

## NEW ROUTES

Following the tragic accident on Ben Hope in February, Simon Richardson has stepped into Andy Nisbet's shoes as New Routes Editor. Inevitably a few routes will have slipped through the net, so please resubmit your description if it has been missed from this issue and we will include in next year's Journal. New Routes can be sent directly to the New Routes Editor at <[newroutes@smc.org.uk](mailto:newroutes@smc.org.uk)> Please ensure the description includes information in the following order – area, crag, route name, length, grade, suggested stars, first ascensionist(s), date, route description. Alternatively, descriptions can be submitted on the SMC website <<https://www.smc.org.uk/climbs/report>> (which automatically formats them correctly).

The deadline for sending route descriptions for the 2020 Journal is 31 May 2020.

## OUTER HEBRIDES

### ISLE OF LEWIS, Rubha Thisgeis:

*Bonxie Beat* 15m E3 5c. George Smith, Crispin Waddy. 17 May 2019.

Climbs the striking thin crack right of *In The Groove*. From spike belays just above sea level, climb the crack until a difficult step right at the overlaps gains a groove and easier ground.

*Weirdwolf* 17m E5 6a. Crispin Waddy, George Smith. 17 May 2019.

A remarkable and weird route of great character. Bold in places but would make a good DWS in calm seas. Take micro wires. Opposite *Bonxie Beat*, there is a hanging slab with a slim groove beyond its left arete. Climb onto this slab from the right, and stroll across its bottom edge to a big foot ledge. Move across and up to the left edge of the slab for gear, then strangely, head down and across into the steep part of the hanging groove that comes in from below to get into it. Follow this to the top. Sustained.

### Screaming Geòdha, Screaming Wall Left:

Wadfish 40m E3 5c. Crispin Waddy, George Smith. 18 May 2019.

A fine exposed pitch. Start at a belay on *Grant's Bad Hair Day* first pitch (below a crack in a brown wall). Climb the crack to an overlap at a break and traverse until it is possible to pull over. Continue up the wall to a wide break. Now climb steeply over a bulge then steeply again rightwards into a hanging corner just left of an arete (the one left of *Prozac Alternative Finish*). Follow this to the top.

### Geòdha Gunna:

*Kaboom* 35m HVS. Crispin Waddy, George Smith. 15 May 2019.

Halfway along the south side of the geo is an arete, black at the bottom and white at the top. Despite appearances, the route is very solid and worthwhile. Start about 8 m above the sea on large ledges.

1. 15m 4b Climb the large cracks and corners right of the arete to the half-height ledges.

2. 20m 5a Move up and right and climb the well positioned arete to the top.

*The False Men* 40m E4/5. Crispin Waddy, George Smith. 15 May 2019.

Takes the grooves right of *Rabid Wanderings*. Start down and right of that route, in the next obvious corner. Some very good, well protected climbing.

1. 25m 6a/b Climb the corner until it touches *Rabid Wanderings*. Pull back right to the defined slim groove and follow this to hard moves via its left arete, and gain a belay on the left.

2. 15m 5c Follow *Rabid Wanderings* to the top.

*Prosopagnosia* 45m E4. Crispin Waddy, George Smith. 15 May 2019.

Climbs the left arete of the big slab at the right end of the main face. Much easier than it looks – superb in parts but quite an odd line as it avoids the slab on the top pitch for a wild crack just under the left arete, which is better protected and very good climbing, but somewhat harder – hence the name, which means face blindness. Start at a small ledge 10 m right of the *Rabid Wanderings* belay, at sea level.

1. 25m 6a Move up and right to a block in the overhang. Climb steeply right through this, then left and back right to an easing at the slabs edge. Traverse left then onto the slab and up it for a few moves before traversing left to a hanging belay under a good crack in the underside of the left arete.

2. 20m 5c Climb the crack till it eases, then continue with difficulty up the arete trending right to an easier finish.

*The Shining One* 40m E3/4. George Smith, Crispin Waddy. 16 May 2019.

A brilliant sustained and exposed top pitch. In big seas, the top pitch will become classic as it can be accessed by abseil.

1. 20m 5c Follow *Lucid Visions* until a traverse left above the roof of *Captain Oates* first pitch gains a belay at the base of the diagonal rake.

2. 20m 6a Step left to a well-protected crack which leads to the top, with a tricky finish. Take plenty of small wires.

*The Great Flake* 45m E3. George Smith, Crispin Waddy. 14 May 2019.

An excellent route that manages to gain and cross *Captain Oates* at a surprisingly amenable standard. Low in the grade. Start at sea level on the ledges at the bottom of the big slab left of the sea cave. The route was ascended in three pitches with a belay in *Captain Oates* on the first ascent, but it is best climbed in two pitches as described.

1. 20m 4a Climb the easy groove to spikes and ledges.

2. 25m 5c Pull steeply through the black bulge on the right and into a corner. An exposed swing right on a small stripey ledge gains *Captain Oates*, then move up right under the roof to gain a groove-line. Follow this, chimneying to the top.

*I'm Going Out Now (I May Be Some Time)* 20m E5/6 6b/c. George Smith, Crispin Waddy. 15 May 2019.

The mad offwidth roof crack right of the top pitch of *Captain Oates*. Gain the foot of the crack as for *The Great Flake*. Pull over the roof via the tough jam crack, and continue to a rest under the obvious roof crack. Somehow climb this. Harder for the short than for the tall. Friend 5 useful.

### **Geòdha Gunna, Outer Wall:**

This is the outer wall on the north side of the geo, overlooking a narrow inlet. From the highpoint on top of Geòdha Gunna, descend seawards to the boulder platform where the climbs *Little Gem* to *The Legend of Finlay MacIver* finish.

Towards the north end of the platform a big block provides the anchor for an abseil down the seaward corner of *Gun Control*. This gains slabby ground and non-tidal ledges which lead beneath a smooth leaning wall toward the entrance of the geo and the recess from which *The Legend of Finlay MacIver* starts.

*Gun Control* 25m Severe 4b \*. Rab Anderson, Mark Garthwaite. 9 Jun 2018.  
The corners up the left side of the wall; the line of the abseil.

*Arms Race* 25m E3 6a \*. Mark Garthwaite, Rab Anderson. 9 Jun 2018.  
The slanting crack in the left side of the steep upper wall has a large triangular wedge at its top. Climb stepped ground to the foot of the crack then launch up this to finish via the niche to the right of the wedge.

*Arms Limitation* 25m E3 6a \*\*. Mark Garthwaite, Rab Anderson. 8 Jun 2018.  
The right-hand crack in the steep upper wall. Climb a flared crack then go up the corner-crack to a sentry box slot and cut loose to finish.

*Guns and Poses* 25m E4 6b \*\*. Mark Garthwaite, Rab Anderson. 8 Jun 2018.  
On the left side of the smooth leaning wall, climb the niche and the difficult crack-line springing out of this, then continue to a ledge in the corner below a small roof and finish awkwardly over this.

*Shotgun Wedding* 30m E5 6b \*\*. M.Garthwaite, Rab Anderson. 9 Jun 2018.  
The thin crack-line up the centre of the smooth leaning wall. Gain the crack and climb it until forced out right where a long blind reach up right from an undercut gains holds which lead back left. Continue up and left to join *Guns and Poses* then move up this to the ledge in the corner. Step right and swing around the edge to good holds and finish steeply.

*Shot in the Dark* 30m E3 5c \*\*\*. M.Garthwaite, Rab Anderson. 8 Jun 2018.  
Excellent and intimidating climbing up and around the arete forming the right side of the smooth leaning wall; start in the recess at the foot of *The Legend of Finlay MacIver*. Climb just right of the arete then go up a shallow corner-groove to gain the edge at the capping roof. Pull left around the edge then continue up the groove and crack-line to the top.

### **Geòdha Ruadh:**

Some 200m north of Geòdha Gunna is a big northwards running geo with a beautiful orange slab and a *Separate Reality* style crack through the headwall on its east side. The guide contains one climb here, *Brutal Reality*, and briefly mentions the other two; gained by abseil.

*Snowpig* 35m HVS 5a \*. Cripin Waddy, Donie O'Sullivan. 20 May 2018.  
From a good ledge, step left to a big pegmatite band and climb this through a steepening to easier ground and the top.

*Sweet Dreams* 35m HVS 5a \*. Donie O'Sullivan, Cripin Waddy. 20 May 2018.  
The system of grooves and corners immediately right of *Snowpig*.

### **Geòdha Nasabhaig:**

The big bay to the north of Geòdha Ruadh. On the north side of the bay, the coast

juts out to form the southern section of the Àird Uig coastline. About 150m north of Geodha Gunna, a prominent looking sail-like feature faces down the coast to form an arete pointing out to sea.

*Jibber* 15m E4 5b/c. Donie O'Sullivan, Cripin Waddy. 20 May 2018.

A somewhat disappointing and serious route which climbs the south-westwards facing sail. From its foot, climb onto a low ledge and arrange a tied-down sling on a poor spike. Now climb a little left, then right to gear in a flake on the right at half height; crux and unprotected. Step left and climb more easily past a thin break to the top.

The next route climbs the leftmost and more intermittent of two crack-lines on the leaning wall some 20m to the left, north, of the sail-like piece of rock. The more obvious right-hand crack-line has a watercourse running down it.

*Athletico Mince* 20m E5 6b \*. Donie O'Sullivan, Cripin Waddy. 20 May 2018. Start just right of a 'shark's fin' piece of rock at the base. Climb to the first break heading rightwards. Step down and left before a difficult pull through the overlap leads to better holds. From the next overlap a hard finish leads to the top. Steep and well protected.

### **Druim a' Bheannaich, Under The Boardwalk:**

*Miha's Dilemma* 20m 6a. Miha Praprotnik, Rab Anderson. 18 Jul 2018.

The crack-line in the wall immediately left of *Black Sabbath* (obvious in the picture on p111 Outer Hebrides) has been climbed with pre-placed wires; likely to be difficult to place onsite and probably at least E5. Blind moves at the top of the cracks gain easy ground.

### **Geodh' a' Bheannaich (NB 0385 3772):**

On the north side of this geo there is a long fin of reddish rock with a cave halfway along on its slabby south-east face. *Ride a Wild Starfish* climbs the arete to the left of the cave. The rock to the right of the cave is covered in holds and can be climbed almost anywhere. Four lines are described. All are approached by abseil from the top of the fin.

*Expresso* 25m V.Diff. Andrew Wielochowski, Noel Williams. 27 May 2019.

Abseil to a pink ledge on the right arete of the cave. Climb straight up at first then move slightly left above the cave to the top.

*Froth* 25m V.Diff. Noel Williams, Andrew Wielochowski. 27 May 2019.

Abseil to a ledge 5m to the right of the cave. Climb directly at first then slant slightly leftwards up a crack and finish by a left-slanting groove.

*Cherry Coke* 25m Diff. Noel Williams, Andrew Wielochowski. 27 May 2019.

There is a prominent boss of rock on a level section on the crest of the fin. Abseil from this to a recess at sea-level. From the left side of the recess climb straight back to the top.

*Black Velvet* 40m VS 4c \*. Andrew Wielochowski, Noel Williams. 27 May 2019.

The rock changes towards the right-hand end of the face. Abseil to an area of pink rock below black slabs. Slant rightwards up an easy crack to where the rock

steepens. Either follow a thin crack on the left or better holds on the right to gain easier-angled slabs. Traverse diagonally rightwards across a pink wall and finish leftwards more easily up a ramp.

### **Platform Walls (NB 0378 3776):**

The next two routes are on the steep north side of the fin at the back of a large platformed bay.

*Jolly Roger* 20m Severe. Andrew Wielochowski, Noel Williams. 30 May 2019. This route is immediately to the left of *Saltire Left*. Start beside a pool and climb a recess and right-facing corner.

*Liquorice Allsorts* 25m Diff. Andrew Wielochowski. 30 May 2019.

A few metres right of the *Saltire Right* there is a deep black chimney. This route climbs the stepped rib left of the chimney then moves left to finish up a right-facing corner.

### **Druim Gleann Clabhaig, Geòdha Caol:**

The back, landward wall of Geodha Caol (Outer Hebrides p120) has some poor rock at the inner end, but this improves dramatically as it progresses seawards and is best viewed from the promontory opposite, seaward side. A good reference for the climbs is *Caol Cleft*, an open chimney/corner line that runs the full height of the cliff and pretty much delineates the good rock from the bad. Abseil approach with plenty of good ledges above the tide line. The small black skerry at the end of the promontory gives good protection from big seas.

*Border Line* 25m VS 4b \*. Mick & Kathy Tighe. 14 May 2019.

This route climbs the buttress of light-coloured rock to the left of *Caol Cleft* on fine rock. Go up left from the bottom of *Caol Cleft* to a short, smooth wall. Levitate up this, high holds for the tall, a series of small ledges lead to a diagonal fault-line and the top.

*Caol Cleft* 25m VS 4c. Nevis Guides 1980s.

This is the deep, black cleft and corner half-way along the back wall. Up the black cleft into the corner. Zigzag right and back left to avoid a jammed block and climb the wall to the left of the upper corner.

*Black & Tan* 20m HVS 5a \*. Mick & Kathy Tighe. 14 May 2019.

Start at the bottom of *Caol Cleft* and head straight up the fine black grooves to a tan coloured bulge. Go up and diagonally left across this and up to the big ramp line. Walk off right or climb the excellent little lay-back corner above which is quite a lot harder, but well protected.

*Kumar* 30m VS 4c \*. Mick & Kathy Tighe. 14 Jun 2019.

Start at the bottom of *Caol Cleft* and follow the diagonal fault-line out right for eight to ten metres until below a crack-line with a small, smooth wall on its left. Climb the crack-line to the top with a tricky bulge halfway up.

*Skraa* 30m VS 4c \*. Nevis Guides 1980s.

The fine diagonal fault-line that runs bottom right to top left on this part of the face. Start bottom right by some bright, green seaweed which is under a smooth,

sloping overhang. Follow the fault-line up left to finish at the top of *Black & Tan*. There are three more crack/groove lines to the right of *Black & Tan* which have been top-roped, but not led. The next major feature is a fine right/seaward facing corner in the upper part of the crag which is the finish of the next route.

*Surging Sea* 30m HVS 5a/b \*\*. Mick & Kathy Tighe. 24 Jun 2018.  
Start well below and right/seawards of the upper corner on ledges at the high tide line. A diagonal fault-line leads up left to a fine sloping ledge below the corner which gives an excellent tussle with good protection.

*Restless Ocean* 20/30m HVS 5a/b \*\*. Mick & Kathy Tighe. 24 Jun 2018.  
Another fine route which can be started up the first part of *Surging Sea*, or from the sloping ledge (abseil) below the corner of that route. Limbo or crawl along the airy ramp out across the face to an exposed corner, keep going along the fault-line to a wee overhang which leads up to a recess from where you can walk off rightwards.

There are several short walls and corners going right/seawards, the best being at the extreme end of the promontory, before it turns 90 degrees onto the front face. One is on the arete as the wall turns, the other just back along the wall a couple of metres. Both are short, but very fine.

*Peedie Sea* 12m VS 4c \*\*\*. Mick & Kathy Tighe, Morten Hansen. 28 Apr 2018.  
The excellent little groove just before the wall turns 90 degrees onto the front face – hard start.

*Minarete* 12m VS 4c \*\*\*. Mick & Kathy Tighe. 24 May 2019.  
Step from a ledge at the extreme end of Caol back wall into a groove in the arete between the two walls, climb up to join *Peedie Sea* at the top.

The wall now turns 90 degrees to the front/seaward face of the promontory, where there are several good, short climbs starting from good ledges well above the sea. Routes are described from left to right looking in. There is a fine looking open groove a few metres in from *Minarete*, but a loose pillar of rock at the top makes it a dodgy proposition.

*Tricky Issue* 15m E1 5b \*. Mick & Kathy Tighe. 23 Jun 2018.  
This is the fine, black groove line 4/5m in from the left edge. A bold lay-back gains entry to the crack, where a gritstone 'udge' is required to surmount the open corner above.

*Stepped Crack* 15m VS 4c \*\*. Mick & Kathy Tighe, Paula Gardiner, Doug Lee. 10 Jun 2019.  
The fine, stepped corner line just left of *Central Chimney*.

*Central Chimney* 15m Severe. Mick Tighe, Robert Robertson, Callum Forsyth. May 2014.  
The wide open corner/chimney line which marks the change in rock colour from black to pink.

*Curving Crack* 15m Severe. Mick Tighe, Robert Veitch, Robert Robertson. May 2014.

The next curving crack-line right of the *Central Chimney* in pink rock.

*Right Edge* 15m Severe. Mick Tighe, Robert Robertson, Callum Forsyth. May 2014.

A shallow groove/crack leads to a choice of finishes.

### **Caol Beag:**

Inland from the promontory holding the previous routes there is a smaller inlet running parallel to Geodh Caol. There is a fine back, landward, wall of excellent rock with several good climbs in the low to mid grades. The wall terminates at the south-west end with a smaller inlet turning at a right angle into a sea cave which probably ran through to the sink hole of Seilaro before it collapsed.

Routes are described from left to right when looking across from the promontory (i.e. north to south). One of the more obvious features on the left is a big, square recess in the upper part of the cliff with a big, black, sloping ledge at the base. The first route climbs up into, and out of, this recess.

*Miss Molly* 30m VS 4c. Mick & Kathy Tighe. 14 Jun 2019.

Start well below the square recess beneath a short 4/5 metre crack with a tiny overhang at its base. This can be climbed as a direct start, but is harder at HVS 5b. Alternatively go up easier ground to the left and find a way up the wall via a series of ramps and ledges.

*Flight of the Eagle* 30m VS 4c. Robert Veitch, Robert Robertson. May 2014.

To the right of the square recess there is a buttress of fine rock (next route) start below this and climb up left on cracks and grooves to the big black ledge. Climb the right, back, corner of the recess where a large cam is useful for protection.

*An Suileachan* 30m VS 4c \*\*\*. Mick Tighe, Simon Fraser. May 2014.

Start pretty much as for the previous route and climb up behind a pinnacle/flake. Step from this onto a gently bulging wall, with big jugs, to another flake. Climb the crack above which is tricky, but well protected with small cams and wires.

*Suileachan Crack* 30m HVS 5c \*\*\*. Mick & Kathy Tighe. 18 May 2019.

The excellent crack line where the wee buttress of *An Suileachan* meets the main back wall.

A big diagonal crack runs full height of the cliff a few metres right of *Suileachan Crack* – not led. There is another fault-line further right which becomes a corner in the upper half, this gives the following route which was climbed with a pre-placed runner in the upper corner.

*Sea Fury* 20m E1/2 5b \*\*. Mick Tighe (belayed ran away). May 2014.

Climb up cracks and grooves below the corner to a small over-hang, exit right onto the ramp (next route) and tackle the fine corner above – hard to start.

*Limbo Dancer* 30m VS 4c \*\*. Mick Tighe, Callum Forsyth. May 2014.

As for the previous route to the ramp-line, which gives several scary options to get along and round the corner.

The main cliff now falls back a few metres creating an excellent crack/corner line.  
*Corner Crack* 18m HVS 5a \*\*. Mick & Kathy Tighe. 18 May 2019.  
 The crack/corner line – climb it!

*Rample* 30m V.Diff. Mick Tighe, Robert Veitch, Robert Robertson, Callum Forsyth, May 2014

The fine ramp-line that runs diagonally across the next section of cliff, finishing at the top of *Corner Crack*. There are several direct starts below.

*Hebridean Princess* 20m VS 4c \*\*\*. Mick & Kathy Tighe 17 May 2019.

Follow *Rample* for 5/6m and head up an immaculate short crack where pink and black rock meet. Move left under a wee overhang and continue up to the top.

The cliff now heads around into the inlet with a cave in the back. There is a fine series of cracks and corners, particularly in the upper section, with lots of variations possible. Good ledges above the tide-line initially with a small black ledge (west looking) towards the back of the inlet.

*Smooth Grooves* – this is next main corner-line right of *Rample*. Top roped at E1/2, but not led. This area of cliff is best viewed from the south side of the of the cave inlet.

*Diamonds and Rust* 25m HVS 5a \*\*. Mick & Kathy Tighe. 17 May 2019.

Choose one of several cracks low down to reach the fine upper corner which is barred by a small, sloping bulge.

*Ragged Crack* 25m MVS 4b \*\*. Mick & Kathy Tighe. 16 May 2019.

When viewed from the south, this is the main crack-line that runs the full height of the cliff, from the bottom ledge known as the *West Landing* – abseil. Start up a metre-wide square chimney at the left end of the West Landing – follow the crack to the top – excellent.

*An Ataireach Ard* 25m VS 4c \*\*. Mick & Kathy Tighe. 15 May 2019.

The back corner of the West Landing breaking out right at the top onto *Pink Vein*. A direct finish is much harder.

*Pink Vein* 25m Severe \*. Mick & Kathy Tighe. 15 May 2019.

From the *West Landing* go up into a 3m high slot, struggle out and go right onto a pink vein – possible belay to avoid rope drag. Follow the pink vein to the top.

### **Tobha Mòr, Geòdha Staca nan Gall (NB 0846 3764):**

A repeat ascent of *Stranger on the Shore* (SMCJ 2018) was thwarted by two nesting birds that were not there the previous year. Abseil past the start of *Stranger on the Shore* to a huge jammed block at the base of a dank chimney.

*Xenophobia* 40m H.Severe. Andrew Wielochowski, Noel Williams. 28 May 2019.

1. 15m Climb pleasantly rightwards across the south wall of the chimney. Gain the arete and continue to a good belay on blocks below a steepening.

2. 15m 4a. Traverse right below a bulge to gain a slab and climb this up and slightly right to reach broken vegetated rocks and a belay in a niche.

3. 10m. Traverse 5m right passing a dubious flake to reach easy rocks and the top.

### Geòdha Dubh:

The following two routes are situated in Geodha Dubh – the next deep geo northwards round the coast from the previous crag and 400m west of Eala Sheadh (‘swan’ arch area) north of Valtos/Bhalthos (58.231610, -6.966724). They lie on the north-east-facing wall and are sheltered from strong south-westerlies.

*Sea Fret* 45m E3. George Smith, Crispin Waddy. 14 May 2019.

Takes the unlikely hairline crack in the black wall below the big diagonal intrusion and then the central right-facing groove above. Abseil in 6m west of the top groove.

1. 25m 5c From the narrowest part of the sea-washed platform climb steeply for 4m to a ledge near a gold intrusion. Follow the thin crack which leads up and left with difficulty to a slabby traverse left to the base of the central groove. Belay here.

2. 20m 5c Pull up left and ascend the technical and sustained groove.

*Hoolie* 30m E4 5c. Crispin Waddy, George Smith. 14 May 2019.

Climbs the black wall some 40m right of *Sea Fret*. Start on a ledge left of the centre of the black wall. Step right along narrow ledges, then up and left to a break with some pockets, Good big cam (blue Dragon/Camalot) then step right and boldly to a left rising ramp crack line. Follow this to spikes near the top, and pull right and up a groove to finish.

### Beinn na Bheirigh, The Little Big Wall:

Rab Anderson notes the grades for *Cnip Fit* and *Berie-Berie* should be switched; *Cnip Fit* is the easier of the two.

### Tobson, Geòdha Mòr:

*Tidal Two Step* 18m Hard Severe 4c \*. Robert Middleton and Helen Fairclough. 26 Apr 2019.

Approach as per *Will the Real Eric Jones Please Stand Up* and belay just above high tide level on the left-hand end of good ledges. Head leftwards along small ledges towards a bottomless corner. A large cam (Camalot 4) protects a steep pull into the corner which is followed more easily to the ledge crossed on the approach. Continue up the twin cracks in the wall above to a delicate top out. (**Note:** the twin cracks are shown as the line of *Eeezie* on the topo, however the actual line is the easy corner 5m to the right).

Robert Middleton notes the topo on p138 Outer Hebrides appears to show incorrect positions for *The Struggler* and *Eeezie*. Both should be further right, though the top crack of *The Struggler* appears correct.

### Rubha Cuinish, Geòdha Mòr Shlèibhte (Creag Liam):

*My Wave!* 20m E4 6a \*\*. Alasdair Fulton, Simon Smith (both led). 19 May 2019.

The wall between *Great Northern* and *Recess Ramp*. Climb the crack then move up and left (bold) to a large flake. Move back right and finish direct in the centre of the wall.

Alasdair Fulton notes that in relation to other routes climbed during the week, it was felt that *My Wave!* warranted E5, but compared to mainland E4s it's probably

not even top of the grade. Safe enough but needs a few genuine onsights to settle the grade. (The route was abseiled to clean/remove loose rock etc.) Plum line and hope it gets some traffic!

### **Dalbeg Buttress:**

*Pollux* 35m E3 5c \*\*. Alasdair Fulton, Andy Inglis. 13 May 2019.

Climb the wall right of *Neptune*, joining it for a few metres in the ramp/groove, before continuing up the hanging crack above.

### **Gèodha Bratag, The Orpheus Wall:**

*Puffin Hard* 8m HVS 5b. Miha Praprotnik, Rab Anderson. 23 Jul 2018.

The wall some 5m left of *Blowin' a Gale*.

*Lyre Lyre* 20m E4 6a \*. Simon Smith, Alasdair Fulton, Brian Pollock. 11 May 2019.

Climb the wall between *The Underworld* and *Niflheim* to the roof and ascend the obvious thin crack directly (crux). Low in the grade.

Simon Smith notes that *Lyre Lyre* is the hardest route on this crag so far but he found the grades on the crag in the Outer Hebrides guidebook to be very inflated, so graded accordingly.

### **Aird Mhòr Bhràgair, Promontory 1:**

The north facing end of this promontory is formed by narrow slabby black wall. This lies to the right (looking across from opposite) of the full height pillar which has been cleft from the cliff. Abseil from a big block at the top to belay in the central niche just above the sea.

*Promontory Wall* 25m VS 4b. Rab Anderson, M.Garthwaite. 10 Jun 2018.

Climb out the right side of the niche and follow the crack-line gingerly up the middle; disappointing.

### **Folded Wall:**

*Weeping Heart* 25m VS 4c \*. Ali Rose, Hannah Francis. 23 Apr 2019.

Climb straight up through the black heart between *Black Recess* and *Sleeping Dogs*. Finish up the last few metres of *Sleeping Dogs*.

Rab Anderson notes that *Snake Dyke* on p179 Outer Hebrides is soft for the grade and perhaps E1/2 5b.

### **The Eye Peninsula, Rubha an t-Searraich:**

From the aircraft beacon follow the new fence line east to the cliff. Cross two stiles then bear left 50m to the top of the central promontory. This is marked Rubha an t-Searraich on OS 1:25k maps (top of spur at NB 549 318). The climbs are on the east side of the promontory and can be viewed in advance from the promontory to the north-east.

Approach: Walk down the gentle sloping ridge of the promontory. Stop where it steepens at a large leaning spike. A 60m abseil east from here down first steep grass, then a rocky gully, leads to a large slanting belay ledge 5m above the high tide line.

*Ferry Godmother* 20m Severe 4a \*. Robert Middleton, Helen Fairclough. 27 Apr 2019.

Climb a short grove above the belay then continue up the centre of the slab following vague cracks to a steep finish. Belay at a grassy ledge and walk back over to abseil rope to escape. A little bold, but good protection where it matters.

*Ferry Steps* 20m VS 4b \*. Robert Middleton, Helen Fairclough. 27 Apr 2019.

Climb a short grove above the belay then continue leftwards across the slab to the well-positioned arete. Climb this boldly, with a little suspect rock, in an exciting position. Belay at a grassy ledge and walk back over to the abseil rope to escape. Low in the grade but a little scary.

*Ferry Pleasant* 40m Diff \*\*. Robert Middleton, Helen Fairclough. 27 Apr 2019.

The line of the slab. Descend 4m below the belay to find a rising diagonal flake ramp leading leftwards. Follow this pleasantly in excellent positions for 25m until a slabby open book corner appears above. Climb this then continue over grass to a large spike belay. A second pitch of steep grass can be followed above (good gear available to protect the nervous) to return to the top of the abseil point. A good adventurous climb at the grade.

### **The Uig Hills, Tealasdail Slabs:**

*Mistaken Identity* 235m HVS 4c \*\*. Robert Middleton, Helen Fairclough. 19 Apr 2019.

Start on the grassy terrace 10m right of *The Scroll/Comes the Breanish* at a diagonal crack which takes good cams for a belay.

1. 65m 4c Climb up and right over bold slabs for 20m heading for the first of two left-facing flake features (micro gear available just before the first flake). Climb the first flake-crack, then continue over more bold slabs to the second larger flake. Make a bold move up to reach this and much needed gear, before continuing up over slabs to a crack (gear) then diagonally leftwards making for the good corner belay of *Comes the Breanish*. A bold pitch on immaculate rock.

2. 60m 4b Climb up and left up the corner then upward and slightly leftwards over more slabs above to a vegetated corner which is followed trending back right. Continue over overlaps and slabs to belay as for *Comes the Breanish* or up and left at a spike. A better protected, though vegetated pitch, which would be OK in the wet.

3 and 4. 110m Continuing as for *Comes the Breanish* then traversing into the *Lochlann* makes a lovely consistent climb at 4b/c.

### **Port of Nis, Harbour Wall (NB 54007 63801):**

*Wet-Ness* 6m Diff. Jonathan Branton, Margaret Brereton. 14 Jun 2019.

From the ledge in the corner of the crag, climb the short slab on the harbour wall side, straight up the middle.

*Gneiss-Ness* 10m V.Diff \*. Alex Whitmore, Jonathan Branton. 21 Jun 2019.

Abseil into a small ledge, just above the high tide, inside a large chimney, capped by an overhang in the middle of the wall. Climb the inviting up and left-trending parallel cracks, exiting in a short groove just around the corner.



