

## NEW CLIMBS SECTION

*In this introduction, ANDY NISBET summarises the new rock climbs, and SIMON RICHARDSON the new winter climbs in 2001-2002.*

### SUMMER

THE winter of 2001 went on for ever with the last route in the CIC hut book by Godefroy Perroux on May 7. Then started one of the poorer summers of recent times. May wasn't too bad, but each month thereafter was wetter till a dry spell in September saved us from drowning. So a very poor year for mountain rock climbing left plenty of action on the crags. Only new routes get recorded, but hopefully, the new route tally mirrors the general activity.

The weather in April was dry enough for low rock or high ice. But first in action was Pete Benson and Finlay Bennet at the Lower Crag, Poverty Point, at Neist where they climbed a couple of fine overhanging cracks. Neist continues to see more exploration, as do other nearby sea cliffs but you might have thought Polney Crag to be worked out. But Tim Rankin climbed the funky arête of Stolen Ivy (E7 6c) on Ivy Buttress, later repeated at least twice during the summer. The best weather (of the summer) was in early May when Dave MacLeod climbed another E7 in Glen Nevis (Isomorph) while Gary Latter and Mike Reed were climbing at Reiff. But most of the action was out on the Barra islands with a team of Rick Campbell, Gary Latter, Malcolm Davies, John Lyall, Ian Taylor and Glyn Stanworth on Pabbay. Towards the end of the month, Simon Harry, Pete Nugent and Bob Bowdler started the climbing on Eriskay while Kev Howett, Lucy Creamer, Steve Crowe and Karin Magog climbed some hard and impressive routes on Mingulay. With such a huge number of routes climbed since the last guide, the documentation is poor, so the list of routes this year is far from comprehensive, but a lesser level of activity continued throughout the summer.

Come June, the mountains began to dry out although hindered by the late winter. Probably slowest was the Cairngorms which managed a brief dry spell in late June and early July. Advantage was taken by Mike Reed and Pete Benson's new route on the Central Gully Wall of Creag an Dubh Loch, (The Nullfidian, E5 6b). Around this time there were two repeats of recent hard route The Origin of Species (probably E6). The islands continued to be popular with a strong team of Dave MacLeod, Niall McNair and Steve Richardson in Lewis, repeating and climbing new lines on Traigh Berie and Dalbeg.

A large number of crags in the North-west have been explored, mostly on the friendly Lewissian gneiss. Paul Tattersall has been very active around Gairloch but joined by many others to produce around 100 new routes. John Mackenzie and Sue Harper have been exploring the crags on the remote side of Loch Maree while several teams have discovered crags around Rhiconich and is as usual nowadays, worked hard at finishing them off. There must have been around 200 routes in all so the next Northern Highlands guidebook might struggle to stay in two volumes.

The weather was patchy into July, enough to tempt summer visitor Julian Lines on to the Central Slabs of the Shelter Stone Crag and success on a short route, Freya (E3 5c) with Laurence Hughes, but failure on a much more impressive one when it rained. Julian continued to climb as many days as possible throughout and continued to find more lines.

Perhaps the best set of new routes has been in Arran, starting in June but it seemed to escape the monsoon into August. Raiders John Dunne and Andy Jack climbed one of the last great problems when they managed the wall right of Abraxus



on Cioch na h-Oighe. The line was repeated by Dave MacLeod a week later unaware of the original ascent and graded E8. As a major new line, there were the usual rumours of dubious tactics. In July, Julian Lines did some very bold soloing on Cir Mhor, while into August, Gary Latter, Dan Honeyman and Dave MacLeod shared the action. All in all, MacLeod and Lines had quite a summer.

The island of Great Bernera, linked to mainland Lewis by a bridge, has seen a lot of climbing during the summer around Geodha Mor Shleibhte. Andy Cunningham has been climbing here for a few years and was persuaded to reveal the information when Rab and Chris Anderson, Dave Cuthbertson, Jo George, Keith Archer and partners all climbed here without knowing the others had also been. There were a wide range of grades on several different cliffs from Severe to E6 (Mega Tsunami, E6 6a by Cubby) and plenty of enthusiasm, so I'm sure this place will be visited next year. This was part of an amazingly enthusiastic two weeks by Rab and Chris Anderson on Lewis, when they climbed around 40 new routes, including many on the more established cliffs around Mungarstadh and Uig. Later in the year, Roger Everett and Dee Gaffney climbed on the cliffs here as well as exploring some of the obscure crags in the Uig hills and Harris.

One of the last big routes of the year was one of the best when Rick Campbell and Gary Latter climbed a line through The Bat on Carn Dearg Buttress at E6. Named The Wicked, it was finished in September and had required at least three attempts, so awaits a flash (and might wait a while). You might think it was the end of rock climbing but an Oxford University party climbed in Skye on their recently developed crags in Glen Sligachan over New Year, as well as on the sea cliffs at Neist, with new routes on both the 31st and 1st. Unpredictability, is one of the joys of Scottish climbing, and I'm glad there are still some mad folk around!

## WINTER

It has been a strange winter, often wet and warm, but with amazing conditions on the few occasions when it suddenly turned cold, and culminating in a month of brilliant ice high on the Ben when everywhere else had all but finished. Global warming you might say, and you are probably right. But if global warming means more ice on the Ben, then we could do worse. This winter seems to be a strong example of predicted future weather, perhaps combined with a year of dominant westerlies. But westerlies are better than southerlies, so the increased rainfall of recent years has produced more snow on the Ben. And the warmer climate has allowed thaws even in mid-season, so instead of the prolonged powder of the Seventies, ice has been increasing throughout the winter to produce enough to survive several thaws and leave us with the best possible quality at the end of the season. The negative side has been that the lower venues have been useless and the number of days written off by rain has been quite high. And it hasn't just been the weekends!

On the climbing side, standards are continuing to rise – quite rapidly. The latest axes and crampons are fiercer weapons and definitely help, along with sharp ice screws transferred from Continental icefalls to the Ben, but there is also a confidence that all the routes done a few years ago are sensible targets for today's stronger climbers. The poor weather has meant that the number of new routes has been fewer, and the number of hard new routes has been even less. But the number of second or early ascents of hard routes has been higher than ever, with only those too low to come into condition surviving unrepeatable (like Against All Odds and Guerdon Grooves which were certainly under the spotlight). So the ephemeral conditions have meant that only those on the spot (and with a bit of luck) have been able to take advantage of isolated brilliant days. Highlight of the year in this

respect was Martin Moran and Paul Tattersall's ascent of The Godfather on Beinn Bhan when Roger Webb had stood below its unfrozen turf the day before. Of all the routes done this winter, this was the only one where normally reticent climbers thought: "wow!". And it doesn't need special conditions, only well-frozen turf, so maybe it will receive some attention next year. Or maybe it will need to sit a while and become more familiar before anyone will dare go near.

Of course, there were several other impressive new lines, but none up an untouched wall. Like Blair Fyffe and Es Tressidur's line up the rib right of Albatross, Guy and Pete Robertson's route right of Ice Bomb in Coire Ghranda of Beinn Dearg, Brian Davison, Dave McGimpsey and Andy Nisbet's ascent of Rampart Wall in Coire Mhic Fhearchair, Mike Pescod, Jonny Baird and Tim Riley climbing Piranha on Aonach Mor, Scott Muir and Graham Little's Planet Fear on Meall nan Tarmachan, Dave MacLeod and Gareth Hughes's ascent of MacLean's Folly on The Cobbler and for the lack of a hard one, Chris Cartwright and Simon Richardson's string of routes from the one-day-a-week men.

So now to the story of the winter. There wasn't a hint of snow until a sudden dump blocked many of the roads. It was a shock to the system fighting our way to the crags through deep powder, like Alan Mullin's six-hour approach to Coire Mhic Fhearchair and Jonathan Preston and I taking five hours to Kellett's Slab Route (VI,7) on South Trident Buttress. What a contrast to strolling up to the Ben in a T-shirt in April after breakfast with 12 hours of daylight to go. Perhaps the more accessible Stac Pollaidh was a better option for Erik Brunskill and Dafydd Morris, although their name for their route, Positive Vegetation (IV,6) makes me wonder if it wasn't. The rest of November was very flirty but gave little away, with the Northern Corries sometimes in nick and rocky routes in Coire an Lochain seeing a few ascents.

December continued along the same lines when Chris Cartwright and Simon Richardson found the only snow in Scotland in Garbh Choire Mor of Braeriach to climb Gauntless (IV,5), a short mixed climb up the left sidewall of Michaelmas Fare on the first weekend. Things looked more promising the following week when Coire Sputan Dearg came into good nick (for two days!), with James Edwards and Sam Barron making the second free ascent of Grey Slab and passing on the secret of good conditions to Dave McGimpsey, Hannah Burrows-Smith and I who struggled our way up The Chebec, rather too early in the season for good style. But the next week was back to rock climbing before snow around Christmas time. Quick off the mark were Scott Muir and Gordon Lennox who climbed a W(inter)edgewood (VII,7) before anyone else realised it had snowed. The week around Christmas was pretty snowy and a few escaped family commitments as the first good conditions arrived. The aforementioned Piranha, Scott Muir and Kevin Kelly's second ascent of Millennium Line in stormy weather and Erik Brunskill and Dafydd Morris back to Stac Pollaidh on a Rampage (V,6) all led up to the well-named Planet Fear on fragile ice. There were also a couple of hard repeats by Tim Rankin and Gordon Lennox on The Screaming (VIII,8) and Jamie Baillie and Ben Wilkinson on Punsters Crack (VII,8) on the Cobbler. Yet more names on the hard climbing scene. And Dave McGimpsey and I climbed the fine Taliballan (V,6) on our Crag X, later revealed as Stob Coire an Laoigh in the Grey Corries.

Now into January with high hopes, the weather deteriorated the day after Blair Fyffe and Es Tresidder repeated a straight version of Die Riesenwand (Coire an Fhamhair of Beinn Bhan), quoting sensational exposure along icy ledges and naming it Divine Retribution (VII,6) before realising it had been climbed before



by Chris Cartwright and Robin Clothier in 1991. Also that day, Andy Forsyth and Nick Harper (more names!) tussled with one of the best routes of its type, The Nuis Chimney in Arran. The rest of January was warm and wet, stripping almost everything and even into February was poor, although Graeme Ettle and Mark Garthwaite (more names!) climbed the summer line of Poison Dwarf on Carn Etchachan at VII,8. Just as we were beginning to despair, February turned colder. Still quite stormy, thaws and freezes brought the middle to higher cliffs into icy nick and although the Ben became swamped in powder, it was the potential for the excellent late season conditions. As the cold weather arrived in mid February, the Cairngorms were first to be good, with some ice forming on Lochnagar and the Cartwright/Richardson team climbing Big Bertha (VII,7) on the Dividing Buttress of Beinn a' Bhuird. As conditions improved, Guy Robertson and Jason Currie repeated Rolling Thunder on Lochnagar in pretty icy conditions while Blair Fyffe and Es Tressidur climbed an icy Trail of Tears, neither team being stressed on routes with an epic history. Other venues around the 900m mark also became very icy and Dave McGimpsey and I made a frantic collection of routes on Stob Coire an Laoigh before its revelation online.

Now into March, the Ben was improving but the mid-height venues still held the attention. The Big Chill on Beinn Dearg and Rampart Wall in Coire Mhic Fhearchair were climbed while there was a race for Vertigo Wall on Creag an Dubh Loch. Minus One Gully on the Ben saw a couple of ascents and Royal Pardon on Aonach Beag saw the first of many ascents in the season. Now into mid-March, the expected warming towards the end of the season happened but not before Martin Moran and Paul Tattersall met the Godfather and Guy Robertson and Es Tressidur repeated the mysterious West-Central Gully. This warming really brought the Ben into perfect nick, although no-one realised just how much more perfect it was going to get the next week, and then even more perfect after that. Soon climbing the classics became climbing the face routes when Pointless saw a rare ascent and queues built up for the previously rare 'Cold Climbs tick' of Galactic Hitchhiker. The great slab between these two even built up with ice for the first time while the Shroud icicle joined up. Other ice lines formed for the first time, like the obvious gully line between Abacus and Antonine Wall (Cartwright and Richardson) and the left rib of Point Five Gully (Robin Clothier and Paul Thorburn). But the best new piece of ice was the central icefall on the Brenva Face, long watched but finally completed by Hannah Burrows-Smith and Dave McGimpsey (Super G, VI,6). And given a modest grade and write-up considering its awesome steepness was a thin and very vertical icefall right of Royal Pardon climbed by Stewart Anderson and Stuart McFarlane and named Monarch's Crown (VI,6). The story that the ice broke off under Stuart and he had to do one-arm pull-ups to regain it means that it won't see a rush for repeats!

Now into April and the most unusual ice on the Ben had gone. But the high routes were still superb while everywhere else in Scotland had disappeared. Many of the classic routes were seeing ascents every day with queues at the weekends. Lovely snow-ice and steps from so many ascents meant the routes often felt a grade easier, encouraging lots of solo ascents and giving new guide author, Simon Richardson, a grading question for the guide, due out before next winter. A few new routes were claimed on the unusually iced No. 3 Gully Buttress by McGimpsey, Nisbet and Ed Edwards and either side of Glover's Chimney by Cartwright/Richardson but the majority were enjoying dry cold weather with an easy walk-in, comfortable route, sit in the sun on top and an amble down. Not like the rest of the winter at all And so many keen climbers – I don't feel eccentric any more.

## OUTER ISLES

### LEWIS, The Uig Hills, Hidden Buttress:

R. Everett was unable to locate any of the routes (except Spike Fright) and thinks the crag was written up from a distant memory. He has written up three routes, with the first two as “probably climbed before” and Hidden Treasure as definitely new.

#### Hidden Buttress

This fine crag starts straight from the water at its left-hand end and forms a right-rising band of rock, about 30m high, extending for over 150m up the hillside. Spike Fright (VS) traverses across the lowest part of the crag just above the water, and in 2001 this was equipped with *in situ* runners and a Tyrolean. The left-hand section of the crag is steep, but appears rather broken and of doubtful solidity. It slants up rightwards from the water for at least 50m to a large, vegetated and overhung corner system bordered on its lower right half by a band of big black overhangs. These form the left-hand limit of the best section of crag, a sea of slabs and left-slanting overlaps. Up and right of these the crag degenerates into shorter vegetated walls.

*Hunting for History* – 35m. H. Severe \*. R. D. Everett, D. Gaffney. September 2001 (but climbed before).

Cutting through the centre of the main slabs is a left-slanting slabby ramp line that starts to the right of large blocks. Follow the line leftwards to a fine stance at 20m, then continue in the same line under overhangs, finishing up a short steep wall with care.

*Where Eagles Nest* – 35m HVS 4c \*\*\*. R. D. Everett, D. Gaffney. September 2001 (maybe climbed before).

This superb climb starts 10m up and right of Hunting for History below a line of overhangs that slant up and left to the top of the crag. Traverse directly beneath the roofs, with a tricky step up a short overhanging corner to a higher level after 10m. Continue directly under the roofs in a splendid position with exemplary protection. At about 20m there is an exposed step across an open corner, followed by a swing up its left arête to a very exposed ledge. Continue in the same line to the top.

**Note:** This best fits Eyrie in terms of description and quality, but the location is wrong and it is not E1 5b.

*Hidden Treasure* – 35m E2 5b \*\*. R. D. Everett, D. Gaffney. September, 2001.

Below the line of Hunting for History is an impressive wall with an obvious narrow ledge at half-height, from which rises an easy-looking corner on its left. Below the ledge is a large plinth embedded in the ground. Start at a large spike 5m right of the plinth.

1. 20m 5b Climb a thin crack to an undercut block at 5m (runners), then step down left and follow edges and footledges quite boldly horizontally left for 5m to a short corner (RP#2). Swing left onto the ledge in the middle of the wall, then



climb the thin steep crack directly above to join Hunting for History and belay on its fine stance.

2. 15m 5a Directly above is a small overhung square-cut sentry box. Climb the gently impending wall above, first leftwards then swinging rightwards past the sentry box to join the finish of Where Eagles Nest.

**Note:** A direct start would be possible at a similar technical grade, but there would be no gear and the landing is awful. Even so, there is ground fall potential from the traverse.

### **HARRIS, Creag Mor:**

**Note from R. Everett:** There appears to be significant potential for major routes here. There must be at least 80m width of crag between King Lear and Antipodean Exile, yet only one route, Central Grooves (E6) breaches the impressive ground. Although much is guarded by great roofs, there are certainly more entries, particularly towards the right-hand side, where a vast wall of sheer smooth rock sweeps down. Farther left, between King Lear and Herbivore, the upper part of the crag presents a substantial wall of excellent, steep, clean, quick drying and compact rock. Any route going up here would be hard, but brilliant.

*King Lear:* The small mossy tree mentioned in the description is to the left of the line (not right). Pitch 2 is superb, and pitch 3 is very good until you reach the vile oozing final crack. Given the spectacular positions and the general air of intimidation, most modern E1 leaders may be particularly impressed (or stressed) by this outing. Despite the technical grade being 5b on pitch 2, and only mild 5b for the roof of pitch 3, it is frequently likely to be HXS (hard extremely slimey) for the top horror crack, so a grade of E2 gives a more realistic impression of the adventure. I would give it two stars for the brilliant middle third of the climb, and the exceptional position of the second stance.

### **Sgurr Scaladale:**

Further to A. Nisbet's comments in SMCJ 1998, closer inspection from beneath the crag suggests that the guide is probably correct, and that the gully definitions may not relate to the most obvious hideous clefts. It may even be that some of the original pioneers mixed up Central and West Gullies. In any case, anyone interested in climbing this horrendous pile of seeping blackness will no doubt remain unphased by being on the wrong piece of cliff, and would be quite happy using a description bearing no relation to reality.

### **SOUTH HARRIS:**

Despite the vast amount of exposed rock, climbing possibilities in South Harris seem limited. The following may prove useful for a short day, or if the hills or sea cliffs are shrouded in mist or covered in spray. It is only 8 km from Tarbert ferry terminal.

### **Creag na Tri Piosan (Three Bit Crag) (MR122 959):**

This small, but perfectly formed crag, is best seen in profile when approaching from Seilebost, which lies 6 km to the east. The crag presents a south-facing vertical wall of excellent rock. Approach in eight minutes from any suitable passing place on the A859 near the inlet to the most easterly of a line of lochans (you can't

see the crag from the road at this point, so drive up and down to locate it). The foot of the crag is pleasantly flat and grassy, and the outlook encompassing both east and west coasts is superb. There is a central right-facing slim groove rising from a crack near the left end of a low band of overhangs. To its left is a higher band of overhangs, and to its right are sequentially a slim upper wall, a crack system with a small rowan, another right-facing corner high up, and the right-bounding arête. The grades of the first three routes may be a bit stiff, but they are short and well protected. The climbs are described from left to right.

*Two Power Three* – 11m E1 5b \*\*. R. D. Everett, D. Gaffney. September, 2001. Climb a flake crack leading to the middle of the band of overhangs left of the central corner line. Layback over and continue with interest to the top.

*One over the Eight* – 11m E1 5b \*\*. R. D. Everett, D. Gaffney. September, 2001. The central corner gives a fine sustained climb. Start up a steep crack near the left end of the low line of roofs.

*After Eight* – 11m E1 5b \*. R. D. Everett, D. Gaffney. September, 2001. Start below the widest point of the low band of overhangs. Climb straight through the roof via a small square-cut recess, then climb the wall and finishing crack between the central corner and the (unclimbed) crack system to its right.

*Eight Sisters* – 11m VS 4c \*. D. Gaffney, R. D. Everett. September, 2001. Climb cracks starting just right of the low band of overhangs and finish steeply up the slim right-facing corner.

*EliminEight* – 11m HVS 5a \*. R. D. Everett, D. Gaffney. September, 2001. The right arête of the crag. It is more interesting, but rather artificial, to keep the right hand on the arête all the way. If in doubt, place runners in the previous climb.

### **LEWIS, GREAT BERNERA, GEODHA MOR SHLEIBHTE (MR 133 394):**

The island of Great Bernera lies between Carloway to the north east and Uig to the south-west and is linked to mainland Lewis by a bridge. The climbing is at the north west end of the island near Bostadh around Geodha Mor Shleibhte. Park at the road end at Bostadh beach and walk for 15min south-west to the crags. As usual the climbing here is on good gneiss in a wonderful situation, with grand views across Loch Roag to the sands of Bhaltois and inland over a sprinkling of small islands to the mountains of Uig and Harris.

Four parties have been climbing on sea cliffs near Geodha Mor Shleibhte and Sgeir Rebrìe, each unaware of the other's activities. The following is the New Route Editor's best effort, with help from the participants. Alternative grades from subsequent parties have been included. Working from south to north:

### **Geodha Mor (NB 133 386):**

From the road end at Tobson, walk around the coast to the Geo, about 10 minutes. The geo itself can be accessed by an easy gully to gain a handy ledge above sea level below the first routes:-

*Fear Of Rejection* – 15m VS 4c. P. Woodhouse, K. Archer. 28th May, 2001.



The obvious left-facing corner just right of the overhangs. Climb the corner and then the face above, good protection.

*Fresh Westerly* – 15m VS 5a. P. Woodhouse, K. Archer. 31st May, 2001.  
Takes the crack and arête on the face just right of the previous route.

The following routes lie on the superb seaward face north of the geo. The rock is solid and well cracked with good protection. To access the routes walk a farther 100m north to drop down a gully and turn left facing out to gain the base of the routes. Good stances can be found on a ramp which descends to sea level.

*Will the Real Eric Jones Please Stand Up* – 18m HVS 5a \*\*. K. Archer, P. Woodhouse. 28th May, 2001.

The obvious overlap and leftward-trending groove opposite large fallen blocks, approx. 15m to the right of the descent. Start below the ramp. Climb easy rock to the ramp and overlap. Pull over this to gain the groove. Follow this before moving slightly left on to the face to make a precarious mantel to finish. A gritstone classic!

*The Stugger* – 18m HVS 5a \*. P. Woodhouse, K. Archer. 28th May, 2001.  
Shares a common start with Eric Jones but trends left to the base of a shallow corner.

Climb the corner to an overlap where good protection can be arranged before awkward moves gain the top of the overlap and the short finishing crack.

*T'obsons Choice* – 18m HVS 5a \*. K. Archer, P. Woodhouse. 28th May, 2001.  
Climb easy ground to the ramp then take the steep wall to the right of Eric Jones to the roof. Pass this on the left and go up to the bottom of a steep corner which is followed to the top, excellent.

*Below the Salt* – 18m HVS 5a \*. K. Archer, A. Norton. 26th July, 2001.  
Follow the descent ramp down to a small "cave"; the route starts from its right edge. Gain the wall above the cave, traverse left into a shallow corner, then around this and up to the obvious flake line which is followed to the top.

The next route starts just right beneath an overhang.

*Geo-graphically Gifted* – 15m HVS 5b \*\*. K. Archer, A. Norton. 26th July, 2001.  
Go up to the base of the niche, up this and a groove to beneath the overhang. Pull directly over this on surprising holds to a ledge, then to the top.

At low tide you can traverse from the end of the descent ramp along the bottom of the seaward face to where it meets the geo. From a pedestal just around and into the geo there is a micro route.

*Say Aye tae a Pie* – 8m VS 5a. K. Archer, A. Norton. 26th July, 2001.

From the pedestal climb the slab on the right before moving back left to pull on to the upper face by an interesting move.

Two further routes on the slab towards the south end of the seaward face. The slab can be recognised by a "dogs head" shaped quartz intrusion when viewed from

the south side of Geodha Mor. Access is by abseil down to ledges above the sea. *Living in Colour Laughing out Loud* – 15m HVS 5a. K. Archer, P. Woodhouse. 31st May, 2001.

From the ledges traverse left to the arête and the base of a thin crack. Follow this and the slab above.

*Dogs Dinner* – 15m VS 4b. K. Archer, P. Woodhouse. 31st May, 2001.

Climb straight up from the ledges, initially following a crack then from break to break.

### **Creag Liam (MR 133 394):**

Creag Liam is a small headland on the south side of Geodha Mor Shleibhte with the climbing on the north-west through to south-west aspects. Access to the following climbs is by an easy scramble to the left (facing out) and back right under the crag, possible at medium to low tides. The routes are described from right to left (facing the crag) starting with two fine corner cracks.

*Conception Corner* – 15m H. Severe \*\*. A. Cunningham, B. Hogge, J. Cunningham. 15th September, 1996 (same as Ram Raid, HVS 5a, RA/CA).

The first corner crack encountered on the access traverse.

*Body and Soul* - 18m VS 4c \*\*. A. Cunningham, B. Hogge, J. Cunningham. 15th September, 1996 (same as Battering Ram, HVS 4c, RA/CA).

The corner crack left of Conception Corner.

*Interactive* – 15m E1 5b \*\*. A. Cunningham, L. Hughes. 11th May, 1998 (same as Bernaway?, E2 5c, RA/CA and DC/JG).

Awkward cracks and shallow corners in the left arête of Body and Soul. Start near the top of the ramp below the arête and swing right into the first crack.

*The Prow* – 20m E2 5b \*\*\*. A. Cunningham, L. Hughes. 11th May, 1998 (E2/3 5c, DC/JG).

An excellent strenuous climb up the overhanging crack in the front of the headland. Start at the left corner of the prow. Climb the groove up to the roof, swing right into the crack and follow this to the top.

The crag now turns back inland into a huge square cut blocky recess. The next four routes are on the right-hand wall (facing).

*Ticallion Stallion* – 20m E3 5c \*\*\*. L. Hughes, A. Cunningham. 11th May, 1998 (same as Roag Rage, E4 5c, RA/CA, E3, DC/JG).

The first crackline round the corner from The Prow at the right-hand end of the wall. Great climbing. Initially climb up to the left of the undercut crack and make bold moves rightwards to the crack at a small roof - runners. Follow the strenuous crack to the top.

*Garden of Eadan* – 15m E2 5c \*\*. A. Cunningham, F. MacLeod. 18th May, 1999 (same as Bostadh del Sol, E3 5c, DC/JG).

The fine steep crack to the left of Tricallion Stallion.

*Grazing Beast* – 15m HVS 5b \*. A. Cunningham, F. MacLeod 7th April, 1998 (same as Tobson's Choice, E1 5b, DC/JG).



Start near the back-right corner of the recess, just left of Eadan. Climb a steep black crack and take an awkward curving jam crack to finish.

*Na Fir Clis* – 15m VS 5a. F. MacLeod, A. Cunningham. 7th April, 1998.  
The back-right corner crack of the recess.

*Brigitt's Liberation* – 15m Severe \*. B. Hogge, J. Cunningham, A. Cunningham.  
15th September 1996 (VS 4c, RA/CA)  
Climb the left trending stepped black dyke starting just left of Na Fir Clis. Finish through an awkward slot in the same line.

*Recess Ramp* – 20m H.Severe. A. Cunningham, F. MacLeod. 18th May, 1999.  
Start to the right of the back left corner of the recess (Great Northern) and climb a stepped right diagonal line to finish at the top of Na Fir Clis.

*Great Northern* – 15m HVS 5a \*\*. A. Cunningham, F. MacLeod. 7th April, 1998  
(same as Bostadh Nova, E1 5b, DC/JG).  
The back-left wide corner crack of the recess.

The crag now runs past a second prow near which are three routes. No descriptions yet but quoting from Jo George, after Great Northern/Bostadh Nova are "The Bostadh Strangler (E3 5c \*\*\*, RA/CA), the superb looking overhung stepped corner and wide crack; The Bostadh Tea Party (E3 5b \*\*, RA/CA, or E3 5c \*\*\*, DC/JG), the crack up the right side of the smooth wall round the edge from the last route; and finally the line of the crag - the superb ships prow to the left of the previous route to give Mega Tsaunami."

*Mega Tsaunami* – 30m E6 6a \*\*\*. D. Cuthbertson, J. George. 16th June, 2001.  
The superb ships prow to the left of Bostadh Tea Party. Fails a four star rating as a rest is possible by going out right (and then returning) before the steep final prow is climbed. Start at the foot of The Bostadh Tea Party and traverse left along the lower of two breaks to reach a groove beneath an overhang in the arête. Climb up to and over the overhang to the base of a short steep smooth open groove. Climb this to a large hold out on the right, step back left and ascend a groove in the arête to an undercut flake. The next section kicks out to provide a strenuous finale up the thin discontinuous crack just right of the prow.

Beyond the prow, the crag turns the corner into a north-west aspect with a series of grooves and arêtes dropping into the sea. A colony of shags nest on the inland part of the cliff and in the cave at the back of the geo. Abseil down the line of the routes to the lowest convenient stance. The routes are described from right to left facing the crag from the far side of the geo.

*High Pressure* – 20m Mild VS 4b. A. Cunningham, F. MacLeod. 18th May, 1999.  
A line up the left side of the first groove encountered round the edge. Abseil onto a small grey ramp stance. Climb a line of flake cracks and ledges.

*Pillar Groove* – 20m VS 4c. A. Cunningham, F. MacLeod. 18th May, 1999.  
The third open groove from the right (facing) has a huge tapered block set into its left side. Abseil onto a small black ledge above the undercut base and directly

below the block. Climb up and round the right side of the block and chimney up into the crack on the right to finish.

To the south of the headland is a small bay with a short steep black wall cut by various right to left diagonal lines. (This is easily seen from the start of the descent to Creag Liam). The next route climbs the lower diagonal.

*Tir nan Og* – 20m E1 5b \*. A. Cunningham, F. MacLeod. 24th April 1998 (same as A Different Slant, E1/2 5b, RA/CA).

Scramble down to the start of the route to the left (facing out) and move back right to the top of a black ramp. Hand traverse the diagonal break starting level with the top of the ramp.

**Note:** RA/CA also climbed *Little Gem* (V. Diff \*) and *Right On* (E1/2 5b \*\*) in this small geo, which they called Slanting Geo.

### **Sgeir Rebrie (MR 132 396):**

This is the main part of glaciated domed cliffs on the north side of Geodha Mor Shleibhte. The highest point rises to 40m but is split by a slabby terrace just above half height.

The following route is found on the north side of the highest point. Descend stepped ground and a slabby ramp leftwards until able to cut back right under a short crag above high tide level.

*Short Changed* – 10m HVS 5a \*. F. Fotheringham, S. Howie. July, 1997.

Climb a steep right-angled corner crack.

The next route lies on the glaciated rocks of the upper tier. Descend slabby ground south of the highest point until able to move right under the top tier.

*Banking On It* – 18m VS 4c \*. F. Fotheringham, S. Howie. July, 1997.

Climb an open twisting groove/crackline bounding the right of the steep prow. Finish via an awkward crack in the steepening before the final easy slabs.

The following two routes are located at the south end of the crag, just on the change of aspect. Abseil access from a semi-buried block in a hollow of grass in the top easy angled slabs.

*Bostadh Groove* – 20m VS 4c \*\*. A. Cunningham, S. Howie. 19th May, 1999 (same as One for the Flatlanders, VS 4b, KA/AN).

From the semi-buried block, abseil through a slot in the edge and down the line of the route to barnacled rock at low tide, or a ledge on the right (facing) if the sea threatens. Follow the groove direct.

*To the Max* – 20m HVS 5b \*. A. Cunningham, S. Howie. 19th May, 1999 (same as Journey to the Edge, VS 5a, KA/AN)

Abseil to the left (looking out) of Bostadh Groove to a ledge above barnacle level. Climb stepped grooves heading for a seemingly wide crack through the top bulge. Reach over the bulge to discover there is not a crack, so pull through the bulge leftwards onto the easy slab to finish.

About 25m north of the previous routes a vague gully can be descended. This leads to a slab which is traversed leftwards (facing in) to a short corner. Reverse



the corner to the top of a ramp. The start of the route is a prominent chimney/groove to the right of the black arête.

*Return of the Absent Friend* – 40m HVS \*. A. Norton, K. Archer (alt). 24th July, 2001.

1. 20m 5a Climb the chimney/groove to a ledge at its top. Take the left hand layback crack (crux) to a large ledge.
2. 20m 4c Climb the slab using a huge undercut flake to a corner. Climb this and a short layback to finish.

*Bosta'in* – 40m VS \*. K. Archer, A. Norton (alt). 27th July, 2001.

From the start of *Return of the Absent Friend*, descend another short corner to gain sea level ledges. Walk left (facing in) and the route starts in the centre of the wall just right of a rock pool.

1. 25m 4c Step on to the wall and gain a left-rising ramp. Follow this, then up a corner to a ledge beneath an overhang.
2. 15m 4b Take the chimney and corner at the back of the stance.

### **TRAIGH NA BERIGH (SMCJ 2000, pp328-330):**

*Chippy Sweetie* – 15m E7 6b \*\*\*. D. MacLeod, S. Richardson. 12th June, 2001. This excellent wall climb takes the smooth wall between Barrier Reef and Chnipp Fit. Climb Barrier Reef to its first pocket. Dyno to another pocket a long way up and right and continue rightwards to a horizontal (small cams). Climb up and left with difficulty using flanges and a pocket to reach another break (small wire). Finish directly. Technical and sparsely protected climbing. Abseil inspected, then flashed.

*Rouge Traighder* – 15m E5 6b \*\*. D. MacLeod. 12th June, 2001.

Start between Tunes of Glory and Barrier Reef, below some curving overlaps. Climb direct through the bulges and move up the pocketed wall above (bold) to reach the good protection crack of Barrier Reef. Continue up with a hard move to gain a thin horizontal. Move up and left to join and finish up the last few moves of Tunes of Glory. On sight first ascent.

**Note:** D. MacLeod and N. McNair made on-sight repeats of other routes on the crag, noting that Tunes of Glory is E5 6b, not E6 6b. Barrier Reef is E5 6a, not E6 6a/b. Berie Berie is E4 6a, not E5 6b and S. Richardson notes that Milk Traigh is E3 5c/6a, not E2 5c/6a.

Separately, G. Latter notes that he thought Barrier Reef to be E5 6a \*\*\*; Tunes of Glory, E5 6b \*\*; Berie-Berie, E4 6a \*\*.

### **MUNGARSTADH AREA:**

#### **Painted Geo:**

The following routes lie on the black wall on the south side of the geo, left of the descent, towards the back of the geo. The wall is split into two parts by an area of rockfall higher up, on the left of which is an obvious flakeline/wide crack.

*Coal Mining* – 40m E3 5c/6a. R. and C. Anderson. – 30th June, 2001.

The crackline up the left side of the left-hand section of the wall. A few good difficult moves up the crack leads to deteriorating rock up which one is forced to

climb to reach unpleasant ground and then a shelf. The rock on the headwall is poor; escape rightwards along the shelf.

*At the Face* – 30m E1 5a \*. R. and C. Anderson. 30th June 2001.

The crack and ledges just left of centre on the right-hand section of the wall. Gain a ledge, move up to a spike and continue directly above past ledges and flat holds to reach a slab, finishing up this and going rightwards on the shelf.

### **Aurora Geo, The Cioch Wall:**

**Note:** From R. Everett: Things are Looking Up is better at E2, rather than 'at the upper limit of E1'. In some ways it is more complex and intimidating (although technically easier) than the neighbouring E3, The Roaring Foam. This route is low in the E3 grade (obvious moves and well protected).

### **Magic Geo, East Face:**

**Note from R. Everett:** *Flannan Slab Direct:*

This would seem to be far from direct. The start that most fits the description is actually from the lowest right point of the Red Wall, round to the left of the main slab, best approached by an abseil down the Red Wall. The 'hand-traverse' of the original 'Direct' description appears to be above the large slanting overhang. This is probably what confused the people who claimed 'Bubbles', which is probably a combination of a line just left of Flannan Slab, joining the upper section of the 'Direct' at half height. The following line probably starts further left than Bubbles, and is probably the most appropriate description for 'Flannan Slab Direct'. The grade was rather knarly E1 5b on the day (for the bottom 5m), and would be so whenever the lowest rocks are slimy (which is probably quite often). The 3 stars are well merited. The description fits the alternative start mentioned for F.S.D. If Flannan Slab Direct is described like this, 'Bubbles' disappears, as it must cover essentially much the same ground.

*Flannan Slab Direct* – 45m E1 5b \*\*\*.

Start near the left end of the wall, beneath the mid-point of a large slanting overhang 15m up the wall. Climb a shallow groove with difficulty (crux) to better holds in another groove that leads to a large ledge on the left arête below the left-hand end of the large slanting overhang. Step back down and traverse right to easier ground, then move up to the foot of a series of left-facing flakes and corners. Follow these up and left, then climb the slab just right of the final arête to the top.

### **Hidden Geo:**

*Stormin Norman* – 35m E1 5b \*\*. R. and C. Anderson. 11th July, 2001.

