

NEW CLIMBS SECTION

OUTER ISLES

HARRIS: Like the authors, the New Routes Editor has no idea if the following routes are new.

Mangersta, Flannan Zawns:

Bubbles – 40m HVS 5a. C. King, R. Kenyon. 6th June, 1993.

An excellent route taking the groove up the centre of the slab taken by Flannan Slab. Start just left of Flannan Slab below a ledge at 3m. Gain the ledge, then move up leftwards to gain the base of the groove. Move up easily (possible belay), then follow the groove to just below the traverse on the second pitch of Flannan Slab. Now traverse leftwards to the arete and finish boldly up this.

Landlubber Zawn:

This is the zawn just north of Flannan Zawn, formed by a gentle-angled slab on its west side (end of Flannan Zawn) and a steep wall on its east side. The base of the zawn is easily gained by a walk down the gentle slab.

Dry Dock – 25m E1 5b. C. King, R. Kenyon. 6th June, 1993.

An impressive route taking the crack up the highest point of the steep wall. Start at the two large boulders at the end of the slabby tongue. Start easily up a corner crack. Move up leftwards and over an overlap. Continue up the crack to finish up a short corner.

The Painted Zawn:

The Prow – 25m VS. J. Ashdown, N. Dalzell. May, 1993.

Takes the front of the obvious black prow at the rear of the zawn. Scramble down (and up) from Painted Wall area and start to climb from a large ledge. Follow the easiest line up the prow to the top. Bold start on good rock.

Gloss – 20m E3 5b. N. Dalzell, J. Ashdown. May, 1993.

Scramble down to the neck of rock between two gullies on the north-east side of the zawn, left of Mick's Corner. Traverse awkwardly on to the pink undercut slab and then up to a series of breaks and footholds. Follow these rightwards to below an overhang (below top). Exit with care up a quartz vein that forms a short corner on the right of the overhang.

Legality – 25m E1 5a. D. Ashworth, C. Lofthouse. May, 1993.

Follows the right hand side of the lower wall to the left and down from the previous route. Scramble down over the neck of rock between two gullies, left of Mick's Corner, to the above wall. Reach by abseil. Start up a rightward slanting crack through a bulge. Then climb leftwards through a quartz band to ledges. Follow the crack on the left and a wall to the top.

Black Foot – 30m E2 6a. D. Ashworth, C. Lofthouse. May, 1993.

This route takes the rightwards slanting line on the black triangular wall on the south side of the Painted Zawn, right of the wide middle gully. Start from a small black ledge reached by abseil. Follow a crack from the ledge through a bulge trending right and move up to a ledge with difficulty. Follow the obvious line left to the top.

Screaming Geo Zawn:

Whale Walk – 30m E2 5b. J. Ashdown, N. Dalzell. May, 1993.

Follow the initial right-facing corner of Claymore for 5m. Traverse left along good handholds to reach a stance. Launch up a cracked slab through crux moves to reach a sloping ledge. Climb the shallow corner above, trending left to finish on ledges. A good line which avoids the loose rock of routes to the right.

I'll Try Up Here Again – 30m E1 5b. D. Ashworth, C. Lofthouse. May, 1993.

Reached by abseil down an obvious VS-looking corner below ledges, approx. 15m left of Claymore. The route takes an improbable line up some steep ground. Climb an easy wall to a steep crack. Pull on to a small slab left of an overhang. Step down to a crucial foothold at the bottom of the slab. Climb around the overhang (runners) and follow the nose to the top.

SOUTH UIST, Beinn Mhor:

Western Gully – 120m I. B. Davison. 22nd February, 1994.

On the east side of Beinn Mhor are several broad gully lines. This takes the most western (farthest right facing them). The back of the gully was lined with water ice after two-three weeks of cold easterlies.

MINGULAY (1:50,000 sheet 31):

Mingulay is the second most southerly of the Outer Hebridean isles stretching from Lewis in the north to Berneray in the south. Measuring 4 x 3k, its western seaboard presents a continuous line of cliffs to the Atlantic, reaching a maximum height of 235m at the Biulacraig. Although many sections of cliff are vegetated or extensively colonised by seabirds, there is also much clean rock offering great scope for exploratory rock climbing. The island is uninhabited (although it once supported a population of more than 100) and is normally accessed from Barra to the north. Mingulay Bay, in the east provides the safest approach and good camping sites are available adjacent to the ruined village.

Dun Mingulay (NL 543820):

Dun Mingulay is a cliff girt headland, in the south west of Mingulay, joined to its parent island by a narrow neck of land (remains of a defensive rampart are visible). Although much of Dun Mingulay's cliff line is broken or vegetated, a west-facing section at Sron an Duin (overlooking two tidal skerries) forms a superb near 100m-high wall of clean vertical to overhanging rock, providing climbing of an exceptional quality and situation. Access to the base is by abseil and is both an exciting experience in its own right and very much dependent on relatively calm seas. A 100m rope is recommended (90m vertical drop). Very little loose rock is in evidence on the cliff and the two routes climbed to date have been led on sight.

The Silkie – 105m E3. G.E. Little, K. Howett (alt). 31st May, 1993.

Two small cairns can be found on the west-facing cliff top near the western extremity of Sron an Duin. Abseil from a point adjacent to the more southerly of these to a rock plinth a couple of metres above tidal slabs. An impressive direct line with sensational exposure on the third pitch.

1. 15m 4c. From the rock plinth climb a groove to distinctive red bands. Traverse left along these to a small ledge and belay.

2. 30m 6a. Go straight up to below a black diagonal arching overlap and follow it rightwards to below its widest point. Move up then pull through into a small scoop on the left (crux). Step back right across the lip then climb flakes trending left up

a wall of compact rock to belay on the right below a square roof. A magnificent pitch.

3. 45m 5b. Turn the square roof on the left, then take a quartz corner breaking out right through a second roof. Step left on to its lip, then go directly up a juggy wall to another small roof. Cross this to gain a cracked block ledge. Go up slightly right to a better ledge and belay.

4. 15m 4a. Climb steep but easier ground to the top.

Voyage of Faith – 125m E3. G.E. Little, K. Howett (alt). 31st May, 1993.

Abseil from a point adjacent to the more northerly of the two cairns to the base of a short square cut corner immediately above tidal slabs. An outstanding intricate line with much atmosphere and stunning exposure.

1. 25m 5b. Climb the short square-cut corner to a small ledge at the base of an open groove (a more comforting belay if seas are running). Up the groove, then pull out left to belay on a small ledge.

2. 35m 5b. Move out left from the ledge, then follow a line of flakes trending left until a vertical flake crack leads to an obvious horizontal fault. Hand traverse left along the fault, then move up to a very exposed belay on a small nose of rock at the base of a slight corner (this whole area is undercut by a large sea cave).

3. 30m 5b. Climb the corner to a small ledge, then traverse 2m left into a parallel groove. Up this, then step left and slightly down to a very narrow ledge. Follow this until the overlap above can be bypassed giving access to a traverse line back right, above the overlap, to belay at blunt rock spikes adjacent to an obvious break in the main band of overhangs.

4. 35m 5c. Traverse out right through the overhangs (lower line) then climb directly up on steep rock via a groove to the base of a short, hanging corner. Climb this with difficulty to the top.

Guarsay Beag (NL 551845):

A clean west-facing wall lies at the north west extremity of the Guarsay Beag promontory directly below an obvious cairn. The face is characterised by a shield-like section of rock, lichenised in its upper part, defined by grooves on either flank. At the base of the shield, about 5m above the sea, is a curious hole in the rock, much favoured by seabirds.

With a View to a Shag (Left Hole Groove) – 35m Severe 4a. G.E. Little, K. Howett. 1st June, 1993.

Abseil to a ledge below the prominent hole. Ascend the groove bounding the left side of the shield.

Easy Day for a Shag (Right Hole Groove) – 35m Severe 4b. K. Howett, G.E. Little. 1st June, 1993.

After the same abseil, ascend the groove bounding the right hand side of the shield. Well defined in its upper section.

From the Hole to Heaven – 35m VS 4c. G.E. Little, K. Howett. 1st June, 1993. From below the prominent hole, climb the centre of the shield on excellent holds in an impressive situation.

West Face of Guarsay Mor:

A 100m of non-stretch rope recommended for abseil descents. There is a distinct inlet about halfway down the West Face of Guarsay Mor and the routes described go up the spurs on either side of the inlet.

Grey Rib – 70m H. Severe. C. Bonington, M. Fowler (alt). 30th May, 1993.

Starts from the highest point of the ledge just above the high-water mark at the foot of the buttress on the northern side of the inlet.

1. 35m. Climb 3m leftwards to gain a ramp leading up right into a short corner. Move up and left out of the corner on to the crest of the buttress and continue up for 12m to a stance.

No Puke Here – 65m VS. C. Bonington, M. Fowler. 30th May, 1993.

Follows the rib to the immediate right of a recess roofed by a huge overhang, to the left of Grey Rib.

1. 30m 4a. Climb the slabby rib on excellent rock moving left from a short crack to gain a good ledge.

2. 35m 4a. Continue straight up on good holds.

Stugeron – 105m HVS. C. Bonington, M. Fowler. 31st May, 1993.

Up the groove line to the immediate left of the crest of the buttress to the immediate north of the inlet. Start from a cave immediately above the high-water mark at the foot of the groove line.

1. 30m 4c. Step left and climb a subsidiary groove until it is possible after about 10m to gain the main groove. Follow this to a ledge pulling out to the right.

2. 45m 4c. Up and right through the bulge above and on straight up to reach a ledge system below the headwall.

3. 30m 4c. Move left to a deep V-groove, pull over a small roof and continue to the top.

Pressure Band – 100m HVS. C. Bonington, M. Fowler (alt). 31st May, 1993.

Start as for Stugeron.

1. 45m 5a. Follow the groove line of Stugeron for 5m and then pull out left of the groove round a rib and follow the obvious steep crack line to a good ledge.

2. 25m 4b. Step up right, then back left to the ledge below the headwall. Traverse left for 5m to the foot of a steep groove.

3. 30m 4c. Climb the groove to the top.

North West Face of Slac Chiasigeo:

Liverbird – 125m E1. C. Bonington, M. Fowler. 1st June, 1993.

Start from the right-hand end of a wide platform with a small pond just above high water.

1. 50m 4b. Climb easily up to a ramp, then diagonally up the ramp into a steep corner and up this to a small ledge.

2. 35m 5b. Continue straight up a crack system and at 20m enter the obvious black, hanging groove. Climb this to a point about 6m below capping overhangs. Step and pull rightwards round an arete to reach a small stance in a corner.

3. 40m 5b. Climb through the overhang above, first using the left-hand crack and then pulling across round a rib to the right-hand crack, to reach a horizontal break. Move slightly left into a steep, deep-cut groove and follow this on excellent holds to the top.

COLONSAY:

Colonsay and its close neighbour Oronsay to the south (linked at low tide), lie to the north-west of Jura and Islay and offer a diversity of scenery unequalled on any other Scottish island of comparable size. Access is from Oban by a passenger/vehicle ferry. A bicycle is the ideal form of transport on the island. Although not

a major centre for rock climbing, the island does have a wealth of small attractive crags offering numerous one-pitch routes on a variety of rock types. Together with the many fringe benefits, rock climbing on Colonsay offers a delightful contrast to more traditional climbing venues.

Beinn Oronsay (NR 352981):

This south-facing edge lies to the north of the Priory and attains a height of 30m – not bad for an inland cliff on an island with a highest point of only 93m! The highest section of the edge lies immediately above the Priory and has a distinctive, open book, slabby, vegetated corner at its centre.

Hairy Habit Groove – 25m HVS 4b. G.E. Little, J. Finlay. 25th May, 1993.

The steep groove immediately right of the open-book corner with a pinnacle 3m up on its right side. Climb the groove throughout with the crux at half height gaining a small, grassy ledge. Copious drapes of hairy lichen add character to the route and mask many excellent holds.

Priory Slab – 30m Severe. J. Finlay, G.E. Little, W. Skidmore. 25th May, 1993.

The obvious clean slab left of the open-book corner with a distinctive slim rib at its start. Climb the rib and slab above to a grassy patch, then up an easy-angled slab groove trending right to finish.

Cailleach Uragaig (NR 382981):

This low headland can be accessed from the cottage of Duntealtaig by a vague path and exhibits an interesting jumble of coves, arches and crags.

Grooved Slab in the Dark with Bendy Boots – 20m H. Severe. G.E. Little. 22nd May, 1993.

Climb the centre of the clean, grooved slab on the south side of the headland – on the north side of Port nam Fliuchan.

Arch Crag:

This impressive little crag forms the south wall of an obvious shingle cove and the outer face of the leg of a natural arch. To the left of the arch the cliff has seen a major rockfall and is unstable, whereas the leg of the arch is composed of sound, vertical or overhanging clean rock with the odd loose flake high up.

The Jagged Edge – 30m HVS 4c. G.E. Little, J. Finlay, W. Skidmore. 22nd May, 1993.

Climbs the clean, hanging edge immediately right of the arch – the left edge of the outer face. Pull over overhanging flakes, then up the exposed edge to an arete and flake runners below the final steepening. Move left and up to a grass ledge and then to the top.

Waiting for God – 35m VS 4b. J. Finlay, G.E. Little. 23rd May, 1993.

Start as for The Jagged Edge and take an easy slab ramp leading up diagonally right. At its termination step down right at a big shaky flake. Then ascend a short steep groove to traverse back left above to gain easier ground. Take a slight groove running out right with an exposed finish.

Limpet Groove – 25m VS 5a. G.E. Little, J. Finlay. 23rd May, 1993.

Start at a crack leading into a groove on the right side of the crag (demarcating the right edge of the radically overhanging section of the wall). Climb the crack (crux) – not accessible at high tide – then up into an easier groove. Above a horizontal break, the final section is on strangely eroded, lichen rock.





Beachcomber Slab – 15m VS 5a. J. Finlay. 23rd May, 1993.

This route lies on the opposite side of the cove from Arch Crag on a black slabby face. Start at a polished wall below a shallow groove, left of a black hanging arete. Get off the ground (crux) then climb shallow groove/cracks to an overlap. Traverse left below the overlap to gain easy ground.

Meall an Suiridhe (NR 402993):

The grassy hillock of Meall an Suiridhe, to the west of the track leading from Kiloran Bay to Balnahard, is cut by a narrow cliff flanked rift. The most striking feature of this rift is a radically-overhanging wedge of rock (The Fang) well seen from the track.

Thrift is a Virtue – 20m V.Diff. G.E. Little. 22nd May, 1993.

West of The Fang, on the south side of The Rift, lies a crag at a more amenable angle, increasing in height towards the sea. This route tackles the high narrow slab with sea thrift at its top staying close to the right edge (this slab should not be confused with the wider slab to the right, more liberally covered in sea thrift).

At the North-west extremity of the headland, beyond The Fang, lies a north-west-facing, 20m vertical wall. Its base can be accessed at any state of the tide by descending rock steps to the south, then traversing back round on rock shelves to below the wall.

Walking on Sunshine – 20m E1 5b. G.E. Little, J. Finlay. 27th May, 1993.

Climbs a direct line, on excellent rock, near the left edge of the wall. Start at a plinth abutting the base of the wall. Climb just left of a diagonal crack for 4m to a fat flake. Step left to two small horns of rock then straight up, largely on side holds, to a tiny ledge below the slight groove in the headwall. Climb this strenuously to the top.

Port na Cuilce (NR 415002):

A 25m high, west-facing wall, of steep cracked slate, lies in the secluded bay of Port na Cuilce commanding an excellent view to Mull. The rock is superficially loose but once descaled, fundamentally sound – give or take the odd fragile edge.

The Mission – 20m E2 5b. G.E. Little, J. Finlay. 26th May, 1993.

This interesting route takes the line of the striking diagonal flake crack and the cracked wall above. Start at the 3m-high white cross. Climb the sharp-edged diagonal flake crack to near its end where a thin vein of quartz cuts it to create an X. Move up the wall to gain big flake holds, then directly up the rusty wall above to make crux moves gaining access to a small rock ledge and the top.

Meall a' Chaise (NR 363945):

Above the cottage south of Port Mhor an iron fence leads up the hill, terminating at the base of the crag. Left of the fence the crag forms a steep smooth slab. To the right the crag is steeper with a prominent thin crack running left to right.

Limpet Hammer Groove – 25m VS 4b. J. Finlay, W. Skidmore. 28th May, 1993.

At the right edge of the slab, above the fence, is a shallow groove. Climb the groove which gradually becomes less well defined.

Sliabh Riabhach (NR 367936):

Route 367936 – 30m V. Diff. W. Skidmore, J. Finlay, Jo Finlay. 26th May, 1993.

The narrow grey pillar at the back of the second grass bay to the south of Gleann Raonabuilg (cairn). Climb in three short pitches, a steep wall, blocks and final overhang by its right edge.

SKYE

Sron na Ciche:

Tennatte – E2 5b/c. G. Szuca. 22nd July, 1990.

On the steep wall left of Petronella and 10m up. Follow the steep layback crack to an obvious downward-sloping spike. Use this to pull up and right to better holds, then straight up to the *in situ* thread on Petronella.

Why – VS 4c. G. Szuca, A. Connolly. 23rd July, 1990.

Follows the slabby buttress left of Confession. Start by scrambling over a chokestone. Go up a steep corner until possible to move right on to a slab, just under a basalt bulge. Follow a line of big flakes rightwards, then back left to under the headwall (belay). A downward traverse left along a crack is followed by a finish up a corner.

The following two routes are on the slabby crags on the most southerly section of the West Face (MMS is scratched on the rock).

Protect and Survive – E2 5b. G. Szuca. 24th July, 1990.

Start 6m right of the large triangular block. Go up and right following a thin diagonal crack to an awkward move to gain a good ledge at a big flake. Keep moving up and right past a small spike to belay at a block in the groove.

Hindsight – E1 5c. G. Szuca, A. Connolly. 25th July, 1990.

There are two leftward-running cracks 8m apart. Climb the slab just right of the left hand crack.

BLAVEN, Lower East Face:

The Crucifix – 200m II. D. Litherland, M. Moran. 8th January, 1994.

Well down from the Great Prow is a deep gully which runs up leftwards to make a prominent cross with a transverse fault line. This ascent climbed the deep gully with one short iced chokestone, then took a right turn into the fault. The fault splits into three gullies on the upper face, and the route followed the right hand gully, gained by a very tight through-route behind a chokestone and followed to the top in two long easy pitches.

CLACH GLAS:

South East Gully – 250m II. D. Litherland, M. Moran. 8th January, 1994.

One pitch at the top of the right-hand finish.

EILEAN REAMHAR:

The following routes are on the south-east-facing sea cliffs around Eilean Reamhar, the island just more than 1k south of the Coruig Hut. The first cliff encountered walking inland from the island is a 30m slab with overhangs at its top right and bottom left.

Sealsville – VS 4c. G. Szuca, A. Connolly. 25th July, 1990.

Start at a large spike at the bottom of the slabs. Go up to a V-notch, Pull through this rightwards, move left a few feet and follow the left hand of two thin cracks. At the top move leftwards to belay on a grass ledge just below the top.

Short Spurt – E2 5b. G. Szuca. 26th July, 1990.

The route goes through the overhang just right of an obvious protruding block 10m up and just right of the previous route. Flick the rope over the block as a runner. Bridge up a short corner on the right to gain a good hold on the lip of the roof. Pull over here, then easier to the top.

Nettie Diff. – A. Connolly, G. Szuca. 26th July, 1990.

The left edge of the slab left of the previous route.

The next cliff along has a crack running up its east face. This route follows its top half.

Half Crack – H. Severe. G. Szuca, A. Connolly. 26th July, 1990.

