

NEW CLIMBS SECTION

WINTER GRADES

Suggested Gradings of Scottish Winter Routes, compiled by Simon Richardson, March 1997.

(**Note by Ed.** Some leading winter climbers are dissatisfied with the present grading system. What follows is their collective argument. It is most certainly not our intention to enforce a new system; rather, general usage will define the system in use, changing it, or not, depending on what active climbers send in to these pages. Meanwhile, no harm in having a debate. Now read on.)

The intention of this review is to modernise the winter grading system, to take into account rising standards and improved equipment. Many leading winter explorers have been consulted, and their averaged grades listed below, with a little editorial interference. The listed grades are by no means final. It will be observed that the system used in the new Glen Coe guide is slightly different to that below.

The system which has met with most approval uses overall grades (Roman numerals as before), and technical grades (Arabic numerals). The technical grade applies to the crux section of the route and has not been used for pitch gradings. The relationship between overall and technical grade is akin to rock climbing grades, i.e. it reflects seriousness (protection) and any sustained nature. The latter is less easily defined than in rock climbing, since many winter climbs have no hand rests at regular intervals, and several factors influence the likelihood of success and therefore the overall grade. The frequent rests may not apply to the higher grades, with near vertical rock and ice, where an extra overall grade may have been added similar to that in summer. Otherwise, the main factor which will have influenced the overall grade is the length of the route allied to the number of crux sections.

The system is illustrated using Grade V as an example.

V, 3 A very serious route, poor runners and belays, possible severe injury/fatality following leader fall.

V, 4 A serious route with at least one poor belay and a poorly protected hard section, e.g. Zero Gully. Normally an ice route, so ice screw runners expected.

V, 5 A route of average safety, either an ice route with good belays and short crux sections, e.g. Point Five Gully, or a mixed route with a serious factor; good belays assumed, but a poorly protected section, or a very sustained crux pitch, or a remote route with several hard pitches.

V, 6 A safe route. A typical mixed V with good belays and runners, but with some factor preventing it from being classified as very safe, e.g. sustained, long, remote, a short but poorly protected section.

V, 7 A very safe route. A short, well-protected crux. Short, accessible climbs are more likely to be given this grade.

NOTES:

1. Routes are graded for the conditions under which they are normally climbed. An ice route will be graded for good ice, perhaps unusually good if rarely in condition. A turf and rock route will be graded for snow cover and therefore will be more often at the described grade. A mixed ice and rock route will probably be dictated by the ice quality and graded for good ice conditions.
2. V, 3 not used so far. Grading for good ice conditions arguably eliminates the grade. Would not apply abroad, e.g. routes threatened by seracs.
3. Harder mixed routes, particularly VII, often have very sustained and physically draining pitches without necessarily possessing a crux move. The Grade VII, 7 is sometimes sustained and strenuous but very well protected.

Rough Guide to the Overall Grades.

I, II, and III. Generally unchanged.

IV Traditional IV gullies. Most III/IV and easier IV mixed.

V. Traditional V gullies. Harder IV, IV/V and easier V mixed.

VI. Modern steep or thin ice routes. Most V mixed.

VII. Steeper or thinner ice routes. The hardest V, V/VI, easier VI mixed.

VIII. No such thick ice route in Britain. Steep thin ice unlikely ever to form more thickly. Mixed climbs of top standard, somewhat speculative since none have been repeated.

IX. Futuristic, or does it exist already?

Thanks to Simon Richardson as the driving force and secretary.

ROUTE NAME	CRAG/HILL	YEAR PUBL.	SUGGESTED	
CAIRNGORMS				
Mitre Ridge	Beinn a'Bhuird	1953	V	V,6
Hourglass Buttress	Beinn a'Bhuird	1970	IV/V	V,6
The Carpet	Beinn a'Bhuird	1970	IV/V	VI,6
Bloodhound Buttress	Beinn a'Bhuird	1975	V	VI,7
Cumming Crofton	Beinn a'Bhuird	1977	V	VI,6
Gold Coast	Beinn a'Bhuird	1982	V	VI,5
Ghurka	Beinn a'Bhuird	1984	V	VI,7
Thief's Corner	Beinn a'Bhuird	1984	V	
The Actress	Beinn a'Bhuird	1984	V	VI,7
The Grail	Beinn a'Bhuird	1984	V	V,5
The Watchtower	Beinn a'Bhuird	1986	V	
Bell's Variation	Beinn a'Bhuird	1986	V	V,7
White Nile	Braeriach	1977	IV	V,5
Ebony Chimney	Braeriach	1982	V	VI,6
Tiara	Braeriach	1984	V	VI,7
Kangaroo	Braeriach	1986	IV/V	
St Andrew's Climb	Braeriach	1986	IV/V	V,6
Koala	Braeriach	1987	V/VI	V,6
Tower of Babel	Braeriach	1987	V	VI,7
Phoenix Edge	Braeriach	1991	IV/V	V,6
Didgeridoo	Braeriach	1991	V/VI	VII,6
Bugaboo Rib	Cairntoul	1970	V	V,7
Scorpion	Carn Etchachan	1952	V	V,5
False Scorpion	Carn Etchachan	1970	V	
Red Guard	Carn Etchachan	1978	V	VI,7
Boa	Carn Etchachan	1981	V	V,6
Python	Carn Etchachan	1981	V	V,6
Equinox	Carn Etchachan	1981	V	VI,6
Nom-de-Plume	Carn Etchachan	1982	V	VI,7
Pythagoras	Carn Etchachan	1986	V/VI	VI,7
Bastille	Carn Etchachan	1986	V/VI	V,7
Time Traveller	Carn Etchachan	1987	VI	VII,7
Inside Edge	Carn Etchachan	1987	V	
Snakebite	Carn Etchachan	1990	V	V,7
Talisman	Choire Etchachan	1965		V,7
Square Cut Gully	Choire Etchachan	1966	V	
Scabbard	Choire Etchachan	1985	V	VI,7
Avalanche Gully	Choire Etchachan	1985	IV/V	
Switchblade	Choire Etchachan	1991	V	VI,7
Savage Slit	Coire an Lochain	1957	IV	V,6
When the Wind Blows	Coire an Lochain	1984	V	
Ventricle	Coire an Lochain	1984	VI	VII,9
Auricle	Coire an Lochain	1984	IV	V,7
Fallout Corner	Coire an Lochain	1985	V	VI,7
Torquing Heads	Coire an Lochain	1986	V	
The Migrant	Coire an Lochain	1986	V	VI,7
Gaffer's Groove Summer	Coire an Lochain	1987	V	V,8
The Hoarmaster	Coire an Lochain	1988	V	V,6
Hookers Corner	Coire an Lochain	1988	V	V,7
Torque of the Devil	Coire an Lochain	1988	V	VI,8
Bulgy	Coire an Lochain	1988	V/VI	VII,7
Deep Throat	Coire an Lochain	1989	V	V,6
Tracheotomy	Coire an Lochain	1989	V	V,7
The Deviant	Coire an Lochain	1989	V	IV,6
Ventroliquist	Coire an Lochain	1990	V/VI	VII,7
Conundrum	Coire an Lochain	1990	V	V,7
Big Daddy	Coire an Lochain	1991	VI	VIII,8
False Gully	Dubh Loch	1964	IV/V	V,6

Labyrinth Direct	Dubh Loch	1972	V	VI,5
Vertigo Wall	Dubh Loch	1977	V	VI,7
White Elephant	Dubh Loch	1980	V	VI,5
The Last Oasis	Dubh Loch	1980	V	VI,6
Mousetrap	Dubh Loch	1980	VI	
Goliath	Dubh Loch	1980	V/VI	VII,7
Black Mamba	Dubh Loch	1984	V/VI	VII,7
The Rattrap	Dubh Loch	1986	VI	VIII,8
Nemesis	Dubh Loch	1987	V/VI	VI,6
Sabre Edge	Dubh Loch	1987	IV/V	IV,6
Four Corners Route	Dubh Loch	1987	V	VI,7
Late Night Final	Dubh Loch	1987	V	VI,7
The Titan	Dubh Loch	1991	IV/V	V,6
G Force	Glen Clova	1986	V	VI,5
Crestal Clear	Glen Clova	1988	IV/V	V,5
Chancer	Hell's Lum	1970	IV/V	V,5/6
Devil's Delight	Hell's Lum	1973	IV/V	V,4
Clean Sweep	Hell's Lum	1978	V	
Towering Inferno	Hell's Lum	1986	IV/V	
Good Intentions	Hell's Lum	1986	V/VI	VII,7
Hell's Lump	Hell's Lum	1986	IV/V	
Eagle Ridge	Lochnagar	1953	V	VI,6
Parallel Buttress	Lochnagar	1956	V	VI,6
Parallel Gully B	Lochnagar	1958	IV/V	V,5
Pinnacle Face	Lochnagar	1966	V	VI,6
Winter Face	Lochnagar	1974	V	
The Link	Lochnagar	1979	V/VI	VII,7
Crypt	Lochnagar	1979	V	VI,7
Epitome	Lochnagar	1980	VI	
Parallel Buttress, Left Edge	Lochnagar	1980	V	VI,7
The Straight-Jacket	Lochnagar	1980	V/VI	VI,7
Pinnacle Grooves	Lochnagar	1980	V	VI,7
Ice Ox	Lochnagar	1984	IV/V	IV,4
Nymph	Lochnagar	1984	VI	VII,8
Link Direct	Lochnagar	1984	V/VI	
D-G Gully, Central Fork	Lochnagar	1984	V	
Psyche	Lochnagar	1984	V/VI	VII,8
Tough Guy	Lochnagar	1984	V	VII,7
Shadow Buttress A Direct	Lochnagar	1984	V	VI,7
Katsalana	Lochnagar	1984	VI	
Pantheist	Lochnagar	1984	VI	VII,8
Solstice	Lochnagar	1984	V	
Slime Lords	Lochnagar	1984	V	
Dod's Diversion	Lochnagar	1985	V	
Trail of Tears	Lochnagar	1986	VI	VII,8
Diedre of Sorrows	Lochnagar	1986	VI	VIII,8
Raeburn's Groove	Lochnagar	1986	V	VI,7
Torquing Corpse	Lochnagar	1987	VII	
Backdoor Route Var.	Lochnagar	1988	IV/V	
Eclipse	Lochnagar	1988	IV/V	
Sticil Face	Shelterstone	1957	V	V,6
Citadel, Winter Var 1	Shelterstone	1975	V	VI,8
Postern	Shelterstone	1980	VI	VI,6
Citadel	Shelterstone	1980	VI	VII,8
The Needle	Shelterstone	1985	VI	VIII,8
The Imposter	Shelterstone	1986	V/VI	
Sticil Face, Winter Var	Shelterstone	1986	V	
Consolation Groove	Shelterstone	1987	VI	
Citadel, Winter Var 2	Shelterstone	1987	V	
Citadel, Moonlight Finish	Shelterstone	1987	V	V,6
Postern Direct	Shelterstone	1988	VI	VII,8

Games of Chance	Shelterstone	1991	V	
Belhaven	Sneachda	1979	IV	V,6
Damnation	Sneachda	1985	V	
White Magic	Sneachda	1985	V/VI	VII,7
Lamp Direct	Sneachda	1986	IV/V	V,6
Dr Janis Direct	Sneachda	1987	IV/V	V,7
Pot of Gold	Sneachda	1988	IV/V	V,6
Salvation	Sneachda	1989	V	VI,7
Watch Out	Sneachda	1990	V	VI,8
Fingers Ridge Direct	Sneachda	1990	V	VI,7
Droidless	Sneachda	1990	IV/V	V,6
Wachacha	Sneachda	1990	V	V,6
No Blue Skies	Sneachda	1990	IV/V	V,7
The Paramedic	Sneachda	1991	V	VI,7
Burning and Looting	Sneachda	1991	IV/V	
Mariella	Sneachda	1991	V	V,7
Flying Doctors	Sneachda	1991	V	V,7
Pigrims Groove	Sputan Dearg	1981	V	V,7
Lucifer Route	Sputan Dearg	1983	V	VI,7
Grey Slab	Sputan Dearg	1984	V	VI,7
Snake Ridge	Sputan Dearg	1985	IV/V	V,5
Black Tower Summer	Sputan Dearg	1988	V	V,7
Amethyst Wall	Sputan Dearg	1988	V	VI,7
Ferlas Mor	Sputan Dearg	1990	V	VI,8
Plumblin	Sputan Dearg	1991	V	V,7
Spirit Voices	Stac an Fharaidh	1991	V	
Wigwag	Stag Rocks	1978	V	
Relay Climb	Stag Rocks	1981	IV/V	
Longbow Direct	Stag Rocks	1986	IV/V	V,7
Flock of Chickens	Stag Rocks	1986	V	VI,7
Amph Gully, RH Finish	Stag Rocks	1986	V	
The Windpiper	Stag Rocks	1988	V/VI	VII,7
Monarch of the Glen	Stag Rocks	1991	V	

CENTRAL HIGHLANDS

Kings Ransom	Aonach Beag	1987	V	VI,6
Blackout	Aonach Beag	1987	IV/V	IV,5
Royal Pardon	Aonach Beag	1987	V	VI,6
Aonach Wall	Aonach Beag	1988	V	V,6
Salmonella	Aonach Beag	1991	V	VII,8
Hurricane Arete	Aonach Mor	1988	V	V,7
Stirling Bridge	Aonach Mor	1989	V	
Riptide	Aonach Mor	1990	IV/V	
Tinsel Town	Aonach Mor	1991	IV/V	
Ice Maiden	Ben Alder	1987	V	V,5
Witchwhite	Ben Alder	1988	IV	V,5
Nightshift	Ben Alder	1988	V	V,4
Zybernaght	Ben Nevis		V	
Smith's Route Direct	Ben Nevis		V	V,5
Zero Gully	Ben Nevis	1957	V	V,4
Tower Face of Comb	Ben Nevis	1959	V	
Smith-Holt Route	Ben Nevis	1959	V	V,5
Minus 2 Gully	Ben Nevis	1959	V	V,5
Point Five Gully	Ben Nevis	1959	V	V,5
Smith's Route Original	Ben Nevis	1960	V	V,5
Orion Direct	Ben Nevis	1960	V	V/VI,5
Vanishing Gully	Ben Nevis	1961	IV/V	V,5
The Curtain	Ben Nevis	1965	IV/V	IV,4
Astronomy	Ben Nevis	1970	V	VI,5
Hadrian's Wall Direct	Ben Nevis	1971	IV	V,5
Minus 2 LH Route	Ben Nevis	1972	VI	VI,6

Route I	Ben Nevis	1972	V/VI	
Minus 2 RH Route	Ben Nevis	1972	VI	V,5
Slav Route	Ben Nevis	1974	V	VI,5
Vade Mecum	Ben Nevis	1974	IV/V	
Minus One Gully	Ben Nevis	1974	V/VI	VI,5
Left Edge, Observatory	Ben Nevis	1974	V	V,5
Indicator Wall	Ben Nevis	1975	IV	V,5
Left Edge, Gardylloo	Ben Nevis	1976	VI	
Astral Highway	Ben Nevis	1976	V	VI,5
Sickle	Ben Nevis	1977	V	V,5
Minus One Buttress	Ben Nevis	1977	VI	
Rubicon Wall	Ben Nevis	1977	V	V/VI,5
Lobby Dancer	Ben Nevis	1977	V	VI,6
Route II Direct	Ben Nevis	1978	VI	VI,5
Minus 2 Buttress	Ben Nevis	1978	V	
Pointless	Ben Nevis	1978	V	VII,6
Psychedelic Wall	Ben Nevis	1978	V	VI,5
Caledonia	Ben Nevis	1978	V	V,5
Albatross	Ben Nevis	1978	V	VII,6
Route II	Ben Nevis	1978	V/VI	V,5
Galactic Hitchhiker	Ben Nevis	1978	VI	VI,5
Great Glen	Ben Nevis	1978	VI	
Gemini	Ben Nevis	1979	V	VI,5
Minus 2 Central Route	Ben Nevis	1979	VI	VI,7
Last Day in Purgatory	Ben Nevis	1979	V	
Shield Direct	Ben Nevis	1979	VI	VII,6
The Shadow	Ben Nevis	1979	VI	VII,6
Alchemist	Ben Nevis	1979	V	
Gemini, Direct Start	Ben Nevis	1979	V	V,5
Kellett's Route	Ben Nevis	1980	VI	VI,6
Interstellar Overdrive	Ben Nevis	1980	V	VI,5
Journey into Space	Ben Nevis	1980	V	VI,5
Augean Alley	Ben Nevis	1981	V	V,5
Mega Route X	Ben Nevis	1982	V	V,6
Stormy Petrel	Ben Nevis	1982	V	
Venus	Ben Nevis	1982	IV/V	V,5
Shot in the Light	Ben Nevis	1983	IV/V	
Urban Spaceman	Ben Nevis	1983	V	
Fascist Groove	Ben Nevis	1983	V	VII,6
Pointblank	Ben Nevis	1984	VI	
Waterfall Gully True Finish	Ben Nevis	1984	V	VI,6
Diana	Ben Nevis	1985	V/VI	V,5
Mercury	Ben Nevis	1985	V	
Compression Crack	Ben Nevis	1985	IV/V	V,5
Clefhanger	Ben Nevis	1985	V	
Sod's Law	Ben Nevis	1985	V/VI	V,5
PM	Ben Nevis	1986	V	
Running Hot	Ben Nevis	1986	IV/V	
Riders on the Storm	Ben Nevis	1986	V	VI,5
Ring the Alarm	Ben Nevis	1986	V	
Black Hole	Ben Nevis	1986	V	VI,6
Bydand	Ben Nevis	1986	IV/V	
Centurion/Route 2	Ben Nevis	1986	VI	
Astronomy, Direct Finish	Ben Nevis	1986	V	VI,5
Matchpoint	Ben Nevis	1986	V	VII,6
Eastern Block	Ben Nevis	1987	VI	
Casino Royale	Ben Nevis	1988	V	
Cutlass	Ben Nevis	1989	V/VI	
Satanic Verses	Ben Nevis	1989	IV/V	IV,5
Kellets North Wall Route	Ben Nevis	1991	VI	
North West Face Route	Ben Nevis	1991	V	

