

A person in a red shirt is climbing a large, dark rock face on the left side of the image. The background shows a vast, hilly landscape with green fields and a blue sky with scattered white clouds. The foreground is filled with rocks and low-lying vegetation.

# Climbing in the Brecon Beacons National Park

**Part 4: Penwyllt Area, and Cribarth**

**Martin Crocker**

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## Part 4: Penwyllt Area, and Cribarth

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Front Cover: *OFD Arête* Pic: Jonathan Crocker

### Dedicated to Brian and Betty Vincent

Gower & SE Wales climbing began for me in 1972 with forays from Bristol to Llangattock, Taf Fechan, and Gower with the Exploration Group of North Somerset. My knowledge of the area and its climbing potential grew from 1974 while studying at Cardiff University. Ten years later it gained a new momentum after I met my wife-to-be, Beverley. Her parents, the late Brian and Betty Vincent, who lived in Newbridge, Gwent, showed extraordinary understanding of my extensive climbing explorations in Wales. It was not always the case that I'd slip away climbing while they looked after their grandchildren, but – at times when I was super-keen – it must have seemed that way. My heartfelt thanks, therefore, to them and my family.

### Free Guidebook

It's a pleasure to be in a position to make this guidebook available without my pocketing any of your cash. All I ask is that you make a donation to one of the regional Mountain Rescue Teams (MRTs). They are all volunteers and on call 24/7. You might need them one day (but hopefully not). The choice of which MRT(s) you support is up to you; here's how to do it:



#### Brecon Mountain Rescue Team

Donations for Brecon Mountain Rescue Team can be made online through localgiving; i.e.: <https://localgiving.org/brecon-mountain-rescue-team>



#### Longtown Mountain Rescue Team

Donations for Longtown Mountain Rescue Team can be made online through JustGiving i.e.: <https://www.justgiving.com/longtownmrt>

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#### Central Beacons Mountain Rescue Team

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#### Western Beacons Mountain Rescue Team

Donations for Western Brecon Mountain Rescue Team can be made online through JustGiving i.e.: <https://www.justgiving.com/westernbeacons>

## Print at Will

Originally I built the BBNP guidebook as a single entity, but it became apparent it would be huge, and impracticable to print domestically. So I have split it into seven mini-guides based on their host mountain or upland area. The introduction is the same in each. They have been designed to be printed in A5 format on both sides of A4 paper. Good luck with that. And enjoy.

## Copyright

A significant voluntary effort has gone into preparing this guidebook and making it freely available for personal climbing use. The publication of any of its contents either as hard copy or via the internet without the author's consent is prohibited. However, I appreciate that much information is shared on the internet these days, and I have no objection to basic details being referenced in any not-for-personal-profit (non-commercial) website. If in any doubt, just ask me.

## *Climbing in the Brecon Beacons National Park Guidebook Series*

*Penwyllt Area, and Cribarth* is one in a series of seven topo-based guidebooks to the climbs and boulder problems in the Brecon Beacons National Park. The crags in the BBNP essentially fit into two categories: limestone quarries (comprising mostly traditional climbs) and – the new kid on the bloc – Twrch Sandstone crags (comprising mostly bouldering). All the climbing sites are united by their stunning upland surrounds, and many are remote and rarely visited by walker or climber alike. If wilderness bouldering is your thing and you're not afraid of a good walk – eat four Weetabix, breathe deep, and take to the hills.

The aims of this series are to make available for public use details of some activists' explorations and to use this opportunity to raise money for a proven good cause. The guidebooks are *not* definitive records of the climbs since legitimate access to, and use of, sources of information outwith the public domain is not always available. I must express my apologies, therefore, for the inevitable omissions or errors, which could fill a guidebook. If nothing else this project may well tease out more details of both past and present so a wider record of the climbing and – importantly – its correct history can evolve. As scotch mist Madge of the launderette in Tooting would tell me: 'It'll all come out in the wash, luv.'

There seems to be no universal convention regarding the publishing of first ascents of boulder problems. Originally I was going to publish the available known first ascent records (since boulder problems can sometimes be more significant than routes). Instead I've just summarised the years of development, allowing inferences to be made. Any first ascent details here should not be taken to heart. Many short or minor routes will not have been considered routes 'back in the day' and therefore left unrecorded. An effort has been made to estimate (+/- 5years) the date of any line so obvious that surely must have been led/soloed but where the first ascent is unknown.

In this guidebook series the climbing sites are generally described east to west.

## Grading

E grades coupled with UK technical grades are used for the trad routes. French grades are used for the few sport routes. V grades (in combination with UK tech grades) are used for the bouldering, but please feel free to convert to Font grades at your leisure, because I can't. No attempt has been made to V-grade anything less than 4c.

## Bouldering and first ascent style

Given the potential misery for a solo climber having to cart a mat uphill three, four, or five kilometres, the vast proportion of the bouldering has been achieved ground-up without a bouldering mat, but with the limited cushioning of a sleeping mat and a few old jumpers where necessary. In the absence of a mat some of the harder higher boulder problems will have first been inspected on a top rope (denoted **(H)**); a well organised team should find that spotters and mats more than compensate for top-rope inspection.

For solos of *routes* not indicated as ‘on sight’ or ‘above a mat’ assume they have been inspected and possibly even top-roped first. Routes indicated as ‘roped solo’ were led conventionally and safeguarded by a self-belay Soloist device instead of a flesh and blood climbing partner.

## Ethics

For each crag a brief statement on the usual style of ascent is given under ‘**Ethic**’; this is a matter of fact, and best considered as *de facto* acceptable practice proven by historical record. Where it is stated that bolts are or are not acceptable, this is based on long-established principles (e.g. no bolting at Morlais or Twynau Gwynion; bolting acceptable at Baltic Quarry) and should be found to be in accordance with any legitimate local drilled gear policy. ‘Bolting acceptable/permitted’ relates to establishing new routes only. Where routes were first climbed solo (as indicated in the first ascent details) a mat will not have been used unless stated otherwise.

## Stuff to Take

On the higher and more remote crags especially, equip yourself with robust all-weather gear as would a mountain walker; conditions can change quickly and a blue-sky day can become a mist-clad howling-gale in no time at all. A 1:25000 OS map and compass are invaluable when using this guidebook: the map references given are often the key data to get you to the crags. If you will be climbing on your own, also take a mobile phone (but don’t rely on it completely because of variable signal strengths), a head torch, and a whistle; and leave word of where you will be going.

The choice of what and how much padding to take is left to the individual boulderer. Certainly it is little hardship for an individual to take a lightweight sleeping mat to any of the crags, while a team might consider ferrying a bouldering mat or two. The use of bouldering mats will of course open up harder problems and unlock the remaining sit-start and bad-landing projects.

## Rescue

In the unfortunate event of an accident requiring assistance ring **999** or 112, ask for **Police**, and then state you need **Mountain Rescue**.

## Access

Access notes are included in each crag introduction. The vast majority of the crags are located on Access Land where visitors enjoy a right to climb. However that doesn’t mean you can do what you like on the crags: issues such as the presence of or potential for nesting birds of prey or protected scarce or rare plants take legal and moral precedence over your right to climb. Some sites are SSSIs, the citations attached to which denote the reasons for such declaration (e.g. rare plants, distinctive geology) and the management measures to maintain them including any necessary control over recreational activities (e.g. a direction that climbing is inappropriate).

A few of the crags within the boundary of the national park are *not* located on Access Land, but are approachable from RoWs without being forced to mount any fences or walls. **The inclusion of any climbing site in this guidebook does not assume or confer any right of access to it.**


You are best advised to do further reading by consulting the BMC's Regional Access Database ([www.thebmc.co.uk/rad](http://www.thebmc.co.uk/rad)). For access issues please contact the BMC's Wales Access and Conservation Officer or local volunteer access representative ([www.thebmc.co.uk](http://www.thebmc.co.uk)).

### Guidebook Disclaimer

You climb entirely at your own risk in line with the BMC Participation Statement (see below); this guidebook has been published strictly on that basis. The author and any other party connected with this guidebook cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions or be held liable for any personal or third party injuries or damage, however caused. The inclusion of climbs in this guidebook does not assume any right of access to them; please refer any access queries to the BMC.

### BMC Participation Statement

Climbing, hillwalking, and mountaineering are activities with a danger of personal injury or death. Participants in these activities should be aware of and accept those risks and be responsible for their own actions and involvement.

		<b>CRAG CODE</b> <a href="http://www.thebmc.co.uk">www.thebmc.co.uk</a>	
<b>Access</b>	Check the Regional Access Database [RAD] on <a href="http://www.thebmc.co.uk">www.thebmc.co.uk</a> for the latest access information		
<b>Parking</b>	Park carefully – avoid gateways and driveways		
<b>Footpaths</b>	Keep to established paths – leave gates as you find them		
<b>Risk</b>	Climbing can be dangerous – accept the risks and be aware of other people around you		
<b>Respect</b>	Groups and individuals – respect the rock, local climbing ethics and other people		
<b>Wildlife</b>	Do not disturb livestock, wildlife or cliff vegetation; respect seasonal bird nesting restrictions		
<b>Dogs</b>	Keep dogs under control at all times; don't let your dog chase sheep or disturb wildlife		
<b>Litter</b>	'Leave no trace' – take all litter home with you		
<b>Toilets</b>	Don't make a mess – bury your waste		
<b>Economy</b>	Do everything you can to support the rural economy – shop locally		
<small><b>BMC Participation Statement</b> — Climbing, hill walking and mountaineering are activities with a danger of personal injury or death. Participants in these activities should be aware of and accept these risks and be responsible for their own actions and involvement.</small>			

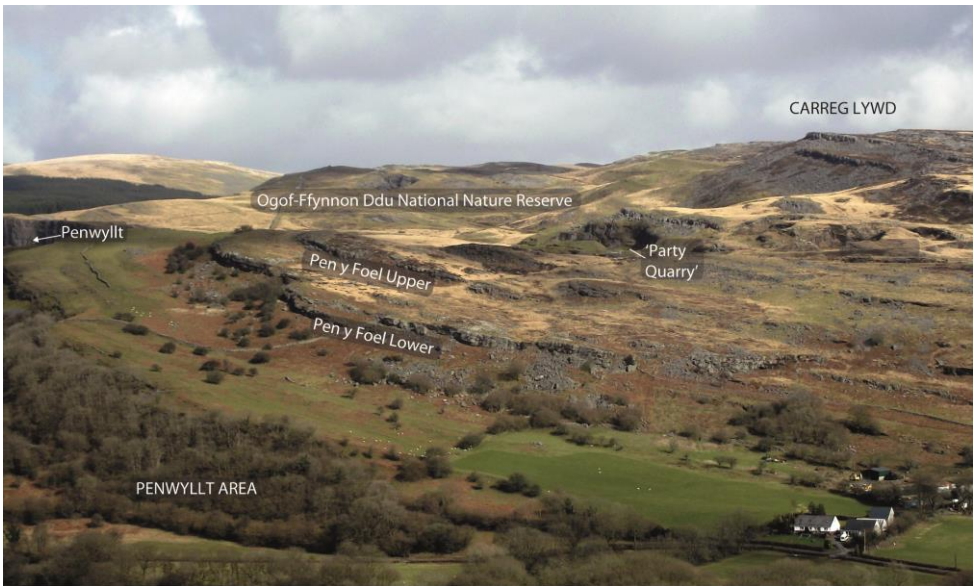
### Abbreviations Used

BBNP	Brecon Beacons National Park		o-s	on sight
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest		stal	calcite/flowstone
SWMC	South Wales Mountaineering Club		BB	Bolt belay
SWCW	South Wales Climbing Wiki		BR	Bolt runner
RoW	right of way		<b>Adjectival Grades</b>	
km	kilometre		M/D	Moderate/Difficult
N	north, northern, northerly,		VD	Very Difficult
E	east, eastern, easterly		S	Severe
S	south, southern, southerly		HS	Hard Severe
W	west, western, westerly		VS	Very Severe
FA	first ascent		HVS	Hard Very Severe
SS	sit start		E1 – E7	Extreme

## Penwyllt Area

Thanks to Joe Squire for inspiration and info', and to Andy Freem for the lowdown on Party Quarry.

