

NEW ROUTES

The deadline for sending route descriptions to the New Routes Editor is 30 June each year. Descriptions of some crags and routes have not been included here, but can be found on the New Routes section of the SMC website. In general this applies mainly to short routes and remote crags.

OUTER HEBRIDES

LEWIS SEA-CLIFFS, Aird Uig Area, Boardwalk Central:

London Bridge is Falling Down 35m E5 6b ***. Sam Williams. 25 Jun 2016.

A direct line up to and through the obvious inverted V. Start by stepping off the large white boulder on to the arete right of *The River Kwai*. Step right and climb directly (bold but easy) until it is possible to cross *A Bridge too Far* and move right into the base of a prominent groove system. Climb this with increasing difficulty until nestled beneath the inverted V. Continue direct in a spectacular position (or escape left).

NORTH HARRIS, Sròn a' Sgaoth (NB 14616 03962):

Hooded Corner 65m H.Severe 4b *. John Mackenzie, Andrew James. 19 Apr 2016.

This climb is on the steep nose of the crag that contains the corner of *Aon*, situated just right of the shallow approach gully. A very prominent jutting block has a straight corner to its left which provides the route. Start from the toe of the buttress just right of the gully.

1. 35m Climb straight up to a steeper exit, some loose rock, to then cross a grassy terrace to below a clean slab.

2. 30m 4b Climb the slab to the base of the corner and up the corner steeply on flat holds. Continue in a good position to the top; a bit mossy but an obvious line.

Creag Beag Upper Tier (NB 220 028):

Above the lower tier which is next to the road, scramble steeply to the Upper Tier which is on perfect rough gneiss. Although the routes are short, the climbs are good and very gritstone-like. From the Lower Tier an 'Easter Island statue' is obvious up and right. This is 8m high and contains three routes.

The Maoi E2 5c **. John Mackenzie, Andrew James. 21 Apr 2016.

The block-topped slab is climbed directly up the middle to the top block. Step right to finish; immaculate.

Maoi Grooves VS 5a *. Andrew James, John Mackenzie. 21 Apr 2016.

Just right of the slab are curving grooves. A tricky start below the left one followed by easier climbing.

Maoi Cracks Severe. Andrew James, John Mackenzie. 21 Apr 2016.

The wall just to the right via twin cracks with a clump of heather; pleasant if undistinguished.

Well to the left of *The Maoi* is a much taller thinner buttress with a groove on the left.

Avoiding the Issue 16m VS 4c. John Mackenzie, Andrew James. 21 Apr 2016. An open chimney lies left of the rather dirty lower groove. Climb this and step back right and climb up to horizontal cracks. Traverse left below a smooth block delicately to arrive at a heathery bay and finish up this.

MINGULAY, Undercut Wall:

Bird is the Word 110m Douglas Russell, Ally Swinton. 17 Jun 2015.

Start in the middle of the platform at the right side of the wall.

1. 45m 5c Start up a corner until below an overlap and surmount this on the right. Continue on jugs upwards keeping right of the bird shit ledges and aiming for the big roof. Make a hard move to gain a big guano ledge.
2. 50m 5c Traverse 6m left along a break, pulling through a roof on the left-hand side. Continue up the wall until a left-rising traverse is reached. Make a hard move to gain the traverse and follow this into the cave on the lip below the big roof.
3. 15m 5c Move left round a bulge, then pull up and right to below the final hanging corner. Commit to pulling into the corner and continue up this to the top. A good exposed pitch.

ST KILDA, Stac Lee:

A route description from Mike Lates for the easiest line of ascent (V.Diff; 4a may be generous). But not a FA.

An easy angled gully runs leftward in the south wall guarded by 10m of smooth slabs above the green carpet. A good nut belay in the short overlap guarding the slabs can be used to safeguard the landing process.

1. 15m 4a Ascend directly above the anchor onto the slab (crux) then continue boldly but more easily to gain the groove. Good peg belay.
2. 35m Easy ground leads to a good spike anchor in the upper wall.
3. 8m 4a Climb directly above the belay on big holds to a broad ledge. Traverse right 4m to spike belays in the upper wall.
4. 15m Walk further right until the ledge narrows (8m) with a recess above (good peg runner). Ascending direct looks easier than it is (H.Severe?). Instead, step horizontally right 2m to gain a crack and spike before scrambling up to the jumbled block belay and abseil point.
5. 100m Rise leftward with walking and grade 1 scrambling in a superb position to reach large boulders just above the old bothy. There is rock protection if the gannet and guano hazards pose a danger.
6. 150m Continue on rock for 30m before heading up more directly through deep nests. Gain the crest of the West Ridge and follow this past one false summit to a tiny cairn on top.

Descent: Return to the jumble block anchor above pitch 4. Sixty metre ropes will reach the start but retrieval may be awkward; a 10m sling from the blocks will take the ropes beyond the lip and 50m ropes reached the start of the route.

INNER HEBRIDES AND ARRAN

RUM

Trollabhal, Harris Buttress:

Archangel Route, Architectural Finish 60m H.Severe 4b. Ewan Lyons. 22 May 2016.

From the grassy ledge below the big groove, traverse 5m right along a fault, then

up vague grooves to an easing. Continue up slabs just right of a large groove to below a convex wall. Climb the wall trending left to the top.

Note: The editor has also climbed *Archangel* and found it at least Severe, maybe more. Agreed by Ewan Lyons.

Hallival:

Colin Moody notes *Honky Tonk* and *Salad Days* are independent routes.

MULL

Calgary:

Sea Spray 12m Severe *. Colin Moody, Dot MacLean. 30 May 2016.

To the west of all the routes is a bay above an undercut sea-cliff. Scramble down into the bay to start. Follow a shelf out right to a short corner-crack. Climb the corner-crack and easier ground above.

Balmeanach, Charlotte's Cave Area (NM 443 330):

The cave is just south of a non-tidal stack. West of the cave is a short quartz wall.

Left Crack V.Diff *. Colin Moody. 24 Jan 2016.

Right Crack Severe *. Colin Moody, Dot MacLean. 12 May 2016.

Unnamed Cliff (NM 442 326):

This quartz cliff is just north of the breccia and limestone cliff (Scottish Sport p325). There are many horizontal breaks and the climbing is similar to Lake Louise. The crag dips down to the right where it is usually clear of the sea. Facing north-west, it gets the evening sun and it dries quickly. There is a huge boulder at the left-hand side. More routes will be added and a topo should appear.

Montpellier 14m 5/5+ *. Colin Moody, Dot MacLean. 8 Oct 2015.

Start about 10m left of the huge boulder at a short corner. Start up the corner, then swing right and up; continue to the base of a corner. Climb the rib on the left.

Window Pecker 15m 6a+ ***. Colin Moody, Billy Hood, Dave Wood. 13 May 2016.

Start behind the huge boulder. Climb two left-facing corners, then swing right onto *Big Sue* and make a rising traverse to the left.

Big Sue the Happy Coo 15m 6a **. Colin Moody, Dave Wood, Billy Hood. 15 May 2016.

Climb the rib behind the huge boulder and finish over the overhang.

Silver Shieling 16m 6b **. Colin Moody, Fiona Murray. 1 Jun 2016.

Start about 10m right of the boulder below the widest part of the lower overhang. Climb this, then bridge past a potentially loose block at the next bulge. Climb up joining the next route for a move at about one-third height; finish through a square slot in the top overhang.

Lachlan 16m 6a+ **. Colin Moody, Chris Cartwright. 7 Jul 2015.

The next line to the right has a bulge at about 6m and finishes up the short open corner.

Otter Job 16m 6a+ *. Colin Moody, Cynthia Grindley. 24 Jul 2015.
An easier line just right up corners, moving up left to finish up the last route (crux).

Otter Fridge 16m 6a+ **. Colin Moody, Cynthia Grindley. 19 Jul 2015.
Just right, climb up over a couple of bulges to finish up another bulge.

Theresa 16m V.Diff *. Colin Moody, Dot MacLean. 1 Oct 2015.
At the right-hand end of the crag (near sea-level) is an obvious pillar with two overhangs. Start on the left side of the pillar and climb up and step right onto the pillar above the first overhang. Climb the second overhang and continue up the pillar and then the face above.

Creach Beinn (NM 626 295) 200m West-South-West facing
8 routes on SMC website.

Kintra, Ice Wall:

Ice Burn 20m E8 6c ***. Dave MacLeod. 20 Mar 2016.
The striking crack-line cutting through the impressive leaning wall on the left side of the crag, right of *Right Wall*. F8a+ climbing with excellent protection, although very difficult to place. Scramble up ledges to gain the crack which leads with increasing difficulty to a slot before the crack fades. Lean left from the slot and make leftward moves on crimps to the top.

Grasas Saturadas 20m E6 6b **. Dave MacLeod. 21 Mar 2016.
The steep crack running up the right edge of the crag, just left of the right arete, but right of *Casa de mi Padre*. Start easily up the groove and walls above to gain the base of the crack on good holds. Climb this with difficulty, also using the right arete.

Kintra, Pigeons Cave:

Stop the Pigeon 25m E5 6b ***. Dave MacLeod, Natalie Berry. 22 Mar 2016.
In the centre of the wall is a large overhanging barrier. This route takes a line through the triple roofs on the left side of this feature. Well protected. Start up a diagonal overlap/groove for a few metres then break out left and climb the slab arete to a stance below the second roof. Arrange overhead protection, then make steep contorted moves rightwards through the roof to gain another good stance below the final roof (more good gear). Pull through this more easily and up easy ground. Take care with loose blocks on the last few metres.

Fionnphort, Dun na Torran (NM 35518 17099):
3 routes on the SMC website.

Uisken Crag (NM 38629 18257):
6 routes on the SMC website.

Knockvologan:
5 routes on the SMC website.

Rum View (NM 296 227):
2 routes on the SMC website.

ERRAID:

Rhythm and Stealth 12m E3 6a **. Adam Russell. 16 Apr 2016.

Excellent climbing up the blunt, initially blank looking arete to the right of *Blood Orange*. Start at a down pointing spike and climb direct to the big ledge via some obvious poor holds and well camouflaged good holds. Finish up *Blood Orange*.

Unnamed Crag (NM 301 189):

2 routes on the SMC website.

SOA ISLAND:

Soa lies about 3km south of the south end of Iona and a similar distance west of Eilean nam Muc. It is really two islands, joined by a beach that can be approached by a sheltered bay on each side. It is a heavenly spot and would in fact make a great spot to camp. There are some small grassy spots that would take a tent or two. The island is ungrazed and has a beautiful array of flowers and lush vegetation. The southern half of the island is very rugged indeed, a paradise of ancient gneiss, with ponds of rainwater trapped on its surface. At its highest point it rises to 35m above the sea.

The southern coast is where all the significant climbing possibilities lie. The rock is Lewisian gneiss and reassuringly solid, having been pounded by the Atlantic. The centrepiece is Dubh Artach Cove with, from left to right as seen from the sea, a beautiful leaning wall, (Dubh Artach Wall), with a fierce right-hand face (The Banded Wall), and a great corner running the full height of the island (*Dubh Artach Diedre*), bounded on the right by a huge slab (Dubh Artach Slab). To the right again is a fine arete and then a wall, somewhat shorter with fine rock (Dubh Artach East). Further east from the Dubh Artach area is another deep cleft and this also provided a fine climb.

Dubh Artach Diedre 30m Severe *. Chris Dickinson, Alastair Walker, Billy Hood. 16 Aug 2015.

The giant diedre at the back of the cove. Start at the bottom of the cleft and climb up the corner with occasional moves out onto the slab. At the top easy rock leads to the summit of the island.

Happy Hoody 25m V.Diff *. Billy Hood, Chris Dickinson, Alastair Walker. 16 Aug 2015.

A few metres right of the Diedre is a broad rib. Climb this and continue up the slabs above.

Basil Brush 30m Diff. Alastair Walker, Chris Dickinson, Billy Hood. 16 Aug 2015.

In the centre of the great slab. Climb to a short left-facing corner, surmount this and continue pleasantly up slabs to the top of the island.

Perfect Penguin 30m Severe **. Chris Dickinson, Alastair Walker, Billy Hood. 16 Aug 2015.

The great slab is bounded on the right by a left-facing corner. Climb up into this to reach a fine flake at the top. Step left and climb the impending wall on good holds. Continue straight up the slab above, passing a big ledge before the final short wall.

Simple Simon 15m Diff. Chris Dickinson. 16 Aug 2015.

Just right of previous route, climb up onto a slab and follow the left-facing diedre to the top.

Chunky Chimney 10m Diff. Billy Hood. 16 Aug 2015.

Climb the stepped chimney to the large platform.

Sloping Steps 12m Severe *. Chris Dickinson. 16 Aug 2015.

Just right of the chimney is a set of sloping steps with sparse protection. Nice friction moves characterise the wall between the first and second steps.

Ants Arete 10m Severe *. Alastair Walker, Chris Dickinson, Billy Hood. 16 Aug 2015.

Start at foot of the prominent arete and make an awkward move up left into a groove. Reach up to better holds on the arete and climb this to the large escapable ledge. From here there is an optional finish (VS 4c) up the steep 5m wall behind the ledge by the obvious crack.

Book at Bedtime 10m VS 4c **. Billy Hood, Chris Dickinson, Alastair Walker. 16 Aug 2015.

The obvious and classic diedre that bounds the very steep wall on the right-hand side and runs the full height of the cliff.

Gerbils Groove 10m Diff. Chris Dickinson. 16 Aug 2015.

Climb the obvious groove to the right of the book without difficulty.

Singing Seals 20m VS 4c ***. Chris Dickinson, Alastair Walker, Billy Hood. 17 Aug 2015.

This fine route is on the seaward face of Dubh Artach Buttress (left of the great corner). Climb up left onto the prow above the huge lower overhang. Tackle the steep prow, starting from a ledge on the left, on good holds in a very exposed position.

Mighty Minke 20m HVS 5a ***. Billy Hood, Chris Dickinson, Alastair Walker. 17 Aug 2015.

Left of the previous route and the lower overhangs is a prominent rightward diagonal that finishes through a break in the upper overhang. Follow the diagonal throughout, steeper than it looks with increasing difficulty. The crux move is close to the top attaining a thin hanging ramp that leads through the overhang. An excellent route.

Groaner's Groove 16m E1 5b **. Chris Dickinson, Billy Hood. 17 Aug 2015.

Left of Dubh Artach Buttress at the back of a recess is a fierce and overhanging corner-crack. Wild bridging leads to an awkward narrowing where the footholds run out before finding small holds again to gain the top. A real tussle!

Kwivering Kormorant 20m Severe 4a *. Alastair Walker, Chris Dickinson, Billy Hood. 17 Aug 2015.

Further east from the Dubh Artach area, on the right side of a deep cleft that cuts into the cliffs, is a wall partly occupied by birds. This route follows the obvious crack that misses all the nesting ledges. The route can be reached either by a step

across the deep cleft after descending a slabby groove or by an easy sea-level traverse in from the east. The crack has an awkward start and a steep finish.

COLONSAY

Note: Iain Thow notes that on the Colonsay map (Inner Hebrides p196), the location/numbers for Sliabh Riabhach and Meall a' Chaise are transposed.

ISLAY

Sanaigmore Area, West Wall (NR 229 718):

The west side of the outer promontory holding Leac Dubh has dramatic dipping strata and the ledges are used by nesting seabirds. To the right of the dipping strata is a vertical fault.

Sea Dog Serenade 18m Severe *. Graham Little, Peter Dewhurst, Christina Woodrow. 26 Aug 2014.

Scramble down from the west and across to a rock ledge at the base of the clean vertical fault that lies just left of the corner formed by *West Wall* and the north facing cliff line. Climb it using good holds on the smooth section high up.

DUN BHEOLAIN, Shelf Wall (NR 208 689):

Anaconda 25m E2 5b **. Graham Little, Carl Schaschke, Ron Kenyon. 20 Jun 2015.

Follows the striking diagonal dyke that snakes across the centre of the wall. Start at the right-hand side of the big sea pool. Follow the dyke to a roof, move left below it, then climb a slot (crux) to regain the dyke and thence to the top.

Agoraphobia Groove 40m E1 **. Ron Kenyon, Graham Little (alt), Carl Schaschke. 20 Jun 2015.

This route tackles the third groove round the corner from Shelf Wall i.e. to the left of *Avatar* and *Aldosterone Grooves*.

1. 25m 5b Climb the superstructure to reach the groove, then climb the groove to belay a short distance above.

2. 15m 5a Traverse hard right for about 9m and then climb up to make an abrupt and sensational finish, passing through a notch in overhanging flakes.

Note: Although the Inner Hebrides & Arran guidebook mentions only three steep grooves there are in fact four, with the fourth giving access to the awesome 60m wall mentioned in the Shelf Wall introduction.

The Geo, Back Bay Wall (NR 210 689):

This is the banded wall that sits above the head of The Geo. Although it has a southerly aspect, it can at times be damp due to water dripping from the turf capping. There is a good belay on a huge block well back from the top of the wall.

Tibia Test 14m E1 5b **. Graham Little (unsec). 22 Aug 2014.

Start just right of a recess. Climb up to a good pocket, make committing moves leftwards to good holds, then climb steep rock above. At the top end of the grade with fiddly gear placements.

Fibula Fun 14m VS 4c **. Graham Little, Christina Woodrow. 22 Aug 2014.

Start to the right of the recess below a series of small roofs high up. Climb straight up, wending between the roofs, moving out left under the top one.



Graham Little on the FA of Anaconda (E2 5b), Dun Bheolain, Islay. Photo Ron Kenyon.

Tip Toe 10m Severe 4b. Graham Little, Christina Woodrow. 22 Aug 2014.
Climb the wall just to the left of the open groove, followed by the obvious slabby groove above (sometimes wet).

SOUTH OF PORTNAHAVEN, Hidden Geo Area (NR 174 513):

Ironheart 15m E2 5b. Graham Little (unsec). 23 Aug 2014.
Start at the *Rust and Bone* belay at the bottom right-hand corner of the obvious rust coloured slab. Gain and climb the hanging groove above the belay (minimal protection) to gain a short ramp. Climb it and the easy slab above.

Hidden Geo, Shadow Side:

The north facing side of the geo is mostly very steep and tends to be damp.

Out Right 15m V.Diff. Graham Little. 23 Aug 2014.
Start on a flat jammed block in the back of the geo (above tidal influence). Take an ascending line diagonally rightwards, initially by rounded flakes.

The Rift:

Just to the south and parallel to Hidden Geo is a very narrow cliff flanked rift. The north facing side of The Rift is a vertical wall, whilst the south facing side is a steep slab.

Reach for the Sky 10m Severe 4b **. Graham Little. 23 Aug 2014.
Start below a crack in the middle of the south facing side, between two inky black pools. Climb by flakes and the crack above.

Split Wall Geo (NR 176 512):

This geo lies to the west of the Overhanging Wall Area. It has a south-east facing flank with the right side split by a vertical chimney/crack (*The Split*) and the left (seaward) side sliced by a distinctive left-slanting fault (*The Cut*). The first three routes start at high water mark so require the appropriate state of tide and calm seas. Access to the starts is either by abseil or by scrambling in from the left.

The Code 12m Severe. Graham Little, Christina Woodrow. 11 Jun 2015.
To the left of *The Cut* lies an obvious groove (*The Groove*). Climb the rib to the left of *The Groove*, step up onto flakes, move left, then finish straight up.

The Groove 12m V.Diff *. Graham Little, Christina Woodrow. 11 Jun 2015.
Climb the obvious groove.

The Way 12m VS 4c. Graham Little, Christina Woodrow, 11 June 2015.
From the start of *The Groove*, move up and right then up onto a ledge. Climb the steep wall, with some fragile looking holds, moving left to finish.

The Cut 13m Severe *. Graham Little, Christina Woodrow. 5 Apr 2015.
There is a ledge well above high tide accessible by abseil. From the ledge climb up to reach the striking left-slanting fault then follow it.

The Split 18m VS 4b **. Graham Little. 11 Jun 2015.
Climbs the obvious chimney-crack from a poor stance just above high water mark (abseil in).

No Holds Barred 16m E2 5b **. Graham Little (unsec). 20 May 2015.

The head of the geo becomes a narrow gulch. At one point it is possible to step across onto the wall from easy-angled rock on the north side. Start at this point. A couple of long reaches gives access to right-facing flakes. Climb these to a horizontal flake. Move left to gain a hidden mineral vein (well seen from below) which is climbed followed by easier rock to the top. Protection on the first third of the route is very limited and the route is at the top end of the grade.

KILCHIARAN BAY GEO (NR 198 602):

4 routes on the SMC website.

The Fan:

Note: The route *Rust* (Inner Hebrides p212) should be E1 5b, not VS 5a.

ARRAN

A' CHIR, Coire Daingean Face:

Note: *Intruder* (Inner Hebrides p229) was climbed in 1974 not 1947. FA list is correct.

CIOCH NA H-OIGHE:

The Great Escape 95m E7 ***.

A new description from Jules Lines. The first pitch is new.

1. 25m 6a Climb a small V-groove 10m right of *Abraxus* to the roof (direct over the roof is a similar grade but on crumbly rock), traverse left under the roof and pull up right onto the belay ledge.
2. 40m 6b From the left side of the ledge, make awkward moves up and right to gain a big thread in the base of the groove. Climb the groove until it dwindles before making committing moves left to reach some hidden pockets and low cams. Climb directly up the improbable wall following the obvious groove lines to a resting ledge. Traverse right for 3m to a letterbox pocket (and thread) for protection and move back onto the ledge. Climb leftwards up the slab on friction holds until it possible to gain the base of the incredible flake-crack. Follow this in a superb position to belay on *Tidemark*.
3. 30m 6b Gain a narrow sloping shelf 3m above the belay, small wires in this and a C3 000 with a possibility of skyhooks up on the left. Make difficult and bold moves to gain the groove on the right leading to a large spike. Pull onto the slab above and veer slightly left and up this to its top. Easier climbing remains.

UPPER GLEN SANNOX, Creagh Dubh (p267):

Arran Blonde 175m H.Severe 4b **. Andrew Fraser, Ian Magill. 25 Jul 2014. An excellent route on this most neglected of cliffs, comparable in style and quality to *Pagoda Ridge*. A future obscure classic? It climbs the left edge of the crag's main wall, which seen from the left forms a ridge. The bottom of this is undercut with two possible lines. Easy slabs and turf lead to underneath the left-hand line, an undercut left-facing corner-crack (25m 3b) Climb the steep corner-crack to the ledge above. Move round left onto the edge and continue up this to slabs below a wall. Traverse right for 3m to a corner (30m 4b) Surmount the bulge above the belay and traverse left to the edge. Climb the ridge over bulges to a heather ledge (25m 4a). Climb the crack behind the belay and continue up the ridge (35m 4a). Climb up to and over the final tower, then traverse right along a heather ledge for

15m to belay beneath a large detached flake in the headwall (35m 4a). Climb slabs to the summit (25m 4a).

15 Minute Ridge Direct 45m Severe *. Andrew Fraser, Ian Magill. 25 Jul 2014. The original 1945 route on the crag avoids the lovely twisting cracks up the front of the ridge.

SKYE

SGÜRR NAN GILLEAN, Bhasteir Face:

Indian Buttress 80m HVS. Mike Lates, Mo Barclay. 9 Sep 2015.

Takes a central fault up the buttress left of *Deep Chimney*.

1. 25m 4c Climb a thin crack past a bulge at 5m and continue more easily to belay 3m below the next tier.

2. 30m 5a Tackle the overhung groove directly, then continue easily to a large block below the next tier.

3. 25m Easy climbing to a horizontal break.

Exit to the West Ridge by traversing above *Doctor's Chimney*.

SGÜRR NA H-UAMHA:

South-East Face 110m Mod *. Iain Thow, Margaret Carlisle. 12 Oct 2015.

About halfway along the South-East face, below the steepest buttress, is a small separate outcrop with a left-facing gully starting just left of this (the winter II in the Cuillin rock guide). Start just left of the gully and scramble awkwardly up leftwards to reach a shelf below steeper more continuous rock (a scree shoot goes down left to easy ground from here). Work left up excellent gabbro to the edge overlooking the gully further left, then climb the edge steeply to a perch where it is possible to walk leftwards across the gully. Climb a slabby rib on the far side, dodging a steep wall using the gully (one move here might just be Diff, but by a good runner). Easy scrambling continues up to the South Ridge.

East Ridge 180m Grade 2/3 *. Iain Thow (in descent). 21 Oct 2003.

Avoid the steep rock at the foot of the ridge by coming in from the left low down, then go up to a shelf (this looks easier to reach from further left). Dodge the next steep buttress by a groove on the left. Much easier scrambling continues direct to the summit. Probably done before.

AM BASTEIR, North Face:

The Breadline 70m V,5. Mike Lates, Mark Francis, Murdo Nicholson. 22 Nov 2015.

1. 40m Follow the start of pitch 2 of *The Deadline*, then continue directly up the off-width corner. Surmount the final small roof to a large ledge.

2. 30m Continue with good climbing to belay at a prominent pinnacle on the east ridge of Am Basteir.

BASTEIR TOOTH:

An Inconvenient Tooth E8 6c. Dan McManus, Ross Mc Kerchar. 8 Jun 2016.

Climbs the front of the prow of the Bastier Tooth.

1. 20m 6c Start directly under the huge roof on the front of the Tooth. Follow a thin crack to ledges and some loose rock on the right arete. Pull up and right to a



Dan MacManus and Ross McKerchar on the FA of An Inconvenient Tooth (E8 6c) on the Basteir Tooth. Photo Malcolm Davies.

shelf with a break and many possible cam placements. A big hold above the shelf allows a reach left to the beginning of the huge roof, the start of the hard climbing, where micro cams can be placed. Wild moves lead along the lip until possible to rock over onto the face. Delicately move left to the arete and up to a ledge.

2. 20m 6a Climb easily up the arete to an even bigger ledge and continue onto the wall to the right of the arete. Tricky moves left on the lip of the roof lead to better holds and gear back on the arete. Finish straight up the left side of the arete.

SGÜRR A' BHASTEIR, North Face:

Raborigine 90m III. Mark Francis, Murdo Nicholson, David Bowdler. 28 Feb 2016.

Asnow bay lies 10m left of *Mike the Bhasteird*. This route climbs leftwards out of the bay, and finishes to the left of an obvious impending wall. Climbed in 3 pitches.

White Diamond 70m IV,4. Mark Francis, Alan Gorman, Murdo Nicholson. 13 Feb 2016.

Thirty metres right of *Mike the Bhasteird* is a thin groove leading to the top of the buttress, right of a diagonal turfy break. Climb this in two pitches, avoiding a steep wall low down on the right, trending back left into the bottom of the groove and following this to finish on easy ground.

SGÜRR A' BHASTEIR, South-West Face:

Wimplash 90m III. Mark Francis, Murdo Nicholson, Mike Lates. 13 Dec 2015.

Thirty metres left of the pinnacle of *Running on Numpty*, is a shallow groove with a short corner to start. Climb this, then go left to finish up icy ledges.

BIDEIN DRUIM NAN RÀMH, Central Peak:

The south-east face of the Central (highest) Peak has a steep crag with a prominent right-facing corner on its right-hand side. This is best reached from Bealach na Glai Moire. Ascend the initial ridge of the West Peak then descend down rightwards past a gully/corner to reach an exposed and narrow ledge which is traversed right and around to the south-east face of the Central Peak. Descend 30m to the base of the corner. This approach reverses the upper section of the Druim nan Ràmh ridge described in *Skye Scrambles*. Due to the complex approach and descent it is best to carry sacs.

Descent from the summit of the Central Peak follows the main Cuillin Ridge. It is achieved by going over the summit for a short distance and then descending the south-west face via a basalt dyke chimney. A short downwards traverse left and then right leads to the 'Bridge Rock'. A short scramble across this soon leads down to Bealach na Glai Moire. Follow a descending terrace rightwards to gain a scree gully leading to the floor of Coire a' Mhadaidh and eventually the 'Fairy Pools' path.

All the President's Men 60m E1 5a/b *. Andrew Wielochowski, John Mackenzie, Mike Mavroleon. 11 May 2016.

1. 30m 5b The big obvious corner has three potential undercut starts. Climb the middle one and then move up right into a crack system. Follow this until holds allow moves left into the main corner. Climb the fine corner to an alcove stance. A very good pitch, reasonably protected.

2. 30m 5a Continue up the corner more delicately for around 15m, to reach a brown horizontal cone sheet below the corner's capping overhang. Traverse rightwards to the arete to step down at a pointed block; all this very exposed. Continue easily up the arete.

Scrambling for 50m leads to the ridge which is followed to the Central Peak.

Lower Central Buttress 50m Severe. Andy Moles & party. 31 May 2016.

