

## NEW CLIMBS

The deadline for sending route descriptions to the new routes editor is 30 June each year.

### OUTER HEBRIDES

#### **LEWIS SEA-CLIFFS, ARD MOR MANGERSTA, Upper Tier:**

*Rubik* 10m E1 5a \*. Andy Moles, Andrey Yakunin. 9 Aug 2014.

The slab and arete just left of *Inner Demons*. The gear is dubious in the upper half.

*Ruble* 10m E2 5a \*. Andy Moles, Andrey Yakunin. 9 Aug 2014.

The slanting groove and slab just left of *Rubik*. Nice climbing but very little protection and some snappy holds.

*Lady Mariposa* 10m HVS 5a \*. Andy Moles, Andrey & Anastasia Yakunin. 9 Aug 2014.

The next slanting groove left of *Ruble*.

#### **ARD FEINIS:**

*Spicy Wall* 10m E7 6c \*. Dave MacLeod, Natalie Berry. May 2014.

At the right end of the crag is a smooth undercut wall. Move up underneath the overhang on large jugs to arrange protection on the right. Pull through the overhang leftwards with difficulty to a break (crucial cam slot on the left). Press on directly up the centre of the smooth wall with further tricky climbing to eventually gain good holds just below the top in the diagonal finishing crack of *Top Tackle Tips*.

#### **DALBEG:**

The headland bounding the north side of Black Geo contains a sea cave split by a striking vertical cracked groove system. Approach by abseiling down a slab to its base.

*Wads Up There?* 40m E5 6a \*\*. Donie O'Sullivan, Crispin Waddy. Jun 2014.

Gain the line by a short bouldery traverse from the left. Go up to the roof. Move left to gain a juggy flake, then strenuously back right above the roof. Finish direct. Steep and strenuous. Best left till the afternoon to dry out.

#### **NORTH HARRIS, Creag Mo:**

*Stellar Crack* 40m E3 5c \*\*. Dave MacLeod, Calum Muskett. Apr 2014.

An excellent climb up the crack system at the right-hand end of the main wall, just right of an impressive 40m blank wall. Good protection and strenuous climbing with a worrying loose block near the top that can be delicately avoided, or maybe trundled by the next second.

*Drive Station* 40m E5 6a \*\*. Calum Muskett, Dave MacLeod. Apr 2014.

An exciting and exposed line gaining a crack in the left side of the blank wall. Start right of the roof system below the crack-line in the wall above. Move left

into a small curving groove and climb this until it is possible to move rightwards with difficulty to the thin crack. Follow this to easier ground just below the top.

*Last Resort* 90m E5 \*\*. Calum Muskett, Dave MacLeod. Apr 2014.

Another excellent route taking the big brown slab on the left side of the amphitheatre. Start below a grossly overhanging flake system in the left wall of the amphitheatre. Pull up on steep jugs and swing immediately left and up to gain a system of exciting steep flakes. Follow these to a good belay ledge at the top of the flake (40m 5c). Climb the 40m brown slab above, following left-trending lines of weakness with spaced protection to eventually pull over onto an easy finishing slab at the top (50m 6a). An intricate pitch on great rock.

*Impact* 85m HVS 4c. David Macmorris, Kevin Woods. 26 Jul 2014.

On the far right-hand side of Creag Mo. Start at foot of the buttress just right of some stepped overhangs. Take a grey wall direct up cracks and blocks to a grassy ledge (25m 4c). Move up and right through the line of least resistance to a traverse terrace. Follow this almost to its end and belay on a block. (20m 4a). Go to the end of the traverse (route is escapable here), then go straight up through a broad groove. Pull over to a grass ledge (25m 4b). Traverse right along the grass ledge and go up an easy vegetated groove (15m). Scramble to the summit.

### **PABBAY:**

The crag accessed by walking from the camping to the opposite side of the beach, then heading left along the peninsula called Roisinis. The route ascends the centre of the wall direct, right of the existing route called *Plan B*.

*The Perfect Mur D'or* 20m E4 6a \*\*\*. Neil McCallum, Andrew McCallum, Mike Hutton, Josh Wright. 30 May 2014.

Climb the centre of the small but perfectly formed golden wall, with a good set of RPs for the hairline crack and tiny cams for the thin break. Start up *Plan B* and blast straight up the hairline crack and superb headwall. Could feel very spicy on a true on-sight (E5?); the tiny gear was inspected but not placed by abseil prior to the flashed first ascent.

### **The Poop Deck:**

*Poop, Left Finish* 20m V.Diff \*. Gary Latter. 14 Jun 2014.

The 6m square-cut corner left of the original flared groove finish.

*Walking with Giants* 35m E3 5c \*\*\*. Ed Nind, Gary Latter. 14 Jun 2014.

Superb sustained and well-protected climbing. Start from a belay on large ledge just over halfway up the easy corner of *The Stowaway*. Move up to the good flake on *Corncrakes for Breakfast*, then hand-traverse left on jugs to pull through the roof on *Thursday's Setting Sunrise*. Continue left more easily above the roof, stepping down to a steeper juggy traverse, exiting at the extreme left end of the cliff.

*Head and Heart* 25m E3 5c \*\*. Gary Latter, Ed Nind. 14 Jun 2014.

A direct line up the crack and wall right of *Illegal Alien*. Climb the left side of the arete left of that route to the ledge, then the short wide crack. Continue up the wall above, past a good flakey break just before the top.

**The Pink Wall:**

*Huffin' 'n' Puffin Direct* 40m E6 6b \*\*\*. Sam Williams, Uisdean Hawthorn. 15 Jun 2014.

This version follows a more natural obvious line, avoiding the second hard pitch. Follow the original route to the break. Instead of traversing off left to the hanging belay on *The Bonxie*, make hard moves directly up to reach the crack system on *I Suppose a Cormorant's out of the Question Then?* Follow this to the huge undercut flake. Instead of going direct over this (crux of *I Suppose...*) hand-jam out right until possible to join the flakes of *The Ancient Mariners* and follow this to its belay. Finish up that route.

**Hooper's Geo:**

*Ankle Wrapper* 25m E2 5c. Robert Taylor, Gary Latter. 23 Jun 2015  
Climbs the wall then flakes 2m left of *Fracture Clinic*.

**Banded Wall, South Face:**

*Shags Direct* 30m E1 5c \*\*. Masa Sakano, Patrick Hanlon. 22 Jun 2015.  
Start as for *Shags and the City*. Follow the cracks direct all the way to the top through quadruple roofs, culminating at the final off-width crack.

**MINGULAY, The Undercut Wall:**

*Kelvin and Hobs Direct* 120m E3 5c \*\*\*. Gary Latter, Ed Nind. 10 Jun 2014.  
1. 55m 5c From the 'projecting flake', continue slightly left, then direct on beautiful rock to gain the belay at the end of the original second pitch (45m). Move out right and climb wall to belay beneath a groove on a large clean ledge.  
2. 50m 5b Continue directly up the fine groove (same as *Rayburnt* perhaps?), passing just right of prominent large triangular roof. This avoids the numerous birdy ledges encountered on the original third pitch.  
3. 15m Scramble up rightwards to regain the abseil block.

*The Secret's Out* 95m E5 6a \*\*\*\*. Greg Boswell, Mike Shorter. 11 Jun 2014.  
Start off a large step down on the left side of the ledge, just right of a quartz 'smile'.

1. 35m 6a Make a hard pull from a jug to reach a short crack. Step left and make powerful moves to reach then follow the rising rightwards crack-line. Belay at a ledge.
2. 35m 5c Move up directly from the ledge, weaving through some large roofs to belay at an obvious ledge.
3. 25m Scramble to the top.

*The Ocean of Time* 110m E5 6a \*\*\*. Sam Williams, Uisdean Hawthorn. 10 Jun 2014.

1. 45m 6a Start 3m left of *Taking the Hump*. Use black jugs and make a long move to a good spike (good gear). Move up to obvious corner above. Step left, gain a slopey rising hand-rail and lunge to a pocket. Continue straight up more steadily. Follow a quartz tongue to belay under the left end of the large roof.
2. 45m 5c Step left, then continue straight up, taking a hanging corner with interest.
3. 20m Scramble to glory.

*Fine Lines* 23m E5 6b \*\*\*. Gary Latter, Ed Nind. 10 Jun 2014.

Start a few metres left of *Hot White Spider*. Climb an undercut crack with difficulty to good holds at the base of a hanging right-facing corner. Climb this, then trend leftwards more easily to belay on a small bollard (shared with *The Aga Sanction*). Abseil off; sling and screwgate in-situ.

### **Geirum Walls :**

*Land Baby* 10m E2 5c \*\*. Masa Sakano, Patrick Hanlon. 17 Jun 2015.

Start as for *Water Babies*, but instead of going left on to the face, climb straight up the corner and surmount the roof via the corner-crack. Follow the continuation crack between *Water Babies* and *Mary Doune* with difficulty to the top.

## **INNER HEBRIDES AND ARRAN**

### **EIGG, An Sgurr, Poll nam Partan (guide p75):**

*Raging Bull* 16m H. Severe. Brian Davison. 29 Sep 2014.

The right-hand 50m of this crag (the one existing route is at its extreme right end) are out of the woods and more accessible than the remainder. At the left-hand section of cliff before it vanishes into the woods and before the footpath below passes through the gate, the crag reduces in height and becomes broken. About 10m right of this is a pillar detached from the crag at its top with a grassy and bramble covered recess to its left. Climb up the corner and into the narrow chimney behind the pillar to exit. A descent was made by climbing down the recess to the left.

### **COLL, Beginner's Slab:**

The quartz vein rising up right is about Severe.

### **The Gully:**

*Hoghker Wall* 10m VS 4b \*\*. Andy Hyslop, Colin Moody, Billy Hood, Cynthia Grindley. 14 Jun 2015.

Start left of *Hogh* and climb up to finish up the hanging corner into which *Hogh* moves left.

*Hoghdown* 10m Severe \*\*. Billy Hood, Cynthia Grindley, Colin Moody. 14 Jun 2015.

The crack right of *Hogh Hogh Hogh*, into which that route moves right.

### **The Sloch:**

*Bottleneck* 8m Diff. Colin Moody, Billy Hood. 14 Jun 2015.

Right of the overhang of *Bold as Brass* is another overhang. Climb the weakness between them.

### **Submarine Rock:**

*Cracked Hull* 9m E2 5b \*\*. Andy Hyslop, Colin Moody, Billy Hood. 14 Jun 2015.

The crack right of *Depth Charge* gives overhanging moves.



*Stephen Kennedy on the FA of Silkie (HVS, 5a), Calgary, Mull.*

*Photo: Colin Moody.*

**Note:** Three routes were climbed by Billy Hood, Cynthia Grindley, Colin Moody, 13 Jun 2015. The left side and right side of the arete left of *Depth Charge* (both Severe but with long reaches) and the wall left of *Das Boot* at Diff.

### **An Caisteall:**

*Canada Wall* 8m Severe \*. Colin Moody, Andy Hyslop, Billy Hood, Cynthia Grindley. 14 Jun 2015.

The wall just right of *Greylag Wall* starting up a hairline crack. A step left was made at the top to avoid a slightly harder move.

### **MULL, Calgary:**

*Silkie* 10m HVS 5a \*. Steve Kennedy, Cynthia Grindley, Colin Moody. 18 Apr 2015.

Well right of *Campbell* is an easy chimney. Climb up to the base of the chimney, then move up left on the undercut slab. Finish up the cracks left of the slab.

### **Aird Dearg:**

*Unnamed* F6b \*\*. Colin Moody, Cynthia Grindley. 2014.

The pillar left of *Red Mullet*, moving right at the top.

### **Ardtun, East Wall:**

*Toe of Frog* 15m E2 5c \*\*. Gary Latter. 3 Sep 2014.

The finger crack just right of *Eye of Toad*.

**Note:** The approach is 30mins, (not 20) on very rough ground.

### **Kintra, Stile Crag:**

There is a stile over the fence 100m south of Fish Box Wall. Above the stile is a steep west facing wall with an easy slab above. At the top of the hill is a south facing spike and other belays.

*Stile Police* 10m Severe \*. Colin Moody, Cynthia Grindley. 27 Jun 2015.

Climb the corner-crack at the left side of the crag.

### **Kintra, Costa del Sol:**

*El Corazon* 20m E5 6a \*\*\*. Gary Latter. 12 Oct 2014.

Superb climbing up the wall left of *El Niche*. Very sustained but very well protected on the upper section. Start just left of *El Niche*. Move up left to protection just above a seepage line, then up to the horizontal. Continue straight up to a wide break, then go direct to the leftmost and most defined of a series of intermittent cracks in the headwall. Step right and up to the rightmost crack, then climb direct with difficult sustained climbing to a horizontal break near the top. Pull directly up from here to mantel on a good incut ledge to finish.

**Note:** Two additional belay stakes were placed, left of the original one at the top of the crag. The finish of *El Niche* was cleaned; finish slightly leftwards, as opposed to 'finishing carefully onto a heather slope.'

### **FIONNPHORT, Grating Ramps:**

*Ferry Ahoy* 10m E2 5c \*. Jules Lines. 6 Apr 2015.

The wide crack to the right of *Grating Ramps*. Step left off the boulder into the line and continue up the widening crack.

*Even Keel* 9m E4 6a \*\*. Jules Lines, Colin Moody. 16 Apr 2015.

Just to the right of *Ferry Ahoy* is a hanging flake and square-cut arete. Step off the boulder and move up to gain the flake that leads out to the arete, which is climbed in a great position.

### **Egg Boulder (NM 304 228):**

Park as for *Grating Ramps* but head east across the flat bog for 400m. It is hidden from the road, facing east towards a knoll.

*Archie* 8m E5 6b \*. Jules Lines. 16 Apr 2015.

Climb the smooth slab with a crux mantel to start, veering left under a slight overlap to climb the slab direct.

**Note from Gary Latter:** *Grating Ramps* is E1 5b (not E2).

### **Fiddlen:**

*Cheers* 14m VS 5a \*. Karen & Gary Latter. 11 Oct 2014

The corner and wide crack 2m left of the chimney of *Glad Tidings*.

*Greetings* 10m E2 5c \*\*. Gary Latter. 11 Oct 2014.

Start as for *Count Jugular*, then climb the crack and small left-facing corner to the roof. Undercut left and pull through the roof to a good diagonal break. Finish up the final crack, as for *Merry Noel*.

### **Rusty Tractor Crag:**

*Cam Shaft* 10m E4 6a. Jules Lines, Colin Moody. 16 Apr 2015.

The line of vague scoops between *Rocker Cover* and *Rust Bucket*.

### **ERRAID, Main Crag, Upper Tier:**

**Notes from Gary Latter:** The final crack of *Chicken Out* is HVS 5a. *I Hear of the Red Fox* was climbed direct at E2 5c, avoiding the stretch right into *Walls without Balls*, but still shares holds with that route near the top (Gary Latter, Sep 2014)

**Note from Colin Moody:** *Trapezium* (p167) is in the wrong place in the guide (it was never written up). It starts at the arete right of *The Dead Pool* and goes up slightly left.

### **Main Crag, Lower Tier:**

*Kidnapped* 12m E7 6c \*\*\*. Jules Lines (headpoint). 15 Apr 2015.

The main arete to the left of *Sentinel*. A bold and very technical lower section leads to an easier upper section passing a nice spiky jug.

*Blurred Lines* 9m E6 6b \*. Gary Latter. 18 Apr 2015.

The thin diagonal crack emanating from the sharp left arete of the crag. Start up the left side (protection), then swing round the arete and continue with difficulty to join and finish up the groove of *Disingenuous*.

*Disingenuous* 7m E1 5b \*. Gary Latter. 17 Apr 2015.

The crack and shallow groove in the left wall of *V Groove*.



*The Long Way Around* 8m E1 5b \*. Gary & Karen Latter. 21 Apr 2015.  
Twin cracks just left of *Weeping Corner*.

**Note:** *Spiral Arete* is worth 2 \*, better than the adjacent *Prince of Thieves* and *Moody's Blues*, which are marred by a large ledge.

### Mink Walls:

*Iolaire* 12m E2 5c \*\*. Jules Lines. Sep 2014.  
The clean wall and thin seams to the left of *Pond Filler*.

*Dirty Washing* 11m E2 5c \*\*. Jules Lines. Sep 2014.  
Start by the pond and take the flake to the break and the wafer thin flake in the arete above. Between *Pond Filler* and *Pond Life*?

*Iris* 7m VS 4b \*. Jules Lines. Sep 2014.  
The flake-line left of *Orbit*, taking the flake on the right at the branch.

### Otter Walls:

*Jules's Groove* 18m E4 6a \*\*. Gary Latter. 7 Sep 2014.  
The undercut groove left of the corner of *Amphibian*. Climb the layback flake steeply to a good flange and undercut spike beneath the top hanging groove. Difficult moves to enter this soon lead to easier climbing. The base can be gained by a 25m abseil direct from a crack just above a large juniper ledge.

*The Shellfish Gene* 18m HVS 5a \*\*. Karen & Gary Latter. 7 Sep 2014.  
At the right end of the ledges, round right of *Gourmet Crab Crack*, are twin right-slanting cracks. Jam the left crack and bridge up to pull over bulge on good holds. Continue slightly right on good flakes to pull onto a sloping ledge by a good diagonal crack. Continue more easily above.

**Notes:** *Amoeba* is perhaps better described as a lead (low to mid-tide required) at E1 5b \*. The crux is at the base (avoided if climbed as a DWS). Similarly, *Black Eye Rib* is E1 5c if climbed as a lead.

On an early repeat of *The Otter's Breakfast Table*, Gary Latter mistakenly climbed the obvious Direct Start up the prominent well-protected right-slanting groove at no change in the grade.

### Erraid in the Woods:

**Note:** *Vicious* is VS 4c, definitely a grade easier than the 3 (HVS 5a) routes to the left.

### Asteroid Chasm, North-North-East Face:

*Time Warp* 15m E3 5c \*\*. Gary Latter. 8 Sep 2014.  
The next crack left of *Venus*. Climb the crack to an off-width section near the top, then use a combination of this and the left-slanting dog-leg crack on the right to finish. Scramble up rightwards, then left to descend over the Asteroid.

*Out of this World* 28m E7 6b \*\*\*. Jules Lines, Gary Latter. 9 Apr 2015.  
The unique and superb line of flakes up the centre of the chasm wall. Gain the middle of the three stepped ledges and step left off this onto a line of positive



flake holds that go up at first before curving up and right to gain a diagonal break. Go right along the break a metre or so until it is possible to pull into the base of a bold left-facing layback flake. Continue up this to finish at a finger of rock. The bottom 6m usually has a veneer of moisture and is serious; most of the route is run out apart from the distinct crux that is adequately protected with small wires.

### **South-South-East Face:**

*Shagged Out* 25m E3 6a \*\*. Gary Latter, Jules Lines. 9 Apr 2015.

The narrow left-facing groove and flake 3m right of *Space Traveller*. Move rightwards along shelves from below *Space Traveller* to gain the line. Follow it, then the flake, finishing up a crack in the headwall.

**Notes:** *Space Traveller* gives superb immaculate climbing, 3 stars and E1 5b is sufficient (not E2). *Venus* was thought worth E1 5b and 2 stars.

### **Beach Ball Wall:**

*Space Hopper* 25m E4 6a \*\*. Gary Latter. 8 Apr 2015.

The prominent diagonal line. Start 2m left of *Buckets in Spades*. Climb finger slots, then move up right to join *Buckets in Spades*. Continue along a right-slanting crack to finish up an easy-angled open groove.

**Note:** *Buckets in Spades* is E1 5b (Andy Hyslop thinks E2).

### **Strawberry Pig Slab:**

*Brambles* 9m H.Severe 4b. Karen & Gary Latter. 8 Sep 2014.

The broken cracks up the left edge of the slab, just left of *Jo's Plums*.

### **ERRAID, Rubha Calachain (NM 29191 19221):**

A sheltered bay with a tidal crag. Topo provided.

*Mull it Over* 30m Severe 4a. Gwilym Starks, Glen Howaston. 24 Aug 2014.

Go up a thin crack in a slab to a block come spike (optional belay). Traverse right along a ledge, crossing *Back to It* to climb a deep corner.

*Back to It* 20m V.Diff. Glen Howaston, Gwilym Starks. 24 Aug 2014.

Go up an easy wall and corners to the ledge as above. Follow obvious corner-cracks to the top.

*Mullatov Cocktail* 20m H.Severe 4b \*\*. Andy Spink, Stevie Boyle. 24 Aug 2014.

Easy climbing leads to obvious twin cracks. Climb easily to a steep wall and climb the twin cracks.

*Mariposa* 20m H.Severe 4a. Stevie Boyle, Andy Spink. 24 Aug 2014.

Climb the flaked wall via a series of horizontal breaks and cracks. Finish up a bulging wall at the top.

### **New Slabs:**

*Second Hand* 8m Severe 4a. Stevie Boyle, Andy Spink. 24 Aug 2014.

Right of *Nouvelle* up an arete and into an obvious slanting crack-line to the top.

**EILEAN DUBH, Easter Island, South Face:**

*Sword of Damocles* 15m E2 5c \*\*\*. Gary & Karen Latter. 7 Oct 2014.

The fine corner and crack, with a remarkable 6m long thin flake-crack wedged in its upper half. Climb a short jam crack onto a good ledge. Layback the wide crack above (Camalot 4 useful, though not essential) and continue up, hugging the flake.

*The Dogs Doo Dah* 15m E1 5b \*. Gary & Karen Latter. 7 Oct 2014.

The prominent vertical crack above the left end of the large boulder at the base. Climb a diagonal flake to a good projecting block, then slightly left before moving back right to finish up the crack.

**Note:** *Eilean Doo* on the West Face is 15m (not 25m).

**EILEAN NAN MUC, Sunset Walls South:**

(NM 283 193) Alt 5m West facing

The southmost of three crags on the west side of the island, about 200m south of the sheltered landing bay.

*Here Comes the Sun* 8m E2 5c \*. Gary & Karen Latter. 9 Oct 2014.

The central, slightly right-slanting crack, finishing steeply by a good flake.

*Always the Sun* 9m E3 6a \*\*\*. Gary Latter. 9 Oct 2014.

Fine well protected climbing on impeccable rock. The left-curving overlap, with difficult moves getting established in an improving flakey groove in the upper section.

**ISLAY:****Creag an t-Saighdeir (Soldier's Rock):**

*West Face* 20m HVS 5a. Tom Prentice, Simon Richardson. 13 Sep 2014.

This classically proportioned pinnacle is Islay's best-known sea-stack and gets its name from the prominent quartz band on its seaward side, reminiscent of a soldier's shoulder belt. The stack lies on the coast west of the abandoned settlement of Grasdale, approached from Kintra campsite at the south end of Laggan Bay. It was reached by a 100m swim. The stepped crack and corner on the West Face gave quality climbing on solid, well-protected rock.

The three pinnacles connected to the stack at low tide gave pleasant scramble routes between Diff and V.Diff.

**Cocked Hat Stack:**

*West Ridge* 25m Diff. Tom Prentice, Simon Richardson. 14 Sep 2014.

The obvious stack in the bay to the north-east, south of Eilean Torrach, was reached by a 120m swim and climbed solo via its West Ridge.

**ARRAN:**

**Note:** *All Along the Watchtower* on Full Mead Tower is credited in the new guide to Andy Fraser & Robin McAllister. Mike Reed was also part of the FA team.

**CIR MHOR, Upper East Face:**

*The Somnambulist* 50m E7 6c \*\*. Tony Stone, Iain Small (both led, pre-practised). 13 Jun 2015.



*Creag an t-Saighdeir, Islay.*

*Photo: Tom Prentice.*



*Tony Stone on the FA of Somnambulist (E7,6c), Cir Mhor, Arran.*

*Photo: Iain Small.*

Follows the left arete of the blunt prow forming the front face of the 'monolithic wall that flanks Sub Rosa Gully'. Both technical and bold, this route requires all your faculties for the bold, balancey upper arete. Beware of rope drag on the upper part and take doubles of Camelot 3 and 0.75. The initial section has some slightly friable flakes.

Scramble up steep broken ground to belay on a ledge below and left of the prow proper. Step up right to gain a short inset groove with a good crack. From its top, step left to undercuts, then awkwardly gain a higher crack leading up left to a good pocket (in-situ thread, Camelot 0.75 below). A hard section leads out right to a poor hold on the arete and a rockover to gain a pocket on the slabby right face of the arete (Camelot 0.75 in pocket to the right). Take the slab up to the roof above and from the flake on its right side, move out left to gain a sloping shelf running to the arete. Awkward moves from slightly left on the shelf lead up to cracks on the left side of the arete. Step back right to below a prominent long overlap. Reach over to a flake, then up to a large pocket in the slab) and pad up to the obvious break (Camelot 3). Move along this, back left, to the top arete. Start up this to gain a standing position in a pocket on the left side (in-situ thread). A bold technical section tackling the arete above eventually eases and a Camelot 3 can be placed in the rounded flake out right. Pull over onto the final slab and head initially rightwards, then back left to the long ledge. In-situ thread further right.

*Skydiver Unstable Exit* 40m E4 6a \*. Tony Stone, Iain Small. 12 Jun 2015.

From the ledge at the top of *Skydiver*, an obvious intrusion runs up the steep wall above. Start below the intrusion. Gain the first break, then follow the intrusion exiting awkwardly onto the slab at the top. Surmount the short steep wall beyond at the obvious crack.