Slightly eliminate but very good climbing taking the arête and crackline just left of the open corner of Spiny Norman. Step on to the left arête and climb this until forced up right into the crack and continue up this until forced into the corner at the top.

### **ISLIVIG AREA, AIRD FENISH, Aird Point:**

A small but perfect crag on the south-western tip of the Aird Fenish headland.

*Tidal Rave* – 20m E4 5c \*\*\*. R. and C. Anderson. 14th July, 2001.

The left-hand route. From the plinth at the left side of the wall descend a short



way to a small ledge just above the high tide mark. Step into a crackline and climb this to a break, then go steeply up right to where it fades at an obvious hold (small but awkward to place wires). Pull through the quartzzy section and finish directly.

*Wave Dancing* – 25m E4 5c/6a \*\*\*. R. and C. Anderson, D. Cuthbertson. 17th July, 2001.

A brilliant route up the crackline and slight depression in the centre of the wall. A handrail to the right of the line enables a side runner of sorts (more to stop one rolling into the seething sea than hitting the ground) to be placed in the flake crack of Top Tackle Tips. From a jug in the middle of the wall, boulder directly up pink quartzzy rock to a horizontal break (wire on right), continue to the roof, then up the same line to the top.

*Top Tackle Tips* – 25m E6 6a \*\*\*. D. Cuthbertson, R. Anderson. 17th July, 2001.

A very good route which packs a lot of climbing in on the final headwall. Start just right of WaveDancing where an obvious pedestal hold juts out. Hand traverse the hold, swing into a quartzzy crack and follow this up, then slightly right to a good foot ledge. Move up to the overlap and downward pointing tooth of rock. Launch up the wall, then up and out left just below the top to finish. Protection is adequate above the overlap but strenuous to place.

### **Mini-Geo:**

Immediately east of Aird Point is a small, narrow geo. When viewed from directly opposite on the platform just before the slabby descent to Aird Point the most obvious line is a long left-slanting corner-crack on greenish coloured rock.

*Greenstone Cowboy* – 15m E2 5b. R. and C. Anderson. 14th July, 2001.

The left-slanting corner-crack.

*Greensleeves* – 15m VS 4b \*. R. and C. Anderson. 14th July, 2001.

The slabby, stepped rib left of the crack. There is no gear until just below the top, but the climbing is easy and the rock good.

### **The Biorach Wall**

Three headlands project south/south-westwards into the sea on the Aird Fenish headland. Aird Point is the westernmost, this is the easternmost. Staca Biorach is the squat, crenellated sea stack just out in front of the crag. The crag is best viewed from directly opposite at Aird Point where it appears as a long black wall running the length of the promontory, from an area of cracks above a roof, past a slabby cracked section, through a recessed easier slabby section to finish at an area of cracks grooves and arêtes. The most identifiable feature at the right end is a dark V-slot.

### **Cracked Slabs Area:**

The first routes lie on the left-hand area of slabs which are seamed with cracks

*Dislocated Styles* – 30m E2/3 5c. R. and C. Anderson. 20th July, 2001.

From the pedestal ledge, climb up right to the roof and pull round its left side into a crack. Move up, then out right on to the edge and finish easily.

*Grunt* – 30m VS 5b \*. R. and C. Anderson. 20th July, 2001.

From the small ledge to the right of the pedestal ledge climb the crack through the roof and on up easier slabs.

**Recessed Slabs Area:**

This is the central area of recessed, easy-angled slabs. A corner bounds this area on the left and on the right.

*Dry Roasted* – 20m H. Severe/VS 4b \*\*. R. and C. Anderson. 18th July, 2001.

From the base of the right-bounding slabby corner of the recessed section, step right and climb the rib to the top.

**The V Area:**

This is the steeper area of grooves and arêtes on the right side of the promontory. Routes are described in relation to the deep V-slot, right to left from its base, then left to right.

*The Singularity* – 20m VS 5a \*. R. and C. Anderson. 19th July, 2001.

The deep V-slot. Bridge inside and at the junction take the left-hand exit.

*Black Hole* – 20m E1 5a \*\*. R. and C. Anderson. 19th July, 2001.

Move up into the deep V-slot and climb the black seams up the left wall.

*Anti Matter* – 20m E1 5a \*\*\*. R. and C. Anderson. 19th July, 2001.

The crackline running up the left wall at the entrance to the deep V-slot.

*Outer Limits* – 20m HVS 4c \*\*\*. R. and C. Anderson. 18th July, 2001.

The left arête of the deep V-slot.

*Biorach Corner* – 20m HVS 5a \*\*. R. and C. Anderson. 18th July, 2001.

The leaning corner left of the deep V-slot.

*Slightly Salted* – 20m E1 5b \*\*. R. and C. Anderson. 18th July, 2001.

Around the edge and left of the leaning corner, a slanting sharp crack leads to a finish up a short corner.

*Hyper Space* – 20m HVS 5a \*. R. and C. Anderson. 19th July, 2001.

At the entrance to the deep V-slot, bridge up, then transfer to cracks in the right arête and climb these until it is possible to swing around on to the frontal edge up which a finish is made.

*Left Black* – 20m E4/5 6a \*. R. and C. Anderson. 19th July, 2001.

The roof and black wall right of the entrance to the deep V-slot. Climb to the centre of the roof and place wires in a thin crack (Rock#5 sideways). Move left beneath the roof and reach up to holds on the left edge (RP#1). A difficult stretch gains small holds in the horizontal break and gear. Climb the left arête to the top.

*Right Black* – 20m E4/5 6a \*\*. R. and C. Anderson. 19th July, 2001.

Climb to the centre of the roof and place wires in a thin crack (Rock#5 sideways). Pull up past these to a hold at the end of the horizontal break and move up onto the right arête. Continue up this and finish more centrally. It is possible to traverse the horizontal break on to the previous route.

*Atlantic Highway* – 20m E1 5a \*\*. R. and C. Anderson. 18th July, 2001.

The outer arête to the right of the deep V-slot, the first half climbed on the left side the remainder on the right.



*Fulmar Loops* – 20m HVS 4c \*\*. R. and C. Anderson. 18th July, 2001.

The wide, recessed groove line with seamed rock just to the right. Climb the right side and finish more directly.

*Ebbing-out* – 20m VS 5a \*\*. R. and C. Anderson. 19th July, 2001.

The corner/groove line right of Fulmar Loops to finish directly up cracks.

*Flowing-in* – 20m Severe 4b \*\*. R. and C. Anderson. 19th July, 2001.

The corner/groove line just right of Ebbing-out.

### **TORCASO AREA, Fiavig Tarras:**

This is the fine Geo to the south of the summit cairn of Torcaso which runs virtually south to north at right angles to Torcaso Geo. A huge flake fault runs up diagonally right to left across the face beneath a steep wall split by a pair of thin tramline cracks. To the right is a corner groove, the right wall of which is split by a fine, steep crack. Then there is an edge and around this a right-angled corner before where the wall decreases in height and continues rightwards into the sea. The crocodile faultline mentioned in the guide is assumed to lie on the east-facing wall on the other side of the geo where there is a feature which matches this description.

*Dobhrainn* – 40m E2 5c \*\*. R. and C. Anderson. 8th July, 2001.

Start from the lowest ledge just above the sea. The wide cornerline running up the wall just left of the main diagonal fault. Move up and left into the corner and follow this past a difficult section to a ledge. Move up right to gain the edge of the fault, then continue up and leftwards to the top.

*Kelpie Dancing* – 40m E1 5b \*\*. R. and C. Anderson. 9th July, 2001.

Start from the lowest ledge just above the sea. Climb the flake in the front face of the huge flake/faultline. Move up leftwards and climb to the top of the flake. Continue up the fault and take the corner above, just right of the finish to Dobhrainn.

*The Big Easy* – 40m Severe \*. R. and C. Anderson. 8th July, 2001.

From the lowest ledges, climb up to the huge flake faultline and climb this to finish out rightwards on black rock.

*A Streetcar Named Desire* – 25m E5 6b \*\*\*. R. and C. Anderson. 8th July, 2001.

The thin tramline cracks in the centre of the west face. Start at the base of the fault. Climb the edge of the flake. Small wires protect the stretchy and blind placement of a Rock#8, or 7 in the base of the right-hand crack. Pull right past this, then step up left to the base of the left-hand crack which is climbed to the top.

Right of this steep wall are two cracklines right of a steep corner-groove, then an edge.

*Rhythm and Kelp* – 30m E4/5 6a \*\*\*. R. and C. Anderson. 20th July, 2001.

A superb route up the steep left-hand crackline, in between the groove and the edge.

*Harry Houdini* – 30m E2 5c. R. and C. Anderson. 8th July, 2001.

This takes the right-hand crackline to go up and around the edge and finish up a widening crack just left of a right-angled corner.

*Sandy Shaw* – 35m HVS 4c \*. R. and C. Anderson. 8th July, 2001.

The right-angled corner, gained from low down up a short crack leading into a V-groove and easy ground to its base.

*Barnacle Bill* – 35m HVS 4c \*. R. and C. Anderson. 8th July, 2001.

Immediately to the right of the start of the previous route, climb a short, steep crack then easier broken ground to finish up a parallel crack just left of a corner.

### **The Pool Walls:**

These are the walls around the lovely tidal pool mentioned in the guide, on which three routes were climbed in 1997.

*The Butchers Dog* – 25m VS 4c \*\*. R. and C. Anderson. 13th July, 2001.

This is located on the northern edge of The Pool Wall. Scramble round to the northern seaward edge and belay at the foot of a chimney-fault with a prominent arête above it. Step left on to the edge and after a few moves on pink quartz swing left and climb the obvious crack to the top.

*The Butcher* – 25m HVS 4c \*\*. R. and C. Anderson. 9th July, 2001.

The prominent arête above the chimney-fault. Step left on to the edge to climb pink quartz and move around on to the right-hand side in the middle. Continue up the arête to a sloping ledge. Move right and climb the right side of the upper arête to the top.

The following three routes, as with those on the right side of the wall are tightly packed together but nonetheless offer good climbing.

*Northern Exposure* – 25m VS 4c \*\*. R. and C. Anderson. 13th July, 2001.

Climb a wide crack to a ledge as for Southern Comfort. Step left and climb a short crack to a sloping ledge, then climb a short corner to another sloping ledge and finish up the left-hand parallel groove.

*Southern Comfort* – 25m HVS 4c \*\*. R. and C. Anderson. 9th July, 2001.

The line of the abseil, taking the left-hand side of the main, leaning central section of The Pool Wall. Climb a wide crack to a ledge then take the wide corner crack to a sloping ledge. Step right across the void and climb the right-hand groove running up the left side of the headwall.

*Tomb Raider* – 25m E4/5 6b \*\*. R. and C. Anderson. 13th July, 2001.

The steep cracks running up the left side of the central leaning wall. Climb to the ledge just right of the corner of Southern Comfort and climb the thin cracks in the wall (a touch eliminate with back-stepping out left avoided, hence the grade) to pull onto a shelf. Climb tramline cracks up the wall and where these veer off right move up with difficulty and pull directly onto the shelf above. Cracks in the left side of the tombstone lead to the top.

Then the three routes climbed in 1997.

*Stepping Out* – 20m E2 5c/6a \*\*. R. and C. Anderson. 13th July, 2001.

On the opposite (south) side of the pool is a tower-like feature with a diagonal



crack running up it. Further right, just beyond the easy slabs is another tower-like feature, just left of a chimney, with a series of stepped corners running up it. Climb a short crack to gain the first step, then follow the stepped corners and cracks to the top.

### **DALBEG:**

*Tweetie Pie Slalom* – 40m E5 6a \*\*\*. D. MacLeod, S. Richardson. 13th June, 2001.

This stunning route climbs the obvious logical finish to Neptune a Calling. Follow Neptune a Calling to where it moves right into the shallow corner, escaping into Neptune. Step left and climb direct just left of the corner to a roof. Move left under this to join the soaring diagonal crack. Follow this with good protection and sustained interest to the top.

**Note:** G. Latter repeated the route and agreed with the grade.

*Mercury and Solace* – 40m E5 6a \*\*. N. McNair, S. Richardson, D. MacLeod. 14th June, 2001.

This climb takes a line on the wall between Neptune and Wave Watcher, giving excellent but slightly escapable climbing. Start on the arête left of Wave Watcher. Climb to a ledge, step up into a groove and move left to a large pocket. Climb direct above this into another groove and move left to gain a crack line. Follow this (technical) to good holds below the start of a ramp. Follow the ragged diagonal crack on the left to gain the ramp and finish directly up the cracked wall above.

### **PABBAY, Banded Geo:**

*Prominent Nasty Looking Off-width Groove* – 50m E2 5b \*\*. I. Taylor, G. Stanworth. May, 2001.

The prominent off-width groove left of Blo' no Gael. Not nasty at all as it turns out.

### **Banded Geo, South Face:**

*Grey Cossack* – 30m VS 4c. J. Lyall, M. Davies. 14th May, 2001.

Climb the rib just right of Silver Fox, over a roof, up a left-facing corner and up flakes to the top.

*Shipping Views* – 35m E1 5b/c. M. Davies, J. Lyall. 14th May, 2001.

Climb the wall 3m right of Bye-bye to the Widows to break through the right end of the grey roof. Follow a crack up the right edge and corners to the top.

*Cereal Killer* – 35m HVS 5a/b. J. Lyall, M. Davies. 13th May, 2001.

The first line left of the recess at the right end of the ledge system. Climb a left-facing quartz corner, then cracks through a roof system.

*Corn Choked Corner* – 30m HVS 5a. J. Lyall, M. Davies. 13th May, 2001.

At the right end of the narrowing ledges is a recess. Climb the right-hand corner-crack, with a steep finish through a slot.

### **The Grey Wall:**

The wall round the edge from the Pink Wall, running into the deep recess containing Spit in Paradise and U-ei.

*Amber Nectar* – 75m E5 \*\*\*. R. Campbell, G. Latter (ground-up). 15th May, 2001.

A route of considerable character, climbing the right side of the wall. Start at the base of the left-facing groove at the right side of the wall.

1. 40m 6a Go up this, moving rightwards over two ledges to large flake. Move left and up on flakes into a hanging groove (possible belay). Traverse out left and up another flake system leading to a roof in the pegmatite band. Cross this on good holds on the right and traverse left along the wide slot with interest to swing round left to the edge of the wall.

2. 35m 5a Continue straight up, then leftwards, finishing by a short corner leading to a large roof. Pull out left and scramble to finish.

*Elysium* – 35m E4 6a \*\*\*. G. Latter, R. Campbell (on-sight). 13th May, 2001.

An excellent pitch up the prominent left-slanting groove bounding the right edge of the Grey Wall. Start from the belay at the end of pitch 1 of Spit in Paradise. Trend left and traverse left into an open chimney. Go up this, then an overhanging wall on large flakes leading to a left-facing groove. Climb this, stepping right at the top past a birdy ledge to the thread belay, as for Spit in Paradise.

**Note:** Spit in Paradise was repeated, incorporating the above new pitch (missing out the original crux pitch) – E4 5c, 6a, 6a – not E3 as in guide. The excellent top pitch up the “slabby wall” ascends corner through roofs up two grossly overhanging walls.

### **Rubha Charnain, Small Bouys Geo (MR 604 868):**

*Spicy Mayhem* – 20m E1 5b \*. R. I. Jones, F. Murray. 30th May, 1999.

This takes the centre of the wall between Third Groove and Designer Rib, keeping away from the crack on the left and the rib on the right.

*Lobstered Ross* – 20m VS 5a. F. Murray, R. I. Jones. 30th May, 1999.

From the belay for Friends in Tibet climb up to the right of the recess to a crack in a small overhang. Follow this to the top.

### **Shags Geo (MR 597 869):**

These routes are between Cracking Corner and a quartz patch that marks the start of Wok On The Wild Side. Five metres right of Cracking Corner is a vertical quartz line on a rib. Abseil from the triangular block as for Cracking Corner to a ledge just above sea level and below an overhang. The quartz line is directly above this.

*Truly Stunning* – 48m VS 4c \*. R. I. Jones, M. Snook. 31st May, 1999.

From the ledge step left and climb the vertical wall and small overhang on large jugs. Climb the centre of the left-hand wall of a corner to a large ledge. Climb through the roof above to the left of the triangular overhanging block.

*Quartz Waltz* – 48m VS 4c. R. I. Jones, M. Snook. 31st May, 1999.

From the ledge, step up and right. Make a hard move across and up to exit to the right of the overhang at 3m to join the quartz crack. Climb this and as it becomes less distinct step right on to an arête and climb this to a large ledge. Climb through the roof above to the right of the triangular overhanging block.



**Arch Wall, The Headwall (MR 592 873):**

Many of the existing lines were difficult to locate. The following two lines did not appear to have been climbed:

*Snipe Corner* – 25m Severe. M. Snook, J. Sanders. 1st June, 1999.

Start 1.5m right of Orang-Utang Klaus. Climb the right-facing corner/crack to the ledge and the crack in the wall above.

*Chilly Dick* – 25m VS 4c/5a \*. M. Gear, R. Benton. 2nd June, 1999.

Start at the lowest point of the Headwall, 10m right of the large flake. The crux is in the initial 3m. Continue straight up the slabby wall, avoiding steeper ground on the left, to join a ramp coming up from the right. Easy to the top. Better holds and protection than first appearances would suggest.

**Rubha Greotach, The Galley:**

At the top of the gully is a large boulder under a small corner left of an overhang. *Retreat Unthinkable!* – 8m E2 5b. R. I. Jones, G. Stein. 1st June, 1999.

Belay beneath the large boulder in the gully. Make a difficult move from the top of the boulder on to the wall right of a right-facing corner below an overhang. Protect with microwires and step up and rightwards to the right corner of the overhang and a horizontal faultline. Pull up and finish up the corner above.

The following route has come to light which was done a few weeks prior to the one above. It has essentially the same line to the roof but the grades are very different.

*A Cream of White Sauces* – 45m HVS. J. Cox, D. Haige. 1999.

Takes a left to right traverse line across the left-hand side of The Galley. Start on the large boulder of *Retreat Unthinkable*.

1. 15m 5a Step off the boulder pull into the hanging corner, then climb the wall to the roof (bold). Traverse right around the arête to a belay ledge.
2. 15m 4c Continue in the same line across The Complete Works to a belay in the corner of The Abridged Version.
3. 15m 4c Cross Wiggle Wall, taking the upper of the two horizontal breaks to continue around the arête to a ledge. Scramble to the top.

To the left of the boulder is a featured wall with a very large block on the left-hand side, which is detached from the wall. The Hatman takes the centre of the wall.

*The Hatman* – 9m HVS 4c. R. I. Jones, M. Snook, A. Callum. 4th June, 1999.

From a boulder in the middle of the wall step up and left, before climbing up and rightwards on the obvious holds to a left facing ledge flake. Poorly protected. Pull up on to a sloping ledge and climb the short wall above.

*Absolution* – 10m E1 5b \*. R. I. Jones, M. Snook. 4th June, 1999.

Start 2m left of The Hatman. Climb the right-facing hanging corner to a horizontal crack line. Climb the small crack line above to finish at the highest point on the wall.

To the left of the very big block is one of the descent routes.

*Squiggle* – 7m Severe. R. I. Jones. 4th June, 1999.

At the left corner of the block is a small crack line on the wall behind. Climb this.

*Squidge* – 7m Diff. R. I. Jones. 4th June, 1999.  
Climb the crack line 2m left of Squiggle.

**Rosinish Wall (MR 614 872):**

This is visible on the Rosinish Peninsula across the bay from the campsite. Some of these lines may have been climbed before, but we can find no record of this. In the middle of the crag is a large dark chimney. About 6m right of this is a black slab. On the right of this is an inverted V-groove and an overhanging nose.

*The Whoop Of The Aviator* – 11m E1 5b \*. G. Stein, A. Russell-Bolton, R.I. Jones. 3rd June, 1999.

Climb the overhang on the centre of the nose in a series of committing moves until easier ground at 3m. Continue up the easier crack above.

*Ticks Too* – 7m VS 4c. J. Sanders, A. Callum, M. Snook. 3rd June, 1999.  
Climb the right-facing corner 2m right of The Whoop of the Aviator.

*The Trouser's Last Stand* – 11m Severe 4a. A. Callum, J. Sanders, M. Snook. 3rd June, 1999.

Climb the right-facing corner 3m right of Ticks Too and to the left of a clean wall. Continue up the crack and the wall above.

*Oh No Not Another Tick* – 7m VS 4c. J. Sanders, A. Callum, M. Snook. 3rd June, 1999.

Four metres right of the Trouser's Last Stand is a wall capped by a small overhang. Climb the centre of the wall and then climb through the overhang on the left-hand side. Poorly protected.

**ERSIKAY, Rubha Basadearn (NF 802 104, MR from a GPS and the place names from the Hastwell guide to the islands):**

A south-east facing crag on the east coast of Eriskay, with numerous potential routes. It could well become more popular with the building of the new causeway linking the island to the north. It is clearly visible one mile north of Acairseid Mhor (if approaching that harbour by boat). The main crag is not tidally affected. It consists of several buttresses increasing in height towards the impressive overhangs at the right-hand end. Approach northward across rough ground along the coast from Acairseid Mhor or eastward, below Ben Scrien, by Loch Crakavaig. The bottom of the crag is easily approached from the left (south) end. From the left (south) end of the crag: after several shorter walls facing south, the first seaward facing buttress is narrow and square cut with a vertical crack guarded by a big jammed block at 3m. Right again is a set back area and then, starting half way up the crag is a prominent layback groove with a reddish right wall. The only route so far takes this.

*Eriskay Business* – 30m HVS 5a. P. Nugent, B. Bowdler, S. Harry. 29th May, 2001.

Pleasant and well protected climbing. Start beneath the groove, approx. 15m right (north) of the jammed block. Climb a cracked pillar and continue to a ledge beneath the groove. Climb the groove with increasing difficulty to an easier but steep exit.



From underneath the main crag a prominent undercut wall or 'snout' can be seen in profile, at sea level, on the point, 400m to the north. Beyond this is a series of short, steep walls. Numerous possibilities exist.

*Odalisque* – 15m HVS 5b. S. Harry, P. Nugent. 29th May, 2001.

Sheer pleasure and well protected. Approach down the south side of the snout, traverse under a short overhanging wall and another wall with an easy looking flake line. Around to the right is an obvious, black, right-angled corner with a 'stuck on' block at chest height, behind two huge sea-washed boulders. The route takes this corner. Start at the 'stuck on' block. Stepping on to the block, make a couple of steep moves and then continue more easily to the top.

**Note:** There is another, more tidally affected corner further right with an interesting looking, rising hand traverse in its right wall. The steep wall to the left of *Odalisque* will also go at a higher grade.

### **MINGULAY, Rubha Liath, Seal Song Wall:**

*The Wet Look* 45m E1 5b. K. Howett, L. Creamer. 21st May, 2001.

Climb the corner to the left of Durdle Huxter. Start on the sea level ledge as for that route. Climb the rounded rib on the left to enter a thin corner with a small ledge. Up this to a foot ledge at its top. Climb past the left edge of the large roof of Durdle Huxter and into the bigger corner which leads more easily to the top.

*Surfs-Up Direct Start* – L. Creamer, K. Howett. 21st May, 2001.

If the swell is too great to access the Durdle Huxter starting ledge, begin from a flat ledge projecting from a small but deep cave just left of Swell-time ledges. From the ledge climb the left rib and through the roof via a large flake crack to join the second pitch at the flake.

To reach the following routes, abseil from the cairn at the top of Power of the Sea to the natural ledge halfway down the cliff face. The first route takes the crack immediately on the left (facing into the cliff).

*Flying Hex* – 15m VS 4c \*. A. Callum, J. Sanders. 4th June, 1998.

Climb to a horizontal flake and move up into an open corner. Climb this to obvious twin cracks and follow these to the top.

The following routes are described moving right (facing in) or south-west from Power of the Sea.

*Solid Dude* – 18m HVS 5a \*\*. J. Sanders, A. Callum. 4th June, 1998.

Start below an obvious right-slanting crackline and climb it to a position beneath the daunting overhang (Hex#11 required). Fist jam the roof in a wild position and pull through strenuously to the top.

An airy but easy traverse right for 20m from Solid Dude leads around a right-facing corner; the next three routes are in this bay.

*Not Ali's Crack* – 15m E1 5b. F. Murray, J. Sanders. 4th June, 1998.

On the left wall there is an overhanging right-slanting crack starting at half height. Begin directly beneath this and ascend the wall via ledges, then attack the crack direct.

*Pumping Up* – 15m VS 4c. J. Sanders, A. Callum. 4th June, 1998.

Start as for Not Ali's Crack and move into the corner-crack on the right. Climb it direct, exiting left at the top.

*DoppelKratzer* – 15m HVS 5a. A. Callum, J. Sanders. 4th June, 1998.

Start in the centre of the right-hand bulgy wall at a thin crackline. Ascend the delicate crack (poorly protected) and make an awkward balance move (crux) up, and left to mantelshelf on to a ledge. Step right to finish.

### **Far Eastern Walls (MR 553 814):**

These 'Far Eastern Walls' may be the same as the area called 'Pink Wall' (see below), as they have the same Map Reference, but the routes have not been matched:

### **Far Eastern Walls (MR 553 814):**

200m east of the East Walls is a small red buttress on a tidal platform. The left of the buttress has a left-facing corner and roof. The routes are tidal.

*Mingulay Blazers* – 20m Severe. R. Jones. 7th June, 2001.

The obvious left-slanting crackline left of the roof.

*High and Dry* – 14m VS 5a. R. Benton, R. Jones. 5th June, 2001.

Takes the line on the left of the buttress and right arête of the corner. Move on to the arête from the left and climb to the top.

*Frodo's Frenzy* – 14m E1 5a \*\*. R. Jones, R. Benton. 5th June, 2001.

Two metres right of High and Dry. Step on to the undercut wall and climb to a small bulge, taken on the left. Go straight to the top to finish just left of a block forming a small left-facing corner.

*The Tide Waits for No Man* – 14m E2 5b/c \*. R. Jones, A. Dow. 7th June, 2001.

The undercut crackline 4m right of Frodo's Frenzy. Great climbing marred by a wet start (1 rest).

### **The Pink Wall (MR 553 814):**

This small crag lies to the east of Gierum Walls, just east of a narrow parallel sided geo. There is a tidal platform at the bottom. The crag is gained by descending a grassy slope next to the geo, via gently sloping slabby rock.

*The Corner* – 10m Severe. R. Wilby, D. Wilby. May, 2001.

The corner left of the pink wall.

*You Are Being Watched* – 10m H. Severe. R. Wilby, D. Wilby. May, 2001.

Four metres right of the corner is a small arête. Climb this and the wall above.

### **Dun Mingulay, Creag Dubh, Sloc Dubh an Duine:**

*Blonde Highlights* – 80m E3. L. Creamer, K. Howett. 20th May, 2001.

Climbs a line up the prominent vertical scooped recess that extends the height of the cliff about 50m left of Immaculate Crack. From the gulch in the large platform at the base of the crag, traverse left to gain smaller ledges leading to the recess.

1. 30m 5b Climb the white streaked corner in the right side of the recess. Step



right round the right arête into a smaller groove and a ledge. Continue directly up the steep bulge on to slabby rock. Trend left a little to a small break with an tiny overlap. Pull out rightwards across the smooth wall into a small shallow groove to gain a large ledge.

2. 40m 5a Climb directly up the wall and through bulges to gain a corner ramp leading rightwards to a ledge. Consecutive small shallow corners leads up grey rock, then step right to a belay under an obvious block forming a small roof.

3. 15m 5c Gain the block above. Stand on it and exit the bulge above rightwards with difficulty. Traverse right and finish next to a large pointed block.

*Grey on Blonde* – 85m E3. L. Creamer, K. Howett. 22nd May, 2001.

Climb a line between Big Momma and Blond Highlights and around the left-hand of the two large corner systems. Start below an obvious undercling flake between these two routes, but nearer Blonde Highlights.

1. 40m 5b Go up to the undercling. Pull through directly and up a shallow groove to step right at its top on to a small ledge (serious). Up slabby rock to the base of a shallow left-facing groove. Go up this and exit right. Traverse right and up the easy wall to the big left side of the big block on the ledge.

2. 45m 5c Go up the large corner to the big roof. By-pass it on the right and continue to a glaxis under a black roof. Pull over into a slim silver ramp. From its top gain a slim hanging groove above the bulge on the left which leads to a ledge. Climb up right to another ledge below the headwall, just left of Big Momma. From a small horizontal flake in the wall, pull steeply direct into an obvious finishing corner.

*Big Momma* – 85m E4. K. Howett, L. Creamer. 21st May, 2001.

Climbs a line up the right-hand of the two large corner systems between Immaculate Crack and Blond Highlights. Start at an obvious triangular corner / niche midway along the ledge from the gulch.

1. 40m 5c Go up the overhanging niche and exit left with difficulty. Climb a flake up to a ledge. Climb the broken overhanging groove just on the left leading into a conspicuous curving right-facing corner. Exit this rightwards and climb to the big block on Immaculate Crack.

2. 45m 6a Enter the large corner above. Follow it on good holds steeply to just below a capping roof. Take the slim corner on the right of the roof and at its top make desperate moves up a slim left-facing groove. Easier but steep rocks lead up and right to a ledge under the headwall and large roof (possible belay). Pull directly through the centre of the roof and up the wall slightly right into a very shallow groove. Exit right.

### **Sron an Duin:**

*Ride the Monster* – 110m E4. K. Howett, L. Creamer. 22nd May, 2001.

Climbs a line up the headwall above the roof and flying groove of Perfect Monsters. Start as for the Great Shark Hunt, below a slightly left-trending line of flakes and grooves.

1. 30m 5a Go up the flakes and discontinuous grooves to a small ledge about 5m below the big roof.

2. 25m 6a Continue to follow The Great Shark Hunt up to and through the big roof

leftwards to below the secondary roof. Instead of continuing to traverse left make hard moves right along the lip of the big roof to gain an open-book corner. Follow this to a small stance on the left arête.

3. 30m 5c Continue up the slimmer corner above for 3m, until a thin traverse line right can be taken to step on to an obvious small loose block. Step right again into the underclings under the roof. Follow these under the roof into a slight recess, then pull directly over to a good flake crack. Take this and the easy wall to a ledge.
4. 25m 4c Go up the wall direct to take a belay on a block back from the edge.

*Oceanside Expedition* – 200m E4 \*\*\*. S. Crowe, K. Magog. 21st May, 2001.

A right to left girdle of the main wall, which perversely starts by trending up and right by starting up Sirens.

1. 40m 5c Climb Sirens to belay in the niche.
2. 50m 5b Follow the handrail of jugs leftwards underneath the diagonal roof. Pull over at the left end on to the slab above. Climb up and left to reach the prominent left facing corner of the Silkie. Follow good holds left to move up as for Sula to gain a traverse line of good holds about 2m below the roof system. Follow these left to belay below the roof as for Hurried Path.
3. 50m 5c Continue left for about 5m until it is possible to step down 3m to a lower break. This eventually leads to Voyage of Faith. Follow this up and left to belay on a small ledge at the point where Voyage of Faith leads back right.
4. 30m 5c Step right then climb up to beneath the top roof where a good break leads leftwards through the hanging roofs in a spectacular position. Belay in a small niche above the roof.
5. 20m 5a Continue up the final headwall on jugs.

### **The Lost World:**

*The Dark Half* – 90m E1. D. Barlow, P. Donnithorne (alt). 4th August, 2000.

The area of rock in the back of the natural arch behind Lianamul. The walls are black and can be seen easily from the neck of land attaching Dun Mingulay to the mainland.

The route lies on the large cliff just north of the 'neck' and south of the arch. Abseil 90m down walls and corners starting 40m north of the railing in the 'neck' to gain a damp niche.

1. 35m 5a Climb the corner to a ledge on the right.
2. 30m 5a Move left and follow the next corner to a ledge on the right.
3. 25m 5a From the top of the ledge, climb directly to a grass terrace. Finish up a short overhanging corner.

### **Dun Mingulay, Time Out Buttress (MR 543 819):**

Unsure how the next route relates to existing ones (Ed). 200m east of the abseil point for Fifteen Fathoms of Fear are two large and rather precarious buttresses, both split by left-facing corners. They provide an alternative when wind prevents climbing on the main cliff. Time Out Buttress is the lower of the two.

*De-institutionalisation* – 25m HVS 5a \*. R. Jones, A. Dow. 7th June, 2001.

Surprisingly solid climbing. Climb the left-facing corner which ends at mid-height with a roof. Step right and after 2-3 m traverse left above the roofed corner. Pull through on large jugs. Step right and climb the right-facing corner to the top.



**Arnamul Promontory (SMCJ 2001, p594):**

*Keeping Wullie Busy* – 75m H. Severe 4b. A. Callum, I. Hall. 3rd June, 2001.

Start 10m left of the abseil just right of a twin crack system.

1. 25m Climb up and left on good jugs to reach the right-hand of twin cracks. Follow this for 20m to a large ledge.
2. 25m Move up to the right of a downward-pointing flake. Step delicately right on to a slabby wall to gain a groove and good holds. Continue for 20m to a recess on a large ledge.
3. 25m Climb directly out of the recess. Traverse right on a vegetated ledge to avoid a fulmar colony before moving up to the abseil block.

*Rapid Deterioration* – 75m Severe. C. Mortimer, A. Dow. 3rd June, 2001.

Climb the nice crack about 4m right of *Keeping Wullie Busy*. After 15-20m the crack deteriorates. Follow the most solid route to the top.

*Puffin Patrol* – 75m H. Severe 4c \*. I. Hall, M. Snook. 4th June, 2001.

Start 10m right of the abseil at a shallow quartz-backed groove.

1. 25m Ascend the groove, moving left to gain a crack and small chockstone. Move past the chockstone (crux) and continue easily to the top of a right-slanting ledge.
2. 35m Turn a small overhang above on the left and step back right to a ledge. Climb a steep wall on superb holds to a large ledge.
3. 15m Traverse left along the ledge until a rib of good rock can be followed to the abseil block.

**Guarsey Beag, Black Geo:**

*The Ebony Slipper* – 60m E3 and A0. P. Donnithorne, D. Barlow (alt.). May, 2001.

An atmospheric route left of *Journey to Ixtlan*. Abseil down the overhanging arête to a pink knobbly nose 15m above the sea (keep bouncing).

1. 20m 5c Traverse right on rounded lumps to a corner-crack and move up for a few metres to a resting place. Swing wildly up and right to a stance on a slab by a niche below the left-hand huge overhanging corner.
2. 40m 5c/A0 Follow the exposed ramp up left to a crack/groove and go up to the left end of the roof. Go up with difficulty and aid into the slim hanging corner in the left arête of the huge corner. Go up this thankfully to the top.

**Guarsay Mor, Morning Wall:**

*Mourning After* – 85m E1. H. Hunt, K. Howett. 13th September, 2001.

Climbs the wall directly right of *Morning Glory*. Start 5m down and right of that route, just left of a shattered raised ledge.

1. 30m 5b Climb to level with the top of the shattered ledge. Step right and up a black cracked wall to gain the centre of a horizontal cave. Struggle up the pure jam crack issuing from the centre of the cave roof to gain another smaller cave. Pull directly over this to a big ledge and block.
2. 55m 5a Climb past the block to a blackened wall. Climb it slightly rightwards and into a left-facing groove. At its top, step left through a bulge to gain a ledge. Climb the groove-ramp and step out left and up to gain the base of a curving overlap. Pull out right onto the wall and follow a direct line to the top.

*The Knight Before* – 80m E1. N. Stabbs, H. Harris. 2001.

Climbs a direct line up the wall following the distinctive features of a right-facing corner in the centre of the face and a rightward leaning arching groove near the top of the wall. Start 10m down and right of Mourning After at an orange patch of rock and a projecting block at 5m.

1. 40m 5a Climb the wall direct, passing between two caves at 35m. Follow a steeper section to a good ledge below the right-facing corner.
2. 40m 5b Climb the corner and then direct up the wall, passing a pegmatite band to a steep pull into the leaning groove. Go up this, then easy rock to blocks on a broken ramp.

The following route lies on the far right of this wall:

*Treading on Eggshells* – 25m VS 4c. K. Martin, T. Wood. 2001.

Start at the base of an obvious right-slanting corner at the right-hand end of Morning Wall and gained by descending the obvious block-filled gully. Climb the corner.

Also near here in the back of the geo to the east of Morning Wall is the following:

*Freddie Fulmars Funky Food Franchise* – 60m HVS. T. Wood, K. Martin. 2001.

Start 50m left of an obvious chimney groove at the back of the geo, directly opposite a chimney high up on the other side of the geo. Abseil down to a ledge 2m below a square-cut roof.

1. 25m 5a Climb direct back up the corner and over the roof to a large belay ledge.
2. 35m 5a Climb the steep crack at the back of the ledge into a groove which leads to the top.

