

# Clogwyn y Garreg Bouldering

OS Ref SH 557 537 (OL 17)

Version 1.0 (19<sup>th</sup> September 2020)



Topo produced in conjunction with Prowess Climbing Coaching.

Located at the top of Dyfryn Nantlle the Clogwyn y Garreg boulder field is situated amongst the three easily distinguishable parallel scars. The scars themselves are home to a multitude of trad routes which are detailed in the 2003 Cwm Silyn & Cwellyn Climbers Club Guide. The bouldering however has taken substantially longer to be developed. The crag is made up of a collection of large rhyolite blocks which are scattered over an area of a few hundred metres; ranging in height but not exceeding five metres. This is a comprehensive guide of all the problems so far established at the venue. However, there is definitely scope for more problems to be developed. If any problems not described are added please email Josh ( [joshbutler271@gmail.com](mailto:joshbutler271@gmail.com) ) for the document to be updated. Up to date topos are also available on [27crag.com](http://27crag.com)

## Conditions

The open layout of the crag, at the head of the valley, allows it to dry quickly by the prevailing westerly winds. As a result, it takes roughly half a day to dry most of the boulders after showers. All of the faces are clean so seepage is not a problem.

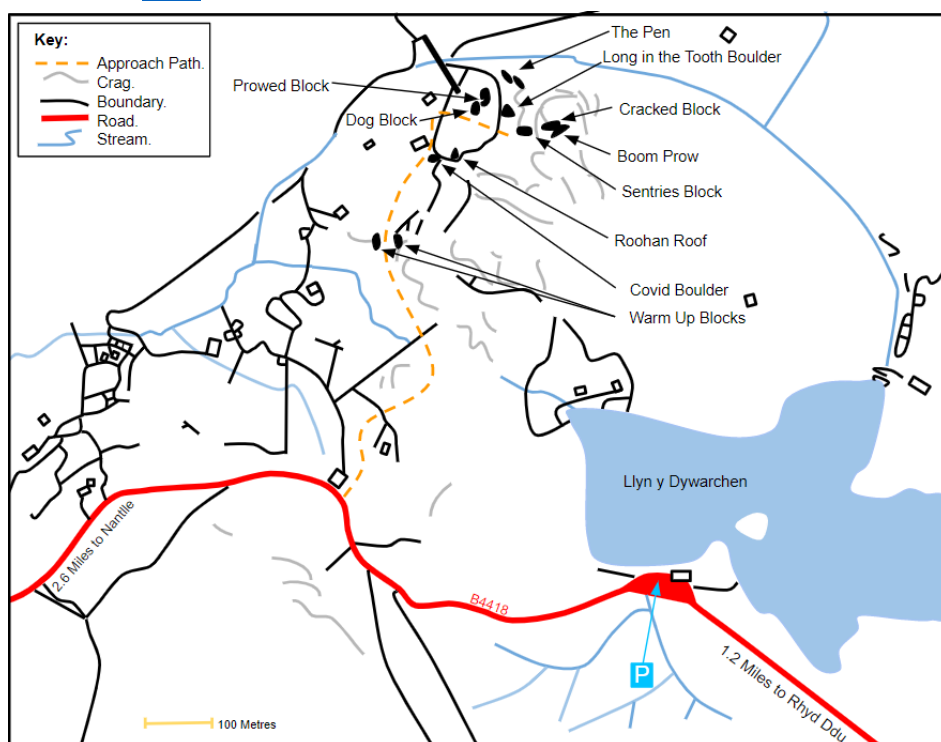
## Access

The crag and its approach fall on open access land so it is free to be crossed. Beware, however, some of the land on the outskirts of the crag is privately owned so does not permit public access unless a footpath is running through it. Be sure to stick to the designated paths if approaching from a different direction to the specified route below. The Cwm Silyn guide suggests that the land owner is not fond of climbers so keep a low profile and be respectful.

## Parking

The main parking for the crag is a large layby next to Llyn y Dywarchen (OS 559 533). This parking can become full, especially on weekends, due to the popularity of fishing on the reservoir. **Extra care needs to be taken not to block the gate at the edge of the parking as this is a frequently used.** If the main parking is full it is possible to park sensibly by the side of the road.

A limited bus service runs to Rhyd Ddu, which is the service that runs the closest to the crag. The timetable is available [here](#)<sup>1</sup>.



