

## OUTER ISLES

### **LEWIS, Bearasaigh (NB 122 424):**

The following routes are taken from a mini-guide by K.Archer & P.Headland. Access is by boat.

#### **Upper Hadrians Wall:**

Hadrians Wall extends, on more than one level, from the NW corner of the island back southwards. From a ruined building at the NNW end of the island, walk north for a few yards to a small grassy depression from which a right-trending ramp and small corner give access to a huge boulder covered platform. Follow this westwards to arrive at the non-tidal Upper Hadrians Wall. The first route starts by the first two obvious crack-lines with an undercut start and a striking "snake" pattern in the rock.

*Long Time Coming* 15m Severe 4b. K.Archer, P.Headland. 11th June 2007.  
Start by the snake pattern, enter and follow the left crack.

*Finger Ripping Good* 15m VS 4c \*. K.Archer, P.Headland. 11th June 2007.  
From the same starting point as the previous route, follow the rightwards trending right-hand crack-line. At the second small triangular niche step left onto the face and follow it to the top.

*My First 1000 Words* 15m VS 5a. P.Headland, K.Archer. 11th June 2007.  
Start 5m right of the snake pattern in the centre of a small face and climb directly up the wall.

Eight metres further right is a very obvious small steep slab "The Coal Face", with a central break and a "handrail" across its top leading into a corner on the left.

*The Whale & the Snail* 18m Severe 4b. P.Headland, K.Archer. 11th June 2007.  
Start at the right end of the "coal face" slab. Move right after 2.5m to a steep ramp and crack and follow this to the top.

*Red Hot Chilli Pipers* 18m VS 5a. K.Archer, P.Headland. 11th June 2007.  
Start as for the previous route but follow the upper traverse leftwards across the top of the slab, then up through a niche just right of the corner.

*Back on Your Heads* 18m E1 5b \*. P.Headland, K.Archer. 14th June 2007.  
Climb directly up the centre of the face, move left to a small overhung corner and climb through this to the top.

At the far right end of Upper Hadrians is a fantastically featured arete with a very undercut lower section sloping down into a huge tidal cave.

*Christina Mackay & the Grana* 26m E1 5b \*\*. K.Archer, P.Headland. 13th June 2007.  
Start 3m left of the arete and climb through the undercut to gain a downwards and rightwards-trending sloping ledge. Follow this right, then climb a layback to the base of a corner. Follow the slabby corner before stepping left and climbing a short wall to finish.

#### **Lower Hadrians Wall, St Bees Sector:**

Access to this area is by a scramble down a north facing cracked black slab facing out to sea, opposite the base of Christina Mackay. This leads to a non-tidal sloping platform from which the following routes start.

*In my Dreams* 10m Severe 4b. K.Archer, P.Headland. 13th June 2007.

From the base of the access route start at large rounded flakes in a short overhung corner. Climb through an overlap and continue to the top.

*Dubh Ron Ron* 18m Severe. K.Archer, P.Headland. 15th June 2007.

Six metres further left. Follow the right side of the left-trending black ramp line left of the overhanging wall adjacent to the access route.

*Birthday Route* 25m Severe. P.Headland, K.Archer. 15th June 2007.

Follow the banded fault left of the black rock.

*Priam Raiders* 16m VS 5a \*. P.Headland, K.Archer. 13th June 2007.

From the base of the access route walk 6m right to the arete (this is above a black overhung slab). Start at the right arete and climb the initial overhung arete to a shallow scoop, then follow the edge of the upper slab.

*Treasure Island* 20m Hard Severe 4b \*. P.Headland, K.Archer. 15th June 2007.

From the same start as the previous route, climb the initial overhung arete and move right to follow a rightwards rising ledge and wall, then a short corner to finish.

Abseil down the black slab below the previous routes to take a stance on ledges just above sea-level to gain the start of:

*Cool & Smooth & Curious* 18m HVS 5b \*. K.Archer, P.Headland. 15th June 2007.

Traverse right and climb a short wall on to a slab to the bottom of a black overhung corner beneath the big roof. Follow the strenuous corner to finish at the base of the previous two routes.

### **Lower Hadrians Wall, North Sector:**

Access can be gained either by traversing at sea-level from the St Bees Sector (tidal) or by a 28m abseil from a large rectangular block located at the head of a gully to the NW corner of the boulder covered ledge leading to Upper Hadrians Wall. This gains barnacle covered ledges (tidal).

*That Harry Potter Thing* 25m Severe 4a \*. P.Headland, K.Archer. 13th June 2007.

From 2m left of the abseil line, climb the slabby wall to a left-rising crack-line. Follow this to and then through a notch to the top.

*Polly Wise & Wonderful* 28m Severe 4a \*. K.Archer, P.Headland. 13th June 2007.

Start 3.5m left of the abseil, then traverse left to the centre of a black slab. Climb this trending left to climb through a broken overlap, then trend up and left to finish.

*Mop Route* 25m Severe \*. P.Headland, K.Archer. 13th June 2007.

From the base of the abseil, traverse right to a mussel covered ledge. Start from the left end of the ledge, climbing a left-trending fault line, to pull over right onto a short slab. Go right to a wonderful finishing corner.

### **Weathermans Geodha:**

The big geodha in the centre of the eastern side of the island. Access is by abseil (from boulders and back rope) down the big vegetated slabby southern corner. Traverse around the geodha to the base of the big northern ridge with a slabby southern face.

*September Ends* 65m Severe. P.Headland, K.Archer. 14th June 2007.

Start from a huge platform at the centre of the broad eastern arete, climb the centre to take a stance by a huge block (35m). Continue up the narrowing arete to a notch, then move out onto the left face to finish (30m).

### **Pictland:**

This is the area on the northern end of the island. From the base of the corner used to access the big boulder covered platform (leading to Hadrians Wall areas), go northwards to a point roughly opposite the centre of Seana Chnoc and identify a clean corner above a ledge and below this barnacle covered sea-level ledges (non-tidal starts but will be wet in a big swell). Abseil down the corner.

*The Best Man's Speech* 18m VS 5a \*. K.Archer, P.Headland. 14th June 2007.

Climb directly up the main corner.

*Picksleys Pickles* 18m VS 5a \*. P.Headland, K.Archer. 14th June 2007.

From the same start, climb steeply left of the abseil line to a ledge, then up the wonderfully featured wall.

*Olive Oil Overdose* 18m Severe 4b. P.Headland, K.Archer. 14th June 2007.

Climb steeply up and right of the abseil line to a left-facing corner.

*False Sense of Senility* 19m VS 5a. K.Archer, P.Headland. 14th June 2007.

Move right, then climb awkwardly to the second corner right of the abseil line and follow it to the top.

### **Stac an Tuill (The Bell Tower):**

This 50m stack lies off the south-western corner of the island, separated by a channel containing a second stack of about 20m with two summits and a distinct flat central platform.

**Approach:** From close by the remains of old buildings in the south-western corner of the island, take a 58m abseil down to ledges at the tide line, then traverse northwards until opposite a large rock with a non-tidal summit, between the second stack and the island. Set up the following Tyrolean traverses (swimmer required). Firstly from the island to the large rock mentioned above, secondly to the top of a chimney on the southern end of the central stack's platform, then traverse around and down to a platform on the south-western corner of the central stack. The third tyrolean goes from here to a large niche just right of a big ledge on the south-eastern corner of Stac an Tuill. 98m of static rope was used. Start from the left end of the ledge.

*Ask not for whom the Bell Tuills* 35m E1 4c. K.Archer, P.Headland. June 2007.

Climb up to a ramp at 4m, then follow this leftwards and up to a right-facing corner. Traverse up and left to a runner before dropping down into the long slabby right-facing corner. Follow this to exit through a short cracked wall. Grass remains to the summit. Abseil directly to the ledge from the stance.

### **Campaign, Geodh' an Tuill Area:**

*Friggin' Direct* 12m HVS 5b. A.Norton, K.Archer. 31st May 2005.

Start as for Friggin' in the Riggin' but climb direct, trend right to finish.

**Campaign, Wheeling Gull Wall Area:**

*Black Heart of McLeod* 17m HVS 5b \*. K.Archer, A.Norton. 31st May 2005.  
Start at sea-level ledges 4m left of Wee Restorative. Traverse 2m right and up then climb the stepped corner until forced to make difficult moves rightwards into the corner of Wee Restorative 3m from the top.

**Campaign, Landing Geodha Area:**

This lies on the south-western corner of the island and can be identified by a small buttress with strangely weathered gargoyles.

*Dun Carloway Sheep Police* 15m Hard Severe \*\*. A.Norton, K.Archer. 31st May 2005.

Start at the right side of the small buttress at the back of the small geo. Climb direct until possible to move out right onto the fantastically shaped gargoyles.

**Sgeir Rebrie:**

*Absence makes the Heart...* 40m HVS. K.Archer, A.Norton. 30th May 2005.  
From the overhung slabs left of Bosta'in, traverse in to the corner where it abuts the main face. Climb it until possible to hand-traverse a small ledge, then continue up a corner to reach the stance of Bosta'in (20m 5a). Finish up pitch 2 of Bosta'in (20m 4b).

**Sgeir Rebrie, The Narrow Box Geo:**

This is the big square cut geo lying immediately south of Sgeir Rebrie (Bostadh Groove and To the Max lie on its NW arete).

*Out of the Box* 20m E1 5c \*. K.Archer, A.Norton. 30th May 2005.

Abseil to a sloping ledge that rises from left to right. Start at its right end. Climb a short overhanging wall via a hard mantelshelf, then continue up before moving right to finish up a short corner.

**NORTH UIST, Madadh Gruamach (NF 955 667):**

The island of Madadh Gruamach is situated to the south of Madadh Mor Island on the entrance to Loch Maddy Loch. The rock is basalt and is about 30-35m high at its highest. The west facing crag receives plenty of sunshine. Access as with other islands, is by boat or sea kayak, the latter being easily landed on the back of the island which slopes towards the sea. The crag itself comprises many corners, aretes, cracks and a number of roof systems. It is possible to belay well back from the top and so another rope may be useful for this. The routes are close to the north end of the island and described from left to right.

*Northern Chimney* 5m Very Difficult. D.Brown. August 2007.

Short chimney pitch, with some thrutching to be done.

*Niall's Surprise* 25m VS 4c. D.Brown. August 2007.

Easy ground leads into a corner system, beneath an obvious small roof to the left with an arete to its right above halfway. Step around this small feature and continue upwards to finish up a small diedre.

*Sea Fury* 15m Very Difficult. D.Brown. August 2007.

The obvious southern corner system that cuts from the water to the top. Good holds throughout.

**MINGULAY, Geirum Walls:**

*Junior Keel* E4 6b. E.Brown (unsec). 29th June 2007.

Breaches the prominent 45 degree roofs forming the left side of the Main Walls. Climb the deceptively steep juggy wall to the left of Seriously Twitching to below the right-hand of the two cracks breaching the roof. Place good protection in the crack and make wild moves out to and over the lip of the roof.

**Wee Geo, Ryan's Wall (NL 553 845) NW facing:**

*Squeeze Out Another One* 20m E1 5b/5c. A.Fulton, R.Barnes. August 2007.

Positioned between Turd Compressor and Tigger's Don't Like Honey. Climb straight up the slab to the roof, climb steeply up the roof, trending slightly right and finish up a short capped corner forming the right side of the roof.

**Wee Geo, Tarmacadam Wall (NL 553 845) NE facing:**

*Don't look back in Anger* 45m HVS \*. M.Airey, A.Goodridge. August 2007.

1. 5a Follow Ron the Seals Quick Drying Wall Climb to the large flat ledge splitting the face at half-height.
2. 5a Walk left to the end of the ledge and climb an overhanging flakey crack which leads to the right end of a right-curving groove. Pull through the bulge with difficulty.

**South Pillar, Guarsay Mor, South Pillar (NL 549 840) NW facing:**

A square-shaped stone sits 50m back from the cliff-top, near a series of tiny weed-filled lochans. A 100m abseil from the cliff-top on a bearing of 300 degrees magnetic from this stone gains a small circle-shaped ledge 15m above the sea (50m of spare rope required for rigging). These routes are to the north of the established South Pillar routes.

*Wake up and Smell the Guano* 110m HVS. P.Cunningham, A.Goodridge. August 2007.

Despite a revolting first pitch, good climbing is to be had above that. Abseiling to the platform at the bottom of pitch 2 is recommended!

1. 25m 4a From the ledge, climb a left-facing cracked ramp on the right up to a large guano infested ledge. Traverse the ledge left for 15m until you can climb onto a large clean platform with a right-slanting corner/groove system above.
2. 20m 5b Climb the groove until it is possible to climb directly up a huge flake to a roof. Step right with difficulty to gain a small sloping ledge.
3. 25m 4c Continue right for 6m until a groove leads directly up. Boldly climb up to reach good holds. Continue up to a second guano ledge, and step right to under a chimney.
4. 40m 4b Climb direct up the chimney, step left to climb a dark left-facing corner and continue direct to the top on easier ground.

*Guantastic* 100m E1 \*. R.Barnes, A.Fulton. August 2007.

A good route spoiled by guano and a poor final pitch; well worth the effort for the exposure.

1. 15m 4b From the right edge of the belay ledge, ascend the left-facing corner and easy angled wall until the first guano-covered ledge is reached. Belay below the steep black wall.
2. 35m 5b Ascend the black wall via interesting layback flakes (technical crux). After 8m traverse left via prominent jutting blocks onto the frontal face of the crag. Gain another guano covered ledge and move left until under a blocky overhang. Ascend this and follow stepped corners and cracks to below an overhanging right-facing corner-crack.
3. 25m 5a Ascend the steep corner and step left onto a small ledge. Make a rightward rising traverse onto a slightly overhanging juggy wall, climbed straight up to a ledge.
4. 40m 4a Follow the line of least resistance to the top of the crag.

*Shooting Star* 100m E1 \*\*. M.Airey, J.McCulloch. August 2007.

Takes the big long soaring groove up and right from the small ledge, extending nearly the full height of the crag.

1. 15m 4a Follow the same left-facing corner as the above routes to a small jutting spike on the guano ledge at its top.
2. 10m 5b Climb the layback flakes on the wall above and pull right with difficulty at the top onto a narrow ledge.
3. 30m 5a Climb the big corner/groove system issuing from the right of the ledge, weaving left into a small cave, then back right at 20m, to a big 3m ledge at its top.
4. 25m 5b At the back of the ledge is a big right-facing corner. Climb it to exit left via some detached blocks at its top on to a ledge.
5. 20m 4a Easy vegetated steps lead rightwards to the top.

### **Geo an Droma:**

Right of the corner of Fluorescent Jellyfish (Little Corner) there is an obvious triangular-topped slab with two crack-lines. Access to the base is best via a juggy sea-level traverse from the end of the point.

*Lithod's Crawl* 8m Very Difficult. P.Snow, A.Morris. 8th August 2007.  
The left-hand crack-line.

*Pleasure in a Jug* 8m Difficult \*. A.Morris, P.Snow. 8th August 2007.  
The right-hand crack-line. Fantastic holds.

### **Jellyfish Geo:**

From the spur forming the top of the south-facing walls of Geo an Droma, a north facing cliff forms the north side of the spur. Access is by scrambling down near the seaward end of the point and then doubling back landwards. The cliff is non-tidal and there is a large rockpool with a large guano-covered rock under the left-hand side of the continuous section.

*The Chap* 22m Very Difficult. P.Snow, A.Morris. 8th August 2007.

From the guano-covered rock in the rockpool, climb the crack/groove in the lower wall, before continuing in the same line to finish up the corner left of Desperately Clinging On.

**Note:** A line between these, starting up the tiny inset groove and finishing up the face left of Desperately Clinging On, was climbed on the 9th August 2007 at VS 4c by others in the party.

*Desperately Clinging On* 25m VS 5a \*. P.Snow, A.Morris. 8th August 2007.

The obvious central corner-line above the right-hand side of the rockpool. Climb the corner with increasing difficulty to a crux at the top.

*The Piano* 25m Hard Severe 4b \*. A.Morris, P.Snow. 8th August 2007.

There is an obvious pink bulge/nose towards the right-hand side of the cliff. This route follows the groove bounding this on its left to finish up the prominent pair of flakes near the top.

*Whisky Drinkers Destiny* 24m Hard Severe 4b \*\*. A.Morris, P.Snow. 8th August 2007.

Climbs the bulbous pink nose at the right of the cliff. Start at the groove of The Piano, and traverse right a few feet before a step up into a small groove allows access to the base of the bulge. Heave over on glorious holds and amble up the pleasant flake-crack to the top.

**PABBAY, Grey Wall Recess:**

*U-th* 30m E3 5c \*\*\*. T.Fryer, I.Taylor. 12th June 2007.

Left of pitch 2 of U-Ei is a soaring crack-line, trending slightly rightwards. Gain the crack from the right and follow it through roofs and bulges to join U-Ei below its final pitch. Well protected and low in the grade.

**Banded Geo:**

*Redemption Ark* 85m E6. N.McNair, D.McManus. June 2007.

The first route to breach the impressive gothic cave of Banded Geo. The first pitch is three star climbing but the next and last pitches deserve XS due to looseness and wetness.

1. 25m 6b Start on top of the innermost boulder at the bottom of the geo, the size of a small car. Step hard left for 3m into a wildly overhanging groove/corner system and follow this to a wall and an obvious bow shaped crack. Take the crack rightwards and up to step out right under the overhang. Hanging belay.

2. 30m 5b Traverse left for 4m to a prominent spike, then climb up and over a bulge to reach an obvious but wet and loose traverse leftwards across pink and orange rock. Continue past a detached block for 6m, step down and belay in a black corner.

3. 30m 5c Step left and climb the middle and slimmest of the three corner-crack systems. Continue up this terrifyingly until better rock is reached in a bay. Take the middle groove to grass.

*Jonny Scuttlebutt* 45m E5 6a. N.McNair, A.Robb. June 2007.

Climbs the wall right of Ship of Fools. Start as for that route to the roof. At the rib on the lowest point of the roof, gain the wall above. Climb slightly left, then follow the line of least resistance to an obvious crack in steep brown rock near the top. Finish up this.

**Banded Wall, South Face:**

*Partial Bastard* 40m E3 6a \*. A.Fulton. August 2007.

The obvious challenge of the crag, taking the roof on the prow between the west and south faces of Banded Wall (just to the left of Silver Fox). Climb easily up to a fist-sized crack splitting the roof at its widest point. Make technical and powerful moves to surmount the roof. Continue up the easy wall above, via an S-shaped flake-crack.

**Bay Area:**

*It's not the Size that Matters* 10m VS 4c. P.Cunningham, M.Airey. August 2007.

Scramble round the corner at the right (north-east) end of the bay area (low tide) to a large sloping platform 4m above the sea. In the centre of a short steep 10m wall above, this route takes the obvious crack/groove up the centre of the wall, finishing up a small niche on the left. Sustained and pleasant despite size.

**Pink Wall:**

*What! More Puffin* 80m E6 6b, 5a \*\*\*. S.Crowe, K.Magog. 9th June 2007.

With a new independent finish. The grooved arete on the right edge of the wall (right of The Ancient Mariners). The initial arete has a crack on both sides. Start by climbing either crack to gain the ledge, then move up to the Y shaped crack. Move up then left to finger lock powerfully through a steep bulge (just right of The Ancient Mariners) and gain a good break and awkward kneebar rest. Tip toe rightwards on good crimps to regain the arete and move up steeply to a huge flake. Teeter right to reach easy ground and a superbly exposed position on the very edge.

**Notes:** The Ancient Mariners was considered E4 5c; The Herbrudean E4 5c and Big Chief Turning Bull E5 6a.

**RUM, Kilmory (NG 353 042):**

Kilmory is about 2hrs walk from Kinloch. North-west of Kilmory is a stony beach with a non-tidal stack and a larger rectangular stack on a partly tidal rock platform. Two routes were climbed on the crag to the east of the larger stack and facing it. Both are tidal. There is potential for a number of Reiff type routes on several small sandstone crags on this coast.

*Left-Hand Crack* 20m Very Difficult \*. C.Moody, C.Grindley. 31st March 2007.

The left of two cracks at the left side of the face.

*The Indirect* 25m Severe. C.Moody, C.Grindley. 31st March 2007.

Climb the crack that leads into the recess in the middle of the face. Step right and continue to the top. The direct finish would probably be a better route.

### **MULL, Mink Wall:**

*Unnamed* 15m VS 4b. C.Moody. 24th July 2007.

The crack right of Helga.

### **Ben More:**

The following routes were climbed by C.Wells at Easter 2008.

*Professor Falls* 30m II/III (NM 52277 33878; 704m).

At the right-hand (north) end of the outcrop lies a higher, more broken area of ground. A noticeable broken cascade flows down this in a series of steps. Climb this to where the angle eases off.

*Cascade Karen* 30m III (NM 52220 33925; 625m).

About two-thirds along the cliff going south an icy ramp cuts through the steeper ground. Follow the ramp to an awkward bulge which leads onto less steep mixed ground.

*Vertige Vivienne* 30m II/III (NM 52277 33878; 625m)

About 15m left of Cascade Karen, towards the south end of the outcrop, lies a slightly easier angled break in the cliff down which flows an icy cascade. Climb the cascade, steepest in the first 10m before the angle eases and becomes more mixed.

*Cioch Cleft* 50m I.

On the north side of the interconnecting ridge between A' Cioch and Ben More is a prominent well-defined narrow gully line splitting a buttress on the Ben More side just upslope from the lowest part of the ridge. Straightforward snow leads to the lower part of the NE ridge to Ben More.

### **TIREE, Ceann a' Mhara, Selkie Wall (NL 933 403):**

From Flaking Wall work north round the massive abutting block on large boulders. Once round the corner scramble up an upwardly slanting ramp to a slightly rising (left to right) ledge about 15m above the sea, about 25m long, backed by a wall decreasing from about 20m at the south end to 10m at the north. The easy descent route is down a gentle diagonal fault from north to south. The situation is spectacular with crashing waves right below, and no signs of bird nesting, although the occasional Fulmar flies past.

*Fishing for Mackerel* 7m Difficult. H.Carus, J.Hawkins. 7th September 2007.

The second significant chimney from the left. Go up the right-hand arete of the broken chimney.

*Way Too Many Spiders* 15m Severe. H.Carus, J.Hawkins. 7th September 2007.



Mid-way along the wall there is an obvious left-facing S-shaped corner. Start from a raised area of bedrock. This gives a great satisfying climb that on an accessible crag would be polished in no time. Not for arachnophobics!

*Shortbread or Crackers?* 14m Mild VS. H.Carus, J.Hawkins. 7th September 2007.  
A well-defined right-slanting crack 2m left of a block. Squeeze between this block and the wall to reach the start from the right. At the top of the climb there is a large block sitting on the edge immediately to the right. The crack is narrow with a very narrow outward sloping ramp on its right which in places gives some opportunity for laybacks.

## SKYE

### **SGURR A' BHASTEIR:**

*Hillary's Wake* 380m II \*. M.Francis, R.Lawson. 11th January 2008.

Start at a shallow gully just right (west) of the obvious huge gully that splits the North-East Ridge. Follow the gully to a fork. Take the right-hand branch to an exit onto a large snowfield (120m). Continue easily up the snowfield in a direct line toward the summit.

Above the snowfield a series of rock steps and ribs lead to the North-East Ridge about 100m below the top. Much variation is possible.

### **COIRE A' GHREADAIDH, An Dorus Buttress:**

*Baptist* 140m Severe 4a. I.McCabe, J.Shanks, J.Dyble. July 2006.

Start at the centre of the slabs on the left of the buttress to the right of Trapist, at a vertical trap dyke that is crossed by the obvious low diagonal trap dyke at a height of 2m.

1. 20m Climb diagonally leftward along an obvious line, scant protection, to belay below an overhang.
2. 30m Move right round the overhang and easily up slabs and short walls heading for the ragged notch above. Belay on the grassy terrace above.
3. 45m 4a Initially follow the trap line over the bulge, then move left towards the skyline, then back right to climb a steep cracked wall to a hanging slab. Belay below a triangular overlap.
4. 45m 4a Move left round triangular overlap, then climb easily in the groove line, surmounting a steep little wall by a prominent crack on the way to the top.

### **SGURR MHIC CHOINNICH, Bealach Buttress:**

*Rainman* 70m E5 \*\*\*. P.Benson, G.Robertson. 18th June 2007.

A tremendous route up the smooth right side of the big vertical wall. Start immediately left of a grassy recess below the prominent overlap on the bottom right of the wall (this point can be reached by abseil, or by starting up Thunderbolt Shelf).

1. 20m 5b Climb up left to enter and climb the obvious groove at the left end of the overlap, then continue directly for a few metres to a semi-hanging belay at a small sloping ledge.
2. 30m 6a Step left, then climb directly up (bold) passing just left of a large niche to gain an obvious sloping ledge. Continue up, then trend right to follow a vague crack-line over a small overhang to a good rest. Continue up the crack to below a bigger overhang, then traverse horizontally left below this and pull up through its left-hand end. Make some thin moves up and leftwards to gain a line of flakes leading back right and up to a ledge below a short crack.
3. 20m 5a Climb the crack, then escape out right to avoid a loose finish.

### **SGURR MHIC CHOINNICH, Coireachan Ruadha Face:**

*Dawn Grooves* VIII,8 \*\*\*. G.Robertson, M.Garthwaite. 11th January 2008.

The summer route was followed for four pitches until below the "steep 15m wall". From here a short pitch traversed right to the rib, then up to below the split overhanging nose. A long final pitch (in the dark) approximated the Direct Finish to Crack of Dawn, trending right up a right-facing groove with a wide crack in the back. A superb, sustained and well-protected winter adventure in a magnificent setting – every pitch apart from pitch 5 has considerable difficulty (tech 7 at least). The first pitch is probably the crux of the route. There was some useful ice on the first ascent.

### **COIRE A' GHRUNDA, Thearlaich-Dubh Cliff:**

*Grand Deirdre* VI,6. G.Briffet, M.Lates, P.Macpherson. 10th January 2008.

A winter ascent of the direct line. The second pitch was steep and very sustained but on great tool placements. The crag was plastered in very icy rime which was more helpful than east coast rime.

*Eilidh's Ceilidh* 50m V,7. P.Macpherson, M.Lates. 11th March 2008.

A route beside Bowers Climb. Start about 20m up T-D Gully at the first continuous fault.

1. 35m Climb the fault past an awkward groove and continue up a steep wall via cracks to a ledge with a roof above on the right. Climb strenuously through a roof pulling right into a hanging groove (crux). Continue up the groove on tiny footholds until above a chockstone.
2. 15m Climb direct up an easier left-facing corner to easy ground level with the top of the T-D Gap.

**CORUISG, Sgurr a' Mhadaidh, Coir'-Uisg Buttress:**

*Skye Wall* 105m E7/8. D.Birkett, A.Steele. April 2007.

The obvious blank wall on the right side of the wall. Start 10m right of the obvious left-facing corner at a vertical white seam.

1. 20m 6b Follow finger cracks and small poor wires to a good ledge.
2. 35m 6b/c Move up and right to a small ledge. Thin moves up the wall gain a sloping hold and loose flaky sidepulls. Bold climbing leads to a crack, followed to a ledge.
3. 50m 5b Move up and left, then go straight up to easy ground.

**CORUISG, Coire an Uaigneis, Unknown Buttress (NG 453 229):**

It is a possibility that this buttress is the same as the one above.

*Paradise Found* 200m E2 \*. P.Benson, G.Robertson. 17th June 2007.

A fine route with good rock and an outstanding outlook, taking the most obvious line up the centre of the larger, but slabbier left side of the buttress. The main difficulties are concentrated in the first half of the route; thereafter the angle eases. Start well up and left from a tongue of easy angled rock in the centre left of the buttress (left of the huge dirty groove).

1. 45m 5a Climb up onto a tiny shoulder of rock, pull over onto a slab, then trend up slightly rightwards aiming for a prominent crack-line cutting through overhangs. Belay in a small alcove left of the crack-line itself.
2. 40m 5c Traverse delicately right into the crack, then follow this with sustained interest to a ledge.
3. 45m 5a Continue directly up, then trend right across an unprotected slab to gain a stepped right-trending groove.
4. and 5. 70m 4c Follow the groove line to the top.

**Coruisk Slabs (NG 484 210):**

The route currently mentioned in the guidebook appears to have been destroyed by the large and obvious rockfall of the mid to late nineties. This route lies to the left taking the cleanest section of slabs. To descend, continue by scrambling to the top of the buttress escaping right on grass ledges to reach the Druim nan Ramh ridge.

*Swamp Donkey* 265m Severe 4a \*. R.McMurray, C.McGregor. 10th June 2007.

Start on the clean sweep of slabs, to the left of the rockfall at a crack lying roughly 20m to the right of a dark roof. This point is roughly halfway between the lowest area of slabs and the large area of rockfall. The route takes a direct line up the slabs aiming for an obvious corner forming a way through the overlapping roofs above. The rock is generally excellent and provides very enjoyable slab climbing.

1. 45m Climb the crack and slabs to the right of two detached looking dinner-plate slabs to a steeper left-facing corner on the right which is exited on the left via some dubious blocks to reach a corner.
2. 50m Continue up the corner with some blank slab sections to a grass ledge. Continue up the easier slabs to reach a terrace below some steeper slabs.