The three peaks of Bidein are divided on the Coire na Creiche side by North Gap Gully and South Gap Gully. There is a third gully in between, leading to a notch in the Central Peak. This route takes a central line up the buttress between North Gap Gully and this unnamed third gully, coming in from the left. It is not particularly recommended.

SGÙRR A' MHADAIDH, North Face, The Amphitheatre:

Spectacula 240m VI,6. Uisdean Hawthorn, Dougie Russell, Adam Russell. 27 Feb 2016.

Climbs the wide icefall on the left side of the amphitheatre 20m down from its top. Pass an overlap at 30m by a hanging icicle and continue with interest up steep ice steps and snow.

Spirulina 240m V,5. Uisdean Hawthorn, Lea Macleod. 28 Feb 2016.

An icefall in the top left corner of the amphitheatre. After 35m, take the wide crack to the left into a bay follow ice steps trending left until it joins *Spectacula* at its last steep step.

SGÜRR A' GHREADAIDH, Coruig Face:

Griffin 200m III,4. Sandy Allan, Andy Nisbet. 25 Feb 2016.

An ice line on the left side of the face above the terrace, possibly close to the upper section of *Terrace West Buttress*. Start by gaining the left end of the terrace by snowy grooves (not included in length). Above and left is a huge recess not far below the main ridge leading up to Sgùrr a' Ghreadaidh. Take a zigzag line mostly on steep snow, trending left to a ramp with an ice covered right wall (60m). From the top of the ramp, climb a short steep ice pitch to a snow terrace with the huge recess at its right end (50m). Continue diagonally left up an icy fault (50m) before a short chimney led to the main ridge.

Skycfall 250m IV,5. Dave McGimpsey, Andy Nisbet, Steve Perry. 28 Feb 2016.

A more direct and much steeper ice line on the left side of the face above the terrace. Up and right of the recess mentioned above is a right-slanting gully which leads to a platform some two-thirds of the way up the main ridge to Sgùrr a' Ghreadaidh. Flowing down from this is a fine ice line. Start briefly as for *Griffin* and continue to reach the base of the ice (20m). Climb ice leftwards to reach a ledge, at the right end of which is a steep stripe of ice leading up towards the gully system (50m). Climb the ice and two short ice pitches leading left to snow (60m). Continue up snow and the gully to the ridge.

SGÜRR A' GHREADAIDH, North West Face, An Doras Buttress:

Gauche 145m IV,5 **. Steve Kennedy, Des Rubens. 28 Feb 2016.

An icefall forms down the corner of the summer route. A steep bulging section on the second pitch (turning the overhang) forms the crux. The final wall above the snow terrace was negotiated by the chimney left of the exposed arete followed by the summer route.

SGÜRR A' GHREADAIDH, Summit Buttress:

King Snakes 105m IV,4 *. Steve Kennedy, Andy MacDonald. 6 Mar 2016.

This route takes a line of ramps running up the right side of *Hamish's Chimney* (bisecting *Virgin Arete*). Start about 20m right of *Hamish's Chimney* and climb the obvious ramp up left. A long poorly protected pitch leads to a point below an overhanging wall and into the upper section of *Hamish's Chimney*. A finish was made up mixed ground on the left of the chimney.

The Healer 55m IV,5 **. Andy MacDonald, Steve Kennedy. 6 Mar 2016.

A wide steep icefall forms on the right side of the lower buttress (well right and below *Hamish's Chimney*). Situated about 50m from *North-West Ridge*. The icefall was climbed in one long pitch to easier ground. Either finish up *North-West Ridge* or descend by a shelf on the left towards *Hamish's Chimney*.

COIRE NA BANACHDAICH, Banachdaich Gully Area:

Spaced Nonety 200m IV,5. Mark Francis, David Bowdler. 15 Jan 2016.

This route is loosely based on the summer route *North Rib*. Ten metres inside *Banachdaich Gully* on the left-hand side is an obvious groove running parallel to the gully. Climb the groove to a short wall (crux), above which follow short chimneys to easier ground. Trend leftwards to finish up icy grooves.

SGÜRR THUILM:

Ridge Repellent 55m II/III. Mark Francis, Alan Gorman. 14 Feb 2016.

Well to the right of South-West Buttress is a line of broken rocks, cleaved with gullies. This route follows an obvious icefall at the right end above a large apron of scree.

Low Crag:

(NG 439 247) Alt 400m North-West facing

Park Lane 90m V,4. Pat Ingram, Mike Lates. 15 Jan 2016.

Climbs the most prominent fault in the left wall of the bay.

1. 50m A direct start was avoided by the vegetated groove 5m right. Traverse delicately left to gain the main groove which gives good mixed climbing to an obvious ledge.

2. 40m Traverse left and finish up broken terrain above.

SGÙRR DEARG, North Face:

Inaccessible Icefall 250m IV,4. Sandy Allan, Andy Nisbet. 24 Feb 2016.

An ice line which formed on the very left edge of the face, starting some 100m away from the steep Coruisg sidewall of An Stac and the Inaccessible Pinnacle. Start with easy ice, then a wide 50m icefall heading towards the sidewall, then climb ice on a rib at the left end of a steep band and quite close to the sidewall. Finish by snow trending away from the sidewall and a short groove to the crest of Sgùrr Dearg.

SGÙRR DEARG, South Buttress:

White Lightning 200m IV,5. Guy Robertson, Uisdean Hawthorn, Adam Russell. 26 Feb 2016.

An excellent pure ice route following the obvious snaking groove / gully bounding the right side of South Buttress (left of *In Pinn Fall*). The route was climbed in three long pitches, all of which gave interest; the first with a tricky vertical step, the second with an excellent narrow runnel, and the third with thinly iced slabs. Above this easier climbing allowed a traverse away off right back to the An Stac screes.

SGÙRR MHICCOINNICH, North Face:

North-East Gully VI,7. Guy Robertson, Uisdean Hawthorn, Adam Russell. 26 Feb 2016.

A brilliant short route with a sustained and well-protected crux pitch. Follow the summer line throughout.

Crack of Dawn 180m VII,8. James & Doug Sutton. 14 Jan 2016.

By the summer route, the first pitch is the crux.

Note: Mike Lates notes that the initial 25m crack of *Mongoose Direct* is good. The direct continuation looked dirtier. Instead, he climbed cleaner rock 5m to the left for 15m to the foot of a good crack (pitch 3 of the normal route?). This was one 40m pitch from the start.

SGÙRR THEÀRLAICH, Stone Shoot Face:

The Bogeyman 70m VI,7. Michael Barnard, Mike Lates. 17 Jan 2016.

The obvious steep fault-line between *Hobgoblin* and *Hi Vis*. The first 6m is the technical crux but the main pitch is very bold and insecure throughout.

1. 40m Climb the fault-line to below its short final crack. Step left to a belay.

2. 30m Move into *Gully E*, then finish up and right.

Mr Charlie 40m VI,7 *. Michael Barnard, Mike Lates. 17 Jan 2016.

The fine vertical crack starting near the top of the Great Stone Shoot and leading directly to the summit block of Theàrlaich.

SRÒN NA CÌCHE, Western Buttress:

Coronation, Jubilee Variation 180m HVS *. Mike Lates, Chris Sutcliffe. 1 May 2012.

The 'formidable wall' contains a trap dyke mistaken for the 'fine crack' of the original route (its pitch 5).

5. 45m 5a Reach the foot of the dyke by a rising leftward traverse (10m). Climb the dyke directly to a bulge at 10m. Turn this and continue with interest to a ledge with a huge block.

6. 50m 4b Climb good rock above to the fault of *Boomerang* (10m). Cross this and continue directly by a series of short grooves & steps. Finish by a basalt groove to a good ledge.

7. 35m 4b Rise left to gain the corner formed by a very steep clean wall on the left. Follow this until the angle eases on the shoulder of *West Gully*.

8. 50m Finish up the shoulder on good rock.

COIRE A' GHRUNDA, Sròn na Cìche, South-East Face, The Esplanade:

The name given to the crag situated below and to the right of the upper path leading to the South Face, a short distance before the Lower Buttress is reached (*Cuckoo Groove*). The crag stretches for some distance along the east side of the lower corner and presents a very steep easterly aspect divided by a prominent cracked slab (south-east facing) forming a dog-leg. The following routes are located on the slab.

Cockatrice 35m HVS 4c **. Steve Kennedy, Cynthia Grindley. 25 Jun 2016.

The left-hand line. The upper part is sparsely protected. Start near the base of the right-facing corner bounding the left side of the slab. Climb a short way up the initial slabby corner before stepping right onto a pock marked slab which is followed to a ledge at about 12m. Continue up a large flake on the right which leads to a shallow corner. Climb the corner to a quartz studded fault. Move slightly left along the fault, then climb blind cracks in the slab above a few metres right of the corner, moving into the corner higher up. Climb the final slab right of the corner finishing with some thin moves out rightwards near the top (avoiding the grassy corner) leading to the easy upper slabs (35m). Belay well back at some blocks.

Chimera 35m E1 5a **. Steve Kennedy, Cynthia Grindley. 25 June 2016.

The right-hand line. A fine but bold route particularly in the upper part. The lower section takes the line of the pale coloured right-facing corner/ramp leading rightwards under a roof to the right edge of the main slab. Start up the undercut corner a few metres right of *Cockatrice* and climb the ramp to the roof. Move right under the roof onto the exposed edge passing some hollow sounding blocks. A blind crack leads up and slightly left, to the end of a quartz studded ledge. Finish fairly directly up the cracked slab above taking a line a few metres right of *Cockatrice*.

South Crag:

Owl Chimney IV,5. Mike Lates, Nathan Adam, Lucy Spark. 16 Jan 2016.
Follow the summer line with continuously awkward, well protected interest.
Requires good conditions to justify.

North Crag:

Self Slabuse 80m III 4. Mark Francis, David Bowdler. 16 Jan 2016.
A direct start to Slab Buttress. The left side of the slab is bounded by a short wall.
Climb a groove leading into the corner and follow to its finish.

SGÜRR ALASDAIR, South Face:

The Sheriff's Ransom 50m V,6 *. Michael Barnard, Mike Lates. 19 Jan 2016.
A steep well protected first pitch followed by a bold and slabby second pitch
(though would be considerably easier under neve). Start below the obvious
chimney-crack between *Skye High* and *West Gully*.

1. 25m Climb the fine chimney-crack to the mid-height ledge and belay on the left.
2. 25m The exposed ramp up and left. Either continue up easier ground or move left to abseil as for *Skye High*.

Theàrlaich-Dubh Gap Walls:

Tre Difficile 25m V,6. Michael Barnard (unsec). 16 Jan 2016.
An alternate pitch up the long side of the TD Gap. Start just left of the *Original Route*, below two parallel grooves of which the left one is undercut. Move up the right groove (crux), then step left and follow the left one to below the obvious chimney-slot. Move left into another groove and finish up this.

SGÜRR NAN EAG, West Flank:

Age Concern 320m IV,4 *. Steve Kennedy, Des Rubens. 27 Feb 2016.
The West Flank was in unusually good condition with extensive areas of ice and neve which provided an excellent mountaineering route up ground left of *Western Buttress*. The difficulties are confined to the upper section. Start at the right end of the cliff band which stretches across right from the mouth of the upper corrie, about opposite and level with the right side of South Crag. Climb easy mixed ground up rightwards into a snow bay below *Western Buttress*. An obvious snow gully leads back diagonally left, terminating below the upper steeper face. A fairly direct line was followed in the upper section, initially into a snow bay, followed by an icefall turning a large undercut block on the left. Ice-covered slabs and short grooves lead to a steep final buttress. A line of iced up grooves in the centre of the buttress provides an excellent finish.

SGÜRR NAN EAG, Coire nan Laogh:

The Scorcher 215m HVS 5b **. John Mackenzie, Noel Williams. 9 May 2016.
A good route, to the right of *Golden Calf* (SMCJ 2014), which weaves a way through the lower slabs and overlaps, then climbs a basalt dyke cutting through the central Barrier wall at its highest point. Start by a short pillar.

1. 40m 4a Climb its right corner and pull over an overlap above to belay. Walk left for 15m.
2. 20m Climb the slabs past a flake to belay under a large tongue of rock that lies below the Barrier.

3. 25m 4c Traverse horizontally right under the Barrier to reach a lower ledge just right of the trap dyke.
4. 45m 5b Move left to some holds left of the trap dyke and climb steeply up and right and then follow the dyke up the wall to reach the upper slabs. Continue up then right to a large flake and niche.
5. 55m 4c Move left to the trap dyke and follow to where it swings left and becomes a trench. Step right onto an immaculate slab and climb straight up this on perfect rock keeping left of a smaller dyke.
6. 30m Simple slabs and scrambling lead to the top.

MARSCO, North Face, Coire nan Laogh:

S Gully 150m III *. John Jackson, Martin Holland, Lorn Smith, Linda Gentlemen, Gareth Robinson, Joanne McCandless. 28 Feb 2016.

The central S-shaped gully of the corrie. The main pitch is the final bend of the S from a shelf at half -height on the left-hand crags. Above this a variety of finishes are possible to the summit ridge. Ice screws and warthogs useful for runners and belays.

Note: Previously climbed by Mike Lates.

MARSCO, South-West Buttress:

The following routes climb left of the amphitheatre on which *Odell's Route* is based. There is a lower left buttress with the first route while up and right, across an easy ramp, is an upper right buttress with the second route. There is also an older route (1995) on both sections but the line has yet to be rechecked. Diagram and photos provided.

Araminta's Buttress 100m V.Diff *. Jim Cooper, Peter Walkington. May 2012. The left side of this buttress is formed by the gully to the left of the crag which is *Fiacail Geal*. The right half of the base of the buttress is barred by a line of overhangs. Twenty metres left of these is a short grassy gully line. This worthwhile route climbs the broad rib immediately left of this.

1. 35m Climb the broad rib directly up to a grassy ledge at 25m. Climb the wall above.
2. 35m Climb the wall behind, then easy angled rock up to a line of overlaps at 20m. Avoid the overlaps by stepping round to the right and climb more steeply up to a large ledge.
3. 30m Take the attractive ramp on the left, then go up and right to the easy angled ramp.

Araminta's Wall 130m Severe **. Jim Cooper, Peter Walkington. May 2012. This starts from the easy angled ramp, towards the centre of the upper right buttress and 70m right of the finish of *Araminta's Buttress*. Start at a dark brown 5m wall with a line of square-cut holds leading diagonally up right to left. At the top of this is a short deep groove leading up left to right. A fine climb with an air of seriousness.

1. 35m Climb the dark brown wall from bottom right to top left and into the groove above. Follow this up and right for 4m and step right onto a wall. Climb straight up to the middle of three large shelving ledges.
2. 35m Climb the wall above by a series of short corners and grooves to a horizontal ledge that traverses much of the crag.
3. 15m Traverse left easily.

4. 45m Up and left are many short grooves and walls. Pick a way diagonally up left to the top of the crag. About halfway up this pitch, the 1995 route crosses and may provide a better finish up right.
To descend, take an indistinct deer track that leads horizontally left across the top section of the gully.

CAMASTINAIVAIG, Far Cliff:

Gogglebox 10m VS 4b. Mark Hudson, Nicola Bassnett, Roger Brown. 20 Aug 2015.

Left of *Obligation* the cliff turns a corner to a scrappy bay. This route gains and climbs the slim wall 3m left of the grassy corner. Climb past overlaps to gain a pedestal to the left of the face. Step back right onto the face and climb direct.

Obligation 10m HVS 5b. Nicola Bassnett, Mark Hudson, Roger Brown. 20 Aug 2015.

Take a direct line up the overhanging crack immediately left of *Vox*.

Vox 10m V.Diff. Mark Hudson, Roger Brown, Nicola Bassnett. 20 Aug 2015.
Takes the chimney of jutting steps on left-hand side of the *Haiku* roof.

OLD MAN OF STORR AREA:

Desperate Remedies 25m E1 5a. Richard Ive, Chris Underwood. 5 Jul 2015.

Limited protection and unnerving rock make this a serious, but memorable undertaking. The climbing requires a confident approach. Start as for *The Old Boy*. From a belay at the back of the pinnacle, traverse diagonally rightwards towards the Old Man for about 5m. Climb boldly for the grassy ridge opposite the Old Man. Finish steeply by continuing to the turf top. Descent was made by down climbing *The Old Boy*.

RUBHA HUNISH, Meall Deas (Right-Hand Section):

Passing Out 48m E5 6a ***. Nicola Bassnett (unsec). 10 Sep 2015.

A splendid climb situated between a large (unclimbed) west-facing corner on the left and *Whispering Crack* on the right. A plumbline crack system joins the latter route in its upper reaches. The lower section includes a shallow right-facing corner with three spaced overlaps, which present the cruxes.

Start atop a steep grassy slope and follow a shallow cracked groove for 8m until a step left brings the corner into line. Above the second overlap make moves to gain the main wall on the left, before stepping back right to reach the final tricky moves and the sustained soaring crack line. Finish up the final section of *Whispering Crack*.

Copperhead Road 70m E2. Ian Parnell, Sandy Ogilvie. 13 Aug 2015.

Start right of the flying buttress right of *Whispering Crack*, just before the end of the wall at an area of more amenable grooves, and before the Gothic Walls begin. The route is identifiable by the crack-line of pitch 2, which is just right of a steeper smooth shield of rock. Worthwhile with occasional vegetation not affecting the climbing on pitch 1.

1. 35m 5a Climb cracks and grooves trending slightly rightwards to a small stance below an overlap guarding a shallow right-facing groove split by a hand crack.
2. 35m 5c Climb the crack to reach a big left-trending ramp. Follow this past a steep short crack before finishing up a short steep wall.

The Headland, Seal Buttress:

Rosie 20m VS 5a *. John Lynch, Mike Lynch, Bethan Davis. 1 May 2016.

The route follows an obvious shallow groove on the left-hand end of the buttress. Starting off a flat boulder immediately above the sea, trend slightly left then follow the obvious right-facing groove line to a tricky and slightly steeper exit direct through an overlap.

NA HURANAN:

Earth, Wind & Rock 40m Diff. Daniel Heaton, Andrew Heaton. 19 Aug 2015.

This route starts at the right-hand end of a low black wall some 100m west of Gauger's Pinnacle. The cliffs at this point form two distinct tiers separated by a wide heathery band.

Step on to the rock ramp at the right-hand end of the wall but then go straight up onto the thickly vegetated deep ledge. Cross the undergrowth diagonally leftwards to an obvious wide exit cleft marked by a large boulder leaning against the back wall. Once at the boulder, climb up it and follow through the cleft at the top. Belay placements are well back from the lip (use a 60m rope).

NEIST, Upper Cliffs, Seagulls Sector:

Button Up 35m E2 5b *. Nicola Bassnett, Roger Brown. 24 Aug 2014.

The big face immediately right of *Route with a View* has some vertical weaknesses in its lower blank section. This route traverses the cliff at mid-height. On its right-hand side, where the wall gently angles back towards the gully, a leaning flake rests against the bottom of the face with stepped blocks beneath it. Start 3m left down from the gully and gain the flake. A curving finger crack offers plenty of gear before the crux moves on positive rugosities that follow the shallow groove. The holds improve and the climbing eases as welcome protection arrives on the right below the overhang. Traverse left on good holds in a spectacular position to reach a good perch. The following groove using laybacks, bridging, and jamming is surprisingly unrelenting.

Financial Sector:

The Price is Right 30m E1 5b **. Nicola Bassnett, Roger Brown. 28 May 2014.

This takes a vertical line to finish up the final crack of *Insider Dealing*. This and two other routes share a start, which takes the corner of the alcove. Start at a disjointed crack to the immediate right of this and continue straight up, as it veers left. Step right into the U scoop of *Inside Out* and quickly meet the mid-height ledge. The prominent steep crack above is climbed using help from various nubbins on the right wall. This leads to the right side of the *Insider Dealing* overhang and its crack above.

Note: Andy Moles notes an obvious direct start to *All the Small Things*, avoiding the bold lower ramp of the original, making the route E4 6b * (29 May 2016). He thought the original was ** rather than ***, the traverse right at the top feeling like a major cop-out. The direct finish is very safe but he couldn't do it.

Gritstone Reminiscence Area:

Note: *Seven Days* and *Braveheart* (SMCJ 2014) follow the same line.

South of the Steps, Sonamara Area:

Forbo 20m H. Severe 4b. Nicola Bassnett, Roger Brown. 23 Jul 2014.

A knobby crack immediately right of *Fizzy Pop* is very often wet. When dry it offers pleasant climbing on good handholds, despite a dubious sounding well inbedded block. A short wall with quirky holds gives fun climbing before the shared easy top.

ELGOL, Schoolhouse Buttress:

Honeystick 12m E4 5c. Andy Moles. 5 Jun 2016.

The neat arete of *Bee Keeper's Bother*, climbed on its steep right side all the way. Good climbing but eliminate. Protection is tricky to find and place (small cams). Stepping around at the last big hold on the arete to place a side runner in *Bee Keeper's* would make the route E3, and might be sensible.

Note: *Bee Keeper's Bother* was thought HVS 5a.

ELGOL, Suidhe Biorach, Prince Charlie's Cave Area:

Arch Buttress 35m E1 5a *. Mike Lates, Lucy Spark. 15 Oct 2015.

Tackles the obvious seaward face of the buttress containing the arch immediately east of Prince Charlie's Cave. Start by the central groove which steepens sharply at 15m. Make a leftward diagonal traverse to a subsidiary groove and good wires. Climb directly to the top but step left to finish avoiding the vertical peat.

RAASAY, Beinn na h-Iolaire, Southern Buttress:

Six by Six 20m E3 6a ***. Nicola Bassnett, Roger Brown. 30 May 2014.

This excellent route takes the striking central line of weakness in the wall to the left of *Stollen*. The deceptively steep lower wall allows small and difficult to place protection but gives way to more relaxing climbing above.

Calum's Crag:

30's the New 20 10m V.Diff. Rosie Lynch, Rich Armour. 6 May 2016.

The obvious crack to the left of *Calum MacLeod*. From the block follow the well protected crack for a few metres before working into the groove and onwards to the top.

Ocean-Going Cliff:

Note: *Raucous Summer* (SMCJ 2015) is the same as *Schapp's Route* (SMCJ 2014).

RONA:

This low lying tranquil island, sitting between Skye and Applecross, holds a surprising range of quality climbing across the grades with plenty of room for more. Once on the island it makes a leisurely base thanks to a well equipped bunkhouse, good access tracks and a supportive warden. There is scant previous climbing history and the following list charts climbs made in Aug 2010, June 2011, and Aug 2015, with only the cliffs nearest to the central settlements looked at so far.

The Rona landscape is similar to Raasay north of Brochel but with heavier tree cover in places including some ancient forest, deep cut inlets and plenty of wildlife. Its barren undulating ground rises to 125m on Meall Acairseid, and is covered in glacial hummocks and blanketed in knee-deep scrub and bogs. Once off the two tracks northward (to the lighthouse) and southward (to the ruined chapel of An Teampull), it is difficult to get around.

The island is seemingly all composed of gneiss, but with a huge variety of types

ranging from sharp red sheets through gritty grey bulges to gnarlier knobbed walls. Almost all are compact and trustworthy, in beautiful and remote positions. The taller crags often have undercut starts with gentler faces and slabs above, giving climbing similar in style to north Raasay. Venues have been laid out in three areas as approached along the tracks from Big Harbour.

Access is from Portree or north Raasay by charter. There are three holiday cottages and a well equipped bothy on the island. Contact Bill Cowie, Island Manager, on ronalodge@isleofrona.com or visit www.isleofrona.com to look at options.

Acairseid Mhòr, Summerhouse Slab:

(NG 61474 57142) West facing

This is the first of a couple of venues which lie within easy reach of the pier and bunkhouse. It is a continuous steep slab, 12–15m high with a gentler tier of curvier clean slabs above, only a few minutes north of the bunkhouse, visible in profile on the horizon above the trees and level with the Rona Lodge summerhouse.

Escapee 15m Diff. Mark Hudson. 27 Jun 2011.

Climb the central cracks with a cleaner wall to the left.

Beware Block:

(NG 61809 57241) North-West facing

This fierce 12m overhanging block lies just off the track across marshy ground just east of the turbine, and holds some characterful routes either side of a dark central cleft. Leave the track at the Rona Lodge gate and cross the marsh following the fence for 50-60m to the cliff.

Beware of the Bill 12m E3 5c **. Nicola Bassnett, Mark Hudson. 24 Aug 2015.

The main overhanging wall is taken by a powerful and direct line of cracks 2m left of the dark corner-cleft and finishing up a V-groove.

Fairies Versus Giants 12m H.Severe 4a. Mark Hudson, Roger Brown. 24 Aug 2015.

The huge steps just right of the central cleft, finishing directly up a thin crack.

An Teampull Path Areas (Southwards):

A handful of pleasant venues clustered around the initial sections of the An Teampull path and best accessed with reference to that track.

Saturday Cliff:

(NG 61774 56818) South-West facing

This 15m vertical sea-level wall is highly conspicuous during the boat approach to Acairseid Mhor, lying 100m south of the pier across an inlet. Access is tricky, either by leaving the track 200m past the turbine, cutting back down to the inlet and boulder-hopping 400m along the south side and round the point. Or, longer but easier, by following the An Teampull track for 600m as far as the 'Hamburger Cliff' and then dropping westwards down the valley to the shore. The cliff is steep and compact, split into two aspects by a central overlapping groove, with climbing characterised by small sharp holds. Two worthwhile lines climb the right-hand aspect either side of a mid-height bulge.

Spindrift 15m E1 5b *. Nicola Bassnett, Roger Brown, Mark Hudson. 22 Aug 2015.

Gain and follow slanting cracks past the left-hand end of the overlap, finishing direct.

Henningsvaer 15m HVS 5b *. Nicola Bassnett, Mark Hudson, Roger Brown. 22 Aug 2015.

Make a sharp pull onto the wall further up the slope and move urgently past the right end of the overlap, finishing up the wall to the highest point of the cliff.

The Bulge:

(NG 61768 56625) South-West facing

This beautiful rounded 12m bulge of gritty rock gives short and easy routes. It lies only 50m north-west of the An Teampuill track, accessible from the same point as The Shoulder, visible as a dome to the right of the track, in line with the pier in the bay below.

Rocky Bag 10m Diff. Mark Hudson. 28 Jun 2011.

The groove on the left and the arete above.

Heavy Shoe 10m V.Diff. Mark Hudson. 28 Jun 2011.

The central cleft via a steep start followed by higher slabs.

The Shoulder:

(NG 61832 56515) North & West facing

This prominent 15m feature, visible from the bunkhouse, presides over a bend in the track. It is a patchwork of slabs, ribs and walls of differing rock types split into many sections by diagonal fault-lines and grassy breaks. The northern aspect holds pleasantly angled slabs, while the west facing facets offer steeper fare in a series of bulging walls that extends for 100m. The leftmost of the westerly facing buttresses is composed of orangy rock, which has an overhanging start with an easier-angled slab above.

Eagles Dare 18m VS 4b. Roger Brown, Nicola Bassnett (alt), Amy Fuller. 25 Aug 2015.

Climb the orange roof at its widest point on adequate holds, then the clean slab above. A higher pitch can be added by scrambling down left to the base of a 4m vertical crack in a grey wall.

Wooden Wall:

(NG 61601 56515) North-West facing

This rounded 12m crozzly wall is split into two aspects by a blocky gully, giving characterful climbing on amazing knobbly folded 'wood bark' holds. Visible from the bunkhouse to the south-west, it holds a commanding position over the Big Harbour. Make a 200m bushwhack westwards from the An Teampuill track from a point just beyond The Shoulder.

Should Be 8m Diff. Mark Hudson. 28 Jun 2011.

Climb the left end of left-hand wall on huge holds.

Sticks and Stones 12m V.Diff. Roger Brown, Mark Hudson. 28 Jun 2011.
Take knobbly steps up the middle of the left-hand wall and the centre of the wedge above.

Would Be 12m Severe. Mark Hudson, Roger Brown. 28 Jun 2011.
Climb up to and follow the obvious diagonal crack in the left-hand wall, then the right edge of the wedge above.

Splinter 12m V.Diff. Mark Hudson. 28 Jun 2011.
Climb cracks, a flake and then gentler upper slabs 5m in from right end of the right-hand wall.

Lighthouse Path Areas (Northwards):

These three areas are accessed using the tracks leading northward out of Big Harbour. More remote but giving some of Rona's best rock and situations.

Meall Acairseid:

(NG 62100 57598) NW facing

This 40m broken cliff lies on the north-west shoulder of Rona's highest hill. A clean slim face higher up gives good almost mountainous positions above a scrappier lower section. The shoulder is part-visible from the track by the Beware Block. Access by dropping down for 100m north-west from the Meall Acairseid summit, or (shorter) follow old the Acairseid Thioram track from the turbine past the Beware Block and across 3 or 4 small valleys until the face appears on the right.