## Approach

From the car park head west along the road for 50 metres until reaching a gate on the right side of the road (OS Ref 555 534). Climb the locked gate with care. A broken path can then be followed around the west flank of the crag. Take note that the fields are home to sheep so **ensure that dogs are kept under control at all times.** In addition to packing the dog lead taking some boots is also useful as the ground on the approach is often saturated.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru/en/Residents/Parking-roads-and-travel/Travel-passes/Snowdon-Sherpa.aspx>



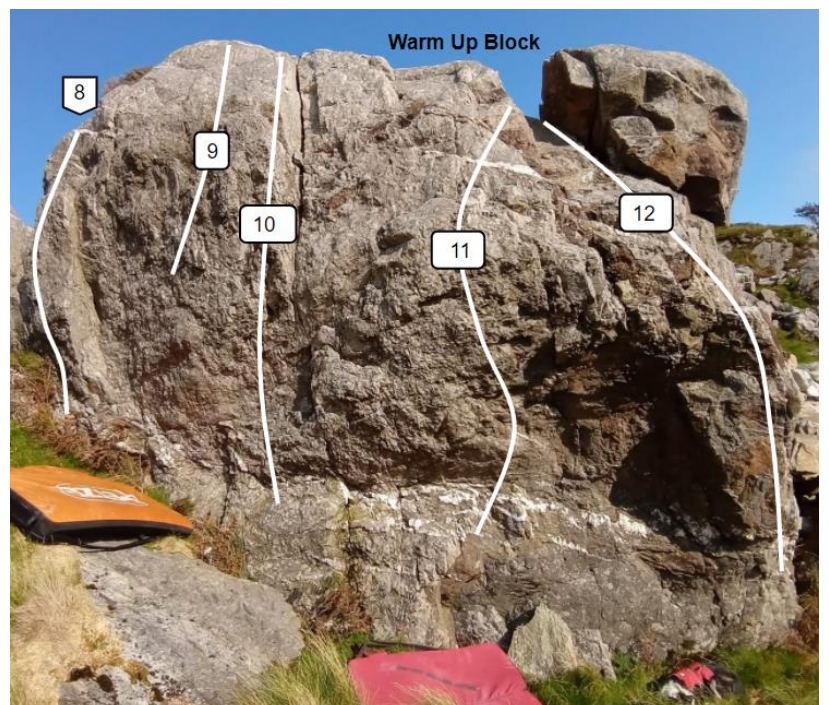
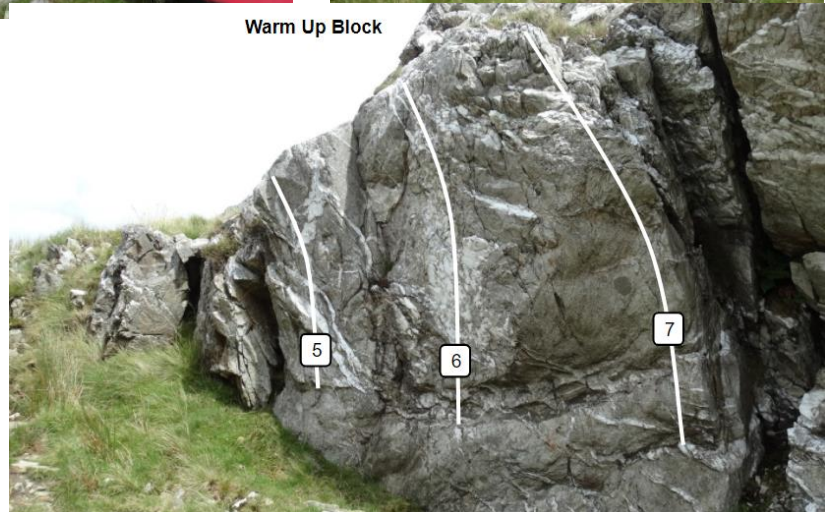
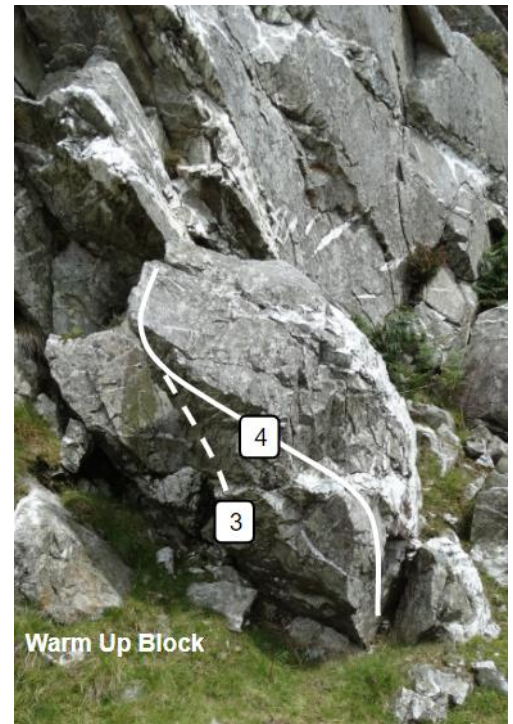
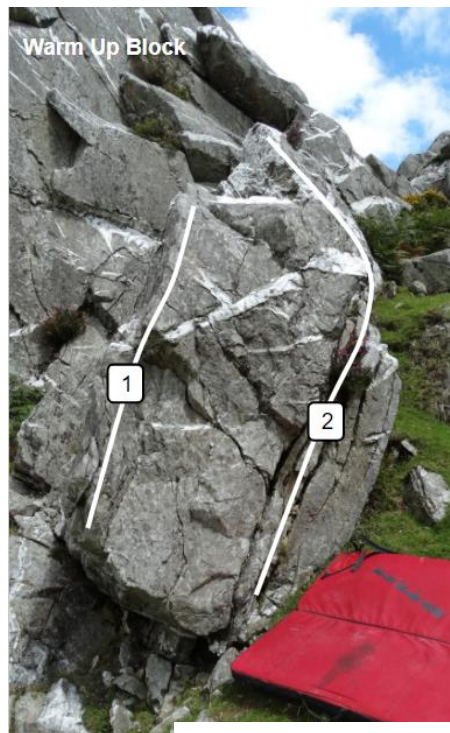
## Warm up Blocks