There is limited history attached to the area's climbing. Carreg Lwyd warranted a paragraph in a 1967 New Climbs guidebook by Colin Mortlock, confirming that some of its crack and groove lines were climbed in the 60s. When it came to the New Millennium, bouldering was well in vogue but the BBNP was not. Then from 2012 Swansea boulderer Joe Squire (occasionally with mate Chris Allen) probed the Twrch Sandstone outcrops, enjoying the peace and quiet but posting tempters on YouTube. Members of the South Wales Caving Club checked out the local cliffs for cavers rigging practice and – with Andy and Antonia Freem to the fore – also developed some climbs in a limestone quarry near their HQ. While occasionally based in Newbridge, Martin Crocker re-explored the whole area, becoming bowled over by the quality of the wilderness bouldering experience: 'Why drive all the way to the Rhinogs to refill your soul?'



This is a very important area for Twrch Sandstone bouldering given the fine quality of the rock and the short walk-ins i.e. the crags are within comfortable mat-carrying distance. It is also a great place in which to begin to appreciate the geology of the area. For here, in various outcrops or quarries, the sandstone can be seen resting directly on the Carboniferous limestone, the resistant quartzite strata creating a striking stepped banding on the Penwyllt hillside.

This is the home for probably Wales's most celebrated cave, Ogof-Ffynnon Ddu (OFD), to which a visit with an accredited Leader is highly recommended. As a consequence the area is busy with the caving community, if not – as yet – climbers; and a terrace of cottages built for quarry workers has been converted to the HQ for the SWCC.

The crags are on Access Land with the possible exception of all or parts of Pen y Foel lower tier.

Parking is possible in a large free car-park which serves the Ogof-Ffynnon Ddu National Nature Reserve to the E. Sadly there is evidence of the odd break-in here, and you may prefer to park elsewhere – especially if finishing late. One alternative is to park considerably in the hamlet of Penwyllt near the disused Craig-y-Nos railway station building 250 metres before the car-park.

### CARREG LWYD OS 8616 1557

This is the prominent and craggy mini-peak and scarp overlooking the W part of the Ogof-Ffynnon Ddu National Nature Reserve and the car-park. The climbing here isn't a patch on that of Pen y Foel but there are a few worthwhile mini-climbs as well as a great view.

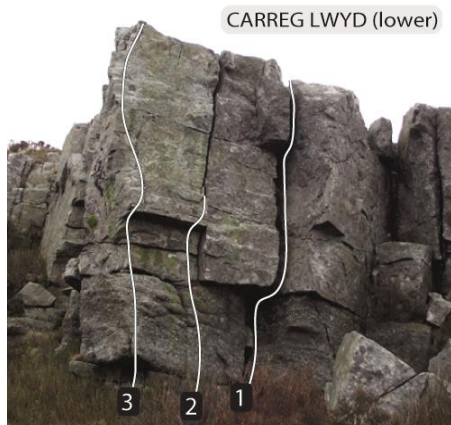
### Approach

Walk WSW from the car-park and choose an ascent to suit (probably the easiest route, at least to the summit of Carreg Lwyd, is to take either the footpath or abandoned tramway ENE into the Nature Reserve before tracking S up the spur to the upper escarpment).

**Ethic:** Bouldering, soloing, trad

### Lower Escarpment

All in all, the lower edge is disappointingly broken and the rock is shattered in many places. An optimist might argue there is room for some further cautious exploration.



At the far right-hand end is a little pillar with a vertical crack.

1 **Who Are You?** 4b The wide layback crack on the right.

2 **Skid Kid** 4b The vertical crack.

3 **Soldier at 63** 4b The rounded arête.

Approximately 100 metres along is a clean 4-metre high inset arête which is worth seeking out.

4 **The Seeker** V1 (5b) Take the edge of the arête to the top above soft but steeply sloping ground.

## Upper Escarpment

The upper edge, a prominent landmark from the W, is much better than its understudy. The highest section, right of centre, hosts two corner-cracks. The landings are strewn with rocks.



**5 Right Crack** 7m S (early/mid 1960s)  
Climb the crack.

**6 Left Crack** 7m S (early/mid 1960s)  
Climb the crack.

**7 Arête Right** 7m E1 5b (18.2.2015)  
Take the right-hand side of the sharp arête, using thin cracks, to a sloping ledge. Exit up the rib.  
FA Martin Crocker (o-s solo)

**8 Arête Left** 6m HVS 4c (18.2.2015)  
Enter the groove in the left-hand side of the arête, and pull up boldly to the sloping ledge and finish of *Arête Right* (no gear, and with boulders below).  
FA Martin Crocker (o-s solo)



Around 25 metres to the left is a squat pinnacle.

**9 Pinnacle Arête** 4a The front arête of the pinnacle.

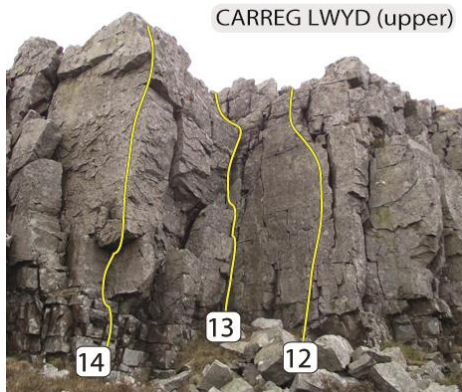
**10 Recess Arête** V0 (5a) Take the nice 4-metre high arête in the recess behind and left of the pinnacle; bold in view of the boulders below.

**11 Corner-crack** 6m S (early/mid 1960s)  
The corner-crack.





The next area of interest is a little way to the left.



**12 Serpent** 5m VS 4c (early/mid 1960s)

The widening crack that snakes left across a steep wall.

**13 The Corner** 5m D (early/mid 1960s)

The corner-crack just left.

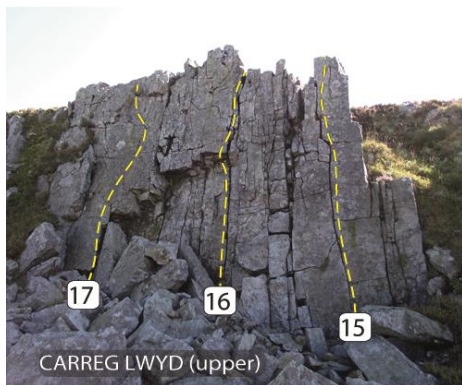
Now enters the crag's best line, visible from afar.

**14 \*OFD Arête** 6m E2 6a (18.2.2015)

Climb the very edge of the arête (obviously without using the wide crack to the right) with a big reach for a finger-rail. Gain good finishing-holds at the top of the arête. A potential V2 highball with multiple mats (but who in their right mind would slog them up here?).

FA Martin Crocker (solo)

Around to the left are two short crack-seamed walls above horribly jagged boulders.



CARREG LWYD (upper)



On the right-hand wall are three micro-morsels: 15, a short thin crack (S); 16, a widening crack right of a roof, taking care with the rock (HS 4b); and 17, the wall left of the roof (S).

And on the left-hand wall:

**18 Superannuated Astronaut** 5m E2 5b (26.9.2015)

Not bad; climb the technical slabby wall direct to the top. Graded for the mat-free killer landing.

FA Martin Crocker (o-s solo)

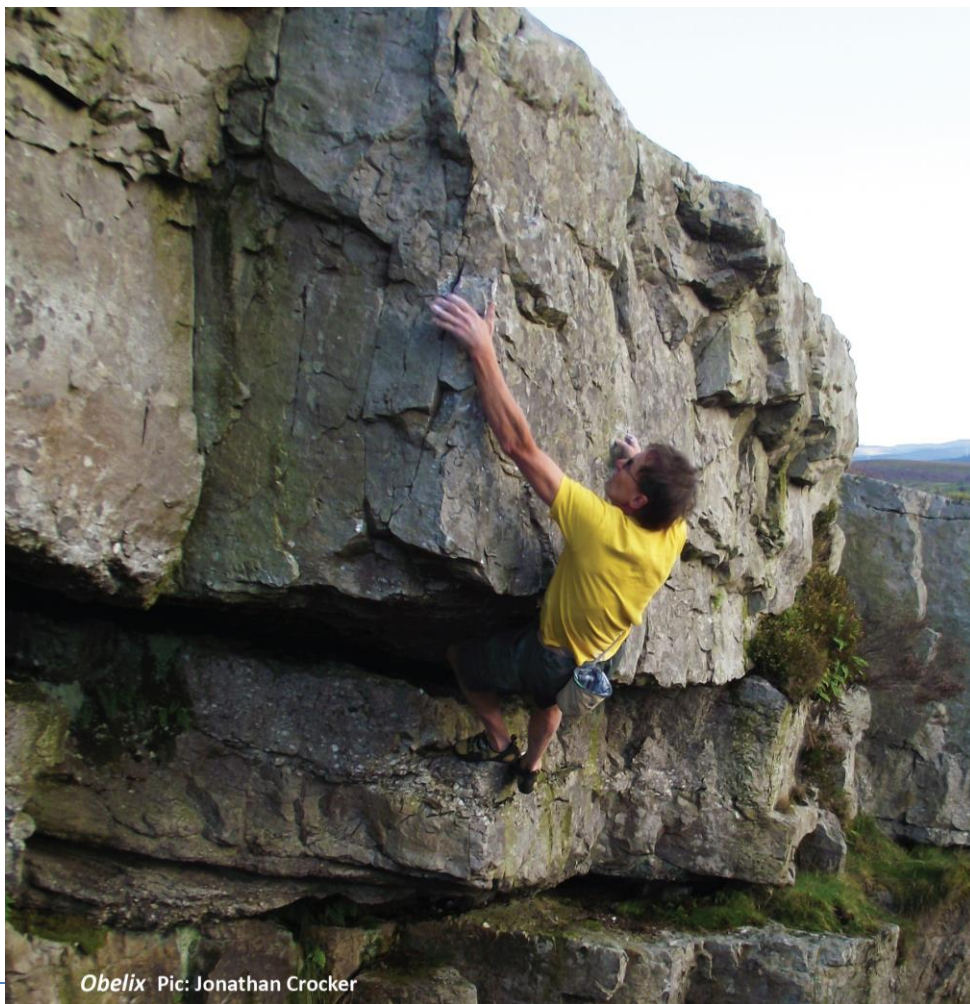
## PEN Y FOEL UPPER OS 8518 1512 – 8521 1526

A brilliant little crag with great lines and rock. It is very accessible which is just as well given its 5- to 6-metre height and some rocky landings, especially in the *Obelix* area (though almost all problems have been done without a mat). The crag has two sections separated by a 30-metre gap. The routes are described from left to right. They were first climbed by a combination of Joe Squire and Chris Allen between 2012 and 2013 and Martin Crocker in 2015 and 2016.