Venom	Glencoe		IV/V	
Crowberry Ridge Direct	Glencoe	1938	V	
Raven's Gully	Glencoe	1953	V	V,6
Amphitheatre Scoop Direct	Glencoe	1966	IV/V	IV,5
Fingals Chimney	Glencoe	1969	V	
Mome Rath Route	Glencoe	1969	IV/V	V,5
The Wabe	Glencoe	1969	IV/V	V,5
Ravens Gully Direct	Glencoe	1970	V	
Midnight Cowboy	Glencoe	1973	V	
Blue Riband	Glencoe	1979	V	V,5
Elliot's Downfall	Glencoe	1979	V	VII,6
Mome Rath Direct	Glencoe	1980	IV/V	
Rainmaker	Glencoe	1980	V	
Tilt	Glencoe	1980	V	VI,7
Consolation	Glencoe	1980	V	
Central Buttress	Glencoe	1981	VI	
Dalness Chasm LH Branch	Glencoe	1982	V	VI,5
East Face Route	Glencoe	1982	V	V,6
Art of Zen	Glencoe	1982	VI	
Darwins Dihedral	Glencoe	1983	V	
Central Grooves	Glencoe	1983	VI	VI,8
Diamond Buttress Winter Route	Glencoe	1983	V	
Dalness Chasm Central Branch	Glencoe	1983	V	
Mr Softee	Glencoe	1983	V	V,6
Raven's Edge	Glencoe	1984	V	
Southern Death Cult	Glencoe	1984	V	
Snowstormer	Glencoe	1984	V	
Jabberwock	Glencoe	1984	IV/V	V,5
Guerdon Grooves	Glencoe	1984	VI	VIII,7
June Crack	Glencoe	1984	V	
Great Gully Buttress Direct	Glencoe	1984	IV/V	
Unicorn	Glencoe	1985	VI	VII,7
People's Friend	Glencoe	1985	V/VI	VI,7
May Crack	Glencoe	1985	IV/V	
Silent Running	Glencoe	1986	IV/V	
Lady Jane Smear	Glencoe	1986	IV/V	IV,5
Newsholme's Groove	Glencoe	1986	V	
Summit Buttress Variation	Glencoe	1986	V	
The Veil	Glencoe	1986	IV/V	
King Cobra	Glencoe	1986	V	
Diamond Combination	Glencoe	1986	V	
Neanderthal	Glencoe	1987	VI	VII,8
Barracuda	Glencoe	1988	V	V,7
Against All Odds	Glencoe	1988	VI	VII,8
Savage	Glencoe	1988	V	VI,8
Intruder	Glencoe	1988	V	V,7
Fall Out	Glencoe	1988	VI	VI,7
Para Andy	Glencoe	1988	V	VI,7
White Rhino	Glencoe	1988	IV/V	
Moonlighting	Glencoe	1988	V	V,7
Chimney and Face Route	Glencoe	1988	V	
Directosaur	Glencoe	1989	V	
Long Crack	Glencoe	1989	V	
Double Entendre	Glencoe	1989	IV	
Isis	Glencoe	1991	V	VI,8
Inclination	Glencoe	1991	VI	VI,8
North Post Direct	Meaghaidh		V	VI,5
Smith's Gully	Meaghaidh	1959	V	V,5
North Post	Meaghaidh	1960	V	V,5
Last Post	Meaghaidh	1962	IV/V	V,5
Centre Post Direct	Meaghaidh	1964	IV/V	V,5

Pumpkin	Meaghaidh	1968	IV/V	V,4
The Wand	Meaghaidh	1969	IV/V	IV,5
Vanishing Ledge	Meaghaidh	1976	IV/V	
1959 Face Route Direct	Meaghaidh	1981	IV/V	V,5
The Midge	Meaghaidh	1983	V	VI,6
Fly Direct	Meaghaidh	1983	V	VII,6
Pinnacle Buttress Direct	Meaghaidh	1984	V	
Deadline	Meaghaidh	1991	V	
Postman Pat	Meaghaidh	1991	VI	

NORTHERN HIGHLANDS

The Moonstone	Alligin	1986	IV/V	IV,5
Ice Gem	Alligin	1986	IV/V	IV,5
Crown Jewel	Alligin	1986	V	IV,5
Ravenshead	An Coileachan	1981	V	
Shadow and Light	An Coileachan	1986	V	
Venus Fly Trap	An Coileachan	1986	V	
Bottomless Gully	An Teallach	1988	IV/V	
Lord Berkley's Seat	An Teallach	1991	V	V,6
The Waterfall	Beinn a'Mhuinidh	1984	V	V,5
Mad Hatter's Gully	Beinn Bhan	1976	IV/V	V,5
Silver Tear	Beinn Bhan	1977	V	
Meanderthal	Beinn Bhan	1979	V	V,5
Y Gully	Beinn Bhan	1980	V	
Die Reisenwand	Beinn Bhan	1980	V	VII,6
The Cooler	Beinn Bhan	1983	V	
Gully of the Gods	Beinn Bhan	1983	V	V,6
Great Overhanging Gully	Beinn Bhan	1984	V/VI	VI,7
Acid Queen	Beinn Bhan	1984	IV/V	
Unnamed	Beinn Bhan	1986	V	
In X.S.	Beinn Bhan	1986	V	
Flesheater	Beinn Bhan	1989	V	IV,5
Die Reisenwand, Dir Finish	Beinn Bhan	1991	V	VII,6
Ice Bomb	Beinn Dearg	1988	V/VI	VI,7
Jewel in the Crown	Beinn Dearg	1991	V	VI,5
Spring Maiden	Beinn Dearg Mhor	1987	V	
Hamilton's Route	Beinn Eighe	1971	V	VI,6
Central Buttress	Beinn Eighe	1978	V	VI,7
West Buttress Directissima	Beinn Eighe	1986	VI	VII,8
Lang's Variation	Beinn Eighe	1986	V	
East Buttress Direct	Beinn Eighe	1986	V	V,7
Achilles	Beinn Eighe	1986	IV/V	
Fuselage Wall Direct	Beinn Eighe	1987	V	V,7
West Central Gully	Beinn Eighe	1987	VI	VII,8
Pelican	Beinn Eighe	1987	V	VI,7
Upper Girdle	Beinn Eighe	1987	V/VI	VI,7
Gnome Wall	Beinn Eighe	1988	V	V,7
Vishnu	Beinn Eighe	1988	VI	VII,7
Kami-kaze	Beinn Eighe	1988	V/VI	VI,7
Patey's Direct Route	Beinn Eighe	1988	V	V,7
East Wall	Beinn Eighe	1989	V	VI,7
Flight of the Condor	Beinn Eighe	1989	V/VI	VII,8
Glow Worm	Beinn Eighe	1990	IV/V	V,6
Independent Pineapple	Beinn Eighe	1991	IV/V	IV,6
Eastern Promise	Beinn Eighe	1991	V	VI,7
West Central Wall	Beinn Eighe	1991	VI	VII,8
Geddes' Gully	Chadha Dheirg	1986	V	
Captain Patience	Chadha Dheirg	1986	V	
Sellar's Buttress	Clach Geala	1972	V	
Skyscraper Buttress	Clach Geala	1978	V	
Cuilleag Corner	Clach Geala	1985	IV/V	V,5

Destitution Road	Clach Geala	1986	V	
Skyscraper RH Start	Clach Geala	1986	V	
Skyscraper Direct Start	Clach Geala	1986	V	
The Cul	Cul Mor	1991	V	V,5
The Nose	Fhìdhleir	1979	V	
Nose Direct	Fhìdhleir	1987	VI	VII,8
Sleuth	Fuar Tholl	1972	V	
Fuar Folly	Fuar Tholl	1978	V	
Tholl Gate	Fuar Tholl	1984	V/VI	VI,6
Pipped at the Post	Fuar Tholl	1986	V	V,5
Cold Hole	Fuar Tholl	1986	V	VI,6
Fuhrer	Fuar Tholl	1986	V	VI,5
Cold Sweat	Fuar Tholl	1986	V	V,6
Evasion Grooves	Fuar Tholl	1988	V	V,6
Reach for the Sky	Fuar Tholl	1989	VI	VII,6
Mainline Connection	Fuar Tholl	1989	V	
The Ayatollah	Fuar Tholl	1989	VI	VII,7
Investigator	Fuar Tholl	1991		VI,7
Tubular Bells	Fuar Tholl	1991		VI,7
Tir na Og	Ladhar Bheinn	1978	V	V,5
Poacher's Fall	Liathach	1978	V	V,5
Headless Gully	Liathach	1984	IV/V	IV,5
The Executioner	Liathach	1986	IV/V	IV,5
Snow Goose	Liathach	1986	V	V,5
The Snotter	Liathach	1986	V	VII,6
Salmon Leap	Liathach	1986	V	VI,6
The Deer-Hunter	Liathach	1986	V	V,6
Dru Couloir	Liathach	1986	IV/V	
Salvation	Liathach	1987	V/VI	VI,6
Brain Drain	Liathach	1987	IV/V	IV,5
Test Department	Liathach	1987	V	VI,7
White Tiger	Liathach	1987	V	V,5
Toll Dubh Chimney	Liathach	1987	V	
Left Chimney	Liathach	1987	IV/V	
Thumbscrew	Liathach	1989	IV/V	
The Boundary	Loch a'Mhadaidh	1983	IV/V	
Grand Illusion	Loch a'Mhadaidh	1991	V	
Ruadh Awakening	Sgorr Ruadh	1989	V	
Excitable Boy	Sgurr a'Chaorachain	1986	IV/V	
Voyager	Sgurr a'Chaorachain	1986	V	V,4
Jupiter	Sgurr a'Chaorachain	1991	IV/V	VI,6
The Resurrection	Sgurr Mor Fannich	1980	IV/V	V,4
Icicle Factory	Skye	1986	V	VI,6
Deep Gash Gully	Skye	1991	VI	VI,7

SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS

Beinn Nuis Chimney	Arran	1970	IV/V	
Once in a Lifetime	Arran	1986	V/VI	
Edge of Darkness	Beinn an Lochain	1987	V/VI	IV,6
Alchemists Wall	Beinn Chuirm	1986	IV/V	
Flakewalk	Ben Donich	1990	V	VI,8
Great Central Groove	Brack	1968	V	
North Wall Groove	Cobbler	1977	V	V,6
N'Gombi	Cobbler	1990	V	VI,8
Fold Direct	Cobbler	1990	V	V,7
Incubator	Cobbler	1990	V	V,7
Deadman's Groove	Cobbler	1990	V	VI,8
Gibber Crack	Cobbler	1991	V	
Glass Bead Game	Dorain	1987	V	V,5
Promised Land	Dorain	1987	V/VI	
Messiah	Dorain	1988	VI	

The Prophet	Dorain	1991	V	V,7
The Sting	Dorain	1991	V	V,6
Pas de Deux	Dothaidh	1986	V	
Menage a Trois	Dothaidh	1987	V	
Lucifer Rising	Dothaidh	1988	V	
Hircine Rib	Stob Gabhar	1989	V	VI,7
Terminator	Tharsuinn	1991	IV/V	
The Smirk	Udlaidh	1979	IV/V	
The Croc	Udlaidh	1979	IV/V	
Organ Pipe Wall	Udlaidh	1979	IV/V	IV,5
Cut-throat	Udlaidh	1980	IV/V	
Captain Hook	Udlaidh	1980	V	V,5
Peter Pan Direct	Udlaidh	1982	IV/V	

Notes:

1. Grading input from Rab Anderson, Chris Cartwright, Graeme Ettle, Roger Everett, Callum Fraser, Mick Fowler, Dave Heselden, Alan Kimber, John Lyall, Martin Moran, Andy Nisbet, Chris Rice, Simon Richardson, Roger Webb and Neil Wilson.
2. All known Grade V routes to end winter 1990/91 have been included. Some IV's have also been included that are known to be undergraded There are many more!
3. 'Suggested Grade' is an attempt to normalise individual grades to common level. By no means is this the final answer - further discussion and iteration is required!

OUTER ISLES

SHETLAND, Unst, The Nev Sea Cliffs (HP 665114)-Hannah's Route 25m VS 4b
S. Magee, D. Gilsenan. 10th July, 1990.

This exposed and varied route follows the obvious crack at Nev Point. Gain by abseil past a wide ledge to large blocks uncovered at low water. Traverse upwards and left to the bottom of the open corner. Climb this direct to the first bulge at 10m. Continue up on the right then the left to follow the crack as it trends left on to a large slabby ledge. Finish direct.

Mainland

J.A. Long has submitted a miniguide to Shetland Mainland including about 80 one pitch routes. The crags are The Grind of the Navir (HU 212804), Eshaness Lighthouse (HU 204784), The Warie Gill (HU 238833), Nibon (HU 299722), Pundsar (HU 365353), The Ninian Slabs (HU 374196) and The Corbie Geo (HU 357172). There is also a big route on Fair Isle.

Route descriptions will appear in Northern Highlands climbing guide, volume 2. Those wishing immediate information should contact Andy Long, Sletts Cottage, 1 South Road, Lerwick, Shetland ZE1 0RB.

ORKNEY, Hoy -The Needle

60m XS

M. Fowler, S. Sustad (alt), N. Dugan. 27th May, 1990.

The Needle is marked as such on OS maps and is the obvious stack at the southern end of the cliffs forming the westerly seaboard of Hoy. An excellent adventure.

A grassy promontory juts out from the main cliffs almost level with the top of the stack. The promontory forms the south side of a narrow chasm (geo) biting deeply into the cliffs. An abseil stake is in place at the end of this promontory. Remove clothes and abseil for 60m directly into the sea in the geo. Swim across to ledges on the far side and traverse round to opposite the stack. Swim across to ledges on the south side.

1. 15m. From the landward corner of the south side trend up leftwards and then back right above overhangs to a good ledge.
 2. 30m 5c. Climb through the band of overhangs above at the obvious place near the centre of the south face (crux) and trend rightwards to a shallow depression which leads left to another good ledge. Serious.
 3. 15m. Move round on to the seaward face and climb on to the summit.
- Jumar back up to the cliff top or swim off to the south.

Hoy, Rora Head

The following 3 routes lie on the spectacular red sandstone cliffs of Rora Head and are located on an 80m south facing wall some 70m north of the obvious high point of the headland. The rock is generally high quality sandstone although it is best to climb the routes after 2-3 days of dry weather as the rock becomes sandy and greasy after wet weather. Descent to all the routes is via a 60m abseil (peg in situ) in a small gully just south of the wall. Pegs are not required on these routes.

-Roaring Forties

80m E3

D. Turnbull, A. Donson. 20th May, 1991.

An excellent line based on the obvious towering arete and crack system just to its left. Start beneath the seaward arete.

1. 25m 5c. Climb the right hand corner crack to a small roof, continue up the crack until stepping up left and traversing to the arete. Continue up 3m to a good belay on a ledge.
2. 20m 5c. Make some bold moves up the left edge of the arete, step left and continue up the obvious crack to a belay ledge where the crack widens.
3. 35m 5b. Climb the wide crack to a ledge beneath a corner/roof. Swing left beneath the roof and continue to the top bearing left and finishing just right of a short corner.

-Mucklehouse Wall

100m E5

D. Turnbull, A. Donson. 25th May, 1991.

The first route to be climbed up the wall right of the arete. The wall overhangs some 15m and is therefore somewhat strenuous. Start as for Roaring Forties.

1. 30m 5c. Climb pitch 1 of Roaring Forties but continue up the arete, swing out on to the overhanging face and belay just below a small roof.
2. 35m 5c. A tremendous fist jamming pitch up the slanting crack in the centre of the face. From the belay hand traverse a break right to dubious flakes at the base of the crack. Climb the crack before moving left to the arete and up to belay on a large ledge.
3. 10m 5b. Traverse an obvious foot ledge right to belay beside a small stepped groove.
4. 25m 6a. Climb direct up the dark red streak and pull up into the Fairy Grotto cave. Slither out of this leftwards via a block to a crack/layback finish.

