. 28 July 2008.

The base of the crack-line was gained by pleasant slabs, then climbed direct (the winter route climbs a slanting corner on the left). An awkward bulge was the crux. For the final pitch, the arete right of *Pot of Gold* was climbed (cross *Mariella* to reach it). This is artificial but spectacular and was climbed on the FWA of *Mariella*.

Fishy Business 90m Severe 4a. Andy Nisbet. 28 July 2008.

Based on *Sharks Fin Soup*. Climb this route except that a bulge above the fin required the use of a loose hold, so was passed by a step right into *The Despot* and returning immediately above. Continue up a corner (one of the options for *The Haston Line*) to *The Slant*, then directly up a fault which is the finish of *Yukon Jack* (winter); it starts with a right-curving hollow wedged flake.

The Despot 100m VS. Andy Nisbet. 1 July 2009.

1. 30m 4c Follow the first pitch of the winter route, with difficulty up the left-facing corner.

2. 30m 4a Climb a clean buttress above, starting at its left corner and moving into the centre. For an independent finish, descend rightwards to below *Hidden Chimney*.

3. 40m 4a Follow *Hidden Chimney* for 10m and take a roofed groove on the left (as for *Technicoloured Dream Crack* in winter). Move right below the roof before climbing up. Finish by a short steep buttress on good holds.

Yosemite Jill 50m HVS 5a *. Steve Hammond, John Lyall. 4 June 2008.

A blonde companion for *Yukon Jack*. It is artificial and makes no sense at all, but gives an enjoyable outing that leaves you strangely satisfied. Climbs the pillar between *The Despot* and *Yukon Jack*. Go straight over the initial bulge, then take the next overlap by a slanting crack, followed by steeper moves near the right edge to gain a short right-facing corner. A jam crack leads to a ledge where another crack would lead to easy ground, but this is avoided by traversing right to overlook *Yukon Jack*, where the wall is then climbed on huge holds to easy ground and the abseil point.

Yukon Jack 90m Severe. Andy Nisbet. 15 May 2008.

By the winter line to reach *The Haston Line* (Very Difficult), then scramble up, then left to finish up the winter finish to *Pot Doodles* (4a).

Black Sheep 100m VS. John Lyall, Andy Nisbet. 24 June 2009.

Start about 3m right of *Yukon Jack*.

1. 50m 4c Gain and climb a thin crack which slants left towards *Yukon Jack*. Go through a small overlap and follow a right-slanting corner and continuing fault to cross *The Haston Line* and belay above.

2. 50m Go easily up to and finish up the winter line *Frozen Assets* (Very Difficult).

Technicoloured Dream Crack 50m Hard Severe 4c *. John Lyall, Steve Hammond. 4 June 2008.

Start about 6m right of *Yukon Jack* and climb up to a thin crack. Follow this through two short corners to cross *The Haston Line* and finish by a steep left-facing corner. Either finish by easy ground to the top or move left to an abseil point.

Winter: 100m VII,7. Ed Edwards, Andy Nisbet. 27 March 2009.

The summer line was followed to belay on *The Haston Line* (25m). This pitch was climbed on very thin ice but could be considerably easier (or harder). The continuation summer line up the left side of blocks led to slabby ground, followed to *The Slant* (45m). The upper buttress was climbed by going up *Hidden Chimney* for 10m, then taking a groove on its left wall and over a roof at its top (40m).

Potiphar's Wife 50m VS 5a *. John Lyall, Hamish Burns. 30 July 2008.

Climbs the very thin crack-line just left of *Tasker* (see below). A delicate start is followed by easier climbing until the crack runs out below a nose of rock, where it would be easy to step into the other crack. Instead climb the right edge of the nose and pull left onto a slab and go up to a thin crack. Go direct over blocks on *The Haston Line* and straight up wall behind, crossing a small roof to easy ground.

Tasker 50m Hard Severe 4b *. Andy Porter, Will Wilkinson. 9 May 2008.

A crack-line some 10m right of *Yukon Jack*; a steeping before breaking onto *The Haston Line* provides the crux. Cross *The Haston Line* via a small tower of blocks (possible belay) and continue up the slabs above to a belay on *The Slant* at a perfect granite bench. Bold on the lower slabs.

Winter: 110m V,6. Ed Edwards, Andy Hyslop, Andy Nisbet. 29 March 2009.

Could be much easier with ice. Follow the summer route in two pitches to *The Slant*. Continue by *Hidden Chimney*, then take the crack come groove on its left wall some 5m right (higher) of the finish to *Potiphar's Wife*. Go up this to where a ramp leads up the right side of the buttress overlooking *Hidden Chimney*.

Hidden Chimney Difficult. Andy Porter, Will Wilkinson. 9 May 2008.

Messy low down but better in the chimney.

Aladdin's Buttress:

Note: The *True Finish* to *Original Summer Route* was climbed by Michael Barnard on 14 September 2008 at Very Difficult. The crux was the move above the doubtful flake, as in winter. The original summer ascent seems to have climbed grooves just to the right (harder and mossier), but it is likely the *True Finish* up the crest has been climbed before.

COIRE AN LOCHAIN, No. 3 Buttress:

Torque of the Devil 115m VS. John Lyall, Allen Fyffe. 5 July 2008.

Takes the line of the winter route and finishes up *The Crack*. A pleasant start and interesting finish. Start at the toe of No. 2 Buttress at a left-facing corner with a prominent crack in the right wall.

1. 45m 4c Climb the corner and cracks, then move right and follow the obvious

line up right to a ledge. Step right and go up the wall leftwards then up (the winter chimney-line is right of this. Climb the faults in the next wall on great holds.

2. 40m Go up short walls and ledges to below the final headwall.

3. 20m 4c Climb The Crack above with a hard move at the overhang and a big shaky flake higher up.

No. 4 Buttress:

Watergate Scandal 70m E2 **. John Lyall, Hamish Burns. 23 July 2008.

Climbs the roofed edge right of *Deep Throat*.

1. 30m 5c Follow the edge to a big roof (Friend 0), move right past this and up to a ledge and dirty crack. Move back left to the edge and go up to a small ledge and belay on the right.

2. 20m 5a Climb the left side of the rib to the next roof and follow a crack to a ledge. Move left to regain the edge and follow this to the top of the pillar.

3. 20m An easy gully leads to the top.

STACAN DUBHA:

Havana 150m III. Andy Nisbet, Jonathan Preston. 25 March 2009.

The rightmost main buttress is an elongated diamond shape and lies right of the large overhung recess. Start easily leftwards up a ramp under a steep base wall (20m). Return right up a turf groove, then zigzag and go further right under slabs (50m). Gain a bay and leave it on the right over a short wall. Go right up a fault to a wall, then back left to a bigger bay (40m). Continue up just right of a prominent rib, then cross over the rib to easy ground (40m). Moderate in summer (Andy Nisbet, September 2008).

SHELTERSTONE CRAG:

Pinpoint 75m HVS. John Lyall, Jonathan Preston. 1 July 2009.

1. 40m 5a About 25m left of a wet mossy spring at the base of the lower slab, is a short right-facing corner leading onto a big block. Just right of this are two thin cracks running into a shallow corner. Follow this line past awkward overlaps to a ledge.

2. 35m 5a Thin moves up the slab just right of the corner are followed by easier climbing to the Low Ledge.

HELL'S LUM CRAG:

The Grim Whippet 120m III. Graham Johnston, Kris Wipat. 14 February 2009.

Start some 20m left of *Sic*. Follow the prominent ice ramp up into a steep snow bay. Keeping to the right-hand side of this continue up snow and ice to finish immediately left of the prominent buttress on the skyline.

Note: The route has apparently been climbed before but this is the first recorded ascent.

STAG ROCKS:

Rag the Dog 120m IV.6. James Edwards, Phil Ashby. 10 December 2008.

An icefall some 30m right of *Cascade Right*. The route can bank out under heavy snow. Intermediate belays can be taken and difficulties can be avoided in many cases on the right.

1. 60m Climb the steep cascade which eases off after 10m to a flat shelf. Climb the next 5m step on vertical ice to another flat shelf. On the left is a corner. Go up this for 8m.
2. 60m Go up a ramp on the left and climb a short steep wall to easier ground.

The Cardinal 120m IV,4. Donnie Williamson, Hamish Burns, Mark Francis, Dave Bowden. 27 January 2009.

A groove on the right side of *Serrated Rib*. Start in *Diagonal Gully* opposite *Apex Gully*.

1. 40m Climb a turfy groove and go up a wall to a ledge on the left.
2. 30m Climb directly up a steep wall and surmount a large block to easy ground.
3. 50m Follow an upper turfy ramp below the ridge crest to the top.

Big Alec 85m IV,6. John Lyall, Pete Macpherson, Andy Nisbet. 20 January 2009.

Start by climbing a short but thin vertical icefall in a corner to the right of the summer line. Move left to join the summer line and follow it to the hidden chimney (20m). Climb this either by a through route or on the outside, then continue up the jam crack (15m). Join *Albino* and traverse right along a fault to easier ground and climb a rib between two grooves (the grooves may be the two options for *Albino*), 50m.

The Tenements, Gorbals Finish 100m VS 5a. John Lyall, Andy Nisbet, Jonathan Preston. 1 June 2009.

A left-hand finish which maintains good climbing to the cliff-top. Climb the first and best two pitches of *The Tenements*.

- 3a. 35m 4b Climb up leftwards to below a groove which is immediately left of a sharp arete which forms the left side of the big open groove. Climb this groove to a terrace.
- 4a. 20m 5a Gain with difficulty and climb a left-slanting bottomless groove above.
- 5a. 45m 4c Go diagonally left across a long wall to finish by crossing a chimney and finishing up a short rib. This looks artificial but, once on the wall, the easiest line is the one taken.

LURCHER'S CRAG:

Overdraft 230m V,5. Dave McGimpsey, Andy Nisbet. 25 November 2008.

A devious and quite serious route up some unfriendly ground. Start close to *Credibility Crunch* but take the lower traverse-line diagonally up left to reach a steep wall above. Traverse left along a ledge to its end. Climb the short steep wall (crux) and go up to a big spike (25m). Continue up, then left to a large pinnacle. Traverse its outer wall left to a ledge system (25m). Ignore a tempting line up right and continue traversing for about 12m to a corner. Go up this, make a short hand-traverse right over a slab and go up another groove. Make a more awkward move right over a rib and go up to a bigger groove (35m). Climb this over two steps until a ramp leads up left to easier ground. Go up to join the other routes on the crest (50m). Finish easily up the crest as for the other routes.

St. Bernard's Ridge 150m IV,6. Kathy Grindrod, Andy Nisbet. 14 January 2009.

The ridge between *Reindeer Ridge* and *Summit Ridge*. The base is blocked by a steep diagonal wall so start just left of the gully between the two ridges. Climb a groove on the right edge of *Reindeer Ridge*, then cross the gully and go easily up to below a left-facing corner which is left of the crest of the main section of ridge (50m). Climb the fine corner, including a difficult overlap (50m). An easier rock section (50m) leads to open slopes and the summit.

Dog Day Afternoon 240m III,4. John Lyall, Andy Nisbet, Jonathan Preston. 8 January 2009.

The ridge immediately left of the upper section of *Window Gully*. Start close to *Window Gully* and take a fault leading diagonally left. Before its top step, go right into a crevasse on a slab and go beyond this before returning steeply left to the crest. Follow the crest with slight deviations to a break in the ridge. An upper section starts 20m above, and is somewhat artificial. A smooth bulge at 20m was passed on the left and another bulge above also passed on the left. Otherwise the crest was roughly followed, with party members taking slightly different lines.

Sooty 200m III. Andy Nisbet. 2 February 2009.

A subsidiary ridge left of *Sweep* is rather scrappy. Start 10m right of *Window Gully* (upper) and climb a crack in slabby ground, with some thin moves. Move easily right and follow its vague crest to easy ground. Move right to join *Sweep*. Finish up the left side of its upper tower.

Ten Pins 80m III. Andy Nisbet. 13 January 2009.

The right of the two shorter ridges. A steep wall at the base was bypassed by going left up a short wall and ramp, then back right up two short shallow chimneys. The crest was followed to the top.

Punchdrunk Direct 120m III,4. Sean Peatfield, Iain Munro. 23 January 2009.

Start below the obvious right-facing corner and climb a short wall to gain its base. Climb the corner stepping left at the top. Although slightly contrived by the presence of easy ground on the right the corner itself provided an interesting pitch if climbed direct. Finish up the crest as for *Punchdrunk*.

Wolfstone Gully 80m VI,7. John Lyall, Andy Nisbet. 24 January 2009.

The steep gully at the back of the amphitheatre. Start well to the right and climb turfey ledges up left to the gully below its steepest section (25m). In ideal conditions it should be possible direct on ice but this ascent climbed a crack in a shallow corner on the right to belay under a big chockstone (15m). Climb past its left corner to reach an easier upper gully (10m). Finish up this (30m).

Black Shuck 120m III. Andy Nisbet. 9 March 2009.

The gully between *Collie's Ridge* and *Hound of the Baskervilles*. The gully base is blocked by a steep wall. Start by climbing up left on turf to a ledge on the right. Step down right, pull up into a recess, then move right again to gain the line of the gully above the steep wall. Finish up the line of the gully.

Bonzo Dog 120m II. Andy Nisbet. 9 March 2009.

The gully right of *Hound of the Baskervilles*. Start up an icy runnel leading to snow, then another icy runnel leading to snow. Finish up icy steps. Climbed when lean but icy.

Desperate Measures 260m IV,4. Joe Ormond, Will Wilkinson, Andy Porter. 2 Jan 2009.

Takes the obvious depression at the back of a small bay right of *Deerhound Ridge*. Climb a thin ice pitch for 25m to gain easy-angled ice for a further 75m. From below a small island of rock, take the increasingly steep right fork (60m) to a steep step into an obvious and well-defined amphitheatre (30m). Here the back left corner provides an exit via an obvious and dubious-looking flake (crux, 10m, loose). Continue along easy ground to the plateau (60m).

Canis Minor 40m IV,5. John Lyall, Andy Nisbet, Jonathan Preston. 8 January 2009.

A steep tower lies at the far south end of the cliff. This route takes a groove on the left of the crest, with a steep finish.

Canis Major 45m IV,7. Andy Nisbet, Jonathan Preston. 23 January 2009.

Climbs a groove in the crest of the steep tower. Start up a crack-line which leads to bulging flakes and into the groove. Climb the groove, then a short chimney on the right and back into the groove. From the top of the groove, move right and up to a bay (35m). Finish up a narrow crest to easy ground (10m). There is an optional tier high up.

SRON NA LAIRIGE:

Chicane 90m IV,5. John Lyall, Andy Nisbet. 6 January 2009.

Climbs the left edge of the buttress with *Ghrusome* (SMCJ 2008). Start up *Ghruve* and move right to the leftmost of five grooves. Start below this. Climb the groove, move right to the next groove and continue to below a prominent arete (40m). This arete is the base of a pinnacle, so pass to its left and gain the col between it and the buttress. Climb the wall above and into a right-facing corner which leads to easy ground (50m).

Ghrupie 150m V,5. John Lyall, Andy Nisbet. 6 December 2008.

Climbs a groove on the left side of the buttress with *Ghrusome*. Climb easily up left of the lower crest of *Ghrusome* and start below the central of the five grooves, the one with a dogleg right. These are below and left of the three grooves mentioned in the description of *Ghrusome*. Climb the groove, which leads directly to the most prominent groove in the upper buttress (50m). Start up the upper groove (serious) for about 15m, then break right into ground with more cracks and follow this up to join the crest of the tower (40m, a good pitch). Gain the top of the tower and finish up the easy upper crest as for *Ghrusome*.

Count Dracula 150m V,7. John Lyall, Andy Nisbet. 6 January 2009.

A steep right-curving groove between *Ghrupie* and *Ghrusome* is blocked by a large block. Start as for *Ghrusome* and gain the rightmost of the five grooves. Climb this to below the steep groove. Climb the steep groove via an awkward

narrow chimney formed by the block (25m). The groove ends at an overhanging wall, so traverse right to join *Ghrusome*. For a different finish, move left from this route to the crest (40m).

SGÒRAN DUBH MÒR, No.2 Buttress:

Fancy a Rib 150m II. Andy Nisbet. 4 January 2009.