## SKYE

### **SGURR A' BHASTEIR, North Face:**

*Smoked Salomon* 60m III. Mark Francis, Murdo Nicolson. 17 Jan 2015.

Follow a line of thin turf through the middle of the left-hand side upper buttress.

*Paramo Sapiens* 50m IV,4. Mark Francis, Matt Barratt, John Smith. 19 Jan 2015.

Takes the icefall splitting the upper buttress.

*Je Suis Charlet* 95m III. Mark Francis, Murdo Nicolson. 17 Jan 2015.

Climbs an open corner with a bounding right wall, keeping right of an obvious groove.

*Stormy Petzl* 85m III. Mark Francis, Murdo Nicolson, Norman Macleod, David Bowdler. 1 Feb 2015.

Takes the left-hand icy groove from the same start as *Je Suis Charlet*. Belay on the obvious ledge, then exit through the top band via a turfgy groove.

*Lowe Supine* 55m III,4. Murdo Nicolson, Mark Francis, Norman Macleod, David Bowdler. 1 Feb 2015.



Follow the obvious narrow slot at the left-hand edge of the crag.

**Note:** *Mike the Bhasteird* (2010) lies right of these routes on the lower tier.

### North-East Face:

*Twicicle* 50m IV,4. Mark Francis, David Bowdler (left start); Mike Lates, Alex Anderson (right start). 30 Jan 2015.

Twin icefalls lie left of an obvious narrow gully coming down from the north-east ridge and above the wee lochan. Climb the right-hand icefall, or the steeper left-hand start. Exit left up icy slabs to belay at a low wall. Finish by easier ground taking a rising rightward traverse leading onto the north-east ridge (not included in length).

*Faricle* 35m IV,5. Murdo Nicolson, Mark Francis. 7 Feb 2015.

This route is on the left wall of the narrow gully, just as it starts to narrow and just past an undercut wall. Starting at some ugly stacked blocks, climb the icefall in the corner. Finish by easier ground taking a rising rightward traverse leading onto the north-east ridge (not included in length).

### SGURR A' MHADAIDH:

The four tiered buttress to the left of *Winter Gully*.

*Sweetheart Buttress* 300m III,4. Mark Francis, Gill Houlsby, Matt Barratt. 28 Dec 2014.

A good mountaineering route with an obvious line but easily escapable. Start just to the right of *South Gully*.

1. 30m Climb the turfy groove on the right.
2. 60m Follow slabs and grooves to the base of the undercut buttress.
3. 40m An easy walk up a ramp to the corner of the buttress and *Winter Gully*.
4. 30m A nice pitch onto the crest of the buttress.
5. 40m Easy along the crest to a steepening.
6. 15m Climb direct through, nice technical climbing on good gabbro.
7. 50m Easily to the last tier.
8. 40m Follow a steep, slim basalt chimney on the right and then weave your way up the face.

Follow the buttress to the bowl at the top, ending just below Bealach Glai Mor.

### SGURR A' GHREADAIDH, West Face:

*Hidden Gully* 130m V,6 \*\*\*. Steve Perry, Michael Barnard. 17 Jan 2015.

As for the summer route. The chimney pitch was very exciting back and footing up thickly verglassed walls using the well spaced chockstones as protection. Pitch 3 was sustained and absorbing with a lovely move right into the grooves. SP thought the grade was at least VI,6.

1. 30m Climb up to the base of the main chimney.
2. 30m Climb the chimney past chockstones and a through route.
3. 25m The chimney ends above. Climb a line of weakness just left of the obvious chockstone, then step right and follow grooves.
4. 45m Traverse right to a V-groove. Go up this and continue to easier ground.

**SGURR NA BANACHDAICH, Sgurr nan Gobhar, Heart Buttress:**

An obvious clean sheet of rock high on the northern flank of Sgurr na Gobhar above Coir' an Eich.

*Techno Snob* 40m E2 5c \*\*\*. Malcom Airey, Mike Lates. 3 Jul 2012.

Climbs the central fault line before breaking left to a more prominent crack. A fierce start (5b, hard to protect for the short) leads to a section of easier beautiful climbing on the wall above. Break left at 20m to the obvious parallel crack. Finish by small positive holds where this runs out to a poor block belay on the ledge above.

*Oldest Raver in Skye Finish* 35m E1 5b \*\*\*. Mike Lates, Lucy Spark. 10 Jul 2014.

The fierce rockover start to *Techno Snob* forms the crux of this easier variation. Continue direct where *Techno Snob* breaks left; easier but gives climbing of equally superb quality. Poor block belays above.

**COIRE NA BANACHDAICH:**

*Banner Diction* 165m III,4. Mark Francis, Murdo Nicolson, Ally Macaskill. 21 Jan 2015.

A deep recess lies 100m right of *Banachdich Gully*. This route starts below a steep icefall 20m left of this. Climb an iced rib to the foot of the icefall which is climbed on its left edge. Follow easier ice to some bulges to finish.

**COIRE LAGAN, China Crag:**

*Taslim Ahmed* 35m E1 5a/b \*. Colin Moody, Cynthia Grindley. 14 Sep 2014.

Start between *Hueco* and *Aloo Gobi*. Go up towards the overlap and go past it on the right, then step left onto the ledge above the overlap. Make thin moves up then easier to join and finish up either the route on the left or right.

*Howker* 20m VS 4c \*. Colin Moody, Cynthia Grindley. 14 Sep 2014.

The crack right of *Curver*.

**Note:** *Curver* (SMCJ 2014) is probably worth \*\*.

**SGURR ALASDAIR, South Face:**

*Central Route* 20m V,6 \*\*. Michael Barnard, Tim Oates. 24 Jan 2015.

As for the summer route, but starting up grooves on the left. Some useful ice on the first ascent.

*Skye High* 35m VI,7 \*. Michael Barnard, Josh Fawcett. 1 Feb 2015.

An excellent pitch up the steep crack at the far left end of the crag.

1. 20m Climb the crack (pumpy and well protected).
2. 15m The deceptively difficult continuation fault. Either abseil off after this or continue up easier ground.

*Con's Cleft* 100m VII,7. James Sutton, Mike Lates. 1 Feb 2015.

Requires extreme weathering to come into winter condition.

1. 30m Gain the deep recess, place a high cam runner, then break out right, thin and strenuous, to gain the thin crack and eventual belay.
2. 10m Well protected but strenuous moves.



3. 40m A long pitch frequently requiring some big gear.

### **COIRE A' GHRUNNDA:**

*Here Today, Gone Tomorrow* 50m IV,4 \*\*. Tim Oates, Michael Barnard. 24 Jan 2015.

In good conditions a very prominent icefall forms left of *Vagabond Buttress*.

### **South Crag:**

*South Crag Gully* IV,5. Michael Barnard, Josh Fawcett. 31 Jan 2015.

A winter ascent. Some ice is helpful (the more the better) but not essential.

*Land of Plenty* 55m III,4. Michael Barnard, Josh Fawcett. 31 Jan 2015.

A narrow chimney-gully up the right side of the very top buttress, gained from the gully on the right.

*Owl Arete* 48m VS 4b \*. Steve Kennedy, Cynthia Grindley. Aug 2014.

The arete immediately right of *Owl Chimney*. Climb a short corner just right of the arete followed by a steep crack in the wall above. Move left onto the arete from the top of the wall. Climb the arete, sometimes on its left, avoiding the temptation to move into the chimney. Sparsely protected.

### **LOCH SCAVAIG, Improbable Wall (NG 482 189):**

A wall on the far side of Loch Scavaig has a wide white streak down the middle of it. On the right side of this wall just to the left of the corner is a wide crack. This is the line of the following route.

*Nose Lobe Smooth* 30m E2 5c. Charlie Woodburn, Liam Lonsdale. 14 Aug 2014.

Follow the obvious crack all the way. A steep pull at 5m leads to fun climbing up to a pod below the top and a rest. Pull round this to the top. Jamming optional. Often wet in the upper section.

Around the blunt left rib of this wall the buttress turns up the slope. This wall is easier angled and has several crack-lines running vertically. There is a diagonal break running from left to right across this wall.

*Rough with the Smooth* 25m VS 4c. Dom Bush, Liam Lonsdale. 14 Aug 2014. Follows this diagonal break finishing on the ledge above the wide white streak around to the right.

### **JMCS Buttress:**

*Whale Song* 30m E2. Dom Bush, Gilly McArthur. 19 Aug 2014.

Start on the right side of the buttress at the obvious ledge. Follow the mid-height break from right to left with a long step down to reach a good hold where the crack becomes less defined and joins the route *Beached Whale* – 5b. Continue more easily along the continuation crack as it curves upwards (5a). Belay well back, as for *Beached Whale*.

*Tumblehome* 20m E5 6b. Charlie Woodburn (unsec). 18 Aug 2014.

Start just left of the boulder at the base of the wall, about 10m right of the hut.

Climb direct to the horizontal break of *Whale Song* – bold. Arrange good large cams and step right to below the left-trending diagonal crack above. Pull around the bulge following this crack to the top.

### **CORUIK, Sgurr a' Mhadaidh:**

**Note:** Charlie Woodburn repeated *Skye Wall* on 19 Sep 2014. It's an absolute classic of UK trad, but the main difficulty of the route is getting there in dry conditions. This and a later repeat by Iain Small agreed on E7 6b.

### **Dubhs Ridge:**

After topping out on *Old Mortality*, a lovely 25m slab lay directly ahead with a perfect crack running up the centre of the slab (on the left flank of the Dubhs Ridge).

*The Cock Inn* 25m Severe \*. John Craven, Stuart Johnson. 3 May 2014.

The obvious slab just beyond the top of the gully normally used to start the Dubhs Ridge. Climb the crack in the centre of the slab.

### **GARBH-BHEINN, Winter Cliff:**

Lies further up the corrie beyond the rock climbs on Creag Druim Eadar da Choire. Approach by Coire Selig is very wet so best to continue up the NNW ridge past the top of Creag Druim Eadar da Choire to approx. the 600m contour. Descend an enclosed but easy angled gully for 60m to reach the base of the cliff.

*Yat for the Doh* 60m II \*. Mo Barclay, Stuart Leonard, Mike Lates. 4 Feb 2015. A broad icefall leads up left from the foot of the descent gully. Climbed in two pitches staying close to the right wall rather than easier ground breaking left at the top.

*Chockolates* 80m V,6 \*\*. Mike Lates, Mo Barclay, Stuart Leonard. 4 Feb 2015. From the descent gully, traverse the foot of the cliff leftward for 40m. A rising leftward fault (25m) gives access to another ledge system. From here the most obvious break in the upper cliff is a steep narrow chimney slightly back right. Ascend vegetated snow slopes for 20m and belay below the fault.

1. 40m Climb easy but thin ice to the foot of the obvious chimney. Ice in the back was useful but not essential in the fight to reach the obvious chockstone. Belay 6m higher below the final huge chockstone blocking the way.
2. 40m Climb through a small hole behind the chockstone and continue with interest to reach a steep finish and block belay.

*Making Memories* 120m V,6 \*. Alison Coull, Fiona Murray. 4 Feb 2015.

A gully line some 100m left of the above route.

1. 50m Follow the icy gully to belay under a roof.
2. 35m Traverse for 10m until a right-facing bulging corner can be gained. Climb this to its overhang. Pull over (crux) onto a turfy wall and climb up to a block.
3. 25m Move right to gain a left-facing corner. Follow this and easy ground to the top.

### **NEIST, Financial Sector:**

*Austerity Lite* 25m E6 6b \*. Dave MacLeod, Natalie Berry. 21 Jun 2015.

Good balancy climbing on the arete right of *Piggy Bank*. Make a few moves up the corner and arrange good cams in the overlap in the left wall. Stretch left to the rounded arete and make a series of balance moves on small edges leftwards around the arete to eventually reach a jug. Make another move up and left to gain the groove of *Piggy Bank* and finish up this.

### **An t-Aigeach:**

*Death Pirate, Davy Jones' Locker Start* 35m E4 6a. Iain Small, Jules Lines. 20 Apr 2015.

A direct starting pitch from sea-level to link into *Death Pirate* giving a complete line up An t-Aigeach. Abseil to good ledges to the left of a recessed wide chimney. Follow the snaking crack on good clean rock to an overlap. Pull right into a crack and groove and where it becomes vegetated, step right onto the steep wall and climb into and up a wide groove to the big ledge at the base of *Death Pirate*.

**Note:** *Death Pirate* was climbed and was excellent with good clean rock. E6 6b,6b, fairly high in the grade. Pitch 1 is about 35m and not poorly protected (as in the original description) but the crux is run out. The crux was climbed more directly and in a fantastic exposed position by gaining a standing position on the hold on the arete, then climbing the right side of the arete to gain a sloping ledge and belay crack below the overhanging corner.

### **South of the Steps:**

**Note:** The prominent crack of *Patsy Says* is very good but closer to 10m than 18m in length. The route was approached by abseil.

### **MINGINISH, Na Huranan:**

A SW facing crag 200m on the north side of the Carbest to Talisker Bay road at its highest point. Park just before a big red shed on the saddle. A 15mins walk to the right end of the crag. The rock is compact and protection can be hard to find; it is worth carrying extra cams. The buttresses and routes are described from right to left, as one would approach.

### **Auld Dyke Buttress:**

This is the very rightmost buttress. Beneath it and snaking down the hillside, is the remains of an ancient boundary wall. At the highest point of the crag a rather black and dirty large open scoop runs the full height of the buttress. It has a clean detached pillar sitting at half-height on its right and a block lying against the cliff base 5m to the left. Routes are described from right to left with reference to this groove.

*Sun and Air* 18m E1 5b. Paul Torode, Alan Hill, Brett Drinkwater. 1 Apr 2013. Start 1m left of the block (at the second cracked groove left of the big open groove) and climb a deceptive groove with short wide crack section (crux). Move up and slightly right, then back left up a final groove.

The next three routes all start at the third cracked groove left of the big dirty open groove.

*Rescue Dog Remedy* 18m VS 4c. Stephen & Sally Reid. 9 Apr 2015.

Interesting climbing but be careful of detached blocks. Two metres left is a short

groove leading to a small block overhang (*A Boy Named Sue*). Climb the right wall of the groove to the right side of the overhang and make an awkward stretch up right to a detached block. Step back left over the top of the block overhang and climb up to the left side of a large detached block. Step back right over this, move up and then make a rising traverse back left to finish.

*A Boy Named Sue* 18m HVS 4c. Alan Hill, Paul Torode, Brett Drinkwater. 1 Apr 2013.

Climb the short groove with a small overhang at 3m. Move right to a vague ledge and good gear in a short steep corner-crack to the right. Move back left and onto a ledge, then finish leftwards.

*Two Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest* 18m VS 4c \*. Stephen & Sally Reid. 9 Apr 2015.

Start left of the groove and climb a short wall to a ledge. Step right and make a hard move up a sharp rib using a hidden hold to gain a ledge on the right. Finish direct.

Uphill and some 12m to the left is a short dirty wide slot, where this section of crag is at its shortest.

*Scratch Mahatch* 15m HVS 5a. Alan Hill, Paul Torode, Brett Drinkwater. 1 Apr 2013.

Two metres left of the slot is a groove leading to a prominent hand crack.

*Karate Kid* 20m E2 5b \*. Paul Torode, Alan Hill. 1 Apr 2013.

Four metres left is an obvious steep narrow V-groove below a large flake feature. Move up and right after the groove, finishing right of the flake. A large block at the top of the groove is balanced on a ledge.

The next route is up and left.

*One Fell Swoop* 12m HVS 5a. Alan Hill, Paul Torode. 1 Apr 2013.

Start on a blocky ledge below thin parallel cracks. Finish direct or up a left-hand corner.

### **SUIDHE BIORACH:**

*Toast* 30m E7 6c \*\*\*\*. Dave MacLeod, Natalie Berry. 25 Jun 2015.

A brilliant climb taking on the horizontal roof and steep wall right of *Mother's Pride*.

1. 15m 5b Start about 6m right of *Mother's Pride* and climb the wall on big holds, moving left around a bulge and then traversing slightly right to a belay at the roof.
2. 15m 6c Arrange a couple of small cams in pockets in the roof and launch outwards using a positive undercut. Reach the next undercut and then gain jugs on the lip with difficulty. Continue directly up the pumpy steep headwall.

**Note:** *Tree Route Variation* at E1 5b is better than the original. At the large roofs, step left to tackle the obvious twin cracks. Huge holds make this remarkably easy. The continuation cracks stay left of the original route giving a more sustained challenge that needs some cleaning higher up. It is probably the same as the upper

section of *Rapid Learning Curve*. Led by Francis Blunt on 20 Sep 2014.

### **RAASAY, Hidden Wall of Sithean Mhor:**

The established routes here are at the right-hand end. Near the left side of the crag is a large, distinctly M shaped recess. Right of this is an obvious wide break slants from top left to bottom right across the crag. Two left-facing grooves lead into this break, the left one being very steeply undercut. The following route takes the right groove.

*Desolation Roe* 13m E1 5c \*. Andy Moles, Ferdia Earle. 7 Jul 2014.

Gain the groove by a couple of steep pulls. Climb the groove to where it meets the main break at a ledge, then step left to finish up a short wall.

*The Hardcôr-gi* 15m E1 5c \*. Ferdia Earle, Andy Moles. 7 Jul 2014.

A few metres right of the previous route is a triangular niche below the break. Gain the break via this recess, then follow the break left to a ledge. Finish more easily just to the right of the previous route. A very large cam would be useful, but is not essential. A poorly protected alternative is to gain the break at its lowest point off a boulder a few metres to the right.

*Baby Missiles* 15m E1 5c \*\*. Andy Moles, Ferdia Earle. 7 Jul 2014.

The best line on the crag, straightening out the original *Route Seven*. Follow that route to the ledge, but continue in the same line up the steep crack. Safe and fun.

### **Ocean-Going Cliff:**

*Roe Is Me* 7m E2/3 6a \*. Ferdia Roe Earle, Andy Moles. 7 Jul 2014.

At the top left end of the crag, hidden behind a pinnacle block, is a short steep arete. Climb it without using the block. Micro, but fun climbing with good gear in the breaks.

*Raucous Summer* 13m E2 5c \*\*\*. Andy Moles, Ferdia Earle. 7 Jul 2014.

A brilliant technical route up the wall just right of the crag's central arete. Start at the base of the arete, just right of *Fingerlicker*, and move up and right onto the wall. Climb it directly by shallow grooves. Sustained but low in the grade (maybe).

**Note:** *Fingerlicker* was thought E1 5c \*\*.

### **Sgurr nan Gall, Main Walls:**

*Ocean Between the Waves* 25m E3 5c \*. Andy Moles, Ferdia Earle. 8 Jul 2014.

This tackles the tapering red wall between *Fladda* and *Blood Test*. Climb thin cracks a few metres left of the shallow groove taken by *Blood Test* to the ledge. From an obvious curving crack, climb the wall above trending left then back right until forced into *Blood Test* at a distinct jutting flake. Finish up *Blood Test* or just to the left. Good climbing but not a fully independent line. A more direct version through the apex of the wall looks possible but very hard.

*Collie Dread* 25m VS 4c \*\*. Ferdia Earle, Andy Moles. 8 Jul 2014.

Climb obvious flake-grooves up the wall between *The Tobacco Run* and *Oisinn McAulay*, with a couple of steeper crux moves through a large flake near the top.

**Note:** *Fladda* was thought E2 5b \*\*, *Oisinn McAulay* HVS 5a \*\*.

### **AIRD OF SLEAT, Creag Mhor:**

The crag is only given a brief write-up in the Skye guide but Jamie Bankhead and others thought the crag well worth writing up. The routes have probably been done before but the crag is of good, clean south facing quartzite, with a lovely aspect. The routes are described from left to right, all approx 15m and climbed on 13 Sep 2014 by Jamie Bankhead, Seumas Mehan & Rich Parker. Bikes are recommended for the approach.

*Leftward Leaning* H.Severe 4a \*.

Start up a crack, then move left to an arete. Climb this with no protection to the top.

*Centre Ground* V.Diff \*.

Steady climbing with good protection.

*No Guarantee* HVS 4c \*.

Attack the wall to the right, steep moves with poor protection.

*Referendum Route* Severe \*\*.

Climb the steepening crack to the right on brilliant holds.

*Devolution* HVS 5a \*\*.

Start up the thin diagonal crack before launching onto the apparently smooth wall above. This is climbed on small but positive edges with good Cam protection.

*Suspicion* V.Diff.

The diagonal crack throughout. Some dubious rock.

*Fight for the Right* H.Severe 4b \*.

The short wall at the right of the crag. Tricky moves low down with poor protection lead to easier climbing.

## **NORTHERN HIGHLANDS NORTH**

### **BEINN DEARG, Cadha Dearg:**

*Far East Gully* 180m III \*. Roger Webb, James Edwards. 17 Jan 2015.

At approximately NH 286 863, there is an easy descent gully splitting the cliffs at the east end of Gleann a' Chadha Dheirg. About 100m north of this the cliffs are split by a narrow gully. Climb this gully in four pitches; the penultimate pitch includes an excellent through route.

### **CONA' MHEALL, Coire Ghranda Face:**

*Imperturbable* IV,6 \*. Pete Macpherson, Neil Wilson, Roger Webb. 28 Dec 2014. The Coire Ghranda face is wedge shaped, the thin end being to the north. Follow the face down and south-east to the first very obvious chimney gully; this is perhaps 300m north-west of *Spaghetti Gully*. Climb this feature in two pitches, always entertaining, always well protected.

**ARDMAIR, Monster Buttress:**

*Tubby's Tremendous Trundles* 35m E2 5b \*. Ian Taylor, Tess Fryer. Jun 2014.  
Start up the *The Raingoose*. Where that route pulls over a bulge into a corner, move right to good holds on the arete and climb up to the sloping ledge. Above is a right-slanting groove. Gain a ledge below this and go up a slab rightwards to easier ground (RPs needed). Finish up cracks.

**CUL MOR, Coire Gorm:**

*The Greatest Show On Earth* 180m X,10. Greg Boswell, Guy Robertson. 19 Jan 2015.

The first route to breach the big back wall of Coire Gorm, and a superb if somewhat death-defying route. The crux, unsurprisingly, is turning the great roof, and it is here that the protection is at its most sparse. Start at the biggest icefall just right of centre, below and right of large icicles hanging from a slight break in the roof. Above and slightly left of these icicles is a great soaring corner-groove, the centrepiece of the upper wall.

1. 40m Climb ice more or less directly up to the girdling break below the roof, then traverse this horizontally left for about 10m to belay by the icicles.
2. 20m Climb up the icicles, then work up and slightly right across the roof to the lip where a short hard traverse right allows a pull over onto the upper wall. Take a deep breath, then teeter up left to a ledge.
3. 20m Take the obvious line trending up and left to gain a cave by a little crest just right of the big groove.
4. 50m Step left into the groove and follow this with sustained interest to easier angled ground.
5. 50m Romp gleefully to easier ground below the summit of the mountain. It is probably easier and safer to continue to the summit before descending.

**STAC POLLAIDH, West Buttress, South Face:**

*Non Compos Mentis* 35m E3 5c \*. Ian Taylor, Tess Fryer. 21 Jul 2014.

An alternative first pitch to *Felo de Se*. Start left of *Shadow on the Wall* and follow the easiest line up the narrow buttress until able to move left to a small rowan sapling in a corner. Go up the corner until able to pull right to an area of cleaned ledges. Climb directly above, finishing up a short crack, to belay on the ledge below the chimney pitch of *Felo de Se*.

*Hank Marvin* 30m E4/5 6a \*\*. Ian Taylor, Tess Fryer. 5 Sep 2014.

From the belay on *Shadow on the Wall*, hand-traverse back right for 2m. Follow the crack above, through an overhang and continue up thin cracks to a junction with *Mid-Flight Crisis* at its niche. Go up a groove slightly rightwards until below some vegetation, move left and take flared cracks to the top.

*Expecting to Fly Direct* 48m E5 6a \*\*\*. Ian Taylor, Tess Fryer. 14 Jul 2014.

Start at a crack right of *Mid Flight Crisis* and just left of a short corner. Climb the crack (Camalot 3 and Friend 4 useful) to a ledge, then make a couple of moves up the right-hand of two cracks, to join the original line at a faded thread.

**Note:** *Shadow on the Wall* has been re-cleaned recently at 35m E4 6a \*\*. A Friend 4 protects the crux making the original in-situ thread superfluous. *Plane Sailing* has also been re-cleaned and was thought to be E4 6a \*.



**West Buttress:**

*Virgil's Route* 15m E3 6a. Tess Fryer, Ian Taylor. 3 Jul 2015.

The right-trending crack on the outer face of Baird's Pinnacle, starting up an easy corner.

**WICKET GATE CRAG:**

*Pine Martens with Guns* 15m E6 6b \*\*. Ian Taylor, Calum Cunningham (both led). 5 May 2015.

Lies on the wall right of *Garden Path*. Start left of a big embedded flake and go up to a big break (Camalot 4), then up to another break. Move left along the break then go straight up the wall above (crux), heading for a small hanging groove. Finish more easily.

**OSSUARY BLOCK:**

The Ossuary Block aka Carragh Dearg (SMCJ 2009) is the obvious towering crag just south of the popular bouldering area known as Reiff-in-the-Woods. It is just above the east end of Loch Bad a' Ghaill and about 2km west of Stac Pollaidh (NC 091 093), 10mins. Zigzag down some steep slopes and go across rough ground. The excellent rough rock dries quickly.