*Dave MacLeod & Keita Kurakami on FA of From the Depths (E6 6c), Creag Mo.  
Photo: Chris Prescott.*



*Dave MacLeod on FA of The Golden Road (E9 7a), Creag Mo. Photo: Chris Prescott.*

**HARRIS, Mo Bhiogadail, Creag Mo:**

*The Hard Drive* 45m E7 6c \*\*\*. Dave MacLeod. 14 May 2019.

An excellent and well-protected route taking the left side of the smooth wall right of *Drive Station*, joining that route in its upper reaches. Start at some broken blocks below a small ledge. Move off the ledge through a small niche and climb the thin curving groove above to a step left and up to a rest. Traverse hard right for 2m on thumb presses and make hard moves up a thin seam to a stopping place. Continue direct to another seam and use this to reach left into a good rest on *Drive Station*. Follow this to the top.

*From the Depths* 90m E6 6c \*\*\*. Dave MacLeod, Keita Kurakami. 17 May 2019.

The attractive flake-line that runs up the lower part of the left wall of the amphitheatre, so named after the cold air emanating from the deep flake. An easier start may be possible coming in from the left via grooves which would avoid the hard boulder at the start and make this a more balanced route.

1. 40m 6c. Start below the flake-line and move up ledges to an unusual piece of calcite 'stuck' to the overhanging wall. Use this with care to reach left and place crucial cams in a crack in the overhang. Make bouldery and athletic moves over the bulge and move left on easier ground. Pull out right to gain the flake and follow it with enjoyable laybacking to a good ledge and belay.
2. 50m 5c. Climb a short corner above the belay and traverse left for 5m to gain another ledge below the upper open groove. Climb the groove to its top and continue up grassy ramps and easy short walls to the top.

*The Golden Road* 45m E9 7a \*\*. Dave MacLeod. 14 June 2019.

An outstanding line on the smooth wall right of *Drive Station* on immaculate rough rock, marred only slightly by one escapable move near the top. Follow *The Hard Drive* to the stopping place beyond its crux. Step down and make a desperately thin traverse right for 5m to a good foothold. Climb the line of better holds above, reaching left to place crucial runners in the short thin seam. Where the holds run out, continue directly on tiny edges (crux) and then follow a line of slightly better edges rightwards to the edge of the wall. Avoiding the obvious escape right into *Stellar Crack*, step boldly back left and follow the left-slanting rail to eventually gain ledges at the end of *Drive Station*.

*Mega Bracket* (Mega Kagikakko) 95m E7 6c \*\*\*. Keita Kurakami, Dave MacLeod. 17 May 2019.

A magnificent route taking the left prominent corner below the major roof at 50m, 15m left of and parallel to pitch 2 of *The Mighty Chondrion*, and climbing direct.

1. 35m 6c Climb a broken slab a few metres right of *Central Grooves* to a small ledge, then climb an overhanging section above with sustained difficulty. Continue, ignoring the major ledge on the left and circumventing a loose band of rock from right, to the bottom of the prominent corner for semi-hanging belay.
2. 40m 6a Climb the corner direct to the roof, negotiate it up and left, and follow the prominent crack above more easily to a big ledge. Yosemite-quality pitch.
3. 20m 5b Follow an obvious chimney with a chockstone at the top.

*Memory Lane Arete* 30m HVS 5b \*. Masa Sakano, Keita Kurakami. 17 May 2019.

Gritstone-like arete climbing of the left side of the prominent 'Nose', situated at

the left end of the crag, some 300m left of the main section of the crag with a cave, and 50m left of *The Corner*. Traverse in along a grassy ledge from the left to the bottom of the Nose for belay. Climb easy but chossy face with care, and follow the corner crack-above at the left side of the Nose. Arrange gear and make a fingery airy traverse right to the foot of the Nose. Climb up the crack at the left end of the Nose face and slab above.

### **South Harris, Uabhal Mor, Creag na Tri Piosin:**

*Pieces of Eight* 25m E1 5b \*. Alex Whitmore. 12 Jun 2019.

A rising traverse across the cliff. Start up *First of Eight* and climb the obvious right-trending crack system between the overlaps and past the rowan tree. Finish up *Eight Sisters*.

### **NORTH UIST, Big Bay, Short Crag:**

*Pocket Knife* 18m H.Severe 4b \*. Magnus Fraser, Cal Bentley-Abbot. 9 Aug 2018.

18m 4b. Start on sharp pockets in the middle of the leftmost face (past the steep arete and 90° corner to the left of *Jelly Fish*. Pass a large horizontal break and continue to a ledge. Traverse and take the easier line, right of the potential direct route up the face, to the top.

*Butt Hurt* 18m Severe 4b. Magnus Fraser, Robert Fraser. 30 Aug 2018.

18m 4b. Follow the corner crack line formed by an overlap at the far left side of the crag, round the arete and corner from *Jelly Fish* and just left of *Pocket Knife*. The first moves are the most challenging, with a bouldery start, soon easing (Diff) higher up.

### **PABBAY, Rubha Charnan, Big Bloc Sloc:**

*Flawless Deception* 20m Severe. Dan Moore, Scott Herrett. 23 Jul 2018.

Climbs the slabby wall just round the arete from *Immaculate Conception* (useful escape route).

### **An Tobha, The Grey Wall Recess:**

*U-Ei Regained* 100m E2 5c. First ascent unknown.

Climb the first two pitches of *Paradise Regained* followed by a more logical finish up the final pitch of *U-Ei*. (Dan Moore notes this was climbed by three parties on his trip who all agreed it was a great link-up and worth noting).

### **Rubha Greotach, The Galley:**

*Systematic Chaos* 10m E4 5c \*. Michael Barnard, Charlie Henderson. 21 Jul 2018.

Fine bold climbing up the right side of the wall left of *Retreat Unthinkable!* Start off the big block and move up the wall to a reasonable hold below the overlaps. Make a long move to a hold above the overlaps and gain the break on the left (cam). Finish using the edge on the left. Pre-practiced.

In the topo, *Retreat Unthinkable!* lies further left (out of shot). This is definitely 5b, and still a bold route.

*A Cream of White Sauces* was repeated and thought E1 (5b,4b,4b) \*\*. The crux is definitely climbing *Retreat Unthinkable!*, by itself an E1, so the route is definitely not HVS overall. Pitches 3 and 4 can be combined into one excellent 35m pitch (so 65m overall).

**Arch Headwall:**

Left of *Geniestretch* is a wall of immaculate rock with a trio of fine HVS routes.

*Rough Trade* 25m HVS 5a \*\*. Michael Barnard, Charlie Henderson. 22 Jul 2018.

Start a few metres left of *Geniestretch*, at the base of a short thin diagonal crack. Climb this crack, move up then step right to place gear below a bulging section of wall. Step back left to climb the bulging wall, then continue more easily to the top.

*Dodgy Dealings* 25m HVS 5a \*\*. Michael Barnard, Lucy Spark. 23 Jul 2018.

Start just left of the short thin crack of *Rough Trade*. Step off a block and go up the wall, aiming for an obvious thin vertical crack higher up. Climb this crack and continue directly to the top.

*Chaos Reins* 25m HVS 5a \*\*. Michael Barnard, Lucy Spark. 23 Jul 2018.

Start up and left of the above, at a short thin crack. Climb this and continue up to a flake-crack leading out left. Follow the flake-crack for a few metres, then leave it to forge up the centre of the steep upper wall.

*Flaws are Everything* 15m E2 5b \*. Michael Barnard, Lucy Spark. 23 Jul 2018.

Climbs the wall right of *Es Gibt Reis Baby*, starting 1m right of that route.

*Grace for Drowning* 15m E2 5b \*\*. Michael Barnard, Lucy Spark. 23 Jul 2018.

Climbs the centre of the steep wall left of *Es Gibt Reis Baby* (sustained and surprisingly well protected).

Michael Barnard notes that the above routes were climbed without the existing route descriptions to hand, so he does not know how the HVS routes relate to *Katzenklo*. He suspects that route lies significantly more than 5m left of *Geniestretch* (i.e. left of the above lines), and would be slightly surprised if the FA set off up this wall solo. The most obvious line left of *Geniestretch* looks to fit the description and grade of *Es Gibt Reis Baby*, but lies about 30m left of the former, not 10m.

Michael Barnard notes *Geniestretch* was thought worth \*\*.

Michael Barnard notes that *Prophecy of Drowning* was thought to be overgraded. You could probably subtract a tech grade from each pitch (so E1,5a,4c,5b,4c). As for commitment, it seems likely that at low tide you could abseil from the top of pitch 1 and scramble out, though this wasn't tested.

**Alanais Peninsula, Hoofers Geo:**

*Signed, Sealed, Delivered* 18m E7 6c \*\*. Ben Silvestre, Tessa Lyons. 31 May 2018.

Low in the grade (F7b+/7c). A logical counter diagonal to *Boosh*. Start up a right-facing flake at the back of the gully and climb to a poor rest where it meets the overlap. Arrange some gear and make a series of extremely technical moves diagonally rightwards through the overlap, to reach the crack on *Boosh*. More gear at the rest above, take a deep breath, step right, and climb straight up the headwall on perfect edges via a small flake feature (RP2).

**Note:** The initial flake is probably always greasy, on the FA abbed and chalked the holds up. The route provided a welcome shelter from the extreme sun, being totally north facing.

### **MINGULAY, Basking Seal Geo, Skipisdale Wall:**

*(It's Just a) Skip to the Right* 8m H.Severe 4b \*. Matt Smith, Vicky Smith. 4 Jun 2019.

On the left side of the crag, sidle in from the platform overlooking the crag, above and left of *Devilsbit Scabbious*. Traverse right to a small ledge on the arete below the overlap. Follow the arete to the top.

### **Ryan's Wall:**

The following two routes lie further left (seaward) than any described in the Outer Hebrides guide. Close to the point, abseil from a triangular niche in the cliff top, down a stepped corner with a finger flake, to a bay with a cleft. There is a corner with two overhanging walls on the right wall.

*Von Ryan's Express* 15m H.Severe 4b \*\*. Matt Smith, Vicky Smith. 7 Jun 2019. Climb the wall left of the cleft, over the overlap, and finish up cracks.

*Sea Slater* 15m Diff. Vicky Smith, Matt Smith. 7 Jun 2019.

Climb the stepped corner right of cleft, past the finger flake. (The line of abseil descent).

### **ST KILDA, Soay:**

*Wet Foot West* 230m VS. Sam Tolhurst, Steven Van Dijck, Bob Harrison. 1 Jun 2018.

Located on the western tip of Soay, this route is a contender for the UK's most westerly climb. Arrival was via dinghy, landing on a platform with a small groove 20m left of the large sea cave.

1. 45m Climb a small chimney to a corner-crack and climb this for 4m to a prominent ramp which runs from right to left across the crag. Traverse the ramp for 30m.

2. 55m Continue along the ramp for 50m to below green walls.

3. 20m Climb up the green wall for 4m, then traverse left and climb down a prominent gully for 8m to its base above a large platform. Could be straightened.

4. 50m Traverse down left, then go up a left-trending ramp. Continue until below a large gully leading up the crag. From here it is possible to traverse left and up to a defined pinnacle that marks the end of the climb. The first ascensionists took a groove on the right.

5. 30m 4b Climb up a groove and subsequent corner to a large ledge, overlooking slabs to its left: cracking pitch.

6. 30m An exposed climb down the prominent slab gains the base of the pinnacle. Climb the pinnacle.

Descent back down the route.

### **Ruaival Slabs:**

Walk towards Ruaival peak from the town. Descend at the end of the grass into the scree at the start of the sea cut between Hirta and Dun. Continue along the shore of the sea cut until below the large grey buttress of steepening slabs, with a large roof above the sea to the left.

*The Last and Outmaist Ile* 140m HVS. Sam Tolhurst, Steven Van Dijck, Bob Harrison. 2 Jun 2018.

A similar line may have been climbed in 1987 (Soay, see SMCJ 1998), but the description and route length varies.

1. 30m Climb the easiest way up the slab, onto the right of the large ledge that runs horizontally across the whole Ruaival slabs about one-third up.
2. 25m Follow the grey slabby ridge up to a ledge underneath the steeper wall.
3. 35m 4c Climb straight up the headwall to a large rock next to the obvious platform.
4. 50m A scramble leads over the ridge to the grass.

*Cowboys From Hell* 230m E1. Sam Tolhurst, Steven Van Dijck. 3 Jun 2018.

1. 30m As for *The Last and Outmaist Ile*.
2. 45m Traverse leftwards across the slab. Down climb the obvious gully (mid-way across the slab) until possible to step across. Climb up leftwards in the cracks towards a small ledge on the arete.
3. 25m Continue around the corner of the buttress, traversing left until able to down climb towards the obvious black platform. Belay with small roofs high above and sea below.
4. 20m 5b Continue the traverse blindly to the left, around the corner. Down climb the steep overlaps to join the ledge which crosses the entire face. Belay below a roof with the ledge continuing left.
5. 50m 5b Follow the ledge leftwards to a sloping boulder. Traverse the lip of the boulder and mantel onto it. Climb up a fine corner and continue up to the slabs above.
6. 60m Scramble up the slopes to the top.

*The Swallow over the Sea* 165m E1. Sam Tolhurst, Steven Van Dijck, Bob Harrison. 4 Jun 2018.

1. 30m As for *The Last and Outmaist Ile* / *Cowboys From Hell*.
2. 25m As for *Cowboys From Hell* but descend the gully to its base.
3. 25m 5b Traverse left and make an exposed traverse around the obvious bulge (over the bulge is easier) escape possible over rather than under bulge, less exposed, easier). Climb straight up and belay underneath the cracks as for *Cowboys From Hell*.
4. 45m Climb just to the right of the left arete and through the bigger blocks at the top.
5. 40m Scramble to the top.

*Jesus and the Leper* 160m VS. Sam Tolhurst, Bob Harrison. 9 Jun 2018.

1. 30m As for *The Last and Outmaist Ile* / *Cowboys From Hell*.
2. 30m Traverse out left as for *The Swallow over the Sea* to the top of the gully, then traverse left to the arete.
3. 50m 4b Step right and follow a right-trending crack-line to the midway ledge. Continue right along the midway ledge, to climb the steep headwall in a right-rising line, crossing and finishing right of *The Last and Outmaist Ile*.
4. 50m Scramble to the top.

*Walk on Water* 50m E2 5b. Sam Tolhurst, Bob Harrison. 9 Jun 2018.

A harder variation to pitch 4 of *Jesus and the Leper*, climbing the blank slab right of its crack. Climb directly up the slabs to the halfway ledge.

*The Ferry Man* 50m E4 5c. Sam Tolhurst, Steven Van Dijck. 3 Jun 2018.

A technical and bold climb, possibly E5 due to suspect rock and poor protection. Climbs the two steep black slabs to the right of the main Ruaival slabs.

Start on a large vegetated ledge below the full height left slab. Climb the slab direct for 20m until possible to step right on grass to the base of the steeper darker second slab. Arrange poor brass offsets, then climb the centre of the slab trending slightly left to a small recess of micro blocks. Continue trending leftwards to join a small foot ledge between the right and left slabs. Step left and down onto the left slab. Traverse left across the slab to the arete, then climb it to top out in a loose gully. Belay on the large boulder as for *The Last and Outmaist Ile*. Scramble out 50m.

### **Ruaival Face:**

*The Dead Travel Fast* 35m E5 6b. Sam Tolhurst. 8 Jun 2018.

Access is gained by walking to the Mistress Stone from Harbour Village; pass under the Mistress Stone and scramble down to an abseil point. Abseil access as for *Boat Race* (SMCJ 2011).

Belay from slabs at the base of the face, just above the sea. Climb up trending leftwards through cracks until below the left end of the distinct horizontal roof. Climb up to below the left end of this roof, then climb over it into laybacks up the left side of the distinct upside down V feature (highly visible from below or sea). Make hard barn door moves up the layback to strenuous undercuts and poor side pulls. Leave the upside down V and continue straight up the face to large ledges below large roofs. A tricky right traverse with a sting in the tail mantel allows access to the ledges below the abseil; climb up and out.

### **The Ile of Dun (Giomach Sgor):**

*The Kraken* 120m E3. Sam Tolhurst, Steven Van Dijck, Bob Harrison. 6 Jun 2018.

An instant classic on the south side of Dun, needing a double set of Cams. The obvious corner-crack on the west side of *Giomach Sgor* (pitch 4). Use a hanging belay, either in the obvious pod or just above on the slab. A challenge remains to climb the entire corner from the sea.

1. 50m From the east side of *Giomach Sgor*, land in the quiet bay below the obvious right to left ramp. Climb the ramp, then the dark vertical gully.
2. 20m Continue left below the ridge into the gap between two pinnacles.
3. 15m An airy traverse over an abyss and up to a large block that marks the access down into the corner. Abseil down into the corner to the hanging belay.
4. 35m 6a Climb the obvious corner through the roof.

## **INNER HEBRIDES AND ARRAN**

### **RUM, Barkeval, South Face:**

*Photon Crack* 40m V.Diff. M.Hudson. 25 Aug 2018.

The shattered crackline running up the eastern sidewall of *Narnia Arete* 2–3m right of that route. Start 3m right of the arete in the grassy basin shared with *Candlestick Arete* and follow the crack which steepens with height and joins the parent arete just below the top.

**Hallival, Chasm Crag (NM 401 966):**

This is a small mountain cliff forming the southern end of a long escarpment on the eastern slopes of Hallival at around the 350m contour, close-ish to the village and with characterful climbing. The crag is 15 to 20m high and is south and east facing.

Approach via the Dibidil path as for Pineapple Crag and Sunny Crag and before continuing westwards up the hillside, or – arguably better – take the Allt Sluga a' Choillich path past the dam and as for the Ridge Traverse to the Cnapan Breaca bealach. Drop down south-eastwards to reach the northern end of the escarpment, crossing a broad sandy streambed just level with a green hut, and follow the top of the escarpment southwards past a prominent nose of rock above and to the west, to reach the cliff in 1hr 20mins.

The cliff is formed of two immense 20m-high flakes, whose slippage has left a 10m chasm in the hillside behind the main climbing faces. Routes face south and east in a fine open position and follow strong natural features up slabs, grooves and noses on ultra-grippy peridotite. Routes are described from S to N with one novelty in the chasm behind.

*Nose Route* 15m HVS 5b \*. Mark Hudson, Nic Bassnett. 27 Aug 2018

This route gains and climbs the rounded arete where the cliff changes outlook. Start leftwards up flakes below and left of the nose before traversing hard right at an overlap to a small triangular foothold on the nose. Finish up the airy groove above.

*The Handbrake* 15m Severe. Mark Hudson, Nic Bassnett. 27 Aug 2018

1m right of the nose is a dark hanging groove at 4m. Gain this by stepping up leftwards off a yellow pedestal followed by fine balancy moves up the groove.

*Spooky Shelf* 20m Severe. Mark Hudson, Nic Bassnett, Roger Brown. 27 Aug 2018.

15m R of the nose is a square rib with a hanging shelf at 3m. Climb carefully onto this (crux) and so gain the easier slabs above.

*Doodle* 20m V.Diff. Mark Hudson, Nic Bassnett, Roger Brown. 27 Aug 2018.

Start up a dirty corner 5m right again, climbing up and slightly leftwards to a cleaner slabby finish.

*Bring On The Wall* 5m 5a. Mark Hudson. 27 Aug 2018.

15 m R again is a slightly steeper undercut wall. Pull onto and climb this finishing up the RH edge.

*Chasm Face* 8m VS 5a \*. Mark Hudson, Nic Bassnett. 27 Aug 2018.

Climbs the back wall of the chasm behind the main face. This huge cleft is easily seen from above, and entered by walking in from the south. Just before the huge jammed block is a series of triangular niches in the back (west) wall. Climb out of the topmost of these (crux) before taking the wall above direct.

**Askival, Window Crag:**

The Southern Extension of Clough's Crag – there is a Window Buttress-style feature high up.

*Window Route* 35m H.Severe. Mark Hudson. 25 Aug 2018.

80m south of the stream dividing the southern extension crag from Clough's Crag, past two low noses of rock, is a rib running up to and over a curious window seen fleetingly from the path below.

Start up a stack of wedged blocks at the right-hand side of the triangular black wall that forms the nose of the rib. Bouldery problems take you up over four bulging tiers, the third providing the crux mantelshelf (4c?), before finishing leftwards over the window. Scramble off rightwards.

The Nose: Adam Long notes the feature is \*\*\* and the climbing is at least \*\*.

### **Beehive Buttress:**

*Straight to the Top* 45m E2 5b \*\*. Ali Rose, Mark Chambers. 1 May 2019.

1 25m 5b Climb the start of *Over The Top* and continue straight up the steep groove to belay at the right edge of the heather terrace.

2 20m 5a Climb the juggy wall above.

### **Beehive Buttress, Sunset Wall:**

A small clean wall sits to the right of the right-hand descent from Beehive Buttress

*Sundowner* 15m VS 4c \*\*. Ali Rose. 1 May 2019.

Start 3m left of the base of the wall and climb straight up on good holds.

*Final Sun* 15m Severe \*. Mark Chambers. 1 May 2019.

The broken groove at the right side of the crag.

### **MULL, Mornish, Croig - Seal Wall:**

*Sally* 10m Severe. Will Walker, John McRoberts. 2 Jun 2019.

Between *Third* and *Left Face* there is a square-cut recess a couple of metres up. Climb through this to the top.

### **Calgary:**

A rockfall has removed *Steeler Nation* and the lower half of *Little Brown Jug*. *Wee Rib* now has a block at the start so is easier.

### **ULVA:**

There are more than 50 new routes described in the New Routes 2018 Supplement on the SMC website.

### **MULL, Balmeanach, Peggy's Stack:**

The non-tidal stack beside *Peggy's Cave*, incorrectly called *Charlotte's Cave* in SMCJ 2016 p136. A second rope was carried up by the leader. This was tied off at the base and used for a belay and to abseil.

*Torpex* 12m HVS 5a \*. Steve Kennedy, Cynthia Grindley, Colin Moody. 25 Aug 2018.

Start at the south side, climb a short steep wall then the easy slab. Follow the shallow corner on the left side of the steep face above.

*Minol* 9m Severe \*. Steve Kennedy, Colin Moody, Cynthia Grindley. 25 Aug 2018.

Climb the chimney at the right side of the north side to the top of the block then make steep moves to the top.

*Amatol* 9m Diff \*. Colin Moody, Cynthia Grindley, Steve Kennedy. 25 Aug 2018.

Climb the centre of the north face.

*Octol* 9m V.Diff \*. Colin Moody, Cynthia Grindley, Steve Kennedy. 25 Aug 2018.

The north-east ridge.

*Detonator* 8m Diff. Colin Moody, Ian Cramman. 18 Sep 2018.

This route is just to the west and faces the stack. Start below an overhang and climb up left of it.

### **Scoor, The Slab:**

*The Cruel Sea* 20m E4 6a \*\*. Michael Barnard, Ewan Lyons. 11 Apr 2019.

Slightly eliminate but quality climbing up the clean slabby wall left of *Seal Show*. Move boldly up using holds in the slab and the right arete to a slot (RP), then move up and make a long reach to tease in a perfect Rock 4 (nut key useful). Sustained moves lead past this and up to the ledge. Make a couple of moves up the inset V-corner above, then break out left to climb the steep cracks in the top wall.

*Hit and Run, Direct Finish* 5m E2 5b. Michael Barnard, Alan Hill. 27 Sep 2018. Between the finishes of *Hit and Run* and *Where Eagles Dare*. Go up to the apex of a small roof; climb through this and up the crack above. Grade is unchanged.

*Flight of Icarus* 25m E2 5b \*. Michael Barnard, Ewan Lyons 11 Apr 2019.

Climbs cracks up the wall left of *Hit and Run*. Start up the easy chimney abutting the wall for 8m, then step onto the wall and climb a crack leading to a prominent large thin undercut flake. Move up using the hollow flake, quitting it and stepping left at first opportunity. Continue up the cracks in the wall, moving left/right as required.

### **Kintra, Fish Box Wall:**

*Ten Pound of Shrimp and a Minke Whale* 20m E5 6a \*\*\*. Ben Corbey, Gemma Powell. 22 May 2019.

Takes the obvious line between *Boxed* and *Fishbox*. Start at the obvious collection of holds 2m left of *Boxed*. Boulder up using reasonable holds to the bottom of a vague left-slanting flake-line. Hard moves into this are rewarded by better holds and a nice sequence into the niche. Climb the corner after this to the top. There is also a possibility of a direct finish too.

### **Costa del Sol:**

*El Niche, Variation Start* 10m E2 5b \*. Michael Barnard (unseconded). 5 Apr 2019.

Aims for the hanging flake in the wall right of the normal start. Start as for *Scorchio* for a few metres, then traverse a grassy ledge to its left end. Now climb the wall (bold) to gain the hanging flake and continue up this to the break.

**Fionnphort, South Crag:**

*Juvenile Crack* 8m E2 5c \*. Michael Barnard, Alan Hill. 29 Sep 2018.

The overhanging jamming crack on the right (taping up recommended).

**Fiddien:**

Seven new routes including three extremes on a 'new' crag that can be seen from the road are described in the New Routes 2018 Supplement on the SMC website.

**Eilean A' Ghearrain:**

*Sunset Arete* 6m British 5a, Ali Rose (solo). 15 May 2018.

The arete left of *Diagonal Hands*.

**Erraid:**

There are eight new routes described in the New Routes 2018 Supplement on the SMC website.

**Karen's Slab:**

*Hairy Hippy* 10m HVS 5a. Michael Barnard, Alan Hill. 28 Sep 2018.

Start 3m right of *Hairy Woman*. Climb the crack then take a slanting break out left, continuing as for that route.

*Brinkman's Hip* 10m VS 4c. Alan Hill, Michael Barnard. 28 Sep 2018.

Climb the crack to the right then the hanging flake-crack right of *Hairy Hippy*, and continue up *Hairy Woman*.

**Highball Wall (NM 296 199):**

Alt 40m South facing

This short slabby wall and dome lies between Karen's Slab and Creag Mor, and is seen in profile from the former.

*Schumacher Cracker* 6m VS 5a \*. Alan Hill, Michael Barnard. 28 Sep 2018.

Climb cracks and breaks up the fine slabby wall on the left.

*Dame On Hill* 6m E1 5c. Michael Barnard, Alan Hill. 28 Sep 2018.

Climb thin breaks up the wall, just right of *Schumacher Cracker*.

*Migrating Beaches* 10m VS 5a. Michael Barnard, Alan Hill. 28 Sep 2018.

Right of the above, climb vertical cracks to finish easily up the left side of the dome.

*Optical Illusion* 8m VS 5a. Alan Hill, Michael Barnard. 28 Sep 2018.

Climbs the slab just right of the vertical cracks, finishing just right of the dome.

**The Corridor (NM 296 199):**

The following two routes lie on a wall just right of the existing climbs.

*Arandora Star* 8m HVS 5a. Michael Barnard, Alan Hill. 28 Sep 2018.

The arete on the left, just left of a vegetated groove.

*Erraiders* 15m HVS 5a. Michael Barnard, Alan Hill. 28 Sep 2018.

Climbs cracks just right of the vegetated groove (a bit dirty).

**Sea Grass Buttress:**

*Erraid Siren* 8m E1 5a \*. Michael Barnard, Alan Hill. 28 Sep 2018.  
The arete in the centre of the crag, starting off a large block.

**Upper Tier South:**

Michael Barnard linked the start of *I Hear of the Red Fox* to join and continue as for *Walls Without Balls* and noted it was a good combination, worth two stars. He thought *Chicken Out* was undergraded.

**Upper Tier West:**

*Gopher It* 10m E2 5b \*. Michael Barnard, Ewan Lyons. 10 Apr 2019  
Follow *The Gopher Hole* to the break, then continue directly up a line of flake edges.

The following two routes take crack-lines in the short wall overlooking the heather ramp (mentioned in the description for *Bacteria Soup*).

*Swamp Snake* 6m E1 5c \*. Michael Barnard (unseconded). 6 Apr 2019.  
The wide left-slanting crack.

*Next!* 5m VS 5a. Michael Barnard (unseconded). 6 Apr 2019.  
The short vertical cracks on the right.

*Blood Red* 12m HVS 5b \*. Michael Barnard, Ewan Lyons. 10 Apr 2019.  
Climb the first corner of *Blood Orange*, then take the obvious vertical crack above.

*The Roughian (Variation)* 10m VS 4b. Bradley Richards. 18 May 2014.

Climb *Misunderstanding* to the base of the ramp then take the prominent hand crack to meet the top of *Tykes Lead*.

**Upper Tier South:**

*Deviant Dreams* 12m E3 5c \*. Michael Barnard, Ewan Lyons. 10 Apr 2019.  
Go up *Stealth* to the first jug, then work out right, aiming for an obvious hold in the crack system left of *RLS*. Climb the crack system, passing an obvious stalactite.

**Middle Tier:**

*Deportation* 9m HVS 5a \*. Colin Moody, Cynthia Grindley. 9 Jun 2018.  
Climb the right-facing corner crack, belay well back at the start of *Chickenhead*.

**SKYE****SGÙRR NA GILLEAN, Bhasteir Face:**

*Ridge and Wood's Route* 125m V,6. Michael Barnard, Doug Bartholomew. 19 Jan 2019.

The fault-line/dyke on the Second Pinnacle as in summer, gained via a rising traverse from First-Second Gully.

**SGÜRR A' MHADAIDH, North Face:**

*Foxtrot* 60m V.Diff \*. Michael Barnard. 23 Apr 2019.

The dyke between *Two Pitch Gully* and *Fox Trap* gives a fine bold climb.

**SGÜRR ALASDAIR, South Face:**

*The Sheriff's Ransom* 50m VS (4c, 4a) \*. Michael Barnard. 14 May 2019.