Prospect of Skye 40m Severe. Mark Hudson, Roger Brown. 27 Jun 2011.
A good exposed route once up onto the main face. Scramble to the centre of the heather ledge at 10m. Make a steep start through a light green lichenous break, moving directly up to a dark wedge slot and over two overlaps above (step right then back left). Move leftwards across the smoother upper face following a prominent break. Finish by stepping off a flake to take the final wall direct.

Open Book 12m Diff. Mark Hudson. 15 Aug 2010.
A short shallow open-book corner at the right end of the cliff.

Extra Slab:

(NG 62511 58643) West facing

A beautiful and secluded gritty 15m slab with a clean sweep of rock that is not too steep and highly protectable. Take the signposted footpath from 'Escape' cottage towards the lighthouse through the old Acairseid Thioram settlement. Once past the ruined community, turn northwards off the main lighthouse path onto a subsidiary path, where the cliff is soon seen nestled in trees 100m to the east of the path.

Extra Time 15m Severe *. Mark Hudson. 29 Jun 2011.
A lovely direct climb taking the thin central cracks and overlaps.

Extra Slice 15m V.Diff. Mark Hudson. 29 Jun 2011.
Follow cracks and overlaps 1m in from the right edge.

Satellite Cliff:

(NG 62864 59147) West facing

A striking and remote 30m cliff with strong natural features holding some of Rona's longest and most sustained climbs to date. Follow the signposted lighthouse track from 'Escape' for 15–20mins beyond the old settlement and past the Extra Slab turn-off. Once over a low wooded shoulder, the cliff is easily seen in a prominent position on the east side of the open valley ahead and 100m east of the track. Both routes breach the sharply-undercut base via stiff bouldery starts, giving access to a central scoop and onto divergent natural lines that find ways through the near-vertical walls above.

Secret Weapon 30m E2 5c *. Nicola Bassnett, Mark Hudson. 23 Aug 2015.

A sharp pull over the shallowest point of the undercut base gains the central scoop. Step left to climb the increasingly strenuous left-rising diagonal crack. Finish up a clean vertical crack on the higher tier.

Satellite 30m HVS 5b ***. Mark Hudson, Nicola Bassnett. 23 Aug 2015.

An intriguing boulder-problem start 3m right of the shallowest point allows moves back left into the scoop. Follow the line of right-rising ramps, and then the soaring vertical crack that runs right to the top of the cliff, with lovely VS climbing all the way.

NORTHERN HIGHLANDS NORTH

BEINN DEARG, West Buttress:

Double Salchow 350m IV,4. Dave McGimpsey, Andy Nisbet. 3 Mar 2016.

A continuous line of ice (and snow) which forms just right of the crest right of *Silken Ladder* and left of *Peace Process*. The lower half forms in a shallow gully with the steepest section (crux) just below a terrace. Continue slightly left and back right on lower angled ice, finishing by a line leading left below a steep tower.

BEINN DEARG, Coire Ghranda:

Ice Bomb Direct, The Mind Bomb Finish VIII,7. Guy Robertson, Andy Inglis, Nick Bullock. 7 Mar 2016.

As per the original line, but on the final pitch climb the overhanging chimney-groove direct all the way. Superb, outrageously steep and well-protected (ice screws on the first ascent).

KLIBRECK, Creag an Lochain:

Skinny Dip 120m V,4. Sandy Allan, Andy Nisbet. 9 Mar 2016.

An icefall which formed some 50m left of *Little Tower Gully*. Steep snow led to a 60m pitch of ice, at times thin and serious. A large cornice was 50m away and only passed by traversing right until beyond *The Breck* where it ended (not included in length).

Veterans 200m V,6. Sandy Allan, Andy Nisbet. 9 Mar 2016.

The next fault to the left of the Y-gully on the north facing cliff is blocked low down by overhangs with a fringe of icicles. The first pitch is serious despite the grade and the turf needs to be well frozen. Start to the right of the icicles and climb

very steep turf before traversing left across the ice line to the left edge of the fault. Climb up to cracks in the sidewall (50m). Continue up easier grooves (50m), then easing ground to the top.

KEANCHULISH INLAND CRAGS, Morning Wall:

The Deer Shoveller 15m E5 6a. Ian Taylor, Tess Fryer. 22 Jul 2015.

A line up the left edge of the main buttress, just left of *Steel Spider*. Some poor rock in the lower section. Gain then pull over a roof to a small broken flake (Rock 1 in horizontal crack on the right). Make a long reach to better holds and continue more easily.

BEINN MÒR COIGACH, Garbh Choireachan:

West Ridge Direct 100m III,5. John Higham, Iain Young. 27 Feb 2016.

Climb the ridge as described in the Northern Highlands North Scrambles in two and a half pitches to the main ridge. Generally straightforward ground under powder snow with a couple of technical but well protected steps.

STAC POLLAIDH, West Buttress:

Western Buttress Edge Route 120m VI,7. John Higham, Iain Young. 26 Feb 2016.

Start at the toe of the buttress and climb via turfey grooves on the right of Baird's Pinnacle to belay in the notch between the pinnacle and the mountain. Traverse right then move up and right via short walls and corners until a traverse left can be made via a very awkward step around a nose to belay on the crest. Move up and left on easier ground to belay on slabs above the terrace. Move up and right as per the summer route until a hard move gains a belay below the fine corner described in summer (just left of the crest of the buttress). Climb this with the help of crucial turf blobs at the top, crux, then move right to the wide crack and awkward move to belay on the summit ridge. Climbed under exceptionally snowy conditions with frozen turf, though would be easier with more ice.

The Evolution of Wings 30m E5 6a **. Ian Taylor, Tess Fryer. 27 May 2016.

A counter diagonal to the first pitch of *Walking on Air*, starting at a block just to its left. Layback up the crack above to good holds. Make a hard move up and left, then a bold section leads to good holds and gear where *Walking on Air* comes in from the right. Move right and go up to a niche, then over a final bulge to the belay. For a second pitch follow *Mid-Flight Crisis* or *Walking on Air*. Grade and stars confirmed by a second ascent.

CUL MÒR, Creag nan Calman:

Buffalo Ballet 130m VII,7. Helen Rennard, Simon Richardson. 20 Jan 2016.

As for the summer route except the left diversion up the narrow rib on the third pitch was climbed direct over an icy overhang with a point of aid.

Coire Gorm:

The Wrecking Light 160m VIII,7 ***. Nick Bullock, Andy Inglis, Guy Robertson. 6 Mar 2016.

An outstanding icy direct line up the imposing steep wall between *The Cul* and the massive roof section of the crag. The line is an ice streak running directly up the steep slabby wall left of the great roof, right of a big black corner-groove, and



Ian Taylor on the FA of The Evolution of Wings (E5 6a), 27 May 2016. Photo: Andy Tibbs.

left of a smaller groove immediately left of the great roof. The route may prove easier with thicker ice.

1. 40m Start up a steep turfey wall and climb up for 5m on improving ice to the base of a slim icy groove. Climb the sparsely protected groove past a number of technical and tenuous moves to a ledge.
2. 40m Step right and climb the ice streak directly to an easing in angle at 15m. Continue up easier ground for another 20m to belay on the left.
3. 50m Climb snow slopes and short tricky steps to arrive below a final steep wall with a steep ice groove leading to an icicle-ridden roof (obvious from below, and just right of a steep nose of rock).
4. 30m Climb the icy groove, then the surprisingly accommodating roof in a marvellous position, leading to easier ground and the top.

STAC POLLAI DH, The Keep:

The Monkey Puzzle 35m E2 5c. Andy Tibbs, Davy Moy. 19 Aug 2010.

Start below a steep corner between *Angus the Arsonist* and the gully.

1. 20m 5c Climb the steep corner and cracks above to a good ledge on the left.
2. 15m 5a Climb onto the large block behind the belay, then the crack above to a ledge. Finish up and rightwards passing a jutting beak of rock.

Singe 20m VS 4c. Andy Tibbs, Davy Moy. 19 Aug 2010.

The furthest right line on The Keep. Start in the gully above the ledge running underneath The Keep. Climb a slim, open slabby corner feature and steep crack to finish by easier ground on the right.

REIFF, Spaced Out Rockers Cliff:

Sgeoldair 30m E5/6 6b **. Ian Taylor, Tess Fryer. 25 Jul 2015.

Start as for *Spaced Out Rockers* and follow this left for 5m, then go up the left side of a black streak to gain a small hanging corner and a good break. Move left then run it out up the crimp wall to another good break. Go left up through a break in the overhangs (often wet but on good holds) to a ledge and an easier finish.

Rockers – The Prequel 25m E4 5c *. Ian Taylor, Tess Fryer. 26 May 2016.

An alternative first pitch to *Spaced Out Rockers*. From the same start, follow *Aqua Rambling* up the left edge of the cave to a break, then follow this left to join *Spaced Out Rockers* at its belay.

Amphitheatre Bay:

Forty Plus 25m E4 6a *. Tess Fryer, Ian Taylor. 6 Jul 2015.

Follow *Roaring Forties* for 12m and after the moves left onto the steep arete, go up to a good break under the roof on the right. Make a footless swing right to a rest below a steep groove, then finish the groove and its left arete.

Meall an Fheadain (NB 997 110):

Just under the summit is a crag that forms a band of slabby west facing walls of lovely featured sandstone some 8m high making for easy climbing in a delightful setting. Four routes on Mod to Diff were climbed by Martin Holland on 15 Sep 2015.

ASSYNT, Creag Rodha Mòr (Super Crag):

Champagne Rhubarb, Variation Finish E2 5c **. Michael Barnard (unsec). 11 Oct 2015.

From the ledge above the flake-crack, move up to traverse the headwall on pockets, finishing as for the normal route.

Le Trip 20m E4 6a **. Tess Fryer, Ian Taylor. 7 Aug 2015.

Start as for *Ruddy Glow Corner* and where it heads left into the corner, continue up the right side of a grey block to a small ledge. Make committing moves right along a thin break to gain a vertical crack and follow this steeply to good holds and an easier finish with hairy lichen.

Carcassonne Wall (NC 0758 2412):

Approach as for Ardroe Slab past Loch Dubh crags, but don't cross the deer fence.

Carcassonne Crack 15m H. Severe 4b. Rich Abell, Tom Adams. 26 Mar 2016. Start at a flake-like rock projecting upwards to the base of the prominent right-trending crack-line (at the right-hand side of the prominent deep bay). Climb the flake and into the crag to a good ledge, then up and slightly left over a bulge to finish up slabs and cracks.

Avignon Wall 15m VS 4c *. Rich Abell, Tom Adams. 26 Mar 2016.

Start at the closest boulders to the wall to the left of the deep bay. Climb the wall, steeply at first, to reach small ledges. Go up the crack on the right, then move slightly left to another crack. Finish directly.

Langres Ledge 15m HVS 5b *. Rich Abell, Tom Adams. 26 Mar 2016.

The obvious right-trending ledge line to the right of a slab bounding the left edge of the highest section of crag. Climb the ledge to a bulge at its end (maybe wet). Go up and slightly right with a couple of tricky moves to reach easier ground.

Clean Cut (Achmelvich):

Michael Barnard notes that a huge block has come off the cliff. The block formed the side walls and arete between *Snappy Carrot* and *Calypso*, so these routes may not be climbable now (or at least will be very different, both climbing and probably grade-wise). No other routes are affected, though *Flawless* no longer climbs 'the second arete from the left'.

QUINAG, Bucket Buttress:

MacFearsome Sisters 40m VI,6. Pete MacPherson, John Lyall. 20 Jan 2016.

An eliminate but good route, with the hard climbing being new. Climb the crux wall of *Bounty Hunter*, then the smooth corner on the right wall to join *Pick 'n' Mix*. Follow this to easier ground, then go up through the final wall on the right of a roof.

Note: *Bounty Hunter* was thought much harder than the given III,5. More like IV/V,5/6.

The Frontline Severe. Michael Barnard. 29 May 2016.

As for winter, but finishing as for the next route.

Hell in a Bucket 45m VS 4c *. Michael Barnard. 29 May 2016.

Climbs the wall between *The Frontline* and *Brendan Voyage*. From the ledge above it, step right to take the continuation crack of *Kane Mutiny*, then step right again to finish up a short arete.

Brendan Voyage H.Severe 4b *. Michael Barnard. 29 May 2016.

As for winter, up cracks in the wall. From the base of the chimney, step left to instead climb the arete to the ledge. Finish as for the above.

Kane Mutiny V.Diff. Michael Barnard. 29 May 2016.

As for winter, starting up the groove on the right.

Skull Buttress:

This is the square-cut crag overhanging the gully on the left side of the next buttress right of Barrel Buttress. When viewed from the top of Barrel Buttress (recommended on first acquaintance) the cliff resembles a huge human skull. On all the routes a shorter, easier introductory pitch leads to broken ledges below a long and sustained second pitch up the headwall. The climbing on the headwall is strikingly different to any of the other big sandstone cliffs in the North-West, with no rounded features, no jamming, but lots of thin hairline cracks, crimps, slots and flatties. The rock is generally excellent, with all routes cleaned extensively prior to their first ascents. It would be possible to approach from the north (shorter but boggy) but arguably better just to go over the top (about 1hr 45mins on a good path). The cliff faces north so a good spell of warm dry weather is needed.

Jurassic Spark 60m E6/7. Guy Robertson, Jason Currie. Jul 2015.

The inaugural route provides a superb sustained outing more or less directly up the centre of the cliff. Take lots of micro wires and micro cams, but still expect to be running it out high up. Start at the col below the lower buttress.

1. 25m 5c Climb up for a few metres until an obvious line of big footholds leading out left can be gained. Follow these hard left to gain the left-slanting crack on the left edge of the cliff and follow this with interest over a bulge until a tricky move gains a good ledge. Turn the nose on the right directly and on up to a commodious block seat.

2. 35m 6b Move directly up to the base of the headwall, then left to stand on a large protruding hold. Climb directly for a couple of metres then step right onto the black wall and climb straight up again (bold) to gain the first break. Follow this right to a thin crack, just left of the obvious groove. Climb the crack up to where a perplexing move left gains better holds and a good flake which leads up to the next break. Climb the dwindling crack with increasing difficulty to a good hold from where a long stretch up right leads to improving holds and the final break. Take a deep breath, then forge directly up the thin white flake feature above to a final hard move rightwards just below the top.

Primal Dream 60m E5. Guy Robertson, Pete Herd. 6 Jun 2016.

The easiest line on the wall is also the slowest to dry, but arguably the best! Takes the obvious staggered cracks just right of centre on the headwall.

1. 25m 6a As for *Land of the Lost and Found*, pitch 1, but belay directly below the obvious black crack.

2. 35m 6a Follow the crack to a rest at the first break. Climb the right rib of the groove, then swing right to gain another thin crack which leads up right to the next break below the final soaring crack. Follow this (crux) into a short corner and so to the top.

Land of the Lost and Found 60m E7. Guy Robertson, Adam Russell. Sep 2015. Another stunning route, taking the immaculate smooth wall left of the right arete. Start as for the previous route.

1. 25m 6a Climb directly up, then trend left to below the obvious stepped black groove which is climbed with some difficulty. Continue up over ledges to belay below a tiny corner at the base of the headwall, a few metres right of a black crack.

2. 35m 6b/c Stand on the block below the corner and stretch right to place a good small wire in the crack up and right. Climb boldly right past this to good holds and protection on the arete, then step back left and follow a faint groove more or less directly to a huge rough hold at the first break. Make a tricky move up right to gain another faint groove (RPs out right) which is followed to big flat holds which lead strenuously to the next break. Go left a short way to gain a rattling flake; stand on this and follow thin cracks to niche and block. Make hard moves past this (crux) to the upper break then pull out right to ledges. Easier cracks on the right lead up and then back left to the top.

SCOURIE CRAGS, Telegraph Crag:

The following routes lie at the right end of the main crag.

Private Investigations 15m VS 4c. Michael Barnard. 15 Aug 2015.

A shallow right-facing corner, finishing up the corner above.

Calling Elvis 15m VS 4c. Michael Barnard. 15 Aug 2015.

The crack just to the right. The upper crack is loose and best avoided via a traverse into *Private Investigations*.

Note: *Telegraph Road* should read 'the crack 5m further right' (not 10m). Also the traverse for the descent is nowhere near 100m and just saying 'at the right end of the crag' would probably suffice.

FAR NORTH-WEST CRAGS, Creag nam Phreasain Challtuinne, Hazel Crag (SMCJ 2013):

Grasshopper 12m VS 4c *. Jonathan & Diana Preston. 30 Sep 2015.

The slanting crack-line left of *Old Wrinkly* (cleaned).

Note: *Old Wrinkly* is also 12m and other routes are shorter than recorded, also thought to be about a grade easier than recorded in SMCJ 2013 pp500–01.

SHEIGRA, Second Geo:

Rhapsody in Blue 35m E3 5c **. Robert Durran, Jerry Handren. 27 Jul 2015.

Abseil to the lower tidal ledge below the start of *Above the Blue*. Hand-traverse a small ramp leftwards onto the steep wall. Go up at its end, then traverse hard left to gain an obvious blunt spike. Climb steeply up the left side of the wall passing a ledge on the left to finish more easily up *Right-Hand Buttress*.

FOINAVEN, Lord Reay's Seat:

Note: Erick Baillet & Dave Kerr climbed *Fishmonger* on 16 Jan 2016, following close to the summer route instead of the more direct original line. They named it the *Misplaiced Variation*.

BEN HOPE:

Viking Ridge 600m II. Andy Nisbet, Steve Perry. 18 Jan 2016.

The next ridge right of *Tower Ridge*. The line of least resistance was taken, while trying to stay as near the crest as was sensible. Climbed under deep snow. There was one move on the crest at about two-thirds height which was more suited to a route of Grade III.

Valhalla 600m III,4. Andy Nisbet, Steve Perry. 19 Jan 2016.

Two main ridges right again (ignoring a minor one immediately right of *Tower Ridge*). This ridge has a triangular lower section with two legs which join below a steep slab high up. Start over a short, steep turfey wall to easy ground which leads to below the steep face between the two legs. Move out right to the right leg and climb just right of its crest to gain the crest higher up. Follow this to a lower angled section below the steep slab. Pass this on the left, close to the gully on the left, before returning right as soon as possible to an upper section of ridge, which formed a prominent skyline from the north end of Dubh-loch na Beinne. This was climbed by a snow grooves and a ramp leading right to finish just right of the crest.

Valkyrie 600m IV,3. Sandy Allan, Andy Nisbet, Steve Perry. 21 Jan 2016.

A ridge three to the right of *Valhalla* has an apparent tower at half-height, although there is no col behind it, only a level section. This route follows a well defined gully to its left, and the steeper left branch where it splits. The gully provided

three water ice pitches low down followed by snow leading to the branch. The left branch contained a 30m snow-ice pitch up a slabby wall (no protection due to conditions) followed by several smaller pitches separated by steep snow and leading to the top.

South Tower Ridge 400m III. Andy Nisbet, Steve Perry. 13 Feb 2016.

The ridge with the apparent tower, which actually angles back to a col and is well seen as a steep wall when approaching from the south. The initial slopes were easy by a zigzag line and not included in the length. The tower was climbed by a line near its left side followed by a diagonal line rightwards still on the steep face. An upper ridge was climbed fairly direct.

Freya 300m III. Andy Nisbet. 11 Mar 2016.

After two more ridges which join high up, is this substantial gully. The first pitch was a waterfall but easily avoided by traversing in from the left on a deer track. Another wet pitch was passed by heather on the left, after which the gully was joined; the length starts from here. Snow and small ice pitches led to a big ice pitch, started on the left. Snow led to a fork; the left branch was taken. More snow gained another significant ice pitch, followed by icy runnels direct to the top.

Harpie 500m III,4. Andy Nisbet, Steve Perry. 15 Feb 2016.

After the gully above and a ridge with a large steep triangular base, is this less steep but continuous ridge. There were two short tricky steps but the ridge was largely Grade II and perhaps should be graded that.

Valentine's Ridge 500m IV,5. Andy Nisbet, Steve Perry. 14 Feb 2016.

The last ridge on the face, although still with steep ground on its right. Start close to the gully on its left and climb a big corner before exiting right along a ledge. After easy ground, climb a turf groove some 25m right of the gully. Go up to a steep triangular buttress which abuts the main upper section of ridge and climb its left edge. Move left along the first ledge on the wide upper section and climb a tricky short wall and easier grooves (50m). Climb a steep groove and easier walls to a terrace (50m). Continue up steep but easier ground to move right on a terrace below a large, steep upper slab (60m). Climb this by a line of weakness near its right end before moving left to and finishing up the crest (60m).

PORT VASGO:

This is a site of the Scottish Primrose and while climbers may not do any harm, try not to disturb the ground at the cliff-top. The comment in the guide, 'Most of the crag does not warrant climbing' turns out not to be true. The existing routes *Faith Pays Dividends* (E1 5a) and *Revelation* (E1 5b) were thought to be E2 5b and E2 (or E3) 5c, but worth their stars. Some 100m east of these routes is an amazing prow. The rock is slightly soft but solid where weathered by the sea. The routes are described from the existing routes eastwards, although it may be easier to find the prow first.

The east side of the arete of *Faith Pays Dividends* is an overhanging wall bounded by a big gully. The following four routes are on a wall which lies east of the gully. The wall is topped by stacked flakes which are more solid than they look but still require care. Approach by abseil to ledges near the sea.

Primrose Edge 35m VS 4b. Andy Nisbet, Steve Perry. 7 Aug 2015.
The right arete of the wall, adjacent to the big gully, is climbed fairly directly.

Kong 35m E1 5a. Andy Nisbet, Steve Perry. 7 Aug 2015.
A shallow crack-line in the centre of the wall; further left is overhanging. Start up a red slab, then more broken ground to reach the crack-line. Moves are made on the left low down and on the right high up for an exciting finish.

Stac Beag Slab 45m VS. Ian Butterworth, Gerald O'Neil. 6 Aug 1970.
A serious second pitch which is not technically difficult but needs treating with care. Start below the right-hand side of an obvious flat-topped pillar.
1. 20m Ascend the groove on the right of the pillar to the large ledge at the top.
2. 25m Traverse left to the centre of the slab, then make an ascending traverse back right to finish up the loose gangway. Loose and unprotected.

Stac Beag Direct 35m VS 4c. Nick & Diane Burton, Ian Butterworth. 1976.
A better finish. As for *Stac Beag Slab* to the flat-topped pillar (20m). Climb the steep shallow groove above (15m).

The following routes are reached by a 30m abseil down the corner on the west side of the prow. For the first two, traverse west at high tide level round an arete to below an alcove.

Brooklyn Bridge 50m E1 5b. Steve & Katie Perry. 15 Jul 2015.
Climb up into the alcove. Move out right to traverse along the lip of a cave before going up the top of the flat-topped pillar (35m 5b). Finish up the shallow groove as for *Stac Beag Direct* (15m 4c).

Rockyfeller 35m E1 5b. Andy Nisbet, Katie & Steve Perry. 16 Jul 2015.
Climb up into the alcove and start out right as for *Brooklyn Bridge* until below a flake-line leading to a roof. Gain the flake-line (crux) and follow it to the roof. Pass the roof on the right and go up to a ledge. Finish direct up the railed wall above, no protection but 4b.

Central Perk 30m VS 4b. Andy Nisbet, Katie & Steve Perry. 16 Jul 2015.
A line right of the corner which forms the right edge of the prow. Start just to its right and climb up slanting rightwards to reach the rib left of a groove. Climb the rib leftwards to finish up the next break right of the corner.

California Gurls 30m VS 4c. Katie Perry, Steve Perry, Andy Nisbet. 15 Jul 2015.
The corner itself is helpful, mostly well protected and not as hard as it looks. Climb fairly directly to and up the corner.

Euletheria 35m E6 6a ****. Jules Lines. 19 Jul 2015.
A mind blowing climb up the full height of the main arete. Careful rope management required. E5 climbing with E7 intimidation. Start on a ledge above sea-level and below the fin. Climb up easily into the corner and traverse along the lip of the blade (large cams) to a stopping place in the base of the arete (good medium cams). Launch up the wildly overhanging arete on good holds to a good rest on the arete. Climb the arete on the right past some cam placements in

horizontal slots, to another rest. Continue up the very crest, finishing on the right side.

Burn Brooklyn Burn 30m E5 6a **. Jules Lines, Steve & Katie Perry. 16 Jul 2015.

A relentless climb up the centre of the wall.

1. 15m 4a Climb up easily into the corner (*California Gurls*) and belay on a ledge near the base of the corner.

2. 15m 5c Step up and move diagonally left to gain a pocket come pod (large cam). Move up and right and back left to more protection (small cams). Move steeply up the wall to a good hold beneath a bulge and central crack above. Climb the crack (rock 3) to the deep break and exit up and left into a notch. Another arm pumping climb with no hard moves, although the best holds will take time to find on first acquaintance.

The Statue of Liberty 35m E4 5c ***. Jules Lines, Steve Perry. 15 Jul 2015.

The most amenable climb to take on the challenge of the blade.

1. 15m 4a Climb easily up into the corner to belay on a ledge.

2. 20m 5c Climb the corner for 3m to gain an obvious handrail/ traverse line that cuts across the wall (medium cams). Near the end of the traverse, go slightly down on a set of small finger rails to a rest on the arete (gear in the rail on the right). Climb the arete direct and move up to another rest (small cam on the left). Climb a vague groove in the left side of the arete to finish.

Libertas 35m H.Severe 4a. Andy Nisbet, Katie & Steve Perry. 15 Jul 2015.

A line up slabrier ground left of the prow, but with little protection. Start at the base of the abseil, below the right side of the roof which forms the base of the prow. Slant up leftwards until at the left end of the roof. Continue leftwards up a ramp and finish straight up.

Immediately east of the wall with the prow is a buttress semi-detached from the mainland. Looking from near the top of the prow is a face with a big roof near its top. Approach the buttress by a long step across the gap with the mainland. The first route was reached by scrambling down and across big slabby ramps on the north side before traversing round on to the west face (Diff). The next two routes were reached by a direct abseil.

Skull Island 20m VS 4c. Andy Nisbet, Steve Perry. 7 Aug 2015.

The left side of the face. Start from a ledge about 6m above high tide level. Climb up to the traverse ledge and continue up a crack-line which passes through small roofs between bigger roofs, also right of a prominent protruding block (a useful feature if a direct abseil approach is chosen).

Satari 25m E1 5b. Andy Nisbet, Steve Perry. 7 Aug 2015.

A parallel line to the right takes a crack-line through two roofs and passes some 2m left of the big roof. Start from a ledge just above high tide level and below another big roof well below the high one. Climb a wall to pass left of the lower big roof and climb the crack-line.

High Line 25m H.Severe 4a. Andy Nisbet, Steve Perry. 7 Aug 2015.

A spectacular line for the grade passing just right of the big upper roof. Start from

a ledge about 5m above high tide level. Move left into an open corner which starts at the right end of the lower big roof. Climb this and trend left to gain a shallow slot which leads past the upper roof to an easier finish.

Bronxie 20m E1 5b. Andy Nisbet, Katie & Steve Perry. 15 Jul 2015.

A right-leaning corner line seen looking about 100m east from the top of the prow. This is beyond the above buttress and a deep geo with poor rock. The corner is towards the right end of a wall but an obvious ramp leading towards its base doesn't reach and an abseil approach down the line is required.

Harbour Wall:

(NC 586 650) West facing Non-tidal

A west facing wall some 200m east of the road end. Its top is visible from the parking spot but not obvious. Follow a signed path to approach the wall from above. The rock is a little soft.

Grid Iron 15m HVS 4c. Andy Nisbet, Steve Perry. 10 Sep 2015.

A flake-line near the left edge of the wall, just before it turns into a north-facing wall. Climb a small right-facing flake to easier ground.

Saga Lout 15m VS 4c. Andy Nisbet, Steve Perry. 10 Sep 2015.

Start in the centre of the wall. Gain a flaky ledge, move left, then up to finish more easily.

Mindfields 10m VS 4b. Andy Nisbet, Steve Perry. 10 Sep 2015.

Climb a vague crack-line 3m left of the wall end.

Spectre 10m 4a. Andy Nisbet, Steve Perry. 10 Sep 2015.

The right edge of the wall. Unprotected.

Brown Slab:

(NC 584 651) South-East facing Non-tidal

At the landward end of the first big inlet west of the parking place is a slabby wall of brown rock, steeper at the base.

Stokey Bill 25m Severe 4a. Andy Nisbet, Steve Perry. 10 Sep 2015.