This is the rib leading out of 2/3 *Gully* below *Fan Rib*, so arguably is in Fan Corrie. Climb a snaking groove in the lower rib to reach a steep barrier wall. This is not as big as appears from below and is climbed at its right side. Finish up the crest.

SGÒRAN DUBH MÒR, Fan Corrie:

Note: Andy Nisbet climbed *Diamond Buttress* at Grade III on 5 January 2009 by going left up a ramp from the pointed block. At the top of the ramp, traverse left into a shallow gully topped by a chockstone. Crawl under this and gain its top to rejoin the normal route on the crest. The route was thought *** by either line.

SGÒRAN DUBH MÒR, No. 3 Buttress:

Tripoli 150m II. John Lyall, Andy Nisbet. 5 January 2009.

The first big feature left of 2/3 *Gully* is a gully blocked by a two-tier chockstone. This route climbs a groove system to its right.

Tristar Groove 160m III. Andy Nisbet. 4 January 2009.

A deep groove in the rib left of the gully blocked by the two-tier chockstone. Start just left of the gully and climb heather slopes which curve left to reach the groove. Climb the groove, ice then turf, to reach its easier upper continuation. From the ridge crest at its finish, a descending traverse leads into 2/3 *Gully* and access to routes in Fan Corrie.

Diagonal Rake 400m II. Andy Nisbet. 5 January 2009.

A good mountaineering route. A winter ascent of the diagonal rake may have been made before. It was certainly used to access *Cripple's Cleft* and this is the hardest section, requiring frozen turf. Continue to the top of the rake, then make a small descent into a gully. Follow this over two ice pitches before gaining the crest on the right. Follow this to the plateau, although it becomes scrambling long before this.

SGÒRAN GAOITH, No. 4 Buttress:

Enchanted Ridge 180m V,6. John Lyall, Andy Nisbet, Jonathan Preston. 3 December 2008.

The ridge on the right (facing down) of the descent described in SM CJ 2008. It faces SSE, so needs cold conditions for the turf to be frozen.

1. 30m Climb the lowest part of the ridge on the left of the crest until the ridge is gained just as it steepens.
2. 40m Follow the crest with a short section on the right at a steepening until a smooth rounded section is reached. Pass this awkwardly on the left to regain the ridge below a very steep section.

3. 20m Descend right to gain a steep turfy corner which is climbed with difficulty to regain the crest.
4. 50m Follow the crest to another steep section. Pass this by descending leftwards and returning up right on turf strips.
5. 40m Follow the sharp crest to easy ground.

Note: The map ref for No. 4 Buttress should be NN 907 993 (not 003 as in the new guide).

EINICH CAIRN, Coire nan Clach:

Silver Streak 60m II. Simon Richardson, Jacques LePesant. 28 February 2008.
The prominent low-angled ice sheet on the left side of the corrie.

Tin Pan Alley 60m II. Jacques LePesant, Simon Richardson. 28 February 2008.

The icy depression 100m left of *Hey Teacher*.

Copper Barrelled 60m II. Jacques LePesant, Simon Richardson. 28 February 2008.

Climb the icy buttress left of *Tin Pan Alley* via a broken crack in its centre.

Prospector's Rib 70m III. Simon Richardson, Roger Webb. 4 October 2008.

There are three well-defined ribs on the right of the corrie containing *Schoolmaster's Gully*. This route takes the leftmost slender rib. Start at the toe of the rib and climb a right-facing corner to reach the narrow buttress crest. Follow this over a series of steps and blocks to easier ground and the plateau.

Alaska Highway 80m III. Roger Webb, Simon Richardson. 1 February 2009.

The central of the three ribs. Climb a well-defined groove on the left side of the buttress which leads to the left edge. Follow this to the top.

Pure Gold 70m V,5. Simon Richardson, Roger Webb. 1 February 2009.

The right-hand of the three ribs is an attractive feature comprised of good clean granite. Climb it directly, starting up a slanting crack in the centre of the buttress before moving left to the well-defined left edge.

Luxembourg Rib 80m II. Simon Richardson, Jacques LePesant. 28 February 2008.

Approximately 100m right of the three ribs is a well-defined broken rib that descends lower into the corrie than the other routes. Climb the rib with a fine snow arete to finish.

BRAERIACH, Coire Bhrochain:

Bhrochain Spectre 160m IV,3. Andy Nisbet. 13 March 2009.

A line up the open slab left of the corner of *Bhrochain Slabs*. Start at the foot of *North-West Corner*. Climb the first chimney of this to gain snow covered slabs. Head up slightly left to a big icefall in a depression where an upper slab drains on to the lower slab. Climb the icefall to the upper slab. Follow this diagonally left on snow to an arete below a prow at the top left corner of the slab. Pass the

prow on the right and return left to where there is sometimes a break in the cornice at a point where the prow forms a sharp bend in the cliff-top.

Note: The 1960 winter ascent of *Bhrochain Slabs* gave no description of the line, so it is assumed they climbed the summer route. This ascent was always left of it.

High Jinks 180m IV,4. John Lyall, Andy Nisbet. 24 March 2009.

A line based on the edge of the buttress overlooking West Gully. Climbed and graded for good conditions. Start at the foot of *North-West Corner* but climb straight up steep snow to below a very smooth and ice smeared slab (30m). Climb a steep step just to its left, then trend right to gain thicker snow-ice above the slab. Climb grooves to below a bulge (45m). Climb a groove just left of the bulge and continue slightly left to below a steep wall. Trending right would eventually join *Bhrochain Spectre*. For an independent finish up a rather unlikely line, make a traverse left over the top of a gully and across a slab to overlook *West Gully*. Descend a chimney for 6m to where a ledge on the right (facing down) can be gained (45m). The ledge leads into a big slab-ramp which is followed to the plateau (60m).

COIRE SPUTAN DEARG, Snake Ridge Area:

Homecoming Gully 120m II. John Lyall. 27 December 2008.

Go a short way up *Mousehole Gully*, then climb a groove on the right onto a ridge, and follow a wide gully up and left to finish.

Note: John Lyall climbed *Mousehole Gully* direct through the mousehole at Grade II/III on 27 December 2008.

Central Buttresses:

Hate Mail 125m VII,7. John Lyall, Andy Nisbet, Jonathan Preston. 11 December 2008.

A winter route based on *Blackmail* (SMCJ 2008). Pitch 3 is difficult to protect due to its Z-shape.

1. 25m Start up the ramp as for *Blackmail* but continue up to its end.
2. 30m Follow its continuation over a difficult bulge, then make an awkward step left to rejoin *Blackmail* and follow it to its belay.
3. 30m Make a rising traverse right up a shelf and make a step up over an overlap. Gain a ledge at 2m up on the left, then traverse back left to reach the bottom of the ramp on *Blackmail* (delicate). Climb the ramp and direct over the bulge at its top to its ledge.
4. 40m Climb the awkward wall to the arete of *Black Tower*. Follow this and snow slopes to the plateau.

Note: John Lyall climbed *Right-Hand Icefall* at IV,5 on 27 December 2008. This was by a prominent ice pillar. A line at Grade II could not be seen, although the ground just to the right is less steep.

Note: Michael Barnard & Peter Hemmings climbed the start of *Flying Saucers* as a good variation to *The Fly*. They then traversed along a ledge to the S-crack (VS 4c, 31 May 2009).

Terminal Buttress:

Terminal 5 75m Hard Severe 4b. Paul & Rachel Mather. 24 July 2008.

Start slightly higher up the gully from *Terminal Buttress* beneath some small overhangs.

1. 35m Undercut steeply right to gain a hanging V-groove, then climb up out of its left-hand side via a series of flakes, passing a juggy bulge. This leads to a series of small corners; climb these to a comfortable ledge.
2. 40m Climb the corner above to join the crest of the buttress, which is followed to the top (junction with Terminal Buttress).

BEINN A' BHUIRD, Coire an Dubh Lochain:

Smooth Buttress 110m Severe. Simon Richardson, Dan Sutherland, Duncan Tunstall. 27 July 2008.

Climb the crest of the buttress up a vague groove as for the winter line. The upper section was climbed up cleaner rock on the right edge. A fine feature, but very vegetated and best climbed in winter.

Shipton 110m Severe. Duncan Tunstall, Simon Richardson, Dan Sutherland. 27 July 2008.

The wall and rib left of *Central Rib*. Start just left of *Alpha Gully* and climb turfey cracks up the wall. Continue up the slabby rib to where it eases and finish easily up and left of the final headwall.

Coire nan Clach:

Jack Frost Direct 70m III,4. Simon Richardson, Duncan Tunstall, 22 October 2008.

A more direct version of *Jack Frost* taking the crest of the buttress.

1. 35m Climb the initial ramp of *Jack Frost* for 10m until a steep break in the left wall leads to easier ground. Move up to the steep wall above and climb this left of centre utilising a large knobbly hold.
2. 35m Continue up the right-facing corner in the upper tower and finish along the final ridge as for *Jack Frost*.

Garbh Choire:

Consolation Gully, Right-Hand Finish 150m II. Simon Richardson. 5 April 2009.

Consolation Gully splits after 100m. Climb the right branch to reach a broad rib and follow this to exit on to the plateau (no cornice at this point).

Slochd Wall, Direct Finish 60m HVS. Duncan Tunstall, Simon Richardson. 1 June 2009.

A sustained alternative between the *Left-* and *Right-Hand Finishes*. Probably climbed before.

1. 30m From the stance at the top of the second (main) pitch climb the *Right-Hand Finish* for 15m to where it moves right onto the terrace of *Primate*. Step left and continue up a vertical crack to reach a small ledge.
2. 30m Continue up the wall on the right to join the final arete of *Chindit* and finish more easily up this to the top.

North-West Buttress Arete 65m HVS. Duncan Tunstall, Simon Richardson. 1 June 2009.

The right side of North-West Buttress is defined by two clean aretes separated by a groove.

1. 40m 5a Start below the left-hand arete and climb up 5m to the foot of a short slanting off-width crack. Avoid this by climbing steeply up and right to below a steep triangular wall, then move back down and left (crux) to reach the top of the crack. Continue more easily up the continuation crack, and trend right up easy cracks and slabs to a ledge below the clean-cut upper arete.

2. 5m 4c Climb the arete to the plateau.

Stob an t-Sluichd:

Flight Eight Five November 65m HVS. Simon Richardson, Duncan Tunstall. 1 June 2009.

About 100m left of *Pinnacle Ridge* is an attractive steep buttress under the plateau rim. It receives the sun for most of the day, so is a good option when waiting for the shady West Wall of Mitre Ridge to warm up.

1. 50m Climb a short slab to below a vertical rectangular wall in the centre of the buttress. Surmount the wall via a diagonal break on its right side, then move up and left to a rounded arete that leads up to easy ground.

2. 15m Finish easily up the final ridge to the plateau.

LOCHNAGAR, Southern Sector, The Sentinel:

Paladin 60m Severe. Simon Richardson, Chris Hill. 3 August 2008.

Start 10m left of *Jacob's Slabs* and climb directly up to a steep smooth slabby wall. Climb this on small holds and continue up steep blocky ground to an easy finish.

Sentinel Edge 50m Severe. Simon Richardson, Chris Hill. 3 August 2008.

An excellent little climb taking the hanging right edge of *The Sentinel*. Dries fast after rain. Start as for *Starlight and Storm* and climb through a steep bulge using a good crack. Belay on a good ledge below the upper arete. Climb this on good holds on its right side to a straightforward finish.

Sunset Buttress:

Sunset Buttress Direct 100m VS. Simon Richardson, Chris Hill. 3 August 2008.

Start 10m right of the winter line of *Sunset Buttress* below a smooth slabby wall.

1. 20m 4b Climb the wall on good flat holds to a ledge.

2. 25m 4c Start up the prominent right-facing groove above and step left after 5m into a subsidiary hanging right-facing groove. Climb this and exit left at its top on good holds. Climb the rib above to join the original route at a ledge. Continue up this to the top (55m).

Perseverance Wall:

Forgotten Runnel 80m II. Simon Richardson. 28 November 2008.

The left flank of *Perseverance Rib* is cut by a narrow line of turf. Climb this past a steepening to the easier upper gully.

Never Say Die 80m III,4. Simon Richardson. 28 November 2008.

Climb the line of grooves up the crest of *Perseverance Rib* to join the final section of *The Vice* above its chockstone.

The Handrail 80m III. Simon Richardson. 30 December 2008.

A line up the right flank of *Perseverance Rib* on the left wall of *Remembrance Gully*. Start on the right side of platform of *Tenacity* and climb a flake and handrail system on the right flank of the buttress. Continue up to the break that leads left to the big platform on *Perseverance Rib*. Step right and continue up the headwall above and left of the finishing grooves to *Remembrance Gully*.

Remembrance Gully 80m I. Simon Richardson. 30 December 2008.

The prominent snow shoot to the right of *Perseverance Rib*. The easiest line takes the right-hand groove in the upper section and trends right at the top. Almost certainly climbed before, but not recorded.

Variation: Groove Finish 50m II. Simon Richardson. 9 November 2008.

Follow the left-hand groove in the upper section. It is steeper than the easier right-hand groove, but is furnished with good rock holds and is easier in lean conditions.

Hanging Groove 80m III. Simon Richardson. 28 November 2008.

Climb the groove between *Starburst* and *Gale Force Groove* passing a small rockfall scar (at similar height to square-cut roof on *Gale Force Groove*).

Resolution Gully 80m II. Simon Richardson. 28 November 2008.

The prominent left-trending gully between *Jason's Groove* and *Lunar Eclipse*. In early season there is a steep step at one-third height but this banks out with more snow.

Delilah 80m III. Simon Richardson. 30 December 2008.

The left side of the buttress taken by *Cumberland* and *Temptress*. Start 5m right of *The Gift* below twin grooves. Climb the right-hand groove and continue up the groove-line above past a small snowfield to a junction with *The Gift*. Cross this and continue up the V-shaped headwall above.

Shadow Buttress A:

The Hooded Groove 60m VII,8. Simon Richardson, Iain Small. 8 March 2009.

A difficult direct start to *Shadow Buttress A Direct*. Start as for the *Direct* by climbing the initial gully of *Shadow Buttress A* and belaying in the cave.

1. 30m Move up and right steeply through the roof of the cave to gain a vertical corner. Climb this and then move up right across awkward mixed ground to reach the right side of the sloping edge below a steep stepped 'hooded' groove.
2. 30m Climb the groove past two overlaps, exit left at the top and move up to the terrace and junction with *Shadow Buttress A Direct*. Continue up the *Shadow Buttress A Direct* to the top. (On this occasion, *The Time Out Finish* was taken as time was running short).

The Stack:

The following two short routes provide superb sustained climbing on

immaculate rock in a great position. High on the left side of The Stack, overlooking *The Black Spout, Left Branch*, is a grossly overhanging undercut wall. *Ultramontane* takes the left arete, then goes right into the obvious groove. *Heliopolis* takes the obvious groove and wall left again. The routes were gained via a single 60m abseil from an obvious block anchor immediately above the routes.

Ultramontane 50m E4 **. Adrian Crofton, Guy Robertson. June 2009.

Start at the base of the arete. Move up to below a crack then swing right to gain and stand on the obvious flat hold with some difficulty. Climb the cracks above to the overhang then pull back left round the edge to a rest. Climb the wall above, then mantel onto a sloping ledge. Balance right along this and climb the fine groove then slabs to belay well back (35m, 6a). Go left and climb the obvious groove to the top (15m, 4c).

Heliopolis 50m E3 **. Adrian Crofton, Guy Robertson. June 2009.

Start just left of *Ultramontane*. Climb the groove to an overlap then pull right and follow the right side of the big flake to its top. Swing up left to a footledge then gain and follow the superb quartz dyke in the wall above until precarious moves lead right to a groove and easier ground (35m, 5c). Go left and finish up the groove, as for *Ultramontane* (15m, 4c).

Hittin' the Wall 25m E2 5c *. Michael Barnard, James Duthie. 31 July 2009.

The obvious thin hanging crack on the left wall overlooking the top of the main branch of *The Black Spout*, gained by a quick scramble down the gully from the plateau. Start directly below the crack. Climb easily up a blocky wall on the left, before moving right to ascend a crack and corner to below a large overlap. Step out onto the slab on the right, move up using the edge (crux) and follow the thin crack to the top.