### Approach

Head W from the car-park to a track overlooking a shallow grassy cutting (old railway line). Follow the track S for 50 metres; then cross the cutting, following a path over a style towards a farmhouse (now a caving club hut). Keep to the left of the farmhouse, walking SW a short distance to a fence (all Access Land). Step carefully over the fence and follow a stone wall until it intersects a short cliff: the route *Jaws* on Pen y Foel Upper is beneath you, as is the unfolding Swansea Valley.

**Ethic:** Bouldering, soloing



*Obelix* Pic: Jonathan Crocker

North

Far left is a beautiful rippled overhanging wall where the wall and fence intersect the cliff-top.

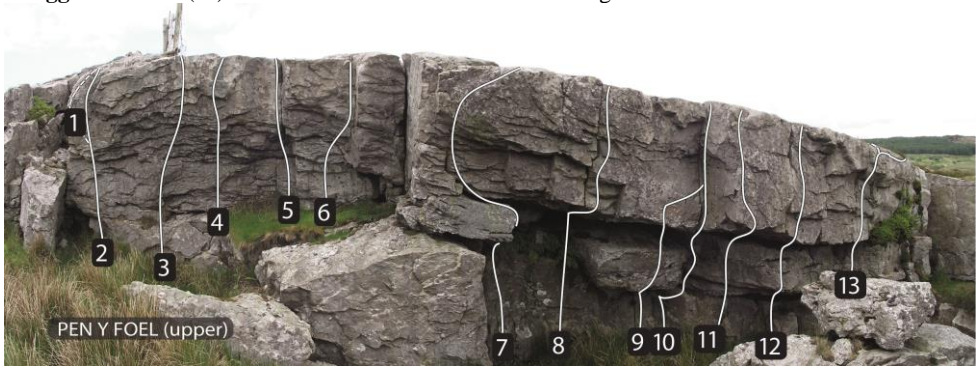
1 **Gropegate** V1 (5b) Bad landing. Just right of the large block take fingerholds into a tiny hanging groove. Grope for a sidehold around the rib high left and exit up the rib.

2 **\*Smeg** V3 (6a) Climb the tiny hanging groove direct with a smooth top-out.

3 **\*\*\*Jaws** V6 (6b/c) Magnifico, and the landing is marshmallow soft. Take the centre of the wall via undercuts, accelerating for a jug under the fence.

4 **Gate Bolt** V3 (6a) From the grass ledge dyno for a flat hand-ledge and mantel out. Good fun.

5 **Bigger Boat** V2 (5c) The shallow corner-crack from the ledge. The short-lived stand start is V0.



6 **Fin Soap** V1 (5b) The short shallow groove from the grass ledge; SS low left for the full effect.

To the right, also above the grass ledge, is a deep corner-crack (D), a useful descent.

7 **Curveball** V0- (4c) High commitment. Start in a recess and step up left on ledges onto a rounded arête. Reach a jug-line just under the cliff top, and hand-traverse this right to an exposed mantel exit.

8 **\*\*Penwyllt Crack** V1 (5b) Jam the sublime hand-crack over the roof to a long move to the top.

9 **Asterix** V5 (6b) Effectively a heinous left-hand start to 10. Crank over the roof right of *Penwyllt Crack* to a sidehold for left hand. Span right into the corner. A direct version looks V7 or more....

10 **\*End Up Like Bill** V0+ (5a) The fine hanging corner on finger-jams.

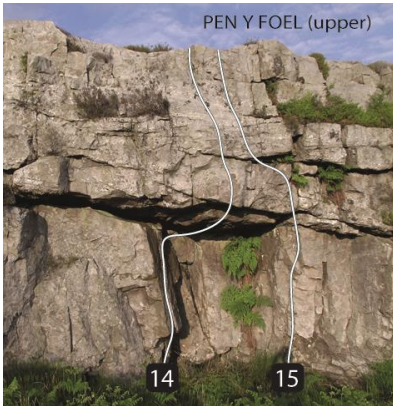
11 **\*\*Obelix** V4 (6b) The clean-cut arête to the right. Start low, undercut around to a finger-jam in the crack on the right. Span left to the arête and exit direct without further use of the crack. Two mats are required to fill the man-maiming hole in the boulders below.

12 **\*\*Getafix** V3 (6a) The twin cracks; use holds in both to progress.

13 The substandard corner and final crack; hand-traverse right to pull out at V0 (5a) or mantel at V3.



Pics: Joe Squire on *Smeg* (first ascent, 28.1.2012) and *Penwyllt Crack*



To the right is a roof-capped alcove carpeted with a grassy if mushy landing (a mat is not essential, but a tarpaulin may well be!).

14 **\*Fire Wire** V4 (6a/b) A sizzling problem over the roof, but it's 6 metres high. Start up the rib; gain a finger pocket and then a rail under the roof on the right. Cut loose (no right wall at any stage), and power up and left over the lip finishing with an alarmingly long reach.

15 **Snow Bog Arête** V1 (5b) The arête up to the right-hand side of the roof; then finish up the headwall.

The remaining routes are at the far right-hand end of this section. All are 4 to 5 metres high and so falling is ill-advised especially on the first route.



16 **Forked Buns** 4a The corner above the vicious looking fence.

17 **Pen y Foel Crack** 4a Scuttle up the deep crack.

18 **The Biz** V0+ (5b) The nice blunt arête right of the deep crack; tricky to start.

19 **Pen y Foel Flake** 4a The flake crack and groove.

20 **Pen y Foel Slab** 4b A pleasant slab right of the flake crack.

The large block that ends the N section has a minor Diff problem up its S face.

## South

The S section of the crag is mostly broken, but towards its right-hand end it bucks up as a fine sheer wall (detached buttress in front). The grassy landing is welcoming so long as you avoid hitting the detached block. All the routes can be started sitting if desired (they've been climbed both ways).

21 \***Happy** V3 (6a) Sure to bring a smile to your face (if you can do it). Starting immediately right of a tiny groove, take finger-edges powerfully up the wall.

22 \***Cut Up** V3 (6a) Starting 1.5 metres left of the detached buttress, climb the wall to finish on slopers. High in the grade.

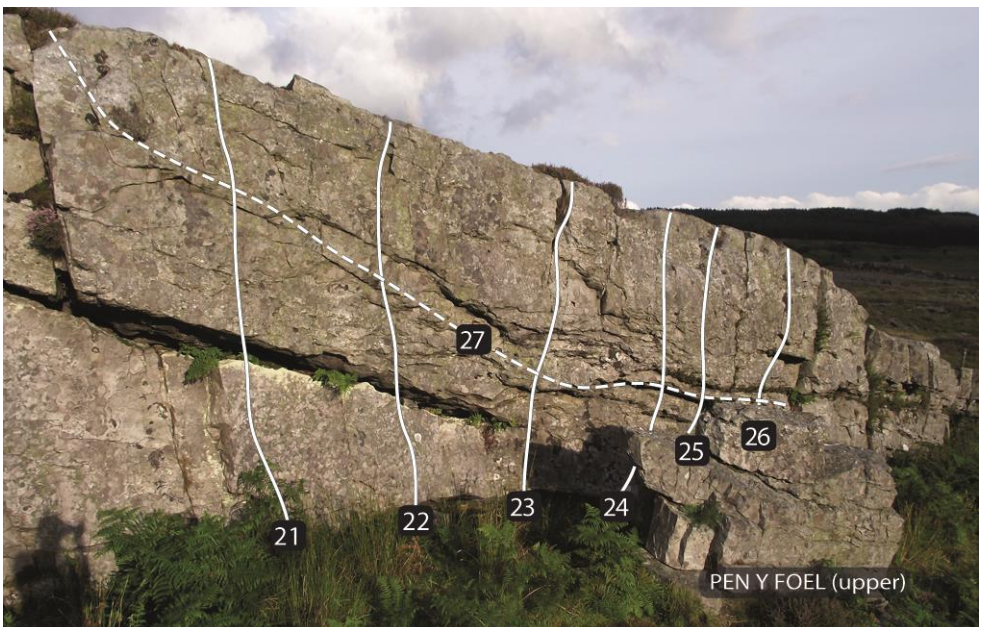
23 \***Intact** V1 (5b) Behind the buttress (back alert!) take a SS to a superb finger-pocket; then exit up the easy groove-let.

24 \***Just Right** V3 (6a) SS; then finesse up the wall on edges and undercuts. More back alert!

25 **Just Right Again** V0 (5a) Behind the buttress (back alert!) and left of a ragged veggy crack, make a long reach for a jug, and mantel out.

26 **Crimptonight** V3 (6a) Near the right-hand end, between two cracks, make surprisingly tough pulls on spaced finger-holds.

27 \*\***It Won't Go Away (but I will)** V4 (6a) Magic. Start at the right-hand end and take the break across left. When it runs out, connect spaced fingerholds on the wall and follow these pumpily to the arête far left. (The deep break and big block footholds just above ground level in the left-hand side of the wall are out of bounds.)



## PEN-Y-FOEL LOWER OS 8503 1491 – 8513 1528

A big crag by Twrch Sandstone standards (and no smaller than many a Peak grit crag). This is a powerful venue with steep and strenuous routes on fine quartzite (once above the weak banded sandstone footings). It contours around the hillside to the S, gradually diminishing in height, thus providing a mix of lead-routes and some top-notch bouldering (much of it highball though). It has a W/NW orientation and tends to be more sheltered from the wind than many Twrch Sandstone crags W of the Swansea Valley. The boulder problems were first climbed by a combination of Joe Squire and Chris Allen between 2012 and 2014 and Martin Crocker in 2015 and 2016.



The land above the crag is Access Land, the margin of such apparently demarcated by the cliff-edge (which *may* imply that the cliff is included too since it is vertical to overhanging). In any event please be discreet. It is easy to scramble to the base (*not* Access Land) at various breaks in the cliff.