There are two excellent highball boulder problems that start off the terrace on the left side of the crag. *The Beast's Lair* (6m Font 6B+) takes the blunt arete on the left above the big flake and *Vipe-out* (8m Font 7A) goes up the wall right of the dirty corner to an easier layback finish. Perhaps E5 6b in old money.

*Find Meat on Bones* 10m E7/8 6c \*\*\*. Iain Small. 2015.

This route finds a complex way up the challenge of the middle of the wall. Start off the stonemason's wall on the right. Headpointed above bouldering mats.

*Under Reiff Wood* 10m E6 6b \*\*. Iain Small. 2014.

Takes the central arete between the highball wall and *Ossuary*. *Ossuary* (SMCJ 2009) is the obvious crack in the front face. Start from the right end of the upper ledge and step out to gain a big block in a large break. Strenuously arrange small wires in the hanging corner on right side of the arete, then pull out via a flake onto the left face before gaining small holds on the arete that allow you to swing over the corner and battle up the right side to sloping holds and a foot ledge. Bold moves above this in a great position lead to the platform top.

**BEN MOR COIGACH, Creag Garbh Choireachan:**

*The Beast* 20m E3 5c \*\*\*. John Mackenzie, Andrew McKenzie. 3 Jul 2015.

The obvious and most striking corner line on the top tier just right of the final pitch of *The Wild West*. It is sustained on clean rock with as much protection as you have the strength to put in. A fine combination of layback, jamming and bridging leads to a ledge and a final short crack.

*Craicstone Grip* 40m HVS 5a \*. Andrew McKenzie, John Mackenzie. 3 Jul 2015.

The east facing walls and grooves rise above the right-bounding gully that borders the scramble of *West Ridge Direct*. A very obvious tongue of slab is met low down in the gully. Potentially good given a good brushing but climbed on-sight.

1. 35m 5a Climb the slab starting from a little alcove and go up the unprotected

and quite delicate rock to a step right, then back left to the upper slab before the steep upper walls. Move right to a deep corner-crack above some blocks and climb this, well protected, to a ledge.

2. 5m 4b Climb the short but steep corner above the spike belay, some loose but useful blocks.

Walk left to reach the left-bounding gully which is descended to a prominent niche on the left. This gains easy access to the ledge below the Upper Tier of the South Face and another descent to the right-bounding gully.

### **REIFF, Stone Pig Cliff:**

*Headstrong Direct* 20m E5 6a \*\*. Ian Taylor, Tess Fryer. 29 Aug 2015.

Start up the steep left side of the arete, pulling round right to join the original line at its crux.

### **Slab Inlet:**

*Old Buoy's Route* 15m Diff. Michael Barnard. 24 Mar 2012.

At the back of the inlet is a deep cleft with a large chockstone at the top. Climb it.

*Variation:* V.Diff. Michael Barnard. 24 Mar 2012.

From near the top, move out to finish on the other side of the chockstone (bold).

*Mermaid and Chips* 12m E1 5a \*. Michael Barnard, Rory Morris. 19 Apr 2015. Climbs the narrow buttress between the deep cleft and the slab corner. Start in the cleft. Go up a short slab and swing round to gain the obvious ledge. Move up and right then back left to finish directly.

*Bridge Over Troubled* 12m HVS 5a \*. Michael Barnard, Rory Morris. 19 Apr 2015.

Start as for the above before stepping right to climb the steep fault (the outside of the deep cleft of *Old Buoy's Route*). Finish direct over the capping roof.

*The Slab, Landward End, Right-Hand Finish* H.Severe 4c. Michael Barnard. 24 Mar 2012.

The obvious vertical corner.

### **QUINAG, Western Cliffs:**

*Jinky* 120m V,5. Dave McGimpsey, Andy Nisbet, Jonathan Preston. 4 Feb 2015. The gully left of *Balconic* (2013).

### **TARBET CRAGS, Foindle Crag, Big D Crag:**

Described from the right-hand end of the crag.

*Interrupted Slab* 22m H.Severe 4b. John Mackenzie, Andrew James. 10 Apr 2015.

This is the clean reddish slab on the far right of the crag. Climb the left side via a shallow crack to a broken arete. Move right into a corner and finish up a short steep groove.

*Jolly D* 25m VS 4c \*\*. Andrew James, John Mackenzie. 10 Apr 2015.

A very good climb following the left-slanting ramp line on the right side of the



*Julian Lines on the FA of Statue of Liberty (E5,5c), Port Vasgo.*

*Photo: Andy Nisbet.*



*Simon Nadin on the FA of Jacobite Gold (E4,6a), Ben Loyal.*

*Photo: Dave Allan.*



main crag. Well protected, exposed and fun. Climb the ramp moving around a bulge near the top.

### **BEN HOPE:**

*Tower Ridge Integral* 470m V,6. Andy Nisbet, Steve Perry. 4 Mar 2015.

The ridge labelled in 'Highland Scrambles North' as *Tower Ridge* but including a lower continuation in the same line. It needs to be frozen but the upper part could be climbed alone at III,5. It may be possible to bypass the harder sections but as direct a line as was reasonable was chosen. Start at the base of the lower ridge, close to the gully on the right.

1. 100m Climb over short steps and an easier section, then more short steps to a steeper band.
2. 45m Climb this by a steep turfy fault leading to a terrace and the next tier.
3. 30m Climb a steep corner (crux) to step left on to a ledge. Traverse left, then go up left and back right to a ledge.
4. 50m Gain a terrace above and the next tier, climbed direct. Continue to another wall. Traverse left along a narrow ledge to regain the crest.
5. 75m Go along the crest to a smooth slabby section where the ridge bends right. Bypass this easily on the right, then return left to the crest and follow it to where the route up the rake joins.
6. 70m Take the best line up a slabby crest leading up to the tower. The intention was to climb the tower but it looks very hard. Follow the crest to the tower, then traverse right under it and climb a turfy corner ending with a difficult pull out of a niche.
7. 100m Regain the crest and follow it to easy ground which leads to the North Ridge.

### **BEN LOYAL, Sgor a' Bhatain:**

**Note:** *Jacobite Gold* is E4 6a \*\*\*. Pitch 1 is 45m 6a; Pitch 2 is 30m 6a.

### **Sgor a' Chleirich:**

**Note:** *Milky Way* Pitch 2 is 52m and better split at the optional belay at 20m.

Both routes are well worth seeking out.

### **CAITHNESS SEA-CLIFFS, MID CLYTH, Overhanging Wall Right:**

*A Fishy Pair* 13m H.Severe 4b. Paul Torode, Alan Hill. 9 Aug 2014.

Traverse right past *Bonxie* to the arete and up this on its right-hand side.

### **Overhanging Wall Left:**

*Pelvic Thrust* 10m HVS 5b. Alan Hill, Paul Torode. 10 Aug 2014.

Between *Psychedelic Wall* and *Slowboat*. Climb a thin crack through an overhang to a ledge. Go up the centre of the upper wall to a precarious finish.

### **SARCLET, Djapana Buttress:**

*The Grey Team* 35m E2 5b \*\*. Rob Christie, Charlie Macleod. 3 Sep 2014.

Five metres south of *Silver Surfer*, starting up a shoulder width chimney. Follow a corner left under a big roof. Exit right over the roof via the jammed block. Move up and left to rest, then right and up to gain a stance under the second roof. Exit left onto the wall, then up right to gain the prow on easy ground to finish.

**East Face:**

*The Haar Bringer* 35m E4 5c \*\*\*. Graham Tyldesley, Rory O'Hara Murray. 18 Apr 2015.

A line through the roofs left of *Groove Armada*. Start up *Time Bandit* and pass the 'protruding blob' on its right. Climb up and slightly right to a line of weakness in the roofs above. Follow this, stepping out right into a bridging rest before rejoining the line just above. A brilliant steep climb. A direct ascent would be a bit pumpier and maybe 6a.

**ORKNEY, Rose Ness:**

An update for the approach. Continue on from the cemetery and turn left following a sign for Upper Cornquoy. Park on the right in a good parking area just before the farm, ND 524 001. Go through a walkers' gate and follow a track to the cliff-top. Turn right and walk along the cliff past the impressive Hole of Ness to the crag (marked as Savernick on the 1:25,000 map), 15 to 20mins.

*Route 0* HVS 5a. Jonathan Preston, Diana Preston. 1 Jun 2015.

The wall left of *Route 1*. Start up a jutting flake (left of centre on the wall). Follow this rightwards to finish direct up the centre of the wall on steep juggy holds.

*Route 21* Severe. Jonathan Preston. 1 Jun 2015.

Further right from *Route 19*, around an edge and above rock pools. A fine looking corner with the crux right at the top (there is an escape ledge rightwards at half-height).

**NORTHERN HIGHLANDS CENTRAL****BEINN A' MHUINIDH, Bonaid Dhonn:**

*Camino del Sol* 60m VS 4c. Dan Moore. 22 Jul 2014.

Follow the lower approach via the goat track and just before the buttress starts turning round, there is a area of continuous steep rock about 50-60m high, with a wide open groove on the right leading up to some roofs and to the left of the arete are two parallel cracks in the middle of the buttress. This route takes the right-hand crack. Climb up carefully to the bottom of the crack which starts at the base of a shallow corner. Climb the crack which widens and then passes up and left through a steep bulge onto the easier angled slab above. Move up and right to climb a shallow groove just left of the arete and finish straight up. Continue scrambling to the top.

*Losing my Edge* 120m VS 4c \*\*. Dan Moore. 23 Jul 2014.

This route climbs the prominent beak of rock described in the guide 5m above the path at the corner of the glen, right of *Route 1*. It effectively climbs the arete of the corner of the glen. There is an obvious nose/beak of rock with an overhung corner on its right side and containing a crack (clearly visible on the topo in the guide right of *Route 1*). Climb the arete on the right below the corner, until it joins the corner. Move steeply left round the overhang and follow the fault-line above for a few metres until below overhanging rock above. Move left and up to pull round on top of a big rectangular block (probably the one mentioned in *Route 1*

description). Continue up the fault line above for a couple of metres, before traversing back right over the overhangs, spacewalking rightwards until possible to mantel up onto a ledge. Continue up a groove for a few metres to a good ledge and belay (40–50m). Continue up the slim V-groove above. Finish up the corner in the arete above.

*Toblerone* 120m V.Diff \*. Ewan Lyons. 20 Apr 2014.

Start 20m left of the start to *Route I* and climb a triangular shaped leaning pillar to its finish. Climb the short, steep wall above (easier for the tall, watch out for loose block) or avoid on the right. Step left over one rib and gain another further left; follow this at an easy angle, crossing *Route II* to below the chimney. Step left to the foot of a right-angled corner, climb this, then step left again into another corner that leads to a blunt arete. Easy scrambling leads to a final steep wall. Topo provided.

### BEINN A' MHUINIDH:

*North-West Buttress* 120m IV,4. Roger Webb, Simon Richardson. 13 Dec 2014. The crag below the summit on the north-west face of Beinn a' Mhuinidh is disappointingly broken, however there is a steep buttress towards its right end at NH 029 662. This looks imposing from below but is cut by a deep right-trending fault.

1. 60m Climb easy snow and ice to the foot of the fault.
2. 30m Follow the fault and exit via a squeeze chimney to gain the right crest of the buttress.
3. 30m Climb cracks and short corners trending left to the top of the buttress.

### STONE VALLEY CRAGS AREA, Meall an Triubhais Dhuibh:

Approach: Park at the car park by the green barn at NG 856 721. Follow a track north for a few hundred metres then head down to cross a burn and head towards a notch in the skyline, above which is a pond with many lilies. Visible from here to the north is the Lily Lochan Crag. The Main Wall is further round to the left and north.

#### Main Wall:

(NG 857 728) Alt 220m West facing

*Gneiss Journey* 45m HVS. Jeanie & Stuart Macfarlane. 19 Jul 2014.

Start at a corner at the right end of the lower tier and climb the full height of the crag.

1. 20m 4c Climb the corner and then move left onto the arete which is climbed to a heather ledge. Belay at a pine tree.
2. 25m 5a Climb up the crack just right of the tree to a heather ramp, then onto the wall above which provides thin moves to gain a heather ramp which is followed to an obvious corner. Climb the corner and then easier rock to the top.

*Gneiss Wander* 40m VS 4c. Stuart & Jeanie Macfarlane. 13 Sep 2014.

Towards the left end of the lower tier. Climb an obvious crack with a block at the top. Once the heather ledge is reached move up diagonally right to a crack left of the pine tree. Climb this and move right onto a heather rake. Follow this left until able to access upper tier, which is climbed to the top.



*Totally Gneiss* 35m VS 4c. Jeanie & Stuart Macfarlane. 13 Sep 2014.  
Further up and left from *Gneiss Wander* is a left-facing corner. Climb up to the base of a wall just right of corner. Step left into the corner and climb up to a ramp coming in from the left. Continue up easier rock.

*Arachnid* 20m V.Diff. Stuart & Jeanie Macfarlane. 19 Jul 2014.  
On the descent down the south side of the crag is a section of lovely rough gneiss. This route starts at a short corner and climbs straight up.

### **Bog Cotton Slab:**

(NG 858 732) Alt 230m West facing

This crag is a few hundred metres north of the Main Wall and forms a runway of rough gneiss.

*Left* 25m Mod. Jeanie & Stuart Macfarlane. 13 Sep 2014.  
Climb the left side of the slab.

*Right* 25m Mod. Stuart & Jeanie Macfarlane. 13 Sep 2014.  
Climb the right side of the slab.

### **Lily Lochan Crag:**

(NG 858 727) 210m South facing

This wall is few hundred metres south of the Main Wall.

*Crack'n Slab* 22m H.Severe 4b. Stuart & Jeanie Macfarlane. 13 Sep 2014.  
Climb a crack on the lower tier to another crack on the next tier which is exited on the left to the slab above. Climb this to the top.

*Flake Route* 12m Severe. Stuart & Jeanie Macfarlane. 20 Jul 2014.  
Start below an obvious flake and climb the flake.

*Gneiss Arete* 10m H.Severe 4c. Jeanie & Stuart Macfarlane. 13 Sep 2014.  
The obvious arete at the left end of the crag. The start is a well protected boulder problem.

*Red Wall* 8m Diff. Jeanie & Stuart Macfarlane. 13 Sep 2014.  
An immaculate red wall left of the arete.

Coot Crag (NG 862 728) 240m East facing, is about 5m high and varying lines can be soloed from Mod. to H.Severe.

### **LOCH MAREE CRAG:**

**Note:** *Pagan Love Song*: The wet and dirty start can be avoided by climbing *Arial* for 10m, then moving left via a handrail. Any ivy re-growth is easily cleaned on lead. A little loose on the first pitch, but the second pitch is solid and sustained. Worth \*\*.

### **CARNMORE AREA, Maiden Buttress, Carnan Ban:**

*Infamy* 95m V.Diff \*\*. Adam Archibald, Alex Murdoch. 13 May 2015  
A fine sustained climb on excellent rock between *Dishonour* and *Tweedledum*.

1. 20m Climb near the right edge of the initial *Dishonour* slab to belay under the wall at its right end.
  2. 20m Traverse left along the ledge and gain the top of the wall via the flake just around the far left end of the ledge (as for *Dishonour*). Traverse back right to belay above the previous belay.
  3. 20m Climb the left-facing corner above to a further ledge.
  4. 35m Climb straight up to the overhang and pull through this leftwards on magnificent jugs. Above, trend up and right on somewhat easier ground and belay at a large block.
- Thereafter, either scramble up the grassy gully or finish as per one of the other routes.

### **GRUINARD BAY CRAGS, Post Crag:**

*Post-it Right-Hand Start* 12m E2 5b \*. Ian Taylor, Tess Fryer. 15 Aug 2014.  
Start at *Scoobie Dubh* and follow the highest diagonal crack leftwards to join *Post-it* at half-height.

### **AN TEALLACH, Ghlas Tholl:**

*Low Riders* 80m VII,8 \*\*. Uisdean Hawthorn, Guy Robertson. 25 Feb 2015.  
Takes a corner on the arete right of *Minor Rib*. At the top of the corner, move left across a steep wall to a ledge, then climb a line of small corners above to join *Minor Rib*.

### **FANNAICHS, Sgurr Mor, North-East Face:**

*Ma Larkin* 220m III,4 \*. Steve Kennedy. 21 Mar 2015.  
Climbs the upper buttress left of *Easter Gully*. From a point about one third of the way from the foot of *Easter Gully*, move left and climb easy angled ice to a large snowfield below the buttress. Mixed ground via a scoop in the middle of the buttress leads to a terrace. Move left along the terrace then up leftwards to a short icefall. Climb the icefall leading to a snow bay on the left. Continue directly, finishing by a right-facing corner.

### **FANNAICHS, Coire nan Eun:**

*Twist* 90m IV,4. Andy Nisbet, Jonathan Preston. 4 Jan 2015.  
An icy fault well left of *Hawkwind* and near the left end of the East Buttress. Climb the fault via an icy ramp on the left to reach the top left of a bay (40m). Climb a groove above (the main fault is further right) to reach a terrace. Continue up via turfey ledges, short grooves and small zigzags to a ledge just below the top (40m). Traverse off left.

*Jitterbug* 90m III. Sandy Allan, Andy Nisbet. 26 Jan 2015.

Start about 10m right of *Twist* and climb turfey ground up to a short icefall in a right-facing corner. Continue up to a bay with a large block on the left and a flat block forming a thread (45m). Go up rightwards out of the bay, then return left to climb a steep turfey groove to the top (45m).

*Twerk* 110m V,5. Andy Nisbet, Jonathan Preston. 28 Dec 2014.

Some 20m right of *Slam* (West Buttress) is a left-rising bottomless ramp leading to the left end of a terrace. Climb the ramp to the terrace (45m). Traverse right along the terrace for 10m to a wide turfey fault. Climb this to a ledge and belay on

the left (35m). Traverse left and climb a left-rising ramp. Go right up a slabby corner to the top (30m).

*Variation Start* 80m V,5. Andy Nisbet, Steve Perry. 20 Feb 2015.

Start 6m to the right and climb a parallel ramp to a steep groove (which could be climbed if well frozen). Traverse right to a ledge (30m). Go up a slab to the terrace. Traverse right for 5m, then go up right and back left on turf to belay close to Twerk (50m). Finish up this route.

*Samba* 110m IV,4. Sandy Allan, Andy Nisbet. 26 Jan 2015.

Start some 10m right of *Twerk* and climb easily to a large block on a ledge (10m). Above is the first easy break to gain the main ledge mentioned in *Twerk*. Zigzag leftwards to reach the base of the right-hand of two parallel ramps (45m). Climb the ramp to its top (40m). Move left and climb a groove slanting left to finish (15m).

*Bolero* 90m V,5. Dave McGimpsey, Andy Nisbet. 15 Feb 2015.

The first icefall right of the rocky section of West Buttress. *Bunny Boiler* is the second icefall. Climb snow and easy ice to rock right of the icefall (20m). Climb the lower section of the icefall to below a steep corner (30m). Climb the steep iced corner to easier ice leading into a finishing gully (40m).

### **GLEN AFFRIC, Coire Ghaidheil:**

(NH 092 221) Alt 650m South-East and East facing

Two main schistose crags. The main crag is due west of Lochan Coire Ghaidheil. There is an easy walk off south via the An Socach ridge or north via Bealach Coire Ghaidheil. Standard Moine schist climbing relying on cold icy conditions and frozen turf.

*Faffricfossen* 140m II. Dave Farnell, Andy Griffiths, Ric Hines. 25 Jan 2010.

A long wide open gully at the very back of the corrie with several steeper icy steps topping out right on the 921m summit.

*Codeine Cuisine* 90m II/III. Tom Davy, Ric Hines. 27 Nov 2010.

The deepest and longest gully cutting through the centre of the buttress due west of Lochan Coire Ghaidheil. Climb the gully passing icy and turfy steps taking the narrow right fork halfway up.

*Stairway to Raigmore* 50m II. Tom Davy, Ric Hines. 27 Nov 2010.

Climb the short deep gully 50m south of *Codeine Cuisine* via icy and turfy steps.

### **AN RIABHACHAN, Creagan Toll an Lochain:**

*Gotcha* 150m V,5. Brian Davison, Andy Nisbet, Steve Perry. 14 Mar 2015.

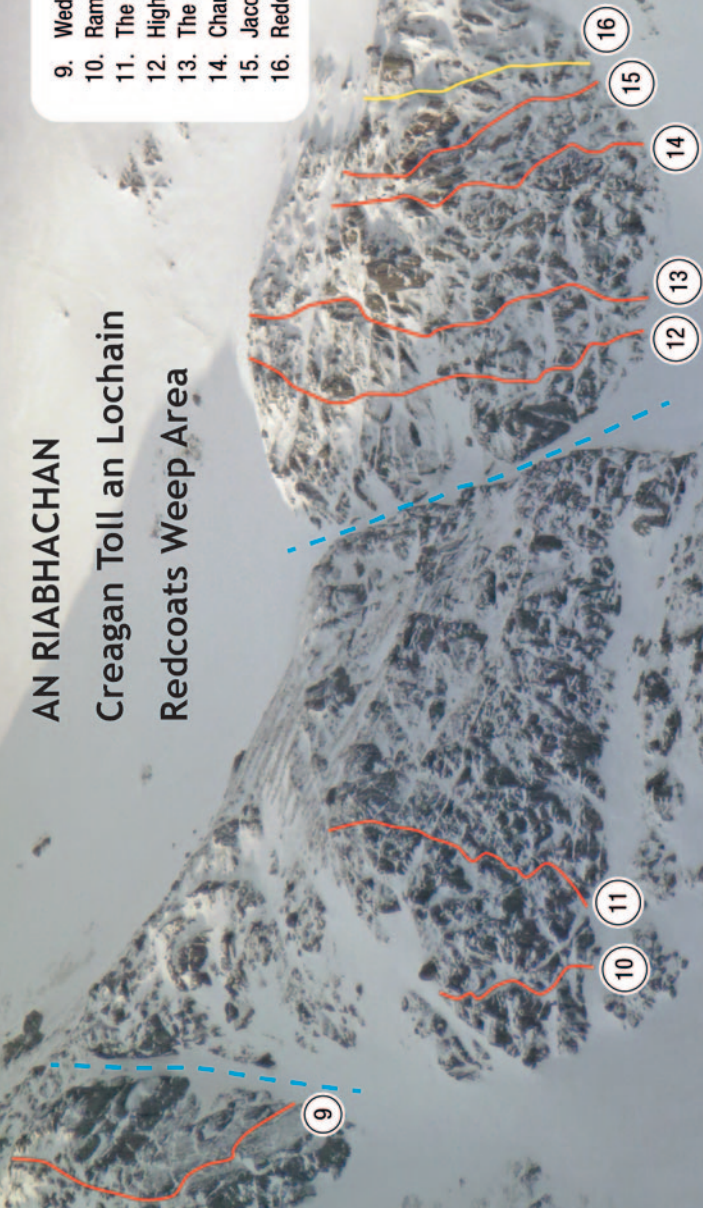
An ice line right of *Gatekeeper* (SMCJ 2014). There was more ice on the crag than in 2014, and the cornice was much smaller, but the turf wasn't frozen in the back of grooves. Climb the short introductory tier as for *Gatekeeper* but head towards the right end of the lower band (20m). Climb a line of turf right of a short capped chimney and continue to gain the ice line, which forms down a defined fault (35m). Climb the fault to below an iced chimney (45m). Climb the chimney and trend slightly right to a rock band. Either climb a tricky V-groove or an easier ramp to its left (30m). Finish straight up, or wherever the cornice allows (20m).