As for winter. Good clean rock.

**SGÜRR THEÀRLAICH, Great Stone Shoot Face:**

*Tour de Force* 85m VI,6 \*\*\*. Mike Lates, Stephan Wrede. 28 Oct 2018.

Start below a triangular roof at 8m, 10m right of the icy groove of *BC Buttress Original Route*.

1. 15m Gain the groove below the triangular roof which is tackled with some brutal moves to gain the broad ledge.
2. 30m Reach and sling the large spike 3m above the belay before climbing the stepped slabby corner above. Take the laid back groove immediately above the terrace which leads left to a corner below an impending wall. Tackle the central crack in this with the benefit of some improbable chockstones to a block belay.
3. 40m Another laid back corner leads up leftwards above the belay but good ice led right and upward for 20m. Continue zigzagging to reach easier ground below the crest.

**SGÜRR SGÜMAIN, West Buttress:**

*Frankland's Gully, Direct Start* 45m VI,6. Masa Sakano, Tom Bishop. 2 Feb 2019.

Start at a cracked left-facing corner 8m left of 2m-wide turfy blob, and 3m left of a little icy pillar (as for pitch 1 of the summer route *Grannie Clark's Wynd*). Follow the crack for 15m with the overhanging bulge at 10m being the lower crux (tech 6), where good hooks and pros can be found. Sustained all the way. After 10m of less steep terrain, arrive at the bottom of a triangular prow. Instead of continuing up *Grannie Clark's Wynd*, which follows the right side of the prow, climbed the left side, following the rising flake crack (crux – large cam useful) in the left-facing corner for 10m, before reaching the front wall and turning right to follow another right-facing corner to the belay of *Frankland's Gully* at the end of its traverse pitch.

**COIRE LAGAN, China Crag (SMCJ 2014):**

*Case in Point* 45m E2 5b \*\*. Steve Kennedy, Colin Moody, Cynthia Grindley. 19 June 2014.

Start at a pointed block 3m right of *Lightsaber*. Climb a thin vertical crack above the block to a small ledge. Move up leftwards and cross the right slanting upper fault of *Lightsaber*. Climb left-trending cracks up the slab above leading to a diagonal basalt intrusion which is followed right to reach the terrace.

**COIRE A' GHRUNDA, Sròn na Ciche, South Crag:**

*Wytches' Brew* 120m VS 4c \*. Steve Kennedy, Cynthia Grindley, Morris MacLeod & Colin Moody. 7 Jul 2018.

Takes a line up the slim, left facing corners left of *Thrice Brewed* (SMCJ 2018).

1. 20m 4a Start about 10m left of the graffiti at the base of *White Slab* at the foot of the rounded rib. Step left and climb the groove on the left side of the rib to a horizontal fault. Move left below a small roof to reach the base of the left facing corner.

2. 45m 4c Climb the initial corner to a ledge. Continue up a short groove then the continuation corner above. Move rightwards to the foot of a further left facing corner.

3. 55m 4c Continue up the corner system until it peters out in broken ground, moving slightly rightwards. A finish was made by scrambling up and right to gain the upper ledges, then across right towards the descent gully just beyond the *White Slab*.

*Smidgen* 30m VS 4c \*\*. Colin Moody, Cynthia Grindley, Steve Kennedy, Morris MacLeod. 7 Jul 2018.

A short route on the buttress between *White Slab Direct* and *Mega Route*. The buttress contains a prominent left facing corner just left of a long overhang at about 5m. Climb the corner to a small roof. Step left into a further corner which is followed to a bulging wall. Climb a steep crack splitting the wall on the right and continue to a ledge. An abseil descent was made from a flake on the right. Alternatively, continue by joining *White Slab* above. It is unsure how this relates to *Oxford Start*.

### **Theàrlaich-Dubh Buttress:**

*Albert's Buttress* 25m VS 5a \*\*. Michael Barnard. 14 May 2019.

An excellent pitch up the narrow buttress just right of Victoria Buttress. Climb a chimney, then a crack, then directly up thin cracks in the top wall.

Michel Barnard notes *The Asp* was thought to be E1 (5b,5b).

### **LOCH SCAVAIG CRAGS:**

*Piglet's Beam* 12m Severe. Maureen Drummond Smith, Jonathan de Leyser. 10 Apr 2019.

There is a whole collection of crags up on the western side of Loch Scavaig, south of Mad Burn Buttress. This route is on a short one, with its prominent feature being a 3m-high black dihedral at the bottom and centre-right. Start 5m left of the black dihedral, stepping from a ledge onto a slabby ramp, and continue up using a short, rising diagonal crack.

### **SGÙRR A' CHOIRE BHIG, Creag Garbh:**

*Ramp It Up* 45m VS 5a. Ewan Lyons, Michael Barnard. 17 May 2019.

The cracked corner-ramp in the centre of the crag. Climb this to its top. Move up and slightly left via a series of small flakes until a delicate move right can be made. Continue to the top, moving left or right as required.

*The Grazer* 40m E3 6a \*\*. Michael Barnard, Ewan Lyons. 17 May 2019.

Climbs the twin cracks left of *Rough Stuff*. Go easily up the corner, pull right into a groove then step left and up the rib (as for *Rough Stuff*) to reach the cracks. The crux is near the top.

### **COIR'-UISG BUTTRESS:**

*Wanderlust* 200m HVS \*\*. Michael Barnard. 23 Apr 2019.

Climbs the next crack left of *Paradise Found*.

1. 50m 4c A choice of lines lead to the crack. Gain it from the left, above the initial bulge, and move up to belay.

2. 50m 5a Continue up the crack to its top. Move rightwards up a slab (crux),

then up leftwards before stepping back right to climb the short upper crack which leads to a ledge (no belay). Move right and follow the rib left of *Paradise Found* to reach the traverse line of *Original Route*.

3-5. 100m 4b Continue right and up as for *Original Route* / *Paradise Found*.

*Scowl* 105m E3 6a. Adam Long, Ben Bransby (Alt). 8 May 2017.

A brilliant discovery linking the big features of the wall via quality climbing at an accessible grade. Start just left of *Skye Wall*.

1. 35m 5b Follow the slim corner with increasing interest to gain the first belay ledge of *Skye Wall*.

2. 40m 6a A stretch up (crux) gains a line of holds leading right – easy but increasingly bold (thin slings, RPs) – to gain the *Skyfall* corner with relief. Up this, easing rapidly, to belay on the ramp.

3. 30m 5c Thrutch up the off-width in the corner (good gear in the thinner crack above), exiting right. Above, a rake leads rightwards onto easier ground and the descent.

The following are routes of two halves; the lower sections climb cracks in the slab right of *Tenderfoot*, while the upper parts involves some spectacular bold dyke climbing. The lines appear slightly illogical from below, but the pitches are very good. The lower sections of the first two routes would give fine Severe pitches in their own right.

*Psyched for the Dyke* 140m VS \*\*. Michael Barnard. 23 Apr 2019.

Start just right of *Tenderfoot*.

1. 60m 4a Climb the slab right of *Tenderfoot* to a ledge. Follow the crack above to join the chimney-crack of *Tenderfoot* and continue up this to the platform.

2. 30m 4a Follow the slanting dyke out left (good cams a third of the way along) to round the corner in an amazing position. Belay in the groove above (as for *Scowl*).

3. 50m 4b Continue out along the next section of dyke (bold) to eventually reach a vertical crack at the back of the scoop. Climb this to the top.

*Dykehead* 115m VS \*\*\*. Michael Barnard. 23 Apr 2019.

Start up and right of the above, below a fine wide crack.

1. 45m 4a Climb the crack past chockstones and on to join the chimney-crack of *Tenderfoot*. Continue up this to the platform.

2. 30m 4a As for *Psyched for the Dyke*.

3. 40m 4c Make a couple of steep moves (crux) to gain a line of holds / dyke in the wall above. Follow this, trending slightly left, then move left to the upper section of the *Psyched for the Dyke* crack. Finish up this.

*Tender Fingers* 115m VS \*\*. Michael Barnard. 23 Apr 2019.

1. 45m 4b Climb a thinner crack right of *Dykehead*, then step right to the arete and climb this to a ledge (bold). Continue up the thin crack and arete above.

2. and 3. 70m As for either of the above.

*Splendourfoot* 35m VS 4c \*. Maureen Drummond Smith, Jonathan de Leyser. 9 Apr 2019.

A good variation to the first pitch of *Tenderfoot*. Start up the corner for 5m, then take a ledge rightwards, until below two cracks. Take the left one, with fine moves

at the top. Then either finish the complete line of *Tenderfoot*, or after its short second pitch escape via a traverse rightwards.

### **TROTTERNISH, Coire Scamadail:**

*Tom's Gully* 90m III. Tom Bishop, Masa Sakano. 1 Feb 2019.

The next major gully 100m to the right of *Vertigo Gully*. Follow the snow gully with a few sections of near vertical walls, the steepest section of each of which is up to 5 metres. In lean conditions (as on the first ascent), it provided sustained mixed climbing. There are two choices of the exit 3 metres below the top: either straight up or traversing to the left. Take care of the precariously perched one-metre long rock at the very top of the gully on the left.

### **Staffin – Southern Cliffs, Tempest Buttress Area:**

*Cetacean Siege* 45m E2 5c \*\*. Andy Moles. 4 Jun 2019.

To the right of *Fe Fi Fo Fum* is a massive shallow corner with four cracks running up it. This follows the third crack from the left, finishing in line up the cleaned corner. It has an excellent jamming midsection, with a crux around two-thirds height where hands narrow to wide fingers. Belay on a partially excavated boulder (long sling) and stakes further back. Take the usual hefty rack of cams.

*Blood of an Englishman* 45m E3 5c. Sean Henderson, Scott Grosdanoff. 18 Apr 2017.

The second groove to the right of *Frisky after Whisky*, 5m right of a block roof. Scramble up to the base of the groove containing twin cracks (left larger) with a large flake low down on the right. Climb the groove by a mixture of bridging and jamming until an escape right onto ledges can be made at the top.

Any Moles notes that descent is preferable by abseil from stakes rather than down the gully. *Cetacean Siege* cannot be seen from the clifftop, but the crack of *Fe Fi Fo Fum* is well seen from the top of *The Tempest*.

### **Staffin – Northern Cliffs, Staffin Slip South:**

*Wildwood* 45m E5 6a \*\*\*. Peter Herd (unseeded). 23 Jun 2019.

The finger crack a few metres right of *Green Vote* gives a spectacular, hard pitch. Recommended kit: triple set cams BD X4 0.2 to BD C4 0.5, 2\* BD 0.75, 1\* BD 1, single set rocks 1-10.

Peter Herd notes that it would be great to see people visiting Staffin main crag as often as the more regularly frequented Skye sea cliffs. All of the \*\*\* routes are clean and have been climbed recently and some new quality additions have been made. Neist and Kilt seem to somewhat overshadow Staffin. The reality is that it that for its sheer density of long, high quality crack climbs, large grade spread, easy access and stunning outlook it is one of the best places to climb cracks in the UK and Ireland.

### **Rubha Hunish, Meall Tuath:**

*Sheep Jam* 75m E3 \*. Michael Barnard, Ewan Lyons. 20 Apr 2019.

A sustained pitch up the headwall cracks left of *Willie's Last Stramash*.

1. 40m 5a As for *Hasbeenfeast* to belay below a large roof.
2. 20m 5c Make a delicate rightwards traverse above the other roofs and up to the headwall cracks. Climb the cracks to below a roof. Move left up a slanting



*Peter Herd on FA of Wildwood (E5 6a), Staffin Slip South. Photo: James Sutton.*

break to gain another vertical crack, step back right into a groove and move up to the large comfy ledge.

3. 15m 5a Climb the crack above to the top (as for *Hasbeenfeast*).

Michael Barnard notes that *Hasbeenfeast* is probably worth \*, *Northern Lights* was thought \*\*, *Friends in the North* \* (neither of us could find the 'fist jam crux').

### **BORNESKETAIG, Gully Walls, East Face:**

The routes in SMCJ 2018 and the route in Skye Sea-Cliffs & Outcrops are on the west face and finish at a ledge at half height. The following routes are on the east face, the upper part of the face is loose, vertical and very dangerous so bolt lower offs are in place.

*Tripoli* 16m E2 5b \*\*\*. Steve Kennedy, Cynthia Grindley, Colin Moody. 23 Jun 2019.

At the left side of the crag are three vertical cracks. Climb up to the three cracks then follow them (a lower off should be in place later this year).

*Polysexual* 16m E2 5c \*\*. Steve Kennedy, Morris MacLeod, Colin Moody, Cynthia Grindley. 19 Aug 2018.

Twin cracks just right of *Tripoli*, finish up the left hand crack with difficulty.

*Polystyrene* 14m HVS 5a \*\*\*. Colin Moody, Cynthia Grindley, Steve Kennedy. 21 Jul 2018.

Obvious twin cracks in the centre of the face (4m right of *Polysexual*) passing a couple of recent rock scars.

*Monopoly* 12m VS 4c \*\*\*. Steve Kennedy, Cynthia Grindley, Colin Moody. 21 Jul 2018.

Right of *Polystyrene* are two twin cracklines, right again is another twin crack in a recess.

### **Stack of Skudiburgh:**

*Zombie Groove* 25m E2 5b. Michael Barnard (unseconded). 24 Feb 2019.

The hanging chimney-crack mentioned in the SMC Skye Sea-Cliffs & Outcrops guidebook gives a good workout and leads to a dirty (but still well protected) top out onto easier ground. Move up rightwards from here to near the top section of *Central Scoop Route*, but step left to finish up the fine arete.

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

*Bridging Loan* 30m E1 5b \*. Luca Celano, Ali Rose. 13 Apr 2019.

The crack up the centre of the buttress between *Loom of the Land* and *Red Currantcy*. Scramble up the heather to spike belay below and right of the crack. Step left and climb the crack via ledges on the left before launching up the steeper final section (not as hard as it looks!)

Following a recent ascent of *Grampus* (SMCJ 2014) the original team felt that the route description required elaboration and re-grading from HVS to E1.

*Grampus* 30m E1 5b \*\*. Roger Brown, Nicola Bassnett. 9 Aug 2012.



*Steve Kennedy on FA Tripoli (E2 5b), Bornesketaig. Photo: Colin Moody.*

Climb *Bridging Interest* until the corner closes. Traverse right to the ledge on the arete. Progress using a combination of the arete and the right side of the adjacent crack. The protection is intricate and the moves are technical. At the capped roof, layback and enjoy the moves to join the top of *Security Risk*.

### **Seagulls Area:**

*Rogue's Wall* 38m E4 6a \*\*\*. Andy Moles, Niels Ernst-Williams, Tom Wild. 29 May 2019.

The brilliant hanging wall between *Gentleman's Groove* and *Gruinard Mutant*. Easier and better protected than it looks – sustained but never desperate. FA party opinions varied from E4 5c to E5 6a. Start up the left flake-crack in the lower wall to the overlap. Cross this rightwards to gain the thin crack in the middle of the wall. Continue up this (bold for a few moves until good small wires). Where the crack bends left and disappears, step left and go up directly to an overlap, then slightly right and straight up to another overlap. Move up and right to gain a short crack that leads to the big ledge at two-thirds height. Finish more easily up *Centre Line*.

Andy Moles suggests renaming the Seagulls/Shimmering sector to reflect that it's really the same piece of crag, and now has enough good routes that it deserves to vie with Financial Sector for popularity. He also suggests that *Monkey Hanger* is E2 5c.

### **NA HURANAN, The Bottle Kiln (SMCJ 2018 Supplement):**

*Hector's House* 18m H.Severe 4a. Nicola Bassnett, Roger Brown. 11 Nov 2018. A novelty route tucked in behind the Bottle Kiln Pinnacle. Start as for *Needlework* but gain the alcove. Climb the squeeze and continue to chimney up two tramlines, easily avoiding the hollow sounding block under the pillar.

Eighteen metres left of the Bottle Kiln Pinnacle is a right-facing short slab capped by jagged blocks. Left, the ground rises to give a rib bounded on its right by a wide vertical crack.

*Stoatie* 18m HVS 4c. Nicola Bassnett, Andrew Holden. 9 Apr 2019.

Climb up, bearing left, onto the rib, which offers spaced micro wires for protection. The good climbing is marred by the short, poorly protected exit. A pre-placed stake is advised as the top takes drainage and there is a distinct lack of natural belays.

### **Arrival Cliff, Lower Left Sector:**

Immediately right of the *Lic-Aird Pinnacle*, the ground rises and in 6m the crag develops into an 8m wide slabby recess with a disjointed overlap at three quarters height.

*Crunchy Nut Corner* 12m V.Diff. Andrew Holden, Kat Lenz, Jake Butcher. 6 Apr 2019.

From the slab move right into the corner and climb this taking care with the blocks at the top.

### **A' Chailleach (NG 330 314):**

A separate steep escarpment further to the west and slighter lower than the Arrival

buttresses is clearly visible from the road towards Talisker bay. Park just west of the Arnival stream and above the river bridge. Contour along a sunken wall towards the crag where assorted sheep tracks assist access to the eastern end. The bulk of possibilities are steep. The left end of the crag has a fierce looking roof, with a gently overhanging arete immediately right which gives steep climbing on interesting holds with good protection.

*Irn Bru* 18m HVS 4c \*\*. John Holden, Mark Hudson, Nicola Bassnett, Roger Brown. 20 Aug 2018.

The route starts just right of the arete and is steep and sustained until a rest at 5m. Move left into a shallow groove and up right to climb the wall left of the continuation crack, with good gear and holds. Continue steeply up a black wall, crux, to a rest and easier ground to finish. Good belays over the chasm just back from the edge.

## NORTHERN HIGHLANDS NORTH

### CÀRN AN TIONAIL, Creag na h-Uidhe:

*Chimney Gully* 200m I. Dave Allan. 14 Feb 2016.

The sixth gully from the left and left of the big rock tower, finishing up two chimneys.

### ARDMAIR, Big Roof Buttress:

*Tigers in a Cage* 35m E6 6b \*\*. Ian Taylor, Tess Fryer. 10 Aug 2018.

The hanging arete right of *Kidz on the Block*. Start up *Town without Pity* to the first ledge, continue for a couple more moves then swing hard left, at a thin break, to ledges. An easy section leads to the massive block. Go up its wide crack until able to span right onto the arete. Arrange awkward gear then climb the steep arete to the top.

### KEANCHULISH SEA-CLIFFS, Camas an Lochain:

*Scary Jellyfish* 14m E1 5b \*\*. Rob Thomson. 31 Aug 2018.

Traverse onto a big wall facing north from the corner right of *SAF Route*. Go up the first vertical crack and continue on horizontal breaks to reach bigger holds and up trending slightly right.

### CUL BEAG, Lurgainn Slabs, Lower Tier:

*Totally Legless* 40m E3 6a \*. John Mackenzie, Andrew James. 19 Jul 2018.

At the left end of the Lower Tier is a roof-capped alcove topped by slabs. Bridge the corner to the roof where memorable moves right lead to a small ledge. Step left onto the slab and climb this more easily avoiding the turf cracks and exit up the middle on sound clean rock.

*Perseverance* 80m VS 4c \*. Andrew James, John Mackenzie. 19 Jul 2018.

1. 45m 4b To the right of *Tiptoe Slab* is a shallow corner. Climb the slab above to a blank section, move right to vegetation and scramble up this to a corner.

2. 35m 4c Climb a smooth slab to the right of the corner to the top wall which is taken centrally via a shallow groove followed by a short scramble.

*Breakout* 85m HVS \*\*\*. Andrew James, John Mackenzie, Neil Wilson. 27 Jun 2019.

A fine well protected route easier than it looks, but high in the grade, taking the straight crack up the slab and wall to the right of *Breakthrough* at the highest point of the crag.

1. 30m 4a Start at the lowest point, cairn, and climb the nice slab as for *Breakthrough* to the wide horizontal crack, step left to the belay.
2. 25m 5a Step up and then left above the stance to a diagonal crack. Move back right to the main crack and follow delectably over the 'sandstone billows' to a cramped stance and good belays below the undercut wall.
3. 30m 5b Climb the thin crack above the stance to a hidden jug, step up left to a ledge. A slightly easier but bolder alternative at 5a is to climb the wall on flakes left of the crack to the same ledge. From the ledge climb the flake-crack to finish up an easier groove to a fixed belay by a big block.

### STAC POLLAIDH, No. 2 Buttress:

*Tubby Twinkle Toes* 35m E6 6a \*\*. Ian Taylor, Tess Fryer. 29 Jun 2019.

Bold climbing up the left arete of *Vlad the Impaler*. Unfortunately it's possible to escape right at a couple of points so not \*\*\*.

Start just left of the toe of the buttress at a corner with a steep wide crack. Layback up the corner (Camalot 4) to an easing, then move right to the arete and a junction with *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*. Go left to the edge where increasingly bold and delicate climbing leads to an easier section. Arrange gear in big cracks on the right (Camalot 2) then move back to the arete and run it out with more delicate moves to a good hold. Finish up the last few moves of *Vlad the Impaler*.

**Note:** *Sweaty Betty* E4. All of the line above the rockfall was first climbed by Tom Prentice and Simon Richardson in May 1988 (*Black Riders* E2 5b, 5c). The lower section of the route was a detached pillar, which later collapsed.

### The Keep:

The following two routes lie on two small towers on the crest of the ridge, just west of the main col. They are the first walls reached as one ascends the hill from the col. The walls are visible on the skyline from the car park.

*Norwegian Blue* 10m E1 5b \*. Alan Hill, Paul Torode, Michael Barnard. 19 Aug 2018.

The short but appealing crack on the first tower.

*Day Pass* 15m VS 4c. Paul Torode, Alan Hill, Michael Barnard. 19 Aug 2018. Directly behind *Norwegian Blue*, climb the crack on the right, leading up the second tower.

*Serious Burns Unit* 35m E1. Michael Barnard, Paul Torode, Alan Hill. 19 Aug 2018.

A worthwhile route crossing *Angus the Arsonist*. Start just right of that route, below a fine left-facing corner.

1. 20m 5a Climb the corner and continue up to a ledge with two large blocks (continuing up *Angus the Arsonist* would give a good HVS). Step left a couple of metres to belay.
2. 15m 5c Gain the ledge above, step left and go up to a cracked corner capped



*Ian Taylor on FA Tubby Twinkle Toes (E6 6a), Stac Pollaidh. Photo: Ian Taylor.*

by a roof. Climb the corner to below the roof, then step left to tackle the steep finishing crack (crux).

*Jams for Breakfast* 25m E1 5b. Michael Barnard, Paul Torode, Alan Hill. 19 Aug 2018.

Start as for *Singe* (SMCJ 2016), then step left to climb the obvious jamming crack.

### **REIFF, Black Rocks:**

*The Move in the Groove* 20m E4 6a. Ian Taylor, Tess Fryer. 8 May 2019.

Right of *Nameless Route* is a steep little hanging groove tucked into the right side of the leaning headwall. Gain the groove via a slab and short wall. A hard move in the groove leads to a ledge of dodgy blocks. Move left and climb carefully to the top.

### **Sugar Kelp Bay NC 968 166:**

About 500m north along the coast from Pooh Cliff is a small bay ringed with broken cliffs. On the north side of the bay, above a large pool is a steep alcove of more continuous rock.

*Guttie Groove* 8m HS 4b. Tess Fryer, Ian Taylor. 28 Feb 2019.

On the left side of the alcove is a tapering corner with a downward pointing block at its start. Climb the corner.

*One for the Honey Monster* 10m E1 5c. Tess Fryer, Ian Taylor. 28 Feb 2019.

At the back of the alcove climb a leftwards trending crack above a small roof.

*Querner* 10m VS 4c. Ian Taylor, Tess Fryer. 28 Feb 2019.

The steep black corner on the right.

*Squidgy Energy* 10m E2 6a. Ian Taylor, Tess Fryer. 28 Feb 2019.

Right of *Querner* is a triangular bulging wall. Come in from the right along a shelf and make a hard move into a slabby niche. Finish up a steep headwall.

*Sugar Plum* 10m VS 4c. Tess Fryer, Ian Taylor. 28 Feb 2019.

Off to the right of the other routes is a slabby wall above a tidal pool. Follow the crack on the right side of the wall

### **OLD MAN OF STOER:**

*Slow Motion Man* 75m E2 5c \*. Gary Latter, Alan Warner. 1 Jul 2000.

A line up the east face. A good route for a rainy day, as the first two pitches stay dry.

1. 30m 5b Start just left of the Tyrolean on *Original Route*. Climb slightly leftwards, then back rightwards aiming for a flake-crack a few metres down and right of the in-situ abseil point at 20m. Climb up to this, then out leftwards before moving back right to pull over a bulge onto a ledge at the base of the prominent right-slanting deep groove. Many medium to large Cams useful on this pitch.

2. 15m 5a Climb up to large roofs, then walk right to belay as for North-West Corner.

3. 30m 5c (As for pitch 2 of *Ring of Bright Water*). Make a long reach to good break above an overlap (crux), then more easily up a left-slanting ramp leading to a deep V-groove. Climb this, then easier out leftwards to abseil slings.

**SEA-CLIFFS, Raven's Crag:**

Michael Barnard notes that he repeated *Yellow Belly* (SMCJ 2010) with Alan Hill on 8 Sep 2018. Rather than gaining the ramp direct, they accessed it from the right and climbed it in a single pitch to the top. This means the ropes do not lie across the sharp edge on the underside of the ramp, and overall, the route provided a quality E2 pitch.

**Balmy Slabs, Western Sector:**

*Starchildren* 20m E3 5c \*\*\*. Michael Barnard, Alan Hill. 8 Sep 2018.

A superb sustained line just right of *A Bridge Too Far* (SMCJ 2009). Belay as for that route and go up a steep ramp to below a roof. Step right to climb the wall above and left arete, exiting onto the upper slab. Finish up the slab between the cracks of *Barmy Slab* (right) and *Violator* (left).

*The Magician* 20m E2 5b \*\*\*. Michael Barnard, Alan Hill. 8 Sep 2018.

An excellent direct line cutting through *A Bridge Too Far*. Two cracks break through the steep bulge left of that route; this route takes the right-hand one, then continues straight up the direct finishing crack (making this variation finish to *A Bridge Too Far* redundant).

*The Alchemist* 20m E2 6a \*\*. Michael Barnard, Alan Hill. 8 Sep 2018.

Start as for *Fantabulous Flake*, then move up to climb the left-hand crack through the bulge. Finish as for *A Bridge Too Far*.

**FAR NORTH-WEST CRAGS, Serendipity Crag:**

*Triceratops* 18m VS 4c \*. Rab Anderson, Chris Anderson. 20 Apr 2019.

The crack-line and slab a few metres to the right of *Central Wall* and *Outside Right* (SMCJ 2004), and left of *Out and About*.

**Note:** SMCJ 2014 has the route *Serenity* (E4 6a) – there is already a route named *Serenity* (E2 5b) on this crag – SMCJ 2004.

*Left Crack* (E2 5b) is very good and worth 2 stars.

**Creag an Fhithich, Back Stage:**

The following routes are located on the on the small isolated slab to the right of the main crag (SMCJ 2011, p44).

*Tonto* 9m Severe 4b \*. Rab Anderson, Chris Anderson. 9 Apr 2019.

Crack-line left of the vegetated crack left of *Rain Dance*.

*Lone Ranger* 9m Severe 4b \*. Rab Anderson, Chris Anderson. 9 Apr 2019.

Right of *Screamer*, the crack-line past a block.

**Note:** *Trident* felt harder than Severe 4a; good though.

**Triangular Buttress** (SMCJ 2005, p118):

Perhaps a more apt name for this would be Front Stage since it sits out in front of Back Stage and it isn't really a buttress.

*Stage Left* 15m VS 4b. Rab Anderson, Chris Anderson. 14 Apr 2019.  
At the left end, climb the wall into a corner then go right onto a ledge.

*Amateur Dramatics* 15m E1/2 5b \*\*. Rab Anderson, Chris Anderson. 14 Apr 2019.

The left side of the orangy wall; scramble to a cam slot then pull right onto the wall to gain a thin break and climb directly above.

*Professional Theatrics* 15m E2 5b \*. Rab Anderson, Chris Anderson. 14 Apr 2019.

Start in the centre of the orangy wall. Gain a ledge, move right along the horizontal break and launch up the wall. Micro cam(s) useful.

*Side Screen* 15m HVS 5a \*. Rab Anderson, Chris Anderson 14 Apr 2019.

Climb the groove right of the rounded edge of *Just a Tease* to the mid-height ledge then step left to finish up vague hairline cracks.

*Stage Right* 15m H. Severe 4b. Rab Anderson, Chris Anderson. 14 Apr 2019  
The crack and corner on the right.

### **Rubha na Leacaig, Minister's Crag (NC 206 561):**

The crag is on the headland between Loch Inchard and Loch Clash. Several routes were climbed on the cliff in 2013 and reported in SMCJ 2017. From the campervan park at Loch Clash, just past Kinlochbervie Spar shop, go up left to a gap in the wall. Follow the faint path which traverses well above Loch Clash, through the broad col between the two tops of Cnoc na h-Eannaiche and then along the shore of Loch Inchard to the light beacon on the headland, 25mins.

The dark-coloured south facing slabs below the beacon can be climbed almost anywhere at around Diff on good rock. Access is by abseil from ledges to barnacled ledges at lowish tide.

The following routes are on the short, steep west facing wall. A 45m abseil from the concrete plinth by the beacon leads down easy slopes and over the edge to large ledges well above the sea. These ledges can also be reached by abseiling down a narrow slab to the left (facing in) of the main slabs, and then scrambling up to the left – this approach provides a way out at Mod/Diff, but may be affected by waves in high seas.