The highest, left-hand part of the crag is divided into two sections by a huge rockfall that has created a large roof. Care is required on the banded sandstone section beneath the white quartzite: it is blocky and sharp and can slash fingers and

thumbs no problem (see pic). There is an anonymous two-peg belay on the slab above; but belays in boulders on the grass slope will be within reach too.

### Approach

As for Pen y Foel Upper, but continue W for 50 metres to the top of the crag. On first acquaintance it is best to scramble down to the N (right, facing out) of the crag. It can also be reached by contouring around to the N of the caving club farmhouse via a small limestone quarry.

**Ethic:** Bouldering, soloing, trad

Left of the rockfall the quartzite component is narrower (and the sandstone wider, making the routes scruffy).

At the far left-hand end are two arêtes.

#### 1 **Bobby Dazzler** 7m E2 6a (8.8.2015)

The left-hand, sharp arête; safe but soul-destroying. Take a slight groove and pull up to gain a jug just right of the arête. Lodge a difficult jam in the crack in the hanging arête and go for the jug on its edge. Mantel, out of breath.

FA Martin Crocker (roped solo)

#### 2 **Bigger than Valentino** 7m E2 6a (8.8.2015)

Climb a groove on wacky wonky holds under the right-hand side of the arête to a roof. Bear strenuously diagonally leftwards (good wire; then peg) to finish on the edge of the arête.

FA Martin Crocker (roped solo)

Left of the rockfall are two prominent full-height grooves filled with veg (mystery bolt belay above the left-hand one). The next two routes take the buttress between the grooves; note that the undercut rock at their starts looks impermanent.

### 3 **Shooting Stars** 12m E2 5b (11.8.2015)

Climb up leftwards through roofs pulling around using a flake crack. From the niche above, ignore the mossy scoop, and swing out left and *a cheval* a short blunt arête (good crack in right wall). Finish easily.

FA Martin Crocker (roped solo)

### 4 **Lightshow by Perseid** 12m E3 5c (11.8.2015)

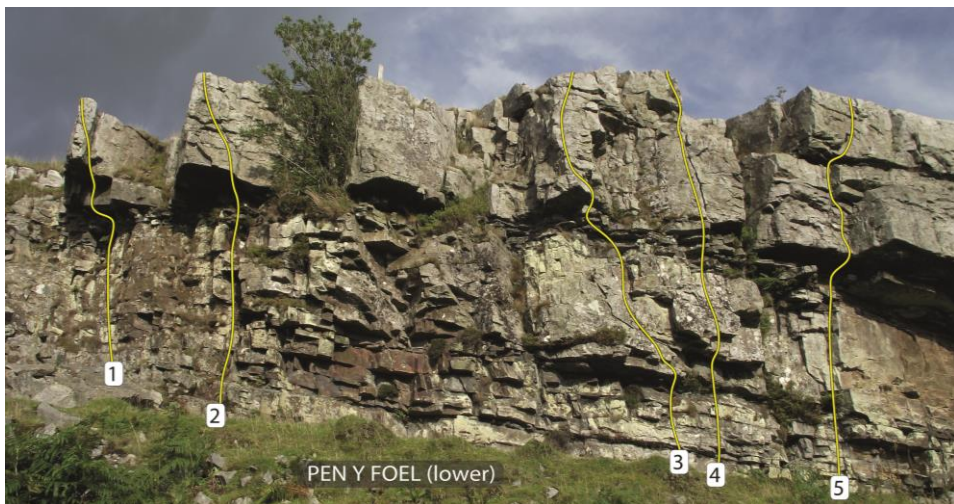
Takes the obvious vertical off-fingers crack left of the right-hand (fern-filled) groove. Undercut through the roofs (vital cam in pocket), and pull sternly on good holds to the break under the crack. Follow the crack to the top.

FA Martin Crocker (roped solo)

### 5 **A Good Year for Meteors** 12m E3 5c (11.8.2015)

Impressive and Ogmorian. Start just right of the right-hand groove immediately left of the rockfall. Take a shallow groove to the roofs (peg). Using the sandstone plates with care haul over onto the quartzite. Gain a deep break; then finish straight up the headwall.

FA Martin Crocker (roped solo)



Roughly in the centre of the main section of the crag are two grooves right of the rockfall. The following first two routes start up the (shallower) left-hand groove.

### 6 **\*\*Three Short Blasts and a Whistle** 18m E4 6a (11.7.2015)

A mega-pump that takes a stepped leftward-rising line above the roofs. Climb the left-hand groove (small wire placement in right wall) to breaks. Traverse left for 4 metres (cams) to a crouched position under a hanging groove. Make hard moves up the groove to a higher break. Ignore the escape above, and traverse the break leftwards along the lip of the huge roof until a long reach left (peg) gains a short finishing-groove.

FA Martin Crocker (roped solo)

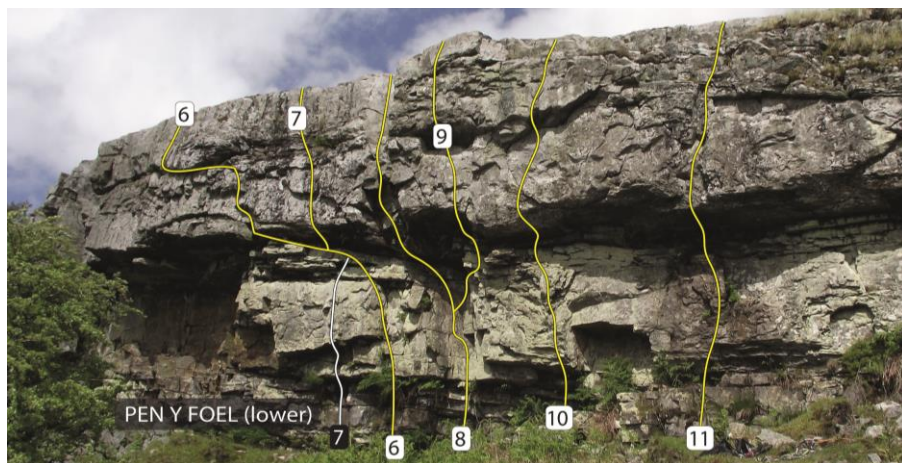
### 7 \***Killer Synth** 12m E3 6a (11.7.2015)

Excellent and protectable. Climb the left-hand groove (small wire placement in right wall) to breaks. Traverse left for 2 metres (cams), and reach two jugs on the lip of the bulge above (*in-situ* thread; wire just above). A few strong moves through the roof gain a good break and the prospect of the top. FA Martin Crocker (roped solo)

### Variation **Blüthner Start** V3 (6a) (H) (26.9.2015)

Starting 1.5 metres left of the parent, pull up to pockets on the quartzite wall. Make a powerful move to the breaks; then hand traverse right to reverse the parent.

FA Martin Crocker (solo; climbed as a (highball) boulder problem above a mat)



### 8 **Poirot** 10m E2 5b (1970s?)

Care is needed not to exert too much force on the jumble of jammed blocks high in the crack. Take the obvious V-groove (the right-hand groove) to a break (ancient jammed head of a wire – which requires further detective work). Step left and jam the crack to emerge, anxious, above the large block holds. Finish up an easy groove.

### 9 \*\***La Coupe des Mousquetaires** 10m E4 6a (6.6.2015)

Brilliant, pumpy, and sustained. Climb the V-groove of *Poirot*, and swing right. Crank strenuously over the bulge (good wire) and reach a slot under a second bulge. Make a fingery move up the headwall to a thin break and jugs; exit direct.

FA Martin Crocker (roped solo)

### 10 \*\***Blow a Gasquet** 9m E3 5c (6.6.2015)

Aerobic jug-pulling, though the jugs are widely spaced. Start 2 metres right of the *Poirot* V-groove. Move up a rib on ragged holds to breaks. Clip the peg in the diagonal crack in the bulge above, and connect jugs to pull over onto the wall. Finish steeply.

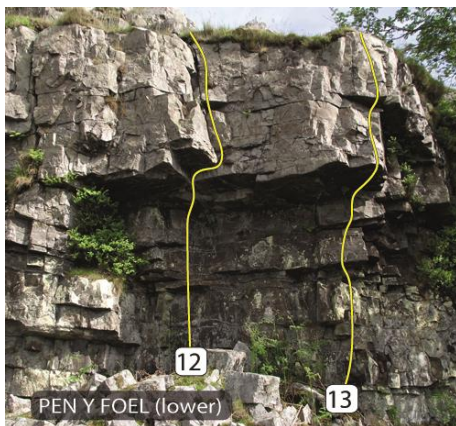
FA Martin Crocker (roped solo)

### 11 \***No Looker** 9m E2 5c (18.6.2015)

Skin deep. Start under the next weakness right in the roof, which can drip profusely. Climb the sandstone to the roof; small cams. Stretch over, clip a peg; then lock jugs to a high hold. Exit easily.

FA Martin Crocker (roped solo)





One hundred metres to the right just past a stone wall at the low cliff-top is a 5/6-metre high wall above scree. This provides two solos unwisely first climbed without a mat.

**12 *Bach to Jazz* E1 5a (V0)** The hanging groove; surprisingly awkward.  
FA Martin Crocker (solo)

**13 *\*Vivaldi invented Rock and Roll* 6m E2 5a (18.6.2015)**

Exciting. Start below the nose on the right. Climb up rightwards on spaced, slightly sloping jugs on the nose, and make a long reach for the top. Don't fall off!

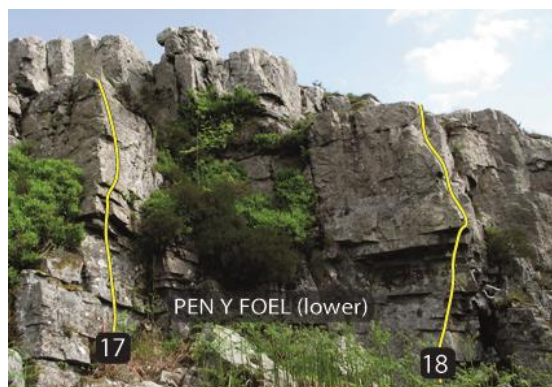
FA Martin Crocker (solo)

Approximately 150 metres to the right of the main crag, where the edge is lower and more broken, is a series of 4- to 6-metre highball arêtes'. The landings here are rocky, so bring your mat. The first two arêtes are set as a pair, the left-hand of which supports a sheer undercut slab.

**14 *\*Sheer Tights* V5 (6b) SS** with right-hand finger-jam; reach over the roof to the first in a series of edges up the middle of the smooth slab.

**15 *Left Undone* 4b** The left-hand arête.

**16 *\*Well Yank my Chain* 6m V1 (5b)** The right-hand arête: nice.



A little further right is a second pair of arêtes separated by a large bilberry-and-heather-covered ledge.

