New Route descriptions can be sent directly to the New Routes Editor at 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 to the SMC website (which automatically formats them correctly) <<u>https://www.smc.org.uk/climbs/report></u>

Submission of diagrams and topos is strongly encouraged. These are kept on file for future guidebook authors.

The deadline for sending route descriptions for the 2021 Journal is 31 May 2021.

# **OUTER HEBRIDES**

# LEWIS, Mullach an Taroin, Geòdha an Taroin:

*Thirty-Two* 30m E2 5c \*\*. Gary & Karen Latter, Ewan Lyons. 10 Aug 2018. The Direct Start to *Twelve Years On*. Start at the back of the recess. Climb the crack round the roof on good jams.

Gary Latter suggests that *Copper Koala* is E2 5b. Although the initial groove is about VS, the route is neither E1 nor "possibly easy for the grade."

# LEWIS, Aird Mhor Mhangarstaidh South, Screaming Geòdha:

Gary Latter notes that *Singapore Sling* (E2 5c) has suffered a rockfall, with a large section missing at the base, and is no longer climbable at the grade.

#### LEWIS, Uig Sea Cliffs, Crowlista, Fiabhaig Geòdha, Landward Side:

*Time and Tide* 25m E3 5c \*\*. Rab Anderson, Chris Anderson. 19 Sep 2019. The line *Kitty Wake* should have taken. Climb the right-hand crack as for *Kitty Wake*, up and around the edge, then step left to climb the edge to gain and finish up a crack on the left side of the arete.

# LEWIS, Druim a' Bheannaich, Boardwalk Central:

Gary Latter notes that *Magic Dragon* has suffered a rockfall and looks much harder than when originally climbed. A huge block has gone and the crack is no longer 'gained by a hand traverse rightwards from the corner.'

# **Boardwalk Right:**

*Underwhelming Corner* 10m H.Severe 4b \*. Ewan Lyons. 12 Aug 2018. The left-facing corner right of *Twostep Crack*.

*Mind the Gap* 10m H.Severe 4c \*. Ewan Lyons (solo). 12 Aug 2018. The ramp line just right of *Underwhelming Corner*, starting with a high step.

*Overjoyed* 10m Severe 4a \*. Karen & Gary Latter, Ewan Lyons. 12 Aug 2018. The obvious large crack-line further right, going through two steps.

A pair of short steep cracks towards the right end, (a few metres left of the Difficult descent) are both Severe 4a.

# LEWIS, Druim Mor, Crulabhig:

*Burqa* 15m HVS 5a \*. Gary Latter (solo). 15 Aug 2018. Climb a direct line up the wall right of *Letterbox Wall*, finishing on the right.

# LEWIS, Creagan Ben Guidamol:

The Outer Hebrides guidebook mentions a right-hand buttress directly above a fence line. It also mentions a 'far left section of cliff' that contains three Severes. The following route lies on a crag just right of the 'far left' buttress. It has an open-book corner with an old metal fence post sticking out at the top of the corner. No routes have previously been recorded on this section of the cliff.

*Flintstones* 10m E4 6b \*. Kevin Woods, David Macmorris. 12 Jul 2019. The left wall of the prominent corner has a crack running through an obvious overlap at two-thirds height. Easier moves through the lower half lead to a long move past the overlap and the top out.

# LEWIS, Stornoway, Creag nan Ghroida:

This cliff us located on the north side of the river Ghroida (TL 420 319) on the peninsula looking out to sea, in Lews Castle grounds, Stornoway.

*Tragedy of the Commons* 8m E1 5b \*. Dan Fitzsimmons. 17 Jun 2017. The obvious crack starting from the right side of the ramp. The top of which can be seen from above. Roped solo ascent ground up, using ground anchors and placing leader protection.

# LEWIS, The Uig Hills, Creagan Tealasdale:

Gary Latter notes that *Caledonian McBrain Justice* was thought to be E2 5c. A further 30m VS 4c pitch was added above the large terrace, taking the rightmost of twin cracks, then left up a ramp and finishing easily rightwards. Gary & Karen Latter. 15 Jul 2019.

Gary Latter also notes that a rope sling and maillon was left on block 1m down from the top of *Grime of the Century* (25m to terrace). A further sling and maillon was also left on large block near the centre of the terrace beneath the Upper Tier (60m to base).

# HARRIS, Tiorga Beag, Creagan Leathan:

The correct map reference for this crag is NB 070 135 (typo in Outer Hebrides).

# Giolabhal Glas, Lochan Crag:

Deep Play 75m HVS \*\*. John Mackenzie, Charles White. 8 Jul 2019.

A direct line up the highest part of the crag. An excellent initial pitch, bold and with spaced protection but on wonderful rock.

1. 40m 4c The climb starts below the concave slab left of *Stonechat Corner* and just right of the groove of that route. Gain the slab base by awkward moves, then climb the slabs right side to step left above it and climb the steep rib to the grass terrace. Climb the steepening rib right of the deep V-groove of *Lochan Crag* 

*Climb*, aiming for a niche high up below a cracked headwall. Move into this 'sentry box'. Good cam belays above; a very scenic stance.

2. 35m 4a Climb the cracked headwall on good holds to exit on easy ground. Continue up to a short juggy wall on the left, climb this and finish by scrambling.

# Tiorga Mor (NB 060 104):

Slabs and shorter steep walls lie on the southern flanks of Tiorga Mor between 350 and 400m altitude. These are best approached from the track off the B887 Huisinis road, limited parking 300m along this. Follow the track to a just beyond the power station and up a rocky ridge which has a good section of scrambling up red feldspar slabs to a hollow where the crags lie above.

Roughly right of centre is a narrow grass gully and a double-tiered slab tilted to the right, which appears to be the longest route here. A steep heathery scramble leads to a stance and a good belay crack. Descent lies above the route below a steeper cracked wall and down a grass ramp and then a short grassy gully on the left.

Lag MacCodrium's Dainty Gambol 70m Severe. John Mackenzie, Charles White. 6 Jul 2019.

1. 40m 4b Move right from the stance to below the slab and climb this, a little mossy, to a glacis. Cross this to a red feldspar wall split by twin cracks. Climb the right-hand one and then move right on a slab to good belays below a short wall. Wet when climbed so hard to grade and protection a little lacking on the initial slab.

2. Move right around the wall to a rough slab and up this and the little overlaps above to an easing and the top. To reach the descent ramp the short wall above makes a good juggy finish.

#### SOUTH HARRIS, Ceann Reamhar, Uamascleit:

Approximately 300m south-east of the main crag lies a line of shorter crags of good brown gneiss at NB 131 997. The following route lies on the right side of these crags, prominently marked by a left-facing corner.

*Joint Effort* 40m HVS 6a \*\*. John Mackenzie, Stephen Venables. 2 Jul 2019. The slab left of the corner has a sizeable overhang at the base. One and a half metres left of the corner is a way through via a nut-protected finger-lock crack. A predictably strenuous pull leads to a pleasant slab left of the corner which is climbed to where the corner ends. Step right onto the upper slab via some blocks and finish up the good slab.

# BARRA, Feudail, Upper Tier:

*Thistle Be Easy* 12m V.Diff 4a. Fenella Corrick, Tom Mallinson. 11 Aug 2019. Start at the left most end of the Upper Tier, and make blocky moves with good protection just right of a chest-height ceiling. A few metres up, a large platform provides reassurance followed by the crux finish up a bold unprotected bulge.

*Party Thyme* 12m H.Severe 4a. Tom Mallinson, Fenella Corrick. 11 Aug 2019. Start one metre left of *Ivy Groove* and climb the prominent slightly right-leaning crack-line. An obvious horizontal rectangular recess marks the line. There is some loose rock on the route.

*Fennel I See You Again?* 12m Severe 4a. Tom Mallinson, Fenella Corrick. 11 Aug 2019.

Climb slightly left of the plant-filled crack that lies approximately in the centre of the Upper Tier.

# PABBAY, Rubha Greotach, Banded Geo:

*Oban Jellyfish Apocalypse* 30m HVS 5a \*\*. Andrew Marshall, Matthew Crawford. 23 Jun 2019.

Start as for *Tide Race*, but exit directly though the unlikely looking gap in the roof on huge holds.

# MINGULAY, Rubha Liath, The Point:

*Fulmars Fly For Fun* 35m VS 4c \*\*. Scott Herrett, Franklin Jacoby. 30 Jul 2019.

A well protected route of varied character. Start as for *Eaglesea*, but climb the wall rightward to a short crack. Go up this to a small ledge and climb the excellent steep corner to another ledge, from which a broken arete can be climbed to easier ground. (Topo provided.)

*Franklin Loves The Big Juicy* 30m VS 4c \*. Nathan Adam, Matthew Rowbottom. 30 Jul 2019.

Climbs the arete right of *Crack nan Euan*, easy escape possible at the harder sections but clean climbing. From a semi-hanging stance at the base of *Crack nan Euan*, follow the clean-cut arete mostly on its right side to a prominent ledge about half way up the crag and below a steep wall. Climb the wall trending left on good horizontal breaks (maybe 5a), step right and continue up a yellowish ramp and finish by a short steep corner above.

Nathan Adam notes that *Crack nan Euan* felt about H.Severe and deserves two stars. *Eaglesea* was excellent at the grade and worth two stars.

# MINGULAY, Sloc Chiasigeo:

The following two lines are on the huge black NW-facing south side of the geo. Viewing the face from the promontory opposite one sees the middle of the face cleft by a stepped crack with a prominent square birdy ledge half way up. To its right is a discontinuous crack that forks and arches rightwards at the top; right again is a deep chimney crack-line which must be *Pot of Gold*.

Amber through Obsidian 55m E3 5c \*\*. Rick Campbell, Iain Small. 18 Jun 2008.

Abseil from the second small bluff right on the edge some 40m south of a Thrift bollard down to a long ledge above overhangs and birdy ledges. Prominent high up is an S-shaped pink quartz band. Start up a short crack midway between two larger crack systems and continue up until forced into the right-hand fault-line. Move straight back left up into steeper rock which is followed into the pink quartz band and a steep juggy flake crack. Continue up the line of the abseil over slabbier rock to finish.

*Tinkling the Ebonies* 55m E3 5c \*. Rick Campbell, Iain Small. 22 Jun 2008. Right of the chimney crack of *Pot of Gold* and just before the face turns a slight corner is a curious puffy double crack low down between two large pink quartz

splodges. Abseil down the line of *Pot of Gold* some 15m south of the previous route and belay on a ledge, below which the rock is greener and less pleasant. Start up *Pot of Gold* for 8m to where the lower quartz splodge leads out right onto the face. Move up a recess and pull steeply out right onto a ledge. The curious bulging double crack is up right and it is followed with difficulty to large ledges above. Finish up the first crack right of the large chimney-crack to finish. A better finish would be to break right above the bulging crux to finish up the bulging prow on the right.

# MINGULAY, Guarsay Mor, The Arena:

*Eye of the Storm, Variation Start* 25m E2 5b \*\*\*. Michael Barnard, Lucy Spark. 3 Aug 2019.

Belay as for the normal route. Traverse out left, move up then step back right below where the wall steepens. Climb via cracks up steep rock to regain the normal route after its left traverse.

# Lower Cobweb Wall:

Michael Barnard notes that *The Adventures of Ray Chup, the Brummie Midget* was thought to be E2 (5b, 5b). Pitch 1 is 15m, pitch 2 is 45m. *Cuan a Bochan* was thought to be 5b, 5a (not the other way round).

# **INNER HEBRIDES & ARRAN**

#### MULL, Ulva, Basalt Columns:

Unnamed (New Routes Supplement 2018) is called Blackboard.

#### Aird Dearg:

*Another One* 7m H.Severe. Colin Moody (with backrope). 20 Aug 2019. Start left of Red Oak behind the left side of the oak tree. Gain the shelf then climb the corner-crack.

*The Lie* 10m VS 4c. Colin Moody (with Soloist device). 20 Aug 2019. There are two lines between *In Stalin's Steps* and *Lenin*; a chimney on the left and twin cracks on the right. Climb the twin cracks.

*Missing Ladder* 8m Severe. Colin Moody, Cynthia Grindley. 20 Mar 2020. Start just left of *Collie Dug*. Go up the rib then the crack. *Blood Money* was climbed directly to make the two routes independent.

Colin Moody notes that the detached flakes at the start of *Ginger Rodent* (SMCJ 2014) are now on the ground but the route can be climbed on the left to get past the rock scar.

#### ERRAID, Karen's Slab:

*Erica* 14m HVS 4c \*. Steve Kennedy, Cynthia Grindley, Colin Moody. 20 Oct 2019.

Start just left of *Emma Rose* and climb up to the wide crack. Follow the wide crack left across the face then up to finish.

Two short routes (VS and Severe) were climbed by the same party near Ria.

# LISMORE, Drum Mor:

This NW-facing cliff can be approached either by boat into Bàgh Clach an Dobhrain bay then make your way under cliffs along shoreline, or from the end of the B8045 beyond Kilcheran followed by an abseil. Stakes would be needed as there are no belays at top.

*Restricted Vocabulary* 55m XS 5b \*\*. Chris Moore, Jenny Mather. 23 Jul 2017. The obvious prow, up the centre of the crag. Climb up the right side of the arete for 5m, then move right of the arete and climb delicately up the wall until a step left around the arete and into a scoop can be made at around 15m. Follow the scoop up (good wire) then make a bold step left and swing around onto the left wall. Move directly up through the overhang and finish up the easier ground above. The rock is incredibly loose and friable, and most gear is behind visibly moving flakes. Despite this – great adventure climbing!

# KERRERA, Catnip Crag (Cladh A Bearnaig) (NM 844 310):

A small, sunbathed wall of basalt at the north end of Kerrera. The leaning wall offers steep jamming cracks and smooth technical problems on slopers, all in a delightful Hebridean setting. The crag and boulders nearby also offer a good bouldering circuit for those without ropes. A miniature Bowden-by-the-Sea.

Approach: The crag can be reached via the Kerrera Marina ferry from Oban, or by canoe or kayak from the mainland. From the marina, head up towards the monument then continue on a further 100m past it to come into sight of the crag. A 10-minute walk from the marina. The crag dries relatively quickly with sun and a good breeze, though cracks may seep. Belays can be tricky, however two small birches towards the seaward end of the fin provide good anchors for most climbs, better still with an extra rope to extend them. A large protruding block on the north side provides a solid anchor at the eastern end (best to lasso this prior to climbing a route!)

History: The crag has possibly been climbed on in the past by the local outdoor instructor groups, and was originally known as Cladh a' Bearnaig after the ruined enclosure nearby. Adrian Macleod, Tom and Rob Adams were the first to discover its full potential in 2016 climbing the obvious crack lines *Monty*, *Treacle*, *Rooey* and the prize line *Smithy*. Alex Thomson visited Catnip in Spring 2019 and came racing back with pads the next week after seeing visions of the grit crags of home. Various trips with Nick Turner, Rich Abell, Michi Arn, Fatima Gianelli and Chris Murphy uncovered the remaining routes.

Climbs are described from left to right facing the crag. At the far left of the fin, facing Lismore, is a short overhanging cave. *Gustav Meowler* climbs the cave from sitting at Font 6a. Eliminating the aretes gives *Gustav Direct* (Font 6a+).

On the main wall starting in the overgrown alcove on the left:

*Doollie* 5m Severe. Alex Thomson. Sep 2019. The small capped corner to the left of *Monty*.

*Monty* 8m VS 4c \*. Tom Adams, Adrian Macleod. Jun 2016. The leftmost crackline on good jams and holds.

*Treacle* 10m E1 5b. Tom Adams, Adrian Macleod. Jun 2016. The crackline to the right of *Monty* on loose jams and rounded breaks to an engaging top out.

*Clawed DePussy* 10m E3 6a \*\*. Alex Thomson. Sep 2019 Claudes out! The flared crack to the left of *Rooey* topping out through the small roof. A good Font 5+ problem to the horn.

*Rooey* 12m E3 5c \*. Rob Adams, Tom Adams. Jun 2016. The central crackline leading in to the large niche. Top out steeply towards the left-hand end of the alcove taking care of loose blocks.

*Claws Kinsky* 12m E4 6a \*\*. Alex Thomson. Nov 2019. A difficult cat. The flared crack and breaks right of *Rooey*. Follow the line to the niche and finish up good cracks to the right. Font 5+ to the break. (Climbed with preplaced gear at the crux after various failed attempts – a paw performance...)

*Smithy* 12m E2 5c \*\*\*. Rob Adams, Tom Adams. Jun 2016. The Top Cat of Catnip cracks. Fight your way up the obvious right hand crackline on delicious jams. Finish direct or trend slightly right at the top.

*Perryn's Paws* 10m VS 4c \*. Alex Thomson, Rich Abell. Aug 2019. The right-hand arete of the fin, finishing up the groove.

*Felines On A Shirt* 20m E2 5b \*\*\*. First ascent unknown. The obvious traverse of the crag. From right to left or left to right.

Daphne Du Meowrier 15m VS 4c \*\*. Alex Thomson, Fatima Gianelli. Sep 2019.

The slab to the right of the fin. Climb the starting slab to the alcove, place your largest cam in the crack over the top, then pad your way up the well positioned top half.

*Uilleam Dona* 15m VS 4c \*\*. Alex Thomson, Michi Arn. Sep 2019. On the north facing wall 50m back towards the monument. Trend left up positive cracks to a final rightwards traverse at the top. Belay from the heathery niche off anchors further back.

Back up towards the monument there lies a small ivy-covered wall just before the descent to the main crag. The clean monolithic face offers a great fridge-hugging exercise – *Parsley* (Font 6a+).

#### **ISLAY:**

The following new routes have been climbed since the publication of Islay Rock (Graham Little, published privately, 2019).

# Sanaigmore Area, Candle Buttress:

*Candle in the Wind* 25m HVS 4c. Graham Little, Lucy Spark, Catherine Hobaiter. 7 Oct 2019.

Start on the right side of the grassy bay that foots the gully of *Peaches en Regalia*, about 5m right of *Steve's Saunter*, below a big spike. Although a good line there is some dubious rock. Climb over flakes to pass left of a big embedded square block. Step left onto a big shaky flake then climb the steep, left facing groove until a pull out right can be made onto the front face. Climb the face and vegetated ground above to an optional belay. A much better belay is available another 15m up the steep, heathery slope.

# Smaull Walls, The Light Side:

*Smaull World* 9m E1 5b \*\*. Graham Little (solo). 3 May 2019. Start a couple of metres up the steepening footing slab to the right of *The Right Edge*, below a clump of sea pink. Climb the centre of the wall.

# Smaull Walls, The West Side:

*Westward Ho* 8m Severe 4b \*. Graham Little (solo). 3 May 2019. Start just right of *West Side Story*. Gain and climb the wall on the left side of the low roof and then climb the corner above.

# North of Portnahaven, Eilean Cam, Island Defile Wall:

*Aphrodite's Eyes* 15m E2 5b Graham Little (unseconded). 6 May 2019. Start about 6m to the right of the corner taken by *Darth Maureen*. Climb over big flakes then move up left to a bay. Above is a band of flakey, overhanging, rock. Move up and slightly right, then cross it using an 'eye socket' foothold (the bold crux) to improving rock quality and better protection and thence the top.