This is the first boulder that you come to on your way into the crag. These problems are scattered along the side of the approach path that leads through the foot of the first prominent rock scar.

All problems are sit starts except Dreamer. Individual descriptions are not given as lines are largely intuitive by following photo topos.

Be aware that the rock on these boulders can often be loose so be sure to test suspect holds before pulling on them.

- 1- *Sharpie* 3+
- 2- *Crozzlation* 4+
- 3- *Snatch* 5+
- 4- *Rock N Rolla* 5+
- 5- *Memento* 4+
- 6- *Keepsake* 5+
- 7- *Souvenir* 4+
- 8- *School* 3
- 9- *Dreamer* 3+
- 10- *Breakfast in America* 3+
- 11- *Crisis, What Crisis?* 4
- 12- *Bloody Well Right* 4+

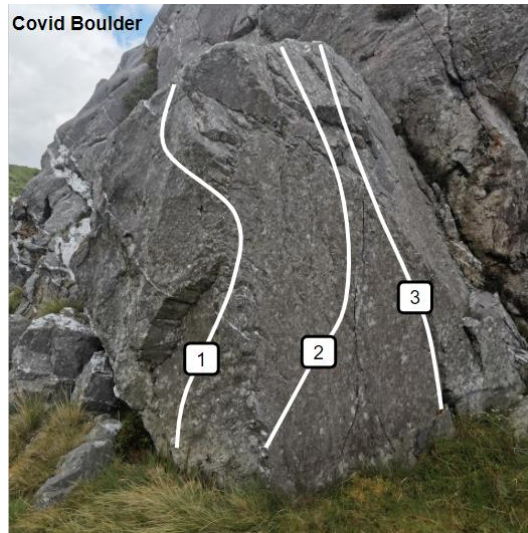




## The Covid Boulder

The Covid Boulder sits at the foot of one of the prominent rock scars. Although only comprising of three problems it makes a great little warm up before heading over to the rest of the crag.