Alternative Start

20m E5 6a

A. Donson, D. Turnbull. 23rd May, 1990.

A bold and difficult start to Mucklehouse Wall. Scramble up easy ledges on the right of the face to a ledge right in the corner; this can also be gained from the abseil. Climb the obvious flake above, then traverse the red wall left on flat holds until moving up to a semi rest in a corner under a roof. Swing out left (6b for the short) and up to belay at the base of pitch 2 of Mucklehouse Wall.

Two Little Boys

85m E6

D. Turnbull, C. Rees. 14th June, 1991.

A stunning route taking the main challenge of the wall. Very sustained and strenuous. Start as for Roaring Forties.

1. 30m 6b. Climb Roaring Forties and move up to the overhanging twin cracks right of the arete. Fix good protection and climb the cracks on finger locks past an in situ 3 hex. Continue up the overhanging wall and belay just above the roof.
2. 35m 5c. As for pitch 2 Mucklehouse Wall. First crack to arete and ledge belay.
3. 20m 6a/b. A photogenic pitch finishing up the dark red headwall. Climb up the obvious right trending line of white flakes, then finish up the headwall.

South Ronaldsay -Clett of Crura

25m HVS 5a

S. Sustad, N. Dugan, M. Fowler. May, 1990.

The landward face of this stack (which had previously been climbed via the seaward face) offers a rather green route with the difficulty concentrated into a short section. Swim to the base.

From ledges on the landward side gain and climb ledges in a depression left of centre. At 20m a short overhanging crack has to be climbed to gain a few feet of easier climbing and the top.

WESTERN ISLES, Gometra

There is a small cliff on the west side of the island. The rock is sound and there are several possibilities for a restless yachtsperson. I. Davidson, P. Stewart and P. Heneghan visited the crag in May, 1988 and climbed several lines including the prominent groove in the centre of the cliff (Celtic Storm, 30m, VS 4c).

Pabbay

There are several Pabbays - this is the one immediately north of Mingulay. In May, 1989 I. Davidson and P. Heneghan stopped at the eastern anchorage and amused themselves on the crags to the south of the bay, including a prominent groove at the east end of the cliff, Windjammer, 30m, VS 4c.

They sailed down the Atlantic side of many of the local islands and noted possibilities both on Pabbay (a huge arch) and Mingulay (Barra Head - also big). Landings and access are probably exciting whereabouts.

Erraid (NM 2919)

Erraid lies just off the westmost tip of the Ross of Mull and is accessible by foot across the sands for approx. 2 hours either side of low water. For access it is best to leave a car close to Knockvologan Farm (discreet parking) and follow a farm track down to the sands.

The climbing is on the short but superb pink granite rocks located at the east side of the mouth of the popular yacht anchor called Traigh Geal at the south west corner of the island. The area around Traigh Geal is a perfect haven for the harassed family man and offers beautiful white beaches and some fine wild camping to amuse bored weans. There is no drinking water on the island.

The routes done to date are found on two tiers of granite. The lower tier comprises a small enclosed bowl at sea level reached by a narrow rock archway. The upper tier is set just above the lower tier and is much steeper with scope for some short hard routes. All the routes are 5-10m in height, mostly on beautiful rock. Climbed by combinations of C. Jones, S. Kennedy and D. Ritchie in July, 1990 and April, 1991.

Lower Tier

Routes described left and right of the rock archway. To the left of the archway is a prominent tower which contains the following.

-Sentinel

HVS 5a

Climbs the most prominent crackline splitting the seaward face. Climb cracks to a wide ledge before stepping back left to the main crackline.

-Sentinel Direct

E1 5b

Climb steep cracks just left of the start of the above route which is joined just above the ledge.

-Daylight Robbery

4b

The next crackline to the right of Sentinel.

-Mullman

4c

The next crackline to the right, starting up a short slab.

-Weeping Corner

5a

The obvious black corner a few feet right of the archway.

-Tarzan

5a

Climbs the wall and crack starting at the right end of the undercut section a few feet right of Weeping Corner.

-Jane

4c

The next crackline to the left, leading into a recess.

-Jungle Book

H. Severe

The obvious corner a few feet right of Jane.

-The Hole

4c

Climbs the crackline on the left wall of Jungle Book.

-Spiral Arete

5a

Follows generally the arete left of The Hole, starting up a short corner and slab to the right of the arete. Spiral back up and left to finish up a short corner.

-Prince of Thieves

E1 5b

The striking crackline on the wall just right of Spiral Arete. Sustained.

-Moody's Blues

E2 5b

The next crackline to the right. Climb a thin crack to a ledge and move back right to the deep crack.

The 2 short cracks around to the right are Mod. and Diff. respectively.

Upper Tier

Routes are described from the foot of an obvious heather ledge running diagonally up right near the right edge of the cliff.

-Fagan

4c

Climbs the wall and first obvious crackline close to the foot of the ledge.

-Oliver

4c

Climbs the next crackline to the left of the above route.

A short distance left of Oliver is an obvious square alcove near the top of the cliff. Two cracklines spring down from either side of the alcove.

-Stealth

E1 5c

Climbs the right hand crackline into the alcove. Hard start.

Walls without Balls

E1 5b

Climbs the obvious deep crackline on the wall just left of the alcove slanting slightly left. Awkward start.

Further short routes at about VS/HVS have been done around to the right of the above routes.

Jura, West Loch Tarbert

This is the loch surrounded by the remarkable raised beaches. The route mentioned below is on the north side of the loch beside a shallow bay. The stack was climbed by I. Davidson, P. Heneghan and P. Stewart in May, 1988. The line was excitingly loose and is mentioned more as a warning to other owners of rose tinted binoculars (Impact Stack, 25m, Severe).

Note: I. Davidson is keen to exchange information with other sailing climbers and encourages them to send notes/ descriptions.

MULL, Creach Beinn (SMCJ 1988 p43) -Sally

55m VS 4c

C. Moody, A. Petrie. 28th August, 1991.

The corner left of Dickie Davies Eyes, which trends rightwards.

Scoor (NM 406187) -White Thing

50m Severe

D. Brookes, J. Marshall, C. Moody. 5th October, 1991.

Takes the ramp line leading up right from the base of the biggest cliff. A belay was taken after the steep corner crack. The route is well used by birds so is probably only climbable in autumn and winter. Several shorter routes have been climbed in the area.

NOTE: An Garradh. Mincing Gay Bar Loiterer (SMCJ 1991). The last 2 pitches have fallen down, leaving the loose finishing flake in place.

SKYE**SGURR A' MHADAIDH, North West Face -Deep Gash Gully**

200m IV

M. Fowler, J. Lincoln. 2nd February, 1991.

This magnificent deep cut gully gives a superb winter climb. The first real obstacle, a 15m step, was protected by climbing up inside the overhang and threading a rope through a hole in the roof. The crux was the last difficult section, the 'two easier pitches' of the summer description.

NORTH EAST COAST -Twin Stacks of Goblach

15m Diff.

G. Muhlemann, S. Richardson. 8th June, 1991.

Approached by swimming at low tide. The south ridges of both stacks were climbed.

NOTE: S. Richardson and G. Muhlemann note an interesting development in the

recording of new climbs. On 8th June, 1991, on reaching the summit of Stac Bhuidhe on the NE Coast of Skye (25m, H. Severe by the N. Ridge) on what was expected to be a first ascent, the aforementioned were confronted with the hand and arm of a (female) shop window dummy and a stoppered glass bottle containing a pencil, paper, and the information that the climb had been completed the previous year by Messrs. Grindley, Williams and A.N. Other. The second ascensionists appended a message to the effect that 'they was robbed' and descended.

NEIST -Horny Corner

20m VS 4c

C. Moody, B. Taylor. 2nd June, 1991.

The corner beneath the fog horn that faces the rocky island.

Bay 4 -Fat Slob

30m VS 4c

C. Moody, A. Petrie. 7th September, 1991.

Right of Grooveless Bodily Harm is HVS. From this an easy shelf leads up right to a corner. Climb the corner, moving right to gain the top of a pillar. Go up leftwards to the top. The corner below the start is climbable but tidal.

KILT AREA -Entrevennes

28m E1 5b

C. Moody, B. Davison. 14th April, 1991.

South of Elishader Pinnacle are 3 corner lines. This follows the left hand corner which faces the pinnacle and finishes as a crack in the wall.

NOTE: Pinnacle Chimney (SMCJ 1991) was climbed in summer, 1990 and C. Moody does not expect his ascent to be the first.

The Pioneer and Received With Thanks seem to be the same route, the crack line left of the right hand roof.

Descent Gully, South Wall -Cak

10m VS 4b

A. Smith, B. Davison. 13th April, 1991.

The crack right of the Marmalada Pinnacle has a loose block at the top.

Kilt Rock -F.B.C.

45m HVS 5a

B. Davison, C. Moody, A. Smith. 13th April, 1991.

Start up Road To Ruin, step right and climb a chimney/gully.

NORTHERN HIGHLANDS

FAR NORTH EAST COAST

LYBSTER AREA, Mid Clyth

There are 4 areas of climbing at Mid Clyth. The Lighthouse, as its name suggests, refers to the large wall and surrounding area immediately beneath Mid Clyth Lighthouse. The Shelf is just south of the lighthouse. The Stack Area is just inside a set of drying reefs normally home to a large group of grey seals. The Overhanging Wall is a small but tough section further to the south.

The rock is a compact and solid sandstone unlike the majority of Caithness cliffs. A band of brittle slate is also usually evident. Fortunately, at the stack area, this comprises the first few feet of climbing and causes no problems. At other areas it can appear in the middle of some routes.

Access: Park at the north end of a long straight about 2 miles north of Lybster. The road down to Mid Clyth Lighthouse is a further 200m north around a bend. It is best to walk along the coastline from the lighthouse.

The Stack Area

The stack is barely separate from the coastline and is easily missed. A partially tidal ledge starts just south of the stack from which most of the following climbs start. There is no simple way down to the ledge, the easiest abseil being from a belay platform 2m below the cliff top. The climbs are listed from the north.

-Giant 15m VS 4c (J. Grove, 1990)

To the right of the north wall there are two obvious and impressive lines. Giant is the layback crack, started after a scramble over the slate band on to a ledge at 5m. The route takes its name from the size of gear needed to protect it.

-Maelstrom 15m HVS 4c (R. Christie, 1991)

To the left of Giant, this is the recessed crackline curving gently to the left. Strenuous but well protected.

-Raccoon Kicker 18m HVS (G. Milne, 1990)

Follows the first corner at the south end of the north wall. This is the start of a series of corners and aretes.

-Sprockletop 15m Severe (1990)

Climbs the corner finishing behind an obvious overhanging spike. The corner is bounded by two superb unprotectable aretes, great for top roping.

-Captain Sensible 15m HVS 4c
(J. Macintosh, 1991)

Left of Sprockletop is a corner line which moves right under a small roof (as yet unclimbed). 6m left of it is this ill defined route which reaches a small corner at 6m, then trends right to reach the top by a strenuous finish.

-Criticality 12m Severe (R. Gunn, 1990)

Follows a direct line to the belay platform via a crack to a ledge, then up a corner.

-Comedy of Thirst 12m E2 5b (S. Clark, 1991)

A large and obvious feature is the Very Large Block, the top of which forms a ledge at 6m. The route starts up the corner at the north end of the block to reach its flat top. At this point the overhanging nature of the crack becomes apparent. After two strenuous moves up the crack an exit is made on to a ledge on the right.

-John's Peel 15m Severe (J. Macintosh, 1991)

The corner on the south end of the Very Large Block and into a groove to the top.

-Shallow Chimney 15m VS (R. Christie, 1990)

The obvious shallow depression on an otherwise pretty blank section. A pleasant technical climb with the crux as the mantles shelf at the top.

-Silverfish 15m E1 5b (R. Christie, 1991)

Starting 3m to the right of the layback crack, this follows a thin crack to a ledge. The difficult move from the slate on to the sandstone is marked by a white calcite fish shape. Step off a block to the left of a large niche (deep pocket for large friend). Move right after 2m and follow a groove to the top.

-Layback Crack 15m VS 4c (R. Christie, 1991)

Another large feature is the corner which forms the layback crack. A chockstone at the top eases entry into the notch.

-Diagonal 15m Severe (J.M. Ross, 1990)

Starts 3m left of the layback crack below a strenuous direct line to the top. It trends right to a ledge, then merges with the layback crack.

South Bay

The bay requires low tide. It is a sheltered corner and its right side offers probably the easiest and least strenuous route to the top via Knuckle.

-Knuckle 15m V. Diff (D. Sinclair, 1990)

Meanders up the right side of the bay, not quite in the corner.

-Small N. European Mammal 10m Severe (G. Milne, 1991)

Starting on the ledge in the centre of the bay, move right via ledges to a niche, then exit left to an easier finish.

-Adagio 12m VS 4c (J. Macintosh, 1991)

This starts at the same ledge as the previous route and overcomes the small roof to finish on the same ledge as Oxtar.

-Allegro 12m VS 4c (J. McIntosh, 1991)

Follows the crackline midway between Oxtar and Adagio.

-Oxtar 15m Severe (G. Milne, 1990)

Climbs the cleft on the left side of the bay to a platform. Step right at the top for the easiest finish.

-Velvet Scooter 15m Severe (J.M. Ross, 1991)

Traverse round the corner from Oxtar to a corner at the back of which is a deep corner capped by a roof. This route starts immediately to the right of this, trends right and finishes with an awkward move on to a broad ledge.

-Mac-attacked 15m Severe 4b (J. Perry, 1991)

The big chimney. Move right from under the roof (loose block).

-Electric Aardvark 12m VS 4c (R. Gunn, 1991)

Find the holdless awkward mantleshef and you have found the start of the route.

-Crispy Aromatic Duck 10m V. Diff (R. Christie, 1991)

The easy angled line.

Overhanging Wall

From the Stack area, walk south for 100m around a small inlet. Scramble down a corner to reach a tidal ledge. The square set, south facing wall offers several strenuous lines and round the corner over the sea there are some quite technical problems.

-Slow Boat 10m V. Diff (J.M. Ross, 1991)

Climbs the obvious large corner on the tidal ledge.

-Indeanola Blues

10m Severe 4b (R. Christie, 1991)

Start 2m right of Slowboat, climb the left corner and finish right.

-Stilt 10m H. Severe 4b (J.M. Ross, 1991)

Traverse round the corner over water. At the corner where the ledge widens to 2ft is a crack. Climb to a ledge and finish with a hand jam move to the top.

-Stone Crazy 10m VS 4c (R. Christie, 1991)

Two paces right of Stilt a corner leads to a roof. Move right and up into a square corner. Follow to the top.

-Off The Lip 10m VS 4c (R. Christie, 1991)

Where the ledge finishes, climb the crackline to a tiny roof. Finish straight up.

-Bonxie 10m V. Diff (J.M. Ross, 1991)

Traverse over water for 2m from the ledge. Climb a large crack which trends left.

OCCUMSTER

Access: Travelling north on the A9, a road 1 mile north of Lybster branches off to the right. There is a row of council houses at the beginning of this road and a sign advertising sheep skins. Follow the coast to the north to a gully with a stream (about half a mile). On the far side of the gully is the main buttress. The rock is a brittle slate/sandstone which is amply sound. There is a good abseil point on the north face of the buttress to a ledge just above high tide.

-Motor Mouse

20m HVS 5a

J. Macintosh. 1991

The leftmost crackline on the north wall of the buttress. A vertical crack leads to an awkward overhanging bulge and then on to exit via a deep notch at the top of the cliff.

-Strawberry Slider

18m Severe

J. Mackenzie-Ross. 1991.

Climb the corner between the east face of the buttress and the adjoining wall to the south. Protection is good.

-Duck Soup

18m VS

R. Christie. 1991.

The corner (arete) to the east of the adjoining wall described above. Climb the corner to the overhang, turned on the right. Follow the vertical crack which goes horizontal just before the ledge, then vertical again.

-Occumster Stack

25m MXS 4c

M. Fowler, N. Dugan, P. Allison, J. Lincoln. 26th May, 1989.

About 1 mile north of Lybster harbour is a group of sea stacks. Occumster Stack is the most northerly and most impressive, a slender finger of rock. Starting from a ledge on the south east corner, the route follows a crack on the left hand side of the seaward face. The rock is very sharp edged horizontal striations and falling is not to be recommended. Simultaneous abseil descent (watching out for sharp rock).

LATHERONWHEEL

The climbing at Latheronwheel, while not as extensive or as high as at Mid Clyth, is nevertheless of excellent quality. The area is more sheltered and picturesque than the wave washed platform of Mid Clyth. The cliff is sheltered from south westerly winds and its position allows an unrestricted view up the broad sweep of the Caithness coastline.