*Midnight Drifter* 15m VS 4c. Steve Lenartowicz, Clare Humphry. 13 Jun 2018.  
Start below a square-cut overhang towards the right end of the crag. Climb up to a diagonal break, move left and then rightwards up a black wall under an overhang, finishing to the left. Possibly the same route as *Something Sinister* (SMCJ 2017).

*Waiting for the Wind to Orkney* 10m HVS 5a. Steve Lenartowicz, Clare Humphry. 5 Jul 2018.

Left of *Midnight Drifter* is an obvious black streak. Climb the centre of the steep pink wall left of this to the diagonal break, and then more easily to the top.

*Sailing By* 10m Severe. Steve Lenartowicz, Clare Humphry. 5 Jul 2018.

Climb the easier break further left. Possibly the same route as *Cornelius Fudge* (SMCJ 2017).

### Kinsale Crag:

Westwards along the coast from the private bothy of Kinsale (NC 212 549) are to be found some remote but quality sea cliffs. With the exception of Black Slab, most of the routes are non-tidal (those affected are noted in the text).

Begin the approach as for Creag Mhor / Big Little Crag, but after crossing the fence by Rhimichie follow a light path west along the north shore of Loch Mor Ceann na Saile, and so down to Kinsale. Continue west along the shoreline, over a small col at one point, to descend to near a small stony beach at NC 201 550. The top of the first sea cliff (Crag Z) can be seen up ahead, while the Lower (Orange) Slab is nearer by, on the left. 1 hr 10 mins.

### Stony Beach Crag:

(NC 202 550) North-North-West facing

This wall is passed on one's left on the short descent to the stony beach. Top quality gneiss, with the slabbier parts having a Diabaga roughness.

*Final Farewell* 20m E2 5c \*\*. Michael Barnard, Alan Hill. 9 Jun 2018.

For most of its breadth the crag has a continuous overlap running down from roughly half to one-third height. Start below an obvious undercut crack in the overlap. Go easily up to this, surmount the bulge with difficulty and continue to gain and climb a thin vertical crack, finishing with interest.

*Case Closed* 25m E1 5b \*. Michael Barnard, Alan Hill. 9 Jun 2018

Start near the right end of the crag. Climb a cracked groove to reach a ledge from where a right-left diagonal break can be gained. Move up the break to its high point, then directly up the wall above.

### Lower (Orange) Slab:

(NC 201 549) North-West facing

*Tramontane* 25m Hard Severe 4b \*. Alan Hill, Michael Barnard. 27 Jul 2013. On the left side of the wall is an obvious right-trending crack. Start just left of this up a big flake, then step right to climb the crack.

*Alice in Blunderland* 20m VS 4c \*. Michael Barnard, Alan Hill. 27 Jul 2013.

In the lower part of the wall right of *Tramontane* is an overlap. Start just right of this, below the left end of a smaller diagonal overlap and move up using a left-facing edge. Continue up the wall above.

*Blizzard of Oz* 30m VS 4b \*. Michael Barnard, Alan Hill. 27 Jul 2013.

Right of the above is a left-facing grassy groove. Start a few metres right of this up a thin crack, continuing directly to the top. Move up and left to an optional 'bucket seat' belay.

*The Last of the Munchkins* 20m Severe. Alan Hill, Michael Barnard. 9 Jun 2018.

On the right side of the crag is an obvious cracked groove. Climb cracks just left of this.

*Orange Dwarf* 15m V.Diff. Michael Barnard. 16 Jun 2013.

The cracked groove at the right end of the crag.

**Upper (Red) Slab:**

(NC 201 549) North-West facing

Located just up from the Lower (Orange) Slab.

*Paddington* 25m H.Severe 4b \*. Alan Hill, Michael Barnard. 27 Jul 2013.

Lies on the left side of the wall. At mid-height is a shallow right-facing corner – go up to climb cracks just right of this.

*Fratercula* 25m VS 4b \*. Alan Hill, Michael Barnard. 27 Jul 2013.

Move up to climb a prominent right-trending crack just right of the above.

*Red Shift* 25m HVS 4c. Michael Barnard, Alan Hill. 27 Jul 2013.

Climbs the blankest section of the slab. Right of *Fratercula* is a hairline crack – climb just left of this.

*A Louse is Not a Motel* 25m HVS 4c. Michael Barnard, Alan Hill. 27 Jul 2013.

On the right side of the wall is an obvious diagonal overlap. Start below the apex of this and move up and left to just right of a prominent loose block. Climb straight up from here.

*Culicoides* 25m H.Severe 4b \*. Alan Hill, Michael Barnard. 27 Jul 2013.

Follow the crack just right of and parallel to the diagonal overlap, continuing directly up to the top.

**Crag Z:**

(NC 198 548) Partially Tidal North facing

This, the first significant sea cliff reached on the walk west from Kinsale, is a fine steep wall with strong natural lines. The bigger left-hand side of the crag has an undercut section at its base, as well as a fine right-left diagonal crack-line. The following two routes are gained by descending the sloping ramp below the wall:

*Pit of Mediocrity* 15m VS 4c \*\*. James Duthie, Michael Barnard. 28 Aug 2013. Start near the left end of the undercut section. Move up and right into a groove and follow this to the right end of the large roof. Climb directly up on small holds (crux).

*Chains of Misery* 15m E2 5b \*. Michael Barnard, Alan Hill. 9 Jun 2018.

Start just right of the above, below a steep rib. Climb the line of holds up the rib (crux), then move left into *Pit of Mediocrity*. Finish out left below the roof.

*Oceans of Ignorance* 20m E2 5c \*\*. Michael Barnard, Alan Hill. 9 Jun 2018

The right-left diagonal crack is tidal and can be accessed by climbing down from below *North-West Unconquerable* (see below), or by abseil. Climb the crack to below its difficult upper section. Move up to place a high cam, then step back down and make a delicate fingery traverse left for a few metres (crux) to gain marginally better holds. From here ascend the wall to regain the crack-line at its top. Finish easily rightwards.

The following routes lie on the shorter right-hand side of the crag and are gained by scrambling down at the right end of the wall, then traversing back along the non-tidal ledge:

*Departure* 5m VS 4c. Michael Barnard. 16 Jun 2013.

The thin right-slanting crack near the right end of the main wall.

*Lincoln Memorial* 8m VS 5a \*. Michael Barnard. 16 Jun 2013.

The steep crack and groove left of *Departure*.

*Collision Course* 12m E4 5c \*\*. Michael Barnard, Alan Hill. 26 May .

The line of least resistance up the overhanging wall between *Lincoln Memorial* and the overhung stepped crack to its left. Adequate protection (two 0.4 Camelots useful), but very strenuous. Go up to two large pockets and climb a vertical crack to below a small overlap. Hand traverse left, then move up to gain and finish up a left-facing groove.

*North-West Unconquerable* 12m E2 6a \*\*. Michael Barnard (unseconded). 28 Aug 2013.

The fine overhung stepped crack gives a classic jam/layback problem. Once established in it, continue more easily up the groove above.

*Draco* 12m HVS 5a \*. Michael Barnard, James Duthie. 28 Aug 2013.

The crack 2m right of the large black corner.

*The Dark Mark* 12m VS 4c \*. Michael Barnard, James Duthie. 28 Aug 2013.

Left of the corner is a prominent left-slanting ramp/groove. Start up this to a ledge then step right to climb the corner.

*Zorro* 12m H.Severe 4b \*\*. Michael Barnard. 16 Jun 2013.

As for the above but continue up the fine left-slanting ramp/groove.

*Arrival* 12m E1 5b \*. Michael Barnard, James Duthie. 28 Aug 2013.

Start at the base of the above. Traverse left above the lip of the overhang to gain the arete. Follow this then step right to finish easily.

The following routes lie on the wall and block right of the descent scramble:

*Zeus* 8m Diff. Michael Barnard. 16 Jun 2013.

The crack/corner just right of the descent.

*Zelda* 5m Severe 4b. Michael Barnard. 16 Jun 2013.

The vertical crack up the right side of the block.

*Xena* 5m Severe 4b. Michael Barnard. 16 Jun 2013.

The left-slanting diagonal crack up the left side of the block.

*The Boatman's Call* 12m Severe. Michael Barnard, Alan Hill. 9 Jun 2018.

The corner on the right (tidal).

*One for the Shepherd* 12m H.Severe 4b \*. Michael Barnard, Alan Hill. 9 Jun 2018.

Start as for the above, but swing right into the shallow hanging groove. Move up this, then step back left to finish up the arete.

**Black Slab:**

(NC 197 548) Tidal North facing

Lying just past Crag Z, this wall is generally slabby although it has two prominent overhung sections. The following routes are gained via a scramble down on the left then embarking on a sea level traverse (low tides and calm seas advised!). While gaining *Rainbow* and *Yachts* is perhaps more difficult than the routes themselves, the latter is certainly recommended.

*Mud Bug* 10m Severe \*. Michael Barnard. 16 Jun 2013.

The steep crack near the left end of the wall.

*Raging Torrent* 25m H.Severe 4b \*. Michael Barnard, Alan Hill. 9 Jun 2018.

Just right of *Mud Bug*, take the right-slanting diagonal crack leading to the left end of the first overhung section. Finish up the corner above.

*Utensil Oceans* 25m HVS 5a \*. Michael Barnard, Alan Hill. 9 Jun 2018.

The first overhung section has an obvious break in its centre. Start down and right of this and move easily up to the large roof. Traverse left through the steepness (crux) and move up to the top.

*Rainbow* 20m Diff. Michael Barnard. 16 Jun 2013.

Starting between the two main overhung sections of the cliff, take the left-slanting line of weakness.

*Yachts* 30m V.Diff \*\*. Michael Barnard. 16 Jun 2013.

Start below the right end of the right-hand overhung section. Climb an obvious shallow left-facing corner, then step left to follow another corner until moves can be made up and right to below the large overhang. Traverse right from here, with a short delicate section to finish.

The following routes lie near the right end of the crag and are gained by a scramble descent then stepping in right (looking down):

*Separated Gestures* 8m Diff. Michael Barnard. 16 Jun 2013.

The left-facing corner at the right end of the crag.

*Isolated Light* 10m Diff \*. Michael Barnard. 16 Jun 2013.

The slab left of Separated Gestures has a fine left-slanting crack. Climb it.

*Psychic Flutter* 10m H.Severe 4a. Michael Barnard. 16 Jun 2013.

Climb direct up the dimpled slab between Separated Gestures and Isolated Light.

*Genetic Drift* 15m Diff. Michael Barnard. 16 Jun 2013.

10m left of the above is a crack/corner. Climb this, then continue up the wall above.

**Creag an Roin:**

(NC 193 545) Partially Tidal North-West facing

The last significant sea cliff before the Bagh Loch an Roin is reached, this crag is fairly extensive and features steep walls and several large overhangs. Begin the approach as for the above but on reaching the end of the small lochan after Loch

Mor Ceann na Saile, strike up left to a small col then across to the col at NC 209 545. From here the Loch an Roin lies WSW – walk over to the loch then along its northern shore to reach the crag. 1hr 20 mins.

### Left Section:

The far left side of the crag increases in height as one traverses down under it; just past a blunt arete is a very fine wall containing the routes *Shimmering Sand* and *Treasure Trove*. This area makes a good vantage point from which to view much of the rest of the crag. The routes are described left to right.

*Oil Slick* 20m VS 4c \*. John Nelson, Michael Barnard. 14 Jun 2014.

Start in the centre of the long wall left of the blunt arete, below the obvious break in the overlap. Climb a black streak up the wall (crux) to gain the groove on the right. Go up this and the next groove above to the top.

*Emerald* 25m VS 4c \*. Michael Barnard, John Nelson. 14 Jun 2014.

Step right off a block onto the blunt arete. Move up this for a few metres then traverse right to follow a left-slanting groove to just below the left end of the overlap. Climb up to finish up the fault on the right.

*Shimmering Sand* 30m E2 5c \*\*. Michael Barnard (unseconded). 14 Jun 2014. Start down and right of *Emerald*, below a thin right-trending line of weakness. Climb boldly up this then continue more easily to below the obvious break in the roof. Move leftwards through this (crux) then step back right to finish up a vertical crack.

*Treasure Trove* 30m E1 5b \*\*. Michael Barnard, John Nelson. 14 Jun 2014.

Start near the right end of the wall. Climb the crack just left of the arete then traverse left below a bulge to join a thinner crack coming up from the base. Pull over the bulge then continue to below the large roof. Hand traverse right to finish more easily up the top slab. Low in the grade.

Michael Barnard notes that a very good combination would be the lower half of *Treasure Trove*, before moving left to join *Shimmering Sand* just before the roof (E1 5c \*\*\*).

Around the corner is a steep black gully/cleft. Right of this is the next buttress, the main feature of which is a long overhung section above half height (not yet breached). This section of the crag can be reached at lower tides by scrambling round over some large boulders or alternatively by downclimbing the following:

*Carnipreamble* 20m Easy. Michael Barnard. 7 Sep 2013.

Follows the obvious rising traverse left below the overhung section, then up to the top.

The following two routes take lines on the wall below the traverse of *Carnipreamble* to reach that route higher up.

*Carnidance* 10m H.Severe 4b \*. Michael Barnard. 27 Apr 2014.

The twin cracks up the left side of the wall.

*Thin Ice* 10m VS 5a. Michael Barnard. 27 Apr 2014.  
The crack on the right.

Continuing right, the next route lies around the corner from the overhung wall.  
*Skating Away* 10m V.Diff \*. Michael Barnard. 27 Apr 2014.  
Climb the crack up the left side of the slab.

The next buttress features a massively overhanging section. The following route is a traverse above this and is probably best gained from above. Scramble down a ramp near the upper section of *Skating Away* to belay level with the obvious handrail.

*Snug as a Tug on a Jug* 10m VS 4c \*\*. Michael Barnard, Alan Hill. 25 May 2014.

Take the handrail out right. Ludicrously steep for the grade!

*Flying High* 20m E3 5c \*\*. Michael Barnard, Alan Hill. 25 May 2014.

Climbs the fine steep wall just right of the massively overhanging section. Start up an obvious line of holds before stepping right to climb the fine rippled section of wall to below a steep groove. Move up then traverse hard right below a small black overhang, then up to gain the arete. Continue more easily, then traverse left above an overhang to finish up a small groove.

Down to the right the ledge drops below sea level (the 'Impasse') – the following tidal route starts at the far end of the ledge.

*Porpoise Mouth* 25m V.Diff \*. Michael Barnard. 27 Apr 2014.  
The chimney!

The following two routes lie above the 'Impasse'. They can be reached by abseil or by ascending the initial section of the chimney to ledges.

*Seals and Eels* 20m E1 5b \*. Michael Barnard, Alan Hill. 25 May 2014.

An obvious overhung groove and vertical crack splits the wall right of the chimney; start below this. Step up to hand traverse a thin break until possible to move up to the right end of the overhung groove. Continue more easily to below an overhanging crack splitting the headwall (unclimbed); ignore this and finish out right, joining the next route at its top.

*Seal the Deal* 20m VS 4c \*\*. Michael Barnard. 27 Apr 2014.

Start down on the right and climb a shallow right-facing corner-crack to below a small roof. Undercling right to the arete, move up and left then step back right to climb the upper cracks to the top.

### **Right Section:**

Routes are described from right to left as one traverses under them. The following route is gained by an easy descent beneath a shorter wall at the far right end of the crag:

*Dream Arena South* 12m V.Diff \*. Michael Barnard. 27 Apr 2014.

Start down on the left and climb a crack just right of the edge of a steep wall, finishing up a hanging groove.

The best way of access for the rest of the routes is down a slabby ramp/corner on the right-hand side (looking out) of the large bay north of the crag's southern-most prow. The following route lies round to the right (looking in) from the descent:

*Recce Route* 15m Moderate. Michael Barnard. 7 Sep 2013.  
The obvious chimney just left of the steep prow.

Moving left from the descent now, the first fairly continuous wall has a prominent left-trending slabby ramp/corner.

*Noodle* 8m Diff. Alan Hill, Michael Barnard. 25 May 2014.  
The short right-trending ramp at the right end of the wall.

*Time Was* 15m H.Severe 4a \*\*. Michael Barnard. 27 Apr 2014.  
The fine left-trending ramp/corner.

*Time and Tide Wait for No Man* 12m VS 4c \*\*. Michael Barnard. 27 Apr 2014.  
The obvious vertical cracks cutting through *Time Was*.

*Come Hell or High Water* 20m VS 4c \*. Michael Barnard. 27 Apr 2014.  
Left of the above are two vertical fault lines. Climb the right-hand line.

*The Devil* 20m VS 5a. Michael Barnard. 27 Apr 2014.  
A central line squeezed in between the other two.

*Green Grass and High Tides* 20m Severe \*\*. Michael Barnard. 27 Apr 2014.  
The left-hand crack, which becomes a chimney near its top.

*Deep Blue Sea* 20m VS 4c \*. Michael Barnard. 27 Apr 2014.  
Left of the above, start up a shallow corner to gain and climb a line of steep cracks. Finish more easily.

*The Great Whale Hunt* 20m Diff \*. Michael Barnard. 27 Apr 2014.  
The prominent chimney.

*Picking up the Pieces* 20m Moderate \*. Michael Barnard. 27 Apr 2014.  
The fine slabby rib left of the chimney. Also makes a good descent route.

*Flaming Night Towers* 20m V.Diff. Michael Barnard. 27 Apr 2014.  
Left is an impressive overhung prow. Climb up to below this then move rightwards to join *Picking up the Pieces*.

*Look to the Skies* 15m V.Diff \*. Michael Barnard. 27 Apr 2014.  
Left again is a vertical chimney. Start left of the above and climb up leftwards to finish up the top half of the chimney.

*Season of Turmoil* 15m V.Diff \*. Michael Barnard. 27 Apr 2014.  
Climb the lower half of the chimney then move out across the left wall.

The next three routes take steep crack/groove lines just before the 'Impasse' stops further progress northwards:

*Saints and Sinners* 20m VS 4c \*. Michael Barnard. 27 Apr 2014.

The lower section of the wall has a vertical trough with cracks in its left and right sides. Climb the right-hand crack to gain the arete and move up to below the right-hand groove. Gain this steeply (crux), then continue up to the top.

*Ferret and Featherbird* 20m E1 5b \*. Michael Barnard, Alan Hill. 25 May 2014.

Climb the left-hand crack to below the roof. Take the central slot directly above, finishing up a steep crack.

*Razorblade and Rattlesnake* 20m E2 5b \*\*. Michael Barnard, Alan Hill. 25 May 2014.

Start as for *Ferret and Featherbird* but swing left at an obvious jug to gain a shallow groove and climb up to below the roof. Move up to pull over the centre of the roof (crux). Continue up the corner, moving left then back right to finish.

### **Maiden's Crag:**

(NC 190 542) Partially Tidal North facing

Lying on the next small promontory west of the Bagh Loch an Roin, this very steep crag is well seen from the top of Creag an Roin. There is potential for harder lines. Approach as for Creag an Roin but take the southern shore of Loch an Roin to reach the crag. 1 hr 30 mins.

The climbs can be accessed by scrambling down and traversing in from either end (tidal) but the right-hand (west) end is slightly easier – routes are described right-left from here. (At higher tides the routes on the main wall can be gained by abseil.) The long steep wall reached first is the crag's finest feature. Immediately obvious is a striking left-slanting crack/groove-line.

*Maiden of the Cancer Moon* 15m E2 5b \*\*\*. Michael Barnard, Alan Hill. 26 May 2014.

The superb left-slanting crack/groove-line. Sustained.

Moving left, the main wall continues towards a big bottomless right-angled corner, which gives the line of the next route:

*Calvary* 15m E2 5c \*\*. Michael Barnard, John Nelson. 15 Jun 2014.

After a tricky start to gain the corner, reach up for an obvious slot (Camalot 0.3 below fingers). Move up the corner then step right to finish easily.

Past the big corner, the wall turns back out towards the sea. The next route lies around the the arete from this main section.

*Gold and Silver* 10m HVS 5a \*. Michael Barnard, Alan Hill. 26 May 2014.  
Climb a steep crack leading to a narrow vertical chimney-slot. Tidal.

The following route lies on the far left (east) end of the crag and is best gained from that side:

*Happy Trails* 5m VS 5a \*. Michael Barnard, Alan Hill. 26 May 2014.  
The wide corner-crack. A Friend 6 provides initial confidence!

### Sheigra, Second Geo:

Rab Anderson notes: Having made an ascent of *May Tripper* almost 30 years after the first, it is incorrectly described in the Northern Highlands North guide and confusingly described and shown in Scottish Rock Climbs; others have wondered too, but have simply followed the natural line hereabouts. The diagram is correct in Northern Highlands North but incorrect in Scottish Rock Climbs.

*May Tripper* 25m E1 5a/b \*\*\*. Rab Anderson, Chris Greaves. 22 May 1989. Climbs the more distinct right-hand of the two black streaks in the wall right of *Bloodlust*. As for *Bloodlust* to the first ledge then go diagonally up right to gain a black vein. Where this cuts sharply left, either pull out right to a pocket, or move left up the vein then pull out right. Gain the black streak on the right and climb its left side, crossing *Bloodlust* to finish directly.

### FOINAVEN, Cnoc a' Mhadaidh:

*Dan and Sam Do Brokeback Mountain* 75m HVS 5a \*\*. Gemma Robertson, James Milton. 30 May 2019.

At the eastern end of the crag beyond the slit gully is a band of pink rock rising up the hill. This route follows the right flank of the band, following cracks just below the crest without topping out until reaching the final ledge.

1. 35m 5a Start at the foot of the pink band, climb to a grassy ledge then follow the cracks up to the top of the initial wall. Cross the wall and belay in the niche on the far right.
2. 20m 4c Step down and right from the belay following the horizontal cracks for 20m across a series of slopy ledges, resisting the urge to top out. Belay from a flat ledge a few feet below the top of the crag.
3. 20m Continue to follow the more broken cracks across to the grassy ledges to a big final ledge. Top out and belay just above.

*Smackheads on the Beach* 8m HVS 5a \*. James Milton. 30 May 2019.

Start right of the beginning of *Dan and Sam Do Brokeback Mountain* below the initial wall. Climb boldly up the centre of the wall, reaching gear as the climbing eases just below mid-height. Continue straight up the wall to finish on the crest of the pink band. Descended by walking off to the left.

### BEN HOPE, North-West Face:

*Petticoat Ridge Direct* 700m IV,4. B. Davison, S. Allan, S. Perry, A. Nisbet. 24 Jan 2019.

This is the ridge high up on the face to the right of *Bell's Ridge* and the left exit taken by *Petticoat Direct*. Follow the gully as for *Petticoat Direct* to where it moves left into a large basin on the left. Continue up to a rocky ridge high up which curves left to finish at the top of *Bell's Ridge*. The top curving ridge was climbed in three or four pitches. Start up a steep wall, then step left and up to a shoulder of ridge. From the back of this shoulder a narrow V-groove was followed and then a series of short walls and ledges lead to top of *Bell's Ridge*.

### PORT VASGO:

*Touch our Rush* 30m E4 5c \*\*. Steve Perry, Andy Nisbet. 2 Aug 2018.

A few metres left of the corner of *Revelation*, climb a fault up to the big roof, step right and cut loose to surmount it. Make bold moves up to a layaway. Continue

up on crimps (crux), before stepping left to a shallow left-facing corner and easier moves to the top.

### **MID CLYTH, Stack Area:**

*Doomsday* 17m E6 6a \*\*\*. Calum Muskett, Tom Randall. Jul 2013.

The blunt arete between *Maelstrom* and *Giant* is as good as it is serious.

Start up the ledges as for *Giant* before cutting immediately back left to a flake leading to a block pedestal beneath the arete. Arrange some average gear before steep committing moves on crimps up to a pocket (Cam placement) and finally a better hold. Stiff pulls on more crimps lead to better edges and an easy top out.

*Love is Suicide* 15m E3 5b \*. Steve Perry, Jamie Kirkbride. 18 Jul 2018.

This is the overhanging, horizontally banded wall as the crag turns aspect into South Bay. Boldly climb just right of the left edge to good but spaced Cam placements and finish up the centre of the top face onto ledges.

### **Lighthouse Wall:**

*Wave Riders* 25m E1 5a \*\*\*. Steve Perry, Andrew Tait. Jun 2010

The most obvious corner on the wall leads to a roof. Make a long traverse left, until the first weakness to climb up and back rightwards into a niche right of an overhanging triangular block.

### **ORKNEY MAINLAND, Yesnaby, False Stack Area:**

*Too Much Monkey Business* 20m E3 5c \*\*\*. Michael Barnard, James Duthie. 20 Jun 2012.

Excellent climbing up the obvious steep crack in the landward (east) face of the false stack. Belay at the right edge of the south face (Friend 3.5/4). Traverse right for a few metres before moving up to hand traverse a higher break to gain the right-hand crack that is followed to below the roof. Climb the sustained crack above to the top.

The following routes lie on the wall facing the false stack. Start on the same ledge as for *Ain't No Strange As Folk* (SMCJ 2009).

*Under the Bridge* 20m E1 5b \*\*. Michael Barnard, James Duthie. 20 Jun 2012.

Climb flake cracks up the groove left of *Three Wise Idiots* to below the first roof (as for *Ain't No Strange As Folk*). Gain holds above the roof, then traverse delicately left (feet in obvious break) to gain a flake crack which is followed to the top. Micro-cams useful.

*Above the Moat* 20m E1 5b \*. Michael Barnard, James Duthie. 20 Jun 2012.

Move up to the first ledge (as for the above), then hand traverse left to a steep corner. Climb this with interest, finishing on the left. Micro-cams useful.

*Portcullis* 20m H.Severe 4b. Michael Barnard, James Duthie. 26 Aug 2013..

Start on the same ledge as for *Ain't No Strange As Folk* etc. Traverse left along a break until past the obvious corner of Above the Moat. Move leftwards up the slab then step right to climb a left-facing groove (beware dodgy flake).

### **Spectator's Geo:**

*Private Eye* 20m E2 5c \*\*. Michael Barnard, James Duthie. 25 Aug 2013.

A good steep climb left of *Lost in the Desert*. Climb the initial wall left of that route to a ledge. Move up and left to climb a short left-facing corner, then step right to finish up the obvious crack through the top bulge.

*Wall of Sound* 20m E3 5c \*\*. Michael Barnard, Alan Hill. 6 Sep 2018.

A spectacular line going out from the left end of the main Spectator's Wall. Climb the initial pillar of *Private Eye* to the ledge. Continue up that route for a couple of metres, then step out left on the lip of the roof to gain the obvious slanting flake edge. Move up using this and continue up leftwards to finish up a short left-facing groove.

Michael Barnard notes that he thought *Lum Crack* E1 5b/c and *Long Hard Winter* E2 5c.

### **Qui Ayre Area (HY 218 155):**

Fourteen new routes are described in the New Routes 2019 Supplement on the SMC website.

### **Lyre Geo Area:**

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

Approach: From the parking (HY 2208 1612), follow paths S past the Yesnaby climbing area, at the end of this, go through a kissing gate. Continue S along the clifftops to the first deep geo (Geo of Inganess), Inganess Geo wall is on the S side of this geo, stakes for the abseil can be seen beside the path just after crossing the small stream at the head of the geo. To reach Lyre Geo itself, continue along the cliff tops to reach another kissing gate, go through this. The crag lies about 100m SW of this gate, the stakes are obvious.

Access: Abseil to sea level ledges for both walls, a separate abseil rope is needed. At Lyre Geo itself place gear on abseil to stay in contact with the wall, especially to reach the start of *All Your Fears Are My Desires* and *Beating Heart*. All three stakes at Lyre Geo should be carefully equalised for an anchor as they are short and only one is buried deep. Both stakes at Geo of Inganess are buried deep.

### **Lyre Geo (HY 2194 1406):**

*All Your Fears Are My Desires* 45m E2 5b \*\*. Edward Nind, Topher Dagg. 19 Apr 2018.

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

*Beating Heart* 45m E3 5c \*\*\*. Edward Nind, Thomas Hugon. 10 Jun 18.

A superb line that follows the impressive SW arete of the headland. Climb the slab left of the cave to the main corner above. Traverse the hanging wall on the right to a tiny stance on the end of the giant roof. Climb a short arete to a large

ledge. Move up and left off this below a left-pointing spike, pull left round the arete to another stance. Move right back round the arete (stand on the spike) then up and left round it again to a large ledge and continue easily to the giant central break. Pull onto the upper wall just left of the arete and move right and up to regain the arete, climb it on the left side to near the top and finish on its right side. Top of the grade.

*Ill Omens* 40m E3 6a \*. Edward Nind, Samuel Tolhurst. 24 Jun 2018.

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

The following two routes start from a comfy ledge a few metres above and 10m right of the arch. This stays dry even in quite a big swell.

*Déjà Vu* 40m E2 5c \*. Edward Nind, Topher Dagg. 19 Apr 2018.

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

*Déjà Vu, Left-Hand Start* E2 5b \*. Samuel Tolhurst, Edward Nind. 24 Jun 2018.

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

*Ma Petite Fleur* 40m HVS 5a \*\*. Edward Nind, Alexia Schmidt. 28 Apr 18.

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

### **Inganess Geo Wall (HY 2203 1431):**

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

*Fortunate Son* 50m E2 5b. Edward Nind, Thomas Hugon. 10 Jun 2018.

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

**Ramna Geo (HY 3049 3021):**

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

Approach: Park at a small access track next to the loch (HY 3063 2953). Walk E along the road to the last field boundary on the N side of it. Cross onto Costa Hill and follow the E side of the boundary fence generally N all the way to Ramna Geo. The route is at its NE tip.

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

*Discordant Cacophony* 80m Scottish VS. Edward Nind, Alexia Schmidt. 9 Jun 2018.

Abseil down the line to giant ledges at the base.

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

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

**Tankerness (HY 5445 1028):**

Fifty eight new routes are described in the New Routes 2019 Supplement on the SMC website.