Start centrally and climb the wall on good holds to a big ledge. Go up and left, Then follow the superb crack to a block. Move left and follow the slab to the top.

The slab round the corner has two Severs. One goes up the right arete on a hanging ramp, then a bulge and roof, finishing up the headwall centrally. The other goes up the slab.

Slabsville – VS 4b. G. Szuca, A. Connolly. 27th July, 1990.

This route goes up the slab 6m to the left of the right arete (left of the mentioned routes above). Start at low tide in a small corner with a square block. Follow the slab on the left to a horizontal crozley crack. Move left a few feet, then straight up the white streak in the slab above, passing two pockets. Unprotected.

No Gain without Pain – E2 6a. G. Szuca. 27th July, 1990.

The route is on the barrel-shaped buttress left (looking inland) again. Start centrally and follow a line of very small sharp holds. Go up to a corner, move left and follow a basalt intrusion leftwards through a bulge. Unprotected.

NEIST POINT:

The following routes are best approached from the car park. Go down the hill using the concrete ramp to where the path goes through a stone wall. Turn right and in after five minutes, arrive at the first fence, which runs from the sea to below the crag. The following route starts about 100m right of the fence.

Abracadabra – E1 5a. G. Szuca, M. Limonci. 27th May, 1989.

Follow a black groove, then rightwards along a heathery terrace to a spike. Move left from the spike across a black slabby wall to a loose block in a layback crack. Go up a bit, then follow a line of pockets to better holds. Go up to a corner under a small bulge, turn this on the left and follow the crack in the steep headwall above.

Temgesic – E1 5b. G. Szuca, D. Heffernan, M. Limonci. 27th May, 1989.

This route is 50m left of the fence. Start at the left side of an obvious slab. Go up to a V-notch. Pull over, then move sharp right to a small footledge. Go back left using the flake in the middle of the wall to a horizontal slot. Go up the crack for a move, then move left using the break for hands. Move up the arete to finish on rounded holds.

Karen – VS 4b. G. Szuca, M. Limonci. 27th May, 1989.

50m right of the fence. Start at an obvious spike with three horizontal bands at its top. Climb the slab on the right to under the overhang. Move right, then up a few moves in the gully until possible to pull on to the slab above the roof.

Farther on one comes to a crag and a stone wall. On the right-hand side is a big chimney. This route follows the hanging crack on its upper left.

Brass Monkeys – E1. G. Armstrong, G. Szuca. September, 1990.

1. 5b. Start up the chimney, then move on to the right wall and up to a ledge. Step left across the void to a small ledge, then straight up on to a small slab. Follow the rounded crack to a big ledge.

2. 5a. Move right and follow a corner with a big spike to under a roof. Move left and finish rightwards.

Right of the previous route on the South Face, which rises uphill, are four prominent cracks. This route takes the rightmost one.

Gritstone Reminiscence – HVS 5a. G. Armstrong, G. Szuca. September, 1990.
Follow the crack past a block for 15m. Move left and follow a continuation crack to the top.

The next crag is approached by descending a gully just right of the stone wall at the bottom of the concrete ramp. At the bottom of the gully (looking down), turn right for about 50m. The next route is on the thinly-cracked slab next to a chimney on its right (which is Diff.).

Sore Phalanges – E1 5b. G. Szuca, G. Armstrong. September, 1990.
Climb the slab centrally, moving left for protection to a niche at half height.

Smeg – VS 4c. G. Szuca, G. Armstrong. September, 1990.
An obvious corner crack 30m left of the descent gully.

Nothing Special – HVS 4c. G. Szuca, G. Armstrong. September, 1990.
Climb the slab centrally via a thin crack to below the bulge. Move left to finish.

The following route is 30m right of Temptation on a dark slabby wall.

Monkey Hanger – HVS 5a. G. Armstrong, G. Szuca. September, 1990.
Climb a crack to a recess, move right and straight up to a block belay. Abseil descent.

Bay 3, South Face:

Trilobite Groove – 20m HVS 5a. C. Moody, B. Taylor. 24th April, 1993.
Climb the left-facing corner at the left end of the face, step left before it finishes and climb a groove just right of the arete. Finish up a crack just left of The Ratagan Strangler.

The Ratagan Strangler – 25m VS 4c. C. Moody, B. Taylor. 24th April, 1993.
Start between Trilobite Groove and Tinderbox. Go up easy cracks to the right side of a ledge of loose stones. Climb the short corner crack.

Lushious – 30m VS 4c. M. McLeod, C. Moody. 20th June, 1992.
Climb the obvious left-facing corner crack, possibly overgraded.

TALISKER BAY:

Little Stack of Talisker – 20m HVS 4c. K. Milne, S. Richardson. 29th May, 1993.
Climb the seaward ridge, moving right at the top to surmount a short steep wall, to finish along a rickety ridge. The state of the basalt is not quite as discouraging as the guidebook suggests. Descend by abseiling the South Face having first fixed a rope at the base of the North Face.

Note: The Great Stack of Talisker should be HVS 5a.

RUBHA HUNISH, South Stack:

Maol Groove – 30m VS 4c. S. Richardson, G. Muhlemann. 25th September, 1993.
Approach by swimming and climb the left-facing groove on the seaward face of the stack. The easiest descent is to down climb the South Ridge.

Split Stack:

Trodday Wall – 30m H. Severe 4b. G. Muhlemann, S. Richardson. 25th September, 1993.

About 30m south of the North Stack is a fourth stack which is split into two by a narrow gap. It lies close to the cliff top, and can be easily reached by scrambling down a gully to its south at low tide. Traverse round on to the seaward face, and follow a line of holds just left of centre to reach the south summit.

North Stack:

Shiant Corner – 30m HVS 5a. S. Richardson, G. Muhlemann. 26th September, 1993.

An involved and committing outing. Approach by swimming from the north-west corner of Split Stack, to gain a small platform on the south-east corner of the North Stack. Move right and climb the prominent left-facing corner on the North Fast Face, pulling through bulges to reach easier ground and the top.

NORTHERN HIGHLANDS

SOUTH AND WEST (VOLUME ONE)

KNOYDART, Stob a' Chearcaill:

North Spur – 260m II/III. S. Kennedy, D. Ritchie. 8th January, 1994.

Climbs the narrow spur immediately left of Para Handy Gully. Start up a short chimney just left of the toe of the spur. Move right and continue upwards keeping mainly to the crest.

GLEN SHEIL, Druim Shionnach, West Face:

Cave Gully – 110m III,4. S. Kekus, A. Nisbet. 16th February, 1994.

The crag is seen from the road but hidden on the approach up Coire an t-Slugain until a left turn is made a short way below the following crag. The summit of Druim Shionnach is 10 minutes from the crag top. The route is the prominent central gully, containing a cave (presumably the large gully mentioned in the guide and right of The Silver Slab). The cave is passed by a chimney on the right with a very steep entry. Fortunately, the chimney is wider on the inside than the out but still a wriggle. A long pitch but the rest is easy.

Capped Gully – 110m III. A. Nisbet, G. Vaughan, M. Webb. 20th February, 1994.
Left of Cave Gully is a slabby buttress and left of this is a shallow gully which tapers to a chimney slot near the top. Low in the grade.

Creag Coire an t-Slugain:

Pioneer Gully – 100m II. A. Nisbet, G. Wallace. 6th April, 1993.

This is the crag at the back of the coire, well seen when approaching up the coire. At the right end of the crag is an easy gully which extends down through a lower tier and was used as an approach to this route which takes a narrow gully starting 10m left of the upper section of the easy gully.

Ridge and Furrow – 120m III. P. Foulkes, A. Nisbet. 31st March, 1994.

The best ice-holding line on the cliff, just left of centre. A shallow trough with a bulging recess at half height and immediately left of a flakey ridge. The recess had an overhanging slush exit and the ridge was climbed for a pitch before regaining the ice immediately above.

AONACH AIR CHRITH, North West Face:

This is the large slabby face at the head of Coire nan Elrecheanach. The face has a steep compact buttress high on the left and a large slabbier section on the right. The two sections are separated by a right-slanting shallow twin gully, the following route.

My Mother Says No – 150m II. G. Craig, K. Lindsay, A. Nisbet, R. Patey, M. Valentine. 24th March, 1994.

The right half of the twin gully had two short pitches, which presumably could bank out in peak conditions and reduce to Grade I.

Mica Schist Special – 180m III. P. Coleman, M. Moran, S. Richmond. 20th March, 1994.

Takes grooves on the left-hand side of the slabby face, just right of *My Mother Says No* – sustained interest.

1,2. 60m. Climb a turfy groove just right of *My Mother Says No*, then trend right to a deeper and steeper groove.

3,4. 60m. Climb the steeper groove, then go easily rightwards across the crest of the buttress at an obvious block.

5,6. 60m. Take thin grooves in the slabs just right of the crest to gain easy ground 50m below the summit ridge.

SGURR AN LOCHAIN, North East Face:

A 200m Grade I gully, better described as a scooped ramp, in the centre of this face has been climbed often by M. Moran and parties (and descended very quickly by the New Routes Editor, who notes that it is steep for its grade). It has an alternative left finish starting just above half height on steeper snow (Grade II, but often with a big cornice). The shallow gully bounding the right side of the cliff is an easy Grade I and also has a steeper finish on the left.

Lochain Buttress – 200m II. N. Kekus, T. Masters, R. Reynolds. 1st February, 1994.

Climbs the buttress left of the main crag and separated from it by a wide easy gully. Start at the toe of the buttress and climb to a large block (50m), then cut up and left on to the buttress via a snow groove. Follow the buttress crest, generally on its left side, with one short rock wall at half height.

SGURR A' BHAC CHAOLAIS:

Snowdrop – 100m IV,4. D. Houfe, A. Nisbet, N. Sinclair, D. Wolfe. 1st March, 1994.

The deep gully left of Mayfly. The highlight was an 'ice pillar' falling from the lip of a big cave (and near subterranean belay). Probably III in better conditions, as there was deep sticky snow covering the ice. Few cracks; ice screws used.

THE SADDLE, Forcan Ridge:

Easter Buttress – 120m IV,5. R. Groth, M. Mauger, A. Nisbet, K. Rogers. 15th March, 1994.

A winter ascent probably of Easter Buttress. The buttress is the middle of three on the south-east flank of the Forcan Ridge. A distinctive tower seen from below becomes a Cioch (Skye)-shaped block seen from the side. The chosen line was initially a ramp just right of the crest (with an unreasonably hard start, the rest being Grade III) leading to a 2m block on the crest. The crest was followed until forced to traverse steeply left on flakes to a flake crack leading back to the crest, which was followed more easily to finish.

Coire Uaine:

Big Gully – 300m III. J. Ashby, J. Colverd, A. Nisbet. 7th February, 1994.

A fine route. Much steep snow and containing four ice pitches, the third being by far the longest (25m) and steep, though eased by being formed in a narrow chimney.

Little Gully – 300m I. B. Davison. 13th February, 1994.

To the left of Big Gully is a grass-covered face which runs into a narrow gully towards the top. The route starts up snow covered slopes and icy rocks to finish up the gully

BEINN FHADA, Sgurr a' Choire Ghairbh, North East Face:

Instructor's Gully – 140m I. R. Groth, M. Mauger, A. Nisbet, K. Rogers. 13th March, 1994.

The gully between Summit Buttress and Needle's Eye Buttress.

Needle's Eye Buttress – 150m II. J. Ashby, J. Colverd, D. Gunevan, A. Nisbet. 6th February, 1994.

Climbed by a central turfey trough.

The Wind Machine – 140m II. D. Houfe, A. Nisbet, N. Sinclair, D. Wolfe. 27th February, 1994.

The buttress left of that described in the guide with Guide's Rib and Porter's Climb has three rectangular ribs separated by gullies. The right gully is well defined in its top half and is this route.

Coire an Sgairne:

The Funnel – 180m I. D. Joynes, A. Nisbet, N.J. Worsey. 26th January, 1994.

The gully left of The Kintail Blanket. It slants in from the left and finishes up a square-cut slot.

LURG MHOR (GR revised to 060406):

Left Edge Route – 90m Severe. A. Nisbet. 26th May, 1993.

A scrappy route, not as good as it looks from below. Start just left of Munroist's Reward and climb the big inset slab with thin cracks to its top left corner. Pull across right to the top of a short arete. Climb a narrow rib close on the left of the big grassy corner to a more broken finish out right.

SGURR NA FEARTAIG, Coire Leiridh:

The Gully that Time Forgot – 150m II. I. Lee-Bapty, E. Todd, P. Westall. 16th March, 1994.

The narrow central gully on the crag at the head of the coire (NH 0245). The crux was wading the river on the approach. The bridge at NH 011482 no longer exists.

SGORR RUADH:

High Gully Direct – 155m V. P. Potter, A. Macdonald. 30th January, 1988.

1. 30m. Traverse in left from the Central Couloir to the foot of a left-facing groove to the right of the ordinary route.
2. 25m. Climb a corner to belay on the right.
3. 40m. Go back left and up a steep ice ramp to a niche below an overhang. Step up right (crux) to the upper slab and go up a groove to the right of the main gully to join the main gully higher up.
4. 60m. Finish by the normal route.

Parallel Lines – 100m III. F. Bennet, J. Irving. 7th January, 1994.

Shortly after the start of Brown Gully is a right branch. This is easy until an awkward overhung wall about 3m in height. Easy snow grooves to finish.

Robertson's Buttress – 200m IV,4. B. Findlay, G. Strange. 16th January, 1994.

Takes a central line on the face right of Stepin. Start at toe of buttress and climb by snowfields, short rock steps, a shallow icy gully and a steep groove in the final rocks to reach easy ground.

FUAR THOLL, South-east Cliff:

Blue Finger – 120m V,6. A. Nisbet, G. Nisbet. 12th December, 1993.

The line was the same as followed by A.N. in summer. It fits the description but is just left of that marked on the new guide photo-diagram. The third tier was climbed by a steep spike-filled chimney and the last tier was climbed by working left, then finishing straight up.

Fuar Feast – 190m HVS. A. Nisbet, G. Nisbet. 24th June, 1993.

Climbs the crest of the buttress right of The Fuhrer. Start with the first few metres of Fuar Folly.

- 1,2. 55m 4c. Climb the lower buttress between The Fuhrer and Fuar Folly, zig-zagging to find the easiest line of clean rock and belay on the traverse of Fuar Folly.
3. 35m 5a. Leave the ledge just right of the crest, climb slightly leftwards and up the right of two short prominent V-grooves (obvious from the coire floor) to the ledge above.
- 4,5. 100m. Trend right up easier ground above to finish up Sandstorm.

11Duce – 200m VII,7. S. Richardson, D. Heselden (AL). 20th February, 1994.

Three parallel ice lines form down the central section of the South East Cliff. This varied ice and mixed climb takes the thin left streak to the left of Tholl Gate and The Ayatollah. Start midway between Tholl Gate and Sandstorm below a short steep wall topped by a narrow ice ramp.

1. 25m. Climb the wall and make a difficult exit on to the ramp which leads to a crescent-shaped snowfield. Belay below the wall above.
2. 15m. Cracks lead to a tongue of ice after 10m. Climb this to the terrace at the top of the first tier.
3. 50m. An intimidating pitch, but considerably easier than it looks. Move up and right to gain a narrow icy groove. Climb this for 10m, then traverse up and left past a precarious pointed block along a vague ramp to a ledge. Continue up and right on good ice to a stance on the left.
4. 50m. Climb the hanging icicle fringe on the right and continue directly to a stance.
- 5,6. 60m. Continue up the vague depression above, keeping left of Tholl Gate to the top.

Mixed Post – 100m V,6. D. Jarvis, A. Nisbet. 17th December, 1993.

Start immediately left of Pipped at the Post. Gain a shallow chimney from the right. Climb it and the continuation fault slanting leftwards to the top. It was climbed with no ice, but throughout February and March, 1994 became an icefall partly connected to Pipped at the Post but still offering a slightly easier separate line.

Lower Cliff:

The three parallel gullies mentioned in the guide have now been climbed. The left, Grade I, by M. Moran and party. The centre, Grade III,4 by A. Nisbet, G. Vaughan and M. Webb on 22nd February, 1994 (and repeated the following week). The upper icefall, which does not form readily, is the highlight but is avoidable (the gully has been climbed before but escaping below it, Grade II). The right gully was climbed by M. Welsh, M. Reid, M. Sizer and P. Sizer at Grade II on 20th February, 1994.

Mainreachean Buttress:

Nebula – 195m V,6. S. Richardson, R. Webb (AL). 15th February, 1994.

The summer route is an excellent ice trap, and is the natural winter line on the north-east face of the buttress. Start below the left hand of the twin grooves, 15m left of Nemesis (taken by Mainline Connection).

1. 35m. Steep mixed climbing (crux) leads into the groove. Climb ice to a ledge and belay on the left.
2. 40m. Continue up the icy groove to the terrace.
3. 25m. Move up the terrace to the foot of the ice groove cutting through the upper tier.
4. 45m. Climb the groove (as for Mainline Connection).
5. Continue up easy snow and mixed ground to the top.

AN RUADH STAC, North Face:

North Face Route – 300m III. A. Matthewson, A. Tibbs. 30th December, 1993.

An interesting mountaineering route. Climb the lower tier by a line based on Patey's North Face, then follow the terrace up right until it is feasible to break up and left to an amphitheatre below the summit.

Quartzice – 160m V,5. R. Everett, S. Richardson (AL). 20th March, 1994.

An interesting mixed climb approximating to the summer line of Foxtrot. Towards the right end of the lower tier, directly below the depression in the upper tier is a prominent icefall. Start in a snow bay just left of a big cave, about 20m right of the line of the icefall.

1. 45m. Climb a vegetated groove, trending slightly left, to a ledge.
2. 20m. Continue in the same line, and move left to the base of the icefall.
3. 45m. Climb the icefall and belay on the terrace above.
4. 50m. Follow the left edge of the depression via grooves to where the angle eases. 100m of scrambling leads to the top.

BEINN BHAN, Coire na Feola:

Man's Best Friend – 220m IV,5. G. Ettle, J. Lyall. 5th January, 1994.

This climbs the big corner line to the right of Y-Gully. Start as for Indigenous to belay at the foot of the corner. Climb the right-facing corner as directly as ice and turf allows, with a superb through route on the way. The final wall is easier than it looks from below.

Note: J. Lyall witnessed the first ascent of In XS and it is correctly shown and

described in Northern Highlands Vol. 1. The line is obvious when seen from the foot of Y-Gully and will probably go at the same grade on turf (approx. V,5), although not of such good quality without ice.

Coire na Poite:

Teapot – 100m III. S.J.H. Reid, J. Rowlands. 14th February, 1994.

The buttress between the North Face of A' Chioch and the main crag is split by a prominent left-facing corner near its left side. Scramble up to a cave on the left just below the foot of the corner.

1. 50m. Climb snow and then a short but steep ice pitch followed by steep snow to a belay under a tiny roof.
2. 50m. Traverse right and follow a shallow snow trough to an obvious rock spike and the summit.

Coire nam Fhamhair:

C. Cartwright and D. Heselden note a free (and second?) ascent of Great Overhanging Gully. They graded it VI,7.

Coire Gorm Mor:

Flying Penguin Gully – 250m V. P. Potter, M. Welch. 18th March, 1988.

Takes the deep-cut gully in this, the sixth of the seven coires on the back of Beinn Bhan. Easy snow leads into the gully proper. Climb a steep ice pitch via three caves to a stance on the left below another steepening (45m, crux). Take the next step and continue up towards another short chimney. This was avoided on the right buttress before following the gully easily to the summit ridge.