The sandstone is similar to Mid Clyth and there is little sign of the more fractured slate. Lichen can be annoying at the top of some routes.

Access: Turn off the A9 into Latheronwheel village and follow the main street down to the harbour where there is ample parking. Follow the coast south for 500m (a dangerous gloop halfway). The climbing area most visited has the following identifiable features: The Big Flat Wall, The Little Flat Wall, The Stack and South Corner. The easiest descent is a scramble down the stepped chimney on the north side of the stack. This brings you to the foot of the Little Flat Wall. Access is then possible to all areas except the South Corner. The South Corner is reached by a scramble down the back corner of the bay.

To the north of the Big Flat Wall are 3 parallel corners. The left is Primary Corner, the central is Eye of the Storm and the right is yet unclimbed. On the frontal wall to the north are 2 prominent cracks, the left is vegetated and the crack several metres to the right is Freaker's Crack.

-Freaker's Crack 15m HVS 5a (K. Wallace, 1991)

Starts from an obvious narrow alcove. Chimney out of it to an airy position at the base of a crack. Follow the impending crack with difficulty and increasing exposure. Access at high tide is by abseil to a large platform at the base of the vegetated crack.

-Eye of the Storm 16m H. Severe (K. Wallace, 1991)

Gain and climb the corner direct. Well Protected.

-Primary Corner 15m Severe (K. Wallace, 1991)

Climb to a ledge and finish up an obvious crack. Access is by abseil except at low tide.

-The Other Landscape 20m VS 4c (S. Clarke, 1991)

There are two central cracks on the Big Flat Wall. This climbs the left. Start at a boulder beach at low tide, climb the right edge of a cave, then traverse left into the main crack. Well protected.

-Gervasutti's Wall 15m VS 4c (S. Clarke, 1991)

Climbs the most continuous thin crack to the right of the large niche at the left end of the wall. Start at the end of the large ledge (covered at high tide). Move right around the initial bulge and follow crack and final wall direct.

-Free Fall 12m VS 4c (J. Macintosh, 1991)

Starts in the large niche at the left end of the wall. Climb the right corner in the rear of the niche and exit on to the wall above (poorly protected).

-The Beast 14m (K. Wallace, 1991)

The black offwidth corner-crack line defining the left end of the Big Flat Wall. Not affected by tide.

Little Flat Wall - Two Bit Ram 14m Severe 4a (R. Gunn, 1990)

Climb the corner at the boundary of the north end of the wall.

-Pistachio 14m Severe 4b (R. Christie, 1990)

Climbs the crack above the triangular notch in the centre of the wall.

-*Walnut* 14m V. Diff (R. Christie, 1990)

Follow the crackline 2m left of Pistachio.

-*Stoneware* 14m Severe 4a (R. Christie, 1990)

Follows the leftmost crack on the wall.

The Stack -Stepping Out Severe 4b (R. Gunn, 1990)

Start immediately below a right angled corner. Climb 5m and traverse left on to a large ledge. From the ledge, step right into the corner, which continues to a large block belay at the top.

-*Laphroaig* 15m HVS 5a (G. Milne, 1990)

Start as for Stepping Out but do not climb on to the ledge. Climb directly over the overhang and to the top.

-*Coaster* 10m Severe 4b (R. Christie, 1991)

Climb out of the notch directly up.

-*Shocket* 10m Severe 4a (R. Christie, 1990)

Starts on balancy moves to the right of the arete. Traverse left to the arete and follow the large flake to the top. An alternative start takes the overhanging crack directly below the arete.

-*Guillemot Crack* 10m E1 5a (R. Christie, 1990)

The large deep crack to the south of the arete. Continuously overhanging.

-*Fallout* 8m HVS 5a (R. Gunn, 1991)

The corner 5m south of Guillemot Crack.

-*Freewheeler* 8m HVS 5a (J. Grove, 1990)

Starts from the same point as Fallout but trends left.

South Bay -Thief's Fork 8m Severe 4a (J. Perry, 1991)

The first chimney on the right after scrambling down the back of the bay. Climb the chimney and exit left.

-*Shearwater* 8m HVS 5a (R. Christie, 1991)

Traverse out of the bay to the south. There is an obvious slightly overhanging crack. Follow this strenuously to the top.

-*Therapy* 8m V. Diff (J.M. Ross, 1991)

The first chimney on the right after scrambling down the back of the bay. Climb the chimney and exit left.

There are three stacks 1 mile north of Dunbeath. The central one (Cleit Bheag) is the most appealing although Cleit Mhor is bigger.

-*Cleit Bheag* 35m XS

M. Fowler, C. Watts, N. Dugan. 2nd October, 1989.

The fine central stack was climbed via an obvious crack line in the seaward face. Much harder than it looks.

1. 25m 5b. Easily to overhangs at 12m. A difficult section then leads to a chimney and a stance on the right.
2. 10m 4c. Move left and up the wall to the top.

-Cleit Ruadh

16m HVS 5b

C. Watts, S. Sheridan, N. Dugan, M. Fowler. 2nd October, 1989.

The northerly stack was climbed up its seaward face. A short technical overhanging wall at 6m provides the crux.

Bodach an Uird

This fine 30m stack lies 1 mile south of Berriedale. Approach by boat. It had been climbed before (abseil sling on top).

-South Route

35m HVS

M. Fowler, C. Watts. 1st October, 1989.

A good route taking a series of grooves on the south side of the stack. Start at the left hand of two obvious grooves.

1. 8m 5a. Climb easily up into the chimney in the back of the groove. Traverse the left wall to a stance on the arete.
2. 17m 5a. Climb straight above the belay for 3m and move right to climb a groove to overhangs. Traverse left to the left arete of the groove (above the stance) and climb the wall above the overhang trending right to a good stance.
3. 10m 4c. Trend leftwards on rather dubious rock to gain a shallow groove leading to the top.

-Landward Face

30m VS 5a

G. Muhlemann, S. Richardson. 1st October, 1989.

From the landing site on the seaward face of the stack, follow ledges up and round the north side to reach a good stance in the centre of the landward face, about 10m above the sea. Climb the steep wall just right of a wide crack to reach a steep crackline that leads to a horizontal break. Continue up the wall above to the summit.

-North Arete

40m E1

S. Richardson, G. Muhlemann. 1st October, 1989.

The north edge of the stack is characterised by a large hanging flake at 25m. Start directly below the flake.

1. 15m 5a. Climb a steep corner making a detour left then right to reach a good stance on the landward side of the arete.
2. 10m 5b. Follow the corner crack in the hanging pillar above to the right to an overhang, then hand traverse left in a spectacular position and make a difficult exit on to a good ledge on top of the hanging flake.
3. 15m 4a. Continue up the stepped ridge to the top.

-Bird Poo Wall

35m VS

C. Watts, S. Richardson, G. Muhlemann (VL). 1st October, 1989.

The obvious line on the seaward face.

1. 20m 4c. Climb the left facing line of corners and cracks on the right side of the wall to reach a long overhung ledge.
2. 15m 4b. From the left end of the ledge follow the vague crackline up and right to the top.

Holborn Head, Clett Rock

The stack was first climbed at Severe, A2 standard in 1969. It provides a superb challenge combining exciting currents, usually rough seas and very steep climbing. The following route is the first free ascent of the stack. Approach by boat.

-North Route

45m XS

M. Fowler, J. Lincoln, J. Cuthbert, N. Dugan. 28th August, 1988.

Start on the seaward side near the centre of the wall where a large flat ledge is obvious just above the high tide level. This ledge is about 10m long and capped by large overhangs 25m up; it is about 12m west of an obvious deep chimney-corner on the face.

1. 25m 4c. From the right end of the ledge ascend an obvious right trending crack system until it is possible to stomach traverse right above overhangs to a ledge on an arete.

2. 20m 5c. Move up leftwards into the overhangs and make difficult moves up right on to a projecting ledge. Continue up right trending cracks to a ledge and finish by grooves above and to the right.

John O' Groats, Duncansby Head

There are several spectacular stacks here. The largest one (The Great Stack of Duncansby) is the most southerly (V. Diff). Just north of this is Witches Hat Stack, a 70m high wafer of rock, and 1 mile further north are two further stacks. The Knee is a very impressive 45m high obelisk which overhangs all the way round whilst Little Knee lies just to the north and is a rather squat affair. The Knee stacks are seriously affected by very strong tidal currents.

-The Knee

45m HVS

M. Fowler, P. Allison (Alt), N. Dugan, J. Lincoln. 27th May, 1989.

A fine challenging stack. Start from ledges on the northern end of the seaward face.

1. 30m 5a. From the highest ledge a short steep wall on the right gives access to another ledge. The steep corner on the left leads in 6m to a traverse line which is followed rightwards for 6m to a steep corner. Ascend this to the ledge system girdling the stack beneath the final overhanging section. The corner which leads to the ledge system is just left of a prominent chimney with a large precariously wedged block.

2. 15m 5a. Ascend the overhangs in the centre of the face pulling right on to a projecting ledge. Continue direct to the top.

Abseil descent down the seaward face.

-Little Knee

30m Severe

M. Fowler (solo). 27th May, 1989.

Start at the south east arete of the stack. Climb the arete to the ledge at 8m. Walk rightwards along the ledge on the seaward side of the stack to its right end from where an overhanging wall with good holds leads to the summit.

-Witches Hat Stack 70m HVS

M. Fowler, N. Dugan, P. Allison, J. Lincoln. 27th May, 1989.

1. 30m 4b. Start at the seaward end. Climb up on the south side to gain the seaward arete at a ledge. A short steep wall leads to a further ledge from where 10m of shallow cracks lead to a belay just below and right of the start of a prominent shallow groove.

2. 40m 4c. Move up and left into the groove and follow this (several dubious flakes) to gain the arete again just below the summit. Follow this to the top.

Abseil descent down the line of the route.

BEN HOPE -Bell's Ridge

III

I. Stewart, N. Wilson. 30th December, 1985.

A fine route following the summer line, somewhat escapable.

CAPE WRATH AREA, A' Chailleach

25m H. Severe

S. Richardson, G. Muhlemann, M. Fowler, N. Dugan, C. Watts. 17th June, 1989.

A spectacular stack on the west coast 1 mile south of Cape Wrath. Much easier than

appearances suggest. Swim the short gap to reach the stack and tyrolean.

Start on the side facing Am Bodach and climb up right to reach the arete facing the nearest point of the mainland. Follow this to the final overhanging wall which is avoided by a short traverse right.

-Am Bodach

40m Diff.

G. Muhlemann, S. MacIntyre, S. Richardson. 27th May, 1989.

The large broad stack next to A' Chailleach can be reached at low tide (calm sea only) by stepping over a narrow sea-washed channel. The south side of the stack was climbed by following the obvious line of steep cracks and good holds, followed by scrambling to the top.

Stack Clo Kearvair

A superb 40m stack standing at the western end of the Clo Mor cliffs - easily visible from the road to the Cape Wrath lighthouse. Calm seas are unusual and currents can be strong. Approach by boat. The stack has two summits of equal height; the gap between the two sports a prominent wedged boulder. Start from a large platform at the north east end of the stack.

-Seaward Stack

55m HVS

M. Fowler, C. Watts, G. Muhlemann, S. Richardson. 18th June, 1989.

1. 35m. Move round the corner on to the seaward face and trend right, then back left to eventually gain a short right-angled corner with a crack in the back. Climb this (3m) to a ledge next to the left arete (when viewed from the seaward side). This ledge is level with the highest of the wedged boulders between the summits.

2. 20m 5a. Move up rightwards to a ledge and follow a short but awkward right slanting open groove to easier ground leading to the top.

-Landward Stack

55m HVS

M. Fowler, C. Watts, S. Richardson, G. Muhlemann. 18th June, 1989.

1. 35m. As for the Seaward Stack to the ledge next to the arete

2. 15m 5a. Traverse horizontally across the wall to reach the highest of the huge wedged boulders. Cross this to reach the landward stack and climb a right-angled corner to a corner ledge.

3. 5m 4c. Climb the corner to the top.

CLO MOR

The following is the first route on these superb cliffs. It climbs the prominent thin straight crackline facing Stack Clo Kearvair. Approach by boat.

-Clo Mor Crack

175m XS

M. Fowler, C. Watts. 18th June, 1989.

The bottom 10m of the crackline is very greasy and overhanging. Start 10m left at the foot of a subsidiary crack rising into a chimney which fades out into blank rock at 12m.

1. 35m 5b. Climb up into the bottom of the chimney and cross the wall on the right to reach a left slanting flake; hand traverse right on jams to the arete and continue right for 5m to join the crackline proper. Climb the offwidth crack (which forms the right hand side of a prominent flake at this point) for 6m to a ledge/belay.

2. 15m 5c. Follow the thin crack and flying layback flake to a ledge (1PR).

3. 40m 5b. Climb the shallow groove (PR) for 12m, the left wall for 15m and finally the groove again for 12m to reach a small ledge on the right.

4. 20m 5b The thin steep crack leads to a good ledge.

5. 35m 5b Move 3m right and climb a corner and prominent right trending off width crack.

6. 30m. Easier ground to the top.

-Clo Mor Stack

35m V. Diff/A1

S. Richardson, G. Muhlemann, C. Watts, M. Fowler. 19th June, 1989.

This is the stack about half a mile east of Stack Clo Kearvair, with a prominent 8m finger of rock forming the highest point. V. Diff climbing leads to beneath the rock finger. Lasso the top and prussick up the rope to gain the highest point. Probably free climbable in better conditions (it was misty and damp).

SUILVEN -*Western Approach Route*

140m II

A. Matthewson, J. Maclaurin. 15th March, 1992.

A winter ascent of the 1892 Pilkington/Walker route, just right of the main NW buttress. A fine prelude to the main ridge traverse.

The start of the turfy gully/ramp line can be reached by a long traverse from the right, but on this ascent a direct entry was made by a 20m ice pitch (grade III).

STAC POLLAIDH -*November Grooves*

IV

G. Thomas, N. Wilson. March, 1989.

Follow the summer route, passing the overhang on the second pitch by an awkward chimney on the left. Above this the rib of Jack the Ripper on the right was followed for a short distance, until a traverse back left into the main groove line was possible.

-The Cheshire Cat

40m Severe

A. Fraser, J. Thomson. 11th May, 1991.

This climbs the hidden triangular central buttress of The Keep, best approached by traversing in from the left. Start at the lowest point and move into and up a chimney/crack system on the left of the buttress. On reaching the buttress edge traverse right under a prominent tunnel and finish up the crack to the right.

-Bats in the Belfry

50m VS

A. Fraser, J. Thomson. 11th May, 1991.

Situated on the overhanging upper section of No 2 Buttress, which faces directly on to the upper part of the Great Wall.

1. 35m 4c. Climb easily to the concave slab at the right end of the buttress, then traverse to the right edge of the slab. Climb a thin crack up the slab, then on to a cave belay.
2. 15m 4a. Move out of the cave, then on to and up the slab on the right.

BEINN DEARG, Glen Squaib -*Tower of Babel*

160m IV

S. Aisthorpe, J. Lyall. 22nd February, 1989.

A superb mixed route, following the summer line, with the final two walls giving the crux pitches.

-White Settler's Gully

180m III

S. Aisthorpe, J. Lyall. 18th February, 1989.

Climb the icefall 30m right of Bonus and the gully above. The gully ends in a barrier icefall which was climbed on the right and gave the crux.

RAVEN'S CRAG, GAIRLOCH (NG 714795)

Starting at the extreme left (west facing) end of the crag with the 'dark slab', which has superb rock. Routes are by D.F. Lang (solo) in 1991.

-Flakes

20m V. Diff

Ascend the corner to the right of the slab rib of Far Post, passing obvious flakes on the right, and continue to the terrace.

-Special K

20m Severe

Start 1m right of Flakes. Climb the slab in a left to right line, crossing Leac McCac at some point.

-Jutting Blocks

20m V. Diff

At the right side of the slab are prominent jutting blocks. Climb to and pass the blocks on the left and continue to the top.

-Two Guns

50m Severe

Start under the small rounded hood overhangs at the left end of the frontal face. Climb up to and over the overhangs, then up a whaleback to a large terrace with a birch tree. Climb the left slanting groove system in the steep upper wall (behind the tree and at the base of a shallow grass groove). The lower grade would indicate that this is not the same as Groove Climb (SMCJ 1987, p456).

-Mountain Ash

60m V. Diff

Start 10m right of Entasis and directly below the topmost rowan tree on the crag. Take a direct line to the top of the crag, passing over huge blocks at 15m. Continue up a shallow depression and finish up the last few feet of Thatch (right of rowan and holly trees).

LIATHACH, Coire Dubh Mor -Brain Strain

205m V

D. Wills, M. Fowler (alt). 17th February, 1991.

Starts as for Brain Drain but continues in line with the first pitch taking ice streaks between Brain Drain and Test Department. Good pitches but an escapable line.