3. 45m Climb directly up the bold slab above to find a way through the blank section via a welcome flake (crux). This leads to a ledge and overlap and continuation above on bold slabs to the corner.
4. 45m Continue up the easier slabs trending right to reach a grass terrace and the first tree at the base of the obvious corner.
5. 45m Climb the slab left of the corner trending left to climb the arete where it steepens. Move back right to blocks at the top of the corner.
6. 35m Move out left to climb the final slabs directly to where the angle lessens.

**BLA BHEINN, Note from G.Robertson about Stairway to Heaven:**

On the crux pitch, the route traverses down and right from the top of the flake-crack onto the obvious handrail, then follows this horizontally right for about 8m before climbing straight up to the prominent short crack.

**Main Wall:**

*The Invisible Crack Adventure* 60m E2 \*\*. M.Lates, M.Beeston. 22nd June 2007.

An obvious ramp runs up the left side of Main Wall. A crack-line splits the wall above. The route zig-zags across the crack through some very steep terrain.

1. 20m 4c Gain the ramp easily at the lowest point. The second steep section leads to a small belay ledge with an obvious break onto the right wall.
  2. 20m 5c Traverse right, crossing the crack-line, then surmount a large pillar. Make a rising traverse left across the steep wall on positive holds (crux) to reach an overhung ledge. Two huge flakes sit on this ledge. Traverse these (with fingers crossed) and continue rightward to a cramped corner stance with a good thread on the pillar above.
  3. 20m 5a Hand-traverse 6m further right to easier ground. Step onto the slabby wall above the basalt break. Reach more large flakes which lead left to a loose finish onto the exit slab above.
- Scramble easily up the slab to finish.

**North Face:**

*North Face Route* II (route length unknown). A.Matthewson, L.Tidmarsh. February 2000. In winter the extensive and complicated North Face has a remote feel, but continuous lines are lacking. This long mountaineering route connects a succession of features up the full height of the face, finishing directly on the summit. A gully leads to a short section of ridge on the left. From the top of the ridge bear left up a shallow gully to the summit.

**South Buttress:**

*Maclaren's Lament* 60m V,6 \*. M.Lates, M.Francis. 23rd November 2007.

A short and very entertaining route some 70m up the gully from Scorpion. Finishes on the huge terrace which gives an easy walk off.

1. 15m Take an obvious leftward rising break to a large flake. This is directly below a large deep chimney.
2. 25m An awkward step off the belay flake gives entry to the deep chimney. Fun moves lead behind two massive blocks to a confined ledge below the final impasse. Excellent gear protects some ridiculous contortions in a battle to the top.
3. 20m Break out of the cleft. Finish easily up to a broad terrace.

**ELGOL, Schoolhouse Buttress:**

*Beekeeper's Bother (Left-Hand Start)* 8m HVS 5b. A.Matthewson. 26th July 2007.

Start 2m left of the normal start. Climb a left-trending corner until overhangs necessitate a long stride rightwards across to the ledge of the normal route.

**NEIST, LOWER WALLS, Poverty Point:**

*Slot Machine* 18m E2 5b \*. B.Davison, A.Nisbet, C.Grindley, C.Moody. 16th June 2007.  
The corner left of Any Spare Change?. Step right at the top of the corner, then continue up.

*Stonewall* 50m E4 \*\*\*. G.Robertson, A.Crofton. July 2007.

A superb route up the steep wall on the landward side of the non-tidal inlet. At the right end of the wall are two short crack-lines in black rock. Start up the obvious flake-crack immediately left of this.

1. 25m 6a Climb the crack, and from its top pull left onto a ledge. Traverse this to its left end, then step precariously round left and pull up to a good slot (protection). Use a sharp undercut to step back right, then make a sequence of technical moves up to gain a shallow groove with a good finger crack. Follow this to a ledge.

2. 25m 4b Climb a short rib above, then scramble more easily to the top.

*Crossfire* 25m E3 5b. G.Robertson, A.Crofton. July 2007.

Round right from The Man From Ankle is a steep wall scored by numerous grooves. This route takes grooves immediately left of a prominent left-curving crack in the lower left half of the wall. It is very loose and definitely not recommended!

*Rhubarb Crumble* 30m HVS 5a. A.Nisbet, B.Davison. 16th June 2007.

This route climbs a shallow corner on the left side of the wall to the right of Golden Shower, the easiest looking line on the wall. Start just round to the right of Golden Shower. Gain and follow the corner to a ledge. Step left and climb good holds to a final crack in deteriorating rock. Step right into another crack for the final moves.

### **Lower Walls:**

The following route lies on the sea walls below the Wall Street area, where there is a prominent little grassy headland, immediately left of a large birded inlet (looking out). This is thought to be below the bigger headland north of Shoals o' Herrin' area. The rock is generally excellent, but a little care is required near the top, where sea grass is also significant; cleaning on abseil would certainly add a star. From the little headland, a long abseil was made to non-tidal ledges from a large block just below the cliff top, down the left-hand (looking down) of two deep chimney grooves. A short tricky traverse right gains the base of a steep clean wall which is capped by huge overhangs, and defined on each side by slots. This route takes the right-hand slot.

*Burnout* 40m E2 5b \*\*. G.Robertson, A.Crofton. July 2007.

Climb the steep and sustained crack system directly up into the slot, pull out right, then follow the equally sustained continuation directly to the top.

### **Euro Zone:**

*Unnamed* VS 4c \*. C.Moody, C.Grindley. 12th May 2007.

Start below the left side of the rib between Summer Time Blues and Spindrift. Move up to a short corner, step right and climb the crack on the right side of the rib. Finish up Spindrift.

### **Dogs Head Wall:**

*Dog Violet* 25m VS 4b \*. C.Moody, C.Grindley. 13th May 2007.

Left of Dry Escape is a 12m high buttress. Climb the corner-crack left of the buttress, good easy climbing with one harder move.

*Dog House* 25m Severe. C.Moody, C.Grindley. 13th May 2007.

Climb the chimney on the left side of the 12m high buttress, then the poor crack above.

*Dogleg* 20m Very Difficult \*. C.Moody, C.Grindley. 13th May 2007.

Climb the open chimney on the right side of the 12m high buttress, step left, then climb the crack up and slightly right.

*Dry Escape* 20m Very Difficult \*. C.Moody, C.Grindley. 18th August 2006.  
Round left of Dogs Head Wall is a crack which gives good climbing.

*Dog Rose* 20m HVS 5a \*. C.Grindley, C.Moody. 13th May 2007.  
The corner on the right-hand side of Dogs Head Wall. Climb up to a bulge, step right, then back left above the bulge. Continue up the corner with a difficult top section.

#### **Citronella Wall:**

*Short Rib* HVS 5a \*. C.Moody, C.Grindley. 12th May 2007.  
Start left of Short but Sweet and climb the right side of the rib.

#### **Cumhann Geodha:**

*Bagpipe Deadline, Left-Hand Finish* 15m Severe. S.Kennedy, R.Hamilton. 17th June 2007.  
Climb Bagpipe Deadline till above the bulge, then continue up left to finish.

*Silent Witness* 15m HVS 5a \*. S.Kennedy, R.Hamilton. 17th June 2007.  
Well right of Clam Dredger are diverging cracks. Right of this is an obvious steep crack. Abseil to a tidal start.

#### **Gardyloo Wall**

The wall below the approach to Conductor Cove. These three routes are approached by abseil, but it is possible to scramble between the starts at low tide.

*Gloom* 14m HVS 5a \*. C.Grindley, C.Moody. 17th June 2007.  
The left-facing corner crack left of the dark central wall. Climb up to the bulge, go over this and continue up the right-hand crack.

*Black Death* 16m VS 4c \*\*. C.Moody, C.Grindley. 17th June 2007.  
The obvious fine crack in the dark central wall, tidal start. Possibly HVS 5a; the start is hard.

*Bob's First Whale* 14m Severe \*. C.Moody, C.Grindley. 17th June 2007.  
Climb the left-facing corner chimney right of the dark central wall; tidal start.

#### **FLODIGARRY:**

*The Angry Pirate* 40m Severe. I.Armstrong, S.Macdonnell. 5th May 2007.  
Climbs the wall to the left of Newspaper Taxis. Start as for Newspaper Taxis. Traverse immediately right for 3m then go directly up the face. At the very top traverse back into Newspaper Taxis as a direct finish requires some cleaning.

#### **BORNESKETAIG:**

*Skull and Jawbone* 20m HVS 5a. C.Moody, C.Grindley, M.MacLeod. 3rd November 2007.  
Go down the 'easy descent' and head east towards the Mitre. The first feature of any size is a west facing wall with two crack-lines leading to a neck between two fingers of rock. A long sling was placed round the southern finger before climbing for a belay. Climb the right-hand crack. A step left was made at the bulge high up but climbing direct would probably be the same grade. Descend down to the grassy slope on the right (facing the cliff).

The next four routes are west of the 'easy descent'. A pillar forms an impressive arch just west of the descent.

*It's a Shame* 22m VS 4b \*. C.Moody, C.Grindley. 6th October 2007.

Recessed twin cracks give fine climbing spoilt by a loose finish above. Fence belay 30m back.

*Thorn and Verucca* 22m Severe. C.Moody, C.Grindley. 6th October 2007.

Right of the previous route is a wide crack then twin cracks then an open chimney. Climb the chimney (15m left (east) of the arch facing it) then a loose finish. Fence belay 30m back.

*Earth Shower* 22m VS 4b \*. C.Moody, C.Grindley. 7th October 2007.

Climb the obvious crack round left of the arch then short twin cracks. At the top of the twin cracks move right to finish above the arch. Belay on twin stakes.

*Power to Believe* 22m E1 5b \*\*\*. C.Moody, C.Grindley, R.Hamilton. 7th October 2007.

Climb the very fine crack right of the arch, higher up it is possible to also use the crack on the side of the pillar. Pull left onto the top of the arch and finish above. Belay on twin stakes.

### **GRESHORNISH:**

*The Vibrator, West Ridge* 15m Severe. G.Reid, S.Kennedy, A.Nelson. 20th October 2007.

The west ridge was climbed on reasonably solid rock.

**Note:** The original route (The Vibrator - SMCJ 2001 p620) was repeated by the above party when significant quantities of loose rock were removed in a futile attempt to improve the solidity of the route. However, the work undertaken has resulted in a reduction of the grade from VSL (Very Severely Loose) to SL (Severely Loose). The height of the stack is unaltered.

## NORTHERN HIGHLANDS NORTH

### **BEINN DEARG, Glensquaib Cliffs:**

*First Tooth Buttress* 200m V,5. J.Edwards, J.Gordon. 12th January 2008.

A good line on turf up the buttress between Centre Party and Wee Freeze Gully. Several pitches could be run together.

1. 30m Go up to the base of a right-trending ramp.
2. 30m Climb the ramp and easier ground to below a very open bay capped by a large jutting roof.
3. 30m Climb up passing the roof on its right.
4. 40m Easier ground leads to a belay below a short steep wall.
5. 20m Climb the wall for 5m before easier ground is reached. Traverse left to the base of a gully.
6. 50m Easier ground leads to the top.

*Salsa Saga* 250m VI,6. M.Hind, G.Hughes. 12th January 2008.

Climbs the steep section of cliff between Tower of Babel and War of Attrition. Start on a large ledge at the bottom left of the lower tier of the cliff. Climb up turfy ledges on the left edge of the icy groove to reach the top of an easy snow terrace. Traverse up and left across slabs, then climb a short corner breaking the overhangs above and move up the easy terrace. Climb the obvious corner on the upper tier then quickly break left climbing a series of awkward turf ledges on the left wall of the corner, to belay on the upper left edge. Move up and right to climb a difficult crack above the corner onto a pedestal, then descend the left side onto a ledge and traverse boldly leftwards to finish up the last two pitches of Tower of Babel.

### **KEANCHULISH SEA-CLIFFS, The Otter's Holt, South-East Wall:**

This short wall serves up a number of short but exciting deep water solos, due to the off vertical nature of the wall. At high tide there is just enough water to fall into, but experience may pay dividends. Access the wall by an easy traverse from the bay on the right. Routes described from right to left.

*Kelpie* 8m DWS 5b \*\* S2. J.Lines. 12th May 2007.

The first line on the wall above deep water, take the fine dog-legged seam to a rounded finish.

*Fachan* 8m DWS 6b \*\* S2. J.Lines. 13th May 2007.

The feint sickle feature gained via a mantelshelf and a pebble, finish up some flakes. Thin and Gritstonesque!

*Hydra* 8m DWS 6a \*\* S2. J.Lines. 13th May 2007.

The sustained wall just left on micro edges is rather thought provoking.

*Barracuda* 8m DWS 5b/c \* S2. J.Lines. 12th May 2007.

A couple of good flakes just left lead to some technical climbing, before easing.

**Note:** *Jaws* (2002) can be graded DWS 4c \* S2.

*Hammerhead* 6m DWS 4b S1. J.Lines. 13th May 2007.

Climb the short overhang about 3m right of the arete.

*Shark Fin Soup* 6m DWS 5a/b \* S1. J.Lines. 13th May 2007.

The right side of the arete is short but fun.

*The Traverse* 6m (25m) DWS 4b \* S2. J.Lines. 12th May 2007.



The full traverse of the wall, then shuffle left along the break where the crag changes direction (rock underneath), to gain the south-west arete, climb this utilising the jam crack to the left.

*Nessie* 12m (30m) DWS 5b \* S1. J.Lines. 12th May 2007.

As for the traverse, but bridge across to the next buttress and climb the right side of the hanging prow via a roof and sloping finish, all above a deep well.

### **COIGACH, Red Slab:**

(NC 129 082) Alt 80m South-West facing

This is a pair of slabs right by the roadside at the foot of Cul Beag. They are composed of top quality Torridonian sandstone.

*Tadpole* 15m HVS 5a. A.Nisbet, J.R.Mackenzie. 20th July 2007.

A steep wall with good holds which forms left of the left slab. Climb up right of large blocks topped by heather to a ledge. Step left and finish equally steeply.

*Help ma Boab* 20m E2 5b \*. A.Nisbet, J.R.Mackenzie. 20th July 2007.

Climbs the left side of the front face. Start where the cliff base slants up left. Climb easily up slabby ground to where it steepens. Move up left to hollow blocks (good runners above). Move up, then reach left to the arete bounding the edge of the face. Return immediately right and move up (bold) to gain the easier upper slab. Go straight up this to finish.

**Note:** Pebbledash and Pink Panther (the existing routes on p114) are effectively the same route although starting either side of the crack (but this is easy). Pink Panther uses a runner on the right whereas Pebbledash doesn't.

*Toad Rock* 20m HVS 5a \*. J.R.Mackenzie, A.Nisbet. 20th July 2007.

Climbs the right side of the front face below and left of the projecting block (The Toad – use your imagination), starting up a narrow crack and climbing past a heather ledge to step left across the top of a large flake to below a shallow scoop; climb the bold wall to step left into the scoop and straight up the great slab to the top.

### **Bel's Crag:**

(NC 089 101) Alt 130m South facing

A sandstone crag with a distinctive curving crack partially seen from the road. Park in a large layby to the west of the crag and surmount the fence, keeping to the left of the wood to reach the rocks, some bushwacking involved but a delightful spot once there; 15mins. Quick drying but potentially midgy!

The crag reaches 20m in height, is very steep but has good flakes and cracks, usually well protected and more amenable than they look. The crag has a large cave up and left of Cave Crack, waterproof and capable of holding a large gathering. The Cave Crack area is the central mass with two smaller buttresses up left and a series of other steep buttresses to the right. The rock is sound with the odd block or flakey section.

The two smaller buttresses are separated by an easy gully. The left-hand buttress has a distinctive overhang at the start and at two-thirds height whilst the right-hand one has two crack-lines.

*Pensioner's Profit* 12m VS 4c \*. R.Brown, J.R.Mackenzie, A.Nisbet. 18th June 2007.

A nice clean line on the left-hand buttress. Surmount the lower overhang via the two cracks and climb centrally to and over an overhang.

*Peasant's Revolt* 10m HVS 5a. A.Nisbet, J.R.Mackenzie, R.Brown. 18th June 2007.

The left-hand line of flakes on the right-hand buttress which lead to a strenuous finish.

*Revoltin' Peasants* 10m VS 4c. J.R.Mackenzie, A.Nisbet, R.Brown. 18th June 2007.  
The shallow corner to the right of the flakes on the right-hand buttress.

The square-cut main crag has the eponymous Cave Crack as the most obvious feature slanting up and right with the cave reached by a scramble leftwards up a groove.

*Cave Crack* 20m HVS 5a or 5b \*\*. A.Nisbet, J.R.Mackenzie. 18th June 2007.  
Scramble up towards the cave but take the vertical short crack to below the roof. Either chimney (facing out!) between overhang and roof before revolving like a dervish or more conventionally by hand jamming strenuously to follow the slanting crack to the final bulge taken on huge jugs. Highly unusual but well protected by cams.

*Bel's Route* 20m HVS 5a \*\*. A.Nisbet, J.R.Mackenzie. 30th April 2007.  
To the right of Cave Crack is a corner and disjointed cracks higher up. An excellent route, well protected. Climb the corner to the tree; climb the crack on the left to a ledge and then climb a top crack to finish over a juggy bulge on the left in a fine position.

*The Splitter* 15m HVS 5b \*. J.R.Mackenzie, R.Brown, A.Nisbet. 18th June 2007.  
Well to the right of Bel's Route is a buttress split by a strikingly obvious thin crack. Climb the well protected crack to the top, easier than it looks.

*Lugainn's Lurgy* 12m Hard Severe 4b. A.Nisbet, J.R.Mackenzie. 18th June 2007.  
The buttress at the far east end of the crag has a pleasant shallow corner on the south face.

#### **Stac Pollaidh notes (Des Rubens):**

*Vlad the Impaler* - 4c for the first pitch (rather than 5a), so VS overall.

*Summer Isles Arete Direct* - last pitch 5a (rather than 4c), worth 2\*.

#### **Meall na Saille:**

(NC 055 135) Alt 30m South-West facing

This rocky hillside of gneiss, clearly seen from the Achiltibuie road, has a left-curving (bow shaped) line of continuous rock roughly in the centre. This gave a pleasant 60m Difficult, taking the easiest line (A.Nisbet, 4th July 2007).

#### **BEN MOR COIGACH, Cona' Mheall:**

Achininver Pinnacle is described more clearly as follows:

*Achininver Pinnacle* 150m Very Difficult \*

A pleasant ramble improving with height. Start at the square block at the base and follow the best line to below a wide crack at about half-height. Either climb this 10m pitch direct or turn it on the right and up a groove to a level blocky section. At the end of this follow a series of short grooves with an assortment of cracks to near the top where a groove right of an easy chimney and left of a harder groove leads direct to a final good pitch up a steep cracked groove.

Variation: *Penultimate Crack* 25m E1 5b \*. J.R.Mackenzie (unsec). 4th June 2007.

The fine harder right-hand groove is in fact an off-width chimney recessed into a corner above a cosy nook. Climb up to reach the nook via a turf crack, 10m. Start up on the right by a crack right of the chimney, then transfer left to the crack on its left, 15m.

**Note:** The left-hand groove was also climbed just left of the normal central one but was very dirty and awkward and not recommended.

#### **RUBHA DUNAN SEA-CLIFFS (NC 02091 06768):**

A 250m long stretch of sandstone cliffs reaching up to 15m in height of clean-cut corners and knobbly walls; the rock is red, smoother textured than Reiff and mostly solid despite some interesting convolutions in the rock. They face south, are a sun-trap and dry very quickly and have fabulous views over to Ben More Coigach, Horse Island and An Teallach southwards.

The climbing is sustained, usually adequately protected and often easier than it looks, accessible at all states of the tide unless very high.

Approach: From a large parking bay near the Woolshed beyond Achiltibuie. Follow the signposted track (past a Broch) down to the peninsula and the crags will be seen after 15mins walk following the coast. The highest section of cliff, Tumbledown Wall, is reached first from the east, bordered by a corner, Old Nest Corner, with an arch, smaller corners and walls to its right. At Tumbledown Wall's west end is the best area of cliff containing four corners, two little ones and two deep chimneys, the second (western) of which is used for descent, Descent Chimney; all and this area is called Wake Wall, hit by the Stornoway ferry's wake several times a day. Beyond Wake Wall the cliffs turn west towards a wide geo with shorter walls above a platform, Scalloped Wall, that has a slot chimney and on the other side of the geo more walls above the sea before lessening in height. Bouldering is also possible here and above another platform on the landward side of this geo. Routes are described from left to right. At low tide it is possible to gain access to the entire frontage of cliff, otherwise use Descent Chimney. 100m west of Scalloped Wall is an area of short walls and aretes, giving highball bouldering or short routes. There is a higher wall at this areas western end.

*Ping* 7m VS 4b. J.R.Mackenzie, A.Nisbet. 6th October 2007.

This is the shallow flakes and corner on the left (tidal) end of the wall, only very marginally protected.

#### **Scalloped Wall:**

This is reached at low tide via a crack or by ledges further west, and is very short (4 to 7m) but has some short routes or bouldering. A geo cuts off this cliff from Wake Wall or from the mainland continuation cliffs except at low tide. Just to the right of an overhung corner are two broken cracks with a slot chimney between them.

*No Scallops Tonight* 5m Difficult J.R.Mackenzie. 19th August 2007.

The left-hand crack.

*A Slot Above the Rest* 5m Very Difficult. J.R.Mackenzie, C.White. 19th August 2007.

The jolly slot.

*Splodge* 5m Difficult. J.R.Mackenzie. 9th August 2007.

The right-hand crack.

*Razor Clams For You* 5m VS 5a \*. C.White, J.R.Mackenzie. 19th August 2007.

The sharp little wall with the thin crack to the right.

#### **Wake Wall:**

Non-tidal save at the far west end with a good platform at its base, most easily reached by descending Descent Chimney, the second deep chimney-gully reached from the east. A fine vertical wall cut by four pronounced corners and two short ones to the left with more dubious rock left of the Descent Chimney. At low tide access is possible from the beach boulders.

*Don't Wake the Stone* 12m HVS 5a. J.R.Mackenzie, C.White. 19th August 2007.

The corrugated face at the left end of the wall has an alcove. Climb past this to a ledge, pull up via the beak step right then back left and finish next to a left-slanting break which has a hole near the top. Take care with the rock.

*Don't Wake For Me* 13m Hard Severe 4b \*. J.R.Mackenzie, E.Austin. 8th August 2007.

Start right of Don't Wake the Stone near the right end of the vertical wall. Climb the wall then continue up and left up stepped corners and a fine mantel near the top; good jug pulling lower down but the mantel is the thing!

*Descent Chimney* 15m Moderate.

The second (western) wide chimney; initially down on the right then step right into the chimney; continue down two short grooves to the platform.

*Descent Chimney Arete* 15m Difficult. J.R.Mackenzie, E.Austin. 8th August 2007.

To the right of the descent is an arete. Climb it starting from the right, passing a large thread en route and finishing up the crest and arete in an exposed position.

*Splashdown* 13m VS 4c \*. C.White, J.R.Mackenzie. 19th August 2007.

The wall to the right of the arête has a particularly fetid pool at its foot; start above the pool, gain the jug and climb the centre of the fine wall to the top; good climbing but the pool awaits.

*Fetid Pool Crack* 13m VS 4c \*. J.R.Mackenzie, C.White. 19th August 2007.

The thin crack to the right of the pool is tricky but good, followed by the easier left-slanting ramp; perhaps a little harder than Splashdown.

*It's got to be a Diff* 13m Difficult \*. J.R.Mackenzie, C.White. 19th August 2007.

The easterly companion chimney to the Descent Chimney; rather pleasant and with a chockstone too.

*Waking and Watching* 13m Very Difficult. J.R.Mackenzie, E.Austin. 8th August 2007.

The wall now turns south again with the two short corners reached first. Start up the west-facing plaques of rock before moving into the top right short corner finishing via a crack.

*Crossover* 14m VS 4b \*. C.White, J.R.Mackenzie. 19th August 2007.

The south wall has a thin layback crack near its left edge; climb this (no protection) to the halfway ledge, move left into the leftmost of the short corners and finish up this.

*Time and Tide* 12m VS 4c \*\*. J.R.Mackenzie, C.White. 19th August 2007.

The first of the four main corners. Start direct and finish by the layback crack.

*Spinal Tap* 13m VS 4b \*. JR Mackenzie (unsec). 9th August 2007.

The next shallow corner to the right of Time and Tide. Climb direct to the 'vertebrae' and climb these to gain a small ledge and the final corner, very entertaining.

*Kicking Horse* 13m E1 5b \*. A.Nisbet, J.R.Mackenzie. 6th October 2007.

The wall to the left of Wake Up! has a shallow groove high up; start on the right side of the wall and climb to below a bulging section. Step left and climb steeply to a good horizontal break near the top, then a final tricky move. High in the grade.

*Wake Up!* 13m VS 5a \*\*. J.R.Mackenzie (unsec). 9th August 2007.

The deep right-angled corner gives possibly the best climb here. Good rock, climbing and position all the way to the top.

*Wake Wall* 13m HVS 5b \*. A.Nisbet, J.R.Mackenzie. 5th October 2007.

The thin crack between Wake Up! and Lateral Thinking is not as hard as it looks.

*Lateral Thinking* 13m HVS 5a \*. C.White, J.R.Mackenzie. 19th August 2007.

The hanging cracks on the wall to the right of Wake Up are reached by a ledge; climb the crack to good flake holds higher up and the top; fine climbing, quite tricky but the name is a clue..

*Foreboding Pleasures* 13m E1 5b \*\*. J.R.Mackenzie (unsec). 19th August 2007.

The fourth and final corner, unlikely looking for the grade, is as good as Wake Up! A boldish start right of the corner leads to the edge and a step back left towards the corner. Climb the right-hand wall direct to the corner and finish up it.

Tumbledown Wall starts just right of Foreboding Pleasures and extends to the obvious right-facing corner. It is largely non-tidal save at its west end. This is the highest and smoothest section of cliff but also the most suspect. On-sighting would not be clever on the main face.

*Tumbledown Wall* 20m E1 5a/b \*. J.R.Mackenzie, A.Nisbet. 6th October 2007.

Potentially very good given a little traffic and a bold approach. The top overhanging block is exciting and solid fortunately. On the left of the wall is a cracked corner leading to the overhang; start well right of this below a shallow corner. Boulder the lower overhang or easily traverse in from the right to the corner. Traverse horizontally left to reach the cracked corner, climb this and the bulge above to the crux block and a final mantel to finish.

*Old Nest Corner* 12m VS 4c. J.R.Mackenzie, E.Austin. 9th August 2007.

The right-facing corner is dusty but will improve, giving traditional climbing all the way.

### **OLD DORNIE, MEALL DEARG, Dome Crag:**

(NB 98555 10480) Alt 110m South facing

A slabby dome of good rock giving short but pleasant routes.

*Totally Calmed Out* 15m Difficult. J.R.Mackenzie, E.Austin. 14th September 2007.

The groove on the left with a finish up right.

*Orange-ade* 15m Very Difficult \*. A.Nisbet, J.R.Mackenzie. 5th October 2007.

Start below an orange block, climb up to it, mantel it then go up a smooth slab on the right to the top; very pleasant.

*Nervous Twack* 12m Hard Severe 4b \*. I.Cattanach, B.McDougall. 28th May 2006.

The obvious crack with delicate climbing, the best route here.

*Cool for Cats* 12m Hard Severe 4c \*. A.Nisbet, J.R.Mackenzie. 5th October 2007.

Another good route up the parallel crack right of Nervous Twack, close to it but with independent climbing.

*Fill in the Blank Space* 12m Severe \*. J.R.Mackenzie, A.Nisbet. 5th October 2007.

The seemingly blank slab between routes 4 and 6; not what it seems and better for it.

*Crazy Takes Big Any Day* 10m Severe. B.McDougall, I.Cattanach. 28th May 2006.

The crack on the right of the slab that peters out but leads to good holds to the top.

### **April Fool Crag (NB 986 111):**

When looking up from the large layby at the head of the bay, there is an obvious, large hanging slab on the left side of an upper bowl. Scrapy Doo starts below and 25m to the left of this, and leads to Crimp and Chimp and subsequently Catching!

*Scrapy Doo* 8m Difficult. I.Cattanach, B.McDougall. 28th May 2006.

A scrapy pitch up a small corner following a crack system. Start 5m left of a larger corner.

### **April Fool Crag – Lower:**

A strikingly pink crag facing south-west, routes a maximum of 10m.

*Crimp and Chimp* Hard Severe 4b \*. B.McDougall, I.Cattanach. 28th May 2006.

Start just right of an obvious triangular niche, delicate climbing up spidery finger cracks to finish on good crimps.

*Avoiding the Issue* Difficult.

The left edge of the face to some loose blocks then move left to an easy finishing slab.

*Fooled Again* HVS 5a \*. J.R.Mackenzie, E.Austin. 30th April 2007.

Climb up a slanting ramp to an overhang and climb directly over this via a crack to a surprise finish.

*The Perfect Fool* E2 5c \*. J.R.Mackenzie. 30th April 2007.

Takes the thin cracks between Route 2 and April Fool. Some quite serious climbing on very small gear. Go straight up by a narrow left-facing edge to a good break and cams. Finish straight up the headwall. A bold feel to the climb.