THE STUIC:

A Wall Too Far 70m VII,8. Iain Small, Simon Richardson. 1 November 2008.

The vertical wall bounding the left edge of *The Stooee Chimney*.

1. 10m Climb the initial groove of *The Stooee Chimney* to a good platform.
2. 20m Start 2m left of the right edge of the wall, climb straight up to a turf boss (bold), move left through the overlap and continue up the cracks above to a second overlap. Pull over this to a small niche. A steep and sustained pitch.
3. 15m Move right from the niche and climb discontinuous cracks up the wall above until it is possible to move left using turf to exit directly above the niche.
4. 25m Continue up the crest of the buttress above.

Bilberry Edge 70m II. Simon Richardson. 22 February 2009.

The broad buttress on the left side of the North-East Face of The Stuic to the left of the fault taken by *Bathtime Buttress*. Start below the left edge and take a zigzag line up short walls to finish up the easier angled upper buttress. Moderate in summer (S.M. Richardson, 29 September 2008).

Water Whirl 70m III. Simon Richardson. 22 February 2009.

Between *Bathtime Buttress* and *Plug Groove* is a steep wall cut by two left-

slanting grooves. Climb the left-hand groove (defined by a rock pillar on its left side) to easier ground and the top.

Coriolis Effect 70m III,4. Simon Richardson. 22 February 2009.

The right-hand of the twin grooves is steep in its lower section, but has good ledges between the moves. Easy ground then leads to the top.

Coire Lochan na Feadaige:

Dotterel 110m II. Simon Richardson. 22 February 2009.

A right to left diagonal line. Start near the right end of the buttress and climb mixed ground up to the central snow field. Move up this and trend diagonally left to gain the left side of the upper headwall. Move left around this and climb a broken gully cutting through its left side to the top.

Cnapan Nathraichean:

Left Flank 100m III. Simon Richardson, Duncan Tunstall. 6 February 2009.

Start 40m left of *The Sentry Box* below the next break in the smooth lower wall. Climb a shallow, right-facing slot, move right into a vague corner and follow this to the top.

GLEN CALLATER, Creag an Fhleisdeir:

Farewell to Tajikistan 160m IV,5. Rick Allen, Simon Richardson. 10 February 2009.

A varied mixed route running the full height of the cliff.

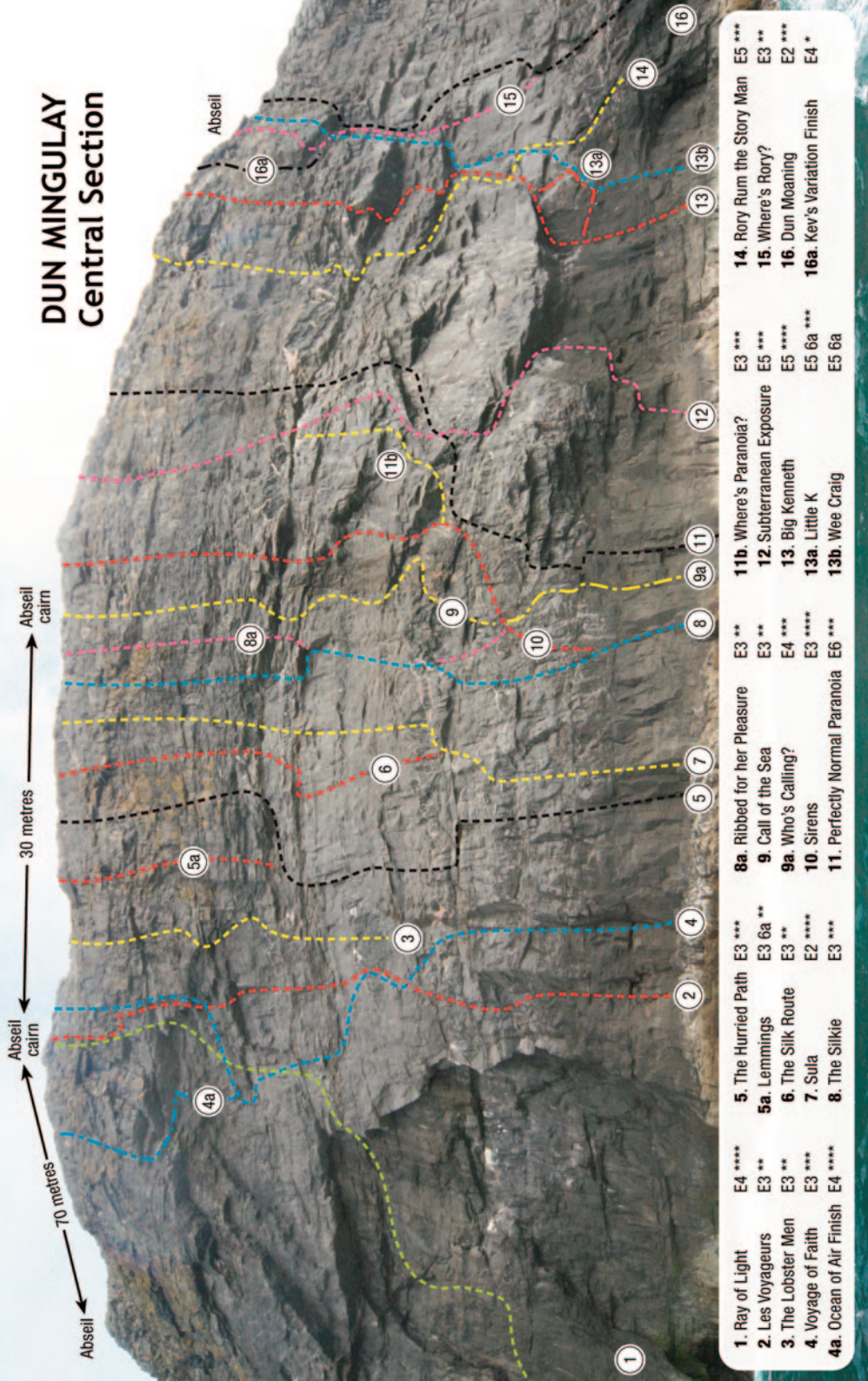
1. 60m Start 5m left of *Central Slabs Cleft* and climb the shallow S-shaped gully over several moderate ice steps, to a steepening below an icy wall.
2. 40m Move up to the wall, pull through an overhanging step and pass behind a block. Climb the short icefall behind the block to reach the midway terrace above. (*Central Slabs Cleft* and *Bonspiel* finish here.) Move up to the foot of the rock crest forming the right side of the upper tier.
3. 30m Start to the right of the crest, and climb the first tier via two consecutive corners.
4. 30m Move up the broad crest above and climb the headwall trending diagonally left to where the angle eases.

GLEN CLOVA, Winter Corrie:

Wild Cat Wall, The Tiger Finish VI,7 *. Brian Duthie, Sandy Simpson. 8 February 2009.

1. and 2. 100m Climb the first two pitches of *Wild Cat Wall* but belay on the far right end of the inverted triangle.
3. 50m Move up steeply at first trending leftward and belay at the left end of the final vertical wall.
4. 30m Step left and head up to a short vertical corner. Climb the corner then move up rightwards until beneath a large sloping roof. Move steeply up leftwards to a good ledge-cum-semi-cave under a steep right-slanting groove.
5. 25m Strenuously surmount the groove above (crux) and climb this to finish on the left end of the horizontal ledge. A serious pitch.
6. 25m Finish as per the original route.

DUN MINGULAY Central Section



- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|
| 1. Ray of Light | E4 **** |
| 2. Les Voyageurs | E3 ** |
| 3. The Lobster Men | E3 ** |
| 4. Voyage of Faith | E3 *** |
| 4a. Ocean of Air Finish | E4 **** |
| 5. The Hurried Path | E3 *** |
| 5a. Lemmings | E3 6a ** |
| 6. The Silk Route | E3 ** |
| 7. Sula | E2 **** |
| 8. The Silkie | E3 *** |
| 8a. Ribbed for her Pleasure | E3 ** |
| 9. Call of the Sea | E3 ** |
| 9a. Who's Calling? | E4 *** |
| 10. Sirens | E3 *** |
| 11. Perfectly Normal Paranoia | E6 *** |
| 11b. Where's Paranoia? | E3 *** |
| 12. Subterranean Exposure | E5 *** |
| 13. Big Kenneth | E5 **** |
| 13a. Little K | E5 6a *** |
| 13b. Wee Craig | E5 6a |
| 14. Rory Rum the Story Man | E5 *** |
| 15. Where's Rory? | E3 *** |
| 16. Dun Moaning | E2 *** |
| 16a. Kev's Variation Finish | E4 * |

ALTANDHU Bouldering

OS Sheet 15 (NB 971 132)

At Altandhu follow the left-hand road fork towards Reiff for 1km.

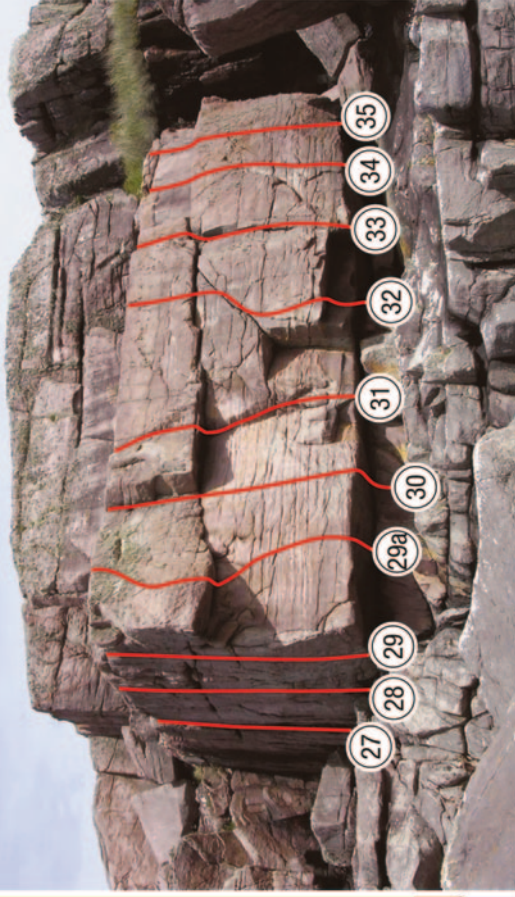
From lay-by, cross fence and descend grassy gully.

The tiny crags of perfect sandstone are quick drying and face south. Accessible at most states of tide.



Sketch map not to scale.

1. 3a isolated wall
2. 3b east wall of Pinnacle
3. 3b broken corner
4. 5a direct up arete*
5. HVS 5b 6m black wall with two breaks*
6. 4a south wall of Pinnacle*
7. 3c flakes to left of 6
8. 4b inset corner*
9. 5b shallow pod
10. 6a/b smooth wall not using right edge*
11. 5c edge using outer crack, bold at top
12. 3a easy slab or crack
13. 5a/b hanging arete, bold*
14. 5a left end of ledge, good mantle*
15. 4c right end of ledge
16. 4b prow from the left*
17. 5b prow direct
18. 4a cracks and flakes
19. 5c undercut arete from right, bad landing, bold at bottom*
- 19a. 6a wall between 19 & 20*
20. 5c layaway flakes direct*
21. 5b shallow corner
22. 4b inset corner
23. 5a wall and pointed block, brisky top*
24. 3b short arete



25. 3a little corner
26. 5c small wall
27. 3b black cracks, often wet
28. 4c broken cracks
29. 4c cracks near prow*
- 29a. 5c right side of hanging prow, bold*
30. 5a first hanging corner*
31. 4c second shallow corner to right*
32. 4b slanting crack and wall*
33. 3b crack and descent
34. 4b wall to right of crack
35. 5c wall left of edge, not using any holds on 34
36. 3b slab cracks on boulder
- 36a. 5c overhanging north side of boulder
37. 4a wet black wall
38. 4b arete direct
39. 4c inset wall to right
40. 3c undercut flake then step left
41. 4c slanting crack, often wet*
42. 4c crack to and over boulder*
43. 4c flake crack not using block at back
44. 3a slab wall
45. 4a black wall
46. 3a shallow corner
47. 3a shallow slab
48. 4b juggy south-facing wall

Corrie Fee:

Note: Dave Adam notes that *The Comb* was climbed by John Thomson & I. Robb in 1975, predating the 1986 ascent by A. Thomson and S. Cameron in 1986 (SMCJ 2008).

The Pyramid Continuation 120m Severe. Gwilym Lynn, Rachel Gill. 21 February 2009.

A continuation of *The Pyramid*, following the obvious line upwards. Climb a short chimney to a heathery ledge. Follow the line up the next buttress to below the final steepening. Climb up the arete and cracks to the right to reach the top of the buttress.

GLEN ESK, Bruntwood Craig:

Rock and Two Veg 200m HVS. Duncan Tunstall, Andy Nisbet. 10 June 2008. An old-fashioned route on the steep cliff which holds *Eagles Fall* on its left side. Start below a quartz dyke which lead up towards a large triangular roof high up (biggest roof on the cliff).

1. 25m Climb just right of the dyke line, then go diagonally left well beyond it to a grassy area below a gully.
2. 45m Go right to near the dyke line, then back left, mostly on rock. Go up a vague gully, then make a long traverse right in jungle, until a tricky move up gains a fine perch on a block.
3. 30m Move up right, then traverse back left into a gully (above the dyke line) and climb to a large vegetated area below the triangular roof. Move left to belay.
4. 45m 4c Gain and climb a hanging slab which leads above the roof to a platform. A spectacular pitch on good rock.
5. 45m 4c An awkward short wall gains a ramp of steep heather which leads to a final wall.
6. 10m Finish up left.

GLEN ESK, Craig Maskeldie:

Bouncing Balls 230m V,5. Simon Richardson, Duncan Tunstall. 15 February 2009.

The leftmost gully-depression on the cliff north of Carloch (approx. NO 394 793). Avoid the first short steep icefall on the left and then continue by the easiest line up the second icefall (70m). Continue for 50m up easy snow to reach the headwall where it is cut by a steep gully. Climb the gully for 20m, continue up a steep corner and exit right on to easy ground (35m). Continue more easily to the top (75m).

Craig Maskeldie, North Face (NO 388 798):

Unich Gully 200m I. Dave Adam 24 January 2009.

An obvious wide gully, situated to the left of the main buttress that extends towards the Falls of Unich.

Dochty Gully 200m II. Dave Adam. 10 February 2009.

A narrow gully to the left of the pyramid shaped buttress bordering *Unich Gully*. Contains two small ice pitches.

GLEN ESK, Couternach (NO 413 837):

This sunny south-east facing crag can be seen from Queen's Well in Glen Mark. It cuts across the hillside of the south-east spur of Knowe of Crippley just left of the track leading up to Mount Keen. The climbing is on good blocky schist in an idyllic situation. The routes were climbed on sight, so a little vegetation remains.

Boom and Bust 30m HVS 5b. Simon Richardson, Duncan Tunstall. 15 June 2008.

The leftmost buttress is split into three tiers, and best climbed in three short pitches. Climb the initial wall (4b), and then surmount the prominent roof via a crack (5b). Finish up the left edge of the headwall via a hanging scoop. (5a).

Spiky Arete 30m Very Difficult. Duncan Tunstall, Simon Richardson. 15 June 2008.

The prominent arete of stacked blocks, situated left of centre, provides a good fun climb.

Black Monday 40m Very Difficult. Duncan Tunstall, Simon Richardson. 21 September 2008.

The next feature right is a smooth slab split by a terrace at one-quarter height. Climb an awkward crack on the left side of the lower wall and continue up the left arete in a fine position to the top.

Singing in the Rain 30m VS 4b. Simon Richardson, Duncan Tunstall. 15 June 2008.

The central buttress is the most prominent feature on the cliff. Start on the left side of a prow on the front face of the buttress just right of a vegetated corner. Climb a blunt rib to a ledge, and continue up the wide crack above to the capping roof. Traverse left along a ramp and finish up a short diagonal crack.

Speculation 30m HVS 5a. Duncan Tunstall, Simon Richardson. 21 September 2008.