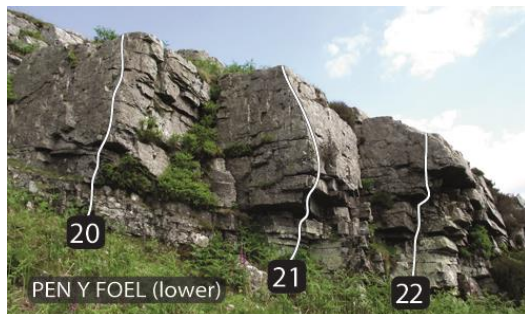
**17 *Modesty* V0- (4c)** The left-hand arête; pleasant despite being tucked between vegetated ledges.

**18 *Grow Old Disgracefully* V0+ (5b) (H)** The right-hand arête is serious. Avoiding the block on the right, layback the arête to a highly distressing flake. Tremble past this to the top.

Seven metres right is a shorter arête.

19 V0 (5a) Climb the left-hand side of the arête using edges on the slab.

There are three remaining arêtes before the crag dwindles and turns a corner.



20 **Fleabag** V0+ (4c) The first arête off an awkward sloping landing.

21 **\*Sandbag** V0 (5a) The central arête with some steep moves over the initial small roofs.

22 **Nosebag** V0+ (4c) The final arête, which isn't an arête at all (sizable roof on its right). Follow jugs up the left-hand side of the arête to the seemingly rounded top.

There is quite a spread of rock further right and around the corner. Though the Access Land boundary continues along the cliff-top, the crag here has a less private feel and it is within view of a couple of residential properties.

Not too far to the right a 6-metre high wall featuring two cracks is well worth the extra little walk. The landing is flat and grassy which doesn't make the problems any less committing to solo (but you could bring a mate and some leading kit).

23 **Slip away in Silence** 5m E2 5b (V1) (8.8.2015)

The V-groove under the roof on the extreme left. Awkwardly reach a jug in the roof and then pull around the lip rightwards. There is a grassy well immediately below, but jagged rocks lie just beyond – again, don't fall off.

FA Martin Crocker (solo)

24 **\*\*Crack in the Sky** 6m E2 5c (V2) (2013)

Enter the crack steeply using a jug on the right (or direct) and fight up it to the top. Whillans 5c!

FA Joe Squire (o-s solo)

25 **\*\*\*King of the Wild Frontier** 6m E4 6b (V4) (8.8.2015)

Brilliant, if highly committing as a solo. Climb through the roof between the two cracks, making a powerful long pinch-move for the break at the top.

FA Martin Crocker (solo)

26 **\*Kinky Crack** 6m VS 4c (V0) (2013)

The right-hand crack on big holds. V2/3 from sitting.

FA Joe Squire (o-s solo)

27 **\*Say the Most, Do the Least** 6m E2 5c (V2) (8.8.2015)

A lovely eliminate. Stretch for the big sidehold right of *Kinky Crack* and take the slabby face direct to the top (beware a long reach at the top – possibly E3 5c for the less tall).

FA Martin Crocker (solo)

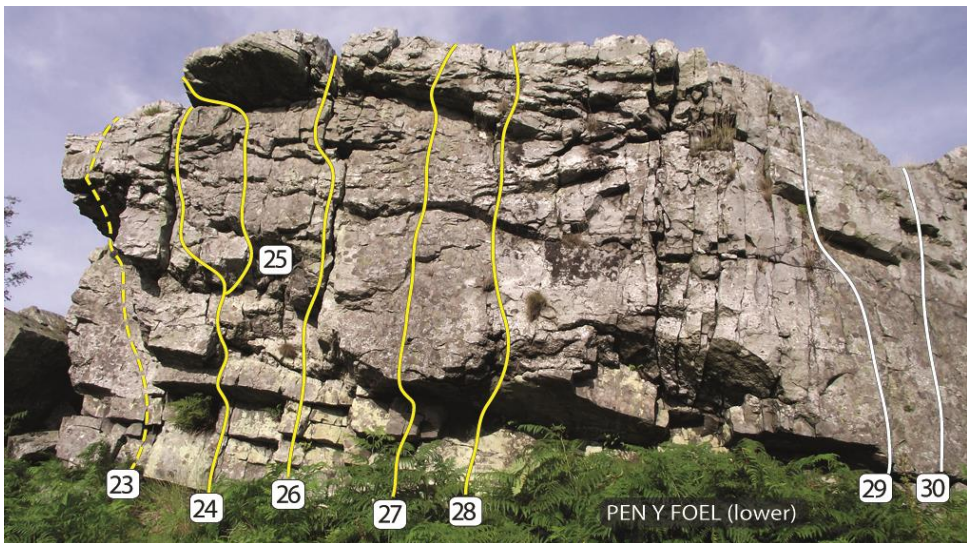
28 **\*Brian's View** 6m HVS 5b (V1) (8.8.2015)

Make a difficult rockover and head for the top on deep jugs.

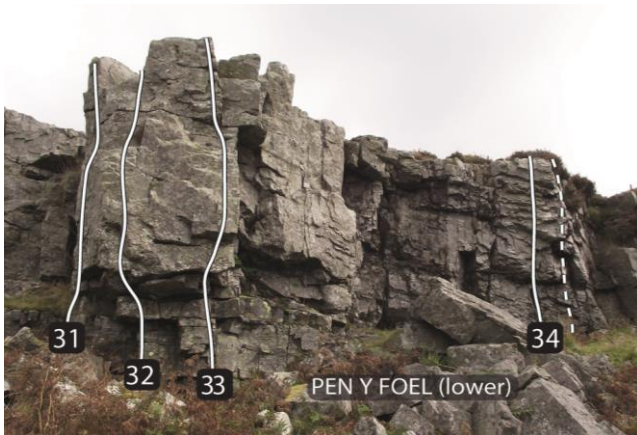
FA Martin Crocker (solo)

29 **Nothing Like** V0 (5a) The short SW-facing wall at the right-hand end of the buttress, around the left-hand side of a narrow strip roof.

30 **Saturday Night** V0+ (5b) The short SW-facing wall straight up over a little overhang.



To the right is a small protruding rectangular buttress.



31 **Sunday Stroll** V0- (4c)  
Climb the N-facing wall via a deep break.

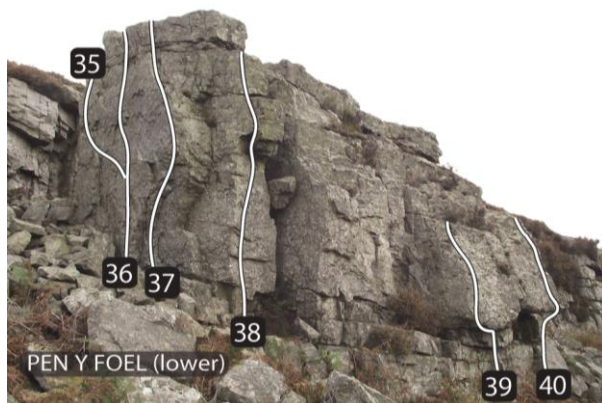
32 **\*What Gives My Son?**  
V2 (5c) SS the left-hand arête;  
strenuous.

33 **\*Stuck** V1 (5b) SS the right-hand arête (avoid the sloping foot-ledge around to the right).

Set back is a low, lichenous wall with an overhanging rippled face on the far right.

34 **\*\*Wrong Way** V2 (5c/6a) The rippled face, dynamically, on undercuts. (An inferior version **Seeps** on the right arête: V1 (5b)).

To the right is a detached buttress. Its first three problems, on the sheer N-facing wall, start from sitting under a hand-ledge low on the right.



35 **\*Man of Iron** V4 (6b) Keeping low, traverse left from the hand-ledge on tinies past a good sidehold to the left-hand arête.

36 **\*Two and Two Make Five** V3 (6a) Right-hook the hand-ledge and climb up left for a jug just under the top – fingery.

37 **Crawl** V0- (4c) From the hand-ledge, jug-crawl the arête.

38 **Nothing Right** V1 (5c) A rapid move up the second slight arête.

The next two (lesser) problems, over a low roof, are 4 metres further to the right.

39 **Into It** V2 (5c) SS to the right end of the boss of rock on the lip, and traverse left onto an arête.

40 **Help Yourself** V0- (4c) SS the right-hand arête (use the block on the right, unless being silly).



Set back a little is another wall, sometimes wet in places. There is one essential hit here.

41 **\*\*Vera Duckworth will be Missed** V3 (6a) Avoiding the large flake below (mind you don't land on it!), take a vertical blind crack on the right, stretch left for a hidden pocket, and power up to the top. (The route can also be done by reaching the pocket from the flake – V1ish.) Variation: SS right of the flake with cool two-finger pocket for left hand (V3) or right hand (V4); bumps up the quality.

To the right is a high roof (*project* – E5 6b?) and, stretching right from *Joe's Arête*, a bulging wall.

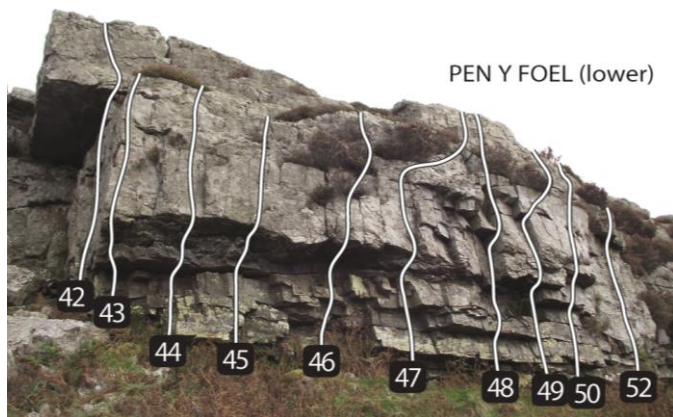
42 **\*Capital Letters** V0 (5a) The wall under the roof starting with right hand in a pocket. From the large ledge finish up the high but easy wall.

43 **\*\*Joe's Arête** V2 (5c) SS the arête and make for a good high hold; large ledge just above. **Kill Your Television** V2 (5c) is a left-hand variation using the pocket (SS).

44 **Don's Wall** V2 (5c) SS a metre right of the arête and take the wall twixt two left-facing grooves.

45 **Who Goes First?** V0 (5a) SS and use the pebbly canine to gain jugs over the lip.

46 **Clodhopper** V0+ (5a/b) Start under a crack and yard over the roof, finishing twixt heather clods.



47 **\*Bovey Woods V3 (6a)** SS, and make a long stretch up the left hand of two thin grooves to jugs; swing right to the exit of the next route.

48 **\*\*But Would Bovey?** V1/2 (5c) Climb into and up the left-facing corner to easier ground; excellent.

49 **\*\*Terminally Groovy** V2 (5c) The brilliant hanging flake.

50 **\*\* I Want it Over V3 (6a)** The blunt rib: right hand past roof to finger-jug, left hand on crimp; now fly for that jug and it'll all be over (or not).

51 **Base Jump V0-** (4c) The shallow groove – a possible descent route; chute optional.

52 **Deceptive Slabby Wall V0 (5a)** The deceptive slabby wall taking care with the exit.