SGURR A' CHAORACHAIN:

Note: The North Buttresses. Following the note in last year's SMCI, No. 5 Gully was climbed by M. Moran and party. Under heavier snow conditions, the left branch had banked out and appeared Grade I while the right branch had a steep finish, perhaps II.

Chopper Chimney – 50m VS. M. Welch, M. Arkley. October, 1993.

Lies on a high crag right of the North Buttresses and approached from the Bealach na Ba (NG 787432).

1. 25m. Climb a steepening corner for 15m, then traverse out left on to the buttress.
2. 25m. Go left and up into a narrowing chimney.

South Face:

The following routes have been described as single pitches – ignoring the easier ground above and below. Gideon's Wrath was repeated the same day and in agreement with several others, was thought to be E1 5b 5b.

Sword Swallow – 35m E2 5c. J. Lyall, A. Nisbet. 15th June, 1993.

A fine direct line up the centre of the wall. The top half may have been climbed before as a direct version of Gideon's Wrath. Start 2m left of Sword of Gideon, direct start and climb easily to the right end of a ledge 3m up. Go up cracks (crux) until moves left lead to a small pod. Up this, then up and left to clip an old peg beside a small triangular roof (there is another triangular roof below and left). Traverse right and up a crack to an easier finish.

The Kings of Midian – 35m HVS 5a. J. Lyall, A. Nisbet. 15th June, 1993.

Climbs the right edge of The Sword of Gideon wall. Start just right of Sword of Gideon at the wall's right arete. Climb a parallel line to Sword of Gideon (which

has been used as an easier start to this route), then traverse right across a wall with twin cracks to gain a big ledge. An easier finish straight up the scooped wall above.

A' Chioch:

North Wall – VI,6. B. Davison, A. Nisbet. 27th December, 1993.

A winter ascent by the summer route. Well protected but sustained.

MEALL GORM:

Scampi Fries – III/IV. F. Bennet, J. Irving. 9th January, 1994.

Right of Stonner Falls is a fault. Climb this to a cave belay. Go up thin ice and two further steepenings (50m). Easy to the top.

Rattlesnake – 200m V,6. G. Ettle, J. Lyall. 13th December, 1993.

Followed close to the summer line. The first unavoidable tier was climbed by a groove line a short way right of the black patch. Climb the first and most impressive corner to half height, then move left to gain and climb the edge. Follow the corner system to the top with sustained and varied climbing.

Blue in the Face – 215m VI,7. G. Ettle, J. Lyall. 17th December, 1993.

A line up the wall between The Smooth Creep and Lobster Gully. Start at the foot of Lobster Gully and go up rightwards to a terrace. The first main tier is then climbed on the left by a zig-zag line which reaches a belay below the smooth vertical corner of The Smooth Creep (110m). The next corner to the left was followed up the line of a thin icefall to a ledge (25m). Step left and pull into a turf groove which leads to a ledge and flake belay (25m). Traverse 10m left, past a blocky left-facing corner to climb an unlikely vegetated crackline up the wall. Belay in a right-facing roofed corner (30m). Step down to make an exciting axe traverse left on turf. Slant up left to a wide crack, climb this and finish straight up (25m).

BEINN ALLIGIN, Tom na Gruagaich, South East Coire:

Gardener's Choice – 100m II. B. Davison, C. Orrley. 8th April, 1994.

In the coire with the path from the car park to Tom na Gruagaich. There is an obvious easy gully on the left of the coire entrance. It is Grade I and was used as descent from the route. This route was the first gully rising out left from the bottom of the gully. Steep snow and vegetation.

LIATHACH, Coire Dubh Beag:

Head Hunter – 200m V,6. N. Kekus, S. Anderson. 7th February, 1994.

Immediately left of the start of Headless Gully is a prominent chimney groove raking up and left (from the Coire Dubh path, it appears straight up, whereas Headless slants right). There was evidence of previous attempts. The route starts up a steep icefall (crux, easier with more build-up) to gain the first terrace. A short awkward corner gains the bottom of the chimney. This is followed for 20m before leaving via ledges on the left to reach an excellent ledge and belay. Regain the continuation gully on the right and follow it to below a steep rock wall and icy slab on the left. Climb the slab to turn the rock wall on the left and reach a final steep ice pitch. Easy ground follows this to the top.

Coire Dubh Mor:

Under Thirties Icefall – 140m IV,4. R. Groth, M. Mauger, A. Nisbet. 17th March, 1994.

An icefall on the left wall of Way Up, starting just below Over Sixties Icefall. The large terraces are less spoiling than they look as the ice takes a direct line. The first

and crux pitch was steep ice (hidden from the approach behind two ice columns), the second mixed (the ice line being thin), the third a less steep wide icefall and the fourth an ice-filled chimney.

Over Sixties Icefall – 100m III. M. Johnston, A. Nisbet, D. Thompson. 7th March, 1994.

On the right wall of Way Up after about 100m is a lower-angled icefall (left of Hooded Claw and round the corner). It leads in two or three pitches of continuous ice to a big terrace from where a horizontal traverse leads left to the col (and descent). A shorter and quicker route than others in the coire – low in the grade.

Buttress Start – 160m III. B. Davison, C. Orrley. 7th April, 1994.

Provides some extra climbing, or useful if Way Up is avalanche prone. Start by a steep icefall on a ramp immediately right of Way Up. Continue leftwards in three pitches to join the normal route.

Foobarbundee – 200m VIII,7 (1PA). C. Cartwright, D. Heselden. 22nd February, 1994.

The route takes the obvious hanging icefall between Poacher's Fall and Test Department. Start directly beneath a long roof 30m to the left of Test Department.

1. 35m. Climb icy grooves trending right to belay in a right-facing corner directly below a large left-facing corner.

2. 30m. Climb up the corner and the roof into the left facing corner. Follow this for 6m, then tension left on to the hanging slab. Climb this on thin ice trending left above the long roof. The slab culminates at a small overhang; belay at its left side.

3. 30m. Climb the icy groove to the left of the belay and continue up the icefall.

4. 40m. Continue up the icefall trending right.

5. 45m. Move right to the obvious buttress, move around its prow to belay below an icy groove.

6. Climb the groove, then easy broken ground to the top.

The Stem – 50m VII,6. C. Cartwright, D. Heselden. 23rd February, 1994.

This route provides a direct start to Brain Strain. Climb the very steep corner immediately to the right of Brain Strain's initial chimney pitch.

Coire na Caime:

First Face – 200m III. A. Nisbet, G. Vaughan, M. Webb. 21st February, 1994.

Climbs an obvious wide icefall in the centre of the First Pinnacle Face. A start was made up a huge sheet of ice below and right of the upper icefall and leading into No. 2 Gully. A left traverse across the gully led to the upper icefall.

Echo Couloir – 250m V,6 (direct). S. Birch, C. Collin, M. Moran. 1st March, 1993. III (left start). A. Nisbet, G. Nisbet. 19th March, 1994.

This route, claimed as an alternative start to Andes Couloir (SMCJ, 1993), is a completely separate route, the fourth of the five ice lines described in the Guide. The upper gully, containing 130m of ice, is a very obvious feature, more so than Andes Couloir to its left. The grade will vary with the chosen start. In good conditions a wide slabby icefall forms below the big final corner. This was usually complete throughout winter, 1994 and when Andes Couloir was climbed but not during the first ascent. It would presumably be climbed if present. The option is a right-facing turfy corner farther right. These options can either be gained by two consecutive icefalls (direct) or a diagonal line from the left on mixed ice and turf.

Toll a' Meitheach:

The Sneak – 90m V.5. D. Houfe, A. Nisbet, N. Sinclair, D. Wolfe. 3rd March, 1994. The retiring icefall which forms up the left wall of Toll Gate East and which often looks incomplete from below (if seen at all). In fact, it forms readily and is probably usually climbable. It gave three steep ice pitches, particularly the third, with big belay ledges and good rock belays between.

Sgorr a' Chadail:

The crag is at the very west end of Liathach, overlooking Loch Torridon and contains the route Reflection Wall. Start just above the hairpins on the Beinn Alligin road and flog up steep grass and heather to the crag base at 630m. At 60m the crag is not as big as would appear from below and perhaps too much effort for those who don't appreciate the sunny and spectacular outlook over Loch Torridon (although as good as the sandstone crags nearer the road).

Towards its left side, the crag has a wide square-cut slot with a sharp right arete. 12m right is a deep left-facing V-groove which leads into a crackline – Trench Foot. 12m right is a blunt cracked nose where the crag changes aspect from south-west to south – Reflections of my Mind. Continuing right is a steep section with blocky overhangs and discontinuous corners. After about 50m the crag changes aspect again to a south-east facing cleaner wall with a light-coloured square wall low down. This pale wall is the most distinctive feature from the road and its left edge is a line of flakes which continues on to near the top – Reflection Wall. The routes are described left to right.

Trench Foot – 40m E1 5b. A. Nisbet, G. Nisbet. 29th April, 1993.

The deep V-groove and its right arete, then the continuing crackline.

Reflections of my Mind – 50m E2. A. Nisbet, G. Nisbet. 29th April, 1993.

The blunt nose, starting just right of the crest. The best of the routes.

1. 25m 5c. Climb an overhanging groove (crux). Traverse awkwardly left into the base of a left-facing corner on the left side of the crest. Climb the corner to a ledge. A very sustained pitch with excellent protection.

2. 25m 5a. Continue up the corner line to easier ground.

The Pale Wall – 60m E1. A. Nisbet, G. Nisbet. 28th April, 1993.

Takes a crackline through the centre of the pale wall right of Reflection Wall.

1. 30m 5b. Climb the crack and its continuation to belay below a roof-crack.

2. 30m 5b. Climb the roof-crack and up into a recess. Up the crack at its back (the right arete looks equally possible) and on to easy ground.

Mirror Image – 60m HVS. A. Nisbet, G. Nisbet. 28th April, 1993.

The crackline which forms the right edge of the pale wall.

1. 40m 5a. Climb the crack beyond the pale wall to an overhung groove. Pull out right (or left at 5b) and on up cracks to a big ledge.

2. 20m. Finish up blocky walls.

BEINN EIGHE, Coire Mhic Fhearchair, Far East Wall:

Daughter of the Dawn – 100m E3. A. Nisbet, G. Nisbet. 28th May, 1993.

A sensational and recommended line up the vertical wall left of Kami-kaze.

1. 25m 4c. As for first pitch of Kami-kaze.

2. 20m 5c. Traverse 5m left and go up left to a smaller ledge. Step right into a crack in a pale wall and climb it leading into a corner and a tiny ledge at its top.

3. 10m 5c. Pull out left into another corner and up this to a roof. Pull out left again and go up to a ledge on the left.
4. 45m 5b. From the right end of the ledge, climb up flakes, pull out right, place high runners and traverse right into a big left-facing corner, followed slightly left to a wide notch at the top.

Epilogue – 50m VS. J. Lyall. 14th June, 1993.

Start 5m right of Karaoke Wall at a parallel crackline. Climb this for 20m to a ledge. Traverse right along the ledge until above a large corner. Climb the wall above moving leftwards near the top.

Eastern Ramparts:

The Great Wall of China – 90m E3. J. Lyall, A. Nisbet. 14th June, 1993.

Climbs the wall between Heavy Flak and Turkish Delight. Start 5m right of the scrambly start of Heavy Flak below a flake-corner.

1. 30m 5a. Climb this to the low ledge. Step right, climb an open corner leading to the Upper Girdle and continue to a ledge below a roof.
2. 20m 6a. Climb the wall just right of the roof (crux), then traverse left delicately above its lip. Go up the right side of the huge flake (pinnacle?) and belay on top.
3. 40m 5c. Gain a ledge with perched block on the right, then follow a crackline to a small roof. Go left round the roof and up steps above.

The Unknown Soldier – 110m E1. J. Lyall, A. Nisbet. 4th June, 1993.

1. 45m 5a. Climb a parallel fault 10m right of Rampage, passing a ledge at 25m, to the Upper Girdle.
 2. 20m 4c. Climb a right-facing yellow corner, move right and up to another big ledge.
 3. 15m 5b. From the right end of the ledge, go up a steep wall. Step right and go up a second steep wall to a ledge out right (nut for aid). A short corner led to a block belay on the left.
 4. 30m 5a. Go up the fault above, then move right to climb the very steep blocky rib between the final chimneys of Rampage and Forgotten Warrior.
- Note:** Pitch 3 was split due to the onset of heavy rain which forced the aid move. 5c/6a free and overhead protection?

DIABAIG, Beginners' Slabs (NG 825585)

An area of perfect pink slabs on rough rock just a short distance west of the first hairpin above Alligin Shuas where a large layby exists for parking.

Pink Slab – 35m Diff. R. Brown, J.R. Mackenzie. 18th September, 1993.

This is the largest slab which has a thinner slab to its right. Take a central line according to taste with an optional belay at two-thirds height. Rough rock and incut holds.

The Pillar:

Diabaig, the Hard Way – 35m E5 6b. N. Foster (unseconded). 1st June, 1993.

A very powerful problem through the obvious roof left of Diabaig Pillar (close to 6c). Start left of Dire Wall beneath a flat-topped pinnacle. Gain the top of the pinnacle via the brambly crack (or from the left). Step right and follow the open scoop to the roof. Tackle this using the obvious undercut flake, and continue up a crack just right of the arete. Where the angle changes, move right to the centre of the fine slab and wander pleasantly up this. The short headwall has an obvious

hanging V-notch – the ‘Tail’. Arrange protection in a crack in the slab a few feet to the left, and boulder up into the notch – the ‘Sting’.

The Dedo – 25m HVS 5a. M. Moran, A. Nisbet. 8th May, 1993.

Climbs the corner which bounds the upper right side of The Pillar and curves over leftwards into a roof. Climb the wall below the roof, place runners in the roof, then step down and traverse left until a finish is made past the left end of the roof.

The Freize – 25m HVS 5b. M. Moran, A. Nisbet. 8th May, 1993.

A ramp breaks right out of the corner of The Dedo into very impressive but surprisingly helpful ground.

Shunned – 20m HVS 5a. A. Cunningham, J. Pickering. 23rd May, 1993.

Right of Con-Con there is an awkward step in the grassy gully. Start just below this and climb into a crack. Where it peters out to the left, traverse right and up to finish via a right-facing corner.

Terrier Trauma – 22m E3 6a. K. Milne, J. Ashdown. 19th June, 1993.

On the steep wall to the right of the Condone Slab, facing west. Takes the crackline on the right side of the wall, starting at a recess. Climb on to a slab, then climb the overhanging wall very strenuously to a ledge and finish more easily up the corner crack. Detailed notes on protection and the suggestion of E4 5c were supplied.

Notes: Boab's Corner is undergraded. Certainly VS; the easiest line on Pitch 1 is slightly obscure and poorly protected (4b). Pitch 2, a short prominent groove above an old peg, is 5a unless tall, although it can be avoided round the corner on the right. The amenable start to Charlie's Tower is perhaps VS also (the writer's enthusiasm to have routes below VS!).

Dire Straights has a poorly protected 5b section, suggesting E2, and perhaps is harder than The Pillar.

The Con-Con has been suggested at E1 5b.

S. Crowe notes a direct finish to An Eyeful. The Gritty Finish continues slightly leftwards where An Eyeful moves into the crack. E3/4 6a.

Route One's top pitch, taken direct above the belay, has been suggested at 5b. The author considered 5b but decided top end 5a. Opinions?

Route Three: Pitch 1 is 4b (misprint), or even 4a.

Edgewood Whympers has been repeated and thought excellent but undergraded.

Midway round the peninsula between Diabaig and Inveralligin, and directly above the house, is a crag at NG 802578. M. Welch and M. Arkley climbed a 35m HVS in October, 1993. They climbed the initial slabs to a bulge, through the bulge into a steep groove and a direct finish. Nearby are two sets of slabs. The upper slabs are at NG 810577, have a 70° tilt and offer various 20m routes up cracklines at V. Diff to Severe. The lower slabs, at NG 810575, offer a 40m VS. Go up the steep slabs into a diagonal crack, then directly up, crux at the top.

CREAG NAN CUILEANN:

This is the south-east facing sandstone cliff which overlooks the hairpin bends on the road to Diabaig, shortly after leaving Loch Torridon. The black routes seep for weeks but several routes dry quickly. About 10 minutes from the road. Routes described left to right.

Becalmed – 30m E2 5c. I. Taylor, C. Moody. 10th May, 1993.

Left of a big left-hand corner is a tree-filled corner/chimney. Start here. Climb the

steep crack on the left to a ledge on the arete. Climb the arete to a horizontal break, move up left to the crack, then step back right and continue to the top.

Walsh's Groove – 30m Severe. M. Moran. 1990.

Climb up to the large corner, then follow the crack on the left wall. The rock improves after the corner is gained.

The Text Book – 30m HVS 5a. C. Moody, B. Taylor. 8th May, 1993.

The right-hand corner. Climb ledges to the bay, then take the corner crack till it closes. Traverse right to the arete and climb the jam crack directly above.

Bundle of Apathy – 30m E4 6a. I. Taylor. 10th May, 1993.

Right of The Text Book is a steep east face with a prominent crack. Climb the crack to the first overhang, move right and climb the finger crack.

Grey Matter – 30m E2 5b. C. Moody, R. Lupton. 8th August, 1992.

Gain the pine ledge. Climb the crack left of the pine till it finishes, step right and go up a short corner, then step left and finish up the wall.

Black and Blue – 30m E1 5b. C. Moody, B. Taylor. 8th May, 1993.

Gain the pine ledge. Go up the crack right of the pine and finish up the wide corner crack in the black streak.

Indian Winter – 30m E2/3 5c. I. Taylor, C. Moody. 9th May, 1993.

Gain the pine ledge. Step off the block and climb the wall just right of the holly bush to reach the left end of the ramp. The ramp leads right to the overhang, move left under it and climb the wall.

The Black Struggle – 30m VS 5a. C. Moody, B. Taylor. 4th July, 1992.

At the left side of the pillar is a corner crack in a black streak. Follow it, then move right and go past a holly to finish past a large corner.

Wind Break – 30m E2/3 5c. I. Taylor, C. Moody. 9th May, 1993.

Start at the middle of the pillar and move up left to a short corner on the arete. Climb the corner and continue up the arete to finish up a crack.

Nut the Rock – 30m HVS 5b. C. Moody, R. Lupton. 8th August, 1992.

Climb the wide crack on the right side of the pillar and step left. Climb the right arete of the pillar to finish up a crack containing a small rowan.

SEANA MHEALLAN:

Reject – 30m HVS 5a. C. Moody, I. Taylor. 12th May, 1993.

Climb the arete right of Rowan Tree Crack. Follow an obvious shelf right, then climb the corner crack.

No Brats – 30m E2 5b. I. Taylor, C. Moody. 11th May, 1993.

Start left of Mackintosh Slab. Climb the slab rib left of the undercut slanting roof, traverse right above the lip and follow thin cracks to finish up the final crack of Mackintosh Slab.

CREAG MHOR TOLLAIDH, Lower Tollie Crag:

Hostile Witness – 25m E2 5c. A. Fyffe, A. Cunningham. 26th May, 1993.

Climbs the wall left of Cloud Cuckoo Land, finishing up the fine flake crack at the top of the wall. Start at the top of the diagonal grass ledge and climb a set of grooves up the left edge of the wall to gain then follow the flake crack up and right. Move right and finish as for Cloud Cuckoo Land.

An Croabhadearain – 20m E3 5c. A. Cunningham, I. Rea, A. Fyffe. 25th May, 1993.

Climbs the obvious steep wide crack in the inset wall at the top of the grassy ramp left of Cloud Cuckoo Land (and left of Hostile Witness). Start up the black corner below the ramp leading into the crack.