A prominent crack-line splits the right side of Central Buttress. Start by climbing twin cracks (awkward – rest taken) to gain an easy ramp. Step right into the main crack-line and climb this over a bulge and finish up the steep continuation crack and off-width.

Tulips from Amsterdam 35m VS 4c. Simon Richardson, Duncan Tunstall. 21 September 2008.

The corner right of Central Buttress is a prominent feature, but very vegetated at its base. Start 10m right of the corner below a series of cracked blocks in the steep wall. Climb through the blocks, climb a short left-facing corner to a large vegetated ledge. Continue up the right side of the slab above and finish up an easy flake-crack.

New Deal 35m VS 4c. Simon Richardson, Duncan Tunstall. 21 September 2008.

The wall right of *Tulips from Amsterdam* is defined by a striking arete in its upper half. This route climbs the corner to the right of the arete. Start 5m right of *Tulips from Amsterdam* and climb a left-facing fault bounding the left edge of

the imposing lower wall. Move right at its top on good holds to gain the corner, which leads steeply to the top.

Market Crash 20m Very Difficult. Duncan Tunstall, Simon Richardson. 21 September 2008.

The furthest right buttress on the cliff (overlooking the Mount Keen path). Climb a short slab and pull over the overlap above to reach easy ground. A fun-looking line, but spoilt by easy ground to the left.

NORTH EAST OUTCROPS

SOUTH COVE, The Priest:

The Worm 15m E5 6a *. Tim Rankin, Piotr Wisthal. June 2008.

The thin crack up the wall on the left side of the *The Spinechiller* arete gives a serious pitch. Belay at the base of *The Mitre* and hand-traverse the shelf of *Invertebrates Wall* right. Pull over the roof and up to a hand ledge below the crack and dubious protection (RPs in opposition and skyhook in a quartz pocket above). Now either climb the wall on tiny crimps or palm up the arete to a break and the first real protection. Continue more easily up the left side of the arete to a left-slanting groove and finish up this. Inspected on abseil.

The In-betweeners 15m E1 5a. Tim Rankin, Piotr Wisthal (on-sight). June 2008.

A worthwhile route up the left wall of *The Mitre* belay below the line. Climb a left-slanting crack through a niche and continue boldly to below the upper arete. Climb this direct or on the left to a ledge, finish up the short crack above.

SOUTH COVE, The Kettle Walls:

Fearless 25m E5 6a *. Piotr Wisthal, Tim Rankin. May 2008.

On the left side of *The Spigolo* is an obvious crack up the south-facing black overhanging wall. This impressive and often-spied line climbs a thin crack to finish up the well-defined left-hand upper crack. Approach the base of the route by abseil from stakes either right of the line and take a poor hanging belay at a flake or better abseil left of the line to a sloping platform and belay from the rope. The route is on generally excellent quartzite but let down by a friable section at the start and middle but will be worth 2 stars when properly clean. Previously top-roped.

SOUTH COVE, Red Hole South (Optimist's Walls):

Weak Ender 15m VS. Martin Holland, Pamela Millar. 2 July 2009.

A hanging V-groove left of *Day Tripper*. The climbing and pro were good up to the final grassy V-groove, which was fairly unpleasant.

BERRYMUIR HEAD:

The Vanishing Pool 25m E7/8 6c *. Tim Rankin, Dan Richardson. 16 April 2008.

A fine but unbalanced pitch featuring an unprotected short intense crux up the

wall left of *Recess Route*. Boldly climb the overhanging wall on tiny holds to where it joins the arete. Now traverse left and rock up on to the slab and the first protection (2 micro-cams in a tiny break down left). Step back right and climb the fine slab to twin faults. Move left to a large niche and junction with *Toxic Terrestrials*. Continue up this to the top. Head pointed but graded for an on-sight ascent assuming the rock pool hasn't dried out or been emptied!

BERRYMUIR HEAD, Gully Wall:

The Septic Spaceman 20m E3 5c **. Russell Birkett. Dan Richardson. 8 May 2008.

A direct line crossing *The Flatulent Alien*, giving a good sustained pitch. Climb *The Flatulent Alien* to below the steep bulge where that route moves right. Pull through the bulge following the faint curving crack to gain the twin breaks above. Continue direct up the bold yellow wall and shallow corner above, with a short wall to finish.

CRAIG STIRLING, West Buttress:

Escape the Grind 25m E3 6a. Tim Rankin, Gordon Lennox. June 2008.

A worthwhile route if only to avoid the start of *Green Vomit!* Start from the tidal ledge right of *Bone Machine*. Climb a thin crack up the right side of the black wall to a slab. Step left, then climb the crack through the roof until forced to rock right on to the slab by the second roof. Trend right across the slab in to *Green Vomit* and finish up this (reasonable but HVS 4c). Inspected on abseil.

The following two routes are approached by abseil direct over the edge from the two stakes. The rope should be left in place to aid topping out and will run to the right of the lines.

Prayers for Rain 20m E2 5c*. Tim Rankin, Mark Scott (on-sight). July 2008.

A fine pitch up the diagonal crack in the wall right of *Green Vomit*. Start 3m right of *Green Vomit*. Climb to a ledge and follow the crack until just below and right of a hanging corner. Step left and climb the corner on to a slab. The slanting corner above is loose so instead swing right around the arete and climb the cleaned slab up right to its highest point and the abseil rope. Belay or pull up the last 5m of near vertical grass using the rope to the top.

Disintegration 20m E5 6b *. Tim Rankin, Dave Cowan. July 2008.

The wall and thin crack right again before the obvious crack of *The North Wind Blows*. Trend right up excellent black rock to a ledge below the thin crack (micro-wire on the right in a pocket); make a bold step up to jugs and arrange protection. Stand on the jugs and rock up to a quartz hold above the break (crux); span left to an obvious block and protection. Follow the crack right over the bulge to good holds, step back left and climb to a break. Pull right, then left over a bulge and continue direct up the fine overlapping slab to the abseil rope and belay or pull up the last 5m of near vertical grass using the rope to the top. Cleaned and inspected on abseil.

Rotter's Rock:

Powerpole 10m E4 6a *. Tim Rankin, Piotr Wisthal. August 2008.

A good steep route up the overhanging wall left of *Powerfinger*. Start 2m down left from *Powerfinger* and climb a slanting crack to a break. Continue up pockets to the next break and use a pocket up right below the curving overlap to gain the next break (crux). Finish straight up. A good sustained route well cleaned from the first ascent. High in the grade. Previously top-roped.

NEWTONHILL, Harbour Wall:

Back in the Saddle 15m E5 6a ***. Tim Rankin, Piotr Wisthal. June 2008

A stunning route climbing the grossly overhanging black groove and roof right of *Desederio*. Climb the groove to the obvious split block and good resting saddle on the edge. Move up left to below the roof and use a side pull to gain the lip and Friend placement. Power over the roof and climb the wall and blunt arete above to finish. Very well protected yet committing! Top wall inspected on abseil.

War of the Winds 15m E6 6b **. Tim Rankin (unsec, head pointed). July 2008.

Left of *Ripper Roo* is a fine wall leading to a layback flake through the very lip of the cave. Start below a small niche at 2m; climb through the niche to a break. Move left and up to an obvious pinch and slot; gain a good hold up and left almost on the edge of the wall (crucial 000 cam in break on right). Pull back right, then up to jugs and a perfect no-hands rest in the slot on the left. Step back right and power over the bulge and up the layback crack through the lip (crux). Swing right to jugs and triumphantly pull over the final bulge and belay on the ledge (large cam). Traverse grass ledges off right with care. A superb and well-protected route, outrageously steep on excellent rock.

DYKES CLIFF:

Sills Route 15m Hard Severe 4b. Gwilym Lynn. 27 August 2008.

Continue to traverse north from the main part of Dykes Cliff following the easiest line above the high tide mark until it is possible to scramble up to the cliff-top, near where a concrete wall protrudes.

COLLIESTON, The Graip:

Dinnae Faa E3 5b *. Tristram Fox, Michael McGhie. 17 May 2009.

Surprisingly independent climbing up the thin cracks in the blank-looking slab, to the left of *Elbow Groove*, and the right of *The Keyway*. Finish direct from the small ledge. Quite bold.

Note: George Allan notes that *The Vineyard* (SMCJ 2004) shares the same top section on the arete with *Never Mix Graip and Grain* (SMCJ 2007).

MEIKLE PARTANS:

Sonar 10m E7 6c **. Tim Rankin (head pointed). 9 April 2008.

The logical direct finish to *Blind Optimism* continuing up the grossly overhanging arete and upper crack. Climb *Blind Optimism* to the good hold and a fight to place a crucial small cam (first crux!). Gain a good flat hold on the right arete then use the crack to make desperate moves up the left side of the arete to better holds. Swing left and pull over using the crack; continue triumphantly up the easier crack and arete to finish.

THE RED WALL:

Rifle 25m E3 6a. Tim Rankin, Piotr Wisthal. 6 May 2008.

A worthwhile eliminate up the fine wall between *The Arrow* and *Tomahawk*. Pull over the overhang just right of *The Arrow* at good flakes to gain a good rest at an obvious thin flake (good small nuts). Now either climb straight up with great difficulty to gain a break (6b very eliminate) or use an obvious slot up right on the edge of the *Tomahawk* crack to move back up left to the break. Step left and climb straight up to the edge of the wall. Continue up the edge and easy ground above to the top.

Note: A doubled 50m rope only just reached the top on both this and *Tomahawk*; therefore both *Tomahawk* and *The Bow* are 25m long.

THE SEA-QUARRIES:

To the south of the stone ruin above South Buttress is a small hanging grass bowl easily seen from the top of the Red Tower to the right and above *Bananaman*. Below this bowl is a fine slab of excellent rock seamed with cracks. A good choice when the wind is from the south and west when it provides an excellent and easily accessible sun trap. Descend into the bowl from either the south or the north down steep grass and rock steps. At the back south corner is a short steep slab, just left of this is a good thread belay. A 20m abseil from here leads to good belays at the base of the slab.

Piotr's Groove 18m Hard Severe *. Piotr Wisthal, Tim Rankin. 24 January 2008.

The most obvious feature is a shallow but well-defined left-facing corner at the right end of the slab. Start from the gap and climb a shallow groove to enter the corner from the left. Follow the pleasant corner then easier ground up left to the abseil point.

Pole Full of Passion 18m E2 5c *. Tim Rankin, Piotr Wisthal. 24 January 2008.

An innocuous-looking route, climb the shallow groove as *Piotr's Groove* but continue to the small roof. Use flakes on the left to move up then make a difficult rock up right to gain the crack again, climb this to a ledge and finish straight up.

North East Pole 20m VS 4c *. Tim Rankin, Piotr Wisthal. 24 January 2008.

The next crack left again started from a ledge at the base of the gap. Climb the crack easily at first until a difficult layback up flakes leads to a ledge. Climb the slab groove above which leads to the abseil point.

LOGIE HEAD:

Note: The cracks forming the finish of *The Central Belt* are HVS 5b climbed from the bottom. There is another crack-line to its right which is also HVS 5b. Though looking trivial, the climbing is surprisingly intricate.

REDHYTHE POINT, West Wall:

What Swimming Pool! 12m E1 5b *. John Lyall. 1 July 2008.

Climb a thin overhanging crack and pillar between *Slingsby's Last Stand* and *Stiral Sparecase*.

Overhanging Wall:

The best starting point for the next three routes is from a non-tidal small ledge and good belays at the base of the Y-groove of *Rachel's Rescue*.

Sir Galahad 10m Very Difficult *. Pete Hill, Ian Broadley. 29 July 2009.

Step up from the ledge and when possible move onto the black slab to the left of *Rachel's Rescue*. Follow this keeping left, exiting via a small broken slot at the top.

Sir Launcelot 8m Difficult. Pete Hill, Ian Broadley. 29 July 2009.

Climb directly upwards, taking the right branch of the Y.

Castle Anthrax 10m Severe **. Pete Hill, Ian Broadley. 29 July 2009.

Step right from the belay ledge and follow the obvious hand-traverse rising rightwards.

Python Wall:

This is an area of short routes, excellent for beginners and those learning to lead. Towards the end of the promontory, approximately 25m beyond the top of *Sir Launcelot*, a large slab drops down to the right (east) which allows either an easy scramble or a short abseil to a ledge that is only affected at very high tides. Climbs are described from right to left.

Midget 8m Very Difficult *. Pete Hill, Ian Broadley. 29 July 2009.

From the base of the descent, follow the slab staying just right of *Piglet*.

Piglet 8m Very Difficult *. Pete Hill, Ian Broadley. 29 July 2009.

Two metres left of the descent, a blocky crack leads to a small niche and a right-trending crack. Climb up to the niche and then the crack on the right, following its continuation to the top.

Winston 8m Difficult. Pete Hill, Ian Broadley. 29 July 2009.

Starting at the same point, take the left-trending fault-line.

Dingo 8m Very Difficult. Pete Hill, Ian Broadley. 29 July 2009.

Two metres left of the previous route, take the left-trending fault-line that is only obvious in its upper section.

Zoot 10m Moderate. Pete Hill, Ian Broadley. 29 July 2009.

At the left end of the ledge, take the obvious slanting fault-line.

Note: The routes *Wobble* and *Cardinal Biggles* (SMCJ 2008) had been previously climbed by Pete Hill & Paula Griffin on 30 September 2005, named *Dennis's Mother* and *Lovely Filth*.

Camelot Slabs (NJ 576 669):

This slab offers a number of routes in the lower grades. The climbing is far

better than it looks, the rock solid and the protection generally very good. Care should be taken of a few small fragile flakes in the upper reaches. The rock architecture around is impressive and it is an excellent place for swimming in calm seas.

Approach: The slabs are reached by taking the normal approach to Redhythe Pont until just before the ruin. Take a sharp right and follow a rib of grass downwards, just east of a hummock, to the top of the slab which is seen from some way off. Descent to the ledge, which is only covered at high tide, is either by an easy abseil on the left (looking out), or by down-climbing the obvious wide chimney.

The first two routes take a little while to dry out.

King Arthur 18m Severe 4b. Pete Hill, Ian Broadley. 31 July 2009.

Around the corner on the left of the slab, this is the far left line. Start above a small boulder beach at an alcove and go straight up, trending left towards the top to avoid the grass. Take care with the rock in the upper reaches.

The Black Knight 18m VS. Pete Hill, Ian Broadley. 31 July 2009.

A metre to the left around the corner of the main slab is an obvious rising crack. Follow this, starting at some white boulders, to a ledge, then more easily over the bulging slab above.

The next five routes are on the main face of the slab.

Sir Robin 23m Severe 4a *. Pete Hill, Ian Broadley. 31 July 2009.

At the left edge of the slab, take the crack to the ledge and then continue straight up to the top.

Roger the Shrubber 20m Mild Severe. Pete Hill, Ian Broadley. 31 July 2009.

Near the centre of the slab at head-height is a quartz pocket. Start just left of this up a leftwards slanting crack, then head straight to the top.

Bridgekeeper 20m Very Difficult. Pete Hill, Ian Broadley. 31 July 2009.

Start at the quartz pocket and head directly upwards.

Brother Maynard 20m Difficult *. Pete Hill, Ian Broadley. 31 July 2009.

Two metres right of the quartz pocket is a shattered crack-line, which is followed direct, keeping left towards the top to avoid a grass-filled gully. Much better than it looks.

Prince Herbert 15m Moderate. Pete Hill, Ian Broadley. 31 July 2009.

Two metres right again is a blocky crack, which is followed to a grassy ledge.

Right of *Prince Herbert* is an obvious chimney. Right again is the north-facing wall of an easy-angled slab. The next climb starts at a small ledge only accessible at low tide.

Tim the Enchanter 10m VS 4c *. Pete Hill, Ian Broadley. 31 July 2009.

From the ledge, step onto the wall and follow the centre of it in a rising traverse leftwards, topping out at the extreme left end.

ROSEHEARTY:

Stone Country 15m E6 **. Guy Robertson, Trevor Wood (both led). May 2009.

An exciting and sustained route starting up the crack just left of *Heart of Stone* before crimping left to the big flake then continuing direct. Climb the thin crack immediately left of *Heart of Stone* to place a high runner where obvious edges lead left. Follow these out to the flake (Friends) where more hard moves gain an obvious line of pockets and, hopefully, the top.