Low down on the left side of the wall is a prominent left-slanting flake-line. Gain and climb this (easier than it looks) to the upper slabs. Finish just left of a roof.

Eat, Sleep, Climb, Repeat 25m VS 4b. Andy Nisbet, Steve Perry. 10 Sep 2015.

Gain and follow the short, right to left rising ramp to its end before moving back right onto the main slab. Climb straight up and finish on the right of the smaller roof.

LATHERONWHEEL, Peninsula Wall:

Arch Villain 15m VS 5a. Eleonora Di Cuffa, Andy Nisbet, Steve Perry. 17 Apr 2016.

Based on the arete left of *Positive Mental Attitude*. Start left of the arete inside the first arch and climb a wall to near a roof. Step round the right side of the arete and climb steeply to and past the roof to a short arete to finish.



The Old Man of Hoy, Spring Bank Holiday, 2016. Andrew Wielochowski leads the main pitch of the Original Route (E1 5b). Photo: Noel Williams.

Sedimentary Ambitions 12m VS 4b *. Steve Perry, Sarah Sigley. 13 Jun 2016.
On the south side of *Reach for the Sky* is a corner leading to a triangular roof with a soaring arete above. Climb the corner and pull over the roof on jugs. Follow the arete and move left at the top to belay. Well protected but easy to escape.

Bedrock Area:

Dino Saurus 12m V.Diff *. Sarah Sigley, Steve Perry. 13 Jun 2016.

Three metres left of the Bedrock area descent is a slabby scoop. Climb onto a small ledge low down and follow a faint crack-line leading to a steep headwall which finishes right of the highest block.

ORKNEY, Old Man of Hoy:

Space Station Finish 25m E1 5b ***. Dan Moore, Shauna Clarke. 17 Aug 2015.

From the belay at the bottom of the final corner pitch of the *Original Route*; climb up onto the left wall of the corner and gain an obvious left-trending flake line. Follow this, then move left and up to a wide crack in the bulging wall above. Gain a thin crack on the right and make tricky moves up the wall to gain a good foot ledge below two parallel hand cracks. Climb these, then move right to a wide crack and continue more easily to the top. Very well protected.

Rora Head, Sandy Bay:

Happy Idiots 80m HVS. Ian Parnell, Gary Panes. 20 Sep 2015.

Midway between Mucklehouse Wall and the southern tip of Rora Head lies a bay with a square-cut promontory defining its western side. This route climbs the easiest line up the southern face of that promontory. Good rock, gear and a nice adventurous feel make this route a good second route for those who've travelled to tick the Old Man. Two old pieces of gear were found indicating that the top two pitches may have been climbed before. The grassy rake under the promontory accessed by abseil leads to the boulder beach. Start around on the west (seaward) side where a short wall of good rock extends from the foot of the main cliff.

1. 25m 4b Climb an obvious right-facing groove starting just to its left to gain the big ledge. Follow a series of steps to the base of a yellow corner with several cracks in its left wall.
2. 15m 5a Climb a combination of the cracks to a steepening. Traverse right to gain another big ledge and belay 5m back at a small pillar with an old in-situ thread.
3. 15m 4c Climb a layback flake and a shallow cracked groove and belay at the right-hand end of the ledge (signs of old tat).
4. 25m 4c Climb the crack in the eastern wall of the promontory.

Yesnaby, The Black Dyke:

Damp Wa 20m E4 5c *. Tim Rankin, Scott Johnston. 4 Aug 2015.

A serious route climbing the centre of the wall. Abseil to the right end of the long black ledge and belay from the rope. Move up right below a roof to a good break, then boldly climb the right-facing groove above to a precarious step up to the large roof. Step left and cross the roof to gain and climb the steep slanting corner-line to finish. Inspected on abseil.

NORTHERN HIGHLANDS CENTRAL

BEINN A' MHUINIDH, Bonaid Dhonn:

North by Northwest, alternative start 40m E7 6b ***. Dave MacLeod. 7 Jun 2016.

A logical single pitch version of the route with an exciting start along the lip of the roof guarding entry to the main wall above. Start up the slab and break left up a short wall to the right edge of the roof. Swing along this on a big break and move steeply up on good holds to gain the parent route at the spike at the base of the crack.

Bonebag 120m Severe 4a **. Ewan Lyons. 11 Feb 2015.

Beyond the large bay to the left of *Route I* is a steep wall with a prominent right-facing corner containing a holly tree. Start below the large corner but trend left then back right to gain the left arete, aiming for a much smaller hanging corner. Climb this and a short slab to a heather ledge above the large corner. Pull up to a hidden groove, exit this and climb shattered cracks to easier ground. Cross *Route II* and follow a rib below a large corner with a smooth wall on the left containing an obvious overhang on the right side. Climb pink rock on the right side of the wall passing the overhang on the right to a corner. Climb this, step left to the continuation groove which leads to a smooth rib leading right to a heather ledge, and finish by the blocky arete on the left. Be careful of some loose rock here and there.

Murdoch Jamieson on the second ascent of North by North West on the Bonaid Dhonn with the eastern peaks of Beinn Eighe in the background. Photo: Iain Small.



THE GREAT DUNDONNELL SLAB:

Sandstone Tango 100m HVS 5a **. John Mackenzie, Andrew James. 27 May 2016.

A fine route on excellent clean rock that climbs the discontinuous flakes and cracks near the right-hand side of the lower and upper tiers. Start below a short corner-crack well right of the start of *Longer*, *Steeper*, *Better* and below a small overhang bottoming a prominent boss of rock.

1. 30m 4c Move up to the overhang and climb the flake-crack on the right of the boss to a small ledge. Move up the slab to gain the next crack on the right of a smaller boss to its crest. Traverse right to a stance at the base of a deep crack.

2. 20m 4c Climb the deep crack to its short capping wall which was wet on this occasion and graded as such, probably 4b if dry. Belay on the tree above.

3. 50m 5a Move 7m right to below a fine slab right of the cracks and pillar taken by *Longer*, *Steeper*, *Better*. Climb up to a ledge and a blind crack. Step right to another and continue up and left to ledges. Step up right onto the excellent upper slab and friction up this aiming for a straight crack which is to the right of the slanting crack taken by the top pitch of *Longer*, *Steeper*, *Better*. The slab steepens below the crack which once reached leads to a heather cornice and the fixed abseil point above. A fine if bold pitch on clean rock.

Either descend from the Terrace or continue up the top two pitches of *Longer*, *Steeper*, *Better*.

STONE VALLEY CRAGS AREA, Meall an Triubhais Dhuibh, Lily Lochan Crag:

Crack n' Slab Variation 22m H. Severe 4b. Andrew James, John Mackenzie. 2 Apr 2016.

Instead of climbing the crack in the second tier, take the clean wall to its left at the same grade and reach the base of the upper slab directly.

Arete and Crack 22m HVS 5b *. John Mackenzie, Andrew James. 2 Apr 2016.

To the right of the start of *Crack n' Slab* is a corner. Climb its right-hand edge to the base of a thin curving crack just left of a wider wet crack. Climb the thin crack with interest, well protected, to the right side of the easy slab above, up which the climb finishes.

RUBHA REIDH:

A small inlet at the north end of the lighthouse car park has some non-tidal buttresses. The first small buttress on the right after the descent gives:

Chicken Run 14m E1 5c. Nicky Bassnett, Roger Brown. 26 Oct 1999.

The finger crack left of centre provides well protected but sustained climbing.

GRUINARD BAY CRAGS, Riverside Slabs:

Winking Crack 15m Severe. Davy Moy, Kenny Summers. 14 May 2016.

Take the same start as *Blues Before Sunrise* but go straight up the large dirty crack, heading for a large orange spike. Go to the left of this and up the wall above.

Creag Càrn an Lochan Duibh:

White Stripe 45m VS 4c **. Tom Adams, Colin Abernethy. 28 Mar 2016.

Start up the glaciais as for *Pink Streak* but diverge left up a vague rib between the heather ledge and the pink streak. After steepening ground, climb a crack topped

by a small heather clump and continue direct past the left side of small overlaps to reach the diagonal crack of *Pink Streak* near its top. Finish by this route.

Note: *Pink Streak* was considered worth two stars (agreed, Ed).

GOAT CRAG:

*Sun Rays 7a ***. Ian Taylor. Oct 2015.

Follow *Between the Monsoons* to bolt 4, then take the right-hand line of bolts to a high finish up the rough slab.

GLEN CANNICH, Creag a' Chaorainn (NH 168 338):

Don't Forget the Joker 200m IV,4. Mick James, Graham Stein. 1 Jan 2016.

Viewed from the outflow of Loch Tuill Bhearnach, there is a prominent snow bay towards the left of the crag. This route takes the first shallow turf corner that breaks out from the far right side of the bay. Climb the corner on mainly moderate ground, passing two short steep steps (130m). Climb easier ground above by the line of least resistance to the top (70m).

STRATHCONON, Creag Achadh an Eas:

A remarkable chasm of icefalls lies on the north-western slopes of Creag Achadh an Eas at the head of Strathconon (NH 212 503), alt 400m.

Approach from the end of Strathconon car park, walk past Scardroy and cross the River Meig at Corrie Feol. The amphitheatre is found in the Allt Coire Dhughail gorge. The lower burn is chaotic and level and blocked by obstacles. On this occasion an exposed traverse was made along the true right bank to a point where it was possible to descend to the main burn. This was crossed to a subsidiary one and a spur climbed up and over to the main burn where only then can the amphitheatre be seen. It is split into two by a narrow fin of rock and this ascent took the straight right branch which has a vertical right-retaining wall festooned with icicles along its entire length. An icefall forms close to the right wall giving the route below. A good period of frost is needed to bring into acceptable condition. A possibly easier alternative lies to its left but is rocky and probably rarely gets iced.

*Dougal's Chasm 140m IV,4 ***. John Mackenzie, Andrew James. 20 Jan 2016.

1. 30m Easy ice or turf to a cave pitch.

2. 45m Steep ice over and up steep steps to the top where a left traverse was made to a small fallen birch tree.

3. 35m Easily up the gully to a seeming exit on turf or ice.

4. 30m On this ascent the right wall was climbed to the top.

A tortuous descent was made down the cut-up slopes of Creag Coire na Feola, avoiding further minor ravines. A better exit would be to climb the true right bank to a much more straightforward and quicker descent.

Creag Ruadh, 740m Top, North-East Face (NH 272 544):

Creag Ruadh Buttress 105m II/III. Andrew James, John Mackenzie. 9 Jan 2016.

A smaller buttress lies near the right end of the crag ribs, identified by a tapering groove on the right side and a pointed block up and right just beyond. Hard initially, then easier; the first and last pitches are good.

1. 25m Climb the groove which steepens and narrows near the top to a nut belay above.

2. 50m Climb easily and directly above to a rib which is taken on turf ground to below a steeper headwall.
3. Move up to the headwall and climb this centrally via steps to the top.

MOY ROCK:

Little Squeezer 6c+. Andy Tibbs (bolted Ian Taylor). 12 Jun 2016.
Between *Little Teaser* and *Pulling on Pebbles*.

STRUIE HILL CRAG:

Davy Moy & Dave Allan did 10 new climbs in Aug and Sep 2015, and thought the crag was much better than the guidebook says. The following is a new write-up.

This unusually good conglomerate crag is visible above the B9176 'Struie' road between Alness and Ardgay. Travelling from the south, park in a large pull-in on the left just past the crag where the road bends to the right. Walk 130m further up the road, then take a path up to the crag passing to the left of the pine trees, 20mins.

Grey Slab Gully 25m Diff.

Climb the gully on the left of the first clean face.

RP Slab 20m HVS 5a **.

Climb the smooth wall about 1m right of the gully, then trend right to finish up the left-facing corner-crack. About 5 micronuts or RPs are needed to protect the first half of this climb.

Austerity Wall 20m HVS 5a *.

Start 2m right of the last climb and go up to the left side of the block. Cross the bulge about 2m left of the block and finish up the right-hand crack.

Alcove Slab 20m VS 4c.

Right of the prow climb a shallow corner and a V-shaped overhang, then a slab and a steep corner.

Pink Slab 20m V.Diff *.

Climb the fine pink slab to the right of the last climb, surmount the overlap and continue up the slab.

Jungle Jim 25m Diff.

This climbs the big left-facing corner at the right side of the slabs or the slabs to its left. Start up a sometimes wet chimney.

Achilles Chiel 20m VS 4c **.

Climb a left-slanting rib then a short arete to a slab. Trend rightwards to finish by a miniature right-facing corner.

Archimedes Flakes 25m Severe **.

The obvious two flakes and wide crack to finish.

Socrates Chimney 25m VS 4c *.

The chimney-corner left of the big overhangs.

Hairy Eyrrie 20m E1 5b*.

This climb takes the high corner right of the big overhangs. Start on a block beneath a blunt arete and follow cracks over an overlap, then move left and up the corner.

Grey Slab 20m VS 4c.

Further right and left of a wet streak (Struie Icefall), climb the grey wall to a pocket. Move right then back left. At the chimney step left to easier ground.

Struie Icefall 25m III,4.

Some winters this short steep ice pitch forms and is visible from the road. Climb it and the heathery corner above.

About 20m further right is an area of fairly clean orange rock with three corners.

Pensioners' Partypiece 25m HVS 5a*.

Climb a few metres up the first corner to beneath a sloping overhang. Move right 2m, ascend 3m, then step back left round a bulge. Ascend more easily to a slab beneath a steep wall. Traverse left and climb a short chimney to easier ground.

Copernicus Corner 25m Severe**.

Just right of the last climb, go up easily to the start of the fine open corner/groove. Climb the corner to the notch, then step right onto the arete and climb blocks to easier ground.

137 Not Out 25m Severe.

The next and last steep corner to the right, the short corner above, then the corner system above that.

NORTHERN HIGHLANDS SOUTH

LADHAR BHEINN, Spider Buttress:

Tir na h-aoise 400m VI,6. Simon Richardson, Roger Webb. 25 Feb 2016.

A natural line of weakness zigzagging up the centre of the buttress between *Tir na Og* and *Face Route*. The highlight is the barrel-shaped wall at mid-height on the face.

1. 60m Gain the central snowfield from the left as for the alternative start to *Face Route*.

2. and 3. 100m Continue directly up the snowfield to its top and climb the tapering right-slanting gully, which begins just right of the icefall of *Tir na Og*, to where it narrows.

4. 60m Break out right of the gully onto the barrel-shaped wall and climb steep slabs via isolated blobs of turf and some ice before trending back left to the top of the tapering gully. Follow this to the hidden left-slanting gully that cuts through the upper half of the barrel-shaped wall. A serious pitch.

5. 50m Climb the slanting gully to the diagonal fault-line that crosses the upper face.

6. 60m Follow the fault to belay just before the exit gully of *Face Route*.

7. and 8. 70m Climb mixed ground and snow slopes trending left away from *Face Route*, to finish at the top of the buttress.

A' CHRALAIG, Lochan na Cra-laig:

Poseidon 120m III.5. Andy Nisbet, Steve Perry, Jonathan Preston. 10 Feb 2016.
The ridge right of the descent gully has a spectacular prow and right of this is a hanging ramp. Start up a lower ridge until below the prow (unfortunately escapable easily into the gully here). Make a cramped traverse right under the steep wall below the ramp and return back left into its base. Climb the ramp and a short wall on the left to finish.

The Creel 120m III. Andy Nisbet, Steve Perry. 10 Feb 2016.

At the right end of the cliff is a right-curving snow gully (Grade I). This route follows the gully until an exposed ramp leads out left between two steep iced slabs.

Shielfish 120m III. Jonathan Preston. 10 Feb 2016.

Start up the snow gully but take a steeper and more direct line on the right. Cross the gully and finish up turfey walls high on the left.

BEINN FHADA, Coire an Sgairne:

Cailleach 160m V.5. Andy Nisbet, Masa Sakano. 7 Mar 2016.

The first gully right of the diagonal fault right of the big steep wall (*Banshee* starts up this fault but leaves it lower down). Start right of the fault and follow the gully to near its top (50m). A short steep ice pitch leads into the fault (50m). Finish up it (60m).

Countryman 120m IV.4. Andy Nisbet, Masa Sakano. 7 Mar 2016.

An ice line which forms fairly regularly on the right side of the leftmost buttress (with *World's End*). Start just right of the toe of the buttress and follow ice left of a chimney, then above it to the left end of a terrace (40m). Climb the continuation iced groove for about 10m, then exit right up a slab. Move up on turfey ground, then return left to a ramp which leads rightwards up the steep sidewall of the buttress. Follow this to a ledge (50m). Continue up the ramp to a ledge, follow this rightwards and finish on to the slope above the crag (30m).

Edge of Beyond 50m VS 4c *. Steve Perry, Andy Nisbet. 3 Nov 2015.

The arete right of *World's End*, gained by abseil from the top. It gave a sustained but serious climb with fine positions. The top of the arete is best reached by a grass rake trending up rightwards from the base of *World's End*. From a grass ledge, gain and climb the arete on its left side for 25m before crossing over to the right, then immediately back left and upwards to a small awkward roof with a wide flared crack beneath it. Climb the roof to a ledge and step left to finish past a horizontal flake in the final headwall.

MORUISG, The Great Grey Slab:

Tapering Slab 70m V.Diff *. John Lyall. 13 Aug 2015.

The inset tapering slab on the left wall of the main slabs is followed to its end, then the edge on the left is gained and a narrow ridge leads to the top.

Tapestry 70m Severe *. John Lyall. 13 Aug 2015.

On the first big slab left of the main slabs. Start where a tongue of rock sticks out from the lower wall, and use this to gain the slab above, then follow the edge to

a point where it takes a turn right. Go straight up the clean slab, between two thin cracks, and finish by the left ridge.

Scaled Slab 70m VS 4b *. John Lyall. 13 Aug 2015.

The second slab left of the big slabs, starting a couple of moves up the corner on the right. Follow the rib for a short way, then move left and up a shallow right-facing corner, then straight up the clean slab and final crest. Good after a loose start.

Note: This may be on the same slab as *A Right Guddle*, but keeping left of it most of the way.

Mangled Rib 70m Severe. Michael Barnard. 5 Jun 2016.

Left of *A Right Guddle* are two other main arete lines. This route takes the rib to their right.

Great Grey Shrike 75m VS 4b. John Lyall. 13 Aug 2015.

The third slab left of the main slabs. Start on the left of the lower wall. Traverse delicately right above this to gain the edge, which is followed to finish by a jamming crack.

Living Wreck 70m VS 4c. Michael Barnard. 5 Jun 2016.

The left-hand arete, taking in a couple of good sections of climbing. Climb directly up the blank slab near the base and continue more easily to below an obvious mucky corner. The clean edge immediately to its left provides the other interesting section.

Throw-Away Slab 50m Diff. Michael Barnard. 5 Jun 2016.

The shorter wide slab up and left of the other routes.

BEINN BHAN, Coire na Poite:

Wall of the Early Morning Light, Direct Start 170m V,5. Dave McGimpsey, Andy Nisbet, Steve Perry. 5 Mar 2016.

A direct but right-slanting succession of grooves runs the whole height of the cliff. The upper half is *WOEML* and a complete ascent makes a 360m natural line. Start up ice right of *The Cooler* to below the first main groove (55m). Climb the groove (60m). The next groove forks and the right branch (a steep iced corner) was climbed, returning slightly left to the main line and joining *WOEML* (55m). A wide groove (60m) followed by right traverse gains a huge groove. Climb this part way (60m), then to its top (30m), from where snow leads to the top (40m).

Coire an Fhamhair:

Nam Fámhairean 410m VII,7. Malcolm Bass, Neil Silver, Simon Yearsley. 13 Feb 2016.

A big route. Takes a rising line into the centre of the face between *Der Riesenwand* and *Gully of the Gods*, before moving right from *Der Riesenwand* and accepting the challenge of the upper wall.

1. 40m Walk left along the ledge from left of *Gully of the Gods*. Belay before the ledge narrows.
2. 50m Continue left along the ledge passing a bulge and belay on cracked blocks.
3. 60m Climb up 5m to join a gradually rising leftwards line that leads to the big snow terrace on *Der Riesenwand*.

4. 50m Follow the leftwards rising traverse of *Der Riesenwand* to belay where a gangway leads off right.

5. 50m Follow the gangway past a hard sequence of moves round a rock barrier.

6. 60m Continue for 5m to the end of the terrace. Climb up a 5m icy groove, cross a small snow bay, then climb the fine crack and continue steeply in the same line to belay at the top of a terrace.

7. 60m Move up and right into a broad depression and climb this through a wide flaky crack and continue up fine ground till the angle eases.

8. 40m Climb easy ground to the top.

BEN SHIELDAIG, Loch Dughail Crags (NG 833 515):

7 routes on the SMC website.

SHIELDAIG CRAGS, Creag Ob Mheallaidh (NG 8384 5385):

A slightly smaller crag just to the north-east and over a crest from the original crag (SMCJ 2011).

Fickle Flake 15m HVS 5a. Susan Jensen, Martin Moran, Andy Nisbet. 23 Apr 2016.

The crag is largely a steep wall bounded on the right by a flake system topped by a large flake. The wall is also cut by a diagonal crack running right to left from the flake system. Start up a wet patch but with sufficient dry positive holds to reach the diagonal crack. Climb the crack to its top, then finish out left.

Fickle Fingers 15m VS 4c. Susan Jensen, Martin Moran, Andy Nisbet. 23 Apr 2016.

Start as for *Fickle Flake* but continue up the flake system. At its top, step left and back right to finish more direct.

BEINN DAMH:

A Good Outcome 420m IV,4. James Edwards, Neil Wilson. 28 Feb 2016.

A line to the left of *Traveller's Tale* (no description received).

TORRIDON CRAGS, Seana Mheallan:

Note: *Reject* was climbed direct up the rib at VS 4c by John Lyall, Jonathan Preston & Jimmy Whyte on 10 May 2016.

Seana Mheallan West, Pink Walls:

John had Pasta for Breakfast 15m E1 5a. Michael Barnard, John MacLeod. 4 Oct 2015.

Climbs the bold line of weakness up the wall between *Skye and Kyle*... and ... *Fish and Chips*, moving left or right as necessary.

King Solomon's Marbles 15m E1 5b *. Michael Barnard, John MacLeod. 4 Oct 2015.

The obvious thin crack between *Hadrian's Wall* and *Heather Said Sunshine* is gained directly (bold). Start on a large block and move up and left to gain the crack.

Note: The upper part of this is shown in the guide as a variation to *Heather Said Sunshine*, but this is really a separate route, probably harder than graded here.

Golden Generation 15m VS 5a. Allen Fyffe, Alan Hunt, John Lyall. 15 Aug 2012.

The slabby wall right of *Better than a Slap in the Face*. Start up a short right-facing corner, through a bulge, up a left-slanting crack, then right to break through the centre of the overlap, finishing by a blunt rib.

Seana Mheallan West, Quartz Slab:

Queen of Hearts 15m H.Severe 4b. Andy Nisbet, Jonathan Preston. 10 May 2016.

A direct line up the slab left of *Off with her Head*, passing through quartz to finish up flakes just left of the corner of *Off with her Head* (which was thought to be Severe 4a).

The Whirlwind 12m VS 4b. John Lyall, Jimmy Whyte. 10 May 2016.

The right end of the slab. Trend right to finish 3m right of a right-facing corner with loose blocks.

Celtic Boulders:

Super Pittance 10m E6 6b *. Ian Taylor, Gaz Marshall. 28 Feb 2016.

First find the Pittance boulder problem, detailed in the Torridon Bouldering Guide. Climb the wide diagonal crack, left of the problem, to a ledge. Step right and go up the wall past a good Rock 4, before a hard move gains a good hold. Place small cams (Black Diamond C3 00 and 000), then gain the edge on the right and follow this leftwards to the top.

DIABAIG, The Pillar:

Dire Straits, Diabolic Finish 10m E3 6a **. Martin Moran, Robin Thomas. 12 May 2015.

At the top of thin cracks in the upper wall, move left and make a hard rock-over move to surmount the bulge above. Move left and teeter to the top.

Little Big Wall:

An Armful 18m E4 5c *. Martin Moran, Robin Thomas. 12 May 2015.

Climbs the vague groove in the arete 8m right of *An Eyeiful*. Climb the first groove with fingery moves and tricky protection, then swing boldly up right and gain a ledge. Climb cracks in the wall above to a hard finish.

Main Cliff:

Perfect Days 55m E2 **. Gary & Karen Latter. 15 Mar 2016.

1. 15m 4b Pitch 1 of *Route Three*.

2. 40m 5c Start at large pink patch a few metres left of *Route Three*. Follow twin cracks up the slab, then move out rightwards and direct by cracks aiming for thin, twin tramline cracks. Follow these which lead to the leftmost of the twin off-width cracks in the headwall. Finish up this past a small but useful ratty chokestone. Nut & maillon in situ for abseil just above.

Northern Sky 57m HVS 5a **. Gary & Karen Latter. 15 Mar 2016.

Start up *Route Two* to an obvious left-slanting, diagonal hand crack. Take this to a small heather clump, then move up to follow an obvious left-trending diagonal fault. At its end, move up to the cracks above the right edge of the large heather

bay. Follow the fine cracks to the top. Nut & maillon in situ for abseil up and right.

The Condome:

Fisherman's Dream 30m E6 6b **. Gary Latter. 31 Mar 2016.

A direct line up the wall between *Instant Muscle* and *Rough Justice*. Start up *Rough Justice* for 5m, then move left and follow twin cracks. Where they peter out, continue direct past a peg runner to pull direct into the final crack of Condome and finish up this.

Uncaught Silver 20m VS 4c *. Karen & Gary Latter. 31 Mar 2016.

A left-trending line starting from just below the awkward step in the gully. Follow cracks, passing through a short grassy section, sharing a short section common to Shunned.

Stars so Close 20m HVS 5a *. Karen & Gary Latter. 31 Mar 2016.

Start just above the awkward step in the gully, beneath a small arching overlap. Follow the twin broken cracks to finish just right of a short left-facing corner at the top.

COIRE DUBH CRAGS:

These sandstone crags lie on the lower flanks of Liathath and Beinn Eighe, and are approached via the footpath from the Coire Dubh car park in Glen Torridon (NG 958 568). While the approaches generally exceed an hour, this is well worth the effort as the climbing is of good quality and the situation splendid.

Mad Man's Crag:

(NG 943 588) Alt 400m North-North-West facing

This is the first low lying tier of sandstone seen up on the left after crossing the stepping stones on the Coire Dubh footpath, 45mins overall. The only climbs recorded so far are on the far right end of the crag, which lies some distance left of a small burn trickling down from the prominent gully above (*Chi Squared*). A corner-crack on this section of the crag is clearly seen from the path about 5mins after crossing the stepping stones – this is taken by the following route.

The Trundler 15m HVS 5a ***. Michael Barnard. 2 Jun 2009.

Excellent climbing up the crack splitting the crag at its highest point.

Sliced by Scree 8m HVS 5a *. Michael Barnard . 2 Jun 2009.

The shorter stepped crack just left of the above.

Creag Dubh Beag:

(NG 936 587) Alt 520m North-North-East facing

This steep outcrop is passed by on its left on the ascent into Coire Dubh Beag and is well seen from the main footpath. A very fine wall with two prominent crack-lines and some potential for harder routes, 1hr 10mins.

Truly Torrential 12m E3 5c ***. Michael Barnard, John MacLeod. 22 Apr 2011.

The left-hand crack. A bold lower section with adequate holds leading to a hard well protected finish.

Torrid Time 12m E3 5c ***. Michael Barnard, John MacLeod. 22 Apr 2011.
The right-hand crack, gained from the ledge on the right. Sustained and superb.

To the right of the main wall the crag becomes more broken; this is the best line of descent. Further right are some short walls and corners.

Wee Corner 6m HVS 5b *. Michael Barnard. 2 Jun 2009.
The first corner on the right gives a nice wee problem.

The following two routes lie on the upper crag (about 5mins walk up the hill from the top of the main wall).

Into the Red 15m VS 5a *. Michael Barnard. 29 May 2009.
Takes the obvious two-stepped crack-line on the right side of the crag. The steep initial crack leads to easier climbing up the corner above.

Out of the Blue 15m V.Diff. Michael Barnard. 29 May 2009.
Pleasant climbing up the easy angled groove further right.

Hill Man's Crag:

(NG 939 586) Alt 530m North-North-West facing

This crag lies just across left from Creag Dubh Beag and features a very different style of climbing; very gritstone-esque. The rock is immaculate.

Te Tahi 15m Severe *. Alan Hill, Michael Barnard. 11 Sep 2015.
Easy but delicate climbing up the fine blunt arete at the right end of the crag.