*April Fool* Severe \*. J.R.Mackenzie. 1st April 2007.

The straight wide crack gives a nice route.

*Sudden Impulse 1* Hard Severe 4b. J.R.Mackenzie. 1st April 2007.

The left-hand and easier looking of the twin cracks.

*Sudden Impulse 2* Severe. J.R.Mackenzie. 1st April 2007.

The harder looking but easier right-hand crack.

*Fools Paradise* VS 4b/c \*\*. J.R.Mackenzie. 1st April 2007.

Climb the middle of the wall just left of a curving crack starting left of a little corner at the base.

*Straight Crack* Severe. J.R.Mackenzie. 1st April 2007.

The pleasant crack to the right.

*Finishing Touches* Severe. J.R.Mackenzie. 1st April 2007.

The short wall to the right.

### **April Fool Crag – Top:**

*Centreline* 10m Severe. J.R.Mackenzie. 1st April 2007.

Climb the centre of the wall.

*Catching!* 9m Hard Severe 4a. I.Cattanach, B.McDougall. 28th May 2006.

On the upper tier gained from Crimp and Chimp. The obvious rib come arete sprouting from the left-hand side of a small niche. Nice moves up the rib lead onto the arete (easier on the right) with some thin climbing and protection for the grade. Confidence can be gained from the soft boggy landing.

*Cattatonic* 8m Severe \*. B.McDougall, I.Cattanach. 28th May 2006.

Walk rightwards for 300m from the previous routes to reach this route, located on the right-hand end of the large upper tier basin above old peat cuttings. Delicate climbing up the main crack and breaks on the slab. Starts off steeply but eases off towards the top.

### **REIFF, Stone Pig Cliffs:**

*Taking the Abyss* 15m E3 6a \*\*. I.Taylor, T.Fryer. 1st April 2007.

Start right of Sonique in the jaws of the deep chimney. Climb steeply on good holds to the start of a thin crack. When the hand holds run out 'fall' across the chimney, then bridge to the top.

To the left of Daunts Arete at the far end of the Stone Pig Cliff is an undercut slab bounded on the left by Slabby Corner Crack (which is Easy not Moderate).

*Dauntless* 20m HVS 5b \*. J.R.Mackenzie, B.Wright. 12th June 2007.

Near the right edge of the slab the overhang is cut by an alcove. Climb through this to a difficult landing on the easier slab which is climbed direct to the top. Well protected but tricky.

### **Hidden Geo:**

This narrow geo is situated just beyond *Slabby Corner Crack* at the far end of the Stone Pig Cliffs. Either abseil in to non-tidal platforms or descend *Slabby Corner Crack* and make an easy tidal traverse around the headland into the geo and platforms below the south wall. The south wall is of steep immaculate black sandstone whilst the easier angled north wall is of sound pink sandstone.

### **Hidden Geo, South Wall:**

Above the platform is a black recess between the headland section and the rest of the crag.

*The Glorious 12<sup>th</sup>* 15m Severe \*. J.R.Mackenzie, B.Wright. 12th June 2007.

Left of the recess is a shallow corner. Climb the corner to a headwall; step up left onto a ramp to finish. The original route (J.R.Mackenzie 11th June 2007) moves right from the headwall to finish up a groove at overall V.Diff standard. Both ways enjoyable.

*The Stoater* 20m HVS 4c \*\*. J.R.Mackenzie, B.Wright. 12th June 2007.

Climbs the buttress with a capping hood-like roof to the left. Thinly protected and thus serious. Start at the lowest ledge and take an open corner to a leftwards mantel onto a ledge which is the second break. Traverse up and right to below the hood and climb its right edge via thin moves, crux, and more easily to finish. A very good route.

*The Stonker* 22m E1 5b \*\*\*. J.R.Mackenzie, B.Wright. 12th June 2007.

Takes the semi-hidden corner to the left of *The Stoater*. Climb the *Stoater* to the mantelshelf ledge and traverse left into the corner. Climb the excellent corner with adequate protection over two cruxes to the top.

*The Stonker Direct* 20m E3 5c/6a \*\*\*. J.R.Mackenzie, A.Nisbet. 4th July 2007.

A low tide alternative starting off the pointed boulder. Move up from the boulder then step left and go up the corner. This gives a sustained and excellent route; the lower third significantly harder than the rest.

### **Hidden Geo, North Wall:**

The north wall of Hidden Geo is part of a peninsula. To reach it descend a groove on the seaward end and make a step left (facing out) onto slabs to avoid the lower groove; it is now easy to descend to sea-level. There is an overhung alcove just beyond the step left and an overhanging headwall above the slabs split by two corners further on. Descend the slabs to a ledge above the sea. Appearances are deceptive from below.

*Puzzle Me Quick* 20m VS 5a \*. J.R.Mackenzie, J.M.E.Austin. 19th June 2007.

The easy slabs lead to an unusual overhanging corner.

*Start, Stop* 20m VS 5a. J.R.Mackenzie, R.Brown, J.M.E.Austin. 19th June 2007.

Between the two corners the headwall has a small overhang. Climb the slabs and surmount the overhang centrally. Good climbing.

*Chimera Groove* 20m Mild VS 4b/c \*. J.R.Mackenzie, R.Brown, J.M.E.Austin. 19th June 2007.

Climb the right-trending groove in the easy slab to the rightmost corner which curves back left giving pleasant delicate climbing. The best of the three.

*Recess Slabs* 25m Moderate to Difficult \*. J.R.Mackenzie. 22nd June 2007.

The back wall slabs. Climb direct via the back wall, a good Difficult or if taken by the easiest possible line, an equally good Moderate.

### **Long Geo, South Wall:**

This is the long geo just north of Hidden Geo, with a small beach at the north-east end. To reach the south wall descend the groove as for Hidden Geo North Wall but traverse easy ledges around the headland to platforms on the south side of Long Geo. At the far left-hand end of this wall (looking in) is a chimney.

*Sea Pink Arete* 25m Difficult. J.R.Mackenzie. 12th June 2007.

Climb the left arete of the chimney to a grass ledge. Climb the avoidable steep wall above (Very Difficult).

*Flowery Buttress* 25m Very Difficult. J.R.Mackenzie. 22nd June 2007.

At low tide walk in from the beach to an obvious arete bordering a deep slot and cave. Climb the broad buttress on good rock to a final groove, crux, and a flowery finish on less stable rock; good in parts.

### **Long Geo, North Wall:**

Most easily reached by traversing along ledges at one-third height from the beach. The seaward half has an area of sound black rock with a prominent left-facing shallow corner and a slighter one to its left.

*Black Groove* 15m Difficult to Very Difficult. J.R.Mackenzie. 22nd June 2007.

The more prominent right-hand corner is climbed to near the top where a step right into a slender groove (Very Difficult) or wall to its right, finishes the route.

### **Mechanics Geo:**

*Spare Tyre* 10m E3 5c \*. T.Fryer, I.Taylor. 1st April 2007.

On the far right of the crag is a straight narrow groove. Starting from a rounded ledge, climb the groove. Slow to dry.

### **Seal Song Area:**

*Aoxomoxoa* 15m Severe \*. D.Preston, M.Volume. May 2007.

This left-trending crack-line is surprisingly obvious. Start left of Guttersnipe beneath a short open corner. Climb the corner and follow the crack-line, finishing right on good holds.

### **Minch Wall:**

*A near Minch Occurrence* 10m HVS 5b. A.Cashman, F.Murray. 17th August 2007.

Start at a small corner 1m right of Clam Jam (Clam Jam was thought undergraded). Climb up and slightly right to a sloping shelf, then up to a break. Finish straight up.

### **Rubha Coigeach, Golden Walls:**

*Wild Blue Rock* E2 5c. V.Scott, E.Tressider. 10th September 2007.

Takes the capped overhanging groove up the arete left of the corner of Milkshake. Start at the bottom of Goldie Horn, move up and right into the overhanging groove to below the roof. Using an obvious sidepull on the right, pull through onto the wall above (crux) and continue up the easier arete to the top. Pumpy and well protected (small cams).

### **Slab Inlet:**

*The Font Sporrán* 6m VS 4c. F.Murray, A.Cashman. 19th August 2007.



Start to the right of The Slab. Rock up onto a foothold on the lip of the undercut slab. Finish straight up.

**Achmelvich, Red Wall (NC 056 256):**

A pleasant, south facing, partially tidal, short crag just visible from the west side of Achmelvich Bay. The crag is seamed with cracks and plastered with positive, angular holds. Approach: Follow sheep paths northwards from Achmelvich Bay past the smaller sandy beach and then round the headland. Chewitt's Chimney is the obvious gash on the wall ahead. Cross the small stile above the tidal slot and continue to the top of the crag ahead. 20 mins. Descent: At either end of the crag, easier at the west end. An obvious shattered red gneiss wall tapering toward the west end. Described from right to left.

*In Remote Part* 12m Severe. J.Dyble, K.Hewitt. 19th October 2007.

To the right of the obvious chimney is the highest part of the crag. Start in the recess below the chimney and climb rightwards up the side of the flakes aiming for a short crack at top.

*Scottish Fiction* 12m Severe. J.Dyble, K.Hewitt. 16th October 2007.

Climb the arete and slab to the right of the chimney. Looks steeper and harder than Severe from the ground.

*Chewitt's Chimney* 10m Difficult. J.Dyble, K.Hewitt. 19th October 2007.

Obvious, finish direct. Entering the chimney is size dependant!

*Breabach* 10m Difficult. J.Dyble, K.Hewitt. 16th October 2007.

Climb the wall and arete to the left of the chimney.

*Tsunami* 9m Difficult. J.Dyble, K.Hewitt. 16th October 2007.

Two metres left of the previous route. Follow the angular flake in its entirety.

*Woombling Around* 9m Very Difficult. J.Dyble, K.Hewitt. 19th October 2007.

Left again is a broken crack running from bottom to top. Climb it.

*Twilight Sad* 9m Difficult. J.Dyble, K.Hewitt. 19th October 2007.

One metre left again is a bigger crack. Follow it direct.

*Sula* 8m Difficult. J.Dyble. 19th October 2007.

To the right of the grey rock patch is a short wall. Climb it on positive holds.

*Bassana* 8m Very Difficult. J.Dyble. 19th October 2007.

To the left of the grey rock is a right-slanting crack. Follow this then head straight up.

**OLD MAN OF STOER:**

**Note:** D.Cronshaw & D.Ryden had previously climbed Diamond Face Route on 26th September 1982, graded it E2 5b and named Ròs Dearg (only reported in a climbing magazine).

**CONIVAL note:**

A.Brook notes an ascent of the South Ridge of Conival in the winter of 1968, along with D.Brook, D.Leonard & D.Weston. The route is mentioned on page 229 of Northern Highlands North (called South-East Ridge) but is worthy of a full description.

**BEINN AN FHURAIN, Traligill Crag (NC 295 211):**

Approach: Follow the path up the side of Traligill River to Conival and Ben More Assynt, heading up for the bealach between Conival and Beinn an Fhurain. The crag is visible on the left, 1hr 30mins.

The crag is a Quartzite escarpment, with the right side showing 40m groove lines and a steep right side wall with a descent gully at the far right. The central section is made of a steep initial wall with a slab in the centre and broken walls above. The crag breaks away left into 10m walls.

*Father's Day Disaster* 45m Severe. G.Jones, M.Collins. 17th June 2007.

Start at the left end of the central section on the left edge of a heather ledge. Climb a wall 5m right of a crack and move up left under an overhang. Gain the crack and climb to top walls, moving right.

*Justified and Ancient* 30m Hard Severe. M.Collins, G.Jones. 17th June 2007.

Start at the toe of the buttress before the descent gully. Make for an obvious groove line above passing a large leaning pillar on the left.

*Smooth Coated Milligan* 20m VS 4b. G.Jones, M.Collins. 17th June 2007.

An obvious striking crack on the descent gully wall. Climb the crack and move left at the top.

### **BEINN AN FHURAIN, Summit Crag:**

(NC 304 215) Alt 800m South facing

From the Beinn an Fhurain to Conival col, approach to within a few metres of the summit of Beinn an Fhurain. The crag is just below the summit. Drop down a quartz boulder filled gully, crossing the remains of a wall, to access the crag. Excellent quartzite climbing.

*Chopping Block Corner* 40m Difficult \*\*. D.Broadhead, D.Rubens. 14th April 2007.

The huge corner near the upper end of the crag, Bear left higher up to maintain interest.

*Sunblock Slab* 40m Very Difficult. D.Broadhead, D.Rubens. 14th April 2007.

About 10m below Chopping Block Corner is a corner. Start in the line of the corner, then avoid loose overhangs above by bearing right. Scrappy.

*Blockbuster* 40m HVS 5a \*\*. D.Broadhead, D.Rubens. 14th April 2007.

About 40m below the Curving Corner, start at another corner. Climb the corner until it trends into a slight ramp, terminating at a small spike. Go up right for 2m via an undercut hold, then up to a crack-line (slightly suspect) to finish.

*New Kids on the Block* 40m VS 4c \*\*. D.Broadhead, D.Rubens. 14th April 2007.

The cleanest part of the crag terminates 50m below the Curving Corner. Beyond the arete forming the right end of the crag, the rock becomes more shattered. The route follows the line of a small corner on the arete formed by the right edge of the clean area of rock. Start 1m left of the right end of the crag. Climb a thin crack to a ledge (5m) then follow line of the shallow corner and the arete.

### **TARBET SEA CLIFFS, Geo an Amair (SMCJ 2006):**

**Note from S.Charlton:** This is the same crag as The Grey Slabs (p244 in Northern Highlands North). The Upper Tier of the Red Wall is the same as Dog Crag. The route Loan Shark is the same as Midsummer Madness. The Long Road to Nowhere appears to be a combination of Prawn Stars, Prawnography and Creelman. The route Sundance Kid is the same as Ben Boy.

### **Dolphin Crag:**

*Out of the Blue* 27m HVS 5a \*. S.Kennedy, R.Hamilton. 9th June 2007.

The back wall of the geo comprises a steep lower wall, a slabby central section and a steep upper wall containing a right-facing corner. Abseil approach down the corner right (east) of

Inshallah, then traverse right onto the wall. Start in a groove just left of the leftmost of two prominent fins of rock. Climb the groove and a vague line of ramps out leftwards in an exposed position. Move right under a bulge onto a slab, then directly up to the central slabs. Finish up the right-facing corner.

*Black and Tan* 30m VS 4c \*\*. R.Hamilton, S.Kennedy. 9th June 2007.

Takes a line between Meal for a Seal and Sneak Preview. Start up the slab just left of the foot of Meal for a Seal and negotiate the lower overlap a metre or so from its right end. Move up leftwards to a thin left-slanting seam running up a black slab. Climb the seam and upper slab fairly directly to the top.

*Misty Arete* 25m Very Difficult. S.Kennedy, R.Hamilton. 9th June 2007.

The rounded arete at the left end of the slab left of Solitary Man.

### **SHEIGRA, First Geo, South Side Inner Wall:**

*Frigging the Flake* 25m E3/4 6a. T.Fryer, I.Taylor. 11th August 2007.

Climbs the hanging corner right of Daylight at Midnight, using a suspect-looking flake. Finish leftwards up slabs and a short steep corner.

### **Treasure Island Wall:**

X 40m E5 6a. S.Crowe, K.Magog (both led). 17th June 2007.

Left of Designed by the Flawed. Climb the prominent groove to a small overlap and good protection. Pull slightly left and climb boldly to the top. Care needed with some of the holds as this area is often damp.

### **CAPE WRATH CRAGS:**

**Note:** F.Cannings climbed the stacks of A' Chailleach and Am Bodach solo in August 1973 (Northern Highlands North has them as 1989).

### **WHITEN HEAD, Mainland Cliff:**

**Note:** The bottom section of Mosscheeper has fallen down since the first ascent. It was climbed again by R.I.Jones & N.Wilson. The grade and description remain unchanged.

*Shuffle Finish to Eskimo Shuffle* HVS 5a. R.I.Jones, N.Wilson. 31st March 2007.

After the overlap traverse out leftwards and climb the wall to the left direct.

### **WHITEN HEAD NORTH COAST STACKS:**

Approach: Park at Achiniver and follow the track west through a farmyard and up a hill until it ends and continue across moorland to the headland just east of Geodha Brat (40mins) for the descent to Geodha Brat – East Stack (40mins). A burn is a further 5mins to the west (access for Geodha Brat – West Stack) and Rubha Thormaid is a further 10mins to the west where another burn cascades into the sea.

### **Geodha Brat Stacks, West Stack:**

(NC 550 676) Tidal

This prominent 30m stack is easily seen to the north of the bay. Access is gained by scabbling down the gully 50m to the north of the burn and then 400m along the coast from mid to low tide. The stacks passed on the way are in a dangerous state of collapse. Abseil descent from an in-situ stake.

*A' Bòcan* 35m HVS 4c \*. R.I.Jones, N.Wilson, S.Nadin. 1st April 2007.

Climbs the south-east face. Start at the right of a small overhang. Pull through this on the right and traverse up and left onto the arete. Climb the final short wall by a steep right-slanting groove to the top.

**East Stack (NC 554 671):**

The 25m stack can be seen from the headland east of Geodha Brat. Access is gained by a 100m abseil down the cliff above the stack from a rock thread and stakes (not in-situ) followed by a further 60m abseil from blocks. The stack is gained by a 15m swim to a large platform on the south-west side. Descent is from a thread below the summit.

*A' Càmhhal* 28m HVS. R.I.Jones, J.H.Stocks. 18th September 2006.

1. 12m 3b. From the platform climb cracks to a sloping platform. Traverse this to below the east wall of the stack.
2. 10m 5a Climb the hanging exfoliated wall, pulling through on to a ledge on the left.
3. 6m 3b Climb the easy ramp to the top.

**Stac Thormaid (NC 548 678) Tidal:**

This is a fine looking 35m stack that deserves more ascents based on its easy access, situation and climbing. The stack has remained unreported. M.Tighe made an ascent with a party on 20th May 1993 by the landward arete (Original Route). This was assumed to be a second ascent as halfway up, a wooden wedge with a small hemp rope tie was found.

Approach: Park at Achiniver and follow a track west through a farm yard and up the hill until it ends. Continue across moor to where the burn cascades into the sea at Rubha Thormaid (1hr). The stack can be seen to the east. Access is gained up an easy scramble to the bay and wading across ledges 1.5 hours either side of low tide.

*Original Route* 40m Hard Severe 4b \*\*.

A fine route that takes the landward arete. From the base climb to a ledge and then up to a steep wall. Step left around the arete and climb a wall for 2m, then the arete to the top.

*Rùn-dìomhair* 40m HVS 4c. R.I.Jones, R.Reginski. 22nd April 2006.

Start at the chimney to the left of the seaward face. Climb the wall above for 3m before making bold moves right and upwards to sidestep an overhanging wall. Pull through blocks to a large ledge and an easy scramble to the summit.

**MELVICH, Lady Bighouse Rock (NC 909 657):**

This is a fine 25m stack that is precariously perched on the edge of a sloping ramp.

Approach: Park at the farmhouse (NC 894 649) east of Bighouse from where it is a 20 to 25mins walk. A 20m abseil from a large block overlooking the stack into the sea followed by a 15m swim. Return by tyrolean or swim.

*When the Big Lady Sings* 20m HVS 4c. R.I.Jones, M.Dent. 6th May 2006.

Climb the corner on the east face before traversing up and leftward to pull through onto a large ledge on the landward (south) face and then easy to the top.

*Unnamed Stack* Severe. S.Sustad, M.Fowler. 30th June 2006.

Walk out to the coast via a track which starts between the main road signs indicating the Sutherland/ Caithness border. This is a couple of miles east of Melvich. On reaching the coast the stack is soon apparent. It is about 1km east of Little Bighouse Stack. Abseil and swim to the stack. The climb takes the easiest route just to the right of a deep green corner on the seaward end of the north face.

1. 10m Climb up easily to beneath a large overhang.
2. 12m Traverse left and up to finish just right of the green corner.

**RED POINT:**

See Northern Highlands North p345. The routes are described from left to right.

*Fast Reactor* 10m Very Difficult. M.Dent, R.I.Jones. 7th May 2006.

Abseil to a platform below an overhang at the left end of the wall and which looks over a narrow slot. Climb the wall, then up and right of the overhang to the top.

*£2 Million Fine* 10m Hard Severe 4b. R.I.Jones, M.Dent. 7th May 2006.

The prominent V-groove accessible at low tide from the platform beneath the north wall.

A crack-line up the middle of the wall was assumed to have been climbed before (10m Severe).

*Second Day Resolution* 10m VS 4c. R.I.Jones, M.Dent. 2 January 2006.

Start from the bottom of the right-facing groove and pull onto the wall on the left and climb direct.

The right-facing groove/corner was assumed to have been climbed before (10m Severe \*).

The next routes are on a small headland immediately right which is separated by a deep narrow slot. Routes on the east wall can be accessed by abseil or stepping across the slot towards the right end from the platform.

*The Cornered Yorkshireman* 15m Severe. M.Dent, R.I.Jones. 7th May 2006.

From the left end of the ledge, climb the corner and groove above.

*Orphan* 15m HVS 5a \* (1999) - Grade and quality confirmed.

*Spikey* 15m Hard Severe 4b \*. J.Sanders, R.I.Jones. 29th October 2006.

Climb the wall 3m right of the corner to a break. Step left and pull up onto the hanging wall and take the groove above.

*Illegal Dumping* 15m HVS 4c. R.I.Jones, J.Sanders. 29th October 2006.

Climb the wall 2m right of Spikey, just left of the niche and left of the blunt arete to the left of the black wall. Sparse gear.

*Cornwall Crack* 15m HVS 5a \*\* (1999) was thought to be VS 4c, no stars.

*Chain Reaction* 15m E1 5a \*. R.I.Jones, J.Sanders. 29th October 2006.

Climbs the right side of the black concave wall direct. After bold moves up the slightly overhanging wall, pull through onto the wall which is climbed directly.

*Fusion* 15m HVS 5a \*\*. R.I.Jones, M.Dent. 7th May 2006.

From the right end of the wall traverse around the arete and belay beneath the wall of the arete. Climb the wall to mid-height, then the wall left of the arete stepping back on the arete in the final moves.

The next existing routes are accessible by abseiling down the west facing wall.

*Chiabop* 15m HVS 5a \* (1999) - (Grade and quality confirmed).

*Chiasmus* 15m VS 4c \* (1999) - (This route is worth a star).

Right of Chiasmus is an easy ramp. The next two routes take the north facing undercut wall to the right.

*£140,000 Fine* 15m Severe. J.Sanders, R.I.Jones. 13th July 2007.

Start at the bottom of the ramp and climb the corner groove.

*Corporate Negligence* 20m E2 5c \*\*. R.I.Jones, J.Sanders. 13th July 2007.

Climb up 3m and traverse out across the bottom of the wall for 4m. Climb the crack to a ledge. Step right and climb the wall above pulling up and left to a break, then direct to the top.

**CAITHNESS, SARCLET, Big Buttress:**

*The Flow* 25m E2 5b \*. R.I.Jones, C.Las Heras. 19th August 2007.

Climb the wall on small cracks immediately right of Groove Armada direct and left of centre. Climb the wall direct to a small lip at 10m. Balance through this to a pocket jug and continue up to finish as for Groove Armada as it exits right. Moving out onto the centre of the wall below the lip provides easier climbing and reduces the grade.

**Notes:** R.I.Jones also thinks Sarclet Pimpernel deserves 4 stars (see SMCJ 2006) but only HVS 5a (A.Nisbet agrees with E1 5a). Groove Armada at VS 4c seems unanimous.

**Second Bay:**

*Let them Eat Jelly Beans* 20m Severe. J.Sanders, R.I.Jones. 13th July 2007.

Start up the left-facing corner 4m left of Rinse and Repeat. Climb the corner and the wall and corner above.

**Note:** *Rinse and Repeat* (VS 4c) was good. Definitely 2 stars, not necessarily 3.

**Cave Bay Area:**

*Roof and Ready* 20m VS 4c. J.Lyall, A.Nisbet. 19th September 2007.

Right of Occum's Razor is a recessed corner, then another steep buttress. Right of this, on the seaward face is the next recess, with a wide crack on its left side leading to a roof. Climb the crack, step left to pass the roof and back right above to finish steeply.

*Sparklet* 15m Very Difficult. A.Nisbet. 19th September 2007.

The next recess to the right forms this corner.

*Ruff Arete* 15m Severe 4a. J.Lyall. 19th September 2007.

The right arete of the above corner.

**MID CLYTH, Mid Clyth Stack:**

*Pulsating Toe Climb* 18m E2 5c. S.Sustad, M.Fowler (alt). 1st July 2006.

Takes the obvious crack on the north side of the stack. The shortest climb in the world with three pitches? Start at the platform at the north end.

1. 6m 4a Climb to a ledge.
2. 6m 5b Trend right up through shale overhangs to gain a projecting ledge on the north face.
3. 6m 5c Go up a crack to the top.

**OCCUMSTER, Occumster Stack (ND 263 352):**

Park at Occumster (ND 265 354), as for the Occumster sea-cliffs, and head west across the field to the bay. Access to this stack can be gained at low tide. A scramble takes you to the summit of this rib of rock.

**Roy Geo West Stacks:**

Approach: Park by the houses at Clyth (ND 273 362). Roy Geo is a 500m walk to the south-south-west. There are five stacks west of Roy Geo, three on a platform accessible by abseil and a boulder hop at mid to low tide. Island Stack, a steep sided island permanently surrounded by the sea and South Stack, a finger of rock to the south of Island Stack require a swim or boat. Descent by simultaneous abseil unless stated.

**West Stack:**

*Flame on the Horizon* 25m VS 4c. R.I.Jones, A.Porter. 24th March 2007.

Climb the up the centre to the south face into a wide groove. Pull out right onto a terrace and easier ground.

**Centre Stack:**

*Uncertain Entertainment* 15m HVS 4c. A.Porter, R.I.Jones. 24th March 2007.

Climbs the wall below the central groove on the south face. The cracked groove is somewhat precarious. Layback this and pull on to a ledge on the right and the safety of the summit.

The North-West face/arete (very loose) was climbed and descended by S.Sutherland & H.Miller in the early 70s.

**East Stack:**

*In the Company of Rigs* 15m VS 4b. R.I.Jones, A.Porter. 24th March 2007.

Climb the wall and a difficult pull into the left of two groove/corners to the top.

The west arete (loose) was climbed and descended by S.Sutherland and H.Miller in the early 70s.

**Roy Geo East Stack (ND 276 355):**

This was previously referred to as Occumster Stack. An amended name and grid reference; the route description in Scottish Rock Climbs remains unchanged.

**ORKNEY, YESNABY, False Stack Area**

*Benton 747* 20m E2 5c \*. R.I.Jones, M.R.Porter, M.J.Porter. 22nd June 2007.

Climb the open book corner left of Variety Show and pull into the hanging groove above. Finish by traversing into the final moves of Variety Show to avoid the loose direct finish.

*Double Act* 20m HVS 5a. R.I.Jones, R.Benton. 21st June 2007.

Climb the overhang and wall above right of Variety Show.

**HOY, Broughs of the Berry (ND 245 895), North Brough:**

*Dislocation Crack* 15m HVS 5a \*. R.I.Jones, M.R.Porter. 23rd June 2007.

The overhanging crack on the north wall of the small inlet on the seaward side.

**South Brough:**

*Little Pinky* 15m VS 4b. M.R.Porter, R.I.Jones. 23rd June 2007.

Poor climbing up the central wall of the landward face.

**The Berry:**

Walk north for 100m from the top of Beriberi to a deep parallel sided gully that goes down to sea-level – the Goody Gash. The crack starts at about half-height and is unmistakable on the right wall. Abseil a step and then descend the gully to a ledge line on the right-hand side (looking out), 50m above sea level.

*Black Crack* 170m XS. M.Fowler, S.Sustad (alt). 27th June 2006.

1. 30m Traverse the ledge easily to belay at the foot of obvious loose corners.
2. 25m 4b Climb the two loose corners and move left to belay on a large ledge.
3. 25m 5c Climb a greasy overhanging wall (2PR) to a horizontal break. Traverse left until a right-trending line leads up right to a fine stance.
4. 10m 5a Continue up the groove to a good ledge at the start of the crack.
5. 20m 5b Up the crack passing an interestingly poised block with care.
6. 35m 5b Continue up the crack to where it widens into a chimney.
7. 25m 5b Climb the back wall of the chimney passing the capping overhang on the right.

**EAST HOY, Scapa Flow:**

Marked on the OS Map as such, this looks like a possible sea-stack when viewed from the road south of Moeness. In fact it is a grass topped pinnacle standing above a beach. The

summit is easily reached from the landward side. This route takes the arete facing Moeness. Start at the toe of the buttress reached by descending a gully on the north side of the candle.

*Candle of the Sale* 30m E2 5c. S.Sustad, M.Fowler (alt). 28th June 2006.

1. 20m 5c Deceptively difficult grooves lead to an unhelpful crack and a stance where the rock becomes lighter.
2. 10m 5a Climb the wall above via cracks, first slightly right, then slightly left.

### **SHETLAND, ESHANESS:**

*Abbing A Fence* 40m HVS 5a. R.I.Jones, P.Sawford. 30th May 2007.