*Mrs Bridge* 20m Severe \*\*. Mark Hudson, Nic Bassnett. 23 Aug 2019. A fun and spectacular route that gains and climbs the big scoop left of the *Mr Bridge* corner. Start up that route and swing round left onto the front face on massive flakes. Move up and left to climb the left edge of the scoop on huge honeycombs.

*Just So* 22m H.Severe 4b. Nic Bassnett, Mark Hudson. 23 Aug 2019. A rising diagonal line of flakes across the wall between *Mr Bridge* and *Darth Maureen*. Start above a turgid pool just L of *Mr B* and climb easy flakes up and left to reach the corner of *Darth Maureen*. Bridge up that route and step back right to finish up a pleasant short wall.

*Handle With Care* 12m HVS 4c. Graham Little (unseconded). 6 May 2019. Near the northern end of Eilean Cam is a big chossy corner. Climb the steep wall (on big but brittle holds) a couple of metres right of the corner. The start is tidal.

*Result* 15m V.Diff. Mark Hudson, Nic Bassnett 23 Aug 2019 A vertical crack system on the north end of the landward face, opposite a huge chossy corner on the northern end of the Eilean. A good way to finish the day. Start above a slim brown pool and climb the crack direct, passing a steeper section holding a small pod.

#### South of Portnahaven, The Fan:

And He Sang The Wild Rover 25m V.Diff \*. Mark Hudson, Nic Bassnett. 19 Aug 2019.

A high level traverse of the Fan, fantastically positioned but on huge flakes, and unaffected by the tide. Downclimb the final moves of *Pretty In Pink* (or start up that route) and traverse right on an obvious line of monster holds, passing below the cream roof and finishing up the arete of *Graphite Edge*. Belay well back.

Ferg 15m H.Severe 4b. Mark Hudson, Andrew Holden. 19 Aug 2019.

The vertical crack system opposite the landward end of the Fan, on the south wall of the inlet, holding a huge wedge low down. Downclimb and step over a rift to belay level with the wedge.

Stride across a bottomless gap to climb the right-hand side of the wedge (crux) then follow the leaning left-facing corner above. Pleasantly V.Diff if you start up the left-hand side of the wedge.

#### Am Burg Defile, Slate Slab (NR 192 648):

The Am Burgh Defile is an impressive connection between two tidal inlets that separate the headland of Am Burg from the mainland, creating a semi-island. There is easy access into the defile from its bend. Slate Slab lies on the mainland side of the long arm of the defile and is the slabby right flank of a prominent corner (a weep-line). The foot of the slab is above all but the highest tides. From the top of both these routes 14m of steep grass must be ascended to reach a steel stake belay. Dry conditions are essential.

*A Date With Slate* 16m VS 4c \*\*. Graham Little, Christina Woodrow. 15 May 2019.

Start at the foot of the thin crack that runs the full height of the slab. Climb the line of the crack, with one short deviation to the right, to just above half height (bold – scant protection) then take an easier blocky fault line running up and right to finish.

*Slate Accompli* 15m VS 5a \*\*. Graham Little (unseconded). 15 May 2019. Start 3m right of the thin crack – at the right edge of the slab. Take a direct line up the right side of the slab to finish up a steepening slabby wall (crux), using a turf-embedded rock tablet for the final (careful) pull over.

#### ARRAN, Creag na Davie (NR 955 452):

This is the west-facing crag situated at 500m on the west flank of Carn Mor above Loch na Davie, accessed from Gleann Easan Biorach. (Photo of cliff provided).

Davie's Anvil 60m Severe 4a. Andrew Fraser, Ian Magill. 7 Jun 2019.

Good clean rock and an unusual outlook. At the bottom of the steepest, most continuous section of crag is a small bay, with cracks above.

1. 25m Climb up and right to gain and climb a shallow groove. A further wall, then a foot traverse left gains a crack and belay below a small overhang -a nice pitch.

2. 35m Turn the overhang on the right, traverse the ledge above the overhang then climb walls to the top.

# **SKYE THE CUILLIN**

# SGÙRR NAN GILLEAN, High Crag:

*Christmas Comes but Once a Year* 175m IV,4 \*\*\*. Mike Lates, Lucy Spark. 13 Feb 2020.

Takes the line of least resistance in the left-hand half of the crag.

1. 15m Start up ice in the corner fault, from the lowest point of the crag.

2. 30m Easy ground leads to a choice of parallel ice lines. Climb the right hand option for 6m and belay.

3. 50m Climb the icy corner ramp for 35m then easy ground to good spike belay beside a red wall.

4. 30m Step left to re-join the central line past an awkward bulge at 5m. Avoid rightward escape by an icy corner to gain a chimney running behind a pinnacle. Cave belay above this.

5. 50m Easy ground leads to block belays on top of the crag.

# **Pinnacle Ridge:**

In March 2020, Lucy Spark and Ian Hall repeated *West Ridge* of Knights Peak and provided the following revised description:

West Ridge of Knights Peak 180m IV,4.

The route gains the ridge from the obvious ramp trending up right from the foot of Third-Fourth Gully. From the top of the ramp climb it takes grooves left of the crest until the crest becomes unavoidable. From here, the route continues up the crest and then finishes up a steep chimney

1. 50m. Ramp pitch: Climb up to the base of grooves. Poor belay.

2 and 3. 70m. Grooves: Climb the grooves. Variation possible. Good belays.

4. 30m. Crest pitch: Turn the first steepening on the right then follow the crest to an airy shoulder and ledge before the final tower. Good belay.

5. 30m. Chimney pitch (crux): Climb the steep mixed chimney 1m right of crest with poor runners. Good belay immediately above the chimney.

From here, finish up the summit arete of Knight's Peak (Grade II).

# INNACCESSIBLE PINNACLE, Coire Lagan:

*In Pinn I.F.L.* (Icefall Lite) III,5 \* 120m. Mike lates and Lucy Spark. 6 Mar 2020.

Start immediately right of In Pinn Fall.

1. 30m Climb the snow bib that leads to a narrow slot. Exit onto the slopes that extend to the In Pinn high above.

2. 25m A prominent sheet of ice lies 20m right. Take the narrowing fault before this is reached. The crux cave is short with steep and well protected moves to huge spike belay.

3 and 4. 65m Easier terrain leads up and right to the An Stac bypass.

# SGÙRR THEÀRLAICH, North-East Face:

The following route lies to the right of Raeburn's Route (1913).

Cliff and the Shadows 120m II. Noel & Lucy Williams. 19 Mar 2009.

Start to the right of the lowest rocks of the north-east face. Ascend an easy snow slope, then climb diagonally leftwards to reach the start of a prominent sloping terrace. Head straight up to a left-facing corner-groove in the wall above. Climb

the groove, moving right near the top and ascend to a good stance. Climb a groove to gain an obvious rightward diagonal traverse line. Continue easily to finish at a prominent notch on the north ridge. (Topo provided)

# SRÒN NA CÌCHE, Eastern Buttress:

*The Daleks* 25m E1 5b \*. Michael Barnard, Doug Bartholomew. 14 Jul 2019. This pitch is well seen from the top of Vulcan Wall, and can be taken in after a route on that buttress. Above the descent rake, gained by a scramble up and left, is a vertical crack just right of an arete and leading to a right-slanting dyke. Gain and climb the crack (crux) to reach the arete. Continue up rightwards, then back left to finish up a groove.

# COIRE A' GHRUNNDA, Sròn na Cìche, North Crag:

Jupiter 40m E1 5b \*\*

Steve Kennedy, Cynthia Grindley & Colin Moody. 14th July 2019

The prominent crack running up the left side of the roof right of the slab containing *Zeus* (SMCJ 2012). This is the buttress just right of *North Crag Gully*. Start 5m right of *Zeus* at a short left facing corner. Climb leftwards into a corner/crack at the left end of the roof. Climb the crack (crux) to the girdle ledge and belay below a dirty corner (25m). From the ledge finish up the slabby wall on the left (joining *Zeus*) (4b) (15m).

#### **GREATER CUILLIN:**

Will Rowland notes that he completed the Greater Cuillin Traverse (starting up *Pinnacle Ridge*) followed by the Red Cuillin 20–21 Mar 2020. He left Slichagan at 3a.m. and reached Camasunary at 9p.m. that evening. He started at 7a.m. next morning and reached Slichagan at 7p.m.

# **SKYE SEA CLIFFS & OUTCROPS**

#### **TROTTERNISH**, Coire Scamadal:

Correction: Tom's Gully (SMCJ 2019) should be named Consolation Gully.

# STAFFIN, Southern Cliffs, Little Kilt:

Gary & Karen Latter made a free ascent of *Run of the Tide* at E2 5c \*\* on 2 May 2017. The route has suffered a couple of rockfalls; one at the base, and a more substantial one affecting the final section. The route was climbed as far as good ledge at half-height, then descent by abseil. The upper section looks like it could be bypassed fairly readily.

#### **Tempest Buttress Area:**

Andy Moles notes that he abseiled the line of *Blood of an Englishman* in Jun 2019 not knowing it had been climbed in 2017. He removed a fair amount of loose rock in its upper half, and at one-third height he found an alarmingly semi-detached massive flake of rock (still in place).

# Northern Cliffs, Staffin Slip South:

*Windom Earle* 40m E2 5c \*\*. James Sutton, Douglas Sutton. May 2019. The twin white cracks in the wall right of *Sasha* lead to a spacious ledge near the top.

*Fire Walk with Me* 45m E3 5c \*\*\*. James Sutton, Douglas Sutton, M.Barratt. 29 Jun 2019.

A perfect sustained finger crack 8m right of *Silly Pollack*, finishing at the highest part of the crag.

# BORNESKETAIG, Gully Walls, East Face:

*Stac Polly* 16m E2 5b \*\*\*. Colin Moody, Steve Kennedy, Cynthia Grindley. 13 Jul 2019.

The twin cracks just right of *Polysexual*. Bridge up the corner on the left then move right using a foothold on the arete between the twin cracks. At the end move left to the belay on *Polysexual*. A more direct start can be taken up the left-hand crack for 2m moving right using a handhold on the arete that is a foothold above. This start is harder but makes the route independent.

*Gallipoli* 16m HVS 5a \*. Steve Kennedy, Cynthia Grindley, Colin Moody. 25 Jul 2019.

The twin cracks 3m right of *Polystyrene*, moving rightwards at two-thirds height to gain and finish up a crack in a rib just right of a corner.

*Glue Cuts* 16m E1 5b \*\*\*. Colin Moody, Steve Kennedy, Cynthia Grindley. 8 Sep 2019.

At the right-hand side of Poly Wall is a slight bay. Climb twin cracks just left of the bay, in the upper part keep to the right-hand crack.

# NA HURANAN, Arnival Cliff, Lower Left Sector:

Towards the left end of the lower crag is a short, semi-detached stocky pinnacle, right of which is a wall of ribs and cracks. At the base is the Milestone that locates the route *Milestone*, *Ribs n Cracks*.

*Rubber Duck* 18m VS 5a \*. Nicola Bassnett, Roger Brown. 7 Jun 2019. Immediately left of *Milestone, Ribs n Cracks* is a stout pinnacle. To the right and level with its top is a triangular gently-inclined overhang, with ragged vertical cracks sprouting from its top corners. Gain and climb the cracks, which soon converge. Climb the right-facing corner and associated raggedy cracks. Move right onto the arete to a fine finish.

*Red Balloons* 15m VS 4c. Nicola Bassnett, Roger Brown (with rests), Kat Lenz. 10 Jun 2019.

Three metres left of the pinnacle and just to the right of *Cuckoo* is a crack with a protruding jammed flake near its start. Climb the crack and, at the heather ledge, take the central crack with help from its right-hand neighbour, to a blocky exit.

Medium Oatmeal Slab 10m VS 4b. Andrew Holden, Mark Hudson. 29 May 2019.

Climb the slab in the recess midway between its right-facing corner and *Crunchy Nut Corner* (SMCJ 2019). The top out is deceptively steep.

*Room 101* 10m VS 5a. Nicola Bassnett, Roger Brown, Kat Lenz. 10 Jun 2019. The zigzaggy crack immediately right of *Crunchy Nut Corner*, although short, is worthwhile.

Seven Plus Two 15m VS 4b \*. N Bassnett, R Brown. 29 May 2019.

Three metres right of arete, which is right of *Crunchy Nut Corner*, is a left-facing concave corner below a crack. Climb this and the crack above, with interest, and finish up another left-facing corner system.

# NEIST POINT, Upper Cliffs, The Green Lady Area:

*Green Flash* 35m E4 6a \*\*. Masa Sakano, Edward Nind (Headpoint). 20 Sep 2019.

The route climbs the groove system and through the roof at three-quarters of the height in the centre-left of the northwest face of Green Lady and then the left arete to top out. Start at the very bottom and left side of north-west face. Climb an easy (right-facing) groove, then the steeper right-facing corner of the prow. Step left at the top of the prow to rest. Arrange good gear, step right, and blast through the bottomless steep groove (technical crux). Step left and up to the cracked roof and climb it and the hanging groove above (power crux). Step left to the sloping wide ledge. Finally, climb the poorly-protected overhanging arete above to spectacular airy finish (psychological crux). Belay anchors are found 5m back. (Topo provided)

# **Destitution Point:**

*Squeenius, Right Finish* 20m HVS 5a \*. Gary & Karen Latter. 6 May 2019. Instead of swinging left onto the front face of the pillar, climb direct up the tight right-facing groove, finishing with care up the right side of detached pinnacle.

Gary Latter notes that the upper section of *Squeenius* has been affected by the Spring 2009 rockfall that removed several routes on the right side of the Prow Area – looks very loose towards the top.

#### The Ramps:

Andy Moles notes that Sore Phalanges fully deserves its \*\*\*.

#### Yellow Walls:

*Hokusai* 25m HVS 5b \*\*. Andy Moles, Mike Lates. 4 Oct 2019. The obvious vertical groove to the right of *Cornflake Wall*, just left of a wide stepped corner. A tricky entry from the right leads into the groove, which gives good sustained climbing. At the top either finish direct or step left onto a shelf and finish from here. Block thread belay well back. (Topo provided).

Andy Moles notes that *Barabbas* and *1 and 1 Groove* are situated 5m to the left of *Cornflake Wall*, not right, as stated in Skye Sea Cliffs & Outcrops.

# ELGOL, Suidhe Biorach:

*DIY Direct* 25m E1 5c \*\*. Michael Barnard, Doug Bartholomew. 13 Jul 2019. Start as for *DIY Arete*, but step right at first opportunity and move up (crux) to the halfway ledge. Continue as for the normal route.

*Prince of Whales* 25m E2 5c \*. Michael Barnard, Doug Bartholomew. 13 Jul 2019.

Between *Rum Doodle* and *Angel of Sharkness*. Move up to an obvious break immediately right of the overhangs. Reach up for a good hold, then make tricky

moves up and left. Go up the crack on the left (*Rum Doodle*?), then continue directly past another interesting section and on to the top.

*Mary Hinge* 25m E2 5c \*\*. Gary & Karen Latter. 10 Apr 2018. A spectacular direct start to *Hairy Mary*, with good holds and protection. Climb directly up to the roof, cross it (good cam on right over lip), then move leftwards to finish up the upper section of *Hairy Mary*.

# NORTHERN HIGHLANDS NORTH

# CUL MOR, South-West Flank:

*Table Rib* 400m III,4. Iain Young, John Higham. 28 Jan 2020. Follow the summer route throughout (see p82 Highland Scrambles North) starting via the 'slimy slabs' of summer.

# CUL BEAG, Lurgainn Slabs, Top Tier:

This lies above and left of Middle Tier and is the biggest and steepest of the tiers containing the longest and best routes here. The tier is in fact a big higher one (that contains *Breakthrough* (SMCJ 2018) and *Breakout* (SMCJ 2019)) and a smaller lower one, which is described below. Both tiers are reached by the same access, done in two ways. Either follow the base of the Middle Tier leftwards along the deer trod, exposed in places, or else from the top of the grassy gully, move up left to cairns and descend down broken rock to the deer trod. All descents are to the right, looking up. Moving left along the deer trod a short distance is a two-tiered slab and to the left a steeper slab with a jutting block. Routes are described right to left.

*Rippling Delight* 27m Mild Severe \*. Andrew James, John Mackenzie. 26 Aug 2019.

The pleasant open slab with lots of horizontal holds leads to a ledge and a short upper continuation and a scramble to excellent belays in a slanting crack.

*Rogue Ripple* 23m E1 5b \*. John Mackenzie, Andrew James. 26 Aug 2019. The steeper slab to the left with a jutting block. A partly cleaned crack on its right provides good small wires and the occasional cam, but the climbing is all on the slab to the left. Start at the lowest point on pebbles and move up right towards the crack. Continue delicately to the top exiting just right of the jutting block. Scramble to the same belays as the previous route.

*Friends Alone* 20m Severe \*\*. Andrew James, John Mackenzie. 26 Aug 2019. This takes the slender pillar left of a steeper one at a higher level than the previous two routes. A lovely amble, well protected by cams, starting and following the arete all the way to the top.

# STAC POLLAIDH, No.2 Buttress:

*Bats in the Belfry, Blind as a Bat Start* 150m VS 4b \*. John Higham, Iain Young, Siobhan Young. 19 Apr 2019.

Between and immediately right of the scree gully below West Buttress and the true No.2 Buttress is a subsidiary, broken, rocky rib that terminates at the base of

the Upper No.2 Buttress. This pleasant, but easily escapable route follows the rib, and is an excellent approach to *Bats in the Belfry* or other routes on the Upper Buttress. The route is mainly V.Diff and scrambling apart from the 25m arete on pitch 4 which is VS 4b.

1. 50m Start from a large ledge above the broken rocks at the base of the ridge. Follow the crest via a series of short walls to belay on broad ledge below a steep wall.

2. 20m Climb this wall via crack, and a squeeze chimney above onto narrow arete.

3. 30m Cross arete and short wall above to easier ground.

4. 50m An escape left here is possible, but it is better to continue up the wall above, climb its right-hand arete (25m) followed by a short scramble (25m) to reach the base of the Upper No.2 Buttress and *Bats in the Belfry*. (Topo provided)

John Higham notes that *Bats in the Belfry* was thought to be VS 5a. The relationship of *Bats in the Belfry* to *Going Batty* (SMCJ 2018) seems uncertain – they may share the same crux moves.

# **REIFF, Stone Pig Cliffs:**

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*Double Leaning Joweler* 15m VS 5a \*. Dominic Oughton and Helen Oughton. 17 May 2019.

The rightmost of two new routes that takes the undercut slab between *Slabby Corner Crack* and *Daunts Arete*. Tricky moves up the right-hand overhanging slot to get established on the upper slab, which is followed more easily direct to the top. (Topo provided)

*Makin'Bacon* 15m Severe 4a \*. Dominic Oughton and Helen Oughton. 17 May 2019.