SLIOCH:

Skyline Highway – 220m VI,7. R. Webb, N. Wilson. 23rd January, 1993.

An improved description. Start a few metres in from the right edge of the buttress below a shallow groove and below two obvious parallel finger cracks. Pitches 4 and 5 could be straightened.

1. 30m. Follow the groove past the parallel cracks, then via a finger crack to a stance.

2. 5m. Continue in the line of the groove to a better stance.

3. 20m. Above is an obvious roof. Pass this on the right and continue to the terrace.

4. 35m. Move diagonally up and left (easy) to gain a two stepped groove leading back right.

5. 30m. Climb the groove with increasing difficulty to gain a good ledge.

6. 10m, 30m. Move about 10m right to gain a crack system, climbed directly to easing ground.

7. 30m. Continue to reach the col at the top of the Main Buttress.

Either continue for 200m to the summit or descend diagonally rightwards to Easy Gully.

Bump Start Gully – 200m III. C. Hornsby, R. Webb. 21st December, 1992.

Start at the foot of Starter's Gully. Ascend Starter's Gully taking its right branch until an obvious broad gully with an icefall at its base opens on the right. Climb the gully to gain the col at the top of the Main Buttress.

The Slioch Slim Plan – 300m III. R. Webb, S. Richardson (AL). 1st January, 1994.

A left to right diagonal line up the imposing Main Buttress. Spectacular positions for the grade. Start 50m up Starter's Gully where a prominent parallel-sided gully cuts up right through the second tier.

1. 40m. Climb the gully, passing several steepenings, to a terrace.

2,3. 100m. Follow the obvious line of weakness up the ramp and wide gully to a broad terrace.

4. 30m. Continue up to a well-defined ledge cutting across the buttress.

5. 50m. Follow the ledge rightwards to near the right edge of the buttress where the angle of the upper section eases.

6,7. 80m. Climb mixed ground, common with Skyline Highway, to the flat top of the buttress where Bump Start Gully emerges from the left.

Stepped Ridge Direct – 180m VS. S. Richardson, R. Webb (AL). 15th August, 1993.

This attractive feature consists of seven distinct steps. The original line avoided the major difficulties by following the gully to the left, but if climbed direct it provides a fine sustained route on good clean rock. Start at the foot of Starter's Gully, and

scramble up a grassy gully to the right of the unpleasant first step to a grass terrace.

1. 45m 4c. Climb the second step, easily at first, up cracks, then make a difficult slabby exit on to a ledge. Move easily up to the base of the third step.

2. 40m 4b. Take awkward parallel cracks to the top of the step, then move to the base of the imposing fourth step which is characterised by a prominent right-facing corner.

3. 25m 4c. Climb the slabby corner to where it steepens and emerge on the top of an exposed tower. Climb the left edge of the knife edge arete above (crux) to a ledge. Continue easily to the base of a prominent tower.

4. 20m 4c. Climb the front face of the tower, and make an awkward exit just left of centre. Move easily along the ridge to the foot of the sixth step.

5. 20m 4c. Bridge the twin off-width cracks on the right side of the tower to the top, then move along the ridge to the seventh and final step.

6. 30m 4b. Climb the left of two wide cracks and continue up the prominent crack and corner system which splits the tower to reach the top of the ridge (junction with Starter's Gully). Drop down left and scramble to the top.

Sgurr an Tuill Bhan (Slioch east top), Coire an Tuill Bhan:

Far Away Buttress – 170m III. M. Irvine, R. Webb. December, 1993.

This is the prominent buttress on the north side of the coire. Start at the lowest point.

1. 40m. Climb a gully trending rightwards before breaking left at 25m to regain the crest. Belay below a fault line.

2. 40m. Climb directly up the fault line to belay in an open bay with no obvious escape.

3. 40m. Move hard right for 5m to gain a chokestone-choked chimney behind a giant flake. Continue to belay below the final wall.

4. 50m. Climb the wall to a spectacular narrow ridge which leads to the summit.

To the left of Far Away Buttress are a number of very turfy, more gently-angled buttresses and gullies which would give routes about Grade II. The buttress to the right of Far Away Buttress is as yet unclimbed.

AN TEALLACH, A'Ghlas Thuill:

Sixpence – 250m III,4. M. Johnston, A. Nisbet, D. Thompson. 9th March, 1994.

The wider buttress between the second and third prongs (2.5p?). Initially scrappy but improving to finish up a wide (3m) chimney in the centre.

Toll an Lochain:

Gobhlach Grooves – 350m IV,4. N. Kekus, M. Welsh. 29th January, 1994.

Climbs the Cadha Gobhlach Buttress. Start in the centre of the buttress where there is a choice of icefalls. Higher on the buttress it follows an obvious fault.

1. 45m. Climb an ice ramp and mixed ground.

2. 30m. Follow the ice line left into a corner.

3. 45m. Steep ice bulges, then easier grooves and mixed ground trending right.

4. 45m. Ice ramps, then a snowfield.

5. 45m. Go into an easy gully on the right with steep ice slabs on the left.

6. 40m. Go up the gully over bulges.

7. 50m. Including a short steepish ice pitch.

8. 50m. Up left into an easier gully.

9. Up final snow slopes.

Sail Liath, Central Buttress:

This is the largest of the three Sail Liath buttresses and lies left of the ramp which gives access to Bottomless Gully.

The Forger – 300m III. J. Lyall, S. Spalding. March, 1988.

The route starts at the right toe of the central buttress, much lower down than the access ramp for Bottomless Gully. Climb a gully leftwards on to a left-slanting snow ramp and climb it to its end. Continue diagonally left on intricate mixed ground to a snow terrace. Follow a snow ramp left to a second terrace and climb the obvious short chimney. Mixed ground leads up right, then a ridge is followed on to Sail Liath.

Sail Liath, Left-Hand Buttress:

This is the dome-shaped buttress which is separated from Central by a large easy snow gully.

Opposition Couloir – 180m II. J. Lyall. February, 1989.

This climbs the impressive deep gully cutting up behind a pinnacle on the right side of the crag. Finish up the buttress or enter the easy gully on the right to descend.

LOCH BROOM:

Bonar – 200m III. M. Buddle, B. Sparham. 26th February, 1994.

A heavily-iced burn in a shallow gully west across the head of Loch Broom and on the same grid line as Inverlael Farm. Cars can be parked at NH 169861 and a steep scramble gains the route. A steep line of crags (marked on the 1:50000 map) overlooks the route to the south-east.

NORTHERN HIGHLANDS

NORTH AND EAST (VOLUME TWO)

STRATHFARRAR, Coire Toll a' Mhuic, South East Face:

Middle Cut – 150m III. J.R. Mackenzie, P. Moffat. 12th March, 1994.

Midway between Best Back and Streaky is a narrow and well-defined gully which springs from a triangular snow patch. Reach it by following the snow ramp up right from Best Back to an icefall which guards the entrance. Either climb the icefall or an easier ramp which lies a little farther up the ramp (30m). The barrier immediately ahead is turned by ice on the right and the gully followed to belay below a prominent ice slot (35m). Climb the slot and the steepening gully above to a bottleneck exit which sometimes forms an ice bulge. Continue more easily to a short buttress (45m). Turn the buttress on the left and cross the snow ramp to a slabby groove which cuts across the rocks ahead. Climb the mixed ramp to easy ground above (40m). A pleasant route which readily comes into condition.

To the right of the icefalls on the South East Face, the nose of the buttress swings round to the north-east. The nose itself consists of a long easy-angled rib which then steepens into narrow ribs and gullies with a prominent slanting snow and ice ramp which exits just left of the true apparent edge. To the right of the nose, the much steeper North East Face rises above long Grade I slopes. The face is bottomed by a band of icefalls and rock with a girdling snow apron above. Above this apron the face is seamed by narrow gullies and grooves which gradually become less rocky farther right. The rock is extremely sound and is fairly massive though belays tend to be good where cracks occur. The routes are described left to right.

Porker – 120m II. G. Cullen, J.R. Mackenzie (in descent). 13th February, 1994.
A very exposed ramp of high-angled snow without pitches leads up from the easy-angled central rib below the nose up and left to exit up an airy headwall left of the nose proper.

Piglet – 110m II. J.R. Mackenzie, G. Cullen. 13th February, 1994.
Just to the right of the ramp of *Porker* the nose swings to the east. *Piglet* takes the first prominent shallow gully to the right. Climb the gully (40m), then continue up the steeper groove above (40m). Rather than escape up the snow to the left, the more interesting buttress ahead was taken on ice (30m).

North East Face:

Pearls Before Swine – 200m IV,4. G. Cullen, J.R. Mackenzie. 13th February, 1994.
This is a splendid route with varied climbing in an alpine position. It starts by climbing the steepening snow couloir to the right of the easy-angled rib and approximately centrally below the face. The couloir gives about 200m of Grade I climbing to rock belays below and right of a wide icefall.

1. 50m. Climb the icefall, which has two steep sections, to the snow apron.
2. 35m. Continue up the apron to the hidden entrance to a hidden gully on the right.
3. 35m. Climb up the gully to a seeming impasse ahead.
4. 50m. Move right into a chimney and follow this to another overhang. Turn this on the right and follow the rib up to the final overhang which blocks the exit. Difficult moves turn this on the right.
5. 30m. Continue up iced grooves more easily to the summit.

STRATHCONON, Glenmarksie Crag:

Helios – 60m E2. J.R. Mackenzie, R. Brown. 16th September, 1993.
This is the girdle traverse of the main crag. Despite having a contrived first pitch and the odd scrappy section, the climbing is good with an excellently sustained third pitch. Start as for *Sea of Tranquility*.

1. 20m 4c. Climb over the arched overlap and follow the lip of this boldly to the end. Descend the corner to belay on the birch.
2. 12m 5a. Cross the slab above the overhang of *Dynamite* and descend *Proteus* to the floor of the niche.
3. 15m 5b. Step down into the niche of *Phobos* and climb *Phobos* to the hidden flake hold. Step down and traverse to the foot ledge of *Deimos* and step down awkwardly to the small ledge on *Callisto*. A splendid pitch.
4. 12m 4c. Climb up *Callisto*'s rib to cross to the bounding edge beyond *Greased Lightning* and belay on the small tree.

Glenmarksie Top Crag:

Bridging the Gap – 12m E3 6a. J.R. Mackenzie, R. Brown. 8th June, 1993.
Climbs the open groove left of *Gritstone Corner* giving a splendid and technical route which is well protected by RPs at the crux. A strenuous juggy start up the flake leads to altogether different climbing above, possibly easier for the very tall and certainly harder for the very short. Exit left under the overhang.

Man o' War – 15m E3 6b. J.R. Mackenzie, R. Brown. 28th June, 1993.
Takes the roof and wall in the middle of the crag left of *Bridging the Gap*. Start at a dead tree and follow the handrail up left to the roof. Surmount the roof strenuously (4 Friend) and continue up the overhanging wall to a mean exit. Excellent protection but a real test piece.

Scatwell River Slabs:

The Joust – 45m E3 6a. J. Finlay, J.R. Mackenzie. 3rd November, 1993.

Between The Tilting Yard and Grand Central is a cleaned area of concave slab with a prominent groove running up to a smooth headwall. A tremendous route with the crux right at the top. Abseil down Grand Central to the trees. Traverse left across the base of Grand Central to the start of the groove. Climb the increasingly difficult groove and flake to a small tree. Above is a blank slab with a peg runner. Gain the peg tenuously and then the letterbox above (vital 0 Friend runner). The even-blanker crux follows.

The Tilting Yard – 30m E2 5b. J.R. Mackenzie, J. Finlay. 17th September, 1993. This sustained and quite serious route takes the big corner which bounds the west end of the slabs (right looking down). Abseil to a ledge. Climb the thin diagonal line into the corner and follow this tenuously past two broken blocks to the prominent chokestone. Continue past the small tree to the top.

Boundary Ridge – 25m VS 4c. M. Hind, J. Lowe. 30th October, 1993.

This is the edge which bounds The Tilting Yard on the extreme right of the slabs (looking down). Abseil descent is possibly easier than a scramble well to the right. Climb the rib which has one awkward step.

Meig Crag:

Casting Out – 25m E3 5c. M. Hind. 30th October, 1993.

To the right of Limited Liability is a blank wall with a horizontal crack. Climb the vertical crack leading into Limited Liability and then traverse right (little protection) to the overhung nose at its end. Surmount the nose and gain an easier groove to finish. A sustained and bold pitch.

Hidden Crag:

Apocrypha – 12m HVS 4c. J. Lyall, G. Irvine. September, 1993.

Start right of Hoist at the base of the left-slanting crack. Climb up the brown streak, move right into a scoop and climb straight up.

Note: J. Lyall thinks that both Scoop Crag and Hidden Crag provide good little routes, but are overgraded and suggests the following.

Hidden Crag: Hoist by One's Own Bullshit – VS 5a. Chinese Eyes – HVS 5b. Shield Bug – HVS 5a. The Barker – E1 5b. Pledge – E1 5b. (Agreed).

Scoop Crag: The Spike – Severe. Fleetstreet Hack – HVS 5a. The Scoop – Severe. Confectionary Arete – V. Diff. (Agreed).

SGURR A' MHUILINN, Creag Ghlas, East Buttress:

Blue Moon – 265m III. G. Cullen, J.R. Mackenzie. 1st January, 1994.

Takes a central line up a snow strip to the right of Whoops. Climb the strip to poor belays on the left (50m). Continue in the same line to a belay on the left (50m). Climb over a steepening to a shelf (30m). Climb straight up heading for a bay to the right of the rounded buttress of Whoops, exiting to belays above (45m). Continue to the foot of the headwall. Turn this easily on the right and climb up to a steep pair of blocky grooves (50m). Climb the left-hand groove to a chockstone-blocked groove above and surmount this on the left (40m).

West Buttress:

Thumper – 90m IV,5. M. Hind, J.R. Mackenzie. 8th January, 1994.

The steep groove between Evening Arete and Glass Slipper. It produces a thin ice

streak and gives very good mixed climbing of a technical but well-protected nature. Start just right of Glass Slipper and climb the steep technical slab to the groove which is followed to the steeper groove above (35m). Climb this steepening groove to exit up a narrow chimney (35m). Climb the gully above and surmount a short chimney crack (20m).

Hall of Mirrors – 80m E1. R. Brown, G. Cullen, J.R. Mackenzie. 30th October, 1993.

This excellent route climbs the centrally placed striated side wall left of Sweet Charity, leading to a large overhung ledge. The long first pitch is well protected but requires a double rack of Friends – half to 3. Start centrally below an obvious crack system.

1. 50m 5b. Climb via cracks and flakes to a small overlap. Pull over and follow the main crack to a hanging belay beside a small spike about 6m below the overhung ledge. A very sustained pitch at the top end of its grade.

2. 30m 4a/b. Continue to the large sloping ledge and move left on to the arete. Climb this by delightful flake cracks to an awkward step right. Continue up and left to the right end of the heather terrace above. Either scramble down then up to reach the descent gully, or climb:

3. 15m. Climb the line of flakes into a shallow corner and exit left on to a big heather terrace.

4. 30m 4b. The wall of slanting cracks above has a projecting triangular block a few metres up. Climb up to and over the block and continue straight up to finish.

CREAG A' GHLASTAIL:

Waterfall Gully – 150m IV,4. J.R. Mackenzie, P. Moffat. 24th February, 1994.

This is the deep gully on the left of the crag. Vertical height not length is given. Though it can hold continuous ice, little is visible from below. The initial chimney pitch gives about 8m of vertical ice, followed by easier ground then another step. More easy ground leads to a step of about 20m which can be very hard in thaw conditions. More easy ground leads to an amphitheatre. Climb the pleasant 30m icefall to below the enormous wedged chockstone and cave. The cave is blocked except on the right where a short, but hard, groove leads to the roof of the chockstone. The gully is hemmed by walls on this side so walk along the roof of the chockstone to a cave below a fine icefall. Either escape tamely up a ramp to the right or climb the icefall (12m) to easier ice and the top.

BEINN WYVIS, Coire na Feola:

The Snick – 200m III. J.R. Mackenzie, P. Moffat. 3rd February, 1994.

About 250m left of the main crag is a prominent narrow buttress with an ice bulge at half height. It is flanked by a deep gully on the left and a less-pronounced one to the right. Start below the centre of the crag and climb shelves to just below the ice bulge (35m). Climb the very steep bulge (crux) which is quite short, to a ramp which leads to a small bay and spike belay (25m). Climb the iced ramp on the right, then trend back left and up to easier ground (40m). The route now finishes up the broad concave rib which has only a minor cornice (100m). A good route for doubtful conditions.

FANNICHS, An Coileachan, Coire nan Eun (NH 245685):

A cliff well seen from Beinn Dearg but only fleetingly from the road. Fatal Attraction is obvious from the road but the gullies are hidden.

Descent Gully – 110m I. A. Nisbet. 26th March, 1994.

Towards the left end of the crag is this left-slanting snow gully. There would be a pitch in leaner conditions.

Inner Sanctum – 100m III. A. Nisbet. 26th March, 1994.

About 20m right of the easy gully is a narrower and deeper left-slanting gully which remains hidden until the coire is entered. It had one very steep ice pitch which was chimneyed and was amazingly easy for the grade.

Fatal Attraction – 100m IV,4. A. Nisbet. 26th March, 1994.

The icefall just right of Inner Sanctum. A short right traverse near the top led to its continuation. Some thin sections on this occasion but turf was available and good rock cracks were noted.

Sgurr nan Clach Geala:

Skyscraper Buttress, Empire State Variation – 140m V,5. R. Everett, S. Richardson (AL). 13th February, 1994.

A highly-enjoyable expedition taking the left front face of the steep upper part of the buttress. Very exposed, but far easier than it looks. A complete ascent of the buttress with this finish merits VI,6. Start from the stance above the crux bulge at the end of Pitch 3 on the original route.

1. 50m. Follow the natural line up and right for 15m to a huge flake on the left. Move left around the edge above the flake to gain a small hanging snowfield, and climb a left-slanting shallow turfy groove which cuts into the headwall looming above. Belay in an overhung niche.

2. 45m. Climb straight up via cracks and grooves to reach a ledge and niche overlooking Gamma Gully on the left. An outstanding pitch.

3. 45m. Continue up the steep groove above to ledges, then take the turfy corner leading into the centre of the final overhanging wall. Step right into a second groove, then trend up and left in a spectacular position to the top. Finish easily along the horizontal ridge to the plateau (50m).

Sgurr Breac:

Turkey Time – 150m III/IV. G. Ettle, J. Finlay. December, 1993.

Climbs the buttress to the left of Ptarmigan Corner for 90m, then an easy gully on the left to the top.

BEINN DEARG, Glen Na Sguuib:

Orange Edge – 250m III. D. Broadhead, M. Dixon. 7th January, 1994.

Climbs the rib to the right of Orangeman's Gully. Start at the foot of Orangeman's Gully. Leave the snow bay on the right by a short steep corner to gain a series of grooves which lead eventually to the rib overlooking the upper reaches of the gully. A short steep groove (avoidable on the right) leads to easier ground.

Red Handed – 200m III. J. Lyall, A. Sutton, R. Wild. March, 1988.

Start at the foot of Orangeman's Gully and climb the icy ramp slanting left. Above this a V-groove is climbed, then trend up right to climb another groove. Continue straight up to gain a gradually steepening gully leading to the top.

No Surrender – 250m III. G. Borland, A. Fraser, M. Sillars. 5th March, 1994.

The buttress between Fenian Gully and Papist's Passage provides a pleasant mixed

route, well suited to bad conditions. Start at a grassy groove in the centre of the buttress. Climb this via a short bulge, then continue directly up the buttress.

Note: J. Lyall notes that Bonus is no more than Grade II, but a good climb for that grade.