**White Fowl Nevi (HY 5937 0886):**

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

Approach: Park at a large parking area at the public road end (HY 5898 0792). Follow the signed public path past the Gloup to the coast. Walk N along the clifftops for 1km past Brough of Deerness to reach the large N-facing bay. The wall is on the W side of the bay.

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

*Afterglow* 25m E3 5c \*\*. Edward Nind (unseconded). 16 Jun 2018.

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

**Deerness (HY 5940 0794):**

Thirty five new routes are described in the New Routes 2019 Supplement on the SMC website.

**SOUTH RONOLDSAY, Hoxa Head (ND 4032 9258):**

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

**Approach:** From the parking (ND 4090 9333), walk SW along the road/track passing through some gates. At the old WWII buildings, continue directly towards the sea and pass through a kissing gate. The centre of the cliff is directly below.

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

*Abortive Jenga* 15m HVS 5b. Edward Nind, Alexia Schmidt. 31 Mar 2018.  
Make a poor belay on the grey ledge a few metres above the sea and just right of the stacked Jenga blocks. Climb up and left to the stacked blocks, at these, traverse left into a corner and then pull up and left onto a jutting nose. Climb easily to a short awkward chimney and finish up this.

*Vomit* 15m VS 4b. Edward Nind, Alexia Schmidt. 31 Mar 2018.  
Start from a green ledge a few metres above the sea, poor belay. Climb the arete above, poorly protected. Pull round the overhang and move a little left. Climb the corner to finish. A poor route.

*Lesser Men* 15m H.Severe 4b. Edward Nind, Alexia Schmidt. 31 Mar 2018.  
Climb the corner, move slightly right to bypass a small roof and then finish by the continuation corner above.

*Mickle Gogarth* 20m E1 5a \*. Edward Nind, Alexia Schmidt. 2 Apr 2018.  
From the base of the large central depression, climb up and right a few metres to reach the central ledge system. Traverse this left until the angle eases at a hole filled with guano. Finish straight up.

*Peedie Gogarth* 20m E1 5a \*. Edward Nind, Alexia Schmidt. 2 Apr 2018.  
As for *Mickle Gogarth* but continue up and right till the upper ledge system is reached, traverse this and then finish straight up where the angle eases.

*Fish 'N Ships* 25m H.Severe 4b \*. Edward Nind, Alexia Schmidt. 24 Mar 2018.  
From ledges a few metres above the sea, climb easily up and right into a niche with grass tufts. Exit this up and left to a ledge. Move up and make an airy step left to a ledge on the lip of the main overhang. Continue up and left easily to finish.

*Bitter Darkness* 20m H.Severe 4b \*. Edward Nind, Alexia Schmidt. 24 Mar 2018.  
Climb the corner immediately left of *First Day of Summer*. At the large overhang near the top, move right out of the corner and finish directly.

*First Day of Summer* 20m Severe 4a. Edward Nind, Alexia Schmidt. 24 Mar 2018.

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

*Drums In The Deep* 20m E2 5c \*. Edward Nind (unsecceded). 16 Jun 2018.  
Climb the main corner between bird wall and plate wall until moves can be made 2m right into a niche. Move steeply up and left into a hanging corner and up this to a large ledge. Climb twin crack off the right side of the ledge to a wide and large ledge and finish steeply but easily up the small wall above.

*Not All Irish Are Lucky* 15m E2 5c \*\*. Edward Nind, Thea Cupan. 20 Jun 2018.  
Climb the steep right-facing corner to a steeper pull left round the roof, climb cracks above to a large ledge and then finish up the short wall behind this.

*Fading Beauty* 25m VS 4b \*. Edward Nind, Alexia Schmidt. 24 Mar 2018.  
From a barnacle-covered ledge, climb the protruding tower on its seaward side. Where the tower merges into the cliff, climb directly to the large ledge (crux) and finish rightwards easily.

*Fulmar Surprise* 25m E1 5b \*\*. Edward Nind (unsecceded). 16 Jun 2018.  
From a barnacle-covered ledge ascend the wall up and right to below an overhang, pull up and left into a niche. Continue straight up the crack above to a corner, follow this to the top of the cliff.

*Non!* 25m E1 5b. Edward Nind (unsecceded). 16 Jun 2018.  
Takes the obvious large corner in the arete boundary between plate wall and fence wall. Climb to large roof and break directly through its centre. From above this, step left to avoid grass and finish up the slabby arete and wall above.

*Butch Err* <15m HVS 5a \*. Edward Nind, Alexia Schmidt. 31 Mar 2018.  
Starting from the barnacle line, climb the twin cracks to a ledge. Move slightly left and finish up the twin cracks above. Sustained.

*Gimme Shelter* <15m VS 5a. Edward Nind, Thea Cupan. 20 Jun 2018.  
Climb the crack in the middle of the wall that starts with a tiny right-facing corner at ground level. Make a tricky move onto the ledge and step left into a large niche. Finish easily up the wide crack above.

*Wake of the Storm* <15m H.Severe. Edward Nind (solo). 25 Jun 2018.  
Climb the obvious and easiest crack line midway between *Gimme Shelter* and *Pointless Crack*.

*Pointless Crack* <15m VS 5a. Edward Nind, Alexia Schmidt. 2 Apr 2018.  
Climb the crack a few metres left of the arete. Harder than it looks.

*Arete Right-Hand* <15m VS 4b. Edward Nind, Alexia Schmidt. 2 Apr 2018.  
Climb the right side of the arete. Poorly protected.

### **HOY, Rora Head, Gully 1, Exposure Wall:**

Just east around the corner on the sea ward facing cliffs of Gully 1 is a newly climbed wall, steep solid red sandstone, visible from the west side of Gully 1. Routes are described from left to right, from end of geo one east wall, along

exposure wall and towards Rackwick. All start from ledges at the base of the solid 30m wall, above the less quality lower walls.

*Aching Bodies and Burned Minds* 40m E3 6a\*. Edward Nind, Samuel Tolhurst. 8 May 2019.

Start from the lowest and eye-shaped platform below the corner, situated just left of the steep clean red face that the following routes climb. Belay at the left end of the ledge on small gear. Climb up to the ledge above, move right and then climb up a small corner left of the main corner until an airy move can be made around the arete onto a ledge in the main corner. Climb the main corner (past two worrying jammed blocks) passing several large ledges. Exit left at the top.

*Ocelot Arse Coffee* 40m E5 6b\*\*\*. Samuel Tolhurst, Edward Nind. 7 May 2019. Start from a distinctly white triangular ledge at the left end of the clean steep red wall. Climb a flake to a short, hard crack, climb the crack (crux) for 3m and mantel onto a ledge. Follow the line of weakness above to a large undercut flake. Make a few harder moves up and left to a final layback crack. Pull over into fulmar city and finish via the corner above.

*Rain* 40m E6 6b\*\*. Samuel Tolhurst, Edward Nind. 2 May 2019.

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

*Wind* 40m E7 6c\*\*. Samuel Tolhurst, Edward Nind. 1 May 2019

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

*Dogburgers For Dinner* 40m E5 6a\*\*\*. Edward Nind, Samuel Tolhurst. 8 May 2019.

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

*Fire Woman* 40m E4 5c\*. Edward Nind, Samuel Tolhurst. 27 Apr 2019.

Climb the line of jugs that leads to a position just left of gigantic leaning jammed blocks in the corner to the right. Continue in the same line, initially by bridging off the blocks (worrying). At the overhang near the top of the wall, move left to a white block in a niche to gain an exit from the main wall. Scramble rightwards up blocks and grass to finish.

*Angel of Death* 40m E3 5c\*\*. Edward Nind, Samuel Tolhurst. 26 Apr 2019.

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

*Unfinished Business* 50m E1 5c\*\*\*. Edward Nind, Samuel Tolhurst. 6 May 2019.

The long corner just round the right arete of *Angel of Death*. Belay on a ledge at

the base of the corner (with steep, hard ground below). Climb the corner, the crux is just below the exit onto fulmar city. From fulmar city, climb the right (and more solid) of two corners to finish.

### **Gully 1, East Wall:**

*See an Enemy* 25m E1 5b\*\*. Edward Nind, Frazer McCallum. 17 Apr 2019.  
Climb the obvious corner at the left end of the wall. Much more solid than it looks.

*Guinness, Sex, Techno and a Crafty Fag* 25m E4 6a\*. Samuel Tolhurst, Edward Nind. 17 Apr 2019.

Climb the cracked wall between *See an Enemy* and *Limb Pets*. Escapable climbing on quality rock, tidy enjoyable moves.

*Limb Pets* 25m E2 5c\*. Edward Nind, Frazer McCallum. 17 Apr 2019.

The left-hand of the three cracks highly visible on the left of Gully 1 East Wall. Scramble into the obvious but unappetising cave. Pull round the roof to enter the crack (crux) and climb it to the top.

*Paternoster, Chimney Finish* 45m HVS 4c\*. First ascent unknown.

Climb the crack system of *Paternoster* to the junction between this crack and a corner on the left (*Paternoster* original goes left here). From here, continue in the same crack system to finish.

*Out of The Darkness and Into the Light* 45m E2 5c\*. Edward Nind, Frazer McCallum. 19 Apr 2019.

Start just right of *Paternoster*. Climb diagonally up and right to a short, steep, red corner. From here climb directly on cracks and ledges (line not strongly defined here) to reach a thin crack in the centre of the orange wall at the top of the face. Climb this (crux) and finish up and left to exit right next to *Paternoster, Chimney Finish*.

*When the Wind Blows* 55m E3 5c\*\*\*. Edward Nind, Samuel Tolhurst. 28 Jan 2019.

Start immediately right of the spring/waterfall and the bottom of the decent gully in Gully 1 and climb up into the huge grove above. Climb the groove and exit right onto a big ledge just below the huge roof. From the ledge, climb up and left to regain the central groove and climb it. At the next roof with dangerous blocks in its underside, step right, climb a small arete, step back left above the roof to gain the left side of the giant main arete. Climb the main arete on the left side, then its edge and finally finish up steep blocks on its left side.

*Russian Jenga* 45m E2 5b\*\*. Edward Nind, Masa Sakano. 21 Apr 2019.

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

### **Gully 2, East Wall:**

*Body Swerve* 30m E2 5c. Edward Nind, Samuel Tolhurst. 28 Apr 2019.

Climb cracks to a large ledge with two large disintegrating blocks. Mount the block on the right and move right to the arete. Climb the arete on its left side for



*Masa Sakano on FA of Crackin Hoy (E1 5b), Hoy. Photo: Frazer McCallum.*



*Samuel Tolhurst on FA of A Curious Tale of a Lonely Snail (E5 6a), Hoy.  
Photo: Masa Sakano.*

about 4m and then move back left at a break to gain ledges. Climb the ledges and continue into a lovely orange crack finale.

*German Dungeon Torture Porn* 30m E2 5c. Edward Nind, Samuel Tolhurst. 6 May 2019.

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

*Fools Rush In* 40m E3 5c\*\*. Edward Nind, Masa Sakano. 18 Apr 2019.

Abseil to the base of the wall using gear (hard to find) and a stake. Climb the short arete till just below the ledge at its top. Step left onto a steep face and climb directly to a triangular ledge – sustained. Climb blocks and ledges rightwards until the upper open book feature can be entered by moving slightly left, climb this to the top.

*One and Only* 15m E1 5b. Edward Nind, Samuel Tolhurst. 30 Apr 2019.

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

*Exodus of The Meek* 15m HVS 5a. Edward Nind, Samuel Tolhurst. 30 Apr 2019.

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

*Third Time Lucky* 20m E2 5c\*. Edward Nind, Samuel Tolhurst. 30 Apr 2019.

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

*Midnight Sun* 20m E1 5b \*. Edward Nind, Samuel Tolhurst. 1 May 2019.

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

*The Sweet Curative Powers of Nowhere and Nothing* 20m E1 5b \*. Edward Nind, Samuel Tolhurst. 1 May 2019.

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

*Crackin Hoy* 45m E1 5b \*\*. Masa Sakano, Edward Nind. 21 Apr 2019.

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

*Air in a G String* 45m E2 5c\*\*. Edward Nind, Samuel Tolhurst. 1 May 2019.

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

### Gully 3, East Wall:

*A Curious Tale of a Lonely Snail* 40m E5 6a \*\*. Samuel Tolhurst, Edward Nind, Masa Sakano. 18 Apr 2019.

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

*Strong Coffee* 40m E4 6a \*\*. Samuel Tolhurst, Masa Sakano. 19 Apr 2019.

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

*A Dragon Amongst The Thistles* 20m E5 6a \*\*\*. Samuel Tolhurst, F. McCallum. 21 Apr 2019.

Start on *Deep Dish* at the half-height ledge. (The route can be extended by starting from the beginning of *Deep Dish* does not affect grade but bring a bigger rack). Follow *Deep Dish* for two metres to the base of the big crack then step left into a hands off double kneebar (enjoy feeling like a hero). Climb straight up the wall to join and follow a thin crack. Arm bars, knee bars, crimps, gastons, ringlocks, hand jams, laybacks, pumpy, fiddly but bomber gear and all in 20m!

*Deep Dish* 30m E3 5c \*\*. Henry Francis, Edward Nind. 11 Jun 2018.

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

### Mucklehouse Wall:

Michael Barnard notes that *Roaring Forties* is worth \*\*\*.

### Orange Wall:

*Dan Dare* 70m E7 6b \*\*\*. Calum Muskett, Tom Randall. Jul 2013.

Start some 20m right of *Mucklehouse Wall*, as seen from the sea on the big obvious grassy ledge. A route of exceptional quality throughout. The climbing through the sustained crux section is on excellent quality sandstone, some of the best in the country in fact. Start beneath a hairline crack that runs through the most compact section of the wall. The crack begins after 10m of easy climbing.

1. 32m 6b Pick the easiest line through the ledges with good gear up to the base of the hairline crack. Move up the steep wall which gradually gets harder until some thin and runout moves lead up to better holds and good Cams. Step back left from the break to make a difficult move up to the overlap and trend up and right on crimps to an enigmatic final move, way above the gear to a ledge and belay just above.

2. 38m 5c Trend up and left to ledges. Head up the groove above, trickier than it looks, to a wild finish pulling over a small overlap.

### Old Man of Hoy:

Michael Barnard notes that *South Face*, Old Man of Hoy, pitch 2 was thought to be 5a. He thinks it would be better to say 'walk 12m left to belay below and right of a steep crack', then for pitch 3, 'climb up and left to the steep crack'. The latter feels a bit bold above the belay, certainly more so than anything on pitch 2.

## NORTHERN HIGHLANDS CENTRAL

### GRUINARD CRAGS, Weird Crag:

*Obvious Chimney* 8m Diff. Jonathan Preston, Sarah Atkinson. 19 Apr 2019.  
The 'obvious chimney' near the left end of the crag.

*Oath of Loyalty* 8m H.Severe 4b. Jonathan Preston, Sarah Atkinson. 19 Apr 2019.

Start 2m right of *Obvious Chimney*. Climb another, less well-defined, steep, shallow chimney.

*Hemostasis* 9m Severe. Jonathan Preston, Sarah Atkinson. 19 Apr 2019.

Six metres right of *Oath of Loyalty*, climb a crack-line to an obvious slot. Pull through this on a good jug and continue to the top.

Jonathan Preston notes that first ascents list in Northern Highlands Central states that 'a few short climbs' were climbed by Bell in 1946. He suspects these were on the far left-hand side of the crag i.e. left of the 'obvious chimney' but you never know!

### AN TEALLACH, Hayfork Wall:

*The Forge* 85m X,10. Greg Boswell, Guy Robertson. 4 Dec 2018.

Take the central crack-line direct up the wall, starting through the roof (45m). Sustained, with hard to place gear. Pitch two goes through the huge roof via a right-facing corner, continue direct above (40m).

### STRATHCONON, Creag Ruadh, 740m Top, North-East Face:

*The Backstop Option* 100m II,3. John Mackenzie. 19 Jan 2019.

To the right of *Snow Dome* (SMCJ 2018) are a pair of buttresses separated by a broken ground. To the right of the right-hand buttress is a corner with a curving gully line just right. A short iced wall lies below this corner and is climbed to the corner. Follow the corner to its end then continue up the turfy rib to the top exiting just right of an outcrop.

### Bac An Eich, Coire Toll Lochain:

*Cop-Out Buttress Direct* 120m IV,4. Simon Richardson, Mark Robson. 3 Feb 2019.

A direct ascent of the icefall running down the centre of the buttress.

1. 20m Start as for *Cop-Out Buttress Left-Hand* and climb the groove that runs directly down from the icefall above to a large spike belay on the right.
2. 25m Continue up the groove and climb the step first tier of the icefall before moving right to a good belay on an overhung shelf.
3. 25m Step back left on to the icefall and climb it over two steep steps to a snow bay. Move and left to belay below a short steep wall.
4. 50m Climb the groove right of the wall for 20m, then continue up snow slopes to the top.

### BEN WYVIS AREA, STRUIE HILL CRAG:

*The Arete* 20m Severe 4a \*. Dave Allan, Duncan McGavin. 9 May 2018.

Climb the initial wall of *The Whip*, then move right down a grassy groove and



*Iain Small on FA of Wild Side (E6 6c), Carnmore (SMCJ 2018). Photo: Guy Robertson.*

climb up and cross the arete at a spike. Go up to a large ledge, then move back left round the arete and finish up broken cracks.

*Strawberry Fault* 25m H.Severe 4b. Dave Allan, Duncan McGavin. 29 Apr 2018.

Start at a steep clean pocketed wall just right of the seepage line of the winter route (*Struie Icefall*). Go up 2m, then step right into a corner-crack. Climb this past a block, then move right to another short crack. Go up then left a few metres to finish steeply up a recess.

*Peaty Crack* 25m V.Diff. Dave Allan, Duncan & John McGavin. 25 Aug 2018. Right of *Pensioners' Partypiece*. Climb a shallow right-facing corner, then the arete on the left to a bulge. Climb the bulge, move left then up a corner to a slab. Climb the slab to break up left.

## NORTHERN HIGHLANDS SOUTH

### SGÜRR NA SGINE, East Face:

*Chib Crew* 120m III \*. Steve Kennedy, Andy MacDonald. 30 Jan 2019.

The northmost buttress situated on the lower right side of the face, immediately right of the deep gully (*Dirk* – SMCJ 2018). Essentially the left leg of the North Ridge. Start just right of the toe of the buttress, below a short, deep groove. Climb the groove then move rightwards across a slab below a bulge. Easier ground, via a short, steep step, leads to the broken upper buttress (60m). Continue fairly directly to a point approximately half way up the *North Ridge* (60m). Ideally, stick close to the ridge up to the summit (Grade II).

### SGÜRR A' CHAORACHAIN, A' Chioch, Upper Tier:

*Parting Shot* 100m VII.8. Guy Robertson, Andy Inglis. 23 Jan 2019.

Two good pitches with both providing technical interest; the first steep and the second quite thin.

1. 30m Climb the obvious right facing corner between *Parting* and *Gritstone Grooves*, past a precarious block to then step right and forge directly up the fault line to easy ground.
2. 30m Climb the left facing corner of *Gritstone Grooves*, pulling left at 15m to following the left slanting left facing corner to easier ground.
3. 40m Continue up much easier ground to the top of the buttress or abseil off.

### South Face, No. 1 Buttress – Patey's Wall:

*Gideon's Wrath, The More Wrath Variation* 35m E2 5c \*\*. Michael Barnard, Alan Hill. 29 Jun 2019.

Follow *Gideon's Direct* to the triangular niche. Pull straight through this, then move up and left to a cam slot (Friend 1.5). Step back right to reach an easier crack (*Lost Supper?*) and continue up this to the top.

### No. 5 Buttress:

*Trotter's Independent Traders* 20m E3 6a \*. Michael Barnard, Alan Hill. 29 Jun 2019.

The thin slanting crack near the left end of *Roadhog's Wall*. Short but packs a punch.



*Michael Barnard on FA of Trotter's Independent Traders (E3 6a), Sgùrr a' Chaorachain.  
Photo: Alan Hill.*

**BEINN DAMH, Little Corrie:**

*Endgame* 120m II. Peter Macdonald, Peter Biggar. 31 Jan 2019.

The steepish broken buttress situated at approx. NG879515 to the right (west) of an easy-angled gully is the most westerly defined feature in the corrie. Climb it by short walls, turfey corners and snowfields with better climbing on the left.

*Heathery Rib* 60m I. Peter Biggar. 18 Mar 2019.

To the right of the buttress containing *Endgame* there is a section of broken ribs. Climb the leftmost and least broken of these; some loose rock. Easy snow to finish (not included in height). A route to do if all else fails. Useful for beginners.

**TORRIDON SANDSTONE CRAGS****Seana Mheallan West, Pink Walls:**

*Oi Big Nose* 20m E2 5b \*. Gary & Karen Latter. 15 Apr 2018.

Climb direct line up the wall to finish over the roof, as for *Clockwork Rat*.

*Cunning Plan* 12m E1 5b \*. Jonathan Preston, Charlie Main. 29 April 2019.

A line through the right end of the roof in the centre of the buttress, right of *Mr Bean* and left of *Sleeping Sickness*. Climb up and right to the right hand end of the roof. Step right and make a hard move up to gain the crack above, which is followed easily to the top.

Gary Latter notes that the route recorded as *Something Fine* (SMCJ 2012) is the same as *Salt and Vinegar* (SMCJ 2008).

**Bedrock Buttress:**

*Cetacean Corner* 10m HVS 5a\*. Jonathan Preston, Sarah Atkinson. 22 April 2019.

The obvious left leaning corner a few metres right of *The Knob*. Climb the corner from a low ledge.

**Creag nan Uaimh:**

Round left of the main crag described in Northern Highlands North is a short slab. Left of the slab is another crag with a wide crack containing a holly tree.

*Toddlydyte* 12m E2 5b \*\*\*. Todd Swain, Donette Swain. 12 May 2019.

This is left of the holly crack. Climb the steep clean face, getting some gear in a thin vertical crack.

*Clan of the Cave Bear* 12m E2 5b \*. Todd Swain, Steve Kennedy, Cynthia Grindley, Morris MacLeod, Colin Moody, Donette Swain. 12 May 2019.

Right of the holly crack is a short wide crack. Climb the wide crack to a bulge, pull right then back left and continue up.

The following four routes climb the slab.

*Nick Cave* 10m V.Diff. Steve Kennedy, Cynthia Grindley, Morris MacLeod, Colin Moody, Donette Swain, Todd Swain. 12 May 2019.

The left rib.

*The Bad Seeds* 10m VS 4c \*. Steve Kennedy, Cynthia Grindley, Morris

MacLeod, Colin Moody, Donette Swain, Todd Swain. 12 May 2019.  
The right-facing corner then directly over the bulge.

*Coglodyte* 10m HVS 5a \*\*. Steve Kennedy, Cynthia Grindley, Morris MacLeod, Colin Moody, Donette Swain, Todd Swain. 12 May 2019.  
The central crack.

*Imelda Marcos* 10m S \*. Steve Kennedy, Cynthia Grindley, Morris MacLeod, Colin Moody, Donette Swain, Todd Swain. 12 May 2019.  
The crack near the right-hand side.

At the left side of the main crag are some wide cracks.

*The Glove* 10m VS 4c \*. Steve Kennedy, Cynthia Grindley, Colin Moody, Donette Swain, Todd Swain. 11 May 2019.  
The rib left of the cracks starting on the left.

*Floating £20 Note* 12m S Steve Kennedy, Cynthia Grindley, Colin Moody, Donette Swain, Todd Swain. 11 May 2019.  
The wide cracks at the left side of the crag, step right then back left to avoid the holly tree.

*Where Spelunkers Dare* 12m E2 5b \*. Todd Swain, Steve Kennedy. 11 May 2019.

The wide crack to the right is very awkward, perhaps 5c.

*Tales From The Tearoom* 20m VS 4c \*\*. Julie Carter, Mandy Glanvill, Mairi Keenleyside. 27 Feb 2019.

Start on the rightmost buttress, left of the high clean east-facing wall taken by *Kanko the Bone*. Climb up to a corner-crack with large flake. At the top of the flake, step right, and continue up the crack.

*Tunnock Teacake* 10m HS 4b. Mandy Glanvill, Mairi Keenleyside, Julie Carter. 27 Feb 2019.

To the right of *Kanko the Bone*, on the far right side of the crag, is a 2m-wide slab with a curved top. Climb up on to the slab and continue to the top. Belay quite far back.

*Tunnock Bar* 10m Diff. Mairi Keenleyside, Mandy Glanvill, Julie Carter. 27 Feb 2019.

Climb centre of wall to the left of *Tunnock Teacake* on good holds to a blocky ledge, then continue up the upper wall on the left.

## DISCOVERY ROCK:

*Desdemona* 16m HVS 5a. Mandy Glanvill, Mairi Keenleyside. 26 Feb 2019.  
Start below the crack in the headwall 3m right of *Long Tall Jonny*. Climb straight up to the crack, mantelshelf onto a small ledge above Y-cracks, then continue up the crack to its top.

*Step We Gaily* 24m VS 4c \*\*\*. Mandy Glanvill, Mairi Keenleyside. 26 Feb 2019.  
Start right of *Desdemona* and follow the high rising leftward hand traverse line, across the crag, to finish up *The Moore's Last Sigh*.

**DIABAIG, Diabaig Pillar:**

Gary Latter notes *Diabaig Corner* was cleaned (Dec 2018).

**Main Cliff:**

*The Grunter, Right Finish* 25m VS 4c \*\*. Gary & Karen Latter. 20 Nov 2018. A better finish, also less prone to seepage than the original. Belay up right of the slab at the top of the second pitch. Climb shallow corner then traverse right and finish up crack past a steepening.

*Verve* 65m E2 \*\*. Gary & Karen Latter. 27 Feb 2019.

Start beneath the right-facing corner right of *The Black Streak*.

1. 30m 5c Climb the corner to the roof and move right to block. Cross roof and up to good horizontal break, then up right-slanting crack to a grass terrace.
2. 35m 5b Climb the fine jam crack in the centre of the wall, then slightly rightwards up tricky wall. Continue more easily up the right-slanting crack.

*Spirit* 35m HVS 5a \*\*. Gary & Karen Latter. 1 Mar 2019.

The central of the three cracks above the large grass terrace, right of the second pitch of *Foil*. Start up the right of twin cracks in the black streak, then right along shelf. Finish direct up the crack.

*Brimstone Direct* 40m E2 5c \*\*\*. Gary & Karen Latter. 18 Nov 2018.

Instead of joining *Route Two* after the difficulties, head diagonally left up the slab to gain the base of the prominent thin crack containing an obvious dog-leg (*Gamhnachain's Crack*). Follow this with interest to finish up the wider rightmost of a pair of wide cracks.

Gary Latter notes that a rope sling and abseil ring was placed on large block 5m above top of *Dead Mouse Crack* – 25m abseil. The perched blocks on the belay/abseil at the top of pitch 1 of *The Black Streak* have been removed. *Bogie* and *Evasion* – both main pitches are 40m; though on good rock, fairly dirty, particularly *Bogie*, which needed a lot of scratching about with a nut key just to get up it. Tree in description on ledge is long gone. Replaced thread at top *Evasion* with rope sling and abseil ring – 40m abseil.

**Condome, West Face:**

*Congruent* 15m Diff \*. Karen & Gary Latter. 8 Apr 2019.

The leftmost line, finishing up short crack at top.

*Consensus* 15m Diff \*. Gary Latter (solo). 20 Nov 2018.

The thin cracks and ledges about 10m left of the right edge. Either belay on ledge at top, or 10m further back, as for the longer routes on the South Face.

*Condescending* 15m Diff \*\*. Gary & Karen Latter. 19 Nov 2018.

Fine well-protected climbing up the obvious line on incut holds a few metres right of the above route.

**The Con Wall:**

Adjoining the left side of Condome is a short easier angled wall. There are three belay stakes in the heather 10m back from the top.

*Confluent* 12m HS 4b \*. Karen & Gary Latter. 8 Apr 2019.  
5m left of the wide fault is a Y-crack. The left line, finishing up fine cracks.

*Contiguous* 12m VS 5a \*. Karen & Gary Latter. 8 Apr 2019.  
After the common start, take the right-slanting crack, finishing easily.

*Contumacy* 12m V.Diff \*. Karen & Gary Latter. 19 Nov 2018.  
The fault delineating the left edge of the dome proper, with a prominent sapling at its top.

### **Condom:**

*Conflagration* 25m E3 5c \*\*. Gary Latter. 8 Apr 2019.  
Start just right of a pedestal a few metres left of *Condom*. Climb the wall on good holds, with protection in the fine cracks on the right. Finish more easily up the sparsely protected blunt rib, on perfect rock.

Gary Latter notes that the peg runner on *Fisherman's Dream* (SMCJ 2016) has been removed by an unknown party. The top sections of *Condom*, *Rough Justice* and *The Con-Con* have all been cleaned (Oct 2018). *The Con-Con* is worth three stars.

### **Charlie's Dome:**

*Jeemy* 30m VS 4c \*. Karen & Gary Latter. 9 Apr 2019.  
Start beneath the obvious diagonal fault at left end. Climb up to prominent smooth bulge at 8m. Pull through this via diagonal layback crack, then continue more easily to block belay.

*Wee Eck* 70m V.Diff \*. Gary & Karen Latter. 4 Dec 2018.  
Start 5m left of *Ma Broon's Variations*.

1. 35m Climb direct, up fault, then by good holds slightly rightwards, joining *Ma Broon's Variations* for a short section. Continue direct to block at lower left end of diagonal descent ramp. Follow this up rightwards to belay as for *Charlie's Tower*.

2. 35m Climb up rightwards up obvious stepped grooves, finishing leftwards.