The leftmost of two new routes that takes the undercut slab between *Slabby Corner Crack* and *Daunts Arete*. Take the crack right of the foot of *Slabby Corner Crack* (and 2m left of *Double Leaning Joweler*) to gain an easier entry onto the slab, and follow a parallel line direct to the top. (Topo provided)

# Rubha Coigeach, Black Magic Bay:

*Chocolate Girl* 15m E1 5a \*. Gary & Karen Latter. 26 Aug 2014. Line up left edge, left of *Milk Tray*.

# Rubha Coigeach, Slab Inlet:

*The Millionaire's Club* 10m E2 5c \*\*. Ian Taylor, Tess Fryer. 15 Jul 2019. The wall left of *Eag Dubh* climbed direct.

# **Rubha Coigeach, Platform Walls:**

*Minch View* 15m VS 4c \*. Gary & Karen Latter. 26 Aug 2014. Line up wall right of *Minch Crack*.

# Rubha Coigeach, Amphitheatre Bay:

*Nought to Sixty* 20m E5 6a \*\*\*. Ian Taylor, Tess Fryer. 2 August 2019. Start just left of *Roaring Forties* below a short hanging corner. Climb the corner, step left then follow thin cracks over bulges to a good break at 10m. Move right and make a long move to a big jug on the arete and a junction with *Roaring Forties*. Go up the *Roaring Forties* groove for 5m to a good Friend 2 placement then down climb and make tricky moves left to gain the bottom of a small hanging groove. Finish up this.

# Rubha Coigeach, Leaning Block Cliffs:

*A Part Heid* 15m HVS 5a\*. Gary & Karen Latter. 27 Aug 2014. Line up wall left of *The Africaan Problem*.

# SUMMER ISLES, Tanera Beg, Sròn Slugain Uaine (NB 958 077):

The cliff comprises twin pillars with a long 6m wide roof in between, above a sloping shelf. The first four routes are on the highest NW-facing wall. The best descent is to scramble down shelves (low-mid tide) at south end of crag, or easiest by 10m abseil from two large blocks 5m back from edge near north end.

*Transitions* 18m E2 5c \*\*. Gary & Karen Latter. 9 Sep 2015. Climb the left-slanting corner at the left end of the wall up into the easy-angled final corner. Step down onto small square block and traverse the lip of the roof, stepping out left to finish at a short black crack/groove.

Large cams (3" to 5") are particularly useful for the breaks on the following three routes:

*Segue* 12m E1 5b \*. Gary & Karen Latter. 9 Sep 2015. The most continuous, leftmost of the trio of left-slanting crack-lines.

*Timbre* 12m E1 5b \*. Gary & Karen Latter. 9 Sep 2015. The hanging central crack, pulling slightly left onto the easy ramp. Finish directly up wall, just left of the next route.

*Liminal* 12m E2 5c \*\*. Gary & Karen Latter. 9 Sep 2015. The hanging rightmost crack. Start up the easy right side of the arete, then climb the wall on superb incut holds and the crack to ledge near top. Finish up short wall above.

*Clapotis* 10m Severe 4a \*. Gary Latter (solo). 9 Sep 2015. The prominent corner at the left end, gained direct over small roof on good holds.

# LOCHINVER CRAGS, Creag Rodha Mor (Super Crag), The Burnished Walls:

*Gem* 30m HVS 5a \*. Gary & Karen Latter. 17 Apr 2019. The vertical crack above the triangular block in the low roof at the right end of the crag (right of *Midget*).

# BREABAG, West Face, Breabag North Slabs (NC 2819 1648):

This is the lower and left-hand slab seen from the approach situated at an altitude of 570m. It is most easily reached by the 'Bone Caves' path then up the short glen to the south past the cave track before heading up the hillside. Descent is best to the right (looking down) over blocks before heading down a narrow grassy ramp that curves leftwards back to a grass ledge near the slabs base. Allow 1hr to 1hr 15mins hours from the car park to the slabs. The rock is quartzite pipe rock with great friction, even in the wet. The slabs are convex, steepest at the base and the left side is marked by a curving wall and there is a prominent square-cut recessed

slab bounded by overlaps in the centre. The rock is very clean apart from occasional grass tufts in the corners or on ledges. (Topo provided)

*Lucy's Slab* 65m Grade 2/3. Eve Mackenzie, Lucy (Cocker Spaniel). 3 Jun 2018.

Follow the cleanest slab to the right of the bounding corner, taking a line of choice, but avoiding a wet black area near the top on the right. Easy apart from the start.

*Corvid's Corner* 65m V.Diff \*\* John Mackenzie, Colin Tarbat. 20 Jul 2019. Left of the square-cut recess is a clean curving corner. Start at a lower level than the recess at a smooth and quite steep slab on the left and below the start of the corner.

1. 20m Climb the centre of the slab on friction to broken ledges.

2. 45m Step down and right to enter the corner and follow the slab on its right, over small overlaps and up easy slabs to the top. A good natural line with little protection.

*Recess Direct* 55m VS 4c \*. John Mackenzie, Colin Tarbat. 20 Jul 2019. Start left of centre in the recess and climb slabs near the left corner to a narrow ramp that leads to the centre of the overlap; Friend 1 below the overlap on the right. Climb the overlap, crux, and then head up the slabs above taking the best line to the block field at the top, thread belay around the biggest.

Investigation Corner 70m Diff\*. John Mackenzie. 3 Jun 2018.

To the right of the square-cut recess is a corner higher up. Climb a series of quite steep slabs to the overlap and move right into the corner. Follow the best line up the slabs just right of the corner. Some pleasant non-taxing climbing.

#### FAR NORTH-WEST CRAGS, Tarbet Sea-Cliffs, Brown Crag:

*Farewell Mrs May!* 20m VS 4c. Ron Kenyon, Phil Blanshard. 19 Jun 2019. Start as for *Raw Sienna*, then take an ascending line leftwards, crossing *Distinctly Ochreish*, to gain sloping ledges and finish as for *Brown*.

*Oh No! It Could Be Boris!* 12m HVS 5a. Ron Kenyon, Phil Blanshard, Hilary Robertson. 19 Jun 2019.

Start just left of *Raw Sienna* and ascend leftwards to the diagonal line of *Distinctly Ochreish*. Continue up leftwards to finish up the headwall, just right of *Dun*.

#### **Ridgway View Crag:**

Gary Latter notes that this is the correct spelling of the crag – named after John Ridgway, whose School of Adventure is located nearby at Ardmore. Many of the climbs at this crag were in use by instructors at the adventure school by at least 1977.

*Tormentil Arete* 20m MVS 4b. Ron Kenyon, Hilary Robertson, Phil Blanshard. 22 Jun 2019.

Takes the triangular arete right of *Oars Aft*. Start up vegetated rock to below the arete and gain the arete from the left and continue up and leftwards to the top.

*Doddle* 14m Easy \*. Gary Latter (solo). 25 Apr 2019. The blocky heathery crack just left of *Michael*.

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*Plonker's Start* \* 10m HVS 5a \*. Gary Latter (solo). 25 Apr 2019. A direct start to *Rodney's Gneiss Route* up the blunt arete. Unprotected.

# Ardmore View Crag, Four Lochans View Crag (NC 2299 5191):

The large easy-angled north-west facing slab 50m down left of The Balcony, with lots of pegmatite. Protection is almost exclusively from cams, as many of the cracks are flared. The descent is easiest down the left end.

*Do You Expect Me to Talk?* 30m Severe 4a \*. Karen & Gary Latter. 29 Apr 2019.

Intermittent cracks up the left side, finishing rightwards.

*No Mr Tick, I Expect You to Die* 40m Severe 4a \*\*. Gary & Karen Latter. 29 Apr 2019.

Climb the left-slanting crack, then the central cracks. Continue easily above the terrace to belay further back.

Stoneflow 30m Severe 4a \*. Karen & Gary Latter. 29 Apr 2019.

Cracks up the right edge, moving rightwards to ascend slim groove. Finish leftwards to pull through on heather.

# Creag an Fhithich, Grey Wall:

The following route shares some common ground with the unrecorded route *Giff*, but the diagonal traverse and upper wall is new (briefly cleaned on abseil).

*The Sound of One Tick Popping* 30m HVS 5a \*\*. Gary & Karen Latter. 28 Apr 2019.

The vertical crack just left of *Gaff*. Start a few metres left of that route. Climb the crack to prominent horizontal, move rightwards along this then direct up the wall. Belay on wall 8m back from top.

# Creag an Fhithich, Russett Wall:

*Iridescence* 35m E3 \*\*. Gary & Karen Latter. 28 Apr 2019. The left-slanting diagonal crack.

1. 20m 5c Climb the crack with increasing difficulty to its end. Pull through the roof with a long reach to gain a superb pegmatite jug and belay just above.

2. 15m 4a Move left 3m and climb the rib left of the gully, crossing the top of the gully rightwards.

Cladonia Dreaming 25m E1 5b \*\*. Gary & Karen Latter. 28 Apr 2019.

A direct line up the wall and hanging crack right of *Horseshit Direct*. Start directly beneath the crack, climb the wall, first leftwards, then rightwards to gain the crack. Climb this, then direct, finishing up the fine pocketed wall left of the niche of *Dung Beetle*.

# FOINAVEN, Creag Urbhard:

Fiscal Gruel 150m Severe. Daniel Moore. 28 Jun 2019.

Start up *Pantagruel* but where it traverses right move up and left to a distinctive water-worn concave slab. Climb up this then traverse back right over the overlap then work your way up slabs to a prominent deep crack behind a block. Climb this (or avoid it by going left then back right) to a grassy ledge. Climb delicately

up rightwards before heading straight up to join the fantastic upper slabs of Creag Urbhard. The route may coincide with *Fiscal's Rib* and *Pantagruel* but the former has scant info and the latter I think is further right.

#### SARCLET, Big Buttress:

Shakedown Street 35m E1 5a \*\*. Michael Barnard, Alan Hill. 25 Aug 2019. Good climbing between *The Orchid Hunter* and *Baron von Midgehousen*. Belay as for the latter. Move out left to climb a much shallower line of flakes, sometimes quite near the *Baron*, to a good ledge. Step left and go up to good holds near *The Orchid Hunter*, then step right and continue boldly to gain the groove above. Go up to the top of the pillar and finish up the short wall as for *The Orchid Hunter*.

#### Wee Buttress, Right Section:

*The Chains Are On* 30m E1 5a \*\*. Michael Barnard, Alan Hill. 26 Aug 2019. A flake-crack up the front face of the buttress is the line of the crag and can be seen from the top of Big Buttress. Abseil down the line of the route to a good barnacled ledge which is only covered at high tide (as for *Eat Your Greens*). Climb the flake-crack, quite bold in places, until forced to step left into the roofed corner of *Unnecessary Egyptian*. Continue as for that route.

Michael Barnard notes that *Eat Your Greens* (SMCJ 2012) is also 30m. For that route a short crack just right of the arete gave a good finish, no change in grade. From the same belay at the base, the main crack system right of the arete was also climbed at Severe and thought worth a star. This may be the same as *Moonstone*.

#### **Captain's Buttress:**

Partially Tidal South to East facing

The following routes lie on the next small promontory north of Wee Buttress. The fine steep south-facing wall (*Captain Sarclet* to *Hidden Pleasure*) can be seen from the top of both Wee Buttress and Big Buttress. Best gained by abseil.

*Captain Sarclet* 20m HVS 5a \*\*. Michael Barnard, Alan Hill. 26 Aug 2019. The slanting flake-crack on the left. Continue directly to the top.

*Diamond Dust* 20m E1 5c \*\*\*. Michael Barnard, Alan Hill 26 Aug 2019 The vertical crack in the centre of the wall. Continue to the upper ledge, then step right to finish up a short corner.

*Hidden Pleasure* 20m HVS 5c \*. Michael Barnard, Alan Hill. 20 Sep 2019. The right-hand crack in the wall has a short fingery section.

*Breakfast Means Breakfast* 20m H.Severe 4b \*. Alan Hill, Michael Barnard. 20 Sep 2019.

Around the corner from the above. Climb thin cracks just right of the arete.

*Twister* 20m V.Diff \*. Alan Hill, Michael Barnard. 20 Sep 2019. The corner just right of *Breakfast Means Breakfast*.

Next is a shorter section of wall; right of this is an easy groove and a fine cracked face.

Should Have Gone to Specsavers 15m Moderate. Alan Hill, Michael Barnard. 20 Sep 2019. The easy groove.

*Crackatoa* 15m Severe \*. Alan Hill, Michael Barnard. 20 Sep 2019. Climbs the most prominent crack on the wall.

*Always a Mysteron* 20m Severe \*. Michael Barnard, Alan Hill. 20 Sep 2019. The twin cracks to the right, starting up the right-hand one.

*The Last in Line* 20m VS 4b \*. Michael Barnard, Alan Hill. 20 Sep 2019. The arete, unfortunately escapable. Try to stay on the left side!

# **Occam's Buttress:**

Immediately right of *Just Visiting* is a steep buttress with a few crack-lines. The rock looks worrying to the uninitiated, but was found to be perfectly reliable.

*Shadow Captain* 20m HVS 5b \*\*. Michael Barnard, Alan Hill. 20 Sep 2019. Roughly in the centre of the buttress lies a bottomless crack with a steep groove immediately on its right. Move up into the base of the steep groove then pull out left into the crack (crux). Climb the crack to a ledge, step right onto a rib and finish directly.

*Treacherous Tattiebogles* 20m E1 5b \*. Michael Barnard, Alan Hill. 20 Sep 2019.

Start as for the above, but continue up the steep groove to ledges. Go up more easily to finish as for *Shadow Captain*.

*Rogue Wave* 20m HVS 5a \*. Michael Barnard, Alan Hill. 20 Sep 2019. In the right arete of the buttress, climb a groove leading to a ledge below a short roofed corner. Move up past the guano to the roof and pull left into a steep groove to finish.

Around the arete is a fine wall with a crack up its front face. Further right is a vertical crack going up past roofs and lying just left of a two-stepped corner (the lines of *Roof and Ready* and *Sparklet*, SMCJ 2008).

*Sea Major* 25m E1 5a \*\*\*. Michael Barnard, Alan Hill. 21 Sep 2019. The obvious line up the front face; a pumpy lower crack followed by a bold finish. Start up a short slabby groove on the left to gain the crack and follow this to a ledge below a final groove/crack. Pull left into a much shallower groove and finish up this.

The next route starts from a higher ledge and as with *Roof and Ready* and *Sparklet*, can be climbed during rough seas.

*Sarclet Fever* 15m HVS 5a \*\*\*. Michael Barnard, Alan Hill. 21 Sep 2019. Climb the shallow groove between *Sea Major* and *Roof and Ready* to reach the ledge shared with *Sea Major*. Continue up the groove/crack above. RPs and Friends 3.5 & 4 useful. Roof and Ready was thought worth \*\*.

#### **Pudding Stone Buttress:**

*Billericay Dickie* 15m E2 5b \*. Michael Barnard, Alan Hill. 21 Sep 2019. Go up to the first ledge on *Cross Waves*. Place gear in the thin crack above, then pull right into the short groove in the arete. Make tricky moves up this to gain a hold on the right edge, then continue more easily.

# Oily Buttress (SMCJ 2006):

There are two obvious non-tidal ledges; looking down, *That Petrel Emotion* etc. start from the right-hand one. This 'small' wall is actually quite impressive and the routes are more like 25m than 15m.

*Stiff Little Fingers* 25m E1 5b \*\*\*. Michael Barnard, Alan Hill. 13 Oct 2019. Shares some ground with *That Petrel Emotion*, but is essentially the line of the crag. Climb the main groove immediately left of that route to the roof. Pull through this and up the headwall via the obvious hanging crack.

Inflammable Material 25m E2 5b \*\*\*. Michael Barnard, Alan Hill. 13 Oct 2019.

The fine wall right of *That Petrel Emotion*. Start on the right, moving back left towards the first break. Continue up the obvious line and past small overlaps to join *That Petrel Emotion* near the top.

*Abominable Overtrousers* 25m E2 5b. Michael Barnard, Alan Hill. 26 Oct 2019. A line just right of *Inflammable Material*. A serious start on potentially snappy holds.

The next four routes start from the other, slightly higher, non-tidal ledge Abseil the groove of *Marginal Futility* which lies above the top left end of the ledge (looking down).

Syncopating Sandy 25m H.Severe 4b \*. Alan Hill, Michael Barnard. 26 Oct 2019.

From the bottom end of the ledge, move up and left to climb the easier groove right of the previous routes.

Salopette Sabotage 25m VS 4c \*. Michael Barnard, Alan Hill. 26 Oct 2019. Starting just right of the above, climb via thin cracks, finishing directly up the top wall.

Haar Like a Pirate 20m H.Severe 4b \*. Alan Hill, Michael Barnard. 26 Oct 2019.

Start at the top end of the ledge, below the *Marginal Futility* groove. Move left up a shallow groove for a couple of metres, before stepping right to climb thin cracks.

*Marginal Futility* 20m Moderate. Alan Hill, Michael Barnard. 26 Oct 2019. The easy groove above the top end of the ledge.

Coast Line 25m Severe \*. Alan Hill, Michael Barnard. 26 Oct 2019.

Right of *Marginal Futility* is a smaller groove; this route climbs the next groove right of this, gained by abseiling the line of the route

The next two routes are tidal. The following route lies directly below the small square boulder on the gearing up ledge. Abseil the line of the route.

*I Saw it on the Radio* 25m VS 4b \*. Michael Barnard, Alan Hill. 13 Oct 2019. Climb the wall via thin vertical cracks.

*I Ate it off the Grapevine* 25m Severe \*. Michael Barnard, Alan Hill. 13 Oct 2019

From a semi-hanging belay, a choice of lines lead up the blank-looking slabby wall left of *I Heard it Down the Pub* (SMCJ 2006).

# **Animal Wall:**

Non-tidal South facing

A fine trio of routes lie on this steep wall on the next promontory north of Oily Buttress, well seen from the top of that crag. Abseil to a slab below the wall and move left to good belay ledges.

*The Hare Who Lost His Spectacles* 30m VS 4c \*\*. Michael Barnard, Alan Hill. 13 Oct 2019.

The left-hand line – a shallow right-facing groove.

*The Bear was Bulgy* 20m E1 5b \*\*. Michael Barnard, Alan Hill 13 Oct 2019 Slightly eliminate but very good climbing up the crack system between *The Hare...* and *Tigger Happy*.

*Tigger Happy* 20m HVS 5a \*\*. Michael Barnard, Alan Hill 13 Oct 2019 The steep crack 5m right of *The Hare Who Lost His Spectacles*. A quality line and would be \*\*\* were it not for the rattly top groove.

# Ellen's Geo:

*Cat Burglar* 35m E2 5c \*\*. Michael Barnard, Alan Hill. 14 Oct 2019. Follow *The Cat's Outta the Bag* up the sandstone and a couple of metres up the conglomerate, then move left via a line of knobbly holds towards a short slanting undercut crack. Use this to gain the steep groove out left and climb this to ledges. Continue as for *Guest Pass Violation*.