Note: Heavily cleaned on a top-rope prior to the first ascent, the section by the flake is now solid. The remainder of the rock is good.

Rosy Futures 20m E3 *. Guy Robertson, Trevor Wood. May 2009.

Eliminate but with good rock and fine climbing. Start below the short wall right of *Raining Roses*. Climb a thin crack then trend up left to the large boss on *Raining Roses*. Continue up left into a short groove and exit this to a junction with *Cocaine*. Finish straight up through the notch.

DEESIDE, VAT BURN:

A number of climbs have been done near NO 420 998. Details later.

GLEN CLOVA, Central Crag:

Bark at the Moon 15m E8 6c ***. Tim Rankin, Guy Robertson (head pointed). May 2008.

The stunning overhanging prow and crack up the left edge of the wall. Start from a good pedestal belay as for *West Side Story*, the best approach to which is either a rising traverse from the below *Empire of the Sun* or from directly below up the ridge and groove (Difficult). Climb juggy hollow flakes just right of the arete to a good flat hold at a break from where protection can be arranged. Gain a sloper on the lip above and make a sequence of desperate slap up side-pulls to a good hidden hold at the base of the hanging groove. A further hard move up the groove leads to good holds; swing right then up to jugs and a rest. Move out left, then up to pull over at the crack. Excellent powerful climbing, well protected after a bold crux.

Sunset Song Direct 30m E6 6b. Iain Small. 24 May 2009.

Follow *Sunset Song* to where the hanging corner can be gained from the left. Instead make a long undercut move to gain spaced holds leading up left to better holds.

HIGHLAND OUTCROPS**POLLDUBH, Dundee Buttress:**

The Howff 20m E2 5c. Jonnie Williams, Anna Trenaman. 5 October 2008.

Initially takes the same line as *Heading for the Howff*, but takes the direct finish up the left corner with good micro-wires for protection.

Styx Buttress:

Inimitable 20m E8 6c *. Dave Macleod. 9 June 2009.

The flake and blank scoop in the left wall below *Resurrection*. Start at the foot of the wide fault and layback up the flake to its termination (low wires). Continue up and move leftwards with difficulty to eventually gain a jug in the scoop by a sustained sequence. Finish easily into *Resurrection*.

That Hollow Feeling 20m E1 5b **. Bob Hamilton, Steve Kennedy. 19 April 2009

Climbs the steep wall overlooking the initial slab of *Fidelity* leading onto the slab of *Right Wall*. Make a few moves up the slab then pull steeply out right into a V-shaped recess. Undercling a hollow-sounding block in the headwall and make an awkward rock over move onto the slab on the right. Climb the slab directly above to the tree and finish up *Right Wall*.

Black's Buttress:

Avalon 30m HVS 4c *. Steve Kennedy, Bob Hamilton. 10 June 2009.

The slab immediately left of *Shergar*. Slightly eliminate but nice climbing. Quite bold. Start at the lowest point of the buttress just left of the birch tree (close to the second pitch of *Zelos*). Climb up and rightwards to a quartz seam (crossing *Knuckleduster*). Climb the seam then directly up the slab to the right of a small overhang. Finish by some thin moves just right of the edge.

DUNTELCHAIG, Dracula Buttress:

Transvision Clasp 15m E6 6b. Rich Betts, Nick Carter. 7 May 2008.

The arete left of *Cyclops* climbed on its right-hand side. Hard climbing with just enough protection. An in-situ thread was used on the first ascent. Head pointed.

Monsters Edge 15m E4 6b. Rich Betts, Nick Carter. April 2008.

The overhanging arete left of *Frankenstein*. Climb through the roof as for *Frankenstein*, then break left to climb the hanging arete on its right-hand side with a long reach between the obvious breaks. Finish up the slab. Head pointed.

Note: *BFG* (SMCJ 2007) should be HVS.

The Main Crag:

Dark Vision 30m E2 6a. Andy Tibbs, Davy Moy. 27 May 2008.

Start right of the monolith where the crag base turns and starts to go uphill.

1. 15m 6a Pull steeply into an overhung crack. Climb out leftwards onto the arete and climb this and easier ground to huge flakes.
2. 15m 5b Climb cracks in the wall above which lead to a small pine tree (on Druim).

The Latch Key Kid 27m E2 5c. Andy Tibbs, Davy Moy. 30 May 2008.

Start 3m left of *Misty Crack* where the ledge narrows. Climb a steep narrow corner and pull out left at its top. Continue up and climb the right of two cracks which leads directly to the small pine tree.

Too Strong for Scotland 8m E4 6a. Andy Tibbs. 10 June 2008.

On the steep wall above *Excavator* is a right-slanting wide crack. It can be

approached by descending from the abseil trees at the top of *Misty Crack* or *Dragonfly*. Climb the crack which is steep, sustained and well protected.

Mojo Slab 15m E3 5b. Davy Moy, Will Wilkinson. 30 June 2008.

On the steepest cleanest part of the slab, 3m right of *Excavator*. Start at a flake feature beneath a wee tree at mid height. Go up the flake to the tree (runner), then straight up to finish on a grassy/mossy slope (wire for the final move). Sustained climbing with hardest move onto the grass (not much pro).

BINNEIN SHUAS, West Section:

Medusa 30m HVS 5a. Andy Nisbet, Jonathan Preston. 20 May 2008.

A crack-line between *Blaeberry Grooves* and *Gorgon*. Start immediately right of *Blaeberry Grooves*. Move right, up and back left to gain and climb the crack-line which is about 2m right of *Blaeberry's* crack-line.

Note: *Blaeberry Grooves* is very good and worth a star or two. It and nearby routes can be climbed as a single pitch to a ledge (as the above route did), omitting the easier upper pitch. An abseil means several routes can be climbed. *Gorgon* is HVS 5b, maybe E1. The descriptions of the lines left of *Blaeberry Grooves* make little sense. *Comraich* and *Bearberry Groove* might even be the same and a good quality direct line was climbed by the above party at E1 5b which could fit either description. *Cowberry Groove* certainly is misplaced at the grade.

Note: *Gorgon* was first climbed by J.R. Mackenzie (unseconded) in 1971.

CRAIG A' BARNES, Polney Crag:

Aretenophobia 15m E2 5b. Michael Barnard, Georgianna Watson. 11 October 2008.

Climb the right side of the arete between *Poison Ivy* and *Consolation Corner*. Follow the latter route through its initial bulge before stepping left to follow the arete. A bit eliminate, but not overly so and gives some good bold moves.

BEN NEVIS, AONACHS, CREAG MEAGAI DH

BEN NEVIS, Observatory Buttress:

Point Blank 350m HVS. John Lyall, Andy Nisbet. 29 June 2009.

A summer ascent based on the winter line, but picking cleaner dry rock over wet grooves.

1. 45m Climb the rib, as for pitch 1 of *Left Edge Route*.
2. 45m 4c Go diagonally right into a corner and back diagonally left into the groove of *Left Edge Route*. The chimney-crack above (*Point Blank* winter) was wet, so move right as for *Left Edge Route* and belay some 10m up its slab-ramp.
3. 25m 5a Make a rising traverse left across a clean slab to step into the chimney-crack. After a couple of moves up, climb its right arete until forced to step back into the chimney-crack. Make a thin move to gain a hanging belay.
4. 25m 4c Go left across a thin slab to overlook *Point Five Gully* (as for the winter route, but 10m not 5m). Climb the steep ramp to a terrace above.
5. 35m 4b Climb the slanting groove to another terrace.

6. 45m 4c The winter route seems to gain the crest more easily but a complex line was necessary, slanting left up sloping shelves until a long step right gained it. Trend right up steep ground to where the angle eased.
7. 8. and 9. 130m Follow the easing crest to the top.

Echo Wall:

Echo Wall 100m Ungraded ****. Dave MacLeod. 28 July 28th.

A spectacular route taking the huge sharp arete of Echo Wall, well seen from Tower Ridge or when ascending Observatory Gully. Poorly protected in general with groundfall potential at 20m near the end of the crux section.

1. 30m Climb easy slabs to a belay at the foot of the grossly overhanging arete of the buttress.
2. 70m Pull into an overhung groove and exit this with immediate difficulty. A hard and poorly protected boulder problem leads to the roof and an upside down rest (wires, poor Camelot 6). Pull leftwards over the roof with desperate climbing up the wall just right of the arete to a shakeout (RP & skyhook in suspect rock). Move left to the arete and make very serious moves up this to a good spike and reasonable gear. Continue with more ease up the arete (runout) to a small ledge (drop your left-hand rope to relieve drag). Continue up steep flakes in a great position to gain easy ground and a short solo to reach *Tower Ridge*.

The Brass Monkey 135m VII,8. Tim Marsh, Pete Davies. 5 December 2008.

A superb mixed climb following the summer line throughout. Large hexes and Friend 4 useful.

1. 40m Climb the slab in a direct line towards the corner. Belay beneath a short wall level with the Echo Wall arete.
2. 20m Overcome the short wall on the left on thin ice and follow the icy upper slab to base of the corner.
3. 10m Climb the cracks in the corner for 3m, then make strenuous moves right (crux) to reach more cracks leading to a belay.
4. 40m Climb the sustained off-width crack, exiting right to a good ledge.
5. 25m Continue up the corner-crack, steeply at first to where it becomes a chimney. From the top of the chimney, back and foot outwards in a superb position to top out on the chimney's right wall.

Goodeve's Buttress:

Tales of the Unexpected 200m IV,4. Robin Clothier, Simon Richardson, Andy Forsyth. 11 April 2009.

The buttress between *The Gutter* and *The White Line*. The first pitch has probably been climbed before. Start by climbing *Glover's Chimney* for 100m and belay below the prominent icy groove cutting the right wall.

1. 60m Climb the V-groove, exiting steeply left at its top. Move up snow and belay just right of the icefall of *The Gutter*.
2. 50m Climb a line of ice on the left flank of the buttress for 20m, then pull right onto the buttress itself. Move up, step right and pull over a steep step to a good ledge.
3. 30m Step rightwards across a gully cutting into the right flank of the buttress,

move up a steep slabby corner, then trend right up an icy groove to reach the top of the buttress.

4. 60m Continue up easy ground to the top.

Close Encounters 140m III,5. Simon Richardson. 13 April 2009.

A counter-diagonal to *Tales of the Unexpected*. Start just left of the upper section of *The White Line* (most easily reached by climbing *Glover's Chimney* for 150m and traversing right across the snow terrace). Climb a snow ramp leading right, and then cut back left up the gully that cuts into the right flank of the buttress. Continue up the gully to the buttress crest then move up to a steep chimney blocked by an overhang. Pull steeply out right (crux) and continue up the easy ground above to the plateau.

The Alpine Princess 140m IV,4. Simon Richardson, Zoe Hart. 24 February 2009.

A natural line of weakness up the left side of the buttress. The left side of the buttress (delineated by the ice gully of *Hale Bopp Groove* to its left) is cut by two diverging snow ramps.

1. 40m Start at the foot of *Hale Bopp Groove* and take the upper wider ramp to the foot of a steep icy gully with a flat chockstone wedged across its top. Climb the gully, squeeze under the chockstone, and exit right onto a good ledge.

2. 40m Step left around the buttress to enter the slanting groove of *Hale Bopp Groove* and climb this to the top of the buttress. Alternatively and better, climb the rib between *The White Line* and *Hale Bopp Groove* by climbing thinly iced grooves past a steepening to an impasse. Step left, and continue on ice to finish just right of the final gully of *The White Line*. (Simon Richardson, 14 April 2009.)

3. 60m Continue up easy ground to the top.

Three Men on a Rope 160m III. Andy Forsyth, Simon Richardson, Robin Clothier. 12 April 2009.

A natural line of weakness cutting right across the front face of Goodeve's Buttress. Start by climbing the lower of the two diverging ramps and continue up easy mixed ground to belay beside a large tower-shaped block. (50m – junction with *Goodytwoshoes*.) Continue up and right in the same line below the smooth wall cut by the faults of *Techno Wall* and *The Borg Collective* to join the ramp section of *Beam Me Up Scotty*. Follow this to the steep icy bulge (50m) and continue more easily to the top (60m).

Big Wednesday 140m VI,6. Maxime Turgeon, Simon Richardson, Ian Parnell, Zoe Hart. 25 February 2009.

A good mixed route based on the well-defined left-facing groove in the upper part of the buttress.

1. 25m Start 10m right of the lower ramp of *Three Men on a Rope* below a steep wall cut by a fault. Climb the fault and exit through a bulge onto easier ground. Move up to the foot of a short steep groove defined by a flake on its left side.

2. 15m Climb the groove (often icy) to a good ledge that leads right to the foot of the well-defined left-facing groove.

3. 40m Climb the groove moving left through a bulge at its top. An excellent and well-protected mixed pitch.

4. 60m Continue up easy ground to the top. (Note that the second pitch was interchanged with *The Alpine Princess* on the first ascent.)

Creag Coire na Ciste:

Note: Rich Cross and Nick Williams made the second ascent of *Cold Play* (VIII,8) up the steep pillar right of *Archangel*. They found an alternative crux pitch, which they named the *Snow Patrol Variant* (VIII,8).

South Trident Buttress:

The Minge VII,8. Ed Edwards, Pete Macpherson. 6 February 2009.

Start just below the obvious black wide crack at the foot of a right-trending icy ramp.

1. 15m Climb the icy ramp on thin ice and turf and belay below the crack-cum-groove of *The Minge* summer line. About 6–8m further up the ramp there is a large block which is used to belay, but it is worth extending so the belayer is below the next pitch.

2. 20m Climb the crack-cum-groove on poor tool placements (bold) until it becomes a shallow left-facing corner below a bulging crack. Climb the bulging crack with poor sloping footholds onto the slab above. Belay halfway up the slab.

3. 40m Traverse right across the slab on invisible footholds and tiny tool placements to the crack on the right. Climb the crack (strenuous but good gear) to an easing in angle and follow the groove/chimney system above to turfy ramps.

4. and 5. 70m Follow a choice of lines up turfy grooves to the right of the ridge to reach the crest.

Central Trident Buttress:

Metamorphosis 105m VIII,9. Iain Small, Gareth Hughes. 23 March 2009.

A winter line taking the *Cranium Start*, then gaining the corner.

1. 25m Follow the deep crack of *Cranium Start* to belay in the cave.

2. 25m Take the ramp/fault line out right and tenuously cross the wall by twin diagonal seams. Gain the corner and follow it to a long ledge on the right wall.

3. 30m Make bold thin moves up and right to gain the flake-line. Struggle to the top of the huge flake, then launch up the blank-looking wall above, leading to easier ground.

4. 15m Climb to easier ground.

Note: A winter ascent of *Heidbanger* (with a direct start) by Rich Cross & Andy Benson on 23 November 2008. No details.

Note from Colin Moody:

Centurion pitch 4 should read, 'Move back into the corner and climb it to an overhanging crack. Traverse left across the wall and climb the arete on the left to a stance.'

Carn Dearg Buttress:

Sassenach IX,9. Andy Turner, Tony Stone. 9 March 2009.

The summer route was followed throughout with the crux being the overhanging groove and flake of the second pitch. In-situ gear from a previous attempt made the crux easier. The squeeze chimney higher up was tech 8.

Note: This route has been considered for many years. A potential attempt (which probably would have failed) by Brian Sprunt & Andy Nisbet in 1979 was thwarted by lack of snow. Snowy and stormy conditions allowed it to be snowy and iced in the crux groove, and judging from the pictures, no complaints about full winter condition.

North Wall Carn Dearg:

The Cone Collectors 310m VIII,7. Iain Small, Simon Richardson, 14 December 2008.

A good varied mixed route up the wall left of *Macphee's Route*. Pitch 3 is very serious and merits the overall grade in its own right.

1. 70m Start by following the ramp of *Easy Way* that cuts up the buttress. At its top move right past a tiny pine tree (the origin of the route name) to a join a second ramp (taken by *Macphee's Route*) trending back right. Belay below a steep crack cutting through the wall above.
2. 30m Climb the crack to the terrace above. An excellent pitch.
3. 30m The next tier is comprised of blank and unhelpful rock. The only line of weakness is a diagonal right-to-left break that leads into a hanging V-groove. Cross the fault (steep and barely protected) to enter the V-groove. Climb this (strenuous) to the top of the wall. A daunting and very serious pitch.
4. 60m Move easily up and right up the mixed ground above to belay below the impending deep chimney cutting the left side of the triangular wall right of Waterfall Gully.
5. 40m Climb the chimney (reminiscent of a mini *Gully of the Gods*) over a couple of overhanging chockstones. Another sustained pitch.
6. to 7. 80m Continue up the upper section of *Waterfall Gully* for two pitches to join the ridge section of *Ledge Route*.