Taniwha 12m VS 5a *. Alan Hill, Michael Barnard. 11 Sep 2015.
Left of *Te Tahi* are two short corners. Climb the blunt arete immediately left again.

Ermine 10m VS 4c. Michael Barnard, Alan Hill. 11 Sep 2015.
In the centre of the crag is a prominent V-groove. Bridge up this, then climb the crack on its right wall.

In the Groove 10m V.Diff *. Alan Hill, Michael Barnard. 11 Sep 2015.
The prominent V-groove.

Fingers and Toes 10m E1 5a *. Michael Barnard, Alan Hill. 11 Sep 2015.
Climbs the steep crack left of the V-groove before continuing up the arete above.

Block Appreciation Society 12m E3 5b *. Michael Barnard, Alan Hill. 11 Sep 2015.

The innocuous left-slanting ramp. A cam on the right low down may be the only gear you get! Finish right up the easier scoop above.

Keep Calm and Carry On 12m E2 5b *. Michael Barnard, Alan Hill. 11 Sep 2015.

Start in a short corner the other side of the arete from the above and move up to a ledge on the arete. Climb up, then right to gain holds on BAS. Finish up the groove on the left. Basically a solo; the break is distinctly disappointing!

Big Mac's Crag:

(NG 934 588) Alt 500m North facing

From the Coire Dubh footpath this crag can be seen to the right of, and slightly down from, Creag Dubh Beag, 1hr 10mins.

Noo Noo 10m Severe *. John MacLeod, Michael Barnard. 22 Apr 2011.

This route is found on the more broken left section of the crag. It climbs a three-stepped crack-line, unfortunately escapable. The first step is avoided by taking the ramp on the left and moving back in across a slab.

The rest of the routes lie on the steeper right section of the crag:

Ach Aye the Noo 10m VS 4c *. John MacLeod, Michael Barnard. 22 Apr 2011.

The first main line reached here, a vertical two-stepped crack-line, the upper half up a corner.

Raspberry Cheesecake 10m E1 5b *. Michael Barnard, John MacLeod. 22 Apr 2011.

A steep left-facing groove, gained with difficulty and climbed with further difficulty! Micro-cams essential.

Big Mac 10m E1 5b *. Michael Barnard, John MacLeod. 22 Apr 2011.

The obvious steep crack has a hard middle section.

Right of this is an imposing blank section of wall. Further right the angle starts to lessen, but the base is undercut.

Echo Falls 12m VS 4c *. Michael Barnard, John MacLeod. 22 Apr 2011.

Start near the right end of the undercut section. Pull over the lap (crux, unprotected), then move up and left to gain and climb the obvious crack.

No the Noo 15m V.Diff. John MacLeod, Michael Barnard. 22 Apr 2011.

Right of the above, move up right then back left and up the slabby central groove in the wall.

Mac-a-noo 12m V.Diff *. John MacLeod, Michael Barnard. 22 Apr 2011.

Climbs a left-trending crack up the slabby wall at the far right end of the crag.

Proud Crag:

(NG 931 590) Alt 500m North-East to North-West facing

The most westerly of the Liathath crags is also the most extensive. Much of it has the feel of a miniature gritstone edge featuring micro-routes and bouldery starts, though it does have some more substantial offerings. The outlook is superb, with views straight up into Coire na Caime. It is clearly seen on the skyline during the approach, and can be reached by contouring round the hillside from Big Mac's Crag. To reach the crag directly, follow the footpath until just past where it splits for Coire Mhic Fhearchair; from here the crag is visible lying on the crest of a slight ridge, 1hr 20mins.

Just left of where the crag changes direction from north-east to north-west, two

obvious corners are located (*Insomniac* and *The Good Soldier*); the climbs are described rightwards from this point. Three short routes have been done immediately left of the two corners.

Earth 6m Severe 4b. Michael Barnard. 29 Apr 2011.
The short cracked nose left of *Insomniac*.

Wind 5m V.Diff. Michael Barnard. 29 Apr 2011.
Left of the above, this route ascends a crack up the shortest part of the crag. Can be used in descent (with care).

Water 6m Severe 4b. Michael Barnard. 29 Apr 2011.
The two-stepped crack-line left again.

Insomniac 8m Severe *. Alan Hill, Michael Barnard 10 Sep 2015.
The left-hand corner.

Singing Winds 8m HVS 4c. Michael Barnard. 29 Apr 2011.
The blunt arete between the two corners, finishing on the right-hand side.

The Good Soldier 8m V.Diff. Alan Hill, Michael Barnard. 10 Sep 2015.
The right-hand corner.

Crying Beasts 10m HVS 4c. Michael Barnard. 29 Apr 2011.
Right of the corners is a shallow hanging groove. Climb the blunt arete to its left.

Out of the Frying Pan 10m VS 4b *. Michael Barnard. 29 Apr 2011.
The shallow hanging groove-line is also unprotected.

The Gunger 10m VS 5a *. Michael Barnard, Alan Hill. 10 Sep 2015.
A vertical cracked corner-line with a steep start.

Into the Fire 10m HVS 5c *. Michael Barnard, Alan Hill. 10 Sep 2015.
The fine thin two-stepped crack in the centre of the wall right of *The Gunger*.

To Squirm or Not to Squirm? 15m VS 4b *. Michael Barnard. 29 Apr 2011.
The wide crack has a simple solution but little protection (without a large cam).

Gunk Rock 15m VS 5a *. Michael Barnard, Alan Hill. 10 Sep 2015.
A few metres right of the wide crack is a fine vertical crack. Climb this and continue up to the top break, then step left to finish.

The Secret's in the Squidge 15m HVS 5b *. Alan Hill, Michael Barnard. 10 Sep 2015.
A thin vertical crack just left of a corner. Climb this directly.

Golden Brown 15m VS 5b. Alan Hill, Michael Barnard. 10 Sep 2015.
A bouldery start up the arete right of ...*the Squidge*, followed by easier climbing up the wall above.

May Day Corner 15m VS 5a *. John MacLeod, Michael Barnard. 1 May 2011.
The next feature right is a left-facing corner-crack, often wet. Climb this and continue up the fault-line above, finishing up the top corner.

Blind, Crippled and Crazy 15m HVS 5a **. Michael Barnard, John MacLeod. 1 May 2011.

Climbs the steep shallow groove in the wall right of *May Day Corner*. Start 3m right of that route. Move up and left then step back right at the break and climb the groove to a ledge. Continue up the steep corner above (crux).

Right of this is the most continuously steep section of the crag, breached in its centre by a striking flake-crack.

Calling Card 12m E3 6a **. Michael Barnard, Alan Hill. 10 Sep 2015.

Start 2m right of *Blind, Crippled and Crazy*, below a short V-groove. Sustained moves lead up this, then up and right to the break (Friend 3.5). Gain the flake above, then finish up and right.

The Daddy Line 12m HVS 5b ***. Michael Barnard, John MacLeod. 1 May 2011.

The excellent flake-crack.

One for the Worm 12m E3 6a *. Michael Barnard, Alan Hill. 8 Jun 2016.

Near the right end of the steep section of wall is a thin right-trending crack. Climb this to the ledge on the right, then step back left to tackle the upper flake-crack.

White Rabbits 15m VS 4c **. John MacLeod, Michael Barnard. 1 May 2011.

Right of the steep section of wall are two thin parallel cracks leading to an obvious stepped corner. Climb boldly up these into the corner then continue straight up the wall above, moving left to finish.

Fire on the Mountain 15m Severe **. Michael Barnard. 29 Apr 2011.

Start 2m right of the above. Climb a short corner, then continue up the wall above to gain the stepped corner. Finish up this.

Liathath's Burning 15m VS 4c *. Michael Barnard. 29 Apr 2011.

Start 2m right again and go up a corner to gain the obvious left-right diagonal crack splitting the wall above. Climb this (crux).

Creag Coire Dubh:

(NG 947 595) Alt 550m South facing

The only crag here lying on the Beinn Eighe side, this lies just right of the prominent steep narrow gully which descends from the right side of Coinneach Mhòr. It has a fine outlook and being south facing, is quicker to dry than some of the Liathath crags. It has well defined left and right sections with a scramble descent in-between, though abseiling is more pleasant and the gear can be collected after the last route of the day. While the highest part of the crag is 30m, 45m of rope is needed there to reach suitable anchors back from the edge, 1hr.

Solaris 30m V.Diff. Alan Hill, Michael Barnard. 8 Sep 2015.

Climbs cracks up the crest of the first buttress reached at the far left end of the crag.

Burning Serengeti 30m HVS 5a *. Michael Barnard, Alan Hill. 8 Sep 2015.

The next buttress has an obvious vertical groove just left of the crest. This route climbs the fine wall left of this via thin cracks. Continue more easily to the top.

The Power of the Sun 30m HVS 5a *. Michael Barnard, Alan Hill. 8 Sep 2015.

The vertical groove, gained via the arete below. A nasty bold move on the arete makes the route rather unbalanced.

The Sizzler 30m HVS 5a **. Michael Barnard, Alan Hill. 7 Sep 2015.

A quality flake-crack. Continue directly up grooves above.

Note: On a later ascent, John Lyall stepped right at the top of the crack, then climbed a bulge and shallow crack.

Next is the showpiece of the crag, a fine high wall with a large flake-crack (*Coire Dubh Crack*). Marking the left end of this wall is an obvious V-groove and upper corner.

Baker Street 30m HVS 5a **. Michael Barnard, Alan Hill. 8 Sep 2015.

Start below and just right of the V-groove. Climb a flake-crack, then step left to tackle the V-groove. Finish up the steep corner above, a long sustained pitch.

Mr Sandman 30m E2 5b **. Michael Barnard, Alan Hill. 8 Sep 2015.

Climbs the prominent left-slanting crack in the wall right of the *Baker Street* groove, gained via its initial flake-crack. Move left to the base of *Baker Street's* top corner, before stepping back right to finish up the top wall.

Coire Dubh Crack 30m E1 5b **. Michael Barnard, Alan Hill. 7 Sep 2015.

The big flake crack in the main wall. Climb past the lower wide crack (bold), then take the flake-crack through the bulge to the upper overlap. Step right and finish up the bold groove above.

Sandcastle 30m E1 5b *. Michael Barnard, Alan Hill. 7 Sep 2015.

A direct line up the crest of the buttress. The main feature is a short thin flake-crack just right of *Coire Dubh Crack*. Start up a large block/pillar then climb via the arete and groove above to the base of the flake-crack. Climb the wall until possible to gain a foot ledge on the left. Move up, then hand-traverse back right to pull into a short groove below the upper overlap. Continue directly to the top.

Note: John Lyall avoided the right traverse, went straight over the bulge, through the overlap just right of *Coire Dubh Crack* and up a right-slanting crack to the top.

Nutters' Crack 30m H.Severe 4b *.

An obvious forked crack in the next wall to the right had been climbed before (nut in-situ).

Dark and Stormy Night 30m H.Severe 4b. Alan Hill, Michael Barnard. 8 Sep 2015.

Aims for a miniature S-shaped crack high in the next wall to the right. Some loose blocks require care.

The next three routes lie on the final wall before the descent area.

A Route of Two Halves 20m HVS 5a *. Michael Barnard, Alan Hill. 7 Sep 2015.

The lower part of the wall is slabby and slightly undercut at the base. Step left onto this and climb to the break (crux). Continue more easily then move up just left of the central crack, before stepping left to finish up the fine top wall.

Round Heads and Cavaliers 25m VS 4b. Alan Hill, Michael Barnard. 7 Sep 2015.

Follows cracks in the right side of the wall.

Get Your Wimple On, Madge 20m VS 4c. Alan Hill, Michael Barnard. 7 Sep 2015.

The right-facing corner-crack just left of the descent.

The right-hand section of the crag also has a good higher bit of wall. The main feature of this is two parallel cracks, the right-hand one being set in corners.

Brexit Vote! 20m H.Severe. John Lowther, John Lyall. 23 Jun 2016.

Follow twin cracks up a left slanting line left of 'Invaders', up a slight rib, then move right to cracks up cleaner wall, right of a dirty groove.

Invaders 20m E2 5c **. Michael Barnard, Alan Hill. 8 Sep 2015.

The fine steep left-hand crack.

Fresh Evidence 20m VS 4c *. Michael Barnard, Alan Hill. 7 Sep 2015.

The right-hand crack up corners.

Sands of Time 20m E2 5b *. Michael Barnard, Alan Hill. 8 Sep 2015.

Climbs a thin vertical crack in the wall right of the arete. From above the crack, step right and move up to join the upper corner of *Fresh Evidence*.

Second Helpings 20m VS 4c. Michael Barnard, Alan Hill. 8 Sep 2015.

The next corner/groove right.

LIATHACH, Coire na Caime, Upper Corrie:

Lost Ridge 150m II. Andy Nisbet. 13 Mar 2016.

A ridge at the left end of the buttress left of *Gully IK*, overlooking the highest and rightmost Grade I gully on this section of face (has been used for descent, but often corniced). Start just right of the steep base of the ridge. Climb a short ice pitch and curve up left to a snow arete above the steep base. Follow the crest to a steep band of rock, passed just on the left. Finish up the crest and a short wall.

Sgòrr a' Chadail:

The Path and the Way 45m E1 5b. Michael Barnard, Alan Hill. 9 Sep 2015.

Climbs thin vertical cracks in the wall right of *Trench Foot*. Start at the base of

that route and make an awkward move to gain the ledge at the base of the fine lower crack. Climb this, then move up rightwards to tackle the upper crack. Continue up the cracks and grooves above.

Rocking Horse 45m E2 5b. Michael Barnard, Alan Hill. 9 Sep 2015.

Climbs what appears to be the least resistance line in the wall right of *Reflections on My Mind*. However, the lower half proves to be deceptively hard and serious. Start below a roofed section and climb up and left towards an obvious ledge. Place a cam under the roof on the right, then attempt to get established on the ledge without pulling on the large block which occupies it. If successful, continue up the groove above then move out right to go up a short left-facing corner. Traverse back left to finish up a fine crack on the left wall of the upper corner.

Ragged Glory 45m E1 5c **. Michael Barnard, Alan Hill. 9th Sep 2015.

Excellent climbing. Start just right of *Rocking Horse*, below a vertical groove/corner. Move up this, then up and left to reach for a good flake on the edge. Step left along the ledge then up a right-slanting flake-crack to below the left-facing corner of *Rocking Horse* (finishing up this would give a good HVS 5a). Instead tackle the flying crack on the right (crux), before finishing up the cracked corners above.

Billy Goats Gruff 45m E1 5b. Michael Barnard, Alan Hill. 18 Jun 2016.

About halfway between the crag's change in aspect and the Pale Wall (or 15m right of *Ragged Glory*) is a prominent roof 8m up, with a smooth left-facing groove below. Start below a crack a few metres right of the groove. Climb the crack until it peters out, then make a delicate traverse left to gain the crack above the roof (crux). Move up the crack, then step left to continue more easily up the cracks and grooves above.

Chevrolet 55m E2 *. Michael Barnard, Alan Hill. 18 Jun 2016.

Aims for the right-hand crack high on the right side of the main wall (*Chadailac* takes the left-hand one). Go up the easy corner to belay at the base of the wall (as for *Chadailac*).

1. 30m 5b Step right and ascend the wall to a crack in a shallow right-facing groove. Move up this to a break, step left and continue up cracks to the top crack, then up this to the ledge.

2. 25m 4c As for *Chadailac*.

Karmacanic 55m E2. Michael Barnard, Alan Hill. 18 Jun 2016.

Start 2m right of *Chevrolet*.

1. 30m 5b Go up the wall to a crack in a shallow left-facing groove; climb this then step left and continue up cracks to below a couple of large blocks. Step right and move up to take the obvious V-groove to the ledge.

2. 25m 4c Continue up the groove above, then up a large flake-crack to the top.

Note: *Chadailac* was thought E1 5b ** (E2 at most), not E3 5c ***.

BEINN EIGHE, Far East Wall:

Daughter of the Dawn, Direct Finish 30m E4 6a. Graham Tydesley, Liam Malone. 4 Jun 2016.

From the belay ledge, move back right into the main line heading up towards the

right end of the roof above. Pinch up a protruding seam to gain the base of a left-facing corner. Pull across this onto the wall and then move more easily up and right to the roof and through it. Move back left into a cleft splitting the steep ground above.

Chinese Burn 50m E2 6a *. Michael Barnard, Alan Hill. 7 Jun 2016.

A few metres right of *Epilogue/Divine Ambition* is a crack leading to a left-facing corner. Climb these to a ledge, then take the thin crack up the bulging wall above (crux) and its continuation to a ledge. Continue to the top.

Hong Kong Phooey 50m E1. Michael Barnard, Alan Hill. 8 Jun 2016.

Right of *Chinese Burn* and left of the big corner is an obvious left-slanting crack in the wall.

1. 20m 5a Move up to climb the crack to a large ledge.
2. 30m 5b Right of the thin crack of *Chinese Burn* are two parallel cracks in the wall. Climb the left crack then continue more easily to the top.

Note: *Divine Ambition* was thought E1 5c (not 6a). *Karaoke Wall* is worth a star for its excellent widening flake-crack.

Central Buttress:

Note: Rob Adams & Fiona Murray climbed direct from the end of the diagonal line through the sandstone, moving left round the crest and up to join the normal route higher up the first quartzite band. Still VI,7 but the crux overall.

CAIRNGORMS

COIRE AN T-SNEACHDA, Fiacaill Buttress:

Smokestack Lightnin' Direct Start VII,8. Dave Almond, Simon Frost. 17 Dec 2015.

Climb about halfway up the ramp of *Jailbreak* before breaking out right and following a corner (like a mini *Stirling Bomber*) for some 20m to join the normal route which traverses in from the right. Instead of following this, step left and climb a crack-line and subsequent groove on the left to join the normal route at its crux. The overhanging variation to pitch 3 was then freed.

MAM SUIM, Creag na h-Iolaire:

Central Buttress Direct 80m IV,4. Simon Richardson, Michael Rinn, Ryosuke Ohbu. 30 Jan 2016.

A direct version of *Central Buttress* following the crest throughout.

Picasso 70m III,4. Jeremy Windsor, Pablo Artigue. 30 Jan 2016.

The next rib right of *Central Ridge*.

Loose Rib 60m II/III. Gwilym Lynn, Goran Kelecic. 30 Jan 2016.

The rib right of *Picasso* to the left of a wide gully.

Anglo-Danish Route 70m I. Mikkel Schelde, Paul Headland. 30 Jan 2016.

The furthest right rib in the corrie. Start from the large weathered tree at the base

of the rib and climb a rocky groove past another small tree. Continue up the ridge over two further short rock steps.

CREAGAN COIRE A' CHA-NO:

Cha-cha-cha 30m V,4 or II. Michael Barnard, Simon Richardson. 1 Jan 2016. The leftmost buttress on the cliff is cut by a prominent right-facing groove. Climb this on thin turf over a bulge to the top. Later in the season the groove will bank out and will become significantly easier.

Whaleback Ridge 40m III,4. Simon Richardson, Michael Barnard. 1 Jan 2016. The rounded ridge about 50m left of *International Rib*. Climb up a turfey groove on its right side to a vertical right-facing corner. Climb this on huge holds and finish up the rounded crest above.

Flood Warning 50m III,4. Simon Richardson, Michael Barnard. 1 Jan 2016. The prominent wide gully to the right of *Captain Fairweather* has a couple of steep steps in its lower half. Possibly climbed before.

Ziggy Groove 60m II. Matt Smith, Vicky Smith. 9 Jan 2016. On Tower Buttress. The route takes the right flank of *Short Ridge*, joining it at the top. Start in a bay 5m tight of the toe of the buttress. Move up the right side of the ridge to a broad groove. Follow this taking the easiest line over steps to join the crest of the ridge after 45m. Traverse left of the crest to finish.

Anvil Chorus 50m IV,7. Roger Webb, Simon Richardson. 13 Dec 2015. The steep crack system on the left flank of *Anvil Gully*. Technical and well protected.

1. 25m Climb the left branch of *Anvil Gully* (often climbed as an alternative to *Anvil Gully* itself) and belay below bulging twin cracks on the left wall.
2. 15m Climb the cracks over a bulge and pull over the chockstone above to gain the wide platform of *Flaked Out*.
3. 10m Take the right-hand of the offwidth cracks finishing over a small roof with a chockstone.

Grandee Grooves 60m III,5. Simon Richardson, Michael Barnard. 1 Jan 2016. The gully line between *Duke's Rib* and *Jenga Buttress*. Start as for *Jenga Buttress* and continue up mixed ground to its left to gain a steep chimney-corner on the right. Climb this to easier ground, then move up and left to finish. Probably Grade II if the chimney-corner is avoided on the left and possibly climbed before.

LURCHER'S CRAG:

Nirvana Fallacy 200m III. Andy Nisbet. 2 Mar 2016.

A mixed line up the right side of the buttress left of *North Gully*. Start by following a ramp which curves round the right end of the buttress. This leads into a short steep groove and then a terrace below a steep wall which slants up left. Head left, then straight up until under the top end of the wall. Finish up a broken ridge which is the continuation of the wall.

Ultramontane 250m IV,5. Sandy Allan, Andy Nisbet, Steve & Katie Perry. 27 Dec 2015.

Start at the base of the buttress some 20m right of *North Gully* at a short but well

defined groove. This is well left of where the buttress base is overhanging. Climb the groove and traverse right, continue upwards, then move back left to a groove, climbed to below an awkward step (50m). Climb the step and a corner, stepping left out of it to a narrow ledge and the base of a short shallow chimney. Climb this and step right beneath a steep rocky section (30m). Climb the rocky section to easier ground and move up to block belays on left (40m). Continue up easier ground to the base of a ridge which is formed on the right bank of the right branch of *North Gully* (50m). Climb the ridge to its finish on broken ground.

Akita 250m VI,6. Steve Perry, Andy Nisbet. 22 Feb 2016.

Start some 10m right of *Ultramontane*, just before the buttress base starts to rise up right. Climb slabby icy ground up to a steepening (25m). Climb a groove to a small roof and pull over this rightwards to another groove. Step left from the top of this and climb further grooves to easier ground (30m). Climb a short chimney and more broken ground (50m). Continue up the left side of a ridge above, then its crest and joining *Ultramontane* high up.

Dotterel Direct 140m VII,7. Steve Perry, Andy Nisbet. 8 Feb 2016.

A direct line up the crest of the *Dotterel* buttress. Start just right of the crest, which is close to *Central Gully*. Make hard moves up into a right-facing corner and climb this (serious, being near the ground) to gain the arete on the left. Climb cracks and flakes just left of the crest to join *Electric Brae* (25m). Follow this up a chimney to the small col. Continue up the crest of *Dotterel* to the top.

Electric Brae 140m VI,7. Steve Perry, Andy Nisbet, Jonathan Preston. 14 Dec 2015.

A line just right of the crest of the ridge of *Dotterel* (left of that route). Start in the centre of an undercut section where a patch of turf can just be reached. Pull though the overhang and make thin moves up to an overhanging groove topped by a thin wedged block. Climb the groove and the continuation line which bends left and regains the crest. Climb a groove just left of the crest and which leads to an easier section which leads to a small col (45m). The route now joins *Dotterel* and follow that route up two long easier but good pitches to easy ground.

Snowbird 160m VI,7. Andy Nisbet, Steve & Katie Perry. 8 Jan 2016.

A line of grooves right of *Dotterel*. Right of *Dotterel* is an easier, wide turfgy groove which leads to overhangs. Climb the groove and move right below the overhangs. Make a rising traverse right into a left-rising slabby corner (not the first line with a large wedged block). Go up this into a groove, climbed to a recess (30m). Climb a capped groove above the recess, then another wall to a pedestal. Climb the steep wall on the left to easier ground and follow this up through a narrow chimney slot (45m). Move left to join the upper crest of *Dotterel* and follow this for 2 pitches to the top (85m).

Strictly Come Swimming 150m V,6. Andy Nisbet, Steve Perry. 22 Nov 2015.

A line of grooves just right of the ridge of *Dotterel* and at the left side of the depression between it and *Reindeer Ridge* (*Beagle has Landed* takes grooves on the right side of the depression). Climbed under deep snow. Start down right from the crest of the ridge and just left of smooth slabs.

1. 50m Climb over a flake and move right to a steep groove above the slabs. Climb the groove and move up to a short overhanging wall. Traverse right below

this to enter and climb a turfey groove, then a well defined subsequent groove. Move right on an inset slab, then back left more easily.

2. 50m Trend right on slabby ground to enter and climb a big central groove. Continue up more easily to below a steep upper tier.

3. 50m Climb up towards a through route below a big block and pass this on the right. Continue up on blocky ground, then move right and climb more blocky ground to finish at the end of the ridge of *Dotterel*.

Have an Ice Day 140m V,5. Steve Perry, Sandy Allan, Andy Nisbet. 12 Dec 2015.

A big groove tucked into the left side of *St. Bernard's Ridge*. Start under the right side of *St. Bernard's Ridge* and traverse a fault leftwards through a lower tier before going up to the base of the groove. Climb the groove mostly on ice (40m). Finish the groove out right to easy ground in an upper bowl (20m). Move right and finish up *St. Bernard's Ridge*.

The Force Awakens 140m VI,6. Andy Nisbet, Sandy Allan, Steve Perry. 12 Dec 2015.

A ramp line set into the left side of *St. Bernard's Ridge* and overlooking the previous route. Go up *Have an Ice Day* for 5m until ice leads up to an overhang. Step left round this and climb a steep groove to the base of the ramp. Climb the ramp to its top (40m). Climb a groove leading up to the crest of *St. Bernard's Ridge* (20m) and finish up this.

Doorway Ridge, Far Left Start 60m III,4. Simon Richardson, Michael Rinn. 31 Jan 2016.

Start by climbing 20m up the *Left Start to Doorway Ridge*. Break on to the mixed ground on the left and climb it directly to the triangular wall at its top (50m). Move left and up through the triangular wall on large blocks to join the original route on the easier upper crest.

American Werewolves 200m III. Bill McConachie, Andy Nisbet, Steve Towne. 31 Jan 2016.

A ridge which forms the right edge of the buttress with *Deerhound Ridge* forming its left edge. This gives a long route with interesting moves, but escapable. A line of least resistance, but keeping as near the crest as possible, was taken to a terrace. A section of shallow ridge led to a steep wall blocking access to an upper ridge. This was passed by a rising line right leading into a narrow V-groove which lead back left to the crest. This was approximately followed to the top, finishing close to *Deerhound Ridge*.

Lupus 60m III,5. Andy Nisbet, Steve Perry. 8 Feb 2016.

A parallel ridge to the two *Canis* ridges further right. Rather scrappy and escapable. Start on its right and climb a crack-line to the crest. Continue to the next tower and climb this on its left wall. A third tower was climbed more direct and a final tower was climbed by a steep groove just on its left.

Sirius 40m IV,6. Andy Nisbet, Steve Perry. 18 Feb 2016.

A steep tower lies at the far south end of the cliff. This route takes the second groove up left from its base (*Canis Minor* takes the first groove). Climb the groove until it reaches an arete (left of *Canis Minor*). Climb the arete to easy ground.

COIRE GARBHLACH, Upper Corrie, Pinnacle Buttress:

Rake's Progress 120m II. Sophie Grace Chappel, Andy Nisbet. 30 Nov 2015.
A shallow rake just right of the central crest (and the existing routes). Start just up the ramp which bounds the right side of the buttress. Climb a groove to a fork and take the left branch, nearer the crest. Follow this to an upper tower on the crest and pass this on the left to finish.

BRAERIACH, Garbh Choire Dhaidh:

The Outback 140m VS ***. Sarah Atkinson, John Lyall, Jonathan Preston. 29 Sep 2015.

A superb route between *The Culvert* and *The Great Rift*. Start by scrambling for 20m to a belay 5m left of *The Great Rift*, left of a smooth red groove.

1. 50m 4c Climb up to a prominent left-facing flake, to the left of and parallel with the red groove. Follow this and continue up to a left-slanting corner. Make a couple of moves up this, then pull out right by a steep crack, then follow a V-groove and fault up left to beneath a left-leaning corner (this is above a left-leaning roofed corner).
2. 35m 5a Climb the left-leaning corner, then go up right by a fault and over a short steep wall past a peg (from *The Culvert*, which goes out left from here) to a ledge.
3. 35m 4a Follow the stepped corners and easier ground to finish.

Aboriginal Root 150m H.Severe *. Sarah Atkinson, John Lyall, Jonathan Preston. 29 Sep 2015.

Scramble up easy rocks for 25m to the base of the clean, curving groove, between *Kangaroo* and *Boomerang*.