1. 30m. As for Brain Drain (the shallow chimney/groove 15m right of Test Department).
2. 25m. Trend slightly rightwards to belay beneath a steep ice-smear corner.
3. 35m. Climb the corner and continue up to beneath the next steep band.
4. 30m. Take the band via an ice line just left of Brain Drain
5. 40m. Continue direct to beneath a buttress forming the final step.
6. 45m. Pass the buttress via ice grooves on its left hand side.

BEINN EIGHE, Coire Mhic Fhearchair, West Central Wall*-Earth, Wind and Fire*

90m HVS

J. Lyall, A. Nisbet. 31st August, 1991.

Start on the same ledge as Mistral and Wall of the Winds but further left, beyond Twilight Zone and a big vegetated groove.

1. 30m 5b. Pull through an initial overhang and go right until close to the vegetated groove. Return leftwards under a smooth wall until a corner leads to a ledge below the Upper Girdle.
2. 25m 4c. Go up to the Upper Girdle and break through its capping overhangs at the only convenient place. Climb a big inset slab close to its left arete.
3. 35m 4c. Break out right to a ledge. Climb a shallow chimney, then right again to a blocky fault leading to easy ground at a big isolated block.

-Maelstrom

100m V/VI (VII,7)

A. Nisbet, S. Roberts. 29th March, 1992.

A left facing corner system in the left section of West-Central Wall, passing left of a big isolated roof near the top. The corner defines the left side of 'the big inset slab' of Earth, Wind and Fire. Very sustained but protected with a large rack, particularly rocks and thin pegs. Start in West-Central Gully at the point where it steepens (grade II to here). This is approx. the height of the Girdle Traverse. Follow the Girdle right for about 10m to an icy groove. Climb this and move right along the next ledge past a break to belay. Above the break is a chimney.

Pull up left and enter the slightly overhanging chimney. Climb it and the subsequent corner for about 20m until a descent leftwards (high runner in situ) leads to small ledges and belay. Climb up left into a parallel corner, often very icy and passing left of the big roof, which is followed to the top.

Eastern Ramparts -Shang High

V (VII.7)

B. Davison, A. Nisbet. 18th February, 1992.

Steep and strenuous but a good winter line. Below the Upper Girdle the summer line was approximately followed, finishing up a corner formed by the left side of the flat topped block (the best locating feature). From the Upper Girdle the chimney line was followed direct, climbing through the slotted roof before moving left into another chimney.

Far East Wall -Karaoke Crack

45m HVS

A. Fyffe, N. Ritchie. June, 1991.

Right of the pillar taken by Groovin' High is a gully, then a shorter wall which tapers off rightwards. This route takes the obvious line just right of the gully.

1. 20m 5a. Climb the crack which gradually increases in width to a ledge at its top.
2. 25m 4b. Continue in the same line up the groove above.

Coire Ruadh-staca -Spog aig Giomach

IV (IV.6)

J. Lyall, A. Nisbet. 21st December, 1991.

The summer line was followed except for the top of pitch 1 where a deviation left into a chimney followed by a traverse right across the initial corner led to the stance. The peg and etrier on pitch 2 were not needed (pegs not used on route).

DIABAIG -Diabaig Corner

20m E1 5b

R. Lupton, C. Moody. 15th April, 1991.

The corner left of Diabaig Pillar which overlooks the village. An easy shelf leads right from just above the fence into the corner.

-Dire Straights

35m E1 5b

S. Jenkins, M. Moran. 31st May, 1991.

A parallel line up the wall about 5m right of The Pillar, via a bulging crack, easy ramp, then thin cracks in the upper wall to finish at an obvious V-notch 5m right of The Pillar.

Note: The first few metres are as for Dire Wall before it traversed left across The Pillar.

-The Mynch

30m HVS 5b

G. Fry, M. Moran, P. Mynch. 24th October, 1990.

The obvious overhung cleft at the far west end of the crags directly overlooking the village and carpark.

Pitches 2 and 3 of the following route have been climbed at least once before but the combination is logical.

-The Grunter

70m VS

W. Hood, L. Skuodas. 26th March, 1991.

The lower left end of the wall has a heather recess. Start right of this at a flake.

1. 20m 4c. Climb the right side of the flake. Step left, then work back right and climb a crack. Continue to belay at a birch down and left from the holly tree belay of Gamhnachan's Crack.

2. 20m 4c. Climb the crack above and a slab to belay at a dead tree stump.
3. 30m 4c. Move up past the stump, then up right to a crack which runs up just right of the edge of the wall.

FUAR THOLL, South East Cliff -Tubular Bells

40m V

D. Wills, M. Fowler (alt). 16th February, 1991.

Takes the obvious wide hidden corner just right of Cold Hole. Short but noteworthy.

1. 25m. Battle up through overhanging Damoclean icicles to belay in a cave beneath the final overhangs.
2. 15m. Break left through the icicle fringe, round the overhang and gain easy slopes leading to the cornice.

Lower Nose (984491)

The cliffs around Fuar Tholl Lower Nose give a good selection of routes for short days or wild weather. They require a low snowfall and a couple of nights frost to come into condition. The cliffs are bounded on the right by a recessed easy gully. Going left from here there are two chimney/gullies. The right hand one has an obvious chockstone and was climbed by P. Potter with M. Garret and M. Sales in February, 1990 and is grade III. The left one is Olfactory, IV (SMCJ 1986).

The Nose -Lair Wall

145m IV

M. Moran, K. O' Neale, W. O' Neale. 13th March, 1992.

Takes the left slanting fault immediately right of the Nose.

1. 40m. Climb the fault to a good stance below steeper ground.
2. 45m. Continuously interesting climbing in the same line to a large terrace.
- 3,4. 60m. Easier ground to the top.

-Newton's Law

170m III/IV

M. Moran, J. Newton, J. Yates. 11th March, 1992.

The obvious chimney/groove immediately left of the Nose.

1. 40m. A wandering line on icy ground to a ledge and stance where the rock steepens.
2. 30m. Climb iced rock and turfey grooves direct to the base of the obvious hanging chimney.
3. 20m. Climb the chimney exiting right to a recess.
4. 45m. Follow the continuing fault line to open ground.
5. 35m. Easy climbing up the final steps.

-Luck of the Irish

175m III

M. Moran, C. O' Callaghan, C. Swift. 15th March, 1992.

Takes a steep groove line 7m left of Newton's Law.

1. 45m. Climb icy ground trending slightly left, then a steeper iced chimney to a small ledge.
2. 35m. Steep moves into the main groove line, which is followed to a small terrace.
3. 25m. Continue up the groove to a steep exit; belays on terrace above.
- 4,5. 70m. Climb a little chimney, then surmount easier steps and grooves to the top.

Note: 10m left of these routes is a big turfey ramp slanting slightly left which looks grade II, and terminates the Nose. Further more broken lines may be found to the left of this.

Mainreathan Buttress -Investigator

140m V

M. Fowler, D. Wills (alt). 16th February, 1991.

A winter ascent of the summer route. A spectacular outing.

SGURR A' CHAORACHAIN, SE Cliff -Hotline

70m HVS

J. Lyall, A. Nisbet. 5th July, 1991.

Scramble up to the ledge below the steepest section of wall. Start midway (10m) between Rig Veda belay one and the right end of the ledge. Here there is a small ledge at head height.

1. 30m 5a. Climb past the ledge and up to the central of three small left facing corners to a bulging section. Go through this trending right, then straight up to a short right facing corner which leads to a grass ledge 5m below the terrace (Rig Veda passes close to the left end of this).
2. 40m 4b. Move right and climb straight up.

-Sanctuary

80m E2

P. Potter, M. Welch. 1988.

Scramble up as for Hotline and start at the right end of the ledge. The route climbs a series of flake cracks up to the right hand side of an overhanging band at 25m before breaking left and following further cracklines to the crag top.

1. 40m 5b. Follow the left to right crackline with an early hard move landing one on a good ledge. Ignore the hollow flake on the left and follow the improbable crackline on surprisingly good holds before moving boldly right through the hanging band to the crest. Traverse left to gain the continuation crack which is followed with relative ease over several breaks to a good stance.
2. 40m. Easier climbing leads to the top.

Summit Buttress

This extensive two/three tiered "hanging garden" is located immediately below the radio mast and is best approached via the landrover track from the Bealach na Ba. A steep path 200m NE of the radio mast leads down to the crags with a deer trod running underneath.

-Synergy

80m HVS

P. Potter, M. Welch. 19th June, 1989.

Starts approx. a third of the way from the right side of the crag (descent slope) and takes the right facing corner to the first terrace.

1. 25m 4c. Climb the vegetated corner using the right wall for entry before a hollow flake gives access to a good belay ledge.
2. 25m 5a. The steep corner above is followed with a bulge providing the crux before a rightward excursion allows a wide terrace to be reached.
3. 30m 5a. An obvious crackline 5m to the left leads to a final overhang which was breached on the right by exciting moves (care needed with last moves to terrace). Belay well back.

FANNICHS, An Coileachan, Garbh Coire Mhor -Sideshow

70m IV

G. Cullen, J.R. Mackenzie. 17th November, 1991.

Follow Central Gully to a point beyond where the icefalls of Sage's Corner appear on the right. A steep narrow corner on the gully's left wall provides the line. A strenuous but well protected climb needing well frozen turf on the crux.

1. 15m. Climb the corner over a bulge to a saddle stance on the right below a big spike.
2. 20m. Gain the shelf above the belay, move left for 2m and attack the thin crack on the right (crux).
3. 35m. Climb mixed ground above to a short wall. Traverse right below this to a hanging ramp. Climb the ramp to the top.

SGURR A' MHUILLIN (Strathconon), Creag Ghlas, Eastern Buttress

-Whoops

235m HVS

G. Cullen, J.R. Mackenzie. 25th August, 1991.

Takes a central line up the buttress, right of Oh Dear, aiming for a rounded buttress below the headwalls. The first and last pitches are good. As expected on this buttress, many easier variations exist but the line chosen gives reasonably continuous climbing.

1. 40m 5a. Climb the crack in the middle of the slab tongue right of the edge of the cliff.
2. 35m -. Continue up right on short slabs and ledges to a ledge below a cracked slabby wall.
3. 45m -. Climb the slabby walls, trending right to more walls.
4. 30m . Up the wall left of the belay to a ledge and flake belay below central rounded buttress.
5. 50m . Climb the buttress above centrally on good holds, then trend right up a wall to a thread belay on a wide ledge at a leaning flake.
6. 35m 5a. Climb the steep crack immediately above the leaning flake to a slab. Climb this on the left to the top. Scrambling leads to the summit.

EASTER ROSS OUTCROPS, Aspen Crag (NH 375558)

This crag is quite different from any of the other local crags in that it is covered in generous ineut holds, particularly in its top half. Despite its steep bulging nature, the climbing is easier than first appearances would suggest, giving spectacular, often strenuous moves with protection in the horizontal cracks that lie between bulges. The crag appears much higher than it really is but the routes are rarely longer than 20m with the total length of the crag being 50m. Though it faces north, the nature of the crag and the surround of trees ensures much remains dry even in rain with finishes that are juggy enough not to be seriously affected by water.

Access: Take the minor road down Strathconon and park on the third layby on the right west of the Loch Meig dam. The crag is almost obscured by trees and is less than a ropelength from the layby. Allow one minute.

The climbs are described from left to right. Descents are either by abseil or from either end. The routes start from a shelf which lies above a scrappy lower tier.

-Tantalus Groove

18m E2 5c

M. Hind, J.R. Mackenzie. 3rd July, 1991.

This is the steep groove bounding the left of Ictarus. Climb the groove of Ictarus to just below the flat hold, then traverse left and climb the thin crack to an inset corner on the right, finishing by a tree. A bold climb with some quite delicate moves.

-Ictarus

20m E2 5c

R. Brown, J.R. Mackenzie. 28th June, 1991.

Takes the beetling buttress bordering the left of the crag which has a steep left bounding corner groove. This is an excellent climb, well sustained up the lower groove which is both strenuous and technical. Start at the foot of the groove which overhangs the base. Pull up to a tiny pine, then gain the groove with difficulty. Steep moves lead to a prominent flat hold on the edge of the buttress, and the 'dragon's teeth' above. Step right to a flake crack in the corner, then pull over the bulge on the left. Finish somewhat arborially at a large birch above.

-Shadow Grasper

20m E1 5b

J.R. Mackenzie, M. Hind. 3rd July, 1991.

A very good and somewhat intimidating climb, technically quite hard for the grade. Climb the bulges just right of Ictarus buttress. Start below a small tree and pull over the juggy roof to it. Climb up left to a flat foothold beneath the crux bulge and gain the slab above. Climb up pleasant rock to a short corner which leads to a cramped left traverse and finish at the same tree as Ictarus.

-Meridian

20m HVS

J.R. Mackenzie, G. Cullen. 23rd June, 1991.

An excellent introduction to the crag. Start at the base of the obvious ramp at a tree belay. Climb the crack behind the tree, then traverse up the ramp which gets gradually harder with height. Pull over the bulge in a fine position to gain a huge bucket hold on the right, then up the slab to finish.

-Underneath the Arches 15m E2 5b/c

M. Hind. 8th September, 1991.

Start about 2m left of Mac the Knife and pull right over the roof just left of Mac the Knife. Continue straight up to finish.

-Mac the Knife 15m E2 6a

M. Hind, J.R. Mackenzie. 17th August, 1991.

Eight metres left of Burlesque Crack is a steep bulging wall with a small sapling high up. Start below a shallow corner and climb up to and over the bulge on the left hand side with difficulty. Climb straight up to the sapling and overcome the top bulge which is easier than it looks. A fine strenuous climb of character.

-Jumping Jack Flash 15m E2 5c

M. Hind. 8th September, 1991.

Start right of Mac the Knife below the widest part of the roof. Pull straight over with long reaches and join the parent route to finish.

-Creeping Stealth 15m HVS 5a

J.R. Mackenzie, M. Hind. 17th July, 1991.

Five metres left of Burlesque Crack, the lower bulge is cut by a shallow Quartz groove. Climb up to the bulge and pull over on the left. Climb straight up to a little overhanging corner at the right end of the top bulge and climb this on the left on hidden holds.

-Chocks Away 14m HVS 5a

M. Hind. August, 1991.

The thinly protected and mossy wall left of Burlesque Crack is climbed via a slight scoop just right of Creeping Stealth. Step right and climb the bold wall direct to the top.

-Burlesque Crack 12m Severe

G. Cullen, J.R. Mackenzie. 23rd June, 1991.

Near the right end of the crag is a vertical crack, tree belay. Climb the crack with surprising ease to the top.

-The Aspen 12m HVS 5b

J.R. Mackenzie, G. Cullen. 23rd June, 1991.

Three metres to the right of The Aspen is a thin crack leading to an overhang with a tiny aspen beneath it. Climb the crack to the overhang; move left and pull over the overhang strenuously. Climb up and right much more easily. A fine lower half.

-Mid-Flight Crisis 12m VS 5a

J.R. Mackenzie, M. Hind. 17th July, 1991.

Five metres to the right of Burlesque Crack is a wall below the overhang. Climb the wall and surmount the overhang centrally and continue much more easily up the top slab, exiting as for The Aspen. Some good strenuous moves on excellent rock.

-Rock and Roll Suicide 10m HVS 5b

M. Hind. 8th September, 1991.

Starts well right of Mid-Flight Crisis below a bulge. Climb up to and through the thin bulge and finish easily up a slab.

-Uncertain Voyage

55m E2

J.R. Mackenzie, R. Brown. 21st July, 1991.

This is a left to right girdle traverse of the crag. By far the best route here with some spectacular and exciting climbing. A climb requiring a steady team.

Start left of the left edge of the Ictarus Buttress to belay in a tree a few metres up.

1. 10m 5b. Step on to a foothold and climb the arete to flakes. Traverse right to the corner and descend awkwardly to the flat hold on Ictarus. Go up right to belay on Ictarus.
2. 10m 5b. Cross the slab, then descend the overhang of Shadow Grasper to belay by the little tree below.
3. 20m 5b. Traverse right and climb the ramp of Meridian to a cramped position below the top overhang. Swing down right and take a hanging belay by the sapling on Mac the Knife.
4. 15m 5b. Traverse horizontally right towards Burlesque Crack but descend to handholds near the crack, step in to it and climb it to the top. It is easily possible but artificial to cross the break above the overhangs to the far end.

Meig Crag (NH 366557)

This provides a handy roadside crag about 1km west of the Loch Meig dam on the road up Strathconon and can be easily combined with Glenmarksie for a spot of contrast. The crag faces due north and has vegetated areas. It has a remarkable slab of brown rock at its left end and some very good crack and wall climbs at its right hand end. The biggest of the buttresses has a prominent corner, which lies well to the right of the crag.

At the left end of the crag is a brown slab which is often wet, Gabbro Slab. This excellent compact slab resembles gabbro in texture and has a prominent thin crack in its left side.

-Nicked in Time

18m E2 5b

M. Hind. 11th September, 1991.

Climb the left hand crack to the obvious break, continue up the slab above, then trend right up a groove to finish. A fine route on excellent rock.