Cousins' Buttress note:

Cousins' Buttress is named after the two cousins C.W. Walker and H. Walker who made the first ascent. Accordingly it should be *Cousins' Buttress* not *Cousin's Buttress*.

MAMORES, Mullach nan Coirean:

Yo Bro 70m VIII,9. Dave MacLeod, Malcolm Kent. 14 December 2008.

The overhanging groove right of *Himalayan Shuffle*. The first 20m are very sustained and, in the first half, serious.

1. 35m Climb the overhanging groove with little respite to the angle change; continue on easier ground to large ledges.
2. 35m Continue easily on the same line to the ridge.

AONACH MOR, Coire an Lochain, North-East Face:

Note: Peter Duggan notes that at the bottom of p227 in the Ben Nevis Guide it

should say: 'The apex of the corrie rim is cut by a broad snow gully which lies almost due west of the lochan.'

Downstairs 100m III. Sonya Drummond, Andy Nisbet. 22 February 2009. The next icy groove right of *Ribbing Corner* (SMCJ 2007). Climb the groove and icy turf ground to below a steeper buttress (45m). Moving right would be easier but instead climb the icy buttress to below a final wall (35m). Pass this on the right and continue to the cornice (20m).

Lord's Groove 120m IV,4. Sonya Drummond, Andy Nisbet. 22 February 2009. The next icy line left of *Two Queens* (SMCJ 2007), but a lower tier was also climbed. Start at a prominent rib in the lower tier. Climb an icy groove immediately on its right and continue slightly leftwards to an icy right-facing corner in the steep wall above the terrace from which the routes to the right start (50m). Climb the steep corner and trend slightly left to an upper buttress (40m). Climb this to the cornice which was breached after a 10m traverse right across a scoop to the next ridge right (30m).

Web Buttress:

Off the Cuffs 100m III. Richard Gilbert, Richard Watson. 19 February 2009. Heading south from Web Buttress, the cliff base descends below a triangular buttress. This is about halfway between *The Web* and *Piranha*. Left of this buttress is a right-slanting gully (diagram provided). Climb the gully in two pitches to finish up steep snow leading to the cornice.

Ribbed Walls:

Man Friday (SMCJ 2007) was climbed by Bob Hamilton & Steve Kennedy in February 2004. No change of name or grade sought!

Monkey Buttress:

This is the proposed name for the buttress on the left side of the south defining ridge of Coire an Lochain. See SMCJ 2008 for more routes.

Chimpanzee 60m III. Simon Richardson. 1 January 2009. The prominent central line of ice to the left of *Monkey Business*. Climb up a wide gully, step right at a bulge and continue up the continuation gully to the top.

Muggle-Wump 70m II. Simon Richardson. 1 January 2009. The gully defining the right edge of the buttress containing *Monkey Puzzle*. Climb over a short bulge to reach a snow slope and follow this to the top.

AONACH MOR, WEST FACE:

Note: Andrew Moore & partner climbed the prominent dog-leg gully right of *Daim Buttress* at II/III in February 2009. Start up the left side of the gully and climb a short ice pitch up the rocky narrows. Head up right towards the snowfield just below a subsidiary buttress at half-height. Slant right up the snowfield, then trend up and left over some steepish turf steps to join the upper gully and thence to the easy upper ridge of *Daim Buttress* which leads directly to the summit cairn.

Gordon Macnair climbing Bloodlust (E1 5b) at Sheigra, on the SMC Easter Meet.
Photo: Noel Williams.





AONACH BEAG, North Face:

Through the Looking Glass 300m II. Simon Richardson. 1 January 2009.

The left-trending line of weakness defining the left edge of the easier-angled central section of cliff. Start left of *The Black Prince* and climb easy-angled ice to join the shallow line that leads up and left to join the *North-East Ridge*.

Graduate Gully 200m III. Simon Richardson, Roger Webb. 3 January 2009.

Left of *Mayfly* is a well-defined square-cut gully that cuts through the upper rocks on the face. Start as for *Mayfly* and climb snow up to the foot of the icefall. Trend left below the steep section of the icefall and follow a sort of icy gully/depression to reach a snow slope. Move left across this for 20m to enter the gully and climb this for 60m over a chockstone top join the *North-East Ridge* just above the Pinnacles.

AONACH BEAG, West Buttress:

Jurassic Shrimp 100m III,4. John Higham, John Hutchinson. 30 March 2008.

The line lies on the steep buttress that lies to the immediate right of *Blind Faith*. Take a descending traverse to the foot of the ridge from the Aonach Mor–Aonach Beag col. Follow the crest of the ridge on moderate ground and where the ridge becomes overhanging move right to find an ice gully that leads up to an ice pillar (40m). Follow the gully via the steep ice pillar back onto the crest of the ridge to belay on a small col (30m). Ascend the ridge behind the col for one pitch (30m), then easy ground leads to the plateau. Diagram provided.

AONACH BEAG, Stob Coire Bhealach:

Ledgemaster 180m IV,3 **. Bob Hamilton, Steve Kennedy, Mark Shaw. 1 November 2008.

Follows the prominent ledge system running rightwards across the upper part of the main face. The route finishes near the top of the upper ridge of *The Ramp*. Spectacularly exposed in places and quite serious for the grade. Start just right of the icefall at the foot of *Next Janeration*. A short step leads to the wide ledge which is traversed rightwards to a belay in the lower groove of *The Clare Effect* at the end of the initial ledge system (50m). Climb up and move right to surmount a steep icy corner, then climb directly up to the left end of the upper ledge system (25m). Pull steeply onto the ledge which is traversed horizontally right in an exposed position to a thread close to where the ledge eventually peters out (45m). From the end of the ledge climb steep mixed ground (left of the finish of *Helter Skelter*), then move up rightwards to finish on the ridge (60m). Easy ground leads to the summit.

AONACH BEAG, An Aghaidh Garbh, Summit Buttress (SMCJ 2007):

Le Passage 70m IV,5 *. Bob Hamilton, Steve Kennedy. 29 December 2008.

Left of *Close Encounters* are two short gullies divided by a narrow buttress. This route takes the left-hand gully. Best done early in the season. Climb the easy snow slope left of the start of *Close Encounters* then easy ice steps to a belay at a small rocky alcove. This is directly below the right-hand gully. Step left and climb a short icy rib then move leftwards up easier ground to a short, steep icefall. Climb the icefall to reach the narrow gully above and a flake belay. Steep slopes led to a snow arete on the right and a vague break in the cornice.

Top: Star Jelly found lying on the highest of the three 'Parallel Roads' in Glen Roy (350m).

Note the clumps of small black spheres near the upper edge. Photo taken 30 October 2004.

Bottom: The Wishing Stone near Lochaline, opposite Mull. Photo taken 28 November 2004.

Much can bank out later in the season but the cornice is usually huge and likely to be extremely problematic.

GREY CORRIES, COIRE NA CEANNAN:

Happy Bunny! 30m II/III. D. Strachan, S. Lawrence, R.S.D. Smith. 13 January 2009.

Climb the obvious icefall in the outflow burn 250m NE of the small lochan at NN 264 751.

STOB COIRE AN LAOIGH:

Full Frontal 60m VII,7 *. Tony Stone, Viv Scott. 22 November 2008.

Takes the arete between *Pentagon* and *Taliballan*, finishing up the obvious overhanging off-width at the top. Steep, exposed and technical climbing but helpful where most needed.

1. 25m Start up a short corner halfway along the wall left of *Taliballan* to a ledge. Climb another short corner above, then move left climbing a cracked wall to gain a block on the arete. Go up from this moving left round the arete, then back right to beneath a left-facing groove.

2. 45m Pull into and climb the left-facing groove. Traverse the wall beneath the roof with interest (small cams useful) to gain a second left-facing groove. Go up this slightly rightwards to a turf ledge. Move right and climb a bulging groove and steep wall, then a slab (bold) and blocks above with sustained interest to a large ledge (possible belay). Climb a steep corner to the overhanging off-width at the top of the buttress. Tackle the off-width breaking out rightwards to gain the top.

Note: Viv Scott thought VII,8.

BEN ALDER, Garbh Coire Beag:

Kryptonite 195m IV,4. Sonya Drummond, Andy Nisbet. 30 December 2008.

Climbs the centre of the face between *Smallville* and *Bheoil Pfeiler*. Reach the start by following the initial gully of *Left Gully* to snow slopes, then moving slightly left to below a prominent wide groove.

1. 50m Follow the groove to the snow terrace which crosses the whole face.

2. 50m Follow its continuation, then go slightly left by snow patches until near the slight rib right of *Smallville*.

3. 50m Go diagonally right, then traverse right on a narrow turf ledge to easier turf. Go up to steep walls until forced left up ramps (crux) into the turf groove which *Smallville* climbs lower down. Go up this almost to the crest.

4. 45m Go left up a narrow turf ramp to join *Smallville*, then back right up its groove (steep ice) to the final crest.

Ben Alder Cottage Crag:

Described in the Ben Nevis guide as an amphitheatre, it is more of an inverted L shape with a vertical west-facing wall running for 100m south to north up the right side of the crag. At the top of this is an easy grassy gully, below which is an outcrop of three pinnacles. West of the grassy gully the crag swings round 90 degrees and runs west to another slightly steeper grassy gully. Both gullies can be used for descent. West of this second gully the crag continues for another

150m in a series of ribs, walls and buttresses before petering out into the hillside. Routes described from right to left (as this is the easiest way of locating them in relation to features already mentioned).

Adam's Apple 35m HVS 5b. James Woodhouse, Jonathan Preston. 30 June 2009.

Below and left of the first (right-hand) grassy gully is a slab split by a crack. Climb the crack with one awkward move at half-height. Continue right of a heathery ledge and climb flakes. Step back left at the earliest opportunity and climb slabs to easier ground.

The right side of the second (left-hand) grassy gully is formed by a distinct arete.

Remote Control 25m HVS 5a. Jonathan Preston, James Woodhouse. 30 June 2009.

Start just left of the base of the arete. Climb steeply up and rightwards onto a slab (bold). Move up the slab and left to the sharp arete. Make a series of steep moves up just right of the crest of the arete before making an airy traverse left onto a ramp leading to a niche. Finish up cracks in the wall above.

Well left of the second grassy gully is a blocky buttress. The left side of this is formed by a fine west-facing russet-coloured slab.

Hotter than July 25m HVS 5a *. Jonathan Preston, James Woodhouse. 30 June 2009.

Start on steep grass below the centre of the slab. Move steeply up right to reach flakes. Climb these to gain a good crack and then climb directly to a large rectangular ledge. A short corner leads to the top.

CENTRAL HIGHLANDS, GEAL CHARN, Creag Dhubh:

Wee Softie 45m II/III. Martin Holland, Pamela Millar. 2 December 2008.

This route is on a crag high on left of the crag shown NE of the main crag. It is on the left/upper tier of this crag at approx. NN 596799. The lower level of this crag may be the one where the routes *Flight of the Navigator* and *Map and Compass* are described in SMCJ 2004. Although the map ref is wrong (it's in the loch).

1. 18m Start 5m right of the cave and climb turf and ice steps to the higher of two bent-over trees.
2. 25m Continue up turf and ice to two saplings at the base of an iced slab. Climb the slab leftwards to pass a triangular overhanging nose on its left.

GLEN COE

BUACHAILLE ETIVE MOR, Great Gully Upper Buttress:

Jamay 30m E3 5c ***. Michael Barnard (unsec). 10 July 2009.

The obvious direct finish to *Jamay* gives a tremendous pitch, steep and sustained but well protected throughout. Start as for that route but instead of traversing right continue straight up (thin) to gain a small finger-edge just below

an obvious slot in the overlap (good Friend 0 in this). Reach up for better holds above and pull over strenuously (crux) to gain the crack above, which is followed with continued interest to the top. Two rest points used.

GEARR AONACH, Yosemite Wall:

Sublime 35m E8 6c *. Dave MacLeod. 8 May 2008.

Climbs the 45 degree roof and impending wall right of *Sweet Disregard for the Truth*. Arrange an assortment of runners below the roof and climb it directly (bouldery crux) to a resting place on the headwall. Difficult climbing up the wall above (small cams) leads to a finish through the top bulge of *Glorious Youth*.

CHURCH DOOR BUTTRESS:

Critical Mass 130m VII,7. Iain Small, Tony Stone, Gareth Hughes. 11 December 2008.

A direct line up the steep front of the buttress, then finishing straight up the headwall where *Dark Mass* traverses off right. Start at the right side of the frontal face, left of the recess where *West Chimney* begins.

1. 60m Take a line of steep right-facing corners to easier ground and a block belay where *West Chimney* through route emerges.
2. 30m Climb the rib above to belay on the large block at the start of West Chimney's traverse.
3. 40m Follow *Dark Mass* until above the shallow chimney-groove, then move left into a groove leading to a ledge below a steep wall. Pull steeply leftwards over this into a niche and take grooves to finish up an off-width crack.

Note: *Templer Nights* (SMCJ 2007) Should be *Nights Templar*.

STOB COIRE NAM BEITH, North Face (The Pyramid):

Vertex 130m IV,5 **. Bob Hamilton, Steve Kennedy. 6 December 2008.

Climbs a line close to the right (west) edge of No. 6 Buttress overlooking the initial gully of *The Causeway*. A reasonable choice if doubtful conditions prevail higher up. The existing route, *Pyramid*, takes the left edge of the buttress. Quite technical in places and climbed in deep powder conditions. Start behind a huge detached block directly beneath the right edge.

1. 45m From a chockstone belay move up and traverse left into an obvious groove line just left of the edge. Climb the groove to a large flake below steep wall. Climb the slabby wall on the left, then move back right and continue up a groove to a detached flake and thread on the edge overlooking the gully.
2. 45m Awkward moves lead steeply up a wall on the left into a groove which leads to a slabby corner. Climb the steep wall just right of the corner and continue up short steps to easier ground.
3. 40m Further short walls lead to the final steepening which is avoided by a short traverse left to the edge. A narrow snow arete leads to the top of the buttress.

Either finish by *Cleftweave* or *The Causeway*. Alternatively, if a shorter day is required, abseil off a block on the narrow ridge at the top of the buttress leftwards into the initial gully of *Cleftweave* on the left which leads fairly easily back into the corrie.

AONACH DUBH, West Face:

Bungee 100m E4 ***. Blair Fyffe, Guy Robertson (on-sight). June 2009.

A superb exposed route, starting up *Yo-Yo* then breaking out round the right arete onto the wall to its right. A prominent feature is the striking crack high on the headwall

1. 30m 5b *Yo-Yo* pitch 1.

2. 30m 6a Step delicately down right and traverse under an obvious overlap to a precarious perch near the edge. Move up into a hanging groove and climb this then a crack on the left with difficulty to a sloping ledge. Traverse right along this to climb the first obvious groove with an awkward exit onto a ledge.

3. 25m 6a Above is a clean-cut triangular niche with a finger-crack above its right end. Climb steeply up to gain and follow this crack, then pull left into another crack which is followed with increasing interest to another good ledge.

4. 15m 5b Climb the steep wall above to the terrace.

GLEN ETIVE, STOB COIR' AN ALBANNAICH, North Corrie:

Right of the corner of *Plumblin* is a broad buttress containing a shallow gully line above a large snow bay. Right again is a triangular-shaped buttress with a prominent right-slanting ramp in the lower part.

Hors d'Oeuvres 70m III *. Alan MacDonald, Bob Hamilton, Steve Kennedy. 1 February 2009.

Climbs the shallow gully line mentioned above. A short icefall leads into a large snow bay. Continue to the foot of a steep icefall, then move rightwards and climb an icy corner to easier ground. Steep snow leads to the top.

Air of Detachment 80m IV,6 *. Steve Kennedy, Bob Hamilton, Alan MacDonald. 1 February 2009.