Coire Ghranda, Lower Crag:

Stage Left – 150m II. B. Davison, A. Nisbet. 30th January, 1994.

On the left wall of the gully left of Yon Spoot is the short steep icefall mentioned in the guide. Lower down on the wall, near the start of the gully, a longer but less steep icefall runs up to the cornice, which was passed at the top of the buttress on the left.

Lillehammer – 250m IV,4. A. Nisbet, G. Nisbet. 25th February, 1994.

Climbs the crest right of Grotto Gully. The main feature of the route was an 80m right-facing, ice-filled corner (right of another less-defined fault). The base of the corner was gained by a right traverse from below Grotto Gully. Increasingly steep ice in the corner led to an easier finish.

Slush Puppy – 380m IV,3. B. Davison, A. Nisbet. 2nd February, 1994.

A wide slabby icefall with two overlaps in the centre of the main section of the lower cliff, about 150m right of Grotto Gully. Grade III should apply in better conditions, but still a serious route. Starting virtually at the loch, the icefall was climbed in four long pitches. Mostly 50°-60° with two bulges which should be climbed direct in future. A right-trending line with long easy sections led to the only break in a large cornice.

The Grander Icefall – 320m IV,4. S. Anderson, A. Nisbet. 10th February, 1994.

A thinner, but steeper, icefall about 50m right of Slush Puppy (the next icefall right). The same break in the cornice was used but was approached more directly by steep 10m icefalls in the preceding two tiers.

Right of The Grander Icefall are two more icefalls, each about 15m apart. After these ascents, a right traverse on steep snow led to the base of the Upper Cliff. This option is open for all the lower icefalls.

The Snake – 180m IV,4. A. Nisbet. 19th February, 1994.

The next icefall right. The ice flows over a small roof near the base. This was too thin and bypassed by stepping off a large block on its right. The icefall was gained soon above.

The Portcullis – 180m IV,5. B. Davison, A. Nisbet. 12th February, 1994.

Next right. Again incomplete near the base. A 4m vertical ice slot followed by a deviation on the left led to a thicker ice wall which was the main feature of the route.

Outer Crag:

As one curves round into Coire Ghranda from Loch nan Eilean, there is an overlooking frieze of crag with many icefalls. At NH 268799 its height doubles just before (south) of a spur which is met before the coire loch. This high section contained three icefalls but the ice was so extensive that thinner ice formed in places between them. The lengths are a guess but they will certainly provide two long pitches on continuous steep ice. A descent was made each time down a ramp which starts left of the icefalls (looking up) and slants down underneath them. This descent involves a short section of 50°-55° snow.

Left Icefall – 100m IV,4. A. Nisbet. 19th February, 1994.

Less well-defined at the start but steepens up with some very steep optional bulges.

Central Icefall – 100m IV,5. A. Nisbet. 19th February, 1994.

Slightly steeper, particularly near the top where an optional direct line was taken.

Right Icefall – 100m IV,4. A. Nisbet. 19th February, 1994.

The ice forms thickly in a long V-groove (with a larger left wall) leading near the top to a left rising snow ramp which was ignored for a direct finish.

Upper Crag:

Upper Class Corner – 120m III. A. Nisbet, B. Davison. 12th February, 1994.

About 60m left of the huge corner of Snort Trail (which looked excellent), is a much smaller right-facing corner containing an icefall.

The Toff – 120m IV,4. A. Nisbet. 19th February, 1994.

About 15m left of Upper Class Corner is a small right-facing, right-slanting corner. A thicker icefall flows straight down from its upper section. The small corner itself could also be followed, probably Grade III.

ARDMAIR, Monster Buttress:

Over the Quota – 20m E1 5b. J. Hepburn, A. Fyffe. 1st October, 1993.

Left of Le Pontif is a vegetated fault, then a clean buttress. The route follows the obvious left-facing corner to a horizontal break, then the groove above to the top.

Mighty Atom – 10m HVS 4c. A. Fyffe, J. Hepburn. 1st October, 1993.

Climb the overhanging orange wall right of Little Red Rooster to a ledge. Finish up the crack as for that route or move left round the nose to finish as for Lagavulin.

Dancing Buttress:

We Can't Dance – 30m HVS 5a. A. Fyffe, J. Hepburn. 1st October, 1993.

Takes a line up the black-streaked rock in the gully left of Spider Jive. Start a short way up the gully just left of the vegetated corner.

1. 20m 4c. Climb the cleanest rock, then trend left on ledges. Move up and round a corner to the left, then return right to climb a black scoop to the heather ledge.

2. 10m 4b. Climb the corner on the left of the arete.

Edinburgh Rock:

Ten Seconds – 15m E4 6b. G. Szuca, D. Gregg, A. Wren. 14th April, 1993.

The crack left of Alliteration Alternative, moving right past an in situ nut.

Big Roof Buttress:

Unnamed – E2 5c. A. Cunningham, J. Pickering, K. Geddes. 4th September, 1993.

Right of Terrace Crack, crossing it leftwards near the top.

CUL BEAG, Red Slab (NH 129082):

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

Roadside Gem – 20m HVS 5a. G. Cullen, J.R. Mackenzie. 11th August, 1993.

The frontal face of the main slab has a shallow corner on the left. Climb this to step on to the front face where the corner fades and climb the left arete to the top.

Pink Panther – 24m E2 5b/c. J.R. Mackenzie, G. Cullen. 11th August, 1993.
An excellent bold climb taking the centre of the main slab. Start just right of a crack and climb the wall to a narrow ledge and sapling. Climb up to a flake right of the sapling to a hidden hold above, traverse left to stand on a flat foothold. Climb straight up the slab to the top. Half Friend essential protection on the traverse.

Red Slab – 24m V. Diff. G. Cullen, J.R. Mackenzie. 11th August, 1993.
To the right of the main slab is a narrow easier-angled one. Start on the road and take the best line. Probably climbed before.

Wicket Gate Crag (NC 090098):

Another crag probably climbed on before but considered good. On the north side of the road just west of Stac Pollaidh. It is set about 40m from the road and is approached via a small gate.

Garden Path – 25m VS 4b. F. Neilson, R. Webb. September, 1993.
In the centre of the crag is a dog-legged groove. Climb the lower groove to the roof. Traverse right through the overhang to gain the upper groove.

Black Crack – 15m H. Severe. F. Neilson, R. Webb. September, 1993.
The obvious black crack at the left end of the crag.

STAC POLLAIDH, No.3 Buttress:

The large buttress right of the scree gullies of Pinnacle Basin is Summer Isles Arete. The original route (V. Diff.) takes the easiest line, presumably big chimneys on the right of the buttress. The following route takes a more direct and obvious line.

Summer Isles Arete Direct – 115m VS 4c. A. Fraser, J. Dickson. 3rd September, 1993.

A pleasant civilised route with good positions. Just left of the toe of the buttress, next to the screes of Pinnacle Basin, is an obvious corner, the start.

1. 25m 4b. Climb the corner to ledges.
2. 15m 4a. Climb right on to the crest of the ridge beneath a pinnacle, then ramble left across a gully and walls to belay beneath a groove on the left of the buttress.
3. 25m 4c. Climb the groove, exiting right with difficulty to gain and follow an obvious crackline up the front of the buttress. Belay beneath the steep final tower.
4. 25m 4c. On the right side of the tower is a short vicious corner crack. Climb this, then follow ledges up and right to the final arete. Belay behind the final tower.
5. 15m 3b. Follow the arete directly to the summit ridge (this last pitch is optional, as is the Summer Isles Hotel Direct – five miles).

Outrageous Fortune – 50m E1 5b. A. Fraser, K. Douglas. 4th September, 1993.
To the right of Summer Isles Arete is a grass slope, at the top of which is a fine narrow tower, split by a steep bulging crack.

1. 35m 5b. Climb corners on the left of the tower to a ledge beneath the bulging crack. Climb this strenuously (rest used), then follow the ridge to large ledges.
2. 15m 4a. Climb up and over the pinnacle to the summit ridge.

REIFF, Bouldering Cliff:

Tidal Zone – 10m MVS 4b. A. Cunningham, J. Pickering. June, 1992.
The vague crackline in the wall 3m to the right of Sneaky Slab. Tidal.

Black Rocks Main Cliff:

Pot Black – 20m HVS 5a. A. Fyffe, J. Hepburn. 2nd October, 1993.

The wall left of Black Pig. Climb the lower easy section of Black Pig to a ledge, then move left on breaks and up to a pocket. Continue up, then move left to finish up a corner in the left edge of the wall.

The Sea Cliff Area:

NW Stars – 15m Diff. A. Cunningham and party. June, 1992.

The next open groove left of Carmine Corner.

Pole Position – 10m H. Severe. A. Cunningham and party. June, 1992.

The end of the promontary has a low-angled slab facing east.

Party Games – 10m Mod. A. Cunningham and party. September, 1993.

Climb a crack and corner near the left end of the slab.

Schnapps – 12m Diff. A. Cunningham and party. September, 1993.

Left of Party Games and at a lower level, climb a wide crack to a finish just left of Party Games.

Seal Song Area:

Falls of Leny – 12m HVS 5a. K. Geddes, A. Cunningham, M. Blyth. 24th April, 1993.

From a few metres up The Executioner, pull right into a sharp flake crack and finish up the groove left of Trout Mask Replica.

Bay of Pigs:

Impure Thoughts – 15m E6 6b. W. Moir. 13th June, 1993.

The route lies on the continuation walls south of Bay of Pigs, above the long flat platform 60m south of Eddy Current. At the right hand end is an obvious hanging corner line just left of an overhanging scooped corner. Practised, then led.

Start on the right and work up and left to gain the obvious big pinch. Use this to gain an edge on the right and palm up to the base of the corner (serious and committing – rock 4 up in the corner). Continue up the corner and finish on the right.

Golden Walls:

The Road to Somewhere – 15m E5 6a/b. W. Moir, P. Allen. 12th June, 1993.

The arete right of The Road to Nowhere. Step off a big detached flake and climb the crackline, then the arete to the top. Sustained and superb.

Shakey Flakey – HVS 5a. G. Szuca, D. Gregg, A. Wren. 13th April, 1993.

Start 4m left of Dragons of Eden etc. Go up to an obvious spike at 3m. Follow the flakes up and rightwards to finish as for Dragons. Same as St. Vitus Gets On Down (Ed?)

Blood of Eden – 25m E1 5b. P. Allen, W. Moir. 12th June, 1993.

The right of two lines between Shades of Night and St. Vitus. Scramble up to ledges and belay. Start just right of the crackline. Gain and climb the crackline, then take the line of flakes running diagonally rightwards to finish by a short crack.

Forbidden Fruit – 25m E3 5c. W. Moir, P. Allen. 12th June, 1993.

The right-hand line. Climb corners with a tricky start to a ledge. Move left along this and gain a left-slanting crack in the black and gold streaked rock. Climb this and the crack above.

Jigsaw Wall Point (Guide p226):

Traditional Steps – 15m V.Diff. J. Pickering, A. Cunningham. 24th June, 1993.
The awkward stepped corner to the right of Traditional Chimney.

Desperado – 10m E2 6a. A. Cunningham. 24th June, 1993.

Right of Traditional Chimney on the seaward face. Climb a difficult left diagonal crack near the right end of the face to a big break. Finish straight up.

Rubha Ploytach:

Bee in my Bosom – 12m E1 5c. A. Cunningham, A. Fyffe. 8th June, 1993.

The corner in the middle of The Black Back Wall with a steep awkward start.

Note: Excellence by Design (p184) is E2 5c* (misprint)

FOINAVEN, Ceann Garbh:

A Second Chance – 300m IV, 5. D, Broadhead, G. Drinkwater. 20th February, 1994.
Climbs a large icefall high on the cliff, right of the Central Slabs, to the left of a distinctive rock pillar. Start in the prominent easy gully (left of the North East Buttress) to reach a moderate icefall crossing the right end of the Central Slabs, leading to a snow bay below the main icefall. A full pitch of steep ice leads to a good rock thread belay on the right. Continue more easily in the groove above as the angle eases off again.

SHEIGRA:

The following is a rewrite by Andy Cunningham and includes many new routes. Photodiagrams were also supplied. First ascensionists, other than those listed in the Guide, given by initials:

AC – Andy Cunningham. IR – Ian Rea. AF – Allen Fyffe. SB – Steve Blagbrough.
JP – Jenny Pickering. AN – Andy Nisbet. GR – George Reid. JH – Jas Hepburn. CR – Catriona Reid. AH – Alison Hepburn. KG – Keith Geddes. MB – Mark Blyth. JK – Jim Kerr.

FIRST GEO:

This is the geo just to the north of the beach, the head of which is by the corner in the fence. For the first routes, walk to the end of the promontory and turn back right to below the climbs.

Shelob's Lair – 15m V. Diff. AN. November, 1989.

The chimney above the right end of the platform with a hollow block.

Slanting Crack – 15m Severe. AN. November, 1989.

Left of Shelob's Lair is an overhanging wall and at the left end of this is a left slanting crack leading into a shallower chimney.

The Ramp – 20m V. Diff. AN. November, 1989.

Between the above two routes and the overhanging central wall of the geo farther left is a left-to-right broken ramp system starting above a short bulging wall. The difficulty lies in the initial wall.

Remember the lines at the end of the promontory. Various at VS, mainly following obvious cracklines. AC, JP. June, 1988.

The lines on the giant blocks. Access across a tidal channel east of the above promontory. Mini routes from Severe to 5b. AC, KG. July, 1989.

South Wall (right to left):

Abseil in to the back of the geo, or walk round to the north side and descend by a wide obvious groove, or descend by the seaward end of the north wall at low tide. At very low tides, access is possible from The Ramp.

Monkey Man – 22m E3 5c. AC, AF, JK. 28th May, 1993.

The superb steep and strenuous vertical crackline to the right of Blind Faith.

Blind Faith – 25m E2 5b. AF, AC. November, 1989.

On the overhanging South Wall beside the largest high-tide boulder. Gain from the right a crackline curving rightwards. Follow its continuation up and left to the base of an obvious deep pink groove. Move right into a small alcove and finish right up a black crack.

BF Direct – 25m Grade and ascenders unknown. 5th-6th June, 1993.

From the start of the right curving crackline, climb straight up to the deep pink groove. Finish up the groove, which bounds the right side of the capping roofs.

Road to Reform – 25m E3 5c. AC, AF. November, 1989.

Follow a crackline leading up and left out of an overhanging niche 5m left of Blind Faith. Finish up the steep corner at the right end of the large ledge to the left of the big roof.

Unnamed – 5th-6th June, 1993.

Climb the thin crack in the steep wall to the left of Road to Reform. Finish the same. Chalk seen, no info.

Continuing left, the wall changes into blacker blockier rock with two large steps near the base. Above these steps is an apparent slab forming a left-facing corner.

Shiver me Timbers – 25m E1 5b. SB, AC. November, 1989.

From the top step, Climb the stepped wall on the right. Steep moves lead to a pull on to the slab. Traverse left and climb twin cracks in the slab above. Move left to finish up a short steep wall.

Same Old Story – 25m HVS 5a. SB, AN. November, 1989.

From the top step, climb the obvious left-slanting crackline in a corner leading to the same finishing wall as Shiver me Timbers.

The Only Way is Up – 20m HVS 5a. AF, AC. November, 1989.

Left of and at the same level as the top step is an overhanging wall. At its left end is an overhanging groove slanting right. Climb this to finish up the same short wall as Shiver me Timbers.

Gneiss Won – 20m H. Severe. AF, AC. November, 1989.

Towards the back of the geo is a distinctive black and pink cracked wall. Climb this through a slot to finish by a wide flake crack.

Rescue Alcove – 12m E2 5b. AF, AC. 28th May, 1993.

Left again the wall overhangs and becomes more compact. This route climbs a left-to-right gangway leading to a bulging finish. Awkward and fiddly protection.

North Wall:

At the back of the geo is a black bulging slab topped by steeper orange rock. The following two routes lie at the left end of this area taking two cleaned groove lines.

Casey Jones – 15m E1 5b. IR, AF. 28th May, 1993.

Trend left on to the slab by an obvious break. Enter the left-hand groove with difficulty and climb to the roof. Move left and follow the rib to the top.

Redneck – 15m E2 5c/6a. IR, AC. 28th May, 1993.

Take the bulge direct at its widest point leading on to the slab (crux, bold and artificial). Follow the thin crack into the right-hand groove. Climb direct to the top. Probably E1 5a avoiding the start.

Left of the above routes and just right of the descent groove is a small steep red buttress.

Second Option – 10m VS 5a. AC, GR. 12th June, 1993.

Takes twin left diagonal cracks above a low roof. Avoid the roof on the left. Not a classic.

The remaining routes are down from the descent groove.

Haddie – 15m Diff. CR,JP. 13th June, 1993.

Above the huge boulders, take a cracked black rampline rightwards and finish up a black slab.

Next is the main area with a series of black grooves starting by the huge boulders. The most obvious at the right end is capped by a large roof – the line of Original Route.

In the Pink – 15m V. Diff. AN, SB. November, 1989.

This route follows a crackline and groove in the slabby buttress right of Original Route, with an obvious pink vein.

Blackballed – 15m Severe. AN, SB. November, 1989.

In the left side of the In The Pink buttress, in the right wall of the V-groove of Original Route, is a wide crack. Climb the crack until it begins to peter out, then step right on to the buttress crest and climb a short groove to finish.

Original Route – 20m E1 5b. FA unknown.

Climb the black corner crack immediately left of Blackballed up to the smooth V-groove under the huge roof. Traverse right with difficulty to just above where Blackballed moves right. Trend steeply right and back left to finish.

R 'n' R – 20m H. Severe. AN, SB. November, 1989.

Just left of Original Route is another groove with twin cracks leading to a small roof. Climb to the roof, move right round this and continue up and left via a line of blocks.

Immediately left again are two grooves; the right one with a narrow black pillar leading to a short steep V-groove and the left one has a huge quartz-topped pedestal to half height.

Avoiding the Issue – 20m E1 5b. AC, AF. 28th May, 1993.

The right-hand groove. Climb the crack in the right side of the pillar and up to the base of the steep V-groove. Move left through the roof and climb up and back right to the top of the groove.

Two Step – 20m VS 4c. AF, AC. 28th May, 1993.

Climb a left-trending crack in the front of the pedestal to its top. Continue in the same line up the wall above.

Aegir – 20m V. Diff. JP, CR. 12th June, 1993.

The groove to the left of the pedestal. Easier to follow the rib on the left in the top half.

Blackjack – 15m Diff. AN. November, 1989.

The last black groove in this area is followed direct on satisfying sound rock.

At the seaward end of the North Wall and below high tide mark, is a diamond shaped clean buttress with three left-slanting cracklines. This is the last buttress before this side disappears.

Skate – 15m HVS 5a. AC, AF. November, 1989.

The right-hand crack going through a roof low down.

Cuddane – 15m E1 5b. GR, AC. 12th June, 1993.

The middle crack.

Flounder – 15m VS 4c. AN, SB. November, 1989.

The left crackline, passing a ledge at 5m.

Kippered – 10m HVS 5b. AC, GR. 12th June, 1993.

Takes the short wall to the left of Flounder via a thin crack.

SECOND GEO:

This consists of an impressive orange west face at its northern end running down a huge slab to sea level and a large cave. At the top of the easy slab is a large 3m sandstone erratic boulder and the routes are best seen from near this point. The orange wall runs into a series of black corners at the south end of the cave with the corner route of Dark Angel bounding the orange wall. The cliff turns south again and runs out towards the First Geo.