## AN RIABHACHAN

### Creagan Toll an Lochain

### Redcoats Weep Area

9. Wedge Buttress ..... II
10. Ramplet ..... III
11. The Lorax ..... III, 4
12. Highlander ..... III, 4
13. The Old Pretender ..... III
14. Charlie ..... IV, 4
15. Jacobite ..... III, 4
16. Redcoats Weep ..... III

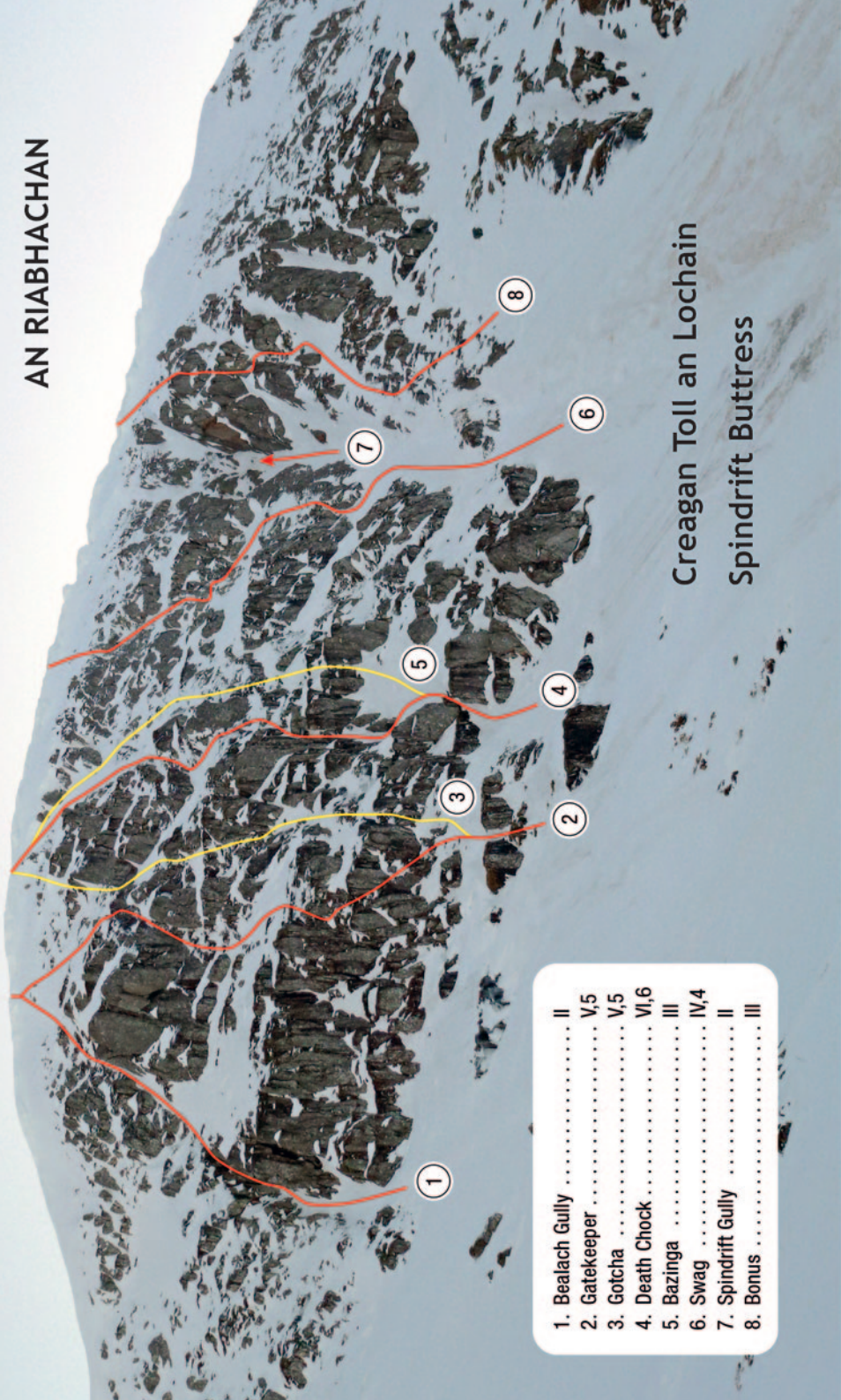




# AN RIABHACHAN

- 1. Bealach Gully ..... II
- 2. Gatekeeper ..... V,5
- 3. Gotcha ..... V,5
- 4. Death Chock ..... VI,6
- 5. Bazinga ..... III
- 6. Swag ..... IV,4
- 7. Spindrift Gully ..... II
- 8. Bonus ..... III

Creagan Toll an Lochain  
Spindrift Buttress



*Death Chock* 170m VI,6. Brian Davison, Andy Nisbet, Steve Perry. 14 Mar 2015.

A harder line left of *Bazinga*, but with the same start and finish. Gain the bay as for *Bazinga* but keep to its left side and go up a snow runnel to below a chimney which is overhung by a huge block (50m). Climb the chimney (technical crux), pass the block and continue to where a thinly iced slab gains snow leading up left (50m). Head back right on ice to the big fault line of *Bazinga* and climb its left edge to blocks on top of the rocks on its left (50m). Finish straight up (20m).

*Swag* 120m IV,4. Brian Davison, Andy Nisbet, Steve Perry. 14 Mar 2015.

An iced fault in the buttress between *Bazinga* and *Spindrift Gully*. Start up *Spindrift Gully* and move left to where an iced ramp leads up to below the fault line (not included in length). Climb the ramp, then go up on snow and ice to gain the base of the main fault (50m). Traverse left to an iced groove leading back right to the fault. Climb the fault to the upper snow band (55m). Finish straight up (15m).

*Bonus* 150m III. Andy Nisbet. 16 Mar 2015.

The ridge right of *Spindrift Gully* is helpful and has many flakes. Start right of the toe and move left on to the vague crest. Follow this to where a snow ramp leads up right (this lower part can bank up with snow). Follow the ramp until a left branch goes straight up. Go up this, then step left into a narrow groove on the crest and climb it to a ledge. Go up another groove to an easier upper crest leading to the cornice.

Right of this is a more broken section of cliff, then a wide shallow gully (Grade I, used for descent) before the next section of cliff which has several snowy grooves separated by shallow ribs. The first feature right of the gully is a groove with a ramp leading out left at two-thirds height to pass an overhang. Next right is a distinct groove which goes the full height of the cliff. These two routes and the Grade I gullies may have been climbed before. At the right end of this section is a well defined but shorter buttress with a slabby right face and flanked by gullies, the right gully being better defined.

*Accidental Groove* 200m II. Andy Nisbet. 18 Mar 2015.

The groove at the left end of this section. There are some short ice pitches low down and ice on the ramp leading out left.

*Oggie* 250m II. Andy Nisbet. 18 Mar 2015.

The well defined groove. There are two low angled 10m ice pitches low down and a short ice step to gain the main upper groove. The groove held icy neve and was about 50 degrees in angle.

*Sauron* 100m III. Andy Nisbet. 18 Mar 2015.

Left of the well defined buttress is a gully with a short steep ice pitch (unclimbed). Left again are iced slabs. Climb these to enter a deep left-facing corner, climbed on ice to easier ground. Climb the easier ground to the ridge (Grade I, not included in length)

*Wedge Buttress* 100m II. Andy Nisbet. 16 Mar 2015.

The well defined buttress. Start 15m up right from its toe and climb a turfey groove leading up left to the crest. Follow the easy crest.

**Note:** The gully on the right is Grade I and was used for descent.

Below and right of the above buttress is the rightmost area of cliff in the corrie. It is split into two sections by a snow gully, which will have a pitch in lean conditions but was Grade I on the day.

*Ramplet* 60m III. Andy Nisbet. 16 Mar 2015.

At the left end of the left section is a well defined slab ramp. Climb icy steps to gain and climb the iced ramp.

*The Lorax* 100m III,4. Andy Nisbet. 18 Mar 2015.

A mixed line with ice and turf up the steepest part of the left section. Start about 30m in from the left end at a small bay left of a rockfall scar. Take a ramp leading right (not the bigger and easier ramp further right), then pull up left into another ramp. Follow this rightwards to a small groove on the left which leads to a large pinnacle. Pull out left (crux) into another turfey ramp which leads right to the top.

The right section contains the route *Redcoats Weep* at its right end. Left of here is vague crest with two steep but thin icefalls to its left. Left again are two easier icefalls before reaching the snow gully.

*Highlander* 100m III,4. Andy Nisbet. 16 Mar 2015.

The leftmost ice line. Start at the bottom left corner of the section and climb ice steps before moving left to a short but steep ice groove. Climb this, then move left to icy steps which are followed to a snow terrace. Continue up thinly iced slabs to an easier finish

*The Old Pretender* 120m III. Andy Nisbet. 16 Mar 2015.

The second ice line. Start some 15m to the right and climb icy steps before a ramp leads up right to a big left-facing groove. Climb this to a snow terrace. Go up right from its right end and finish easily.

*Charlie* 100m IV,4. Andy Nisbet. 18 Mar 2015.

An ice line based on the crest. Start right of the crest and climb the first ice on its right before moving right into a ramp which leads left to the crest (the ramp could have been gained directly, slightly easier). Cross the crest (joining the upper part of the first thin icefall) and climb ice to easier ground.

*Jacobite* 90m III,4. Andy Nisbet. 18 Mar 2015.

The next ice line to the right leads into a big groove. Climb ice into and up the groove.

**Note:** It is unsure which line *Redcoats Weep* takes but there are two thicker ice lines to the right and which presumably form more quickly.

## **STRATHCONON, Loch Beannacharain:**

(NH 237 503) Alt 400m

A prominent icefall on the north side of Meall Buidhe well seen from the road on the shore of Loch Beannacharain. Approach via Inverchoran, cross the bridge over



the Meig, turn right through a gate and skirt fields to reach a track on the north shore of the loch. Follow this for over 2km to the outflow of the burn adjacent to a wide clearing in the forest.

Descent: Unless conditions are good, the easiest is to follow the east ridge of the hill down to the track that leads back to Inverchoran.

*Gift Horse* 125m IV,5 \*. Dave Broadhead, John Mackenzie. 22 Jan 2015.

On this ascent deep unconsolidated snow marred what could have been a good route. The obvious icefall screen has a junior relative lower down where the route starts.

1. 30m The right side of the scree was climbed to snow and a tree belay.

2. 30m Easy but deep snow led to a belay below the impressive screen.

3. 30m The main screen was too fragile to climb so good ice was climbed a little to its right to an easing of the angle but an increase in the difficulties where a blank snow covered slab led right to a left-facing corner line which was followed to a recess.

4. 35m Move left to the centre of the fine icefall and climb up the middle over the top bulge in a good position to a snowy exit.

### **Creag Ruadh, North-East Face:**

*Feint Surprise* 100m II. John Mackenzie. 15 Feb 2015.

Roughly in the centre of the face and prominent in lean conditions is a narrow snow gully. It curves first left, then straightens and steepens. It has a midway step of ice or turf and has three exits, the left easy but the centre and most interesting taken on this ascent via a narrow ramp under a rock overhang.

### **GLENMARKSIE CRAG, Small Wall:**

Left of the gully lies Small Wall, with a rowan tree at its base. This is reached by a scramble up a short slab, 'The Hillary Step'. The crag is highest above some rock shelves that lie above a gully and it diminishes in height leftwards beyond the large rowan. The easiest descent or ascent is at the left-hand end where a rock ledge leads right to a pair of metal belay stakes and a large boulder. The routes are logically described from right to left. The first climbs start from the rock shelves above the gully. A good warm-up area or for those wishing to top rope.

*Turf Wars* 20m VS 4c \*. Andrew James, John Mackenzie. 23 Jun 2015.

Takes the more broken ground to the right of *Botox Corner*. Start behind a broom bush at a footless overhang which commences proceedings. Continue up shelves and climb a slab below *Botox Corner*, then move up rightwards to another slab which gives a fine finish.

*Botox Corner* 20m E1 5b \*\*. John Mackenzie, Andrew James. 2 May 2015.

This good route is both strenuous and then delicate. Start above the gully right of a thin crack and climb the wall to reach a niche. Step right to below an overhanging nose and pull over this to reach a shelf. Climb the narrow groove above to holds, then step right into the main corner and so to the top.

*Skyfall* 20m E2 5b \*\*. John Mackenzie, Andrew James. 14 May 2015.

An excellent varied route that is both delicate and airy with adequate protection taking the roof-capped wall left of *Botox Corner*. Start from the rock shelves

below a thin crack. Climb to and up the sustained crack to reach a flake at the left end of the niche. From the crest of the flake, traverse left to below the roof and climb a thin crack in a shallow corner leading to the left end of the roof. Traverse right below the roof to the left arete of *Botox Corner*; move up then step back left to finish up the edge.

*Variation:* Direct Finish E3 6a/b \*. John Mackenzie. 23 Jun 2015.

Rather than moving right under the overhang as for the original route, climb the overhang to finish more delicately (2 wires preplaced above the roof).

*Pedestal Crack* 10m HVS 5b. John Mackenzie, Andrew McKenzie. 21 Jun 2015.

The three routes from 1979 come next, then this route, which takes the thin podded crack squeezed in between *Staircase* and *Central Crack*. From the pedestal climb the tricky crack to stand in the pod. Continue up to a large ledge on the left and finish right of the big boulder.

*Central Crack* 10m Severe. John Mackenzie, Andrew James. 19 Mar 2015.  
Climbs the left-slanting pronounced crack in the slabby wall left of *Staircase*.

*One Small Step* 10m HVS 5b \*\*. John Mackenzie, Andrew James. 6 Apr 2015.  
A fine little route with a delicate start and finish. Left of *Central Crack* is an overlap with a thin crack above. Reaching the crack is the first crux and the route finishes more thinly without stepping right into *Central Crack*.

*Bog-jaaveled* 9m HVS 5a \*. John Mackenzie, Andrew James. 6 Apr 2015.  
Another good line starting up the short left-facing corner with a small ledge on its right. Gain the ledge, then step left above, then immediately step back right to finish up the thin crack to a delicate exit.

### **BEN WYVIS, An Cabar:**

*Hut Custodian's Buttress* 90m III,4 \*. Andrew James, John Mackenzie. 21 Feb 2015.

To the right of *President's Groove* is a narrow buttress. This was started above the easier lower section to give some pleasant climbing with good hooks and positions.

1. 30m Climb *President's Groove* to a narrow ledge on the left wall by a large block and thread belay just below a steepening in *President's Groove*.
2. 30m Climb the right wall towards a small tree on the skyline to a block on the right, move right and up a short steep corner and up to easier ground.
3. 30m Above the easier ground is a wide groove. Climb the inset groove on its right over a short steep step and continue to the top.

## **NORTHERN HIGHLANDS SOUTH**

### **BEINN FHADA, Coire an Sgairne:**

*Banshee* 140m III. Andy Nisbet, Steve Perry. 27 Feb 2015.

This climbs the depression immediately right of 'the great black vertical wall'. Start in a bay right of the wall. Climb up to underneath the wall, then head right up a big diagonal ramp which goes to the top of the cliff. Leave this leftwards at

the first easy break and trend left up a short thinly iced slab (crux) into the twin upper fault. Take the left branch to the top.

*Wolfman* 200m IV,5. Andy Nisbet, Steve Perry. 27 Feb 2015.

Right of *Banshee* is another easy diagonal fault which goes the full height of the cliff. This takes a line crossing it. Start in a bay below and right of the fault. The right side of the bay is formed by a big smooth wall, possibly ice streaked, and the top is a steep groove. Climb the next groove left on ice, then traverse left on to turfy ground. Zigzag up this to below a narrow turfy groove (there is a bigger but harder groove to the right) – 40m. Climb the groove to reach the bigger groove and follow it to the diagonal fault (45m). Go up this until possible to head up left into a bay (50m). There are two steep faults out of the top of the bay but head rightwards to a narrow chimney on the right crest of the bay (25m). Climb the chimney, then trend right before finishing straight up (40m).

### **KYLE OF LOCHALSH, White Dyke:**

**Note:** Andy Moles thinks that *Silver Sixpence* (SMCJ 2008) is actually the existing route *Shilling Corner*.

### **FUAR THOLL, Mainreachan Buttress:**

*Private Eye (The Big Sleep)* 150m VIII,8. Iain Small, Murdoch Jamieson. 23 Jan 2015.

A steep, technical winter climb based loosely around the summer route but incorporating a different entry pitch and taking the obvious hanging ice smear and fault, before joining the original line. Start a few metres down from the summer start at an obvious left-trending ramp.

1. 40m Start up the ramp moving left to its end to gain a niche below a steep groove. Climb this (strenuous), then trend up and left over slabby ground to gain the ledge. Belay on flakes directly below the icy fault above (this is guarded by a steep compact wall).
2. 35m Step down and move right into a corner. Climb this (strenuous) to gain more helpful ground until a left-slanting slot can be gained. Move left up this to gain the ice at the start of the steep fault.
3. 35m Climb the steep icicle festooned fault (shattered rock) pulling right at the roof to a ledge. Continue straight up mixed corners to the girdle ledge below the final big open corner.
4. 40m Follow the big open corner, passing the occasional difficulty to the top.

### **BEINN LIATH MHOR, South Face:**

*Zeus* 250m III. Sandy Allan, Andy Nisbet. 21 Jan 2015.

The second buttress from the left, so left across a big V-gully from *Artemis* (SMCJ 2009). Start up right from the toe of the buttress, just inside the base of the gully. Climb a long groove which leads to the crest. Follow the crest throughout to the top. The last section is avoidable on the left but worth doing.

*McTwist* 200m II. Sandy Allan, Andy Nisbet, Jonathan Preston. 22 Jan 2015.

At the right end of the higher section of cliff with the previous route is a well defined buttress with a big V-gully on its right. The steepest section, reached after two smaller tiers, was passed by a groove system on its left side.

*Half Pipe Gully* 200m II. Sandy Allan, Andy Nisbet. 21 Jan 2015.

Left of the central buttress with the roof and rock climbs in SMCJ 2011 is this fairly deep gully. It provided three short ice pitches and finished with a turf corner straight up to an arete. Finish up the easy gully on the left.

*Barbie* 250m V.6. Sandy Allan, Andy Nisbet, Steve Perry. 25 Feb 2015.

A winter line based on the slabby rib right of *Half Pipe Gully* (*Doll Restoration*, 2011) but climbing turf grooves and corners to the top of the cliff. Start below a deep groove just right of the rib and with a distinctive chockstone. Climb the groove, over the chockstone and up its continuation before moving left on to the rib where its angle eases (40m). Climb the rib for 6m before moving left into a corner. Climb this back on to the rib and go up across a terrace to below another tier (45m). Climb the tier on flakes on the crest and continue to a steep tier (40m). Move left into a corner and climb this to a final tier (35m). Climb this by a steep crack-line leading left and continue to easier ground (20m). Finish up the easier ground (70m).

*Grey Vote* 180m IV.5. Sandy Allan, Andy Nisbet, Jonathan Preston. 22 Jan 2015.

A slightly right-slanting fault line in the central buttress, parallel to and some 60m right of *Half Pipe Gully*. Start up a chimney which goes straight up into the fault line (30m). Climb a chimney in the fault line, then easier ground with icy steps to a terrace (40m). Continue up the fault line via an ice pitch (50m) and in the same line to easy ground (60m).

**Note:** The big gully right of these routes has been climbed before at Grade II.

### **MAOL CHEANN-DEARG, Creag Liath (North Face):**

*An Liath Beag* 55m Severe. John Mackenzie, Andrew James. 11 Jul 2014.

Near the right end of the face before it turns right and immediately right of a broken groove is a clean rib above a squat pinnacle.

1. 25m 4a Climb the rib to an overhang, move left into a groove and belay above on the right by a large block.
2. 30m Move right and climb the face to easier ground and the grass terrace.

### **MEALL NAN CEAPAIREAN, North Face:**

*Mains Pressure* 180m III,4 \*. Ewan Lyons. 19 Jan 2015.

Start below the left-hand side of the big bowl (left of the existing routes) and climb to this via two icy steps. Cross the bowl moving slightly right to the wide girdling shelf. Move along the shelf right for a few metres then zigzag up left via turf ramps to the left of steeper rock to the top of the buttress.

*Isolation Valve* 200m III. Ewan Lyons. 19 Jan 2015.

Start well over to the left of the buttress, 25m left of an icefall which is left of an area of steep rock. Climb up icy turf grooves for 50m to a wide ledge. Traverse right along the ledge above the icefall, then over the bowl (crossing *Mains Pressure*). Move up left to finish up the higher and wider of two ramp lines.

### **SGURR A' CHAORACHAIN, Summit Buttress:**

*Flying Carpet* 60m E3 \*\*. Martin Moran, Robin Thomas (on-sight). 24 Jul 2014.

The route gains and climbs the deep groove in the overhanging section of cliff 20m right of the gully of *Excitable Boy*. Slow to dry, but worthwhile with some intricate and surprisingly helpful climbing in a serious ambience. Start at a short right-facing black corner under a roof.

1. 35m 5b Climb the corner for 5m, then bridge out left on to an obvious beak on the lip of the roof and continue to a break. Take the right-hand of the two grooves. Good steady climbing leads for 20m to a break under the roofs. Traverse 4m left and make a belay on a slabby rib just right of the main groove line.

2. 25m 5c Access to the main groove is barred by an overhang and dubious block. Instead, climb directly above the belay (RP runners) to a small spike which allows a swing left to enter the groove above the roof. Fine climbing up the groove and through final bulges leads to a grass ledge.

Abseil off or scramble 40m up left to the top of the cliff.

### **South-East Ridge:**

*Weer Zo'n Dag* 300m IV,5. Dennis van Hoek, Marianne van der Steen. 24 Feb 2015.

An obvious big gully on the crag which faces north-east from the Corbett summit (not the radio mast). The aim was to climb it throughout but the base was loose and unfrozen. The name means 'One of those Days' in Dutch. Start well right of the lower part of the gully. Climb up left below a wide gully, then take a snow ramp up right to reach another gully. Climb this and one pitch up the subsequent buttress to a terrace. Traverse left along the terrace for about 100m to the main gully. Finish up this. Topo provided.

### **BEINN BHAN, Coire an Fhamair:**

*Messiah* 240m IX,10. Greg Boswell, Guy Robertson, Uisdean Hawthorn. 2 Feb 2015.

Outstanding climbing up the great roof-capped groove immediately right of *Gully of the Gods*. Eyed by many, but usually dry and black, it takes uncommonly snowy conditions to bring this very steep line into what most climbers would agree to be acceptable winter. Start as for *Godzilla*.

1. 40m *Godzilla*, pitch 1.

2. 20m Step back down and left, then make a very exposed and rattling traverse horizontally left to belay below the great groove.

3. 25m Climb the groove direct to turn the first roof on the right, then continue up to belay before some very steep vegetation.

4. 35m Continue up the groove to an even bigger roof, then move left under this to gain a tiny hanging groove. Climb this to another roof where a difficult traverse right leads blindly into another groove. Climb this groove over bulges and on up to a terrace.

5. 25m Climb the continuation groove up trending slightly right to a final pull over onto the next terrace.

6. Follow the terrace easily round left, then up right to belay in the back right side of a big alcove (junction with *Outrage*).

7. and 8. Follow *Outrage* to the top.

### **BEINN DAMH AREA, Creag an Fhithich, Far Right Section:**

Two small two-tiered buttresses lie to the right of the approach gully. The following routes take strong corner lines on the upper tier of the right-hand

buttress, well seen from the road. The routes are best approached by abseil (trees 50m back from top of the crag).

*Wood Green Jam* 8m E2 5c \*\*. Michael Barnard, Alan Hill. 15 Oct 2014.  
The fine left corner gives a good sustained struggle.

*The Other One* 10m E2 5c \*. Michael Barnard, Alan Hill. 15 Oct 2014.  
An obvious handrail leads into the right corner, with a thin move at half-height.

### **TORRIDON CRAGS, Rat's Crag:**

(NG 898 566) South-South-West facing

The prominent steep wall down and slightly right of Creag nam Leumnach, 15mins.

*Flight of the Rat* 12m E3 5c \*\*. Michael Barnard, Alan Hill. 15 Oct 2014.  
A stern test up the fine thin crack at the right end of the crag. At the top of the crack, hand-traverse the lip to pull into the corner on the left.

The other two routes lie in the centre of the crag and require some care with loose blocks.

*The Stag Stepped Out* 10m VS 4b. Alan Hill, Michael Barnard. 14 Oct 2014.  
The obvious right-facing stepped corner-crack.

*Pressed Rat and Warthog* 10m VS 4b. Michael Barnard, Alan Hill. 14 Oct 2014.  
The crack and groove just left of the above.

### **Creag nam Leumnach:**

The following routes lie on the wall at the far right end of the upper tier.

*Toad* 10m H.Severe 4b \*. Michael Barnard, Alan Hill. 15 Oct 2014.  
A fine vertical flake-crack (well seen when approaching the crag from the right).

*Fern Gully* 12m H.Severe 4b. Alan Hill, Michael Barnard. 14 Oct 2014.  
Ten metres left of the above is a wide right-slanting flake-crack. Well seen from the top of *Warmer Cleaner Drier*.

**Note:** *Warmer Cleaner Drier* was thought worth 3 stars. Possibly E1 with a large cam in the top crack.

### **Diabaig, Red Wall:**

*In Crisis* 20m E3 5b \*. Michael Barnard, Alan Hill. 16 Oct 2014.

A memorable trip up the wall left of *An Offensive Man*. Four metres left of that route is a short vertical crack with a hairline crack above. Start just left of this and take a diagonal break to a heather clump. Move up to arrange protection, then step right and climb the wall to the niche and respite. Pull over the small overlap and continue directly to the top.

*Nature's Way* 20m E5 6a \*\*. Michael Barnard, Ollie Mills. 23 May 2015.  
Climbs the line of holds up the smooth wall between *Porpoise Pun* and *Batwing*. Bold and sustained in the lower half. Pre-practiced.



**Note:** The team thought the rock on the wall in general was excellent but that *Batwing* was very serious.

### The Domes:

*Yew Tree Wall* 70m VS. Michael Barnard, Alan Hill. 12 Oct 2014.

Start up and right of *Hull Wall*, below a grey wall a few metres right of the yew.

1. 20m 4c Climb the wall via flakes and horizontal breaks; step left below the heather, then move up to belay.

2. 50m 5a Move right and go up the grassy bay to gain a shallow right-facing groove in the wall above. Climb this then break out left via flakes, with a thin move to gain a ledge on the left. Continue up the scooped corners above.

### Dead Tree Crag (SMCJ 2009):

*Small Black Flowers* 20m VS 4c \*\*. Michael Barnard, Alan Hill. 12 Oct 2014.

Variations on *Dead Tree Wall*. Start below a groove near the right end of the overhangs. Move up, then leftwards up a crack to reach the big flake. Continue as for *Dead Tree Wall* to below its crux, but instead finish out left along an excellent horizontal break.

*Chock-a-block* 10m H.Severe 4b. Alan Hill, Michael Barnard. 12 Oct 2014.

The arete left of the crag's grassy central corner, past a large block.

### Rolling Wall:

*Brave New World, Left-Hand Start*. Michael Barnard, Alan Hill. 13 Oct 2014.