*The Cat's Outta the Bag* 35m E3 5c \*\*\*. Michael Barnard, Alan Hill. 24 Aug 2019.

A line just left of the yellow crack left of *Stratagem*. Climb directly up the sandstone wall to reach a crack in the conglomerate and continue up this to ledges (optional belay, moving left from here to finish up *Guest Pass Violation* would give an excellent HVS 5a). Move up rightwards into the *Breaking the Rules* groove, traverse left on pockets to gain the crack to its left and continue to a ledge. Finish up the steep crack above (bold).

*Breaking the Rules* 35m E3 5c \*\*. Michael Barnard, Alan Hill. 14 Oct 2019. The yellow crack left of *Stratagem*. Climb directly up to the lower yellow crack and up this to ledges (optional belay; if a fulmar present then start as for *The Cat's* 

*Outta the Bag*). Climb up into the groove above, through the roof and up the yellow crack (crux) to the top.

Michael Barnard notes a good link-up at E3 5c is to start as for *Brains As Well As Brawn*, pull right into the hanging corner as for *Third Degree*, but then go all the way up to the roof before hand traversing right to finish as for *Hundreds and Thousands*.

*Toad in the Shoe* 35m E2 5b \*\*. Michael Barnard, Alan Hill. 20 Jul 2019. Move up to climb the crack in the right wall of *Where the Taught Wave Hangs* to reach the conglomerate. Step left into that route, move up then take the obvious traverse line left above the roof. Move up to another roof and traverse left beneath it via perfect two-finger pockets to gain the big hanging groove above. Finish up this.

*Squeal Like a Pig* 65m E2 \*\*\*. Michael Barnard, Alan Hill. 21 Jul 2019. An excellent left-right rising traverse along a continuous crack starting near the base of *Where the Taught Wave Hangs*.

1. 15m 5a Follow the crack to belay on *Kathleen*.

2. 25m 5c Continue along the crack, moving up/down as necessary, to reach good ledges around the arete.

3. 25m 5b Move up the corner above, then hand traverse right below the roof (as for *Oliver's Travels*) to join *Layer Cake*. Finish up this.

*Pork Scratchings* 35m E3 5c \*\*\*. Michael Barnard, Alan Hill. 22 Sep 2019. Another brilliant pitch. Climb the initial cracks and shallow corner of *Non Stop Nitty Gritty* to the first smaller line of roofs. Step left and pull through these, then continue directly to the horizontal break below the conglomerate (junction with *Kathleen*). Hand traverse right with feet on the lip of the big roof to reach a fine steep crack. Climb this to the top.

Michael Barnard notes that most of the existing routes are over 30m long despite *Stratagem* etc. being listed as 26m! *So This is Summer* was thought to be E1.

#### MID CLYTH, Lighthouse Wall:

Mick Tighe notes that the description of this wall in Northern Highlands North is a little confusing as it is not 'directly below the lighthouse', rather a little to the north, and adjoining the wall that is directly below the lighthouse. Finding the existing routes can be quite tricky too with the best reference probably *Rapture of the Deep* which is at the southern end of the large, sea-level platform above a small triangular pool, the apex of which points to the start of the route. The following routes use *Rapture of the Deep* as a reference point, and whilst most of them can be accessed below, it's easier to abseil from a good ledge immediately below the lighthouse wall.

*Test Match Special* 30m HVS 5b \*\*. Mick & Kathy Tighe. 27 Aug 2019. Start 3m left of *Rapture of the Deep* below a crack-line. Follow the crack to a short, smooth wall and exit left onto a good ledge. Go up the steep wall to exit right of a small triangular overhang. Climb the short little arete above – hard to start. Alternatively finish up *Rapture* or the following route. *Surge of the Sea* 30m HVS 5a \*\*. Mick & Kathy Tighe. 17 Aug 2018. Just around the corner on the front face there is a shallow, right-leaning, crack-line. Follow this and the horizontal holds above to pass a small triangular overhang on the right and reach a good ledge. Climb the excellent steep wall above, passing another overhang on the left.

*Bay Owl* 30m HVS 5b \*\*. Mick & Kathy Tighe. 17 Aug 2018. Approximately 5m left of *An Ataireachd Ard* is a fine triangular niche about 8m high. Bridge up this to a short steep section, which is climbed to a good ledge. The fine steep headwall has excellent horizontal holds and runners.

Eiderwand 30m E1 5b. Mick & Kathy Tighe. 18 Aug 2018.

Left again there is a big ledge at 8m with a short diagonal crack leading up to it from the right. Climb the diagonal crack and the continuation to a tricky move to the left of a small overhang. Climb the fine wall above to finish up a left-facing corner.

*White Wall* 30m E1 5b. Mick & Kathy Tighe.19 Aug 2019. Climb the diagonal crack, as for *Eiderwand*, to the big ledge. Halfway along the

ledge take a diagonal crack just left of the white wall. Go up and left through two small overhangs to a ledge. Climb the steep corner and wall above.

The Beacon 30m HVS \*\*\*. Mick & Kathy Tighe. 18 Aug 2018.

There is an excellent little crack in the arete below the left end of the 8m ledge. Balance up the crack to the ledge. Tiptoe up the wall above to the mid-way ledge. Go a couple of metres left, up a short steep wall and the fabulous crack up the headwall.

Beyond there is a small inverted triangular recess topped with a mossy green groove. Access along the tidal ledge to the following routes can only be done at low tide, so it maybe best to abseil to ledges on the high tide line.

*Lightning Conductor* 30m HVS 5a. Mick & Kathy Tighe. Date unknown. A fun route following the copper-bronze bolts that once held the lightning conductor for the lighthouse. Start at the remains of the conductor and shimmy up the grooves and the upper wall, which is rather tricky.

*Black Jack* 30m HVS 5a \*\*. Mick & Kathy Tighe, Morten Hansen. 25 Aug 2019.

There is a fine crack 10m left of the conductor. Climb this to the mid-way ledge. Go left along this for a couple of metres to climb a steep little wall and the excellent crack in the headwall.

*Carbide Corner* 30m H.Severe \*\*. Mick & Kathy Tighe, Morten Hansen, John Fraser, Harvey Kirkhope. 20 Jul 2019.

There is an area of white rock at the southern end of both top and bottom ledges, the result of carbide discarded from the lighthouse. The fine corner groove-line gives an excellent outing with a fine ledge above the sea if the tide is in.

# NORTHERN HIGHLANDS CENTRAL

# AN TEALLACH, Glas Tholl, Hayfork Wall:

*Local Hero* 105m VIII,9 \*\*\*. Greg Boswell, Guy Robertson. 18 Nov 2019. Outstanding climbing up the left-hand corner system on the main wall to the left of the Wailing Wall Area.

1. 45m Climb steep turfy ground to gain a small corner and climb this. At its top take the rightwards-trending line to gain a ledge at the bottom of the clean-cut hanging corner.

2. 30m Climb the corner stepping left at the top to gain the big ledge and belay on the wall at the back of this.

3. 30m Step right to gain the groove system and climb up to the left of the pointy tooth-like rock feature. Climb up and direct through the bulge to eventually gain easier ground about. Meander to the top.

# FANNAICHS, Meall a' Chrasgaidh, East Face (NH 187 731):

On the east face, south of the summit and north of the col between Meall a' Chrasgaidh and Carn na Criche, are broken cliffs. The most prominent and continuous buttress being toward the southern end. This buttress forms a corner with the more northerly cliffs. The following route climbs that corner and is a sporting way to the summit of Meall a' Chrasgaidh.

*Dundonnell Donalds's Couloir* 120m I/II. Donald MacRae and DMRT party. 21 Apr 2013.

Climb the attractive gully in the corner between the southern buttress and east face cliffs.

# SGÙRR NAN CLACHAN GEALA, Creag a' Chaorainn:

*Escape Gully* 120m II. Roger Webb, Neil Wilson. 19 Jan 2020. Approximately 50 to 100m right of *The Last Lap* (SMCJ 2012) is a prominent gully. It is the only gully on the face so cannot be missed. Climb the gully, which is surprisingly entertaining in its upper third.

# STRATHCONON, Creag Ruadh, North-East Face:

Unnamed 90m III,4. John Mackenzie. 20 Mar 2020.

This climb lies to the right of the existing routes, and like all else here it consists of a series of tiers separated by easier ground. To the right of *The Backstop Option* is a shallow curving gully, and to the right again is a prominent block buttress. A flat rock with a small boulder below this feature provides a good starting spot. Climb easily to the block buttress, turn this on the left via an icy scoop, then continue more easily up and right to a prominent long buttress with a central groove (clearly seen from below). The groove is steep, but short with a bulge. (Thicker ice and less snow might make it a bit easier). Above, move left and follow mixed ground to where the angle falls back. If all difficulties are avoided, the route will be Grade II.

# BEN WYVIS, Creag Coire Na Feola:

Little Sister 25m V,5. Simon Tickle. 11 Feb 2019.

Climb the broad, steep icefall which forms mid-way between *True Blue* on the left, and *Rapunzel* on the right. To descend to the corrie floor, traverse slightly

right and descend an icy ramp (Grade III) to the right of *Rapunzel*, or continue further right, for an easier descent.

Sideshow 180m V,6. Steven Andrews, Alex Reid. 14 Feb 2020.

The icefall of *Little Sister* continuing to the coire rim by the low-angled buttress above buttress. (Topo provided)

1. 25m Climb the icefall of Little Sister.

2.35m Continue up easier mixed ground on the crest of the buttress.

3 and 4. 120m Snow slopes lead to the top (beware large cornices).

# NORTHERN HIGHLANDS SOUTH

# **GLEOURAICH, Sròn na Breun Leitir:**

*Feadan Breun* 250m II. Jamie Hageman. 22 Mar 2020. The gully cutting the north-east face of this peak, which is the outlying shoulder projecting north from the western end of Gleouriach. (Topo provided.)

# THE SADDLE, Coire Caol:

The ridge that runs north from The Saddle is named Sgùrr na Creige. The following route climbs from Coire Caol on the east side of this ridge to finish on a 930m-high sub-summit about 600m north from the summit of The Saddle. Approach by the main path from Glen Shiel to the Bealach na Chraoibhe (NG 952 142). Leave the path here and descend 100m into Coire Caol, cross the river and traverse round the corrie below the cliffs to reach the foot of the route, which now appears as a prominent gully (NG 940 137).

Caol Couloir 500m I/II \*. Chris Dickinson. 11 Nov 2019.

A fine mountaineering route in a remote setting. The route lies north of and parallel to the Forcan Ridge. An unusual gully feature runs the full height of what is actually a ridge. The entry gully is linked to the final gully by an exposed and narrowing shelf with surprisingly big drop offs to the right. Descend by first ascending south to the summit of The Saddle and then following the path down. (Topo provided)

# **Coire Uaine:**

Early Bird 50m III \*\*. Oonagh Thin, James Milton. 16 Nov 2019.

On the North-West face of The Saddle is a buttress in the centre of the face at half height at NG 929 131. A number of ice routes form here. *Early Bird* takes the central feature of this buttress. (Topo provided.)

1. 30m Follow the stepped ice corner for 15m to easier ground. Continue for 10m to reach a large ledge below a large wall of ice.

2. 20m Climb the steep wall gently trending right with interest for 15m until the wall eases, from here continue over the top to belay.

Descend either by a narrow gully 10m to climber's right, or traverse left round the whole buttress.

# **CREAG LUNDIE (New Routes Supplement 2018):**

*Antisocial Media* 15m Severe 4a. Ewan Lyons (solo). 20 Sep 2019. This route is situated on Slab Three in the Belvedere Zone. Start 10m left of *Instagram* and climb vague cracks that lead to a flake in a shallow groove.

# GLEN PEAN, Splitter Crag (SMCJ 2018):

*Pean Padding* 20m Difficult. Caelan Barnes, Joe Barlow. 6 Jul 2019. Follow the rightmost obvious crack on the buttress visible from outside Oban bothy above and to the left of the buttress containing The Crossing. (Topo provided)

Morar Flake 20m Severe \*. Joe Barlow, Caelan Barnes. 6 Jul 2019.

On a buttress about 100m behind *Pean Padding* is another buttress with an obvious detached flake. Climb directly up to this flake and climb diagonally rightwards across the top of it and then finish directly. (Topo provided)

# AN RUADH-STAC:

End Of Days 300m VI,6. Mark Robson, Simon Richardson. 13 Mar 2020.

An independent line taking in all three tiers to the left of *North Face*. Start approximately 100m left of *North Face*, 20m left of the foot of a prominent right-to-left ramp cutting through the first tier.

1 and 2. 80m Climb a steep corner-slot to gain the ramp and follow it to the terrace at the top of the first tier.

2. 50m The second tier is cut by a prominent square-cut chimney above and to the right. Left of this is a steep left-trending ramp that leads into a square-cut gully (visible from the foot of the route). Climb the ramp and gully to the terrace below the steep third tier.

3. 40m Traverse left along the terrace to a left-slanting slab feature that provides a likely line of weakness through the third tier.

4. 50m Make difficult moves to gain the slab (crux) then follow this (thin) to a good ledge at its top. Continue directly upwards via steep cracks and corners to a ledge.

5. 50m Move 5m right to an exposed crest and zigzag up short corners and groves to a ledge where the angle eases.

6. 30m Move right and take the diagonal line of weakness to the top of the third tier. Walk off left. (Topo provided)

# TORRIDON SANDSTONE CRAGS, Creag nan Leumnach – Upper Upper Tier (NG 898 571):

Up and left of the upper tier is another tier of rock which is mainly short or broken, but does have a fine longer wall on the right.

*Planes Crashing Into Birds* 20m HVS 5a \*. Michael Barnard, Alan Hill. 23 Jun 2019.

A wide right-slanting flake-crack is prominent on the slabbier upper wall of the crag. Start directly below this and go up a short thin crack to stand up on the arete. Reach right to gain and climb another thin crack which leads through a bulge to join the upper flake-crack.

*State of Grace* 15m E3 6a \*\*. Michael Barnard, Alan Hill. 23 Jun 2019. An excellent well protected pitch up the overhung right-slanting corner-groove. Two crucial blocky holds low in the corner would not budge on abseil.

*Fragile World* 12m HVS 5a \*. Michael Barnard, Alan Hill. 23 Jun 2019. Good climbing up cracks on the right side of the buttress.

# Creag nan Muile-mhag (NG 896 571):

This smaller South-South-West facing wall lies roughly halfway between Creag nan Leumnach and Creag nan Uiamh. The following routes are on the far left end of the crag.

*Jailhouse Toad* 15m VS 4c \*. Michael Barnard, Alan Hill. 23 Jun 2019. Start 2m right of the left end of the crag. Move up to a left-slanting flake-crack and climb this (large cam useful) to a ledge. Continue via flake-cracks up the left edge of the wall, exiting left to finish (or directly at 5a).

*Birthday Wall* 15m E1 5b \*. Michael Barnard, Alan Hill. 23 Jun 2019. Right of Jailhouse Toad is a steeper line through a bulge and leading to a short V-groove at the top. Climb up to and through the bulge (crux) and continue to below the V-groove. This looks hard, so escape out right.

*When I'm Sixty-Six* 15m VS 5a. Michael Barnard, Alan Hill. 23 Jun 2019. Start as for the above. Go up an easy corner, step right and move back up leftwards via a large flake-edge to gain a ledge awkwardly. Climb the steep corner above to finish as for Birthday Wall.

# Creag nan Uaimh:

The following routes lie on the large buttress at the far left end of the crag (NG 893 572). Go up the gully on the right side of the crag to below a fine side wall.

*Comes a Time* 20m E2 5b \*. Michael Barnard (unseconded). 11 May 2019. Climb cracks up the left side of the wall, passing left of a green area of rock, to reach the break under the top arete. Move boldly up a slanting feature to reach a good cam slot high on the arete, then continue with further interest to the top.

*Wharf Rat* 20m HVS 5a \*. Michael Barnard, Alan Hill. 22 Jun 2019. Right of the above are two cracks. Climb the left-hand crack then continue to finish up a short corner left of a wide crack.

*Cuckoo Cocoon* 20m E1 5b \*. Michael Barnard, Alan Hill. 22 Jun 2019. The steeper right-hand crack, finishing up the short wide crack.

The following two routes take counter-diagonal lines in the Reach the Road buttress.

*Ride the Scree* 30m HVS 5a \*. Michael Barnard, Alan Hill. 22 Jun 2019. Start 12m left of Reach the Road, below a short corner above a small holly and rowan. Go up the corner, then traverse right above the roofs to gain a short hanging groove. Go up this to gain and move rightwards up the slab above, finishing up the top crack of *Reach the Road*.

*Evil Knievel* 30m E3 5c \*. Michael Barnard, Alan Hill. 22 Jun 2019. Start up the Reach the Road corner, then move left to hand traverse the break to gain the arete. Continue left, crossing *Ride the Scree*. Step up left to the next arete (good cams), and continue left to a good undercling. Now climb the wall above (crux), finishing back out right. Good rope work required to avoid drag.

*Motorhome Madness* 20m E1 5a. Michael Barnard, Alan Hill. 22 Jun 2019. The steep corner up and right from the Reach the Road buttress.

# Creag Niamh (NG 891 573):

A more broken South-South-East facing crag further left of Creag nan Uiamh. A clean wall is prominent up on the right; the crack up the left side of the wall is taken by *Gabriel*.

*Stella Blue* 12m HVS 5a \*. Michael Barnard, Jeannie Sherwood. 11 May 2019. The wall right of *Gabriel* is climbed via a flake-edge and a series of small edges. Better protected than it looks. Finish up a thin slanting crack.

*Gabriel* 12m Severe \*. Michael Barnard, Jeannie Sherwood. 11 May 2019. The crack and the ramp/corner above.

*Lilywhite Lilleth* 15m VS 5a \*. Michael Barnard (unseconded). 11 May 2019. Around the corner left of the above, an awkward wide crack (crux) leads to a corner-crack.

The following route lies further down and left, on a black wall right of a larger steeper area of crag.

*Black Peter* 12m HVS 5a. Michael Barnard, Jeannie Sherwood. 11 May 2019. Climb the wall just left of a dead holly tree and right of a (usually) wet streak.

# **BEINN ALLIGIN, Horns of Alligin:**

Dundonnell Face 290m IV,4. Neil Wilson, Simon Richardson, Roger Webb. 19 Nov 2019.

The line of least resistance up the previously unclimbed 200m-high face to the left of *Diamond Fire*. Start approximately 60m left of Diamond Fire where a horizontal ledge provides easy access to a wide right-to-left turfy ramp cutting through the lower tier.

1 and 2. 100m Climb the ramp easily and continue in a similar diagonal line across the wide second terrace. Belay below a line of weakness below the second tier.

3. 50m Climb diagonally left for 20m to reach a small terrace then continue up two steep corners to a good ledge below a steep wall near the left edge of the face. 4. 30m Traverse right beneath the wall into a bay with a turfy weakness leading up from the back of the bay.

5. 30m Climb the weakness over two steep steps and then continue more easily to the top of the second tier.