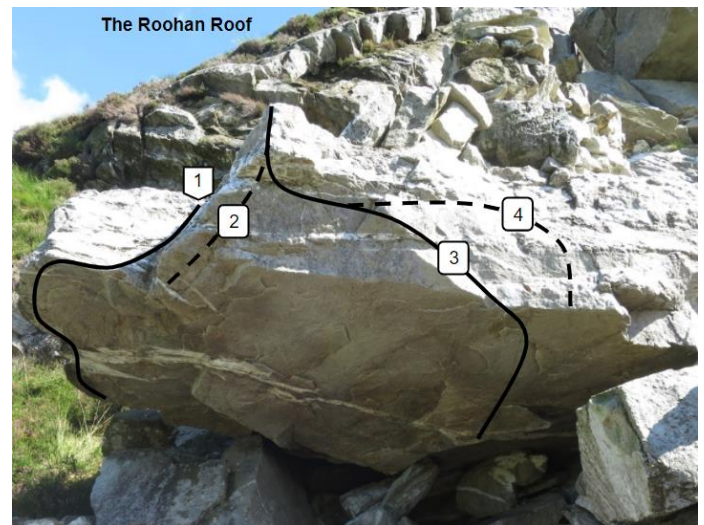
- 1- *Five Long Miles 6b* From a sit start. Start right hand on the arete and the left on the
- 2- *Covid Conscience 6b+* From sit start. From the arete on the left, head through the face.
- 3- *Lockdown Lie In 5+* From a sit start. Follow the left edge of the large crack.



## Roohan Roof

Once you've rounded the corner from the Covid Boulder and arrived in the next field, up in the top right corner is the Roohan Roof. This is the obvious roof at the corner of two boundary walls.

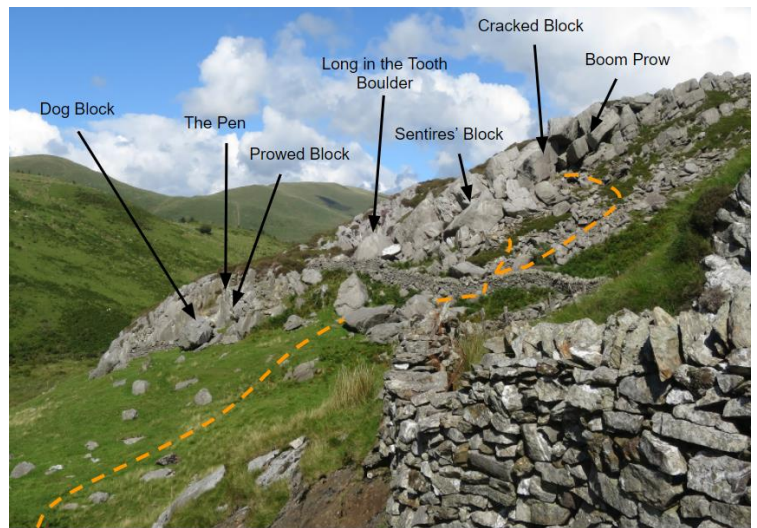
- 1- *Hannah's Mischief 6c* Start hanging the lip next to the wall on the left. Make powerful moves to the right to finish up in the niche.
- 2- *Thanks be to Em 6a* Start on jugs under the nose and climb up directly.
- 3- *Roohan 7a+* Start low at the bottom of the roof, both hands on the large flake, feet on the quartz-striped block wedged under the main boulder. Make a power slap to the lip and complete some foot jiggery before latching the large flatty on the face and finishing up Rosie Cheek on the nose.
- 4- *Rosie Cheek 6c* Start as far right as you can on small crimps and traverse the face left, to finish up the nose. The block to the right and the top of the boulder are both out.







Jess Ward on Long in the Tooth Josh Butler



## Main Boulder Field

The main boulder field is located over the boundary wall in the middle of the field containing the Roohan Roof.

The upper part of the boulder field is best accessed by a stone style that crosses through the wall. However, beware when crossing through here as some of the stones are loose.