Equally good. Start as for *The Sea, The Sea*, then take the obvious diagonal crack through the bulge to join the route below its second crack. Grade is unchanged.

### Rocking Wall:

Continuing left from *Alice's Overhang* leads to a short heather gully; over left from the top of this is a fine small dome split by a crack.

*Rock 'n' Roll* 8m VS 5a. Michael Barnard. 12 Jun 2015.

The crack on the right, finishing up the thin crack above.

*The Pleasure Dome* 8m HVS 5b \*\*. Michael Barnard. 12 Jun 2015.

The main crack-line is sustained and well protected.

The other two routes take the slab on the left and are basically solos (though with the hardest moves at the start):

*No-body's Rockin'* 8m VS 5a. Michael Barnard. 12 Jun 2015.

Climbs the centre of the slab.

*Adult Entertainment* 8m HVS 5a. Michael Barnard. 12 Jun 2015.

Start as for the above but move rightwards above the lip to finish near *The Pleasure Dome*.

### Pretty Crag:

*We, the Drowned* 10m E5 6b \*\*. Gaz Marshall, Sarah Jones. 14 Jul 2014.

The blank slab into the obvious central hanging crack. Gain the port-hole feature

and place small wires in the insipient thin crack just above, then step right and tiptoe upwards to reach the safety of the main crack. Headpointed, later on-sight soloed by Jules Lines.

*Virgin on Heat* 10m E6 6b \*. Jules Lines. 24 Jul 2014.

Start left of centre at an intrusion. Step up and move left into a hairline crack and climb it to its top and continue.

**Note:** The original routes there are undergraded by one grade. The map reference is reported as wrong.

### **SGURR DUBH, Creag Choire a' Cheud Chnoic:**

(NG 96493 54989) Alt 450m North-West facing

This is a north-west facing quartzite crag which lies just to the south of Allt nan Corrag (named on the 1:25000 map) burn that drains the lochans on the west flank of the hill.

Approach: Follow the track past the Ling Hut and then cut up left near the southern bank of the burn to the crag. Allow 1hr plus over rough ground.

Descent: Move right to a rake that curves back to just beyond the crag.

The crag has a prominent right-facing central gully/corner that is capped by a wall. The following route takes the left arete and side wall above the gully.

*Excaliber* 35m VS 4b \*. John Mackenzie, Andrew James. 27 Aug 2014.

Start at the base of the narrow gully and climb onto the arete and follow this edge until blocked by a large overhang. Step out right onto the sidewall and climb a narrow crack to much easier ground above. Continue over this to the top. A climb with good exposed positions lower down but take care with some loose blocks en-route.

### **Larch Tree Crag:**

(NG 97632 55359) Alt 650m

This is a small but perfectly formed sandstone slab and sidewall that lies above the east corner of a delightful lochan. It is characterised by a mature larch tree that must be one, if not the, biggest specimen at its altitude in the NW Highlands, perhaps in Scotland. The front of the crag is a cracked slab and the left sidewall has a jamming crack next to the tree.

Approach: By any of the walking routes up the hill, all on rough ground, so allow 1.5 to 2hrs.

Descent: Move right to a hidden rake that curves right down an easy slab.

*Larch Tree Slab* 30m Severe 4a \*. Andrew James, John Mackenzie. 27 Aug 2014.

Climb the pleasant central crack to exit up left via a wide V shaped crack.

*Larch Tree Crack* 25m VS 4c \*. John Mackenzie, Andrew James. 27 Aug 2014.

On the left wall is an obvious jamming crack which is climbed to an easier wall above to join and finish up the V shaped crack as for the previous route. Not too arduous and very well protected.



*Iain Small on the FA of Fascist Groove Thang, Direct Start (E5,6b), Beinn Eighe.  
Photo: Blair Fyffe.*



*Iain Small on the 2nd ascent of New World Order (E6,6b), Beinn Eighe. Photo: Blair Fyffe.*

**LIATHACH, Coire Dubh Beag:**

*West Buttress* 300m II. Dave Broadhead, Stan Pearson. 3 Jan 2015.

Start at the bottom of *Hillwalk* gully and gain the buttress on the right. Meander up the buttress, following the most appealing line to reach the upper snow basin. Finish up a narrow chimney to the right (25m tech 4).

**Coire na Caime, Northern Pinnacles:**

*Batman* 160m VI,7. Andy Nisbet, Steve Perry. 13 Feb 2015.

The steeper right-hand face of the ridge with the route *Holy Ghost*. Conditions were very icy. Start at the base of the ridge.

1. 50m Climb leftwards up a fault line (not the one which starts at the base of *Trinity Gully Right-Hand*, although it could be an option) before returning right to climb a shallow chimney rightwards on to the right face of the ridge.
2. 25m Climb a wide crack (on ice on this occasion) into a big fault. Go up this until it steepens, then move right and make an awkward pull up right on to a ledge overlooking *Trinity Gully Right-Hand*.
3. 50m Pull up on to an inset slab, then step right to a wide crack. Pull up right (crux) on to an icy slab with some turf and climb this and a groove above to reach the ridge crest. Now joining *Holy Ghost*, go up to belay.
4. 35m Finish up the crest.

**Pyramid Buttress:**

*Cheops* 180m V,5. Andy Nisbet, Jonathan Preston. 5 Feb 2015.

A separate icefall some 30m left of *Pyramid Left Icefall*. Start below the line and climb two steps with snow between (30m). Climb a steep section using a corner on the left to reach another steep section (30m). Climb ice on the left and move right round a roof to continue over two bulges (30m). Traverse right for 10m and climb a shallow chimney before moving back left to turf ground, climbed to easier ground (50m). Finish up the easier ground (40m).

**Note:** There were more direct versions of each of the three hard pitches, but on very steep ice (it was thawing on the day). There was an exceptional amount of (wet) ice.

**BEINN EIGHE, Far East Wall:**

*New World Order* 100m E6 6b \*\*\*. Murdoch Jamieson, Guy Robertson. 21 Jul 2014.

This follows the obvious corner which leads to roofs to the left of *Fascist Groove Thang*. Strenuous and well protected. Both first and second ascents thought top end of the grade.

1. 45m 5b As for *Fascist Groove Thang*.
2. 25m 6b Climb the corner with increasing difficulty, passing an overlap until it is possible to gain small edges on the left wall. Make moves up right to reach the base of the crack which leads to a roof. Turn the roof on its right to gain another crack. Follow this for a few moves (sting in the tail!) until possible to step right to a small ledge (immediately up left of 'the Fascist Groove').
3. 30m 5b Traverse left and up into the corner below the roof. Make airy moves out left to gain the arete. Follow this to the top.



### Eastern Ramparts:

**Note:** *Turkish Delight*. Graham Tyldesley thought the crux was 6a and that linking pitch 3 with the steep crack of pitch 4 would be better (to avoid the uncomfortable belay). He also climbed a direct version to pitch 2. Halfway up the crack and just left of the line of the corner and crack is a long thin roof. A left-facing corner terminates at the right-hand end of the roof. After heading straight up to this corner expecting to climb it but on reaching it, it was more natural to step right and climb around it. A good pitch.

*Boggle* VII,8 \*\*\*. M. Moran, R. Thomas. 13 Dec 2014.  
By the summer route.

## CAIRNGORMS

### COIRE AN T-SNEACHDA, Fiacail Buttress:

**Note:** After starting up *Houdini*, Rob Adams & Fiona Murray climbed the final pitch of *Jailhouse Rock* at VI,8 on 28 Feb 2015. It would make a good direct finish to *Smokestack Lightning*. This would seem to have been done before by Adam Hughes & Matt Stygall on 15 Jan 2008.

### COIRE AN LOCHAIN, No. 4 Buttress:

*Banana Wall* 55m XII,12. Greg Boswell, Masa Sakano. 25 Feb 2015.

1. 40m Start just right of *Fallout Corner* beneath the obvious steep wall. Climb up a big flake to reach the bulging wall and gain a small hanging niche/corner. Climb this, then past a blank wall trending slightly right to gain a roof. Go straight through the roof to the headwall, then up this to another roof and crack. Climb straight through to gain a sloping ledge direct.
2. 15m Climb straight up through the bulge to gain easier ground and to the top of the buttress.

### MAM SUIM, Creag na h-Iolaire:

*Storms of Life* 40m III,4. Roger Webb, Simon Richardson. 11 Jan 2015.

The steepest climbing in the corrie lies on the wall left of the rib taken by the Richardson-Guerra and McKenzie-Ptacek-Savov routes. This route follows the most prominent line that arcs right under a series of capping grooves. Start on the left side of the wall and climb up to the start of the roofs, before traversing up and right in a series of unlikely positions to the steep finishing groove.

*Fate is not an Eagle* 40m IV,5. Simon Richardson, Roger Webb. 11 Jan 2015.  
Start 10m right of *Storms of Life* and climb up and right to a steep short corner on the right side of the front face of the wall. Climb the corner, step right and continue steeply up, then left, to the final square-cut right-facing corner.

### CREAGAN COIRE A' CHA-NO, Tower Buttress:

*Punching Numbers* 50m VI,7 \*\*. Ally Swinton, Gav Swinton. 5 Dec 2014.

The obvious groove, corner and roof line to the right of *Mac's Crack*. Good gear and pumpy moves. Climb the first initial groove to a large ledge. Climb the large corner-flake. Pull out right and up into a small chimney. Climb wildly out the left



side of the chimney (stein-pull on left wall). Make one last awkward pull, then easy ground to the top.

### COIRE NA SPREIDHE:

*The Apron* 300m II. Roger Webb, Simon Richardson. 8 Mar 2015.

A mountaineering line climbed up steep snow with short vegetated steps on the left side of the face. Start 50m left of *Central Couloir* and trend right, then left, to gain the upper snowfield. Follow this to gain the plateau just left of the steeper exits of *Central Couloir* and *Goulotte Cachee*.

### SHELTER STONE CRAG:

*The Spire (Independent Start* – see SMCJ 2014), *Arete Variation*. Michael Barnard, Alan Hill. 27 Aug 2014

From the belay above pitch 1, move out right and climb the arete overlooking Steeple corner to the obvious ledge. Step back left to rejoin the route at the base of the upper vertical crack. Grade is unchanged.

*Haystack, Haymaker Variation* 45m E2 5c \*. Michael Barnard, Alan Hill. 27 Aug 2014.

A good alternate pitch 3 for those looking for an additional challenge! Hand-traverse left from the belay to gain and go up a short right-facing corner to reach a thin crack (Friend 3.5 useful). Climb the thin crack with difficulty and continue up to gain the normal route at its right-slanting corner.

*The Spire, Independent Start* 120m E1 \*\*. Michael Barnard, Alan Hill. 21 Jul 2013.

This start could also be used for *Haystack* or *Steeple*. It has a very fine second pitch. Start below the initial corner of *Haystack*.

1. 30m 4b Move up left onto the arete and continue up leftwards to climb a crack immediately right of a grassy fault. Trend up and right to belay near the right end of a grassy ledge (junction with *Haystack*).
2. 50m 5b Climb the right-hand crack up the slab; where this runs out, step right to continue up another crack leading into an obvious short corner. Move left along the ledge and go up a right-slanting corner (as for *Haystack*).
3. 40m Move up and right to gain a fault leading to the terrace (as for *Postern*). Step left to belay below the shallow groove.

*Spire Direct* 35m E3 6a \*\*. Michael Barnard, Alan Hill. 30 Sep 2014.

A fine sustained line cutting through the penultimate pitch. Belay below a hard-looking corner just left of the big corner of *Steeple*. Climb the corner on slots to below a small overlap, then gain holds on the left (thin). Continue up and slightly rightwards to stand on a large flake. Now climb the vertical crack right of *Haystack* (occasionally using the next crack right again) to reach the ledge below the top pitch.

### HELL'S LUM CRAG:

*Diawl Bach, True Finish* E3 6b. Michael Barnard, Alan Hill. 27 Aug 2014.

The final blank section of slab above the diagonal crack. Pre-practiced.

**Note:** *Diawl Bach* itself may be the direct start to *Kiwi Slabs*. *Kiwi Slabs* is only

given as a winter route in the guide but summer details are noted in last paragraph with the direct start at H. Severe.

666 12m E2 5b. Michael Barnard. 26 Jul 2014.

Climbs the blank grey slab right of the lower section of *Diawl Bach* (SMCJ 2014). Scramble off to the right or move left to continue up that route.

The following route lies on the short wall up and slightly left of the Lower Slab (left of Glasnost Slab):

*Heaven Can Wait* 30m E4 6a. Michael Barnard, Alan Hill. 27 Aug 2014.

The obvious blank section of slab, climbed via a series of small edges. Climb the first crux section to the break (good RPs), then continue up the slab (second crux) to the first smaller break. Step on this and reach for a good hold, then continue more easily. Pre-practiced.

### **CRAIG RAIBEIRT:**

*Gratuity* 30m III. Jonathan Preston, Sarah Atkinson. 26 Dec 2014.

Start further up the right side of the buttress from *Typhoon Corners*, below a sapling. Climb up rightwards into a snow bay, then straight up to finish up a narrow turf filled V-groove on the right. Easy ground from the ledge above.

**Note:** The route lengths in SMCJ 2014 seem to include some easy ground.

*Cold Turkey* 60m III,4. Jonathan Preston, Sarah Atkinson. 26 Dec 2014.

A route on the next buttress right (across a short gully), the base of which is level with start of *Gratuity*.

1. 25m Start from a horizontal ledge at the base of the buttress. Climb a direct line up the centre of the buttress using flakes and turf to a large block on a platform (escapable from here).

2. 35m Traverse left from the col behind the block and climb a turfey groove to the top. Easy slopes above.

### **STAC AN FHARAIDH:**

Well right of *Cold Turkey* is the vertical left wall of a more substantial buttress (the very left edge of the main Stac an Fharaidh crags).

*Santa's Grotto* 60m III,4. Jonathan Preston, Sarah Atkinson. 26 Dec 2014.

1. 35m Halfway up the vertical south-west facing wall of the buttress is a steep wide cleft; climb this up its left side with an awkward finish at the top on the right to a good platform.

2. 25m Finish more easily up a slabby left-facing corner on the left.

### **LURCHERS CRAG:**

*Shangri-La* 135m IV,4 \*. Andy Nisbet, Jonathan Preston. 3 Jan 2015.

A vague ridge which forms the left edge of the face left of the upper section of *Central Gully*. Start where a wide easy ramp leads out left from *Central Gully* (this is above the section with *Arctic Monkey*). The face above this ramp has a steep start but some 30m up the ramp is a deep groove. Climb the groove and a narrow chimney (on ice on this occasion), then easier ground to a steepening and big flakes (45m). Climb slabs with blobs of turf to the true start of the ridge and

continue up this slightly rightwards on slabby ground to a recess. Pull out left through this to a ledge above (45m). Continue up via a big right-facing corner to finish up blocky ground.

*Beyul* 80m III,4. Andy Nisbet, Jonathan Preston. 3 Jan 2015.

A line up the centre of the face. Start higher up *Central Gully* where a smaller ramp leads out left to the crest. Halfway up this ramp is a slabby depression. Start up this, then move left and back right to reach an overlap. Pull through this at a break at its left side and continue to a ramp which leads up left. Go part way up this, then climb a flaky groove and crack-line to the top.

*El Dorado* 90m III,5 \*. Andy Nisbet, Jonathan Preston. 3 Jan 2015.

The right edge of the face, at times overlooking *Central Gully*, has two short overhanging sections on excellent hooks. Start just right of *Beyul* and move out right to a crest above *Central Gully*. Follow this blocky crest to the right side of the overlap mentioned above. Pull through this at a recess and continue to a steep wall. Move left to a slabby corner leading up right to a short blocky chimney (50m). Climb the corner and chimney to a platform overlooking *Central Gully*. Move left up a short steep groove to a crest leading left to the finish.

*Beagle has Landed* 140m V,4. Sandy Allan, Brian Davison, Andy Nisbet. 17 Jan 2015.

A big groove system right of *Dotterel*, between it and *Reindeer Ridge*. The steeper sections were climbed on thin ice with some turf. Right of *Dotterel* is a slabby area which dips into the main groove which is closer to *Reindeer Ridge*. Climb up on ice until a traverse right is made above a bulge. Go up a groove and over an ice bulge in to a long groove, climbed to its top (50m). Traverse left and climb on ice to the base of a deep groove. Step right and climb a ramp overlooking the groove to reach some more ice which leads to easy ground (40m). Go easily up a depression to finish up a steeper blocky buttress (50m).

*Je Suis Charlie* 150m III. Sandy Allan, Andy Nisbet. 8 Jan 2015.

Based on a groove system between *Reindeer Ridge* and *St. Bernard's Ridge*. Start on the right side of *Reindeer Ridge* and climb steeply into a ramp leading right into a bay; belay at its top left (40m). Climb icy slabs on the left, then a groove leading left before returning right to another bay (40m). A steep section above led to easier ground (40m). A system of slabby cracks (20m, could be avoided on the right) led to walking terrain and the summit of Creag an Leth-choin.

*101 Dalmatians* 160m VII,7. Sandy Allan, Brian Davison, Andy Nisbet. 19 Jan 2015.

A thin ice line up the left side of the depression between *St. Bernard's Ridge* and *Summit Ridge*. Thicker ice would drop the grade. Start well right of *St. Bernard's Ridge* near the rocks of *Summit Ridge*. Move left along a ledge to climb a tricky crack which leads to the ice line. Climb thin ice to a big ledge on the left (30m). Continue up the ice line over bulges to a slab bounded on the left by a right-facing corner. Go up this, then pull out left on to a ramp. Go up this and over a steep recess to easier ground (45m). Follow the easier depression to a headwall (60m). Climb a narrow chimney on its left side to an easier finish to the summit of Creag an Leth-choin (25m).

*Blood Hound* 180m VII,6 \*\*. Steve Perry, Sandy Allan, Andy Nisbet. 9 Feb 2015.

A clean-cut left-facing corner formed in the left side of *Summit Ridge*. Start as for *101 Dalmatians* below and left of the corner where a ramp leads up right to the corner. Climb the ramp and corner (thin and bold), then an easier groove to near the crest of *Summit Ridge* (50m). Follow steps and corners left of the crest of *Summit Ridge* to the summit, pleasant but much easier.

*Wallydraigle* 240m III. Andy Nisbet. 24 Jan 2015.

The depression between *Dog Day Afternoon* and *Summit Ridge*. Start as for *Dog Day Afternoon* but continue up the left-diagonal fault into the base of the depression. Climb up the depression by a long easy-angled ice pitch, then walking with a couple of icy steps to a headwall. Climb this direct, passing right of a projecting block on a ledge. A line up a wide groove left of the block looks slightly harder.

*Dachshund* 100m IV,4. Sandy Allan, Andy Nisbet, Steve Perry. 9 Feb 2015.

The lower and left of two ridges which lead up left from the upper bowl of *Diamond Gully*. Start left of the crest and follow a turfy groove to the crest (50m). Follow the crest to a small col at the top of a gully between the two ridges, then go up, trending slightly right to give the best climbing to the top (50m).

*Yappy* 60m IV,6. Dave McGimpsey, Andy Nisbet. 16 Feb 2015.

A line of cracks on the same ridge but close to a vague crest on the front face (some 10m right of *Dachshund*). Climb fairly direct up cracks to the crest and follow this to join *Dachshund*, followed to the small col. Either descend rightwards for another route or finish up *Dachshund* (40m).

*Snappy* 60m IV,6. Dave McGimpsey, Andy Nisbet. 16 Feb 2015.

A further line of cracks some 6m right of *Yappy*. These are less steep but have a hard section low down. The crest is gained and followed to join the previous two routes and the same finishing options.

*Schnitzel* 50m IV,5. Dave McGimpsey, Andy Nisbet. 16 Feb 2015.

On the front face of the higher and right of the two ridges which lead up left from the upper bowl of *Diamond Gully*. This overlooks the gully between the two ridges. Start 5m left of the crest at a corner. Climb this for 6m until a fine crack leads left into a parallel fault line to the corner. Go up this until it is sensible to move left and take a diagonal line left above steep ground, before going straight up to the top.

*Terrier* 60m III,4. Andy Nisbet. 24 Jan 2015.

The higher and right of the two ridges which lead up left from the upper bowl of *Diamond Gully*. Start left of its base and climb left of the crest before moving right of the crest below a huge block. Go up right of the crest until a step left gains the crest, followed to easier blocky ground. Continue trending left up blocks to the top.

*Soo* 200m III,4. Sandy Allan, Andy Nisbet. 27 Jan 2015.

The depression between *Ptarmigan Ridge* and *Sweep*. Start left of *Ptarmigan*

*Ridge* and climb a gully slanting up right. After a tricky step, go back left into the depression and follow it easily over small icy steps to a headwall. Climb up the right side of this to join *Ptarmigan Ridge* over its small pinnacle and up the final crest.

### **COIRE GARBHLACH, Lower Corrie:**

*Seclusion* 90m III. Jonathan Preston, Chris Duckett. 8 Dec 2014.

Start just below the 'prominent cave' (which in fact is no more than a shallow recess) right of *Hermit's Ridge*.

1. 10m Traverse easily right to an obvious turf V-groove and climb this to a wide platform.
2. 30m Climb the slab above centrally by grooves until a short traverse left can be made to blobs of turf which lead to a block up and left.
3. 50m Finish more easily to another good rock belay on the left.

### **Upper Corrie:**

*Waive Wall* 110m V,7. Andy Nisbet, Steve Perry. 2 Mar 2015.

The left edge of the buttress with *Curving Gully* (the rightmost buttress). Start up a short ice pitch leading into a snow runnel. This leads to turf steps and a steep wall (60m). Climb an overhanging flake-crack finishing over a chockstone (15m). Finish up a defined crest (35m).

*Tau Volantis* 110m II. Andy Nisbet, Steve Perry. 10 Mar 2015.

The centre of the same section (left of *Curving Gully*). Start at the cliff base at an easy left-slanting gully. Climb this to where it ends, then move right and go up on turf to an easing. Continue up through another steep turf band and finish up a snowy depression.

*Necromorph* 110m III,4. Andy Nisbet, Steve Perry. 10 Mar 2015.

The right side of the same section. Start up a big gully slanting right to reach an icefall on its left wall. Climb this with a steep start and continue left to reach a right-slanting fault. Go up this and finish easily up the rib left of *Curving Gully*.

### **ANGEL'S PEAK:**

*Angels and Demons* 450m IV,4 \*\*. Masa Sakano, Phil Ingle. 22 Mar 2015.

A fine mountaineering route that takes the longest line on the north face of the peak following snow or ice all the way, and finishes at the summit of the Munro. It is located at the leftmost edge of the north face buttress. The first two pitches (100m) involve some ice of tech 4, followed by 200m of snow. An ice wall straight above (15m, tech 4, crux), and finally an icy snow slope (90m). Topo provided.

**Note:** The top section has been climbed before in easier conditions.

### **BRAERIACH, Coire Beanaidh:**

*Rumbling Ridge* 90m III,4. Roger Everett, Simon Richardson. 5 Dec 2014.

The south side of Coire Beanaidh contains a prominent rib.

1. 25m Start at the foot of the rib and climb a triangular wall and continue along the crest to the next steepening.
2. 35m Climb a steep corner-crack then traverse left (loose blocks) and make a steep pull onto the crest. Continue up short corners on the crest to below the final step.

3. 30m Surmount the final step easily on the left and continue easily to the top.

### **Coire Ruadh:**

*Anzac Day* 70m IV,4. Simon Richardson, Sophie Grace Chappell. 25 Apr 2015.  
A good line up the front face of the upper cliff. Climbed on ice but also possible under powder.

1. 30m Start midway between *Phantom Cracks* and *Anniversary Groove* and climb an icy groove to a triangular-shaped cave-impasse.
2. 20m Climb steeply through the right side of the impasse and continue up the ramp to its end.
3. 20m Climb the steep corner on the right and continue up the crest of the buttress (as for *The Apparition*) to the top.

### **Coire an Lochain:**

*Groove Sensation* 100m III. Simon Richardson. 18 Apr 2015.

The well-defined V-groove to the right of *Ice Elation* fills with ice late in the season. Climb discontinuous icy slabs (awkward) to gain the foot of the groove and follow it to the top.

Left of *The Icefall*, the north wall of Coire an Lochain comprises an easy angled lower tier, a snow field and a steep headwall. Routes are described from right to left from *The Icefall*.

*Waltzing Matilda* 150m III. Simon Richardson, Sophie Grace Chappell. 25 Apr 2014.

Start 20m left of *The Icefall* and climb a recessed icefall to the snowfield. Climb up the right side of the headwall by traversing left and surmounting a steep mixed step to gain a funnel-shaped exit couloir.

*White Cliffs of Dover* 150m II. Simon Richardson. 18 Apr 2015.

Climb a broad snow couloir left of *Waltzing Matilda* to gain the open groove line on the left side of the headwall.

*In the Mood* 150m II. Simon Richardson. 18 Apr 2015.

Climb mixed ground left of *White Cliffs of Dover* and finish up the wide gully defining the left side of the headwall.

*We'll Meet Again* 120m II. Simon Richardson. 18 Apr 2015.

The buttress to the right of *The Icefall*. Start at the foot of *The Icefall*, follow a snow ramp up and right and climb through mixed ground trending left to a final snow crest leading to the plateau.

### **Coire nan Clach:**

*Tutor's Rib* 80m II. Simon Richardson. 12 Apr 2015.