The prominent ramp in the centre of the triangular buttress to the right of the above route. The corner forming the left wall of the ramp was climbed for about 10m before thin ice forced a traverse out right to the edge of the buttress. Sustained climbing leads up the buttress edge. Near the top of the buttress edge a left-slanting crack leads back to the top of the ramp. Follow a ledge out right, then zigzag up the broad buttress above following a system of ledges (55m). Easier mixed ground leads directly to the top (25m).

BEINN SGULAIRD (GLEN CRERAN):

Back to Work 100m III,4. Ian Stennett. 5 January 2009.

The route takes an obvious icefall (visible from Elleric) which forms after a prolonged cold spell, starting at an altitude of 700m. The water source comes from the corrie north of the main summit. Start at the base of a frozen waterfall with pool beneath, NN 050 465, north-west aspect. Climb the waterfall steeply for about 30m then follow a series of less steep height gains. The line eventually meets an awkward chockstone in an enclosed part of the gully at alt 745m. After this it becomes less steep and ends in walking.

GARBH BHEINN (ARDGOUR), South Wall:

Sgian Dubh 60m V,6 **. Neil Adams, Alasdair Fulton. 25 January 2009.

Follow the summer line with varied and interesting climbing, well protected and technical, high in the grade.

1. 20m Back-and-foot, torque, thrutch, jam and sketch up the initial chimney (crux), then move leftwards along the ledge to a good stance.
2. 40m Move steeply up and left via cracks, flakes and a small roof to a right-trending ramp. Follow this ramp to its right end, then up flakes to easier ground. The first ascent was climbed in icy conditions and the route may be significantly harder without a thick coating of rime ice.

Note: Colin Moody notes that *The Pincer* starts independently up the rib right of *Chela*, and was written correctly in older guides.

Garbh Choire Buttress:

Drum Beat 60m HVS. Andy Hyslop, John Lyall, Andy Nisbet. 25 July 2009. This buttress didn't look as clean as the stars would suggest, but the left end had the cleanest rock. Start at slabs right of the corner of *Percussion*.

1. 25m 4c Climb the slabs and join *Percussion* briefly to share its belay below its groove.
2. 35m 5a Step left and climb the right-hand of two steep grooves, with a step left into the left groove near the top. Continue more easily, largely on rock .

ARDNAMURCHAN, Creag an Fhir-eoin:

Lust 15m E1 5b *. Steve Kennedy, Bob Hamilton. 18 May 2008.

An eliminate but good route which follows the left-facing corner immediately left of *Greta Gabbro* throughout. The upper part of the route is climbed by *Lava Lout* which traverses in rightwards from the next corner to the left. Start up the slab directly below the corner to reach a small overlap at the foot of the corner. Climb the corner direct.

Meall Meadhoin, Apron Slabs:

Gall Variation Andy Hunter (unsec). 10 May 2009.

The crack of *Gall* being wet, climb the slab some 2m left of it (unprotected but one runner in the crack), and joining it just below the belay ledge. This was thought to be right of *Solas*.

SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS

BEINN ACHALADAIR:

Manifestation, Variation 40m III. Matt Griffin, Adrian Dye. 21 March 2008.

A good-quality variation to the second pitch. Instead of climbing the groove directly above the belay, traverse 8m left and climb a different groove over a couple of steepenings on good turf to a ledge (40m). Follow the easy buttress to the top as per the original route.

BEINN UDLAIDH:

Sugarmouse 90m III. Jim Graham, Iain MacCallum. 6 February 2009.

The route takes a chimney-line to the right of *Quintet* and goes up below the right wall of the big gully containing *Organ Pipe Wall*.

1. 50m Go up a chimney and underneath a chockstone. Traverse left into another chimney and continue up to a corner on the left.
2. 40m Follow the chimney to the top.

BEINN CHUIRN, Coire na Saobhaidhe:

Under the summit is this turfey crag. The biggest gully has been climbed at Grade I and a steeper narrower one to its right 'slightly harder' – see older district guides. The buttresses are short, steep but very turfey.

Bullion Buttress 70m III. Dave McGimpsey, Andy Nisbet. 24 November 2008.

The buttress between the two gullies. A central line was taken, moving right and back left towards the top.

Goldilocks 60m III,4. Dave McGimpsey, Andy Nisbet. 24 November 2008.

The buttress right of the right gully. Start 10m right of the gully and climb the front face, including a short thin section low down.

Silver Star 60m II. Dave McGimpsey, Andy Nisbet. 24 November 2008.

The next gully to the right leads to a big overhanging wall with icicles. This route takes the easiest line up the buttress to the right. Even easier would be to start up the overhung gully and move right on to this line.

Krugerrand 60m III. Dave McGimpsey, Andy Nisbet. 24 November 2008.

The next buttress is beyond a groove and features smooth steep walls with large lumps of turf. Climb up the centre to reach the steep walls. Move left and gain a narrow turf ledge. Traverse right along this to gain and climb a turfey groove which leads to a headwall. This was climbed direct (optional).

BEINN IME:

The Double Flash 190m IV,4. Ron Dempster, Emily Ward, Sarah-Beth McClelland. 7 February 2009.

Halfway along the snowy terrace above the left buttress there is an icy chimney. Squeeze up the icy chimney below the icefall (20m). Continue up easier ground to the top.

THE COBBLER:

Sweetshop 10m E4 5c. Kev Shields. 14 May 2008.

The crag sits on the left side of the tourist path 5–10mins beyond the Narnain boulders. Climb the obvious line to the left of a ramp in the centre of the crag starting at a large obvious pocket.

BEN DONICH, Number 4 Buttress:

Fourth Dimension 55m IV 5 *. Andrew Fraser, Ian Magill. 1 February 2009.

The buttress has a stepped shelf running diagonally up the buttress, from bottom left to top right. Follow this shelf via two difficult steps to its end at a good flake 3m from the right edge of the buttress (30m). Climb a difficult rock slab just right of the belay, then continue up and left to climb the final icefall (25m).

BEINN AN LOCHAIN, North Face:

Footsteps of Giants 180m IV,4 *. Andrew Fraser, Ian Magill. 30 March 2008. This is the large rambling buttress below and right of the *Monolith Grooves* buttress, topped by a crazy-angled pinnacle. It was first climbed in November 1902 in summer conditions by Harold Raeburn and the Inglis Clarks by two indeterminate lines. This route starts just left of the bottom left toe of the lowest buttress, and after an initial bulge follows a shallow gully to belay in the second cave (60m). Move up to the next cave which is exited by a traverse left to easier ground below a steep face. A steep traverse left above a gully outflanks this (25m). Continue up over a bulge to easier ground and a belay beneath a steep chimney immediately below the left side of the crazy-angled pinnacle (45m). Climb into and up the chimney which turns into a through route which exits onto the col behind the pinnacle (25m). Above and left is an easy left-trending and wide ramp. Climb up to this, then tackle the steep headwall above (approx 7m left of its right corner, 25m). The omission of the last pitch would permit a traverse across to the routes on the monolith, giving an excellent long climb

BEN LOMOND:

Shooglenifty 100m III,4. Sonya Drummond, Andy Nisbet. 30 November 2008. The rib between the left and central of the three gullies which separate B and C Buttresses. Start up a groove about 5m from the right end of the rib. Climb this leftwards, then traverse right into another left-slanting groove which leads to the crest. Follow the crest over a thin step to an easier section (60m). Climb a short steep wall, then easier again to a steeper finish.

BEN CRUACHAN, Coire Chat, Noe Buttress:

Noe Gully Right-Hand 50m III. Jamie Bankhead, Guy Steven. 2 November 2008.

From a pitch up *Noe Gully* (before the upper slot), traverse right under *Thunderbolt Chimney* onto turf steps and grooves leading to the top of *Noe Buttress* (the route).

BEN CRUACHAN, Meall nan Each, East Face:

The east face is characterised by a band of overlaps at two-thirds height situated left of *Epona Gully*. The following three good routes are situated left of these overlaps and are easily approached via a short descent to the north from the col separating Meall nan Each and Stob Dearg.

East Chimney 150m IV,5. David Ritchie, Neil McGougan. 12 January 2008. Climbs the obvious shallow chimney running the full height of the crag in three 50m pitches. Each pitch contained a short steep section of interest.

Obelix 170m IV,5. David Ritchie, Neil McGougan. 5 December 2008. Climbs the fault-line running up the buttress immediately right of *East Chimney*. Start at the foot of *East Chimney*.

1. 65m Move right into a shallow groove and follow this to below a steep wall.
2. 50m Climb the steep wall via cracks (crux), then slabs above to belay left of a prominent perched block.
3. 55m Follow easier ground directly to the top.

Blue Hex Buttress 170m IV,5. David Ritchie, Neil McGougan. 6 December 2008.

Climbs the right side of the buttress lying to the left of *East Chimney*. Start 15m left of *East Chimney*.

1. 55m Climb the turfey fault surmounting one or two steep steps to a wide ledge below some large blocks just left of *East Chimney*.
2. 45m Climb past the blocks, then up steeper ground trending right overlooking *East Chimney* before moving back left to directly below the centre of a band of overlaps.
3. 50m Climb through the overhangs via the obvious left-slanting open corner to reach easier ground above. Move right, then up past an off-width crack and open fault above to gain a slab. Traverse right across the slab then up to below a short tower.
4. 20m Climb the right side of the tower to finish.

GLEN LONAN:

Wee Steal 100m II. Andy Spink. 9 February 2009.

A frozen north-facing burn at NM 943 269.

KNAPDALE, Kilberry, The Coves (NR 717 612) Non-tidal:

This small headland is found at the minor B8024 road, approx. 14 miles west of Tarbert and 2 miles south of Kilberry. The Coves are signposted at a bend where there is parking for a few cars near the sign. There is also a small lay-by a further 100m along the road to the north.

Approach: Follow the path passing a waterfall and after about 100m look back and you will see a small pinnacle with the gap between offering a steep bouldering wall (Slingsby's Wall) approximately 10m high on the landward side of the gap. A post at the bottom of the wall had Slingsby and Co. written on it, hence the name. The grooves at the left and right ends of the wall have been climbed and a route to the left of the central overhang (Brian Davison, 31 October 2008).

Continuing south along the beach from here one passes a natural archway and then behind a pinnacle where an old fence is stepped over. A steep south-facing wall is visible above on the left, pass this and go into a rocky narrows where it is necessary to scramble up a slabby wall and traverse inland at the other side of this. Above is a second steep wall of very weathered rock.

This overhanging wall has a rib or buttress running down from its highest point with sculptured rock on either side. The routes are described from right to left, starting to the right of the central rib. An abseil rope is worth taking to save a long walk round or an awkward down-climb. All routes were cleaned on abseil and some loose and friable rock removed. The cliff is obviously used by shags for nesting and should be avoided during the nesting season.

The first four routes start from the top of a 5m high pinnacle next to the base of the cliff.

Scooped Up 18m VS 4b. Brian Davison. 31 October 2008.

Climb the weathered scoops to the right of the rib to end up right of a large block at the top. From the top of the pinnacle step across to the worn scoop and follow

to a tricky long reach to the next worn scoop above. Move up friable horizontal rocks to the top. Solo after abseil inspection.

Scoop Arete 18m E1 5a. Brian Davison. 31 October 2008.

Climb the front of the rib at its steepest on good but worrying holds. Step from the pinnacle to the overhanging rock of the rib and climb up overhangs to easier ground and a sit down near the top. Finish near previous route. Rope solo after abseil inspection.

Guano Groove 18m VS 4b. Brian Davison. 31 October 2008.

Climbs the deep groove to the left of the rib. Step from the pinnacle to the left of the rib and climb steeply to a ledge at the start of the guano covered groove. Follow the groove easily past a nest to a steep exit onto jugs on the headwall and finish next to the large block.

Variation: HVS 5a. Brian Davison. 31 October 2008.

Follow *Guano Groove* to the nest then make moves left over steep ground on good holds to finish to the right of the block at the top. Solo after abseil inspection.

To the left of *Guano Groove* a compact wall restricts easy access to the steep headwall. A right-to-left diagonal line runs from *Guano Groove* under this compact section of wall to end above a second rib or buttress not as impressive as the right-hand one.

Rib Corner Right-Hand 15m Severe 4a. Brian Davison. 31 October 2008.

From below the left-hand overhanging rib climb a short easy wall to the corner to the right of the rib, follow the corner to a ledge. Step up and right on big holds to a steep finish.

Spare Rib 15m HVS 4c. Brian Davison. 31 October 2008.

Climb the front of the rib on several steep weathered holds. Rope solo after abseil inspection.

Rib Corner Left-Hand 15m Hard Severe 4b. Brian Davison. 31 October 2008.

Start left of the rib and climb up the corner on its left-hand side.

Cove Rib 25m Moderate. Brian Davison. 29 October 2008.

The left arete of the wall offers an enjoyable climb to a grassy finish. A useful descent in dry conditions.

BEN LAWERS, Bealach Crag (SMCJ 1999):

Chockstone Gully 70m III. Douglas Stewart, Alastair Brightman. 26 March 2008.

A shallow gully to the right of a more obvious gully which is on the left of the crag (picture provided).

1. 25m Enter the gully and belay on the left. The obvious overhanging chockstone was turned on the right to gain a turfy rib. The rib delineates the two possible starts to the route. Belay at the top of the rib.

2. 45m Re-enter the gully and climb to a constriction where bridging moves gain a snow bay. From the bay a turfy groove leads to the top.

Note: *Raven's Gully* is not on Creag an Fhithich but on a scrappy buttress below Bealach Dubh and above the west end of Lochan nan Cat (NN 639 425) i.e. as marked on the OS map.

MEALL NAN TARMACHAN, Cam Chreag:

Rhombus Buttress 100m II. Martin Holland, Davy Virdee. 15 December 2008. The route is on a buttress approx. 150m east of the easy gully descending from the Meall Garbh/Meall nan Tarmachan col. The buttress is bounded on both sides by obvious gullies, has a 4m rock wall on the left at its base and finishes some 50m east of the col. Follow the easiest line up the buttress on easy turf steps and snow. Protection and belays are sparse.

Cauldron Gully 100m I. Martin Holland, Pamela Millar. 17 December 2008. The gully bounding the left edge of *Rhombus Buttress*. Finish by a narrow gully left of the small central buttress at the top.

The Siren 40m II/III. Martin Holland. 18 February 2001. An obvious shallow chimney-gully which leads left across *Carlin's Buttress*. This icy line starts from about a third of the way up the easy descent gully described for *Carlin's Buttress*.

Hicky 30m III,5. Simon Tait, Andrew Innes. 4 January 2009. An icefall located at NN 585 386, just above the 'g' of Cam Chreag on the OS 1:50,000 map. Consists of slabby ice with the last 6m a curtain of water ice.

BEINN HEASGARNICH, Coire Heasgarnich:

NN 413 388 Alt 850m North facing

The cliffs on the right of the corrie provide some easy climbs in a fine setting with a remote feel.

The Wanderer 150m I/II. George Allan, Billy Hood. 7 April 2008. The broken buttress on the left margin provides go-as-you-please climbing.

Cub Gully 150m II *. George Allan. 25 March 2008. The obvious gully to the right of *The Wanderer* gives a good climb with an ice pitch in its lower reaches.

Leo 125m III *. George Allan, Billy Hood. 7 April 2008. Narrow icefalls can form on the lower section of cliff right of *Cub Gully*. The first of these forms on a small buttress adjacent to *Cub Gully*.

1. 40m Climb the groove to the right of this small buttress to easier ground.
2. 35m Move up left to near *Cub Gully*, then right to the foot of a chimney with a chockstone.
3. and 4. 50m Climb the chimney, exiting left, then climb up and slightly rightwards via short corners and walls.

The Rambler 140m II. George Allan, John Thomas. 6 March 2009.

Start where the lower cliff becomes less steep.

1. 60m Climb a depression into a bay (sometimes icy) and exit easily from the top right corner.

2. 45m Traverse horizontally left above the bay to belay at an obvious overhanging slot.

3. 35m Climb the ramp on the left.

To the right of the largest section of cliff is a big snow basin from which there are a number of easy exits. On the approach, two short gullies, which form a V, can be seen cutting into the steeper rocks starting from the top left corner of the basin.