The often damp chimney between Anguiral and Not Necessarily Stoned. Start from ledges by the sea. Pull out of the chimney early to avoid a horrible thrutch.

*Hanging Arete* 20m VS 4c \*. P.Whitworth, R.I.Jones. 31st May 2007.

The hanging arete left of Solan.

*Angrist* 40m E1 5a. R.I.Jones, P.Whitworth. 31st May 2007.

From the belay for Achilles Last Stand, pull out left and climb the wall direct.

Right of Achilles Last Stand is a wall with two lines. Belay on a small ledge at the bottom right of the wall.

*Narsil* 40m E2 5b \*\*. R.I.Jones, P.Whitworth. 1st June 2007.

Traverse out left and climb the left-hand wall direct. Fine, bold climbing with good rock but limited gear.

*Gurthang* 40m E3 5b. R.I.Jones, P.Whitworth. 31st May 2007.

From the belay climb direct for 4m and pull up onto a ledge just right of the arete. Pull out left onto the wall and climb direct to the top. Good rock at the bottom with minimal gear. Rock deteriorates towards the top.

Further south:

*Not so Perfect Arete* 45m E1 5a. R.I.Jones, P.Whitworth. 31st May 2007.

From the belay for Perfect Groove climb the wall just right of the arete.

*Sirens of Calder* 45m E2 5b \*\*. R.I.Jones, P.Whitworth. 1st June 2007.

The wall right of Perfect Groove. Bold climbing on superb rock.

*Imperfect Crack* 45m VS 4c \*. R.I.Jones, P.Whitworth. 31st May 2007.

Belay on the large ledge to the right of the wall. Climb the crack up the centre of the wall right of Sirens. Fine climbing spoilt by deteriorating rock for the last 8m.

*Framgord* 45m E1 5a \*. R.I.Jones, P.Whitworth. 31st May 2007.

The wall left of Near Perfect Arete and right of Imperfect Crack.

*The Darkness of my Mind* 40m HVS 4c. R.I.Jones, P.Whitworth. 2nd June 2007.

Right of Bubblebox is rib beneath a hanging corner. Climb the rib to the overhang and pull out left onto wall right of Bubblebox and climb to the top.

*Shetland Girls* 35m HVS 4c. D.Rayner, A.Cheetham. 17th August 2007.

Climb the arete below and left of Tirricks, traverse left under a roof at half-height and climb a crack to the top.

*Mustn't Crumble* 20m VS 4a. R.I.Jones, P.Whitworth. 2nd June 2007.

A shockingly poor route on poor rock and rubbish protection up the arete to the right of Watching Whales.



**Note:** Perfect Groove thought high in the grade VS 4c not HVS 5a.

**THE FAITHER, North Wall:**

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

*The Harbinger* 30m VS 4c \*. A.Whitworth, P.Whitworth, R.I.Jones. 27th May 2007.  
The crack-line and corner above the ledge.

*The Necromancer* 30m E1 5b \*\*. R.I.Jones, A.Whitworth, P.Whitworth. 27th May 2007.  
Pull up left from the ledge onto the wall and climb straight up. Crux is the final smooth section of wall near the top.

**Prophecy Wall:**

*The Augurist* 40m E1 5a \*\*\*. R.I.Jones, P.Whitworth. 27th May 2007

Follow the Faither Prophecy until the pull right into the slanting crack-line. Instead climb the wall direct for 3m and pull up left and climb the wall above into a left-facing corner. At the roof pull out right onto an arete and a fine finish.

**Note:** The Faither Prophecy was repeated by R.I.Jones and A.Whitworth and regraded E1 5a (not 5b). The first pitch is 30m and total length 50m. The Oracle is 45m not 50m.

**FOGLA TAING:**

(HU 415 169) Non-tidal South and East facing

This crag offers great climbing on hard and solid sandstone.

Approach: Park at Troswickness (HU 409 172) and head 600m south-west to the crag. Abseil to ledges.

**Fogla Taing, Main Wall Area:**

Left of the main wall is a left-facing corner and a smaller wall.

*Kalessin* 25m HVS 5a \*\*. R.I.Jones, P.Whitworth. 26th May 2007.  
A fine climb up the corner and layback crack above.

At the right side of the main wall corner capped by an overhang.

*Ancalagon of Morgoth* 30m E3 \*. R.I.Jones, P.Whitworth. 28th May 2007.

The grade is for the top pitch.

1. 15m 5c Climb the corner to the hanging roof and traverse left 3m and pull out onto a ledge.
2. 15m 5b From the left end of the ledge step up and leftwards. Bold and unprotected climbing gains a hanging crack/corner. Climb this and the corner above.

*Yevaud* 30m E2 5c \*. R.I.Jones, A.Whitworth, P.Whitworth. 26th May 2007.

Climb the centre of the right wall just left of an incut groove/chimney to a break. Climb the crack above pulling onto a small ledge (crux). Step right and climb up to a shelf. Climb the short wall above and the corner, pulling left to finish. A Camelot 5 or 6 is essential to use in the break otherwise the grade will be E3.

South of the main wall is a small geo, then an undercut hanging wall. The next route is the corner-groove 5m south of the hanging wall. Abseil to a ledge just right of the corner-groove.

*Glaurung* 25m E2 5b \*\*. R.I.Jones, P.Whitworth. 28th May 2007.

Make a poorly protected 3m traverse left from the ledge to the bottom of the groove. Climb the fine groove to a ledge at half height and a layback crack to the top.

*Puff The ...* 30m VS 4c. P.Sawford, J.Maguire. 28th May 2007.

Climb the left of two shallow corners 10m further south. Good rock at the bottom which deteriorates with height.

South of this corner is a large tidal ledge and east facing wall before the bay of Fogla Taing.

### **UNST, Skaw Point:**

All of the routes in this area are bird free. The venue has a good number of low grade climbs with plenty of gear, though not as many as the guide suggests.

### **The Pinnacle, East Face:**

*Croft My Ride* 15m E2 5c \*\*. R.I.Jones, P.Sawford. 29th May 2007.

Climbs the thin crack-line right of slanting crack-line of Half Face (1996) to a sloping crimp (crux) just below the top.

*Full Fare* 15m Hard Severe 4b \*\*. R.I.Jones (solo) 29th May 2007.

The crack-line up the centre of the face.

*The Conductor* 15m Severe 4a. R.I.Jones (solo) 29th May 2007.

The crack-line to the right

*The Inspector* 12m Severe 4a. R.I.Jones (solo) 29th May 2007.

The right trending crack-line from the bottom of The Conductor.

### **The Pinnacle, West Face:**

*First Stop* 20m Difficult. R.I.Jones. 29th May 2007.

Just left of the arete of Back Seat. Crux at the top.

### **Main Wall:**

*Skaw Crack* 16m Hard Severe. P.Sawford, S.Broadhurst. 21st April 2006.

The crack between Mr Bounce and Park and Ride.

**Note:** *Top Deck* is Very Difficult not Severe.

*Back Seat* and *Last Stop* are both worth a star.

### **Crofter Slab:**

80m north of the main wall is a clean 5m wide undercut north facing black slab and provides three good routes.

*Dreaming of Cold Pigs* 12m E1 5b. R.I.Jones, P.Sawford. 29th May 2007.

Start at a notch and climb the left side of the wall and left thin crack-line above.

*Rufus* 12m E1 5b. P.Sawford, R.I.Jones. 29th May 2007.

From the notch climb the right side of the wall and the right thin crack-line above.

*The Crofter* 12m Hard Severe 4a. R.I.Jones, P.Sawford. 29th May 2007.

Pull onto the arete from the right and climb this to the top.

### **GRIND OF THE NAVIR, Crystallocean Wall:**

*The Scientist* 10m Severe \*\*. A.Ratter, P.Whitworth. 2003.

The fine crack on the wall to the south of the tidal pool.

*Whittslab* 12m HVS 5a \*. P.Whitworth, P.Sawford. 2005.  
Left-trending tracks and the slab above left of Pea Groove.

*Pea Groove* 10m VS 4c. P.Sawford, P.Whitworth. 2005.  
The short groove and arete left of Spray.

*Squibs* 10m Very Difficult. P.Whitworth. 2003.  
The easy angled slab and corner right of the niche of Grindstone.

#### **North Wall:**

*The Subterranean* 15m Severe. P.Sawford, P.Whitworth. 2006.  
The large crack above the cave.

#### **North Nose:**

*Little Secret* 15m Hard Severe 4b \*\*. P.Whitworth, P.Sawford. 2006.  
Start from the left of the ledge and climb the slabby corner which is right of The Subterranean.

*Back Burner* 15m VS 4c. A.Whitworth, P.Whitworth. 8th June 2007.  
Start left of Barnicle Bill up the blocky corner, crossing the route at two-thirds height and continuing up the headwall above.

*Gully Slab Crack* 15m HVS 5a \*. P.Sawford, J.Posnett. 2004.  
The thin crack on the slab right of Piltock.

#### **South Nose:**

*Minus Lab* 6m HVS 5a. P.Whitworth. 2006.  
The delicate slab left of Darklands.

*Lark Sands* 10m VS 4c \*. P.Whitworth, A.Whitworth. 2004.  
Start as for Darklands but instead of stepping into the niche continue up the headwall.

*Two Tone* 15m HVS 5a \*. P.Whitworth, A.Whitworth. 8th June 2007.  
The delicate crack-line up the centre of the wall left of Ponder.

*Ponder* 15m E3 6a \*. A.Whitworth, P.Whitworth. May 2007.  
The narrow crack-line opposite Streams of Whiskey. Fiddly protection on crux.

*Sumsuch* 20m Severe. P.Whitworth. 2005.  
Right of the descent scramble and left of Briggistanes. The short corner-crack and stepped wall to the top.

**Note from A.Whitworth:** Pockets of Excellence is well protected with cams, hence regraded VS 4b from HVS.

#### **South Wing:**

*Pocket Chimney* 10m Severe \*. P.Whitworth, A.Whitworth. 2006.  
The chimney between Crabbie Crabbie and Rib Tickler. Pull round the arete to finish.

## **NORTHERN HIGHLANDS CENTRAL**

### **BONAI DHONN:**

*Anvil Buttress* 140m V,6. S.M.Richardson, R.G.Webb. 2nd February 2008.

To the right of Route 1 and Route 2 is a vegetated square-cut gully. This route takes the rounded, but well-defined buttress to its right, and is defined by a prominent anvil-shaped block visible on the skyline from the approach ledge.

1. 50m Climb vegetated grooves up the crest of the buttress to an easing.
2. 50m Continue up a slabby wall on good holds, then trend up and left to below the steep upper section of the buttress.
3. 40m Climb steep cracks on the left side of the headwall on excellent holds and continue to belay just above the 'anvil'.

### **LOCH TOLLAI DH Notes:**

Six routes have been climbed on a wall named Appendix Wall, two more routes on Grass Crag, one on Lobster Crag and one on Red Walls.

### **RUBHA MOR, Opinan Slabs:**

*Ramalina Dingdong* 15m Severe. J.Dyble, C.Hewitt. 18th February 2007.

Climb the cracked slab in the gap between A Good First and A Poor Second.

### **Mellon Udrigle, Deep Geo, Sron an Dun-Chairn:**

The following route is situated on the promontory on the west side of the geo mentioned in the guide (p154).

*Breach of Contract* 10m VS 4c \*. S.Kennedy, R.Hamilton. 28th April 2007.

Based on the left arete. Two deep clefts are situated left of The Contract. Start up the leftmost cleft and move up and left to the edge. Step left around the arete then up and back right to rejoin the arete to finish.

### **BEINN LAIR:**

*Tower Ridge* III. A.Nisbet. 22nd March 2008.

A line as near the crest as possible was taken. The final tower was summited but without a rope, a line on the west was taken to gain the summit plateau.

**Note:** Geodha Ban climbs the main gully left of North Summit Buttress, with Tower Ridge the ridge on its left, so the guide has the routes in the wrong order, plus Geodha Ban is wrongly placed on the diagram. But Geodha Ban is easy to find from the description and looks good.

*Breaking into Heaven* 400m II/III. A.Dye, S.Drummond, M.Griffin. 23rd March 2008.

The buttress left of Tower Ridge is climbed by a prominent central runnel of weakness. Start at the bottom left-hand corner of the buttress where an easy ramp leads right out onto the face. Follow the ramp until below an obvious runnel that splits the buttress. Climb the runnel line for two pitches before following a shallow gully leftwards until below a steep chimney. Go up the chimney (crux) and the easy gully above, bearing left where the gully forks below a tower. Traverse airily out along a ramp on to the front face of the tower before climbing to its summit. An exposed easy ridge leads to the top.

*Marathon Gully* 500m III. A.Nisbet. 19th April 2008.

A deep narrow twisting gully close on the right of Marathon Ridge. It held snow well in the late season. Low down, a short waterfall pitch of clean rock about Difficult was climbed in crampons because of an exit on to ice. Thereafter followed 400m of Grade II, mostly snow with three short ice pitches. At a fork near the top, the left of two possible gully finishes was taken.

**Note:** The winter ascent of Right Wing, Butterfly Buttress, as described in the new guide, was an ascent of North Summit Buttress.

#### **A' MHAIGHDEAN, Pillar Buttress:**

*The Great Game* 190m VII,7. R.G.Webb, S.M.Richardson. 19-20th January 2008.

An outstanding route in an immaculate position taking the prominent series of corners and chimneys cutting the left side of the buttress. The first pitch is probably common with Bell's summer route on the buttress, but the relationship with the other summer routes on the buttress is uncertain.

1. 30m Start left of a deep cleft (in line with the corners above) and climb up and right to join the series of chimneys.
2. 35m Follow the chimney-line over a couple of steep steps to an easing below an overhanging slot.
3. 30m Climb the slot to a good ledge below steep cracked wall.
4. 20m Ascend twin cracks (crux) and exit left to a good ledge.
5. 35m Continue up a grassy corner for 10m, step left onto the wall and climb turf to gain a short hanging chimney. Climb this, then move up and right to easier ground.
6. 40m Move and right to join the final buttress crest that leads to the summit cairn.

#### **GRUINARD CRAGS, Car Park Area:**

**Note from I.Thow:** 5 Minute Crack is harder than the other routes on Very Difficult Slab, worth Severe (although it spoils the name!). Starting up Gneiss and following the obvious crack system up left is pleasant and worth a mention (Still Gneiss, Very Difficult). The layback flake right of Black Wall Special and the groove above is Very Difficult too (Black Wall Right-Hand? All the above soloed 28th May 2007.

#### **Road Crag:**

*Weapons of Mass Distraction* 20m E2 5b \*. K.Kelly, P.Ebert. March 2007.

A natural line following the lower diagonal fault in its entirety. Start as for Mongo. Follow the diagonal fault past the steep groove. Where the crack peters out, continue in the same line up and left, crossing Raglan Road, bold. Gain the now large diagonal break once more and follow this to its end.

*Blame Canada* 18m E1 5b \*\*. P.Ebert, K.Kelly. March 2007.

Start on the far right as for Ataka. Climb the obvious left-slanting crack beneath the roof. Follow this prominent crack traversing past Trojan and gaining the crack of Raglan Road. Step up and continue leftwards following the diagonal crack. Enjoyable climbing with the crux at the end.

#### **BEINN DEARG MOR:**

*Big Wednesday* 210m VI,6 \*\*. R.Webb, P.Macpherson, G.Briffett. 26th March 2008.

Superb situations and enjoyable climbing, poorly protected in places. Start about 25m up Trident Gully (to the right of Central Buttress) at an obvious left-trending turf fault line which is 10m right of another turf ramp.

1. 30m Climb the turf fault boldly past a steepening to a turf ledge. Continue up the fault passing a niche to a large ledge.
2. 25m Climb an awkward off-width turf crack on the right to a ledge below a steep corner. Traverse/crawl left over a slab to join the main fault line again and climb direct with great moves up a left-facing corner to the crest of buttress.
3. 30m Climb fairly direct up the crest of the buttress at first trending slightly right via a groove and step, then take a left-hand steep groove with a steep pull on turf to a ledge.

4. 50m Climb up trending right and continue up a ramp. Pass a large slot with a chockstone and continue more easily.
5. and 6. 75m Continue easily up the buttress, finishing by a fine arete connecting it to the hill.

**AN TEALLACH, Corrie Hallie Crag:**

*Dispatch* 18m VS 4c. A.Nisbet, J.Preston. 11th June 2007.

A direct line right of Patch, passing through the white patch between two heather clumps at half-height and which is mentioned in the description of Piff Shlapps.

*Pensive* 20m E1 5a. J.Preston, A.Nisbet. 11th June 2007.

Climbs close to a white (when dry) water streak which runs parallel and right of Stylus. Start 3m left of Ullapool Fish Week and slant slightly right up the streak to pass through a small round depression near the top.

*Two Scoops* 18m VS 4c. A.Nisbet, J.Preston. 11th June 2007.

A parallel line right of Escoop and finishing just left of a crack feature which runs from half-height to the top.

**Note:** Escoop was thought to be HVS 5a and this route only slightly easier.

*Eave Ho* 20m HVS 5a. J.Preston, A.Nisbet. 11th June 2007.

A direct line right of the crack feature and passing through a deep horizontal crack between two large grass tufts (at half-height on the cliff). Start by a pointed boulder.

*Take the Biscuit* 15m VS 4c. A.Nisbet, J.Preston. 28th September 2007.

Climb the centre of the fractured rock right of Tiffin (not loose) past two slightly recessed horizontal cracks one foot apart at 10m.

The next two routes are in the blockier section right of Inception.

*Exception* 15m VS 4c. A.Nisbet, J.Preston. 28th September 2007.

Start 2m right of Inception, just left of a grass ledge at 1m. Climb straight up the wall keeping midway between Inception and some heather tufts to the right. Trend slightly right near the top.

*Going Green* 15m HVS 4c. J.Preston, A.Nisbet. 28th September 2007.

A clean band between the heather tufts and a green streak which emanates from a recess. Start just right of the 1m ledge. Trend right to climb just left of a green streak. Finish above the green streak.

*Silicon Daze* 18m E2 5b. J.Preston, A.Nisbet. 28th September 2007.

The wall right of the green streak. Start 4m right of the streak. Climb up to a small spike on the left. Move right with difficulty across a smooth section to better holds and a tiny left-facing corner. Go up trending slightly right and keeping left of a fainter green streak to the top.

*Moss Killer* 15m VS 4b. A.Nisbet, J.Preston. 28th September 2007.

The right end of the wall with Blankety Blank. Take a fairly direct line, passing 2m right of the mossy hole.

*Podiatry* 15m VS 4b. A.Nisbet, J.Preston. 30th September 2007.

Left of the crack of Pick the Lock and just over half-height is a shallow right-slanting pod. Take a line up to it and finish up a faint crack from its top.

*Running Deep* 20m E1 5b. J.Preston, A.Nisbet. 30th September 2007.

Start below the left end of the arch, whose centre is taken by Shallow Waters. Climb to this, then move left to a pink patch. Go back right and climb up a crack left of two overlaps. Continue direct to the top.

*Cameo* 18m HVS 5a. A.Nisbet, J.Preston. 30th September 2007.

A line through the middle of the overlap between Try Me and Ron Move Wonder. Climb straight up to a grass ledge, then the left end of a smaller rock ledge. Climb through the overlap where there are three small right-angle steps. Finish easily.

*Oakum* 15m Hard Severe 4b. J.Preston. 30th September 2007.

Climb the left end of the wall, just right of the oak in a heathery chimney.

*Blink* 15m Severe 4a. A.Nisbet, J.Preston. 30th September 2007.

A crack-line right of centre on the wall with Tricam, finishing up a short left-facing corner on the right.

Next right is a twin vegetated break, then another with a small holly at 3m.

*Holly Tree Wall* 12m HVS 4c. J.Preston, A.Nisbet. 30th September 2007.

Climb the wall just right of the holly.

*Break Even* 12m Hard Severe 4b. J.Preston, A.Nisbet. 24th October 2007.

The narrow heavily-fractured buttress right of Row yer Boat gives a good pitch on solid rock.

*Starboard* 18m VS 4c \*. J.Preston, A.Nisbet. 24th October 2007.

A direct line up the right side of the wall leads to a finish up the right crack. The left start and direct finish remains as a separate and more logical line (Port E2 5c).

The following routes are on the section 50m downhill to the right. The routes either abseiled off or finished easily on a ledge which led right (not in the length).

*Untouched* 18m VS 4c. A.Nisbet, J.Preston. 24th October 2007.

Climb the wall just right of Sleazy.

*Pineless* 20m VS 4b \*. J.Preston, A.Nisbet. 24th October 2007.

The left side of the main face. Climb past the right end of a long grass ledge at 4m. Continue up past a small overlap at two-thirds height.

*Primal* 20m VS 4c \*. A.Nisbet, J.Preston. 24th October 2007.

The first crack-line on the main face of rock. Primera is the second crack-line.

*Trimeria* 20m VS 4c \*. J.Preston, A.Nisbet. 24th October 2007.

A third but less distinct crack-line.

### **Badrallach Crag:**

*Fat at Fifty* 20m Very Difficult. J.Lyall, J.Preston. 13th April 2007.

Climbs cracks in the wall right of Fresh at Forty, finishing up the open corner.

**Note from I.Thow:** Starting up the groove on the right makes the route Moderate (28th May 2007).

*Wisecrack* 25m Hard Severe 4b. J.Lyall, J.Preston. 13th April 2007.

Climb the crack in the wall left of Fresh at Forty. At the steepening, step up and left to climb the fine flake-crack to the top

**Note:** Nimue was thought Severe (not VS 4b). I Thow agreed, but still 4b.

*Gatecrasher* 35m Hard Severe 4b. J.Lyall, J.Preston. 13th April 2007.

Bridge steeply up the obvious corner (between Nimue and Garden Party), then climb the crack in the slab above to cross Garden Party and finish up the steep crack above.

*Spurning the Invitation* 35m Difficult \*. I.Thow. 28th May 2007.

Climb the clean rib left of Garden Party, cross this at its narrows, then go up right to finish up the rib right of the slab. From the narrows one can go up left to join the top part of Lapsang Souchong, making it a good Severe.

*Pebble Dash* 35m VS 4b. J.Lyall, J.Preston. 13th April 2007.

Start up the hanging corner left of Garden Party and follow cracks to a small roof. Step left and climb a crack through the roof, then the pebbly wall above. Step right and climb the obvious crack right of the Lapsong Suchong corner to the top.

*Pillar of Anxiety* 35m VS 4b. J.Lyall, J.Preston. 13th April 2007.

The rib 30m left of Harvest Moon. Stay on the crest and finish up the right-hand rib. Eliminate but good.

*Crack 'n' Rib* 35m HVS 5a. J.Lyall, J.Preston. 13th April 2007.

Ten metres to the left is a steep crack up a wall which leads to a rib just left of the above route.

### **THE FANNAICHS, Sgurr Breac, North-East Nose:**

*The Slot* 100m II. J.R.Mackenzie, A.Nisbet. 8th April 2008.

The right end of this crag holds a deep gully which is mostly easy except for a very short final step (technical 4 on the day).

### **Sgurr Breac, North Face:**

Sgurr Breac has a large but often broken north face.

*Chill Out Chestnut* 100m II. J.R.Mackenzie, A.Nisbet. 8th April 2008.

Low down in the centre of the face are two buttresses separated by a gully. The right buttress is short and steep; the left is climbed by this route (NH 15631 71351; alt 723m). Difficulties are turned on the left otherwise climb the crest to open slopes.

*Cool Down Coconut* 150m II \*. J.R.Mackenzie, A.Nisbet. 8th April 2008.

A left traverse from the top of Chill Out Chestnut leads to another two buttresses, the right with a roofed base. This gully between them is well defined and had two ice pitches. Above the gully, long open slopes lead to a point about halfway between the two summits of Sgurr Breac.

*Misty Mountain High* 300m II/III \*\*. E.Austin, J.R.Mackenzie. 11th April 2008.

Near the right side of the face is a narrow straight gully well seen from the main road (NH 15425 71325, alt 720m). Grade III on this occasion but will vary. The gully base lies at 720m and is in condition quite often. A short introductory ice pitch, then snow to an exit of 20-25m ice. Mixed ground was followed up left to a steep headwall and cornice.

### **STRATHCONON, Creag Ghlas:**



*Ugly Sisters* 45m E3 5c. M.Hind, D.Moy. 5th May 2007.

An intricate and delicate wander up the slab left of Glass Slipper.

1. 10m Climb the first pitch of Glass Slipper but belay at a big block on the left.
2. 35m Step off the block into a crack. Move right and up to another thin crack left of Glass Slipper's overlapped corner. Continue up and left to the left side of two small overlaps. Traverse right below the overlap and up some thin moves to flake holds and runners. Continue up and left to a poor RP 4, then climb boldly up blind cracks and slopy holds on the right to reach the top of the slab just below the wide crack of Glass Slipper (abseil tat above).

### **Allt Gleadhraich:**

*Klinton Wall* 40m IV,V. M.Hind, R.McHardy, P.Mayhew. 11th January 1997.

A steep ice wall left of Allt Gleadhraich at NH 274 511. It shows up well on the Explorer Map. The party continued up a the side tributary and climbed another Grade II pitch.

### **STRATHFARRAR, Sgurr na Fearstaig, South Top, East Face:**

*White Wizard* 100m Severe. J.R.Mackenzie, A.Nisbet. 15th July 2006.

Takes the right edge of the big slabby wall right of The Sorcerer. Start at the foot of Rising Damp and climb left over the blocky edge, then follow it to reach the base of the slabby wall (40m). Continue left of the edge over a bulge, taking the cleanest rock up the slabs to a recess (45m). Continue up on the right to the top (15m).

*Winter:* 100m V,5 \*\*. D.McGimpsey, A.Nisbet, J.R.Mackenzie, N.Wilson. 19th January 2008.

A fine intricate route with an excellent second pitch, loosely based on the summer line.

1. 40m The blocky left edge was traversed in from the right. In lean conditions a 20m ice chute can form below giving an extra pitch. Climb the blocky edge to reach the base of the slabby wall.
2. 40m A short difficult wall leads to a groove on the right. Climb this moving left to reach two 'ears' well seen from the stance. Move left below these to reach and climb a narrow turf groove leading to overhangs. Traverse right below these to step up to another groove and up this for a short distance before moving right to a recessed wide crack.
3. 20m Step right and climb a funnel to the cornice.

### **CREAG GHORM A' BHEALAICH:**

*Sentinel Ridge* 85m III. M.Hartree, B.Shackleton. 16th March 2008.

The ridge between the two gullies described in Northern Highlands Central p349. It gives an interesting excursion from the toe of the lower buttress to gain the slender ridge above. From 15m up a ramp overlooking the right-hand gully, gain the alcove in the buttress above by a steep step (or reach more directly, from lower down the ramp if well iced). Traverse left across the alcove to reach a fine belay overlooking the left-hand gully at the foot of the slender ridge (35m). Follow the fine ridge as directly as possible to finish at the summit cairn (50m).

### **SGURR NA LAPAICH, Creag na Lapaich:**

*Dire Straits* 150m IV,5 \*\*. J.R.Mackenzie, N.Wilson. 21st December 2007.

The slot chimney to the right of Cool Runnings lying roughly centrally in the crags. Probably impossible for large climbers or rucksacs! In late season it forms ice thickly due to a spring but can be climbed when lean as more rock protection is available.

1. 25m Steepening ice leads to rock belays on the left; the pitch length will vary with the amount of ice.
2. 20m The chimney slot gives steep ice and narrows further to a sideways squeeze under a chockstone and a tight exit further on from a dead-end. Continue up a short run of ice.

3. etc. 105m More ice leads to steepening snow and a cornice, outflankable on the left.

### **CANNICH:**

**Note:** Plodda Falls (Grade V), Corriemony Falls (Grade III), and Guisichan Falls (Grade III) were climbed on 18th January 2001 by M.Hind, P.Mayhew, G.Lowe. Falls of Divach (Drumnadrochit) was climbed on 20th January 2001 by the same team at IV/V.

### **BEN WYVIS, Coire Mor:**

*Interrupted Buttress* 165m III,4 \*. N.Wilson, J.R.Mackenzie. 30th December 2007.

To the right of Interrupted Gully's recessed start is a broad rambling buttress that lies right of the existing routes. It freezes more readily and holds snow well, a good choice in less than perfect conditions. The climbing is much better than appearances suggest. A dark cave lies right of centre in the lower section of crag, reached by steepening slopes.

1. 50m The roofed cave is climbed by a traditional struggle, crux, to a ramp which is followed rightwards then up to a point where steep moves up left lead up to a recess.
2. 40m Step left from the stance to cross Interrupted Gully's right branch and head up the centre of the buttress to a zigzag line that ends below a steeper section of grooves.
3. 50m Climb out steeply to climb the first groove on the left and exit onto easier slopes.
4. 25m Follow the ridge which borders the right-hand side of Interrupted Gully's exit to the plateau.

*Interrupted Gully Right Branch* 200m II. N.Wilson, J.R.Mackenzie. 16th March 2008.

A reasonable route when the turf is unfrozen and plenty of snow cover. Start up Interrupted Gully and follow this past its turn-off left to head up a hidden leftwards ramp further on. Climb this narrow ramp past a cave and a steepening to move left and either climb a short overhanging corner or avoid it on the left. Finish up a steep snow fan and probable cornice.