To the right of Gabbro Slab lies a group of tall birch trees that hides a bay with a vertical corner which is normally very wet. To its left lies a two stepped corner and to its right lies a prominent jam crack.

-Lone Pine Groove

24m HVS 5a/b

G. Cullen, J.R. Mackenzie. 28th January, 1992.

Between Gabbro Slab and the bay is a prominent corner with a solitary pine at two thirds height. Climb the corner to the pine and then up the positive crux corner to a slab and the top. A very safe and pleasant climb with good jamming at the crux.

-Correction

20m MVS 4b

R. Brown, T.W. Brown. 1st September, 1991.

Climbs the two stepped corner left of the wet corner. Scramble up to a ledge with small trees. Climb the slabby corner past a small tree to a leaning tree. Climb up a crack to an overhang and move left to another crack, a tree and the top.

-Erection Crack

20m HVS 5b

J.R. Mackenzie, G. Cullen, M. Hind. 21st August, 1991.

Climb the dusty wall to the crack, then the overhanging crack to an awkward landing on to a large flake. Climb the corner to tree belays (13m, 5b). Finish up the short corner behind the belays to a heather top; belay well back (7m).

-Limited Liability

24m E3 5c

M. Hind, J.R. Mackenzie. 23rd May, 1991.

About 15m left of Meig Corner is a steep rightwards facing corner which has a vertical crack leading to its base. Either climb the overhung corner to the left of the vertical crack and traverse delicately right to the corner, often wet and 6a (as on first ascent) or, better, the crack which is easier and better protected, to the corner. Climb the corner, making use of the rib on the left at intervals. Belay in a fine cave.

-Meig Corner

30m MVS 4b

J.R. Mackenzie, D. McCallum. 30th June, 1979.

The fine corner with a tree at its base. Climb the corner to belays below a bulge (15m). The crux above is short and leads to easy ground (4b).

-The Birch

28m E2

J.R. Mackenzie, M. Hind (both led). 23rd May, 1991.

A superb first pitch, strenuous, sustained and excellently protected. Probably better to abseil off the tree after pitch 1 as the second does not compare.

1. 18m 5c. To the right of Meig Corner is a smooth gently overhanging wall split centrally by a striking crack. Climb the crack to a grass ledge.
2. 10m 5a. Climb the nose on the left and heather to finish.

-Angst Arete

15m E3 5c

J.R. Mackenzie, R. Brown, G. Cullen. 19th January, 1992.

Right of The Birch is an overhanging arete with a horizontal gash at three quarters height. Start left of the birch tree and climb flakes left and up to a big hold. Step up right and climb to a hole, then traverse left around the arete to a hidden hold below the bulge. Pull up on positive holds to finish on a glacié. An elegantly strenuous route packing in much interest. Small wires useful for protection.

-The Balance

30m VS 4c

J.R. Mackenzie, D. McCallum. 30th June, 1979.

Climb the rust coloured corner right of Meig Corner to a tree belay (4b). On the right is an arete which is followed over a huge balanced block. Finish up the crux slab above (4c).

-Shy Brides Crack

16m E1 5b

D. McCallum, J.R. Mackenzie. 30th June, 1979.

FFA. J.R. Mackenzie. 15th September, 1991.

To the right of The Balance lies a slab with a prominent crack above. Climb the slab to the crack, then up the crack which becomes progressively more difficult. An excellent jamming crack, well protected by friends.

Dam Crag (NH 375561)

Either approach along the Strathconon road to the dam at the east end of Loch Meig or along the road that leads from Loch Achilty and branches off on a private road near Little Scatwell. Limited parking at the dam.

The crag lies below the NE corner of the dam and is approached by traversing across scrub at the same level, then descending to it. A curious roll of silky smooth schist, punctuated by bore holes and occasional protruding steels, it gives limited but exciting friction climbing. Due to its smoothness the slab dries almost immediately after rain.

-Simple Delights

15m H. Severe 4b

G. Cullen, J.R. Mackenzie. 15th May, 1991.

Easier than it looks. Start a little right of the railings and climb straight up the slab via the bore holes and steels, pulling over the overlap right of the borehole thread.

-Battle of the Bulge

18m 6b (toproped)

J.R. Mackenzie, M. Hind. 17th May, 1991.

The daunting and flawless slab left of Simple Delights which sports a curved arched overlap. Climb straight up to the overlap and pull through centrally. Cranking the tinies above gives an immediate manicure. An excellent problem, seemingly protectionless.

-The Gulf Crisis

18m HVS 5b

M. Hind, J.R. Mackenzie (both led). 17th May, 1991.

Much easier than it looks. The slanting shallow corner left of the arched overlap. Traverse left from the railings to the foot of the groove. Climb the groove and pull on to the slab above via two drill steels. More easily over the next overlap to finish. The best route here.

Glenmarksie, Top Crag -Right Unprintable 8m E2 6a

J.R. Mackenzie, R. Brown. 14th April, 1991.

This is the rightmost of the two overhanging shallow corners which lie right of Pom. Despite its meagre height it packs some punch, being sustained with an athletic start and cruel finish. A fine test piece with excellent protection.

CAIRNGORMS**LOCHNAGAR, Cnapan Nathraichean -Venom**

105m E1

I. Davidson, P. Stewart. May, 1989.

Start 10m right of Green Mamba under an overlap.

1. 20m 5a. Climb the overlap and continue up the slab to a stance.
2. 20m 5b. Continue up the cracked slab.
3. 40m 5b. Climb up to the edge above Green Mamba and follow this past an awkward overlap.
4. 25m 5b. Finish up the wet slab passing the enormous moss overhang on the right.

CREAG AN DUBH LOCH, South East Buttress -Dogleg

V

G. Eittle, A. Nisbet. 3rd February, 1992.

By the summer route except that the first pitch was passed by turf on the right and on the third pitch, the groove right of the roof ("system of steep cracks") was gained directly from the blueberry ledge by stepping down right.

Central Slabs -The Golden Thread

300m IV

S. Richardson, J. Ashbridge (VL). 16th November, 1991.

A winter line based on Minotaur. Start 5m right of the summer start beneath a vegetated groove. Climb this to a stance in a recess (45m). Continue up the steep right facing corner above and move left at its top to gain the summer line (30m). Climb groove system on left (old peg) to reach terrace. Move left beyond summer chimney (taken by winter Nemesis) to left edge of upper buttress (50m). Above is a short steep gully in the wall to the right of the final corner of Centaur. This leads to easier ground after 30m and the top section of Central Buttress.

BRAERIACH, Coire of the Chokestone Gully -Flying Fox

140m IV

S. Richardson, R. Everett (AL). 15th February, 1992.

A good mixed route up the buttress to the left of Chokestone Gully. Start at the toe of the buttress and climb a series of awkward walls and short slabs, always trending right, to reach a left trending fault. This leads steeply to a good stance and ledge (30m). Continue along the fault line to reach a smooth groove. Step left below this, and climb steeply to reach the buttress crest. Slabby moves then lead to easier ground (30m). Continue up mixed ground on the crest merging with the upper section of The Shroud at the top (75m).

Coire Bhrochain -Fang Face

200m IV/V

G. Ettle, J. Lyall. 16th January, 1992.

A fine atmospheric route which climbs directly up the crest of the buttress to the left of Vanishing Point. Start left of Direct Route and climb a right facing corner, then move right to climb a shallow trough/groove system which lies about 7m left of the Vanishing Point corner system. When this runs out, follow cracks and grooves on the left side of the crest to easy ground below the Tower. Cross the gully on the left (Pioneers Recess Route) and climb The Fang by the cracked facing ridge. Descend the far side on large flakes to a narrow col, then the easy crest to a breach in the cornice (hopefully).

BEINN A' BHUIRD, The Dividing Buttress, Gable Wall

The short undercut north facing wall dropping into The Ramp. Access via The Ramp (Diff. from below or a scramble from the plateau). The main features of the wall are a pair of steep parallel cracks and a huge detached flake on the immediate right of the righthand crack. Right of the huge flake the wall presents a small slabby face.

-Sawfly

40m VS 4b

R.J. Archbold, S.N. Smith, G.S. Strange. 17th June, 1990.

Below and right of the huge flake is another large flake (grass topped). Start down right of this lower flake where good holds permit entry through the overhang. Pull up left and climb slab up and left to gain grass ledge on top of flake. Move left and climb straight up left of a vertical caterpillar to a square cut roof. Move right and up to a belay ledge below the headwall (25m). Move left, climb crack, then go up and right via slanting crack to gain a platform and easy ground.

-Weevil's Way

35m E1 5b

R. Ross, G.S. Strange. 4th August, 1991.

Start as for Sawfly. Move up left through overhang, then climb straight up slab to small bulge. Pull over this, move delicately left, then go up to flange just left of thin vertical crack. Climb crack and continue up slightly left to finish by steep crack in headwall.

-The Gnat

40m VS 4c

R.J. Archbold, S.N. Smith, G.S. Strange. 17th June, 1990.

At the right side of the slabby face, a pod-like ramp leads up left to a grass ledge below two prominent overhanging cracks. Start at right edge of slabby wall. Go up past detached flake, then move left and climb ramp. Exit by right hand crack to platform of Sawfly. Finish by optional crack on right.

Garbh Choire, Mitre Ridge, West Wall -Blue Deacon 100m IV

R.J. Archbold, B.S. Findlay, G.S. Strange. 24th March, 1991.

The short fault right of Primate. Climb North West Gully to first obvious break on left wall (approx. 40m from foot of Slochd Wall). Go up left to fault blocked by chokestone. Pass behind this and continue straight up to finish in depression just right of final pitch of Slochd Wall.

COIRE SPUTAN DEARG -Plumblin

105m V

S. Richardson, S. Helmore (VL). 20th April, 1991.

Late in the winter Slab Chimney banks out sufficiently to allow direct access to the route independent of Amethyst Wall. Start 10m above the ledge where the first slanting pitch of Amethyst Wall ends. Climb up easily right to belay below a steep groove that descends from the base of the Plumblin crack (10m). Climb the groove and belay on the left (10m). Make a hard move on to the wall above to enter the crack. Climb this to its top exiting steeply right. An excellent pitch (35m). Continue up the crest of the buttress to the top (50m).

-Aurora

170m IV

S. Richardson, R. Everett (AL). 9th November, 1991.

There is a well defined buttress between Ardath Chimney and Anchor Gully. Start from the bottom of Ardath Chimney and move right to the base of a right facing groove. Climb this to a roof, move right using a flake, and continue up the continuation groove to its top. Step right and up to a ledge (30m). Climb the wall above, moving left after 10m, to reach another groove system which leads to easier ground (45m). Two pitches lead to the top (95m).

CREAGAN A' CHOIRE ETCHACHAN -Pioneer Buttress Direct

215m V

R. Everett, S. Richardson (AL). 10th November, 1991.

A good winter line based on the summer route. Gain the vegetated groove left of the summer rib and climb this with interest to an alcove (35m). The summer line takes the impending corner above. Instead, climb up to the base of the corner, then make a difficult move on to a slab and up to a ledge level with the top of the corner. Move up and left across a steep wall and move round the arete (crux) to belay (30m). Continue directly up the buttress for 3 pitches to the top.

GLEANN EINICH, Sgoran Dubh Mor, No.1 Buttress**-Cram's Route B**

170m III/IV

J. Lyall, Miss H. Talbot. 25th February, 1989.

Followed close to the summer line, except that the through route at the chimney was avoided by a thinly vegetated crack up the slab on the right. Abseil from The Anvil.

SHELTER STONE CRAG -Rib Tickler

170m E2

J. Lyall, A. Nisbet. 20th August, 1991.

Climbs a groove and crack system between Consolation Groove and Threadbare to finish up Threadbare (free). Start at the same place as Threadbare, gained by scrambling easily up towards the Low Ledge until an unusual flake column is seen on the left below the shallow groove of Threadbare.

1. 20m 5a. Climb past the flake to a groove curving up left. Climb clean rock to the left of this vegetated groove. Break back right on to a short rib leading on to a grassy ledge.
2. 40m 5b. Climb straight up a blocky rib just left of the main groove system to a block. Move into the groove and follow it until below a short overhanging section well seen from below.
3. 25m 5b. Above the overhang the line curves left into Consolation Groove. Quit it before Consolation Groove and follow flake cracks rightwards to overlook Threadbare. Climb a groove in the crest to overlook Threadbare.
4. 15m 5b. Go up the easy corner to a ledge, then climb a blocky overhanging groove to belay below the roofed corner of Threadbare.
5. 25m 5c. Climb the roofed corner until forced right to a sensational belay.
6. 25m 4c. Go up big flake cracks to a ledge which spirals round to the top of the tower. Arguably best to descend left and abseil into Castlegates Gully.

HELL'S LUM CRAG, The Glasnost Slab

This is the clean area of slab on the left section of crag low down and left of Sic. It gave 3 one pitch routes on fine rock which could be lengthened by a scrappy pitch below and traversing right to finish near Styx. They were, however, climbed as single pitches using an abseil descent.

-Glasnost

35m VS 5a

S.G. Elishashvili, J. Lyall, A. Nisbet. 29th July, 1991.

Start from a ledge at the bottom left of the slab. Climb straight up to join and follow a left slanting crackline.

-Perestroika

35m E1 5c

S.G. Elishashvili, J. Lyall, A. Nisbet. 29th July, 1991.

Start as for above. From the left slanting crackline, climb straight up clean red rock to follow another left slanting crackline.

-Independence

40m E1 5b

S.G. Elishashvili, J. Lyall, A. Nisbet. 29th July, 1991.

Start down and right from the ledge. Climb up to a niche. Leave it by the crackline above and follow it curving leftwards to finish.

The Grey Buttress -Chariots of Fire

45m E3

J. Lyall, A. Nisbet, J. Preston. 4th August, 1991.

A sensational route with flaky rock adding to the excitement. Although overhanging all the way, the 6a section is short and well protected. The start, immediately above the big pitch of Hell's Lum, is best reached by abseil over the 'viewing block', a large flat rock from where one can lie and peer into The Lum.

1. 15m 5b. Climb out rightwards into a shallow corner, actually a big flake. Follow this briefly, then go rightwards again into another corner. Go up this to belay below a roof.
2. 15m 6a. Make a high traverse left on to the overhanging wall, then pul up to good holds (crux). Traverse left to a spike, then go up to a line of flakes leading leftwards to a small ledge.
3. 15m 5a. Continue up the flakes, then straight up over the bulge to the viewing block.

STAG ROCKS -Shotgun

200+m IV/V (V,7)

S. Allan, A. Nisbet. 4th April, 1992.

By the summer route. A thin first pitch and a strenuous third.

-The Sand-Pyper Direct, Blue Serge Variation

E1

I. Davidson, M. Sutherland, R. Cookson. 9th July, 1989.

After following the diagonal fault right to the point where the Direct leaves, move right to gain an awkward crack and follow this up to a poor stance (15m, 5a). Continue right across the slab, then up over the overlap to an awkward corner. Follow this to a good stance (5b). Follow cracks and grooves left then right to easier ground.

COIRE AN t-SNEACHDA, Fluted Buttress -Vortex

60m III/IV

G. Eittle, J. Lyall. 10th January, 1992.

Climbs the rib between the upper faults of Crotched and Spiral gullies (left of a direct finish to Spiral Gully). A good route. Follow the shallow fault line up the rib and turn the capping roof on the left. Easy crest to the top.

Fiacail Butress -Escapologist

55m IV

G. Eittle, J. Lyall. 10th March, 1992.

Start 8m left of Houdini. Slant up left before moving right over a slab to an obvious ledge. Climb up left to gain a large block belay (30m). Jump from the top of the block to reach turf (may ice and be easier) and continue up an icy corner and easier continuation to belay on the terrace (25m). Houdini was then followed for a pitch, finishing up the fault of Jailbreak.

-Trampled Underfoot

60m III/IV

G. Eittle, J. Lyall. 13th January, 1992.

Start 8m further up Fiacail Couloir than Rampant. Climb up steeply on vegetated ledges and move left to climb a short corner. Follow a ledge right and climb the large right slanting ramp to the ridge.

-The Hurting

35m E4 6a

R. Mansfield, S. Blagbrough, N. Ritchie. Aug, 1991.

Superb sustained climbing up the middle of the impressive wall right of The Seam. Start by an obvious detached flake.

Climb a poorly protected rightward facing groove line for 10m to a ledge and runners. Continue straight up some hollow flakes; move right and then up to the roof (3.5 & 4 Friends). Climb the left hand side of the roof and traverse right (crux) to gain a hidden flake crack. Go up to the top of this, move left then diagonally right and into a niche to finish easily.

-White Dwarf

40m IV/V

G. Eittle, J. Lyall. January, 1992.

A small buttress high and left of Fiacail Buttress, containing one small route. Climb the obvious left facing crack on the right side into a series of hanging thin grooves, becoming gradually harder with height.