Access:

1. For routes left of the cave (from Sideslip to May Tripper), start from the slab.
2. To climb the routes from Geriatrics, above the cave, to the rib of Lucifer's Link left of the main black corner of Shark Crack, an abseil is made on to the Black Pedestal, a good incut ledge at the base of Black Knight, 3m above the sea.
3. For Shark Crack and Fingers, abseil down Shark Crack to the slabby lower section.
4. The route of Right-Hand Buttress is reached by abseil on to a sloping ledge at the base, awash at high tide or in rough seas.

The routes are described from left to right from the top of the slab round to Right-Hand Buttress.

Sideslip – 20m MVS 4b.

Near the top of the huge slab, start at the right end of a low ramp leading leftwards. Climb the ramp and follow a subsequent curving vague crackline.

Sideline – 25m VS 4c.

From the base of the ramp, pull out right on to the wall and climb to a ledge left of a short left-facing corner. Finish up the wall above.

Juggernaut – 25m E1 5a.

Start a few metres down from Sideline and climb a short steep wall on to a small ledge. Continue in the same line past the left side of a large hole to finish up steep cracks right of the arete of the top steep corner.

Bloodlust – 25m E1 5b.

Start at the point where the slab meets the top of the cave and gain a small ledge. Go up a shallow corner and left up a gangway to the large hole. Make steep moves right to a small ramp and continue diagonally right to the top.

Bloodlust Direct – Finish E2 5b.

From the hole, go diagonally right and back left to finish direct up the right side of the steep red wall. Three stars.

May Tripper – 25m E1 5b.

As for Bloodlust to the first ledge. Climb diagonally right following a zig-zag quartz vein to gain and follow a small ramp to a large hidden pocket right of the black streak. Move up to cross Bloodlust and finish direct.

Geriatrics – 40m E2 5c.

From the Black Pedestal, traverse left into Dark Angel and continue left across the lip of the cave on a quartz band. From its end move up and continue left in a spectacular position to a ramp at the left end of the cave roof. Climb direct up the wall above.

Exorcist – 40m E2 5b.

Follow Geriatrics to the end of the quartz band and climb via black streaks above to a small ledge below the obvious shallow left curving arch forming a higher groove (the line of Presumption). Continue up the black streaks to gain a higher faint groove which is followed to the top.

Presumption – 40m E1 5b.

Climb Dark Angel to just past the first bulge. Traverse horizontally left crossing the black streaks of Exorcist and into the stepped left-curving arch. Finish direct just left of the top groove.

Muir Wall – 35m E2 5c. AC, JH, AF. 18th September, 1993.

Good, but eliminate, climbing between the corner of Dark Angel and the black streaks of Exorcist. Head for a hanging groove at the top.

Dark Angel – 30m E1 5b.

Step left from the Black Pedestal to climb the fine groove to the large upper shelf (possible belay). Make steep moves up the hanging corner above to finish (crux).

Black Knight – 30m HVS 5a.

Gain and climb the black groove directly above the Black Pedestal to the upper shelf. Finish easily on the right.

Lucifer's Link – 35m E1 5b.

Climb the rib on the right of the Black Pedestal in impressive surroundings.

Shark Crack – 30m H. Severe.

The crack in the main corner right of the Black Pedestal. Start from a ledge on the right of the lower slab reached by abseil. The route was originally ascended by difficult aid moves from a low tide ledge at the true base of the crack to gain the present start (HVS 5a, A2 with three pegs).

Fingers – 30m E1 5b.

The black wall right of Shark Crack is split by a thin crack. Climb the crack with a final steep section.

Right-Hand Buttress – 35m E1 5b.

This route is round the edge from Fingers on the west face above a deep tidal slot between the cliff and a small island. Abseil to a low tide ledge. Climb a steep wall to a large halfway ledge. Escape from the ledge with difficulty up the wall above to an exposed but easier finish.

Treasure Island Wall:

This area is basically a continuation of the Second Geo starting below the huge sandstone erratic block and running north opposite a low headland (Na Stacain) which is almost an island at high tide. There are two main approaches to the climbs.

After about 50m north of the sandstone block is a burn draining down to the clifftop. A steep descent on big holds can be made to the right of the burn (facing out) at about Diff. Or abseil. From the base of the descent, move right to a platform.

The Nook, Tall Pall, Plum McNumb: As described in the Guide.

FA of The Nook: AN, November, 1989.

About 150m farther on from the shallow burn is a narrow gully lying between the main cliff and a rib dropping into the geo. Descend the gully underneath some immense blocks to sea level. Turn right under the rib and it is possible to traverse into the geo at mid to low tides. Otherwise abseil from near the top of the gully. The first routes are on the outside of the rib.

Will o' the Wisp – 20m M. Severe. JP, AH. 18th September, 1993.

This route actually climbs the rib itself. At the steepening, move left on to the front and finish by a steep crack.

Tickled Pink – 15m Severe. AC. November, 1989.

The first crack at the right end of the wall, curving leftwards.

Spare Rib – 15m VS 4c. AN, SB. November, 1989.

Climb the centre of the wall by a line of left trending discontinuous cracks.

After Dark – 25m E1 5a. AF, IR. 29th May, 1993.

Start left of Spare Rib at the left end of the platform. Gain an awkward ledge and trnd left up cracks until a move left can be made on to the black vein above a cave. Climb the weird flake crack to the top.

At mid to low tide, access is possible beyond the platform on to slimy boulders leading to further walls and to routes on the other side.

Necklaced – 25m HVS 5a. AC, AF, JH. 18th September, 1993.

Start to the left of a small cave. Climb blocky ground and a short groove to pull awkwardly into the flake at the left side of the black vein.

Flamingo – 25m Severe. AF, AC. November, 1989.

About 15m left of Spare Rib past the small cave, climb a left trending pink ramp with a good crack in the back.

Flakey Shakes – 20m E2 5c. AC, AF. November, 1989.

Immediately right and parallel to the ramp is a line of deceptively steep flakes – the route.

Squeeze to Please – 20m Diff. AN. November, 1989.

Farther left the geo narrows to a tidal pool, before which is an obvious left slanting black chimney. Climb this and the narrow rib on its left.

The Bluff – 20m HVS 5a. IR, AF, AC. 29th May, 1993.

Start just right of the Squeeze to Please chimney. Climb the corner and continuation flake to an easier finishing corner.

Sheep Sheigra – 20m E1 5b. AC, IR, AF. 29th May, 1993.

An eliminate up the pale wall above the start of Squeeze to Please. Start up the chimney and pull on to the wall. Climb direct to the top.

Rapture – 10m HVS 5a. IR, AC, AF. 29th May, 1993.

Short and sweet, this route climbs the overhanging wall at the far end of the pool reached by traversing above on the Stacain side. Climb by hidden jugs to a left-trending flake line and finish direct.

The remaining routes are on the Stacain side of the geo, starting opposite the gully descent on a fine gnarled wall. The base is awash at high tide.

King Rib – 15m VS 5a. JH, AF, AC. 18th September, 1993.

The left end of the wall forms a rib as it cuts back inland at a small geo. Climb the rib direct with a difficult start to a large ledge. Finish up the short wall above.

Blind Corner – 15m VS 4c. AF, JH, AC. 18th September, 1993.

A few metres right of King Rib is a chimney corner leading to a roof. Climb to the roof and move left under it and up to a large ledge. Finish up the short wall above.

Rough Trade – 15m HVS 5a. AF, AC. November, 1989.

Climb the gnarly wall about 2m right of Blind Corner with an awkward move left on to a small ramp. Finish up cracks leading right.

An Seachnadh – 15m E1 5a, b. AC, IR. 29th May, 1993.

Near the right side of the wall, climb via a line of pockets to a small roof. Pull left through the roof to a small black pocket and trend back right to a thin crack. Finish up a small corner.

Emotionally Disturbed – 15m E2 5b. AC, GR. 13th June, 1993.

The right arete of the wall.

The Green Channel – 15m VS 4c. SB, AN. November, 1989.

The well defined V-groove bounding the right side of the gnarly wall.

Open Season – 15m H. Severe. GR, AC. 13th June, 1993.

To the right of The Green Channel is a black slab with a right diagonal corner at the top. Climb a wide open scoop up the middle of the slab to the base of the corner and up this to finish.

Smolt – 15m Diff. CR, JP. 13th June, 1993.

Climb a black slabby ramp at the right end of the main slab and finish direct.

Dimples – 15m H. Severe. AF, IR, AC. 29th May, 1993.

Cracks in the next arete to the right.

Blacktail – 15m V. Diff. JP, CR. 13th June, 1993.

Right of Dimples is a V groove leading into Y-cracks. Right of this is a wide crackline running through a recess and roof at 3m. Climb this on big holds.

Three short routes have been recorded on the west side of Na Stacain on the more obvious area of good rock at the south end. Left to right: Diff, Mod, VS. Climbed by AC and party, 22nd September, 1993.

THE NORTH GEO. (As in the Guide):

EILEAN NA H-AITEIG. (Northern Highlands Vol. 2, p287):

The following five routes are on a low-angled slab facing south east at the end of the platform past Pebble Dash, by the gully with a huge jammed chokestone at its top. The routes are described from left to right and all starting from a small ledge 1m above high tide.

Wee Beastie – 12m Diff.

Climb the first obvious deep crack.

Winkie – 12m M. Severe.

Start 1m right at a small round pocket and follow the crack to a ledge and easier ground.

Bluie – 12m M. Severe.

Start 2m right again and climb a right-trending crack.

New Dawn – 15m Diff.

Start at the right hand end of the ledge and climb a deep right trending crack.

Dougal Doghead – 20m Diff.

From the end of the ledge, traverse right and down for 3m, then follow another right-trending crack.

From the grassy descent on the east side of the island, by hanging a left back towards the sand, the cliffs heighten again and the persistent will find the following three routes.

Quack's Corner – 15m MVS 4b.

Climb the first obvious corner moving right at three-quarters height and finishing up the continuation corner.

Guillemot – 15m VS 4c.

Start 8m right of Quack's Corner. Climb the wall trending left to a roof and move left to finish up a steep crack.

Big Konk – 12m V. Diff.

Climb a left-facing corner 3m right again.

The gneiss goes a few hundred metres farther west along the beach has two pleasant routes recorded on its slabbier west side.

Nice One – 20m MVS 4b.

Take the centre of the steepening slab to finish just right of middle.

Nice One Too – 20m Diff.

At the right end of the slab, climb up left of an obvious flake.

The above 10 routes by KG, MB, 23rd June, 1993.

SKIRZA, Salt Skerry (p301):

About 10-minutes' walk from Skirza Flagstone Quarries at the end of the road (ND 398693). The routes are 10m-20m long and climbed by A. Cunningham and J. Pickering.

Dead Friend – MVS 4b.

There is a black bay with a burn draining down the south-facing wall. This is the right corner crack at the back of the bay (facing) on to a platform below the top.

Fraser the Razor – HVS 4c/5a.

On the front face of the promontory to the south (left) of the black bay. To the right of the big central roofs, take short steep walls and ledges leading to a vague steep crackline to the top.

Brave New Seal – VS 4c.

To the left of the big central roofs of the promontory. An obvious smooth looking groove at one third height gained by an easy traverse in from the right (or direct up the left arete at 5a). Finish by a huge flake crack. Good.

Scurvyless – V. Diff.

On the south face of the promontory south of the black bay. About 10m left of the arete, climb easily rightwards into a brown stepped shallow groove.

Skerry Monster – E1 5a.

A huge overhanging black groove to the right (north) of the black bay. An excellent route; steep and exposed but well protected. Climb the groove, step left of the overhang into a corner leading to the final roof. Climb by a flake through the roof.

Shrew Route – V. Diff.

Walk north 100m round the next arete to another bay with a black back wall and a staircase descent. Climb a deep chimney to the left of the descent.

Skirza Edge – E1 5b.

A cracked groove line to the left of the previous route and just to the right of the arete.

LATHERONWHEEL, Pinnacle Area:

Pippet at the Post – Severe. J. Pickering, A. Cunningham. June, 1992.

The 'vegetated crack' mentioned to the left of Freaker's Crack was cleaned to give this route.

Heavy Duty – MVS 4b. A. Cunningham, J. Pickering. June, 1992.

A vague crack in the pillar at the left end of the wall. Good.

Empty Bottle – Diff. K. Geddes. June, 1992.

An easy crack to the right of Eye in the Storm, gained from the Freaker's Crack platform.

The Big Flat Wall (p323):

Gle Mha – VS 4c. K. Geddes, A. Cunningham. June, 1992.

The crack at the right end of the wall. Very Good.

McCallan's Choice – HVS 5a. A. Cunningham, K. Geddes. June, 1992.

The crackline to the left rising out of a small cave. Avoid the cave by going out right and back left into a crack.

Note: The Serpent (p325) was considered E2 5b and excellent. The first ascensionist's opinion (S. Clark) is E3 5b. S. Clark also considers The Other Landscape to be HVS 5a and the route Flight from Sadness should be named Mysteries.

South Corner (p327):

On the steep back wall are two short cracklines. The left one (Night Shift?) was considered VS 4c. The steep crack direct in the middle of the wall was E1 5b (A. Cunningham, J. Pickering).

CAIRNGORMS

LOCHNAGAR, Shadow Buttress A:

Vortex – 130m IV,4. B. Findlay, G. Strange. 20th March, 1994.

Start above and right of steepest section of lower buttress below the Spiral Terrace, about 40m down and left of Bell's Variation. Slant up left to gain icy grooves and follow these up and slightly right to emerge on the balcony at end of the Spiral Terrace. Cross this and continue directly on ice (just left of chimney crack on the 1944 Hendry/Walker Variation) to reach easy ground above crux rib on the Ordinary Route.

The Pinnacle:

Settler's Rib – 90m IV,4. R. Webb, S. Richardson (AL). 17th October, 1993.

The prominent rib to the left of Slab Gully.

1. 20m. Start just above the chokestone of Black Spout, Left Branch, and follow an easy turfey crack leading left up the crest of the rib. Belay on a flake about 15m below where the rib steepens.

2. 40m. Traverse horizontally right for 5m until overlooking Slab Gully, then climb straight up through a steep bulging crest just right of the buttress crest. Continue right up awkward rounded cracks, then trend left to a good ledge.

3. 30m. Continue up the crest of the rib (as for Twin Chimneys Route) to the summit of The Pinnacle.

West Buttress:

Isis – 210m V,6. B. Findlay, G. Strange. 19th February, 1994.

Climbs full height of West Buttress taking a line between Western Slant and West

End above the midway terrace. Start down and right of Black Spout Buttress. Climb obvious central corner on right flank Black Spout Buttress (60m). Trend right over snow to right end of short barrier wall, then go straight up across midway terrace to belay on left wall of narrow square-cut gully (70m). Ascend gully to its close. Climb out right, move right and go up corner to ledges below continuation corner (25m). Climb corner to cul-de-sac. Traverse out left on to face of buttress, then go up left and back right to gain snow slopes at top of Western Slant (35). Easy to plateau.

Southern Sector:

Quick Dash Buttress – 100m III,5. S. Richardson, R. Allen (AL). 6th March, 1994. To the left of The Red Spout are some ribs, and then a well-defined buttress with a steep lower section, topped by a snow arete. Start at the left end of the front face of the buttress.

1. 30m. Follow a ramp trending right on mixed ground to a steep wall cut by a prominent crack (old peg). The crack is blind, so step left, climb a niche, and exit right at the top of the crack. Continue easily to a belay.
2. 50m. Pleasant mixed climbing leads to the snow arete. Follow this to its end, and belay beneath a short wall.
3. 20m. Climb easy snow to outflank the cornice on the left.

The Cathedral:

Transept Route – 100m V,6. S. Richardson, R. Everett (AL). 22nd January, 1994. A good turf mixed climb based on the summer line. It follows the prominent groove on the left side of the front face, just right of the mummy-shaped tower.

1. 40m. From a belay at the lowest rocks move up easily then step right into the groove. Climb this with increasing difficulty to a small triangular niche. Pull over the roof (crux) and continue more easily to a recess and large block belay.
2. 35m. Continue in the same line up a narrow groove to a small hanging snow field. From its top, exit by the right wall to reach the terrace which cuts across the upper part of the field.
3. 25m. Move left into the deep well defined-chimney and climb this to the top.

No Worries Groove – 90m IV,6. S. Richardson, G. Richardson. 30th December, 1993.

The buttress to the right of Cathedral Chimney is split by a prominent left-facing corner in its lower section. Start by following Forsaken Gully for 20m to below the groove.

1. 15m. Climb mixed ground on the left to the foot of the groove.
2. 30m. Climb the groove to its top and exit right.
3. 45m. Follow the easy snow arete on the right to the foot of a short impending wall. Surmount this (crux) and continue up the continuation groove to the cornice.

Note: Cnapan Nathraichean. G. Nisbet and F. Reynolds climbed a 70m icefall at the left end of Sleac Gorm on 20th February, 1994. Grade II/III.

CREAG AN DUBH LOCH, Broad Terrace Wall:

The Eye of Allah – 100m E3. W. Moir, C. Forrest. 7th September, 1991.

1. 30m. Start up Last Oasis and follow the fault easily to belay below a steepening (as for Alice Springs).
2. 30m 5b. Climb the corner above, then step left on to a rib and follow a thin crack left to a ramp. Follow the ramp easily to belay at its left end.
3. 25m 5c. Climb a finger crack to a shelf, use a good flange to traverse right and pull up into a little corner. Exit right to a belay ledge below a slanting corner.
4. 15m 5b. Climb exposed hanging slabs on the left and finish up blocks above.

White Elephant (original) – 330m VII,7. N.D. Keir, D. Wright. February, 1975. A winter ascent of the lower part of Pink Elephant and the upper part of Dinosaur. The line described gives a magnificent route climbing directly over the lower overlap of Pink Elephant to enter the Dinosaur gully. Follow this to below the Sea of Slabs. Climb the crack of Dinosaur and follow this to Labyrinth Edge. A direct line was taken up a corner (3PA).

Note: The upper part of Pink Elephant had insufficient ice and presumably the lower part had less than on the 1980 ascent. Whether or not the line will be followed again, the ascent was a source of inspiration for modern Cairngorm climbing.

GLEN CLOVA, Winter Corrie of Dreish:

Diagonal Gully, (variation finish) – 70m III. A.B. Lawson, H. Davies. 12th February, 1994.

Start at the top right hand of the basin about 5m left of the chokestone pitch on the original route. Climb a deceptively steep groove for 15m and then a right-slanting ramp (15m). Continue up on steep snow to bypass the cornice on the left. Could be harder under less favourable snow conditions.

CORRIE FEE, North Wall:

North Wall Direct – 280m IV,4. J. Ashbridge, G. Dudley. 23rd January, 1994.

A direct line vertically beneath the large icefall on the upper buttress, following a snow and ice-filled depression. The route starts from a rightward trending ramp line beneath the main wall at an obvious 15m icefall.

1. 50m. Climb the icefall, then continue up the depression to belay on the right below a short buttress.
2. 40m. Climb an iced wall on the left to beneath the left overhang. Continue up to the right of the overhang to belay beneath a buttress capped by a large roof.
3. 40m. Climb the icefall to beneath the roof with a slabby wall on its right. Make a rising right traverse across the slab and a flake beneath the roof (crux). Continue up icy slabs and steep ground to belay on the right of the depression.
4. 50m. Continue directly up through steep ground to belay beneath the large buttress and steep icefall with a large overhang on the right.
5. 50m. The icefall would probably be V,5. Instead a right traverse was made until possible to climb directly upwards.
6. 50m. Continue up through the buttress and up to the cornice following a rocky rib on its right side.