6. 50m Move easily up the foot of the triangular headwall and climb a left slanting corner-ramp to a ledge. Move right to belay below a vertical groove cutting up to the apex of the headwall.

7. 30m Climb the groove, which gradually eases to reach the top of the wall. From here it is straightforward to traverse left across easy ground to the notch between the second and third Horns. (Topo provided)

# Na Fasreidhnean , South Face:

Saltire Gully Right to Left 200m II \*. Adrian Gaughan, Jo Polak. 4 Mar 2020. Two intersecting gully lines (NG 859 591) form a saltire-shape when viewed from

Torridon House. The route takes the right to left gully line and its continuation to the left. Two easy Grade I pitches lead to a short narrow steepening and the junction of the gully lines. Continue by a short steeper Grade II pitch followed by easier slopes leading to the ridge crest. SE facing and rarely in condition for long. (Topo provided).

# DIABAIG, Rolling Wall:

Michael Barnard notes that Aquamarine was thought E3 5c \*\*\*.

# Rubha na h-Airde, Witches' Wall:

This impressive overhanging wall is the 'even steeper base wall' (p263 Northern Highlands South), well seen from the pier. The route *Bitch Witch* climbs a smaller wall just to its left. There is potential for harder lines.

*Enchantment* 20m E4 6a \*\*. Michael Barnard, Alan Hill. 15 Jul 2019. The easiest line on the wall, climbing the obvious crack right of centre. Climb through the initial bulge (first crux) and continue more easily up the crack. Where the holds run out, move out right and up to keyed-in blocks (second crux). Go up left to a rest, then finish out right. Continue up heather to a tree belay. Pre-practiced.

Witches' Rave 20m E2 5b \*. Michael Barnard, Alan Hill. 7 May 2017.

On the left wall of the gully immediately right of *Witches' Wall* is a fine vertical crack capped by a roof. Traverse left across a slab, then move up and step left again to reach the crack (bold). Follow the crack to its top, gain a horizontal break above the roof and use this to finish out left.

# The Condome:

The following two routes are on the small dome of rock at the left end of the wall, just down and right of *The Con Dome*. Descend by abseiling (18m) from sling and maillon on birch tree back from top, or easily down gully on left, immediately underneath right side of *The Con Dome*.

*Eeny* 10m VS 4c. Gary & Karen Latter. 21 Jun 2019. Direct line up the twin tramline cracks up left side of the wall. Not easy to protect, with easy though unprotected rock out to the left.

*Meeny* 10m Severe 4a. Karen & Gary Latter. 21 Jun 2019. The easier line a few metres right, finishing up short crack.

A top pitch has been added to the following route:

*Help ma Boab* 90m E3 6a \*\*. Gary & Karen Latter. 9 Apr 2019 (Pitch 1). 21 Jun 2019 (Pitch 2).

Good climbing up the thin hanging crack right of *Boab's Corner*. Start 4m right of that route.

1. 30m 6a 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. Belay at vertical crack at base of short steep wall.

2. 60m 6a Climb up through short diagonal cracks on left, then the black streak,

as for *Oor Willie*. Follow the lower right-slanting crack to a flake at its end, then the easier continuation flake/ramp up rightwards, continuing up rightwards.

# **BEINN EIGHE, Eastern Ramparts:**

*The Modern Idiot* 105m VIII,8. Tim Miller, Jamie Skelton. 19 Mar 2020. Climb the summer route throughout in two pitches followed by 50m easy climbing to the top. Steep climbing on pitch two with great positions.

The Irony 80m IX,9. Dave Almond, Jamie Skelton. 11 Mar 2020.

A direct version of *Claustrophobic Corner*. It follows the groove and cracks direct rather than stepping left into the summer groove.

1. 10m Climb easy ground up to ledge 5m and then move 5m left to belay by pedestal block.

2. 35m Climb onto the pedestal in the corner. Climb the corner and continue direct on small features and poor protection through the overhang onto the headwall and the belay ledge of the summer route.

3. 35m Follow the summer line diagonally right to break through the overhangs at a jutting block, then climb the headwall moving diagonally left to easy ground.

*Scotophobia* 125m VII,7. Dave Almond, Jamie Skelton. 12 Mar 2020. Starts at the same point as *Fear of the Dark*.

1. 45m Climb the right-hand side of the big chimney and the wide crack on the right hand side of the chimney/cave up to the Upper Girdle. Move to the right hand side of the huge standing pillar (long sling required) to a peg 1.5m right of the big right-facing corner formed by the right side of the standing pillar.

2. 40m Climb the corner for 6m moving right at the overhangs into a V-groove, through the small overhang and into the open book corner. Continue directly up to huge belay ledge.

3. 40m Follow the chimney line directly above the right hand edge of the belay ledge to easier ground and trend left to finish up the gully of Shang-High.

# THE CAIRNGORMS

#### COIRE AN T-SNEACHDA, Mess of Pottage:

Wachacha Direct 90m HVS \*. Jamie Graham, Grant Shorten. 26 Aug 2019.
1. 50m 4c Start directly below the right hand side of the roof 5m right of Wachacha. Climb to the roof then traverse out right to join the obvious crack line. Bold start with limited gear and potential ground fall. In a direct line, follow the weakness to an obvious small belay ledge.
2. 40m 4b Continue up to join Wachacha and up the shallow left-facing corner to top out.

#### **Crescent Crags:**

These are the line of high crags just under the crest of Stob Choire an-Sneachda, between Jacob's Ladder and Aladdin's Couloir. To the right of Jacob's Ladder a broken area of rock runs the full height of the cliff and gives a few lines at Grade II. The next crags right start much higher up and vary between 50 to 70m in height. The approach can feel quite serious, and the upper slope is a regular starting zone for large avalanches. Large build up of snow means that some of the gully lines vary greatly in grade through the season. People have winter climbed in this area

for years but nothing has been recorded, so first ascents are not included. The cliff is infrequently visited in summer, so first ascent details are included for those routes. (Topo provided)

#### Left Buttress:

This protruding buttress has a broad front face.

*Left Off Gully* 70m II. Curves up the left side of the buttress.

#### Stormbringer 70m IV,6 \*.

The left edge of the front face of the buttress.

 25m Surmount a bulge, climb up to a roof, move left and continue up a shallow left-facing corner on the buttress edge. Step right and climb the edge.
 45m Blocky ground leads to the top.

# Folklore 70m III.

Start at the mid-line of the buttress, go up to a recess, move out right and then back left to climb a wide, blocky fault. Finish up easy ground to top.

#### Boutros Buttress-Ghali 70m IV,5 \*.

 30m Just left of the right edge is a short, shallow chimney. Go up this and continue up a crack straight above, then slant leftwards to finish.
 40m Blocky ground leads to the top.

An area of more broken ground now lies a little higher up before the next prominent buttress.

#### Slimline Gully 60m II.

A narrow fault running straight up the middle of the broken ground between the two buttresses.

#### **Cinnamon Buttress:**

The next prominent buttress with a steep right-facing corner.

Dark Days 60m V.Diff. Sarah Atkinson, John Lyall, Jonathan Preston. 28 Jun 2019.

Start at the lowest rocks of the front face and move up to climb the most prominent crack near the right edge, then follow scrappy ground to the top.

*Dark Days* 60m IV,4. John Lyall, Scott Frazer, Mick Twomey. 28 Jan 2020. Follow the summer line.

*Cinnamon Corner* 50m VS \*. Jonathan Preston, Sarah Atkinson, John Lyall. 28 Jun 2019.

1. 20m 5a The prominent right-facing corner gives good well protected climbing.

2. 30m Walls and blocky ground lead to the top.

*Sinnerman* 50m VS. John Lyall, Sarah Atkinson, Jonathan Preston. 28 Jun 2019. 1. 25m 4c Start 5m right of *Cinnamon Corner* at the edge of a chimney. Go up to a shallow right facing corner, then follow right slanting cracks to a big ledge.

2. 25m Walls and blocks lead to the top.

Crescent Groove 50m III \*.

A wide chimney followed by a curving groove. Finish by an awkward slanting slot on the right.

Another section of cliff with a few lines leads right to the highest point, where there are two right-slanting ramps cutting across the face.

*Stiff Upper Lip* 60m II. Go right along the upper ramp, then a few steep moves up left lead to snow slopes finishing just left of summit cairn.

*Pouting Lip* 75m III Climb the lower ramp followed right to a crest overlooking *Tractor Gully*, then go sharp left up a slanting groove to a steep finish.

*Tractor Gully* 60m II The deep right-slanting gully with a large chokestone that takes a while to bank out.

*Hiemal Crack* 70m IV,4. Start on the right wall of a snow bay right of the start of *Tractor Gully*. Follow a right-slanting crack then easier slopes to the top.

*Manila Pillar* 75m V.Diff. Jonathan Preston, John Lyall. 8 Jul 2019. The front face of the buttress left of the obvious wide chimney. Bold, delicate moves lead to a steep crack exit, then easier ground to top.

Kudos Corner 75m III.

The right corner of the wide chimney, then easier slopes. Harder early in the season.

*Vanilla Pillar* 75m Severe. John Lyall, Jonathan Preston. 8 Jul 2019. The left edge of the pale pillar to the right of *Kudos Corner* is followed up an incipient crack to more helpful cracks to reach easier ground. Loose ground above was avoided by traversing left and up, as for *Manila Pillar*.

Detractor Gully 75m II.

The left-leaning gully to the right of the pale pillar takes a while to fill up but is then straightforward.

Passmark 75m IV,4.

The broken buttress right of *Detractor Gully*. Slant up left to a short corner and climb the crack up the slab above, then continue by the fault and finish by upper buttress.

# SHELTER STONE CRAG:

Michael Barnard notes that the long first pitch of *The Heel Stone* (SMCJ 2019) incorporates all the good climbing on *Spire Independent Start* (SMCJ 2014), making that variation redundant.

# STAC AN FHARAIDH, West Flank:

Onlooker 60m IV,5. Jonathan Preston, Mungo Ross. 20 Mar 2020.

Start at the bottom right-hand corner of the furthest left of the three buttresses (i.e. at the base of the deep Grade I gully that separates the left and central buttresses) – this would appear to be well to the right of *Lookout Buttress* (SMCJ 2014).

1. 30m Climb either of two steep turfy grooves to where they join and follow the continuation groove to a big ledge with block and thread belays.

2. 30m Easy ground up the broad crest of the buttress, overlooking the deep gully on the right, leads to the top.

Looking Up 30m III. Jonathan Preston, Mungo Ross. 20th Mar 2020.

Several Grade III grooves lead out left from part way up the deep Grade I gully, gaining the crest of the left buttress at various points. This route takes the best and longest of these. When facing the left wall of the gully follow a well-defined slanting turfy groove system rightwards to a steep finish through a slot to the crest. Easy ground leads to the top, as above.

# CAIRN GORM, Cnap Coire na Spreidhe:

Nethy Crack 30m V,6. Roger Webb, Gary Kinsey, Simon Richardson. 9 Jan 2020.

A winter version of the summer line. Start more directly and climb the initial turfy groove and step around a small roof to enter the crack. Instead of finishing direct, traverse right below the final roof to a good ledge and finish up the steep turfy wall above. A double rack of large cams (3.5 particularly useful) and medium to large hexes were used.

*Brain Melt* 30m V,7. Simon Richardson, Gary Kinsey, Roger Webb. 9 Jan 2020. The prominent chimney left of *The Late Show*. Start immediately below the chimney and climb easily up to a smooth right-facing corner (crux) that leads to a ledge. Struggle up the chimney above to the top.

# CREAGAN COIRE A' CHA-NO, Left-Hand Buttress:

Dave Brookes and Jules Harris made a free ascent of *The Edge of Profanity* on 30 Nov 2019.

*The Arc of Profanity* 30m VI,8. Dave Brookes, Jules Harris. 18 Jan 2020. The arcing crack on the right side of the *Edge of Profanity* buttress. Start at the base of a recess to the right of a large block that forms the foot of the right flank. Climb the vertical crack at the back of the recess on good hooks. Continue climbing the crack as it becomes overhanging, and follow it right as it widens and exits onto the buttress above. Finish by climbing up and rightwards to easier ground and the top. A technical and strenuous route. Two falls taken. (Topo provided)

# International Rib:

*Crack On* 20m IV,4. Simon Richardson, Mark Robson. 14 Dec 2019. The prominent chimney to the left of *Continental Chimney* provides a fun pitch.

*The Chimney Sweeper* 40m IV,5. Mark Robson, Simon Richardson. 14 Dec 2019.

Climb the left-slanting chimney that joins Continental Chimney at its top below

a steep tower. Finish as for *Continental Chimney* by stepping right and finishing up *International Rib*.

*Nimbus* 2000 50m II or III. Simon Richardson, Mark Robson. 17 Nov 2019. A line between *Lowbrow Corner* and *Broomstick Buttress*. Climb directly up to the start of the ramp of *Broomstick Buttress* and continue straight up a short steep corner to the right side of the hanging bay of *Lowbrow Corner*. The snow build up in the bay will determine the difficulty of the exit that will vary from a straightforward step to a strenuous climb up a 3m-high impending crack.

# **Blood Buttress:**

*Snape* 50m IV,6. Roger Webb, Simon Richardson. 28 Jan 2020. The direct line of grooves bisecting *Half Blood*.

1. 25m Start just right of *Half Blood* below a right-angled corner. Climb the awkward fault one metre right of the corner and move up to a ledge. Climb a short corner above (common with *Half Blood*) and belay on a chockstone on the right. 2. 25m Move left across the amphitheatre of *Half Blood* until below an open shallow groove. Climb steeply up into the groove and follow steep steps to below a prominent fault in the final vertical wall. This can be avoided on the left, but for maximum fun climb it (crux) to enter a short wide square-cut gully to finish.

*Heart is Highland* 50m IV,5. Simon Richardson, Mark Robson. 17 Nov 2019. The line of square-cut corners between *Half Blood* and *The Blood is Strong*. 1. 25m Climb easily up to the foot of the first corner and belay by a 2m-high pinnacle-flake.

2. 25m Climb the first corner using a hidden flake and continue up the second corner with interest. Finish up a third and final corner to the top. A good route.

A Special Sort of Idiot 50m IV,4. Simon Richardson, Roger Webb. 30 Nov 2019. The grooves, wall and arete between *Captain Fairweather* and *Flood Warning*. 1. 25m Start just right of *Captain Fairweather* and take the zigzag line of grooves linking diagonal turf ledges to gain the large depression of *Flood Warning*. 2. 25m Climb a steep crack to a small col formed by a tower and continue up the arete right of the final groove of *The Blood is Strong/Captain Fairweather* in a fine position to the top.

#### **Grooved Pinnacle Buttress:**

*Cub Corner* 40m IV,6. Roger Webb, Simon Richardson. 28 Jan 2020. The book-shaped corner between *Slyboots* and *Vixen*. Climb easily up to the foot of the corner and climb it using good holds on the left wall. Ice may ease the technical difficulty but will make finding protection harder.

*Vandal's Arete* 40m III,5. Simon Richardson, Mark Robson. 17 Nov 2019. Climb the grooved arete between *Fox Gully* and *Ghost*, step left at its top below a jammed block and finish behind the pinnacle tower via a short wide gully as for *Dingo Grooves*.

*White* 30m V,6. Mark Robson, Simon Richardson. 14 Dec 2019. The vertical line of cracks between *Ghoul* and *White Walker*. Start below a short crack and climb up to a ledge. Continue up the left-facing corner and the steep

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crack above to a niche. Move awkwardly left around a protruding block and finish up the final depression of *Ghoul*.

*White Walker* 30m V,6. Mark Robson, Simon Richardson. 17 Nov 2019. The superbly featured wall of flakes and cracks to the right of *Ghoul*. Start just right of *White* and climb thin cracks in the wall before stepping left on to the ledge of *White*. Gain the line of steep cracks and flakes leading to a break below an impending offwidth flake-crack (crux) using a good hidden hold to gain easier ground and the top. An excellent pitch.

Wildling 30m V,6. Simon Richardson, Mark Robson. 14 Dec 2019.

Climb the crack right of *White Walker* to a ledge. From the right end of the ledge climb a left-facing corner to the top. Another good pitch.

# **Mainmast Area:**

*Chocks Away* 30m V,7. Steve Elliott, Graeme Gatherer. 29 Jan 2020. A direct line 5m right of *Auld Reekie, Direct Start*. Pull through the initial steep niche on positive hooks to gain two parallel cracks. Climb these to reach the ledge where *Auld Reekie* ordinary comes in from the right. Climb the overhanging groove above, immediately right of the deep chimney of *Auld Reekie* using a number of chockstones to finish. (Topo provided)

# LURCHER'S CRAG:

Berserker 115m VI,8 \*. Dave Almond, Jamie Skelton. 21 Nov 2019.

The series of steep stepped cracks just to the left of *Shapeshifter* offer a good number of powerful moves between good rests.

1. 25m For those looking for a challenge start at the V-groove below and left of the main buttress, or easier, start by moving through a turfy ledge system to gain the large ledge.

40 m Climb the wall above the belay ledge on the left hand side and follow crack systems keeping left of the arete by climbing the shallow/flared left facing corner via a stiff pull and then step right join *Shapeshifter* for the final few moves.
 50m Finish by blocky scrambling to gain the plateau. (Topo provided)

# BRAERIACH, Coire Beanaidh:

*Pong* 50m III. Mark Robson, Simon Richardson. 19 Jan 2020. The icy gully defining the left side of *Rum Doodle Rib*.

*Rum Doodle Rib* 90m III,4. Simon Richardson, Sophie Grace Chappell. 12 Jan 2020.

The rib left of *Rumbling Ridge* divides into two ribs separated by a depression in its upper half. This route takes the upper left-hand rib.

1. 30m Climb the lower central rib to its top.

2. 30m Step left onto the left-hand rib and climb steeply just right of the crest to where the angle eases.

3. 30m Easy ground leads to the top.

Half Rations 50m II. Mark Robson, Simon Richardson. 19 Jan 2020.

The icy gully defining the right side of the upper section of *Rum Doodle Rib*. Start 20m up *Snow Devil Gully* (the Grade I gully between *Rum Doodle Rib* and
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*Rumbling Ridge*) and climb an icy depression on the left wall to gain the upper gully.

Rum Corner 100m III. Simon Richardson. 1 Dec 2019.

The second rib right of *Rumbling Ridge*. Start up a prominent left-facing corner to gain a depression. Exit via a short wall on the right and continue up the crest to where it merges with easier ground leading to the top.

# Coire an Lochain:

*Skeleton Creek* 100m IV,5. Mark Robson, Simon Richardson. 19 Jan 2020. A good line up the centre of the buttress to the left of *Ice Elation*.

1. 60m Start just left of *Sinister Dredge* and exit a snow depression via narrow slot in its top left corner. Continue up grooves and shallow corners to a belay below the steep headwall.

2. 25m Climb the steep slabby right-facing corner for 15m then step right (crux) to cracks leading to a good ledge below a cracked tower.

3. 15m Easy ground left of the tower leads to the top.