### **MOY ROCK:**

There are now six sport routes. There is a nesting restriction from the beginning of February to the end of July. The routes are left to right on the Big Flat Wall area:

1. 20m 6c+. The Dark Side (20m)
  2. 20m 6c. Little Teaser (20m)
  3. 20m 7b. Pulling on Pebbles (20m)
  4. 25m 7a+. The Ticks Ate All the Midges (25m)
  5. 20m 7a. Cloak and Dagger (20m)
- About 10m further down and right is
6. 12m 7b+. The Seer (12m)

## NORTHERN HIGHLANDS SOUTH

### **SOUTH GLEN SHIEL, Sgurr an Lochain:**

*Horseplay* 120m IV,5 \*\*. A.Nisbet, J.Preston. 19th March 2008.

Based on the ridge between Flying Gully and Right Gully. The name will become obvious on a sensational finish. Start about halfway up Right Gully where a gully leads up its left bounding wall.

1. 40m Climb the gully to gain access to a ramp which leads right overlooking Right Gully. Follow the ramp to near its top.
2. 40m The only line of weakness above is a left traverse across a wall using small turf ledges. From its end on the crest of the ridge, climb a moss groove to below a final tower.
3. 40m Move right on to the very crest, initially overlooking a vertical wall, and climb the crest using flakes to a finish which should be less corniced than the gullies.

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

*Silver Sixpence* 12m HVS 5a \*\*. J Dyble, J.Shanks. 12th July 2007.

The obvious left-facing corner to the right of Shilling Corner gives a surprisingly tricky climb. Move leftwards under the bulge at the top to finish up the reddish flake. Probably climbed before.

*Merlin's Groove* 10m E1 5a \*\*. J.Dyble, B.Hay, D.Currie. 12th July 2007.

A holly tree sits to the right of Slab Climb. Above is a bulbous overhang. Start directly below the overhang and climb through broken horizontal bands to arrive directly at a right-facing corner on the right of the overhang. Step right under a smaller upper overlap to finish at a small aspen tree. Thinly protected but quite good really!

*Spin the Black Circle* 10m HVS 5a. D.Currie, J.Dyble, B.Hay. 12th July 2007.

Rises between Anthrax and Crack Climb, sharing some of the early moves of the former. Step rightwards at half-height and continue directly through a bold upper slab. Sustained climbing throughout with some great moves on the pleasing upper section.

### **FUAR THOLL, North-West Face:**

*Summit Rib* 150m II. A.Nisbet. 4th March 2008.

The route named Summit Rib in Northern Highlands South is not the same as the route named Summit Rib in Northern Highlands Scrambles. The route in the climbing guide should be renamed South Rib. This route starts lower and left and with a well defined Grade I gully on its left. Follow the crest closely, taking in all the difficulties and ignoring escapes.

### **SGORR RUADH, Central Couloir:**

*East End* 220m IV,4. A.Nisbet, J.Preston. 25th March 2008.

The rib right of Post Box Gully. Climb an icefall some 10m right of Post Box Gully (40m), then another icefall above and left (40m) to reach an easier section. Follow this to below a steep prow (55m). Go diagonally right under the prow to a crest overlooking the final gully of Gravesend (55m), then finish up a line of weakness just right of the crest (30m).

*Mayfair* 80m V,5. A.Nisbet, J.Preston. 25th March 2008.

A shallow groove on the south wall well up the couloir, beyond High Gully. A short smooth slab-ramp leads left into its base. Start below the groove and climb a grassy trough leading up right (25m). Continue up to steep walls, then step left and climb a short tricky wall to below the slab-ramp. Traverse delicately left under this and return to its top and the base of the main groove, iced on this occasion. Climb the groove to easy ground (55m).

### **BEINN BHAN, Coire na Feola:**

*Suspense Wall* 175m VII,7 \*\*. T.Blakemore, M.Moran. 2nd February 2008.

This fine route climbs the steep cliff on the right side of Suspense Gully by a sustained and sometimes bold line. The line trends left up breaks in the precipitous upper wall. Start on the terrace 10m right of the fork between the branches of Suspense Gully at a right-facing corner.

1. 30m Climb the corner, moving to its left arete after 10m, where thin moves gain the big terrace above.
2. 30m Follow a right-slanting turfy fault (poorly protected), then swing up left on perched blocks to stance by a rock spillikin.
3. 55m Climb straight up for 6m (bold) to a break and traverse this left for 8m to a chockstoned chimney which gives entertaining moves to a large block (possible belay). Drop down the left side of the block and climb leftwards up vague grooves to an easier chimney (bold, sketchy climbing - crux). Reach a terrace, then go up a final short corner to gain easy ground.
4. 60m Easy mixed ground and steep snow to the top.

### **Coire nan Fhamair:**

*Outrage* 200m VII,7 \*\*. G.Robertson, D.MacLeod. 26th March 2008.

A very worthwhile route providing a more sustained alternative finish to Gully of the Gods, taking the obvious fault line in the right edge of the right wall of the easier upper gully.

1. and 2. 100m Climb the first two pitches of Gully of the Gods, breaking up right at the end of the difficulties to below a prominent chimney left of a huge block.
3. 40m Climb the chimney and continue up into an overhung bay with a wide crack slanting up left. Pull left over an overhang to gain and follow the strenuous crack. At its top step right and continue up to below the upper fault.
4. 60m Climb the excellent upper fault with sustained interest to a spectacular sting in the tail. This pitch would be better split to avoid rope drag.

*Green Giant* 150m VI,8 \*. M.Moran, A.Nisbet. 5th February 2008.

The wall right of Great Overhanging Gully gives a good option for a shorter day, and bypasses the improbable lower wall by starting up The Chimney (Girdle Traverse).

1. 45m Gain the rising traverse line by a turfy open gully, and follow it left until just before a pyramid of moss which issues from a big groove which forms the only break in the steep tier above.
2. 35m Climb the moss and groove above, which is hard but well-protected, then continue to belay above the next terrace.
3. 45m Climb the next wall on the left where it is formed into two steps. Continue up a long left-slanting ramp to below the final band.
4. 25m Move right behind a large block which sits below an arete which formed a break in the cornice.

### **BEINN NA-H-EAGLAISE, East Face:**

*Summit Gully* 250m II. P.J.Biggar. 8th April 2008.

This is the long curving gully (NG 912 523) which borders on the right the steeper more compact rocks of the east face of Beinn na-h-Eaglaise; well seen from near the stepping stones on the Annat to Coulags path. It appears on the OS map as a stream and brings one out at a small col just below the summit of the hill.

### **SEANA MHEALLAN WEST, Pink Walls:**

*Salt and Vinegar* 15m E2 5b. D.King, N.Carter. 7th June 2007.

The rib between Fish and Chips and Unmasked, climbed with gear in the steep thin crack to the left. Continue up the wall above to the small overhang and pull over this to finish.

### **LIATHACH CRAGS, Path Crag, Lower Tier:**

*Jampot* 15m VS 4b. J.Lyall, A.Nisbet. 29th September 2007.

Towards the left end of the crag is a left-facing corner bounding a more prominent rounded buttress. Gain and climb the corner.

*Panorama* 15m HVS 5a. A.Nisbet, J.Lyall. 29th September 2007.

The rounded buttress has a central crack-line with another to its left. Start on the left side of a lower plaque of rock. Either climb straight up this (5b), or climb its left side to reach the crack-line which is followed to the top. Well protected.

*Goldmine* 15m HVS 5a. J.Lyall, A.Nisbet. 29th September 2007.

Start at the lowest point of the plaque of rock. Climb a right-slanting crack to a chimney on the right edge of the rounded buttress. Climb the chimney and move left to finish up a crack on the right side of the rounded buttress.

*Cheese and Chalk* 15m HVS 5a. A.Nisbet, J.Lyall. 29th September 2007.

Climb a vegetated chimney 5m to the right. Step right and climb a fine overhanging crack slanting right.

*Digitalis* 15m HVS 5a. A.Nisbet, J.Lyall. 29th September 2007.

Ten metres left of Foxglove Crack (which is actually near the right end of the crag) is another right-slanting flake-crack. Climb this, step right and follow its continuation rightwards.

*Odds* 15m Severe. J.Lyall, A.Nisbet. 29th September 2007.

A short undercut crack leads to stacked flakes, climbed out left. A direct finish is vegetated so traverse a ledge left to finish up a short wall.

### **DIABAIG, Upper Diabaig Crag:**

(NG 811 593) Alt 160m North-East to North-West facing

A small crag seen across Loch Diabaigas Airde and shaped like the prow of a ship. The left face has smooth rough rock like Diabaig but the steeper right face is of poorer rock. 20mins walk.

*Crazy Maise* 20m HVS 5a . A.Nisbet, R.I.Jones. 25th June 2007.

A central crack-line in the left face passes through three small niches.

*Changing Times* 20m E3 5c \*. R.I.Jones, A.Nisbet. 25th June 2007.

Cracks on the right side of the face give some sustained thin climbing with protection which is hard to place. Climb a well defined crack until it thins at 4m. Make hard moves right into another thin crack and climb this until moves left along a horizontal crack lead to a finish straight up.

*The Prow* 20m Very Difficult. A.Nisbet, R.I.Jones. 25th June 2007.

Starting on its right, climb the crest between the two faces. Limited protection.

*Barking* 15m HVS 5a. R.I.Jones, A.Nisbet. 25th June 2007.

The first well defined line right of the prow, on the right face. Gain and climb a steep flake-crack. Step left and finish up a narrow groove.

### **DIABAIG, Charlie's Dome:**

The following route lies on the same wall as Terrier Trauma.

*Dire Wolf* 25m E1 5c \*. M Barnard. 17th February 2008.

This route climbs the left side of the wall (left of the obvious central corner) to gain a crack starting at mid-height. To the right of the tree-filled corner bounding the left side of the wall lies a smaller

corner. Start by climbing the blunt arete in between (watching out for the occasional loose hold) until the corner on the right ends, before moving up and right on small holds to the foot of the crack. Climb this (easily at first, then with strenuous jamming when it bulges, crux) to the top.

#### **DIABAIG PENINSULA, Loch a' Bhealaich Crag:**

*Whimbrel Wall* 40m HVS 5a \*. J.Lyall, S.Aisthorpe. 25th October 2007.

Lies right of the overhanging wall. Start at the base of a slab and climb up left to a roof; turn it on the right to climb a groove for 3m. Pull steeply left to reach a crack which is followed to easier rocks and some heather.

#### **LIATHACH, Coire na Caime, Northern Pinnacles:**

*Slighe Annaig* 120m V,5. A.Nisbet, W.R.Robertson, D.Tunstall. 30th March 2008.

Climbs the steeper face right of Holy Trinity. Start about 20m right of Holy Trinity at the next break.

1. 40m Climb a turfy groove up and then slightly left (left of a bigger icy groove capped by a roof with icicles). Go up to a ledge and move right to an arete.
2. 30m Climb a groove just round the arete. It curves left to a ledge (possible alternative belay). Go up a short corner and move left to below a shallow chimney. Step down left to a small ledge.
3. 50m Climb the chimney and easy ground to the crest of the Northern Pinnacles (100m to the top).

#### **BEINN EIGHE, Far East Wall:**

*Morning Wall* VII,8. M.Bass, S.Yearsley. 14th March 2008.

A great little route, which, given its lack of turf, should be climbable in lots of conditions. It packs a lot into its relatively short length. The crux second pitch gave very technical and precarious wall climbing, only protected with real thought and effort. The moves up to and through the mantelshelf were the definite (and quite exciting!) crux.

*Sundance* VIII,8 \*\*\*\*. G.Robertson, I.Parnell. 10th January 2008.

The summer route was followed throughout. Pitch 3 was extended to take in both the overhangs, leaving a 20m fourth pitch to finish. Both the overhangs on pitch 3 had significant quantities of ice (useful), the second one sporting a 20ft Damoclean ice fang. The climbing is superb, generally well protected and exceptionally sustained, with spectacular exposure high up. The final short pitch is bold.

#### **Eastern Ramparts:**

*Pinkyponk Route* 90m IV,5. N.Carter, P.Macpherson. 15th January 2008.

Gain a chimney about 50m left of Cornice Groove via broken ground.

1. 40m Climb the chimney, pull through a bulge and continue up the fault to easy ground. Carry on up a snow band to belay about 15m up and slightly left at a cracked boulder.
2. 50m Climb up to a rib above and slightly right. Climb at first on the left, then move right and continue up a vague groove.

#### **West Central Wall:**

*Maelstrom, Direct Start and Right-Hand Finish* VII,7 \*\*\*. P.Davies, T.Marsh. 4th March 2008.

Started at an ice filled groove, the last groove below the steep section of West Central Gully. Climb the ice to the lower of the Upper Girdle ledges. Traverse 3m right to a 10m vertical corner. Climb this to the upper ledge and make another short traverse right to beneath the main corner. The original route was then followed up the corner but instead of traversing left, the party moved right and followed a right-trending groove system to the top, perhaps joining Blood, Sweat and Frozen Tears?

#### **Fuselage Wall:**

**Note:** On the second ascent of Fight or Flight, P.Macpherson & W.Wilkinson on 4th March 2008 climbed direct at the start of pitch 2, so didn't go left to the big flake.

**Sail Mhor:**

*Vista* 220m V,5. A.Nisbet, C.Wells. 27th March 2008.

The left flank of the ridge right of Morrison's Gully holds a prominent icefall which is the main feature of the route. The grade might be IV,5 with thicker ice. Start just below the entrance to Morrison's Gully. Climb a groove to snowy terraces and continue in roughly the same line to the base of the icefall. Climb the icefall in three main steps (50m). Move left and climb a slabby corner to the crest of the ridge (50m).

## CAIRNGORMS

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

*Just a Spot o' Sightseeing* 90m IV,5. F.Hughes, E.Olivarius. 23rd November 2007.

A winter ascent of the summer line, except on pitch 3 (passing the small overhang), a direct line was taken up the buttress on the right of Hidden Chimney.

**Note:** While much or all of this has been climbed before in sections, it was thought to be a logical direct line.

### **Fluted Buttress:**

*Lambda* 130m IV,5. J.Lyall, A.Nisbet, J.Preston. 11th December 2007.

A direct line through Wavelength. Start 10m left of Fluted Buttress Direct (the alternative and original start to Wavelength). Climb up the fault to join Wavelength and follow it to where it traverses right into the left-hand fault (40m). Instead, go straight up three steps to an easier section which is followed parallel to Wavelength to the base of a groove (30m). Climb the groove (15m). Continue to the crest overlooking Spiral Gully and follow this to join and finish up Wavelength (45m).

### **Fiacail Buttress:**

The following routes are on the small buttress containing Halibut Habit and White Dwarf.

*Tiny Dancer* 30m V,6. J.Lyall, A.Nisbet. 25th February 2008.

The furthest left of the grooves has two steep sections. Climb the first, then step left on to a platform and return right above the second to finish direct.

*Groovelet* 30m II. A.Nisbet, J.Lyall. 25th February 2008.

The next groove to the right finishes below a hanging wide crack. Move right to finish on steep snow. The next groove right often contains an icefall and has been climbed by J.Lyall at Grade III.

*Shortlist* 45m II/III. J.Lyall, A.Nisbet. 25th February 2008.

The rightmost groove on the buttress, finishing at the same place as White Dwarf.

### **COIRE AN LOCHAIN, No. 1 Buttress:**

*Circumvent* 60m V,7. J.Preston, M.Moran, A.Nisbet. 26th November 2007.

A steep groove between the big corner of Inventive and the grooves of Adventure. Start at the top of the chokestones of The Vent, as for Inventive.

1. 25m Follow this route to below its big corner.
2. 20m Make an awkward traverse right to gain the groove in the rib. Follow this over two strenuous bulges to a ledge.
3. 15m Climb up to and underneath a huge flat block to gain easy ground.

**Note:** As an alternative last pitch of Coronary Bypass, J.Edwards & O.Metherell climbed the following on 25th November 2007. Although it was 35m to the plateau, lengths are traditionally given to easy ground here (as for the previous route):

5. From the left side of the big ledge where it overlooks the gully, go up and into a deep cave. Squeeze out of the back and exit rightwards. Enter another body width slot above and shuffle along for a few metres until it widens and easy ground now leads to the summit.

**Note:** J.Preston & A.Nisbet made a left-hand finish to The Vent on 20th November 2007.

Start just as the gully of The Vent opens out. This is just below a level arete on the right where Ventilator joins. Take a groove leading out left, steepest after 30m, then easy to the top (50m III). It has been climbed before.



### **No. 2 Buttress:**

*Cyberian Cave Route* 100m V,7 \*. J.Lyall, J.Preston. 15th March 2008.

A wild direct start to Ventilator.

1. 40m Start just right of the Vent Rib and climb the fault line direct through two caves, with the second giving the crux. Continue over a tricky bulge to enter a slim groove which leads to a belay in the left-hand corner variation to Ventilator. Follow this to the top.

*Cyber Space* 100m V,6. J.Lyall, A.Nisbet. 30th January 2008.

The rib between Ventilator and Chute Route, although with a tricky independent start left of Ventilator. Start below the middle of the wall between Vent Rib and Chute Route.

1. 35m Gain and climb a steep turfy groove (just left of a better defined rock groove) to join Ventilator.

2. 40m Move immediately right to cross Ventilator on to the rib on its right. Climb turf just left of the crest to gain and follow it, finishing over a small roof on its right.

3. 25m Climb a groove on the right to regain the crest. Follow this over a pinnacle and a sharp snow arete to the top.

**Note:** Variation finishes to *Snow Bunting*:

1. Follow the wide stepped crack all the way to an overhanging wall, then climb over a large block on the right to regain the original line.

2. Direct Finish IV/V,6 \*. P.McPherson, J.Lyall. 20th December 2007.

Climb the overhanging groove directly out of the easy snow bay.

### **No. 3 Buttress:**

**Note:** A.Clark & R.Bentley made a variation to pitch 3 of The Vagrant in 2004, climbing the corner and cracks up on the left (VI,7). Being good and slightly easier, this might become popular (there was in-situ gear). N.Carter & A.Sharpe also climbed this line in 2007.

### **No. 4 Buttress:**

*Swallow-tail Pillar* VII,7/8. M.Walker, A.Gilmore, R.Rosedale. 2nd March 2008.

By the summer route. The split grade is uncertainty, as it was both bold and hard on pitch 2.

**Note:** I.Parnell & J.Winter made an independent start to Prore through the roofs 3m right of Savage Slit. Very steep, interesting technically and a bit more committing than the original.

Top end VII,8 on the assumption that the original is VII,7.

### **CARN ETCHACHAN, Upper Tier:**

*Python Alternative Start* 30m V,6. M.Cook, A.Nisbet. 16th March 2008.

Adds some extra climbing. Start at the base of the Guillotine fault but move right and climb a crack-line and ledges to a big ledge (15m). Walk to its right end, step round the corner overlooking the Nom-de Plume fault and return left up two big steps to a ledge. Make exciting moves up right to join Python after its initial pitch (15m).

**Note:** Python is very good and worth two stars.

### **Gully Face:**

*Cobra* 110m II/III \*. R.Hamilton, S.Kennedy, A.MacDonald. 17th February 2008.

Follows a line a short distance left of Attic Rib. Climb an obvious snow shelf running out left below the start of Attic Rib (described in the guide as an alternative start to Castle Gully) and climb a short groove to below the headwall (50m). Climb a short groove on the right then continue rightwards via a ledge system to join Attic Rib above the snow arete. Finish up Attic Rib (60m).

### **HELL'S LUM CRAG:**

*The Seventh Circle* 50m E6 \*\*\*. I.Small, G.Latter. 10th August 2007.

The stunning slim groove and hanging crack in the wall just below the main pitch in the Hell's Lum. Gain the base by a 60m abseil from 8m left of the Chariots of Fire abseil point (starting down the front face).

1. 22m 6b Climb the groove, moving out left then back into the groove, past a PR. Pull over a small overlap, stepping left to a good rest. Return and make difficult moves up and right to get established in the crack, which leads with difficulty to a good ledge.
2. 28m 6b Traverse left into a good flake-crack and follow this past a projecting block to a rest on the wall on the right. Step left and pull over a roof with difficulty leading to better holds above. Continue more easily up a crack to a good ledge above. Scramble out rightwards to finish.

### **STAG ROCKS:**

*Bambi* 70m Difficult \*. J.Lyall, A.Nisbet. 12th October 2007.

A pleasant climb by the winter route.

*Big Alec* 70m VS 4c. J.Lyall, A.Nisbet. 12th October 2007.

Climbs the wall overlooking the start of Apex Gully. Start at the lowest point of the wall and gain a recess of reddish rock. Climb awkwardly out of the recess to a ledge above, then go left and back right to a hidden chimney. Climb this and a jam crack to join Alb (45m). Follow Alb to a gully immediately right of its steep wall. Climb its steep right wall on poor rock (25m).

*Wee Timorous Beastie* 150m Hard Severe 4b \*. J.Lyall, A.Nisbet. 12th October 2007.

The winter description should say to start 20m up Deception Inlet, since the first roof is 70m up. The winter route was followed on clean but slightly gritty rock. The second roof and slab above was the crux and best climbing.

*Staggering* 60m E1 \*\*. J.Lyall, A.Nisbet. 19th October 2007.

A series of corners on the very edge of Longbow Crag and overlooking Amphitheatre Gully. Start at the same belay as for Relay Climb's crux pitch (which is 4c and probably just VS, "one of the hardest free pitches in the Cairngorms", to quote Mac Smith). Approach by traversing across Amphitheatre Gully from the left or by the start of Relay Climb.

1. 25m 5a Climb two consecutive corners.
2. 10m 5b A strenuous jam crack.
3. 30m 4b A vegetated corner right of another jam crack with vegetation. This leads to a steep mossy corner but the pleasant groove on the right was climbed to the easier upper section of Relay Climb. This pleasant groove is shown as Relay Climb on the photodiagram in the new Cairngorms guide, but the original route went further right, as for the winter route. The upper section of Relay Climb could then have been climbed, but it is more interesting to move into the amphitheatre and climb the following route.

*Maranatha* Very Difficult. J.Lyall, A.Nisbet. 19th October 2007.

By the winter line. Clean rock but a few hollow blocks.

### **LURCHERS CRAG:**

*Credibility Crunch* 105m V,7 \*. S.Allan, A.Nisbet. 10th April 2008.

A line up the front face of the steep central section of the ridge on the left of Central Gully. Start as for Arctic Monkey or traverse in from Central Gully to reach the base of the steep section.

1. 30m Take a prominent slabby traverse line of weakness up leftwards (the higher of two lines).
2. 10m Return right over a short wall and slab to the base of a big corner slanting left.

3. 15m Climb the corner over two main steps, the second with a wide crack, to a large block.
4. 50m Step left from the block and climb straight up over a bulge, then trend left on slabby ground to join Arctic Monkey in its easier upper section.
5. Take the easiest line to the top (not included in length).

*Arctic Monkey* 300m III,4 \*\*. S.Allan, A.Nisbet. 6th January 2008.

The ridge on the left of Central Gully. Start left of Central Gully's lower icefall and climb easily to where the ground steepens. A line on the right of this steep section was taken, climbing rightwards up a line of weakness and passing a smooth groove which heads left to reach a recess below a prominent jutting block. Pull out left through a small cave (crux) and go left up a less well defined groove to reach the crest (50m). Follow the crest which becomes progressively easier until just scrambling to the top.

*Dotterel* 130m V,5. S.Allan, A.Nisbet. 6th January 2008.

The ridge immediately right of Central Gully, gained by descending the easy upper section of Central Gully, then heading left (facing down) down a ramp above its big ice pitch (but could also be reached by heading north from South Gully beyond the following routes). Start below the easiest looking groove.

1. 50m Climb a ramp and a short groove to reach a deceptively steep shallow corner. Go up this and step left before returning right to an easier section which leads to a short narrow chimney. Climb this to blockier ground.
2. 50m Climb the blocks to the crest and follow this to easier ground.
3. 30m Finish pleasantly up this.

The following routes are ridges described heading north from South Gully. Approach by descending South Gully to where it opens out, then traversing a ledge northwards to below the ridges.

*Husky* 150m III,4 \*. A.Nisbet. 3rd December 2007.

The nearest ridge on the north side of South Gully has many fine torquing moves and jammed flakes, best when well frozen and not too dry. Much of the climbing is escapable but still entertaining. Easier and harder lines are possible, but this seemed fairly direct while still natural. Start at the lowest rocks and climb a groove in the initial crest. A short walk leads to a steeper section. Start this by a right-slanting ramp, then make a tricky step left on to the crest. Climb a narrow chimney just left of the crest. Climb the next steep section by a groove just left of the crest. This leads to the sharp but very artificial upper ridge, still fun over every block.

*Piggie in the Middle* 120m III,6. J.Lyall, A.Nisbet. 10th December 2007.

A subsidiary ridge which lies between Husky and Doorway Ridge, but starts 60m up the depression between the two. Either gain the start up this depression or traverse from South Gully across Husky. Climb on to a flake just right of its crest, step right and make difficult moves up a shallow groove (or climb the crack above the flake). Continue leftwards on to the crest and follow this much more easily to finish over a well defined raised section to upper snow slopes.

*Perception Gully* 180m II. J.Lyall, D.Fanning. 22nd March 2008.

Gain the amphitheatre right of Doorway Ridge and climb an icy mixed pitch on the left, then follow the gully above, between Doorway and Piggie in the Middle.

*Doorway Ridge* 200m IV,5 \*. J.Lyall, A.Nisbet. 8th December 2007.

The second ridge on the north side of South Gully. Start on its right side and climb a subsidiary buttress to reach a steep corner which leads up to the crest, followed to a slight col (45m). Continue just right of the crest, then over a slight pinnacle and a steep section to reach easier ground (45m). Finish up this easier blocky crest over the doorway. The last two steps are definitely optional.

*Eskimo Gully* 240m II \*. J.Lyall, B.Cook, J.& K.Penrose. 12th March 2008.

The gully line left of Doorway Ridge. A shallow icy fault up the lower slabs leads to a steeper ice pitch, which is followed by an easy gully.

*Ptarmigan Ridge* 200m III \*. S.Allan, A.Nisbet. 9th December 2007.

The third ridge is tackled via a groove in the centre of its steep lower section. Start by going up towards the groove, then right and back left to its base. Climb the groove to a barrier wall. Traverse right to break through the wall at its right end and climb blocky ground right of the crest until the crest is reached. Follow the crest as closely as possible, including a narrow section with a pinnacle and a steeper upper wall climbed by a narrow chimney. Low in the grade.

*Sweep* 200m III. J.Lyall, A.Nisbet. 10th December 2007.

The fourth ridge has a wider base undercut by a smooth overhanging wall. Start left of this, which is just right of the crest. Pick a line up slabby ground, with the difficulty dependent on conditions, but generally trending right to gain an easier crest which is most of the length. Follow this crest, fun but somewhat contrived, until it joins the steeper upper wall of Ptarmigan Ridge. Climb this by a groove well left of the narrow chimney of Ptarmigan Ridge (technical 4).

*Summit Ridge* 250m II. A.Nisbet. 8th December 2008.

A long but scrappy route with many of the difficulties optional. Traverse from South Gully to beyond the upper gully of Window Gully. Continue for about 60m until steep rocky ground above ends at a slight ridge. Climb just right of this slight ridge (the easy ground on the left is not visible), with one short section on the left, until the ridge curves left. The upper section, which is much better, then heads direct to the summit.

*Reindeer Ridge* 150m III,4 \*. A.Nisbet. 10th January 2008.

The next ridge north is the first ridge right of Dotterel. Its base is well defined with a line of prominent flakes leading left from its right side to below a groove. Start along the flakes and pull through a bulge (crux) into the groove. Go up this for a few metres, then step out left on to slabs (straight up also looks possible). Climb the slabs leftwards to another groove with an awkward block near its top. Climb this to easier ground. Continue up the crest, artificial but with some fine moves, to a blocky upper section.

*Pinnacle Ridge* 150m II. A.Nisbet. 9th November 2007.

The ridge right (south) of South Gully. Climb a right-slanting turf fault, then move left to the crest. Follow this over the pinnacle, which is avoidable but the best climbing, to a col. Finish easily by a right-slanting fault.

A broad buttress just left of Drystane Ridge is both harder and better than it looks and provides the following two routes. Its base starts higher on the left and slopes down to the right.

*Punchdrunk* 130m III \*. A.Nisbet. 8th December 2008.

Start at the higher left corner of the base. Break steeply out right on to the face. Take a line slanting slightly left to the base of a big right-facing corner. Traverse 8m right and

climb a line of weakness up to join the left crest high up (the corner looks climbable too). Follow this to the top.

*Pug Face* 130m II. A.Nisbet. 3rd December 2007.

Start left of the lowest rocks and climb through a steep fault to easier angled ground. A line on the right side of the broad section was taken, moving right on to the right crest higher up. High in the grade. Follow the crest which eases in angle as it narrows to a sharp but escapable crest.

*Hound of the Baskervilles* 150m IV,5 \*. A.Nisbet, J.Preston. 9th November 2007.

A prominent ridge between Collie's and Deerhound Ridges gives good climbing but easy ground lies close on the left. Start up a groove in the lowest rocks and climb this to a steep wall. Move left and up a small groove, then a short chimney with a capstone before a blocky corner on the right leads to a level section (40m). A vertical wall lies ahead. Climb a right-facing corner on its left side, then more easily up the crest to a slabby wall and short arete (50m). Go left and back right up the final blocky section to a finishing chimney (60m).