1. 45m 4b Follow the groove to its end, then make a thin traverse left to gain and follow another groove to a rock ledge.
2. 35m Continue to a grass ledge, then take cracks up a rib and easy ground to the upper slab.
3. 45m Climb the slab between the corners of *Kangaroo* and *Boomerang*, starting by cracks just right of the offset roofs, to finish left of the upper roof.

Re-connected 150m V.Diff. John Lyall. 10 Sep 2015.

Ribs and edges close to *Wichity Way*, with a nice finish. Follow the first pitch of *Wichity Way*, then the rib between its easy gully and prominent corner, moving right above the big left-pointing roof. Work up left and climb the right edge of the final corner on superb holds.

COIRE SPUTAN DEARG:

Hot Tin Roof 150m VS. Sarah Atkinson, John Lyall, Jonathan Preston. 1 Oct 2015.

A line up the buttress just right of *Aurora*.

1. 45m 4b From the toe of the buttress, gain a thin curving flake line (next line right of *Aurora*), and follow it up and right. Continue up until possible to cross a slab rightwards to gain a left-facing corner, which is followed to a platform on the right edge.
2. 35m 5a From the top of the platform, follow a layback crack, then pockets up to the edge. Move up the edge, then go leftwards by the cleanest line to easier ground.
Scramble to the top.



Sarah Atkinson on FA of The Outback (VS), Braeriach, 29 Sept 2015. Photo: John Lyall.

Indian Summer 140m H.Severe. Sarah Atkinson, John Lyall, Jonathan Preston. 1 Oct 2015.

A short way up *Anchor Gully* is a fault cutting up the left wall; this route starts on the slab below this fault, then crosses it on the second pitch.

1. 35m 4a Follow a diagonal crack up the slab to gain a belay on the rib, where a ledge cuts into the fault.

2. 45m 4a Cross the fault and climb a crack and the cleanest rock on the right side of the buttress to a terrace (poorly protected).

Easy to the top.

CÀRN ETCHACHAN, Lochside Crag:

Air Strikes 150m IV.4. John Lyall. 3 Dec 2015.

Starts approximately 30m left of *Lochside Chimney*, at the toe of the buttress. Start up a shallow right-facing corner just right of the toe, and continue by a faint fault to reach a left-slanting shelf, which leads into the gully on the left. Instead of following this into the gully, make a move right to gain the foot of a left-slanting ramp (the left of two faults), and follow this to a steep V-corner, then move right on a ledge and up a diagonal fault to a ledge. Go left up a ramp, then right and up to the left edge of a snow terrace. Skirt round the left side of the upper wall by the prominent fault.

Friendly Fire 150m IV.6. John Lyall, Scott Frazer, Mick Twomey. 8 Feb 2016.

The next fault left of *Balaam's Donkey*.

1. 45m Slant slightly left through a short chimney slot, then up a ramp until possible to move right on ice to a parallel ramp, which leads to a belay beneath a short icy groove (the fault right of the *Air Strikes* ramp).

2. 25m Go up the awkward icy groove, then pass an overhang on the left by a delicate slab. Two tricky cracks lead to a ledge.

3. 40m Move right over a slab, then slant up left and straight up to a belay.

4. 40m A left-slanting fault gains the snow terrace, then a ledge is gained on the left and followed right to a groove up the crest of the upper wall.

Note: *Balaam's Donkey* has had a recent rockfall from low down on the right wall, and which is now a good identifying feature for the route.

BEN AVON, Creag na h-Iolaire:

The Scraggle Ladder 15m E2 5c. Rory Brown, Peter Herd. 6 Jun 2014.

A nice climb up the unusually featured arete to the right of *The Beach*, worth a star or two. Listed as number 5 in Cairngorms p297.

Clach Bhan (NO 162 054):

The Badger's Tadger 10m E1 5b *. Michael Barnard, Alan Hill. 19 Sep 2015.

At the south-east end of the tor is a fine east-facing slab with a small pool down on the left. Climb the slab, finishing directly over the top bulge.

Wallower V0

Right of *The Grindstone*, move up to gain the big hollow.

A couple of good solos are possible here. To descend, downclimb and jump down between *The Grindstone* and *Wallower*.

The Shrine 8m E1 5a. Michael Barnard. 19 Sep 2015.

The left end of *The Grindstone* slab, starting down and just left of the large block.

Dark Hollow 8m HVS 5a. Michael Barnard. 19 Sep 2015.

On the wall left of the above, climb a right-slanting line of flakes.

Easter Island Boulder:

An impressive large boulder lies on the way up to the ridge from Clach Fiaraidh (NO 157 048).

The Lone Stone 8m E2 5b ***. Michael Barnard, Alan Hill. 19 Sep 2015.

The superb right arete of the slabby east face. A bold route, and the easiest way up the boulder! To descend, lower or abseil down the other side using the belayer at the base as an anchor.

East Meur Gorm Craig:

That's the Badger 25m VS 5a *. Alan Hill, Michael Barnard. 19 Sep 2015.

Climbs the buttress between *Fox Crack* and *Backslash*, which has a forking crack system. Start up the initial flake-crack, then take the steep left fork.

Fox Glove 15m HVS 5b *. Michael Barnard, Alan Hill. 19 Sep 2015.

Just right and slightly up the gully from *Backslash* is a buttress with two prominent crack-lines; this route takes the left one. Start up the flakes on the left, then make a tricky move right to gain the crack.

Wafer 25m HVS 4c. Michael Barnard, Alan Hill. 19 Sep 2015.

Lies on the left side of the buttress containing 99. Start from a high grassy ledge and make an awkward move right to gain and go up a flake-crack. Continue up a left-trending crack for a couple of metres then leave it to climb rightwards up flakes (bold). Traverse left along a ledge to finish up a short crack.

Jam Raiders 10m HVS 5a *. Alan Hill, Michael Barnard. 19 Sep 2015.

Up and right from *The Aberdonian* is a buttress with two parallel cracks in its front face and a wide crack further left. This route climbs the fine left-hand parallel crack.

Clach Bun Rudthair:

Fantasy Castle 15m Severe 4b. Michael Barnard, Liam Malone, Graham Tyldesley. 26 Sep 2015.

Start at the far left end of the west face of the north tor (i.e. left of *Tidy Package*). Climb cracks up the crest of the buttress.

The Tax Man 10m E3 5c. Graham Tyldesley, Michael Barnard, Liam Malone. 26 Sep 2015.

The cracks in the arete right of *Tidy Package*. A steep start followed by some delicate climbing above. RPs protect.

The House of Udge 15m E2 5b. Michael Barnard, Alan Hill. 20 Sep 2015.

Left of *Obscure Cleft* is an obvious flared offwidth crack cleaving the centre of the tor. Start up a crack on the right, then make a tricky move left to gain the offwidth. Sustained udging follows.

Biscuitarian 20m E1 5a. Michael Barnard, Alan Hill. 20 Sep 2015.

Around the arete left of *South Crack* is a wide left-slanting crack. Climb this, then traverse left to gain the upper part of a right-slanting fault-line. Finish up the *Cream Bun Finish* (does not affect the grade).

Cream Bun Finish to South Crack 5m. Neil McGeachy, Donna Ryan. 31 Jul 2013.

Climb *South Crack* to its top. From the back of the subsidiary pinnacle, hand-traverse a ledge leftwards to make a gymnastic move and finish up large dishes and flakes.

Triple Crack Route E3 5c. Graham Tyldesley, Liam Malone. 26 Sep 2015.

1. 8m 5b *South Crack*.

2. 8m 5b Step down and right to ascend the crack to the next pinnacle.

3. 8m 5c Across the gap is crack 3. Hands, then fists, then a squirm.

T for Traverse 30m E1. Michael Barnard, Liam Malone, Graham Tyldesley. 26 Sep 2015.

A devious and entertaining route up the 'T' buttress.

1. 15m 4c Start as for *Time for T* but continue left along the break and around the corner. Go up an awkward deep groove.

2. 15m 5b Move up onto a large block in the gully then swing round right to hand traverse the break below the roof. Finish onto the top slab as for *Time for T*.

LOCHNAGAR, Southern Sector, Sunset Buttress:

Full Moon Arete 100m III,4. Simon Richardson, Sophie Grace Chappell. 23 Dec 2015.

The well-defined arete on the left side of the shallow buttress taken by *Aramis*.

1. 50m Start just 10m left of the gully of *Ham Butty* and follow a ramp rightwards to join *Ham Butty*. Continue up this to the foot of the arete.

2. 30m Gain the arete from the left and climb on to the crest and move up to a good flake. Move right around the bulge above, pull back left onto the arete and continue to a good ledge below the final steepening.

3. 20m Climb up a short groove, then step left onto the arete and continue on to a tower that defines the end of the arete. Step down into the col (the exit of the gully of *Aramis*) and finish easily to the top.

The Cathedral:

Judas Priest Untrue Finish 80m V,5. Kevin Murphy, Forrest Templeton. 31 Jan 2016.

Climb the first pitch of *Judas Priest*, but instead of breaking right when it reaches easy ground, continue directly up an obvious steepish groove parallel to the top of the second pitch of *Spellbound* onto the terrace below the bottom left of a wide, slabby chimney-corner (50m). Climb up rightwards into a hanging groove on the rib with a technical start. Follow grooves and bulges to a narrow square-cut exit at the top of a steep 15m chimney-groove (30m). A sustained and direct route of good quality.

An t-Sron, The Stuic, North-West Face:

Angel's Share 70m V,7. Simon Richardson, Michael Rinn. 28 Jan 2016.

A direct line cutting through *Solid Air*. Start midway between *Shepherd's Warning* and *Solid Air*.

1. 35m Climb a wall to below an overhanging flared chimney. Climb this with difficulty (crux) and continue up a short corner to the bay and traverse line of *Solid Air*.
2. 20m Continue up the chimney of *Solid Air* for 8m and then climb the vertical wall on the right (second crux) to where the angle eases.
3. 15m Easier climbing leads to the crest of The Stuic.

Cnapan Nathraichan:

White Mamba 150m V,4. Simon Richardson, Roger Webb. 18 Feb 2016.

A striking line based on *Green Mamba*. Climb directly up thinly iced slabs to right of the summer start to gain the main left-facing corner. Follow this to its top and exit up and right past the 'moustache' before trending left to gain easier ground and the top. Climbed in three pitches on thin ice and semi-consolidated snow.

CREAG AN DUBH LOCH, Central Gully Wall:

Note: The pegs on *Bombadillo* have gone and the route is E6 in its current state.

COIRE KANDER:

Note: *Kander Surprise* (SMCJ 2015) seems the same as *Nordwanderer* (SMCJ 2013).

Prudence 200m II. George Allan. 21 Feb 2015.

An alternative to *The Bastion*. Climb the snowfield rightwards below the initial ramp of the parent route until beyond a steep wall. Traverse back left across this via a ledge. Follow a line to the right of the parent route until near the right edge, then climb up slightly leftwards to finish via a small snow field.

Pear Buttress:

This is a name for the buttress to the right of *Twisting Gully*. It contains the route *Tora Bora* (SMCJ 2010). The following three routes are on this buttress which forms the right wall of *Twisting Gully*. Topos of the corrie provided.

Unnamed 200m III. Graham Penny, Calum Horne. 2015.

Fifty metres up *Twisting Gully* on the right wall there is an obvious icefall below an ice ramp leading to the upper slopes.

The Pear 200m IV,4. Geoff Cohen, Raymond Simpson. 11 Feb 2015.

There is a stepped fault going straight up the centre of the buttress from the lowest point to meet an icy groove leading left to the upper slopes. These lead in 100m to the top.

Spiral Staircase 200m III. Des Rubens, Raymond Simpson. 17 Feb 2015.

On the left flank of the buttress an open fault spirals up to a short ice pitch below the upper slopes.

GLEN CLOVA, Corrie Wirral:

Heather Boulevard 115m II. George Allan, John Thomas. 13 Dec 2015.

A wandering line of no particular merit on the left-hand buttress (see SMCJ 2008). Climb a ramp rightwards out of the right corner of a bay in the centre of the buttress, then continue until stopped by a very steep wall girdling the cliff. Traverse left across the buttress to finish up a shallow gully with an awkward exit.

GLEN CLOVA, Craig Mellon:

Der Anfang 200m II. Adam & Tom Harris. 22 Nov 2015.

A rib on the south side of Craig Mellon, starting at NO 265 764 and continuing in steps with many route options available. An interesting climb sticking to the hardest line, although often escapable. The rib peters out near the summit. Photo provided.

GLEN CLOVA, The Scorie:

The Scorie Romp 160m II/III. Brian Duthie, Forrest Templeton. 5 Mar 2016. Start in the centre of the upper Scorie Buttress. Follow an easy angled left-trending ramp for 45m, belaying at the foot of a steeper turfgy groove with an obvious rocky pinnacle to its left. Climb this for 40m to a tree at the top. Continue for a pitch and a half up easier ground left of a small buttress to finish almost at the cairn. Descend to the left, facing back down the Scorie.

GLEN CLOVA, Craig Broadlands:

King Herod 60m VI,7. Simon Richardson, Sophie Grace Chappell. 23 Dec 2015.

The rambling east face of Craig Broadlands contains a pinnacle that sports an impressive 60m-high front face.

1. 30m Start below the left-hand of the two right-facing grooves on the front face. Gain the groove by climbing a short wide crack on the left and traversing back right. Steep climbing over a couple of bulges leads to a left exit on to the mid-way ledge. Continue up to the prominent offwidth crack on the right.

2. 30m Climb the steep cracked wall right of the offwidth to a ledge and continue up the offwidth corner above to a second ledge. Move right along this, step down and climb a steep inset corner to a turf platform. The short bulging corner above leads to a ledge just below the summit blocks. Descent was by simultaneous abseil to avoid leaving an anchor. It may also be possible to climb down the 5m-high landward side. A short ridge of tumbled blocks leads to the hillside above.

Corrie of Bonhard:

Bamboozle Buttress 80m V,6. Simon Richardson, Adrian Crofton. 17 Jan 2016.

High on the left (north) wall of the corrie are twin buttresses. The right buttress is climbed by *Mystery Ramp* and *Cryptic Wall*. This route takes the centre of the left buttress.

1. 45m Start at the toe of the buttresses. Climb turfgy walls into the obvious corner, then steeply to a terrace.

2. 35m Climb a short chokestone chimney and wall immediately above, step left into corner up to large block on right, turn this and exit up a short ramp. Easy ground for 10m leads to the top.

Corrie Farchal:

The Seven Ages of Man 150m V,5. Simon Richardson, Henning Wackerhage. 7 Feb 2016.

The buttress between the gullies of *Age Before Beauty* and *The Art of Growing Old Gracefully*.

1. 50m Start in the centre of the buttress and zigzag up to undercut twin cracks. Pull through these (first crux) and climb slabs and turfey ledges to belay below an improbable undercut prow.
2. 50m Climb a steep groove on the right side of the prow, then traverse delicately across its front face to its left side (second crux) and continue up easier ground trending right then left.
3. 50m Finish up straightforward snow slopes to the top.

Coffin Dodger 140m IV,4. Simon Richardson, Sophie Grace Chappell. 10 Mar 2016.

The rounded icy buttress between the gully lines of *Brains Before Brawn* and *Over the Hill*.

1. 40m Start 10m left of *Over the Hill* just left of a small rock buttress and climb an easy angled icefall to below the barrier wall.
2. 30m Move left up an icy ramp cutting across the wall and continue up steeper ice to easier ground. Move up snow to belay on the left side of the diamond-shaped buttress.
3. 40m Continue up snow on the left side of the 'diamond' to gain the upper barrier wall. Breach this via short steep groove to the right of the corner taken by *Over the Hill*.
4. 30m Easy ground leads to the top.

The Last Hurrah 140m IV,4. Henning Wackerhage, Simon Richardson. 11 Feb 2016.

The discontinuous gully line between *Elder Crack Buttress* and *Farchal Gully*.

1. 40m Start 10m up and right of *Elder Crack Buttress* and climb a thin icefall up the initial wall (harder than it looks) and continue up the snow gully to below a short steep wall.
2. 50m Climb a groove through the wall and continue up snow to the next barrier wall, climbed by a steep icy groove on the left.
3. 50m Move left and finish up the final snow slopes of *Elder Crack Buttress*.

Too Young to Die 70m IV,6. Simon Richardson, Sophie Grace Chappell. 10 Mar 2016.

The steep rectangular buttress with its overhanging front face above *Farchal Ramp* is one of the finest features in the corrie. This route takes the blunt left arete of the buttress.

1. 30m Start from 40m up *Farchal Ramp* and take a diagonal icy line leading left to a snow bay on the left side of the buttress.
2. 20m Climb through the awkward overhung niche above to gain a broad overhung snow bay. Continue up turfey ground on the left side of the wall above and belay by a huge jutting perched block.
3. 20m Finish up a flared, overhanging offwidth crack to reach easier snow slopes and the top.

Too Old to Rock and Roll 60m V,7. Simon Richardson, Sophie Grace Chappell. 2 Mar 2016.

A serious route based on the hanging icicle that sometimes forms down the overhanging corner at the back of the overhung snow bay.

1. 30m Start 50m up *Farchal Ramp* and zigzag up the front face of the icy wall above to gain the overhung snow bay.
2. 10m Move up to the icicle and climb it (bold and delicate) to a good ledge.
3. 20m Finish easily up the gully and snow slopes above.

The Age of Enlightenment 140m VI,7. Henning Wackerhage, Simon Richardson. 11 Feb 2016.

An excellent route that fully meets the challenge of the overhanging front face.

1. and 2. 80m Climb easy ground to the right of *Farchal Ramp* to a slanting chimney-slot 5m right of the initial chimney of *Age is Only a Number*.
3. 25m Climb the chimney-slot, step over the chimney of *Age is Only a Number* and continued up the ramp above to a narrow ledge with the headwall bulging above.
4. 15m Continue up the left-slanting crack through the headwall and swing left to a good ledge.
5. 20m Move left and climb a short vertical icefall to the left of a prominent jutting fin to finish.

Bassies:

Flotsam 150m III,4. Simon Richardson. 23 Feb 2016.

The centre of the lower tier of the most easterly buttress on the North-East Face of Bassies is cut by twin chimney-grooves. Climb the left-hand chimney to the terrace, then continue up a left-slanting ramp through the second tier. Move 10m right and climb a narrow right-trending corner through the third tier. Continue up easier ground up and left to gain the shoulder of the east ridge and the top of the buttress.

Jetsam 150m III,4. Simon Richardson. 23 Feb 2016.

Start up the right-hand twin chimney-groove and continue up broad right-trending ramp through the second tier. The third tier is breached by a narrow right-slanting ramp 5m right of *Flotsam*. Continue straight up to the crest and finish up easier ground to the top of the buttress.

Bassies Beachcombing 150m II. George Allan. 13 Jan 2016.

Start just left of the bay with two chimney-grooves taken by *Flotsam* and *Jetsam* and climb a zigzag line with two awkward steps, to reach the first terrace. Continue up the left-slanting ramp of *Flotsam*, then traverse right below the third tier to beyond the narrow right-slanting ramp of *Jetsam*, where the wall begins to ease. Easy ground leads to the shoulder.

GLEN ESK, Corriedoune Crag (NO 434 764):

A low level cliff in a beautiful setting. From the right, the first buttress is tree covered. To its left is a shallow gully with a short steep exit; Woodcutter's Buttress is left of this gully.

Woodcutter's Buttress 180m II. George Allan. 28 Feb 2016.

Start just up from the foot of the gully and climb easily to the base of the headwall. Climb away up left by a narrow ramp system.

The Discovery Channel 150m IV.3. George Allan, John Thomas. 7 Mar 2016. The gully left of *Woodcutter's Buttress*. Climb easily to where the gully cuts into the left wall forming an ice pitch which veers out of sight. Climb this (55m). Finish up right or, better, climb mixed ground above (40m).

Craig Maskeldie North Face:

Note: Peter Coleman & George Allan climbed *Dochty Gully* (SMCJ 2009) on 21 Mar 1994 and assumed that they weren't the first.

NORTH-EAST OUTCROPS

SICKLE ROW TO BLOWUP NOSE:

Access to this section of the coast south of Aberdeen has become more challenging of late. Major quarry works makes locating and assessing the Sickle Row parking more difficult. There has also been one recorded conflict with the landowner here. The normal Clashroddy approach is no longer possible as Scottish Rail have closed the pedestrian railway crossing. It is now illegal to cross the railway here and there are signs to this effect. Access must now be made from Sickle Row under the railway or to the south as for Blowup Nose. Parking is generally limited to one or two cars at most so car share; cars can be parked in Findon village or better left in Portlethen.

Blowup Nose, Red Roof:

Non-tidal South-West facing

On the south side of the Blowup Nose headland is a small but impressive undercut wall of sound red granite. It has several fine lines but closer inspection reveals the roof undercutting the wall is considerable and provides most of the difficulties. The wall gets the sun into the evening in summer and dries quickly, however seepage can be a problem after prolonged wet periods. The left end of the wall supports an impressive colony of kittiwakes but only routes left of *New Horizons* are affected.

Approach: As for Blowup Nose to the headland or better and slightly shorter by parking sensibly on the road just south of North Mains of Findon farm. Pass the farm on the south and head east through three fields down the side of the quarry to reach the headland. The centre of the headland is split by a long narrow inlet which cuts back inland. From the south side of this inlet descend easy rocks south to a non tidal platform below the routes. For routes left of *Kuiper Belt* it is wise to prefix a rope and abseil to gain the base as the rope is needed for a belay especially on *Bird's Nest Soup*. Locate a strainer post at the head of a pile of scree on the south edge of the headland. Abseil from here down the south edge of the scree to the cliff-top (40m) then down the corner of *Kuiper Belt* to the cliff base (15m).

Bird's Nest Soup 18m E2 5c *. Tim Rankin, Daniel Laing (on-sight). 20 Aug 2015.

The steep crack at the left end of the wall. Climb the initial wall with care via its right arete, then climb the crack until the angle eases. Finish up the continuation groove.

Dark Matter 20m E4 6a *. Tim Rankin, Russ Birkett. 30 Aug 2015.

Climb *Bird's Nest Soup* until the angle eases, then step left onto a hanging slab below another groove. Place crucial protection in the groove, then swing wildly right to climb the arete and groove to the top.

Interstellar 18m E4 6a **. Tim Rankin, Daniel Laing. 22 Aug 2015.

The overhanging tight groove. Climb the initial arete to the ledge then a hanging corner to gain the groove. Finish straight up the fine wall above.

New Horizons 18m E7 6c *** (F7c). Tim Rankin, Gordon Lennox (both redpointed). 5 Jul 2015.

The 6m horizontal prow and thin crack left of *Kuiper Belt* provides an impressive line with stunning climbing. Climb an easy groove to below the roof, gain the lip right of the roof crack and heel hook left to the arete. Slap up this to gain the thin crack which leads to the much easier upper wall. Incredibly well protected if you can stop to place any of it and well worth climbing as a sport route with protection replaced. Climbed ground up with rests, then redpointed with protection in-situ.

Kuiper Belt 15m E4 6b **. Tim Rankin. 5 Jul 2015.

The central undercut corner-line is the most obvious feature of the crag. Very well protected and there is a good belay which can also be used for routes to the left or to abt in. Inspected on abseil.

Supernova 15m E7 6c **. Tim Rankin (head pointed). 29 Aug 2015.

The hanging ramp and small corner right of *Kuiper Belt* provides another compelling line. Climb the lower wall to the ledge below a crack right of *Kuiper Belt*, arrange protection in the roof above (small Friend in slot and micro wire in corner on right). Launch out right from the crack along the lip to gain the hanging ramp and excellent protection. Climb the ramp with a hard move at the lip to gain a good flat hold in the corner above. Continue up the corner, pull out right onto a ledge and finish up a short wall.

Perfect Vacuum 15m E8/9 6c **. Tim Rankin (head pointed). 29 Aug 2015.

The hanging arete above the ramp gives excellent powerful climbing but is potentially serious. Climb *Supernova* to the protection on the hanging ramp, then make hard moves directly up the overhanging wall to gain holds at the lip beneath the arete (crucial rock 1). Now climb the arete to get established on the wall above. Finish up the easy groove. All protection placed on lead but left in place after a failed attempt and deteriorating conditions.

Voyager 15m E5 6b *. Tim Rankin. 23 Aug 2015.

A wild little route climbing the steep right-hand hanging groove at the right end of the roof. Climb an easy groove to a ledge, move up to a block, then move left and up again using a rattly granite shield to below the groove. A hard move up this leads to an easier finishing groove. Inspected on abseil.

Outer Space 15m E4 6a **. Tim Rankin, Russ Birkett. 30 Aug 2015.

Even better, climb *Voyager* until below the steep groove, then make a sensational traverse left to the base of the slabby groove. Climb this and step right to a technical finish. Inspected on abseil.

Approach Walls:

10 routes on the SMC website.

BLOWUP NOSE, South Side:

5 routes on the SMC website.

FINDON CLIFFS, The Shark Fin:

Non-tidal South facing

A short but very steep sport climbing venue named after the huge fin of rock which protrudes out of the hillside like an umbrella above the routes. The rock is a very compact grey micro schist which is very different in style to its near neighbour, Orchestra Cave. Although not affected by rain it can be very damp and sweaty due to its sheltered location and steepness. The steeper roof routes receive little sun especially in summer but the right-hand routes and base of the crag bask in sun much of the day; a real novelty for the North-East coast! For this reason the crag really comes into its own from autumn through to spring when you can enjoy good cool conditions but be sun bathing at the belay. There can be seepage above the right-hand routes but it is only really a problem on the true finish to *Dorado*. For worthwhile conditions good air movement is needed as well as a bit of morning sun. Birds are not a problem on the current routes.

Approach: The routes are on the north wall of the deep inlet immediately south of the Red Band Cliff. Follow the approach as for the Red Band Cliff. Once in the field, follow the south edge overlooking the deep inlet. Cross the fence and head out to the south-east end of the headland and carefully descend the grass ridge to gain easy angled rock slabs. A 20m abseil from 2 bolts leads to the huge non-tidal platforms below the cliff. Egress is via ascent of a fixed rope (jumar). Alternatively at low tide, scramble round from just south of the Rock Band cliff, jumping a small inlet (Diff).

The Cave:

At the left end of the crag the routes are short but very steep. A skilled belayer is required here as is some thought when clipping.

Closed Project

A left-hand start to *Mbenga* starting up the corner.

Mbenga 10m 8a+ **. Tim Rankin. 4 Mar 2015.

Excellent moves up the 60 degree wall and arete on the left side of the cave.

Arapiamia 10m 7b+ *. Tim Rankin. May 2014.

The central line out the hanging corner in the roof and wall above. Special care needs to be taken clipping the bolts due to the large boulders beneath the line. *Warm up Start* (5m 6c) pulls on from the boulders missing out the crux roof section.

Hammerhead 15m 7c+ *. Tim Rankin. 16 May 2015.

A link up; climb *Arapaima* to the lip and take this right and up to the lower off on *Great White*. A physical affair!

Great White 8m 8b ***. Tim Rankin. 5 Apr 2015.

Whacky moves through the right-hand roof. You're only cheating yourself with a tight rope on the crux!

Main Fin:

Closed Project

Left-hand line out of *Megalodon*.

Megalodon 16m 8a+ ****. Tim Rankin. 25 Nov 2015.

The central line (directly above the maillon on 5th bolt) out the huge upper fin has moves as spectacular as the line! Finish at the juggy break beneath the waterfall. Reverse aid the top 5 bolts then lower off.

Right Wall:

The following routes are much steeper than they look. They are all very good but the lip can seep badly however the finishing holds on both *Stingray* and *Barracuda* are usually dry.

Stingray 14m 7b ***. Tim Rankin. 18 Apr 2015.

Gain the crack in the arete, climb the arete and continue up the hanging groove. Climb the top arete direct making hard moves to a side-pull up left. Reach right to clip the lower-off.

Dorado 16m 7b+ **. Tim Rankin. 24 Apr 2015.

Using the first bolt on *Stingray*, climb the corner until forced onto the arete of *Stingray*. Step back right above the roof to gain the hanging ramp. Continue straight up via a pocket of gold to the ledge and climb the slanting quartz crack (lower off on left if top is wet - 7b) to a final hard move to the cliff-top lower-off as for the next route.

Permadry Variation 7b+ is a logical variation which is always dry. With hands on the ledge, move up left to finish up *Stingray*, no lying on the ledge to rest at this grade.

Mahi-Mahi 16m 7c *. Tim Rankin. 26 May 2015.

A 'Rankin style' eliminate taking in the hardest climbing on the wall. Climb *Dorado* to the ledge, then move right to climb the top wall direct left of *Barracuda* and studiously avoiding its rest and holds in the groove.

Barracuda 16m 7a+ **. Tim Rankin. 24 Apr 2015.