# Coire nan Clach:

Guiding Spirit 100m III. Simon Richardson. 30 Oct 2019.

A line of least resistance up the slabby buttress left of *Schoolmaster's Gully*. Under heavy snow some parts of the route will bank out. Start 20m below and left of the foot of *Schoolmaster's Gully* and climb a left slanting break towards a short steep tower. Zigzag right then left up short grooves to gain easier ground in an upper bay. A short left-trending gully leads to the top.

*Mixed Blessings* 100m III,5. Simon Richardson, Mark Robson. 10 Nov 2019. Start at the foot of *Schoolmaster's Gully* (above and right of *Guiding Spirit*).

1. 30m Climb a short groove and continue in the same line, parallel with *Schoolmaster's Gully*, to belay below a huge block overlooking the gully.

2. 30m Step left onto the wall and trend up and left via a turfy weakness to easier ground.

3. 40m Continue up via a zigzag line of short grooves and corners to the top.

# Coire Dondhail:

*Lightning Runnel* 70m II. Simon Richardson. 30 Oct 2019. The turfy runnel just left of *Thunder Groove*. Low in the grade.

# THE DEVIL'S POINT:

*Hindmost Ridge* 400m IV,4. Kenny Brookman, John Higham, Iain Young. 4 Mar 2020.

This route takes the right bounding (looking up) ridge of *Geusachan Gully* and provides one of the longest ridge climbs in the Cairngorms. Being south facing and remote it needs careful consideration of conditions for both the climbing and the approach. The ridge starts with a steep nose and slabs on the right of the gully (NN 9750 9479). On this ascent the nose was snow-free and a start was made up a turfy / icy corner just inside the gully. (Topo provided)

1. 60m Climb the corner and pass to the left of a prow leading to easy ground on the ridge crest.

2. 60m Follow snow and turf up a prominent line of weakness parallel to the crest.

3. 35m Move up and left and make tricky moves over slabs to belay below a steeper, blocky wall.

4. 45m Climb the wall on good hooks and flakes and follow the narrow crest to belay on blocks.

5. 200m Easy Grade I/II ground leads to the summit cairn.

# CÀRN A' MHAIM:

Mixed Media 130m II,3. Kenny Brookman, John Higham, Iain Young. 18 Nov 2019.

This route takes the broad, slabby buttress on the west flank of Càrn a' Mhaim that terminates on the summit ridge just below its final steepening. It is defined by two long, straight, shallow gullies. Avoid the lower most isolated rock band. Start up turfy grooves just left of centre and climb to final slabs and a broad snow arete in three pitches. (Topo provided)

# BEN AVON, East Muir Gorm Craig:

*Dinner Gully* 100m I. John Higham, Iain Young. 1 Dec 2012. The straightforward central gully on the crag.

# LOCHNAGAR, Southern Sector, The Cathedral:

*Hocus Pocus* 80m V,5. Simon Richardson, Sophie Grace Chappell. 17 Dec 2019.

The furthest right groove system on the buttress taken by *Magic Pillar*. Start by climbing easy mixed ground and belay just right of the square-cut corner of *The Sorcerer*. Climbed under very heavy snow conditions so the grade may be easier when not buried.

1. 40m Enter the grove on the right on its right side (awkward) and continue up the groove above with interest to a good ledge.

2. 40m Move right along the ledge and climb easier ground to the steep headwall left of *Forsaken Gully*. Climb a short wall to gain a right-trending ramp. Step left at its top and finish up steep snow to the plateau.

# **Tough Brown Face:**

*Tough Brown Ridge Superdirect* 55m V,6 \*\*. Douglas Bartholomew, Graham Wyllie. 11 Mar 2020.

Climbed in good icy mixed conditions. Both pitches may have been climbed before but first ascent details have not been recorded. The second pitch approximates to the summer line.

1. 30m Start 5m further up *Raeburn's Gully* than *Tough Brown Ridge Direct* at the foot of a corner leading straight up to grooves that continue directly upwards. Follow these until a snow bay at the base of a large triangular vertical wall is reached and belay at a flake on the wall to the left. (*Tough Brown Ridge Direct* joins here from the left, likely same belay).

2. 25m An ice smear forms where the left wall of the bay meets with the triangular vertical wall. Climb this onto turfy slabs and continue upwards until easy ground and *Tough Brown Ridge Direct* joins from the right. (Topo provided)

# Coire Loch Nan Eun, The Stuic:

Erick Baillot and Dave Kerr made a possible second ascent of *The Stooee Chimney* on November 10 Nov 2019. They were able to climb under the crux chockstone reducing the grade to IV,6.

# **CREAG AN DUBH LOCH, Central Gully Wall:**

*The Israelite* 125m VIII,8. Greg Boswell, Guy Robertson. 4 Mar 2020. Follows the summer line all the way taking the line of ice direct into the top corner. Gaining the ice at the start was thin, but the *Goliath Icicle* was in pretty good shape. Above this, a beautiful weep formed on the slab just right of the thin crack, which led to the big upper corner. This sported a few ice streaks, but unfortunately these were of the eggshell variety, so little use. This mixed pitch was probably the crux, giving sustained teetering on reasonable hooks but very poor feet. The final pitch up the plateau was a romp up thick Grade IV ice.

# **GLEN CLOVA, Cairn Broadlands, East Face:**

*Broadlands Rib* 150m II. Simon Richardson. 4 Mar 2020. Climb the right bounding ridge of the corrie over several short steps.

# **NORTH-EAST OUTCROPS**

# COVESEA, Honeycomb Wall:

Look to Windward 25m E5 6b \*\*. Ted Collins, Graham Tyldesley. 26 Aug 2019. The wall round the arete left of *Hacuna Matatta* joining the arete higher up. Start by abseiling down the corner left of *Hacuna Matatta* then follow down the face left of the arete. Take a hanging belay above the poor sandstone layer below a crack-flake that moves through a bulge a few metres left of the arete. Climb this line to move right to the arete when onto the wall after the bulge, then continue up the arete mainly on the left side to join *Hacuna Matatta* at the top. The crux start is well protected but the gear is strenuous to place. The rest of the route is run out but safe.

# GLEN CLOVA, Elf Hillock (NO 348 703):

This small slabby crag was exposed following forestry felling operations, and the following routes were climbed by Ged Reilly and Forrest Templeton during summer of 2018. The crag was dirty and mossy prior to cleaning, and if not climbed on, may readily revert back to nature. Eight lines were climbed ranging from V.Diff to VS. Although short, the climbing is pleasant, protection reasonable, and abseil trees plentiful. A fairly accurate assessment of the route grade and available protection can be made from below. With a south-easterly aspect and fine open views, the crag lends itself to morning/early afternoon climbing, and may 'save the day' if it is looking dreich further up the Glen.

Approach is by the forestry track starting at a layby on the left (NO 357 697) approximately 500m before the cottage named Wester Eggie. Follow the wide forestry track in a westerly direction and just before it opens out on to open (deforested) hillside, take another track to the right. The crag is visible from this point on. Follow a fenced off plantation on the left with mature woodland on the right. After 200m a gate allows access to a forestry break heading uphill in the direction of the crag. The break becomes a bit overgrown and rough at the top, but eventually a deer fence can be crossed to reach the crag.

#### Line 1 10m VS.

Starts left of a prominent vegetated crack and has an obvious horizontal friend placement about one-third of the way up.

*Line 2* 10m MVS. Start at the break right of Line 1 and climb up just right of it.

*Line 3* 10m MVS. The line just right of Line 2. The first route climbed on the cliff.

*Line 4* 10m MVS. The line right again and that keeps left of the remnants of the black moss which decorated this area before cleaning. It aims for a small down-pointing triangular cream-coloured overlapping feature.

*Line 5* 10m MVS. The cleaned line further right.

Three more routes were climbed further right (V.Diff to Severe) but they are more broken than the climbs above. There is scope for scrappier easier routes.

# **HIGHLAND OUTCROPS SOUTH**

# **GLEN GOUR, Indian Slab:**

*Mullenium, Right-Hand Finish* 200m VS 5a. Will Rowland. Jun 2019. From below the last pitch of *Mullenium*, move further right and climb a lovely smooth square-cut slab for around 40m and continue up on the next terrace via a ramp. The ramp narrows to form a blunt arete capped by an overlap. Pass the overlap on the left then traverse right (bold) and continue up the face. The angle soon eases but the climbing remains enjoyable to the top of the cliff.

# **ARDNAMURCHAN, Meall an Fhir-eoin Beag:**

*Up Pompei, Direct Start* 5b \*. Steve Kennedy, Cynthia Grindley. 5 Sep 1998. From the starting ledge, instead of climbing the crack left of the rib, climb a crack on the right wall which develops into a Y-shaped crack. Follow the left arm leading to the ledge below the main slab. The overall grade (E1) is unchanged.

# **Dome Buttress:**

*Mr Lavaman* 25m HVS 5a \*\*. Dave Brookes, Jules Harris. 6 Jul 2019. Start 3m left of *Claude* on the left side of the block that forms the right side of the obvious large overhang. Climb easily up to the base of a fine finger flake that curves up and left. Climb the flake directly to its top then make some delicate moves to mantel onto the shelf above. Climb the triangular block from the shelf then move left and underneath the final overhanging block at the top of the route. Turn this block on its left-hand side.

# GLEN NEVIS, Polldubh Upper Tier, Secretaries' Buttress:

Ian Taylor and Neil Brodie made the first ascent of Just Passing on 22 Jun 1989.

# **Crown Buttress:**

*The Truants Arete* 18m E1/2 5b \*\*. Iain Howie, David Lamond, Nathan Adam. 19 Sep 2017.

Start up the obvious undercut, triangular wall between Fibrillation and Jewels.

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Climb the wall with bouldery moves off the ground via a quartz crack to a better hold just on the left, move right slightly and then follow the arete (without straying onto Jewels) to below the upper corner of *Fibrillation*. Swing wildly out left and follow the obvious hanging crack with better protection to the top.

# LOCHAILORT CRAGS, Quadruple Crack Buttress (NM 799 831):

*Township Rebellion* 12m E2 5b. Nathan Adam, Raiyah Strachan. 8 Jul 2019. Slightly contrived but enjoyable climbing. Start at the base of *Line Dance* and climb the thin crack on the right before laybacking to below a long narrow roof with a good cluster of protection. Make a long reach left above the roof (without using the block behind!) for a small quartz bannister rail and rock over to a junction with *Line Dance*. Place a blind cam in a crack below and left before following the thin crack directly with steep heather to finish on the final short slab just right of the other routes. Low in the grade but there is ground-fall potential from near the top.

# LOCHAILORT CRAGS, Druim Fiaclach, Gleann Mama Slabs:

The following two routes start 20m up and left of *Scooby Dubh* on short walls of immaculate and good quality rock and lie directly below the descent from the main crag. They are described right to left leading on from *Scooby Dubh* in Highland Outcrops South.

*Dubh it at the Disco* 12m H.Severe 4b \*. Nathan Adam, Garry Campbell. 28 Sep 2019.

Start up small right-trending steps to reach an overlap and crack. Climb these into a right-facing corner groove which leads pleasantly to a steep final move onto the heather.

*Out of Touch* 12m Severe 4a \*. Garry Campbell, Nathan Adam. 28 Sep 2019. Two metres left again is a left-slanting crack-line. Climb this to a small ledge and follow the continuation crack and rib above.

Nathan Adams notes that *Underneath the Arches* can be climbed in a single pitch with 60m ropes and may be worth HVS 4c. *Scooby Dubh* is a good route and best done as two pitches as per the guide. The approach described in Highland Outcrops South involves head high bracken in summer and is best avoided by following the approach notes to Glac Ruadh instead and following the ridge until an easy descent on the right can be made to the crag. The farmer is friendly although his barking dog may cause concern when approaching and descending!

# **Druim Fiaclach West:**

*Orange Blank* 45m VS 4c\* Nathan Adam, Raiyah Strachan, Garry Campbell. 7 Jul 2019.

Eighty metres east of *Arisaig Arete* is the next defined buttress, this climb follows its left edge. Start below a left-facing corner topped by a rectangular roof. Climb the corner and bridge strenuously over the roof with good handholds to reach the slab on the left. Follow the very edge with excellent exposure and good holds but no protection to reach a heather ledge at about 20m (possible belay). Continue on slabs with intermittent protection before a step back right onto a small rib leads to another heather ledge below a large embedded block and belay. Walk off up and right then descend grassy slopes and gullies back to the base.



Nathan Adam notes that he (and others) consider pitch 1 of *Arisaig Arete* to be E1 5b. It involves a committing move out right with poor gear that is low down, but the climbing is still good and the route in general is worth doing. The upper pitch is not particularly bold as described in the guidebook and the technical grade is 4b.

# **BINNEIN SHUAS, The Fortress:**

Mind Riot 45m E10 7a \*\*\*. Dave MacLeod. 30 Sep 2019.

A desperate line cutting through the diagonal flake of *Siege Engine*, with ground fall potential on the crux. Start at the same point as *Siege Engine* but where that traverses left across the wall, continue up the steep flake rightwards and arrange crucial gear at its termination. Launch up the overhanging groove above with a sustained bouldery sequence to reach the flake of *Siege Engine*. The remainder of the route is common to *Dun Briste* (E8 6c). Follow this to below the roof and arrange good cams in the roof. Span across the roof to reach the flake on the lip and continue with another hard boulder problem to reach the lip. Finish easily up the slab above. F8c climbing. (Topo provided)

# Horrible Histories 35m E8 7a \*\*\*. Dave MacLeod. 25 Jun 2019.

This route cuts through the diagonal crack of *Wild Mountain Thyme* via the steep lower wall, passing an obvious triangular undercut feature. Start a few metres right of *Wild Mountain Thyme*, directly below the undercut feature. Climb up an orange groove on the right to its termination and arrange runners in some quartz, then step back down to the slab. Climb up and left on the slab until it is possible to gain the large undercuts leading rightwards across the overhanging wall. Step up to the triangular undercut feature and fill this with crucial shallow cam placements. Pass this with difficulty and continue on small crimps to gain jugs and a small ledge on *Wild Mountain Thyme*. Climb the wall above the edge to a roof, turning this on the left, and continue to another small overlap near the top. Step left and make a few technical moves onto the slab above to finish. F8a+ climbing. (Topo provided)

# STRATH NAIRN, Creag Bhuidhe:

Creag Bhuidhe (NH663312) lies on the south side of the hill of the same name. Park on the road north-east of the crag. Approach by walking south-west keeping the lochan on the left. (5 mins).

*Cold Dark Matter* 10m E1 5a \*\*. Dan Fitzsimmons, Ed Runnalls. 28 Jan 2020. From the middle of the lower left to right diagonal break. Pull onto the heathery ledge to a thread. Climb slightly rightwards and straight up from here to bomber gear, then a semi-exciting finish. Tree belays. Partially cleaned by abseil, and more on lead.

# **BEN NEVIS, AONACHS, CREAG MEAGAIDH**

# **BEN NEVIS, Minus Face:**

*Calculus* 270m VIII,8 \*\*. Maarten van Haeren, Andy Inglis. 24 Feb 2020. A direct line up Minus Two Buttress with very physical crux pitch through the overhanging barrier wall.

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1. 55m From the toe of the buttress, climb the shallow right facing corner (between *Central Route* and *Right-Hand Route*) feature leading to the right side of the bay and a belay at the base of the steep rock.

2. 35m Step left and climb low angle snow and ice for approximately 10m to the second of three overhanging left-facing corner features. Climb the sustained and strenuous corner via poor rest positions to exit onto ice and a belay 5m up the face.

3 to 5. 180m Continue directly up the easier angled buttress to the top via a series of chimneys staying to the left of *Minus Two Gully* (common with *Right-Hand Route*). (Topo provided)

# Tower Ridge, East Flank:

*Wonderwoman* 120m V,6. Stuart MacFarlane, Simon Richardson, Ian Dempster. 27 Feb 2020.

The groove system just right of the blunt crest to the right of Alaskan Highway.

1. 20m Start just right of the crest and climb a two-stepped icefall to the right end of a terrace.

2. 40m Move right behind a large block and climb diagonally right across a steep snowfield aiming for a short gully-groove at its apex. Climb this for 10m to belay on large block on the right.

3. 40m Move right around the block and climb the stepped corner system above (crux) to reach a belay below a small alcove.

4. 20m Step down and traverse 3m right to gain a right-facing corner leading to easier ground and the crest of *Tower Ridge*.

# Secondary Tower Ridge:

Dry Birds 100m V,6 \*. Will Rowland, Nathan Adam. 11 Mar 2020.

This route follows the left facing corner just left of the steep cracked wall of *Watery Fowls* and gives good technical mixed climbing. Start 10m up *West Gully*, at the same place as *Watery Fowls*. The second pitch is very close to Inception (SMCJ 2015).

1. 40m Climb the corner until it blanks out, step slightly left and follow the continuation above to reach the large spike belay of *Inception*. A good pitch.

2. 60m Directly above is a turfy groove, climb this and move left on snow and ice before traversing rightwards to reach an icy groove. Climb a widening crack immediately left of the groove and then easier ground to reach a belay just below *Tower Ridge*. (Topo provided)

# Creag Coire na Ciste:

*The Sorcerer, Variation Finish* 50m VI,7. Dave Almond, Jack Brooks. 18 Nov 2019.

From the big bay belay, after the crux crack-line of pitch 2, trend right up the ramp, to pass a large boulder balanced on a horizontal ledge at the foot of a vertical wall. Foot traverse right on a narrowing ledge to turn the corner, and finish up the gully line of *Cloudwalker*. Good balance required! (Topo provided)

*Piccadilly Circus* 110m V,6. Simon Richardson, Mark Robson. 5 Feb 2020. The well-defined rib between *Central Gully* and *Central Gully Right-Hand*. Start midway between *Central Gully* and *Central Gully Right-Hand* at the foot of a mixed triangle directly below the rib. 1. 20m Gain the triangle from the left and climb two short left-facing corners to reach a good belay at the base of the rib.

2. 40m The front face of the rib overhangs, so climb its right side for 3m then take the first groove on the left to gain the crest. Trend right up easier ground to a short wall. Surmount this directly and continue up to the base of the final tower.

3. 20m Start up short groove on the right to gain a left-slanting crack (crux) that leads to the top of the tower.

4. 30m Finish easily up the snow scoop above.

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*Jive Turkey* 120m V,6\*. Jonathan Livesey, Connor Henley. 14 Dec 2019. Start up a small corner groove 10m downhill from the prominent chocked chimney in the left wall of *Number Four Gully*. Climbed in lean conditions. Topo supplied.

1. 40m Climb the corner groove for 5m to a good runner then take a leftward rising traverse on thin hooks to a horizontal turfy break. Follow this round the arete (spike runner) into a chimney groove. Follow the groove into a snow bay and belay.

2. 50m Easily gain a rightward ramp and follow to the bottom of a short right-facing corner. Climb this on good hooks to easier ground.

3. 30m Continue up easy ground to the top. (Topo provided)

# North Face of Castle Ridge:

Red Edge 120m II. Simon Richardson. 26 Feb 2020.