This is thought to be near *Pot of Gold* (A. Cave, C. Waddy, 1998)

### **Guarsay Mor, Cobweb Wall:**

These are near Cuan a' Bochan (2000):

*Salvaged* – 100m VS. R. Mackenzie, T. Sweeney. 2001.

Start from the pink streaked ledge.

1. 45m 5a Climb a steep left-facing corner. Trend left when the angle eases, for about 15m. Then go direct over the lip of a roof and onto a flat black wall. Continue to a grass terrace and belay at the foot of the left corner of a giant yellow flake.
2. 45m 5a Climb direct up the corner to the top of the flake. Then continue direct up feldspar to the top.

*Bills Yellow Edge* – 110m HVS. R. Mackenzie, T. Sweeney. 2001.

Follows the very edge of the wall to the right of the cobweb section itself. From the first ledge system take an abseil down the edge all the way to a large ledge.

1. 35m 5b Climb rounded jugs heading to the roof above and to the left. Exit the roof on the right and follow a rising left traverse to gain the foot of the yellow corners.
2. 35m 4c Up the corners and then trend left to gain a left rising crack. Follow the shoulder up to a large ledge.
3. 40m 5a Keeping on the edge, follow rounded rock past a yellow scoop. Continue on to the grass terrace.



**Guarsay Mor, The Arena:**

Found near the routes The Breach (2000), Cuan a' Cheo (2000) and Arch Angel (2000).

*Ken, The Fire* – 80m HVS. K. Martin, T. Wood. 2001.

Abseil from a boulder in front of a corner on the sloping grass terrace in the centre of The Arena, to reach a peapod-shaped groove 25m below a large roof.

1. 45m 5b Climb out of the groove, up the wall to the roof. Turn it on the left into a deep groove. Follow this to a hanging stance on a ramp 5m right of big ledges.
2. 35m 5a Exit through the roof above and trend right to a groove. Climb this and continue up the wall to finish.

**Note:** Three routes recorded as on West Face of Guarsay Mor (SMCJ 2001, p601), also known as The North Pillar, sound similar to the following:

Entebbe Sailing Club may be the same as No Puke Here?

The Grass is Singing may be the same as Alzheimer's Groove or be just to its right?

Hoon Bird sounds the same as Grey Rib?

**Guarsay Mor, The Boulevard:**

This is the name now adopted for the area of good rock of initial explorations near the end of the point (Ossian Boulevard and Lost Souls). Also Man Overboard (SMCJ 2001, p601).

*The Mushroom of My Fear* – 50m E3. R. Durran, C. Henderson. 2000.

Five metres right of Hill You Hoe is a left-facing corner capped by a small roof at 10m.

1. 15m 6a Climb the corner and the roof and short wall above with difficulty to gain the right end of the Ossian Boulevard ledge.
2. 35m 5b Climb up and slightly leftwards for a few metres, then slightly rightwards before continuing directly through some entertaining bulges to reach easier ground. Sustained.

The following two routes are to be found right on the tip of the headland. Abseil off the NW tip of Guarsay Mor to a large tidal ledge.

*Aqualung* – 45m Severe. D. Wilby, R. Wilby. 2001.

Slightly right of the abseil are two crack lines. Climb the left-hand crack.

*Soggy Chalk* – 45m Severe. R. Wilby, D. Wilby. 2001.

This climbs the crack and chimney left of Aqualung and then direct up the wall to the top.

**Shags' Point:**

From the tip of the point along its west wall (previously called Guarsay Beag, Central Promontory) into the back of a slight geo (previously called Wee Geo, but there is another Wee Geo) is all being referred to as Shags' Point.

The first four routes are such obvious lines that they may have been climbed before but don't seem to fit any descriptions (says M. Radtke). Abseil to ledges 4m above the sea and 5m right of the hole as described in the guide p139 (looking into the cliff).

*The Wine Box Nomads* – 35m VS 4c. I. Cooksey, M. Radtke. 29th May, 2001.  
Climb the wall directly above the stance on perfect clean juggy rock. Climb through a small roof and bridge up the obvious open book corner above.

*Gobling Groove* – 35m VS 4c. P. Donnithorne, D. Barlow. May, 2001.  
The wall and rib between *The Wine Box Nomads* and *Derek the Shaman*.

*Derek the Shaman* – 35m VS 4c. M. Radtke, I. Cooksey. 29th May, 2001.  
From the same stance traverse 3m right and climb direct on perfect juggy rock to enter the yellow lichen-coloured grooves immediately right of the obvious open book corner. (This route appears as a line of thin flakes from the opposite promontory.)

Abseil down *The Shield* to reach:

*Condemned to Happiness* – 40m VS \*\*\*. J. Sanders, M. Snook. 1st June, 1998.  
From the bottom of *With a view to a Shag*, make an easy sea level traverse left (facing into the cliff) for 10m (Diff.), then move around a corner for about 5m until there is an obvious left-facing corner capped by a large black overhang. Belay here.

1. 20m 4c Climb the chimney beneath the overhang, and attack it direct (strenuous and easier on the right). Continue up the crack above to an obvious small platform.
2. 20m 5a There are two clearly defined slanting grooves above. Move right and pull up (strenuous) into the right-hand one (crux). Climb this to the top.

*Pecking Order* – 70m VS. J. Sanders, M. Snook. 1st June, 1998.

1. 25m 4b From the bottom of *Easy Day for a Shag*, make a rising traverse right (facing in) to an obvious bird-filled cave, marked by the guano streaks issuing from it. To the right is a prominent overhanging prow.
2. 20m 4c Attack the prow direct (crux) and continue straight up until just below the cliff top.
3. 25m 4a Traverse back left beneath the cliff top to the top of the abseil point.

*Puffin Threesome* – 45m VS 4b. A. Callum, S. Gardner. 1st June, 1998.

1. 25m 4b As for pitch 1 of *Pecking Order* to the cave To the left is a prominent corner.
2. 25m 4b Climb the corner to the top.

The following routes are in the much less defined geo that forms the west face of Shags Point. It can be viewed easily by descending a slight rib midway between the black wall on Black Geo and Shags Point itself. Looking from the south side of the geo, the cairn and grooves below it are obvious. Equally obvious is the huge right-to-left diagonal crack. A vertical fault line also rises from the same source (just above sea level). The following routes all start from a large ledge 10m above the sea (50m abseil).

*Scragging Shags* – 50m E1 5a. P. Donnithorne, D. Barlow. May, 2001.

Fine climbing on a strong line. From the large ledge, climb the diagonal crack leftwards to a larger ledge with a pink vein crossing it. Continue in the same line to an exposed rib; launch up and right into a hanging corner to finish over a small capping roof.



*Pleasurable Puffins* – 50m E1 5b. P. Donnithorne, D. Barlow. May, 2001.

Follow the previous route to the pink vein ledge, then take a steep crack up right to a roof, swing round it on the right and traverse left above it. Climb a rib and finish over large flakes.

*The Screamer* – 50m HVS. E. Alsford, N. Doust (alt.). May, 2001.

1. 20m 4b From the ledge, step right into the vertical fault line and follow it for 15m to a good ledge on the right.

2. 30m 5a Climb up above the belay, then through a bulge and up to the top.

*Fulminating Fulmars* – 65m E2. P. Donnithorne, E. Alsford (alt.), D. Barlow. May, 2001.

A fine varied route.

1. 25m 5b From the ledge, step right across the fault, then traverse along a faint break to a hidden crack/groove. Go up this, then steeply up rightwards to the centre of the ledge.

2. 40m 5a From the right end of the ledge, climb steeply up on huge holds to an exposed groove. Trend rightwards over blocks to finish up an obvious slabby wall.

### **Wee Geo, Tarmacadam Wall:**

Wee Geo defines the east side of Shag's Point. Its west wall is called Tarmacadam Wall and its east wall is called Ryan's Wall. The much less defined geo that forms the west face of Shags Point has also in the past been called Wee Geo. Tarmacadam Wall contains the route Bird in the Nest (1998). This route climbs the most obvious 'S'-shaped crack towards the left end of the wall. A small tidal ledge sits near its base. Towards the right side of the wall is an obvious right-facing corner extending the full height and containing a conspicuous protruding block near the top. Sea-washed ledges sit at its base (uncovered at low tide). Just left of the base of the corner and about 3m above the high tide level is a sloping glacis. The following route starts here and the next route has the same access. Gain the glacis by an abseil from a huge block on the top of the hillside above.

*All Weather Seal 'unt* – 35m HVS. K. Howett, H. Hall. 11th September, 2001.

1. 15m 5a Climb into the hanging corner in the top of the glacis past one ledge and on to another and an impass. Gain flakes out on the steep wall on the right. Follow them to their end and pull on to the wall above. Go up to a big ledge and large block.

2. 20m 5a Stand on a raised ledge above the block. Gain the vertical fault in the wall above and follow it with a tricky pull on to a sloping ledge below a final overlap. Pull over direct and gain slabs to finish.

*Ron the Seal's Quick Drying Wall Climb* – 35m HVS. N. Stabbs, H. Harris. 2001. Abseil from a large block well back on top of the promontory down the wall to the left of the large corner to gain a glacis about 3m above high tide level. It does exactly what it says on the tin!

1. 15m 4c From the left end of the glacis, climb the left wall of the corner to a ledge and follow the arête and corners directly to the halfway ledge.

2. 20m 5a Follow the central crack for 2m then gain a small ledge out left. Climb the striated wall direct to the top.

### **Creag Dhearg, The Right Wall:**

The following routes start from the central belay ledge on Creag Dearth. It is important to keep swinging during the 40m abseil in order not to miss the central belay ledge.

*A Deathly Hush* – 40m E3 5c. K. Magog, S. Crowe. 25th May, 2001.

From the far left end of the ledge, follow the ramp to reach a prominent V-shaped groove. Climb the left arête of this to reach a ledge. Pull on to the ledge and tentatively traverse right along the detached flake for about 4m to pull into the base of a slim right facing corner. Bold. Follow the corner to the top. A direct start is possible at 6b but the rock is dubious.

*Little Miss Sitting Pretty* – 40m E5 6a. S. Crowe, K. Magog. 21st May, 2001.

From the centre of the ledge take a leftward rising line to gain the left side of a ledge below the pair of right-facing grooves. Follow the left-hand groove and continue directly with increasing difficulty above the groove until below the left extremity of the final roofs. Ignoring the possibility to escape left, step right and pull over the roof and up the final headwall on jugs.

*Big Chief Turning Bull* – E4 6a (SMCJ 2001 p599)

Existing route following the right-hand of the pair of right-facing grooves.

*Fulmar Squaw* – E3 5c (SMCJ 2001 p599)

Existing route following two prominent curving flakes.

*The Road to Nowhere* – 40m E3 5c. K. Magog, S. Crowe. 21st May, 2001.

Climb rightwards from the ledge for about 4m to gain a vaguely scooped grey shield of rock. Follow the faint scoop to the ledge. From here climb the black scoop above to a good break. Traverse right slightly to gain a slim right facing ramp line. Follow this up and left until it reaches Fulmar Squaw. Finish as for Fulmar Squaw on increasingly good holds.

### **Tom a' Reithean Peninsula, Haunted Geo (MR 573 847):**

After passing the top of the largest geo on the east coast of Tom a' Reithean, start to head east. A large grassy rake should soon be found; this should be followed down southwards and then back northwards until large ledges and a large high level sea cave are found about 30m above the sea. The routes lie on either side of a low-level cave. The first two routes are accessed by abseil, via an obvious groove onto a small ledge above high water mark on the right-hand side looking in of the cave. The geo is an almost perfect U-shape.

*Spectre Grooves* – 20m V. Diff. S. Porteus, T. Catterall. 2001.

Start at the large left-facing corner at the right end of the ledge. Climb a series of grooves passing a roof by its right-hand side at half height. Continue up the groove to the top, an excellent route.

*Ghost Ship* – 25m HVS 5a. T. Catterall, S. Porteus. 2001.

From the left end of the ledge, climb the undercut corner immediately right of the cave and follow small grooves to a quartz band. Follow the crack above and gain the slab, follow the crack to the top.



The next two routes are accessed by descending down sloping ledges heading south from the top of Spectre Grooves. From the ledge at the bottom of this, traverse round the corner to the right when looking in.

*The Exorcist* – 30m E4 6a. T. Catterall, S. Porteus. 2001.

Start from the right-hand end of the ledge. Make an airy traverse around the corner towards the cave. Climb the corner and crack above to a small square topped pillar. Hard moves lead right across the wall to the right-hand end of the roof, easier climbing above leads to the top.

The next route lies south of the descent ramp and is accessed by an excellent sea level traverse on large holds. Follow the traverse until a deep cut narrow geo is reached. 4m back the way you have come is the prominent rib of Maire Celeste.

*Marie Celeste* – 40m Diff. S. Porteus, T. Catterall. 2001.

Climb the prominent rib past a light coloured rock band at half height to easy ground in a superb situation.

### **The Crags North East of the Bay, Waterfall Geo:**

This is the next geo north of Geo an Droma. Its south wall is composed of easy slabs offering a full view of the main wall which faces south. The main features are a well defined left-facing corner on the right, two vertical chimneys to its left and a steep pink feldspar wall with twin cracks left again, before the wall steepens up further into the back of the geo. There are no ledges at the base and it drops into deep water. Access is by descending the easy slabs down to the point and traversing back into the geo at sea level (Diff).

*Wandering Soul* – 20m V. Diff. K. Howett. 1999.

The left-facing corner.

*Dressed to the Right* – 20m Severe. K. Howett. 1999.

The cracks in the right wall of the corner.

*Dressed to the Left* – 20m Severe. K. Howett. 1999.

The wall just to the left of the corner.

*Gneiss Slot* – 20m V. Diff. R. Mackenzie. 2001.

The chimney crack to the left.

*Flysheet Minch Crossing* – 20m VS 5a. R. Mackenzie. 2001.

Left of the chimney. Climb up over bulges to an offwidth slot. Struggle up this and continue direct.

*Island Madness* – 40m HVS 5a. R. Mackenzie. 2001.

Traverse left under all the previous routes. Once past Flysheet Minch Crossing, take a rising diagonal crack climbs over bulges to gain further juggy cracks up the feldspar wall.

Also recorded here, but as yet their relationship to the above is uncertain:

*Another V. Diff!* – 12m V. Diff. R. Jones. 2001.

4m right of the corner.

*Not So V.Diff!* – 12m H.Severe 4b. R. Jones. 2001.  
2m left of the corner. Direct through the roof.

*Anticipatory Diffness!* – 12m V.Diff. R. Jones. 2001.  
Direct up the wall 2m right of the corner.

### **Basking Seal Geo:**

*The Shag Who Spied Me* – 40m E4 5c. S. Crowe, K. Magog. 26th May, 2001.  
The steep wall, starting just left of the prominent groove, and then crossing the lightning- shaped feature at the roof. Pull through the roof and up the final headwall on jugs.

*(Not Another) Northumbrian Wall* – 40m E4 6a. S. Crowe, K. Magog. 26th May, 2001.

The steep wall just right of the lightning-shaped groove via a faint twin crack system to a break at two thirds height. Step right and continue up the final groove on good holds.

### **MULL, Sron Gharbh (wrongly called Creag Liath previously):**

*Unnamed* – 15m E2 5b/c. B. Davison, C. Moody 30th August, 2001.

At the right end of the crag is a huge ivy. Climb the rib just left of it, traverse left and continue up the rib proper.

*Wull's Exam Fiasco* (SMCJ 2001) was climbed by C. Moody and A. Soloist.

### **Balmeanach:**

*Baby Kissing Tour* – 20m E1 5a/b. C. Moody, R. MacKechnie. 2001.

Right of Mur Sans Spit is a corner crack, start just left of it. Climb up with runners in the corner crack, near the top finish up a thin flake crack on the left.

### **Ardchrishnish:**

*Cabin Fever* – 12m E1 5b. C. Moody, C. Black. 2001.

Shallow corner right of First Route.

*Fievere* – 10m VS 5b. C. Moody. 2001.

The rib right of Floral Arrangement, with a thin start.

*Egg Hunt* – 12m HVS 5a \*. C. Moody, C. Black. Easter, 2001.

Start up Honeysuckle Wall and continue up the corner above instead of going left.

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

**Note:** *Thick Head* (SMCJ 2001) has a corrected description:

Climbs the thin crack left of Greased Lightning. Start left of Greased Lightning, climb up easily then step left to gain the thin crack which is followed to the top. Thin in the lower half, bolder in the upper half.

### **Scoor, Eilean Garbh:**

Left of Stranded Arête is a chimney; the rib between them is HVS 5a. The crack left of Quartz Rib is Severe. The broad rib left again is VS 4b and there is a



descent chimney left of it. Right of Black Chimney, a route climbs quartz lumps at VS 4b.

### **Scoor, Smelly Bay:**

*That Stinks* – 12m E2 5b. C. Moody, C. Grindley. 2001.

Start round left of A Fetid Stench. Climb a steep flake crack, move up right to gain a rib, then traverse left and finish straight up. Low in the grade.

### **Ardtun, The Nuclear Cliff:**

*Hot Spots* – 15m HVS 5a. C. Moody, C. Black. 24th September, 2001.

The crack between Half Life Dangleberry and Hot Stuff.

### **Ardtun, Yellow Block:**

*Drizzle* – 10m VS 4b \*. C. Moody. 15th May, 2001.

Crack left of The Edge Of Madness.

*Heat* – 10m VS 4b \*. C. Moody. 24th May, 2001.

Crack left of Drizzle.

*Unnamed* – 14m VS/HVS \*. C. Moody. 2001.

Corner crack left of Everything He Hates About Climbing.

*White Heather Club* – 10m VS 4c \*. C. Moody, A. Malloy, C. Black. 31st July, 2001.

A crack right of Everything He Hates About Climbing.

*Jesie Peeps* – 10m HVS 5a \*. C. Moody, A. Malloy, C. Black. 31st July, 2001.

Another crack to the right.

### **Ardtun, The Blow Hole:**

*100* – 13m VS 4b \*. C. Moody. 13th September, 2001.

Start just right of Oot Ma Rays and follow the crack slanting up right.

### **Erraid, Upper Tier:**

**Note:** The short wall just left of the prominent blunt arête at the left end of the crag (between The Gopher Hole and One Dead Puffin) was climbed at 6a (serious) – Trapezium – by J. Lines and G. Latter (on-sight) on 16th July, 2001.

*Chickenhead* – 10m E2 5c \*. G. Latter. 16th July, 2001.

The groove and short steep crack right of the slab where the crag changes direction and left of Walls Without Balls.

*RLS* – 10m E2 5b \*\*. G. Latter (on-sight). 10th June, 2001.

The rightmost of two crack systems just right of Stealth, starting up short easy right-facing groove. Starts just left of A Helping Hand.

*Stonecrop Groove* – 6m E3 6a \*\*. J. Lines (on-sight solo). 16th July, 2001.

A left-facing groove up the left side of the short wall beneath the descent ramp.

*Aros* – 8m HVS 5a \*. C. Moody, A. N. Other. 1994.

A left-facing flake, finishing up a jam crack.

*The Vagabond* – 8m HVS 5a \*. G. Latter (on-sight solo). 17th July, 2001.

A right-facing groove, stepping up left on to a ledge to finish up a jam crack.

*The Dynamiter* – 12m HVS 5a \*. G. Latter (on-sight solo). 17th July, 2001.

There is a short blunt arête at the far right end of the crag. Climb the cracks immediately to its right, scrambling to finish.

### **Lower Tier:**

*Erraid Shelter* – 6m E2 5b \*\*. J. Lines, G. Latter (on-sight). 18th July, 2001.

The short arête above the upper ledge, left of the arch. Just right of Mullman.

*Davie* – 8m E3 6b \*\*. J. Lines G. Latter (on-sight). 18th July, 2001.

Surprisingly independent climbing up the right arête of Weeping Corner. Place a low runner in the groove and move right to good jug on the arête (sling). Attain a standing position on this, then continue up the arête and crack pleasantly.

The shallow groove/arête on the right side, starting up and staying close to Flood Warning was also climbed at E2 5c.

### **The Pink Wall (NM 293 195 – Altitude: 20m – Aspect: SW)**

The short crack-seamed wall overlooking the small west-most beach at Traigh Gheal.

*Panther* – 8m Severe.

The wide crack which slants up right.

*Pink One* – 8m HVS 5a \*. J. Lines (on-sight solo). 17th July, 2001.

Twin cracks left of a corner.

*Floyd* – 8m H. Severe 4b \*. G. Latter (on-sight solo). 26th August, 2000.

The corner.

*Elephants* – 9m VS 4c \*. J. Lines (on-sight solo). 17th July, 2001.

Cracks up the left side of the front wall.

*Which One's Pink?* – 9m VS 5a \*. J. Lines (on-sight solo). 17th July, 2001.

The next crack to the right.

*Pinky* – 10m E1 5b \*. G. Latter (on-sight solo). 17th July, 2001.

The central crack.

*Perky* – 8m VS 4c \*. G. Latter (on-sight solo). 17th July, 2001.

A crack up the right side of the wall.

### **Paradise Wall (MR NM 293 193 – Aspect: NE)**

A fantastic deep-water soloing venue, on the west side of the bay, about 100m south of the small west-most beach.



Approaches: Routes 1 and 2 are approachable at all states of the tide, 3 at mid-low tide and the start of 4 is only reachable at low tide. For routes 1-3 descend a short chimney (Severe) on the east face, about 6m south of the wall, then left along ledge to gain a flake line which allows a fine descending traverse down rightwards (5b) to the base of the routes. 4 is gained by scrambling down the easy ridge just north of the chasm forming the wall.

*The Brine Shrine* – 12m XS 5c S0 \*\*\*. J. Lines. 16th July, 2001.

The offset slanting offwidth at the left side. A jammed chokestone low down is helpful, as are holds on the walls on either side. From a rest in the wide horizontal near the top, finish either directly up the wall, or hand traverse out left. High in the grade.

*Please Rub Salt into my Wounds!* – 10m XS 5c S0 \*\*. J. Lines. 16th July, 2001.

The flaky central crack, with the crux passing a small spike low down. Finish on a good jug and excellent jams. Low in the grade.

*Dreamline* – 12m XS 6b \*\*\* S1. G. Latter 17th July, 2001.

The stunning hanging finger-crack (crux), widening to hands in its upper reaches. Finish by stepping into a recess out right.

*Drowning in Adrenaline* – 15m XS 6a \*\*\* S1/2. J. Lines 18th July, 2001.

A fantastic rising traverse line. Start by bridging across the chasm (midgets need not apply!) to a left-facing flake a few metres right of the large schist intrusion. Move up left into the intrusion, then gain the good flake out left and follow it into Dreamline. Move up this to follow the next break out left to a reasonable rest in the next crack. Continue out left on the lower (cleaner) of two breaks, hand traversing the final wide slot of The Brine Shrine to finish. Diving/jumping from the finishing ledge is obligatory.

*The Longest Yet.* 18m Severe 4a \*. G. Latter (on-sight solo). 18th July, 2001.

The prominent open chimney well left (south) of Paradise Wall.

**Note:** Some notes on bouldering were received from Andy Spink (also Tíree) and have been passed on to C. Moody as the guidebook author for Mull.

### **Fionnphort (MR 305237):**

*Mesajania* – 10m E6 6b \*\*\*. M. Tweedly (unsec.). September, 2001.

This route is easily seen from the main road coming into Fionnphort and overlooks the track to Torr Mor quarry. Near the Quarry entrance are lots of perfect granite boulders and craglets. This line takes a near vertical slab, with a perfect crack going up to halfway. Climb this, then make crux moves past and above on the blank face. End with a slopey exit. Route graded for an on-sight ascent.

### **IONA, Raven's Crag, Main Wall:**

*Holy Tackle* – 20m VS 4c. M. Tweedly, R. Waterton, T. Charles Edwards. September, 2001.

This is to the right of Rod Tod This is God. It climbs a groove, then a crack to a shelf.

**Note:** May be undergraded.

**ISLAY, Creag Bealach na Caillich (MR 203 614):**

This bold south-west facing crag lies above Bealach na Caillich on the rough track between Kilchiaran and Machir Bay (ten minutes from Kilchiaran). Although it dries quickly, the rock is of mixed quality and much of it is draped in shaggy lichen.

*Family Values* – 60m VS. G. E. Little, N. Kemp (alt.). 14th October, 1999.

This route tackles the full height of the crag via a central left to right trending fault/ramp

line. Start at the lowest point of the crag.

1. 45m 5a Follow the fault/ramp line (much lichen) to gain the top of a semi-detached pillar (not obvious from below). Step right, then move up with difficulty (crux) to enter the continuation fault. Follow this (grassy in places) to reach a grassy ledge and a juniper.

2. 15m Climb the steep but relatively easy wall above to a flake at the top.

*Sons and Daughters* – 70m VS. G. E. Little, N. Kemp (alt.). 14th October, 1999.

The left side of the crag is flanked by a wide slab with a truncated base which forms a 20m high wall. Start near the centre of this wall at a slight grey groove.

1. 25m 4c Sustained climbing leads up and left to enter and climb the obvious corner and thence gain the slab above. Ascend the slab for 5m to a small grass ledge with a belay at a wide crack up and right.

2. 45m Climb the slab near its right edge, then vegetated ground above, to belay near the top.

**Lossit Walls (MR 177 556):**

A series of steep gneiss walls lie on the south side of the beautiful Lossit Bay.

**Trench Wall:**

This, the finest and highest of the walls forms the landward flanking side of a tidal trench and provides challenging routes on vertical to overhanging rock to a height of 35m.

*La Grooveulin* – 35m E1 5b \*. G.E. Little, S. Muir. 22nd April, 2000.

Tackles the right-facing groove, the first distinctive feature reached when entering the trench from the landward end. Start below the groove, which starts about 5m up the wall. Move up and right until flakes allow a left traverse on to a small ledge at the foot of the groove (direct access to this point may be possible via a thin crack – 6a?). Excellent climbing up the groove leads to a plaque-like barrier. Cross this with care, then continue up increasingly easier and vegetated ground.

**Geodha Cam (MR 176 562):**

This narrow geo lies on the north side of Lossit Bay. Its east flank comprises a slab of immaculate rock. Two short routes have been done, the centre of the slab and the obvious slabby rib (both about Diff.).

**Eilean Cam (MR 163 543):**

This narrow island lies a couple of kilometres to the north-west of Portnahaven and is separated from the mainland by a narrow, part tidal, defile. There is climbing



on the slabby landward side of the defile but much better climbing on the island side. At the obvious big step in the landward face, an arête (Eilean Arête) projects into the defile. To the south of this feature, above a group of three large boulders, it is possible to scramble down into the defile. A steeper scramble descent can also be made to the north of the arête. Alternatively, abseil to the floor of the defile.

Routes on the landward side of the defile:

*Harry's Route* – 20m Severe. G.E. Little (solo). 23rd April, 2000.

Start just to the right of the foot of Eilean Arête and climb the steepest section of the slabby face above.

*Eilean Arête* – 20m Diff. \*. S. Muir, A. Baird, G.E. Little. 23rd April, 2000.

Climb the arête directly.

*Bar Wars* – 20m Diff. S. Muir (solo). 23rd April, 2000.

Start at the most southerly of a group of boulders to the north of the Eilean Arête. Climb a left-trending fault line and the wall above.

Routes on the island side of the defile:

*Darth Maureen* – 15m VS 4c \*\*. S. Muir, G.E. Little, A. Baird. 23rd April, 2000.

This route takes the distinctive corner line at a step in the wall, above the cluster of three boulders. Sustained climbing.

*Mr Bridge* – 20m VS 4c \*\*. G.E. Little, S. Muir, A. Baird. 23rd April, 2000.

The other distinctive corner line to the right of Darth Maureen. Enjoyable climbing with wide bridging.

*Prince of Tides* – 15m E2 5b \*\*. G.E. Little, S. Muir. 23rd April, 2000.

Start below a black wall at the northern end of the northerly cluster of boulders – the defile is quite narrow at this point. Make strenuous, committing moves up the impending wall to gain a small ledge. Continue straight up on steep but easier rock.

### **Sanaigmore Area:**

A complex of cliff-girt headlands lie to the west of Sanaigmore. An obvious corner, with a grass ledge at half height, lies just to the north of the stone dyke (MR 222 712). The right edge of the corner forms an arête.

*Slatehead Arête* – 35m E2 5b. G. E. Little, S. Muir. 24th April, 2000.

Climb the groove immediately right of the arête until a move left gives access to the midway ledge. Continue up the slabby wall just left of the arête. There is some friable rock.

## SKYE

### **GLEN SLIGACHAN CRAGS, Low Crag (MR 480 259):**

Low Crag lies at 300m above sea level on the eastern slopes of Sgurr Nan Gilleann, about 1km north of Glen Sligachan Buttress. It is a vast crag consisting of at least eight independent buttresses, although the unexplored upper crags appear somewhat loose and broken. The crag is approached in under 1.5 hours from Sligachan, by following the Sgurr nan Gilleann tourist path as far as Coire Riabhach, and turning off to the left (east) at a small cairn halfway up the steep ascent into Coire Nan Allt Geala. A faint sheep track then brings you to the first of the buttresses, Riabhach Wall.

#### **Riabhach Wall:**

The first area reached is a short gabbro wall, reminiscent of a gritstone edge. At its right-hand end is a small rectangular slab, which holds the pleasant, though escapable:

*Escapist's Daydream* – 10m H. Severe \*. A. Baugh, R. Welford. 4th January, 2002.

Solo, but not too committing. Climb the centre of the thin slab on edges to belay some distance back.

To the left of this is a bulging rounded arête which bounds the right hand side of Riabhach Wall itself. In the centre of the wall there is a prominent triangular groove which is taken by the original route on the face. On all of the climbs here protection can be difficult to arrange, and a selection of small camming devices will prove useful. Climbs are described from right to left.

*Oxford Blue* – 20m E1 5b \*\*\*. S. Broadbent, K. Wigmore. 4th January, 2002.

A beautifully technical climb linking the obvious scarce holds and requiring thoughtful protection. Head straight up the wall right of The Purple Turtle to reach a small triangular niche (crux). Move out of this more easily.

*The Purple Turtle* – 25m HVS 5a \*\*. A. Ross, A. Parker, A. Baugh. 4th January, 2002.

A well protected route with a challenging crux at mid-height. Climb the prominent leftwards ramp in the centre of the wall and continue directly up the thin flake-crack above. Finish rightwards along a basalt ledge.

*The Groove* – 25m Mild VS 4b \*. S. Broadbent, K. Wigmore. 4th January, 2002.

An interesting route taking the short groove in the centre of the face. Enter the groove from a rightwards-trending crack and make several awkward moves to gain the ledge above. From here, step right and follow more broken ground directly to the top.

*Kandahar* – 15m E4 5c \*. S. Broadbent, K. Wigmore. 4th January, 2002.

A bold route up the steep headwall 5m left of The Groove. Short but desperate,

*Slab master and granite specialist Julian Lines on 'Realm of the Senses' (E7 6c), Shelter Stone Crag, Cairngorms. Photo: Dave Cuthbertson/Cubby Images.*











with awkward protection. Climb up easy slabs to excellent holds in the basalt dyke, and poor tiny wire runners high on the left. Then make difficult moves on tiny edges and sidepulls, trending rightwards up the undercut flake crack to the top.

*Small Slab* – 15m HVS 5b. A. Baugh, R. Welford. 4th January, 2002.

Climbs the short undercut slab immediately right of two basalt seams in the left part of the wall. Starting from the right, pull through the overlap on undercut holds, and climb the slab directly to finish up the wall above. Poorly protected above the crux.

*The Seamstress* – 10m V. Diff. R. Welford, K. Wigmore. 4th January, 2002.

Climb between the two basalt seams to the left of Small Slab, before finishing up easy ground above.

*East Ramp* – 20m Moderate. K. Wigmore. 4th January, 2002.

The easy walls and ledges close to the left hand arête provide a pleasant scramble. Or try the variation start (20m, Diff, A. Parker, 4th January, 2002.). Ascend the first crack right of the start of East Ramp and finish up a choice of easy lines above.

Descent from all climbs on this face can be made by walking down an easy slab at the left (east) side of the crag.

### **North Buttress:**

A short distance around the corner from Riabhach Wall lies another larger and more intimidating buttress. On the east face of this huge gabbro crag are many potential lines, mostly in the upper grades and probably very committing. To date, none have been climbed, although the stunningly obvious rightwards-slanting 'Varsity Crack' has repulsed at least one strong attempt!

Panoramix Area and Spaceman's Slab can be reached from here. Instead of following the crag up to North Buttress, drop down slightly to reach the impressive Panoramix Wall and the nearby Spaceman's Slab.

### **Upper Tier and South Buttress:**

These two buttresses lie slightly above and south of Panoramix Wall, and can be approached via the descent from those routes. The rock here is generally not as sound as the rest of the crag, and no lines have yet been climbed on either buttress.

### **SGURR NAN GILLEAN, The Bhasteir Face:**

*Doctors Gully Left* – 70m III. D. Ritchie, N. MacGougan. 29th Dec 2001.

Follows the summer route, starting at the foot of Deep Chimney at a right-trending fault. Two good icy pitches early season. After heavy snowfall the route banks out and will become far easier.

### **BHASTEIR TOOTH, North Face:**

*Shadbolt's Chimney* – 50m IV,5. D. Ritchie, M. Shaw. 24th February, 2002.

Follows the original summer route. Short but entertaining, the initial steepness forming a short hard crux.

*'Dumby' Dave McLeod on the impressive 'Achémine' (E9 6c), Dumbarton Rock. Dave Cuthbertson/Cubby Images.*

**BRUACH NA FRITHE, North Face:**

*North Chimney* – 110m III,5. D. Ritchie, N. MacGougan. 1st January, 2002.

An atmospheric climb following the summer route.

**SGURR A' MHADAIDH, North West Face:**

*Gauger's Gully* – 75m IV,4. D. Ritchie, N. MacGougan. 2nd January, 2002.

Follow the summer route. Good rock scenery throughout.

**SGURR THEARLAICH, West Face.**

*Gully B* – 120m V,6. D. Ritchie, N. MacGougan. 31st December, 2001.

Fine climbing following the summer route. The deep chimney obvious from below provided the crux and proved considerably harder than the summer description would suggest.

*Gully C* – 90m III,4. D. Ritchie, N. MacGougan. 31st December, 2001.

Good climbing following the summer route.

*Gully D* – 100m V,5. D. Ritchie, N. MacGougan. 23rd February, 2002.

An excellent climb with sustained interest, following the summer route. The 'piece de resistance' providing a memorable crux pitch.

**SGURR A' GHREADAIDH, The Coir'-uisg Face.**

*Eag Dubh Gully* – 200m III. D. Ritchie, N. MacGougan. 1st March, 2002.

Unlike the fault on the north side, this gully was found to be disappointingly shallow, mostly banked out but with 2 or 3 interesting icy pitches over chockstones.

**SRON NA CICHE, Eastern Buttress:**

*Clinging On* – 65m E4 6a. K. Howett, S. Muir. 12th May, 2001.

Climbs the final line on the Vulcan Wall section of Eastern Buttress. Start as for Dilemma. Superb climbing.

1. 55m 6a A long and sustained pitch. Climb the initial crack of Dilemma to its end. Where Dilemma climbs diagonally right across the wall, make a move up then gain the obvious vertical crack just on the left. Follow this to where it fades into tiny cracks and gain an obvious small protruding block above. Step on to the block and step left to a foot ledge on Uhuru. Step back right and gain a thin crack and follow it with difficulty to gain better holds. Follow these up right into a final crack to under the roofs. Traverse 2m left past the roofs to a vertical crack.

2. 10m 5a Climb up and left to under a projecting block. Take the hand-traverse out left to the top.

**ELGOL, Schoolhouse Buttress:**

Both of these routes are on the very right of the main overhanging face, left and round the corner of Schoolhouse buttress.

*L.A.S.H.A.C* – 20m VS 5a. G. Dawson, J. Heggie. 15th September, 2001.

Gain a pebble filled ledge on the right of the overhanging face. Go over the overhang and move right under the overhanging block. Climb a wide flake crack to finish right of some heather and left of schoolhouse buttress.

*Send Me the Bill* – 20m E1 5c. G. Dawson. 15th September, 2001.

Start as for L.A.S.H.A.C. and go left after the initial overhang, following the



overhanging left- trending crack before swinging out on to lichen covered wafers and go up the two cracks right of a final overhang. Finish up through the heather on a thin finger crack.

### **SUISNISH, Carn Dearg Buttress (Sheet 32, MR 158 600)**

A large broken buttress directly above the path to Boreraig and Suisnish Pillar (SMCJ 2000). Two routes have been climbed after some cleaning (still some loose rock). They can be seen from the path, above the large blocky scree that descends from the right (east) end of the broken line of the buttress, which is marked by small rowan trees at the base. The lines take an obvious corner/chimney and the crack/groove/chimney to the left.