Climb the rib to the right of *Hey Teacher* by turfey steps just right of the crest to a small pinnacle and exit easily to the plateau.

### **Coire Odhar:**

*Westwand* 400m II. Simon Richardson. 12 Apr 2015.

The fluted triangular west face has a distinctive low-angled gully that descends



low into the corrie and holds snow late in the season. Climb the gully taking the narrower left fork and climb up the continuation groove to a snow bay and exit left onto the ridge bordering Coire Dhondail.

### **BEN MACDUI, Coire Mor:**

*Tribute Day* 80m II. Simon Richardson. 9 Nov 2014.

The narrow rib that starts up and left of *Memorial Rib*.

*Honour Bound* 80m III. Simon Richardson. 9 Nov 2014.

The rib between *Memorial Rib* and *Avalanche Rib*.

### **BEN AVON, Clach Bhan:**

*Torture* HVS 5b. Graham Tyldesley, Dave Cowan. 18 Aug 2012.

A brilliant little climb if you like jamming gritty cracks. On the west side of the tor there is a bay housing a fine lagoon. This route climbs the crack up the centre of its back wall. Belay in the passageway which reaches the lagoon from the south. Gain the first crack. Traverse left with the water lapping at your feet to gain the second crack. Easy climbing up this crack brings you to an awkward few moves to escape. Could be shallow water soloed at F6a S3.

### **Meall Gaineimh (NJ 167 051):**

There is a very attractive gritstone-like edge just below the summit of this NE top of Ben Avon. The routes are up to 10m long, face SW and are described left to right.

*Left-Hand Crack* H. Severe 4b. Graham Tyldesley, Mike Reading. 16 Jul 2012.

The left-trending crack left of *The Corner*.

*The Corner* Diff. Greg Strange. 21 Aug 2009.

This is the shallow right-slanting corner just left of the prominent S-shaped crack.

*The S-Crack* VS 5a. Greg Strange, Rob Archbold, Brian Findlay. 6 Sep 2009.

The obvious S-shaped crack towards the left side of the crag.

*Torsion Balance* E5 6b. Graham Tyldesley, Dave Cowan. 18 Aug 2012.

The cracked flake right of *The S-Crack*, and which finishes short of the top of the crag. Climb to the top of the flake. Rock out right to reach a break (gear). Mantel the break and finish directly.

*Flaky Grit and Gritty Flakes* E4 5c. Graham Tyldesley, Dave Cowan. 18 Aug 2012.

Start up the undercut flakes below and left of the top of *Personal Tibet*. Move up and then slightly right to gain a high break and finish up left to avoid the leftmost vertical crack of *Personal Tibet*.

*(My Own) Personal Tibet* E1 5b. Graham Tyldesley, Mike Reading. 16 Jul 2012.

The left-trending diagonal crack starting right of centre and ending in a pair of vertical cracks. Classic of the crag.

*Tor Nessie* E3 6a. Graham Tyldesley. 16 Jul 2012.

The rounded breaks up steep ground just right of the start of *Personal Tibet*. Biggish cams useful for the break below *Nessie*.

*Chimney Crack* Severe 5a. Brian Findlay, Rob Archbold, Greg Strange. 6 Sep 2009.

The chimney feature near the right end of the crag. It has a hard start.

*V-Crack* VS 5a. Greg Strange, Rob Archbold, Brian Findlay. 6 Sep 2009.

The second last short crack before the south end.

### **East Meur Gorm Craig:**

*Wear the Fox Hat* 35m E2 5a. Graham Tyldesley, David Bird, 2 Aug 2013.

Further right from the square buttress with *Backslash* is a large, flake covered slab, bounded on the left by a chimney. There is a roof low down on the right. Climb a left-facing corner for about 5m to a heathery ledge. Move up left into a right-facing, left-trending groove. Climb this past some delicate flakes to the top.

99 E1 5b. Graham Tyldesley, David Bird, 2 Aug 2013.

Right of the large flaky slab wall is a buttress with a steep wall running up beside the gully on its right. A few metres up the gully a layback flake trends up rightwards. Climb the flake.

*Magnum* HVS 5a. Graham Tyldesley, David Bird, 2 Aug 2013.

Towards the top of the gully with 99 at its foot, steep cracks lead to a roofed niche with a crack in the roof. Climb to the niche and exit via the crack and a hold on the left wall.

*The Aberdonian* HVS 5b. Graham Tyldesley, David Bird, 2 Aug 2013.

The second buttress right from the large flaky slab buttress has a gully on its right-hand side. On the wall overlooking this gully is a right-trending grooved ramp. Climb a vertical corner for a few metres to the start of the ramp. Make hard moves right to get established on it. Follow it to its end and exit to the top of the buttress via a fine fist crack.

### **Clach Bun Rudhtair:**

Climbing on this fantastic cluster of three sculptured tors was first recorded by Richard Frere in SMCJ April 1946, page 355.

*Tax Avoidance* H.Severe. Rob Archbold, Brian Findlay, Greg Strange. 12 Jul 2013.

The obvious crack on the slabby NW face of the North Tor. Start up a short corner and follow the crack until forced left to finish up another crack. Going straight up is E1 5c.

*Tidy Package* E1 5c. Rory Brown, Graham Tyldesley. 31 Jul 2013.

The direct finish to *Tax Avoidance*.

*South Crack* E2 5b. Greg Strange, Brian Findlay, Rob Archbold. 12 Jul 2013.

The enticing off-width crack on the south end of the Central Tor which leads to a minor detached pinnacle.



*Neil McGeachy on the FA of Obscure Cleft (E4,6a), Ben Avon.*

*Photo: Rory Brown.*

*Obscure Cleft* E4 6a. Neil McGeachy, Graham Tyldesley, Rory Brown. 31 Jul 2013.

Start 10m left of *South Crack* on left-hand side of the gully wall. Climb three obvious snappy flakes until able to access the off-width to their left. Squirm up the crack, then follow a technical ramp line and groove leftwards to the top of crag. Very big cams essential.

*Gritless Wonder* HVS 5a. Brian Findlay, Rob Archbold, Greg Strange. 12 Jul 2013.

This is the west facing hanging crack just round left from the normal scramble to the top of the South Tor; it runs into a right-facing corner. Excellent climbing.

*The Foot Masseur* E4 6b. Graham Tyldesley, Rory Brown, Neil McGeachy. 31 Jul 2013.

Positioned on the SE side of the Central Tor. A large chimney splits the tor. Just right of this is a good likeness of a 5m high foot. This route climbs the flaring crack defining its right-hand edge. Tricky but almost orthodox moves provide entry. Then swim upwards.

*Back, Sack & Crack* 15m VS 5a. Neil McGeachy, Donna Ryan. 31 Jul 2013.

Start down and right of *Time for T*. Climb the obvious corner-chimney to a monkey bum finish. A tight squeeze.

*Time for T* E3 5c. Graham Tyldesley, Rory Brown. 31 Jul 2013.

A stunning, flared and slightly off-width crack. On the upper tier of the South Tor this crack faces down into Glen Avon begging to be climbed! A steep hard start allows entry into the more amenable angle above. Deploy a range of udging manoeuvres to sustain upward progress. At its top move left along the ledge and make a committing move onto the slab above. Might be grit HVS, certainly no harder than 5.9. Large cams useful. Graded by crack climbing incompetents.

## **LOCHNAGAR, Southern Sector, Sunset Buttress:**

*Twilight Rib* 90m III. Simon Richardson. 29 Mar 2015.

The crest of the rib climbed by *Mirk*. Start at the toe of the buttress (down and right of *Mirk*) and climb easily to where the rib becomes smooth. Traverse down and left and climb the line of turf over two steep steps to the col of *Mirk*. Follow the crest of the rib to the top as for *Mirk*.

## **Perseverance Wall:**

*Resolve* 70m IV,5. Simon Richardson, Sophie Grace Chappell. 27 Feb 2015.

An elegant mixed route up the left side of Perseverance Wall. Start just right of *Forgotten Runnel* directly below a smooth slabby rib cut by a crack-line on its left-hand side.

1. 30m Climb through a short steep lower wall to gain the rib, and follow the crack-line to belay under the 'cheeseblock' – a distinctive protruding triangular block.

2. 30m Move up, then right through steep cracks to the top of the cheeseblock. Continue straight up two steep slabby sections to gain a deep wide twisting crack that leads onto the crest and junction with *Perseverance Rib*.

3. 10m Continue easily up *Perseverance Rib* to the top.

*Remembrance Gully, Left-Hand Branch* 80m II. Simon Richardson. 29 Mar 2015.

*Remembrance Gully* splits into three distinct lines. This route takes the left-hand exit from the central depression and finishes up mixed ground (just right of *The Handrail*) to a steep cornice exit.

### **Sinister Buttress:**

*Forsaken Gully, Right-Hand Branch* 50m II. Simon Richardson. 29 Mar 2015. *Forsaken Gully* is split at half-height by a rib. The narrower right-hand branch leads to the top of Sinister Buttress where there is less likely to be a cornice. Probably climbed before.

### **An t-Sron:**

*Boathouse Buttress* 70m III,4. Simon Richardson, Ben Richardson. 26 Dec 2014.

The right edge of the small cliff situated at NO 291 843 just below the plateau of An t-Sron provides a short and easily accessible climb.

1. 20m Start 5m left of the right edge and climb an easy groove followed by a short slab and steep wall. Trend left and then climb steeply up to a good belay.
2. 15m Move left to second wall with a large sharp flake. Climb the right side of the flake and follow cracks trending right to the crest.
3. 35m Easy ground leads to the top.

### **CREAG AN DUBH LOCH, Broad Terrace Wall:**

*Range War* (winter variation) 110m X,10 \*\*\*. Greg Boswell, Guy Robertson. 23 Jan 2015.

1. 40m Climb the turf chimney to the leftward-slanting roof-capped corner. Go up this to belay off a huge block down and left of the *Range War* pedestal.
2. 30m Go up onto the pedestal and then ascend the wall and into the capping niche. Climb up and out of this to gain a jutting block on the right arete. Climb ice to a cave.
3. 40m Climb the ice to the top.

### **COIRE KANDER:**

*Kander Surprise* 200m III. Russell Shanks, Alan Sewell. 7 Feb 2015.

This route climbs the first icefall on the left at the entrance to *Y-Gully*. Start below the overhanging roof and climb the ice bulge above on the right (easier options left). Break through this and continue to the snowfield above (50m). Easier climbing leads to the next icefall (50m). Go left to a narrow groove or further right, climb a short steep wall (50m). Easy snow slopes lead to the top (50m).

### **GLEN SHEE, Creag Dhearg:**

(NO 122 735) Alt 500m

Creag Dhearg is a newly developed schist crag 500m uphill to the west of the A93, 3km north of Spittal of Glenshee. Protection is adequate on most routes and there is some loose rock in places. The lower crag consists of an obvious sharp ridge which is taken by *Valinch*, and the other climbs ascend its steep west flank, which cannot be seen from the approach. Descent is via a grassy gully below the west flank.

*Valinch* 120m H.Severe. Andrew Mallinson, Alan McIntosh. 31 May 2015.

1. 40m Ascend the obvious sharp ridge via slabs and pinnacles to an obvious block.

2. 80m The ridge gradually becomes a scramble which is followed to open hillside.

The following routes are on the west (left) flank of the ridge and all join *Valinch* at some point. Routes are described right to left when looking at the face from the grassy descent gully.

*Blade Runner* 80m HVS 5a. Andrew Mallinson, Sue Harper. 23 Jun 2015.

Climbs an obvious clean blade of rock 20m left of the start of *Valinch*. Exciting but poorly protected moves up the blade lead to the pinnacles on *Valinch*, which is followed to the top.

*Old Friends* 40m H.Severe. Andrew Mallinson, Sue Harper. 23 Jun 2015.

Climbs a clean small buttress 10m left of *Blade Runner* to the ridge of *Valinch*.

*Redemption* 30m VS 4b. Andrew Mallinson, Sue Harper. 23 Jun 2015.

Climbs the next clean slab to the left of *Old Friends* via pockets and edges. Finish along *Valinch*.

*Happy* 20m Severe. Andrew Mallinson, Sue Harper. 23 Jun 2015.

Climbs the bow shaped wall 10m to the left of *Redemption* via a series of pinch grips.

### **BOUSTIE LEY, Corrie of Clova:**

On the walk up to Loch Brandy two prominent ridges can be seen dropping into Corrie of Clova on the west face of the Snub. The following route takes the left-hand of these which ends in a prominent, steep rock tower.

*Boustie Buttress* 90m III,4. Iain Young, John Higham. 13 Dec 2014.

Start at the lowest rocks and climb a right-slanting slabby slot. Step up and left at the top and continue to belay where the ridge lies back. Follow the crest, at first over rock then turf and snow to belay below the final tower. Take the central turf groove (crux) exiting over a capping chockstone. Easy slopes lead to the plateau.

The following route takes the right-hand ridge.

*The Snub* 130m II. John Higham. 18 Dec 1999.

The lower part of the ridge consists of a rock buttress broken by a steep groove. Follow the groove and rock ridge above for about 50m. The upper part of the ridge consists of fine snow aretes interspersed with short rock steps followed by a steep snow finish.

### **Corrie of Bonhard:**

*Mystery Ramp* 100m III,4. Simon Richardson, Ben Richardson. 20 Dec 2014.

Between *Chokestone Gully* and *Left Edge Route* is a prominent buttress high on the north-west wall of the corrie. Climb up to the foot of the easy angled gully formed in the depression to the left of the buttress.



1. 40m Climb the gully and exit right onto the broad ramp cutting across the steep front face of the buttress.
2. 30m Traverse right across the ramp until it narrows into a steep slanting groove. Climb the left side of the groove, transfer right after 5m (crux) and continue up the groove to easier ground.
3. 30m Move up to the headwall and follow the left-trending break in an exposed position to gain the top of the buttress. Easy slopes lead to the plateau in another 30m.

*Cryptic Wall* 100m V,6. Henning Wackerhage, Simon Richardson. 17 Jan 2015. A good mixed route up the front face of the buttress climbed by *Mystery Ramp*. Start 40m right of *Mystery Ramp*.

1. 40m Climb a steep vegetated wall to gain the broad ramp of *Mystery Ramp* cutting across the buttress.
2. 35m Cross the ramp and climb a steep right-facing groove to its top. Move right up a ramp and step down into a steep V-groove that leads to an easier ramp and a stance on the edge of the buttress below the steep headwall (junction with *Mystery Ramp*).
3. 25m Climb the right-facing corner in the headwall to easier ground. Easy slopes lead to the plateau in another 30m.

### **GLEN CLOVA, The Bassies:**

*Bassies Way* 250m II. George Allan, Billy Hood. 19 Jan 2015.

The ground immediately to the left of *Whitehaugh Gully*. Start at the left side of an obvious nose some way up the gully. Climb a short awkward corner then weave up the crest to easy ground. Go as you please climbing on the upper buttress leads to the plateau.

### **GLEN CLOVA, Coire Farchal:**

*Silver Threads Among the Gold, Direct Start* 15m IV,6. Martin Holland, Ian McIntosh. 3 Jan 2015.

Forty metres below the normal start is a short buttress with an overhung base. Start below the central line of weakness of the buttress and make steep moves to gain the open V-groove. Step left and climb in to the deep cleft above and exit past a large chockstone. Easy ground above leads to the normal start.

*Over the Hill* 140m IV,4. Simon Richardson, Ben Richardson, Sophie Grace Chappell. 28 Dec 2014.

The line of weakness cutting through the barrier walls between *Brains Before Brawn* and *Elder Crack Buttress*. Start 20m right of *Brains Before Brawn* below a short 10m-high gully.

1. 40m Climb the gully, exit left and climb snow to a cave below the barrier wall.
2. 30m Climb up into a slot at the left end of the cave and continue up the steep groove above to exit on to a snow slope. Move up this for 20m to a good cave belay on the right side of a large diamond-shaped buttress.
3. 40m Continue up snow on the right side of the 'diamond' to its top then traverse up and left to a short corner cutting through the upper barrier wall. Climb this first on the left, then traverse right under a short roof and exit right. Belay on the large perched block above.
4. 30m Easy ground leads to the top.

**GLEN CLOVA, Lower North-West Crag:**

*For a Handful of Beans* 40m HVS 5a. Simon Richardson, Tim Chappell. 24 Aug 2014.

Good climbing up the centre of the wall between *The Beanstalk* and *Proud Corner*. Start at the foot of *The Beanstalk* and climb straight up the black cracked wall to a niche. Trend slightly right up the steep helpful crack above to a small ledge and junction with *Proud Corner* (just below its crux section). Arrange good protection here and take a deep breath, before stepping left and climbing the steep wall on the left on small positive holds. When the angle eases trend left to the second tree of *The Beanstalk*. Step right and climb the thin vertical crack past a third tree to the top.

**GLEN CLOVA, Coire Fee:**

*Forestry Commission* 350m V,6. Henning Wackerhage, Arno Alpi. 24 Jan 2015. A climb on the large face to the right of *Look C Gully* in Corrie Fee and which covers some new ground (especially pitch 3). All pitches are close to 60m.

1. Start at the lowest point on the right of the face and climb the groove above. Exit and follow snowfields to a boulder.
2. Ascend the snowfield to belay to the right of a large open book corner.
3. Climb the crux groove just to the right of the open book corner. At the top climb an easier left-trending ramp to reach the upper snowfields. The crux groove can be avoided on the right.
4. Climb the snowfield and gully line to find a belay on the side of the buttress on the left.
5. Climb to below the top buttress. Aim for the notch and groove that separates the largest bulk of the buttress from the smaller buttress on the right.
6. Climb the groove and traverse to the right to reach easy ground that leads to the top.

*Alphabet Soup, Variation Finish* II. George Allan. 5 Feb 2015.

From the point overlooking *A-B Integrate* (SMCJ 2012), climb the buttress above instead of traversing away left up the snow fields.

**GLEN ESK, Bruntwood Craig:**

*Reincarnation* 130m IV,6. Andy Nisbet, Duncan Tunstall. 13 Dec 2014.

Based on the buttress left of *Avatar*. A spooky first pitch leads out to short technical sections. Start at a gully whose right wall forms a big ramp angling out to this buttress. Climb the gully to a tree (10m). Go up the gully for a further 10m before going diagonally right to a big ledge on the crest and below a bulging wall (50m). Move right and climb the wall at its weakest point to reach a tree (15m). Continue up the crest (25m). Reach the top of the ramp and climb an overhung chimney on the right (20m). Finish easily (10m).

**GLEN MARK:**

**Note:** There are crags on the south side of the glen at around NO 398 830. On 26 Dec 2014, Duncan Tunstall climbed a ridge (Grade II/III) left of the main crag, which has a long steep sidewall facing the ridge. Andy Nisbet found a way through the sidewall above half-height, then continued to the top (Grade III).

## NORTH-EAST OUTCROPS

### NIGG BAY TO COVE BAY:

#### Bridge of One Hair:

*Stitch in Time* 8m VS 4c. Greg Strange, Rob Archbold. 29 Jun 2011.

Start below *Lost Boys* and go up and left to climb a short impending crack on the crest between *Last Thread Wall* and the sidewall.

#### Long Slough:

*Slinky Malinky* 10m E1 5b. Greg Strange, Rob Archbold. 11 Jul 2011.

The crack and slim groove on the impending right wall of *Leaning Meanie*. Start 4m right of *Meanie* and climb up and right on to the edge of *Sneak*. Continue straight up.

#### Hidden Inlet:

(NJ 955 027) See UKClimbing

*Deep Purple* 10m E1 5b. Greg Strange, Brian Findlay, Rob Archbold. 6 Jun 2007.

The steep wall round left from *Yo-Yo Nicks*. Start up a short groove and use a good undercling to move up left onto the top wall.

**Note:** A direct finish to *Betty Swallocks* is HVS 5a.

#### Deceptive Wall:

The following two routes are on the dark north wall of Yawn Pillar which currently sports an old gas cylinder wedged at its foot. The rock is better than it looks.

*Cylinder Wall* 10m H.Severe. Greg Strange. 13 Sep 2013.

Start near the centre of the wall. Step over a gap and climb slightly rightwards, then trend left to finish close to the right-bounding corner.

*Propane Edge* 10m VS 4c. Greg Strange. 16 Sep 2013.

Start as for *Cylinder Wall* and climb up left to big quartz jugs. Continue steeply staying right of the left edge.

### COVE BAY TO CLASHRODNEY, South Cove, Red Hole:

*Procyon* 35m E5 6b \*\*\*. Callum Johnson, Darren Wisniewski. 11 May 2015.

Climbs the second pitch of *Procrastination* but continues up the steepening corner-crack the whole way. Sustained but well protected. Belay as for *Orbital Ejection* and finish as for *Procrastination*. The first pitch of *Procrastination* was wet at the time of the first ascent so the route was accessed by abseil to the hanging belay at the end of P1. The inclusion of the first pitch would make a superb and sustained outing.

The FA was climbed first attempt after a quick inspection and clean on abseil.

#### Clashrodneey:

*Osiris* 10m E3 5c. Michael Barnard, Chris Wilson. 16 May 2015.

Climb cracks and breaks right of *Onassis* to join its top section.

**Note:** *Stone Roses* (the normal way) was thought E3 5b. Committing, with potential for a bad ground fall and terrible landing.

**THE COAST NORTH OF ABERDEEN, The Graip:**

*Phantom Edge* 15m HVS 5b. Greg Strange, Brian Findlay, Stuart Smith. 12 Aug 1990.

Climbs the edge overlooking *Crick in the Neck* direct from the bottom joining *Phantom Graipist*. Good climbing. Missed out of current guide.

**CRUDEN BAY TO NORTH HAVEN, Fulmar Wall:**

*The Shaft Direct* 20m E1 5c. Greg Strange, Rob Archbold. 14 Jun 2013.

Start below the fall line of the hanging cleft. Climb a short crack to below a black overhang, then move up and right (crux) to gain the original line at a good foothold on the right edge. Continue up *The Shaft*.

*Cornered Edge* 20m VS 5a. Greg Strange, Rob Archbold. 30 Aug 2013.

This follows the short corner (with a little overlap below) on the wall right of *The Shaft*. Start at a triangular pedestal breaching the short impending wall right of the hanging cleft (as for *The Shaft*). Go up right and climb the corner direct to exit onto upper *Left Out Route*. If the crack in the corner is wet, go out right below the overlap, gain the edge, then step back left to the top of the corner (same grade).

**Shadow Slab:**

*Twilight Zone* 35m VS 4c. Rob Archbold, Greg Strange. 30 Aug 2013.

Traverse right above high water level for about 9m (as for *Route Two*), but just before an edge, go straight up to a prominent pale flake below smoother slabs. Follow a thin crack rightwards, then move up right through overlaps to easier ground. Finish up a left slanting crack.

**COVESEA, Boulders Bay Area (NJ 176 708):**

The guide approach description (NE Outcrops p332) is now out of date. A new cliff path goes east from the lookout well above the line of the old path and the 'steps' have been removed. The cliff-top path is still present but traffic will be needed to keep the gorse in check.

**Note:** *Zugzwang* is perhaps E4 on-sight. Runners were placed in the crack of *Private Dancer* on first ascent to protect the moves. A cam 000 can be placed from the ledge. Then straight up the arete with a good cam 00 at half height. An excellent line.

*Special Brew* 12m E1 5a \*. John Hall, Sandy Paterson. 31 Aug 2010.

Start as for *Celebrate the Bullet*. Climb the wall directly between *C the B* and *Synthetic Pathway*. Good holds and good protection when found.

*Better Together* 12m E1 5b \*. Steve Carter, John Trythall. Sep 2014.

Good climbing direct up the wall between *Past Imperfect* and *Not Gneiss*. Climb direct finishing through the pancake rock bulge with care at the top.

*Not Gneiss* 12m HVS 4c. John Hall, Sandy Paterson. 31 Aug 2010.

The cleaned crack to the right of *Past Imperfect*. Finish direct through the top niche – crux. Good pro but some suspect rock.

**Notes:** *Hacuna Mattata* has had a recent repeat with a direct start up the very sandy lower tier. A point of aid was apparently required to get to the original belay in the hanging corner. The top section was then thought to be very good. New grade not known.

The small crag mentioned in SMCJ 2010 at NJ 188 711 has been 'bouldered' on for many years and several of the routes have been done before. The Moray MC have coincidentally just been re-creating two 1935 photos of climbers on *Preston South End* and *Prestonpans*.

*12 Week Scan* 14m E2 5c \*\*. Steve Carter, John Trythall. Sep 2011.  
Start as for *Sleepy Hollow* but move up and slightly right to tackle the right-hand side of the overhang direct (between *Sleepy Hollow* and *Family Affair*) and then finish up the wall above.

**Notes:** The local activists have addressed the problem of gorse at the route exits and they are all clear. The route *Paul Tax* that had suffered a rockfall is now established at E4 6a, and well protected.

### MUCKLE CLEARY:

(NJ 489 689) Partially Tidal North-West facing  
(The OS Explorer spelling is wrong.) Lookout Point is the headland immediately east of the harbour at Portknockie. On arriving in Portknockie on the A942 from either Cullen (east) or Findochty (west), make your way towards the harbour, but stay on the high-level road overlooking the cliffs and park in a lay-by at the top of a dirt track on Patrol Road leading down towards the harbour opposite houses that overlook the bay. To the right of the parking area looking out to sea is Muckle Cleary Bay. Lookout Point is the obvious promontory at the foot of the dirt track. A path leads out to the head of the promontory.