Gateway Gully 100m II. George Allan, John Thomas. 28 February 2008.
The right arm of the V.

The Gatepost 100m II/III. George Allan, Billy Hood. 8 April 2008.
The small buttress right of *Gateway Gully*. Start just up *Gateway Gully*, traverse right onto the buttress and ascend short walls and grooves. A better start further right may await.

Prayer Flag 90m II. George Allan. 25 March 2008.
There is a small buttress in the centre of the basin dividing the easy exits. Start at its base and follow a ramp rightwards. Where this reaches steeper rocks, traverse left, then work rightwards and climb the crest.

ARRAN

BEINN TARSUINN, Full Meed Tower:

Sunshine Edge 60m Severe. Billy Hood, Brian Williamson. Easter 2007.
Climb the left edge of *Full Meed Chimney* till forced out left by a rib. Continue up to broken ground.

BEINN TARSUINN, Meadow Face:

Note: A likely FFA of *Brachistochrone* was made by M. Lynch, E. Cleasby on 26 May 1974.

LOWLAND OUTCROPS

THE TROSSACHS, BEN A'AN:

Note: Douglas Stewart notes that *Coriander* is described in Tom Weir's book *Highland Days* as having been climbed by him, predating the 1970 ascent in Lowland Outcrops.

AYRSHIRE, The Quadrocks:

The Whispering Eye 10m E3 6a. Kev Shields. 24 May 2009.
Climb the blank overhanging face to the right of *Green Corner*.

ROSNEATH QUARRY:

Lyndsay Mackintosh notes that it is very overgrown and no longer worth a visit.

AUCHINSTARRY QUARRY, Amphitheatre Area:

Scream 2 12m E1 5b. George Duncan, Julie Mesarowicz. June 2008.

At the rear of the brick building, an obvious groove can be seen (west wall) leading to below a large tree at the top of the wall. Gain the obvious groove from the right. At half-height achieve a good hold and gear. Balance past the blank wall above (weighted sling runner) to a pre-arranged lower-off.

Note: Old routes in this area, like *Black Death* (HVS 5a) and *Valentine* (E1 5a) could not be found. The area has changed, although *Flake Wall* (Hard Severe 4a) was found but changed. *Sooty* and *Keystone* (Very Difficult) were cleaned.

Car Park Area:

Vertical Limit 14m Severe 4a. George Duncan, Julie Mesarowicz. 23 August 2008.

On the opposite side of the rock from main car park climbs, beside water in an overgrown path and past old building is an east-facing buttress (*Scream 2*'s crack is visible from here). Start 10m to the right of this. A broken face with an arete and spike make the climb. Gain a good ledge 2m up. Balance up to the spike and stand on it to finish up to the top.

Neilston Quarry:

Note: Andrew Hunter climbed an 8m route of about Very Difficult, starting at the front of the right wall of *Strawberry Crack*. Move up and right at the front of that nose to a bulge, then pull up over it, finishing up beside the tower. It's not the indefinite crack that goes up the right wall of *Strawberry Crack*.

CAMBUSBARRON, Fourth Quarry:

Note: David Shortt and Allan Wallace note that a pillar near *Toddle* has fallen down, so that route has an unjustifiably dangerous finish. *The Doobie Brothers* has been affected near its top, but probably is unspoilt and the same grade. The area of rock right of *Another One Bites the Dust* has had a lot of rockfall and may be dangerous.

GALLOWAY HILLS, The Merrick, Black Garries:

The Mosses, Slaps and Styles 130m III. Andrew Fraser, Iain Magill. 2 January 2009.

This is the shallow gully 30m right of the icefall of *Interstellar Overdraft*. Easy and possibly banked out ice leads to a belay 6m below a long steep wall which guards entry to the gully. Climb this and start up the gully above (30m). Climb the remainder of the gully (35m). Easier climbing to the top following the line of most ice (70m).

Craignaw, Snibe Hill, Grit Buttress:

This tiny buttress lies on the very far right of the crag.

Almscliffe 8m HVS 5b. Stephen Reid, Andrew Fraser. 30 August 2007.

Start 2m right of the mossy central corner and climb the wall easily enough until an exit leftwards onto a sloping slab.

Wisdom Wall:

This short wall lies on the far right of the crag, just right of *The Seven Pillars*. *Hooves of Fire* 20m E1 5a *. Andrew Fraser, Stephen Reid. 10 June 2007. Climb undercut flakes rightwards up the lower wall and then boldly into a scoop above. Exit up leftwards.

Long Tall Sally 20m HVS 5b. Stephen Reid, Andrew Fraser. 10 June 2007. The obvious thin crack on the right of the wall has a hard move to get off the ledge.

Cornarroch Walls:

Eau de Goat 38m VS. Andrew Fraser, Stephen Reid. 30 August 2007. Start at a clean cracked rib just left of a large heather shelf at head-height.

1. 25m 4c Climb cracks in the rib to heather, surmount a short wall and then twin cracks to a ledge.
2. 8m 4c Climb the right-hand groove to runners, then traverse left, across the left-hand groove and stride left before mantelling up. A large block belay lies just above.

Craignaw Slabs (See SMCJ 2007), Newfoundland:

The rightmost slab gives ungradeable routes. Maybe they are just boulder problems with long walk-offs! Descents are possible either side.

Going for a Gander 100m+ Easy.

Crosses the slab at two-thirds height in either direction; the crux is stepping over the wet streak – a useful descent.

Nova Scotia 60m Difficult 4b *. John Biggar, Ian Brown. 3 June 2009.

Climbs the left side of the slab, the best start being 3m left of an obvious vertical crack in the lowest overlap, with a St. Andrew's Cross etched in veined relief on the slab above and left. Make a tricky mantelshelf or rock over move leftwards onto the slab, or climb the crack. Continue easily up the middle slab to an overlap and runners at 40m, then finish up the slightly steeper top slab on nice pockets.

Icebergs 50m Difficult 4b *. Ian Brown, John Biggar. 3 June 2009.

Climbs the right side of the slabs about 5m left of *Titanic*. Start at a flake with a finger-crack behind it. From the top of this flake make an awkward mantelshelf onto the slab above. Climb the fine second tier to reach the main slab. Walk up this crossing two crevasses, then continue climbing upwards and leftwards to a hidden belay.

Titanic 50m Severe 4c **. John Biggar, Ian Brown. 3 June 2009.

At the right end of the crag is an obvious arete. This route climbs the steep wall about 1m left to a huge jug, then onto the slab. Cross the two crevasses above and step onto the fine 4m wall above the second one. Continue up the right edge of the slab above before trending left.

Atlantic Slab:

The middle slab is unfortunately too low an angle to give any proper climbing, but can be climbed anywhere at Easy or Moderate.

Scotland Slab:

On the right is a slab bearing some resemblance to a map of Scotland (see SMCJ 2007).

North Sea Slab:

The foot of this slab is about 30 or 40m right of the mid-height on Scotland Slab.

Flounder 45m VS 4a. John Biggar, Ian Brown. 3 June 2009.

Start at the very toe of the slab and climb the pleasant and easy but unprotected lower slabs to runners at 20m. Continue up towards the obvious triangular niche and enter it from the left. Flounder awkwardly up and leftwards (currently very mossy) to eventually reach a large grass terrace.

The Knee of Cairnsmore:

This small crag is the first encountered when following the approach detailed above, about 30mins walk from the end of the forestry road, across generally benign Galloway moor. The crag is easily seen and approached and is at NX 514 657. The crag is more easily angled than it first appears and there are three pleasant easy routes, all about 20m long. Descend either side. This crag is nice as a warm-up venue if you are heading for the Slab of the Spout or the Spout of the Clints. Protection can be sparse; the belay is another 10m back from the top of the crag.

Left Cheek 20m Very Difficult *. David McNicol, John Biggar. 20 April 2009. Climb up and left from the lowest rocks and follow cracks to the top.

Wounded Knee 20m Very Difficult *. John Biggar, David McNicol. 20 April 2009.

Climb the groove in the arete and continue to the top.

Right Rib 20m Difficult. David McNicol, John Biggar. 20 April 2009.

Climb the ribbing on the right of the crag and continue to the top.

The Slab of the Spout:

A grand piece of Galloway granite, fairly clean and smooth and uninterrupted for 25m. Spout Slab is located about 100m south of the Spout of the Clints and about half-height on the cliff. There is a pleasant flat grassy base and a very pleasant outlook to the east. Loses the sun typically at 2–3pm. Protection is tricky to arrange and requires many small to medium cams and faith in small flaring cracks, luckily the cruxes of both routes are relatively low down. A 50 or 60m rope is needed to reach belays which are well back (and slightly right) from the top of the crag. Approach the Slab of the Spout as for the Knee above but continue onwards for about 20 minutes. The crag is clearly seen if following this approach.

Faith in Flares 25m HVS 4c/5a **. John Biggar, David McNicol. 20 April 2009.

Climb the vertical crack on the left of the slab with an awkward crux at 5m near the little overlap, protected by poor cam placements in flaring cracks! Continue more easily to the top.

Pao de Spout 25m VS 4c *. David McNicol, John Biggar. 20 April 2009.
The main central crack which trends slightly leftwards, quite bold, possibly only Hard Severe when cleaner.

Craigdews:

No Goat's Toe 50m VS 4c. Iain Magill, Andrew Fraser. 22 July 2008.
Ten metres right of the start of the *Dark Side* is a steep, pale and relatively clean prow, with a recess to its right. Climb the prow, continue up mossy rock, past a vegetative bulge then up further walls to belay at the top of a heather slope.

GALLOWAY SEA-CLIFFS, The Thirlstane, Right Wall:

Into the wind E2 5b. David Wands. 3 May 2008.
Start up *The Rib*. Climb to reach the cut-back on to *Catechumen Groove*, but instead hand-traverse left underneath the overhang and climb it at its widest part with a big reach for the top hold.

Crammag Head:

The Black Slab 30m Hard Severe 4b *. Andrew Fraser, Iain Magill. 28 June 2008.

An adventurous half-day trip, only accessible at low- to mid-tide. Further south than the existing routes and just before the start of the hill of Dunman is a small island, joined to but separated from the mainland. The landward side of this is a large black slab, up which the route lies.

Access is by walking 200m uphill to the top of the prominent descent gully just south of the Black Slab. Descend this, scramble over the col between the Black Slab and the mainland then descend to the base of the Black Slab.

The climb traverses right onto the slab to avoid the initial overhanging bay, then continues directly to the top of the slab. Descend over the top of the island to descend the vegetative line above the aforementioned col (VDiff).

To regain the top of the mainland opposite either retrace steps up the descent gully or climb the innocuous shallow gully just left of the col (loose, vegetative and no protection and a rope placed down this in advance is recommended).

Many of the following routes have probably been climbed before but not recorded. All about 8–10m long.

Little Wall:

The small wall on the north side of the gully, immediately north of the main Lighthouse Wall. The main feature is a huge hanging flake in the centre of the crag. Great rock and steep, but the lines are not obvious.

Crackin' Corner Severe **. John Biggar, Linda Biggar. 2 April 2009.
Climbs the crack and awkward left-sloping corner above.

Fly by Wire Moderate *. John Biggar, Linda Biggar. 2 April 2009.
From the bottom of the descent gully climb diagonally leftwards passing behind the giant flake. On the supposed first ascent of this steep Moderate the crux was found to be protected by an in-situ wire!

Unnamed Severe. Linda Biggar, John Biggar. 2 April 2009.
The wall just right of the big flake.

Slingsby's Slab Difficult **. John Biggar, Linda Biggar. 2 April 2009.
Extremely steep for the grade but covered in jugs! The steep left-sloping slab at the right end of the wall.

Lighthouse Walls:

Unnamed 12m Very Difficult *. Linda Biggar, John Biggar. 2 April 2009.
Step across the gully from *Marine Boy/Little Flasher* and climb the arete, avoiding the easier ground further left.

RATHO QUARRY:

Between Contracts 25m HVS 5a. Andy Main, Tim Cross. 13 May 2008.
Start just right of *Shoskred*. Layback the flake, then surmount two giant blocks. Follow the chimney and crack straight up, then swing right onto the arete resisting the temptation to use the main crack of *Cracking-Up*. Swing back left to a ledge and exit straight up.

Baby Face 6m 4c. Fran Sheridan. 28 July 2008.
Climb the small face to the left of the entrance to the EICA, Ratho. Start at the right edge on good ledges, and continue to a hold on the right. Break round the roof to higher ledges to finish. No pro!

Onion Face 20m Hard Severe 4b *. John Proctor, Joe Larner. 22 March 2009.
Between *Jungle Rock* and the *Grapes of Ratho*. Climb luxuriant and steepening vegetation direct to a ledge with a tree. Climb straight up to ledge at two-thirds height. Traverse right and climb a shallow groove to top.

EAST LOTHIAN, Yellow Craigs:

Who Forgot the Picnic 10m Very Difficult *. Stephen Breuer, Martin Gillie, Stuart Campbell. 4 July 2008.
From the centre of the gorse-free bay, climb the stepped right-facing corner until it fades. Take the arete on the left to finish.

Note: *Introductory Slapping* is probably Difficult (or even Moderate).

Kae Heughs Fort (NT 763 518):

Squiggly Wiggly 20m Severe. Terry Lansdown, Roy Harrison, Dave Frankland. 25 May 2009.
The route is on the first east-facing buttress, on the east end of the crag. Follow the obvious snaking fault with crack-line.

Squiggly Splish 20m Hard Severe. Terry Lansdown, Roy Harrison. 24 June 2009.
The route is in the middle of the crag, going up the face immediately to the left of *Splish Wiggly*, finishing on that route to avoid steep grass at the top.

Splish Wiggly 20m Severe. Terry Lansdown, Roy Harrison, Dave Frankland. 15 June 2009.
This follows a line in the middle of the crag between two deep cracks facing each other NE and NW respectively.

Splish Splosh 20m Severe. Roy Harrison, Terry Lansdown. 8 June 2009.
Follow the obvious deep crack 5m to right of *Splish Wiggly* to a ledge, then trend right up grassy steps.

Direct Finish VS. Terry Lansdown, Roy Harrison, Dave Frankland. 8 June 2009.

From the grassy ledge, finish direct.

Note: See: <<http://www.quicksnapper.com/ThinGrip/image/key-heughs-fort>>

Traprain Law, Overhang Wall:

Piglet's Not Gay 20m E1 5b *. Pete Reynolds, Jonnie Williams. 20 September 2008.

A straight variation of *Piglet*. Continue the line of the groove over the overhang and up the slab and corner above.

BERWICKSHIRE, Souter Area:

Usaidtheredbefish 10m Hard Severe 4a. Michael Barnard. 2 April 2009.

On the south-east face of the Second Sight Fin and lying between *Gull Talk* and *The Fish Business* are three short corners (p416 in Lowland Outcrops, mentioned in the description for the latter route). Climb a line up the short corners to finish up the slab above (bold).

ST ABB'S HEAD:

There are number of felsite sea stacks in the NTS Nature Reserve. The rock is loose and climbing is not recommended. The route below is listed for historical purposes. Permission was sought and given by the Warden, climbed out of season and all equipment removed. Access to the Downies Goats stacks (NT 911 684) requires a steep scramble down the cliff which has no solid anchors.

Downies Goats West Stack 60m Mild Severely Loose 4a. Ross Jones, John Sanders. 18 October 2008.

Scramble up on to an outcrop of rock to the south-west of the 40m west stack and belay. Descent is by simultaneous abseil or down-climbing the route.

1. 20m 3c Step across a gap onto the stack and climb a broken corner to a large stance on easy ground.

2. 40m 4a Climb easy ground to a headwall. Climb a ramp line forming a break on the right and follow loose ground along the ramp before climbing direct to the top.

BURNMOUTH AREA:

The following routes are on a small fin a few minutes walk south from Burnmouth harbour, walking towards the Maiden's Stone sea-stack.

Thinking of Bagels 10m Severe. Robert Askew, John Proctor. 1 March 2009.
Climb the obvious crack towards the seaward end of the north face of the fin. Continue up the ridge to the top.

Extreme Gardening 10m Severe. John Proctor, Robert Askew. 1 March 2009.
On the south face of the fin (landward side), climb the leftmost crack. The crack opens out, then blocky and vegetated ground leads to the top.