*Soapy Soutar* 70m E1 \*\*. Gary & Karen Latter. 20 Nov 2018. Pitch 1 Gary & Karen Latter. 26 Feb 2019.

Fine varied climbing. Start just left of *Boab's Corner*.

1 10m 5b Step left off boulder to good flat holds, then climb the crack on good slots. Step right and finish up wall to terrace and belay at a small spike.

2 25m 5a Climb twin diagonal cracks to ledge. Move right and follow easy line up towards small roof. Climb twin cracks through steep wall, then out rightwards to belay beneath large block.

3 35m 5b Walk right 5m, then climb curving flange rightwards, briefly joining *Boab's Corner*. Move out left and up into the right-curving quartz flake and follow this to its top. Make tricky moves left to a flared quartz crack and good holds above. Move up to ledge on right (possible belay). Span left past good flake hold, then by easier left-facing corner. Finish up twin cracks in the slab leading to the in-situ thread above.

*Jings* 45m E1 5b \*. Gary & Karen Latter. 9 Apr 2019.  
Start as for *Boab's Corner*. Climb to the oak, then step left and up past two

horizontal breaks to heather terrace. Gain and climb the twin left-slanting tramline cracks, moving up right to follow easy finger-crack leftwards. Climb short steep wall on good holds, then easier ground leftwards to large grass terrace.

*Crivens* 80m VS 4c \*. Gary & Karen Latter. 26 Feb 2019.

1. 35m 4c Start as for *Boab's Corner*, but continue to the grass ledge. Climb the shallow groove and crack just left of *Boab's Corner*, then move left and up easier left-slanting finger crack to ledge. Up cracked wall to belay right of perched block.
2. 15m 4b Climb the crack above the block, then wide crack on right to ledge.
3. 30m 4c Move up rightwards, then pull up left into the easy groove (*Wee Eck*). Move right along shelf and follow cracks on right, finishing leftwards to the abseil point.

*Help ma Boab* 30m E2 6a \*. Gary & Karen Latter. 9 Apr 2019.

Good climbing up the thin hanging crack right of *Boab's Corner*. Start 4m right of that route. Pull left along thin horizontal to good flake hold, then move up rightwards to gain the base of the crack. Climb this with difficult moves where it fades to good finishing hold.

Gary Latter suggests the crag name should be changed from Charlie's Dome to The South Wall, as it is more accurate – it isn't really a dome.

He notes the description of *Broon's Wall* (SMCJ 2011) describes starting right of *Charlie's Tower* – this should be left of. Likewise the description for *Ma Broons Variations* (SMCJ 2014) should read left of *Charlie's Tower*. The second pitch describes the crack being right of groove of *Charlie's Tower*, but the crack is 2m left of *Charlie's Tower*.

Gary & Karen Latter also repeated the three upper pitches of *Charlie's Tower* – this has been wrongly described in the last three guides (Latter's included) as climbing the left side of the clean slab – it lies to the right. He notes the second pitch is very scruffy and not worth bothering with, but the two pitches described below are very good. He suspects very few folk, if any, have actually climbed the original route – approaching from the Condome from the left. The cracks up the left side of the slab (*Ma Broon's Variations*) seem like the most obvious line.

*Charlie's Tower* 60m H. Severe 4b \*\*. Allan Austin, Charlie Rose, Rodney Valentine. 10 Aug 1976.

Fine varied climbing on lovely rock. Start by scrambling up right from the base of the fine slab to the base of a wide heathery crack.

1. 20m 4b Climb this (good holds on right) and up steeper crack through 'tower', then easily up slab to good ledge.
2. 40m 4b Climb the prominent V-groove then short steep crack above. Continue up easy slabs, then cracks on right. (Sling and ring for abseil on thread 10m below top of pitch).

Gary Latter notes that the first pitch of *Hull Wall* (SMCJ 2010) was thought to warrant E2 5c for the committing section to exit the corner. The second pitch is superb. He also notes that the shrub referred to in the name and description of *Yew Tree Wall* (SMCJ 2015) is a juniper.

### **LIATHACH, South Side, Am Fasarinen:**

*South-West Buttress* 200m II. Peter Biggar, Richard Biggar. 7 Jan 1994.

To the right (east) of the prominent Y-shaped gully west of the Fasarinen buttresses

there is a prominent icefall (seldom in condition) at approx. NG923573 and above it an easier scoop. Left of the foot of the icefall, a hidden gully (Grade I) runs up to join the crest of the buttress. Climb this and then take the rocky crest over several small steps. Descend either branch of the Y-shaped gully with caution or, less problematically, descend the Allt a' Tuill Bhan further to the west.

Peter Biggar notes: west of the routes on Pyramid Buttress there are at least six worthwhile unclimbed buttresses running down from the Fasarinen Pinnacles estimated at Grade III/IV and probably many other worthwhile lines apart from the five or six intervening gullies which are easier. The Northern Highlands South guidebook is mistaken in being dismissive of this area. What one needs are patience and luck to catch these routes in condition, probably in late December and early January. Great care should be exercised as the south side of the mountain obviously catches the morning sun and avalanches are not uncommon. The unlikelihood of good conditions, the steep and awkward nature of the approaches and the evident avalanche risk probably explain the guidebook editor's attitude.

### **BEINN EIGHE, Far East Wall:**

*One Man's Mountain* 90m VII/VIII,8. Murdoch Jamieson, Guy Robertson. 30 Jan 2019.

A good winter only line that will be in condition more often than the other routes on the wall. This takes the obvious left facing corner right of *Vishnu*. Named in memory of Andy Nisbet.

1. 40m Start immediately below *Vishnu* but trend right finding the easiest way up ledges aiming for the obvious V-groove. Climb the groove and make an awkward exit right over a pinnacle to a hanging belay.

2. 50m Follow the left facing corner above which involves a few steep bulges. Exit right at its top onto a ledge. Finish up the obvious squeeze chimney above. Follow the easy ground common with *Vishnu* to the top.

### **Eastern Ramparts:**

*Heavy Flak* 80m VIII,8. Murdoch Jamieson, Uisdean Hawthorn. 2 February 2019.

Follow the summer line throughout, although on this ascent pitches 1 and 2 were linked. The right side of the recess was climbed to gain a ledge where the summer route traverses left on pitch 1.

*Rampage, Variation Finish* 30m 5a. Michael Barnard, Alan Hill. 28 Jun 2019.

A better finish, giving another good pitch. From the belay above pitch 3, step left and climb a vertical crack leading to an overhung niche. Pull out left and continue directly to the top.

Michael Barnard notes that *Rampage* was thought \*\*.

*White Hammer* 105m E2 \*\*. Michael Barnard, Ewan Lyons. 15 May 2019. (Pitch 1 Michael Barnard, Alan Hill, 28 Jun 2019).

A fantastic middle pitch up the left side of the white wall. Best done in a dry spell as the top pitch can be slimy in places. In the initial pillar between *Fear of the Dark* and *Fairytale Groove* are a couple of cracks; *The Tower of Darkness* takes the more obvious right-hand one.

1. 35m 5c Start just right of *Fear of the Dark* and move up, aiming for the thin

left-hand crack. Gain this, make a tricky move up to a break, then step left to join *Fear of the Dark* above its roof and continue to the *Upper Girdle*.

2. 10m Walk right and belay under the white wall.

3. 30m 5c Climb the crack / slim groove above to a ledge.

4. 30m 5b Move up to a roof, step left and go up a flake-crack, then step back right into the corner. Hand traverse right along a series of edges to reach some keyed-in blocks; move up these to gain the finishing groove of *Fear of the Dark*.

Michael Barnard notes that if the hand traverse right on *White Hammer* is the same as the 'move right' for *Fear of the Dark*, then that route should probably be E2 overall. Also, the diagram in Northern Highlands South is incorrect – the upper section of *Fairytale Groove* should be much further left, i.e. at the right end of the white wall.

### **Sgùrr Bàn, North-East Face:**

*Scarred for Life* 85m VIII,9 \*\*\*. Martin Moran, Robin Thomas. 5 Feb 2019  
Climbs a central line on the lower right-hand section of cliff – an impressive wall. Probably wholly independent from the summer E1, *Scarface*. Climb 60m of Grade II ground to start the route in an icy bay with a cave in its right side.

1. 35m Climb left across icy ground to gain a shallow right-facing corner. Climb this with continuous interest (8), rounding a bulge at half-height, to belay in a mossy bay beneath a prominent horizontal roof.

2. 30m Surmount the roof with difficulty, pulling left up a jam crack (9). Move left and bridge down and across into a groove line. Follow this to belay beneath a slim chimney.

3. 20m Climb the chimney in traditional style (6), exiting on a ridge above *The Ramp*. From here, 45m of Grade I snow then leads to the cornice and summit.

### **RUADH-STAC BEAG:**

*At the Edge* 100m Diff. Ewan Lyons. 31 Aug 2018.

Start down and right of *Long Stroll Slab* (Highland Scrambles North p174) just as it turns round to the steep north face. Climb sloping rock passing an overhang on the right to pull over an orange overlap by a hard move. Follow the obvious shelf above to the top.

## **THE CAIRNGORMS**

### **COIRE AN T-SNEACHDA, Aladdin's Buttress:**

*Mix 'n' Match* 90m V,6. John Lyall, Scott Frazer, Mick Twomey. 3 Feb 2018.  
Climbs a slabby pillar on the left side of the upper part of *Aladdin's Couloir*, starting about 60m above the bend in the gully, and right of a recessed area where two icefalls (III & IV) sometimes form.

1. 25m Ascend an initially wide fault into a right facing corner, then through a steep slot to a big sloping ledge and easy escape on the left.

2. 35m Start up the centre of the slab and follow a right slanting crack to its end (last protection for some way). Step left and head straight up the slab, passing a couple of small ledges, to a block at the steepening (protection), then move right and up a groove that leads up to the crest.

3. 30m Easy mixed ground to the top.

**Fluted Buttreß:**

*Central Rib* 200m approx. II/III

The rib between *Central Gully* and *The Runnel*.

The easiest line starts about 30m up right from the toe and makes an exposed traverse left onto the rib and follows snowfields to pass the upper rocks on the right. The most popular way starts about 10m up on the right and takes a groove, then the easier ground to breach the upper rocks on the left or by one of two grooves that breach the upper tier. A crest leads to the top.

*Central Rib, Direct Start* 60m IV,5. John Lowther, John Lyall. 29 Jan 2019.

1. 35m Start at the toe and go straight up into a shallow left facing corner, pull out right (crux) from this and up cracks to the right of roofs, regaining the crest and up to belay.

2. 25m Continue up the crest over blocks to reach the normal line.

The best finish is the right- hand groove through the upper rocks, to give the most sustained line.

**COIRE AN LOCHAIN, Zero Buttreß:**

The small buttreß down left of No. 1 Buttreß.

*Galactic Empire* 35m VS. John Lyall, Jonathan Preston. 3 Jul 2018

Start beneath a corner just left of the rounded recess of *Rebel Alliance*.

1. 15m 4c Take a short right facing corner to a ledge, then another corner with a widening crack to a blocky ledge on the left.

2. 20m 4b Pull up left by a crack then up a ramp to a short crack through a bulge and easier ground to the top.

*Battlefront* 50m VS. John Lyall, Jonathan Preston. 3 Jul 2018.

Starts at the right edge of the face where it changes angle and turns uphill, on the edge of the *Iron Butterfly* gully.

1. 25m 4a Start up a deep groove, then through bulges and up slabs (bold) to a ramp which is followed right to a belay under a wall.

2. 25m 4c Make an airy traverse right and round the edge, then straight up to a big ledge and climb the wide flake crack to finish.

**BEINN MHEADHOIN, Creag Dhubh:**

*Catnip Gully* 180m IV,4. Simon Richardson, Mark Robson. 13 Apr 2019.

About 50m right of the Grade I gully near the left-hand side of the crag is a gully with a distinctive dogleg at two-thirds height.

1. 40m Climb the lower gully over a chokestone to a snow terrace.

2. 40m Continue up the well defined gully above over another chokestone to where the angle eases.

3 and 4. 100m Move up and right on snow around the dogleg and finish up the continuation gully to the lower-angled snow slopes above.

**SHELTER STONE CRAG:**

*The Heel Stone* 270m E5. Guy Robertson, Dave Cowan. 11 Aug 2018.

A scintillating line up the centre of the Main Bastion. Superb sustained climbing, much easier than it looks, with a memorable climax up the wall left of *Haystack*'s top crack. Start at the base of the *Steeple* corners.

1. 50m 5c Climb the short corner (as for *Haystack* pitch 2) and pull left onto the



*Guy Robertson starting up FA of The Shard (E5 6b), Shelter Stone (SMCJ 2018).  
Photo: Callum Johnson.*

slabs, then continue direct up thin cracks on the right with increasingly difficulty to a tricky section gaining a groove. Climb this past a bulge and pull left to belay.

2. 20m 5c Pull directly up to gain a right-curving crack and follow this boldly right to protection. Make thin moves back left to a crack in the bulge which gain a groove and easier ground and a belay on the right.

3. 50m 4c As for *Steeple/Haystack* up to the middle terrace.

4. 40m 6a The crux pitch. A few metres right of *Steeple/Haystack*, an obvious line of sloping holds leads temptingly up rightwards into the heart of the smooth wall. Follow these holds with no protection to a scary mantelshelf onto two jugs at 10m (RP1 immediately below, good skyhook out left). Step up, then follow a finger flake out right to a thin crack which leads up to an overlap. Balance left under this to gain an overhanging crack and follow this to a junction with *Steeple*. Continue up leftwards across the *Steeple* ramp to the next ramp (*Haystack*) which is followed to a pull up left onto a commodious ledge.

5. 40m 5c Climb a short tapering groove with difficulty to a jug, then swing left onto the slab. Move up then climb cracks in the left side of the pillar above to a junction with *Citadel* which is followed to below the headwall.

6. 25m 6a Gain the top of the huge flake on the left, then climb the flake-crack in the wall above to a strenuous pull into the niche. The wall above is climbed directly before a step right to a jug at the top – a sensational and well protected pitch.

7. 45m 5b Go easily up right to finish up the final wall cracks of *Steeple*.

**Note:** Dave Cowan thinks the first two pitches would make a great start to *Spire* and pitch 6 would be a superb finish. This would make *Spire* a more sustained three star route.

### STAG ROCKS, Cascade Area:

*Blue Steel* 45m IV,5. John Lyall, Ian Thomson. Mar 2018.

Climb the tapering icefall on the right wall of *The Overflow* to a ledge, then the ice pillar on the right edge to the top.

*Undercurrent* 45m III,4. John Lyall, Ian Thomson. Mar 2018.

An ice groove slanting up left from the start of *The Overflow*, finishing over a mixed bulge.

*Wee Man's Fault* 45m III. John Lyall. 9 Feb 2018.

A straight narrow, icy fault 10m left of *The Overflow*.

*Platinum Plated* 50m II/III. John Lyall. 9 Feb 2018.

Start 5m left of *Wee Man's Fault* and follow a line of iced ramps, ribs and slabs to finish by a choice of gully exits. The left start and finish are the harder, but much variation possible.

### Left-Hand Section:

*Neverthought Arete* 100m III,4. Graham Wyllie, Ryan Alexander. 25 Nov 18.

*Afterthought Arete* splits into two ridge crests in its lower half. This route follows the left-hand crest. Gain the lower arete from near the bottom of the Y-shaped gully to its left and follow it up short steps and easier ground until it becomes more defined. Climb slabs (delicate under powder) to a good ledge below a wall. Climb the wall and continue upwards to join the upper reaches of *Afterthought Arete*.

*Fawn Doon* 135m III. John Lyall. 15 Jan 2018.  
Follows a right leaning line between *Gemstone* and *Stag Route*.

### **CAIRN GORM, Saddle Slabs:**

*Equus* 120m II. Roger Webb, Simon Richardson. 9 Jan 2019.  
The prominent fault between *Side Saddle* and *Saddleback*. A possible option in cold and lean conditions, but it banks out quickly most winters.

### **CAIRN GORM, Cnap Coire na Spreidhe:**

*Dodger Ramp* 40m II. Roger Webb, Simon Richardson. 9 Jan 2019.  
The short buttress and right-trending ramp leading bounding the left side of the main triangular face directly under the summit of Cnap Coire na Spreidhe. Move right around the capping roof at the top of the ramp.

*Dinner Date* 35m V.5. Simon Richardson, Roger Webb. 19 Jan 2019.  
The prominent right-trending fault on the left side of the triangular face.

*The Late Show* 35m IV.6. Roger Webb, Simon Richardson. 19 Jan 2019.  
The deeply cut right-facing chimney on the far right side of the triangular face. Climb easy snow to the initial gully which forks after 5m. Take the left fork up the narrow chimney and exit right under a chockstone. A traditional mixed gully route.

*Cleft Ridge* 60m II. Simon Richardson. 26 Oct 2018.  
The short ridge that lies 50m right of the triangular buttress containing the previous routes. Start just right of the ridge crest and climb up to a notch below the bulging upper half of the ridge. Fortunately this is split by a chimney that leads to easy ground and the top.

### **CREAGAN COIRE A' CHA-NO, Far Left Buttress:**

This isolated buttress is situated approximately 100m south of the buttress containing *Cha-cha-cha*.

*Trotsky Gully* 30m II. Simon Richardson. 26 Nov 2018.  
The prominent gully defining the left side of the steep front face of the buttress.

### **Left-Hand Buttresses:**

*Cuban Dance* 30m II. Simon Richardson. 26 Nov 2018.  
The central fault line in the slabby wall left of *Cha-cha-cha*. Easiest if started from the left.

*Latin Rock* 40m II. Simon Richardson. 29 Oct 2018.  
Start just right of *Cha-cha-cha* and climb an easy groove to a platform. Zigzag through the short barrier wall above to reach a short finishing groove.

*Triple Step* 40m III. Simon Richardson. 29 Oct 2018.  
Start on the right flank of the *Cha-cha-cha* buttress and climb a short gully to the platform of *Latin Rock*. Climb the groove right of the barrier wall, and make an exposed move right at the top to gain a short finishing groove.

**Note:** The logical combination comprising the initial gully of *Triple Step* with a

finish up *Latin Rock* was climbed by Jonathan Preston and Sarah Atkinson on 19 Jan 2019 resulting in a good II/III.

*The Edge of Profanity* 30m V,7. Simon Richardson, Martin Hind. 28 Oct 2018. The prominent corner and crack high up in the right flank of the *Cha-cha-cha* buttress. Climb the corner to a ledge and continue up a wide crack to a good platform. Make an awkward mantelshelf on to a higher ledge and continue up the bulging crack and offwidth above to the top. A good line climbed with one rest point on the upper crack. An in-place wire and screwgate karabiner below the crux suggests the route had been attempted before.

*Blowhole* 30m II/III. Simon Richardson. 26 Nov 2018.  
The deep slot on the left flank of *Whaleback Ridge*.

*Whaleback Ridge, Direct Start* 20m II. Jonathan Preston, John Lyall. 23 January 2019.

Start at the very toe of the buttress and climb a steep wide crack to join the start of the original route.

### **International Rib:**

*Teeny Rib* 30m II. Simon Richardson. 29 Oct 2018.  
The minor ridge to the left of *International Rib*.

*Continental Chimney* 40m III,4. Simon Richardson, Iain Young, John Higham. 17 Dec 2018.

The attractive south flank of *International Rib* is seamed by several cracks and chimneys. This route takes the central shallow chimney that exits onto the crest of *International Rib* below a steep tower. Step right and finish easily up *International Rib*.

*International Rib, Right-Hand Start* 30m II. Jonathan Preston, Sarah Atkinson. 19 January 2019.

Start further right and climb turf and rocky steps slightly leftwards to join the original route high up.

*Traveller's Tales* 65m II. Simon Richardson. 26 Nov 2018.

A parallel line to the right of *International Rib* finishing to the right of the broad bulging buttress at two-thirds height.

*Philistine Grooves* 50m III. John Higham, Simon Richardson, Iain Young. 17 Dec 2018.

The line of turfey grooves defining the right side of the tower that is split by *Cosmopolitan Chimney* on its left side. Climb easily up to the base of the tower and climb the grooves in two steep sections split by a large ledge.

*Lowbrow Corner* 50m II. Simon Richardson. 26 Nov 2018.

Start right of *Philistine Grooves* and climb the right side of the depression to gain the horizontal ledge. Traverse left along this and finish up *Philistine Grooves*.

*Broomstick Buttress* 50m III,5. Simon Richardson, Iain Young, John Higham. 17 Dec 2018.

To the right of the depression containing *Lowbrow Corner* is a prominent right-slanting offwidth. This route climbs the buttress to its left.

1. 35m Climb up easy ground to the foot of a short right-slanting gully that leads to a good ledge at the base of the offwidth.

2. 15m Left of the offwidth are two short steep cracks. Climb the left one to a ledge and continue up the final wall via a steep crack to easier ground and the top.

*Trick or Treat* 50m II. Simon Richardson, Roger Webb. 31 Oct 2018.

Start just left of *Plasma Gully* and climb easy ground to below the steeper upper headwall. Trend right up ramps and grooves around a bulging buttress and finish up a deep gully to the top.

### **Blood Buttress:**

*The Sundance Kid* 30m III,5. Simon Richardson, Robin Clothier. 22 Nov 2018.

High up on the left flank of *Blood Buttress* is an attractive tower split by a steep chimney. Climb *Plasma Gully* and a short V-groove to the foot of the chimney. Take a hidden right-facing corner to a difficult exit onto a ledge. Continue up the ramp on the left and finish up a small corner at the top. The exit cornices readily, but early in the season this is a fun little route completely on snowed-up rock.

### **Grooved Pinnacle Buttress:**

This is the name given to the area of cliff right of *Blood Buttress* bounded on the right by an attractive grooved buttress flanking the left side of *Wide Gully*. The grooved buttress has a prominent narrow tower on its left and its steep front face is cut by twin parallel grooves.

*Forgotten Gully* 40m II. Simon Richardson. 26 Nov 2018.

The well-defined shallow gully to the right of *Flood Warning*. Almost certainly climbed before.

*Blow Over* 40m II. Roger Webb, Simon Richardson. 14 Dec 2018.

Just right of *Forgotten Gully* is shallow rib in the top half of the cliff. This route climbs the short left-facing corner on the left side of the rib.

*Slicker Rib* 40m II. Simon Richardson. 26 Nov 2018.

The crest of the shallow rib right of *Forgotten Gully* climbed via good cracks in the crest starting from the right.

*Slyboots* 40m II. Simon Richardson. 26 Nov 2018.

The shallow depression between *Slicker Rib* and *Vixen*.

*Vixen* 40m III. Simon Richardson. 26 Nov 2018.

In the centre of the face is a protruding buttress with a prominent corner on its front face. Climb easy ground then trend right below the base of the buttress, and climb steep cracks cutting back left to the crest and the top.

*Fox Gully* 30m II. Simon Richardson. 29 Oct 2018.

The well-defined turfy gully to the left of the steep front face of *Grooved Pinnacle Buttress*.

*Dingo Grooves* 30m II. Simon Richardson. 29 Oct 2018.

Start in the turfy groove just left of *Fox Gully* and follow it curling right to cross *Fox Gully* and finish up hidden grooves behind the prominent narrow tower of *Grooved Pinnacle Buttress*.

*Ghost* 30m IV,7. Roger Webb, Simon Richardson. 31 Oct 2018.

The left-hand of the prominent twin grooves cutting the front face of the grooved buttress.

*Ghoul* 30m IV,7. Simon Richardson, Roger Webb. 31 Oct 2018.

The right-hand of the twin grooves on the front face of the grooved buttress.

### **Mainmast Area:**

*Short Ridge, Butch Cassidy Start* 30m III,4. Robin Clothier, Simon Richardson. 22 Nov 2018.

The prominent right-facing corner on the right flank of *Short Ridge* and left of *Ziggy Groove*. Climb the corner to join the easier upper section of *Short Ridge*. Possibly climbed before.

### **Chimney Rib:**

*Ptarmigan Tracks* 60m I. Vicky Smith, Matt Smith. 23 Mar 2019.

Follow the snow slope, hugging the left side of *Chimney Rib* to join that route at the col.

### **Tower Buttress:**

**Note:** *Punching Numbers* (SMCJ 2015) was climbed to the top of the large corner-flake followed by a left traverse into the top of *Mac's Crack* by Dan Moore, Colin McCoy, 23 Jan 2012.

### **Right-Hand Ribs:**

*Once Were Alpinists, Left-Hand Finish* 10m V,7. Alex Riley, Caelan Barnes, Sam Palmer. 8 Jan 2018.

Instead of moving right at the overhang as for the original route, step left over the rib making a few hard mantelshelf moves up on breaks to the top of the buttress. Continue up the original route to the top.

*Unicorns Munch Turf* 90m III. Oliver Heyes, Sam Burns, Aaron Crawley. 6 Jan 2018.

Start as for *Flying Rib* below an open book corner with a crack in the left wall.

1. 40m Climb heather ledges and the cracks to a chockstone, move right to a rest. Head back left and follow a turfy set of steps, keeping to the left wall of the slabs. Follow broken corners and ledges to a block belay in a corner.

2. 30m Traverse right across a slab to a corner crack in the blocks and climb this pulling right to easier ground. Climb back to the top of the blocks and a further 15m before belaying.

3. 20m Blocks and an easy snow slope lead to the top.

### **LURCHER'S CRAG:**

*Doorway Ridge Direct* 200m V,5. Andy Nisbet, Brian Davison, Sandy Allan. 23 Jan 2019.

From the base of the ridge climb up to a corner-groove on the left side of the front

face of the ridge overlooking *Perception Gully* to the left. Follow this to join the existing route at the col. This line is independent from *Doorway Ridge, Far Left Start* (SMCJ 2016) which climbs the centre of the front face of the lower triangular face of the buttress directly below the col.

*Shapeshifter* 50m VIII,8. Steve Perry, Helen Rennard, Andy Nisbet. 20 Jan 2019.

An excellent route up the large buttress to the left of *Deerhound Ridge*.

1. 20m Climb the turfey rake with an awkward start up a short rocky groove and follow ledges to a steepening below a rock split by a crack. Climb to the crack and trend rightwards to exit onto a pavement-wide ledge beneath the buttress.
2. 15m Just left of a fixed belay climb the overhanging crack (crux) into a groove. Stand onto a block beneath a short overhanging wall and make tricky moves up and then left to a mantel onto a ledge with thin turf. Belay at the large leaning flake above and just left of the mantel.
3. 15m Climb the crack above and just right of the belay and step right to finish up the right facing corner crack to a belly-flop finish.

*Two Scoops* 210m III,4. Andy Nisbet, Steve Perry. 3 Dec 2018.

A line up central scoops between *Deerhound Ridge* and *American Werewolves*. Start at the first break right of the very steep base of *Deerhound Ridge*. Gain and climb a short awkward wall to the scoop above (35m). Above is a vertical wall. Climb a groove at its left edge to reach a ledge which runs across the vertical wall to near a pinnacle at the right end. Just short of the pinnacle, head back left along an upper ledge to reach another scoop (45m). Above and in the same general line are three right-slanting grooves. Climb the left one, which is a deep V-groove, to gain a terrace (50m). Continue up a groove on the left to the final ridge (30m). Finish up this (50m, common to *Deerhound Ridge*).

*Brewdog* 120m III. Andy Nisbet, Steve Perry. 17 Dec 2018.

The broad gully right of *Deerhound Ridge* (and *American Werewolves*). Arguably the left branch of *Desperate Measures* but gained easily from the south without doing its start. After an easy start, a barrier wall was passed by going high up on the right and traversing a ledge leftwards until grooves (beyond a steep well defined groove) led to an easy finish.

### **BRAERIACH, Coire an Lochain:**

*The Guardsman, Alternative Start* 40m IV,4, Mark Robson, Simon Richardson. 25 Nov 2018.

This avoids the technical and poorly protected crux wall of *The Guardsman* (SMCJ 2013), and reduces the grade of the complete route to an enjoyable V,6.

1. 30m Start as for *Derelict Buttress* and climb the left-facing flake-crack left of the left-facing line of corners to reach the ledge that crosses the buttress at half height.
2. 10m Step down and traverse left to gain the flakes of *The Guardsman* at the start of pitch 4.

### **SGÒR AN LOCHAIN UAINE, Coire an Lochain Uaine:**

*Ribbon Groove* 90m II. Simon Richardson. 6 Jan 2019.

In lean conditions the narrow groove defining the left side of the squat buttress on the left side of the face fills with a narrow ribbon of ice. Climb it over a steep

step at the start and at three-quarters height. In full winter conditions this area banks out into a steep snow slope.

*Seraphim Chimney* 100m III. Simon Richardson, Sophie Grace Chappell. 2 Jan 2019.

The right curving chimney that cuts into the left side of the squat buttress. Climb the chimney over a step at 25m and continue up the groove and snow slope above to the top.

### **CAIRN TOUL, Coire an Lochain Uaine:**

*Double Barrelled Gully* 100m II. Simon Richardson, Sophie Grace Chappell. 2 Jan 2019.

The two-stepped gully cutting through the low-angled buttress between *Solitude Rib* and *Double Helix*.

### **BEINN A' BHUIRD, Garbh Choire:**

*The Chancel* 140m VIII,8. Guy Robertson, Andy Inglis. 18 Mar 2019.

Excellent climbing up strong features, in a magnificent location. The crux pitch (2) is likely to feel harder than advertised in all but good conditions. Climb pitches 1 to 3 as per the summer route, then from the mid height terrace climb the right trending groove line and shallow left facing corner to easier ground (30m). From the gully climb the right slanting ramp line directly up the front face of the tower (35m). (Editor's note: Pitch 2, the upper half of pitch 4, and pitch 5 had previously been climbed by *West Side Story*).

### **LOCHNAGAR, Southern Sector:**

*Balmy Groove* 50m II. Simon Richardson. 14 Jan 2019.