The crag has two climbing faces, Big Roof Wall and Other Steep Wall. Although partially tidal, it would be possible to climb here during a calm high tide.

### Big Roof Wall:

Descent: At the top of Lookout Point is a small concrete structure. Big Roof Wall is accessed to the left of the concrete structure looking out to sea via an easy ramp system. Routes are described right to left.

*Old Magician* 15m Severe. Greg Strange, Paul Allen. 28 Sep 2008.  
This short and pleasant route climbs the slab and easy fault via a small overlap to finish easily on good holds.

*Adolescence* 15m HVS 5a. Paul Allen, Greg Strange. 28 Sep 2008.  
At the right-hand side of the big roof where the angle eases, this route starts up the crack which leads to small overlap beside a short groove. Surmount the overlap and climb slab up to a small overhang. Arrange protection and climb the overhang by good holds to find the top.

*Crimson Red* 10m HVS 5a. Greg Strange, Paul Allen. 28 Sep 2008.  
At the left-hand side of the big roof wall, there is a ledge about 2m above sea-level. This route climbs the steep fault leading up and right to finish via improving holds near the edge.

**Other Steep Wall:**

Descent: Other Steep Wall is accessible from the eastward end of the wall by descending to just above sea-level and traversing to the foot of the crag.

*Dreamer* 15m HVS 5a. Paul Allen, Greg Strange. 28 Sep 2008.

The deceptive lower ramp running leftwards starting at a short corner. Climb up and left onto the ramp to finish at the top of the crag.

**CULLEN AREA, Crathie Point (NJ 548 673):**

This is the crag described as Unknown in SMCJ 2014. Immediately left of the 'clean grey slab' is the 'boulder filled gully' which leads into a chimney.

*Gor Lum Me* 12m VS 4b. Jonathan Preston, Diana Preston. 2 May 2015.  
Climb the chimney.

*Sloping Off* 12m VS 4b. Jonathan Preston. 2 May 2015 .  
A right-facing corner and overlaps left of the chimney.

**Notes:** There is a 10m V.Diff crack in the centre of the small buttress left of the previous two routes; Pete Amphlett, Dave Whalley, 2014. All routes on the clean grey slab are at least 15m rather than 12m.

*Minestrone* 15m V.Diff. Jonathan Preston, Pete Amphlett. 26 May 2015.  
Left of *Lentils*. From the pointed block, step up and round to the left to climb the shallow left-facing corner and slab to the top.

*Sweet Pea* 15m VS 4c. Jonathan Preston, Pete Amphlett. 26 May 2015.  
Start up *Split Pea*. At the split, continue diagonally right to the top right-hand corner of the slab in a fine exposed position.

The clean grey slab ends abruptly and overhangs a deep narrow geo. The far (west) side of this geo sports a steep greenish wall. Access at mid to low tide across the geo is via a barnacle encrusted rock or abseil (spike belays at top of cliff and thread further back). The following three lines are best viewed from below the clean grey slab.

*Mange Tout* 15m E1 5b \*. Jonathan Preston, Pete Amphlett. 3 Jun 2015.  
Start from a small black ledge at the left end of the wall (before it disappears into the depths of the geo). Move up slightly left, then climb straight up the obvious groove to the top.

*Runner Bean* 13m HVS 4c. Jonathan Preston, Pete Amphlett. 3 Jun 2015.  
Start on a long sloping green ledge right of the previous route. Step up right and then up slightly left (crux) to climb a shallow groove just right of a smooth brown wall.

*Chickpea* 13m Severe. Jonathan Preston, Pete Amphlett. 3 Jun 2015.  
Climb out diagonally right from the middle of the sloping ledge and follow a break more easily to the top.



**REDHYTHE POINT, Redhythe West, The Black Wall:**

*Grey Ramp* 15m VS 4c. Greg Strange, Brian Findlay. 12 May 2012.

Start about 6m right of *News Story* beside a small rock stack. Climb up and left to ledge. Traverse up right to gain and follow the grey ramp. Finish out right on black-streaked rock.

**CLACH NA BEINN:**

**Note:** Findlay Cranston climbed 3 short routes on 9 Sep 2014. All about Diff on clean rock. The first route is on the first pinnacle you come to when approaching from the east on the north side of the Slack of Dye gorge. It climbs behind the big spike up a chimney. The latter two routes are on the furthest west pinnacle.

**PASS OF BALLATER:**

*Low Squatta* 10m E4 6c \*. Jules Lines. Aug 2014.

Start as for *High Steppa* to the break. Go left to the arete and climb it.

*Dysentery* 15m E4 5c. Danny Laing, Jules Lines. 6 Jun 2015.

Start to the right of *The Terrorist*. Climb a blocky nose and a tiny left-facing groove to flat holds. Traverse right across the wall passing a broken flake to gain a pair of diagonal cracks. Finish direct.

*Passing the Time* 30m E1 5a. Michael Barnard, Ben Winter. 15 Jul 2014.

Climb the initial corner of *Convoy*; where that route traverses right, instead reach up for a crack just left of the small pine and pull onto the slab above. Step left and go up a short corner to below the top wall. Climb the light-coloured shallow groove in the arete, finishing on the right. The top wall is bold; finishing as for *Mandrax* would make the route VS 4c.

*Drambo Direct* 15m E6 6b \*\*. Danny Laing, Jules Lines. Jul 2012.

Straightens out the line of *Drambo* taking a direct start up the wall on edges and sidepulls, making it an independent line from *Stoned Immaculate*, more sustained at the grade and without high side runners. The first ascent was climbed ground up, yo-yo style, placing gear on lead. The second and third ascent were soloed after pre-practice by Callum Johnson & Darren Wisniewski on 2 Nov 2014.

*Warm Love* 15m E5 6a \*\*\*. Jules Lines. 25 Mar 2015.

Start beneath the pod of *Cold Rage*. Slap out right for the arete and climb it via sustained slapping (gear easily placed in *Cold Rage*) to gain a shakeout. Continue up the upper arete on sidepulls in a wild position to pull out via the final flake-crack of *Anger and Lust*. High in the grade.

**HIGHLAND OUTCROPS**

New routes are not reported as the new guide is in production.

## BEN NEVIS, AONACHS, CREAG MEAGAI DH

### Indicator Wall:

*Call me Ishmael* 175m VIII,9. Uisdean Hawthorn, Iain Small. 16 Mar 2015.

Start to the left of *Psychedelic Wall* below the right-hand of the band of overhangs.

1. 55m Climb the rising traverse above the overhangs on thin ice and then step down into a steep iced corner. Climb this to the first belay of *Stormy Petrel*.

2. 60m Move right and climb the left edge of the large slab to an overlap. Make a committing move left through the weakness on thin ice onto a steep wall. Climb up and left to belay below the middle of the headwall.

3. 60m Climb a steep groove, then move left to gain the large obvious spike. Climb the groove to the right on good ice in an outstanding position to the top.

### Tower Ridge, East Flank:

*Tripod* 65m VII,7 \*\*. Dave MacLeod, Helen Rennard. 16 Mar 2015.

A direct start to the winter line of *Clefthanger*, taking a sustained and intricate crack-line, joining *Clefthanger* after 20m as it moves left.

*The Piece Maker* 80m VIII,9 \*. Iain Small, Blair Fyffe. 10 Mar 2015.

A steep mixed and thin ice route taking the corner bounding the left-hand side of the bay to the right of *Clefthanger*.

1. 30m Start below the corner of *Clefthanger*. Climb steep snow and a short corner to the left-hand end of a long snow ledge. Climb the steep corner above to a good flake then traverse left to gain a niche in a fault. Tackle the hard bulge above to gain a useful flake-crack and belay on a sloping ledge.

2. 20m Step up and left and climb a series of flakes to under an overhang below a thinly iced corner. Climb the corner to a big snow ledge and a good block.

3. 30m Traverse right to climb icy walls and steps to easier ground below the Great Tower of *Tower Ridge*.

*Red Dragon* 60m VIII,9 \*\*. Dave MacLeod, Helen Rennard. 2 Mar 2015.

An exciting steep crack-line breaching the overhanging walls between *The Brass Monkey* and *The Urchin*.

1. 30m Start about 10m left of *The Urchin* below the crack which leads directly up the overhanging wall. Climb over the first bulge to an easier section and an awkward rest below a larger bulge. Poor protection unless the crack is free of verglas. Pull through the bulge on deep hooks to welcome good runners and continue with difficulty to reach easier ground which leads to a belay at small ledges.

2. 30m Climb short corners to steeper rock. Traverse left along a ledge and round into a large easy groove which leads to a block belay on *Tower Ridge*.

### Douglas Boulder:

*Inception* 95m V,7. Steve Holmes, Duncan Curry. 18 Feb 2015.

Ascend *West Gully* of the Douglas Boulder for 15m. On the right wall and directly opposite the start of *SW Ridge* is a left-facing ramp. The first two pitches can be linked with careful rope management.

1. 15m Climb the corner direct, strenuous but well protected and belay below a broken chimney – superb.

2. 15m Climb the constricted chimney and steep upper corner to a large spike.
3. 45m Ascend a shallow cracked wall on the left, then continue over snow slopes on a rising rightward traverse aiming for a steep ice runnel. Climb the thin ice runnel for 6m and belay on the left before a short chimney
4. 20m The chimney and snow grooves on the left lead to *Tower Ridge*.

*High Pressure Crack* 170m VIII,9 \*\*\*. Dave MacLeod, Masa Sakano. 4 Mar 2015.

An excellent sustained battle up the steep crack-line looming over *Gutless*.

1. and 2. Climb the groove and chimney pitches of *Gutless* to the big ledge below the overhanging wall.
3. 30m Climb the right-slanting icy overhanging crack in the steepest part of the wall with sustained difficulty and good protection to a welcome resting niche above the lip of the overhang. Continue following left-slanting cracks to finally pull onto a large ledge.
4. 70m Climb more or less direct on easy mixed terrain to the top of the Douglas Boulder.

### **Secondary Tower Ridge:**

*Shear Fear* 90m VI,5. Michael Barnard, John MacLeod. 14 Feb 2015.

The obvious icefall overlooking the easier upper gully of *1934 Route*, makes a good finale after *Vanishing Gully*. Often thin; would be at least a grade easier with thicker ice.

1. 60m Climb the main icefall and the short icy corner above. Continue up cracks in the buttress.
2. 30m Continue more easily up the rib to join *Tower Ridge*.

### **Goodeve's Buttress:**

*Sirius* 160m V,6. Simon Richardson, Helen Rennard. 15 Mar 2015.

A parallel line left of *The Alpine Princess*. Start as for *The Alpine Princess* in a snow bay below the gully of *Hale Bopp Groove*.

1. 50m Move up the snow ramp of *The Alpine Princess* and take the first line of weakness on the left. This leads into a narrow V-groove that emerges at the top of the steep section of *Hale Bopp Groove*. Cross the gully and belay on the rib between *The White Line* and *Hale Bopp Groove*.
2. 50m Climb up to a small overlap in the gully line of *The White Line* and move left up a short icy ramp to gain the rib that lies between the two branches of *The White Line*. Follow the gully cutting into the rib (well seen from the corrie floor) passing to the right of a broad prominent spike to easier ground.
3. 60m Continue up ice and snow through a short mixed section to the plateau.

### **Creag Coire na Ciste:**

*Hans Solo* 100m VIII,8. Guy Robertson, Uisdean Hawthorn. 11 Feb 2015.

Essentially an ice climber's version of *Storm Trooper*!

1. 40m Follow *Storm Trooper*'s first pitch, which on this ascent was mostly thin ice.
2. 40m Directly above is a tantalising / terrifying ice streak (depending on your perspective). Gain this from the left and follow it very carefully (crux) to easier ground below the top.
3. 20m A short step, then over the cornice to the top.

*Tenterhooks* 160m VII,8. Simon Richardson, Roger Webb. 3 Jan 2015.

A steep and icy mixed climb tackling the impressive right wall of *Central Rib*.

1. 70m Climb the first section of *Wendigo*, then move up and right to below the final tower of *Central Rib*.
2. 35m Start up the final tower midway between *Wendigo* and *Tinkerbell* and climb a short mixed wall to a small snowfield. Cross this to join the left-facing icy corner of *Tinkerbell* and climb up to the snowy depression.
3. 30m Climb up to the steep icefall of *Tinkerbell Direct*, then bear left along the tapering ramp crossing the right wall of *Central Rib*. Where it fades, make a difficult series of moves past an undercut monolithic block to gain a steep hanging groove. Climb this to its top and exit right around a rib to a small stance.
4. 25m Continue up the icy groove above that runs parallel to the icefall of *Tinkerbell Direct* to reach easier ground. Exit up easy snow left of the final tower (as for *Tinkerbell*) avoiding the cornice on the right.

### **North Trident Buttress:**

*Scoop Wall, Direct Finish* 15m E3 5c \*\*. Michael Barnard, Alan Hill. 13 Sep 2014.

See SMCJ 2014. The obvious crack in the wall above the scoop belay. Bold, sustained and excellent.

### **Carn Dearg Buttress:**

*The Wicked* E6 6b \*\*\*. First continuous ascent by Dave MacLeod, Donald King, Jul 2014.

### **Cousins' Buttress:**

*Cousinade* 210m VIII,8. Neil Silver, Malcolm Bass, Simon Yearsley. 4 Feb 2015.

Takes the obvious groove on the steep pinnacle on the lower section of Cousins' Buttress, then easier climbing above the saddle. Start as for *Harrison's Climb Direct*.

1. 30m Move right and climb the two short narrow chimneys. Traverse delicately horizontally left past a block to belay in a right-angled corner at the base of the main groove.
2. 25m Climb tenuously up and left to gain a large flake, then trend up and right into the base of the steep groove. Climb the groove with an awkward pull out left at the top to a stance on the edge of the buttress.
3. 30m The steep wide crack above leads to a short awkward wall and then easier climbing in a fine situation to the top of the pinnacle.
4. 35m Move easily along to the saddle, then out left past a large open corner to the foot of the 30m icefall on *Harrison's Climb* where an icy gangway leads out rightwards back onto the buttress.
- 5 and 6. 90m Climb the icy gangway to a small snowfield then a series of icy corners, grooves and walls to the upper corrie.

### **Raeburn's Buttress:**

*Teufel Grooves* 120m IX,9. Andy Inglis, Iain Small. 7 Feb 2015.

Varied and interesting climbing up grooves on the right edge of Raeburn's Buttress, with delicate ice climbing and a hard crux.

1. 30m The winter version started via the Great Flake start, climbing ice for 15m



# BEN NEVIS North Face of Castle Ridge



## NORDWAND

There is scope for much variation on this part of the face. The original route starts well to the right of the other options. (The original leftwards finish is rarely done.) Noel Williams suggests that three main lines can be identified as follows:

1. **NORDWAND** (III, Clough & party, 1959) starts on the right-hand side of the face above a 'snow-filled trench on the screes below the face'.
2. **NORDWAND DIRECT** (IV/V,4) starts much further left at a prominent icefall, and only joins the original route beneath the last steep wall. One of the best routes of its grade on the Ben.
3. **NORDWAND SUPERDIRECT** (VI,5) starts up a narrow ribbon of ice immediately **right** of Nordwand Direct.  
This start was originally called the 'Direct Start to Nordwand' (IV,4 Szuca & party, 1989). It now has a Superdirect Finish, (VI,5 Barnard & MacLeod, 2015). See p.516. The line shown is the one climbed by Barnard & MacLeod.

Thanks to David Buckett and John MacLeod.  
Updated by Michael Barnard. Photo: David Buckett.

until it was possible to traverse delicately left via two corners and a short wall to a spacious ledge below the crux pitch.

2. 30m Start up the corner on the right for 4m until possible to traverse left to above the belay, then go straight up (crux) into and climbing the obvious overhanging corner to its top (semi-hanging belay).

3. 30m Step right and climb the stepped corners, then climb diagonally up left across a slab to the crest of the buttress.

4. 30m Climb the stepped right-facing corners leading onto the crest of the buttress.

Traverse off right into *North Castle Gully* (or continue up *Raeburn's Buttress*).

### **Castle Ridge, North Face:**

*Nordwand Superdirect Finish* 30m VI,5. Michael Barnard, John MacLeod. 7 Feb 2015.

Climbs the steep wall to the right of the final pitch of Nordwand Direct. The main feature is an icefall which forms down a hanging slab, sometimes with an icicle above. Go up to the icefall, but instead climb steep mixed ground to its left until possible to step right onto its top section. Move up, then take a right-slanting ramp through the upper wall before pulling back left and up to belay. See topo p.515.

### **Coire Eoghainn:**

*Sunny Side Up* 320m IV,4. Will Rowland, Mark Chambers. Jan 2015.

Start in a bay 100m left from the toe of the buttress. The line climbs an icefall direct.

1. 70m A short ice wall leads to easy snow which is climbed to an ice screw belay left of the main cascade.

2. 40m Follow easy snow to ascend a short steep ice wall. Step left to a good rock belay.

3. 60m A fantastic ice pitch, climbed directly.

4. to 6. 150m of easy snow leads to the plateau.

*The German Night Prowler* 295m IV,3. Will Rowland, Jakob Rosenhan. Jan 2015.

To the right of the central buttress are three gullies. Each gully has a cascade at the start barring access to easy snow which leads to the summit. This is the furthest right of the three lines.

1. 50m Belay under a black vertical rock wall. Climb the cascade directly.

2. 50m Easy snow leads to a belay before a steepening.

3. 45m Take the left fork of the gully. Climb directly up over an icy step and belay on rock to the left.

4. to 6. 150m Easy snow leads to the summit.

### **MULLACH NAN COIREAN:**

*Summit Ridge Central* 80m III. Roger Everett, Simon Richardson. 7 Dec 2014. Just below P917m are three short ridges. Climb the central one in two pitches to the top.

### **STOB BAN, South Buttress:**

*Flying Saucer* 210m VI,5. Andy Nisbet, Steve Perry. 16 Dec 2014.

An indirect line on the central fault on the front face. (The fault is marked



incorrectly in the Ben Nevis Guide as *North Ridge Route*, although that route is actually further right). Despite icy conditions, a lower barrier wall was insufficiently iced and a line traversing in above it was taken. Start at the base of *South Gully* (as for *Tippy Toe*) and go for 10m to a belay. Continue up (as for *Tippy Toe*) before moving right up a fault to a ledge system which leads right above the barrier wall. Step down and traverse until 10m from the fault line (50m). Gain the fault line, move up and step left for a runner. Climb an icy ramp and over a bulge (bold) before trending right into the main fault line. Go up this to a belay on the left (40m). Continue up and move left to gain the upper crest (50m). Finish up this (60m).

### **AONACH MOR, Coire an Lochain:**

*Gonzo* 90m IV.4. Andy Nisbet, Jonathan Preston. 23 Dec 2014.

A line of iced grooves right of *The Muppet Show* and left of *Hidden Pinnacle Gully*. The cornice allowed a fairly direct finish.

### **AONACH MOR, West Face:**

*Living Dead* 500m II/III \*. Steve Kennedy. 7 Feb 2015.

The groove line running leftwards up the north (left) side of the middle section of the buttress climbed by *Golden Oldy*. Climb *Downhill Gully* (or the lower section of *Golden Oldy*, then left into the gully) to an icefall which forms at the narrows about one-third of the way up the gully. Climb the prominent groove on the right wall leading diagonally left for two pitches to reach the narrow ridge forming the upper part of *Golden Oldy*. Finish up *Golden Oldy*.

### **AONACH BEAG, North Face:**

*Highway Robbery* 70m III. Scott Kirkhope, Ken Applegate, Hannah Evans. 19 Jan 2015.

Start 50m down from the col between Aonach Mor and Aonach Beag. Climb an icefall to a snow bay and up to a steep wall. Either head out left to finish up easier ground, joining *Whiteout*, or go right via a shallow gully (more in keeping with the grade).

*Time Warp* 130m V.5. Roger Webb, Simon Richardson. 14 Mar 2015.

A direct ascent of the chimney avoided by *Blackout*. Start 20m right of the wide entry gully of *Whiteout* below the left side of the mixed wall between *Whiteout* and *Wipeout*.

1. 60m Climb the wall via a series of shallow ramps and steep steps, tending first left, then right, then left again to join the traverse of *Whiteout* in the snow bay below the *Blackout* chimney.
2. 30m Climb the chimney directly for 25m and move up the easier continuation gully to a belay. On this ascent, the chimney was spectacularly choked with ice that created a through route at the steepest section.
3. 50m Continue up easier ground to the top.

*King's Ransom, Direct Exit* 180m II. Simon Richardson, Roger Webb. 24 Mar 2015.

The prominent shallow couloir between *The White Queen* and *This Sceptred Isle* is the natural continuation to the initial gully of *King's Ransom* (and avoided on the first ascent as it looked too easy). The couloir starts above the initial gully of

*King's Ransom* (top of pitch 2) and is climbed in four rope lengths. It has probably been climbed before and reduces the overall grade of *King's Ransom* to V,5.

### **AONACH BEAG, Lower West Face:**

**Note:** Sandy Allan & Andy Nisbet repeated *Prominent Chimney* on 20 Dec 2014 thinking it was new. On the day it was 140m Grade III. The diagram on p261 of the Ben Nevis guide is correct but the description is unhelpful. The following route is an icefall which forms left of its lower section.

*Santa* 90m V,5. Andy Nisbet, Steve Perry. 7 Feb 2015.

Start about 15m left of *Prominent Chimney* below a right-facing chimney-corner. Gain the base of the chimney (20m), then climb it until a ramp leads out right to below the main icefall. Climb this to easier ground (50m). Finish out right up a curving ramp (20m).

*Elf* 80m III,4. Sandy Allan, Andy Nisbet. 20 Dec 2014.

Left of *Prominent Chimney* are steep walls. This ice line forms left of these where the angle eases. Two steep sections were avoided (could be climbed with thicker ice), but one bulge had to be climbed.

*Dasher* 170m III,4. Andy Nisbet, Jonathan Preston. 29 Dec 2014.

A mixed line right of *Prominent Chimney*, escapable. Start at the right edge (lowest point) of the buttress. Climb diagonally left before going up to the crest (45m). Follow the crest to below a summit (45m). Climb a short crack-line to the top and descend to the main ramp (20m). Cross the main ramp (20m) and follow a fault line which diverges rightwards from *Prominent Chimney*. Where this ends, climb a steep wall on the left to the top near *Prominent Chimney* (40m).

*Axiom* 120m III. Andy Nisbet, Steve Perry. 7 Feb 2015.

The gully between *North Buttress* and *Crevasse Rib* gave a lot of ice on this occasion. This was originally thought to be *Torquing Nonsense* (as in SMCJ 2014), but that route actually started up the gully of *North Buttress* before going straight up. A steep section led to snow bending right to a continuation (going left would have been an escape). The continuation ice led to an easier finish.

*Bottleneck Gully, Right Branch* 60m VII,7. Steve Perry, Andy Nisbet. 7 Feb 2015.

After gaining the start of the right branch (not included in length), the branch gave steep ice leading to an ice roof, surmounted with difficulty and passing the capping chockstone on the left (30m). Finish rightwards and back left more easily (30m).

### **STOB A' CHOIRE MHEADHOIN:**

*Navigator* 150m VI,6. Dan Bailey, Andy Nisbet, Steve Perry. 11 Feb 2015.

Good climbing but escapable right into *Goblin Gully*. Start up and right of *Slytherin* towards the end of the buttress. Climb an icy groove, then turf ground trending slightly right to a steep wall right of *Slytherin*'s icy groove (45m). Pull through the short overhanging wall, then trend rightwards up steep grooves to reach and cross snow and arrive at the base of the next tier (40m). Move right and climb a big icy groove before returning left to a spike (45m). Continue up the right side of the buttress and climb a left-slanting chimney-crack (difficult) to

reach easy ground (20m). Snow for 50m reaches the top (not included in length).

### **BINNEIN SHUAS, North-West Buttresses:**

*Bogle Eyed* 30m III. Martin Holland, Jim Bayliss. 31 Jan 2015.

Starting from the lowest steep section of the crags containing *Laggan Fantasy*. A left-facing corner just right of a severely undercut wall can contain water ice in quantity. Climb steep ice in the corner and the ice line above. The angle eases and becomes more stepped with height. Above the ice 10m of easy ground leads to a good belay at large blocks.

## **GLEN COE**

### **BUACHAILLE ETIVE MOR, North Blackmount Buttress:**

The following routes are level with the top pitches and on the left of *Saturday Rock* and *The Snake*. They can be accessed by scrambling down the top of the gully between Central Blackmount Buttress and North Blackmount Buttress and then over a large block on a grassy ledge. Topo provided.

*Tombstone Crack* 20m Severe 4a \*\*. Ewan Lyons. 25 Jul 2014.

Climb the obvious crack on the left of the upper wall starting behind a large block.

*Tombstone Wall* 30m H.Severe 4b \*. Ewan Lyons. 25 Jul 2014.

Start left of the top pitch of *Saturday Rock* from a grassy ledge. Climb the left or right side of the tombstone, then a short corner and wall to a small ledge. Climb the wall above trending left past some mossy holds.

### **Central Buttress:**

*Hic* 120m VI,7. Michael Barnard, Ron Dempster. 13 Dec 2014.

An attempt at a winter ascent of *Hiccup*. Some superb climbing on the lower cracks.