*So, Where are the Dolphins?* – 20m HVS 5a \*\*. D. McAulay, J. Rick. 8th August, 2001.

The excellent corner with a roof at half height. Turn the roof on the right and continue up the chimney. Sustained.

*Sweat on a Gibbons Brow* – 20m HVS/E1 5a/b \*. D. McAulay, J. Hunt. 27th June, 2001.

The route takes the steep flake-crack in the wall to the left of the corner. Hard initial moves up the crack gain a stance below the hanging slabby groove. Follow the groove with interest and finish up the chimney.

### **NEIST, Green Lady Area:**

*South-East Direct* - 25m VS 4b \*\*. D. McAulay, T. Wilsdon. 13th September, 2001.

Takes the arête in the south-east wall direct, finishing as for the previous routes described in the guide. It is better protected and considerably easier than it looks from below, also better than the routes in the guide.

### **Financial Sector:**

*Lottery Live* - 35m E1 5b. D. Hollinger, S. Johnson. 7th June, 2001.

A route on the large undercut seaward face projecting from the southerly end of the Financial Sector. It begins as for Fat Cats (SMCJ 1998). The obvious groove beginning in the middle of the face is gained by exposed climbing in a superb position. Start around the corner of the arête on the left. Follow a short slab to its right edge. Step right and pull around the arête on to the face and instant exposure. Follow a flake crack rightwards to make awkward moves into the base of the groove. Continue up the groove exiting left at the top.

**Note:** C. Moody wonders if the groove on Lottery Live seems to be the groove on Gammy's Purse, but is not sure. D. Hollinger says the route appeared unclimbed and therefore thinks not.

### **The Lower Crag, Poverty Point:**

*Keeler* – 25m – VS 4b. C. Moody, C. Grindley. 7th July, 2001.

Well left (north) of Chuggers Elbow is a right-slanting recess. Climb the rib left of it using a crack on the right of the rib most of the way.

The following two routes climb the big cracklines on the so far unclimbed wall on

the right side of the obvious promontory (looking out). Both are stunning big pitches with excellent protection and very accessible (perhaps \*\*\*).

*Fight Club* – 25m E3 6a. P. Benson, F. Bennet. 15th April, 2001.

A jamming tussle up the left-hand crack. Start directly beneath the crack and climb directly.

*American Vampire* – 25m E4 6a (yo-yoed). P. Benson, F. Bennet. – 15th April, 2001.

The right-hand crack line. Sustained climbing leads to the overhanging hand crack with the crux (as it should be) the last move.

### **Conductor Cove Note:**

To the right of the 5c problem in the guide is a short almost vertical crack, H. Severe 4b (J. Shanks, J. P. Dyble, July 2000). To the left of the 5c problem is the fine edge of Razorbill Arête, HVS 5b (J.P. Dyble, J. Shanks, July 2000).

*Desmond the Slapper* – 12m E1 5b. D. Cuthbertson, D. Dewar. Summer, 2001.

A short but serious corner, just left of Delux Corner. The hard moves required slapping the right arête.

### **Neist Upper Crag:**

Several lines have been climbed by members of Oxford University Mountaineering Club in the area to the south of the car park on Neist Upper Crag. The only previous route is Nostromo (1998). Identifying lines on this cliff is particularly difficult as all approaches must be made by abseil. Most of these routes are in the area of the narrow buttress, which can be located as follows. From 'The Fin', four buttresses can be identified going back west towards the car park. The second of these is undercut at its base, and has a huge ledge on its western arête. The third lies above a grassy saddle, and has a short blank wall on its south-west face. Just to the west of this is the 'narrow buttress' with good rock anchors at its top and a prominent chimney in its west face.

### **The Third Buttress:**

The blank wall on the west face of the Third Buttress is often wet. When it dries out, however, it holds the somewhat daring:

*Atlantic Ocean Wall* – 30m E2 5b. A. Baugh, R. Welford. 1st January, 2002.

A poorly protected route up the hanging slab and imposing headwall. Gain the foot of the slab by abseiling to a small grassy col, and climb the obvious groove to a ledge on the right. Step left on to a steepening ramp and follow this left to below the large flake in the headwall. Climb the flake and crack to the top, where care is required with loose rock.

### **The Narrow Buttress:**

Across the dirty gully from the previous route lies a smaller buttress. The following route climbs the fine long arête and then heads out across the steep and blank seaward face of the buttress.

*Californian Dream Holiday* – 25m E1 5b \*\*. S. Broadbent, K. Wigmore. 1st January, 2002.



A sustained and interesting route up the front of narrow buttress. Approach by abseiling to the base of a prominent detached pillar which is climbed easily on its right-hand side. From the top of the pillar, swing left up a series of well protected layback moves on the left side wall, to regain the crest of the arête at a triangular notch (possible belay). Head up and right across the superb upper wall to finish through the centre of the final overhang. A magnificent pitch.

On the west side of the buttress is an amazingly deep chimney:

*Blizzard Chimney* – 15m Severe \* S. Broadbent, R. Welford, K. Wigmore. 30th December, 2001.

Abseil down the chimney to a comfortable ledge. Awkwardly re-gain the chimney and follow it to an interesting exit. An entertaining struggle!

*The Split Tower* – 15m Diff. S. Broadbent, K. Wigmore. 31st December, 2001.

The pillar to the right of Blizzard Chimney is climbed to a challenging finish up a right-facing corner. Approach as for the previous route.

Further west of Narrow Buttress the cliff is shorter and it is possible to walk along steep grass at its base. Baywatch and Sonamaralie further along this part of the crag, but before those two routes are reached, the following line has been climbed. *Skulldiggery* – 35m Severe 4a. A. Ross, A. Parker. 31st December, 2001.

Abseil down 50m west of narrow buttress to a grassy bay with three obvious cracks in its east-facing wall. Climb the left-hand flake crack before traversing 2m left to finish up a series of heather covered shelves.

**Notes:** From R. EVERETT:

In the Financial Sector, many of the routes are rather over-described and over-graded, but not over-starred.

*Bridging Interest* is HVS 5a \*\*\* (rather than E1 5b).

*Security Risk* is probably E1 5b (tricky move low down), but despite what the guide says the protection is pretty good if you look for it.

*Venture Capital* is also low in the E1 grade.

*Wall Street* is worth the E2 grade for the interesting top roof, but most of it is only HVS.

*Wish You Were Here* was done by a different team using an entirely different grading system. It is clearly E2 5b \*\*\* - a meaty pitch.

### **TROTTERNISH, The Storr:**

*Storr Gully* – 150m V \*\* (2000). M. Fowler, P. Ramsden. 29th December, 2000. Takes the obvious deeply cut gully just right of Deeply Digestible Gully.

1. Start just left of the gully and climb up right into it.

2/3. Two good mixed pitches lead to beneath the final impending section.

4. Climb up into the bottom of the deep cave. Step left and climb up the very steep wall (two pegs for aid/clearing) until it is possible to traverse right to just above the cave. Easier ground leads to the top. This pitch was completely plastered with snow which made it challenging. Might be easier in leaner conditions.

### **STAFFIN, Sgeir Bhan (Staffin Slip North):**

**Note:** P. Braithwaite, R. McHardy and E. Birch climbed the groove left of The Swelling, excellent and well protected (Snake Bite, E2 5c).

**FLODIGARRY, North Tunnel Buttress:**

The south face of the northern buttress provides some of the steepest and most technical climbing hereabouts. The following line is the only one known to have been climbed, and takes a direct line up the upper left-hand side of the face.

*Hogmanay* – 25m E2 5c \*\*\*. S. Broadbent, K. Wigmore. 2nd January, 2002.

A gem of a pitch, taking a direct line up the south face of North Tunnel Buttress. Technical and well protected. Start by abseiling down to a belay in a niche below a small overhang, close to the left side of the wall. After surmounting the overhang, the wall above, which is split by diagonal breaks, provides the technical crux. Trend rightwards and climb over the next overlap to a small triangular slab. Balance up this and make further hard moves to finish close to the right-hand arête.

**South Tunnel Buttress:**

After the first ascent of Raining Men (SMCJ 2001) there was some confusion about similarity with another route, Captain Mainwaring (SMCJ 1997). A subsequent visit to the area has verified that these two routes are independent lines, although it has been suggested that Raining Men be upgraded to VS 5a, 4b.

**South Stack:**

The small bay to the south of South Tunnel Buttress contains a stumpy sea stack which was first climbed via the route Rude Awakenings (SMCJ 2001). Further trips to these cliffs have revealed that this stack holds several excellent short routes which are just as enjoyable, and perhaps even more accessible than those on the main buttresses. Whilst the base of many of the routes can only be reached on foot at low tide, it is possible to reach the first route very shortly after high tide, and then climb subsequent routes by abseiling down from a (new) in-situ anchor on the summit. The stack is approached by scrambling down steep grass on the south side of the bay, from where the stack's West Ridge is seen on the left. Routes are described here in an anti-clockwise sense around the stack.

*West Ridge* – 20m Diff. S. Broadbent, K. Wigmore. 3rd January, 2002.

The easiest way up the stack, and the line of the abseil descent, this route can be reached from the mainland in all but the highest of tides. Step across from the large block and ascend easy walls and slabs to the summit. Descend by abseil from in-situ anchor.

*Jig Saw* – 15m VS 4c \*. S. Broadbent, R. Welford, K. Wigmore. 5th January, 2002.

The left-hand zigzag crack on the stack's south face is short but superb! Start just right of the west ridge, and step round on to the south face to climb up a good crack to a small overlap. Swing right on horizontal jams (crux) and continue rightwards to finish up the enticing fist-jamming crack.

In the centre of the south face is the obvious direct crack line which was used on the first ascent – Rude Awakenings (SMCJ 2001). The next route lies a few metres right of this.

*Black Beard* – 20m HVS 5b \*\*. S. Broadbent, R. Welford, K. Wigmore. 5th January, 2002.



An intimidating line up the overhang-capped groove right of Rude Awakenings. Start from a tiny triangular ledge in the bottom of the groove, and climb easily up to a below the roof. From here, pull awkwardly up and left using good undercuts and side-pulls. Step back right and balance up the excellent left-slanting groove directly to the summit of the stack.

The following routes all lie on the stack's seaward east face, and start from an obvious flat rock ledge just above the sea.

*Breakfasting Tendencies* – 15m H. Severe \*. S. Broadbent, K. Wigmore. 3rd January, 2002.

Start from the left (south) end of the rock ledge at the foot of the east face. Traverse 2m left and pull through the overlap at the second crack (crux). Above this, trend leftwards to finish close to the left-hand arête.

*East Face Route* – 15m Diff. \*. S. Broadbent, K. Wigmore. 3rd January, 2002.

A pleasant and well protected route up the middle of the slabby east face. The first move is by far the hardest of the route, with pleasant easy climbing above. Start from the obvious flat ledge at the foot of the face and climb directly to the top.

*Captain Quibble* – 20m Severe \*\*\*. K. Wigmore, S. Broadbent. 3rd January, 2002.

An exciting route traversing out across the top of the north face. Start at the right (north) of the rock ledge and follow the excellent stepped corner to the right of the arête by making a series of fine mantelshelf moves. Above this, place good protection and then trend rightwards on excellent, though worrying, flake holds to finish at the top of the north face.

### **The Cheeseblock:**

South-east of the stumpy sea stack, close the north end of a small headland, lies a short tilted block of dolerite with a tempting fist crack up its overhanging west face.

*Aftershock* 10m – VS 5a \*\*. A. Baugh, R. Welford. 3rd January, 2002.

Start from the big ledge on the west side of the block and climb the very overhung hand jamming crack to an exciting exit! Descend by abseil or scramble down the easier east face of the block.

### **RUBHA HUNISH, Meall Tuath:**

The route is on loose ground, apparently not as bad as it sounds, though protection is spaced and retreat awkward.

*Bogus Journey* – 75m V. Diff. P. Frampton, L. Thomas. 2nd January, 2002.

Approach via the steep mud gully to a broken wall and ramp.

1. 45m Climb the wall, heading towards a corner on the skyline. Trend right until a large ledge is visible on the left, and hand traverse to gain this ledge.
2. 10m Climb the broken rock on the left of a chimney near a vertical crack, to belay on a sloping slab below an overhang.
3. 5m Descend the slab to a good belay stance.
4. 15m Move across to the corner crack, and climb an off-width crack to the top.

## NORTHERN HIGHLANDS SOUTH AND WEST (VOLUME ONE)

### **DRUIM SHIONNACH, West Face:**

*Boxer's Buttress Right Hand* – 100m IV,4. M. Moran, P. Bass. 27th January, 2002.  
Two pitches of interesting and sustained mixed climbing up the right side of Boxer's Buttress starting from the base of Cave Gully.

1. 30m Go up left into a shallow weakness and climb it to belay at a huge detached block.
2. 30m Go up left then back right to surmount steep steps and bulges to join the normal route.
3. 40m Easy mixed ground then snow to the top; as for Boxer's Buttress.

### **A' CHRALAIG, Lochan na Cralaig:**

*Spiked* – 80m III,4. A. and P. Lunn, A. Nisbet. 14th March, 2002.

The ridge above the S-shaped crack, but bypassing the initial steep wall on the right. Start on the left side of a bay, immediately beyond the steep wall. Climb up left on steep turf to reach the crest left of a pinnacle (30m). Pass the pinnacle on the far side, then continue up short steep walls near the crest to a final horizontal arête (30m). Finish easily along this (20m).

*Kraken* – 60m VI,6. A. and P. Lunn, A. Nisbet. 14th March, 2002.

A big groove, which leads from the top left corner of the bay to the end of the horizontal arête. Start from the top of the bay. Go up left and back right to join the groove, thereby missing an overhanging step. Climb the groove, step right into its continuation, go over a strenuous bulge and continue steeply to the top.

### **FUAR THOLL, Mainreachan Buttress:**

*Supersleuth* – 240m VII,8. G. Robertson, P. Benson, J. Currie, 24th February, 2002.

The most direct version of Sleuth provides an excellent and sustained route.

- 1 and 2. 60m Climb the Sleuth Start to the First Terrace (60m).
3. 40m Above is a smooth barrier wall. Climb the very prominent thin torquing crack to a hard move below a steepening (crux). Step horizontally left and up into grooves which trend back right over an overhang.
4. 20m Step left into a short steep groove and climb this to easier ground which leads to the Great Terrace.
5. 40m Ten metres above is another steeper barrier wall, the only break in which is a groove just right of centre. Climb into and then up this with difficulty then with more ease to a ledge.
6. 80m Trend up rightwards to join and finish up Sleuth.

### **SGORR RUADH:**

*Ruayahua* – 130m V,6. E. Brunskill, D. Morris. 22nd December, 2001.

This route climbs the broken buttress left of Brown Gully via the front face of the prominent tower. Start at the bottom left side of the buttress below a turfy groove just left of the first tower.



1. 30m Climb the turfy groove trending right to a chimney; climb this to the top of the first tower.

2. 30m Traverse left along the ledge on to the front face of the second tower. Climb into a black groove and traverse hard left until established in the steep cracks in the middle of the face. Climb these (crux) and continue in the same line to the top of the tower.

3 etc. 70m Climb the broken buttress above to the top (many variations possible)

### **MAOL CHEAN-DEARG:**

*Ketchil Buttress* – III. D. McGimpsey, A. Nisbet. 22nd December, 2001.

Start just right of the crest by a groove which leads up left to a few tricky moves on the crest leading to an easy finish.

*Ketchup Buttress* – 100m II. D. McGimpsey, A. Nisbet. 22nd December, 2001.

Another buttress on the right. A long groove on its right flank leads to an easy finish on the crest.

### **Reraig Coastal Cliff (MR 826 363):**

A steep 15m crag of bedded gneiss, reached by a 30 minute shoreline walk from Reraig Cottage (9km west of Lochcarron); non-tidal; fabulous outlook to Plockton and Skye. Explored by M. and A. Moran in September, 2001.

*The Schtroumpf* – 15m E3 6a. A fierce corner line at the left end of the crag.

*Twinkle Toes* – 18m HVS 5b. Climbs the big ramp from the left side of the crag with a short tricky section where it narrows.

*Roaming the Gloaming* – 16m Severe 4a. A parallel ramp line below and right of Twinkle Toes, finishing up a steep corner.

### **BEINN BHAN, Coire an Fhamhair:**

*Divine Retribution* – 350m VII,6. C. Cartwright, R. Clothier. 16th February, 1991.

A more direct route up the Die Riesenwand face. Climb the first three pitches of Die Riesenwand to the obvious niche. Make the exposed right traverse to reach the start of the large snow ledge, then cut back left up an obvious rising shelf for 20m until directly above the niche. Cut back left for about 20m then go up a large right-facing corner/groove for another 20m. The right-facing corner line above develops into a groove system before easing into a shallow gully and easier ground. There is about 10m of steep climbing up this groove which develops into a shallow gully leading to easier ground. Climb the corner/groove system for 30m, then a further 150m of easier climbing to gains the top.

*The Godfather* – 230m VIII,8. M.E. Moran, P. Tattersall. 14th March, 2002.

A mixed adventure up the face between Gully of the Gods and Great Overhanging Gully finishing up the big left-facing corner in the upper tiers. Complex and sustained climbing with the cruxes high on the route. Start mid-way across the face right of a projecting overhang. The right-hand of two diagonal weaknesses provides the key to the lower wall.

1. 45m Climb rightwards to a terrace, move 8m right and climb a broken flaked corner to gain a narrow ledge; belay 4 metres back left along this.

2. 50m Go another 4m left, then make very steep moves to gain a right-slanting diagonal line which can spotted from below the route; this leads with continuous interest to a big balcony below the girdle ledge.

3. 50m Traverse the balcony for 30m rising slightly until a short fierce groove can be climbed to reach the girdle ledge; traverse 10m along this to belay at a projecting block.
4. 25m Go a further 5m along the ledge to below the big corner line then climb straight up a series of steep mantelshelves to where the corner becomes defined.
5. 15m Go right to the smooth corner, but climb a subsidiary line just left of it which is very steep but more helpful; belay up right at the base of the upper corner.
6. 25m Climb the corner past two overhanging sections (crux) to a ledge on the right.
7. 20m Go more easily up the final bulge in the corner and exit up steep snow.

**Note:** The route recorded last year as *Impending Doom* has been climbed before by Bruce Jardine in 1986 (when presumably it was thicker) and graded V. It has been named *The Dwarf Icefall*. The thicker but shorter icefall to the right (IV,4), climbed by B. Fyffe and O. Samuels seems to be new.

### **Coire Toll a' Bhein, Main Buttress:**

*Silent Witness* – 270m III. A. Nisbet. 4th January, 2002.

A gully which leads to the col on the pinnacled ridge. Climb ice as direct as possible into the gully (similar start to *Threatening Behaviour*). The gully leads easily into a cave. Pass the cave by climbing the buttress to the right before making a descending traverse back into the gully just above the cave. The next steep section was climbed by a groove on the left of the gully bed (crux), then continue up the gully to the col. After an awkward step, finish up the easier ridge to the plateau.

### **Ardheslaig Sea Cliff (MR 777 575):**

A tidal cliff of red gneiss with a fine westward outlook reached in 20 minutes shore walk from Ardheslaig township. Routes by M. Moran and party, 2002.

*High Tide, Green Grass* – 20m Mild VS 4c. Climbs cracks and walls just right of the bounding arête; can be accessed at all tides.

*Shaggy Crack* 20m V. Diff. The obvious chimney in the crag centre reached by an entertaining 30m sea level traverse; not accessible at highest tides.

### **BEN DAMPH FOREST, Creag Dubh an t-Sall:**

Despite the naming in SMCJ 2000, the name should refer to the smaller sandstone crag passed on the way to the more impressive Creag na Speireag, the crag with the previously recorded routes. Towards the right end of the smaller crag is an arête with a big roof at its base.

*Vespa* – 10m Severe. M. Moran, A. Nisbet. 27th September, 2001.

A crackline starting 5m from the left end of the roof, passing a small tree at the halfway horizontal break.

*Apis* – 10m Severe. M. Moran. 27th September, 2001.

A crackline starting where the left end of the roof meets the ground. This leads to a finish up the right arête of a small V-groove.

*Bombus* – 10m E1 5b \*. M. Moran, A. Nisbet. 27th September, 2001.

A steep and photogenic crackline with some strenuous moves in the wall right of the arête, then its upper continuation.



**Creag na Speireag:**

*Big Ears* – 30m HVS 5a \*. M. Moran, A. Nisbet. 27th September, 2001.

At the left end of the crag, just before it starts to decrease significantly in size, is a big left-facing flake line. Climb the flake line (big Friends useful) to a horizontal ledge below a capping roof. Traverse 5m left along the ledge and pull through the roof at the first obvious break.

*One Cog Missing* – 30m E2 5c \*\*. M. Moran, A. Nisbet. 27th September, 2001.

Start 3m right of the flake-line below cracks in the impending wall. Gain and climb the crackline until it peters out, then traverse boldly right for 6m along a break to gain a parallel crackline on the right. Climb this to the overhung shelf, then straight over the roof and up a crack to the top.

*Someone's Crack* – 8m Severe. C. Moody, C. Grindley. 12th May, 2001.

Right of the previous routes is a hand crack.

*Pea Soup* – 10m HVS 5a \*. C. Moody, C. Grindley. 12th May, 2001.

To the right are three thin cracks; climb the left hand one.

*Lysfoss* – 12m E2 5b/c \*. C. Moody, C. Grindley. 12th May, 2001.

To the right is an obvious crack up a rib. Move left on a block to gain the bulge at the start of the crack. Climb the bulge and continue to the top.

*Unnamed* – 10m HVS 5b. C. Moody, C. Grindley. 12th May, 2001.

This route is the right wall of Lysfoss which faces south. Start near the right side of the wall, climb up to the break, then move left, then up.

**BEINN DAMPH:**

**Note:** SM CJ 2001 didn't say that *Calluna* is the first big gully right of Boundary Gully (and Moonloop).

**LIATHACH, Coire Dubh Mor:**

*Drumnadrookit* – 220m V,6 \*. E. Brunskill, A. Nisbet. 27th February, 2002.

The intended line of The Temptress, but the upper ice pitch doesn't always form. Climb the introductory pitch and the steep groove as for The Temptress. Step right and climb a long easier groove to bulging walls left of an impressive prow. Ice forms through a slot about 20m left of the prow. Climb this finishing with a short overhanging section to a terrace. Traverse the terrace rightwards until above the prow and finish up the crest formed above it.

**Meall Dearg, North Face:**

*North East Buttress* – 200m III,4 (?). S. Archer, E. Brunskill (solo). December, 1992.

This buttress forms the left wall of Gully Obscura and provides good climbing up the crest. Start near the foot of the gully. Details unsure.

**BEINN EIGHE, Coire Mhic Fhearchair, Far East Wall:**

*Sidwinder* – V,6. M. Moran, P. Bass. 31st January, 2002.

By the summer route. Interchangeable with Glow Worm, but the second pitch gives a good technical crux in gaining the base of the main right-slanting ramp.

### **Eastern Ramparts:**

*Rampart Wall* – VII,8 \*\*\*. B. Davison, D. McGimpsey, A. Nisbet. 1st March, 2002.

A sensational line through some unlikely ground. Four pitches with belays as for summer. Start 10m left of the summer route and go up to the second of two ledge systems; this is about 10m up. Traverse right to near the summer route, ignoring tempting direct cracklines. Follow a grassy crack in a corner facing away and about 10m left of Pale Rider corner to reach the belay ledge. The traverse on pitch 2 is very thin and the technical crux. Tension was used for the delicate traverse on pitch 3 but it is short and there are possibilities for freeing it. On pitch 4, the narrow slab is smooth and a steeper groove on the left was climbed (Eastern Promise winter may have shared some of this pitch, which ices up.)

### **Central Buttress:**

*Gallus* – 75m E1 5a. S. R. Scott, D. Carr. 3rd June, 2000.

Start just right of Porcine Connection at a ragged vertical crack.

1. 35m 5a Climb the crack for 20m to the bottom of the corner (touching Porcine Connection). Traverse a wide foot ledge right to a blunt rib below and right of the right-hand corner. Climb this for 5m then traverse left to a hanging stance at the foot of the right-hand corner.

2. 40m 4c Move back right to the rib, then climb diagonally up and right to a horizontal break which is followed right to a detached pillar overlooking the corner of the VS Route. Carefully climb the left-hand side of the pillar to a large grass ledge.

### **West Buttress:**

*Direct Finish to West Buttress* – VI,7. A. Mullin (roped solo). 18th December, 2000.

By the summer route, sustained and well protected.

### **Creag Mhor (Independent Pineapple Cliff):**

*Milk Shake* – 120m II. D. McGimpsey, A. Nisbet. 26th January, 2002.

The straight gully between the two flat-fronted ridges (Sidestep and Spog aig Giomach) has two steps which can bank out or be quite tricky when lean.

*Jinx* – 140m IV,5. D. McGimpsey, A. Nisbet. 28th November, 2001.

The line of least resistance up the steep face right of Midge Ridge. Start at the initial chimney of Autumn Rib (narrow and right-slanting).

1. 25m Climb the chimney, then squeeze through a slot on the left to gain a higher ledge.

2. 20m Traverse this ledge left, slightly descending and with a final crawl, to its very end.

3. 20m Step left into the base of a chimney-crack and climb it.

4. 40m Trend left up steep broken ground.

5. 35m Finish rightwards up a long groove.



*Smilodon* – 80m Severe 4a. A. Nisbet. 18th July, 2001.

Based on the rib between the left-hand and the huge central gully (Autumn Rib is left of the left-hand gully). Start near the base of the left wall of the central gully. Climb a short cracked wall to a ledge. Go left to the crest and back right to the base of a groove. Climb the groove to where two blocks protrude from a ledge on the left. Climb the wall on the left to step back into the groove for its last move. Go up an easy section and finish by a short bulge.

### **TORRIDON CRAGS, Seana Mheallan:**

*Dirty Dancing* – 30m E2 5c. A. Cunningham, A. Fyffe. 31st May, 1999.

A route left of Left in the Lurch and right of the recess routes around Forgotten Corner. Start steeply via a crack in a prow and followed by a difficult entry into a shallow steep left-facing corner. Climb to the easing, move right, easier climbing to finish.

### **DIABAIG, Peninsula Crags, Twin walls:**

*Hot Head* – 15m HVS 5a \*. J. Preston, J. Lyall. 17th June, 2001.

Climbs the left side of the smaller wall left-hand wall, left of Red Crescent. Start beneath a steep juggy wall. Climb straight up to a prominent projecting block at two thirds height. Pass this on the right and finish up quartz cracks.

### **BEINN A' MHUINIDH, Waterfall Buttress:**

*Racing the Sun* – 100m V,5. A. Lole, G. Stein. 31st December, 2001.

The line shares belays with the summer route Tuit, though the actual route on each pitch, the third in particular, is different. Start 20m right of the waterfall at the right hand toe of the buttress.

1. 15m Climb sloping ledges trending left to a ledge with a small pine tree growing from a crack 3m above the ledge.
2. 30m Step left from the ledge and climb a slab above trending left. After 15m climb a short chimney. Continue above this to a large ledge with a tree.
3. 35m Go up and right to gain a steep chimney. Climb this and more heathery steps to gain the base of a wide crack.
4. Traverse easily right along a ledge until able to gain easy ground above.

### **FURNACE CRAGS, Brown Slab Crag (MR 963 706):**

This is at the west end of the ridge of crag which contains Creag Mhor at the eastern end. The crag contains a fine brown slab facing south-west. All the routes were soloed by J. R. Mackenzie on 27th June, 2001. The rock is a good hornblende schist.

*Brown Slabs Direct* – 30m Severe \*.

Start left of the corner by a thin crack and below a shallow rib at the top. Climb the slab to and up the rib on good crinkly rock.

*Brown Slabs Left* – 25m V. Diff \*.

Climb straight up 4m left of the Direct over an overlap and up brown rock above.

*Brown Slabs Right* – 30m Severe.

Start near the corner and climb straight up to near a recess. Move left up the shallow rib finishing as for the Direct.

**Creag Mhor:**

This is at the right end of the ridge a km or so east of Furnace, identified by the grass strip leading up to its left side. The rock is a friendly hornblende schist though not always protectable but often climbable in the wet. The routes are described from left to right.

*Left Wall* – 60m HVS 5a. J. R. Mackenzie, S. R. T. Harper. Summer 2001.

The wall at the base of the crag has a left-facing corner; start left of this.

1. 45m 5a Climb a vertical wall past an overlap to slabs and continue much more easily up these to a thread above a heather rake.
2. 15m Climb the easy ramp right of the heather rake to the top.

Disjointed climbing with a good start. A more balanced V.Diff can be made by starting at the left end of the crag and moving up right to join the slabs.

*Creag Mhor Cracks* – 60m VS 4c \*\*. J. R. Mackenzie (solo). 27th May, 2001.

A very good route. Start at a pair of short parallel cracks which lie just left of the slanting ramp of The Mad Fencer.

1. 40m 4c Climb up these cracks and over the little overhang above. Step left and climb the thin slabs direct over a brown slab to belays near the heather rake.
2. 40m 4a Move right to a shallow groove right of the rake and climb this up, then right to the top.

*The Mad Fencer, Direct Variation* – 60m H. Severe 4b. J. R. Mackenzie, S. R. T. Harper. Summer, 2001.

The original route here follows an illogical line. The direct is more logical.

1. 40m 4b From the belay ledge (which has no adequate belay) above the initial pitch continue straight up past a heather ledge to belays 3m right of the heather rake.
2. 20m 4a Climb the shallow groove as for Creag Mhor Cracks to finish.

*Friends in High Places* – 60m E2 5b \*. J. R. Mackenzie, S. R. T. Harper. Summer, 2001.

A good route with a bold crux. Start below the overhanging curl of rock which lies above a ramp right of the Mad Fencer.

1. 35m 5b Climb easily to the ramp, then move to the left end of the wall and up this via a short bulge to traverse right past a small tree below a steep brown slab of excellent rock. Climb the steepening slab, moving up left to gain a narrow ledge, crux. Continue to a break above and thread.
2. 25m 4a Climb up right past broken ribs to the vertical back wall left of the Mad Fencer's crack. Climb the wall leftwards via a groove to the top.

The crags below described in the guide are not of rough gneiss but are of good quality hornblende schist.

**Caisteal Mor:**

The southern frontage of this crag is a vertical wall starting above a grass crevasse, sheltered but midgy! Various deer trods lead above the track to the crag avoiding the worst of the heather.

*Crevasse Wall* – 145m HVS 5a. J. R. Mackenzie, S. R. T. Harper. Summer, 2001. Start at a slim pillar/flake roughly midway along the wall.



1. 15m 4c Climb this to a ledge and belays below a flake overhang on the left, an excellent pitch.
2. 45m 5a Climb over the overhang and trend up a diagonal leftwards line on blocky rock, under another overhang and up right past it to belays below a slab.
3. Go up the easy slab to a heather terrace.
4. 45m 4c Climb a short steep slab via a crack, then up easy slabs to finish.

### **No.1 Buttress, Riabhach Slab:**

The right-hand boundary wall of the slab is of more continuously steep rock, avoiding some of the heather of the front face.

*Sidewinder* – 120m VS 4c \*. J. R. Mackenzie, S. R. T. Harper. Summer, 2001.

A pleasantly relaxed line with some good but mossy rock lower down. To the right of the original line is a sidewall with a flake near boundary between south and east faces. Start right of the flake at the first thin crack.

1. 35m 4c Climb this direct to a slanting crack and follow this to belays beyond the right end of a heather ledge.
2. 40m 4b Climb the pleasant slab above, then an easier slab to below a final steeper slab.
3. 40m 4b Climb the steeper slab direct to the top.

### **RUBHA MOR, Black Heart Crag (MR 864 985):**

Five routes by J.R. Mackenzie and D. S. B. Wright on 25th September, 2000. Details on request.

### **STONE VALLEY CRAGS, The Valley Walls:**

These are the walls and slabs that line the left side of the obvious shallow, narrow valley that forms a col on the skyline at the left-hand end of the Stone Valley Crag. The walls start at a short vertical bow-shaped wall at the entrance to the narrow valley and lead to a pleasant line of slabs running along its left side. Flowerdale Wall, the bigger wall facing the approach, lies on the right at the entrance to the valley. The first routes lie on the steeper, bow-shaped wall at the entrance to the valley.

*Round the Block* – 20m VS/HVS 4c. R. and C. Anderson. 18th August, 2001.

At the left end of the steeper wall is a flakeline. Climb the wall to the right of this to reach the flake, then move up this to its top and climb a short blocky crack to the top.

*Flash in the Pan* – 20m E4 6a/b \*. R. Anderson. 18th August, 2001.

The thin crack immediately to the right of Round the Block is climbed with difficulty, protected by good but small wires. Continue up the more obvious crack in the final wall.

*Off the Block* – 20m E2 5b \*. R. and C. Anderson. 18th August, 2001.

The central line. Climb up and step onto the obvious block then climb the crack to easier ground. The top of the flake was not pulled on.

The following route lies on the stepped slab a short way to the right, above the flat floor of the valley.

*Three Stepped Slab* – 25m HVS 4c \*. R. and C. Anderson. 18th August, 2001.  
Just right of an obvious fault is a crack with an obvious jug at its base. Climb this thin crack up the first step. Climb directly up the wall above to easy ground and traverse left to climb the third step past a block.

### **Flowerdale Wall:**

The following routes lie on the right side of the crag where there is a prominent arête with streaks of quartz running down it.

*Quartzite Bird Shite* – 15m HVS 5a. P. Tattersall, J. Buchanan. 19th March, 2001.  
On good rock right of Mountain Everlasting, with a white saltire intrusion.

*White Lining* – 25m E1 5b \*. R. and C. Anderson. 18th August, 2001.

The arête has a prominent narrow streak of white quartz running down it which stops short of the base of the crag at the start of a bottomless groove and flake line. Climb up the fault to the right of the arête to a spike. Swing left into the bottomless groove at the base of the white line, then gain the flakeline and follow this up the right side of the arête to finish easily up slabby ground.

**Note:** WL starts about 2m to the right of QBS and they both finish almost at the same point.

*Avoid the Paint* – 12m VS 4c. P. Tattersall, J. Buchanan. 19th March, 2001.  
Right again, the last obvious line.

### **Rum Doodle Crag:**

*Heavyweights* – 10m VS 5a. A. Cunningham, B. Fyffe. 7th April, 2001.

Start up the chimney right of Go Lightly, move right and finish up the left side of the wall above the heathery ledge.

*Unnamed* – 10m E2 5c. B. Fyffe, A. Cunningham. 7th April, 2001.

Climbs the steep prow left of Go Lightly. Start up a capped groove and pull over the roof on to a ramp. Climb onto the front of the prow and to finish leftwards. A high runner up the ramp can be used to protect.

**Note:** Several easier slabby and fairly minor routes were climbed by Dundonnell MRT; details on request.

### **Stone Valley Crag:**

*No Mutton* – 15m H. Severe 4a. S. Blagbrough, G. McEwan. 27th April, 2001.

Starts on the ledge to the left of No Beef. Climb to a ledge, then an open right-facing corner and crack to easy ground.

*No Robins* – 18m E2 5c. G. Ettle, J. Lyall. 3rd June, 2000.

Start as for No Beef, but where that route steps right, continue up a thin crackline to finish at the same point. Protection is available but difficult to place.

*Open Secret Direct Start* – 35m HVS 5a \*\*. J. R. Mackenzie, S. R. Harper. April, 2001.