COIRE AN LOCHAN -Vent Rib Direct

90m IV (IV, 6)

A. Nisbet, G. Ollerhead. 21st March, 1992.

A short easy pitch led to a steepening, climbed by a vertical groove just right of the crest. The crest now becomes easy (Ventilator takes a groove on its right) until a level section leads naturally into a finish up The Vent. The grade should drop with a large build-up at the start.

-Empty Space

70m IV

G. Eittle, J. Lyall, J. Finlay. 23rd March, 1992.

Climbs the steep wall between Andromeda and Andromeda Strain to a short corner and ledge (45m). Go up the wall above, passing a large block and more easily to the top (25m).

-The Crack

20m V

R. Anderson, R. Milne. 12th January, 1992.

The obvious crack centrally splitting the square cut headwall above Central Crack Route (climbed at VS in August, 1959). The logical finish to Torque of the Devil and when combined will give a standard of grade VI. (See article, p.17.)

-The Inquisition

80m V/VI (VI,8)

R. Anderson, G. Eittle, R. Milne. January, 1992.

An eliminate line of difficulty left of The Couloir. Climb an obvious smooth corner for 20m and easy ground above to land on the ledge below the conspicuous square cut wall (containing The Crack).

Cracks on the right lead to the balcony below the right arete.

Climb an overhanging crack and flake to the plateau (1 rest).

-The Executioner

70m V (VI,7)

R. Anderson, G. Ettle. January, 1992.

A serious line of weakness to the right of Crows Nest Crack. Start as for Crows Nest Crack but move out right to a ledge with a large block. Ascend the block capped groove above with care, and into a wide crack on the right. A series of ledges lead to a final wall below the plateau. Climb a left trending line. Climbed in marginal conditions; the top pitch was bare.

-War and Peace

VI (VII,8)

B. Davison, A. Nisbet. 19th February, 1992.

The initial corner was climbed to a roof at 10m. Summer knowledge of runner placements just below and at the roof helped thin moves right to gain blocks on the arete. A belay was taken below an overhanging wall above, as for summer. The wall was climbed in a short strenuous pitch (the summer route takes a crack to the left). The bulging chimney and groove were as for summer, leading to a finish up Savage Slit (or one abseil down the Slit to the cliff base).

NOTE: Creag an Dubh Loch. R. Campbell and G. Latter note the second ascent of Fer De Lance, grade confirmed. The first peg was not in situ, giving a bolder start.

WESTERN HIGHLANDS**BEINN FHADA (Kintail), Ceum na h'-Aon-choise, Coire Gorm (upper part of Choirè Ghairbh) -Fisherman's Blues**

180m III/IV

S. Kennedy, M. Macleod, D. Ritchie. 17th November, 1991.

A short distance to the east of the Hunter's Pass at the head of the coire are two prominent slabby buttresses separated by a narrow gully. This route lies on the larger left hand buttress and starts a short distance up the gully at the first obvious ramp line. Climb leftwards up the ramp over some steep steps to reach the crest of the buttress. Continue up the crest by a series of grooves to reach a large detached block on the right. A further series of grooves and steps leads to easier ground just below the top.

Note: The route Tropical Buttress (SMCJ 1986, p318) is situated on the right hand buttress referred to above.

SGURR NAN CONBHAIREAN, East Buttress

The eastern flanks of Sgurr nan Conbhairean and its neighbours are clearly seen from the A 887 road driving west through Glen Moriston.

-Ceannacroc Couloir

300m II

D. Broadhead, G. Drinkwater. 23rd February, 1992.

Cross a snow bay to reach a deep narrow gully right of centre of the East Buttress. From the top of the gully, trend left to gain the crest of the buttress which leads to a fine snow arete, finishing on the summit.

GARBH BHEINN (Ardgour), South Wall -Sala, Direct Start

E2 5c

I. Taylor, A. Caren. 21st May, 1990.

Gives a more independent but harder start to Sala. Start just left of Menghini and climb up to gain the right end of a diagonal crack which is followed leftwards to join Sala.

-Cesta Kurva

30m E1 5b

I. Taylor, J. Margolas. 12th June, 1990.

Climb Menghini over the first overhang, gain good holds over the second overhang, then traverse left 2m before climbing straight up the wall above.

MALLAIG CRAGS, Sgurr Bhuidhe, South Wall*-Going for the Jugular*

25m E5 6b

R. Campbell, G. Latter. 26th April, 1991.

A strenuous well protected pitch up the left side of the severely overhanging buttress bounding the left side of the crag. Start directly beneath the widest part of the large roof. Up short black wall past ledges to deep groove. Follow slim overhung groove with difficulty to good holds on lip of roof. Make further hard moves left into the crack and follow this on improving holds to finish by moving slightly left at the top.

BEN NEVIS**Indicator Wall -Fascist Groove**

165m V

C. Rice, R. Webb. 12th February, 1983.

This route has been described as a direct start to Albatross in two publications. As the originators claim that it is independent (apart perhaps from easy ground at the top), the following description has been sent (and a diagram).

Start between Riders on the Storm and Stormy Petrel in the bay right of the buttress taken by Riders on the Storm. In the back of the bay is a groove running up to a large roof.

1. 25m. Climb the groove in a short pitch to belay at the foot of a large hanging slab below the roof.
2. 40m. Cross the extremely steep and thinly iced slab to its top right corner, pull round into a narrow iced groove followed to below an impending rock wall. Traverse right, then move up steeply into a shallow bay to belay.
3. 35m. Exit the bay by climbing the slightly overhanging but iced right wall to reach easier ground. Cross this diagonally right to reach the foot of a short corner. Climb this to reach a good stance on a pedestal.
4. 65m. Move left off the belay and move up to an icefall on the right. Climb this to reach easier ground and continue to the plateau.

Carn Dearg Buttress -Red Rag

215m E2

S. Richardson, G. Muhlemann (AL). 7th July, 1991.

A good climb, although somewhat of an eliminate, which links the line of grooves and corners between Torro and Centurion. Sustained climbing but low in the grade. Climbed and cleaned on sight.

1. 15m 5b. Climb the cracked wall left of Centurion's first pitch to a platform.
2. 15m 5a. Continue up the V-groove directly behind the belay (old blade peg at foot) to stance by jammed spike in crevasse.
3. 25m 5b. Step left and follow Torro (pitch 2) into recess, trend up and left and pull on to slab at peg runner. From here Torro continues left, instead move horizontally right into a groove (perched loose block), pull over overhang, and make a difficult step down and right into a second groove and hanging stance.
4. 20m 5a. Climb groove and exit up wall on right through overlap to belay overlooking Centurion.
5. 25m 5a. Ascend right facing corner above, step left on to slab and follow cracks to foothold stance beneath the second great overlap at its widest point.
6. 10m 5c. Surmount the overlap on the right (friend 3 1/2 runner on lip), and pull on to the arete and move up on to slab. Easily up to ledge stance (Centurion emerges here from corner on right).
7. 30m 5a. Trend up and left to reach a crackline which is followed through an overhang to belay on ledges beneath a small broken overlap.
8. 25m 4a. Continue easily up to the traverse of Route 2.
- 9,10. As for Centurion pitches 6,7.

Note: It would be possible to combine pitches 1,2 and 3,4 (rope drag) and 5,6.

North Face of Castle Ridge -Prodigal Boys

150m HVS

T. McAuley, C. Higgins. 8th September, 1991.

The route starts just left of Plastic Max at a long groove which loses itself in roofs and overhangs at 40m, then goes directly through the square cut roofs which form a shallow diedre and are a dominant feature of the route.

1. 35m. Climb the groove, bypassing an overhang at 25m on the right.
2. 40m. Climb the crack above to a roof. Traverse left, up a crack, then by slab and crack to overhang. Surmount this and trend right to a large grass ledge.
3. 45m. Continue by parallel cracks, another overhang, then to a stance.
4. 30m. Gain Castle Ridge.

CENTRAL HIGHLANDS**BINNEIN SHUAS -The Perils of Perseus**

75m E1 5b

I. Taylor, A. Caren, R. Turner. 27th May, 1990.

Climbs the arete right of Blaeberry Grooves. Start at the foot of Gorgon.

1. 30m 5b. Climb diagonally rightwards to gain a crack, which is just left of the arete. Climb the crack to a ledge, then go up and left to the grassy terrace.
2. 45m -. Climb the slab above, keeping left of Blaeberry Grooves.

-Soft Shoe Shuffle, variation

30m HVS 5a

I. Taylor, R. Turner, A. Caren. 27th May, 1990.

After the normal first pitch, continue up the crack directly above. At the end of the crack, trend up and right to belay at the end of the normal third pitch.

AONACH MOR, Coire an Lochain, East Face*-Solar Wind*

110m IV

S. Richardson, R. Everett. 8th March, 1992.

Start 5m left of Jet Stream hard under Force Ten Buttress. Climb ice, step left into a well defined chimney and follow this steeply to a snowpatch (45m). Above is a steep square-cut groove. Follow this, exiting left near the top to reach the continuation gully. Follow this to belay where Force Ten Buttress merges into the final snow slopes (40m). Continue easily to the cornice. Possibly climbed before.

-Golden Promise

100m V (VI,7)

B. Davison, S. Kennedy, S. Venables. 23rd February, 1992.

A technical mixed route which climbs the steep grooveline situated at the top right hand side of the large bay 50m left of Grooved Arete (between Molar Canal and The Sleever). The lower part of the groove forms as a relatively straightforward gully which is climbed as one pitch to a large block belay out on the right just below the main difficulties (45m). Climb the steep groove above, pulling over a large bulge at 20m to reach a small cul-de-sac. Exit by a groove on the left and follow easier grooves above to belay just short of the easy upper gully of Molar Canal (45m). Follow the gully to the cornice (usually small).

-Prisoners of Conscience

150m III/IV

I. Dillon, N. Mamode. 10th December, 1990.

The route lies on the left flank of Central Buttress, approx. 30m up a huge bay. Follow a shallow but well-defined left facing corner to a bulge, followed by an awkward chimney on the left. Break right up the final snow slopes. Steeper and harder than it looks.

-Muddy Waters

90m III

C. Jones, S. Kennedy, D. Ritchie. 17th November, 1990.

About 10m to the right of the descent gully (Easy Gully) is an obvious chimney high on the buttress. Climb easy ground to the foot of the chimney which is followed trending right to the cornice. The lower section banks out completely from mid season onwards.

NOTE: On Aonach Mor, Coire an Lochain, East Face, Colgate Tripper (SMCJ, 1990, p508) has been claimed by R. Webb, C. Millar in January, 1990 and was named White Shark.

AONACH BEAG, West Face, Raw Egg Buttress*-Ruadh Eigge Chimney*

60m IV

R. Everett, S. Richardson, G. Muhlemann. 28th March, 1992.

The gully which defines the right edge of the Chandelle wall steepens into a deep narrow chimney capped by a bridge formed by three giant chokestones. Start up snow, surmount a short step and move up to belay at the base of the chimney (30m). Back and foot up the chimney until it is possible to step on to the bridge. Cross the bridge and climb ice on the left wall to reach the easier continuation gully above (30m). Short but good.

GLEN NEVIS, What Wee Wall

Left of the top of The Gorge Wall is a small rectangular wall, composed of some of the roughest rock to be found in the Glen. Approach up the open gully at the left side of The Gorge Wall.

-Carpe Diem

15m E5/6 6a

G. Latter, K. Howett, G. Ettle. 5th May, 1991.

Serious fingery climbing. Start on the right side of the crag, at a tiny ramp feature. Up this to a tiny overlap, where an assortment of protection can be arranged (2 skyhooks). Make a hard move to slightly better holds and up directly to clip twin pegs in horizontal. Descend a short way and move leftwards heading for a good hold at the top of the left hand ramp line. Easier on to ledge and up cracked slab to tree belay far back.

DALLENS ROCK (NM 930485), by Portnacraoish, Appin, Argyll.

A large west facing quartzite crag which overlooks the main Oban/Ballachulish road at Lettershuna, just north of Portnacraoish. About 20 minutes drive from Ballachulish and easily seen from the road.

The crag is characterised by a large roof at two-thirds height and a steep slabby wall below the roof on the right side of the crag (The Golden Slab). All the routes were precleared by abseil and the rock, although good, should be treated with care in places, as with most quartzite crags. The crag dries quickly and receives the full benefit of any late afternoon and evening sun. A good alternative when the higher crags in Glencoe are wet. The routes are described from left to right.

-Skywalker

30m E1 5b *

S. Kennedy, D. Ritchie. 3rd September, 1991.

A wildly exposed route in its upper reaches which climbs leftwards across the entire crag before cutting back right above the main roof. Start 3m left of a tree towards the right hand side of the crag at an obvious ramp which runs up leftwards across the lower part of the crag. Climb easily along the ramp past a huge recess (slightly loose) to a ledge on the extreme left of the main face. Climb back up diagonally rightwards on to the hanging ramp above the main roof. Continue to the far right end of the ramp moving beneath a small nose midway. A final awkward move at the end of the ramp leads to a tree belay. Abseil descent.

-The Golden Slab

30m E1 5b **

S. Kennedy, C. Grindley. 6th May, 1991.

A fine route which utilises the maximum height of the crag. Climbs the striking slabby wall mentioned above. Start just left of the tree as for Skywalker and climb the ramp for 2m before pulling out rightwards on to the slabby wall. Climb the centre of the wall in the general line of an obvious brown streak (runners in horizontal breaks). Move out right just below the roof to the right arete and a small ledge. Climb the steep wall above (2PR) for 5m (crux), then pull out left below a bulge. Continue up to reach a ledge which is followed out right before moving back up and left to a tree belay. Abseil descent.

-Power of the West

28m E1 5b *

S. Kennedy, C. Grindley. 12th May, 1991.

Climbs the vague corner line directly behind the tree near the right side of the crag and just right of The Golden Slab. Climb the steep corner for 10m to the last of three small rocky beaks which bound the right edge of the slabby wall. Pull out left at the third beak on to the right edge of the slabby wall just below the roof (joining The Golden Slab). Finish up the final crux wall of The Golden Slab.

Note: The obvious central line through the roof awaits a bold leader.

GLENCOE**BUACHAILLE ETIVE MOR, Great Gully Buttress -Augly Crack**

50m HVS

I. Taylor, W. Hood, B. Williamson. 22nd July, 1990.

Follows a curving crack in the wall right of June Crack.

1. 10m. Climb June Crack to the grass ledge.

2. 40m 5a. From the middle of the ledge climb straight up to join Direct Route. Follow this until a leftwards traverse above an overhang gains the base of the crack, which is then followed to the top.

Creag a' Bhancair -Up with the Sun

100m E6/7

G. Farquhar, G. Latter. 29th July, 1991.

A direct uncompromising route, filling the obvious gap cutting through The Risk Business. Start 6m down and left from the tree on TRB, at a prominent triangular foothold.

1. 50m 6b. Go leftwards and up on cleaned edges to a thin crack. Make difficult moves through bulge rightwards to better holds, and up rightwards to the peg on TRB. Along this to just before the belay, and up shallow groove in arete past overlaps to pull on to capping wall with difficulty. Continue directly to join belay below Carnivore Direct Finish.

2. 20m 6b. Move out leftwards above belay to prominent undercling and directly with difficulty to gain mysterious old in situ thread. Step left and directly to roof and protection. Traverse diagonally leftwards to share belay at top of third pitch of TRB.

3. 30m 4b. Easily to top.

NOTE: The first pitch was top roped, then led using three ropes. The second pitch was led on sight.

BIDEAN NAM BIAN, Lost Valley Buttress*-The Primordial Soup Kitchen*

V

B. Davison, A. Nisbet. 21st February, 1992.

The first pitch was as for summer, pitch 2 was the small corner itself belaying below the left side of the monolith, pitch 3 climbed the left side of the monolith (friend 3 1/2 useful) and the wall above and pitch 4 was finishing as for Savage.

AONACH DUBH, East Face, Far Eastern Buttress*-Eastern Slant*

120m III/IV

R. Anderson, C. Anderson, R. Milne. 16th February, 1992.

This may correspond in part to the summer climb Left Edge. Start at the base of the obvious groove just left of the cleanest and highest section of the cliff. This is just right of Orient Express.

1. 40m. Climb the groove or rocks on its left to belay as for Orient Express.
2. 40m. Traverse left beneath the icefall of Orient Express. Go up around the edge, then up and leftwards across a slab to a short corner. Pull out left and belay.
3. 40m. Continue the left bias, up and across a faultline to climb a groove leading to a finish up a short chimney.

NOTE: The Tunnel Variation of Crypt Route is reported as blocked by rockfall during summer, 1991.

BEINN CHAORACH

The following routes are on the same slabs as Xenolith.

-Xenolith Right Hand Start

60m VS

W. Hood, I. Taylor. 10th June, 1990.

Right of the start of Xenolith is a slab, bounded on the left by a corner and topped with an overlap.

1. 40m 4b. Climb the slab to belay below the overlap.
2. 20m 4c. Gain the rib on the left, then trend left to join Xenolith at the triangular recess.

-Prey

120m VS

W. Hood, I. Taylor. 10th June, 1990.

Probably the best route on these slabs. Left of Eazay Edge is a large square slab with a bird-like overlap top left.