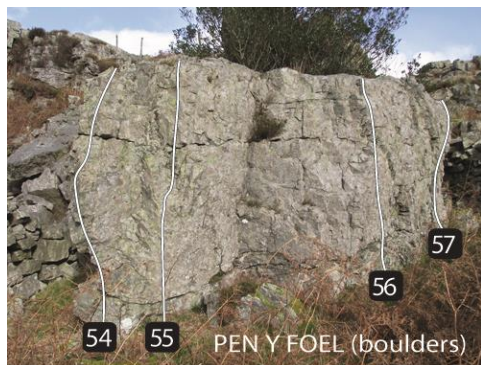
53 **\*Squire Esquire V3 (5c)** Pumpsville; a low left-to-right traverse. Start under the unclimbed roof. Traverse thinly, dropping strenuously down right via the jug of *Joe's Arête*. Take the banded rock right (occasional hold in the quartzite above) before a withering section at the end leads into 52.



Joe's Arête with Joe in action

## The Boulders

Various underclass boulders complement the elitism of the edge. At the right-hand end of the crag is a holly tree below which is the Not the Warm-Up Boulder.



54 **Rip it Up the Line** V1 (5c) SS the left arête.

55 **Stanimal** V0- (4c) The slight rib to the right.

56 **What a Ripper!** V2 (5c) SS the slight rib right again starting with right hand in the shear zone pockets.

57 **Tweener (New Balls)** V1 (5c) SS the right arête, starting just to its left.

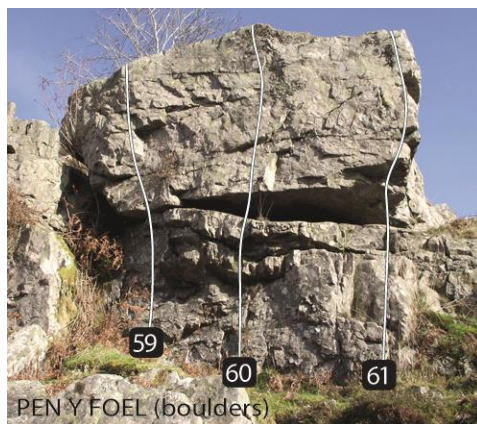
58 **Djokovicitch** V1 (5c) A right-to-left low traverse; finish with difficulty around the E wall.

Fifty metres right, over a stone wall, is a high boulder with a clean W face.

59 **The Universe is Indifferent** V0 (5a) Just right of the left arête.

60 **Just Listen to the Heartbeat of Mars** V0 (4c) The centre of the face with a tricky start.

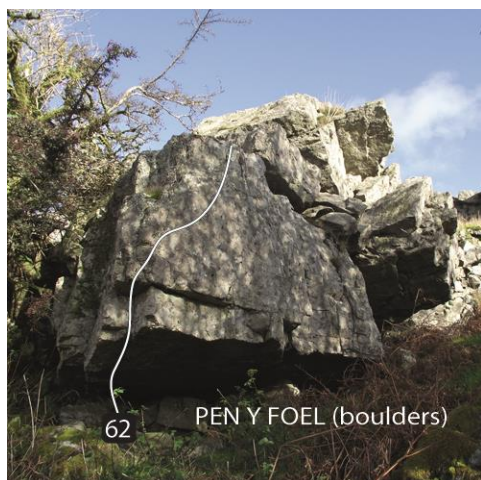
61 **The Galaxy Smiles Back** V0 (4c) Climb the left-hand side of the right arête.

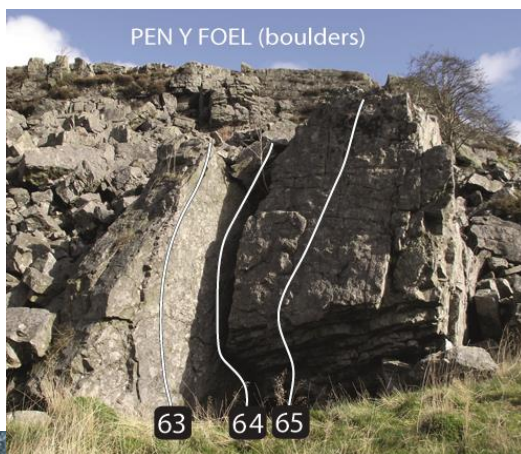


The remaining two boulders are at a lower level (about 60 metres below the crag-line).

Below the *Joe's Arête* face, amongst a few trees, is an undercut boulder.

62 **\*Trillion Ton Iceberg** V3 From a lie down start under the roof with right hand on a horizontal break, power up the arête, swinging right to pull around.





Forty metres right, above a track, is a pit overhung by two boulders split by a wide crack. All three problems start low in the pit.

**63 Trust V1 (5c)** The left wall and arête; from a good fingerhold take layaways to the apex.

**64 Swallowing Air V2 (5c)** Layback the thuggish wide crack from low.

**65 Tantrum V1 (5b)** The overhang right of the crack on finger-jugs.



Joe Squire on *Tantrum*



### LIMESTONE QUARRY at OS 8548 1502 ('Party Quarry')

In addition to the vast tottering main limestone quarry at Penwyllt there are a number of others of which this small quarry, 500 metres S of the car-park, appears the most solid. The quarry is owned by the South Wales Caving Club (SWCC) and is situated on Access Land.

The routes were first climbed by members of the SWCC, the bolted routes having been rigged to allow SRT training for cavers. From a sport climbing perspective, some of the bolting appears incomplete and some bolt belays lack full lower-off facilities (just check carefully from the ground before setting out). There are also a few decent trad lines, for investigative souls with nuts and cams.

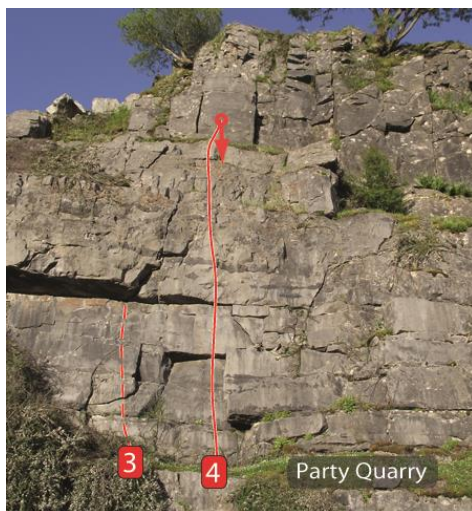
#### Approach

From the car-park, head W to a track overlooking a shallow grassy cutting (old railway line). Turn left and follow the track S to the quarry on the left (just past a bridge over the railway cutting).

#### Ethic; Sport, trad

The routes are summarised from left to right.

There is a banded tower on the left with a sport route.





### 1 **Party Poppers** 7m VD (1960s)

Climb up ledges and the obvious crack right of the left arête.

FA SWCC members

### 2 **Canapé** 8m F5 (2014)

Climb the wall using the broken crack on the right; but then swing left and over the roof on a big chert jug for an exciting finish. 3B; 2BB.

FA Andy & Antonia Freem

Fifteen metres right, past a jungle of cotoneaster, is a minor wall starting from a rock terrace.

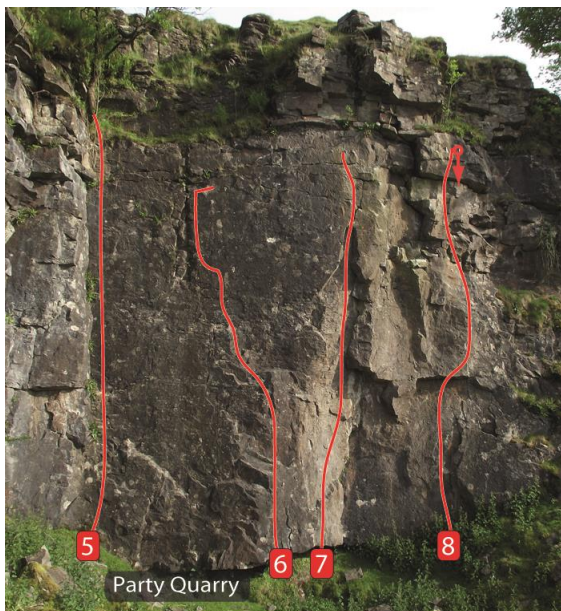
### 3 **Project** (presumably): the crack in a roof (1 bolt in place 2015).

### 4 **Bop till You Drop** 10m F5 (2014)

Left of a wide block crack climb the wall to a ledge and 2BB. 3BR.

FA Andy & Antonia Freem

At the far right-hand end of the quarry is a NW-facing wall with several routes that justify a peek. There are belay stakes above the wall should you decide to top out. Fifteen metres left of the NW-facing wall is a blunt arête and clean wall to its left which provide two nice trad routes that finish at a tree: **Sonny** (S 4a) and **Cher** (VS 4c).



### 5 **Naughty Corner** 7m F4+ (2013)

The bolted 'trad' corner which is just a little tricky at the top. 4BR; abseil from the tree or top out.

FA Andy & Antonia Freem

### 6 **\*Smooth Operator** 8m F6a (2013)

Climb the centre of the smooth face, with a few difficult moves to gain a slight crack on the left. 4BR; 2BB (rings/maillons missing in 2015).

FA Andy & Antonia Freem

### 7 **\*Attitude Dancing** 8m F6b (2014)

The strenuous flake-line right of centre. Take the impending wall, and enter the crack. Follow it with strong pulls to a 2BB (rings/maillons missing in 2015). 4BR.

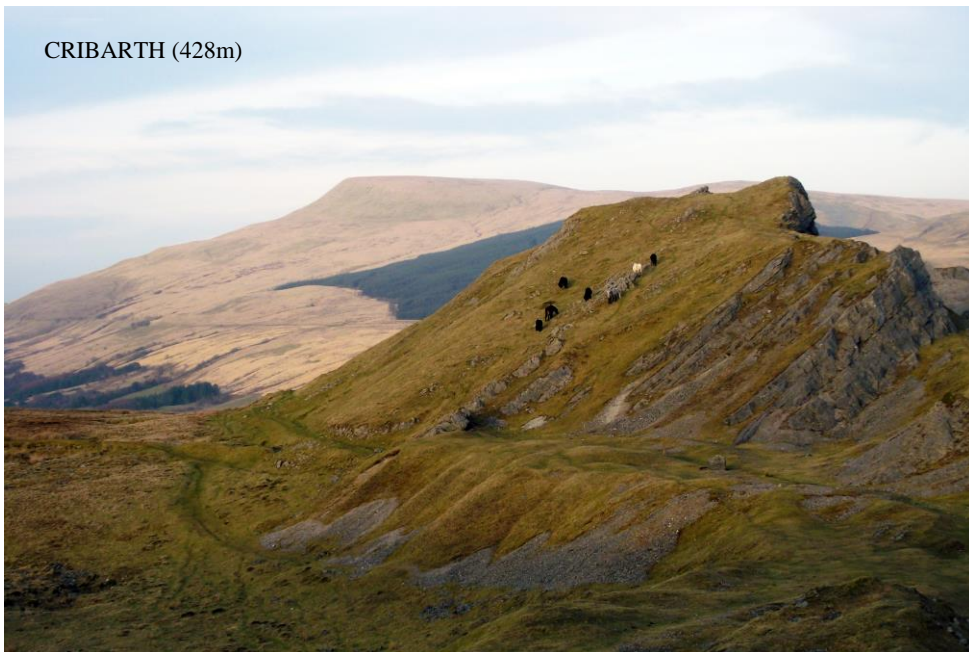
FA Andy & Antonia Freem

### 8 **Buffet** 8m F5 (2014)

Rather escapable. Climb a flake and short wall using holds to the right; then move up more steeply past a water-sculpted hole to a 2BB. 3BR.