1. 15m Climb the *Hiccup* crack to a small ledge on the right with spike belay above.
2. 55m Climb cracks just right of the edge to regain the line. Bold slabby ground leads up to the base of a right-slanting ramp going across the north-east face; gain this with difficulty and move across to join *North Face Route* at the base of its upper chimney. Climb the chimney to where it eases off, then move back left along a ledge to a good spike.
3. 50m Continue more easily to the top of the buttress.

### **Creag a' Bhancair:**

*The End of Innocence* 90m E7 \*\*\*\*. Iain Small, Blair Fyffe. 28 Jun 2014.

This route climbs *Celtic Dawn*, then takes the superb steep grey wall to the left of *Romantic Reality*. Named so as it was climbed 100 years to the day after the Arch Duke Franz Ferdinand was assassinated.

1. 20m 6a Climb *Celtic Dawn* (E5).
2. 35m 6b/c Climb the grey wall above the belay (small wires), trending leftwards to a good jug, good sky-hook on another jug 1m up and left of this jug. Step right and make a dynamic move up to a good hold and move right to a crimp break

(small cam), then up to a long thin roof. Make a strenuous and technical traverse right on undercuts to gain a flake-line. Climb this for a few metres, before more hard moves up and right gain another small roof (more moderate to large cams). Make more hard moves left and up to gain better holds and a slight easing of the angle. Continue up and left to a grassy ledge.

3. 35m 5b Continue up easier ground to the top.

### **GEARR AONACH, Upper West face:**

*Twoburkelosis* 75m III 4. Dave Burke, Colm Burke. 23 Feb 2015.

Start at the bottom of the buttress just to the left of *Jim's Gully*. Climb over a rocky bulge and up a short snow ramp that steepens quickly. Take the obvious shallow chimney feature close to where the edge of the buttress meets the gully. Good mixed climbing gains a prominent spike (40m). One awkward step following the rib gains a ledge left of the gully exit. Continue on easy ground for 25m to gain the ridge (35m).

### **STOB COIRE NAN LOCHAIN, Central Buttress:**

*Tried and Tested* 100m VII,7. Andy Nelson, Kenny Grant, Keith Ball. 29 Dec 2014.

The hanging chimney slot and hanging grooves on the wall right of *Satyr*. Start in the corner/bay formed by the *Satyr* wall and the projecting spur of *Raeburn's Ordinary Route*.

1. 30m Climb steep turf up to cracks, and then the squeeze chimney (grunting optional). Belay on the ledge above, positioned to enjoy watching the efforts of your second.

2. 35m Move up to a ledge, then tenuously left into the hanging groove on the front face, which is followed with some stiff pulls to the next large ledge.

3. 35m Climb the balancey wall above the ledge, then scramble more easily to top.

### **AONACH DUBH, Lower Walls:**

*Angeline* 25m E3 5c \*\*. Gary Latter. 11 Jul 2014.

Good sustained climbing, taking a direct line to the finish of *Lady Jane*. Start at the base of the short easy ramp, just right of *Charlotte Anne*. Climb up then right to a good horizontal slot, place protection in a short diagonal crack above, then move left and up to a good horizontal break. Continue directly up a tiny right-facing groove, then direct, moving right to good ledge. Climb direct from the left end of this to gain the good horizontal break on *Lady Jane*. Finish up this.

### **STOB COIRE NAM BEITH:**

*Cartouche* 40m IV,4 \*\*. Ken Applegate, Nick Stone. 5 Feb 2015.

This fine sustained ice pitch starts towards the top of North-West Gully, a few metres down and right of where *Central Gully*, *Deep Cut Chimney* and *No.4 Buttress* converge. The pitch takes a direct line up an obvious ice filled groove and finishes on the upper slopes of the mountain, where the angle eases.

### **STOB COIRE NAM BEITH, Summit Buttresses:**

*Bodach na Nollaig* 90m II. Steve Kennedy. 25 Dec 2014.

Takes a spiralling line on the south-east (left) face of the largest buttress climbed by *Corkscrew*. Start about 30m below and right of the prominent snow gully and

just left of a small projecting ridge. Climb out rightwards by a steep snow ramp to near the top of the ridge, then continue directly, right of a steep wall, to reach the buttress crest (joining *Corkscrew*). Finish by the easy upper slopes.

### **CHURCH DOOR BUTTRESS:**

*Wall of the Evening Light* 90m E6 \*\*. Iain Small, Blair Fyffe. 10 Jul 2014.

A fine hard route between *Lost Arrow* and *Kingpin*. Start as for *Kingpin*.

1. 40m 6a Climb *Kingpin* to the groove junction. Climb the left-hand groove and wall above to step right to the belay at the top of the second pitch of *Kingpin*.

2. 50m 6b Climb the groove on the left to step back right to a sloping ledge (possible belay). Ascend a wall to another ledge, then take thin cracks up the centre of the wall to reach the black streak. Climb this boldly to the roof and pull left and through it to gain a diagonal crack in the headwall that leads to a niche. Climb the crack out of this to belay on ledge above.

### **AN T-SRON, East Face:**

*New Blues* 105m III,4 \*. Steve Kennedy, Andy MacDonald. 8 Feb 2015.

The most prominent groove on the upper part of the buttress left of *Sack o' Coal Couloir*. From the foot of *SOCC*, climb the lower easy angled buttress on the left to a snow shelf which leads leftwards to a large block at the start of the groove (55m). Climb the initial groove, move right to avoid a steepening, then back left below a steep wall. Continue up steep mixed ground immediately left of the wall to reach easy ground (50m). Finish by easy scrambling to the summit ridge (not included in length).

*Boogie* 110m II. Steve Kennedy. 28 Dec 2014.

Left of the buttress containing *New Blues* are two narrow gullies. This route climbs the buttress between the gullies. Start at the foot of the gully at the left corner of the buttress and move up rightwards. A short steepening at about mid-height leads to a narrow slot which in turn leads to easy scrambling.

### **AONACH EAGACH:**

**Note:** Kevin Woods climbed *Bolly Quaffers Buttress* in May 2015, taking a fairly direct line at scrambling Grade 3. Steep heather breaking out in rock steps, exposed.

### **CLACH LEATHAD, Summit Cliff:**

**Note:** Routes have been climbed on this face before and not recorded.

*Eclipse* 140m IV,5. Andy Nisbet, Steve Perry. 22 Mar 2015.

The furthest left and longest of several iced grooves which form on the right side of its summit cliff. The start of the route is tucked in against the left buttress and takes the right branch of two ice lines forming a V (the left peters out). Climb ice through a narrow slot to an overhanging block on the right (30m). Continue up an icy corner to the upper snowfield and blocks after a further 20m (50m). Steep snow to the top (60m).

*Springtail* 120m IV,4. Susan Jensen, Andy Nisbet, Steve & Katie Perry. 4 Apr 2015.

Some 30m right of *Eclipse* are two parallel ice lines in a slight depression. This

takes the left one. Climb icy and turfey ground slightly leftwards to reach a shallow gully leading straight up to the upper snow (50m). Climb the snow to the top (70m).

*Holme Moss* 120m IV,4. Andy Nisbet, Steve Perry. 22 Mar 2015.

This takes the right line in the depression. Climb the ice to the upper snowfield (60m). Head slightly right to an iced groove in an isolated buttress. Climb this and steep snow to the top (60m).

*Perryulous* 110m IV,4. Sandy Allan, Andy Nisbet. 2 Apr 2015.

The most prominent groove is just right of centre. Climb this with two steep sections to reach the well defined groove. Climb this to blocks on the left (50m). Continue right of *Holme Moss* up the isolated buttress and steep snow to the top (60m).

*Chairman* 110m IV,4. Susan Jensen, Andy Nisbet, Steve & Katie Perry. 4 Apr 2015.

The next ice line to the right. Start 5m right of *Perryulous*. Climb a snow and ice groove to a steepening. Traverse right on a turf ledge (crux) before going up slightly left into the main upper groove. Climb this to the upper section (50m). Finish up the isolated buttress and snow to the top (60m).

*Cool for Cats* 120m III. Andy Nisbet. 25 Mar 2015.

The rightmost ice line on the face. Start at the bottom right corner of the cliff. Go up to where ramps lead out right and left. Climb the icy left ramp, go back right and climb another icy ramp to reach a snow and ice groove leading to the upper face. Move right and climb snow near the right arete of the face to the summit.

### **CREACH BHEINN, Zeppelin Face:**

The map ref quoted in SMCJ 2008 is corrected to NM 874 585. The Zeppelin Face (SMCJ 2010, p170) contains three well defined lines. *The Rover* (SMCJ 2008, p177) climbs the left-hand line which is essentially a gully. The two lines to the right appear as left-facing corners. *Houses of the Holy* generally follows the middle line (not the rightmost line as previously described). This route climbs the rightmost line (slabby left-facing corner), just left of an easy gully.

*Bring it on Home* 255m IV,5 \*.Steve Kennedy, Andy MacDonald. 4 Mar 2015. Climb the easy gully for a short distance, then move left onto broken ground aiming for the prominent corner. A snow ramp leads up left into a bay below a steep wall at the base of the corner. Climb the icy corner (thin) and mixed grooves above in one long pitch (crux) trending slightly left near the top. A short pitch leads to the top via a small cornice.

## **SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS**

### **STOB GHABHAR, North-East Corrie:**

**Note:** Ken Crocket notes that Maclay, Oscar, Rohde and Solly climbed a line at Easter 1903 starting left of *Hircine Rib* but joining it for the final easier section.



*Cuithach* 105m III,4. Steve Kennedy, Andy MacDonald. 15 Feb 2015.

The prominent open groove left of the main buttress containing *Hircine Rib*. Climb the groove via short ice steps to its conclusion at the foot of a steep rock wall (55m). Move left below the wall and climb steep ice which leads to the upper snow slopes. The cornice can usually be outflanked on the right (50m).

**Note:** The team wasn't 112 years too late; the route above is different!

### **Coire Dhomhnaill:**

*Countdown* 200m II/III. Andy Nisbet. 25 Mar 2015.

A gully starting 60m right of and diverging from *The Great Divide*. Mostly snow but with a steepening to enter the main gully (double bergschrund here) and an ice pitch high up. This was thin and fragile but would have been Grade II for much of this snowy season.

### **BEINN AN DOTHAI DH, Creag Coire an Dothaidh:**

*Kelvin Grooves* 155m III,4. Martin Holland, Andrew Rembrandt, Ged Browne. 24 Jan 2015.

Sections have been climbed before. Start at the lowest rocks 6m right of *Fahrenheit 451*.

1. 35m Climb a steep, right-trending turf ramp with a short rock wall on the left. Belay at a short wall on the right with capping blocks (first pitch of *Right Guard*).
2. 40m Move left 5m and climb a right-trending groove line. Surmount a short wall to gain a left-trending, partly overhung grassy ramp. Follow this and it's continuation leftwards to a block belay at a snowy gully near *Fahrenheit 451*.
3. 30m Follow the gully easily up and right to a traversing ledge.
4. 50m Step around the nose on the right. Move up to and follow a delicate slabby groove line to below the steep final rock band. Traverse hard right on ledges to gain the final icy groove of *Centigrade* and follow this to the top.

*Burnout* 175m IV 4. I. Clark, A. McCaig. 24 Feb 2002.

Takes the right edge of the main buttress, traverses round on to the face overlooking the col, finishing up steep icy grooves and walls. A good varied route on steep turf and icy bulges.

1. 35m Start 20m right of *Centigrade* at an icy turf ramp under a short diagonal wall. Climb the ramp, go left round a corner and up ledges to a thread.
2. 35m Continue up steep ice, go right for a few metres, then up and left to a cave with a thread at the back).
3. 40m Climb up bulges to a long airy traverse to reach a large flake.
4. 40m Move right and climb a steep icy groove.
5. 25m Continue to the top.

*Quick Fire* 65m II. Martin Holland, Graham Crowder. 25 Feb 2015.

Start about 100m north of the Beinn an Dothaidh/Beinn Dorain col just left of a long 5m high vertical wall.

1. 50m Climb the narrowing easy gully line to where it steepens and curves tightly left. Climb through the narrows and then up on good featured ice to belay on a terrace (it is possible to walk off rightwards at this point).
2. 15m Climb the short obvious continuation groove on the left.

**CREAG THARSUINN, Upper Buttress:**

*Arch Chimney* 65m V,5. Dafydd Morris, Matt Buchanan. 22 Jan 2015.

By the summer line.

**BINNEIN AN FHIDLEIR, Summit Buttress:**

*Twa Fiddlers* 35m V.Diff. Andy Cochrane, Julie Blythe. Aug 2012.

From the base of *Fiddler's Slab*, walk up and left some 100m to the foot of a dark broad slab speckled with quartz, with a lighter broad grey band running up to the left. Start at the left base, where a narrow grassy crack angles in from the right to meet a short broad crack on the left. Angle up and right over the main quartz patch to where the angle eases off. Scramble easily up to a large grassy platform.

**BEN LOMOND:**

David Webster climbed the three gullies between B and C buttresses in Jan 2015. They are rather dismissed in the last guide but are good lines and definitely not Grade I.

*B-C Gully Left-Hand* 70m II. Messrs Inglis-Clark & Shannon. 19 Apr 1897.

The leftmost gully, about 50m to the right of *Lomond Corner*. A narrow parallel sided gully (barely 1m wide in places) consistently steep but never technical.

*B-C Gully Central* 70m II/III.

A wider parallel sided gully. Follow snow for a pitch to below a short steep mixed or ice step. Pull over this (may be hard) and continue up the broadening gully for another pitch at about Grade II.

*B-C Gully Right-Hand* 70m III.

The right-hand gully. Follow easy ground into the base of the parallel-sided gully. Ascend a steepening thinly iced slab for about 10m (bold). The line quickly peters out; continue either up the vague continuation gully slightly to the left, or go up a rising snow ramp to the right.

*Cave Dance* 70m V,6. David Webster, Hugh Macgregor. 5 Feb 2015.

Start up *B-C Gully Left-Hand* for about 20m to belay on good ice on the left. Climb short but steep ice to enter a hanging V-groove and continue up and right to a small cave. Pull steeply over the cave into a flared and overhanging chimney groove (crux). Exit either right or left, then trend up and left into the obvious continuation gully to its end. A choice of finishes are available above the gully on good turf or neve. The crux is quite serious despite the grade, but the rest of the route is much easier.

**BEINN HEASGARNICH, Coire Heasgarnich:**

*Side Door* 90m III,4. George Allan, John Thomas. 7 Feb 2015.

This is the left arm of the V (SMCJ 2009); the right arm is *Gateway Gully*. The crux is the obvious ice bulge through the steepening which leads to easy ground.

*The Gatepost* 110m II/III. George Allan, Billy Hood. 19 Mar 2015.

With a better start the following should supersede the description given in SMCJ 2009.

The buttress to the right of *Gateway Gully* starting in the second bay to the right

of the gully just beyond the lowest rocks. Climb the obvious corner and take a fairly direct line above.

## LOWLAND OUTCROPS

### LOCH LOMOND, Ross Point:

**Note:** Kevin Woods notes that the map reference for Ross Point in Lowland Outcrops is wrong. It should be at NS 372 954.

### Muldoon's Crag:

*Muldoon's Traverse* 60m HVS. George Christie, Ken Johnston. 16 Oct 1976. This is a crag above Loch Lomond, thought to be at NN 344 075, with a large roof system. Climb an obvious crack to the roof, traverse to the left end of the roof and finish upwards. The roof was large and unprotected but has some pockets and might make a sport route.

### GLASGOW AREA, Auchinstarry Quarry:

*Defying Gravity* 15m E6 6b/c \*\*\*. David Macmorris. 16 Jul 2014. A bold test piece for the elite that dare... Feel your way up the humorous start of *Death is the Hunter*, then continue up the arete of *Nijinski* sticking to the left-hand side of the arete only. Throw yourself for an exciting last dyno (crux), then easy climbing to the top. *Death is the Hunter* nut crack isn't on the route.

### Craigmore:

*YOLO* 12m HVS 5c \*. David Macmorris. 16 Jul 2014. Directly climbing the arete between *Tom and Jerry Wall* and *Rampage*, then finish directly up the face instead of normal top out. *Rampage* gear crack isn't included with the route.

### THE BORDERS & DUMFRIES, Swatte Fell, Nether Coomb Craig:

**Note:** The corrie only gets a mention in the Lowland Outcrops guidebook, but it's a worthwhile venue in the right conditions for a mountaineering day out (lots of Grade I gullies and turfy ridges).

### EDINBURGH AREA, Arthur's Seat:

*Jagerbomb Hangover* 10m E1 5c. Stuart Green. 6 Jul 2014. Located immediately next to *Fallen Column Climb* on The Long Row. Start in a recess just to the left of *Fallen Column Climb*. Climb the initial bulge with difficulty, then move out right to gain the arete above. Soloed on-sight; easier for the tall.

### Craigpark Quarry:

This is the large quarry opposite EICA Ratho which is in the process of being landscaped into a country park. There are several buttresses; South-East facing. Approach: Park as for Ratho Quarry or just before the bridge over the canal. Head along the southern side of the canal for 150m and turn right to reach the quarry.

### Ravens Buttress:

The main wall in the quarry.

*Little Miss* 8m Severe 4a \*. Jamie Sparkes. 5 Apr 2014.

Reminiscent of *Mr Men* at Auchinstarry. Left of the double overhang is a blunt arete on a black wall. Climb directly up this on spaced but good holds. Unprotected until after the crucial mantelshelf but at least the landing is soft.

*Stacked Block Route* 8m Diff. Jamie Sparkes. 5 Apr 2014.

Between the prow and a double overhang on the left, climb the big stacked boulders to a tricky finish. Well protected.

### **Bay Area:**

The slightly higher, inset bay to the left of the prominent tower; South-East facing.

*Circus Trick* 10m 6b \*\*\*. Jamie Sparkes. 13 Jul 2014.

Contort up the groovy corner at the left side of the bay. If your head ends up by your tail at any point, you're probably at the crux.

### **The Watchtower:**

The most obvious feature of the wall is the prominent smooth tower in the centre which protrudes from the tree-line.

*Technical Mister* 4m 5c. Jamie Sparkes. 5 Apr 2014.

The short slabby left arete of the tower gives a fun problem to the ledge. Better if the seam is eliminated to give a purer arete experience.

### **Avenue Wall:**

The wall extending rightwards from the watchtower, quite well hidden behind the trees.

*Park Life* 10m 6b+ \*\*\*. Jamie Sparkes. 13 May 2014.

An excellent short, technical and crimpy slab with a perplexing crux.

### **Pipe Wall:**

The rightmost wall and the first encountered on the approach.

*Parkin Ride* 10m 6b \*\*. Jamie Sparkes. 13 Jul 2014.

A route for northern loafers. Climb the left arete to the big ledge. Shuffle right along it and finish as for the next route.

*Cakewalk* 10m 6a+ \*. Jamie Sparkes. 13 Jul 2014.

Start 2m right of the arete. Grab any two crimps and pull hard enough to bring the stepped ledges into reach. Meander up these to the ledge. Leave the ledge at its right end and make tricky moves to a good flat hold level with the anchors.

*The Pie-d Piper* 10m 6a \*. Jamie Sparkes. 13 Jul 2014.

Gain the ledge using the two boreholes and climb the tricky little flake above.

### **FAST CASTLE HEAD AREA:**

The following two climbs are on a short south facing wall above the pool at the base of the waterfall flowing out of Dowlaw Dean, halfway between The Souter and The Brander.

*Waterfall Wall* 10m E5 6a. Dominic Jeff, Alasdair Macleod. 9 Jun 2013.  
Scramble up the ramp above the pool to wires in good jugs, then climb the wall up and right on crimps to gain a thin seam, which is followed to the top.

*Witness the Whiteness* 10m E2 5b. Anthony Dodd, Dominic Jeff, Alasdair Macleod. 9 Jun 2013.

Climb the right side of the wall, staying left of the more broken ground on the arete, to gain a crack starting at two-thirds height and leading to the top.

## SPORT CLIMBS

A page of climbs, many on Princess Cairn, were accidentally omitted from SMCJ 2014. They can be found in the 2014 New Routes section on the SMC website <<http://www.smc.org.uk/Downloads/NewRoutes2014.pdf>>.

They are also included here.

### Moy Rock:

*Eldorado* 24m 6a \*\*. Andy Nisbet. 4 Sep 2013.

A route at the far left end of the crag, in the next bay left of *Holly Tree Groove*. Here is a water runnel forming a groove high up and the route climbs the wall to its right to join it at the very top. Start next to a ramp on the right but try not to touch the ramp. Climb the wall to move right under an earthy scoop. Climb a ramp leading right to another scoop where another ramp leads right. Go briefly up the ramp before moving on to the wall. At its top, traverse left into the main groove as high as possible. The lower-off is near the top of the groove.

*Kitemark* 25m 6c \*\*. Ian Taylor. 2015.

The next line right of *Cloak and Dagger*.

*Magnifascent* 23m 6a+. Ray Wilby. March 2014.

To the right of *The Fly* and based on *Magnificrack* (original ascensionists agreed with retro-bolting). Clip the first two bolts of *The Fly*, then go up to the layback crack. A good rest at the top of the crack, then climb the wall direct to the lower off. Easier but poorer rock to finish rightwards, then reach back left.

*I did it Moy Way* 12m 6b+ \*. Davy Moy, bolted Andy Wilby. 6 Apr 2013.

The next route right of *Ave it!*. Start from a pedestal, climb the undercut flake-crack and pull over right onto the wall above. Tenuous climbing. Needs traffic to become a classic!

*Red Setter* 25m 6a \*. Andy Nisbet. May 2013.

Start just right of the pedestal of the previous route and climb into a flake system. Near its top move right and climb the wall above. The angle eases to a lower-off at the cliff-top.

### Princess Cairn:

A bay with a big holly tree lies 15m to the left of *Moonlighting Meercat*. The following routes are in another bay just to the left.

*No More Routes* 10m 4+ \*. Seb Rider. Jan 2013.

The furthest left route is steep but with good holds. Climb the shallow corner to gain the wall above.

*Our Routes* 10m 5 \*\*. Seb Rider. Jan 2013.

Climb a flake and wall above.

*Moonbow* 5+ \*. Gregor Callum. Jan 2013.

Climb up the left side of a block to an overhang. Pull over and trend left.

The following routes are in the bay with the big holly tree.

*Hogmanay* 10m 6a \*. Gregor Callum. 1 Jan 2013.

At the right end of the bay. Climb up an open groove using twin cracks. Follow the headwall to a lower-off just to the right.

*Get out of my Garden* 10m 6b \*. Seb Rider. Jan 2013.

The left end of the bay has a blunt arete trending rightwards under the overlap. Pull over this trending right on a slab.

*Heatwave* 10m 6c \*\*. Seb Rider. 19 Jul 2013.

At the back of the bay left of the holly. Climb up a groove with pockets, pull through a tricky bulge and continue on the slab above.

The following routes are from *Jenny* rightwards.

*Ithaca* 50m 5 \*\*. Gregor Callum, Seb Rider. Jan 2012.

Continue on from *Jenny* by trending slightly rightwards, then left (30m). The lower-off is above a heather ledge. Two abseils using a 60m rope; three abseils using a 50m rope (there are abseil points).

### **Creag nan Cadhag:**

*Fossil Hunters* 20m 6a+ \*. Paul Tattersall. 2015.

A furthest left route. Starts up a clean wall aiming for a big ledge and steep corner above.

*Ronald's Nightmare* 20m 7c \*. Ian Taylor, Andy Wilby. 2015.

Link *Nuclear Nightmare* into the upper section of *Ronald Raygun*.

*Nuclear Cop Out* 20m 7b+ \*. Andy Wilby. 2015.

From below the final hard moves on *Nuclear Nightmare* follow two bolts leftwards to an independent lower-off.

*Thick as Thieves* 12m 7b \*. Paul Tattersall. 2015.

Start up *Game Over* to the 4th bolt, then head left via some thin and technical moves to finish at the *Nuclear Nightmare* lower-off.

*Game Over Extension* 8a+ \*\*\*. Andy Wilby. 2015.

The desperate one bolt extension.





*Mhairi Stewart on Coalition Chaos (7a+/7b), Creag nan Cadhag.*

*Photo: Ian Taylor.*

*Coalition Chaos* 20m 7a+/7b \*\*. Andy Wilby. 2015.

A right-hand start to *Game Over* giving easier climbing on the lower wall before joining *Game Over* at a jug. You still have the crux of *Game Over* to do!

### **Goat Crag:**

*Poster Boy* 20m 5 \*. Paul Tattersall. 2015.

Interesting new line left of *Teepee*.

A new 3 bolt start left of the original makes *The Moose* and *Snowflake* independent of *Batman and Robin*. No change in grade.

*Bamboozle* now has an independent start and its own lower-off, so shares no ground with *The Riddler*. New grade is 6c+ \*\*.

### **Goat in the Woods:**

*Cote Hanger* 15m 7b \*. Ian Taylor. Apr 2015.

Start up *Cote d'Or*, then go rightwards through the roof.

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## **Opposite: St Kilda from Skye**

St. Kilda is seldom seen from Skye, being almost exactly 100 miles distant. This photo was taken from the Inaccessible Pinnacle on Skye on 24/08/2014.

Hirta (left) and Boreray (centre) are visible on the horizon.

Even stacs Lee and an Armin can be picked out either side of Boreray.

MacLeod's Maidens stand out in the 'foreground' on the right.

Photo: Des Rubens.