1. 20m 4c. Follow a diagonal crack in the slab to belay short of the overlap.
2. 40m 5a. Pull over the overlap at its right hand end, traverse left a few metres, then climb a short wall to gain the slab above. Climb rightwards up the slab to belay below a short wall.
- 3,4. 60m. 2 easy pitches lead to the top.

-The Glutton

120m VS

I. Taylor, W. Hood, A. Caren, J. Ferry. 10th June, 1990.

Some way left of Prey is a large cracked block. Start just right of this.

1. 20m 4c. Climb up to a scoop, turn an overhang on the left, then continue up and right to belay.
2. 40m 4b. Traverse left to an edge overlooking a corner, then climb the edge to a ledge. From the right edge of the ledge follow a slabby rib to grass ledges.
- 3,4. 2 easy pitches to the top.

SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS**BEINN DORAIN, Creag an Socach -Antichrist**

120m V

R. Everett, S. Richardson (AL). 15th March, 1992.

A good mixed route taking the groove system and wall between Promised Land and Second Coming. Start 20m left of Second Coming and climb easily up to the rake (15m).

Climb the awkward wall 5m right of the flakes of Promised Land and enter the groove. Follow this to a good stance (25m). Continue up the fault line trending left to an overhang. Climb this, then traverse right on to the lip of the overhanging wall on the right. Move up in a spectacularly exposed position to reach the terrace 5m up and right of the ice chimney of Promised Land (40m). The route continues up the impending wall above. Start on the right arete, then move left to reach a hairline crack. A series of steep moves on widely spaced tufts (not visible from below) lead to a ledge (20m). Continue up the final ice groove of Second Coming to the top (20m).

THE COBBLER, South Peak -Horus

40m E6 6b

G. Latter. 20th July, 1991.

A direct sustained line, with only marginal protection, up the wall right of Osiris. Start at the same point as Osiris. Up to the first peg runner, and cross the roof slightly rightwards with difficulty (tied off peg runner above -difficult to clip; also 1 Walnut placement just to its left) to good quartz holds and runner placement (hand placed peg in pocket out to left). Move slightly right above small overlap on small quartz holds past a further hand placed peg in pocket, to a good hanging flake and better holds. Directly past a good no hands rest to gain the base of a diagonal crack and move slightly leftwards (crux) to prominent sidepull (RP 3 in triangular niche). Then up on improving holds, pulling out rightwards to easier ground. Belay on ledge further back.

-Soul Groove

II/III

A. Fraser, J. Thomson, J. Blyth. 6th January, 1991.

Situated at the right end of the face right of Great Gully. Start at a groove about 10m right of Heart Buttress, just left of some large boulders. Climb the groove, then rightwards up a further groove to belay. Climb a short wall, then up easy ground ahead then left. Move up to and climb the rocks to the right of the final chimney of Heart Buttress.

BINNEIN AN FHIDHLEIR, Creag Coire an Creagach -Uhuru

50m VS 4b

K.V. Crocket, B. Dullea, D. Gardner. Summer 1991.

Start about 4m right of Heart of Darkness. Climb wall through small overlap to ledge and belay (20m). Climb wall right of Two-Step and belay well back (30m).

-Africanus

35m VS 4b

K.V. Crocket, B. Dullea, D. Gardner. Summer 1991.

Climbs the undercut arete left of Amin's Can-Can. Follow slabby wall to ledge and block, continue straight up to finish.

GLEN CROE, Great Slab -Rock Sculpture

30m E3 5c

The route lies at the right end of the slab. Start at a heather flake crack and climb up to gain a horizontal crack left of an overhang. Climb up on small holds (RP3 in thin diagonal crack), then trend right to gain a foot ledge. Continue more easily to a peg belay.

NOTES: Beinn an Dothaidh, North East Coire. G. Muhlemann and R. Everett noted an ascent of a direct version of Slow March in SMCJ 1991. The line was climbed by C.S. Bonington and G. Little (SMCJ 1989) and named Splitting the Difference.

Loch Sloy Craggs. Stonefingers (SMCJ 1989, p300) is E1 5b.

Beinn Udlaidh. The route claimed as Antique's Roadshow was climbed by G. Allan, I. Taylor in January, 1986.

CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN SCOTLAND OUTCROPS

DALMAHOY HILL -*Midgey Gem*

16m VS 4c

J.D. Inglis, A. McCleish, J.C. Eilbeck. 22nd August, 1991.

Start at the left end of short slabs, 3m right of Resurrection, below an obvious triangular overlap at 3m. Go up the slab left, past a triangle, to overlaps at 7m. Traverse right 2m and follow leftwards slanting grooves and ribs to the top. Sustained.

-Elation

16m HVS 5a

J.D. Inglis, G.A. Jones, J.C. Eilbeck. 14th August, 1991.

Start at a left facing corner/groove about 3m right of Midgey Gem, directly below a small, loose looking block. Go up the corner/groove until moves right and back left allow a break in the overlap to be gained. Follow the groove above until forced right on to a rib and groove to the top. Poorly protected.

-Transcription

18m MVS 4b

J.C. Eilbeck, J.D. Inglis. 21st August, 1991.

Start up an easy groove 4m right of Elation and to the right of short slabs. At an obvious diamond overlap (4m), move left and up until forced right by overlaps. Follow a pleasant exposed slab/groove to the top. Harder direct finish possible.

-Cleaned Sweep

18m VS 4c

J.D. Inglis, J.C. Eilbeck. 31st August, 1991.

Follows a prominent left facing hanging corner/groove near the centre of the crag. Follow a scrappy groove 4m right of Transcription to an overlap, move up and right into the corner and follow it to the top with the choice of hard or easy exits.

DUNBAR CRAG

NE facing sandstone crag on coast just north of old harbour. Also several top-rope or solo (unprotectable) routes on left hand side of crag. Grades up to E2, courtesy of M. Smith.

-Celebration Day

12m F7b

G. Latter. 7th May, 1991.

Right and line of bolts, with crux to reach good incut fingerpocket above lip of initial roof. Lower from top bolt. Redpointed.

ROSS POINT QUARRY (Loch Lomond) -*Son of Cog*

E4 5c

I. Taylor, J. Nairn. May, 1991.

Opposite the other routes is a large boulder. Climb the right arete. No protection with the crux at the top.

MEIKLE ROSS -*Ancient Mariner*

60m E2

R. McAllister, A. Fraser. 25th August, 1991.

Excellent and varied climbing with a serious top section. It finds a way up the steep pillar to the left of Pigeon Chimney. Start about 7m left of Pigeon Chimney.

1. 20m 4b. Climb the grey wall to a prominent twin niche, which is exited on the left. Follow easy ground right to belay in a large overhung niche.

2. 40m 5b. Move right to twin overhung corners and climb the left corner to a ledge. Climb rightwards up to and follow a thin undercut slab (crux). Continue rightwards up slabs to exit at a small pinnacle.

-Manic Nirvana

25m HVS 5a

R. McAllister, A. Fraser. 21st August, 1991.

Takes the steep groove line 3m left of Dry Zawn. Climb up to an overhang, traverse right and up the right hand groove. Follow this back left and climb a short crack to a large ledge and easier ground. Recommended.

The following routes are on the same slab as Grapeshot (SMCJ 1989, p303). Access is best by abseil. Both routes by A. Caren, I. Taylor, 1st April, 1990.

-Odd Zawn

12m HVS 4c

Start below right hand end of overlap and follow thin cracks diagonally leftwards to gain left end of overlap. Belay on abseil rope.

-Evens

10m VS 4c

Left again are two thin cracks. Follow the left one.

BURROW HEAD, Fortress Wall

The following 2 routes are situated on the grey tidal wall situated within the grounds of the campsite and in the bay to the east of the Fin. Access is by abseil from spikes at the left end of the cliff to ledges at the foot.

-The Goblin's Eyes

22m HVS 5a

A. Fraser, A. McAllister. 14th August, 1991.

A fine steep route, easy in the grade. Start about 8m left of the prominent leftward trending crack in the centre of the cliff, at the lowest point of the belay platform and underneath two niches. Climb up to and through the niches, then directly above, finishing just left of the lefthand crack.

-Killer on the Loose

22m MVS 4b

R. McAllister, A. Fraser. 14th August, 1991.

Start at the foot of the leftward trending crack and climb the thin cracklines and walls above and slightly to the right.

CLINTS OF DROMORE *-Spanish Inquisition*

60m MVS

A. Fraser, A. McAllister. 25th August, 1991.

Climbs the rightward sloping black slab which is the right wing of the largest continuous buttress situated at the left end of the crag. Start at the left edge of the slab.

1. 30m 4b. Climb to an overlap at 15m. Step right over this and climb rightward up the slab to belay at the foot of a conspicuous curving right trending overlap.

2. 30m 4b. Follow the line of the overlap up and right, crossing it near the top, then go directly to a large ledge at the top of the main slab. Move right and follow an easier subsidiary slab to the top.

CRAIGBRANEOCH RIG (Glen Afton)See SMCJ 1988, p113. *Stayamrie -The Crack of Doon*

30m HVS 5a

S. Lampard, A. Fraser. 31st July, 1991.

The main and lower wall has a prominent curving crack at its left side. This route is the obvious vertical crack leading up to and joining the top of the curving crack, followed by an easier wall above. Superb.

PORTOBELLO (SMCJ 1989, 1991)**Cracked Block Cove -The Cruel Seaside**

20m E2 5c

R. McAllister. July, 1991.

Immediately in front of the cracked block is an island with a south facing, undercut tidal wall. About 5m from the right edge of the wall is a steep undercut crackline.

In the middle of the cove is a south facing wall which gives the next 2 routes.

-Parallel Lines

12m MVS 4b

A. Fraser, S. Lampard. 21st October, 1990.

The parallel cracks or shallow chimney in the middle of the face.

-Return of the Limpet

10m Severe

S. Lampard, A. Fraser. 21st October, 1990.

The buttress about 4m right of Parallel Lines, with an overhang at half height.

The U-Boat Pen

This is the narrow inlet in between Shark Fin Bay and Cracked Block Cove. It has one existing route, Riverboat Gambler. The cliff has two buttresses, the left one being tidal.

-Feeling the Pinch

22m MVS 4b

R. McAllister, A. Fraser. 17th July, 1990.

Takes the leftward trending brown streak in the top part of the right buttress, reached by a crack.

-The Water Margin

22m E1 5b

A. Fraser, R. McAllister. 3rd July, 1991.

Start 2m left of Feeling the Pinch and follow pockets up the smooth slab, then climb the upper wall via twin cracks to the right of its left edge. Excellent.

-The Ducking Stool

28m VS 4c

A. Fraser, J. Thomson. 7th August, 1991.

An obvious wide crack slopes leftwards across the left hand buttress. Follow this till it finishes, then climb directly to the top.

-The Zombie

20m Severe

A. Fraser, R. McAllister. 17th July, 1990.

Just left of the start of The Ducking Stool is a coffin shaped recess. Approach by abseil. Climb out of this, then leftwards up the wall above, crossing an overhang near the top.

Shark Fin Bay -Aqua Vitae

20m Severe

R. McAllister, A. Fraser. 31st July, 1990.

Start as for Sanity Clause but after 3m branch out left up the slabby corner.

-Mussel Bound

24m HVS 5a

A. Fraser, R. McAllister. 31st July, 1990.

The steep wall at the right side of the promontary has a prominent overhang at one third height with a triangular niche underneath (Cutty Shark goes through this niche). This route

takes the thin crackline left of the niche, over the roof, then directly above, climbing a feature shaped like a W on its side. Steep and excellent.

Main Cliff: Some easier routes done here; details not supplied.

LAGGANTULLACH HEAD (SMCJ 1989, p303), Hoodlums Bay

About 200m north of the long low island and about 200m south of the pinnacle, at the entrance to Foam Zawn, is a black overhanging wall.

-The Oyster Thief 22m HVS 5a

J. Blyth, D. McGimpsey. 20th September, 1991.

Start at the left end of the black overhanging wall and follow a curving crack up and left of the overhanging wall to finish up the right corner above.

-The Clam Catcher 22m VS 4c

J. Blyth, D. McGimpsey. 20th September, 1991.

Start 3m left of The Oyster Thief. Climb a white streaked wall and crack leading to a small tower 1m left of the finish of Oyster Thief. Pull round and over this to finish.

Foam Zawn -*Spongonema* 26m E1 5b

J. Blyth, R. McAllister, C. Stenhouse, A. Fraser.

20th September, 1991.

This is the obvious hanging chimney line to the north of and round the corner from Pillar, being conspicuous from Simons Bay. Approach by traverse from Simons Bay (M. Severe). Climb easily to the foot of the chimney and up it (technical and sustained).

Dragons Cave

This greywacke cliff is situated about 500m north of Laggantullach Head past a small burn. Its main face consists of two slabs facing south. Worthwhile for the different style of climbing from the granite crags, as well as the atmospheric setting provided by the long roaring sea cave beneath the cliff. Access by abseil.

-Heart of Darkness 35m HVS 5a

R. McAllister, A. Fraser. 8th September, 1991.

A superb and atmospheric route on the larger right hand slab. Start at the right edge of the slab and follow a line of holds up and leftwards to a conspicuous spike on the left edge of the slab. Move slightly rightwards, then directly to the top.

-Darwin's Waiting Room 35m MVS 4b

A. Fraser, R. McAllister. 8th September, 1991.

Takes the right corner of the left slab until at 16m it eases, then climbs steep cracks on the right wall of the corner.

-The Origin of Species VS 4c

A. Fraser, C. Stenhouse. 20th September, 1991.

Climbs the steep seaward face of the left slab, starting at the left end of a small platform, reached by traversing from the foot of the left slab. Move steeply up and left into a groove leading to a large ledge. Slightly left is a hidden slab which is climbed to the upper arete of the left slab and so to the top.

WEST TARBET (NX 140308)

These cliffs at the Mull of Galloway are very loose, although better next to West Tarbet Bay. The following two routes are on the first inlet south of West Tarbet Bay, about 100m from the mouth of the bay.

-Bible Class

16m V. Diff.

C. Stenhouse, A. Fraser. 1st September, 1991.

The slabby black wall at the left end of the southern wall of the inlet.

-Sundae School

10m H. Severe

A. Fraser, C. Stenhouse. 1st September, 1991.

Climbs the thin buttress 1m left (north) of the landward end of the inlet, via a steep crack with a niche at 7m.

CRAIGENCALLIE (NX 500738)

See Scottish New Routes, p187.

The main wall is situated in the upper right hand area of the crag.

-Alligator

36m V. Diff

A. Fraser, R. McAllister. 16th April, 1991.

About 50m down and left of the Main Wall is a long slabby buttress, steepest at the bottom. Start near the left edge of the buttress. Climb up to the left edge of the steeper section, then traverse right for 3m and continue directly to the top.

-Decaffinator

12m VS

R. McAllister. 16th April, 1991.

About 30m down and left of Alligator is a steep buttress with trees at the top (at the top of the wide grass slope leading into the centre of the crag). Near the righthand side of this buttress is a rightward trending slab. Climb the crack in its right outer edge.

ARRAN**GOATFELL, Rosa Slabs -Gwynserthni**

70m E2

V. Ross, I. Roberts (alt). 7th July, 1991.

The route follows a line approx. 8m left of Extraction.

1. 30m 5b. Climb up the obvious white water streak, passing a horizontal crack at 5m, to a scoop at 15m. Now up the groove just right of the streak to a ledge.

2. 40m 5b. Up the slab to a scoop about 3m right of the gully. continue up on cusps and pockets to climb the double overlaps via the obvious large pocket and then just left of the 'pebble' on the second overlap. Now up to a ledge and poor spike belay just below the terrace.

TORR NEAD AN EOIN -Accipiter

65m VS

N. Kebeil, G. McArthur. 29th July, 1991.

Climbs a line between Schist Buttress and Aquila. Climb straight up an open crack, bypassing a large fragile flake on the left. Belay at the far right end of a terrace (10m). Climb a short steep wall above, then veer left and climb to the right of a shallow ramp. Straight to the top on small rounded holds, finishing left of Aquila.

NOTES: Cioch na h'Oighe, The Bastion. A free ascent of Digitalis (original line on top pitch) by G. Latter, A. Ramsay on 25th May, 1991. E2 5c, 5a, 5b, 5c. Also an on sight attempt on the pillar midway between Klepht and Armadillo, abandoned due to poor rock in upper section (G. Latter, G. Szuca).

Cioch na h'Oighe. On Slipway, pitch 2 can be started more directly by climbing past the peg at the left end of the belay ledge (5b). This frees the original aid move.

Beinn Tarsuinn, Meadow face. Bogle, a variation. G. Szuca and A. Wren avoided the 'contortionate through route' through the slimy cave. They stomach traversed an 18 inch deep wet and sloping shelf left for 12m!

Coire na Ceum. A hold has been pulled off the crux of Ulysses, making it possibly 6a. One star was considered adequate praise.