Juanjorge:

Diagonal Crack – 70m V,8. S. Richardson, R. Everett (AL). 23rd January, 1994. This short, but absorbing technical climb follows the summer route exactly. The steep and sustained first pitch is the crux but the second is harder! Start 50m up West Gully and scramble up vegetation on its right bank to below the prominent wide right trending crack which cuts through the impending left wall of the buttress. Belay on a platform at the base of the crack (old nut in place).

1. 30m. Climb the crack with interest to a good ledge. (Hex 11 and Friend 4 useful).
2. 25m. The crackline continues rightwards across the front face of the buttress, but the route stays on the gully wall. Move easily up for 3m to a small tree, then pull over a bulge on the left onto a slab (technical crux). Move left around an exposed edge to a ledge, then climb up then back right to a stance directly above the previous belay.
3. 15m. Step left and take the easiest line to the top.

BRAERIACH, Garbh Choire Mor:

Virago – 125m V,6. R. Everett, S. Richardson (AL). 21st November, 1993.

A good mixed climb taking the line of grooves left of Vulcan. Scramble up mixed ground about 20m left of Vulcan, directly below three prominent grooves situated midway up the crag, to belay on a left slanting shelf where the crag steepens.

1. 40m. Climb a short groove to a ledge, then take a steep slightly left-trending groove through the wall above. From the small alcove at its top, move right and go steeply up to a belay at the foot of a steep corner with a good crack rising above. This is at the foot of the prominent grooves visible from below.
2. 35m. Ignore the groove on the left and climb the crack straight above the belay past a small overlap. Step left into a steep flake groove and climb this with difficulty to a belay in an overhung recess.
3. 50m. Pull through the overhang and continue up the groove above to a small ledge overlooking Vulcan. Climb the smooth V-groove (crux) to easier ground which leads steeply back left and up to the plateau.

She Devil's Buttress (Original Line) – 120m V,6. R. Everett, S. Richardson (AL). 28th November, 1993.

This follows the summer line directly up the crest of the buttress, instead of taking the groove to the right. An excellent mixed climb with two contrasting pitches. Start at the foot of the rib to the right of Great Gully.

1. 50m. Follow slabby grooves up the crest of the rib to where the buttress steepens.
2. 25m. From the top of a spearhead of rock, step left onto a slab, then move up and right to crack which leads to fine eyrie with a table-top belay.
3. 45m. Climb the vertical wall above, move left into a shallow groove, then continue up grooves on the crest of the buttress to the top.

Hot Lips – VI,7. B. Davison, A. Nisbet, J. Preston. 22nd December, 1993.

A winter ascent of the summer route but with a more direct first pitch. From halfway up the initial ramp, a short traverse left led into cracks leading to the left side of the 'open groove'. Escape left on to Pinnacles Buttress is possible here. The open groove and the rest of the summer route was climbed. Icy conditions limited the protection but perhaps eased the difficulty. A fine sustained route.

COIRE SPUTAN DEARG:

Aurora – H. Severe 4b,4b. J. Lyall, R. Revill. 13th July, 1993.

Follow the winter line on Pitch 1, then follow cracks straight up to a grass depression at 15m. Continue straight up on blocky rock, then easier slabs to the top.

Cherub's Buttress:

Dark Horse – HVS. R.J. Archbold, R. Ross, G. Strange. 29th August, 1993.

Climbs the steep left edge of Cherub's Buttress. Start at some pale rock just left of short crack with chokestone. Climb the wall on knobbly holds until possible to make a difficult horizontal traverse above obvious square-cut overhang to gain more knobbly holds out on the right. Go straight up then slightly left and follow groove to find pull out right to ledges on crest. (25m. 5a). Finish up blocky edge.

Flake Buttress:

Flake Buttress Direct – 120m V,7. S. Richardson, G. Scott (AL). 14th November, 1993.

The triangular front face of Flake Buttress is cut by a right-facing corner crack.

1. 35m. Gain the crack from the left, and follow it past an awkward bulge to an

impasse formed by a roof. Pull through the overhang on the left and continue up a crack to a ledge.

2. 35m. Climb up to a prominent left-facing groove, and climb it making a difficult exit at the top. Move up easily to belay by the flake of the original route.

3,4. 50m. Follow the original route to the top.

Terminal Buttress:

April Wall Direct – 100m V,7. C. Cartwright, S. Richardson (AL). 4th December, 1993.

A rather disjointed route, with an excellent final pitch, based on the direct version of the summer route April Wall. Start 5m left of Terminal Buttress on the left side of sharp rightward-pointing flake.

1. 40m. Climb the groove for 10m, step right, then continue up a turfy groove to the left of the buttress crest.

2. 25m. Move easily up, then left to the foot of the steep depression of April Wall which cuts the right side of the upper wall.

3. 35m. Enter the depression via a mixture of ice and turf and follow the obvious line up a chimney through a bulge, and exit left on to a ledge. Make an exposed step left on to left wall and climb this (crux) to easier ground. Either continue up Terminal Buttress or descend the gully on the left after 40m of scrambling.

Note: Joker's Buttress (SMCJ, 1993) is HVS 5c, not 4c.

HELL'S LUM CRAG:

The Underworld – V,4. I. Dillon, J. Lyall. 28th March, 1994.

Following the summer line. The open corner was straight-forward, followed by a 50m pitch up the rib on good thin ice. The final corner was also sufficiently iced.

COIRE AN t-SNEACHDA, Mess of Pottage:

Trunk Line – 105m VS. J. Lyall, N. Forwood. 24th July, 1993.

A direct crack line up the middle of the crag which crosses No Blue Skies, Melting Pot and The Message.

1. 35m 5a. Start 6m left of No Blue Skies and climb a crackline up a 'green elephant's trunk'. Continue until the NBS traverse is reversed – go right. The wall above is climbed (crux) and the crack followed past the right end of a roof and a belay reached on the left.

2. 20m 4b. Follow the crack above until a diagonal line leads right across the top of a slab to belay on Melting Pot.

3. 50m 4b. Move on to the right wall and follow cracks up the pillar to a ledge below the final groove of the Message. Follow cracks up the wall right of the groove to reach the top.

The Three Decree – 45m V,5. S. Aisthorpe, M. Hind, J. Lyall. 24th January, 1994.

An alternative start to The Messenger, climbed when it was iced and The Messenger was not. Start down from and just right of the bay – 4m right of The Messenger. Climb a crack up the wall to gain and climb the thinly-iced left-facing corner to the right of The Messenger. Finish up the recessed icefall and snow as for The Messenger (55m).

The following route covers with much snow and ice in peak conditions but was described as a fine direct line in early season.

Yukon Jack – 90m IV,5. M. Sinclair, C. Schiller. 30th December, 1993.

Start down and right of The Messenger and The Three Decrees at a short wall with

a wide crack directly below an obvious right-facing corner. Climb the crack, corner and its continuation (45m). Crossing the Haston line, follow this continuation until a steep snow shelf leads left. Follow this briefly, then gain and climb a chimney fault and capping bulge to easy ground close to the finish of the easy diagonal line (45m).

Note: J. Lyall notes an ascent of the thin and rarely-formed icefall which flows directly from the upper gully of Broken Gully down the left wall of its start (ie. separate from Broken Gully Left Hand). It gave 8m of near vertical, thin, but good quality ice.

COIRE AN LOCHAIN, No.3 Buttress:

The New Age Traveller – 100m VI,7. A. Nisbet, J. Preston. 31st December, 1993.

The Migrant is often started by a more direct (and easier?) line up a shallow groove leading directly to the short overhanging wall and the huge groove. If an initial cave is not banked up, then traverse left from the start of Nocando Crack/Vicar. This route starts up the steep initial groove of the original Migrant and continues in the same line immediately under the steep wall (40m). A short right traverse and a short wall leads to a ramp slanting left to a airy position under the headwall (15m). A right-slanting crack (very well protected) leads to the top of the wall (15m). Now easy to join and finish up Ewen Buttress (30m).

No. 4 Buttress:

Aqualung – 90m VI,7. G. Ettle, J. Preston. 17th October, 1993.

An excellent continuous line between Deep Throat and Gaffer's Groove. Start just right of Deep Throat underneath a rightward curving diedre.

1. 20m. Climb up into the curving diedre which is followed to a belay in the chimney of Gaffer's Groove.
2. 35m. Follow the chimney to a step left on to easy ground. Move back right into a steep groove and up to the large roof.
3. 35m. Turn the roof on the right by an awkward wide crack.

Occidental Discovery – 140m V,7. G. Ettle, B. Goodlad. 13th November, 1993.

A line up the frontal face of No. 4 Buttress which climbs through and to the left of Western Route. Start below the centre of the face.

1. 30m. Take the left trending easy line leading to a platform at the top of Western Route's first pitch.
2. 15m. Climb the steep corner for 3m, moving left to a flake, then an overhung niche. Exit the niche by a fine corner crack to blocky belays.
3. 50m. Step left and follow a rightward line of turf to large ledges. Move left into a wide chimney fault and continuing easier ground to below steep grooves in the final tower.
4. 30m. Climb the rightmost and longest groove to belay at the top of Savage Slit.
5. 15m. Easy gully to top.

Note: M. Bryan and K. Wilson note a 30m route on the far left of No.1 Buttress, starting in a gully and moving right (November, 1993). Probably banks out readily and probably climbed before.

NORTH EAST OUTCROPS

CUMMINGSTON:

J.R. Mackenzie notes that the original line of The Prophet started directly up the front of the buttress and worthy of E2 while the easier corner version was climbed later.

COVESEA:

Per Guano ad Astra – 10m HVS 5a. J. Preston, P. Amphlett. 28th September, 1993. Start 2m right of The Sandman. Traverse right below a loose white block. Climb the crack on the right and the continuation corner above.

CLACHNABEN:

Shrew Rib – 30m III,5. S. Stronach, H. Taylor. 27th December, 1993.

The summer line was followed for 12m before taking a groove to the right of the crest to the base of a vertical wall. A possible hand traverse looked as though it might lead back left to the rib but this was ignored in favour of a traverse right round the wall and up a crack to a large ledge at the top of the slabs area. The 3m wall leading from this ledge to the top was the crux. The grassy descent gully mentioned in the guide was also climbed, finishing up right at Grade II, although a bit artificial.

LEY QUARRY:

Smego – 10m E1 5a. G. Szuca, A. Ramsey, C. Lampton. 25th April, 1993.

The wall left of the route with three bolts at the quarry entrance. Clip the first bolt, and climb the wall just left to finish in a chossy corner.

HIGHLAND OUTCROPS

BINNEAN SHUAS:

Comraich – 60m E2. A. Tibbs, A. Matthewson. 14th August, 1993.

Start 5m left of Blaeberry Groove.

1. 30m 5b. Climb up by a pale streak to a hollow at 10m. Step left and finish up cracks above to terrace.
2. 30m. Finish up easier rocks.

Tairnearn Tar As – 55m E2 5b. I. Taylor, R. Campbell. 6th June, 1993.

Between the right end of The Garden and Hidden Gully is a long roof. The route climbs the wall above the roof. Go up the left rib of Hidden Gully and either traverse past some saplings to gain the right end of the roof or continue up the rib and abseil 10m from a prominent tree to reach the same point.

1. 40m 5b. Above the roof make a spectacular, but easy, hand traverse left along a flake 2m short of a grass ledge. Climb the wall above using a short flake crack and continue up the wall, then slabs to belay on a ledge.
2. 15m. Scramble to the terrace.

ABERFELDY CRAG (NN 867512):

A schist crag, fairly steep, in the trees, and with good friction. Approx. 15 minutes approach.

Tartan – 30m VS 4c. D. Donoghue, C. Moody, L. Roberts. 29th August, 1987.

The left-hand corner. Move left just before the top, past a bush to a tree.

Shortbread – 30m VS 4c. W. Hood, C. Moody, I. Taylor. 6th September, 1987.
The wide crack left of Tae The Oaks. Move left near the top to a bush, then up to a tree.

Tae The Oaks – 25m VS 4c. D. Donoghue, C. Moody, L. Roberts. 29th August, 1987.

Scramble to a tree. Climb the corner on the left which contains a tree. Move left at the top to finish up an arete.

Domino – 30m Severe. W. Hood, C. Moody, I. Taylor. 6th September, 1987.
Scramble to the tree of Tae The Oaks. Go up the corner to the right and finish up an arete.

CREAG DUBH:

Information of a winter ascent of Romp has been received. It was climbed by J. Grosset, probably with C. Barley, in the mid-1980s. In good conditions it gives a short ice climb of about 35m followed by an abseil from a tree.

BEN NEVIS, CREAG MEAGHAIDH

Note: Routes from 1993 have not been reported as they appear in the new guide.

East Face of Tower Ridge, Echo Wall:

The Edge of Beyond – 200m V,5. D.F. Lang, C. Stead. 26th March, 1994.

The route lies up the projecting edge of Echo Wall just before it bends in towards the corner of Brass Monkey. It then continues up the east face of the Little Tower. Start from Observatory Gully 15m up left from the edge.

1. 40m. Gain a ledge system with a Damoclean flake at 10m, traverse right, climb the flake and traverse right until it is possible to go up to a ledge on the left.
2. 45m. Traverse 6m right, climb an ice corner and grooves to a ledge on the left. Traverse right to an icefall which leads to easy ground.
3. 25m. Continue to the traverse ledge of East Wall Route below the east face of the Little Tower.
- 4,5. 90m. Climb this to the top.

North Trident Buttress:

Left Hand Ridge – 150m IV,4. D.F. Lang, C. Stead. 12th February, 1994.

This buttress is described as being two ridges separated by a gully – Neptune Gully. The Original Route ascends the right-hand ridge and the direct start climbs an ice corner left of Neptune Gully and then appears to join the Original Route. This is a winter ascent of the left-hand ridge. Climb the direct start icefall corner and continue by the ridge crest, taking the rock tower by a central groove. Finish by a horizontal arete level with the top of Original Route.

Nereid Gully – 90m III. D.F. Lang, C. Stead. 13th February, 1994.

This is the wide open gully between the Central Trident and left-hand ridge of the North Trident Buttresses which finishes at the top of the latter. It is most easily

reached by a traverse below the buttress containing Metamorphosis. Climb the gully in three pitches, with an icefall on the second. The best sport is by keeping left. All difficulties could be avoided on the right, reducing it to Grade II.

Moonlight Gully Buttress:

Fifties Revival – 100m IV,5. D.F. Lang, C. Stead. 30th January, 1994.

The route follows a prominent groove line on the left flank of the lower tier of the buttress. Start 10m right of the lowest left hand rocks at an ice groove.

1. 25m. Climb the groove to the sloping ledges which Diagonal Route traverses right.
2. 40m. Climb the wall 2m right of a bulging crack, gain an ice smear and rejoin the groove line to belay below a chimney.
3. 10m. Climb the chimney to a pedestal.
4. 25m. Continue the line by a crack to easy ground and the buttress top.

Number Five Gully Buttress:

Slanting Slit – 140m VI,6. M. Duff, S. Greenhaugh. 26th February, 1994.

Roughly based on The Slant. The summer first pitch was banked out.

1. Gain the diagonal ramp (second pitch) and follow this to the cracked slab.
2. Climb the cracked slab (thinly iced apart from the top 2m) up corners above right to a roof with a wierd slit and bollard belay.
3. 4m. Descend to a ledge (backroped, peg and nut left).
4. 30m. Go along a snow ledge and around a corner to the foot of another corner with a large detached block.
5. 50m. Go up this and slightly left to an iceflow.

Castle Buttress:

The Keep – IV,5. M. Duff, I. Oates. 13th February, 1994.

Approximates to the summer line.

Castle Ridge, North Face:

Le Chat Noir – 225m IV,4. M. Duff, D. Horrox, J. Robson, H. Ousby. 17th February, 1994.

The buttress between Casino Royale and La Petite.

- 1,2. 80m. Easily up the buttress until it steepens.
3. 45m. In the centre of the upper buttress is a square turfey recess. Go up this and over a small overlap to reach the snow patch.
4. 50m. A very steep iceflow above, climbed by a runnel on the right side.
5. 50m. Easy ground to the top.

Cherry Pickers – 380m IV,4. M. Duff, D. Horrox, D. Potter. 21st February, 1994. The icefall 40m left of American Pie, identified by a slanting right to left shelf at half height.

- 1,2. 75m. Climb the right side of the icefall to a corner belay. Gain the shelf and climb a steep icicle at its left end.
- 3,4. 90m. Go up the snowfield to belay under a small roof.
5. 45m. Go right then left to the foot of an icefall – which cannot be seen from the belay.
6. 40m. Climb the icefall.
- 7,8. 80m. Go diagonally left over mixed ground heading for a small tower on the slight ridge to the left.
9. 50m. The crack and shallow chimney behind the tower.

CREAG MEAGHAIDH, Pinnacle Buttress:

White Knuckle Ride – 60m VI,6. A. Perkins, N. Wood. 19th February, 1994.

Starts approximately halfway between Nordwander and Pinnacle Buttress Direct, with the main feature being a chimney choked by a 10m ice pillar at 30m, with a left-facing groove 5m to its left.

1. 50m. Climb diagonally and boldly rightwards, crossing several slabs and grooves until below the pillar. Climb up into a niche directly below the pillar, sneak up its left side, then swing on to the front, straight up before exiting right at its top.
2. 10m. Going diagonally left leads to the end of the traverse on Pitch 2 of Nordwander.

The Pedestal Variation – 75m IV,4. G.E. Little, C. Bonington. 26th February, 1994.

This exciting two-pitch variation is accessed via Staghorn Gully Direct Start (South Pipe Direct).

1. 40m. From the snow basin beneath the start of North Pipe, traverse right along an obvious snow ledge to below a short groove. Climb the groove on to a left-trending ramp. Follow this to a belay on a big spike overlooking North Pipe.
2. 35m. Traverse left in an exposed situation until an awkward move allows upward progress. Trend left, heading for what appears to be a rock keyhole. Enter this and squirm up to stand on a small rock pedestal. Climb straight up on steep terrain to the top of the gully wall. Walk left to belay at the base of a clean tower like rock wall. Two long pitches on snow, to the left of the tower, lead to the top.

CARN LIATH, Coire nan Gall:

An attractive slab of pocketed schist guards the entrance to the coire on the left (NN 487906). It faces south-east and receives the sun for much of the day. The best approach is from the sharp bend on the A86 at 513887 where the road crosses a stream. Follow the stream's west bank to a deer fence, cross this and strike directly up to the crag (3k). A deer fence runs up to the foot of the cliff.

Room to Roam – 100m E1. A. Matthewson, A. Tibbs. 16th August, 1993.

Takes a wandering line up the middle of the cleanest piece of rock. Start just right of the fence which runs up to the toe of the crag – bolt belay!

1. 20m 4c. Climb up and left to a corner and continue up its right arete to a ledge.
2. 35m 5a. Traverse hard left to a short corner which is climbed (crux) to a small heather patch. Continue diagonally left on a quartz band, then back up right and straight up (bold) to a small ledge on the edge. A committing pitch.
3. 45m 4a. Continue up the ridge to the top. Descend to the left.

Approximately 300m beyond the Room To Roam slab is a large gully/recess containing a waterfall high up on the left. The following route climbs the buttress left of the waterfall.

Waterfall Buttress – 120m II. A. Hume, A. Matthewson. 4th December, 1993.

A traverse left gains an obvious line of icy grooves leading to easy ground overlooking the gully on the right.

CREAG DUBH, LOCH ERICHT:

Swordfish – 100m V,5. G. Ettle, J. Lyall. 21st February, 1994.

This is the independent and much steeper icefall which is formed by the right hand section of the Neapolitan waterfall.

1. 35m. Climb the vertical icefall about 15m right of Neapolitan to gain a rock amphitheatre on the right.
2. 35m. Continue up the icefall to gain a broad snow shelf.
3. 30m. The right hand icefall on the upper tier.