FA Andy & Antonia Freem

## CRIBARTH (428m)



A handsome 'mini-mountain' overlooking Abercrave in the Swansea Valley, also known as the 'Sleeping Giant'. Cribarth has been extensively quarried for limestone, silica rock and rottenstone which was used in the iron, copper and tin industries further S around the Swansea Valley.

The hill – a NE-SW anticline of limestone – forms a key feature in the Forest Fawr Geopark and is likely to excite geologists more than climbers. Despite the huge acreage of rock exposed here, which is mostly shattered and loose, there are only three small crags of climbing merit and these are located on the flanks of the hill. (The long limestone escarpment might yield a few routes on its walls just SE of the summit.) Nevertheless, with or without climbing, Cribarth is well worth exploring.

### YNYSWEN EDGE OS 8355 1381

This is a minor SSE-facing Twrch Sandstone crag on the SE flank of Cribarth, overlooking Ynyswen. It is visible when descending into the Swansea Valley along the A4221 from the E. The best problems have reasonable landings so you might decide not to cart your mat up the steep hill. So far as is known, the problems as described on both Ynyswen Edge and Craig-y Cae-glâs were first climbed in March, 2015. The crags are located on Access Land.

### Approach

Turn left off the A4067 (travelling E) into the estate of Ynyswen (the road is also called Cribarth). Take the left at the T-junction and park by a green on the left. Take the RoW which heads NW out of the estate towards Cribarth, the hill. Follow the RoW around a left kink after 200 metres, through woodland, to where it emerges at the edge of the woodland under a field and the open hill above. Turn right and follow the path for approximately 700 metres where the crag can be seen to the right.

**Ethic:** Bouldering, soloing

The routes are described from left to right.



**1 Finger-crack** 3c The finger-crack in a short N-facing wall.

There are three confined un-named problems on a 3-metre high wall opposite the finger-crack.

**2 V0+ (5b) SS** the short arête (keeping fingers out of the crack to the right).

**3 4a** The crack in the centre.

**4 V0+ (5b)** The thin-finger-crack.

**5 Mein Gut!** V2 (6a) Right of a wide crack, start low on a leaning arête and finish with a sloper mantel.

The tallest part of the crag has one decent line but also some unstable rock which is best avoided (though the easy hand-crack in the centre of the wall is passable).



**6 Let the MRTs Be** V0+ (5b) The fine solid arête at the left-hand end of the main wall – don't fall and find you need to call.

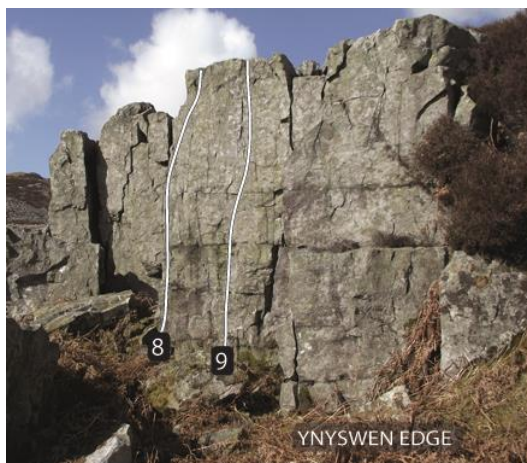
Behind the crag, facing Cribarth, is a ravine imprisoning the awesome hanging arête of:

**7 The Good Book** V3 (6a) After a powerful start layback the arête to flat finishing-holds. High, but the landing is soft.

There is a small S-facing wall 15 metres N of the ravine.

**8 Sancta Maria** 5a The virtuous arête; harder than it should be.

**9 Erratica Erotica** V4 (6a/b) The centre of the leaning wall past a fairly unhelpful crimp and above an irritating landing.



Four hundred metres to the NNW on the W side of a broad rock-strewn ridge (W of the path contouring the hillside) is a small and sunny outcrop (Craig-y Cae-glâs, OS 8372 1421).



On the left is a squat buttress hosting an arête with two pockets eyeing you up.

1 **\*Ear's Looking at You Kids** V0+ (5b) A quick dyno up the leaning wall left of the arête.

2 **\*Eye Came, Eye Saw, Eye Crockered** V0+ (5b) Use the two holes to initiate a hard exit.

3 **Old Man's Crack** D The crack in the front: suitably kind to shoulder bursitis, finger tendonitis, and knee arthritis amongst other attributes of 50 years of self-serving punishment/pleasure in the great outdoors.

On the next buttress right:

4 **Wash Your Mouth Out** V3 (6a/b) Climb the centre of the bulging face, using a mini-mono/poor sidehold for left hand.

5 **Gob Gossip** V2 (5c) On the same buttress make an arse-scraping traverse left along the low line of pockets which extend left onto a slab – rather good.

6 **A Needle of Truth in a Haystack of Lies** V2 (5b) On the third buttress make a low traverse leftwards finally pulling up over a little prow.





### CRAIG- Y-NOS OS 8413 1490

The climbing here is located in an unusual rift in the craggy limestone spur of Craig-y-Nos on the NE flank of Cribarth. Although it overlooks the Swansea Valley and the A4067 the rift is nonetheless difficult to see from below.

This is an interesting trad limestone site with good geology and some solid climbs on the W side of the N-S orientated rift. (The E side of the rift is unstable and best ignored, though a few easy climbs have been established on it.)

Multiple stakes above the W wall testify to the probability of historic group use.

### Approach

Park in a lay-by (free) just to the S of Craig-y-Nos castle. If this is full (very rare) use either the (pay) car-park of Craig-y-Nos Country Park (café, toilets) or the pull-in outside the 'castle' itself.

From the S end of the lay-by take the footpath on the opposite side of the road (part of the Craig-y-Nos Quarry Heritage Trail) to a right-turn switchback. Signs at this point advise (the unknowing) not to carry straight on because of rockfall risk. So carry straight on along the path, under quarries (yes, too loose *and* in the Nature Reserve), until it ends at a wall with fence. A sort-of-stile enables Access Land on the other side to be gained. Head left up the hillside to the rift of Craig-y-Nos crossing a fine limestone pavement on the way (pic).

**Ethic:** Trad, soloing

## West Wall

The routes are described from left to right.



### 1 \***Polite Refusal**. 9m VS 4b (2004)

Just S of a narrowing in the rift is a prominent corner. Climb the blunt arête left of the corner; then continue steeply up the arête and wall above.

FA Steve Rose

### 2 **Verdi** 9m HVS 5a (12.7.2005)

The prominent, often wet, corner in the W wall. When dry it gives a good, if lichenous, climb. Finish on the left wall taking care when topping out.

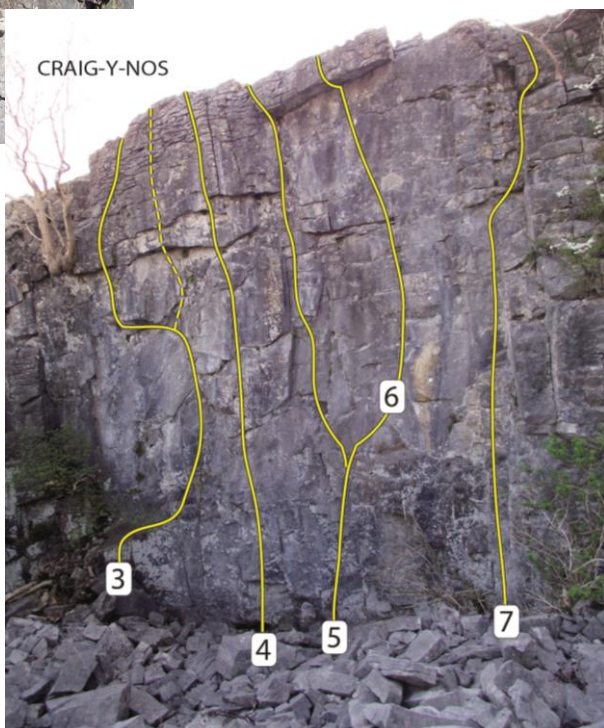
FA Nick Smith, Steve Rose, Anna Stickland.

### 3 \***About Thyme** 10m E1 5b (12.7.2005)

A fine climb; intricate, and with good protection. Start at a ramp under the tree. Climb rightwards to a flake crack and stand up on a small shaky pedestal. Move left onto a slab beneath a strip roof (peg) and pull up to a thin break (peg). Large holds lead direct, just right of the tree, to the top.

FA Steve Rose, Nick Smith, Anna Stickland

Variation **Direct Finish** E2 5b The line that *About Thyme* (surprisingly) didn't take. Instead of moving left, climb direct up the flake crack to a small roof; gain whopper jugs above, and haul over.



4 \***Project Adelina** 9m E3 5c (23.4.2015)

A pumpy and sustained eliminate. Climb the broad grey rib between *About Thyme* and *Repetitive Strains* to a rattling flake handhold at 4 metres (sling). Take the layback edge above to the high-level roof. Avoiding an escape right (or left), reach up left over the overhang to crimps: get your right hand in the short hanging crack and fight to the top.

FA Martin Crocker (roped solo)

5 \*\***Repetitive Strains** 9m E2 5b (11.7.2005)

Excellent; well protected. Climb to a ledge at 4 metres. Step left into a rugged crack and follow it and the shallow corner to a break. Strenuously finish around the left-hand side of the capping roof.

FA Nick Smith, Steve Rose

6 **Happy Birthday Hubble** 9m E2 5c (23.4.2015)

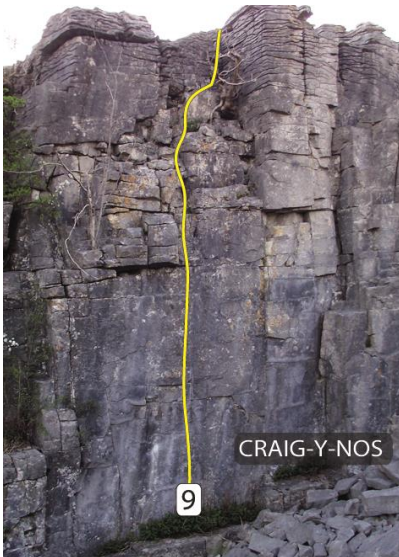
Escapable near the top, but the climb extends your time at the crag. Climb *Repetitive Strains* for 4 metres onto a ledge (and place a couple of good wires in its crack). Take the short overhanging groove on the right to jugs. Above is a peg in the flat headwall; climb past the peg to a break, ignore the easy way out on the right, and surmount the centre of the capping roof.