Very good but poorly protected climbing squeezed between the initial pitches of Open Secret and Bald Eagle. Start at the base of the shallow corner of Bald Eagle

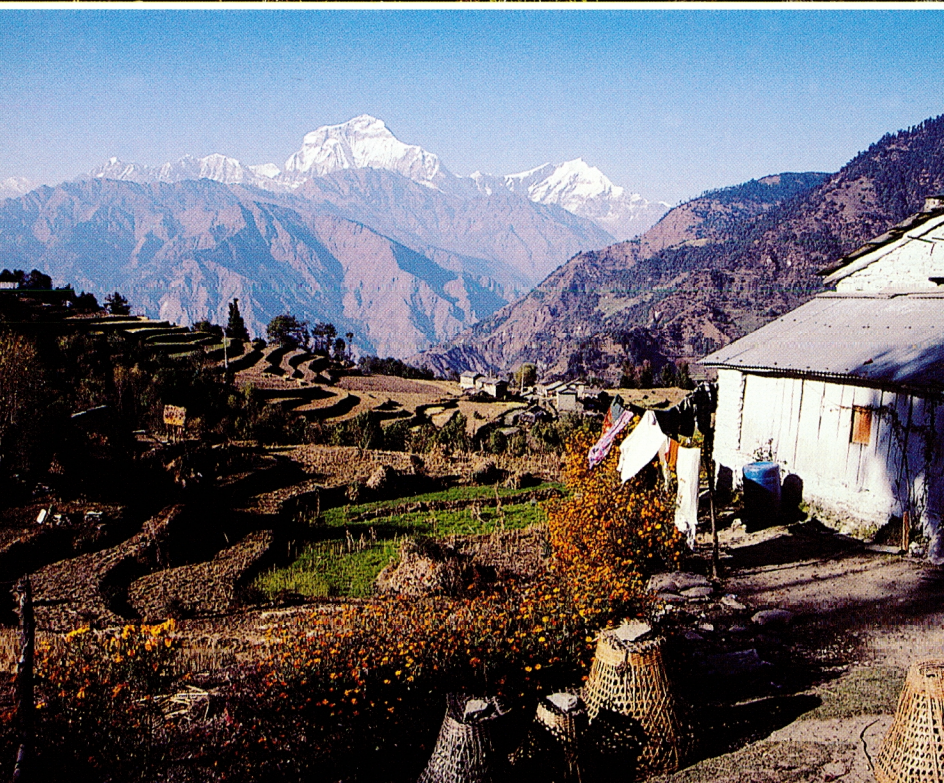
*Doré Green climbing the 'Younggrat' on the Breithorn, Central Pennine Alps, Switzerland. Photo: Simon Richardson.*

*The Fann Mountains of Tajikistan. Photo: Rick Allen.*











and climb the steep crack on its left to reach the slab via a suspect flake. Climb the slab and overlap direct to join Open Secret.

### **Right-Hand Dome:**

*Long Walk, Short Climb* – 50m Severe. J. R. Mackenzie, S. R. Harper. April, 2001.

The right-hand wall has a steep rib to the right of a pink slab. Climb the rib and step left on to the front face to reach easy ground after 10m. Pleasant scrambling to the top.

### **RAVEN'S CRAG AREA:**

Many routes have been climbed on several crags near Raven's Crag, including Fruity Crag (MR 794 714), Sneaky Crag (MR 792 713), Druid Rock (MR 793 716) and Vegie Crag (MR 795 716). Route descriptions available by e-mail on request.

### **BAOSBHEINN, The Rona Face:**

This is the cliff located at MR 867 657 and facing WSW.

*Merlinswanda* – 210m IV,5. E. Brunskill, V. Chelton, D. McGimpsey. 12th March, 2002.

This interesting route climbs the left edge of the highest section of cliff. Start at the lowest left toe of the buttress below an obvious steep groove.

1. 15m Climb the groove to belay up and left at a good thread.
2. 40m Follow the groove directly above to a terrace.
3. 20m Climb the shallow groove trending first right then back left to below an obvious deep chimney.
4. 20m Climb the fine chimney and continue up to a spike.
5. 45m Climb up and right aiming for an obvious ramp which slants left to the top of the tower. Belay halfway up the ramp.
6. 30m Continue to the top of the ramp, then climb straight up by a series of grooves to a terrace.
7. 40m Follow the easiest line to the top.

### **GAIRLOCH CRAGS, Creag Bhadan an Aisg (NG 826 782):**

This crag stands on the west side of the main A832 from Gairloch to Poolewe, about 100m from the road. It has a slabby left-hand section, where the first described routes lie, along with a mainly overhanging right-hand wall. The rock on the slabs is good rough Lewisian Gneiss, less good on the steeper section. The old dry stonework below the steep section may be the grave of two young Mackenzie heirs horribly murdered in the 15th century; hence the name of the crag – The Crag of the Place of the Burial.

### **Blonde Bitch's Buttress:**

This is the slabby left-hand part of the crag, about 25m high, separated from the overhanging crag by a grassy descent gully. Good steep slabs, not always well protected.

*Handbagged* – 20m H. Severe 4b \*. C. Maclellan, R. J. F. Brown, D. S. B. Wright. 30th April, 2001.

*The peaks of Batian, Nelion, Point John and Midget Peak, Mount Kenya, East Africa. Photo: Tom Prentice.*

*Dhaulagiri from below Dgorali, Annapurna Region, Nepal. Photo: David Ritchie.*

On the left of the crag, just right of some ivy and behind a tree, is a recess. Start here, go steeply up a wall, then delicately to the top break. Go slightly left between two cracks to finish.

*Blondes Don't Reverse* – 23m VS 4c. C. Maclellan, R. J. F. Brown, D. S. B. Wright. 30th April, 2001.

Climb the obvious central rib, with a delicate step where the crack steepens. Good protection where it matters.

*5.10 Stilletos* – 22m VS 4c. C. Maclellan, R. J. F. Brown, D. S. B. Wright. 30th April, 2001.

There is an obvious flaky line to the right of the central rib. Climb this, with some delicate moves where the flakes run out. Go right, then straight up through the break to finish.

*Lip Gloss* – 22m H. Severe 4b. C. Maclellan, R. J. F. Brown, D. S. B. Wright. 30th April, 2001.

The rough slabs to the right of the flake line give good, though somewhat artificial climbing on excellent rough rock.

### **Nameless Buttress:**

This is the overhanging right-hand sector of the crag.

*Unnamed* – 12m E3 5c \*. R. A. Biggar, C. Maclellan. 11th May, 2001.

At the left-hand end of the crag is a wall of good rough rock with an overhanging headwall split by a thin crack.

*Unnamed* – 12m E2 5b. R. A. Biggar, C. Maclellan. 11th May, 2001.

At the far right end of the crag is an off-width crack. The climb uses the crack and the wall to its right.

### **LOCH TOLLALD, Flag Wall:**

*Deliver Me* – 12m E1 5a. L. Johnson, F. Bennet. 20th April, 2001.

Climb to a ledge left of the left arête of the main wall. Continue up just left of the arête via shallow grooves.

### **Raven's Nest:**

*Blast Off* – 20m E4 6a. P Tattersall. 2000.

Climb the steep wall between Boldered-out and Blow-out to reach the base of a short vegetated corner, place a runner and tackle the bulge on the right to finish.

### **The Ewe Walls:**

*Ewe Tree Slab* – 25m VS 4c. P. Tattersall. 21st March, 2001.

The slab with no tree (right of Ewephoria). Better than it looks.

*Foot in Mouth* – 20m E1 5b. P. Tattersall. 21st March, 2001.

Start just right of some fallen debris. Make a steep start, then move right into a hanging scoop. Go directly up on blind but good holds, then easily to a rather rounded finish.



**Dinosaur Buttress:**

*Chitin* – 8m VS 5a. A. Cunningham, D. Gemmell. 1999.

The small buttress about 30m right and up from Dinosaur Buttress. Climb the crack in the nose direct.

**The Curra Wall, Upper Tier:**

*Pieces of Eight* – 10m V. Diff. A. Fyffe, A. Cunningham. 25th April, 1999.

Start just right of the rib of After Eight and climb up and right into a short steep left-facing corner.

**Fraggle Rock, Upper Tier (on left):**

*Arctic Dreams* 20m E2 5b \*. P. Tattersall, T. Doe. 7th April, 2001.

The centre of the upper tier forms a very open corner with steep walls either side. The three routes (also Dr Beaker) are on the left-hand wall, which has a slight crest. Start well left of the crest and climb a right-slanting intermittent crackline. Where this ends, make a difficult move right to a ledge and finish direct.

*Deathmarch* – 20m E3 5b. P. Tattersall, T. Doe. 8th May, 2001.

Climb the crest direct.

*Fraggle Roll Direct Finish (Roll Up)* – E3 5c \*. L. Hughes, A. Cunningham. 27th April, 2001.

Climb through the holly and up the crack above.

*Barking Shark* – 30m E2 5b. P. Tattersall, T. Doe. 7th April, 2001.

Start below a small roof just right of Fraggles Roll. A broken crack-line leads to easy ground which is followed leftwards to an obvious finishing flake-crack.

**Hidden Crag:**

*Mud Wrestler* – 15m HVS 5a. A. Cunningham, A. Fyffe, B. Fyffe. 23rd June, 1999.

Climbs near the right end of the shorter wall round the edge left of Water Lily. Move up to a series of left-curving cracks leading onto the big heathery ledge.

*Wedgie* – 15m H. Severe 4b \*. A. Cunningham, S. Blagbrough, G. McEwan. 25th April, 2001.

A climb on the pink wedge shaped buttress behind and left of Hidden Crag. Climb the lower section just right of a heather fault to the ledge. Climb the middle of the wall with a steep start.

*Shotgun Wedding* – 25m E3 5c. P. Tattersall. 8th April, 2001.

To the right of Malpasso is an upper heather terrace with this crack-line starting from it. The finishing slab is easy but unprotected.

**Shadesville:**

A wall right of and at right-angles to Hidden Crag.

*Bitches from Hell* – 20m E3 6a. M. Garthwaite, C. Smith. 2001.

Follow the crackline left of Unrepeatable to a break. Step left and climb the short wall on good holds to the top.

*Unrepeatable* – 20m E2 5c. P. Tattersall, T. Doe. 11th April, 2001.  
The crack-line at the right side of the wall.

### **Upper Tier:**

Eight more routes on Fetish Crag and two on Buttock Buttress. Details from [www.wildwesttopos.com](http://www.wildwesttopos.com).

### **Inlet Wall:**

*Chopsticks* – 25m E3 5b. P. Tattersall, T. Doe. 7th May, 2001.  
Left end of the crag (no details).

*For Schny Dung* – 15m E2 5c. P. Tattersall, C. Meek. 1st May, 2001.  
The dirty groove left of the main wall.

*Fill An Der* – 25m E3 5c. P. Tattersall, C. Meek. 1st May, 2001.  
The orange pillar and flakes left of Lifeline.

*Primrose Slab* – 25m VS 4c \*. K. and G. Latter. 4th April, 2002.  
At the far right end of the crag, overlooking Recessed Wall is a clean slab of fine rough rock. Gain the easy-angled slab by a steeper start and climb this more easily, finishing up the central heather crack.

### **Recessed Wall:**

*Recessed Groove* – 20m E2 5b \*. A. Cunningham, L. Hughes. 4th May, 2001.  
A climb up the right side of the wall with a difficult start which is sometimes wet. Climb to the first good break near a bush, move slightly left and up into the groove. Climb to the block on Tortured Soul and finish direct.

### **Wee Lochan Crag:**

Several more smallish routes in this area. Details from [www.wildwesttopos.com](http://www.wildwesttopos.com).

### **GRUINARD CRAGS, The Beach Wall (see SMCJ 2001):**

*Beach Groove Garden* – 20m Mild VS 4b. A. Cunningham, L. Hughes. 19th April, 1998.

The V-groove at the left end of the crag.

*Armburger*: As in SMCJ 2001 but graded E2 5b.\*\*

*Dechno*: As in SMCJ 2001.

The next four routes are on the right-hand buttress. The unnamed route in SMCJ 2001 is a combination.

*Aorta* – 20m E2 5c \*. A. Cunningham, D. Neville. 30th April, 1999.  
Start at an overhung groove at the right side of the big recess. Climb up the awkward groove to pull through the bulge at a crack at about 5m and onto the wall. Move slightly left and straight up the fine headwall to finish.

*Adalat* – 20m VS 4c. A. Cunningham, D. Neville. 30th April, 1999.  
Start as for Aorta and climb the right slanting crack and edge round onto the front



of the buttress. Move up and follow the right trending crackline near the right edge of the crag to the top.

*Capillary Wall* – 20m HVS 5a \*. A. Cunningham, L. Hughes, 19th April, 1998.  
Start at the lowest rocks to the right of the recess. Climb the middle of the lower buttress, through the wide diagonal break, crossing Adalat and straight up the cracked buttress passing a niche near the top.

*Voltarol* – 20m Severe. A. Cunningham, D. Neville. 30th April, 1999.  
A route up the sidewall. Start under a short groove leading to a square roof. Climb steeply into the groove, move right at the roof onto the edge and finish straight up.

### **Road Crag (Roadside Wall, SMCJ 2001):**

An insignificant looking SW-facing brown triangular shaped crag, easily seen above the road and powerlines when heading north from the main Gruinard beach car park. Better climbing than one would imagine! Descend by scrambling to the left, facing out and into the grassy gully. From right to left;

*Celtic Ray* – 15m HVS 5a. P. Holmes, A. Cunningham. 25th March, 1999.  
Start at the right-hand end, above and right of a rose bush. Climb delicately left across a hanging slab under a roof and follow a deep left-trending crack to the top.

*Mongo* – 20m E2 5c \*. L. Hughes, A. Cunningham. September, 2000.  
Start down left of the rose bush. Climb up to and follow the diagonal break under the bulge and break through at a steep capped groove. Swing right, crux, and up via hidden holds, moving back left finishing right of the top crack of Raglan Road.

*Raglan Road* – 20m E1 5b \*\*. A. Cunningham, P. Holmes. 25th March, 1999.  
Start in the middle of the crag and under an obvious crack in the headwall. Good climbing. Climb steeply up and left into the central scoop. Go up this, small wires and exit rightwards into a crack leading to the big diagonal break. Finish up the steep crack in the headwall.

*Tom Jones* – 15m HVS 5a. A. Cunningham, L. Hughes. September, 2000.  
A route on the slabby left side of the crag. Start a few metres left of Raglan Road and gain and climb a left curving flake. Long reaches for good hidden holds lead into the wide crack to finish.

### **Post Crag:**

*Post-it* – 12m HVS 5a \*. G. and K. Latter. 5th April, 2002.  
The prominent blunt left arête of the smooth wall. Well protected.

**Bog Meadow Wall Note:** G. Latter repeated Summer Breeze, E5 6b and \*\*\* after the PR removed by another party. Very well protected – only the 0.1#Camalot required in the description.

### **The Bayview Wall, Lower Tier:**

Below Bayview Wall is a more broken section of rock. The following route lies on the attractive buttress of gnarly rock characterised by ivy growing on its left side.

*Temporary Beauty* – 10m VS 5a \*. A. Fyffe, A. Cunningham. 4th July, 2000.

A good climb up interesting rock. Start just left of centre and climb steeply up to gain the prominent flakes. Take the natural line up and right and step left to finish.

### **The Bayview Wall:**

*Something Completely Different* – 12m E2 5c. A. Cunningham, A. Fyffe. 4th July, 2000.

A short but strenuous route up the front face of the chokestone of Chokestone Gully. Start in the shadow of the chokestone and climb out the left side of the gully. Pull into and climb the short corner on the chokestone and out left via the flake crack.

### **Fox's Buttress (MR 958 895):**

This is the narrow buttress in the corner of the dome between Optic Wall and Dog Crag. It is characterised by a fine flat-faced pillar of good rock with some deep red grooves on the right.

*Gone to Ground* – 10m HVS 5a. A. Cunningham, A. Fyffe. 4th July, 2000

On the left of the narrow buttress is a crack slanting right. Climb the crack and the wall on its right to finish.

*Glacier Mint* – 15m E1 5b \*\*. A. Cunningham, A. Fyffe. 16th April, 2000

Fine climbing up the front of the narrow pillar. Climb the front of the pillar using the obvious ledge and the thin diagonal crack on its left. Pull right into the scoop and finish straight up.

*Foxtrot* – 15m HVS 5a. J. Lyall, J. Preston. 16th June, 2001

The arête left of Vulpine Groove, finishing by a short crack.

*Vulpine Groove* – 15m HVS 5a. A. Fyffe, A. Cunningham. 16th April, 2000

The deep red groove on the immediate right of the pillar is gained from the right and followed steeply throughout.

*Barking* – 15m E1 5b. J. Lyall, J. Preston. 16th June, 2001

The steep crack just right of Vulpine Groove, slanting right to finish.

*Earth Matters* – 15m HVS 5a. J. Lyall, J. Preston. 16th June, 2001

The leaning corner-crack right of Barking. There is a small aspen on the right a few metres up. Well protected throughout.

Around 75m up and left of Fox's Buttress is quite a large diamond-shaped slab.

*Diamond Slab* – 20m VS 4c. J. Preston (unsec). 14th July, 2001

Starting at the lowest point, climb the slab direct to a heathery ledge. Finish up a short steep wall by a projecting block.

### **Dog Crag:**

*Dogged Persistence* – 20m E3 5c. A. Cunningham, A. Fyffe. 4th July, 2000

Start 5m right of the wide crack of Tess. Climb into a vague pink scoop, move left and gain the short but obvious crack. Climb the crack (crux) to the easing in angle and finish up by the crack in the black rock above. P. Tattersall thinks E2 5c.



**Chimney Crag:**

*Not in Vein* – 20m Severe. J. Preston. 14th July, 2001

On a section of rock on the upper right side of the crag, reached by traversing in from the left along heather and rock ledges. The route climbs a quartz vein and slabs above.

**Lochan Dubh Crag (Dome Crag):**

*Sunset Song* – 35m. E1 5b \*. A. Cunningham, A. Fyffe. 12th October, 2001.

A nice pitch between the second pitches of Ducks with Attitude and Scramble. Walk in to the start from the right. Climb a thin crack with difficult moves into the shallow groove. From the ledge climb more or less direct to the top.

**Carn Goraig:**

*Bootless Crow* – 55m HVS \*. A. Cunningham, R. Baines. 6th May, 2000.

At the right end of the second tier are two steep cracklines. This route climbs the bottomless right-hand crack and Ramadan takes the left-hand crack.

1. 25m 5a Start at a mossy groove bounding the right side of the second tier. Climb clean rock right of the moss and take an obvious left trending line joining the main crack at an 'orange hole'. Follow the cracks above on to the slabs and climb up to belay below a wide blocky Y crack in the upper tier.

2. 30m 4c Move right on to a huge block and climb the rightmost steepening crack and continuation to a heather bay. Follow the line of vague cracks above.

**Note:** Thunderhead (SMCJ 2001) was previously climbed by A. Cunningham and R. Baines on 6th May, 2000 with a slightly different start and called Old Goats (E2 \*).

**Upper Tier:**

*Cursing Crack* – 30m E3 6a \*. G. Latter. 6th April, 2002.

Left of the triple cracks of Wailing Wall/Call of the Muwazzin are a further three parallel left-slanting cracks, the right two similarly close together. Climb the rightmost crack which is viciously sharp with difficulty to better holds in a recess. Continue up easier crack above, then up wall to finish up a prominent crack at the top, a few metres left of an easier looking slightly lichenous crack. Climbed in error for the final pitch of Wailing Wall, hence the name!

*The Saracens* – 35m HVS 5a \*\*. G. and K. Latter. 6th April, 2002.

The left-slanting ramp and flake system starting from just above the belay on Thunder-head. Climb easy lower ramp, then the flake and continue in the same left-trending line, with a long span left to gain a good crack at one point. Finish up a short steep crack to belay at a huge block. Scramble off.

**Jetty Crag:**

The following two routes have almost certainly been climbed before.

*Pearl Harbour* – 30m HVS 5a \*\*. R and C Anderson. 16th June, 2001.

Climb directly to the crack in the wall right of Crab Crack and follow this into the large alcove, step right onto the blunt crest and follow this to easy slabs. Finish up the obvious short steep crack in the headwall.

*Dockers Groove* – 35m VS 4c/5a \*. R and C Anderson. 16th June, 2001.

Start beneath the obvious groove in the slab between Munroron and Lilly the Pink. Climb to a small roof and make an awkward entry up right into the groove which is followed to its top and a finish up the slabby edge as for Munroron.

### **TORR NA H'IOLAIRE, The West Face of Upper Summit Buttress:**

*Tiger Lily* – 120m VS. A. Nisbet. 8th August, 2001.

A route designed to keep to the cleanest rock. Start about 10m right of Hieroglyphics, at the right end of the level base of the slab.

1. 45m 4b Climb the main slab trending slightly left to reach and climb a right-facing corner near the top. Continue up and slightly right to a pedestal which is at the right end of the grass ledge of Hieroglyphics.
2. 45m 4b Climb the steep wall behind the pedestal on big holds, then continue slightly right on equally big holds, keeping to the best rock, until grassy ground is found on the right.
3. 30m Climb leftwards up a vague rib to the top.

**Note:** Arabic (SMCJ 1995) seems to be similar to Suspension (1959) in the guide (but C. Moody disagrees).

### **CARNAN BAN, Maiden Buttress:**

*Sleeping Beauty* – 115m VS \*. A. Nisbet. 8th August, 2001.

Right of the prominent V-slab of Ecstasy is a recessed inverted V. This route climbs the right corner of the V, then the crackline above. Start from the first platform left of the bottom left corner of the buttress.

1. 30m 4b Climb the corner to a ledge below a vertical section with a small overhang.
2. 20m 4c Climb this vertical section leading to the top of the V, then the crackline above to a big ledge.
3. 20m 4b Climb the crack above, initially overhanging.
4. 45m 4a Continue up the crack over two steep sections.

The following is two linked routes on the crest between the slopes with Barndance Slabs and Maiden Buttress. No great quality but arrives at the top of the descent ramp leading to Maiden Buttress.

*Blind Date* – 100m + walking H. Severe 4b/V.Diff. A. Nisbet. 8th August, 2001.

Low down on the crest is a clean patch of slab. Start at its base where there are cracked blocks in a steep wall. Climb the wall on surprising holds to reach a slabby ramp leading up left. Go up this until a crack leads up (crux) to a higher and thinner ramp. Go up this until the wall above can be climbed right of a recess. Finish up padding slabs (40m). Walk up to the prominent rocky nose above. There are several ribs which look possible on its left side but the longest and easiest rib was chosen. Start at the lowest rib on the left. Climb this, leading into a scoop. Go up the scoop and move right to finish up a blocky rib (60m).

### **Ghost Slabs:**

*Spirit of Letterewe* – 370m E3 \*\*. J. R. Mackenzie, S. R. T. Harper. July, 2001.

A fine, but bold line, taking the centre of the left-hand slabs via the two overlaps.



There are sections where the leader (and possibly second) 'must not fall'. Start at a boulder above the loch.

1. 50m Climb the easy slab aiming for a tree below a corner up left.
2. 45m Continue in the same line up black juggy rock, moving left to belay.
3. 25m Continue up a black slab to a tree belay.
4. 40m 5b Move left to a steep rib overlooking a corner and climb this direct with poor protection to step left to a crack. Continue straight up the slab to below the left end of the first overlap.
5. 50m 5a Climb a steep groove (last protection) to step right on to the lip of the overlap. Traverse right in an exposed position, then go straight up the middle of the excellent slab to a small groove on the left.
6. 50m 4c Climb up the slab to the second overlap (often wet) and traverse left under it to a hidden chimney. Climb the steep juggy chimney to exit right on to a narrow ledge. Traverse to its right end and a diagonal crack (poor belays).
7. 40m 5a Climb above to a fine slab, unprotected and climbed centrally to a heather cornice and ledge above. Climb the final short slab to grass and trees below the funnel.
8. 50m 4c The funnel starts with wet and goat-trodden chimneys, soon steepening to an overhanging black chimney. Move left and climb a fine but bold groove to an easing, move right into a short chimney, then back left up pleasant slabs to where the funnel opens out.
9. 20m Move back right into the exit chimney climbed on huge spike holds.

## NORTHERN HIGHLANDS NORTH (VOLUME TWO)

### SGURR NA LAPAICH, *Sgurr nan Clachan Geala*:

*Lap Dance* (SMCJ 2001): Pitch 1 should read: A sloping ledge approx. one-third way up the face, not halfway.

### GLENMARKSIE CRAG:

*The Conjuror* – 40m HVS 5b \*\*. R Biggar and partner (lower pitch). Summer, 2000. Top pitch – R. Biggar, J. R. Mackenzie. 30th March, 2000.

A fine route that climbs the slabby walls below and above the big overhangs of the Juggler. It gives two contrasting pitches with the top pitch providing the meat of the climb. Start below a short wall up left of The Juggler and down from Dog Leg.

1. 22m 5a Climb the wall to easier slabs which are followed to below the big roof.
2. 18m 5b Traverse the horizontal crack rightwards and then directly up the vertical crack to a shelf. Climb the crack up left, stepping over the overhang en route to finish up the rippled slabby headwall, an excellent pitch.

### SGURR NA MUICE:

*Cold Litter* – 130m IV,4 \*. J. R. Mackenzie. 2nd March, 2002.

This is the steeper and narrower gully to the right of Piglet, which has a clutch of tiny trees in the lower groove. Climb the groove which has a steep exit near to the edge of Swine Fever. Move left to a pair of thin grooves and climb the left one to a small bay. Step up right below a jutting flake to gain the base of another narrow

groove which ends in a deep crack. Climb this to reach the snow ramp that runs below the top crags. Immediately above is a huge block and a recess in the wall above. Climb the crux, a thinly iced corner in the recess and step up left to climb more easily to the top. The line followed gave the best climbing, grade III apart from the crux, but is escapable (otherwise \*\*).

*Styless* – 125m III \*. D. Broadhead, J. R. Mackenzie. 16th February, 2002.

A pleasantly sustained romp up turfy grooves, chimneys and other entertainments, well protected with good belays. To the right of Sty High is a rib that has a shallow turfy chimney line. Climb this direct to an overhang (50m). Move right to a similar groove and up this to below a steepening (25m). Continue in the same line over various obstacles (25m). Continue up more fun and games to the top (25m). The route could be extended by one of the direct starts.

*If Pigs Could Fly* – 165m III \* J. R. Mackenzie (solo). 21st March, 2002.

A fine route of sustained steepness in the next bay left of Gammon Gully. It holds snow readily and probably keeps its condition longer than any other route here, being very sheltered. Climbed under well frozen turf but sugary snow. The left recess of the bay contains the line, a fine narrow hose of ice or turf which is followed to a chimney. Turn this on the right and continue straight up to the top over turfy bulges. Occasional cornice. Belays would seem to be thin on the ground but might be more obvious in thinner conditions.

*Pork Chop Grooves* – 100m II. J. R. Mackenzie. 2nd March, 2002.

This lies on the broken but pleasantly steep summit buttress that lies between Gammon Gully and Pigsty Gully. It forms a good finish to Gammon Gully or can easily be reached from above by descending the snow slope (grade I) from the little col just north of the summit. The buttress lies north and adjacent to the slope. It is often in condition being high up. Left of centre is a narrow rock rib that harbours a narrow turf groove to its right. Climb this groove to its exit and then follow the continuation groove to the top. Good solid turf climbing.

### **STRUIE HILL CRAG:**

D. Allan notes that the MR for the crag should be 657 848 (the guide is wrong).

*Struie Icefall* – 25m IV,4. D. Allan. 3rd January, 2002.

In the centre of the crag, a steepish icefall forms most winters. It is clearly visible from the road. Climb it and the heathery corner above.

### **FANNICHS, Carn na Criche:**

The first two climbs are at the very left end of the steep lower band of the crag where four icefalls lie about 20m left of the crag end and about 50m left of the first of the full height routes (Blood on the Tracks).

*Saboteur's Delight* – 30m IV,4 \*\*. W. Deadman, R. I. Jones. 1st March 2002.

The leftmost icefall is a left-slanting ramp; short but enjoyable.

*Huntsman's Anguish* – 45m IV,4. R. I. Jones, W. Deadman. 1st March 2002.

The next unclimbed icefall is 4m right of Saboteur's Delight. This route is another 4m right. Start just right of a slightly projecting block. Climb the lower icefalls



delicately on their left, then direct to the top. Easier if started on the left of the block and lower ice falls not taken direct. The fourth icefall is a large icicle about 10m further right, not fully formed.

### **Sgurr nan Clach Geala, Summit Buttress:**

East of the summit is a high corrie ringed by cliffs. Most of these are short but the south side of the corrie is a larger buttress which separates the corrie from the south-east face.

*Fusilier* – 250m IV,5. D. McGimpsey, A. Nisbet. 31st January, 2002.

Climbs a big groove system in the larger buttress. Much is easy but there are short steep sections which could bank up and reduce the route to grade III. Start up the main groove to steep walls (45m). Go right up a ramp, then straight up to more steep walls (45m). Continue up a wide right-trending groove and a short steep wall (crux) to a prominent chimney (40m). The chimney is possible but it is easier to traverse right and step down on to iced slabs which are then climbed to reach an ice bulge which leads to an easier section (50m). A short steep groove leads to easier ground followed to the upper crest (45m). Finish up the crest which leads to the ridge just south of the summit (25m).

### **BEINN DEARG, Coire Ghranda:**

*Rogue Trader* – 250m IV,4. J. Lyall. 18th March, 2002.

Start in a snow bay between Yon Spoot and Grotto Gully and take a left-slanting line into a chimney. Climb the chimney and broken ground to a terrace, then a short ice pitch to a second terrace. Follow the obvious fault on the upper tier, going right, then back left in the final section.

### **Coire Ghranda, Upper Cliff:**

*The Big Chill* – 150m VII,7 \*\*. G. and P. Robertson. 1st March, 2002.

Another excellent and icy mixed route taking the first natural line right of Ice Bomb. An obvious feature is the big plume of ice flowing from a groove high up (right of Damoclean icicles). Start about 20m right of the fault of Ice Bomb directly below an overhanging nose of rock.

1. 50m Climb directly up to underneath the nose then follow a right-trending fault over difficult bulges to a perch by a protruding spike.
2. 50m Pull directly over the bulge, then move left to follow the obvious line to below thinly iced grooves. Climb these direct to a poor belay at the top of a tapering ramp (junction with Cold War).
3. 50m Step down and left on to steep thin ice and pull up to a thin ramp. Move right along this to gain and climb the ice plume direct into the easier upper groove. On the first ascent (in excellent conditions) there was a nasty sting in the tale.

### **RHUE SEA CLIFFS, First Prow:**

*How Now Brown Prow* – 15m E2 5b. T. Rankin, G. Lennox. 10th June, 2001.

Basically The Prow direct. Start below Halcyon Days' top corner and pull up to stand on the first break. Traverse left to a ledge below a roof. Surmount the roof and follow jugs left to the left edge of the prow. Pull up left to climb the wall, finishing out right. A wild little route, rope management being the crux.

**BEN MOR COIGACH, Cona'Mheall (MR 064 053):**

Achininver Pinnacle. The route is described more clearly as follows.

*Achininver Pinnacle* – 150m V. Diff \*

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

**The North West Face:**

This lies left of the Achininver Pinnacle and lies above a broken lower tier. It is composed of a series of ribs and cracks.

*Vee Groove* – 30m VS 4c. J. R. Mackenzie (solo). 21st May, 2001.

This is the first prominent feature moving left from the square block at the foot of the tier. Climb the rib right of the overhung start, step left into the groove and up this to a steeper finish up the right-hand crack.

*Pebble-Dash Crack* – 30m HVS 5a \*. J. R. Mackenzie (solo). 21st May, 2001.

The roof left of Vee Groove is split by a wide crack. Either struggle up this or move in from the left from a heather ledge. Jam the crack and go up the pleasant rippled rib to a final steep juggy exit.

*Cocked Hat Crack* – 25m HVS 5a \*\*. J. R. Mackenzie (solo). 21st May, 2001.

An excellent climb. Start 25m left of the large block below Vee Groove at a rib topped by a triangular block. Climb the corner on the right then move left into the crack which provides great jamming to a more delicate exit.

**The West Face:**

This lies more than half way up the Achininver Pinnacle to the right and is easily approached via the big scree gully. The most obvious feature low down is a short but clean slabby wall.

*Two Pebble Cracks* – 15m VS 4c. J. R. Mackenzie (solo). 21st May, 2001.

Climb the parallel jamming crack on the left of the wall then step right into a curving groove which leads to the top.

*Two Pebble Wall* – 12m HVS 5b \*. J. R. Mackenzie (solo). 21st May, 2001.

A good route. Start at the centre of the smooth wall by two pebbles which are used to gain holds. Move right and climb the flake above to the top.

**Middle Crag:**

*Juniper Wall* – 75m Severe. J. R. Mackenzie (solo). 27th April, 2001. This lies just left of Patey's route. Start at the foot of the crag by a large block climbed on its left side and up past juniper to a keyhole corner. Up this and the flakes above to below the final steeper nose of the buttress. Traverse left across a juniper slope to a shallow corner beyond a gap. Climb this to the top.

**Right-Hand Buttress:**

This is the shorter but steeper crag split by cracks on the right of the crag. It is home of several gritstone style jamming cracks and thrutches.



*Anarchist Crack* – 30m HVS 5b \*. J. R. Mackenzie. 1st May, 2001.

Takes the left-hand and widest crack on the south-west face overlooking the road. Climb the lower nose via an overhanging crack, 10m 5b. Fight, struggle and protest your way up the wide crack to the top. Excellent value.

### **Sgurr an Fhìdhleir:**

*Nose Direct, Tower Finish* – VII,8. G. Robertson, P. Benson. February, 2001.

By the summer line but in two pitches, the first belay taken at the top of the groove above the cracked slab. The crux was moving right at the top of the slab to gain the groove (same as summer?). "One of the best winter pitches and quite soft at VII,8 for the route overall. It really should become the standard way as there's much more turf than the normal route and it's much more spectacular and sustained."

### **CUL MOR:**

*Balderdash* – 120m IV,5. G. Robertson, A. Matheson. 2nd January, 2002.

On a low-lying buttress north-east of the main coire on the north side of Cul Mor. The crag is reached by dropping down earlier from the same shoulder used to approach the main coire. Its most prominent feature is an icefall on the left.

1. 50m Climb the steepening icefall to a snow ramp.
2. 30m Move right up the ramp for 10m then pull left into a groove system which is followed into a right-trending gully, crux.
3. 60m Follow the easy gully to the top.

### **Main Crag:**

*White Rabbits* – 100m IV,6. R. Webb, K. Grindrod. 1st March, 2002.

Climbs the left arête of Easy Gully. Three short hard sections (grade unsure).

*Three Chimneys* – 150m IV,6. R. Webb, N. Wilson. 24th February, 2002.

Start at a prominent ice chimney low down on the right-hand side of Easy Gully. Climb this and ensuing chimneys, taking the left-hand upper one. Difficulties increase with height.

### **CUL BEAG, West Face:**

*Cul of the Wild* – 250m V,6. S.M. Richardson, C. Cartwright. 30th December, 2001.

A natural winter line up the centre of the West Face. Start 50m right of Kveldro Ridge below an icy gully.

- 1 to 3. 150m Climb the gully over several steep steps to a terrace, and move up to a prominent right-facing corner.
- 4 and 5. 70m Follow the corner to a prominent notch at its top. Junction with Kveldro Ridge.
6. 30m Climb the flake-crack on the right (crux), step left and pull over a steep wall to easier ground and the top.

### **STAC POLLALDH, No.1 (West) Buttress:**

*Rampage* – 85m V,6. E. Brunskill, D. Morris. 26th December, 2001.

This route tackles the very steep north face via a series of ramps and grooves.

About 10m up the gully from North West Corner is a large corner bounded on the left by a blocky rib. Start about 5m left from the rib at three obvious cracks leading to a blocky ledge. A very good route.

1. 30m Climb the leftmost crack to the blocky ledge. Climb the undercut blocky groove on the right (crux) and continue up and left to a large ledge and recess.
2. 40m Climb the left-trending ramp to its top, then climb up and right to a right-trending ramp. Climb this and the continuation groove above and pull through the impressively situated bulge at the top.
3. 15m Climb the open groove above to the summit.

*Anniversary Cleaver* – 105m IV,4. S. Frazer, J. Lyall, M. Twomey. 1st March, 2002

Start 5m right of North-West Corner and follow a right-slanting mossy fault into an alcove. Break out right and climb the rib by a vegetated groove leading to a snow bay (45m). Climb out of the left side of the bay to follow a groove, then a corner on the left to gain ledges (35m). Go up and right to finish by a groove/gully (25m).

*Positive Vegetation* – 100m IV,6. E. Brunskill, D. Morris. 9th November, 2001.

This route follows a series of cracks and grooves via a prominent left-facing corner in the middle of the lower tier, about 15m right of Three Day Grooves, finishing up the obvious right-trending cracks on the left side of the slabby face on the upper tier. Good technical climbing.

1. 35m. Start at a steep, turfy crack and climb up and right to below the prominent left-facing corner. Climb the corner continuing up and right to the large terrace.
2. 30m. Climb easily up the terrace to below a right-facing corner formed by a large rib.
3. 35m. Climb the groove on the left side of the rib to below two prominent grooves. Traverse right and follow right-trending turfy cracks into a corner line and to the top.

*Variation Start:* – 35m IV,4. D. Allan, B. Fyffe, D. McGimpsey, D. Moy. 29th December, 2001.

Start down and right of Positive Vegetation at a turfy groove directly below the upper pitch. Climb the groove and move right on to a ledge with a large pinnacle-block. Climb a strenuous short corner-crack then continue up turfy steps to the terrace. Using this start, the route overall becomes IV,5.