Climb the roof-capped corner and swing right (best to unclip the first bolt to avoid sharp roof edge). Climb the shallow groove to the ledge, then up left to the quartz crack. Move back right and climb the steep upper wall using a small corner on the right.

There is also some worthwhile bouldering beneath the routes and on the boulders themselves. The best problems are:



Wilson Moir on Stingray (7b), The Shark Fin, Findon Cliffs. Photo: Niall Ritchie.

Fin Cave Traverse F7b. A left to right low-level traverse of the crag, starting from the red wall and traverse right with difficulty dropping down and across sloping shelves, good breaks lead to more hard moves at the overhanging arete. It is easier now to finish at the end of the wall just past the fin or link into the next problem. *Hammy Warm-Up* F6a+. SDS just left of *Stingray*. Drop down right to a block on the lip and traverse the lip right to pull up into the block of *Barracuda* to finish. *Low Cave* F6b. SDS in back of cave below *Arapiama*. Go up breaks, then right to the start of *Great White*, or continue along *Fin Cave Traverse* for a F7a tick. *White Snake* F6b+. SDS F6c. The overhanging white calcite arete right again, finishing below the roof. Even better started from below *Great White* F7a. On the largest boulder there are several good problems the best being the central ramp, SDS from a good edge F6b, or better SDS at the left arete and climb the ramp direct F7a.

Orchestra Cave Right Wall:

The right granite wall overhangs at 50 degrees, has no seepage and makes an excellent winter venue, receiving sun for longer than any other part of the cave. The following two routes lower off to the raised ledge avoiding big seas and are easy to strip. So no excuses really! In big seas the experienced can abseil in from the north side of the cave (spike block and large nuts in break) down an easy corner to large sloping shelves at the south end of this. Belay and abseil to an easy traverse left to the raised ledge.

La Forza del Destino 10m 8a **. Tim Rankin. 7 Feb 2015.

The grossly overhanging groove on the right side of the granite wall is much harder than it looks. Very powerful, sustained climbing.

Con Fuoco 10m 7c+ **. Tim Rankin. 21 Feb 2015.

Start up *Bittersweet Symphony*. At the 2nd bolt, step right and take the wall direct. Short but superb climbing.

CRANHILL CRAG:

The Short Hope Route 30m VS 4c. Rory Brown, Andrew Appleby. 14 Aug 2013.

The obvious curving crack-line at the south end of the cliff. Abseil to the ledge 4m above the base. Beware of some loose rock.

NEWTONHILL, Harbour Wall:

Mission Improbable 15m HVS 5a. Tim Whitaker, Jon Ashdown. 8 Aug 2015. At the inland end of Harbour Wall. Start 2m left of the arete of *The Snirgler* below a short hanging corner. Climb the wall left of this directly to a band of more friable rock. Trend up and right to a large ledge and belay (or continue), then right to finish up *The Snirgler*. Belay stakes above Back Door wall some 30m back.

NEWTONHILL, Lower Boltsheugh:

3 routes on the SMC website.

NEWTONHILL, Green Slough:

12 routes on the SMC website.

Brown Crag:

Lobster Thermadore 15m E4 5c **. Tim Rankin, Amanda Lyons. 12 Apr 2015.
A super direct version of *Rock Lobster*. Start as for *Rock Lobster* and climb the thin crack, but instead of reaching right to good holds make a move up left to a good crimp and 0 cam. Continue straight up to better holds and junction with *Pinch of Salt*. Finish up the fine head wall of this. Excellent sustained wall climbing.

Brown Band Crag:

Coalition E3 6a *. Tim Rankin, Amanda Lyons. 12 Apr 2015.
Start below *The Fire Inside* and take the wall up and left to below the roof and junction with *Devo Max*. Rock over the roof to the right to gain hidden jugs at the lip on the next roof (crux). Cross the roof and finish direct over the upper bulge.

On the right side of the cliff is a distinctive alcove.

Found 15m E1 5b. Tim Rankin, Amanda Lyons. 12 Apr 2015.
Gain the alcove and exit it on the left, move up to and around the roof on the right. Rock up left onto the slab and climb the centre of the steep headwall above.

NORTH OF ABERDEEN, Red Wall Quarry:

Hades (aka Demons) 22m 8b+ **. Tim Rankin. 30 May 2015.
Climb Lucifer to the undercut break, then move right to climb the blunt upper arete via exquisite powerful moves.

COVESEA, Boulders Bay Area:

Khmer Rouge 10m E7 6c *. Jules Lines. 5 Oct 2015.
An unprotected eliminate line up the centre of the wall between *Sandinista* and *Zugzwang*. Start below a flake in the centre of the wall. Make hard moves directly up the wall to gain the flake. Use the flake to gain a line of improving crimps and ledge holds to gain the top.

Banana Republic, Corbyn Variation E2 5c *. Callum Johnson, Steve Carter. 12 Jun 2016.

Climb *Banana Republic* through the roof to stand on the ledge. Traverse hard left for 4m into the middle of the wall to a faint crack. Climb this and move left again at the top to finish.

Escher's Steps 15m E6 6b **. Graham Tyldesley (headpointed). 21 Jul 2015.
Start up *Fascist Octopus*. Make the long reach, then move left into a capped corner. Step left to the arete and finish up cracks and roofs to the top.

Honey Barrel 15m E3 5c **. Jules Lines. 5 Oct 2015.

The hanging arete to the left of *Roof Crack*. Pull through the guarding roof and climb the wall into the corner. Traverse along the lip on chicken-heads to gain the arete. Climb the arete, mainly on the left in a gait position.

LOGIE HEAD:

Seahorse 10m H.Severe. Steve Perry, Eleonora Di Cuffa. 12 Apr 2016.
Directly opposite *Sea Pink* and right of *Sea Snake* is a rising flake. Layback this to a ledge at 6m, then step left and follow a crack-line in the headwall.

North Star 10m F7a * S1 (E5 6b). Jules Lines. 13 Aug 2015.

This route takes the arete to the right of *Dark Star's* finish. Climb the arete on the left side via some off-balance moves to gain jugs at half-height. Continue up the arete above, making the most of the holdless pod-crack. A spotter would be handy for DWS.

Snow Crab 12m E7 6b **. Jules Lines, Steve Perry. 12 Apr 2016.

The topless crack and intermittent seam to the right of *Sea Pink* is excellent, fingery and run out.

CULLEN AREA, Crathie Point (NJ 548 673):

1 route on the SMC website.

PORTSOY, The Needle (NJ 587 663).

4 routes on the SMC website.

ROSEHEARTY:

Note: Michael Barnard thought HVS 5a for *Lipp Service*. This would be better described as finishing directly, rather than up the right side of the overhang (a bit eliminate). *Shapeshifter* is E3 5c (not E4 6a).

PASS OF BALLATER:

Hybrid Lines 10m E7 6c **. Jules Lines. 5 May 2016.

Climb *Smith's Arete* to the first good hold, crucifix left to the flat hold in the sidewall and continue up to the break. Finish up the crack in the vague seam in the headwall (*Peel's Wall RH finish*).

Local Anaesthetic 12m E4 6a **. Jules Lines. 25 May 2015.

Climb *General Anaesthetic* to the hand jug 3m below the top and climb diagonally right on quartz holds to reach the top right corner of the wall.

CRAIG CORN ARN (North East Outcrops p414):

Jamming Over There 10m VS 4c *. Steve Perry, Sarah Sigley. 4 May 2016.

Heading right from *Crackline* (which was thought **), the crag changes aspect and rises uphill. There are two crack-lines that converge into a jamming crack.

HIGHLAND OUTCROPS

DUNKELD AREA, BLACK CRAG:

Swither Wa' 10m E5 6a ***. Alastair Robertson, Adrian Crofton. 29 May 2016.

Climbs the centre of the 'impressive overhanging wall' left of *Ugsome Fearlies*. Make some fingery committing moves to better holds and protection. Step right and climb over the overlap (crux, exciting), then move right on better holds to a junction with *Ugsome Fearlies* and good gear. Climb straight up then leftwards on good holds to finish with a grapple over the top.

LOCH NAN UAMH, European Union Crag (NM 713 843):

6 routes on the SMC website.

GLEN NEVIS, Polldubh Upper Tier, Tiara Buttress (NN 1520 6897):

4 routes on the SMC website.

Whale Rock Gorge Area:

2 DWS routes on the SMC website.

BINNEIN SHUAS:

Ardversary 190m H.Severe. Graeme Eittle, John Lyall. 2 Oct 2015.

Start at some cracked ribs just left of the vegetated groove just left of the start to *Ardverikie Wall*. The last 2 pitches are similar to *Summer Wine*.

1. 50m 4b Climb easy rock ribs for around 15m to a short vegetated step right onto a smooth dark slab. A tricky step up leads to easier clean slabs following a direct line to a shared belay with *Ardverikie Wall*.
2. 40m 4a Climb the excellent wall above on great holds; this is left of the *Ardverikie Wall* crack.
3. 30m 4a Follow twin cracks right, to cross *Ardverikie Wall* at a thread. Straight up leads to a small niche.
4. 30m 4a Step left and climb to the large grass terrace and a large block up right.
5. 40m Follow the quartz slab just to the left.

CREAG DUBH, Great Wall:

SMB 33m E1 5b *. Gary & Karen Latter. 25 Mar 2016.

A fine companion to *LMF*. Start right of that route, behind the fallen birch. Climb a broken crack and direct over a bulge to better holds. Continue direct, pulling over the bulge just right of *LMF* to a ledge on *The Brute*. Cross the roof (as for *Fou rire*) and continue to the 5 bolt ledge.

Fou rire 60m E4 **. Gary Latter, Craig Lamb, Scott Grosdanoff. 10 Mar 2016; Gary Latter, Dave McKinney (pitch 2). 25 Jun 2016.

1. 35m 6a Start midway between the fallen birch tree and *Outspan*, just right of a shelf at the base. Make bouldery moves past a good incut hold to the second break. Move left along this, then up past a left-curving flake to a large quartz recess (as for *Organ Grinder?*). Pull out rightwards and climb direct up the wall trending left to beneath the roof. Cross this at a prominent V-slot (jugs on lip), and continue easily up right edge of wall to gain the right end of the 5 bolt ledge.
2. 25m 6a Climb directly up the wall to the roof and good cams in a slot. Reach over to a good small edge on the lip, then span left to jugs. Pull over to a good small break, then go more easily up the wall above rightwards, then trending left to a sling and maillon on a tree. 60m abseil.

Mein Kampf 32m E7 6b *. Calum Muskett, Ross Creber. 30 May 2016.

Start 4m right of the *The Fuhrer*. Boulder up the wall to the right end of *The Fuhrer* gear ledge and place a good wire – your last for quite a distance! Traverse 2m to the right and make big moves on good holds to a rest beneath a small overlap. Make a tricky unprotected press up into the overlap and up again to some good crimps. Make a final bold move up to the right and finally some good gear as for *Harder than your Husband*. Finish as for *The Fuhrer* to the tree belay.

KINGUSSIE:

Note: Scott Grosdanoff in Apr 2016 climbed a line just right of *Finale*, also a left-hand finish to *Leftover*. Both E2 but peg runners used and taken out.

BEN NEVIS, AONACHS, CREAG MEAGAI DH

Tower Ridge, East Flank:

Night Fury IX,9. Dave MacLeod, Helen Rennard. 6 Mar 2016.

Steep grooves 4m left of *The Urchin*. Start up a tricky left-facing corner to enter a larger right-facing corner. Climb this with bold moves above poor gear to thank-god runners at its top. Continue to a good belay below an overhanging barrier. Arrange poor gear in this and make committing moves over the bulge to gain easier ground and *Tower Ridge*.

Number Two Gully:

Logger's Wall 80m V,4. Michael Barnard, Ron Dempster. 21 Nov 2015.

Lies on the right wall of *Number Two Gully*. Start about halfway up the gully beneath an obvious left-trending fault leading to a chimney higher up.

1. 30m Go up the fault for 10m to where it steepens, then traverse left before moving up (bold) to the chimney. Climb the chimney to a spike on the left.
2. 20m Climb up to an obvious system of ledges. Follow these out right and up to a large block.
3. 30m Finish more easily up the groove above.

Number Three Gully Buttress:

Gothic Edge 120m VII,7. John Crook, Peter Graham. 31 Dec 2015.

Although only the pitch to the arete left of the *Gargoyle Cracks* is new, this combination of existing routes provides a good direct route up the buttress. Start up the Direct Start to *Gargoyle Wall* (which without ice provides a good VI,7 pitch), then follow *Gargoyle Wall* to the corner below the *Gargoyle Cracks*. Climb the arete (15m, crux) left of the *Gargoyle Cracks* and finish up the *Rok Finish to Hobgoblin*.

South Trident Buttress:

Tangerine Dream 35m VII,8. Ramon Marin, Douglas Russell. 31 Jan 2016.

A prominent chimney-flake crack on the lower tier and to the left of *The Rattler*, finishing on the large terrace leading into *Number Four Gully*.

Càrn Dearg Buttress:

Capricorn 90m VIII,7. Nick Bullock, Tim Neill. 10 Mar 2016.

Follow *Gemini* to a good block belay at the end of the diagonal ramp after the famous ice smear section. This is just left of the foot of the *Gemini* twin grooves.

1. 30m Pull left over a small roof to gain an ice flow and pillar in an obvious left-facing groove. There is a stance on an exposed ledge at its top left.
2. 60m Follow the icy corner until possible to gain a hanging smear out left. This leads into a more mixed groove and to a snowy ledge. Possible and good belay. Follow the technical groove straight above (quite well protected) to gain easing ground and so *Ledge Route*.

Cousins Buttress:

Note: *Cousinade* (SMCJ 2015) should have been graded VII,8.

Castle Ridge, North Face:

Note: Michael Barnard notes that the line of the *Superdirect Finish to Nordwand*

Direct (supplied by his partner) was shown incorrectly on the topo in SMCJ 2015. He has supplied an amended topo.

STOB BAN, North Buttress:

Deceptive Grooves 110m III,4 *. Steve Kennedy, Andy MacDonald. 10 Jan 2016.

The south-east flank of the *East Ridge* is split by two gullies. This route takes the buttress between the gullies characterised by a steep triangular shaped wall in the lower section. Climb grooves running up the right side of the wall before moving diagonally left to reach the buttress crest. A thin slabby wall leads to easier ground (55m). Easy mixed ground leads onto the *East Ridge* (55m).

North-East Flank:

En Garde 170m III *. Steve Kennedy, Andy MacDonald. 14 Feb 2016.

To the right of the start of *Bodice Ripper* is a small pointed buttress and thereafter two gully lines. This routes starts up the left gully (via a short ridge on the left) which ends at a steep rock wall. Climb the gully, then move right below the wall to reach the base of a left-facing corner (55m). An icefall forms in the corner which is followed to a wide leftward-leaning shelf. Follow the shelf leftwards below some headwalls to reach the edge of the buttress (55m). Continue up the edge to a wide snow shelf, then up left to join the upper part of *Bodice Ripper* in two pitches.

AONACH MÒR, West Face:

Living Dead 135m III *. Steve Kennedy, Andy MacDonald. 31 Jan 2016.

A more direct and continuous line than the original route described in SMCJ 2015 and which is superseded by the following description. Climb *Downhill Gully* to a point just below an icefall which usually forms at the first narrow section. Climb the well-defined groove on the right wall of the gully leading diagonally left until a short wall is reached on the second pitch (the original route moved out right from just below this point). Turn the wall on the left to reach a prominent left-facing corner. Climb the corner which finishes at the narrow section of the upper part of *Golden Oldy*. Finish up *Golden Oldy*.

BINNEIN SHUAS, North-West Buttresses:

Note: A correction. *Bogle Eyed* (SMCJ 2015) is roughly level with and about 100m left (east) of *Laggan Fantasy*.

Location, Location, Location via *Cave Man Start* 55m III,5. Andy Clark, Rob Wright, Martin Holland. 6 Mar 2016.

Climb easily to a boulder ledge in the cave, arrange chockstone protection and struggle up through the hole above. Belay blocks available where the original route is rejoined.

Off Yer Knees 30m III. Andy Clark, Rob Wright, Martin Holland. 6 Mar 2016.

Directly north of the summit is a short buttress. Towards the right-hand end of the buttress is a heathery ledge at two-thirds height. From an undercut start, climb turf and rock to near the right end of the ledge. Traverse left along the ledge to easier ground and the top 20m north of the summit.

CREAG MEAGAI DH, Meall Coire Choille-rais:

Serpentine 150m II. Simon Richardson. 23 Feb 2013.

The S-shaped line of snow and frozen turf on the south-east flank of the East Ridge. Low in the grade.

Coire Choille-rais:

The following routes lie on the triangular buttress known as Aisre-Chaim on the west side of Coire Choille-rais.

Birthday Route 160m IV,4. Simon Richardson, Henning Wackerhage. 6 Jan 2016.

A natural left to right line cutting diagonally across the buttress. Start just left of the steep lower tier where a turfy break leads up and right.

1. 50m Follow it over several short walls to gain a ledge system that leads up and right to a prominent right-leaning slot at half-height on the buttress.
2. 50m Climb a steep crack on the right wall of the slot and exit onto a ledge. Continue up walls and turfy steps to where the angle eases on the crest of the buttress.
3. 60m Easy snow and short steps lead to the plateau.

Cat Burglar 160m V,5. Simon Richardson, Pat Ingram. 12 Jan 2016.

A good route following grooves and corners on the left flank of the buttress. Start as for *Birthday Route*.

1. 40m Traverse right along a shelf to a prominent square-cut corner. Climb this to the diagonal line of *Birthday Route*.
2. 30m Continue straight up to a smooth slabby corner. Make an awkward traverse left across the left wall (crux) to a ledge. Step up, then crawl right to a good stance below the upper corner.
3. 30m Climb the corner to its top, and surmount the short steep wall above to reach the top of the steep section of the buttress.
4. 60m Continue up the easy-angled crest to the top as for *Birthday Route*.

The Day After Tomorrow 190m VII,8. Simon Richardson, Roger Everett. 9 Jan 2016.

A bold and difficult route meeting the challenge of the 'impregnable wall' on the steep front face of the buttress.

1. 25m Start just right of the buttress toe and climb blobs of turf up a vertical wall to reach a steep right-facing corner that leads to a roof. Traverse left below a hanging ramp (crux) to reach the sanctuary of a blob of turf on the arete. Pull through the overhanging offwidth above to a ledge.
2. 25m Climb the flake-crack above to a terrace. Move up the wall above and traverse 10m left along a second terrace to below a smooth right-facing corner. The only belay is a flake 5m before the corner.
3. 30m Make a hard move up the left wall of the corner (bold, second crux) to reach a ledge. Continue up the chimney-corner above to gain the slanting line of *Birthday Route*. Follow this to the stance below the prominent right-leaning slot.
4. and 5. 110m Continue up *Birthday Route* to the top.

DIRC MHÒR, West Flank:

Dalwhinnie Primary Gully 110m III,4. John Lyall. 12 Feb 2016.

On the right side, a short way before reaching Sentinel Rock, is a prominent left-slanting fault. The main steep sections are passed on the right wall.

Meltwater Channel 45m III. John Lyall. 12 Feb 2016.

The thinly iced groove tucked in to the left side of *White Tower* and the icy slab to finish.

Ship Rock:

Icebreaker 60m IV,4. John Lyall, Ian Thomson. 28 Feb 2016.

Climb the icy corner on the left flank of Ship Rock, then smash your way through the icicle festooned right-slanting fault to the top of the block. Ice and heather to the top.

Beyond the descent gully and behind *Carry on up the Khyber*, look out for the first metal post on top of a projecting buttress. A second fence line stops atop a further buttress.

Breathing Space 45m IV/V,5. John Lyall, Ian Thomson. 28 Feb 2016.

Climb very helpful vertical ice to gain an icy ramp behind the projecting buttress, which is followed to the top.

GEAL-CHÀRN (DRUMOCHTER):

Gentlemen's Excuse Me 55m IV,5 *. Gregor Ewing, Linda Gentleman, Martin Holland. 21 Jan 2016.

On the crag north-east of the one with *Flight of the Navigator* (so two crags NE of the main Creag Dhubh). The obvious ice line at the right end of the crag. GPS map reference for the start of the route NN 59950 80212 (altitude 492m). Climb steep ice or a steep ice/turf ramp on the left and then ice to a bay and good tree belay where the angle eases (25m). Climb easier angled ice and turf in the gully above (30m). A 50m abseil descent is possible from trees just below the top.

CÀRN DEARG (Monadhliath), Summit Buttress:

Of Ice and Men 100m IV,5. Michael Barnard, John MacLeod. 6 Mar 2016.

Climbs the Monadh Lisa gully.

1. 40m Start as for *Monadh Lisa* to below the impasse.
2. 60m A short pillar of water ice gains the upper gully. Continue easily to the top.

GLEN COE

BUACHAILLE ETIVE MÒR, Creag a' Bhancair:

Note: Malcolm Rowe & Davy Moy climbed the *Original Finish to Carnivore* free on 28 Jun 1968, before the date in the guidebook or on UKC. Picture supplied.

LOST VALLEY BUTTRESS:

Moonshine 120m V,7. Simon Tietjen, Mark Chadwick. 9 Jan 2016.

1. 35m Start as for *Moonlighting* but where *Moonlighting* steps left, *Moonshine* carries straight up the initially overhanging chimney-corner to the same belay as *Moonlighting*.

2. 35m Follow the same chimney-corner line directly above the belay. Surmount the final chockstone and follow the off-angle corner to reach the belay of *Moonlighting*.
3. 50m Move left into the *Pterodactyl* gully and follow this to the top.

STOB COIRE NAN LOCHAIN:

Shadhavar VIII,9. Uisdean Hawthorn, Iain Small. 14 Dec 2015.

Pitch 1 of *Unicorn*. Climb the second pitch of *Unicorn* for 5m until just above a small roof. Traverse right on thin hooks into a thin crack in the middle of the wall. Follow this with sustained interest and good gear to a small ledge. Trend back left to the top of the wall. Finish up *Unicorn* pitch 3 or step down and right to abt off in 60m.

CHURCH DOOR BUTTRESS:

Hoargasm 40m VII,8. Greg Boswell, Uisdean Hawthorn. 10 Feb 2016.

Start at the very toe of the buttress. Follow a right-trending crack for 10m, then pull left over a bulge to follow a very positive crack-line to a ledge. Finish up *West Chimney*.

Gates of Paradise 60m VIII,8. Iain Small, Murdoch Jamieson. 10 Feb 2016.

A set of hanging icicles further right up the crag than the summer routes. Start directly below the main icicle.

1. 20m Two short steep walls which lead to easy ledges. Trend left towards a blocky pinnacle. Climb this and belay on the right.
2. 40m Climb the steep wall and step left on the arete. On the first ascent, ice formed down the left side of the arete. This was climbed till it was possible to step right into the crack-line. Follow this into a groove which leads to a roof. Arrange protection; then make powerful moves up right to gain the ice. Follow this to the top. Gaining the ice could be easier if ice was to form further down the wall above the roof.

ETIVE SLABS:

Hammer Direct Start 35m HVS 5a ***. Gary & Karen Latter. 24 May 2016.

Climbs direct from the base of the corner. Scramble leftwards up grass from the top of the first pitch to belay at the base of the corner. Climb the main corner throughout, joining the original route above the scoop and continue to belay on the good ledge halfway up the corner.

Note: The final pitch is 70m to reach the descent path (not 35m as described in the current guide) – probably best split at the small trees after about 40m or so.

BEN STARAV, Coire an Fhir Leith:

The squat buttress that finishes at an altitude of 900m on the east flank of the north ridge of Ben Starav is cut by a couple of lines in the shape of an offset V.

The Starav Enigma 40m V,6. Simon Richardson, Roger Everett. 14 Feb 2016.

Climb straight up a line of steep shallow chimneys (the left leg of the V) cutting through the centre of the buttress. Good sustained climbing with a bold start.

The Borrowdale Conundrum 50m III,4. Simon Richardson, Roger Everett. 14 Feb 2016.

1. 35m Start at the foot of *The Starav Enigma* and climb a right-slanting ramp (the right leg of the V) to a bay.

2. 15m Step left, climb a short corner to a ledge, and move left to the arete. Follow this more easily to the top.

CREISE, Stob a' Ghlais Choire:

Central Buttress 100m VI,6. Simon Richardson, Roger Everett, 15 Feb 2016. The south-east face of Stob a' Ghlais Choire is home to a fine narrow buttress that runs directly up to the summit.

1. 30m Start below the right toe of the buttress and climb a steep right-facing corner (bold) to enter a niche and continue up a left-slanting gully (delicate) to reach a large platform.
2. 30m Continue up the centre of the two walls above and belay below a steep left-facing corner.
3. 25m Climb the corner and belay below the final tier.
4. 15m Finish up the left-facing corner to the top.

CLACH LEATHAD, Summit Cliff:

Stone Roses 120m II. Dave McGimpsey, Andy Nisbet. 31 Mar 2016.

Based on a rib forming the right end of the face. Start up the right-hand and bigger ramp at the bottom right corner of the cliff. Climb this and another ramp on the left, set below a steep wall. Continue up snowy grooves just right of the crest to a final steeper buttress, climbed up short steps.

SGÜRR DHOMHNUILL (Ardgour), North Face:

Note: Jamie Hageman climbed the long gully at 250m Grade I on 16 Jan 2016.

BEINN MHIC CEDICH (Moidart), North-East Corrie:

Perfumed Garden 105m IV,4 *. Steve Kennedy, Andy MacDonald. 17 Jan 2016. The most prominent and central buttress is roughly triangular in shape. This route takes the fault on its right side, starting from almost the lowest point of the buttress. A steep lower step is turned on the left wall. From the top of the fault, move up leftwards, then follow grooves to the summit ridge.

SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS

BEINN UDLAIDH:

Wind Up 60m IV,4. David Goldie, Robert Kincaid. 25 Feb 2016.

A short route between *Sunshine Gully* and *Central Gully*. Start at the left of the steep buttress that is adjacent to *Central Gully*. Climb direct up steep iced slabs then up a right-trending snow ramp to below an overhang (30m). At the right of the overhang is a steep iced corner; climb direct to the top (30m). Topo provided.

BEINN IME, Fan Buttress:

Forked Gully Buttress 60m II/III. Gerhard Mors, Stephan Mors. 22 Nov 2015. The buttress between the forks of *Forked Gully*, via a right-slanting snowy ramp and continuing up an open groove.

BEINN EUNAICH:

Note: Ken Crocket notes that *Beaver Buttress* (120m III) was first climbed by J.R. Corbett, C.W. Parry, A.P.A. Robertson & J.H.B. Bell on 31 Dec 1927. There is a description of the FA in the SMCJ (18/105, April 1928, pp.184–5).

BEINN HEASGARNICH, Coire Heasgarnich:

Simba 140m III. Simon Richardson, Sophie Grace Chappell. 26 Apr 2016.

Start 20m right of *The Rambler*.

1. 50m Climb a parallel depression into a bay and move up to a smooth corner (the second corner left from the right edge of the buttress).
2. 30m Ascend the corner to a terrace.
3. 35m Move left onto the hanging turf ramp and climb it past an overlap to a bay.
4. 25m Exit steeply right and continue up easier ground to the top.

BEINN CHALLUIM:

North Face Route 300m II. Simon Richardson. 30 Apr 2016.

An exposed face route finishing at the summit. Start 50m left of *North Gully* and climb a shallow left-slanting open gully to gain a couloir leading to the central 'spider' snowfield. At its top, exit via a steep wide couloir that leads to the final snow slopes and an exit by the summit cairn.

MEALL NAN TARMACHAN, Creag na Caillich:

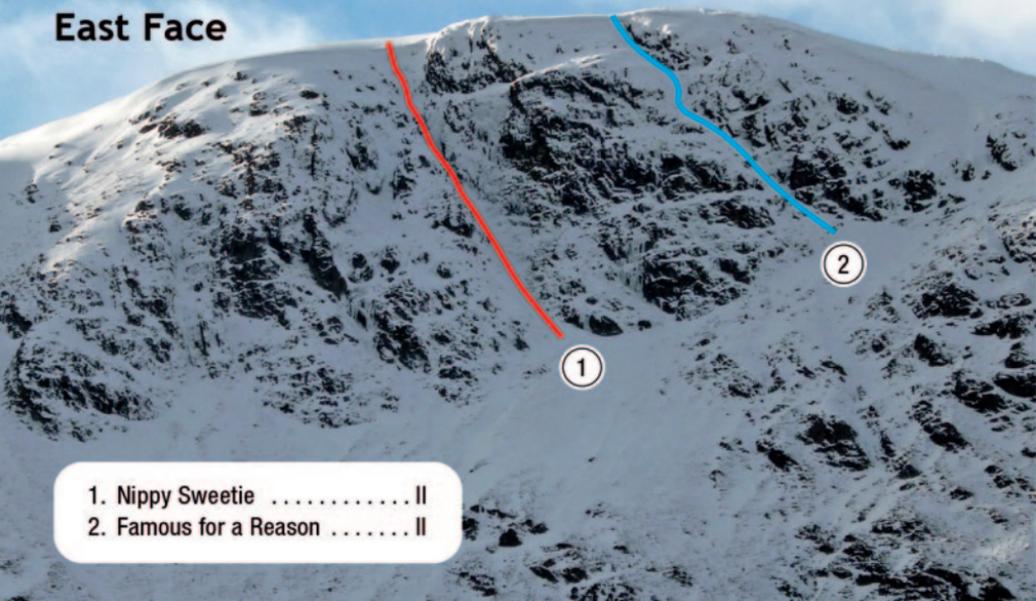
Spooks 160m VI,6. Simon Richardson, Simon Yearsley. 14 Jan 2016.