FA Martin Crocker (roped solo)

7 **Queen of the Night** 9m HVS 4b (27.6.2005)

Would be VS if it had gear – it doesn't. Climb the corner (or is it a V-groove) to ledges and a welcome small tree near the top.

FA Nick Smith (solo)



8 **Magic Man** 9m D (10.7.2005)

Three metres right of *Queen of the Night* is a smooth wall. Step up left to a ledge at 2 metres. Traverse left to the arête and go up the blocky staircase to the top past a small tree.

FA Steve Rose (solo)

Near the right end of the west wall is a flat face under a little overhang.

9 **Karsty Walk** 7m HVS 6b (V3/4) (23.4.2015)

From a small undercut make a flat-to-the wall move to crimps, pass to the right of the overhang, and scramble carefully to the top. The fairly level landing can be padded with your rope and a couple of old jumpers.

FA Martin Crocker (solo)



**CARREG DRAMFFORD** (OS 8282 1448) is a set of beautiful compact Twrch Sandstone slabs which occupies the slight valley between Garreg Fawr and Cribarth, above one of Cribarth's many disused quarry tramlines.

The slabs rise to 10 metres in height and are WNW facing and therefore of afternoon personality. The rock is impeccable, probably partly due to smoothing by glacial action. A stake in the terrace above the main slab (and two obscure rusty bolts at the crag base) suggest groups have used the crag at some time in the past. Much of the climbing is bouldering or soloing, so it's just as well the landings are flat and grassy. Only a minority of the climbs appears protectable.

### **Approach**

The approach is initially as for Ynyswen Edge. Turn left off the A4067 (travelling E) into the estate of Ynyswen (the road is called Cribarth too). Take the left at the T-junction and park by a green on the left. Take the RoW which heads NW out of the estate towards Cribarth, the hill. Follow the RoW around a left kink after 200 metres, through woodland, to where it emerges at the edge of the woodland under a field and the open hill above. Turn left and follow the RoW to the W end of the field where it meets Access Land. Turn right and follow the path NW to a junction of paths at Pen Cribarth. Ignore the steep grassy tramway up the Cribarth spur to the right and continue contouring N and then NE into a rocky valley (small quarries above right on the NW flank of Cribarth). Follow the track to the slabs on the right.

It is equally feasible to approach from Craig-y-Nos Castle, in which case a visit may be readily combined with some bouldering in the Carreg a'r Gap area to the north.

**Ethic:** Soloing, bouldering, trad

The routes are described from right to left.

Far Right Slab

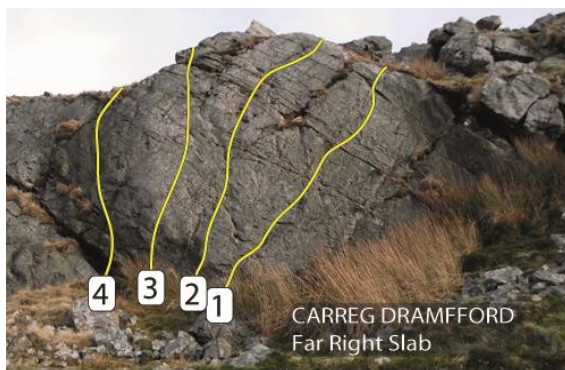
1 **Dobryden** 8m E1 5a (13.3.2016)

Climb diagonally right to a thin leftward-rising overlap near the top. Gain and use the overlap: thin.  
FA Martin Crocker (o-s solo)

2 **\*Dekuji** 9m VS 4c (13.3.2016)

Potentially cam-protected. Make a steep start and then trend right to slots. Carry on diagonally right between grassy cracks to the top.  
FA Martin Crocker (o-s solo)





### 3 \***Aspirant Pensioner** 8m E1 5c (13.3.2016)

An excellent eliminate. A metre right of a green runnel make difficult moves over the bulge and continue direct on better holds.

FA Martin Crocker (o-s solo)

### 4 **Phil the Spiv** 6m S (13.3.2016)

The little green runnel on the left on good holds. Take care with loose stones that could scupper your safe exit.

FA Martin Crocker (o-s solo)

Next Slab Left

5 **Intensity** V1 (5c) The pock-marked line on the right; deft footwork obligatory.

### 6 \***It's a Hoax!** 6m HVS 4b (6.3.2015)

Stretch for a shallow recess centre right; then take finger-jugs leftwards until a rock-up gains the top. Variation HVS 5b (13.3.2016)

A metre left, climb direct to the finger-jugs in line with a thin crack.

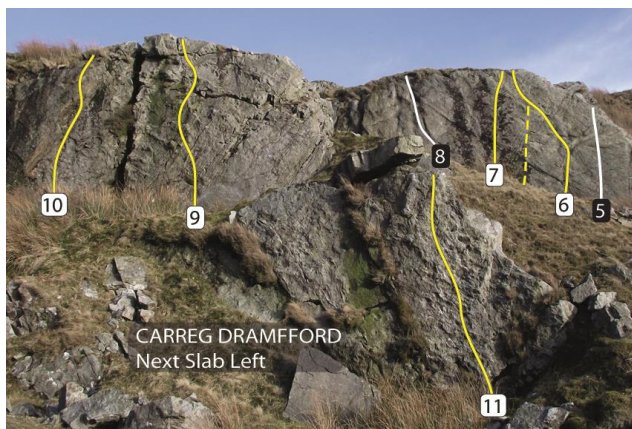
FA Martin Crocker (o-s solo)

### 7 \***Eurodeal** 6m E1 5c (18.2.2016)

Start in the centre of the slab at a finger-jug in front of your face. Delicate moves on positive spaced holds lead to jugs slightly right.

FA Martin Crocker (solo)

8 4c The little scoop-line far left.



### 9 **The Boil** 7m HVS 5a (6.3.2015)

The ill wall afflicted with rock boils. Climb up and step left onto a square boil. Gain a dirty break above; trend left to the top on good holds. Boulder beneath. FA Martin Crocker (o-s solo)

### 10 **Lone Voice, diminishing** 6m HVS 5b (13.3.2016)

The arête and groove just left of the grass-choked chimney; harder than it looks.

FA Martin Crocker (o-s solo)

11 And just below is a pleasant HS 4a up a juggy pebble-dashed wall under a capping stone.

### Main Slab

A lovely slab of rippled quartzite. The almost complete lack of protection is compensated by a soft and absorptive landing (untested as yet). An old stake is in place above the slab if on-sight soloing doesn't appeal.

#### 12 \***Deafening Silence** 8m HVS 5a (6.3.2015)

Near the right edge of the slab; a delicate start. Unprotected.

FA Martin Crocker (o-s solo; climbed before?)

#### 13 \*\***That this World is Preparation for the Next** 9m HVS 4c (6.3.2015)

Start where a leftward-rising crack hits the ground. Climb up and leftwards up the tallest part of the slab.

FA Martin Crocker (o-s solo; climbed before?)

#### 14 \***Action Man** 9m HS 4a (6.3.2015)

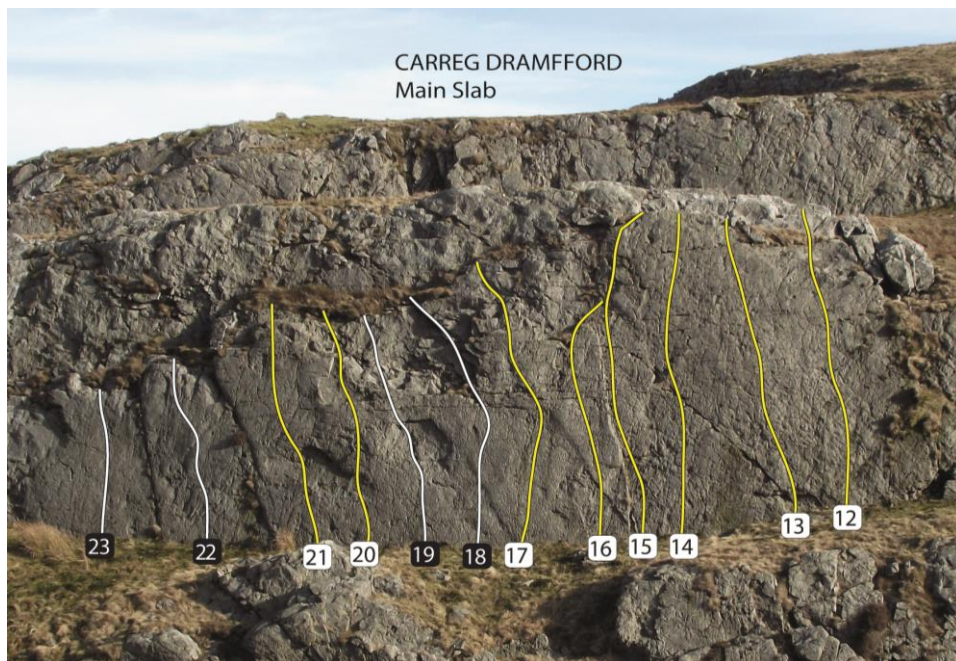
Start at two old bolts, outdoor instructor-provided presumably. Climb up to a small square sentry box (for an Action Man), and continue straight up, keeping right of easier ground.

FA Martin Crocker (o-s solo; climbed before?)

#### 15 **Dronecode** 9m HS 4a (6.3.2015)

Climb a left-slanting vein to a more broken upper section.

FA Martin Crocker (o-s solo; climbed before?)



Next left are some shorter eliminates on very compact rock.

**16 Hurdy Gurdy Man** 9m VS 5a (6.3.2015)

Take the seam immediately left of the above.

FA Martin Crocker (o-s solo; climbed before?)

**17 \*Duet for Slime Mould and Piano** 6m VS 4c (6.3.2015)

Climb the green-stained seam bearing left up a little headwall. Scramble to the top.

FA Martin Crocker (o-s solo; climbed before?)

**18 Flushes in B** V1 (5c) Take the micro-seam next left onto ledges; then why not reverse down:

**19 In Scoop and Out** 4a Enter and leave the shallow scoop.

**20 Matryoshka** 6m VD (6.3.2015)

Left of the scoop climb over a tiny overhang on rugged holds to reach a grass ledge.

FA Martin Crocker (o-s solo; climbed before?)

To the left are two slanting cracks popular with grass tufts.

**21 \*Come on 'The Stuff'** 6m E1 5b (6.3.2015)

Climb leftwards on small holds always keeping just right and out of the right-hand slanting crack.

FA Martin Crocker (o-s solo; climbed before?)

**22 Wannabe Ninja** V1 (5b) Take the glistening wall between the two cracks, finishing on glass-smooth rock.

**23 The End (for now)** 4c The face left of the left-hand crack.