*Treasure Hunt* – 50m IV,5. S. Frazer, J. Lyall, M. Twomey. 1st March, 2002.

A variation finish to December Grooves, after starting up that route. Ten metres right of the final corner of December Groove, a line of turf slants up right. Follow this and an awkward chimney-crack to gain a large block. Step down and right to gain a right-slanting crack which is followed to the edge (40m). Go straight up to a short chimney with a through route (as for Party on the Patio - 10m).

### **REIFF, Pinnacle Area:**

*Kiggen Corner* – 12m E4 6a. J. Read, J. Wilson. 15th July, 2001.

The corner from where Kurgan starts. Climb the corner direct to the big ledge and the short wall above to finish.



**Note from T. Redfern:** Velvet Scooter (SMCJ 1998) is the same route as Reiff note 3 in SMCJ 1995.

### **Spaced Out Rockers Cliff:**

**Note:** *Culach*: E5 6a suggested by M. Reed on second ascent. The date for Spaced out Rockers should have been 22nd August, 2001.

### **The Leaning Block Cliffs:**

*Whispers* – 15m E5 6a \*\*. G. Latter, M. Reed. 10th May, 2001.

The thin incipient crack in the wall just right of The Screamer. Climb direct up the wall, then the thin crack with hard moves at two thirds height. Finish more easily above good break.

*Otto* – 12m E7 6c (F8a+) \*\*\*. G. Latter (redpointed). 19th September, 2001.

Fierce powerful climbing forging directly up the centre of the leaning wall avoided by The Quickening. Climb the good breaks as for The Quickening, then continue directly, with difficult moves to gain and leave the prominent flake, stepping left at the top break to finish at a good V-notch. Well protected by small cams.

*Freedom!* – 15m E4 6a \*. G. Latter, D. Hollinger. 16th September, 2001.

A direct line up the wall right of Braveheart. Climb directly to bulge at mid height, cross this to good slots and continue straight up to a good holds in a recess. Finish more easily directly above.

### **Amphitheatre Bay, West Face:**

*Minjeetah* – 25m E5 6b \*\*\*. M. Reed, G. Latter. 10th May, 2001.

The stunning corner and cracks through the triple roofs at the right end of the face. Cross the initial roof on good holds and climb the corner, moving out left to a large ledge. Traverse right above the second roof and up crack strenuously to a rest in a depression beneath final roof. Move out left to a good flange, pulling through final roof on good holds to finish up short easy corner.

### **Rubha Ploytach, West Face:**

*An Ros* – 8m E2 6a \*. G. Latter. 6th November, 2000.

Start 2m right of Lilidh. From a good edge, stretch to the sloping break. Gain the ledge above with a long reach, finishing direct past a thin crack.

### **POINT OF STOER:**

*Traligill Rising* – 10m HVS 5a. S. McCabe, T. Redfern. 6th June, 2001.

A route in the bay just below the parking / picnic area at Stoer lighthouse, to the south of the road. The first obvious corner to the north of the bay, above a rock platform, climbed direct.

### **ALLADALE, An Socach:**

*The Pimp* – 200m V5,5 \*\*. D. Allan, D. Mitchell. 1st March, 2002.

An icy mixed line up the rib left of The Pillar. Rock protection is limited; carrying ice screws and warthogs is recommended. Start 20m up and left of the start of The Pillar icefall under an overhang.

1. 35m Climb rightwards up an overhung turf ramp, then go straight up on turf

- and climb a step on the right to a narrow ledge just left of The Pillar (same belay).
2. 50m Move left round a nose and up a ramp, then move left and surmount an overhang on ice (crux). Continue straight up on ice to easier ground.
  3. 45m Continue up to a left-trending ramp. Climb it, then move right and straight up.
  4. 45m Climb a right-trending snow gully to blocks.
  5. 25m Continue to the top.

### **SCOURIE, Rubh' Aird an t-Sionnaich (SMCJ 2000):**

*Waiting For The Maiden* – 20m HVS 5a \*. R. I. Jones, M. Dent. 28th July, 2001. From 2m left of Twin Cracks, climb directly through a small roof to another pair of twin cracks. Climb steeply on big holds to a left-facing corner. Step right and pull through.

*Totally Unintentional* – 20m MVS 4b. C. Hodgkinson, A. Callum. 28th July, 2001. Traverse left of *Waiting For The Maiden* to a cleft. Climb just right of the arête and the bay with *The Wee Corner*.

### **ROCK GARDEN CRAGS (MR 248 506. W-facing. Cliff Base 50m):**

Immaculate juggy gneiss, 250m from road. Ample scope for numerous short routes and bouldering on clean rough rock. Other shorter crags exist apart from those listed below.

Park in a large layby 400m to the south.

**Rock Garden Slab:** Closest to road, three minutes.

All routes sight soloed by J. R Mackenzie on 7th October, 2001.

*Rock Garden Arête* – 15m V. Diff \*\*. Climb central arête from blocks at foot, excellent.

*Rock Garden Right* – 15m V. Diff \*. Climb up shallow scoop just right of arête.

*Rock Garden Left* – 15m V. Diff. Climb up wall and slab just left of arête.

### **Garden of Delights Wall:**

Lies a short distance left of the pink slab; more excellent rock.

### **Left-hand Side:**

*Earthly Pleasures* – 20m V. Diff \*\*. Climb the unlikely wall left of centre on good holds all the way.

*Garden of Delights* – 20m VS 4c \*\*. Start centrally from block and boldly straight up to top.

### **Right-hand Side:**

*Crystal Planter* – 15m H. Severe 4b \*. Start below thin quartz crack and seam move up then across left and up to top. Unlikely and good.

### **Rockery Wall:**

Lies above Rock Garden slab.



*Stone Flowers* – 15m H. Severe 4b \*\*. On the left of the wall is a slab bottomed by an overlap. Climb up to the overlap centrally and move left and up on to the slab which is climbed straight up.

*Archaen Perfection* – 15m Mild VS 4b \*\*. Between the slab on the left and a pillar on the right is a narrow scoop bottomed by a wall. Climb the vertical wall to the scoop and so to the top.

*Old Stones* – 15m V. Diff. Climb the red pillar direct.

### **RED CASTLE CRAG (NC 262 493):**

**Approach:** Park at the north end of the Skerricha loop road at MR 246 508. Cross the main road and head south-east. Cross a causeway where Loch na Thuill narrows and continue south-eastwards along the east side of the loch. The crag is visible on a knoll beyond the south end of the loch. 40 minutes.

The crag is of compact red gneiss of very good quality, quick drying and in the sun in the afternoon. The crag is one wall curving round from north-facing on the left side to west-facing on the right, which is a fine slab.

#### **Left Flank:**

*Left-hand Crack* – 20m Severe \*\*. D. Allan. 22nd April, 2000.

Pull over a bulge to start, then follow the crack to the top.

*Northumbria Wall* – 22m HVS 5b \*. D. Moy, D. Allan. 29th April, 2000.

Start 2m left of the corner of the buttress and make hard moves to a thin crack at 3m. Continue to a steep wall and pull through it trending left to a spike. Climb straight up, then move right to finish up an easy groove.

*Geordie Wall* – 22m HVS 5a \*. D. Moy, D. Allan. 29th April, 2000.

Climb steeply up the corner of the buttress, then continue up a scoop to a steep wall. Climb it trending right (crux) to finish more easily.

*The Crack* – 22m VS 4c \*\*. D. Allan, D. Moy. 29th April, 2000.

Follow a prominent crack where the crag changes direction.

*Cumbrian Corner* – 15m E2 5c \*\*. B. Birkett, T. Rogers, H. Lancashire. 23rd August, 2001.

An obvious large left-facing corner.

*Kendall Wall* – 15m E4 6a \*\*. T. Rogers, H. Lancashire, B. Birkett. 23rd August, 2001.

The wall left of Lancashire Crack, using the crack initially for protection.

*Lancashire Crack* – 15m E2 5c \*\*. H. Lancashire, T. Rogers, B. Birkett. 23rd August, 2001.

A thin vertical crack up a smooth wall.

*Right Wall* – 15m E1 5a \*\*. H. Lancashire, T. Rogers, B. Birkett, D. Allan. 23rd August, 2001.

Follow hidden jugs up the right side of the wall after a reachy start.

*The Groove* – 25m Severe 4b \*\*. D. Allan, D. Moy. 29th April, 2000.

A prominent roofed V-groove right of the steep red wall. Start directly below the groove and climb a short corner. Continue up the slabby groove and cross the overhang above its left end. Move left above and finish to the left.

*Slab One* – 25m Severe 4b \*\*. D. Moy, D. Allan. 29th April, 2000.

Start at a block and climb up on to the slab. Climb up the left side of the slab to finish up two small steps at the left end of the steep headwall.

*Slab Two* – 25m Severe 4b \*\*. D. Allan, D. Moy. 29th April, 2000.

Start at a quartzite vein and climb directly to a short thin crack at half height. Continue directly to the steep headwall, gain a ledge and go up a dog-leg crack to finish.

*Slab Three* – 22m Severe 4a \*\*. D. Allan. 22nd April, 2000.

Start right of Slab Two and climb a wide crack to a niche. Finish up a broken left-facing corner.

*Slab Four* – 20m Severe 4a \*. D. Allan. 22nd April, 2000.

Climb a curving crack and carry on directly to finish up a left-facing corner.

*Slab Five* – 18m Severe 4b \*. D. Allan. 22nd April, 2000.

Take the right-hand end of the slab.

### ***The Wee Slab***

Some metres farther right, on the broken right-hand section, is The Wee Slab.

*Right Side* – 4c \*\*. D. Allan. 22nd April, 2000.

*Left Side* – 4a \*\*. D. Allan. 22nd April, 2000.

*The Two Pillars* – V. Diff \*. D. Allan. 22nd April, 2000.

Situated farther right again. Climb into a niche between two grey pillars, then go up the left pillar to finish.

*Diagonal Crack* – V. Diff \*. D. Allan. 22nd April, 2000.

Farther right again. Climb broken ground to the crack and follow it up right.

### **LAXFORD BAY (MR 225 481):**

A series of low-angled gneiss slabs on the north side of Laxford Bay which face south and catch any sun. There are several bands of slabs but the routes listed are on the two bands which are centred and highest on the hillside and a third which is to the left and somewhat lower. Park off the road by the jetty where the A838 bends away from Laxford Bay towards Rhiconich. Strike diagonally up the hillside to the slabs which are about 10 minutes from the road.

*What we did on our Holidays* – 40m Severe 4a \*. S. and K. Charlton. 17th July, 2001.

This route takes a line up the leftmost slab on the highest tier starting at a shallow groove directly below the left end of a grass ledge at 10m. Climb the groove almost to the grass and then move diagonally left over easy rock heading for a crack running to the left below the final steepening. Climb the slab straight up to the top starting to the right of the crack.



*Evening Sunset* – 40m V. Diff \*\*. S. Charlton. 4th September, 2002.

5m right of the start of 'What we did on our Holidays' is another shallow groove running on to the slab. Start up this and move right below the grass and then follow the crest of the buttress.

*Evening Tide* – 45m Diff. \*\*. S. Charlton. 4th September, 2002.

Takes the centre of the right-hand of the two higher slabs. Several harder variation starts can be made from a small bay about 15m above and to the left of the lowest point of the slab.

The next two routes lie on a single sweep of slabs down and to left.

*Doggy Dilemma* – 30m Severe 4a \*. S. and K. Charlton. 17th July, 2001.

Takes the central crack starting from the left end of the grass bank. Follow the crack to the steepening and then climb the slab direct to the top.

*Munroist's Meander* – 30m H. Severe 4a \*. S. and K. Charlton. 17th July, 2001.

From the lowest point of the slab a faint rib runs up and slightly right. Follow the rib to the top with a few delicate moves up its right side at 10m.

### **RHICONICH CRAG (NC 259 520):**

D. Allan and N. Wilson independently think the crag is overstarred.

### **RHICONICH, Creag Gharbh Mhor (MR 269534 to 271536):**

Three separate crags of the usual superb gneiss which are situated above the A8383 about 2+km beyond the Rhiconich Hotel towards Durness. The crags face north-west and catch the late afternoon and evening sun and are easily seen from a small belvedere on the left of the road about halfway along a straight section some 2 km beyond the Kinlochbervie junction.

The main glaciated slab lies about 300m above and to the left of the belvedere and is clearly visible. The Red Wall is lower and to the left again, only the top few metres being visible from the belvedere. The third crag (the Red Slab) lies well to the right of the glaciated slab at about the same height and is the furthest right of the rocky band running out from the slab. Again only the top can be seen from the belvedere. The easiest approach is to strike straight up the hillside from the belvedere to reach a deer track which runs below the rocky band and then follow this either left for the glaciated slab or Red Wall or right to reach the Red Slab.

### **The Glaciated Slab:**

The slab is essentially triangular in shape inverted on one apex. Grassy ledges on both the right and left almost cut the apex. That on the left ends about 5m up from the base while the right hand ledge/bank starts about 10m up and runs out from the redcave/overhang. The overhang nearly reaches the ground below the left ledge. The first four routes start from the lowest point of the slab, while the others start from either the left or right ledges.

*Chasing the Dragon* – 40m HVS 5a \*\*\*. S. and K. Charlton. Summer, 2001.

After a somewhat messy start up to the right of the cave, this takes the immaculate slab direct to the top. Protection on the slab is spaced. Start up the shallow rib on the right-hand side of the cave/overhang. Climb to blocks at about 5m and move

rightover these to gain grassy rock which is crossed rightwards to gain a crack on the right at the base of the main slab. Use the crack to gain the slab and climb direct to the top.

*Crouching Tiger* – 40m VS 4c \*\*. S. and K. Charlton. Summer, 2001.

Start as for Chasing the Dragon to where that route moves rightwards across the grassy rock. From this point move up slightly left to gain another obvious crack at the start of the slab. Climb directly up the slab to the large detached block. Better protection than Chasing the Dragon.

*Jewel in the Crown* – 40m VS 4c \*\*. S. and K. Charlton. Summer, 2001.

Start just to the left of the red cave/overhang below a short crack which leads to the obvious ledge at about 5m. Climb the crack to the ledge (crux) and then move on to the slab and follow a line diagonally right below a shallow rib which ends at a good crack. Move up and right again to below a faint arête on the headwall. Climb the arête to reach a short crack and the trend up and right to the rocky ledge at the top of the slab.

*Hidden Dragon* – 40m HVS 4c \*\*. S. and K. Charlton. Summer, 2001.

Start at the lowest point of the rocks above a small hidden pool. Climb the slight ramp rightwards to gain the left end of the ledge at 5m (about 3m left of where Jewel in the Crown gains this ledge). Move up and the left to the base of the obvious crack. Follow this on to the slab and then climb to the left end of a ledge. From here move slightly left and then straight up to cross the deep grassy crack about 5m from the top. Above the grassy crack convoluted rock leads to the top.

### **The Red Slab:**

This consists of a red slab on the right (which cannot be seen until below the crag) below and left of which is a grey wall with an obvious 'circular crack' low down which merges into a left to right diagonal break which defines the left edge of the red slab. To the left again is an obvious hanging groove and then a left-slanting overhang above a short steep wall. On the right of the circular crack is a chimney crack running directly up onto the slab.

*The Crack* – 35m H. Severe or Mild VS 4a/b \*\*. S. and K. Charlton. 30th August 2001.

Start directly below the circular crack. Gain the crack and then follow it over a ledge to a junction with the slab. Gain the slab and follow it straight up to a ledge and then take the 'crozzly' slab above.

*Westering Home* – 35m V. Diff \*\*. S. and K. Charlton. 30th August 2001.

Bridge the chimney crack and move on to the slab. Follow a crack in the slab to a steepening below a ledge and then follow another crozzly slab to the top (from the ledge this crozzly slab is about 5m right of the one on *The Crack*).

### **SHEIGRA, First Geo:**

The next three routes lie on the north wall of the geo, inland from the descent groove.

*Crispy Cereal* – 20m V. Diff. E. Flaherty, A. Banks. 16th June, 2001.



Climb the next prominent, deep groove inland from the descent groove. Where it splits, go either left to easy ground or better, go right up the slabby corner to finish.

*Culture of Silence* - 20m VS 4c. A. Banks, E. Flaherty. 16th June, 2001.

A good route with a strenuous start and a delicate finish. Start 3m right of Crispy Cereal. Climb the vertical weakness to ledges directly below the left edge of the overhung bay. Step up left around the arête with feet on the sloping ramp/break, and climb directly up the centre of the slab, stepping right to finish up an easy rib.

*Critical Consciousness* - 20m E4 6a. A. Banks, E. Flaherty. 16th June, 2001.

A direct and serious route taking the black slab, overhang and pink headwall to the right of two cleaned E2 grooves (existing routes). Climb straight up the black slabs passing an overlap to the widest part of the overhang before it splits into two levels. Pull over this and climb directly up the steepening headwall, passing two short parallel cracks to finish between a pink quartz vein (on the left) and a large boss of rock.

*At the End of the Road* - 10m E3 5c. S. Crowe, K. Magog. 18th June, 2001.

Start at a short bulging right-facing groove system in the black rock immediately right of the short steep red wall and just left of Acid Jazz (SMCJ 1995). Follow the series of grooves. Poor protection.

*Daylight at Midnight* - 25m E3 6a. S. Crowe, K. Magog. 18th June, 2001.

This route climbs the left hand side of a double corner that separates the Inner and Outer Walls. Scramble up to a good ledge then belay below the steep corner. Climb easily up to below the corner. Large cams #5 and #6 protect the short powerful left-hand flake system above. From the ledge above continue directly to the top.

### **Outer Walls:**

*Big U* - 30m vertical and a long traverse. Diff. A. Banks, E. Flaherty. 13th June, 2001.

An enjoyable excursion. Head out towards the headland south of the First Geo until easy scrambling on large holds leads down in a broad zig-zag to the boulder choke (at the other side of the "very small inlet", guide p279). From the boulder choke, traverse out eastwards towards the bay above the high tide level until reaching a sloping ledge beneath a jutting overlap at the point where the coast turns north towards the beach. Step over the overlap and climb the flake and slab above to easy ground.

On the north wall of 'the very small inlet', two routes have been climbed:

*How Much?* - 20m V. Diff. A. Banks, E. Flaherty. 13th June, 2001.

Start 8m left of the highest point of the boulder choke at a short steep crack. Climb this and easier bulging slabs above.

*Who?* - 20m Diff. A. Banks, E. Flaherty. 13th June, 2001.

Start 4m left of How Much? Beneath a fist-sized pocket at 3m. Climb straight up to a shallow right-facing corner and follow this.

**Second Geo:**

*The Cuckoo Conundrum* – 55m E3 5c. S. Crowe, K. Magog. 17th June, 2001.

A right to left girdle of the red wall crossing above the cave. Follow the Dark Flush as far as the black streak, cross this at the weakness to gain the ramp on Bloodlust. Continue boldly up and across the smooth red shield of rock on pockets as for Bloodlust Superdirect then step left again to finish up the arête of Juggernaut.

*No Porpoise* – 30m E4 6a. S. Crowe, K. Magog. 17th June, 2001.

Start as for Dolphins and Whales but continue directly up the right hand side of the pocketed wall heading for the prominent steep left-facing groove. Power up this to the top.

*Dolphins and Whales* – 30m E4 6a. G. Latter, P. Thorburn. 16th June, 1996.

The pocket-infested wall above the slabby corner of Shark Crack. Belay higher up the slabby lower ramp of Shark Crack, beneath the centre of the wall. Follow a line of huge pockets Second diagonally leftwards to a break running across the centre of the wall. Continue up in the same line to a huge pocket just right of the arête. Move up to a good finger pocket, then head out rightwards to a good vertical slot. Directly above on better holds to a sloping finish. Many large friends useful. The final short crux wall could be avoided by escaping up the left side of the arête, giving a superb E2 5b.

**DUNAN BEAG:**

To the south of Dunan Beag, 3km south of Cape Wrath, is a rocky gorge which opens out into a beautiful sheltered bay and popular seal playground (NC 251 719). The first two routes lie 200m inland, up the gorge, on a buttress rising directly out of a pleasant deep pool.

*Bivi Bath Buttress* – 15m VS 4c. A. Banks, E. Flaherty. 17th June, 2001.

Start at the seaward end of the pool and take a diagonal line up and rightwards on good rock to a ledge. Finish up a black corner above.

*Bivi Bath Traverse* – 15m 5c. A. Banks. 17th June, 2001.

An excellent traverse of the buttress at pool level.

The next route lies at the northern end of the boulder beach in the bay, on a series of large overlapping slabs.

*Gruntled* – 55m Mild XS. A. Banks, E. Flaherty. 17th June, 2001.

In the centre of the overlapping slabs is a fist-sized corner-crack which closes at half height, then reopens as a shallow chimney. Start 4m right of this at a shallow stepped groove. Climb the groove steeply for 4m, then step left on to the open slab. Follow the right edge of this until it steepens, then step right above an overlap back into the now more slabby groove. Follow this to its top and a large blocky flake-crack to grass slopes and no belay. Much loose and unstable rock.

**CRANSTACKIE, Midnight Crag (MR 343 544. W-facing. Cliff Base 300m):**

A nose of gneiss overlooking Strath Dionard. Approach by the track up Strath Dionard, starting near Gualin House. The river is wide but shallow, a straightforward wade, often dry in wellies. The nose has two cracked faces separated by an arête with a prominent groove broken by a roof at half height.



*Wind Sock* – 55m E2 \*\*. D. McGimpsey, A. Nisbet. 29th July, 2001

A route up the centre of the left face.

1. 45m 5c Start up a pink scooped slab to reach a shallow right-facing corner. Climb the corner to its top, then move right along a horizontal crack passing a thin crack above. Move up and back left into the thin crack, climbed to gain a ramp slanting up left to below a bulge. Pull through the bulge into a small niche and continue above trending left over awkward walls to a final wall.
2. 10m 4b Climb this leftwards to a finishing slab.

*Merlin Crack* – 60m HVS \*. D. McGimpsey, D. Allan. July, 2001.

Up the right side of the face, including a prominent crack. Start right of the pink scooped slab.

1. 30m 5a Climb some blocky grooves, then step left round an arête on to the left face. Climb a crack until it peters out. Move right to the prominent crack, go up this and its continuation until a ledge leads right into Evening Groove (a more direct line was tried but blanks out).
2. 30m 4c Pitch 2 of Evening Groove.

*Evening Groove* – 55m VS. D. Allan, D. McGimpsey, J. Preston. 20th July, 2001. The prominent groove between the two faces is the best line but not the best climbing.

1. 25m 4b Climb the groove to below the roof.
2. 30m 4c Go up left under the roof and climb the upper groove.

*Midnight Express* – 50m HVS \*. J. Preston, D. Allan, D. McGimpsey. 20th July, 2001 (finishing left). D. Allan, A. Nisbet. 6th September, 2001 (as described) Four consecutive cracks (the clean ones) up the right face. Start at the base of the face.

1. 25m 5a Climb a crack in the centre of the wall to a heathery ledge. Move right and climb a second crack.
2. 25m 5a Step left and go up the next crack, with a move left and back right at its top. The final crack on the right is deeper and clean, the highlight. Finish easily leftwards.

*The Pink Slab* – 60m VS 4c. D. Allan, D. McGimpsey. July, 2001.

A central line up the obvious pink slab at MR 337 555, following a shallow left-facing corner at mid height. Sparse protection initially and some flakey rock.

### **Skerry Sea Cliffs:**

Several routes have been received from R.I. Jones. It is not yet known whether they are new.

### **SUTHERLAND NORTH COAST:**

Again, many routes have been received and will be included in the new Northern Highlands North.

### **CAITHNESS:**

Again, a number of routes which will be in the guide. Also the following, received at the last minute:

**Duncansby Head:**

*Little Stack* – 20m VS. S. M. Richardson, M. Robson. 9th June, 2001.

The smallest of the four Duncansby stacks. Approach by swimming to gain the platform on the landward side of the stack.

1. 15m 4c Climb the landward face on good holds to a prominent break. Move round this to a good ledge on the south face.
2. 5m 4a Move right and climb a corner-crack to the top.

**LATHERONWHEEL, Pinnacle Area:**

*Far East Arête* – 10m HVS 5a. M. Robson, S.M. Richardson. 10th June, 2001.

The impending arête left of Fancy Free. Climb the right side of the arête on good holds to reach a narrow ledge below a steep wall. Pull over this to the top.

*Smelly Sox* – 10m HVS 5a. S. M. Richardson, M. Robson. 10th June, 2001.

The crack system between Fancy Free and Sticky Fingers. Climb the crack to where it fades below a blank wall, then pull up and right to reach the finishing niche of Sticky Fingers.

**Big Flat Wall:**

*Welzenbach* – 15m HVS 5a. S. M. Richardson, D. Green. 9th July, 2001.

Start in the large niche at the left end of the wall as for Free Fall. Climb the steep crack on the left side of the niche and trend right up the wall above finishing up a crack to the right of The Grey Coast.

*Cassin's Crack* – 20m HVS 5a. S. M. Richardson, D. Green. 9th July, 2001.

The right-hand of the two central cracks on the wall. Start as for The Other Landscape and climb the right side of the cave to join the right-hand crack. Follow this to the upper wall where the cracked bulge of Cask Strength leads to the top. Good sustained climbing, but surely climbed before?

**ORKNEY, Yesnaby:**

*Sink or Swim* – 35m HVS. T. Rankin, S. Johnston. 18th August, 2001.

Just south of the stack is a small headland marking the north side of the deep inlet. On its seaward face is a fine pillar of rock. This route was used as an exit out after an ascent of the stack. The huge tidal platform at the base of the pillar was gained by swimming from the stack but could be gained by abseil from a strainer post (extra rope). Start at the left end of the pillar below an obvious wide crack.

1. 25m 5a Climb the crack and slot on to a ledge. Move left into the big corner.
2. 10m 4c Climb the corner. Move left to climb a steep left-hand crack on to a ledge just below the top.

**Note:** T. Rankin thinks the South Face route on the stack is worth E2 due to a loose exit. The abseil stake is useless and 20m of disposable rope tied to the west arête would be useful as an alternative (the current piece may deteriorate).

*Disappointment* – 15m E2 5b. T. Rankin, S. Johnston (on sight). 16th August, 2001.

A disappointing route for here! Start just left of the descent chimney. Climb a short crack on to a long ledge. Climb the centre of the wall above to sloping finishing holds. Serious with poor rock.



## CAIRNGORMS

### LOCHNAGAR: Southern Sector:

The following routes are on a right-hand flying buttress attached to Sunset Buttress. Right of Sunset Gully is a shallow gully (I/II), then an icy bay with a prominent steep slot above.

*The Pod* – 70m V,6. B. S. Findlay, R. Ross, G. S. Strange. 6th January 2002.

Start in the bay and climb directly into and up the slot. Easy ground leads to the plateau. Rock, frozen turf and a little ice.

*Mirk* – 80m V,5. B. S. Findlay, R. Ross, G. S. Strange. 17th December 2000.

Takes the left-facing *Dagger*-like corner on rocks right of the icy bay, then continues up the easier upper crest passing a steepening on the right. Powder and frozen turf.

### Central Buttress:

*Footloose* – 65m E2 5c \*\*. G. Robertson, J. Currie. May, 2001.

Start up the first pitch of Mantichore (5b), then climb the second pitch of Footloose (5c).

### Shadow Buttress Group. Tough-Brown Face:

**Note:** Backdoor Route Variation has been named *Backdoor Edge* and the following has been climbed as a direct and independent start:

*Direct Variation* – VI,6. G. Robertson, T. Wood. 5th January, 2002.

Climb the prominent grooves in the arête right of Backdoor Route to join the second groove. Good and quite serious under thin conditions.

### Black Spout Pinnacle:

*Wobble* – 70m III. W. Deadman, J. Barrett. 8th April, 2001.

A steep left finish to the left branch of the Black Spout, about 50m beyond Pinnacle Gully 2 and exactly opposite the gully of Crumbling Cranny. Climb steep snow and some ice to a cornice finish.

### West Buttress:

*Bell's Pillar, Direct Start* – 50m V,6. C. Cartwright, S. M. Richardson. 3rd February, 2002.

An alternative start right of the left-facing corner of the original route. Start below the centre of the buttress and climb a steep left-facing corner to a ledge. Move left and climb a steep chimney-crack to join the original route on the ledge at the top of the left-facing corner.

### Coire Nan Eun, Whacky Buttress:

About 100m left of The Stuic is a steep buttress with a prominent beak on its left skyline. The tallest part of the buttress lies right of a central depression and is characterised by a narrow pillar that leads to a platform just left of the buttress apex. The buttress faces north-east and holds snow well after a thaw. Later in the season it is often capped by a huge cornice.

*Pillar Perfect* – 90m V,6. C. Cartwright, S. M. Richardson. 6th January, 2002.

A little gem based on the corner line on the right side of the narrow pillar.

1. 45m Start at the toe of the buttress and climb an easy groove to where it splits. Follow the right-hand groove to its top and pull through a steep step to a good stance.
2. 25m Make exposed moves left onto and across the front face of the buttress to gain the right facing corner right of the narrow pillar. Climb this to good platform and continue over a short wall to the buttress top.
3. 20m Easy snow leads to the plateau.

*Dyke Dastardly* – 90m VI,7. C. Cartwright, S. M. Richardson. 6th January, 2002.

Another good route based on the corner-line on the left side of the pillar.

1. 45m Start as for *Pillar Perfect*, but take the left-hand groove at the split. Pull through the roof above (crux) to gain a small stance below the left-facing corner on the left side of the narrow pillar.
2. 25m Climb the corner to its top and pull over a steep wall to the buttress top.
3. 20m Finish up easy snow.

### **The Stuic:**

*Big Block Groove* – 70m IV,4. C. Cartwright, S. M. Richardson. 19th January, 2002.

The groove-line cutting into the right edge of the buttress containing the right-facing corner of *Morning Has Broken*.

1. 30m Climb a series of steep steps to a good ledge at the foot of a steep wall.
2. 40m Step right round the corner and continue up a deep chimney-groove passing a huge perched block on the right to reach easier ground and the top.

### **Broad Cairn Bluffs:**

*Thieves Gully* – 60m III. R. Birkett, K. Neal. 10th January, 2002.

A short but distinct gully about 300m left of the section of crag with Yoo-Hoo Buttress. A short step of ice, then a 50m steeper ice pitch.

*Neez R Good* – 35m III,4. K. Neal, D. Richardson. 6th January, 2002.

A short icefall 200m to the right of Funeral Fall.

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

*The Nullfidian* – 50m E5 6b \*. M. Reed, P. Benson. 24th June, 2001.

This route climbs the compelling and surprisingly unclimbed, cracked and grooved arête halfway between Wicker Man and Vertigo Wall. Start roughly below the arête. Cleaned and led on sight with 2 rest points.

1. 25m 4b Climb up easily to a big grass ledge. Go right along this then up a slab to a grassy corner (possibly common with Vertigo winter). Climb the corner to a ledge, continue up passing left of a peg to below and slightly right of the overhung arête.
2. 25m 6b Gain the arête using holds on the right wall. Continue boldly up the groove and crack system in the arête to a spike below a bulging wall. Hard moves up the short wall above lead to a reachy move over a small roof, followed by another hard move to gain a standing position. Climb the slabby corner and wall



to below a disgustingly wet and loose brown corner. A fine, technical pitch. Abseil off, or swim up the corner.

### **North-West Buttress:**

*Scirroco* – 200m IV,4. C. Cartwright, S. M. Richardson. 23rd December, 2001. The prominent line of icy vegetated grooves cutting the rib 10m right of Mistral. Follow North-West Buttress to the terrace and continue up the grooves for three pitches, pulling over a roof at one-third height.

### **GLEN CALLATER, Coire Kander:**

A deep easy angled gully descends from the col between Carn an Tuirc and Cairn of Claise (clearly marked on the 1:50000 map at MR 186 805). This gully could be used as a descent. The following routes to its right formed after a thaw when the rest of the hillside was virtually bare of snow (with the exception of the gullies described), and would be easier with more snow.

*Pick Breaker* – 100m II/III. S. Muir. 7th January 2002.

To the right of the descent gully (looking up), a large icefall leads into a short shallow gully which continues to the col. Climb a shallow introductory gully to below the large icefall, which was climbed on the left to reach an easy angled upper snow gully.

*Kanderhar* – 100m III. S. Muir. 9th January 2002.

Further right, another large icefall leads into a longer, deeper gully. A steep 25m icefall leads to the gully which is an easy snow plod.

### **MAYAR, Kilbo Crag (MR 239734):**

This is a name suggested for small SE-facing cliffs overlooking the Mayar Burn. *High Plains Drifter* – 40m HVS 5a. R. Archbold and G. S. Strange. 20th July 2001.

Climbs the right face of the largest buttress, finishing by the more prominent left-hand of two parallel cracks in the top wall. Scramble up steep vegetation to belay at base of first wall.

1. 15m 4c Climb the centre of the wall via a short crack to a grass ledge. Move right and continue, first by a thin crack, then by a wide crack to the next ledge. Belay in a corner right of a small rowan
2. 25m 5a Climb right of the belay, then step left and up into a recess. Move right again and go up to base of a crack in the steep headwall. Climb this directly to the top on surprising holds. Quick drying and well protected.

### **BEINN A' BHUIRD, Coire na Ciche:**

Just south of Coire na Ciche is the slight Coire Buidhe, not shown on the 1:50000 map. To the left of this are three buttresses, at first sight uninteresting and easily passed on the way to Coire na Ciche. The middle buttress (MR 099 978) is the most pronounced with a zig-zag line at the bottom and a ramp high on the right. *Na Sionnaich* – 105m III,5 \*. R. I. Jones, W. Deadman. 2nd March, 2002.

1. 35m Zigzag up the right side of the buttress passing a possible belay at 20m, then use a short narrow chimney on the left to pull on to a large ledge and an obvious flake-crack.

2. 30m Climb the large flake-crack/short wall to its right (crux), possibly easier if it ever ices up?
3. Climb the ramp on the right of the buttress to the top.

### **Dividing Buttress:**

*Big Bertha* – 250m VII,7. S. M. Richardson, C. Cartwright. 10th February, 2002. A good line up the right edge of Dividing Buttress taking the pillar right of Sentinel Gully. A key feature is the prominent inverted V slot at the top right-hand edge of the hanging snowfield.

1. and 2. 75m Start by climbing the easy-angled rib that starts below and right of Sentinel Gully. Belay where the angle steepens below a mixed wall.
3. 40m Climb the centre of the wall to reach the hanging snow field above.
4. 40m Move easily up and right across the snowfield and belay in a niche directly below the slot.
5. 25m Climb a steep wall and enter the slot from the left. Climb the slot (strenuous), exit on the right arête and continue up a steep narrow hanging slab (crux - bold) to reach a good belay below a short deep narrow chimney on the left wall.
5. 40m Climb the slot left of the chimney, then move right to gain a terrace. Move left along this for 10m, then break up and right up a series of grooves and slabs to where the angle eases.
6. 50m Follow the crest of the arête above to reach easier ground and the plateau.

### **Coire nan Clach:**

*Summit Buttress* – 150m II. C. Cartwright, S. M. Richardson. 17th November, 2001.

At the back of the right lobe of the coire is a buttress that rises up to meet the highest point of the plateau 50m south east of the summit cairn. Start at the toe of the buttress and climb a diagonal line up right then left to a central depression. Climb a steep scoop and continue more easily right of the crest to the top.

### **Garbh Choire:**

*Alchemist's Route Direct* – IV,5. D. McGimpsey, A. Nisbet. 29th March, 2002

As for the normal route but climb the obvious left-slanting chimney direct when iced (on this occasion there was a thin steep section).

**Note:** D. McGimpsey and A. Nisbet climbed an alternative start to Pot Luck on 29th March, 2002. Start as for Alchemist to the bay below the obvious left-slanting chimney. Climb a slabby groove on the right side of the bay to reach the well-defined section of the Pot Luck icefall.

### **BEINN BHROTAIN, Coire Cath nan Fionn:**

*Fingaloofers* – 150m II. S. M. Richardson. 4th May, 2001.

Low down on the left wall of Gully A is a prominent chimney. Climb this over a steep step to reach the crest of the ridge above which leads to the plateau.

### **Glen Geusachan:**

*Unnamed* – 200m I. S. M. Richardson. 4th May, 2001.

Start from MR 960 934 and climb the defined shallow gully to the summit plateau.



**ANGEL'S PEAK, Corrie of the Chokestone Gully:**

*The Opportunist* – 60m III,5. D. McGimpsey, A. Nisbet. 26th March, 2002.