### **SRON NA LAIRIGE:**

*Kasbah* 160m V,5. D.McGimpsey, A.Nisbet, S.Wood. 12th January 2008.

The left of the three groove systems on the right face of Lairig Ridge. Start just left of Sinclair's Last Stand. Move left into the base of the groove system and climb it in three pitches to gain and finish up the crest of Lairig Ridge. The third pitch is much harder than the rest, but would be a grade easier with consolidated snow.

*Pupster* 130m III. D.McGimpsey, S.Wood. 22nd January 2008.

Climbs the rightmost of the three main groove lines sharing some ground with Gormless in the middle section. Start 10m left of Gormless at a turfy groove.

1. 50m Climb the groove for 20m into the left side of a wide snowy bay. Follow this to its top to belay as for Gormless.
2. 40m Continue up and right on easy ground to a large fin of rock. Gormless climbs the groove on the right of this fin, instead pull into the groove on the left below the main upper groove.
3. 40m Follow the fine groove to its top.

*Idiot Proof* 140m IV,6 \*. J.Lyall, A.Nisbet. 2nd April 2008.

First pitch by J.Lyall, 18th March 2008.

A line of grooves up the right wall of Gormless (left wall of Braer Rabbit ridge). Start just right of Gormless and climb a groove tucked in against the wall. A steep step at the top can be climbed or passed on the left (50m). Climb another groove in the wall, including a short overhanging section (crux) until near the crest of Braer Rabbit ridge (40m). Continue diagonally left under the crest until it is joined just beyond its difficulties. Follow the crest easily to join the top of Lairig Ridge (50m).

*April Fool* 80m III. J.Lyall, A.Nisbet. 2nd April 2008.

A turfy ramp (lower of two) high on the right wall of Braer Rabbit ridge. It finishes as for Idiot Proof.

*Ghruve* 220m II. J.Lyall, A.Nisbet. 2nd April 2008.

A long well defined groove between some more broken ridges and the bigger ridge with the following route. It heads for two pinnacles near the top of the ridge and gives sustained climbing at the grade.

*Ghrusome* 200m V,6. J.Lyall, A.Nisbet. 14th January 2008.

The left-hand of two ridges separated by a big gully which lies on a sector of cliff north of the Lairig Ridge area. Climb the lower crest, well defined but not very prominent, to reach a steeper section. Climb the central of three grooves to reach a steep upper tower. Climb cracks just right of a smooth right-slanting ramp which bounds the steepest section on the right. Gain a ramp which spirals round the right side of the tower to reach it stop and an easy upper ridge.

*Ghruling Gully* 220m III. J.Lyall. 18th March 2008.

A less obvious left-hand gully. The gully just right of the lower crest of Ghrusome becomes less pronounced as height is gained and has a short mixed crux, followed by easy upper slopes.

*White Hunter* 220m IV,5.\* H.Burns, J.Lyall. 8th January 2008.

The slim pillar between the two gullies. The easy angled lower crest leads to a steeper section after 90m. Gain and climb the left-hand groove, then a cracked wall to pass left of prominent roof (45m). Easier buttress and snow slopes to the top.

*Ghruvy Gully* 220m III \*\*. J.Lyall. 18th March 2008.

A choice of two starts lead into the main gully line between White Hunter and Polar Bear. A classic winter gully with the final ice pitch giving the crux. This was climbed on cruddy ice on the first ascent making it feel quite serious---perhaps IV,3!

*Polar Bear* 200m IV,5. J.Lyall, A.Nisbet. 7th January 2008.

The right-hand of the two ridges. The route follows a turfy groove system on its crest. The crux is a smooth section which was climbed near its right arete.

### **SGÒRAN DUBH MÒR, No. 2 Buttress:**

*Central Gully and Rib* 275m III. J.C.Higham, S.Cormack. 11th February 1979.

In the centre of No.2 Buttress (NH 912 004) a prominent icefall develops over steep rocks and is formed by melt from a snow gully lying above. The icefall was climbed for 75m. Rather than continuing up the snow gully the broken buttress on its left was climbed to the top of the mountain over enjoyable but gradually easing ground (200m).

### **SGÒRAN DUBH MÒR, Fan Corrie:**

*Noggin the Nog* 100m III,4. B.Davison, A.Nisbet. 13th November 2007.

Immediately right of Diamond Buttress but left of the main gully which forms its right side, is a narrow buttress, initially shallow but forms a more distinct tower at the top. The lower part may bank up a lot under heavy snow. Start just on the left of its base and follow the crest as closely as possible to where it merges with the finish of Diamond Buttress. This is easy and not included in the length.

*Sparkler* 200m III \*\*\*. D.McGimpsey, A.Nisbet, S.Wood. 11th January 2008.

Roughly based on Bell's original line on Diamond Buttress, it was thought excellent with the 1986 route at least as good. Start higher up the right bounding gully, roughly level with the top of the easy lower section of the buttress. Here is a rib, probably the line of Bell's first route, which goes up to join the main crest.

1. 50m Move left under a steep wall to gain a bay. Climb a turfy groove out of its top left corner to a smaller bay.
2. 40m Go right and climb another turfy groove to the crest of the rib. Follow this to just below the main crest.
3. etc. Go up almost to the crest and climb a short turfy corner to gain it. Continue up the crest to the top (the highlight).

*Clangers* 100m II. B.Davison, A.Nisbet. 13th November 2007.

A high buttress directly above the main gully which forms the left side of Diamond Buttress, but actually left of its continuation. Very blocky and with short technical moves above ledges.

*Silver Rib* 250m II. A.Nisbet. 15th January 2008.

The long rib left of Diamond Buttress, climbed in January 1956 by T.W.Patey & G.McLeod and described as "steep scrambling only". It seems unlikely to have been in winter condition as it would certainly have been worth writing up. It was climbed in December 2007 by Nisbet & J.Preston when frozen but without snow and thought Moderate. The start is easy leading to the crux, a steep but very helpful right-facing corner. Continue up the crest direct and over a set of pinnacles which lead to easier ground. Finish up an intermittent rib.

#### **No.4 Buttress:**

**Note:** The best approach from the top to the upper ribs is to descend the north bounding ridge of the buttress to the first flattening, then descend the gully from here into the main gully (Grade I). This approach gully does not cornice, unlike other possibilities. One is now too low for the upper ribs. Climb the main gully for Goey Rib or find a way through various minor ridges for Einich Rib. A long descending traverse finds the following route.

*Four Ribs* 400m I/II. A.Nisbet. 6th February 2008.

This is the ridge on the left of the large deep gully which is formed in the lower part of the buttress. A scrappy route, more scrambling than climbing, but with good scenery. The crest was climbed, but all the difficulties are avoidable.

#### **GLEANN EINICH:**

**Note:** C.Wells made an ascent of the burn into Coire Dhondail at Grade II on 23rd November 2007 and was surprised not to find a recorded ascent (it does bank out).

#### **EINICH CAIRN, Coire nan Clach:**

*Schoolmaster's Gully* 100m I. S.M.Richardson, R.S.D.Smith. 16th February 2008.

The prominent right-slanting gully in the centre of the crag.

*Hey Teacher, Leave Those Kids Alone* 50m II. S.M.Richardson, R.S.D.Smith. 16th February 2008.

Left of Schoolmaster's Gully is a crescent-shaped gully (Grade I in descent) that is cut by chimney-groove on its left side. Climb the chimney to an easing below a steep headwall and finish left up an easy ramp.

#### **BRAERIACH, Garbh Choire Mor:**

**Note:** A.Watson points out that snow did survive the summer in 2004 and 2005, but not 2003 and 2006. So the new Cairgorms guide is not correct. Snow has survived in 2007 in several places from Braeriach to Ben Nevis.

*Unwanted Birthday Present* 150m III. J.Higham, A.Higham. 15th February 2003.

This route is located on the left-hand side of the lower corrie (NN 945 977) and climbs the buttress to the left of a prominent isolated pinnacle that occurs about 100m below the plateau rim (also left of Col Gully). Ascend the right flank of the buttress by the easiest line. No significant cornice at the time of the ascent but normally the cornice is very large and could be problematical.

*West Buttress Left Edge* 200m II. A.Nisbet. 2nd December 2007.

The buttress forms a vague crest close to Col Gully. Start just right of the undercut base of this crest and follow a groove before moving left. Follow various grooves in the crest to a final steepening which provides the only Grade II section. The original ascent of this buttress started up a gully on the right side of the buttress but moved left to avoid the cornice, probably finishing just right of this route.

**Note:** R.G.Webb and S.M.Richardson climbed the well-defined gully defining the left edge of Crown Buttress (150m Grade I) on 2 December 2007. An obvious weakness and almost certainly climbed before, but normally defended by a huge cornice.

*Bunting's Gully, Far Left Branch* 100m III or VI,6. S.M.Richardson, R.G.Webb. 16th December 2007.

The furthest left fork of Bunting's Gully runs into a deep overhanging cleft tucked into the right side of the Tiara Buttress. This feature was one of the last unclimbed gullies in the Cairngorms and for good reason. It is either choked by powder, or is banked out but has an impossible cornice. The first ascensionists climbed the route in lean conditions and found thin ice running down the right wall that gave a steep pitch reminiscent of Minus One Gully on Ben Nevis. J.Lyall climbing solo in exceptional conditions in February 2008, found the pitch to be well banked out with thick ice on the right wall and found the route to be Grade III. Incredibly he encountered no cornice difficulties.

1. 30m Climb Bunting's Gully to the central depression where Snow Bunting forks right.
2. 30m Move left and climb the far left branch over a couple of steep steps to a good stance below the overhanging cleft.
3. 40m Climb the gully using thin ice on the right wall to enter the easier upper gully and the cornice.

*Little Black Feet* 65m IV,4 \*. J.Lyall. 19th February 2008.

Another line up the headwall between the branches of Bunting's Gully. Start at the foot of the right branch and follow a system of right-facing corners. The initial corner gave mixed climbing to a roof, which was passed on the right, then thinly iced corners and slabs led to the cornice.

### **Garbh Choire Dhaidh:**

*Sorbet* 250m III. N.Carter, A.Nisbet, J.Preston. 19th December 2007.

Icy grooves on the left side of the largest buttress (between Pea Soup and Chewing' the Fat). Each person took a different line. A start was made up three parallel ice lines left of Pea Soup before moving right to the base of the buttress. An iced corner then led to a snow ramp which forms the left side of the buttress, and a finish either left or right. An alternative was a right-slanting fault with a V-groove continuation which led to the crest of the buttress. The V-groove was thinly iced and passed on the left, followed by a traverse back right to finish up snow grooves on the crest.

*Crystal* 250m III. A.Nisbet. 17th December 2007.

About 15m left of the icy fault of Pea Soup (ie. on the left of the two steeper buttresses) is a stepped narrow groove which holds ice. A start was made between Pea Soup and Chewing' the Fat, mostly up snow but with a couple of short icy steps to reach the lower groove. Climb this V-groove (approx 50m, the ice is hidden until close under), then move left to climb the upper groove and finish on the left above the crest of the buttress (approx 50m). There was no cornice in the lean icy conditions.

### **COIRE SPUTAN DEARG, Snake Ridge Area:**

*To a Mouse* 100m I. W.Munro, I.Munro. 16th February 2008.

Starting 60m up Narrow Gully climb steeply up the shallow gully on the



left to a narrowing. Above the narrows climb open snow slopes finishing to the left of Narrow Buttress. Under heavy snow the steep lower section probably banks out.

**Central Buttresses:**

*Blackmail* 80m HVS. J.Lyall, A.Nisbet. 2nd October 2007.

Ramp lines on the right side of the Black Tower. Start at the base of the buttress, below and right of the slime on the normal start.

1. 45m 4c Climb a grassy ramp rightwards, then step left to a right-slanting crack which leads to a terrace. The normal route could be gained by moving left.
2. 35m 5a Go up flakes on the right to a ramp. Go up this and over a bulge, then step right and climb the sidewall to a ledge. Climb an awkward wall to the short arete of the normal route and easy ground.

*Penguin* 35m VS 4c. J.Lyall, A.Nisbet. 2nd October 2007.

A line of flake-cracks on the right side of Flake Buttress, overlooking Precocious Gully. Start at the base of the gully and move out left on a grass ledge. Climb two grass-topped corners to reach the base of the main flake-line. Climb this to easy ground and abseil descent.

**Terminal Buttress:**

*October Wall* 45m HVS 4c. J.Lyall, A.Nisbet. 2nd October 2007.

Climbs near aretes between Wee Heavy and April Wall. The rock is poor. Start in a small bay just left of April Wall. Climb a rib to the base of a prominent cracked wall (15m).

Climb a groove at the right end of the wall to reach its right arete. Climb this to where a line of weakness leads left above the wall to the left arete (overlooking the final gully of Wee Heavy). Climb this to the top (30m).

**BEINN A' BHUIRD, Coire na Ciche:**

*The Grinder* VII,8. P.Benson, R.Hewitt. 2nd December 2007.

A winter ascent by the summer line. Despite being short the first corner packs a punch. Climbed with icy cracks causing difficult gear.

**Coire an Dubh Lochain:**

*Screwless* 175m V,5. S.M.Richardson, D.Tunstall., 24th February 2008.

The isolated buttress situated just above the lochan low down on the left side of the coire has a distinct hanging icefall in its centre. Start below the centre of the buttress.

1. 45m Climb a short wall to reach the central snow slope that runs up to the rock wall containing the hanging icefall.
2. 30m Traverse right below the icefall and climb its right side for 20m.
3. 50m Climb the icefall and continue delicately up the rock buttress above trending right to reach a right-facing groove-line on the right edge of the buttress. Belay by a steep bulging corner cutting into the crest on the left.
4. 50m Climb the corner to easy ground and a snowfield.

**Coire nan Clach:**

*Renticulata* 120m III,4. S.M.Richardson, D.Tunstall. 10th February 2008.

The icy right-trending ramp to the right of the depression of Snowdrop.

1. 60m Start as for Snowdrop and move right onto the ramp. Follow this past a steepening to broken blocks.
2. 40m Continue up the easy crest above, surmount a short wall to below the cornice.
3. 20m Move up and right to the top of the buttress of Jack Frost, and follow this to the top.

*Jack Frost* 80m III. S.M.Richardson, D.Tunstall. 11th November 2007.

The small buttress to the right of Nipped in the Bud is the highest feature on the south wall of the corrie. Start below the steep crest and surmount a short 3m wall and trend right along a turfy ramp. Move up and left to a steep wall and climb this to the blocky crest of the buttress and the plateau.

### **Garbh Choire:**

*Slochd Wall* IX,8 \*\*\*. G.Robertson, P.Benson. 21st January 2008.

A high quality but serious and intimidating undertaking in a very remote location. The summer route (right-hand variant) was followed in three hard pitches to the terrace below the headwall, then the final pitch scurried right to escape up the obvious fault. Pitch 1 was split into two, with a belay below the crux overhang. Pitch one was tenuous but well-protected, pitch 2 more strenuous and very runout, and pitch 3 was bold to start (though not technically quite as hard as the previous pitch). On the first ascent conditions were lean but very unhelpful; little rime, but lots of snow and verglas / ice. One rest was taken on the crux to excavate a reasonable runner above the overhang, then the leader (Benson) lowered down and lead the pitch clean (there were no runners for the crux 7m up to the belay).

*Commando Direct* 125m VI,6. P.Benson, R.Hewitt. 11th December 2007.

A direct line based on the existing line of Commando Route; start to its left.

1. 45m Climb directly to the traverse line of that route (old peg in situ) step left (free) and pull into the easy gully. Climb the left side of the gully to the foot of the buttress where Commando route goes right.
2. 20m Start on its left-hand side and climb the buttress direct to a large ledge. The route now joins West Side Story.
3. 20m Climb up to a wide crack above and belay a cheval on Mitre Ridge.
4. 40m An easy trot along Mitre Ridge.

### **Stob an t-Sluichd:**

*Token Rib* 100m III. A.Nisbet. 26th February 2008.

The crest right of Token Groove, which is the right-hand crest of the buttress left of M and B Buttress. Start at the base and climb a groove just right of the true crest. Near the top of this, break out left on to the crest (crux), and follow the crest to the top.

*M and B Buttress* 200m II. A.Nisbet. 26th February 2008.

The best winter line is a ramp left of the vague crest on the left. Follow this to its top, then break out right on to the crest which is followed to the top

### **LOCHNAGAR, Southern Sector:**

The following two routes are on the rightmost of several small buttresses just right of the col, the first reached when entering the corrie. The crag is 50m high and finishes about 35m below the rim of the plateau.

*Sonshine Corner* 40m III. A.Porter, W.Wilkinson. 12th January 2008.

An obvious right-facing corner in the centre of the buttress.

*Fluffy Face* 50m IV,4. W.Wilkinson, A.Porter. 12th January 2008.

This takes the inset face left of the rib that defines the right edge of the buttress. Climb the centre of the clean slabby face past the odd turf patch via helpful cracks to underneath an obvious split roof. Turn the roof on the left through some steep ground (crux). Step right to gain the arete and continue to the top.

### **The Sentinel:**

*Sentinel Gully* 70m I. M.Fowler, S.M.Richardson, D.Tunstall. 25th November 2007.

The shallow well defined gully right of The Sentinel. In cold early season conditions it gives a continuous run of easy low-angled ice and is a pleasant way of reaching the plateau.

**Sunset Buttress:**

*Aramis* 70m III. M.Fowler, S.M.Richardson, D.Tunstall. 25th November 2007.

The shallow buttress between Ham Butty and Iffy. Climb a short icy groove just right of Ham Butty to gain a small snowfield, and follow this to its top left corner. Continue up a steep right-trending fault to enter a V-chimney that leads to the top.

*Sunset Buttress Direct* 100m IV,7. A.Porter, W.Wilkinson. 16th December 2006.

Climb direct up the nose of the buttress to the prominent crack, which itself was climbed. On pitch 2, finish direct up the steep wall.

**Notes:** J.Workman thought Sunset Buttress was IV,6. There have been suggestions that Quick Dash Crack is IV,7 in lean conditions.

*Sunset Boulevard* 100m IV,5. S.M.Richardson, R.G.Webb. 6th January 2008.

The steep narrow rib to the right of Sunset Buttress.

1. 40m Surmount the steep lower wall via a deep crack on the right edge and continue up the narrow crest to below a steep barrier wall.
2. 20m Break through the wall via a left-trending slot.
3. 40m Trend left up easier ground to the crest of Sunset Buttress, and finish up this to the top.

**Triangle Buttress:**

*Pelican Groove* 80m II/III. I.Munro, S.BenBrahim. 15th March 2008.

Climb a series of grooves up the left side of Triangle Buttress overlooking the obvious wide gully. Entry to the groove was gained by climbing steep snow up the centre of the buttress and following a left-trending ramp.

*Porthos* 70m III. S.M.Richardson, M.Fowler, D.Tunstall. 25th November 2007.

The square-cut groove on the left flank of the buttress starting 20m up and left of Once Upon a Time in the East. Climb the groove, easy at first, until forced left into a short and steep impending groove. Step left again to reach the crest of a blocky ridge that leads to the top.

**Perseverance Wall:**

*Booby Prize* 80m, III \*. B.Duthie, F.Templeton. 16th December 2007.

Start in the same place as The Gift. Where this begins to move right, continue straight up into a small snow basin moving left near the top to a steepish finish.

*Tenacity* 80m V,6. P.Benson, S.M.Richardson. 9th December 2007.

A good short technical route based on the summer line. Start as for summer below the alcove.

1. 30m Climb the groove up to the roof, then step left onto a ledge and move on to the left arete. Climb the wall above and move easily up to a stance on the right on top of a small tower.
2. 50m Step left and climb the steep groove just left of the arete to the plateau (this lies between the chokestoned groove of The Vice and the crest of the arete taken by the summer line).

*Athos* 80m III. M.Fowler, D.Tunstall, S.M.Richardson. 25th November 2007.

The groove line between Temptress and Windfall.

1. 30m Climb the groove past a steepening and head for a V-slot on the skyline.

2. 40m Continue in the same line and climb a right-facing ramp overlooking the steep retaining wall of Windfall. Belay just above the Windfall chimney.
3. 10m Easy slopes lead to the top.

*Athos, Right-Hand Start* 50m IV,6. P.Benson, S.M.Richardson. 9th December 2007.

1. 20m Start as for Windfall and move up easy ground to the foot of a right-facing corner to the left of the ramp of Windfall. Climb mixed ground into the corner and belay by a large ledge on the left.
2. 30m Continue up the corner to where it steepens into a smooth clean-cut groove. Step right and climb a steep crack just right of a steep arete and exit on well-spaced turf. Continue up easier ground to the junction with Athos. Follow this to the top (30m).

### **Central Buttress:**

*Central Buttress Superdirect* 90m VI,6. S.M.Richardson, R.G.Webb. 2nd March 2008.

A direct version of Central Buttress Direct taking the triangular section of crag to the right of Mantichore. Start 20m left of Central Buttress Direct.

1. 35m Climb a slab and shallow groove above to a steepening. Move right 3m to a second groove system and follow this past a steep bulge to just left of Central Buttress Direct.
2. 15m Climb the bulging corner above and continue up mixed ground to join Central Buttress Direct.
3. 40m Continue up Central Buttress Direct to exit on the crest of Central Buttress.

### **Parallel Buttress:**

**Note:** B.Duthie & F.Tempelton took the following line in March 2008. Above the shallow 3m groove, instead of moving left at the jammed spike, move 2m right under bulging blocks above onto a mini arete, then up left through a V-notch in the ridge to join the original line.

### **THE STUIC:**

*Reboot* 80m IV,5. B.Davison, A.Nisbet. 12th November 2007.

The rib which forms the right side of The Stooee Chimney. Scramble up to the base of the chimney and start at its right wall. Traverse out on to the rib and climb up to a huge block. Gain a ledge above and move right into a narrow ramp. Pull out left from its top to another ledge and a large flake-crack. Climb this rightwards and gain easier ground above (40m). Finish more easily up the rib which peters out into broken ground (50m).

*Finesse* 60m III. B.Davison, A.Nisbet. 12th November 2007.

Between the buttresses with Big Block Groove and House of Cards is a slightly recessed area with two parallel faults. This is the left fault, which starts up a chimney leading to blocky ground.

*Trump* 60m III. B.Davison, A.Nisbet. 12th November 2007.

This is the right fault which becomes a left-facing corner high up.

*Unblocked* 50m I. B.Davison, A.Nisbet. 12th November 2007.

Right of House of Cards is a gully capped by a huge block. There is a through route in early season which would soon fill and the finish might become harder.

*Glottal Slot* 40m III,5. B.Davison, A.Nisbet. 12th November 2007.

Right of Slot Buttress is a wide gully with a steep finish, taken by a corner forming its right wall.

### **Coire Loch nan Eun - Coire Lochan na Feadaige (near The Stuic):**

*Plover* 100m II. G.J.Lynn. 24th February 2008.

On the larger, most westerly buttress in the corrie (NO 221 856), to the right of Goldie. Start at the right-hand toe of the buttress, climb broken grooves, following the easiest line to reach the upper snowfields and a junction with Goldie. Follow the left-slanting ramp on the upper rocks as for Goldie.

#### **BROAD CAIRN BLUFFS:**

*Tombstone Blues* 40m HVS 5b. B.S.Findlay, G.S.Strange. 8th September 2007.

This climb lies on the wall of red slabs left of Coffin Chimney. Start from a terrace and climb the right-hand crack before veering left and up to a grass-floored recess (20m). Continue up another crack and climb a V-slot in an overhang (crux). Traverse hard left to beyond a perched block then finish straight up (20m).

#### **CREAG AN DUBH LOCH, South-East Buttress:**

*Dark Souls* 160m IV,4 \*. A.Main, M.Jarvie. 20th January 2008.

A nice winter line up mixed grooves and chimneys. Start just below and right of Dogleg, below a left-facing groove, next to a small tree.

1. 50m Climb the groove to a snow platform, follow the chimney and exit right, to belay where the route crosses Souls on Fire.
2. 50m Continue rightwards to the next chimney and follow this with increasing difficulty to a bulge (crux). Surmount this and belay in an obvious cave above.
3. and 4. 60m Join South-East Buttress and follow easy ground to the top.

#### **EAGLES ROCK, Plateau Buttress:**

*Cumulus* 150m Severe. A.Nisbet. 13th September 2007.

Climbs the full height of the buttress taken by Flankers Route. Start near the left end of its horizontal base, well below and right of the watherfall. Take a line slanting slightly left, keeping between very smooth rock on the left and more vegetation on the right. It probably crossed Flankers Route high up. The upper section is slow to dry.

#### **GLEN CALLATER, Coire Kander:**

*Talus Buttress* 300m II. J.Higham, M.Allen, M.Higham. 9th February 2006.

There are two buttresses that descend close to Loch Kander. The route started on the left (higher) of the two buttresses at its lowest point (NO 189 808). Climb for 150m directly up open icy grooves in the lower part and an exposed ridge in the upper. It is possible to descend easily from here but better to continue on up the buttress lying directly above. Follow a steep gully (50m) and then break out left onto the buttress edge and follow this directly to the summit (100m).

*Consolation Buttress* 200m II. J.Higham. 9th March 2002.

A buttress (NO 185 807) located in the centre of the back corrie wall of Coire Kander just to the left of a prominent snow gully (with steep ice pitch in the middle, possibly Wee Gem). Start at the foot of the buttress and follow to the summit. A steep and awkward wall halfway up is best tackled on the right. The route may bank out in snowy winters.

#### **GLEN CALLATER, Unnamed Crag:**

*Flu Sunday* 80m II. J.Higham. 23rd January 2005.

The route is located on a small buttress high on the west slopes of Glen Callater at NO 190 817. The cliff is characterised by a prominent ridge on the left-hand side of an easy gully which splits the right-hand side of the cliff. The route follows this ridge for 80m.

#### **LITTLE GLAS MAOL, North Facing Buttress:**

*Slanting Ramp* 150m II. J.C.Higham. 20th March 1999.

On the left-hand side of the North Facing Buttress below Little Glas Maol is a right-slanting runnel in the upper part of the face (NO 176 762). Ascend directly to the start of this feature over mixed ground and then follow the easy runnel to the summit plateau.

**GLEN CLOVA, Coire Wirral:**

*Central Buttress* 175m III. J.Higham, R.Higham. 30th December 2000.

Two prominent buttresses are present in the corrie overlooking Loch Wirral. This route follows the right-hand buttress (NO 360 747) which has a steep rocky start that gives way in the upper part to a broad snowy ridge. Start at the lowest point of the buttress and spiral up to the right for 50m until at the top of a prominent rib. Continue directly up the grooves above and onto the crest of the buttress. This is then followed more easily to the plateau.

**Corrie Bonhard:**

*Bonhard Buttress* IV,4. S.Cameron, A.Thomson. 1992?

Climb to base of a groove. Go up the groove to a dark overhang and traverse out left to and follow a snow line to the crest of the buttress. Climb this to easy snow. Photo provided.

**Corrie Fee:**

*The Comb* IV,6. A.Thomson, S.Cameron. January 1986.

Also G.Gatherer, S.Elliot, G.Connor. 8th December 2007.

By the summer line, good in lean conditions, with difficulties mainly on rock. The described line needs more snow on pitch 1 and misses the highlight, the steep upper comb and arete.

*Nits on the Comb* 60m? IV,5. A.Thomson, S.Cameron, G.Rodgers. February 1988.

The obvious corner between the slabby left wall of the Comb and the steep wall on the left. Climb easy snow to reach its base, then climbed the corner direct to reach the plateau.

**GLEN ESK:**

*Hunt Hill Falls* 110m IV,5 \*. D.Tunstall, J.Irvin. 21st December 2007.

The first stream crossed above the Falls of Unich descends from a cliff on the right bank (NO 383 797). The second pitch provides the meat of the route. In better conditions a direct pure icefall line just to the right should be possible.

1. 40m Climb the stream easily for 40m.

2. 35m There is a short steep section after 10m which has not yet been seen fully frozen, so climb a short ramp 3m to the left which has a steep exit that leads to a big ledge with trees. Traverse right to regain the main falls which are climbed in the centre using a series of iced grooves on the left.

3. 35m A short steep wall leads to a narrow gully which is followed for 10m before widening and the angle easing. This is followed for another 20m to a tree. There is a good descent path off to the left.

## **NORTH EAST OUTCROPS**

### **GIRDLE NESS POINT (NJ 972 055):**

A small inlet just down from Girdleness Lighthouse.

*Ness Girdle* 50m Severe. G.J.Lynn. 25th August 2007.

A traverse of the north facing wall. Start at the landward end and traverse around to a small bridge on the headland, climbing generally above the high-tide mark.

### **EARN SHEUGH:**

*Grimly Fiendish Direct Start* 20m E5 6a \*\*. G.Lennox, E.Barber. 8th July 2007.

Step onto the wall from the block as per the normal start, then traverse right to the arete (PR).

Make hard moves up to the break and traverse right to good friend placements at the undercut arete. Pull over the bulge at jugs and continue boldly up to join the original route.