The well-defined V-groove to the right of *Fluffy Face*. Continue up the blocky arete on the left joining the finish of *Fluffy Face*.

### **Sunset Buttress:**

*New Dawn* 100m V,5. Simon Richardson, Forrest Templeton. 18 Jan 2019.

Good climbing with spaced protection at times taking the left flank of *Sunset Buttress* situated above the chockstone of *Iffy*.

1. 25m Climb *Iffy* to just below the chockstone then take a vertical left-facing corner (just left of a square-cut cave) to steep turf. This leads up to a ledge 5m left of the offwidth crack of *Quick Dash Crack*.
2. 25m Climb the left side of a 5m-high wobbly flake and continue up a short blank section to good turf blobs. Follow these, stepping left after a few metres to gain a line of turf leading to the crest of the buttress.
3. 50m. Continue up the easier upper half of the buttress as for *Sunset Buttress*.

*Twilight Hour* 100m IV,6. Simon Richardson, Forrest Templeton. 18 Jan 2019. The rib between the unnamed Grade I/II gully to the right of *Sunset Boulevard* and the impressive slot of *The Pod* situated on the right side of *Sunset Buttress*.

1. 25m Climb awkward slabby shelves on the lower section of the rib to where it rears up into a steep wall. (This section will bank out under snow in a full winter).
2. 25m. Continue up the unlikely-looking left arete of the steep section on good hidden incut holds and pull over steeply at its top. Continue up the crest of the rib to where the angle eases.
3. 50m Follow the line of the rib to where it merges with easier ground at the top of *The Pod* and continue easily to the top.

**Triangle Buttress:**

*Vertice* 60m II. Simon Richardson. 19 Dec 2018.

The shallow gully on the right side of the buttress starting 20m up *The Red Spout*. Continue up the right flank to the top. Low in the grade.

**Red Spout Ribs:**

There are a number of short ribs between *The Red Spout* and *Perseverance Wall*. They are more prominent in lean conditions.

*Button Pink* 60m I/II. Simon Richardson. 14 Jan 2019.

The rib immediately right of *The Red Spout*.

*Carnation Corner* 60m III,4. Simon Richardson. 14 Jan 2019.

The second rib right of *The Red Spout* comprises a steep tower in its lower half. Climb the tower via a right-facing corner on its front face (good holds on its right wall) and continue along a short horizontal ridge to the final easy step to the top.

*Dianthus Rib* 60m II. Simon Richardson. 10 Feb 2019.

The rib right of centre. Climb easily up to a steep corner and continue up snow slopes to the top.

*Sweet William* 60m II. Simon Richardson. 14 Jan 2019.

The rib at the right end of the wall just left of the snow gully dividing it from *Perseverance Wall*. Climb a pronounced turf runnel just left of the right edge and continue up easier ground to the top.

**Perseverance Wall:**

*Dogged Groove* 80m II. Simon Richardson. 14 Jan 2019.

The groove-runnel left of *Perseverance Groove* leads to a mixed finish. The furthest left line on the face.

*Sorely Missed* 80m III. Simon Richardson. 14 Jan 2019.

A mixed line between *Perseverance Groove* and *Forgotten Runnel*. Climb up mixed ground to a steep section of block cracks (crux) that leads to a turf bay. Take the left exit and continue up the short hidden chimney above to finish at the same point as *Forgotten Runnel*.

*Pickwick* 60m IV,4. Simon Richardson, Henning Wackerhage. 10 Feb 2019.

The line of cracks and corners between *Resolve* and *Never Say Die*.

1. 50m Start just right of *Resolve* and follow the line of cracks for 35m to a shallow chimney capped by a roof. Pullover this on good cracks, trend left and continue up a short crack to a stance just right of the *Cheeseblock*. Junction with *Never Say Die*.

2. 20m Step left above the *Cheeseblock* and climb the short chimney above to easier ground that leads up and left to the top (as for *Never Say Die*).

*The Golden Fleece* 60m IV,4. Simon Richardson, Henning Wackerhage. 10 Feb 2019.

The tapered inset rib between *Jason's Groove* and *Resolution Gully*.

1. 50m Start just right of *Jason's Groove* and climb a blocky groove for 10m to a ledge. Climb the steep wall on the left and continue up a series of short walls and corners to a good stance on the highest point of the rib.

2. 20m It is logical to finish up *Jason's Groove* from here, but instead traverse spectacularly across the vertical wall to the left and finish up *Hanging Groove*.

*Pennies From Heaven* 80m II. Simon Richardson. 19 Dec 2018.

Climb the gully right of *Windfall* and exit onto a small ridge. Continue up steepening mixed ground to finish at the right end of *Perseverance Wall* and cross the cornice as for *Windfall*.

### **Black Spout Pinnacle:**

**Note:** Michael Barnard climbed a *Nihilist-Existentialist* combination and thought it E3 5c \*\*. Climb pitch 1 of *The Nihilist*. From the belay ledge, move up the arete and pull out right to climb the superb flake-crack of *The Existentialist*.

The diagram in The Cairngorms p343 was thought to be wrong for pitch 2 of *The Nihilist*, and that it goes up the above combination. Despite the complex description for pitch 2 of that route, it was thought just to go up the corner above the belay.

### **West Buttress:**

*Goldilocks* 70m IV,5. James Richardson, Andy Munro. 18 Jan 2019.

The line of cracks and corners in the arete to the right of *Prince of Darkness*.

1. 40m Start in *West Gully* level with the ledge at the top of *Prince of Darkness* pitch 1, and climb the arete directly via an obvious groove. Step left at a small overhang and continue up the face above to a large ledge.
2. 30m Continue directly up and followed the buttress crest to the plateau.

### **CREAG AN DUBH LOCH, Broad Terrace Wall:**

*The Nomad* 115m E1 \*\*. Michael Barnard, Rick Graham. 14 Jul 2018.

An excellent, surprisingly amenable and generally well protected main pitch up the edge left of *Sword of Damocles*. Parts of this pitch had been climbed in the past, but it doesn't seem to have had a complete ascent.

1. 35m 5a As for *Mirage Variations* pitch 1.
2. 35m 5a The arete!
3. 45m 5a Continue up *Sword of Damocles* to the top.

Michael Barnard notes that he thought E2 for *Eye of Allah*, which seemed a similar standard to *Alice Springs*.

### **GLEN CLOVA, Corrie Sharroch:**

*Prickly Ridge* 100m II. Simon Richardson. 23 Jan 2019.

The attractive-looking spiky buttress at the head of the corrie. The start is at NO 256 741. Unfortunately, the most logical line lies right of the crest and avoids most of the difficulties.

*Lost Arch Ridge Direct* 140m III,4. Simon Richardson, Sophie Grace Chappell. 28 Jan 2019.

A complete ascent of the 'obvious buttress' climbed by Martin Cooper and Elliot Palmer on 30 Dec 2011 (see note in SMCJ 2013). The start of the route is situated at NO 255 742 not NO 254 743 as originally stated. A worthwhile route taking a prominent feature. The original line, which avoided the first two pitches, is Grade III.

1. 25m Start below the centre of the buttress in line with a prominent right-facing corner in the upper half of the lower wall. Follow a left slanting ramp and then continue up to a terrace.
2. 25m Step right and make a steep entry into the right-facing corner. Climb it over two steep steps to a broad terrace. The original route joins here from the right.
3. 40m Climb through and over the prominent arch to reach easier ground.
4. 30m Continue to the steep overhanging wall with an overhanging crack. On the original ascent this was climbed by a groove on the left. On this occasion, a steep ramp/wall was climbed on the right flank of the wall.
5. 20m Continue up easy ground to the top.

*Midas Touch* 160m III. Simon Richardson, Henning Wackerhage. 11 Feb 2019. Midway between *Lost Arch Ridge* and *Casino Buttress* is well defined icy gully. Climb it in four pitches with steep ice steps at the start and at 50m.

### **Casino Buttress:**

This is the impressive buttress on the west wall of the corrie. The bottom left of the buttress is situated at NO 254 744. It consists of two steep tiers split by a great terrace.

*Brothers in Arms* 180m VI,6. Simon Richardson, Sophie Grace Chappell. 6 Feb 2019.

A good icy mixed route taking the open left-facing corner bounding the left side of the upper tier. Below and left of the main buttress are two left-facing slabby grooves. Start below the left-hand groove that often forms ice. Named in memory of Andy Nisbet and Steve Perry.

1. 30m Climb the groove to its top.
2. 50m Move up easily for 40m to a left to right turfy ramp that leads to the left end of the terrace below the left-facing corner. Move up to belay in a shallow cave on the right.
3. 20m Make a bold series of moves (will be easier when better iced) up a steep wall to gain the depression. Move up to belay below a steep step.
4. 30m Surmount the step and continue with interest to easier ground.
5. 50m Climb the vegetated groove on the right and finish straight up.

*Turf Accountant* 180m III,4. Simon Richardson, Sophie Grace Chappell. 28 Jan 2019.

The line of least resistance up the buttress. Start below the two left-facing grooves just right of *Brothers in Arms*.

1. 50m Climb up the arete between the two grooves and continue up easy ground to a boulder belay.
2. 40m Continue up to a left to right turfy ramp that leads on to the great terrace running across the buttress at one-third height.
3. 30m Walk along the terrace for 40m and climb a right trending vegetated ramp to a steepening in an alcove.
4. 30m Exit the alcove on the right (crux) and continue in the same line to a prominent boulder pinnacle on the skyline. (Visible from the foot of the cliff).
5. 30m Continue up the easy angled broad ridge on the left to easy ground. Scramble for another 50m to the top.

*One-Armed Bandit* 180m VII,7. Simon Richardson, Sophie Grace Chappell. 24 Jan 2019.

An excellent route taking the challenge of the steep left face of the buttress.

1. 60m Climb the right-hand slabby groove and belay below the deep slot (not visible from below) that slices through the vertical right wall.
2. 40m Climb the steep gully leading into the slot and wriggle up it with difficulty to the great terrace.
3. 20m Walk across the terrace and climb the back of a steep bay to a second terrace.
4. 40m Continue up the steep corner (5m left of the obvious steep fault line) to a ledge. An excellent pitch. Start by using the cack on the left wall before transferring to the corner after 10m.
5. 20m Step up and left onto a boulder-flake and pull onto the turf shelf above. Climb the short corer above to where thus able eases. Scramble for another 50m to the top.

*Roulette* 150m II. Simon Richardson. 23 Jan 2019.

The square-cut gully defining the right edge of the buttress.

### **Corrie Fee:**

*Hare Restorer* 200m III,4. Martin Holland, Pamela Millar. 24 Jan 2019.

Start low down near the path at the buttress to the left of the gully, which bounds the west side of *The Comb* higher up. Climb the right hand side of the buttress starting up a right-trending groove behind a tortured rowan tree. Follow easy and escapable ground with a few steps up the tiered blunt rib above to the west wall of *The Comb*. The gully on the right narrows and forks. Just before the narrows, climb the buttress on the right of the gully via a steep groove with a line of distinctive vertical flakes forming its right edge.

## **NORTH-EAST OUTCROPS**

### **ABERDEEN SEA CLIFFS SOUTH, Earnsheugh:**

*Grimly Grimy* 20m E1 5b \*. Michael Barnard, Euan Maharg. 28 Aug 2018.

An independent first pitch for *Grimly Fiendish*. Start as for *Prehistoric Monster*, but take the obvious right-slanting line leading up to the right arete. Step back left and move up to join and continue up *Prehistoric Monster* to the top.

### **Floors Craig:**

To the right of *One Below the Belt* is a North-facing overhanging wall with an obvious right slanting crack.

*Rumble in the Jungle* 25m E4 6a \*. Tim Rankin, Piotr Wisthal. 15 Jul 2018.

The right slanting crack. Start from the very right end of the non-tidal ledge. Move out right and climb the fine steep wall to a slab below the overhanging crack. Make hard moves to get established in the crack and follow it more easily to pull out right to a ledge and belay. 10m of easy climbing leads to the top.

*Contender* 25m E3 6a. Tim Rankin, Piotr Wisthal. 15 Jul 2018.

Climb *Rumble* to the slab then climb a vertical crack left of the slanting crack to pull out left onto the hanging wall. Finish more easily straight up.

Tim Rankin notes that *One Below the Belt* is 22m to the top of the cliff not 10m as described in North-East Outcrops.

*The King of Sting* 15m E5/6 6b \*\*. Tim Rankin, Misha Bruml. 2 Aug 2018.

A counter diagonal to *Italian Stallion*. Climb the arete direct to join *Italian Stallion* at the ledge. Place failsafe wires in the crack of *Italian Stallion* then climb the roof to the left to gain an obvious hanging flake line leading to the break of *Lonsdale Belt*. Use a superb hidden pocket up and right to gain good holds at the lip. Pull out left with difficulty to finish. Well Protected. Inspected on abseil.

### **Stonehaven, Castle Haven:**

*Tilfilly Stack* 20m VSL (Very Severely Loose). Simon Richardson, Paul Dumont. 28 Jun 2018.

The prominent conglomerate stack at NO 882 843 in Castle Haven just south of Stonehaven. Approach by a 200m swim from the north end of the beach and climb the west ridge, which is easy at first, but has a steep and poorly protected loose section near the top. Simultaneous abseil descent.

### **CUMMINGSTON, Sunshine Wall:**

*Zoo Warfare* 10m E2 5c. Steve Bates. Aug 2018.

The wall and roof left of *Sunshine Roof*, passing through the left end of the roof.

### **COVESEA, Boulders Bay:**

*Vossi Bop* 15m E3 6b. Ted Collins, Graham Tyldesley. 11 May 2019.

The wall between *Fascist Republic* and *Banana Republic*, *Corbyn Variation* starting as for *Banana Republic* and traversing in. Climb up *Banana Republic*, *Corbyn Variation* for a couple of meters to place side runners then reverse the moves and traverse left to climb the line. A hard mantel move gains then upper seam. Very contrived.

### **Stack Bay:**

*Story Time* 12m E3 5b \*. Ted Collins, Graham Tyldesley. 11 May 2019.

The hanging groove right of *The Vertical Smile*. Start up the left side of the arete, gain ledges and good gear. Move left at the small overlap to rock back right into the groove. Bold.

### **Village Crag (NJ 187 709):**

The crag is situated below Covesea Village. From the normal Covesea parking drive towards Lossiemouth until a crossroads where there is a turn left down a gravel track towards the village.

The crag lies directly below the parking in the village at NJ 187 709. There are stakes above the main crag but these will be difficult to locate on first acquaintance. There is also a left-trending ramp that leads down to the crag base but this is also hard to find. It is possible to follow the coast eastward until you can drop down to the sea and walk back along, but this will be blocked at high tide.

The routes are described from left to right. There are stakes directly above *Waterbaby*. There are also stakes above *Grasp the Thistle* but these might be removed since it is possible to belay off a boulder and sign higher up.

*An Inconvenient Jam* 6m E2 5c. Ted Collins, Robert Giddy. 12 Aug 2018.  
The hanging crack and corner far left of the main crag. The crack is quite useful for gear but useless for holds.

*Cherrypicker* 15m E4 6a \*. Graham Tyldesley, Ted Collins. 17 Aug 2018.  
Climb the groove and arete up to a roof with good gear. Strenuously pull through the roof to gain the upper hanging corner.

*Black Book* 15m E2 5c \*. Ted Collins, Graham Tyldesley. 17 Aug 2018.  
The corner/chimney to gain the hanging black hanging corner.

*Waterbaby* 15m E2 5c \*\*. Ted Collins, Robert Giddy. 12 Aug 2018.  
The main line through the roof. Start in the back corner, climb to the top of the corner to place runners, climb down to traverse left along a thin break to gain a small groove/crack. Head up the crack to the roof then traverse leftwards along the obvious line.

*Grasp the Thistle* 12m E3 5c \*\*. Graham Tyldesley, Ted Collins. 17 Aug 2018.  
An arete on a crag about 40m right of the main crag. Cimb the arete mainly on the leftside placing gear in the thin crack one metre to the left. Follow the crack on the upper wall above.

### LOGIE HEAD:

*Corvus Amicus* 16m VS 4c. Jonathan Preston, Andy Nisbet. 20 Sep 2018.  
A three tiered crack-line right of *Crow's Crack*. Start from the base of the second ramp right of that route. Climb a crack to the first ramp. Cross this and climb a crack in the steep wall above to a niche. Continue up the wide crack above to the top.

### CULLEN AREA, Crathie Point:

Just east of the original cliff is a wide inlet with a west facing wall on its east side (maximum height 12m). Access is at the north end (slippery) or by abseil. The sandstone can be snappy. Climbs by George Allan and Dave Windle 4 Aug 2018 and described from left to right.

1. Mod: the first of two short right slanting cracks adjacent to the descent.
2. Diff: the line to the right of the inverted-V overhang.
3. Severe: the crack to the left of the main corner on the right, starting the upper wall by a flake.
4. V.Diff: the corner.
5. Diff: The edge of the corner, climbed on its right side.
6. Mod: the obvious deep chimney.

### REDHYTHE POINT, Camelot Slabs:

Dave Windle and George Allan thought that some of the routes at Camelot Slabs (SMCJ 2009) were overgraded.

## HIGHLAND OUTCROPS

### CREAG NA H-IOLAIRE, High Wall:

*Indoor Storm* 18m E4/5 6a/b \*\*. Matthew Thompson (inspected, partially practised). 6 Oct 2018.

A good direct line with a wild finish above good gear. Climb onto the block ledge as for *Sidewinder*, the move into the short diagonal crack above and crank up the wall from a keyed-in block (micro-cams) to a spike. Move into the *No Cruise* crack then climb the exciting nose directly above on angular holds and blind slopers. Scramble up to an abseil tree.

*Echo Box* 12m E3/4 5c/6a \*. Matthew Thompson (inspected). 6 Oct 2018.

A more logical direct line through the end of *Perishing*. Start near the top of the ramp below a low nose and high niche. Gain the nose (hollow) and move right and up to jugs. Climb past the break to the roof on hidden holds and gear, pull through the roof and final niche direct to the abseil tree cluster.

### BEINN DUCTEACH (Glen Gyle):

This hill is 589m high and is adorned with small compact crags; most are broken and vegetations. There are two main groups of crags. The first, just below the summit, are about 25 to 35m in height, look excellent and have many potential routes; the main face is slightly overhanging. Below this on a lower tier are other crags about 10 to 25m in height, facing east through to south-west.

Approach: By bike is best since the track up Glen Gyle has been upgraded to accommodate work to the power lines that run through this historic glen. Park at Stronachlachar car park. Cycle north on the cycle path skirting loch Katrine. Just before you reach the head of the loch, turn off to the left and gain the new track. Signs indicate that they may still be working there, so be cautious. Cycle (or push) to the very end of the new track. Either go to the summit, best approach from the right of the hill, or skirt the hill to the left rising to near the summit. The route description is from the summit, 2hrs 15mins.

*World of Misandry* 55m Severe. Marco Limonci, Michael Limonci. 1 Jul 2018. Ducteach crag (NN 349 151) is 55m in height, slabby, composed of schist and lies at about the 500m contour south-west from Beinn Ducteach summit and is situated directly opposite from Stob nan Eighrach. Approx. 10 mins from Beinn Ducteach summit.

The crag has three distinct roofs in decreasing sizes. These roofs tend to mark fissures running across the width of the crag. These fissures indicate that the crag may not be particularly stable. Note there are some loose blocks and flakes, protection though is generally good. Start at the lowest point on the crag.

1. 30m Climb a steep wall to a heathery bay and continue to a recess below the first roof. Climb the right edge of the recess, turning the roof on its right side on good holds to gain a ledge. Continue straight up past the ledge following a thin crack in a steep, short wall. Gain the heathery ledge above.

2. 25m Climb a slabby wall and to the right of the second roof following a thin crack. Continue up, picking the easiest line to the top of the crag. The belay is awkward here as there is a large wide fissure running across the crag (25m).

### ARDNAMURCHAN, Meall an Fhir-eoin:

*Pahoehoe* 45m Severe \*. Steve Kennedy, Cynthia Grindley. 22 Apr 2019.

Situated on the stepped buttress well left of *Lavatory*, starting below a prominent left slanting crack left of a large heather patch.

Climb the initial slab rightwards to the start of the crack. Follow the crack (or the easier slab on the right), stepping right below a bulge then follow the continuation of the crack leftwards via a ledge to finish up some slabs.

*Eurydice* 30m E3 5c \*. Michael Barnard, Ewan Lyons. 12 Apr 2019.

As for *The Great Eucrite* to the left-slanting crack, but then continue straight up to gain the ledge. Traverse right to finish as for *The Great Eucrite*.

### **Dome Buttress:**

*Stranger than Friction* 20m E2 6a \*\*. Michael Barnard, Ewan Lyons. 12 Apr 2019.

The obvious flake-crack left of *Claude*. Climb it to its top, then gain the small groove up on the left (crux). Continue up the blunt arete, then take the left-hand finish to *Claude*.

*Pyrotechnic Flow* 20m E2 5b \*. Michael Barnard, Ewan Lyons. 12 Apr 2019.

Start as for the above, then traverse left into the obvious slanting crack. Follow the crack up and out left to reach a short thin vertical crack; from here gain the grassy ledge above. Traverse left and make bold moves to reach a scoop leading back right to the top.

Michael Barnard notes that *Lava Lout* was thought to be E2 5b.

### **EUROPEAN UNION CRAG:**

*Free Movement* 9m E1, 5a \*. Nathan Adam, Garry Campbell. 11 Apr 2019.

Start two meters right of *Maastricht Treaty* at a large block and below an overlapping slab. Use the block to step onto the slab, step right at an overlap to a thin crack (small and fiddly protection) before a long move left reaches a good hold in the upper wall and steep pulls to finish.

### **LOCHAILORT CRAGS, Drùim Fiaclach:**

*Crystal Visions* 18m H.Severe 4b \*. Nathan Adam, Cameron McIlvar. 27 Jun 2019.

Start about 30m left (west) of *Arisaig Arete* at the foot of a rib which is defined on the left by two consecutive flakes and twin deep cracks at its base. Climb the cracks to stand on the first flake and then onto the second. Make a committing move off the top of the second flake to gain the rib proper (crux) and follow this with good holds to belay on a mossy ledge with a small tree on the right.

Nathan Adam notes that *Arisaig Arete* was climbed the same day and the first pitch was thought to be worth at least HVS 5b. Very strenuous with difficult to place protection. The second pitch was excellent though, and not as bold as appearances.

### **Clach a' Phrionnsa (Prince's Stone) (NM 708 843):**

A recently bolted crag situated in a fine setting close to the north shore of Loch nan Uamh. The differing aspects of the crag often result in it being a sun trap in good weather. Equipped with stainless steel bolts and lower offs. The routes are short but varied and generally of good quality. South-west, south and east facing.

Access is from the A830 just west of Prince's Cairn by parking close to a wide bend adjacent to Crimson and the European Union Crag (SMCJ 2017). Best to park a short distance east of the bend and walk back. A small path leads from the bend down onto a shingle beach. Thereafter, cross a burn, a further shingle beach, then walk through a deep rocky gully on the right (climb over rocks to the side in high tides). Continue along the rocky shore via a short chimney up a wall below a large jammed block just before the crag (approx. 15mins).

The routes are described from left to right.

The following two routes are located just left of the overhanging prow at the left end of the crag. The lower section is made up of unusual sculpted flakes and edges.

*The Last Stand* 15m 6b \*\*. Steve Kennedy, Cynthia Grindley. 2 May 2019.

An exposed route finishing up the overhanging crack in the headwall. The bolts are quite close to *Jacobite Rebel* in the lower part. Start left of the arete below a corner above a large block (just right of a tree). Climb the corner and its right wall, moving up to an alcove below the overhanging crack. The crack provides some exciting moves leading to a ledge and lower off on the left.

*Jacobite Rebel* 15m 6b \*\*. Steve Kennedy, Cynthia Grindley, Colin Moody. 20 April 2019.

Start at the rounded arete right of initial corner of *The Last Stand*, below a large protruding flake (just left of the roof). Climb the sculpted wall then move rightwards above the roof. Continue to a fault below the steep headwall close to the right edge. Exposed moves up the wall provide the crux and lead to an easy slab (joining *Aided by Flora*) with a lower off above.

On the opposite side of the prow is a vertical, east facing wall with a crackline leading to an overhung alcove (*Highland Laddie*).

*Aided by Flora* 13m 6a \*\*. Steve Kennedy, Chris Docherty. 26 May 2018.

A nicely positioned route. Start at the base of the crackline (as for *Highland Laddie*). Make a couple of moves up the crack then traverse left along a sloping shelf into the middle of the wall. Climb the wall above to the roof before making wildly exposed moves out onto the left edge. Pull onto the slab above to reach a lower off on the upper wall.

*Highland Laddie* 12m HVS 5a \*. Steve Kennedy, Cynthia Grindley, Colin Moody. 20 April 2019.

A mixture of trad and bolted climbing, following the crackline leading into the overhung alcove. From the top of the alcove, interesting moves lead out right onto the edge. Finish up the bolted cracked wall above (joining *Flight to Safety*) to the lower off on the right. The lower section is well protected with medium sized cams. Probably easier for those of short stature.

The main frontal slab sits between the east facing wall and a prominent corner (*Usurper*). The following four routes all share the same start up a short, stepped corner at the lower left end of the overhanging base of the slab.

*Flight to Safety* 12m 6a \*. Cynthia Grindley, Steve Kennedy. 17 April 2019.

The left bounding wall of the main slab. Climb the stepped corner then move left

along a sloping ledge into a slabby corner. From the corner, pull out left onto the wall (crux) then climb the upper cracked wall on good holds to a lower off on the right.

*Heaven's Darling* 11m 5+ \*\*. Steve Kennedy, Cynthia Grindley. 19 April 2019. This route aims for the roof towards the upper left side of the slab. Start up the stepped corner, step left, then directly via cracks and a slab to the roof. Move right below the roof, move up then pull back left above the roof.

*The Highland Charge* 11m 6a \*\*. Steve Kennedy, Cynthia Grindley. 24 May 2018.

The centre of the slab. Climb the stepped corner, step right then continue fairly directly to a shared lower off.

*Jacobite Trail* 11m 6a \*. Steve Kennedy, Cynthia Grindley. 11 Nov 2018.

Takes a line up the right side of the slab. Start up the stepped corner then traverse horizontally right along the lip of the roof (thin) for a few moves. Continue up the right portion of slab to a shared lower off.

*Usurper* 10m 6a \*. Steve Kennedy, Cynthia Grindley. 24 May 2018.

The prominent, steep corner just right of the main frontal slab, moving leftwards along a break near the top to a shared lower off. A committed approach helps.

The right-hand section comprises an east facing slabby wall, situated above some large blocks from where the following routes start.

*Young Pretender* 12m 6a \*\*. Steve Kennedy, Cynthia Grindley. 24 May 2018. The left edge of the wall. From the lowest block, move leftwards along a sloping ledge then make awkward moves into the crack above. Continue up the rounded edge, and the wall just to the right, to a shared lower off with *Speed Bonnie Boat*.

*Speed Bonnie Boat* 11m 6b \*\*. Steve Kennedy, Cynthia Grindley. 13 Apr 2019. A pleasant, fingery exercise up the centre of the wall. From the flat topped block step left onto the wall then move up leftwards aiming for a small pocket in a crack. Sustained climbing up the slabby wall above leads to a lower off.

*Raising the Standard* 12m 6a+ \*\*. Steve Kennedy, Cynthia Grindley. 8 May 2019.

Sustained on small edges but never too hard. Right of the lower blocks is a large embedded flake. From a standing position on the flake, step left onto the wall and make some tricky moves up leftwards to reach some side pulls in a small alcove. Continue fairly directly to a lower off.

*Jacobite Gold* 12m 6b+ \*\*. Steve Kennedy, Cynthia Grindley. 27 Jun 2019.

An excellent, sustained route located behind the main crag. Approach on the right, past *Raising the Standard*, then go left around the back of the knoll before a short step leads down towards the shingle beach. A prominent left facing corner will be seen over on the right. Start at the base of the corner on the right. Climb the steep initial wall via a crack to a side pull. Move leftwards below a small roof towards the left edge. Surmount the roof then pull back right to finish up the corner.

**GLEN NEVIS, Crown Butress:**

*Tiara* 12m VS 4c, Ali Rose (solo). 15 Oct 2018.

The clean wall left of *Frenzy*. Pull onto the wall at the obvious jug rail and climb up to a small ledge. Climb the leftwards slanting groove to the top.

*Crown Confusion* 20m HVS 5a. Ali Rose, Al Docherty. 28 Oct 2018.

Climb the crack left of the arete to gain the hanging crack of *Truant's Arete*. Finish up this.

*Iron Throne* 12m E1 5a. Oliver Barr-Skeoch. 16 May 2019.

Climbs the hollow wall between *Pal* and *Cool Beans*. Start below and right of a long loose flake. Gain a jug and pull onto the wall. Proceed up this past several other hollow blocks and spooky noises. Until small holds lead to a heathery crack and larger holds, climb the clean slab above, then the thin crack to top out on the terrace.

**LOCH LINNHE, Stac an Eich:**

*The Chaser* 20m E4 6a \*\*\*. Kevin Woods. 13 Aug 2018.

Links the start of *Bill's Digger* into the final groove of *Seal of Approval*, with a distinctive crux between. Start up *Bill's Digger* to the prominent overlap around 10 metres and move left around the corner by a crack. Make a long move up left to better holds and finish up the groove. Could be soft 6b, but graded broadly in line with the rest of the crag.

**LOCHAILORT CRAGS, Boathouse Crag:**

*Priapism* 18m E2 5b \*. Ali Rose, Matt Rowbottom. 22 May 2018.