The narrow buttress to the right of *Red Gully*. Climb an easy angled rib followed by a right-facing corner formed by a fin of rock on the left to gain the platform on top of the fin. Move steeply through a mixed wall on the right to gain a broken gully system leading to the top.

# MAMORES, Mullach nan Coirean, Coire Dearg:

*New Kids on the Block* 80m V,6 \*. Suzana El Massri, Nathan Adam. 23 Feb 2020.

Ten metres left of *Captain Caveman*, and just left of the obvious snow streak in the centre of the crag, are three parallel left facing corners. This route takes the central steep and most obvious corner, which gives a good sustained pitch. Graded for useful ice, likely to be harder without.

1. 40m Climb easy snow to just below the base of the corner and make difficult moves to enter it. Climb the iced corner (crux) and exit right over a steep step before traversing left across a snowy bay to belay.

2. 40m Traverse up and right across the bay to reach a short corner. Climb this and the easier snow slope above to the top. (Topo provided)

Turf Factory 70m VI,6 \*. Nathan Adam, Suzana El Massri. 23 Feb 2020.

This route is on the crag left of *Gendarme Buttress*, and below and left of the other route here, *Mistaken Identity* (SMCJ 2018). Start below a large snow slope at the right side of this part of the cliff. A technical and poorly protected first pitch gives way to enjoyable steep climbing on the second. Frozen turf is essential. Descent can be made down an easy snow gully to the right, or continue up *Mistaken Identity*.

1. 45m Go up the initial slope easily, aiming for a right-facing corner-ramp. Climb this with increasing difficulty and poor gear over several small steps and ledges until forced right to a large ledge. Move right again, and climb a steep step to a

**MULLACH NAN COIREAN** 

**Coire Dearg - North Face** 

Turf Factory	Mistaken IdentityIll,4	Gendarme RidgeIll *	
	-		

d. Descent

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# **MULLACH NAN COIREAN**

# **Black Buttress - Central Sector**

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1. Boab's Buttress V,6	2. A Roll and Hot Boaby	3. No!	Ramp Route	5. The Shuffler	6. Descent Gully II
<u> -</u>	Ni	e.	4	10	.0

left-slanting flake-crack with some welcome protection, and climb this to a good ledge and belay.

2. 25m Step right from the belay and climb onto a higher ledge with difficulty to reach a wide left-leaning crack which gives excellent climbing on good chockstones to reach easier ground leading to the top. (Topo provided)

# **Black Buttress:**

Boab's Buttress 150m V,6. Simon Teitjen, Will Rowland. Dec 2015.

Follows the crest of the buttress via the obvious weakness starting at its toe.

1. 30m Start up a corner leading to an overhang. Climb the overhang on ice and continue up mixed ground. Belay below a short wall.

2. 40m Climb the short wall and steep corner to the left. A great pitch!

3. 50m Follow ramps left then right to avoid the steep wall above.

4. 30m Continue up the ramp to gain the crest. (Topo provided)

*Boab's Burnt Head Gasket* 70m V,6. Simon Teitjen, Will Rowland. Dec 2016. 1. 50m Around the corner from the toe of the buttress (left-hand side) follow an easy-angled slab using frozen turf (bold) to belay below the big corner. 2. 20m Climb the fine steep and technical corner. (Topo provided)

*I'll Decide* 40m IV,4. Will Rowland. Mar 2020. The corner-ramp down and left from *Boab's Burnt Head Gasket*.

*The Polish Variation* 50m VI,7 \*. Suzana El Massri, Nathan Adam. 12 Feb 2020.

Start in the same bay as *Boab's Burnt Head Gasket*, 5m to the right and below a wide right-facing corner crack. Good sustained climbing, no verglas and dry cracks recommended.

1. 30m Climb the wide crack strenuously to a small roof which is surmounted to reach twin cracks above. Continue up these steeply on good hooks to reach the terrace above.

2. 20m Surmount the block of *Ramp Route* and climb the impending groove above (crux) which is steep and well protected (shared pitch with *A Roll and Hot Boaby*). (Topo provided)

It's Not A Jeep! 70m IV,5. Simon Teitjen, Will Rowland. Dec 2016.

Gained from the descent gully right-hand side of the buttress there is a left-facing corner leading to a broken wall. Climb the corner, step left and climb a short steep wall. Branch out left then back right to continue up the wall. (Topo provided)

*A Roll and Hot Boaby* 95m VI,7. Fran Thompson, Will Rowland, Dec 2017. The third pitch is the crux and can be linked with *Boab's Buttress*. Start just right of the toe of the buttress.

1. 25m Climb the corner.

2. 40m Branch left and climb a series of short walls to belay below the steep wall.3. 20m Climb the pedestal and commit to the groove. Belay above. (Topo provided)

No! 60m IV,5. Fran Thompson, Will Rowland. Dec 2017.

Just right of the toe of the buttress and to the right of *A Roll and Hot Boaby* there is an obvious ledge. The route starts on the right side of ledge.

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Climb a steep cracked wall and join Ramp Route above. (Topo provided)

*The Shuffler* 60m VI,6 \*. Will Rowland, Suzana El Massri, Nathan Adam. 13 Feb 2020.

Start left of Could Be Worse, a few metres up Ramp Route.

1. 30m Climb the left-hand of two wide icy gullies and continue on easier ground to below a short steep crack, up this to a good platform and block belay.

2. 30m Above is a cracked arete. Strenuously climb the crack (thin and poorly protected) until level with a ledge on the right. Awkwardly pull up onto this and climb a series of short difficult corners before moving left to a turfy groove which is followed to the top. (Topo provided)

Not Paid To Rush 50m IV,4. Will Rowland. 13 Feb 2020.

Above *Ramp Route* is another parallel ramp system (Grade II). Start halfway along this and climb a turfy line directly up the wall above.

Could Be Worse 70m V,4. Iain Howie, Nathan Adam. 15 Jan 2020.

Start at the toe of the buttress where *Ramp Route* goes left and just before the crag turns to face the easy gully on the right. A serious second pitch, although not technically difficult.

1. 40m Climb the groove in the crest to a block, move right and climb up and follow several short tricky steps to a right trending snowy ramp. Climb this until a grooved rib is reached with a gully on the left and a right facing corner groove on the right, poor belay.

2. 30m Climb the corner groove on good hooks but with poor protection and continue up snow to reach a good thread in a pinnacle. Continue trending right along short steps to a shallow left facing corner, climb this (serious) to below a large block and exit right to a huge terrace. (Topo provided)

Cooking the Books 60m V Diff. Will Rowland. July 2015.

Arete and wall gained from the descent gully on the right-hand side of the buttress at the start of the second ramp.

In winter, the rib right of the descent gully on the right side of the buttress can also be descended – *Descent Rib* (II).

# SGÙRR A' BHUICH, Spider Crag (NN 196 696):

This fine summit is dwarfed by the bulk of Aonach Beag but offers excellent views down into Glen Nevis and Steall Meadow. The routes on the south-west facing slab all share a useful large boulder belay at the top, and a few metres back, with 60m ropes being useful to reach it. Approach through Steall Gorge and along to the ruin from where the crag is obvious on the hillside above (the big silvery grey sweep of slabs and ribs), follow the broad ridge to the right of the Allt Coire nan Laogh before striking up steep slopes to the crag (around 1 hour 30 minutes). Descent is easiest by traversing right (looking up; left from the top of *The Big Ribeye*) into a narrow heather filled gully and carefully descending this back to the base. Alternatively head left to reach the hillside and easily down.

The crag offers slabby and bold climbing but the angle is never too steep and the friction is good with a mix of quartzite and schist, although the routes are fairly high up and a bit dirty in places. The climbs are interesting and open, if escapable, but it is a fairly long walk past many good crags in the glen!

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*Schist Happens* 55m VS 4b. Cameron McIlvar, Nathan Adam. 19 Sep 2015. Technically easy, but bold with almost no worthwhile runners for the whole pitch, start at the left side of the crag. Climb up a short slab and follow blank crack lines and more slabs to reach a left facing corner. Climb this and exit right onto more slabs and trend rightwards to reach the belay.

*The Amazing Adventures of the Land Octopus* 55m H.Severe 4b. Cameron McIlvar, Nathan Adam. 19 Sep 2015.

Climb the central section of the slabs just right of a heather patch. The line trends left before climbing straight up to reach the boulder, another bold line.

*Go the Distance* 55m VS 4b. Cameron McIlvar, Nathan Adam. 19 Sep 2015. Just left of the heather filled gully is a long, narrow roof. Climb to the roof and place a reasonable small cam at the back of this. Pull over at the left hand side and go right to a short crack which is followed straight up. Cross a heather step and climb the gritty rib above with a good wire on the right. Trend left up the slab beyond to the boulder.

*The Big Ribeye* 60m VS 4c \*. Cameron McIlvar, Nathan Adam. 19 Sep 2015. The obvious wide rib right of the heather filled gully. It gives a series of technical steps which are easily escapable on either side but the rock is clean and the positions are pleasant with an optional 40m of easier ground above.

# **AONACH BEAG, An Aghaidh Gharbh:**

*Old Folks Boogie* 110m II \*. Steve Kennedy, Andy MacDonald. 18 Jan 2020. The ridge which falls into the corrie from the rocky outcrop on the summit ridge (NN 200 712), close to the descent normally used to access the routes in the east corrie (i.e. routes south of the *North-East Ridge*). Climb the ridge fairly directly until close to the top where a leftwards traverse onto a narrow ridge was taken to avoid a steep wall. Finish on top of the outcrop.

# Lower West Face:

Hamster's Paradise 140m IV,5. Will Rowland. Jan 2019.

This route lies right of *Dasher* on the buttress containing *Prominent Chimney*. Start just right of *Dasher* at the bottom right of the lower tier and climb the right wall of a prominent corner to the terrace. Gain the upper buttress and follow the crest to a large detached block. Back and foot up between the block and steep wall to gain the top. (Topo provided)

# Hold Tight 80m V,6. Will Rowland. Jan 2019.

A direct line up the buttress between *Pugilist* and *North Gully*. Go up a broken slabby wall to a steep wall, climb the wall direct via a steep corner-crack to gain a ledge. From the ledge, traverse left onto a slab and move up and into a groove, which eases to a steady ridge and the top section of *Pugilist*. Two nuts were placed to protect moves through the steep corner. (Topo provided)

#### STOB COIRE SGRIODAIN, Creag Mholach (NN 35168 74631):

This buttress lies on east side of Loch Treig directly above the West Highland line and is well seen from the Laggan Road. The base is quite low so it needs a good dump of snow and cold weather, which means that the approach for vehicles to Fersit may not be possible. *Hairy Maclarey* 170m III. Alan Halewood, Dave Anderson. 13 Feb 2020. Start just right of the lowest rocks.

1. 25m Follow a rising traverse up and right past an ice bulge.

2. 35m Keep left of the bulk of the buttress following a heather strip cutting through a long thinly iced pair of slabs.

3. 60m Take a ramp up the right side of a steep buttress before stepping to a continuation ramp-line up the left side of the upper buttress until it is possible to head back right up the first of two short steep icy grooves.

4. 50m Move left from the belay up a short chimney before following heathery terraces and ramps back up right to easy ground on the crest of the ridge. (Topo provided)

# CREAG MEAGAIDH, Stob Poite Coire Ardair, South-East Face:

The following two routes lie on the fourth and smallest of the upper buttresses, left of *Eyecatcher* (SMCJ 2019), and can be gained by the gully and ramp from the right, or by climbing the lower tier. Many ice pitches have been climbed on this lower tier at Grade III to IV. (Topo provided)

Wandering Charlie 280m III. John Lyall. 16 Nov 2019.

Start on the lower tier by a left-slanting ramp and a short ice pitch, then a long section of easy ground leads to the upper buttress. Follow a left slanting slab and a prominent short crack to gain the left edge. Continue up the edge, avoiding the steep tower on the left. A poor, escapable line.

Young Pretender 100m III,4. John Lyall. 16 Nov 2019.

Climb the right edge of the buttress overlooking the gully on the right and move into the top of the obvious corner on the left to gain the crest. Finish direct up the bulging crack in the tower.

# MONADHLIATH, Stac Buidhe, South-East Face (NN630962):

Cabin Fever 70m IV,6. Al Todd, Simon Richardson. 28 Feb 2020.

A line of weakness on the right side of the cliff. Start below a vegetated gully directly below an icicle frieze at two-thirds height.

1. 30m Pull over a steep step to gain the gully and follow it to a prominent rightslanting ramp under a steep wall. Climb the ramp and make a steep exit to a narrow ledge below the icicle frieze.

2. 20m Move right along the ledge below the icicle frieze and climb a steep wall (crux) immediately right of a deep corner (with a large tree at its top) to gain a large terrace.

3. 20m Finish up the snow gully left of a blunt rib to the top.

# **GLEN GLOY, Coire Ceirsle Hill:**

In very cold conditions a number of easily accessible icefalls form on the north side of Coire Ceirsle Hill above Glen Gloy. The easiest approach is to cross the river via the bridge at NN 248 877.

Duane Dibbley 300m IV,4. Will Rowland, James Cooper. Feb 2018.

The main central icefall. It gave around 300m of cascade climbing, starting in the trees. Nice, non serious climbing similar to *Smoking the White Owl* on Sgurr Finniosgaig on Aonach Mòr.

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Friday Night Frolic 150m III,4. Will Rowland. Feb 2018.

An icefall to the right of the main falls giving three or four pitches, the last cascade being around III,4 and finishing near the top of the moor.

# **GLEN COE**

# BUACHAILLE ETIVE MOR, Crowberry Ridge North-East Face:

*Fracture Route* 65m VI,6. Neil Adams, Gordon Lacey. 11 Feb 2017. Climbed as two independent pitches before continuing up *Crowberry Ridge* to the summit.

# **Rannoch Wall:**

*Grooved Arete, Variation Start* 25m HVS 5a \*\*. Michael Barnard, Ewan Lyons. 7 Jul 2019.

Climbs shallower grooves immediately right of the normal way. Start by bridging up the 6m chimney-crack on the right for a few moves, then step onto the wall and move up (bold) towards two short grooves which go up past a small overlap. Climb the clean left-hand groove past the overlap, then step left to join the normal way.

# Broad Buttress, West Face:

The following two routes lie either side of *Ephemeron Gully* and require a good freeze and low lying snow. (Topo provided)

*Broad Buttress* 325m III,3 \*. John Higham, John Hutchinson. 11 Dec 2011. The left-hand buttress (NN 22507 54833). Avoid the steep foot of the buttress by starting 10m to the left and following a right-trending ramp to regain the centre of the buttress (25m). Continue up straightforward mixed ground for approximately 100m to reach steeper rocky ground. (It is possible to avoid this lower section and traverse in directly from the base of *Ephemeron Buttress*). Ascend the upper section directly for 200m keeping to the centre of the buttress finishing at the top of Great Gully upper Buttress. Steep snow leads to the summit slopes of Coire na Tualaich. Possibly climbed before.

*Ephemeron Buttress* 300m IV,4 \*\*. John Higham, John Hutchinson. 26 Feb 2020.

The narrow buttress to the right of *Broad Buttress* and immediately right of *Ephemeron Gully*. Start on the right-hand side of the buttress at NN22413 54851. Runners and belays are difficult to find.

1. 50m After a steep start follow snowy grooves until a rock barrier, traverse 5m left to belay below a left-slanting wide crack.

2. 50m Ascend the crack and move directly up steep ground to a leftwards trending snowy ramp ascend this and move up onto a large ledge below an impending wall move to right end of ledge and ascend with difficulty the narrow groove and cracks above to a large ledge.

3. 50m Avoid the steep wall above on the right following mixed ground to belay on large spike on left wall.

4. 60m Traverse left for 5m to the centre of the buttress ascend a steep groove and then easier mixed ground to a belay ledge.

5. 50m Continue up a bulging corner and enter a snowy gully and belay on the left.

6. 40m Follow a snow gully with a minor rock bulge to a good belay.

Finish by following easier ground to a fine snow arete interrupted by a short tricky step to the final snow slope.

# Lagangarbh Buttress:

The following route approximates to the line of *Lagangarbh Buttress* in Highland Scrambles South (p292) which lies lower down and right of the feature Lagangarbh Buttress described on p104 Glen Coe Rock and Ice Climbs. (Topo provided)

*Lower Lagangarbh Buttress* 200m II,3 \*. John Higham, Chris Gilmore. 6 Dec 2008.

Follow the right crest of the buttress starting at NN 22310 54991 for approximately 150m via short walls, tricky slabs, ledges and turfy ramps. Above, 50m of easier ground leads to a finish at the foot of the upper buttress. Escape can be made to the left and down snow slopes or continue up the following route. Possibly climbed before.

Last Outing 60m IV,4. John Higham, Chris Gilmore. 6 Dec 2008.

Start at the highest point of the *Lower Lagangarbh Buttress* where it abuts the upper buttress (the upper right flank of the feature *Lagangarh Buttress* described in Glen Coe Rock and Ice Climbs p104). Ascend a leftwards trending icy corner at this point and finish to the right via a steep step onto the eastern slopes of Coire na Tulaich.

# Coire na Tulaich:

Foolish Notion 250m II. John Higham. 12 Feb 2012.

This route winds it way up the area of indistinct slabby buttresses (NN 21875 54587) that dominate the central area of the east side of Coire na Tulaich to the right of the Blotch Buttresses. This area is highly avalanche prone and needs stable snow conditions. In thin snow cover, but icy conditions, a prominent low-angle gully provides Grade II ice as a pleasant approach to the base of the lower buttress. At the lowest buttress take a left leaning ramp for 50m. Easy ground follows to the foot of the next buttress. This was ascended by a series of rightwards trending ramps and short walls leading to a steep wall on the next buttress barring access to slabs above (100m). This was ascended by moving right for 20m to find and ascend a short steep chimney and then ascending thin ice runnels on the insecure slabs above (100m). Easy ground continues for a considerable way to the summit ridge of the Buachaille Etive Mor or a long escape to the right can be made onto the normal descent route. (Topo provided)

# **BIDEAN NAM BIAN, Lost Valley Buttress:**

Sapiens 85m VIII,7. Tim Miller, Jamie Skelton. 18 Feb 2020.

A serious route based on the direct finish to the Neanderthal corner.

1. 35m Start 10m up and right of *Neanderthal*. Climb a corner for 20m to below a steep wall with an obvious crack. Initially climb the crack then move up and left, on good hooks, to belay at a large ledge.

2. 15m From the left of the ledge climb steep turf then traverse left to the *Neanderthal* belay.

3. 35m From the belay climb directly up the corner to a ledge. Climb thin ice in the corner (peg on right) to an icicle. Follow a chimney to below a roof and turn this on the right. (Topo provided)

# Stob Coire nan Lochan, Summit Buttress:

Spectre, Far Right Start 60m VI,5 \*. Ken Applegate, Neil Matthews. 16 Feb 2020.

Climbed in icy conditions, otherwise probably V,5.