### **JOHNS HEUGH:**

**Note:** Hunchback Direct (SMCJ 2007) is at Johnsheugh, not Boltsheugh Lower South.

### **DOONIE POINT, Castle Rock of Muchalls:**

*A Slice Short* 30m E1 5a. R.I.Jones, C.Las Heras. 19th May 2007.

Start at the bottom of the right-rising ramp on the north face. Climb the centre of the wall and take the overhang on the left. Climb the groove on the right of the arete on the wall above.

### **LONG HAVEN QUARRIES, Scimitar Ridge, South Wall:**

*The Trial* 12m E8 6c \*\*\*. G.Lennox. 3rd November 2007.

Start as for Comfortably Numb, but where this route breaks out right, continue up the crack with a very hard move, then a devious excursion out left to gain the final section of crack, above the Niche. Hard, sustained and technical, but with good gear if you can place it.

### **ROSEHEARTY:**

*Shapeshifters Direct* 12m E5 6a \*. G.Lennox, E.Barber, A.Coull. 2nd July 2007.

An eliminate with good climbing up the centre of the wall. Climb directly to the flake at the junction of Coming up Roses and Shapeshifters. Follow these routes to the first break, then continue up the centre of the wall (crossing Shapeshifters as it escapes right), aiming for a right-facing flake below the final block. Exit by the right notch.

### **LOGIE HEAD, The Pinnacle:**

The following routes are on the **EAST** face. The rock is not as good but still reasonable.

*Kerfuffle* 15m E1 5b. A.Nisbet, J.Preston. 22nd September 2007.

The steepest part of the face has this crack-line right of centre and which leads through a bulge into a distinct niche. Reach up from its top, then step right to an arete. Follow this left to the top.

*Greybeard* 15m E1 5a. A.Nisbet, J.Preston. 23rd October 2007.

Climb up to the left end of a long down-pointing flake. Use this to pull right into a hollow and finish straight up.

*Krakatoa* 15m VS 4c. J.Preston, A.Nisbet. 22nd September 2007.

On the left side of the face are two parallel faults. This is the right one.

*Fit for Porpoise* 15m VS 4c. J.Preston, A.Nisbet. 22nd September 2007.

The left fault line.

*Podcast* 10m Very Difficult. J.Preston, A.Nisbet. 22nd September 2007.

A shallow chimney line left again, which leads to a square-cut niche at the top. The niche can be gained by starting further right and climbing short walls and ledges at Very Difficult.

*Flipside* 8m Severe. J.Preston, A.Nisbet. 22nd September 2007.

A shallow chimney with a pinnacle formed between twin chimney-cracks. This is the more continuous right crack.

*Delphinus* 8m Very Difficult. J.Preston, A.Nisbet. 22nd September 2007.

This is the left crack.

*Flipper* 6m 4c. J.Preston, A.Nisbet. 22nd September 2007.

A bulging fault line at the entrance to a deep slot.

*Flip Flop* 6m Very Difficult. J.Preston. 22nd September 2007.

Up between two chokestones at the seaward end of a gully which lies near the inland end of the face.

*Blackadder* 10m Hard Severe 4b. J.Preston, A.Nisbet. 23rd October 2007.

West of this pinnacle is a smaller squat pinnacle. This route climbs its seaward face. Start up the left arete and move into the middle of the face at half-height. Finish on the left arete.

#### **HEAD OF GARNESS:**

*Taken to the Cleaners* 45m E1. J.Preston, A.Nisbet. 18th May 2007.

A sea-cliff adventure. The east leg of the Head of Garness is formed below an impressive prow which finishes at the height of the fields behind. The right side of the prow is a steep wall formed above a sea cave. From the crest of the east leg, an undercut slab slopes down into the cave. Start down from the crest at a flake-ledge which is the only place where the wall can be gained.

1. 35m 5a Step up on to a small sloping ledge, then make a sensational rising traverse right to a good flake. Step down right onto a ledge then climb up rightwards to a green crack. Now climb up and slightly left using incut holds and a flake. Above this point the climbing eases but the rock is dirtier. Continue straight up on small ledges and cracks to a big ledge (possible escape).

2. 10m 5b Step down and right from the belay, then make steep moves up the right side of the arete. Continue up the corner above. Old stake belay. Plenty of loose rock was removed on abseil but the underlying rock seemed reasonable and the protection was also reasonable.

The following routes are on the lower cliff described in SMCJ 2005.

*Guttersnipe* 8m Hard Severe. J. & D.Preston. 11th April 2007.

From a boulder platform in a hole halfway up Drainpipe Gully, climb the grey corner on the left.

*Squiggly* 15m VS 4b. J. & D.Preston. 11th April 2007.

Start as for The Garnest. Step up and then immediately left to a ledge. Climb the steep left wall (crux) and follow the crest of the ridge more easily to the top.

The next four routes all lie on the wall left of the ridge of Squiggly. Approach by 20m abseil (slightly diagonally leftwards facing out) from a large block on the crest of the headland running out to sea. Belay on a convenient small square-cut ledge just above the high water mark.



*Wiggly* 18m Severe. J. & D.Preston. 11th April 2007.

Step right from the belay ledge and follow a deep crack to a sentry box. Bridge steeply out of this and continue in the same line to the top. (passing right of a small yellow pinnacle near the top).

*Going Ga Ga* 18m Very Difficult \*. J. & D.Preston. 11th April 2007.

Climb cracks above the belay ledge to an overlap.. Climb through this on the left and finish more easily (passing left of the yellow pinnacle).

*Garfish* 18m Difficult. J. & D.Preston. 11th April 2007.

Angle (spot the deliberate pun!) up left from the belay to start then climb straight to the top.

*Gargoyle* 18m Very Difficult. J. & D.Preston. 11th April 2007.

Traverse 2m left from the belay ledge, then climb up to a ledge and continue up a green crack to finish on fine rough rock.

The next three routes lie further left (north) on the same slabby wall but are approached by abseiling to a left-rising ramp 10m left of the square-cut ledge.

*Garland* 18m Hard Severe 4b \*. A.Nisbet, J.Preston. 18th May 2007.

Start from the lower right end of the ramp just above high tide level. Step right on to the wall and climb straight up to a long ledge. Continue up a steeper headwall and climb its right side by a left diagonal crack.

*Black Garter* 16m Hard Severe 4b. J.Preston, A.Nisbet. 18th May 2007.

Start 2m right of a chokestone which forms the left end of the ramp. Climb straight up to finish up the left side of the headwall, moving right and back left at the base of the headwall.

*Garlic* 16m Very Difficult. J.Preston, A.Nisbet. 18th May 2007.

Start at the chokestone. Climb up the wall to a right-facing corner. Go up this to finish up steep but more broken ground left of the headwall.

### **REDHYTHE POINT, The Gully Buttress (SMCJ 2005/2006), South-East Face:**

Traverse right (facing in) from the base of the Bird Poo Wall descent past the slab of Wibble and step down to a ledge below a short overhanging wall.

*Wobble* 10m Very Difficult. J.Preston. 22nd April 2007.

Climb the short overhanging wall and continue straight to the top.

*Cardinal Biggles* 10m Difficult. J.Preston. 22nd April 2007.

The grooves between the overhanging wall and Cardinal Fang.

### **North-East Face:**

It is unclear where the SE face becomes the NE face; possibly the dividing line is the arete of Cardinal Fang. The SE Face is then nearer east-facing.

*Break Point* 10m Hard Severe \*. J. & D.Preston. 15th April 2007.

Independent climbing between Break Out and Clean Break. Directly above the foot of Ramage a good undercling and cracks lead to the overlap which is climbed at its widest point on good holds to the top.

*Crackers* 10m Very Difficult. J. & D.Preston. 15th April 2007.

The crack immediately left of Rampage is followed rightwards under the overhang.

*Direct* 10m VS 4c. J. & D.Preston. 15th April 2007.  
Climb straight through the overhang at its widest point.

*And Now For Something Completely Different* 35m Hard Severe 4b \*\*. J. & D.Preston.  
15th April 2007.

Ministry of Silly Walks (SMCJ 2006) is essentially the same as the High Tide Traverse (SMCJ 2005) with the option to continue right. A right to left (facing in, north to south) traverse avoids the unpleasant jump at the north end. Start at the base of the Gully Wall below The Deep, as for Flying Circus. Make the first move as for this route and then continue left with feet just above the high water mark all the way round to Bird Poo Wall. Great fun, ideal at high tide or just before.

The following routes lie on the section of cliff south of the easy Bird Poo Wall scrambling descent. A deep narrow gully cuts into the cliff at one point. Most of the routes, in fact all but three described here are between the BP wall descent and this Deep Gully. All routes can be accessed at low tide or by a 15m abseil from huge blocks on a ledge south of the BP wall descent. From the very base of the BP wall scrambling descent, traverse left (facing in) at low tide for 5m on a barnacle and mussel encrusted ledge.

*The Poop Deck* 14m Severe. J.Preston, P.Amphlett, T.Sharp. 22nd April 2007.  
This route follows the first obvious break, belay on a good spike above the high tide mark. Move up right on a brown slab to a small green ledge. Then climb straight up (left of BP wall) and up to the top through an overlap.

*Pooped* 14m VS 4c. J.Preston, P.Amphlett, T.Sharp. 22nd April 2007.  
From the same spike belay (low tide) climb straight up to a constriction. Step up and right onto a sloping green ledge. Continue up right and surmount the overhanging wall to finish more easily on green slabs. At high tide, approached from a belay further left on the edge.

At low tide the traverse left can be continued past an awkward step to belay for the next two routes on a ledge above the high tide mark. This is on an edge where the cliff swings round and starts cutting in towards the Deep Gully. Alternatively abseil in to this small ledge.

*Up and Under* 14m Hard Severe. J.Preston, P.Amphlett, T.Sharp. 22nd April 2007.  
Above the belay is a tapering ramp-line. Climb this rightwards to a thread runner and where it narrows step up right. Climb the overlap and finish up slabs.

The next two routes are separated by a narrow white ledge, the only sign of bird activity observed on this section of the cliff.

*Boil Your Bottom* 14m VS 4c \*. J.Preston, P.Amphlett, T.Sharp. 22nd April 2007.  
From the same belay as Up and Under climb up left to the large overhang. Layback smoothly into the niche above. Bridge up out of this and pull through leftwards on good holds to a slabby finish.

*Nailed to the Perch* 14m VS 4c. J.Preston, P.Amphlett, T.Sharp. 22nd April 2007.  
From a spike belay 5m further left, climb easily to the large overhang. Climb this strenuously up a crack on good holds. Make another steep move up left from the ledge and continue straight to the top.

The following four routes are further left again and start from the base of the Deep Gully. The easiest approach is to abseil to the very foot of the gully to a point below several chockstones by some red rock. This is above the high water mark.

*Pythonesque* 14m VS 4c \*. J. & D.Preston. 15th April 2007.

Climb easily up right from the base of the gully on ledges to squirm effortlessly through the slot at the steepening.

*Green Fingers* 14m HVS 5a. J. & D.Preston. 15th April 2007.

The green wall above the base of the gully is climbed direct. Good steep climbing although escapable at half-height.

*Rampart* 14m Severe. J. & D.Preston. 15th April 2007.

From a point level with the chockstones in the gully, climb the narrow ramp on the right.

*The Holy Hand Grenade* 16m Hard Severe 4b. J. & D.Preston. 15th April 2007.

Climb up the bed of the gully over several chockstones to a steep wall. Step up right and follow a narrow ramp rightwards. Finishing direct is also possible but belaying at the top is then problematical.

*Conk City* 14m HVS 5a \*. J. & D.Preston. 15th April 2007.

The overhanging wall on the south side of the gully. From a spike belay above the chockstones, climb the wall direct on good holds to finish on a yellow pinnacle.

*Big Nose* 14m Very Difficult \*. J. & D.Preston. 15th April 2007.

Left of Conk City, climb twin diagonal cracks leftwards to a large green and yellow block. Step off this and climb to the top.

A large ledge (still above the high water mark) leads around left from the south of Big Nose to The Tea Cleft. The next route starts where this ledge runs out.

*Greenland Odyssey* 16m Severe. J.Preston. 15th April 2007.

From the far end of the ledge south of Deep Gully, make an awkward step left around a rib onto a sloping green ledge. Climb a wall on the right then slabs to the top. Well situated, overlooking the Tea Cleft.

Further left the ledges peter out completely and the cliff drops abruptly into the sea.

## HIGHLAND OUTCROPS

### **POLLDUBH, Tricouni Buttress:**

*Stag Day Afternoon* 25m HVS 4c. E.Grindley, R.McHardy. 31st March 2007.  
The overhanging wall between Black Slab Edge and Black Slab. Unprotected.

### **Pandora's Buttress:**

*Over and Out* 25m E5 6a \*\*\*. E.Grindley, R.McHardy. 27th May 2007.  
Exposed and technical crack climbing above the big roof to the right of Phantom Slab. Start at the tree belay at the start of Phantom Slab. Climb the corner of Pandora until it is possible to step left to gain the thin crack which runs leftwards above the lip of the roof. Follow this to reach a groove which finishes at the top of Lucy Lime.

*Parallelojam* 30m E2 5c \*\*. E.Grindley, J.Macleod. 26th March 2007.  
From the top of the corner on Pandora Direct, climb a shallow right-facing corner to a good hold part-way along a slanting crack. Move right along this crack and finish up the right-hand of the two wide parallel cracks.

### **Repton Buttress:**

*Ripley Holden* 30m E4 6a \*\*. E.Grindley, J.French, S.Abbott, J.Macleod. 9th May 2006.  
Climb the first few feet of Tyke's Climb, then step right to the foot of a steep groove. Go up this with poor protection initially to gain the slab below Sprachle's groove. Finish up this.

*Blackpool* 35m E3 5b/c \*. E.Grindley, J.French, S.Abbott, J.Macleod. 6th May 2006.  
Climb the very shallow open niche just left of Sprachle to gain a thin crack, then step up left to gain good holds on the slab. Climb the slabs and go straight up the bulge on sideholds to gain a tiny spike. Continue up the unprotected slab to the top.

### **Scimitar Buttress:**

*The Great Beast* 25m HVS 5a \*. E.Grindley, J.French. 6th June 2006.  
Start 2m left of Nutcracker and climb up to steeper rock. Climb the rib via an obvious block to a slab. Finish up through the right-hand side of the niche above.

*Floatin with Roo* 35m E1 5b \*\*. E.Grindley, J.French, R.Mackintosh. 7th June 2006.  
Start just up and right from the right edge of the front face and climb a slab to an oblong roof. Move over this using vertical cracks and continue up the pleasant slab.

### **Gorge Crag:**

*Brief Candle* 35m E2 \*\*. E.Grindley R.Grindley. 30th September 2007.  
Varied climbing up the rib to the left of Pupil Power. Start 5m to the left of Pupil Power, just left of a heathery groove.

1. 15m 5b Climb the steep wall stepping left to exit via a left-facing corner to a ledge on the left of the rib.
2. 30m 5c Climb up easily until the rib steepens, then go up a thin crack just right of the rib and continue to a ledge. Climb the slab above, stepping right before finishing direct to a clump of trees.

### **GLENFINNAN, Dome Buttress:**

*Clementine* 25m E5 6a \*\*\*. E.Grindley, C.Mackintosh, P.Brian. 25th August 1998.  
The central rib. Rather bold, but good. Start 2m left of Manic Laughter and climb slightly rightwards to the rib on the left of that route. Step up left and climb the steep wall to a ledge on the rib. Step high left onto the face and go slightly rightwards to the rib. Step left again

and continue to easy ground. There are good peg belays in the slab near the top of the cliff above Clementine.

**STRATHSPEY, Farletter Crag:**

*Firelighter* 13m Severe. J.Lyall. 1983.

Start directly below a slot in the roofs left of Farrlake. Go straight up through this to finish out left.

*Spark to a Flame* 30m HVS/E1 5a. J.Lyall. 20th April 2007.

Start at the right end of the crag, just right of some rock shelves going out left. Go up through a low overlap and move left to good runners at the foot of a slanting groove. Continue up the edge right of the groove to a ledge. Big holds lead boldly up the right edge of the wall to a niche (runners); pull out left to another ledge. Finish by the tree and final wall of Strike One.

**DUNTELCHAIG, Dracula Buttress:**

**Note:** Mummy (SMCJ 2007) was climbed by Robert & Ruairidh Mackenzie; D.Moy made the second ascent.

**Seventy Foot Wall:**

*Insomnia* 15m E3 5c. J.Murray (unsec). 9th April 2008.

Climb the initial crack of Anne Boleyn's Crack until its end. Gain the arete directly above via thin awkward moves until a better hold is reached (possible groundfall?). Step slightly left and finish (a dubious Cam in a pocket protects).

**ASHIE FORT:**

**Note:** N.Carter repeated Whipper Snapper (SMCJ 1999) and thought E3 5c, well enough protected.

**INVERFARIGAIG, Monster Buttress:**

**Notes:** A.Tibbs & C.Eatock climbed a second pitch to Monster Magic on 19th May 2006.

Climb diagonally up leftwards through steep bulges on good holds to a tree (15m 5a).

A.Tibbs & D.Moy climbed a route, probably Dances With Blondes on 24th June 2006.

Scramble up a mossy slab 10m left of Farigaig Corner and move left through some small trees to a short rib of rock; start here. Climb the rib of rock and the crack above it (30m E1).

**TYNRICH SLABS:**

*Angels Wings* 15m HVS 5a. A.Tibbs, J.Biggarr, L.Biggarr. 18th May 2007.

Start 5m left of Scorpion. Climb a short wall to gain a right-trending line which leads to a crack immediately left of Scorpion. Climb this crack to join Scorpion to finish.

**CRAIG A' BARNES, Polney Crag:**

*Twilight Direct Start* E4 6a \*. A.D.Robertson, C.Jordi. 28th July 2007.

Starting at the base of the Twilight / Wriggle Direct corner, make strenuous moves out left into the bottomless groove just left of the arete with no protection then continue up to join and finish up the normal route. Inspected on abseil prior to ascent.

**CREAG NA H-EIGHE:**

*Raindoggers Wall* 8m Very Difficult \*. S.Holmes. 27th May 2007.

On the far right of the crag on the left of the final slab. Start just to the left of the obvious boulders. Climb the slab and wall passing just to the right of the mid-height overhang. Well protected. Fine quality rock on the upper half of the climb.

## **BEN NEVIS, AONACHS, CREAG MEAGAI DH**

### **BEN NEVIS, Little Brenva Face:**

*Steam Train* VI,7. D.MacLeod, A.Hudelson. 20th March 2007.

By the summer line.

### **Minus Face:**

*Subtraction* VIII,8 \*. V.Scott, G.Robertson. 15th April 2008.

This winter ascent gives hard, varied and committing mixed climbing following the summer line into Minus Two Gully, then finishing up that route (the upper groove was bare). There was some ice present but it was of limited use; on pitch 2 it was good enough to hold crampons in places. More ice would undoubtedly help on the first pitch (crux), but the second pitch will probably always be hard.

**Note:** G.Robertson thinks that Minus Two Buttress (1974) goes up iced slabs left of the lower part of the initial groove, then breaks right to gain and follow the upper continuation. Subtraction climbs the lower part, then goes on to the rib on the right.

### **Observatory Ridge, West Face:**

*The Frozen Chosin* 80m VI,6. S.M.Richardson, R.G.Webb. 16th March 2008.

The buttress between Abacus and Maelstrom. Start just left of Maelstrom below a right-facing corner that cuts up the right edge of the buttress.

1. 20m Climb the corner, step left to a second right-facing corner, and climb this to icy slabs. Belay in the shallow cave above.
2. 40m Traverse left for 3m then move up icy slabs to join the right-trending line of weakness that cuts through the barrier wall above. Follow this and continue up the shallow icy depression overlooking Abacus to below a short wall.
3. 20m Continue easily up the buttress to the crest of Observatory Ridge.

### **Indicator Wall:**

*Stormy Petrel Variation* 60m VII,6. B.Fyffe, I.Small. 24th March 2007.

3. 30m As the corner was ice-free, climb the rightmost of two parallel grooves right of the corner to exit onto the big slab above. Belay on the left side of the slab to the right of large roofs.
4. 30m Climb the large corner above, on its left wall on thin ice (this is left of the original route's corner) to belay on the traverse line of Flight of the Condor. Finish by the original chimney.

### **Douglas Boulder:**

*Walking Through Fire* VII,7. R.Bentley, M.Davies. 14th March 2008.

Follow the summer line throughout but climb the overhang direct at the start of pitch 3 and also climb the final chimneys at the top of the V-groove direct before trending right to the south-west ridge. Pitch 2 is by far the crux with poorly protected moves on snowed up slabs to gain the belay below the inverted V-overhang.

### **Goodeve's Buttress:**

*Techno Wall* 140m V,6. S.M.Richardson, A.Cave. 20th April 2008.

A direct line up the centre of the front triangular face of the buttress between Goodytwoshoes and The Borg Collective.

1. 40m Start as for Goodytwoshoes and move up and right through a steep section to gain the steep blunt rib bounding the groove and chimney system of The Borg Collective. Climb this to a large pinnacle block beneath the headwall.

2. 30m Pull through steep cracks to reach a steep wide niche. Step right and climb a steep crack to reach the short hanging chimney-groove that runs parallel to the upper chimney of The Borg Collective. An excellent pitch.
3. and 4. 70m Continue up easier ground to reach the plateau as for Hale Bopp Groove.

### **The Comb:**

*Don't Die of Ignorance* 275m XI,11. D.MacLeod, J.French. 16th March 2008.

A free ascent based on the 1987 aided route, taking a more direct line at the crux. Climbed ground up, onsight, 6th attempt. Start on the left side of the Comb at the start of the huge diagonal shelf/crack system.

1. 30m Follow the easy snow and ice ramps to a belay before the ledge runs out.
2. 30m Step down into the wide undercut crack and tin opener tenuously to the arete (cams, bulldog). A foot-off tin opener move gains access to the rib on the right (peg). The aid route continues along the crack. Quit the crack and climb leftwards on the tenuous wall above to gain a ledge. Go right beneath a steep groove and move round its base to gain a thin crack in an open slab. Climb this to below a chimney.
3. 55m Step up and right to gain the huge open groove of Don't Die and follow this with sustained interest to a hanging belay on the right at a large block.
4. 25m Step left and follow the crest, moving left again across a fault to a ledge and good belay at a flake.
5. 20m Mantel the flake and step right to regain the crest which is followed to the snow crest on the apex of the buttress (good spike belay).
6. 60m Climb the easy snow crest to a steepening.
7. 40m Climb snow grooves in the buttress crest to a flat knife edge leading to the plateau.
8. 15m The knife edge leads easily to the plateau.

### **Number Three Gully Buttress:**

*Last Tango* 140m VII,8. I.Small, S.M.Richardson. 13th April 2008.

A steep icy mixed route based on the huge left-facing corner to the right of the icy slab of Quickstep. The route climbs the corner then breaks out right through the retaining wall to finish up the crest of the rib.

1. and 2. 65m Climb the first two pitches of Quickstep and belay below the corner.
3. 40m Climb the corner for 20m, then pull out right onto the impending right wall to reach a small ledge. Climb a small inset left-facing corner for 10m then traverse delicately back left into the main corner line. Step left and climb thin ice over a steep bulge to a good stance. Junction with Quickstep.
4. 15m Traverse 5m right to a turf niche and climb the fault above to reach the crest of the rib.
5. 20m Climb the rib to the cornice. (On this ascent, the cornice was impassable, so it was bypassed by a long traverse right to exit as for Two Step Corner).

*The Survivor* 90m VII,8. S.M.Richardson, I.Small. 9th March 2008.

A difficult mixed climb based on the prominent corner-niche on the left side of the front face of Number Three Gully Buttress.

1. 40m Start directly below the niche and climb snow and ice trending left across a shallow depression to a short wall. Surmount this, move right, and climb a second wall to enter the niche. Belay on the right wall.
2. 20m Climb the corner at the back of the niche to a small triangular ledge. Traverse left along a hidden horizontal break to a good stance.
3. 30m Surmount a steep bulge and continue up the diagonal fault line to reach a narrow ledge after 20m. Climb the steep icy groove above to join the platform on Number Three Gully Buttress.

*Snuff Wall* 55m VIII,8. I.Parnell (unsec). 19th March 2008.

This takes a line between Babylon and Winter Chimney, starting out technical and tenuous, then with an extremely bold but less technical central section on thin ice (ground fall possibilities) before a steep gymnastic finish. Climb 6m up Winter Chimney until it is possible to pull left and climb the left side of a wide shallow recess. This is climbed for 6m until it is possible to traverse right past steep thin cracks to a short ramp/arete. Climb up this, then make a super thin traverse right to gain an obvious long curving ice ramp (one of the main features of this wall). This is followed with almost no gear (the first ascent had poor half inch ice, exceptional conditions will make the route easier) until a huge chockstone (good gear) is reached. Climb steeply straight up past this and another pointed chockstone to a crack-line leading to the top.

**Notes:** B.Fyffe climbed a variation finish to Chinook on 30th December 2007, traversing hard left after the groove and climbing an exposed crack overlooking Two Step. T.Stone thought Babylon VI,7 although VII,7 is a more common opinion.

### **Creag Coire na Ciste:**

*The Secret* 70m VIII,9. A.Turner, S.Ashworth, V.Scott. 10th December 2007.

The often eyed but rarely tried crack on the right wall of No.3 Gully. The main pitch involved a mind-boggling array of axe techniques. A sustained 35m crack pitch ranged from fist to finger width. The route was led on-sight and in perfect style.

**Note:** The second ascent opinions varied from VIII,8 to IX,9 \*\*\*.

*Stormtrooper* VIII, 8. S.Ashworth, A.Turner. 8th January 2008.

Climb a steep and rather bold groove just right of Darth Vader to access a belay niche in the middle of the wall. The second pitch takes a hanging and tapering ramp with the steep Darth Vader wall dropping away below. The crux of this pitch is at the narrows before an easing and arrival at the large ledge.

*Unnamed* 110m VIII,8. I.Small, S.M.Richardson. 6th April 2008.

A sustained and challenging mixed climb taking the prominent rib on the left side of Creag Coire na Ciste between Archangel and South Sea Bubble.

1. 20m Start as for South Gully and climb easily up steep snow to belay at the foot of a deep groove that cuts up and left just right of the rib crest.
2. 30m Climb the groove (passing a prominent tower-flake on the left after 15m) to where the groove steepens and opens up to offwidth. Climb the offwidth to a steep bulge split by a Y-shaped crack. Step on to the exposed left edge and a good block.
3. 20m Return back right into the groove and climb the through the bulge and Y-shaped crack (crux). Step left and move up a shallow slot to a good ledge that cuts across the crest of the rib. This banks up with snow and is a prominent feature on the route.
4. 20m From the right end of the ledge, climb the left-trending fault line that leads to an exposed position on the left edge of the rib. Pull through the overhanging wall on the right to a tiny ledge on the crest of the rib and finish up the impending crack in the wall above to reach easy ground.
5. 20m Continue up easy snow to the cornice.

*The Sorcerer* 140m VII,8. S.Ashworth, N.Nielsen. 1st March 2007.

The name is an attempt at capturing some of the White Magic. Start just left of Central Gully and Lost the Place below a steep corner.

1. 40m Climb over ledges to gain the corner. Climb the corner exiting via its right wall. Trend left over ledges to belay directly below the crack splitting the wall above.



2. 50m The magic crack pitch! A couple of thin poorly protected moves off a ledge gain the crack-line This is very similar to Magic Crack, a bit harder and twice as long. Easy ground above the wall leads to a belay shared with Lost the Place.
3. 50m Pull round the corner as for Lost the Place and immediately take a right-trending ramp-line which takes a diagonal across the steep upper buttress.

### **South Trident Buttress:**

**Note:** R.Jarvis & M.Moran climbed Strident Edge in December 2007 by the second and main pitch direct all the way up the crack and considered it VII,7.

*Under Fire* 85m VII,7 \*. D.MacLeod, M.Tweedley. 6th February 2008.

Start left of The Minge, below a roofed chimney. Climb the chimney with hard moves through the roof and the continuation corner above, to exit left onto a ledge underneath an overhanging wall. Traverse left for 5m and round to the base of a large slanting corner (common to 1944 route). Climb the corner and crawl right along a thin ledge to another corner which leads to the top.

### **MAMORES, Am Bodach**

*Rufty-Turfty* 180m III \*. M.J.Munro, G.A.McIntosh. 5th January 2008.

On the north face of the Am Bodach's eastern satellite. A continuous right-trending turf line 5m parallel left of Solo Gully. Rock protection is limited so turf protection is recommended. Start as Solo Gully and follow the turf fault line to a horizontal terrace belaying next to a large block (40m). Continue on the diagonal turf line passing a small tree with 4m vertical section leading to easier ground (120m).

### **Stob Ban, South Buttress:**

*Groove Rider* 160m IV,4 \*. A.Nisbet, C.Wells. 18th March 2008.

Start as for North Groove by traversing out right but then climb a smaller but well defined groove straight up (a direct start had insufficient ice) – 50m, 35m. Gain and climb the ridge to the summit (75m).

*Summit Groove* 140m IV,4 \*. A.Nisbet, C.Wells. 18th March 2008.

Start about halfway up South Gully and climb a big groove, almost a gully, which leads close to the summit. Continuous soft ice, would be Grade III in better conditions.