The blank looking wall and rib between *Hypertension* and *Very Gneiss Wall*. Very bold in its lower half. Climb the blank looking wall and proceed up the rib above to the pink quartz boss (loose). Climb direct above this finishing to the right of *Hypertension*.

**CREAGAN SOILLEIR, Pine Tree Crag:**

Michael Barnard notes: I thought Pine Tree Crag (Creagan Soilleir) looked a bit different to the guidebook photo as we approached. The pine seemed to be smaller, in a different place, and growing from halfway up the crag! It took me a wee while to realise the tree had come down, and is currently hanging over the left side of the crag. It's perfectly safe though (still attached at the base), and no routes are affected.

*Suspended Sentence* 12m E3 5c \*\*. Michael Barnard, Alan Hill. 25 Aug 2018  
Start a bit right of *Laggan Behind* (down and right of the suspended pine), below a line of vertical flakes. Climb the flakes to their top, then make a long move to a flake-jug (sling), and up with further interest to the break. Continue directly up the top arete, moving right to top out.

*Lonesome Pine* 15m E1 5b \*. Michael Barnard, Alan Hill. 25 Aug 2018.

A wandering line, but with some good independent climbing. Start as for the left start to *Badenoch Beckons*, but take the obvious left-trending line to meet *Caledonian Crack* below its top section. Traverse left to finish up some thin flakes in the headwall.

*No Holds Barred* 8m E3 5c \*. Michael Barnard, Alan Hill. 25 Aug 2018.  
The fine crack in the left side of the *Frank Fish* wall. Short but packs a punch!

Michael Barnard notes that the left start to *Badenoch Beckons* was thought 5a initially, so may be pretty stiff for a Severe. On Right-Hand Crag, he may have pulled off a crucial crimp on *Liquorice Wall*. It was the only way he could envisage climbing it, so with that gone the move will no longer be 6a.

### **DIRC MHÒR, Sentinel Rock:**

*Ensanguine* 65m IV,4. John Lyall, Ian Dickinson. Mar 2018.

This route starts at the top of a large bay left of Sentinel Rock.

1. 20m Climb thin ice to a terrace or, go left and back right to avoid the lower tier if the ice is too thin.
  2. 45m Climb a left facing corner on ice, past two overlaps, then past a small tree and up the continuation gully.
- Go left and down for descent.

### **Outlook Walls:**

This is the name given to the wet walls right of the summer descent gully.

*Another Country* 85m III. Justin Findlay, John Lyall. Mar 2018.

Start at the foot of the descent gully.

1. 35m Follow a shallow, thin ice line up the rib right of the gully to belay on an ice pillar under a steep wall.
2. 30m Move up right by an icy ramp to turn a roof, then go up leftwards to a rock rib.
3. 20m Easy ground to the top.

*Gates of Mordor* 70m IV,4. Justin Findlay, John Lyall. Mar 2018.

Starts about 60m right of *Another Country* below an icy line leading to a prominent gully breaching the upper rocks. Follow the ice over several steep steps, up the gully and final snowfield. (These final slopes can gather a lot of drifting snow and be avalanche prone).

*Left Wing* 60m V,5. John Lowther, Hamish Irvine. Mar 2018.

About 40m right of *Gates of Mordor* is a wide icefall coming down an overhanging wall. Climb steep ice up the left side of this icefall, then easy snow and pass right of the upper wall to sneak past the cornice.

*Gone Gully* 45m II/III. John Lyall, Scott Frazer, Mick Twomey. 5 Feb 2019.

Named in memory of Andy Nisbet and Steve Perry. About 100m right of and higher up than *Breathing Space* is a steep buttress split by a deep gully, this is the line.

Descents are easiest to the south of the crag.

### **DIRC BEAG, Creag nan Ardhaircean (NN 588 867):**

This north-west facing crag lies in the gap north of Dirc Mhor and can also be a nesting site for Red Listed birds.

*Secret People* 45m IV,4. John Lyall, Ian Dickinson. Mar 2018.

Climbs up a short vertical section of ice to enter a big V-recess, then follow a line up and right to the top.

### **CREAG DUBH, Lower Right Wall:**

*Edit Out* 40m E2 5c. Brian Davison, Andy Nisbet. 31 Aug 2018.

A fairly direct line right of *Man on Fire*. Start just right of *Man on Fire* and climb up to a flake (as for the alternative start to *The Sting*). Step right and climb as direct as possible to finish up the vague rib left of the corner of *The Sting*.

## **BEN NEVIS, AONACHS & CREAG MEAGAI DH**

### **BEN NEVIS, Indicator Wall:**

*Black Pirate* 160m V,6. Nick Harper, Robin Clothier. 28 Mar 2010.

A line between *Albatross* and *Rhyme of the Ancient Mariner*.

1. Climb the corner of *Rhyme of the Ancient Mariner*. At its top, traverse left across slabs and belay on *Albatross*.
2. Step back right and climb the right-hand groove which is joined by *Albatross* at the top. Continue right to belay below steep headwall of *Ancient Mariner*.
3. Climb steep mixed moves off the belay, as *Ancient Mariner*, traverse left under the steep buttress and climb the groove on the left, which is right of *Albatross*. Continue to the top.

### **Number Three Gully Buttress:**

*MVG* 85m III. Robin Clothier, Andy Forsyth. 26 Oct 2012.

Start just round to the right of *El Nino* where there is a small gully/groove which cuts left. Ascend the groove with interest. A good early season route.

*MVG, Cherry on Top Finish* 15m III,5. Simon Watchman, Toby Archer. 4 Jan 2019.

A fun, but completely avoidable finish to *MVG*. Climbed in lean conditions and may disappear under a cornice in a full winter.

From the easy snow slope above the groove of *MVG*, climb a short but fine corner-line in the small buttress above.

### **Creag Coire na Ciste:**

*Blankhead* 65m VI,7 \*. Michael Barnard, Katie Bowen. 9 Dec 2018.

The main pitch climbs the corner left of *To Those Who Wait* (*Blockhead* takes the corner further left).

1. 40m As for pitch 1 of *Blockhead*, but continue up the ramp to below the corner.
2. 25m Climb the corner (thin and technical, 1 rest point).

### **Number Five Gully Buttress:**

*Fives Wall* 100m VII,7. Iain Small, Simon Richardson. 31 Jan 2019.

A surprisingly sustained climb following the summer route. Climb halfway up *Number Five Gully* to gain a curving snow terrace on the right.

1. 50m Follow the terrace to where it fades and climb a groove to a ledge. Traverse right past its end, then move boldly up thinly iced wall for 15m to a large flake.

2. 50m Climb the flake and continue up good cracks to a snow patch. Traverse left and climb a short crack and wall to a large ledge. Move right and follow a steep crack to the top of the buttress.

### **AONACH MÒR, Coire an Lochain:**

*Moonpig* 50m IV,5. Graham Wyllie, Cam Bevan. 8 Mar 2019.

A route up the left flank of the buttress containing *Foosyerneeps*.

1. 25m Start below a groove left of the toe of the buttress. Climb the groove then make a move right up a slabby wall. An awkward move right leads to a crest. Trend up and left until below a large smooth wall.
2. 25m Traverse left to the foot of the obvious chimney and climb it. Continue up and left at its top through a bulge (crux) to easier ground leading to the plateau.

### **GEAL-CHÀRN, Creag Dhubh:**

*Sorbet* 45m III,4. John Lowther, John Lyall. 15 Dec 2017.

Start up the first steep step of *Ice Cream*, then continue up the icefall on the left wall.

### **CREAG MEAGAIDH, Coire Ardair, Inner Corrie:**

*Inherit the Wind* 200m IV,5. John Lyall, Scott Frazer, Mick Twomey. 6 Feb 2018.

Starts up the edge right of *Soldiers Song*. Has two good pitches.

1. 60m Easy mixed ground to a good ledge.
2. 30m Take corners just left of the crest and move right at the final roof to finish up the crest and gain a big shelf.
3. 35m Easily up right to the next tier.
4. 40m Left of the crest is a fault which steepens and narrows to a chimney, follow this over a chokestone to a ledge.
5. 35m Work up through easy rocks to a break in the cornice on the right.

*Ardair Pillar* 160m III,4. John Lyall, Jonathan Preston. 5 Dec 2018.

An easier and more consistent way up the pillar taken by *Ardairnuff*.

Start at the lowest rocks on the right side and take a weaving line up the lower, scooped face, by the line of most turf to the big terrace. Sneak round to the right of the steep wall with the obvious crack, quickly gain the crest above, and follow this to the top.

*Eyecatcher* 100m III,4. John Lyall, Jonathan Preston. 5 Dec 2018.

The next buttress left of *Ardair Pillar*.

1. 35m Start about 10m right of the crest and take an icy groove into an alcove, then break out left onto blocks and go up to a ledge. Go up cracks on the right to the base of a pinnacle, then traverse right round an edge to belay.
2. 30m Go up and pull steeply left to the crest and follow this to easy ground.
3. 35m Easy snow to the top. (Can have very large cornices above here, but it is easy to downclimb the gully on the left)

John Lyall notes that these routes face south and east and are not a good option when the normal ice routes on Meagaidh are in good condition, but give a good alternative for early winter or in cloudy conditions after snow.

## GLEN COE

### BUACHAILLE ETIVE MOR, The Chasm:

Michael Barnard has sent the following description for the direct finish.

*Direct Finish* 60m VS 4c \*\*\*.

An excellent finish, though rarely dry. Climb straight up the fault to a small cave (20m). Wide bridging allows footholds on the right wall to be gained (crux). Above, the climbing remains sustained to ledges (50m). A short easier pitch leads to the top.

### North Blackmount Buttress:

*Unnamed* 100m VII,7, Iain Small, Simon Richardson. 1 Feb 2019.

The right flank of the buttress is cut by a deep right-facing corner. Approach by *The Chasm to Strawberry Traverse*.

1. 30m Climb the corner to where it steepens.
2. 40m Continue up the corner and through an awkward roof (crux). Trend up and left up the gully-corner above to a terrace.
3. 30m Climb a steep crack to a ledge and finish up the deep line of cracks above to the top.

### North Buttress:

Ali Rose notes that the peg has rotted away on *Gallows Route* (it is only a stump now) and the climb is worthy of an upgrade – it would seem a shame changing the grade to E3 5b as it will mean it receives even less ascents, but with hard 5b climbing which is now relatively unprotectable, this is a fair grade.

### COIRE EILDE, Eilde Canyon:

*Pipas Del Organo* 25m IV,4. Ali Rose, Brian Bathurst. 28 Feb 2018.

The steep ice wall left of *Palenque* with the organ pipe ice and turf at the top. (Obvious spike on the right below the pipes).

*La Rampa* 25m III,3. Ali Rose, Brian Bathurst. 28 Feb 2018.

The ramp of ice above the split in the canyon (left of *Por Que*).

*Mermelada De Puño* 25m III,4. Ali Rose, Brian Bathurst. 28 Feb 2018.

Follow the thin sliver of ice left of *El Mixe* to fist jams up the stacked blocks on the left.

### CREAG A' BHANCAIR:

Michael Barnard notes that *Conga Reel* was thought E4 (given a split grade in the Glen Coe guide). Below is a more detailed description with a new and improved second pitch (Michael Barnard, Charlie Henderson, 25 Jul 2018).

*Conga Reel* 75m E4 \*

A good line cutting through *Walk with Destiny*. Start down and left of that route, below a thin vertical crack.

1. 45m 6a Climb the sustained crack (crux) to gain the traverse ledge of *Walk with Destiny*. Step back left to climb the upper part of the crack with further interest, then continue more easily up rightwards, then up to the main terrace. A good belay can be found about 15m directly above.
2. 30m 5b Move up and traverse right above a grassy ledge to take a shallow

groove up to the top bulging wall (good cams). Step right and climb through the bulge (bold), then continue easily to the top.

### **AONACH DUBH, West Face, East Buttress:**

*New Beginnings* 40m E1. Paul Bedford, Neil Mackay, Connor ?. 16 May 2018. Start at a recess between several prominent roofs, 2m before Middle Ledge turns the corner to head onto the main *Big Top* face.

1. 20m 5a Scramble up broken rock to reach a right-slanting gangway. Climb this to a small overhang and surmount this using the recess. Continue up heading and climbing a corner and flake.
2. 20m 5b Step off the belay ledge and either traverse right a couple of meters past the crack, and then continue without using this delicately up the wall, to reach good holds high up on the arete. Or alternatively use the crack and continue up to the ridge above. Continue on easy ground to the top (not included in length).

### **CHURCH DOOR BUTTRESS:**

*The Lonely Angel* 35m VI,7. Willis Morris, Nicolas Wylie. 17 Jan 2019.

The corner on the right side of the small needle that rises up out of the centre of *Central Gully*. Good, steep climbing, and a useful option in very lean conditions when the lower part of the crag is black.

### **SGÒR NA H-ULAIDH, North Face:**

*Brush Buttress Variations* 320m IV.4. Kenny Wright, Simon Opit. 20 Mar 2018. This route lies on the buttress left of *Vixen Gully* and may coincide with *Brush Buttress*. The buttress has three tiers with the middle being the steepest.

1. 40m Start at the lowest point of the buttress and move right into a snow bay. Exit this via an icy scoop. There is a block belay at the top.
2. 50m Climb the snow field to the second tier. Move right into a snow bay with ice screw belay on the right wall.
3. 40m Exit the snow bay via a short icy groove. Move up left across a snowfield to the chimney on the left edge of the buttress. Climb the chimney until the angle eases.
4. 20m Follow the V-groove above. Belay below the steep rock step at the apex of the buttress overlooking *Red Gully*.
5. 40m Climb the 5m rock step on excellent hooks in the cracks. Easier steps lead to another snow field.
6. 30m Cross the snowfield to a crack belay at the lowest point of the final tier.
- 7 and 8. 100m The third tier has two pitches of Grade II-looking ground which could be accessed via a short rock step on the right. On this ascent, a finish was made up *Red Gully*.

### **CREACH BHEINN, Zeppelin Face:**

*Celebration Day* 140m II/III \*. Steve Kennedy, Andy MacDonald. 10 Feb 2019. The open, left slanting gully starting about 20m left of obvious left-facing corner-gully (*The Rover* – SMCJ 2008). Climb the gully until it opens out then move back rightwards to below some flakes. The steeper upper buttress is breached by following a left slanting rake to an alcove near the left edge. Finish via a steep step over blocks and mixed ground above.

## SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS

### BEINN ACHALADAIR, North-East Corrie:

*Ghost Train* 150m III. Ruth Love, John Higham. 19 Jan 2019.

To the right of the cliffs on Meall Buidhe, and beyond a dividing gully, there is a sometimes broken rib/ridge which starts at NN 350 435. The climbing is straightforward apart from a tricky section at mid-height.

### BEN IME, East-North-East Ridge North Buttresses, Right Buttress:

*When Black Holes Collide* 120m III.4. Andrew Fraser, Ian Magill. 12 Feb 2016.

Starting 15m right of the deep chimney of *Lost Highway* beneath a vertical black wall is a line which slants rightwards up the whole buttress. Climb this in two and a half pitches, the crux being a steep crack near the end of pitch 1.

*Space Time Continuum* 85m III.4. Andrew Fraser, Ian Magill. 4 Mar 2016.

Near the right end of the crag, 10m left of *Innominate Gully* snow and ice leads to a triangular wall, which is turned on its left to a ledge. Move 4m left to belay. Climb wall directly above belay, up snow and crack, then move right onto large ledge on right side of crag. A tricky move up the wall behind leads to easier ground.

### BEINN EUNAICH, Coire an Garbhlaich:

Two parallel gullies lie directly below the summit at NH 136 328.

*Race Against Time* 110m II. Simon Richardson. 6 Apr 2019.

Climb the left-hand gully for 60m to where it finishes at a small snow crest. Cross over the crest and continue up the sinuous snow shelf before breaking left up steeper ground to finish a few metres south of the summit cairn.

*Ticking Clock Gully* 110m II. Simon Richardson. 6 Apr 2019.

Follow the deep and well-defined right-hand gully for 60m and continue up the open funnel above to finish a few metres north of the summit cairn.

## LOWLAND OUTCROPS AND GALLOWAY HILLS

### GALLOWAY HILLS, Craigdews, Kids Buttress:

*Al Dente* 8m E5 6b \*\*. Adam Russell (Headpoint Solo). 5 Sep 2018.

Takes the eye-catching line of slightly left trending flakes up the right side of the smooth wall, with the long thin roof low down. Start on the wee ledge below the right side of the roof, above a thought-provoking landing. Boulder up through the right side of the long thin roof to gain a more balanced position on better holds just above half height – small gear available (thin sling, RPs, skyhooks) but the difficulties are over. Continue steadily to top out on the left side of the diving board.

Probably better thought of as a 4m Font ~6b+ into a 4m Font 5+ where it would be unwise to fall from either.

### Craigdews, East Quarry:

Two new boulder problems are described in the New Routes 2019 Supplement on the SMC website.

**Craignarget (NX 51094 71404):**

A small crag of perfect granite lying on the northern slopes of Craignelder/Millfore Hill, above Dunkitterick Cottage. It is called Sheil Hill on the 1:25k OS Galloway Forest Park South Map. It faces directly west and gets any breeze and full sun until 10pm – in other words an excellent midge-free, afternoon venue. Medium size cams essential on the Right Buttress.

The direct approach from Craigdews via Dunkitterick Cottage is brutally hard and not recommended – allow an hour. Much better is to take the well-surfaced forestry road which starts opposite the Deer Park on the A712 at NX 51939 71354, taking this to 518 715 where there is a parking spot. About 100m beyond this is a firebreak at NX 51760 71255. Follow the firebreak to the edge of the forestry, then go up a heathery rocky spur on the right. From the top of this aim for the upper end of some slabby outcrops on the right. From these a cairn will be seen on a granite slab summit – the crag lies some 200m to the left of the cairn – 30 minutes from the parking spot. The routes are described from left to right.

**Left Buttress:**

*Pigmy Parade* 8m H.Severe 4b. Stephen Reid, Chris King. 26 Jul 2018.

Climb the triangular pillar towards the left side of the left-hand buttress and then straight up over a bulge (cam in crack on the right at start of difficulties).

*Galloway Yeti* 8m HVS 5b. Stephen Reid, Chris King. 26 Jul 2018.

A mini-monster of a route. Start as for *Pigmy Parade*. Climb the pillar until level with a huge triangular block. Pull out right to a jamming crack (jamming glove on left hand useful) and make a long reach up and right to pull over the bulge – then easily to the top, though beware loose blocks.

*This is Small but out there is Far Away* 10m VS 4b \*. Andrew Fraser, Ian Magill. 18 Jul 2018.

Start at a short groove just left of a left slanting deep crack. Climb the groove to an awkward top out then boldly over the bulge and up the wall.

*Tentacles of Doom* 12m H.Severe 4b \*. Andrew Fraser, Ian Magill. 18 Jul 2018.  
The obvious diagonal deep crack .

*Lilliput Lane* 10m H.Severe 4b \*. Chris King, Stephen Reid. 26 Jul 2018.

The fine arete just right of *This is Small*. Start as for *Tentacles* and climb straight up to a ledge. Step up left onto the arete and go direct to the top.

*Brief Encounter* 9m Severe 4a. Stephen Reid, Chris King. 26 Jul 2018.

Just right of the arete are two grooves. Climb the left one to the heather ledge, then up the crack just right of the arete and wall above

*Alcohol, Cigarettes and Rollerblading* 9m V.Diff \*. Andrew Fraser, Ian Magill. 28 Jun 2018.

The right groove to the heather ledge then the easy groove above this, moving left at the top.

*Nae Bother* 9m V.Diff. Ian Magill, S.Fraser. 28 Jun 2018.

The right edge of the buttress.



*Chris King on FA of Lilliput Lane (H. Severe), Craignarget. Photo:Stephen Reid.*

**Right Buttress:**

*Midget Gem* 11m V.Diff. Ian Magill, S.Fraser. 28 Jun 2018.

Cracks just right of the vegetated section.

*Down with that Sort of Thing* 12m VS 4b \*. Andrew Fraser, Ian Magill. 28 Jun 2018.

The second thin crack from the left, which joins the easier route on its right. Where it joins, step left and finish up the slab.

*Breaktime's Over* 12m Severe 4b \*. Ian Magill, S.Fraser. 22 Jun 2018.

The left of the three central cracks.

*Drink, Feck, Arse* 12m H.Severe 4b \*. Andrew Fraser, Ian Magill. 22 Jun 2018.

The middle of the three central cracks, with a small dogleg at mid-height.

*Blaeberry Slipper* 12m VS 4c \*. P.Sammons, L.Pearce. 4 Aug 2018.

The slab between *Drink* and *Night*. The grade assumes gear is placed in an adjacent crack.

*Night of the Nearly Dead* 12m VS 4b \*\*. Andrew Fraser, Ian Magill. 22 Jun 2018.

The thin double crack system.

*Go on, Go on, Go on...* 11m VS 4c \*\*. Andrew Fraser, Ian Magill. 18 Jul 2018.

Fine padding up the blank slab to the right of *Night of the Nearly Dead*. The grade assumes a side runner is placed in the top crack.

*Walking the Dog* 8m V.Diff. Andrew Fraser, Ian Magill, Barney the Dog. 22 Jun 2018.

The slab at the right end of the crag

*Gulliver's Travels* 55m VS \*. Stephen Reid, Chris King (alt). 26 July 2018.

A girdle traverse along the obvious break. Start at the right end of the crag.

1 30m 4b. Climb up to the horizontal break and hand-traverse it a few metres before it becomes easier to foot traverse it. Keep traversing until it ends and a tricky descent must be made to gain a lower break. Foot traverse this then climb diagonally up left to easy ground. Carry on to a belay two metres above a huge sloping platform.

2 25m 4b. Traverse across grass to gain the left-hand buttress. Descend diagonally leftwards to a grass ledge then step down left again to a rock ledge. Move up and round the arete and traverse left into *Tentacles of Doom* up which the climb finishes.

**Lower Tier:**

*In the Heat of the Night* 27m Severe. Ian Magill, Andrew Fraser. 18 Jul 2018.

The obvious crack up the right side of the lower slabs. An easier route was climbed to the left but is not worth recording.

**Clatteringshaws Crag:**

This cliff is located at NX 549 754 (Lowland Outcrops page 207).



*Ian Magill following Night of the Nearly Dead (VS 4b), Craignarget.  
Photo: Andrew Frazer.*



*Chris King on FA of Gulliver's Travels (VS 4b), Craignarget. Photo: Stephen Reid.*

*Here's Mud in your Eye* 27m V.Diff. Ian Magill, Andrew Fraser. 30 Aug 2018.  
The mossy brown slab on the right of the crag with a crack at the top

*Suits You, Sir* 15m H.Severe 4b \*. Andrew Fraser, Ian Magill. 30 Aug 2018.  
This nice climb takes a cracked rib up the steepest section of the wall to the left of the rib of *Dam It*, starting behind the left hand of two trees at the foot of the crag.

*Slip Sliding Away* 13m V.Diff. Ian Magill, Andrew Fraser. 30 Aug 2018.  
The slab 3m left of *Suits You, Sir*.

### **Cairnsmore Of Dee (NX 583 765):**

*Silver Lining* 100m Diff. Andrew Fraser. 17 Aug 2016.

A recent landslide has resulted in a pleasant 100m granite slab visible from the A712. Accessed from the A712 at NX 587 773 through the jungle.

### **THE BORDERS, Cloon Craig (NT 581 152):**

This south-east facing dolerite crag (altitude 350m), lies to the south of the summit of Rubers Law (424m) and to the north of the A6088. There is parking at the side of the A6088 at NT 560 126 and the walk in (signposted) takes a brisk 45 minutes. Although the crag is a bit broken and in places vegetated, the rock is of excellent quality and it's worth a visit just for the fine situation and outlook. Most of the routes are in the easier grades making this a good beginners' crag. However, dry conditions are essential as the rock carries a patina of lichen. In the past the crag has probably been used for abseiling and mountain rescue training as there are ten large steel angle stakes driven into the ground well back from the top of the crag. They can be used for belaying but there are some natural belays, including a large block. A few rusty pegs have been removed from relatively easy ground (only one remains) – it seems likely that *Rusty Peg Route* and *Time's Arrow* have been previously climbed. At the time of writing, there are no birds nesting on the crag but there is a roost.

The left side of the crag is defined by a shallow gully (descent route) and an obvious diagonal fault divides the crag into two unequal parts. The routes are described from left to right.

*Rusty Peg Route* 18m Moderate. Graham Little (solo). 24 Sep 2017.

This scrappy route, on the left side of the crag, climbs a broken rib to a heather ledge with an old peg then, after a move up and right, the slabby face above.

*A Point in Time* 18m Severe 4b \*\*. Graham Little (solo). 3 Oct 2017.

Climbs the finger-like rib between the left edge of the crag and the diagonal fault. A hard start gives access onto the rib which is climbed followed by a short wall to a block on a ledge. Finish straight up.

*Once Upon a Time* 18m Severe 4c. Graham Little (solo). 27 Sep 2017.

Start just left of the diagonal fault. Move up a messy slab then take an obvious wide crack leading to a vegetated ledge and then into a short, slim corner. From the top of the corner (where it is possible to escape left reducing the overall grade to Severe 4a) make hard moves up and right to finish up a short groove.

*Playing for Time* 19m HVS 5b. Graham Little (unseconded). 3 Oct 2017.

Start at the foot of the diagonal fault. Climb slabby rock to gain a big jammed block/flake. Move up and left and then make bold moves up the vertical wall (a couple of metres right of the slim corner of *Once Upon a Time*) to a hidden jug and easier rock above.

*Playing for More Time* 17m E2 5b. Graham Little (unseconded). 5 Nov 2017.  
From the big jammed block/flake on the previous route, make hard moves straight up then pull right using the left edge of the right facing corner. Finish straight up via a big hold.

*Time's Arrow* 15m Diff. Graham Little (solo). 3 Oct 2017.

Start at the foot of the diagonal fault and climb the widening slab forming the right side of the fault.

*High Step Arete* 18m V.Diff \*. Graham Little (solo). 24 Sep 2017.

Immediately right of the diagonal fault is a well-defined arete. Start at its lowest point and climb it with an awkward move right at 6m.

*Time Traveller* 18m VS 5a \*. Graham Little (solo). 27 Sep 2017.

Start to the right of *High Step Arete* and climb 'corrugated' rock to a ledge. It is possible to escape right onto easier ground but take the triangular wall above directly then finish up the last couple of metres of *High Step Arete*.

Well to the right of the diagonal fault lies a blocky pinnacle with two clean groove lines:

*Left Time Groove* 7m (18m) Severe 4c \*\*. Graham Little (solo). 27 Sep 2017.  
Enter and climb the fine steep groove. From the top of the pinnacle it is possible to descend either side (with care) but probably better to continue to the top via a slight rib.

*Right Time Groove* 8m (19m) Severe 4b \*. Graham Little (solo) 24 Sep 2017.  
Climb the groove then move left under the block and up. From the top of the pinnacle it is possible to descend either side (with care) but probably better to continue to the top via a slight rib.

*Balance of Time* 18m HVS 4c \*. Graham Little (solo). 27 Sep 2017.

This line takes the undulating wall, to the right of the blocky pinnacle, leading to much easier mossy ground and passing a small hawthorn bush. Climb the undulating wall, just right of centre (no protection), then the much easier ground above.

*Time Will Tell* 15m E2 5c. Graham Little (unseconded). 5 May 2018

Tackles the little undercut buttress right of the blocky pinnacle. Climb its left edge (very strenuous) then make moves right and up using a (dubious) hanging block to gain a vegetated ledge. Finish up an easier short wall via cracks.

*Closing Time* 14m Severe 4b. Graham Little (solo). 3 Oct 2017.

Climbs the front face of the right-most buttress. A tricky start leads to a ledge, then climb the short wall above.

**EAST LOTHIAN, Traprain Law, Overhang Wall:**

*Wobble Direct* 20m VS 4c \*. Bob Licznerski (unseeded). 29 May 2019.

A distinct line from the previous start variation, with clean (unpolished) rock yielding an enjoyable direct line with good protection. Possibly climbed before. Start as for *Piglet* but step up over a black overlap and climb direct up short slab to a small ledge. Continue up the slanting slab to the overlap, and climb direct to join original route (at about halfway).

**Lammer Wall:**

*The Floor is Lava* 30m H. Severe 4c \*. Robert Taylor, Isla Harper, Rob Rannard. 22 Jun 2019.

A left to right rising traverse across the wall. Start at the foot of *Retard Arete*, move right along the obvious diagonal crack past a spike at the left of vertical ladder. Move up and right across *The Vertical Ladder* and traverse across *Double Stretch*, *MS Route*, *Pinch* and *Brute*, at three-quarters height of the wall, dropping to two-thirds height for the second half. Climb down the crack to a ledge on *Brute*. Move right in line with the ledge to belay in a blocky bowl just after a bush to the right of *Floggle Toggle*. Scramble down to the right.

**BERWICKSHIRE COAST, Fast Castle Area, Ladywell Craig, Lower Crag:**

*Going Sloe* 25m HVS 5b \*. Adam Russell, Lia Guest. 5 Oct 2018.

Links the trio of amusingly hairy cracks bearing slightly leftwards up the centre of the slab, crux moves gain the ledge at the base of the headwall before bearing left again to take the obvious line of weakness through the overlap that belongs to the adjacent route.

**Ladywell Craig, Lower Crag East Bay:**

At the seaward end of this fin there is a triangular section of crag. The following route is directly up the centre of the west face of this. Descend easily down a ramp to the right.

*Toblerone Crack* 10m HVS 5b. Lia Guest, Adam Russell. 5 Oct 2018.

Start up the centre of the wall to gain the crack that intersects the wall. Follow this up slightly leftwards to finish.

Twenty four new boulder problems in the Fast Castle Area are described in the New Routes 2019 Supplement on the SMC website.