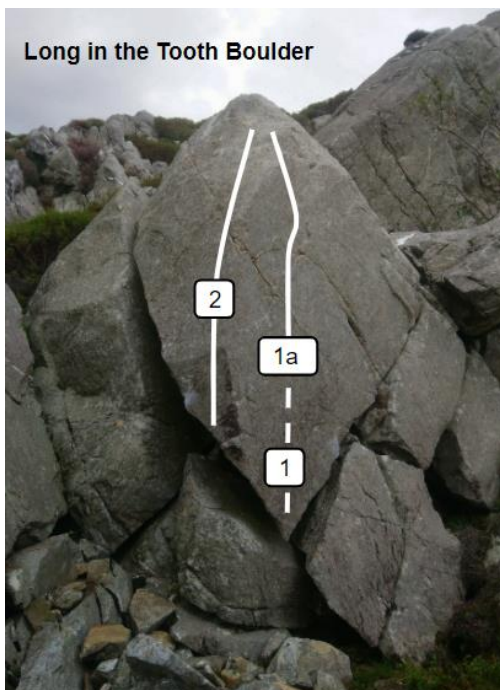
## Long in the Tooth Boulder

The large hanging stalactite located at the lower edge of the main boulder field. This can be accessed from the Roonhan Roof by dropping down into the field and crossing over the style. Neither of the two large blocks beneath the main boulder are in.

**1 - Longer in the Tooth 7a+** From a crouching start using the bottom edge of the boulder for hands and the very bottom of the stalactite for feet.

**1a - Long in the Tooth 6a+** Stand start following the line of crimps to the large jug rail above.

**2 - Kick in the Teeth 6a+** Stand start following the horizontal edges up the left-hand face of the boulder.



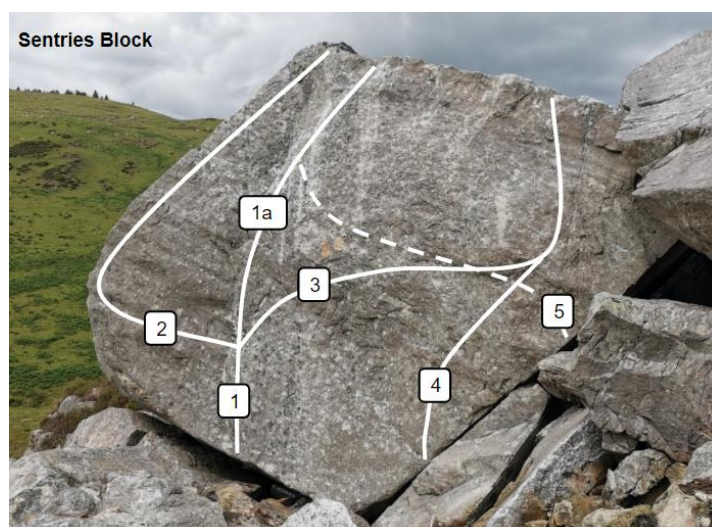
## Sentries' Block

The closest boulder to the style across the wall. The scooped oval shaped block gives a good range of lower grades. The block is named after the popular scrambling route on the side of Mynydd Mawr.

**1 - Sentries Bottom 6a+** The sit start to Sentries Ago.

**1a - Sentries Ago 5+** Stand start matched in the obvious flake and follow the crack up to the shallow ramp.

**2 - Sentries Rib 5+** Sit start at the bottom of the groove and immediately move to the arete, following this to the apex of the boulder.



Jess Ward on Sentries Ago Josh Butler



**3 - Sentries Salute 6c** From the sit start of Sentries Bottom, reach into the undercut and make a big cross over move to crimps and the finish of 21st Sentry Blocks.

**4 - 21st Sentry Blocks 6a+** Start matching the undercut before moving through small crimps to finish slightly right.

**5 - Sent In N Tries 6c+** From a sit start on the right hand block, right hand on the arete, work through the crimps and undercut to finish up Sentries Ago.

## Cracked Block

**Of the two neighbouring faces this is the left-hand block. The large slightly off vertical face gives a great variety of problems ranging widely in grades.**

**1 - Midge Arete 6b** The left arete from a sit start, left hand on the shallow crimp, right hand on a vague pinch.

**1a - Mosquito Arete 6a** The left arete from a stand start.

**2 - W4088 6c** Start sitting, as per Midge Arete, gain the shoulder of the arete and traverse right, finishing on the high shelf at the far side of the face.