### **CARN DEARG MEADHONACH:**

The north-west face comprises a lower tapering buttress, and an upper pyramid shaped buttress. The existing routes are located on the lower buttress (p249 of guide).

*Chevron* 60m IV,5 \*. L.Harrop, A.Nelson. 9th March 2008.

Takes a line close to the upper right edge of the lower buttress. At this point the buttress is made up of two clearly defined steps. Start left of the buttress edge and climb a short groove rightwards to gain a left-trending upper groove. Climb the groove to the top of the first step (40m). A sharp arete leads to the East Ridge (20m).

*Perilous Journey* 70m IV,5 \*\*. S.Kennedy, R.Hamilton. 9th March 2008.

The upper buttress is defined by a prominent right-facing corner. A short pitch leads directly to the foot of the corner (20m). Climb the corner for 10m then move out onto the slabby right face. Thin moves lead across the face via small ledges until close to the right edge. Continue up interesting mixed ground just left of the edge to finish on slopes right of the East Ridge (50m).

*Like Father, Like Son* 60m IV,4 \*. L.Harrop, A.Nelson. 9th March 2008.

Start in a snow bay well left of the corner of Picket Line. Climb a short ice pitch to gain a right-sloping shelf which leads to a short chimney. Climb the chimney (crux) and finish up mixed ground.

### **AONACH MOR, Coire an Lochain, Web Buttress**

*History Won't Mind* 90m IV,5 \*. M.Dowsett, C.Randall. 23rd March 2008.

The buttress immediately left of Easy Gully contains Spider Rib and The Web. This route takes the mixed line up the steep chimney/groove immediately left of Easy Gully. Follow a snow ramp up into the foot of the groove and then mantle and bridge steeply upwards with spaced and sketchy protection until it is possible to pull over and onto the upper snowfield directly overlooking Easy Gully. Easy to finish and normally no cornice.

### **Ribbed Walls:**

*Jet Lag* 70m III. S.Allan, A.Dennis, K.Grindrod, A.Nisbet. 29th January 2008.

An icy groove right of Castaway (SMCJ 2007) and capped by a roof high up. Like all the routes in this area, sections will have been climbed before. Climb the lower continuation of the groove and move right into the main groove. Follow this to a steepening. Move left, then traverse back right above it and below the roof on to a rib on the right. Follow this to the upper snow slopes. Best after a big thaw when the cornice has collapsed.

### **Shark Walls:**

*Unnamed* 70m V,6. S.M.Richardson, I.Small. 23rd December 2007.

The upper section of the tower right of Hidden Pinnacle Gully is cut by a shallow chimney-fault on its right side. Start 20m right of Hidden Pinnacle Gully below a shallow gully line.

1. 30m Climb the gully passing a steep V-chimney to reach the central depression of Aquafresh.
2. 30m Continue in the line of the chimney-fault to reach the hanging gully. Climb this and exit left at the top (or harder, climb the capping roof). An excellent pitch in a fine position.
3. 10m Finish up easy snow to the top.

*Wise Goat* 110m IV,5. S.Allan, A.Dennis, K.Grindrod, A.Nisbet. 29th January 2008.

An ice line which forms right of Hammerhead Pillar, issuing from the final section of Gondola from the Wind. Start up Tunnel Vision until just above its narrows (40m). Move left on to a curving ramp and follow this to the ice line. Climb the ice through a mixed but helpful section and a short bulging slot to the point where Gondola from the Wind joins from the left (50m). Finish on snow as for this route (20m).

**Central Buttress note:** An obvious turfy line right of Morwind, joining Morwind higher up, has been climbed several times at Grade IV,5.

### **Twins Area:**

*White Noise Direct* 100m V,5. A.Nisbet, D.Tunstall. 7th April 2008.

A direct and better line based on White Noise (SMCJ 2007). The barrier wall was climbed direct on thin ice and an icy groove parallel to Lost Boys was climbed to finish (the original route tended right).

*White Light* 100m IV,5. A.Nisbet, D.Tunstall. 7th April 2008.

A parallel line of ice right of White Noise formed a bulging ice column level with its barrier wall.

1. 20m Start as for White Noise (or White Bait) to below the ice column.
2. 30m Climb up under the column and pass it by an iced groove just on the right to rejoin the line, followed to a snow bay.
3. 50m Continue up icy grooves directly above, joining White Noise original.

*White Horses* 120m V,6. A.Nisbet, I.Parnell. 29th December 2007.

The rib on the right side of the face right of Right Twin, right of White Bait and left of the icefall of The Slever.

1. 20m Climb easily up to a large sentry box.
2. 20m Step left and climb a groove before moving right on to the rib.
3. 40m Climb the rib to a bulging section. Climb this on its right side to reach the large snowy bay. Move right to a rib formed between White Bait and the upper gully of The Slever.
4. 40m Start up a steep groove at the very base and continue up the crest to the top.

#### **North Buttress:**

The left end of North Buttress is formed by two narrow ribs, the right of which is Grooved Arete. Between this and the left rib is a wide easy angled slot with a distinctive overhanging top. The following route is based on this but avoids the overhanging section well to the right.

*Slipstream* 140m IV,5. A.Nisbet, J.Preston. 23rd December 2007.

1. 50m Climb the easy angled section of the slot until immediately under the overhanging section.
2. 20m Gain a ledge on the right and follow it to the end of a vertical wall above.
3. 20m Climb two short vertical walls rightwards, then move up left to a ledge with a big spike.
4. 45m Climb a short chimney to easier grooves. Move left to the continuation above the overhanging section and follow it to a blocky arete under the cornice.
5. 5m Finish over this.

The corrie south of Coire an Lochain has a series of narrow buttresses at its northern end. These lie just left of the dividing ridge with Coire an Lochain. There are two main buttresses, split by an icy gully.

*Monkey Business* 70m V,6. S.M.Richardson, R.G.Webb. 30th December 2007.

The left-hand buttress is split by a prominent narrow right-facing groove in its upper half.

1. 20m Climb easily up a depression that narrows towards the upper groove.
2. 50m Continue up ice in the lower part of the depression to reach the groove. Climb this with increasing interest to a steep exit. A short snow slope leads to the cornice.

*Drunken Monkey* 70m III. R.G.Webb, S.M.Richardson. 30th December 2007.

The central gully line splits into two branches in its lower third. Climb the right branch to reach the main gully. Climb this over a steepening to exit left onto the upper snow slope.

*Monkey Puzzle* 70m III. R.G.Webb, S.M.Richardson. 30th December 2007.

The right-hand buttress is cut by a fault running up its length. Climb easy snow to where the fault line steepens. A dogleg right, then left, avoids this section (or climb it direct at III,4) and continue up the easier upper section to the final snow slope.

#### **AONACH BEAG, North Face:**

*Away from the Crows* 300m II. M.J.Munro, P.Baillie. 16th February 2007.

Start as for Queen's View until the snow basin. Climb left over broken ground and head for an open gully left of The Black Prince. Once the gully ends, veer right then left into a large open gully that runs until a snow arete finish.

#### **An Aghaidh Garbh:**

**Note:** Inducement Groove is left of Braxton Hicks. The Grade III gully line done by I.Small is on the left side of the buttress.

**West Face, Raw Egg Buttress:**

*Blackbeard* 70m VII,8. S.M.Richardson, I.Small. 4th January 2008.

A spectacularly steep mixed climb up the right arete of the Chandelle Wall.

1. 25m Start just left of Ruadh Eigg Chimney and directly below the arete below two stepped corners. Climb the first corner with difficulty to a narrow ledge, step right and climb the cracked right edge to a good ledge on the right. This is level with the horizontal break at the start of pitch 2 of Pirates.

2. 45m Pull through the overhang above (on the right side of the arete overlooking Ruadh Eigg Chimney) then trend left up a steep wall to the regain the arete (crux – bold and serious). Continue up steep cracks on the very edge of the buttress to reach a left-trending ramp that leads to the top.

**STOB COIRE AN LAOIGH:**

**Note:** On an ascent of Centrepoint on 10th December 2007, R.Cross & A.Benson climbed straight up the wider crack instead of the right traverse. This led to an easy finish up the top of New Labour.

**Note:** *Loupie Louie:* After the col, R.Bentley took the ridge direct and climbed the steep wall on the right halfway up (rather than step left) – IV,6.

**BEN ALDER, Garbh Coire Beag:**

*Pedal Power* 170m II. C.Marden, F.Marden. 17th February 2008.

The route climbs the snow face and open gully left of the steep mixed ground which merges with the top of the Short Leachas, finishing to the right of a small but distinctive downward pointing buttress. Approach by a rising traverse across snow terraces from the flank of the Short Leachas. Reach the toe of the downward pointing buttress in three long pitches, from where a rising traverse leads right to a steep cornice finish.

**CENTRAL HIGHLANDS, GEAL CHARN, Creag Dhubh:**

*Colscot Adventure* 125m III,4 \*. J.Foden, G.Buckingham. December 2007.

An ice line north-east of the existing routes. GPS reading for the start of the route: NN 595 799 (474m alt, end at 575m alt). Two pitches of 45m up a gully, followed by a 35m pitch including the 10m crux and a finish left of the gully.

## **GLEN COE**

### **BUACHAILLE ETIVE MOR:**

**Note:** J.Craig on 21st January 2008 climbed a Grade III gully just left of Lagangarbh Buttress, then went left of a higher buttress. Start on the path where it crosses a large area of stone debris. Ascend a burn over heather ramps, ignoring crags on left and right. The burn becomes a gully line. On the left is a small waterfall (not frozen), so a 4m icy ramp on the left was climbed. After 30m a large waterfall was bypassed by a turf corner on the right. After a steeper 35m another waterfall was passed by a 4m ramp on the left. Finish by 50m of steep snow.

### **BEINN FHADA, Summit Buttress:**

*West Rib* 210m II. S.Kennedy. 22nd March 2008.

The buttress forming the right edge of The Ramp. Start either directly or by a short chimney on the right (slightly harder). Join The Ramp at its top to finish up the crest.

### **STOB COIRE NAN LOCHAIN:**

**Note:** East Face Route is now established at VI,7.

*Wandering Wombat* 400m II. S.Swallow, N.Jordan, M.Drain. 14th March 2008.

The ridge and snow slopes left of Boomerang Gully. Start at a small scoop in the lowest rocks. Move up through this and keep trending slightly left to a face with a shallow chimney and with a boulder off to the left. Break left from the boulder and stay close to the rocks through a small chimney to a ridge running left of Boomerang Gully. Follow the ridge to a ledge. Go up a large snow slope to rocks and a prominent spike. Follow snow and rocks to a small gully, from which the main ridge line from Gearr Aonach to the summit of Stob Coire an Lochan was reached.

### **DIAMOND BUTTRESS:**

*Diamond Diretissima* 205m HVS 4c \*. R.Hamilton, S.Kennedy. 5th May 2007.

A more direct line than Bell's 1931 Direct Route, taking a line up the central slabs. A long dry spell is desirable. Starts almost at the lowest point of the buttress below a clean right-trending slabby ramp. The route has a serious feel to it. 60m ropes used.

1. 50m 4c Climb the ramp, following the right edge in the upper part, to a large block under a steep wall below the central slabs. Direct Route crosses here from the right.
2. 55m 4c Move up left passing some large flakes, then pull left into a slabby corner. Move up the corner then step right and climb cracked walls left of a prominent right-facing wall/corner (containing some loose blocks). A steep groove leads to the mid girdling ledge.
3. 55m 4b Traverse left for 5m along the ledge then climb slabs above to enter a deep recessed area. From the top of the recess pull out left by a large block and continue up steep slabs on the left to reach easier ground.
4. 45m Scramble up broken ground to reach the left edge of the buttress a short distance from the top.

### **SGORR DHONUILL (above Glenachulish):**

*Peekaboo* 70m VIII,8. D.King, M.Pescod. 10th January 2008.

Climbs the obvious undercut flat wall on the granite crag at NN 033 555.

1. 30m Pull through the overhang and climb the wall on good cracks. Trend right to a sloping ledge. Pull back onto the vertical wall and head left on tenuous hooks to a big spike around to the left. Another few moves gain a big ledge.
2. 40m Traverse horizontally right under the obvious corner to the rightmost (bottomless) chimney. Climb this with an overhang at the top.

**CREACH BHEINN (Morvern), Coire Dubh, East Face (NM 874 582):**

The following routes are situated on a prominent wedge shaped buttress on the right (west) side of the upper corrie beyond the sprawling north-east face. The buttress is bounded on the left by a prominent gully and is only fully seen from the upper part of the coire. A further buttress with an area of steep slabs lies left of the gully. Approach from a large parking area in Glen Tarbert (NM 874 605) in about 50mins.

*The Black Prawn* 100m III,4 \*. S.Kennedy, A.MacDonald. 12th January 2008.

A delightful route. Takes a line fairly close to the left edge of the buttress with some deviations right. Start almost at the lowest point of the buttress at the foot of Voodoo Gully. Easy ground leads to a slot near the left edge which is climbed to a cracked wall. Follow ramps leading up rightwards then straight up to belay (50m). Short walls lead to a narrow arete which provides a nice finish (50m).

*Excavator* 85m IV,5 \*. R.Hamilton, L.Harrop. 12th January 2008.

Starts up a steep right-facing corner in the first break in the right wall of Voodoo Gully about 15m above the start of The Black Prawn. An easier groove lies just to the right of the corner. Climb the corner (crux), moving right near the top, to reach the buttress edge (35m). Finish up The Black Prawn (50m).

*Voodoo Gully* 110m I.R.Hamilton, L.Harrop, S.Kennedy, A.MacDonald. 12th January 2008.

The gully bounding the left side of the above buttress. Used in descent.

*The Rover* 130m II/III. A.MacDonald. 21st January 2008.

This route is located on the sprawling north-east face and follows the most prominent leftward trending gully/corner line on the left side of the face. The crux is a narrowing in the lower section. Move out left near the top below a steeping to finish up a shallow gully.

## **SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS**

### **MEALL BUIDHE:**

**Note:** D.Stewart thought Echo Edge was III,4 \*\*. A very good line and quite safe in unconsolidated conditions once on the edge proper. The current guidebook description is a bit sparse... Also found The Scoop in reasonably icy conditions to be III,4 and worth a star.

### **BEINN AN DOTHAI DH, North-East Corrie:**

*Stairway to Heaven, Direct Start* 60m IV,5. I.Small, S.Jensen. 11th March 2006.

Traverse out right from the start of West Gully on a large ledge. From the centre of the buttress take a right-slanting turfy ramp to its end. Climb a steep corner, then move left to gain a slim groove which leads to a large ledge. Climb the bulging turfy fault above to easier ground and junction with Stairway to Heaven.

**Note:** On an ascent of The Screaming, T.Stone climbed the main pitch direct up the crack-line. The description to start says "Gain a niche from the right" but this possibly means the same line, but if so, he thinks it misleading.

### **Creag Coire an Dothaidh:**

**Note:** N.Stevenson & J.Telling in December 1996 finished Lucifer Rising straight up from the end of pitch 3, rather than traversing into the Professorial Seat/ The Flasher as shown in the 1997 guide.

### **BEN LUI, Stob Garbh, North Face:**

*Garbh Couloir* 180m II. J.Hageman. 18th March 2008.

A straight gully starting at 620m and finishing at 800m on the crest of the Stob Garbh ridge. Short steep sections. A headwall was avoided by a rising traverse right.

### **CREAG THARSUINN:**

*The Tingler* 60m V,6. A.Clark, I.Dempster. 10th February 2007.

Climbed in three pitches of good cracks following the summer route to the top of the huge flake on pitch 3. Here a traverse left was made in a very exposed position to the top.

### **LOCH SLOY CRAGS:**

In the FA list (Arrochar guide p361), the first five routes were climbed around 1985 not 1995.

### **THE ANVIL, LOCH GOIL:**

*Metalcore* 20m 8c+. D.MacLeod. 2nd March 2007.

Start up Bodyswerve, but follow the faint crack-line all the way to the peak of the Anvil roof, joining Body Blow for its redpoint crux.

### **GLEN CROE:**

*Boulder Dash* VS 4c. S.Burns P.Greene. 1999.

Start up a wide crack left of The Sharp Kiss. Move right at a patch of quartz to gain a handrail. Follow this to the centre and finish direct up the slab.

### **COILESSAN CRAG (NN 241 001):**

*Ajare* 30m E6/7 6b. N.McNair. 2007.

The obvious jutting prow high up the hillside east of Cnoc Coinnich (the west flank of Loch Long). The route takes the obvious arete on the southern edge of the main crag. Mostly bold and technical wall climbing on the left side of the arete in stunning positions.

## LOWLAND OUTCROPS

### **AYRSHIRE, The Quadrocks:**

*Atonement* 8m E5 6b. K.Shields. 26th May 2007.

Climb the face to the left of Green Corner, boost for the obvious pinch in the middle of the face, then move right and finish up thin moves. Probably a backbreaker if you fall.

*Time 4 Tennents* 12m E4 6b. K.Shields. 28th May 2007.

Climb the blank wall to the left of Lichen Angel, thin moves and no pro until the last few metres.

*Turning the Corner* 10m E1 5a. K.Shields. 11th April 2008.

Basically the direct finish of Slab and Corner. Climb the slabs direct then directly up the face between Slab and Corner Route and Sunburst Red.

### **Loudon Hill:**

*Troll Wall* 10m E2. G.Tyldesley, C.Moreau. July 2007.

Climb Cave Crack to two-thirds height. Step right under the blank nose. Hug up the nose direct to finishing jugs.

**Note:** Mur was thought E4 6a without a side runner.

### **AUCHINSTARRY QUARRY, Trundle Area:**

*A Stroll with Marigold* E1 5b. G.Duncan, P.Mosley. 25th June 2007.

A right-slanting line crossing several routes. Start at the boulder start for Replicant. Traverse right and up aiming for 1m below the underside of the block at the top of Midas Touch.

Continue the diagonal line round and over Gold Rush to finish at the top of After the Gold Rush (picture provided).

### **GALLOWAY HILLS, Craigdews, Ramp Slabs:**

*Toga Confusion* 55m Severe \*. J.Biggar, I.Brown. 27th September 2007.

Climbs the left-hand side of the slab taken by Dirty Old Raincoat, passing a good lug runner at 10m to heather ledges. Good runners (large cams) can be found here. Continue up on good clean rock by a small left-facing overlap. Much better than Dirty Old....

### **Craigdews, White Slab:**

*The Banana Goat* 12m VS 4c. I.Brown, J.Biggar. 27th September 2007.

Start on the ledge on the left. Climb a blank slab, step 1m left, then climb a short vertical crack and easier cracks to finish.

*Just One More Goat* 15m Very Difficult. I.Brown, J.Biggar. 27th September 2007.

From the lowest point climb the slab, then the short crack right of the black chimney, finishing by the overlapping block. This may be a mixed up with One Man One Goat, but there are definitely two lines hereabouts.

### **The Merrick:**

*Monsieur Marmalade* 150m III,4. J.Biggar, J.Kinnaird. 19th February 2008.

Start about 100m left of the Black Gutter and slightly lower at a narrow dark slot in the lower tier of rock. Directly above is an ice stream that takes a dog-leg to the left. Climb the slot with a steep exit left (30m). Cross snow or grass for 30m. Climb easy steps and ice to the leftwards dogleg in the ice stream above (30m). Climb the upper ice stream to below a steep 5m wall (50m). Climb the steep wall, then scramble to the top (25m).

### **THE BORDERS AND DUMFRIES, Clifton Crag, The Slab:**



*Frictional Belief* 12m E1 5b \*\*.J.Biggar, I.Brown, K.Brown. 25th September 2007.  
Gives good independent climbing. Start about 3m right of the central crack. Climb the reddish slab to the horizontal break, then the blankest section of slab above, about 2m left of the corner.

**GALLOWAY SEA-CLIFFS, Meikle Ross, Crab Slab:**

Crab Slab is just to the east of Limehouse Blues Cliff. The best access is down the grassy ramp (as described for the west end of Fox Craig). Crab Slab is directly ahead from the ramp, accessible at all but the very highest tides.

*The Arete* 18m Moderate \*. I.Brown, J.Biggar. 6th September 2007.  
The obvious arête on the left.

*Crab Eyes* 12m Severe 4a \*. J.Biggar, L.Biggar, D.McNicol. 23rd July 2007  
The diagonal crack to the right. Crux at top.

*Tropic of Cancer* 12m Very Difficult. J.Biggar, I.Brown. 6th September 2007.  
The next diagonal crack, easier than it looks.

*Mutant Slater* 12m Hard Severe \*. A.Slater, I.Brown, J.Biggar. 6th September 2007.  
The next diagonal crack, harder than it looks.

*Dave's Route* 12m Severe 4a \*. D.McNicol, J.Biggar, L.Biggar. 23rd July 2007.  
The next diagonal crack.

*Arthropomorphic* 12m VS 4b \*\*. J.Biggar, I.Brown. 6th September 2007.  
The slabby wall, very nice but poorly protected.

*Linda's Route* 12m Very Difficult. L.Biggar, D.McNicol, J.Biggar. 23rd July 2007.  
The next big crack.

*Winkle Up* 14m Very Difficult. I.Brown, J.Biggar. 6th September 2007.  
Start as for Linda's but go diagonally right

*Landsickness* 15m VS 4c \*. J.Biggar, I.Brown. 6th September 2007.  
About 3m to the right. Climbs through the overlap by the little triangular niche, then on to the top.

**Laggantalluch:**

*Flying Arete* 12m Very Difficult \*\*. J.Biggar, L.Biggar, J.Kinnaird, I.Brown. 4th June 2007.

An excellent route on the northern of the two Island Walls, with a dramatic finish. Climbs the broad rib at the south end of the north wall, accessed from either the right (descent gully) or the left. The rib is easy at first, but don't miss the dramatic finish, stepping left into a corner and hanging off the flying arete.

**Crammag Head, Lighthouse Walls note:** J.Biggar climbed Little Flasher (1999) in summer 1996. It was named Marine Boy, Hard Severe.

**Lighthouse Walls, Seaward Wall & Hourglass Slab:**

This fine slab lies west of the lighthouse and is best reached by an easy scramble down the wall opposite it. The first routes lie on the seaward face.

*Reach for the Moon* 15m Difficult \*\*. S.Baxendale, S.Reid, J.Biggar. 14th February 2008.  
The obvious groove is juggier than it looks and gives a fine through bulges on huge holds.

*Ascents of Porpoise* 15m Difficult \*. S.Reid, J.Biggar, S.Baxendale. 14th February 2008.  
The broken arete to the right of the groove, stepping left onto the jutting prow at the top.

*Grooved Arete* 12m Severe \*\*. J.Biggar, S.Reid, S.Baxendale. 14th February 2008.  
Start just right of the arête at the right end of the Seaward Wall and climb a crack to a ledge, then the slim groove in the arête above.

*Heart of the Matter* 10m Hard Severe \*. S.Reid, J.Biggar, S.Baxendale. 14th February 2008.

Climb a short grey wall on jugs to a large ledge and junction with Santa's Little Helper.  
Climb the groove on the right, to a junction with Hourglass Slab then traverse delicately left above the roof.

The next routes start from the gully, under a hanging shield of rock above the left-leaning groove/roof of Bully Beef.

*Brief Encounter* 7m Mild Severe. S.Reid, J.Biggar, S.Baxendale. 14th February 2008.  
The fault up the left side of the shield.

*Short Affair* 7m Very Difficult. J.Biggar, S.Baxendale, S.Reid. 14th February 2008.  
The fault up the right side of the shield.

#### **ROSYTH QUARRY:**

*Briggy Pop* 8m HVS 5b. G.Seggie, S.Burns. 11th September 2007.

Start at the "Briggy" graffiti between If Pigs Could Fly and The Stinking Swordsman.

Climb the obvious flake-crack to pop rightwards to a juggy finish.

**Note:** Pogo Groove has been removed from the new guide due to rockfall. It's actually still there; the rockfall was further left.

#### **FIFE, The Hawkraig:**

*Five o'clock Shadow Arete* 11m HVS 5a. J.Dyble, B.Hay, S.Macfarlane. June 2007.

Start in the alcove at the bottom of Shadow Corner and climb directly up the arete on the right side of the variation of Flake and Wall. Don't step onto the top of the flake to the left or use the crack of Flake and Wall variation. Udge upwards using the deep crack on the right wall of the arete then follow a series of great but blind moves on the right.

#### **BERWICKSHIRE, The Brander:**

**Note:** N.Harris notes that the numbers on the diagram on Lowland Outcrops p425 have been reversed (the key and text are correct).

**STIRLING AREA:**

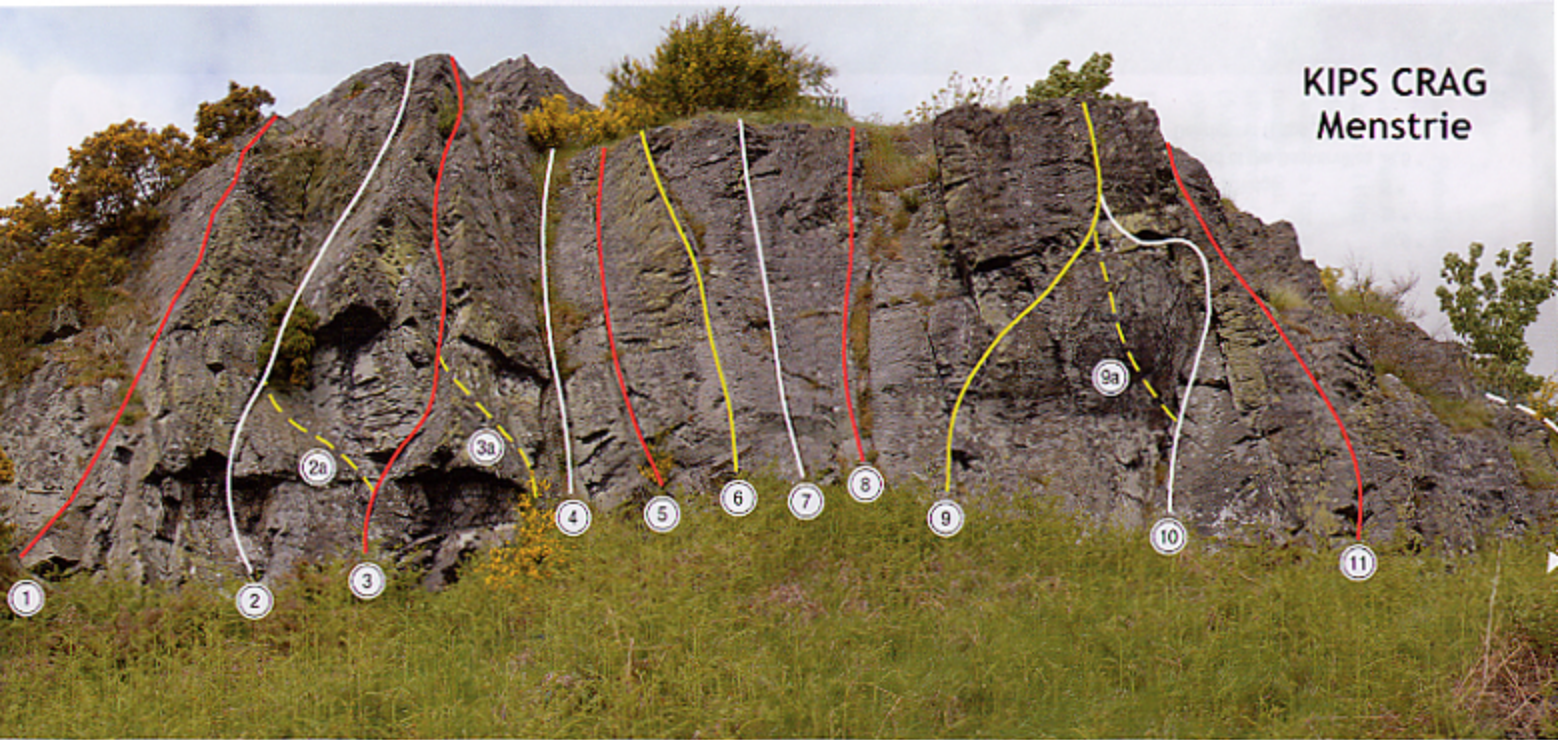
**Kips Crag, Menstrie (NS 84763 97230) Alt 80m South facing**

5 mins from road, fast drying, sound rock, max. height 8m.

**Approach:** From the A91 go up Park Road and turn left on Ochil Road to park near the Scout Hall and just before old bridge. Walk across bridge and turn right up concrete path to gain hill. A few minutes leads to crag on left. Most routes were soloed by K.V. Crocket excepting Left Edge (KVC), Rancho Rib and Beinn's Buttress (R. Anderson) and BB Direct (T. Prentice). Some slabby rock further left provides a few more climbs. Grades are approximate. Do not use fence for belays as this may incur some Water Board's wrath.

For details of routes see photodiagram.

# KIPS CRAG Menstrie



1. Wallace View S
2. Left Edge VS (2a S)
3. Rancho Rib VS,5b (3a S)
4. Grassy Corner Diff

5. Lhasa's Leap V.Diff
6. Waterwork Wall S
7. The Man from Menstrie S
8. Right Edge S

9. Beinn's Buttress VS,4c
- 9a. BB Direct VS,5a
10. Creag's Arete S
11. Staircase Route Mod