Takes a curving line up the steep buttress to the right of *Momento Mori*. Start at a groove, 5m right of the large corner of *Momento Mori*.

1. 55m Climb the groove, passing right of a grey pillar to below steeper turf ground. Climb steep walls, then move left to belay on the edge of a groove.
2. 50m Go up the groove, then swing right onto a turf ramp system. Follow the ramp in a fine position to easier ground.
3. 60m Continue up easy ground to finish.

Càrn Chòis, East Face. Photo: Willie Jeffrey.

CÀRN CHÒIS East Face



- | | |
|------------------------------|----|
| 1. Nippy Sweetie | II |
| 2. Famous for a Reason | II |

Coire Riadhait:

Digital Painter 100m II. Simon Richardson. 29 Apr 2016.

The line of grooves up the centre of the rectangular buttress near the head of Coire Riadhait, starting from a small snow bay.

GLEN TURRET, Càrn Chòis, East Face (NN 798 276):

This face overlooks the Loch Turret Reservoir. Park below the dam and approach by a track on the west side of the loch.

Nippy Sweetie 120m II. Willie Jeffrey, Noel Williams. 24 Feb 2016.

Follow the obvious central gully.

Famous for a Reason 110m II. Willie Jeffrey, Raymond Simpson, Noel Williams. 6 Mar 2016.

This leftward leaning gully starts at a slightly higher level than the previous route on the right-hand side of the crag.

LOWLAND OUTCROPS**AYRSHIRE, Loudoun Hill:**

Sheep Thrills 10m VS 4c. Andrew Fraser, Ian Magill, Alasdair Fraser. 26 May 2015.

A useful addition which climbs the steep wall immediately right of *Conclusion*.

Note: The present guide refers to mossy routes between Mod and V.Diff to the right of *Conclusion*, but on looking at the 1986 guide, these lie further right.

GALLOWAY HILLS, The Merrick, Black Gairy:

Overdraft Dodger 150m IV,4 *. Stephen Reid, Colin Wells, James Kinnaird. 5 Feb 2015.

A useful alternative for those chickening out of *Interstellar Overdraft* or a good route in its own right.

1. 50m As for *Interstellar Overdraft*.
2. 40m From the block belay, traverse 2m rightwards and climb the left-leaning turf corner, stepping left to a fine view of *Interstellar's* top section, before finishing up a rib. Twenty metres of easier climbing leads to a belay on a huge block on the left. A further 60m of easy ground gains the plateau.

Kirshinnoch Ramp 140m IV,4 *. Colin Wells, Stephen Reid. 6 Feb 2015.

The huge vegetated ramp slanting rightwards from below the crux pitch of *Kirshinnoch Corner* is an obvious feature and is good when iced.

1. and 2. The first two pitches of *Kirshinnoch Corner* to the block belay in the scoop.
3. 20m Climb the vegetated groove and/or ramp on the right to a ledge on the left.
4. 30m Continue up the ramp to an interesting exit – thread belays in boulders just above. Easy ground for 100m leads to the plateau.

Craigencallie, Low Slabs:

These are the lowest slabs in the slabby area under Main Wall and the first rock passed on the approach.



*Stephen Reid on FA of Overdraft Dodger (IV,4), Black Gairy, The Merrick, 5 Feb 2015.
Photo: Colin Wells.*

The Lowland Clearances 40m VS 4b *. Stephen Reid, James Kinnaird. 8 Oct 2015.

Slightly bold but on excellent rock. Start directly below a slightly blocky line up the centre of the lowest slab. Climb a short slab to the left end of a big ledge. Move up the wall and rightwards to stand on a flake (micro wires above), then stride leftwards and pull onto the upper slab. Go straight up and slightly rightwards following the clean rock to a finishing ridge.

The Farrier 30m Severe 4b. James Kinnaird, Stephen Reid. 8 Oct 2015.

The larger looking slab just up to the right has a pinnacle on its right side. Launch off the pinnacle to gain a slim ramp leading up rightwards. Follow the left edge of the rock above with much more ease.

Right Side:

To the right of Main Wall the crag becomes more broken.

Flying a Kite 75m H.Severe 4b. Andrew Fraser, Ian Magill. 21 Apr 2015.

Worthwhile. As viewed from the car park, this is the right arete of the main area of crags, starting at a pile of boulders in the grass slope to the right.

1. 30m 4b Climb a rounded ridge and continue up slabby walls to beneath a steeper buttress.
2. 45m 4b Climb the corner to the prominent roof, turn this on the right and continue to easier ground. Above is an easy slabby rib which leads to a belay beneath a steep wall at the top of the crag. Scramble off to the right of this.

Far Right Side:

The following routes are on short clean walls 250m to the right, separated from the main cliffs by a wide grassy slope. They dry quickly and are cleaner and less foreboding than the main crags. Descent is to the left.

The Sorcerer's Apprentice 25m V.Diff. Ian Magill, Andrew Fraser. 20 May 2015.

The easier left-hand slab is climbed directly from its lowest point.

Fantasia 25m HVS 4c *. Ian Magill, Andrew Fraser. 18 Jun 2015.

Lovely but serious. Up and right of *The Sorcerer's Apprentice*, and reached by a rising traverse from its foot, is a steep prow. This is climbed on its left side.

The next two routes are on the longer right-hand slab.

The Sorcerer 40m H.Severe 4b *. Andrew Fraser, Ian Magill. 20 May 2015.

A good route. Start at the bottom of the main slab and climb cracks until it is possible to move right into a shallow niche in the middle of the slab. Continue directly to a ledge, up cracks to another ledge, then climb the wall above by its left side. Continue up walls above with an airy step left to finish.

Kite Runner 35m HVS 5a *. Ian Magill, Andrew Fraser. 21 Apr 2015.

Varied climbing on clean rock. Start as for *The Sorcerer* but immediately move right up the right-trending ramp to good holds. Climb boldly up the thin slab above to a ledge and move right to finish up a steep and difficult corner. Avoiding the final moves of this on the right reduces the standard to VS and removes the star.

Craigdews, The Quarry:

Clearly visible on the approach is a smooth 6m wall in a small quarry which has so far yielded one highball boulder problem.

Apprentice Wall V5 (5c, F6c) ***. S.Fletcher. 18 Jan 2015.

Follow the thin seam up the centre of the face.

CRAIGNELDER, Big Gairy:

(NX 492 701) Alt 325m West facing

Big Gairy and its smaller neighbour Wee Gairy comprise the large and vegetated cliff forming the lower Craignelder escarpment. Some excellent clean slab pitches lurk hereabouts despite the vegetation and the approach is quick, if steep. There are three areas of climbing. From the left these are Wee Gairy, the leftmost area of clean slab directly above the start of the access, Paleface Area, situated to the left of a gully which divides the crag and Main Face, the larger more rambling area to the right of the gully.

Approach: Follow the A712 to a parking place in the woods 0.5km west of the Grey Mare's Tail/Murray's Monument car park. Take the forestry road opposite (south – signed Talnotry 50m with an arrow pointing back across the road to the car park) and follow this across the Palnure Burn, keeping right shortly after and continuing a short distance to a small layby on the right. Two hundred metres beyond this layby, a large cracked boulder with a huge drill hole in it will be found in the ditch on the left (NX 48901 70742) and the slabby buttress of Wee Gairy will be seen up and slightly left. Go straight up towards the crag heading for the right end of a large collection of boulders situated down and right of it. Just below these a wall is crossed above which the path becomes better defined. From here go straight uphill to Wee Gairy (30mins from the track, 45mins from the car park) or traverse up and right to the other buttresses (allow an extra 15mins).

CRAIGNELDER, Wee Gairy (NX 49156 70757):

A nice clean slab with all the routes being worthwhile. Due to the slabby nature of the crag numerous variations and link ups are possible; only the main lines are described. Micro wires and micro cams are particularly useful. There is an excellent belay above the cleanest part of the slab and it is easiest to abseil from this if several routes are to be done before making a final descent to the right.

Lower Tier:

The short lower slab has a couple of nice warm up routes.

The Mirror Cracked 22m H.Severe 4b. Ian Magill, Andrew Fraser. 17 Aug 2014.

Follow the slab from right to left to a tricky finish up the fine crack at the top left side of the crag.

Poultry in Motion 15m V.Diff. Andrew Fraser, Stephen Reid. 14 Sep 2014.

Follow *Route 1* onto the slab and slightly left, then step up and move back right to exit.

Main Crag:

The best part of the crag is gained by scrambling up to a large heather ledge above the Lower Tier.

Union Jock 25m HVS 5a *. Stephen Reid, Andrew Fraser. 14 Sep 2014.

A harder way but a safer proposition than *Independence Aye* (particularly if you take some micro wires and micro cams). Start just right of a large flake, at the left side of the main slab under a small square niche at 4m. Climb up leftwards onto a rib and follow it to a steep wall just left of the niche. Pull directly up onto the slab above and follow a thin crack (the left-hand of three thin cracks) up the wall above on its right side to a break. Step left and move up to a vague groove (the left-hand of two vague grooves). Climb the groove to a slab and finish direct.

Union Jock Socialist Version 25m VS 4c *. Stephen Reid, John Biggar. 17 Sep 2014.

Taking a series of variations to the left gives an easier but less satisfying route. As for *Union Jock* to the thin crack but climb a scoop to the left of the crack. Follow *Union Jock* up the vague groove above to the slab, then traverse left and pad easily to the top.

On Reflection 25m VS 4c *. Ian Magill, Andrew Fraser. 12 Sep 2014.

Pleasant climbing with a delicate crux at the start. Start, just right of a large flake, at the left side of the main slab under a small square niche at 4m. Climb up to an overhung niche at 4m, which is exited on its right side. Easier climbing leads up and left to a slabby ledge. Climb the steeper wall above on good holds, leftwards then rightwards, then moving left to a short corner which leads to a rising traverse up the top slab.

Independence Aye 25m HVS 4c *. Stephen Reid, Andrew Fraser. 14 Sep 2014.

A tempting option but with potentially serious consequences if you mess it up. Start at a thin vertical seam 1m right of *Union Jock* and *Route 2*. Climb the seam which soon peters out but carry on directly up to the left end of a square overlap. Step up and out leftwards to the right-hand of three thin cracks and climb it on its right to a horizontal break. Pull up to the right-hand of two vague grooves and climb it to a slab. Traverse right along an obvious sloping footledge to gain a crack on the right (and some gear) and finish up this.

Calling Card 28m VS 4c **. Andrew Fraser, Ian Magill. 12 Sep 2012.

Finish as described by John Biggar, Stephen Reid. 17 Sep 2014.

A cracking route, easy for the grade except for a few moves getting off the ground. Start under the large overlap at 6m at the highest point of the grass. Teeter up the slab slightly leftwards, then more easily up to the large overlap. Turn this on its right side, move back left, then climb the front of the flake-crack to a horizontal break. Move up the slab to climb the groove and cracks above to just below the heather, then traverse right and finish up a crack 2m to the right (or extend the traverse even further right and go up a wide crack).

Calling Card Direct 28m HVS 5a *. Stephen Reid, John Biggar. 17 Sep 2014.

As for *Route 3* to the overlap which is overcome direct at its widest point to gain the flake. Follow *Route 3* to where it moves right near the top and finish direct up the crack as for *Independence Aye*.

Whipping Post 28m HVS 5a *. Andrew Fraser, Stephen Reid. 13 Oct 2015.

Previously climbed via the Right-Hand Start by the same team. 14 Sep 2014.

A good pitch with three distinct cruxes. Start at the right-hand end of the highest point of the grass. Make a bold and tenuous traverse rightwards across the slab to



*Stephen Reid on FA of Independence Aye (HVS 4c), Wee Gairy, Craignelder, 14 Sep 2014.
Photo: Andrew Fraser.*

gain a rib and groove. Move up and overcome a bulge with difficulty. Step left and the next bulge succumbs more easily. Above is a blocky crack. Climb the slab to its left and gain a fine shallow flaky groove. Climb this with difficulty to a pull out right onto easier upper slabs which are followed to the top.

Right-Hand Start The entry slab can be avoided by starting up the initial groove of *Angels' Left-Hand* and stepping left.

The remaining routes start from below the step up to the heather ledge under the Main Crag.

The Angels' Share 35m HVS 5a *. Stephen Reid, Andrew Fraser. 13 Oct 2015. Not an obvious line but good climbing throughout with a bold start. Start at a short slab just left of a boulder at the right edge of the crag. Foot-traverse the slab to a groove on its left side. Climb boldly up this until it gets rather dirty, then traverse left to a foothold in a parallel groove. Puzzle your way up the groove, then more easily to a steeper wall. Pull up into a shallow niche on the right then traverse back left and through a gap in the heather to a narrow ledge. A short crack proves more troublesome than it looks, then take a left-slanting ramp to gain the final slab and climb this directly to the top.

Variation: *Angels' Left-Hand* 28m VS 4c *. Stephen Reid, Andrew Fraser. 14 Sep 2014.

Quite tough for the grade. Start at the highest heathery triangle under the more vegetated right-hand part of the slabs and climb a short corner exiting leftwards, then trend back rightwards to join the climb above the crux groove.

Traitor's Goat 65m H.Severe *. Andrew Fraser, Ian Magill. 11 Jul 2014.

Nicer climbing than appearances suggest up the right edge of the slabs. Start at a short slab just left of a boulder at the right edge of the crag.

1. 35m 4b Climb the slab just left of a black streak and move over a bulge at 4m (all rather bold), then slightly right, before following a slab leftwards below a cracked bulge. Continue up slabs to the right end of a narrow heather ledge. Climb the bulge above and continue to a grass ledge on the right below a cracked wall (possible belay). Move up left and follow the final slab to a wide heather ledge. Scramble up this to a huge flake at an outcrop on the right.

2. 30m 4a Plough through more heather up leftwards to the steep top wall and climb its central prow, reached from the left by sloping ledges, then continue up slabs to the fine summit of Wee Gairy.

The Low Road 45m VS 4c *. Andrew Fraser, Stephen Reid. 13 Oct 2015.

A girdle traverse featuring a particularly enjoyable hand-traverse. Start as for Route 4.

Foot-traverse the slab to under a groove on its left side and go up a slab beyond to a grassy niche. Climb the short groove, exiting leftwards and overcome a difficult bulge up left. Traverse left to gain the flake on *Route 3* and go up this to the overlap. Hand-traverse this leftwards in a fine position to finish up the final section of *Route 2*.

The High Road 45m VS 4b. *Stephen Reid, Andrew Fraser. 13 Oct 2015.

Another girdle traverse, this time making a bold foot-traverse of the hand-traverse of *The Low Road*. Start as for *Route 4*.

Follow *Route 4* to the end of its initial traverse left. Step down and across heather

to a wall on the left. Climb this via a left-slanting ramp, then up through a gap in the heather to below a wide crack. Traverse left to a blocky crack and keep traversing left with feet on the lip of the slab, until slightly more tricky moves can be made into *Route 2* up which the climb finishes.

Paleface Area:

The routes lie just left of the obvious gully splitting the face.

Descent: Immediately above the routes (even before the belay), a narrow grass ledge leads right across the gully, then a steep heather face is descended diagonally rightwards (worth keeping on the rope).

Art of Darkness 80m VS *. Ian Magill, Andrew Fraser. 4 Jun 2010.

Nice slab climbing up the sweep of brown slabs 30m left of the gully. Start at the right edge of the brown slabs.

1. 40m 4c Climb for 8m to a steeper wall which is started immediately above a small spike, then slightly go left. Continue to a heather ledge, then starting at the right toe of the next slab, climb delicately up and leftward to belay on the left.
2. 40m 3b Continue up the wall above, then up a sweep of brown slabs, moving rightwards at times to maximise good rock.

Paleface Direct 80m HVS *. Ian Magill, Andrew Fraser. 4 Jun 2010.

An interesting route takes the pale sweep of slabs 5m left of the gully.

1. 40m 4c/5a Climb the centre of the lower slab direct to a heather ledge, very bold at the top. A short wall leads to the next slab (junction with *Paleface*) which is climbed delicately leftwards to a scoop. Finish up a break in between the steep wall on the right and an overhang on the left and belay immediately at a shallow groove (alternatively climb the groove left of the overhang and traverse right across the final slab to the same point).
2. 40m 4a Climb the slab above leftwards, traverse 2m left, then continue up three further pale slabs, following the cleanest line, difficulty and protection decreasing as you go.

Main Face:

The buttress to the right of the gully is larger but very broken. A grassy ramp leads up rightwards from the foot of the gully under the face. Near the right end of the ramp is a large flat rectangular stone, with an overhang immediately above it at 3m. This helps locate the following routes. A long descent lies to the right but carrying rucksacks and taking a longer way down is a better option.

Midnight Cowboy 155m HVS. Andrew Fraser, Ian Magill. 7 Jun 2013.

Superb padding on the final pitch fails to compensate for hard technical vegetation on the first two pitches. Start 10m left of the rectangular flat stone.

1. 25m 5a Climb 7m to a bulge which is overcome at its left end where heather can be grasped. Two short vegetated steps lead to another bulge. Gain this from its right end and climb it centrally to a niche.
2. 45m 5a Move out left onto the slabs and climb these boldly. Continue up further mossy slabs to the right end of a long and large curving overlap (identifiable by the odd deciduous tree).
3. 40m 4a Climb the overlap at its right end, then continue via rock (or heather according to taste) to belay 3m to the right of a corner in the final clean sweep of slabs.

4. 45m 4c Move up and right to cross a bulge with difficulty, then 15m of brilliant padding up slabs.

Eating an Elephant 155m VS. Andrew Fraser, Ian Magill. 7 Jun 2009.

A jumbo outing with some nice touches and making the most of the available rock.

1. 50m 4c Start 2m right of the large flat boulder on the right side of the overhang and climb over a bulge to a second slab. Climb this with difficulty (crux), then continue up the right side of a nose to gain steep heather. Go up this to a innocuous but hard wee wall, then up slabs to belay just short of a heather terrace.

2. 40m 3b Above and right is a corner. Take the crack on the front face, 3m right of the corner, and continue up slabs above, moving left across a steeper slab to belay up left.

3. and 4. 65m 3b Above and left is a large sweep of slabs. Take the easy slab on the right side of these slabs to go over a bulge. Continue across a heather terrace to a final 10m wall climbed on large holds.

Craig an Eilte:

Note: *The Flesh Market* (HVS 1992) was previously climbed by George Fraser and party, pre 1959, and named *Flank Route* (and graded V.Diff!)

The Freezer Section:

Some 500m down and right of *The Flesh Market*, at the lowest point of the escarpment, is an obvious short gully guarded by chockstones, *Spindrift Gully*. An area of more continuous rock guarded by a band of overhangs lies 20-30m left of this. Descent is by a long diagonal descending traverse to the right.

Fleet Street 45m VS *. Stephen Reid, Robert Bennett. 9 Apr 2015.

Two good pitches at the upper end of the grade. Start just right of the overhangs at a short chimney where a block abuts the main wall.

1. 20m 4c Gain the top of the block and climb up into a groove on the left. Follow the groove and/or its right arete to exit leftwards at its top.

2. 25m 4c The slab on the left leads to a cracked wall just right of an overhang. Climb the cracks to exit at a block, surmount the block and continue more easily up a stepped rib.

The Veg Market:

Marshall Law 120m HVS *. Stephen Reid, Chris King (alt). 21 Apr 2015.

A spectacular second pitch makes this climb well worthwhile. A large horizontal flake lies on the ground 6m right of the large flake at the start of *Galloway Gallivant*. Start just left of this.

1. 30m 4c Follow a left-slanting seam boldly up the initial slab to heather. Climb the easier slab above on the right and belay at cracks on the left side of the steep wall.

2. 20m 5a Climb the crack on the right side of the steep wall until under the left end of a long roof. Traverse to its right end and climb steeply up the headwall to a slab and crack just beyond.

3. 20m 4a Step down left onto a jammed block, then climb short slabs, overlaps and bilberry to belay under a left-slanting, wide quartz crack at the right end of the clean wall.

4. 50m 5a Traverse right and climb the innocuous looking, short mossy arete with

difficulty and then continue up slabs and overlaps to a block on a grass terrace.

Mental Block 120m E1 *. Chris King, Stephen Reid (alt). 9 Jul 2015.

Low in the grade and another enjoyable route on excellent rock. A large horizontal flake lies on the ground 6m right of the large flake at the start of *Galloway Gallivant*. Start 4m right of this.

1. 30m 4c Climb a thin flake in the steep wall to a horizontal break. Hand-traverse boldly leftwards to a step up onto a ledge and heather ramp. From the heather terrace above, climb onto a block and up to more heather. Go up a bit, then traverse left to a belay at the left-hand side of the steep wall.

2. 20m 5b Climb the crack on the right side of the steep wall until under the left end of a long roof. Step into the groove on the left and climb it with bravado, passing the wedged hanging block of the name.

3. 20m 4b Traverse rightwards on grass until under the left end of a triangular slab. Climb a crack until it is possible to traverse right along a shelf in the slab and go straight up the centre to its top. Traverse horizontally leftwards on heather, passing under a chimney, to a corner with a left-sloping quartz crack.

4. 50m 4c Climb the corner-crack just right of the left-leaning quartz crack, then pad up slabs and overlaps to the top.

BUCHAN HILL, Black Gairy (NX 424 813):

Viewed from Bruce's Stone, this is the largest compact buttress on the SW face of Buchan Hill, situated 400m up and right from Buchan West Crag. The easiest descent is to the right (east) although it is possible and quicker to scramble down to the left (west).

Buchan Bronco 40m VS 4c. Ian Magill, Andrew Fraser. 30 May 2015.

This climbs the three slabs on the left side of the buttress and is worthwhile and varied. The first slab is climbed centrally, the second starts by standing on the spike on the right of the slab, then traverses to its left edge and up. The third climbs its right edge then goes up left to a heather ledge below the upper buttress. This is climbed at the left, starting at a groove, then gradually moving right.

Igor, Release the Bats 40m Severe 4a. Andrew Fraser, Ian Magill. 16 Sep 2015. Pleasant climbing up the thin ribs 2m left of *The Buchanites*, with a deviation into the groove on the right at the start of the second rib.

The Buchanites 40m VS 4b *. Andrew Fraser, Ian Magill. 10 Jun 2015

Classic climbing and easy for the grade. Start at the toe of the buttress, just left of the tree. Climb the rib, then move right to pass the overhang on its left side. Continue up the main crack-line above. The upper buttress is climbed easily just to the left of its prow.

Clothed with Sun 40m HVS 5a *. Ian Magill, Andrew Fraser. 10 Jun 2015.

Sustained and technical. On the right side of the crag is a blocky crack. Start 2m left of this and climb the wall until it is necessary to join the crack for its last few moves. The upper buttress is climbed easily just to the right of its prow.

South East Corrie of Milldown:

The Great Cleugh of Auchniebut (reported as a winter route, SMCJ 2013) has been found to have a traditional name of *Garrinner Strand* and also to have been



*Stephen Reid on FA of Mental Block (E1 5b), Craig an Eilte, 9 Jul 2015.
Photo: Chris King.*

climbed in summer by C.M. Allan, J. Dow, R.L. Beveridge & AN Other, as long ago as 10 Oct 1937. At a guess it would be Diff in dry conditions.

THE BORDERS, Bitch Craig (NT 199 266):

Bitch Craig is an extensive but largely broken whinstone crag flanking Bitch Cleuch on the east side of the upper Manor Valley, near Peebles. Access on foot to the start of the routes, from the end of the Manor Valley tarmac road, takes about 40mins. Most of the routes are footed by very steep grassy slopes so care is required when gearing up and when walking around in rock boots! Raptors and Corvids nest on the crag so it should be avoided during spring and early summer. There are a number of other short routes but the following are the longest and the best.

The north facing flank of the crag is a bit broken but does hold a couple of distinctive grooves. The best access to these, avoiding most of the scree, is to take a rising diagonal line from the mouth of the Cleuch.

Bitchhiker's Guide to the Fallacy 25m Severe *. Graham Little, Ryan Little. 28 Aug 2015.

This route takes the first groove on the north flank of the crag, 7m left of the large rowan tree and about 15m above the very foot of the crag. Gain and climb the interesting groove (avoiding contact with the big wedged tablet of rock near the start) to reach a grass terrace. Climb the fine little pillar above to a pinnacle belay. Scramble up and then descend to the left.

Bitchfinder Groove 17m E1 5c *. Graham Little, Ryan Little. 6 Sep 2015.

Tackles the obvious roofed groove on the north flank of the crag (very large nest to the left of the groove). Ascend bulging rock (above the mossy slab) directly to the base of the groove. Climb the groove, passing through the slot in the roof, to finish by a rowan tree. Descend to the left.

A vague path runs up the Cleuch at the foot of the scree slope. The easiest approach to the following routes is to follow this path until beyond the scree slope and then to take an left-rising line, past a little pinnacle, to reach the foot of the walls. The relatively clean, pale streaked wall in the centre of the crag is the most distinctive feature and holds three routes and a variation. The descent is down a steep grassy ramp to the left (north), not visible from below.

Three Pocket Groove 13m V.Diff. Graham Little, Ryan Little. 12 Sep 2014.

Start at the base of a slim groove, with three distinctive pockets, 8m left of the right edge of the wall. Climb it, finishing just left of the big poised block.

Zebra Crack 14m Severe 4b *. Graham Little. 22 Sep 2014.

Start 6m left of the right edge of the wall. Climb the obvious diagonal crack and the short continuation crack above the ledge, finishing to the right of the big poised block.

A Bitch in Time 18m HVS 5a **. Graham Little. 9 Sep 2014.

Start 3m left of the right edge of the wall. Climb up a scoop for a few metres, then move right and up to a big hold near the right edge of the wall. Move up and left (crux) to a ledge, then climb the centre of the short wall above.

A Bitch in Time Direct 15m E1 5b *. Graham Little (unsec). 22 Sep 2014.
Avoids the moves right and back left by climbing the groove directly above the initial scoop.

4 further routes are on the SMC website.

GALLOWAY SEA-CLIFFS, Meikle Ross:

Greywackattack 15m VS 4c. Alex Riley, Anna Riley. 7 Jun 2015.
Climb the layback flake to the right of *Fats Waller* until an obvious left-slanting crack is gained and followed to the top. Well protected although care needed on the top section.

Meikle Ross, Little Zawn Area:

Bloody Arete 15m E4 5c. Alex Riley, Peter Wilkes, Lex Pearce. 23 Apr 2016.
Start just left of *Bloody Crack*. Climb the steep groove on the big block, then move right from the small breaks to gain the middle of the face. Thin moves lead to a big break below an overhang. Traverse to the arete and climb direct on sidepulls, following the arete to the top. A high quality route, but serious and sustained.

GALLOWAY SEA-CLIFFS, Portobello, March Bay:

4 routes on the SMC website.

Money Head, Cioch Area:

Sheet Lightning 25m VS 4c *. Andrew Fraser, Ian Magill. 3 Aug 2013.
Start as for *Martin's Bank* but traverse the slab up and left to the left end of the main overlap. A short left-facing corner lies 1m up left. Climb this (crux) and continue more easily to the top.

Pot of Gold Variation. Having surmounted the overlap, climb directly up the slabs above at the same grade.

Banker's Bonus 15m Severe. Ian Magill, Andrew Fraser. 3 Aug 2013.
At the top right of the slabs, 3m right of *Martin's Bank*, is an overhanging prow, split by a crack. Climb this on huge holds, then continue up the delicate wall above.

FIFE, Limekilns:

Blackout 13m E4 6b *. Adam Russell (headpoint). 5 May 2016.
Essentially a difficult direct start to *Edge of Fear*. Start just right of the arete and climb direct through the blackened roof with difficulty. Continue straight up to the half-height break where *Edge of Fear* traverses round the arete (first gear). Finish more easily up this.