There is a big but short corner which is the last feature at the right end of the cliff. Gain and climb the corner, finishing on the right. There is an overhanging barrier wall low down. Despite a tempting icicle, this was climbed up a narrow chimney on the right. Climbed on ice.

**BRAERLACH, Garbh Choire Mor:**

*Gauntless* – 70m IV,5. C. Cartwright, S. M. Richardson. 2nd December, 2001.

A short mixed climb up the left sidewall of Michaelmas Fare. Start 30m up Bunting's Gully at the depression below the start of the Left Branch.

1. 40m Follow a turf seam that runs up and right towards the crest. Leave the seam after 20m and climb a left-facing corner to belay on the summit of the buttress.
2. 30m Cross the col as for Michaelmas Fare, then move up and left into a right-facing chimney-corner that leads to the top.

**Note:** D. McGimpsey and A. Nisbet climbed White Nile direct up the groove throughout on 26th March, 2002. Probably done before. Two 50m pitches with a fine spike belay.

**Garbh Choire Dhaidh:**

*Wichity Way* – 160m V,6. C. Cartwright, S. M. Richardson. 16th December, 2001.

The buttress between Boomerang and Twilight Gully.

1. 45m Climb the crest of the small arête to the right of Boomerang and belay below a prominent corner capped by a left-pointing roof shaped like an inverted L.
2. 40m Climb an easy gully left of the corner then step right onto the corner above the roof. Continue to easier ground.
3. 40m Move up and slightly left to enter the prominent left-facing corner system to the right of Boomerang.
4. 35m Climb the corner to the top (crux). An excellent pitch.

**COIRE SPUTAN DEARG:**

*Unchained* – 120m I. R. Benton, R. Jones. 4th February, 2002.

The gully which defines the right side of the buttress with Anchor Route. This is the left-hand of two possible lines starting from a small bay. Take the right fork 25m from the top; this finishes with one tricky move.

*The Chebec* – 80m VII,8. H. Burrows-Smith, D. McGimpsey, A. Nisbet. 6th December, 2001.

A line centred round the summer route. Start with the 'scrambling' pitch of the summer route but continue right to a ledge. Climb a groove to a smaller ledge underneath the bigger right-hand overhang (20m). Move up to the right corner of the overhang, then traverse left immediately underneath it to a tiny ledge on an arête (here joining the summer route). Climb the crack above and continue up the crackline to a small roof. Step right and go up a small corner until a horizontal crack leads right to flakes (25m). Go up rightwards to finish up the short deep chimney of The Fly. With the cracks choked with ice, a rest point was used on the tiny ledge and two more in the crack above.

**CARN ETCHACHAN, Upper Tier:**

*Poison Dwarf* – VII,8. G. Ettle, M. Garthwaite. 3rd February, 2002.

By the summer route throughout.

**SHELTER STONE CRAG, Central Slabs, Lower Tier:**

*Freja* – 50m E3 5c. J. Lines, L. Hughes. 4th July, 2001.

Climbs good clean hairline cracks in a slab to the right of an obvious grey right-facing corner, and directly below the roof on Snipers. Start at the toe of the slab, 8m right of the right-facing corner. Climb directly up the slab on reasonable holds for 15m to reach a scoopy groove on the left (just right of the corner). Make thin moves up and right, and then direct, passing a couple of overlaps, to reach ledges beneath the start of the main routes.

**COIRE AN t-SNEACHDA, Mess of Pottage:**

*The Message* – V. Diff \*. S. Muir, A. Baird. May, 1999.

Follow pitch one of Pot of Gold, then The Message throughout.

**Note:** A. Nisbet repeated the route but with a different first pitch on 12th December, 2001, using rock boots on dry rock. The first pitch was based on the winter route except where the left-hand of two grooves (the winter route usually climbs the right-hand) was climbed, but with a strenuous pull out left from part way up (Severe).

**Aladdin's Buttress:**

*Wedgewood* – VII,7. G. Lennox, S. Muir. 16th December, 2001.

An ascent of winter (W)Edgewood. The first two pitches are probably close to the earlier (discredited) route (SMCJ 2000 and 2001).

1. 45m Climb the groove 1m right of the arête to meet Doctor Janis, then pull out right to the big ledge.
2. 20m Climb the flake crack and thin crack above, making thin moves to exit on to Genie.
3. 25m Climb the awkward Genie layback and 6m of the Genie Corner to a delicate move left below an overlap on to a small footrail joining the diagonal crack of the summer route.
4. 25m Follow the diagonal crack over the overlap and continue diagonally left to the next arête under the roofed recess. Step left around the arête in a very exposed position to a good belay.
5. 25m Follow the groove above to easy ground.

**Fiacail Buttress:**

*Halibut Habit* – 40m V,5/6. S. Frazer, J. Lyall, M. Twomey. 5th March, 2002.

Start 10m left of White Dwarf, slightly left of the toe of the crag. This predominately icy route follows a narrow right-slanting line, breaching the upper tower by an obvious awkward groove.

**LURCHERS CRAG (Creag an Leth-Choin):**

*The Shepherd* – 100m III,4. C. Maclellan, P. Yardley. February, 2001.

The route takes a hidden right-slanting stepped gully on the buttress to the left of North Gully.



1. 25m Start directly below the left-hand edge of the buttress. Climb an initial corner to a ledge. Traverse left for 5m and continue up a second corner to easier ground and the foot of the right-slanting gully.
2. 50m Climb the gully over a series of steps exiting right at the top to a large ledge.
3. 25m At the right-hand side of the ledge, climb a steep wall (crux) to exit on to easier ground and gain a small col. From here it is possible to abseil 50m into North Gully or continue more easily to the top.

*Quinn* – 75m III. B. S. Findlay, R. Ross and G. S. Strange. 10th February 2002. The straight gully cum chimney defining the right edge of the buttress containing Collie's Route. It was climbed in two pitches passing the capping arch of jammed blocks on the right.

## NORTH EAST OUTCROPS

No routes here as the new guide is imminent.

## HIGHLAND OUTCROPS

### GLEN NEVIS, Meadow Walls:

*Impulse* – 15m E8 6c \*\*\*. D. MacLeod. 15th July, 2001.

An awesome line climbing the pillar-like overhanging wall standing high above the Steall meadow, well left of Going for Gold. Very bold and serious climbing with a dynamic crux. Scramble in from the left past trees and start at the foot of an obvious ramp leading up the wall. Climb the ramp to some quartz holds at its top. Place an assortment of poor small cams in these. Continue directly up the leaning wall above with increasing difficulty to a desperate lunge to a good hold. Finish directly.

### River Walls:

*Isomorph* – E7 6b \*. D. MacLeod. 13th May, 2001.

This route climbs the overhanging rounded arête guarding the entrance to the gorge at the edge of the meadows. Interesting but very serious and committing climbing. Move right along the large ledge to the arête (Friend). Climb up and left to gain the obvious line of square cut flakes on the left side of the arête (skyhook runner) and climb these with difficulty to the easier top section.

### GLENFINNAN, Boathouse Crag:

*R.I.B.* – 15m VS 4b. C. Moody, C. Grindley. 29th July, 2001.

There is another crag left (west) of the main crag. Climb the rib on the right side of the crag.

*Das Boot* – 15m VS 4c. C. Moody, C. Grindley. 29th July, 2001.

Start left of R.I.B. and climb the wall between two small trees; step left just before the angle eases.

**MALLAIG CRAGS, Creag Mhor Bhrinicoire:**

**Notes from C. Cartwright:** I would argue that Nobs up North, Morar Magic and Penguin Monster are basically the same route with alternative starts. Pump and Dump is E2 5b, not E1 5b. We also climbed what may be a new line to the right of West Coast Boys at E3 5c. Led by Iain Small and followed by myself and Andrew Faulk. Starts 2m right of West Coast Boys, climbs rightwards to the top of the obvious pillar, breaks left up impending wall above (crux) before pulling right into, and following the obvious overhanging crackline.

**ARISAIG, Sidhean Mor (SMCJ 2000, p. 391):**

The following routes are on the west-facing slab. Immaculate rock with a magnificent outlook towards Eigg and Rum.

*Billy Whiz* – 20m Mild VS 4b \*. S. Kennedy, W Muir. 10th June, 2001.

Takes a system of cracks and flakes on the slab just left of the obvious curving crackline (One for Ewan). Climb the initial short wall by a flake. Move slightly right and continue to a small roof. Continue up the cracked slab and finish directly over the final steepening.

*The Great Hunt* – 20m M.Severe \*. S. Kennedy, W Muir. 10th June, 2001.

The obvious flakeline left of Billy Whiz with which it shares a common start. Start up the initial wall then follow cracks above to the prominent flake. Climb the flake.

*Absolute Beginners* – 20m V. Diff \*. S. Kennedy, W Muir. 10th June, 2001.

The slab immediately right of One for Ewan. Start at the foot of the curving crackline and move diagonally right along a crack to reach the slab. Climb directly up the slab.

**DUNTELCHAIG:**

Two routes have been reported on two small outcrops over the summit of the hill behind the main crags and facing south. The left-hand gives boulder problems, whilst the right-hand is a little higher. Locals have climbed here and certainly the left-hand route has been done before.

*Frothing Farmers* – 10m VS 5a.

Climbs the left-hand flake crack starting up a steep pocketed wall.

*Fire Burnished Night* – 10m E2 6a. K. Howett, G. Ridge. 8th March, 2001.

Climbs the central crack. Thin starting moves up a hairline crack gain good holds at half height to reach the upper crack.

**TYNRICH SLABS, Frank Sinatra Walls:**

R. McAllister's unnamed route is called Gorillas in the Mix.

**High Green Crag:**

Ole Blue Eyes was seconded by V. Chelton and R. McAllister.

**INVERFARIGAIG, Monster Buttress (MR 522 226):**

*Monster Magic* – 20m E2 5b/c. P. Mayhew, I. Innes. 31st May, 1998.



A very sustained climb but on good holds. Start at a thin rowan tree which marks the bottom of a left-facing and slightly overhanging diedre in a lower buttress, 50m from the right-hand end of Monster Buttress. Climb steeply up to a small birch. Pass this to the right and make a long reach or layback to a high hold on the right, then moving left (crux, first done with a pre-placed nut). Climb steeply with good protection to small overhang. Traverse right (thin but good friction) to bifurcating cracks for small fingers. Finish direct to a tree.

*Dances with Blondes* – 20m E1 5b. S. Howe, G. Lowe, Terry (?). 22nd May, 1998. The finishing slabs are very mossy and general cleaning may now be required. Start at the base of Monster Magic. Move left and up a mossy slab to reach clean rock at 6m and an obvious widening crack. Climb this crack, passing a bulge at 10m and a block above. The crack widens dramatically at 15m (Friend#4, crux). Bridge up on jams to a committing mantelshelf finish.

*The Monster Mash* – 70m E2. S. Long, D. (Smiler) Cuthbertson (Alt, on-sight). 24th May, 1996).

This atmospheric and serious climb accepts the challenge of the central line up the highest point of the crag. A massive open groove system just on the right of the crag centre weaves through several bands of overhangs. The climb gains the groove from the right via steep but relatively slabby rock. A good bet when weather is inclement. A row of detached blocks marks the start, directly below a mature tree 30m up the crag on the right end of the obvious ledge in the main groove.

1. 30m 5c. Step off a pinnacle block on the left and move up to a line of holds leading rightwards to a scoop under the overhang. Flakes lead up and left through the overhang (crux). Continue steeply but with less difficulty straight up to the tree. Continue left along the ledge to belay in the rose garden.

2. 25m 5a/b. Meander up the left side of the main groove, heading for the double band of overhangs. Traverse left below the overhangs until airy moves up and left allow access through the overlap. Continue left to belay at an airy crevassed stance. Spooky climbing demanding care with the rock.

3. 15m 5a/b. Rather than escaping rightwards, enter the shallow hanging groove on the left and follow it to the obvious crack at the left end of the final overhang. Pull over the overhang on good holds and continue up the delightful groove to the top. Enjoyable climbing on perfect rock.

### **WOLF CRAGS (MR 948 308):**

A minor crag on the Dava Moor which could provide a half day or evening in the lower grades. 13 routes of 8-12m, details on request. The rock is good quality schist but the main section is mossy (could be brushed by someone keen).

### **CREAG DUBH, Sprawl Wall note:**

*The Meejies*: E6 6b suggested by A. Robertson. Others have confirmed 6b (seconding).

**Notes:** From R. Everett: *Instant Lemon*: Pitch 2 description should read: “25m 5c. Traverse back left on huge flat holds for 5m. Move up to a line of small holds in a pale streak, then go straight up to better holds. Step back left into a groove, then follow this to the right, finishing at the left side of a corrugated roof.”

*Instant Lemon Direct:* The peg has gone from the lower wall. This must be now at least E5 6a, possibly E6.

*Desire:* This is highly over-rated and probably undergraded at E2; E3 5c no stars would be better. Pitch 1 is better up the centre of the buttress, and done this way it is 5a. Pitch 2 is solid 5b and poorly protected, requiring a committing finish on doubtful holds. Pitch 3 is a bit of a horror show. Sure, the position is impressive, even spectacular, but the rock is fundamentally unsound.

### **PITLOCHRY, Rockdust Crag:**

These mica schist crags were developed in the late 90's and early 'naughties'. The crags lie on a pleasant open hillside approximately 7 miles north-east of Pitlochry along the A924 in Glen Brerachan, by the tiny hamlet of Straloch. The name Rockdust was taken from the nearby tenant farmers who use crushed rock to increase soil fertility. Due to its southerly-facing aspect the crag can be quite a suntrap and generally stays dry for the best part of the year. With regards to access, both the landowner and the tenant farmer seem happy to have low impact climbing on the crags.

There are two crags, the better being the obvious Main (Upper) Crag. The Main Crag comprises both sport and traditional routes due to its varied nature.

On the Main Crag, the routes from left to right are as follows:

1. *No Food for the Parasites* – 40m HVS 5a. C. Miln, I. Watson. 16th May, 1999. This line weaves up through the hanging slab with the large horizontal slot. Belay fairly far back on top of hillside at a small outcrop.

2. *Rubblesplitskin* – H. Severe 4b. B. Strachan, J. Bod. Henderson. 1999.

This route was done in the summer of 99 and may have already been reported.

3. *The Quiet American* – 40m HVS 5a. C. Miln, I. Watson. 23rd May, 1999.

This line starts a couple of metres left of the short left-hand bolted wall, trending diagonally up rightwards to meet a fault running up the left-hand side of the wall, then on up through the small overhang at the top.

3a. *Variation:* 40m E2 5c. C. Miln, I. Watson. 23rd May, 1999.

A direct start to the route, surmounting the overhang with some difficulty.

4. *Downshifting* – 12m F6c+/7a. I. Watson. 20th June, 1999.

The leftmost sport route follows the steep lower wall on crimps through to easier ground, with a final sting in the tail.

5. *Twilight Shift* – 12m F6c/+. C. Miln. 27th March, 1999.

An excellent line which takes the more featured right-hand side of the steep lower wall, having the same grand finale as the previous route.

6. *Ha Ha Tarrawingee* – 35m E2 5b. I. Watson, C. Miln. 27th March, 1999.

This pleasant line follows the faint crackline to the right of the previous route and can either be finished out left on the bolt belays of Route 5, or can be continued to top out on steep heather.

7. *21st Century Citizen* – 20m F6c. C. Miln. 21st March, 1999.

The classic of the crag weaves up through steep walls and bulges on surprising holds to the high point of the crag. Sustained but never desperate.

8. *Quiet Revolution* – 20m F6b+. I. Watson. 21st March, 1999.

After a tricky mantle the climbing eases off for a little before tackling a small roof and finishing up the top wall to join the belays of the previous route.

9. *French Onion Soup* – 14m F6a. I. Watson. 3rd May, 1999.

An excellent line on surprising holds.



10. *Tribute to Dan Osman* – 40m E3 6a. C. Miln, I. Watson. 17th April, 1999.  
An excellent route which follows the right to left diagonal fault across the main face.

10a. *Variation*: 40m E4 6a. C. Miln, I. Watson. 17th April, 1999.

Instead of completing the full traverse of the main face, finish directly up through the crack system to the left of Route 7, finishing at the high point of the crag.

11. *Gimme Shelter* – 14m F6a. C. Mayland. 3rd May, 1999.

After a tough initial few moves through the roof, the climbing eases, continuing on up to the same belay as previous route.

12. *Egyptiana Jones* – 20m F6a+. I. Watson. 11th March, 2000.

This line starts up the first three bolts of Gimme Shelter, then trends up and right across the Crack of Doom, then directly upwards on to the top wall. Take care of loose rock when crossing the Crack of Doom.

13. *Wandering Minstrel* – 8m F7a. C. Mayland. 1st May, 1999.

The short steep line up the overhanging arête packs a punch.

14. *The Crack of Doom* – 40m H. Severe 4b. C. Miln, C. Mayland. 11th March, 2000.

Start up the crackline to the right of the previous route, then trend up leftwards into the large fault to the top. You are at your own peril !

**Note:** The belay point for the gear routes is set fairly far back from the cliff face, up the hillside at a small outcrop. Two 50m ropes should be adequate.

The Lower Crag has been partially developed to give four routes. The rock quality is less solid. From left to right:

1. *Millennium Madness* – 16m F6a. I. Watson. 3rd January, 2000.

A surprisingly pleasant route on some very positive holds. The top wall is a lot more solid than it might appear.

2. *Virtual Life* – 16m F6a+. C. Miln. 2nd January, 2000.

Another good line through surprisingly steep ground, arriving at the same belay as route 1.

3. *Sending the Wrong Signal* – 12m F6b+. C. Miln. 15th January, 2000.

The technical difficulty is of a short duration.

4. *Cat Scratch Fever* – 12m F6b+. C. Mayland. 15th January, 2000.

Wear long sleeves and trousers on this one!

### **WEEM CRAGS, Secret Garden Area:**

*The Missing Link* – 20m F6c+/7a. I. Watson. 17th June, 2000.

This excellent sustained line links the bottom wall of Faithless, taking it up through the roof then trending up and leftwards to the top headwall of Forbidden Fruit via the golden hanger.

### **DUNKELD, Polney Crag, Ivy Buttress:**

*Stolen Ivy* – 15m E7 6c. T. Rankin (unsec.). 25th April, 2001.

A eliminate with funky moves up the arête forming the left edge of the Hot Tips groove. Start up Hot Tips and move left to a small overlap below the arête (Small RP's). Move up the arête until a step left gains the finish of Sideline. Protection is hard to place (take a nut key). Practised on a top rope but graded for on-sight.

**NEWTYLE QUARRY:**

*Give me Sunshine* – 20m F6c+ \*\*. I. Taylor. June, 2001.

The bolted line left of Spandau Ballet.

**GLEN OGLE, The Diamond:**

*Cease Fire* – 15m F8a+ \*\*\*. D. MacLeod. September, 2001.

This abandoned project has finally been completed to give an excellent sustained climb. Follow the line of bolts left of Spiral Tribe. From the second bolt move directly up the wall to a good hold and continue on small finger pockets (crux) to reach goodholds just below the top.

**GLEN LEDNOCK, Hideaway Crag:**

*Unnamed* – E2 5c. K. Howett, G. Nicoll. 11th July, 1999.

The corner in the middle of the crag just left of International Colouring-in Contest finishing in the slight groove above, and to the left of the finish of that route.

*Hide and Sneak Direct Start* – 5c. A. D. Robertson, G. Lennox (on sight). 26th May, 2001.

Climbs the obvious overhanging crackline at the toe of the crag to join the original at the end of its leftwards traverse. Possibly easier than the original but logical.

*Battle of the Bulge* – E5 6a. G. Lennox, C. Adam. June, 2001.

Start left of Hide and Sneak and move up left to join that route at the break. Follow this route until it moves out right to the protruding block. Instead, continue straight up to a letterbox under the roof. Pull through the roof and follow the break leftwards to an obvious fin/jug. Move up rightwards through the short groove to join the finish of Hide and Sneak.

*Unnamed* – VS 5a. A. Todd A. Taylor. 11th July, 1999.

The corner to the left of Hormone Imbalance (below).

*Hormone Imbalance* – VS 4c. A. Todd A. Taylor. 11th July, 1999.

To the right of the crag, take a right-slanting ramp above the small cave. Also claimed by C. Adam, M. Munro. June, 2001.

**TROSSACHS, Stronachlachar Crag:**

At the western end of Loch Katrine, above the tiny hamlet of Stronachlachar, lies a south-facing hillside strewn with many small crags and large boulders, two of which have been developed as sport crags due to their blank, unprotectable nature. The crags can be approached from the B829 from Aberfoyle to Inversnaid. Turn left at the Stronachlachar junction and park in a fairly large passing place on the left, approx. a half mile along the road.

High up on the open hillside, left of the wooded area is the High Crag at NN 388 102. This compact micascist crag is small but perfectly formed. The High Crag is best enjoyed in spring/summer whilst the G-Spot (see below) is better in spring or autumn when the ferns are down.

From left to right the routes are as follows:

1. *Rakshasa* – 6m F7a. C. Miln. 27th September, 1997.

This extended boulder problem has spat off a few!



2. Project.

3. *Lady of the Loch* – 10m F6b. I. Watson. 16th May, 1998.

Climb the line of small hidden pockets.

4. *My Own Private Scotland* 10m – F6c+. C. Miln. 21st September, 1997.

The central line is sustained with a sting in the tail!

5. *Highland Cling* – 10m F6b. I. Watson. 22nd September, 1997.

This very pleasant line is harder than it first looks .

The second developed crag is known as the G-Spot. This is found approximately halfway up the left-hand edge of the wooded area at NN 390 101. The crag is actually a giant mica schist boulder, yielding some very tough routes and a project to go. It was originally bolted by George Ridge in 1997, then a few years later climbed by Colin Miln, Isla Watson and George.

From left to right the routes are:

1. *Rhumba al Sol* – 12m F6a. I. Watson. 13th May, 2000.

The excellent left-hand arête.

2. *Hideous Kinky* – 12m F7b. C. Miln, I. Watson. 18th August, 2001.

Climb the blank scoop, then with great difficulty teeter tenuously up the thin top wall.

3. *Venga Boys* – 12m F6c+/7a. G. Ridge. 14th May, 2000.

Climb the right to left fault.

4. *El Mundo Fanatico* – 12m F7a+. C. Miln. 7th May, 2000.

Shares a common start with Venga Boys, then trends up and right to a tough finale.

5. Project . Open to any budding boulderers.

### **Inversnaid Crags:**

This area lies by Inversnaid which is accessed by continuing along the B829 past the Stronachlachar Crags, to the very end of the road. There are two main crags, Wild Swans Crags and Crystal Crag, which lie on the hillside above the east bank of Loch Lomond, north of the Inversnaid Hotel. The Wild Swans Crags lie at NN 334 103 and are found up off the West Highland Way trail, just under 1.5 km from the Hotel carpark. There are two small crags with completed routes and a couple of very steep project crags. All are west-facing and the rock is very compact , micro-pocketed mica schist, hence lending itself to sport routes. Both Wild Swans Crags and Crystal Crag are best visited in the spring and autumn when the ferns are down.

From south to north as you approach the crags along a narrow goat path, you will find:

### **Crag One:**

1. *Hobble* – 10m F7a+. C. Miln. 25th October, 1997.

A bouldery route taking the right-hand side of the crag.

### **Crag Two and Three:**

Several projects which will yield some tough grades.

### **Crag Four: Wild Swans Buttress:**

The best of the crags contains four pleasant routes with great views up Loch Lomond. From left to right:

1. *The Ridge* – 10m F6c. C. Miln. 31st October, 1998.

Traverse out left (crux) to the arête, then move up on to easier ground.

2. *Dark Skies* – 10m F6b+. C. Miln. 2nd November, 1997.

A tough crimp start leads into a faint groove and more positive holds.

3. *Wild Swans* – 10m F6c. I. Watson. 23rd October, 1997.

Follow the central line of immaculate rock on micro-pockets.

4. *Moonlight Sonata* – 10m F6b+. I. Watson. 15th November, 1998.

Start at the right-hand side of the face and trend up leftwards to meet the top section of Wild Swans.

**Crystal Crag** lies further north at NN 336 109, roughly 2km north of the Hotel off the West Highland Way. Shortly after crossing a bridge, you will be forced to squeeze between two large boulders on the trail. At this point climb steeply uphill to the crag. A fairly tough 45-minute walk-in, but worth it. The crag is easy to spot by its unique white crystalline patina. It faces south-west and is a real suntrap and very sheltered, without suffering from midges.

This was discovered and developed by Colin Miln and Isla Watson, with others later adding lines.

From left to right:

1. Project.

Joins at the same belay point as Route 2.

2. *Fear and Self Loathing* – 20m F7b. C. Miln. 3rd October, 1998.

Break out left from the shared start of Route 3 and make a gnarly traverse leftwards before moving out onto the top wall with initial difficulty followed by more positive holds. A real outing!

3. *Age of Aquarius* – 18m F7a+. C. Miln. 22nd August, 1998.

A superb line. Sharp technical moves lead to a ramp. Trend leftwards up the ramp and break out upwards on to the top wall on positive holds. Sustained but never desperate.

4. *Purgatory* – 16m F7b. C. Miln. 2nd May, 1999.

From the common start of Route 3, continue directly up through the roof. Belay shared with Route 3.

5. *Roadkill Recipes* – 14m F7a+. G. Ridge. 22nd August, 1998.

Start just to the right of the previous routes, by the small tree. Continue up and right through the overhang to the belay.

6. *Ruby Slippers* – 14m F7a. J. Horrocks. 18th March, 2000.

Pleasant climbing up the lower wall leads to a blind crux move below the overhang.

7. *Rebel Without Applause* – 14m F7b. C. Miln. 15th March, 1998.

Climb to gain the ramp, then up again to the quartz boss. Use this to move up the tricky headwall.

8. *Far From the Malham Crowds* – 14m F7a. I. Watson. 2nd May, 1999.

Thin technical moves up the finely featured right-hand side of the wall.

## BEN NEVIS, AONACHS, CREAG MEAGHAIDH

The new guide for this area will be out soon, so no routes are published here.



## GLEN COE

Routes which have already appeared in the new Glen Coe guide are not repeated here. The following may not be in the guide. Any which have been omitted from both should be re-submitted next year, so recent first ascensionists please check.

### **BUACHAILLE ETIVE MOR, Coire na Tulaich:**

**Note:** R. Jones climbed The Spate (SMCJ 2000). He thinks the description for it is wrong as it suggests that it may take the line of Awong. Awong is 4m-5m to the right of the chimney. He felt the route was IV,5 not IV,6. The route is about 70m not including the traverse. He suggests the following description:

The obvious left-slanting chimney line, icy to start then more mixed. A chokestone at 45m provides the crux. leading to a large shelf. Traverse up rightwards to finish. Good early in the season.

### **Stob Coire Altruim:**

**Note:** Cerberus: Following the second ascent, M. Bass suggests a better pitch 3: 1 and 2. As before (SMCJ 1997).

3. 50m Go under the chockstone, then up on to it and climb the right-hand turfey groove to easy ground and the summit.

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

A suggested name for the buttress right of Lost Valley Minor Buttress.

*The Nipper* – 100m II/III. G. W. M. Allan, J. Thomas. 16th February, 2002.

Climbs the left edge of this buttress. Start up and right of the left-hand toe of the buttress at an obvious fault. Climb the fault for 15m, traverse across the slabby left wall and follow the obvious line just right of the edge to easy ground. Climbed with poor conditions in the lower fault but a pleasant line.

### **STOB COIRE NAN LOCHAIN, Central Buttress:**

**Note:** *East Face Route.* D. Kerr and I. Sharpe climbed the left-hand gully line throughout on 26th February, 2000, followed a week later by A. Shand and C. Grant. VI,7 agreed.

### **North Buttress:**

*Dress Circle* – 60m IV,4. S. Kennedy, M. Shaw. 31st December 2001.

The groove-line slanting diagonally up leftwards to the right of North Face and overlooking the upper reaches of North Gully. Start just below and left of a small rock pinnacle in the upper part of North Gully at the foot of two short, steep grooves. Climb strenuously up the right-hand groove by some chockstones. Continue up leftwards via the continuation groove to behind a small thumb of rock (30m). Traverse leftwards along a ledge to the foot of a slabby groove. Climb the groove and its continuation above to the top of North Buttress (30m).

### **STOB COIRE A' CHEARCAILL:**

*Charcoal Buttress* – 120m III,4. D. McGimpsey, A. Nisbet. 1st January, 2002.

There is an east-facing crag directly below the summit and largely composed of one main buttress. This route climbs the crest of the buttress, starting just left of the toe and continuing on alternate sides of the crest to the top.

**AONACH DUBH, North Face:**

*The Twarf* – VI,7. S. Chinnery, M. Morton. 24th February, 2002.

Climbed in six pitches, the first as for Fall-out up a nice little icefall. The next two pitches were the meat, a excellent chimney and then fine steep climbing on the crux corner groove on superb hooks and quite good gear. Then easier climbing up the continuation fault, finishing up and left up the obvious fault/gully line to the top. An excellent little route after getting past a treacherous sloping shelf.

**Note:** Repeated three weeks later by P. Benson and G. Robertson who climbed two pitches of the summer line, then took the right-hand of the two 'twin grooves' (crux) which led to easier ground.

**GARBH BHEINN (ARDGOUR), Leac Beag Buttress:**

*Centrefold* – 90m IV,4. S. Kennedy, A. Nelson. 24th February, 2002.

The vegetated groove dividing the two sections of the buttress. Climb a short gully, then step right into a small bay below the main groove. A steep thin icefall leads to the deep groove which is followed to a small cave. Awkward slabby moves lead out right then continue up an easy ramp to the upper slopes.

*Stonefall Gully, Right Branch* – 145m III,4. P. Farr, P. Harrop, G. Jones. 24th February, 2002.

The right-hand branch of the gully defining the right side of the buttress. Climb the gully to a cave. Exit the cave by an icefall on the right wall then follow grooves up rightwards to a further small cave. Continue up rightwards by a groove line to reach the easier upper slopes.

*Too Far Left* – 60m III. P. Farr, P. Harrop, G. Jones. 24th February, 2002.

The prominent icefall on the left side of the buttress immediately left of Leac Beag Buttress. Climb the icefall in two pitches.

**ARDNAMURCHAN, BEINN NAN ORD, Creag Lochain Dubha (MR 441 649):**

This is a hill to the west of Beinn na Seilg with a south-west facing gabbro cliff at altitude 150m.

*Dubha Lochain Monster* – 40m Diff. \*\*. C. Moody. 17th March, 2002.

There are three cracks, start just right of the left crack and climb straight up with a bulge near the top.

*Predator* – 40m V. Diff. \*\*. C. Moody. 17th March, 2002.

Start just left of the middle crack. Move up, step right over the crack and continue to the top.

*Black Mamba* – 40m Severe \*. C. Moody. 17th March, 2002.

Start to the right of Predator. Climb a bulge and continue up.

*Mousetrap* – 50m Diff. C. Moody. 17th March, 2002.

To the right the main cliff the crag is guarded by an overlap. Cross the overlap near the right end then follow the slab to a heather ledge. Climb the small slab above, then move left to finish up the main cliff.



## SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS

### GLEN CROE:

*Fernandez* – 6c/7a \*\*. M. Tweedley. April, 2002.

On the boulder in front of Ace of Spades. Climb the snakey arête using a hold on the right, then crimp up the arête to a jug. Painful!

### THE COBBLER, South Peak, South Face:

*Lasting Impression* – 60m E3 \*\*. R. and C. Anderson. 13th May, 2001.

This climbs a line just left of centre on the wall left of Porcupine Wall to cross the fault and climb a groove to a finish up Cupids Groove. The result of two days cleaning.

1. 20m 5b Start at a boulder left of centre on the wall, below the left end of the belay ledge. Climb up to the left and place a sideways Rock#7 which acts as a side runner, then return to the ground. Step off the boulder and move slightly up and right to good holds then continue directly to holds just below a pointed projecting hold where the first gear is located. Continue to a horizontal break (runners). Continue straight up to quartz holds (good wires just up to the right). Move up right and climb to the left end of the belay ledge. Climb past the horizontal break and gain a thin crack then foot traverse rightwards.

2. 40m 5b Step across the fault, climb to a blocky projection and continue up a crack and ensuing groove to its top to reach the grass ledge where the worn scramblers path from the col ends. Move up right into the groove (Cupids Groove, originally graded VS 4c, but is more like E2 5b). From the small ledge on the right at the top of the groove gain a slabby ledge and climb to the top just left of the crack in the headwall.

### North-East Face:

*MacLean's Folly* – 85m VIII,8 \*\*\*. D. MacLeod, G. Hughes. 23rd February, 2002.

The rarely repeated summer route makes a spectacular winter line, featuring sustained and strenuous, but reasonably well protected climbing.

### THE BRACK:

*Hogwart's Express* – 125m VI,7. A. Clarke, F. Yeoman. 4th January, 2002.

Fine mixed climbing with great exposure. Climbs the right edge of the wall, right of Great Central Groove and Resolution, finishing up the oblique tapered fault. Start at the toe of the wall.

1. 40m Climb up to an obvious line trending up and right (as for Resolution). Continue right climbing a short wall to below a steep wall on the edge.

2. 15m Climb steeply above the belay into an overhung niche, move left (bold) to a thin turf ledge, then more easily to a ledge.

3. 30m Traverse left a short distance, then tackle the wall direct, aiming for a vague crack in its upper half. Move right crossing an iced slab to reach a ledge below the oblique tapered fault of Mainline.

4. 30m Climb the fault. When it overhangs, move on to the edge and a stiff pull to easy ground below the final wall.

5. 10m The steep thinly iced wall above (as for Mainline summer).

**STOB GHABHAR, NE Coire:**

*Alternative Groove* – 80m II. G. Allan, K. Powell, I. Reynolds. March, 2000.

Takes the obvious ramp to the left of the buttress containing Hircine Rib, 150m east of the Upper Couloir. Start at the prominent rocks below the ramp and climb steep snow trending left (50m). Continue up for 15m before heading right to an obvious break in the cornice.

**BEINN AN DOTHaidh, Creag Coire an Dothaidh:**

*Burnout* – 175m IV 4. I. Clark, A. McCaig. 24th February, 2002.

Takes the right edge of the main buttress, traverses round on to the face overlooking the col, finishing up steep icy grooves and walls. A good varied route on steep turf and icy bulges.

1. 35m Start 20m right of Centigrade at an icy turf ramp under a short diagonal wall. Climb the ramp, go left round a corner and up ledges to a thread.
2. 35m Continue up steep ice, go right for a few metres, then up and left to a cave with a thread at the back.
3. 40m Climb up bulges to a long airy traverse to reach a large flake.
4. 40m Move right and climb a steep icy groove.
5. 25m Continue to the top.

**BEN CRUACHAN:**

To the north of the ridge running west from Cruachan's summit to the bealach between it and the Taynuilt peak are situated some steep crags. These are split by a wide gully which finishes as a prominent deep chimney formed by a huge fin of rock on its right side. This was climbed over a couple of icy steps. 60m I/II. D. Ritchie, M. Shaw. 9th February, 2002.

*Noe Buttress* – 100m IV,4. D. Ritchie, M. Shaw. 9th February, 2002.

This route climbs the buttress immediately right of the wide gully. Start some 30 metres above and left of the toe of the buttress.

1. 50m Move on to the left-hand edge of the buttress, climbing mixed ground above to gain a shallow right-slanting chimney. At its top turn the rock nose on its right side, climbing a groove then a right-trending fault to easier ground.
2. 50m Follow the buttress crest more easily to finish.

**MEALL NAN TARMACHAN, Arrow Buttress:**

*Planet Fear* – 60m VII,7 \*\*. S. Muir, G. E. Little. 2nd January, 2002.

The obvious icefall visible from the dam (in a good winter) in the bay 100m right of dam busters gives a steep and serious climb on fragile ice, maybe VIII,7. Gain the main fall/pencil by traversing across a steep slab on turf and ice from the right. In exceptional conditions, it may be possible to climb the lower free hanging icicle direct to the main fall.

1. 30m Traverse left above the initial icicle by an obvious line of turf/ice and climb directly to the base of the ice smears and free hanging ice pencil. Climb this directly with extreme care to a belay on ice below the overhanging wall.
2. 30m Climb up and right to gain turf or ice drooping over the right lip of the overhanging wall. Somehow gain the wall above and climb the next short ice wall.



**Carlin's Buttress:**

**Note:** D. Crawford notes that the route One for the Road, climbed with S. Burns in 1997 should be grade II (originally climbed in lean conditions). Also that *Little Gully* (SMCJ 2001, p689) is the same as *One For The Road* (SMCJ 1998).