1. 50m This pitch takes a steep corner a few metres to the right of the Alternative Start to Spectre, just beyond where the crag turns a corner. It is in line with the 60m abseil from the top of the difficulties of *Scabbard Chimney* and *Spectre*. Climb the steep, shallow corner, before the angle eases. Continue up a series of shallow grooves to reach an in-situ peg belay, overlooking *The Tempest*.

2. 10m From the belay, traverse left and join *Spectre* a couple of metres above where the *Alternative Start* comes in. (Topo provided)

# GARBH BHEINN, South Wall:

*Gralloch* 45m IX,10. Peter Hoang, Neil Adams, Lukas Klingora. 28 Feb 2020. A more direct version of the summer line. Instead of traversing out right to bypass the initial roof, the winter route goes through the left-hand side of the roof and straight up into the obvious crack-ramp system. Start in the same snowy bay as *Scimitar*. Climb straight up to the left-hand side of the roof above on easy ice and turf. Turn the roof on the left to enter a crack/ramp system which runs up to the base of the open groove of the summer route. Stein pull wildly up these cracks to gain the relative respite of the icy groove, and climb this with difficulty to a ledge at 40m. Continue more easily to the top.

Scimitar 115m VII,8. Tim Miller, Damian Granowski, Callum Johnson. 28 Feb 2020.

A winter ascent of the summer line.

1. 10m Climb a a rightwards ramp to spike belay below the obvious crack.

2. 20m Climb the steep well protected crack on good hooks to a short corner. Belay up and left of the corner.

3. 25m Climb the chimney above to the terrace.

4. 20m Climb the short corner directly in front, then traverse right into another slabby corner and climb this on thin hooks to belay in a recess.

5. 40m Climb the short steep wall above the belay and continue easily to the top.

Butterknife 105m VI,6. Tim Miller, Jamie Skelton. 20 Feb 2020.

The summer route was followed throughout. The lower two pitches provided some very enjoyable climbing. The crux second pitch in particular had fantastic steep pulls on solid hooks, however as the angle eased off on the second half of the route so too did the quality of the climbing. One could be forgiven for walking off along the terrace.

# MAOL ODHAR, Coire nam Frithallt:

*Papa Shango, Right-Hand Finish* 145m I\*. Andy MacDonald. 15 Nov 2019. Climb *Papa Shango* (SMCJ 2010) until the gully splits at three-quarters height below a triangular buttress. Follow the right-hand branch to an abrupt finish close to the summit cairn.

# CREACH BHEINN, An Coire Dhuibh, The Zeppelin Face:

*D'yer Mak'er* 140m (excluding the approach) II \*. Steve Kennedy, Andy MacDonald. 20 Feb 2020.

The left-slanting groove about 12m left of *Celebration Day* (SMCJ 2019). Climb the groove to a snow bay (50m). Follow the continuation of the groove up and rightwards (45m). Finish by aiming for a prominent notch on the left which forms a short squeeze chimney leading to the top (30m).

*Moby Dick* 145m (excluding the approach) I/II. Andy MacDonald. 30 Nov 2017. The vague right trending snowy rampline situated on the extreme right side of the face just before it merges into more open slopes. Follow the ramp towards a notch formed by a large rock. Climb this step to a broad shelf, move right then finish up the same general line with a couple of steeper steps.

# SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS

# THE COBBLER, South Peak:

*Southern Freeze* 60m IX,9.Dave MacLeod, Helen Rennard. Jan 2016 By the summer route.

# **BEINN NARNAIN, Yawning Crag:**

*Second Time Lucky* 25m IV,5. Gavin McColl, Jon Wylie. 25 Feb 2020. A line right of the cave of *Muckle Mou*'. The top section may coincide with the summer route *Cicatrice*.

1. 15m Traverse 5m right from the base of the cave of *Muckle Mou*' then follow the crack and squeeze chimney to another cave visible from below. Traverse right under the overhang to belay below the prominent chimney.

2. 10m Climb the chimney to the top (crux).

# BEN CRUACHAN, Coire Chat, Noe Buttress:

*Double OO* 70m IV,4. Stuart McFarlane, Robin Clothier. 10 Jan 2020. An alternative start to *Noe Buttress* starting up the parallel corner to its left. 1. 40m. Climb the corner crossing *One of Nine* to join *Noe Buttress*. 2. 30m. Continue up *Noe Buttress* to the top.

*One Of Nine* 105m IV,5. Robin Clothier, Stuart McFarlane. 13 Dec 2019. Start as for *Hats Off* on the left flank of *Noe Buttress*.

1. 35m. Climb snow ledges and and initial ice smear (*Hats Off* steps right above to gain a second ice smear). Instead, pull left onto a ledge to gain the crest, and follow the groove above leading to deep corner. Belay on the right.

2. 25m. Step left on to a flake and again on to a triangular wall and surmount this. Move left, and continue up short corners to beneath a huge recess and belay.

3. 45m. Walk right to gain snowy grooves leading to easier ground above.

# **STOB GHABHAR, North-East Corrie:**

*Last Call* 130m III,4 \*. Steve Kennedy, Andy MacDonald. 20 Mar 2020. The two-tiered buttress about 50m right of *Upper Couloir Keyhole*, beyond a recessed area. Start just left of the lowest point and move up left to reach a shallow groove. Follow the groove then move leftwards towards a short rock wall. Mixed ground leads a belay on the snow shelf near the top of the initial buttress (50m). Finish in two pitches up straightforward snow slopes immediately right of the upper buttress via a small cornice (80m).

# **BEINN DORAIN, Creag an Socach:**

*A Very Naughty Boy* 100m VII,8/9 \*\*. Tim Miller, Damian Granowski. 27 Feb 2020.

The route takes a left-trending line across the steep wall to the right of *False Rumour Gully* and climbs a series of short steep steps. Start at the right-facing groove on the right-hand side of the wall.

1. 30m Climb up and left easily to below a steep roof (overhead protection). Pull steeply over the roof and belay at a big ledge up and left.

2. 20m Climb the steep corner above and continue to below a large flat roof where the route joins *The Enemy Within*.

3. 50m Step left and follow *The Enemy Within* to the top via a steep corner. (Topo provided)

# MEALL A' CHOIRE LEITH, Coire Ban:

*Ace In The Hole* 80m III,4. Simon Richardson, Sophie Grace Chappell. 14 Nov 2019.

To the left of the gully running up the centre of the crag is a broken buttress. This route takes a line of grooves up the centre of the buttress, with an unlikely finish. 1. 50m Start below the centre of the buttress below a V-groove between two steep walls. Climb the groove passing a bulge after 10m then continue up easier mixed ground to a large platform with boulders below the headwall.

2. 30m Trend right and climb a steep wall of overlapping shelves near the right edge of the buttress. Exit via a short gully that curls left to an unexpected exit via a hole. Easy angled terrain now leads to the top.

*Wild Card* 70m IV,5. Simon Richardson, Sophie Grace Chappell. 14 Nov 2019. Right of the central gully is an area of steep walls. The steepest of these lies at the right end and has an icy left to right ramp running up from its foot.

1. 50m Climb the ramp for 40m to where it finishes at a narrow ledge girdling the wall. Step left and climb a steep vegetated groove and exit right onto a ledge with a 20m-high flake.

2. 70m Step off the top of the flake and climb a series of steep walls above until a low angled ramp leads right to easy ground. Easy angled terrain leads to the top.

# **BEN VORLICH, South Face:**

Door Step Route 120m III,4 \*\*. James Seaman, Peter Nellist. 28 Feb 2020.

A winter ascent based on *Central Rib* – see p359 Highland Scrambles South. Approach via the regular walking route to Ben Vorlich. Descend east of the summit then contour west first passing a major rib. Start at a flat ledge on the second rib with a short overhanging wall.

1. 40m Climb a turfy groove on left of the overhang to gain the crest of the rib. Step right then move up the rib as it rises to the left side of the steepening buttress to reach a spike belay.

2. 40m Climb a short groove on left side of the buttress and traverse

until a groove that leads to the flat crest of buttress below a steep wall.

Climb the steep wall with good gear and excellent hooks and belay below the next wall.

3. 40m Climb directly up this second shorter wall. The ridge now eases off and difficulties quickly abate.

**Note:** An ascent of *South Face, Right-Hand Rib* – see p361 Highland Scrambles South – was made in Feb 2020, but precise details are unknown.

#### MEALL DUBH, Coire Cruinn (NN 865 308):

This interesting and readily accessible north-east facing buttress lies below the summit of Meall Dubh (698m), in Coire Cruinn overlooking Glen Almond. The cliff base sits at about 500m and from the entrance to the corrie it looks a little similar to Stob Coire nam Beith in Glen Coe, albeit on a smaller, easier and less grand scale. Members of the Perth JMCS climbed here in the 1930s but it appears nothing was ever recorded. In 1941, M.B.Nettleton noted a few summer and winter ascents during his period teaching at nearby Glen Almond School; see article in 1943 SMCJ, p90.

The cliff was rediscovered by Rab Anderson whilst checking out a route on the opposite side of the glen for an SMC's Hillwalkers' guide and on his subsequent investigation in Feb 2015 he climbed the major gully systems. The cliff provides a useful winter venue within a short distance of the Central Belt.

Approach from the Newton Bridge parking area in the Sma Glen. Go through a gate on the south side of the bridge and follow a rough track though the trees alongside the River Almond. Step over a wall and under an electric fence to gain the flat pasture then cross this to reach some large boulders at an area known as Alpinshields. Go through a gate and ascend the hillside to gain the flat corrie floor, out of which tumbles the Allt a' Choire Chruinn (3km; 300m; 1h).

Given the cliff's altitude and its easy-angled nature, conditions do vary, although it does hold more snow than might be expected. It is possible to have a virtually snow-free walk-in and find that the cliff is holding a fair amount. The cliff is covered in copious amount of heather, which whilst not of much use does make the climbing a bit more insecure and exciting!

There are three main buttresses; Pinnacle Buttress on the left, the recessed Central Buttress, then North Buttress on the right, which is the main mass of rock rising full height from the centre of the flat corrie floor. These buttresses are defined by the principal gully systems.

Climbs pretty much finish on the summit of Meall Dubh. Descent is best achieved via the north ridge which runs down the right side (facing) of the corrie. Head north-west to pick-up a fence and follow this down the ridge to a step, from where easy ground leads back to the base of the buttress. The head of *Allt Gully* is crossed, which can also be descended but will require more care, especially if the snow is hard. (Topo provided)

*Pinnacle Gully Buttress* 120m II. C.McNee, D.Kirk. 31 Jan 1999. Climbs the buttress immediately left of *Pinnacle Gully*, keeping generally to the crest.

#### Pinnacle Gully 250m II \*

The left-hand gully; there is a chockstone and cave pitch high on the left which is normally covered. From below it a short summer route goes out onto a flakepinnacle on the left wall; *The Pinnacle* (V.Diff) recorded by M.B. Nettleton & C.V.B. Marquand, M.E.D. Poore & Spence but thought to be the same as a climb made in October 1930 by J.H.B. Bell. *Rowantree Buttress* 300m IV,4. Tom Prentice, Rab Anderson. 23 Feb 2016. The edge of *Central Buttress* to the right of *Pinnacle Gully*. Go easily up and left past the entrance to Central Gully then zigzag to a tiny rowan. Climb up and left to a more substantial rowan. Step left and climb directly above by heathery ledges; stepping right then back left and up via grooves to reach easy ground. Belay up on the right at a small plaque near the edge. Climb grooves and cross a narrow neck to below the upper buttress. A short steep section gains easier ground at the top of the buttress.

*Central Groove* 250m III \*. Tom Prentice, Rab Anderson. 7 Mar 2016. The groove-line up the middle of *Central Buttress*. Go easily up and left past the entrance to Central Gully then climb up and step left to belay on the tiny rowan as for *Rowantree Buttress*. Continue up the groove. In the wide upper funnel, a groove on the left provides a finish.

# Central Gully 250m II \*\*

The gully just right of centre; initially hidden from the approach. A large chockstone near the start can present some difficulty and there can be a few short steps elsewhere. Take the left fork up the side of a small buttress near the top; the right is easy. This is thought to be the same as a winter ascent made by M.B. Nettleton, Poore & Spence in the early 1940s.

#### Crest Route 300m III \*. Rab Anderson, Tom Prentice. 4 Mar 2015.

The line of grooves up the crest of *North Buttress*, overlooking *Central Gully*; climbed in six pitches of 50m or more. Start at the toe of the buttress and climb to a small rowan tree then go up right into a groove and continue in the same line to finish up easy ground around the head of *Central Gully*. This probably takes a similar line to *North Buttress* (Diff) by Nettleton, who along with others also made some scrambling routes on this buttress.

# Twisting Grooves 300m III \*. Rab Anderson, Tom Prentice. 7 Mar 2016.

The line of grooves up the centre of *North Buttress*. Start at the foot of *Shallow Gully* and go easily up left beneath a wall which can hold some ice. Climb the groove in the corner to its top and traverse right to a block belay. Ignore the open groove on the left and climb up and right into the main groove-line which leads to a cave. Continue up the groove to the buttress crest. Traverse across Central Gully and climb the groove up the centre of the upper buttress.

#### Shallow Gully 250m I/II

The gully which curves up around the right side of North Buttress. To the left of its foot two icefalls can form. The easier right-hand one has a bush to its right and gives a short but more interesting start to the gully.

#### Allt Gully 200m I

The gully on the far right, down which the Allt a' Choire Chruinn flows from just beneath the summit of Meall Dubh.

A route recorded in SMCJ 1986 (p342) on Meall Dubh has a grid reference NN845305, which places it in the next corrie to the west; Coire na Coinnich. The approach distance given of 3 miles (5km) would be correct for this corrie.

Central Buttress 200m II. A.Fraser, G.Leslie. 18 Feb 1985.

Climb an icefall, then easy ground to the gully. Climb the gully to a large ledge beneath the upper buttress. This is also split by a narrow gully, which is reached by a traverse from the right, then climbed directly. The climbing in this corrie is disappointing.

# LOWLAND OUTCROPS & GALLOWAY HILLS

# THE TROSSACHS, An Garadh, Meall na Boineide (NN 408 126):

The following two routes lie on the clean, vaguely-square buttress at the bottom of the Meall na Boineide crags complex, on An Garadh on the north side of Loch Katrine in the Trossachs. There is potential for (slightly adventurous) new routes in this area. Approach is a half hour cycle from Stronachlachar then a half hour walk uphill from the burial ground at Portnellan. (Topo provided)

The Factor 20m HVS 5a. Danny Carden, Tim Reid. 3 Aug 2019.

Follow the vertical crack that starts to the left of the roofed toe of the buttress, past a small tree, then up a slightly slabbier headwall. Good well-protected climbing but care with the rock is required, particularly at the start. (The first ascensionists wondered if this route had been done, or attempted, years ago as a small holly bush on it showed marks that were potentially very old secateur clippings).

The Lady 15m VS 4c. Danny Carden, Tim Reid. 3 Aug 2019.

Start at a shallow scoop near the right end of buttress, directly beneath the right end of the large flake at four metres. After a bold start, pass the right end of the flake then climb direct to the top.

# GALLOWAY HILLS, Craigdews, Billy Goat Bluff:

To the left of the Ramp is a short, very steep wall (Billy Goat Bluff). Immediately left of this is a rib, which gives the following two routes:

Guerdon Hooves 40m VS \*. Andrew Fraser, Ian Magill. 8 Aug 2019.

A pleasant climb on good rock that is very quick to dry. Start at a short cracked pinnacle just down and left of the roof under the rib.

1. 20m 4b Climb the pinnacle to a ledge. Pull up awkwardly onto the left side of the rib and take a leftward rising line to belay on a slab just left of a pinnacle block.

2. 20m 4b Step up right, then take the lower left slanting groove with a tricky pull out left at the top.

*A Goatly Apparition* 40m VS 4c \*. Andrew Fraser, Ian Magill. 28 Aug 2019. The slab on the right side of the rib to a shared belay with *Guerdon Hooves*, then the second bottom leftward trending ramp on the upper wall.

# THE BORDERS & DUMFRIES, Clifton:

Shooting Gallery 12m E2 5c \*\*. James Milton, Oonagh Thin. 2 Nov 2019. An eliminate line up the fine arete between *Sidekick* and *Aqualine Direct*. Climb the wall below the arete. Arrange protection then climb the arete on its right hand side using side pulls and culminating in a slap for a sloper. Finish easily, directly as for *Sidekick Variations*. (Topo provided)

# GALLOWAY SEA CLIFFS, Larbrax:

On the north side of Pinnacle Bay are some slabs.

*Seal Slab* 25m V Diff. Ian Magill, Andrew Fraser. 8 Aug 2019. The left slab, starting immediately left of the recessed bay and finishing to the right.

*Seal of Approval* 25m Severe 4a \* Andrew Fraser, Ian Magill. 7 Jun 2019. The right slab, to the right of the corner. Pleasant.

# STIRLING AREA, Cambusbarron, Fourth Quarry:

*Ethanol* 12m E3 5c \*\*. Nicholas Wylie, Ryan McKenzie. 19 Mar 2020. Start up *Malky The Alky* to the triangular block just before the good ledge. Hand traverse rightwards on small crimps and climb the wall above using face holds (small cams useful) to the cracks above. Finish direct. A bit of an eliminate, and only E2 if the crack of *Doobie Brothers* is used for protection.

# BERWICKSHIRE COAST, St Abbs Head, Pettico Wick Bay (NT 907 691):

*Teflon Terrier* 45m VS 4b \*. Robert Middleton, Terry Middleton. 19 Sep 2019. The impressive clean hanging slab at the western tip of the bay. Accessible three hours either side of low tide. An awkward start gains the greasy hanging slab which is followed leftwards pleasantly to its conclusion (some poor rock, but decent cam runners). A step left leads to steep grass and disposable rock holds, until a move right reaches an old fence post of use as dubious protection. Yet more steep grass climbing leads to the fence line proper and belays. In hindsight, the steep grassy exit would benefit from an escape rope pre-rigged to the fence, and the grade and stars suggested assume this. (Topo provided)

**Note:** the bay also contains three small sea stacks accessible at low tide, which look good sport for a short day, and a couple of other lesser lines look possible on the western cliffs.

# **SPORT CLIMBS**

# MULL, Balmeanach:

*Light Rain* 15m F5+\*\*. Colin Moody, Cynthia Grindley. 8 Jul 2019. Start right of *Glueless Groove* (SMCJ 2017). Move up left and climb the bulge then continue up right.

# Loch Buie, Grey Cave (Uamh Liath):

*Large Boy Stops for No One* 22m F7a \*\*\*. Cal Bentley-Abbot, Jane Bentley. 20 Jul 2019.

The line left of *Drop Jaw Crack* sharing the same start, bolted by Andy Hyslop in 2013. There is an alternative start to the right.

# APPIN, Dallen's Rock (SMCJ 2018 p172-3):

*Cassandra* 13m 6a \*. Steve Kennedy, Cynthia Grindley. 27 May 2019. The line of bolts left of *Philomena*, following a rightwards trending line to a bulge. Surmount the bulge, pull strenuously up a right facing corner and finish with a reachy move up right. No grabbing the lower off to finish!