Fara Couloir – 100m I.

Left of The Hex Factor is this left to right slanting snow gully.

Far Away – 110m III/IV. J. Lyall, N. Nolan. 23rd February, 1994.

Starts in a bay left of Fara Couloir and climbs the iciest line out of this to gain and climb an easy snow gully. Move a short way right to climb the thin icefall just left of the imposing icicle hung wall.

Olympic Hare – 110m VI,6. G. Ettle, K. Grindrod, J. Lyall. 2nd March, 1994.

Left of Far Away is a short deep gully which is blocked by a large chokestone.

1. 40m. Go up this gully, passing the chokestone on the left side, then an easy gully to a bush belay.
2. 30m. Climb the icefall to a snow terrace.
3. 40m. A large ice pillar forms on the next tier, coming down from the right side of a rock rib above. This was climbed and steep snow to finish.

Knickerbocker Glory – 70m III. J. Lyall, N. Nolan. 23rd February, 1994.

Left of Wafer Me and Ice Cream is a gully leading into an amphitheatre. This lies directly above a small triangular peninsula on the shore of Loch Ericht. Go up the easy gully and climb an icefall on the right side of the amphitheatre.

GLEN COE

BUACHAILLE ETIVE MOR, South Gully, North Wall:

The following two routes were climbed on a small crag of very rough rhyolite about halfway up South Gully, on its north flank. To gain it, several fun crags lying between South Gully and The Chasm were climbed en route, providing several pitches of Diff. to V. Diff., probably climbed before. Above the highest of three crags is a small wall with a deep cave. Scramble left to the edge of South Gully and descend to the foot of the North Wall. The first route begins below the obvious crack/fault.

Starting Bright – 50m Severe. K.V. Crocket. B. Dullea. April, 1993.

Climb the obvious crack and fault line to a ledge and belay.

Hailstone Wall – 50m Severe. B. Dullea, K.V. Crocket. April, 1993.

Climb the wall on the left of the fault line, just right of the edge and passing a loose block to finish up a steepening wall.

Eagle Buttress:

Forever Red – 50m VS. A. Connolly, C. Higgins. 13th June, 1993.

The route ascends the prominent pink/red wall above and right of Eagle Buttress, maintaining a central line throughout. Start at a short fat crack just right of a narrow sloping gangway. Climb the crack and wall above trending slightly left to gain a line of discontinuous faint cracks which lead to a shallow mossy recess. Exit the recess direct to finish.

Central Buttress, North Face:

Central Chimney – 75m IV. A. Paul, D. Sanderson. February, 1992.
Technical climbing following the summer route throughout.

Rannoch Wall:

Fear of a Flat Planet – 90m VII,8. A. Clarke, M. Garthwaite. 27th December, 1993.
A three-star route, sustained and superbly steep.

1. 25m. Start 6m to the right of Red Slab at a very thin steep crack. Desperate hooking for 6m leads to a shake-out. Continue with sustained difficulty up the wider crack to a belay at the base of a shallow chimney.
2. 35m. Up the chimney to enter the right side of the bay of Route 1. Trend up and right following a shallow groove to a short steep wall. Up this to a stance and belay.
3. 30m. Make a desperate thin traverse to the left with not much gear to gain another groove which leads leftwards to the top.

North Buttress:

G. Szuca notes that he climbed the wall between Brevity Crack and Shackle Route (Shabity, MVS 4b).

Gibberish – 30m E2 5c. D. Greig, G. Latter. 16th August, 1993.

The hanging groove just right of The Gibbet, with the difficulties concentrated into the initial wall.

Shackle Route – VI,6. A. Clarke, M. Garthwaite. 20th December, 1993.

The summer route was followed in five pitches without the deviation from the crack on the first pitch.

Hangman's Crack – VI,7. A. Clarke, M. Garthwaite. 20th December, 1993.

An abseil approach from the previous route to an ascent by the summer line.

Bottleneck Chimney – VI,7. N. Main, S. Raw.

Cuneiform Buttress:

Central Chimney Direct – 30m VS 5a. J. Inglis, N. Suess. 10th May, 1993.

Central Chimney is a direct finish to Ordinary Route. This pitch is a direct middle tier which can be logically linked with Central Chimney – described as 'unjustly slighted'. Go to the left end of the first grassy ledge of Ordinary Route and climb the obvious steep corner crack past a ledge at 10m to a chockstone at 25m. This is passed on the right, whereupon the pitch relents, and rejoin the Ordinary Route at the second terrace.

Note: D. Sanderson notes ascents of Shackle Route in December, 1977 and January Jigsaw with T. Macaulay in February, 1985. Grade IV quoted for each but amount of snow not specified.

BIDEAN NAM BIAN, Stob Coire nan Lochan:

Leaning Jowler – 70m III,4. M. Duff, J. Knowles. 26th February, 1993.

The fins and towers on the left side of Pinnacle Buttress right of Pinnacle Groove form the left side of a corner system.

1. 35m. Climb to the foot of the corner, enter this by an odd mantle and up flakes to a snow terrace.
2. 20m. Climb the sharp corner above, traverse to the right and up to a snow terrace.
3. 15m. Move 5m right to an elegant steep V-groove.

Church Door Buttress:

Un Poco Loco – 120m VII,7. A. Cave, M. Duff. March, 1994.

1. 20m. First pitch of The Crypt.
2. 35m. Step left, then directly below The Arch by steep cracks to the left end of the span, swing into the groove on the left and up to the ledge. Belay in the centre of the span. Extremely steep.
3. 25m. Climb directly above the span to a groove with a flake crack, and trend gradually left.
4. 40m. More easily to the top.

Stob Coire nam Beith:

Scarab – 70m IV,5. J. Blyth, S. Lampard. 14th November, 1992.

Start just left and down of North West Gully to the right of Isis. Move up and left to the left side of a large flake. Go up to belay on a small ledge down and right of an inverted flake (35m). Climb direct up the rib above (crux), moving left at an overhang to finish (35m).

ALLT DOIRE-BEITH:

Fear is the Key – 16m E2 5b. G. Latter, T. Redfern, C. Grant. 1st July, 1993.

On the isolated dome-shaped buttress at the top of the gorge, on the opposite side from the other recorded routes. Starting a few metres left of the initial flake crack of Afraid to Walk, climb the centre of the wall to better holds and protection, moving slightly rightwards to finish at the same point as Afraid to Walk.

Note: Afraid to Walk, E1 5a (1989); recorded in SMCJ 1990, but omitted from the 1992 guide for an unknown reason.

AONACH DUBH, Lower Walls:

Thing of Beauty – 40m E4 5c. G. Latter, D. Greig. 17th August, 1993 (on sight). A direct line up the left edge of the face, just right of the wet crack. Start up Lady Jane, and climb direct up the diagonal crack past a series of horizontal breaks to a bold run-out section. From the ledge, step left and up a blocky dyke to belay in short twin corners.

TRILLEACHAN SLABS:

Tufty Club – 55m E3. S. Kennedy, C. Grindley. 26th September, 1993.

A bold eliminate between the main corner of Hammer and the upper part of the original Pinch route. Follows in the main the cleaned crackline which runs up the slab a short distance right of the main corner. Start from the belay on Hammer just below the scoop.

1. 45m 5c. Follow Pinch up right to the obvious quartz pocket via the Pinch move. Climb the thin crack above the pocket for a short distance before traversing out left below a small undercut bulge. Step over the left side of the bulge and make thin moves up and left to reach a thin crack containing three small tufts. Climb the thin crack for a couple of moves, then move diagonally up leftwards to reach the obvious cleaned crackline (approx. 5m right of Hammer corner). Climb the crackline directly to reach the rightmost end of the delicate traverse on Hammer. Belay on Hammer just above the traverse.

GARBH BHEINN, North East Face:

South East Chimney – 325m IV,5. A. Matthewson, M. Shaw. 15th January, 1994. Start as for Great Ridge up the lower buttress left of Great Gully to the lower rake (or traverse in along the rake) and continue up left via a shallow gully system to the foot of the chimney proper (200m). Climb the chimney (very narrow in one section) to belay below the arch (35m). Continue up and out to a surprising exit (10m). A further two pitches up Great Ridge lead to the summit (80m).

SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS:

BEINN A' CHREACHAN, Coire an Lochain:

A Bit on the Side – 85m II. G.E. Little. 15th January, 1994.

Start well up the wide gully between the central and right-hand buttresses where a steep rock spur juts from the flank of the latter – on the right side of the gully looking up, well above the rock island. Climb a runnel running on the right side of this rock spur with a steepening before access to a wide snow ramp is gained. Up the ramp and short snowfield above to gain the ridge.

BEINN DORAIN, Creag an Socach:

Days of Future Past – 120m IV,5. G.E. Little, J. Lowther. 13th February, 1994.

This route climbs the slabby area of rock where the vertical left-flanking wall of the crag gives way to the main face. It shares a common start with *The Glass Bead Game* and finishes at the same place as *Kick Start*, but otherwise stays well left of these routes for its entire length.

1. 35m. Climb a short slabby groove, then move left up an obvious fault line for about 10m to a little recess with an ancient peg (1950s vintage?). Traverse horizontally left to the base of a wide shallow scoop. Up this to a horizontal snow ledge. Traverse back right to belay about 4m left of an obvious groove.
2. 25m. A tricky move right gives access into the groove, then climb straight up to a narrow exit under a big hanging icicle. Move up right on a snow ledge to belay.
3. 45m. Traverse horizontally left, with one awkward step, to a snow bay. Move back right up a snow ramp to belay at a small rock recess.
4. 15m. Move right, then straight up to finish.

G.E. Little, after consultation, has compiled the following list of grades for *Creag an Socach*.

False Rumour Gully – IV,4. *Days of Future Past* – IV,5. *The Glass Bead Game* – V,5. *Kick Start* – IV,4. *The Prophet* – VI,7. *The Sting* – V,6. *The Promised Land* – VI,7. *Antichrist* – VI,7. *Second Coming* – III,4. *Messiah* – VII,7. *School Daze* – II,3.

BEINN AN DOTHaidH, Creag Coire an Dothaidh:

Beelzebub – 170m V,6. R. Everett, S. Richardson (AL). 16th January, 1994.

A direct line up the crest of the buttress in the centre of the crag between *Lucifer Rising* and *BO Buttress*. Start at the lowest rocks, 5m left of the first pitch of *Lucifer Rising*, and directly below a prominent smooth red wall 50m above.

1. 50m. Pull over a small roof and continue directly up the centre of the buttress following a series of turfey grooves. The left traverse and downward step of *Lucifer Rising* are crossed after 25m. Belay at the foot of the prominent red wall.
2. 50m. The easiest route through the steep slabs above the stance will depend on the amount of ice present. On this ascent, a broad snow ledge was followed left for 10m to below a 10m-high corner which lies 5m right of the short chimney of *Lucifer Rising*. From the foot of the corner (poor peg runners), a right-slanting ramp was taken to easier ground above the belay. Continue up, then left to a short right-facing corner. Climb this and belay on the snowfield above.
3. 40m. Move left and climb snow and ice to belay below a prominent roof.
4. 30m. Climb the ice step on the left, then follow icy grooves leading up and right to the top.

THE COBBLER, South Peak:

Sesame Street – 90m IV,6. J. Turner, A. Ogilvie. 3rd March, 1993.

Climbs the obvious line of weakness 30m down and left of *Sesame Groove*, starting

on a ledge at a large flake. Climb a wide crack until a short difficult traverse (crux) gives access to a left-trending line on frozen turf, joining Grassy Traverse for its final groove.

North Peak:

Wild at Heart – 60m E7. G. Latter (unseconded). 3rd and 27th September, 1993. An outrageously exposed top pitch up the edge of all things. The main pitch attacks the stunning flying arete up the left edge of the scooped wall above the scooped wall on Punster's.

1. 25m 5c. Start up Direct Direct to the roof at 12m. Arrange protection, step down for 3m, then ascend diagonally rightwards across the wall to better holds. Up to the roof and follow this right to belay on the Punster's flake (originally aided as original start to The Nook?).

2. 35m 6b. Go up the wall directly above to a crack, then traverse left to quartz on the edge and up to a ledge. Make committing moves leftwards of the ledge, with a long reach to the first peg runner. Continue with difficult reachy moves slightly leftwards past a number of peg runners to good finishing holds near the arete. This pitch redpointed.

Punster's Crack – VI.8. A. Clarke, M. Garthwaite. 24th December, 1993.

The summer route was followed in three pitches, the crux being the top slab.

BEINN NARNAIN, Cruach nam Miseag (NN 278064):

The crag is on the north-east facing side of the south-east spur of Beinn Narnain.

Central Gully – 200m II. T. Archer, E. Ewing. March, 1993.

The obvious central gully up the broken cliffs of Cruach nam Miseag. Numerous short steps.

CREAG THARSUINN:

Anonymous Gully – 100m IV.6. I. Taylor, A. Robertson. 2nd January, 1994.

This is the 'unclimbed' gully on the left side of Sugach Buttress.

1. 30m. Easy snow leads to a blockage.

2. 30m. Gain a ledge on the left and make an awkward traverse to gain the gully edge. Go up a short groove on the gully edge until an exposed move rightwards gains the upper gully.

3. 40m. Easy snow.

BEINN AN LOCHAIN:

Megalith – 110m IV.4. A. Fraser, R. McAllister, D. McGimpsey, S. Mearns. 19th January, 1993.

An excellent companion route to Monolith Grooves, comparable in quality and scenery. Start at the first groove immediately right of the lower Monolith.

1. 45m. Climb a steep icefall on the right of the groove (or, in thinner conditions, the groove), continue directly to gain and follow a narrow left-trending chimney. Directly above this, climb a short desperate corner to a ledge and belay. Both the initial icefall and the desperate corner can be avoided on the right and left respectively, reducing the route to Grade III.

2. 15m. Traverse easily left to the left edge of the Table.

3. 50m. Beneath the upper Monolith is a right-trending flake system (conspicuous in *Cold Climbs*). Gain the left end of this by mixed climbing, then follow it easily rightwards to gain snow slopes which lead via an ice bulge to the top.

Note: Monolith Grooves. The guide over-estimates the length. At most it is 125m. The most obvious and direct start is the icy gully next to the left edge of the Monolith. This avoids the devious original start which takes shelves to the left. No trace of the rockfall was encountered in December, 1993, and the route was found to be a very scenic and worthwhile Grade IV,4.

Obelisk – 105m V,5. D. Macgimpsey, T. Prentice, A. Fraser. 10th February, 1994. An interesting route giving good climbing up the buttress between Monolith Grooves and Promenade Gully. Climb the first pitch of Monolith Grooves to ledges (20m). About 10m left of Monolith Grooves gully is a narrow steep chimney with an overhanging chokestone. Climb this with difficulty, then traverse right under steep rock for 6m. Follow grooves above to belay under Monolith Grooves upper chimney (50m). Follow MG chimney for 8m, then traverse left across shelves to gain an ice bulge and snow slopes (35m).

BEN LOMOND, North East Face:

Lomond Delight – 85m II. B. Swan, D. Ford, S. Donald. 23rd January, 1994. Start 100m right of an obvious steep corner. Go up a shallow groove for 8m, then turn right up a ramp to a small cave and belay (45m). Exit on the left up over a bulge, then follow steep snow and exit on to the ridge (40m).

GLEN CROE:

Note: Pockets of Excellence has had its pegs stolen and has not been climbed without.

BEN CRUACHAN, Drochaid Glas:

The following routes lie on the East Face of the North Ridge between the two earlier routes, Into the Fire and Stonethrowers Buttress (SMCJ 1990, p514). All three routes start close to the foot of the obvious chimney groove in the centre of the East Face – Jamie's Lum.

Drumnadrochaid – 85m IV. D. Ritchie, D. Sinclair. 15th January, 1994.

Climbs the buttress just left of Jamie's Lum. Climb the righthand of the two parallel grooves trending left. Move back right and up the buttress crest, then trend leftwards to belay below an open corner (45m). Climb the corner, exiting left past a spike to easier ground and the top (40m).

Jamie's Lum – 85m IV,5. I. Blackwood, S. Kennedy, D. Ritchie. 13th February, 1994.

A fine route, following the central chimney groove referred to above. Climb a short ice pitch into a snow bay below the short chimney. Belay on the right of the chimney (25m). Continue up the chimney, well iced on the left wall, and continuation groove above (50m). Finish up easy ground above (10m).

Gaoth Mhor – 110m IV. N. Marshall, D. Ritchie. 23rd January, 1994.

Climbs the buttress between Jamie's Lum and Into the Fire. Start just right of Jamie's Lum and follow the vague crest by a steep turf chimney to belay below a wall. Move 2m to the right and climb a short square-cut chimney and groove to a block belay (40m). Move straight up to below a steep wall, then traverse 15m right across ledges to belay close to Into the Fire (35m). Climb the fault line above leading up and left past a large block (clearly seen on the skyline from the belay) to finish on the ridge crest (35m).

ARRAN

BEINN TARSUINN, Full Meed Tower:

Along the Watchtower – 85m HVS. A. Fraser, R. McAllister. 29th May, 1993.

An interesting route of some character which climbs steep chimneys on the right or Coire a' Bhradhain side of the tower. Start 10m right of Voodoo Child at a deep chimney.

1. 25m 5a. Scramble unpleasantly to the back of the chimney, then back and knee up the chimney over a chokestone (crux). Continue up flakes to belay on a small grass ledge.

2. 15m 5a. Continue up the chimney, then easy grass to a spike belay.

3. 35m 5a. Traverse shelves leftwards to gain and climb the fine upper chimney.

4. 10m. Scramble to the top of the tower.

Note: R. McAllister and M. Reid freed Voodoo Child on 29th May, 1993. E1 5b and highly recommended.

GLEN SANNOX, Cioch na h'Oighe:

Klept – C. Macadam and A. Fraser claim the FFA on 10th August, 1981.

Coire na h-Uamha, Lower Slabs:

G. Szuca and C. Lampton describe a route near Slapstick Wall, climbed in May, 1993. Start 10m left of Slapstick Wall and climb two pitches direct to the second belay of SW (35m, 35m; these pitches looked previously cleaned). Now take the variation but pull over the bulge above the belay, move right to the arete above the variation and follow it to the top. A very fine pitch; 30m, VS 4c.

LOWLAND OUTCROPS

Dalmahoy Hill:

The Lemming – 18m HVS 4c. J.D. Inglis, D. Buchanan, J.C. Eilbeck. 20th May, 1992. The rib and shallow groove 2m to the left of Cleaned Sweep. Sustained, steepening to a bulge at the top where a long step right joins the exit of Cleaned Sweep. Little protection.

Note: Transcription (SMCJ 1992) is the same as an older route, Frustration.

Rosyth Quarry:

The Rust Bucket – 7m E2 6a. I. Taylor. June, 1992.

Right of Matinee Cracks is a tree. The route climbs the cleaned wall behind the tree without using the right-hand wall.

Auchinstarry Quarry:

The Seven Year Plan – 10m E2 5c. I. Taylor, S. Munro. 29th May, 1992.

Left of Block Pillar is a hanging ramp. Gain the ramp (old peg), then climb it finishing directly over an overhang.

Note: Dream Machine has lost a good hold at the crack base, making it harder, 6b.

Cowden Hill Quarry:

Earth Summit – 30m E4 6a. M. Garthwaite, A. Wren. 18th August, 1992.

The route follows the obvious flake up the black wall at the back of the quarry, passing two pegs. Move right below a small roof to the top of a small pinnacle. Finish direct up the wall above passing another peg.

GALLOWAY

A. Fraser and Kyle MC members have climbed about 80 routes. As the new Lowland Outcrops guide is scheduled for this year, they have not been duplicated here.