**BEN CHONZIE, Carn Chois:**

*Sieging the Battlements* – 80m IV,5. K. Howett, A. Armstrong. 20th January, 2001. Climbs an obvious ice pillar in the centre of the buttress near the summit. The obvious left- diagonal and very deep gully to the left of this route was also climbed that day at 120m grade II but would probably bank-out under heavier snow.

## ARRAN

**BEINN NUIS, Flat Iron Tower:**

*Ealta Rib* – 135m V. Diff \*. C. Read, S. J. H. Reid (alt.). 20th May, 2001.

An excellent sustained route on sound clean rock. Start at the very foot of the long rib that drops down westward into Ealta Coirre. This is on the opposite side of the corrie to the Full Meed Tower.

1. 25m Climb a rib between two grooves via an obvious pocket to a ledge on the right side of a roof. Step right to a short grassy groove and go up to a belay.
2. 50m Climb up the right arete and then diagonally leftwards up slabs to easy ground. Scramble up to a belay just to the left of a fine rib.
3. 35m Gain the rib from the left, just above a prominent overlap and follow cracks to a huge prow. Avoid this on the right, the move back leftwards to finish up the exposed arete. A large detached block is 10m above.
4. 25m Climb on to the block and gain the wall above. Follow an obvious hand traverse leftwards and round to a platform under a short chimney. Squirm up the chimney to the top.

**BEINN TARSUINN, Consolation Tor:**

*Consolation Arete* – 60m VS. S. J. H. Reid, N. Walmsley. 19th May, 2001.

Takes the left edge of Tarsuinn No. 1 Chimney. Fine, exposed and well protected climbing, though the rock is not above suspicion in places.

1 20m (4c). Follow the rib, avoiding the prominent prow by a traverse left and move up (crux) to a detached block. Move back right to a platform and a fine stance overlooking the chimney.

2 40m (4b). Follow cracks up the wall above to a groove under a roof. Climb up to the roof and avoid it on the right. Easier ground leads to the top.

**Note:** S. Reid estimates that Tarsuinn No. 1 Chimney is 60m and Tarsuinn No. 2 Chimney is 50m.

**CIR MHOR, South Face:**

*Forge* – 100m E5. J. Lines (on sight solo). 28th July, 2001.

1. 50m 5c Start as for Anvil but where Anvil goes right, continue up the groove and flakes above. When it becomes blank, move right on to the slab and up to pockets. Step right and continue up into a scoop with a tiny flake. Exit the scoop on the right and move up to a shallow-angled slab. Just before a bulging section, traverse down and left to reach Hammer.

2. 25m 5b Behind the belay, a line of pockets goes up and right. Follow these until they disappear, then go straight up the slab to a horizontal flakeline. Move right to easy ground and belay below the slabby arete on the skyline.

3. 25m 5c Using a short crack/pod on the left of the arete, make a thin move to gain the arete. Climb the arete on the right for 3m (easy), then make a hard move left on to a boss/smear and further hard moves up to small holds on the slab. Stretch right to good pockets in the very crest and climb direct to join South Ridge Direct.

*Incus 55m* – E6 \*\*. G. Latter. 27th August, 2001.

A series of pitches up the wall left of South Ridge Direct, the main centre of interest being the thin flange 15m left of the S-Crack. Start on the front face just round right of Anvil Recess Start, beneath a short groove.

1. 15m Climb the short undercut groove to layback on to a slab above, then more easily up this. Climb easily right across a slab, then up past a large flake to a grass clod directly beneath the flange.

1a. 30m A longer better pitch, occasionally climbed as an approach to the S-Crack. Start farther right, beneath a left-facing groove. Enter and climb the wide slot in the groove to easier ground, then continue by a steep hand crack and cracks just to its left to the grass clod.

2. 10m Move up the corner and step left across the slab to the flange. Climb this with interest (sustained and well protected), then use a one finger pocket in the wall above to hand traverse left on a micro-granite vein to superb finishing holds. Belay on the shelf above.

3. 15m Walk right along the shelf to belay at the base of the curving corner. Climb this, moving up right at its top to a huge thread. Abseil off or climb up leftwards from the top of the corner to gain the block strewn terrace on South Ridge Direct.

### **Rosa Pinnacle, Upper East Face:**

*Hardland* – 30m E5 6a \*\*\*. D. Honeyman, T. De Gay. August, 2001.

A stunning short route on the beautiful pocketed slab right of Squids and Elephants. Start just right of this route and gain the intermittent crackline in the slab (good Friend protection in these). From near the top of the second crack, break out left with difficulty to gain the huge pocket. Follow a line of pockets boldly leftwards, with a final difficult move to gain the edge of the slab and the top. Abseil off or continue as for Squids and Elephants.

*The Sleeping Crack* – 55m E6 \*\*\*. D. MacLeod, D. Honeyman. August, 2001.

This stunning line climbs the attractive intermittent crackline in the huge pillar right of Minotour. The second pitch gives bold exposed climbing followed by difficult moves in the crack.

1. 15m 6a Gain the first crack and follow it with increasing difficulty until it is possible to escape left on to a slab. Take a hanging belay on the huge thread.

2. 40m 6b Traverse right from the belay and boldly climb a sloping shelf to regain the crackline. Follow this with hard moves (crux), but excellent protection to an undercut flake. Follow this leftwards, then up until below the final bulge. Climb rightwards up another flake, then make a difficult move up left on finger pockets to gain the finishing slab. Pad easily up this to a flake belay on the terrace (large Friends useful).



**CIOCH NA H-OIGHE, The Bastion:**

*The Great Escape* – 100m E8 \*\*\*. J. Dunne, A. Jack. 21st June, 2001.

1. 30m 6b Climb the open groove right of the 1st pitch of Abraxas, over a roof to an obvious belay ledge.

2. 40m 6c The awesome main pitch. From the belay climb directly up the stunning leftward trending groove-line to a poor in-situ thread runner. Make difficult moves diagonally leftwards to gain the left-hand pincer. Follow this in a spectacular position to a belay on the Tidemark ramp.

3. 30m 6b Above the belay climb the obvious scoop, with a hard move at roughly 5m, to a spike runner. Ascend the slab above and finish up easier ground and the top of ledge 4.

**Note:** The E8 grade came from D. MacLeod who made the second ascent a week later. MacLeod's description is available by e-mail.

## LOWLAND OUTCROPS

**GLASGOW OUTCROPS, Dumbarton Rock:**

*Achemine* – 35m E9 6c \*\*\*. D. MacLeod. 9th October, 2001.

Excellent and desperate climbing on the smooth headwall above Chemin De Fer. This bold addition is the hardest traditional lead in the country at present. Start up Chemin De Fer and follow this to where the crack bends left. Move up on undercuts past an overlap, to a handrail. Move right along this and make a desperately thin move rightwards to a rounded side pull. In a run out position, move back left via a small pinch and continue leftwards with desperate technical moves (crux) to eventually reach better holds and the top. Very sustained, fingery and bold climbing.

**Dunglas:**

*Drink up, for tomorrow we die!* – 30m E7 6b \*. D. MacLeod. 17th July 2001.

An unusual, steep and serious route with some loose rock and an unprotected crux. The first route to breach the upper of the two black overhanging walls that dominate the crag. Start near the left end of the wall, below a series of smooth, stepped overlaps. Climb to a protruding block at the start of the overlaps. Step right and make a long reach through the overlaps to a diagonal hold (crux). Use this to move rightwards to better holds and protection. Move up left to a large cracked block below a roof (Friend in block) and pull directly through the roof to stand on the shelf above. Step right and climb more easily on loose blocks, passing a small tree on the left, to the top. Low in the grade.

**Craigmore, Layback Crack Area:**

*Inverlussa Crack* – 15m E2 5c. P. Roy and partner. June, 2001.

Start just left of White Hope. Move up to a slot (Friend), then make a couple of difficult moves up to a crack. Swing round to the left and climb a slab to the top (diagram provided).

**Dunoon, Miracle Wall (see [www.scottishclimbs.com](http://www.scottishclimbs.com)):**

*Grace* – E2 5c \*. M. Tweedley. April, 2002.

Climbs the start of Angels with Dirty Faces, miss the clip and head for a break,

then follow a steep juggy wall leftwards to an obvious pinch. A delicate move gains the slab and finish. Well protected.

### **THE GALLOWAY HILLS, The Tauchers, The Giant's Staircase:**

*Switchback* – new 3rd pitch added by S. Reid and J. Reid, 10th Aug 2001.

3. 50m. Move further still along the terrace to the right a long easy corner which is climbed by its right rib to slabs. Follow these leftwards to a broad heather terrace. Either walk off to the left, or climb several further pitches of heathery scrambling to the top. This is better and more in keeping than the original finish. Switchback is worth a \*.

### **Craigencallie:**

The Empty Quarter repeated and a new direct start added. The route is redescribed as the new start is better than the original.

*The Empty Quarter* – 50m E2 \*\*. C King, A Mawer, S Reid (direct start). 28th July, 2001.

A superb pitch, giving fine climbing up the undercut slab. Protection is good but spaced. Start directly under the centre of the overhang at a slim pillar with a square hold.

1. 30m 5b Using the pillar, make a difficult move to gain a good hold over the roof and pull up onto the slab (alternatively take the Original Start to reach the same point from the left and deduct an E-point). Climb the slab/wall until it eases, move right and then up to a ledge.
2. 20m 4a From the left end of the ledge, traverse 5m left and climb a cleaned crack and slabs to the top.

### **Dungeon of Buchan, Cooran Buttress:**

*Cooran Buttress Direct* – 120m VS \*. S. Reid, J. Biggar (VL), J. Reid, M. Thompson. 22nd August, 2001.

This series of variations on Cooran Buttress provides some good climbing. Start down and right of the left-hand grassy fault at a clean slab, 10m left of the start of Cooran Buttress.

1. 25m 4a Climb the slab, moving left to the arête, and mantelshelf onto a large grass ledge. Step down left and climb directly up to heather. Climb straight up the front of the pinnacle above to a pile of blocks belay.
2. 40m 4c Climb the overhanging groove on the left, passing a precarious block to a ledge. Continue up the groove to a slab. Step right and climb the slab to a leaning block belay on a heather terrace. A fine pitch.
3. 15m 4b Climb the crack 4m left of the block (as for Traitor's Gait), for 5m, until it is possible to climb diagonally into a neighbouring crack on the right. Follow this to a terrace (5b direct).
4. 35m 5a Follow the slab, then cracks, directly to under the overhang near its left hand end. Step right across a mossy streak into the crack of Cooran Buttress. Move up and then climb up left (crux) to overcome the overhang. Finish up an easy groove.
5. 5m 5a The desperate short crack on the right makes a fitting finish or walk off.

To the right of Cooran Buttress are many small and broken outcrops. High in the centre of this area is a prominent arête. This is well worth the walk and is best



gained by traversing from the top of Cooran Buttress. It gives *The Arête* (20m, HVS 5a\*, S. Reid, A. Gillies, 6th April, 2002) and is climbed via a crack in its left side, passing two large blocks with care.

### **The Lion's Head:**

Three hundred metres down and to the right of Cooran Buttress the rock becomes more continuous. This area derives its name from its supposed resemblance to a lion's head and mane when viewed from a distance. Two heathery terraces split the highest part of the crag into three walls, the headwall of which is impressively smooth. To the right of the headwall the crag slopes down to the right, gradually reducing in height.

*Horns of a Dilemma* – 85m HVS \*\*. I. Magill, A. Fraser (alt.). 6th April, 2002. Pitch 3: C. King, S. Reid. 11th April, 2002.

Excellent slab climbing. At the left end of the crag the lower heather terrace peters out. Start 10m left of the left end of this terrace, beneath the left end of the headwall, at the right-hand of two vertical hairline cracks.

1. 25m 5a Make a rising traverse up into the left-hand crack and pull over its first bulge to a slab. Traverse the slab rightwards and round into a niche. Move up and step right onto a sloping ledge, then continue to a belay on the heather terrace. A complex pitch.

2. 35m 5a Scramble up the terrace to a short chimney. Climb this with interest to more heather and traverse right onto the headwall. Climb up rightwards to gain two parallel, rightward trending cracks. Superb climbing up these (the dilemma and crux) gains a good stance (it is possible to walk off right here).

3. 25m 4c Step left and follow the leftward-rising ramp to a crack. Climb the crack to its top, gain overlapping slabs on the right, and finish up these.

*Aslan* – 105m VS. A. Fraser, I. Magill. 6th April, 2002.

A worthwhile route, much better than appearances suggest. It climbs walls to the right of the headwall, aiming for the obvious vertical clean crack which is situated 8m right of the conspicuous twin rightward-trending cracks at the foot of the headwall. Start above a steepening in the grass gully beneath the crag, 6m left of a small tree some 12m up.

1. 40m 4a Climb into a short corner and follow this to heather, left of the tree. Take the short chimney 5m left of the tree to a heather ledge, then move up left to climb the wide crack. Continue to a ledge, then traverse leftwards, then up, to gain a heathery niche.

2. 20m 4c Exit the niche by tricky moves up grooves on the left of the niche, and continue up to narrow heather ledge. Move up left onto the headwall, and continue up left to gain the vertical crack described at the start, at its mid-point. Climb this to a ledge and belay under a large roof.

3. 45m 4c Pad right across slabs to reach, then climb the crack at the right end of the roofs. From a heather ledge above, climb a short wall to finish.

In the low wall well down to the right is a very prominent short offwidth crack. Immediately left of this is a curving handjam crack. This is the superb *Jaw Jaw* (10m, HVS 5b \*, S. Reid, A. Gillies, 6th April, 2002) which is hard to start, strenuous in the middle, and puzzling to finish. The offwidth itself is *War War* (10m, E1 5b, C. King, S. Reid, 11th April, 2002) - extra large Friends required.

Right again, and just right of a pinnacle, is another short crack.

*The Lion's Mane* – 150m H.Severe. A. Gillies, S. Reid (alt). 6th April, 2002.

A long route with some nice moves but rather too much heather and grass.

1. 45m 4b Climb the short crack past an awkward chockstone to slabs. Follow these leftwards and up to a horizontal break just below a rounded boss of rock. Avoid this by traversing leftwards and go up to a stance.

2. 55m 4a Traverse right 5m across grass to a clean slab and follow the left-facing corner which curves up leftwards to more grass and a large pinnacle (possible belay). Climb into a groove on the right of the pinnacle and follow it to a double bulge on the right. Hand traverse the upper bulge with feet on the lower until it is possible to mantelshelf onto the slab above. Move up to a large area of heather and belay on a wall on the right some 15m below a double band of overhangs.

3. 50m 4a Climb the wall on the right, then cross grass diagonally rightwards to gain a clean slab. Follow the left edge of this to a huge detached flake. Step rightwards on to the flake with care and climb the crack to the top.

### **Clints of Dromore, Black and White Walls:**

Some 400m to the left of Central Buttress is a steeper though much shorter wall of excellent clean granite. It is quick drying and, being away from the main mountain massif, a good winter venue. It is split by the central left-facing Honeysuckle Groove. To the right of this groove is White Wall, to the left is Black Wall, the latter being sub-divided into three distinct black slabs by slim grooves. Belays are scarce, the best being a crack just right of a detached block directly above Cupid's Bow. The climbs are described from left to right.

*Cupid's Arrow* – 13m VS 4b. A. Hewison, S. Reid. 2nd November, 2001.

Start towards the left edge of Black Wall at a vague blocky arête just right of a short raggedy groove. Bridge up the groove to gain the arête, which leads to a rounded finish.

*The Climb with No Name* – 14m E2 5b. C. King, S. Reid. 9th November, 2001.

The slab to the left of Cupid's Bow just merits the grade. Start up a quartz seam, step left slightly and then straight up, finishing over a bulge.

*Cupid's Bow* – 15m E1 5a. S. Reid, A. Hewison. 14th February, 2001.

The pink coloured left-facing groove, just left of the centre of Black Wall is followed until it steepens at a little nose, and moves are made to a jug on its left wall. Either continue up the groove, or, more easily, move left and back right. Finish up the scoop above. Technically easy for the grade, but protection is worrying.

*Right-Hand Finish*: E2 5b. C. King, S. Reid. 9th November 2001.

A serious variation pulling out right below the little nose and finishing up the right arête.

*Do You Feel Lucky?* – 16m E2 5b. C. King, S. Reid. 2nd November, 2001.

Weigh up your chances and climb the central black slab via an obvious half-way jug. Easy for the grade.

*Stupid Cupid* – 16m VS 4c \*. S. Reid, C. King, J. Biggar. 2nd November, 2001.

The slim flaky groove just right of centre is followed to a flake overhang which is avoided on the left.



*Make My Day!* – 16m E1 5a \*. C. King, S. Reid. 2nd November, 2001.

The right-hand slab is excellent, low in the grade and better protected than it looks. Climb up via pockets to a short crack on the left, move up this, then traverse horizontally right and finish direct.

*Sheer Cupidity* – 14m Severe 4a. J. Biggar, C. King, S. Reid. 2nd November, 2001.

Follow the cracks in the left wall of the central Honeysuckle Groove and finish out leftwards.

*Honeysuckle Groove* – 14m VS 4c. S. Reid, C. King. 9th November, 2001.

The obvious left-facing groove in the centre of the crag is climbed via a slim groove just right of the cracks of Sheer Cupidity to just below vegetation at the top, where wild moves via a jug on the right provide a fine finish.

*White Arête* – 14m M.Severe 4a. S. Reid, C. King. 9th November, 2001.

The arête to the right of Honeysuckle Groove is followed to a large grass ledge. Continue up the arête above.

*Sweet Heart* – 16m H.Severe 4b. S. Reid, C. King, J. Biggar. 2nd November, 2001.

Mantelshelf into a niche just right of White Arête and follow stepped rock rightwards to just right of the large grass ledge. Move up and then back leftwards to finish directly up the middle of the upper wall.

*White Scoop* – 16m VS 4c. S. Reid, J. Biggar, C. King. 2nd November, 2001.

A rather artificial climb taking the centre of White Wall. Start 2m right of Sweet Heart and climb the wall to a break above the large white scoop. Traverse left to just right of the large grass ledge, move up, and make a rising traverse back right to finish up a rib. Can be climbed direct at 5b.

*The Notch* – 15m HVS 5a. S. Reid, C. King. 9th November, 2001.

Climb the right side of White Wall to a ledge. Steep rock above leads to an obvious large notch. Finish up the rib on the right.

### **Craigdews:**

The *Lowlands Outcrops Guide* (page 151) refers to mellow goats and a savage goat warden. No problems have been encountered to date, other than goats trying to bum fags and drink from tourists. The guidebook description has, however, served a purpose, and protected this fine roadside granite crag from the depredations of the masses. The crag is bigger and less broken than appearances suggest, is of good granite, easy 10 minute approach, less midgy than hereabouts, and gives excellent climbing and puns in a pleasant spot.

Park in the main Goat Park car park. The crag is above, and can be divided into three areas:-

1. The Tree Walls. At the right is an area of short, steep tree-studded walls, bounded on the left by slabs overlooking a left sloping bracken ramp.
2. The Central Section. This is the highest section of the crag.

3. The Dark Side. Above and left are steep, dark metamorphic walls with lower granite cliffs.

Routes are described right to left.

### **The Tree Walls:**

*Cemetery Goats* – 27m HVS 5a \*. A. Fraser, I. Magill.. 26th July, 2000.

Enjoyable, fun climbing, particularly in the lower corner. The largest, right-hand buttress has a steep corner on its left side, distinguishable by an overhang at 7m and a holly tree above at half height. Climb the corner past the overhang, moving right on to the wall at the top, to gain the bottom of the holly tree. Move down and right for 2m to a crack. Climb this, then continue up walls to the right of the holly tree.

The buttress to the left between Cemetery Goats and the leftward-sloping bracken ramp is the steepest on the crag, with an obvious central depression leading to overhangs.

*Vorsprung Goat Technique* – 27m VS 4c. A Murdoch, A. Fraser. 30th August, 2000.

Some loose rock mars an otherwise good route. Start up the central depression, until it is possible to move up right on to a ledge. Follow this right past a small tree, then move slightly left and up steep flakes to the large ledge at the top of the wall. Easier climbing to finish.

*Amazing Technicolour Dreamgoat* – 35m E2 5c \*\*. A. Fraser, I. Magill. 16th September, 2001.

Quality, strenuous climbing. An overhung niche lies 5m left of the central depression. Climb this using both cracks, then up the left crack, with final moves right to gain the ledge. Continue by the crack above the ledge, then further easier walls.

### **The Ramp Slabs:**

Left of the Tree Walls is the leftward-trending, bracken covered ramp, on the right of which are slabs.

*Dirty Old Raincoat* – 45m VS 4b. I. Magill, A. Fraser. 16th September, 2001.

A bold climb, mossy in places, which takes the centre of the right-hand, lower slab.

*Capricorn Relish* – 25m VS 4b \*. I. Magill, A. Fraser. 26th July, 2000.

The upper pale slab, climbed directly at its cleanest point. Steady continuous climbing with widely spaced protection.

### **The Central Section:**

This is the central section of the crag, under the summit of Craigdews. Essentially it consists of lower tier, with a halfway terrace at 50m, above which is an upper tier consisting of interlocking walls. A useful identifying feature at the bottom of the crag is the square-cut bay with an easy slab on its left side, which marks the start of Goats of Delirium.



*Das Goat* – 105m V. Diff \*. A. Fraser. 6th June, 2000.

This pleasant route essentially follows the easiest line up the walls and rib bounding the right side of the halfway terrace. Start in a bay beneath a steep slabby wall, with a large flat boulder at its foot (15m right of the square-cut bay). Climb just left of the steepest part of the slabby wall, to gain and climb a heathery chimney leading to a thin grass terrace. Traverse 5m right, then continue up the rib until it is possible to gain a ledge on the left at the terrace (50m). Continue more easily up the rib to the top (55m).

*Goathouse of Fleet* – 52m VS 4c. I. Magill, A. Fraser. 16th September, 2001.

Although the main difficulties are avoidable, this has some good moves and is a good choice to access the upper walls. A rib lies 10m right of the square cut bay, bounding another bay on the right. Climb the rib to its top, then follow slabs above on the right (without deviation into the adjacent undergrowth) to the top. Bypassing the slabs by undignified heather lowers the grade to Severe and significantly reduces the quality.

*Goats of Delirium* – 105m HVS 5a \*\*. A. Fraser I. Magill. 28th June, 2000.

A classic, sustained and varied with neverending interest. The left section of the Central Section is noted for a grass terrace at 45m, above which is a steep wall split by a distinctive thin crack. Start in a square cut bay, bounded by an easy slab on the left. Start up the middle of the steep wall at the back of the bay, then move left at the steepening to almost gain a grassy groove. Move up right with difficulty to gain a flake, then continue up, and then right to the top slab. Climb a groove in this with difficulty to the terrace. Belay beneath a small isolated buttress down and right of the main wall (45m, 5a). Climb the small isolated buttress leftwards to the foot of the main wall (underneath the distinctive thin crack). Follow parallel cracks on the left side of the wall to an overhang. Above, continue up and right for 7m to gain a horizontal crack. Difficult moves above lead to the final wall, stepping right on to the terrace (35m, 5a) Above is a steep wall. Climb this at its right-hand end to gain a grass ledge. Climb a crack above until possible move up right to, and then on top of a large detached block. From the top of the block, climb the headwall to the top (30m, 5a).

*Astrogoat* – 48m VS 4c \*\*. A. Fraser, I. Magill 16th September, 2001.

A long, sustained and absorbing pitch which deserves to become popular. It starts at the left end of the upper tier (above the halfway terrace), to the right of the rightward-sloping heathery groove of Central Climb, and left again of a large clump of heather at 7m. Climb a clean wall for 15m until a step left leads to a grass ledge. Above, follow cracks through a bulge, then continue to a horizontal grass ledge. Climb the wall above, then a final wall of dark metamorphic rock. Easy but unprotected metamorphic slabs lead to the top.

### **Craignaw:**

*Drainpipe Gully* – III,4 \*. S. Reid, A. Fraser, I. Magill. 2nd January, 2002.

Follow the summer line but quit it just before easy ground and finish up icy slabs on the right.

*Silver Flow, with Direct Finish* – 90m IV,4 \*\*. S. Reid, J. Fotheringham. 4th January, 2002.

The deep right-facing gully, about 50m left of Drainpipe Gully, is climbed in three fine pitches. Follow the groove to a stance on a huge chockstone, then chimney up the gully making liberal use of its ice-glazed right wall to a second stance. Continue up to a steep icefall which is climbed direct, though it can be avoided by traversing rightwards to a faultline.

**Note:** S. Reid notes that Dow Spout is a tremendous and classic icefall of sustained interest (which he climbed three times in 2002), requiring rain followed by a freeze of about five days to come into condition.

### **THE SOUTH-WEST SEA CLIFFS, Meikle Ross, The Red Slab:**

*Sorry, No en-suite* – 30m VS 4c \*. N. Crookston, C. Prowse. 23rd March, 2002. Start 1m left of Mental block. Climb the technical slab and continue up an obvious right-facing small corner to finish. Probably climbed before in parts.

*Glenfinnian Hotel* – 25m H. Severe 4b \*. N. Crookston, C. Prowse. 23rd March, 2002.

Start 1m right of Coffin Crack. Climb the slab to a left-facing corner. Climb the corner till forced left. Pull through an overlap and finish on easy ground.

*Dinner Meat* – 20m V. Diff. N. Crookston, C. Prowse. 23rd March, 2002.

Pleasant climbing up an obvious crack 1m left of Coffin Crack.

*Chairman's Crack* – 10m Severe. N. Crookston, C. Prowse. 23rd March, 2002.

Climb the obvious loose corner formed by a pinnacle at the right end of the crag. Arrange a hopeful belay on top of the pinnacle.

### **Garheugh Port, The Main Cliff, The Promontary:**

Four routes are found on the tip of the promontory, immediately left (north) of the descent. Routes are described leftwards from the descent.

*My Bonny Lies Over the Ocean* – 23m Severe. S. Reid, T. Mosedale. 28th June, 2001.

A pleasant route. Start just right of Foot in Mouth. Climb the **ledged right-leaning** groove to gain an arête on the right. Follow this and the slab above to a bulge. Avoid this by traversing the wall on the right to a wide crack which leads to a slim groove and the top.

*Foot in Mouth* – 23m VS 4c. A. Fraser, A. Gillies. 4th April, 2001.

A traditional but worthwhile struggle. It takes the wide crack in the centre of the green lichen covered, seaward face to a ledge, then the continuation crack above.

*Gooseberry in a Lift* – 23m HVS 5a. T. Mosedale, S. Reid. 28th June, 2001.

Climb the direct start to Cock Inn etc. to a ledge. Climb the hairy green arête/wall above, left of Foot in Mouth, to a platform. Climb the arête just right of the finishing crack of Foot in Mouth to the top.



*Cock Inn Cap'n Birdseye* – 22m Severe. A. Gillies, A. Magill. 5th June, 2001.  
Worthwhile, if somewhat lichenous. Start as for the previous route, but move left after 2m into another crack. Follow this to a ledge on the left or north wall of the promontory. Continue up left to another ledge, then finish up a leftward-sloping crack in the final wall.

### **Main Cliff, North Wall:**

The north facing wall is steep but split by ledges. At its left end, in a brambly bay, is a steep chimney running the length of the crag.

*Full Moon Fever* – 20m E1 \*\*. A. Fraser, I. Magill. 5th June, 2001.

Surprisingly superb, taking the steep, unrelenting chimney. Well protected, with the odd dubious hold.

*The Fat Lady Sings* – 20m E1 5a \*. A. Fraser, A. Gillies, I. Magill. 2001.

A good sustained climb, in places somewhat devious and contrived. Immediately right of the previous route is a slim rib, bounded on its right by a steep corner leading to a grass ledge. Climb the steep corner for 5m, moving left on to the rib as soon as possible. Follow the rib up and left, to eventually stand on a ledge on the left edge of the rib. Boldly move slightly right, then up to good holds, following these back left to the edge to finish.

About 100m north of the main crag, at the back of a bay, is a pillar with ivy on its right wall. Descent from this and all the following routes is by scrambling down a chimney situated on the seaward end of Smugglers Slab.

*Dr Hemlock and Mr Damocles* – 22m VS 4c \*. A. Fraser, A. Gillies. 4th April, 2001.

A good climb with some interesting moves. It takes the groove in the arête, finishing to the left of the obvious rock swords. Belay on crash barrier.

*An Idea of Excellence* – 22m HVS 5a \*. I. Magill, A. Gillies, A. Magill, A. Fraser. 5th June, 2001.

Another good route with a thin crux. The wall left of Dr Hemlock is split by a roof. Climb up to the alcove below the roof, which is exited at its left end. Traverse right along the lip of the roof to a thin crack. Go directly up this (crux), then continue to top.

### **Smugglers Slab:**

About 150m to the north of the main crag is another smaller slab of good quality rock. Micro cams useful. Routes are described left to right.

*Too EC* – 10m Severe. A. Gillies, A. Fraser. 4th April, 2001.

The undercut and vegetated wall left of Smugglers Grill is better than appearances suggest.

*Bombin the L'* – 10m VS 4c \*. A. Fraser, A. Gillies. 4th April, 2001.

Lovely climbing, probably the best on this face. Climb the white and green speckled slab 1.5m right of Smugglers Grill, avoiding using that route.

*Stone Crop* – 10m VS 4c \*. S. Reid, T. Mosedale. 28th June, 2001.

Start 2m right of Bombin the L', and just left of Landmark. Climb straight up to a

very short leftward-slanting crack. Move up to a rock flange with difficulty and then finish more easily to the top.

### **Portobello, Primrose Inlet:**

This small south-facing wall is situated immediately north of Slab Cove. Even further north are short walls, providing pleasant and safe bouldering. In the centre of the wall, at mid height, is a ledge, easily accessed from either side by flakes. The routes lie on either side of this and are described right to left

*Bottom Feeders* – 10m HVS 5a. A. Fraser, I. Magill. 11th May, 2001.

Short but not to be underestimated. It climbs the wall to the right of the right-hand easy flake, starting 1m to the right of the foot of the flake.

*Fanny Haddock* – 8m Severe 4a. I. Magill, A. Fraser. 11th May, 2001.

The wall to the left of the left-hand easy flake, starting up a small corner and finishing to the right.

### **Axle Bay:**

This is the steep, south facing and pocketed wall situated in the small bay immediately north of the Main Cliff. The rock is good, generally somewhat better than on the Main Cliff. Routes are described right to left.

*The Elle Factor* – 12m VS 4c. A. Gillies, A. Fraser. 22nd June, 2001.

Well positioned with some good moves. At the right edge of the face is a slab leading to roof. Climb the slab, over the roof, then straight up the hanging groove in the arête to finish.

*Jack the Kipper* – 12m E2 5c \*\*. A. Fraser, I. Magill, A. Gillies. 22nd July, 2001.

Brilliantly devious and compelling climbing unlocks the wall right of Bootless. Start 2m left of the vegetated fault between Bootless and the right arête of the face. Climb to a horizontal fault, follow this left, then climb pockets till they disappear. Above the pockets move up and slightly left, then back right to gain a good ledge on the top right of the face.

*The Dogs Pollacks* – 15m HVS 5a \*. A. Fraser, A. Gillies, I. Magill. 13th June, 2001.

Another steep, but better protected, route up the left-hand crackline. Finish to the right, avoiding the final vegetation.

### **Cracked Block Cove:**

*Tales of the Rubblebank* – 13m HVS 5a. A. Fraser, A. Gillies, I. Magill. 22nd July, 2001.

Situated on the face to the right of the Cracked Block. Contrary to all the normal rules of greywacke, the honeycombed pillar 3m from the left end of the face, actually gives a reasonably sound climb.

### **Kiln o' the Fuffock:**

*Rubbledance* – 10m Severe. A. Fraser, I. Magill. 18th August, 2001.

The left corner of the crag, finishing to the left. The true finish up the slot is liable to dislodge tons of loose rock.



**Larbrax:**

*Trapdoor Fandango* – 19m E2 5c \*\* A. Fraser, A. Gilies, I. Magill. 18th August, 2001.

Sustained and delicate climbing up the narrow slab between the Seaward and the Central Slab. Protection is good, from RP's, but is easily overlooked. Climb the left-slanting crack to its top, then traverse right for 2m to a horizontal crack on the right of the slab. Climb directly up past triangular pockets, then move left to gain a slot then the arête. Continue up the arête to its top, then move up right (holds under juniper), to gain the centre of the slab which is followed to the top. Low in the grade.

**CENTRAL OUTCROPS, Cambusbarron Quarry:**

*Moving Shadow* – 25m E6 6b \*\*\*. M. Tweedly, L. Burns. August, 2001.

This climbs the obvious V-groove on the middle of the back wall. Climb the groove to a peg, then make a series of desperate moves past it to gain a bridging position. Then climb the groove making excellent bridging moves, to gain a ledge on the right. Have a rest, then lurch leftwards to make exposed moves to gain a wee crack and headwall. Grade for on-sight. A few good climbers climbing E5 have failed, hence the E6.

*Tarzan* – 15m E3 5c \*. M. Tweedly, L. Burns. August, 2001.

The route is to the right of Spanking the Monkey. It climbs a detached pillar, then traverses a seam in the middle of the face (crux). Climb a left-trending crack to a ledge and lower off. If you fail on the crux, you end up taking a big swing (safe, hence the name).

*PSI* – 18m E3 5c \*\*. R. Welch, A. Marr, M. Tweedly. August, 2001.

A wild climb to the left of the obvious choss pillar. Climbs cracks on the face to obvious breaks, then crux moves take you above. The gear is hard to place; the alternative is to make the easier finish without it.

**Cambusbarron West Quarry:**

**Note:** *Scales of Injustice* (SMCJ 2001) is almost certainly F7c. It was climbed by M. Somerville (unsec.).

*Miss Po* is probably E2. It was climbed with L. Byrnes, not with Si O'Connor.

*Arse on Stumps* (SMCJ 2000) is probably E3; *Dark Side of the Spoon* (SMCJ 2000) is probably E2.

**EDINBURGH OUTCROPS, Arthur's Seat:**

*Red Chimney* – 20m IV,3. D. Rubens, C. Smith. 1st March, 2001.

This route lies on the Lion's Head, towards the left end of the rocks overlooking Hunter's Bog. Climbed at night to avoid attracting attention. Despite several days of lying snow and low temperatures, consolidation was poor. Where the chimney was blocked by a sapling, a move out right was made, followed by a very difficult move on turf before regaining the chimney.

**FIFE, The Hawcraig:**

*Garlic Bread* – 12m E2 5c/6a. T. Muirhead, P. Hague. April 28th, 1999

Takes the slab direct on the right of Weasel Wall.

*Pizza* – 12m E2 5c. P. Hague, T. Muirhead. April 28th, 1999

Climbs the overhanging arête to the right of Garlic Bread, and immediately left of Cranium Crack.

*Guillemot Head Mush* – 5m VS 5a. J.P. Dyble, I. Simpson. 3rd March, 2001.

The west-facing arête of the 5m flake of Flake and Wall. Staying on the arête without using the wall to the left, pull directly over the bulge making a slap for the big ledge at the top.

**EAST LOTHIAN, Traprain Law:**

There is a small but worthwhile crag above the main crags with the following routes climbed by D. Hunter and M. Greenwood from 10th to 12th August, 2001.

*Easy Ticket* – 6m Severe. An upside down diamond with a route up the left hand corner.

*Black Diamond* – 6m VS. The right-hand arête of the upside down diamond.

*Diamond Back* – 8m E1 5a. Farther round to the right of the diamond is an obvious overhang. Go up a ramp to the bottom of the overhang, climbed going from right to left on good holds. Strenuous and reachy.

**D. Rubens reports:**

*Scotland's Last Old Man* – 20m Mild VS 4c. D. Rubens, W. Jeffrey, G. Cohen. 2nd June, 2001.

As a climbing objective this pinnacle was first discovered by Willie Jeffrey. MR 967 601. It felt serious, due to the increasingly sandy and fragmentary nature of the rock as height was gained. It is not accessible at high tide.

Turn off the A1 for Burnmouth, about two miles before the Border. Park at the road end. Walk about 15 minutes towards the Border along a rocky shore. The pinnacle comes into view, resembling an approaching (or possibly retreating) battleship.

Start at the seaward side and climb fairly easily up to a ledge. From here, make a bold move (soft rock, poor protection) up and then gain the left edge of the seaward face. Exposed, but straightforward climbing gains the herring gull infested summit.

There being no obvious belay, the first ascensionist was lowered by his second down the landward face before the second climbed, communication being relayed through the strategically placed third man by the primitive method of shouting. The second was then belayed from the landward side, care being taken not to pull him over the summit as he approached it. A very large sling would render these antics unnecessary.

G. Cohen also made a solo ascent from the landward side, which was easier, with a move of about V. Diff.