**3 - Flying Low ?** Traverse the low lip of the Cracked Block. Project.

**4 - Potential 5+** Stand start onto the lip and then finish up the crack line.

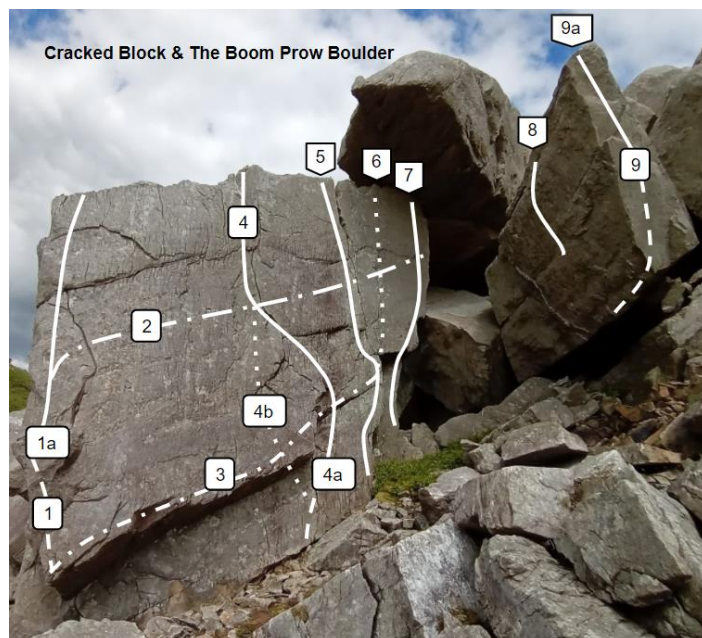
**4a - Atonement 6a+** The sit start to Potential.

**4b - Redemption 7a** Eliminate line avoiding the juggy sidepull out right and moving straight into the crack from the sit start.

**5 - 44 6a** Sit start on the flake and finish in the crack.

**6 - Dr Collins 6c+** A blinkers on eliminate. The line of crimps taken up from the thin flake. Sitting start.

**7 - The Butler Did It 5+** The right arete started from sitting with right hand on a jug on the backside of the boulder. Move round onto the face and finish out to the left. The large rock shelf is out.



## Boom Prow

**The large hanging block on the right-hand side of the Cracked Block provides some steeper terrain to the boulder next door.**

**8 - Master of Stone 6c** The fierce line of crimps starting with right hand in the chest high sidepull and right hand on the decent layaway up and right. The lower start remains a tough project.

**9 - Deep Low Boom 6c** Low start with right hand on a sidepull crimp (The original hold has broken off and has yet to be repeated with the new, tough crimp), left hand pinching underneath the block and right foot tucked under the boulder. Slap up for the obvious jug and clamber to the top.

**9a - Boom 6a** Starting from the lowest jug on the prow. Much less involved than the stand but mega fun.

## Dog Block

Situated just next to the style that takes you over to the Main Boulder Field is a low boulder that yields some short, entertaining traverses and a few straight ups.

**1 - Tess' Tickle 6a** Sit start with left hand on the obvious sloper and right hand low, pull up and reach left to join up with Tess' Fuss.

**2 - Icky Tickle 6c** Start as per Tess' Tickle and move right to finish up Icky.

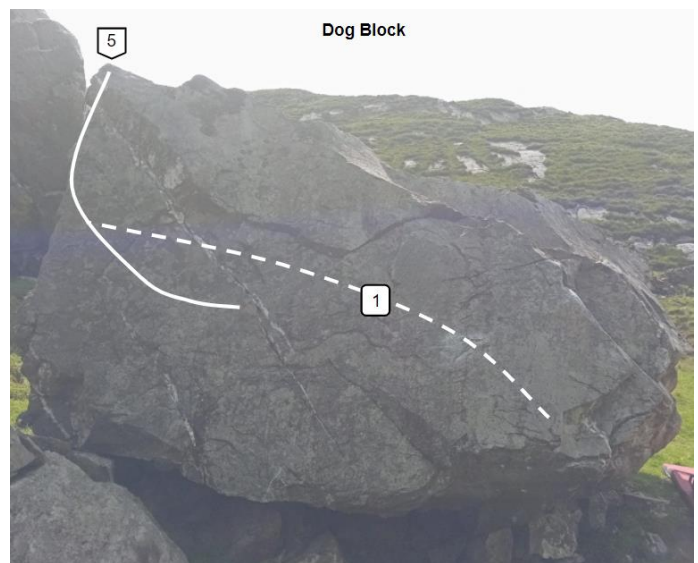
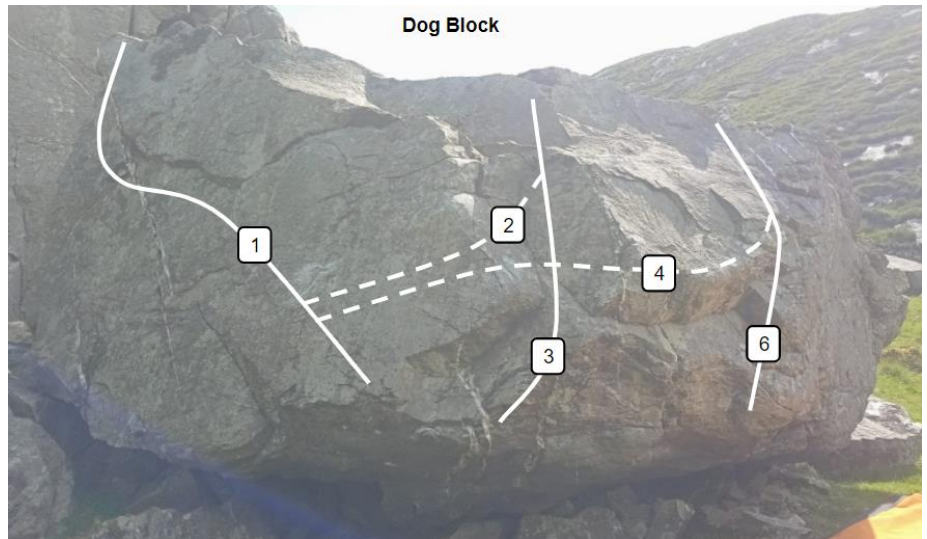
**3 - Icky 6a** Sit start the bottom of the groove.

**4 - Tess is Moulting 6b+** Start as for Tess' Tickle and traverse right into Moulting.

**5 - Tess' Fuss 4+** From standing, grasp the large sidepull, step on to the lip and slide up the arete.

**6 - Moulting 5+** Start on crozzly holds and make simple moves straight up to the lip. Another one move wonder.

**7 - Crag Dog 6c+** A left to right traverse from sitting on the right arete to finish up Icky in the groove.





## Prowed Block

Above the Dog Block is the distinctive slab of the Prowed Block.

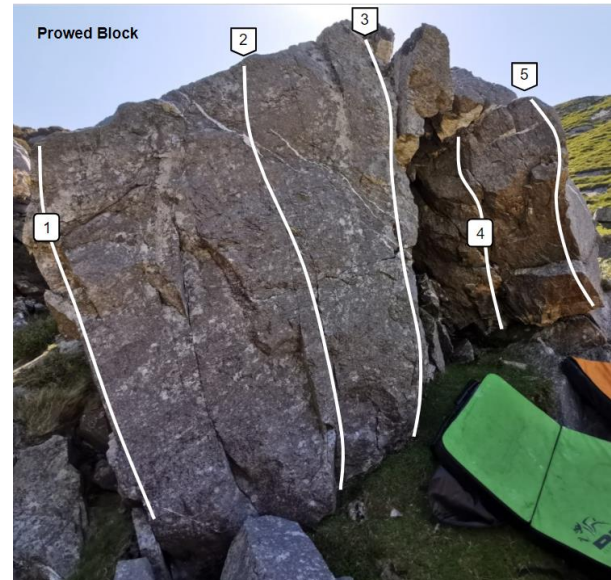
**1 - Tarp 'n' Tinny 4+** Starting from sitting. Move up through the big blocky holds on the arête.

**2 - Sharp 'n' Shinny 6a+** From a sitting start laybacking off the vertical rail use the thin holds to reach the lip. Right arête is out.

**3 - Right Shinny 4+** Sit start climbing the right arête.

**4 - Prowed 5+** Start on finger jugs to the left of the arete and make one powerful move to a jug and an easy finish. A real one-move wonder.

**5 - Prowed 6b** Start low on the end of the hanging prow and make powerful moves up to easier ground above.



## The Pen

Left of the Prowed Boulder, at the back of a large sheep pen are two short overhanging aretes that provide some short, sweet problems in a sheltered setting.

**1 - Penned In 6c** The lower rising traverse line is as good as it looks. Start sitting and finish on the block perched up and left.

**2 - Pent up Frustration 6b+** The cracked block at the top of the pen. From a sitting start with left hand in the crack, right hand around the arete. Finish directly above the crack.

