



**Climbing in the Brecon Beacons
National Park**

Part 5: Upland West of Glyntawe

Martin Crocker

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Front Cover: *Addicted to Twrch*

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:



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Western Beacons Mountain Rescue Team

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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

Upland West of Glyntawe 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). For access issues please contact the BMC's Wales Access and Conservation Officer or local volunteer access representative (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.

		CRAG CODE www.thebmc.co.uk	
Access	Check the Regional Access Database (RAD) on www.thebmc.co.uk for the latest access information		
Parking	Park carefully – avoid gateways and driveways		
Footpaths	Keep to established paths – leave gates as you find them		
Risk	Climbing can be dangerous – accept the risks and be aware of other people around you		
Respect	Groups and individuals – respect the rock, local climbing ethics and other people		
Wildlife	Do not disturb livestock, wildlife or cliff vegetation; respect seasonal bird nesting restrictions		
Dogs	Keep dogs under control at all times; don't let your dog chase sheep or disturb wildlife		
Litter	'Leave no trace' – take all litter home with you		
Toilets	Don't make a mess – bury your waste		
Economy	Do everything you can to support the rural economy – shop locally		
<small>BMC Participation Statement — 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		Adjectival Grades	
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

Part 5: Upland West of Glyntawe

This is the heartland of Twrch Sandstone country, between the Swansea Valley in the E and Sinc Giedd in the W: a wilderness of rolling moorlands and craggy tops pitted with sinkholes and peppered with bluffs and boulders of Twrch Sandstone grit. The area embraces the mountaintops of Carreg a'r Gap, Castell y Geifr, Carreg Goch, and Disgwylfa which, in addition to the Sinc Giedd insurgence, provide a broad classification for the climbing sectors.

All the crags are located on Access Land, and they are often well dispersed. General approach notes are supplied but no attempt to go into any greater detail has been made. The OS references together with the topos should be enough for anyone in possession of a map and a good sense of direction.

The mountain sectors are described from E (S first) to W.

So far as the knee-shot author is concerned the crags here are well beyond bouldering mat range, though this might not be considered the case for a party where the effort can be shared. The area is not the ideal place for an accident since it is remote and rarely is anybody else within a handshake.

The real time history of this area is space dust for the imagination. In the mid-2010s climber-lifer Martin Crocker parachuted in, gripped by wanderlust and eutierra. Aided by Google satellite imagery and Geograph images he systematically bouldered and charted many of the outcrops, conscious that anonymous footsteps may well have preceded him, though not those of Wainwright.

A Note about Sinkholes (Shakeholes)



Pic: Pwll-y-Cawr sinkhole

One look at satellite imagery of the BBNP and the pockmarked nature of the upland terrain is plain to see. The pockmarks are sinkholes and they abound in all sizes if not shapes. That so many have formed is a function of the vast quantity of meltwater from retreating glaciers in the last Ice Age that – under pressure from the ice above – forced their way into the bedrock beneath. Where the Carboniferous limestone is overlain by insoluble Twrch Sandstone the gradual collapse of cave passages at depth in the soluble limestone triggered the sinkholes. The collapse gradually extends up through overlying strata to cause subsidence at the surface and the tell-tale circular pits.

Approach

Historically all the climbing in this area has been accessed by starting up a common route from Craig-y-Nos Castle on the A4067. Park either in the pull-in outside the ‘castle’ or the lay-by just to the S of Craig-y-Nos castle (both free). If these are full (very rare) use the (pay) car-park of Craig-y-Nos Country Park (café, toilets). Almost opposite the entrance to the castle is a RoW next to Pentre Cribarth farm and stables: Follow the RoW turning right at the farm and then uphill to a stony track rising rightwards to Nant y Gwarded steam. Cross the steam; then immediately zig zag up boggy ground right of the stream, hopping over a stile onto Access Land. Continue rightwards following a dyke and – where the hill flattens out – turn right along a track to some sheep pens. Bypass these on their left, where the immense sinkhole of Pwll-y-Cawr becomes evident in front of you. Cross a stile on the right; then follow the fence next to the N edge of the sinkhole steeply up onto moorland above. This is the point (‘Pwll-y-Cawr sinkhole’) where routes diverge according to your objective.



CARREG A'R GAP AREA

A focal point in this area is a large isolated gritstone boulder (no real potential) at OS 8263 1586, just inside the acute NW corner of the large fenced enclosure W of Pwll-yr-Wydden.





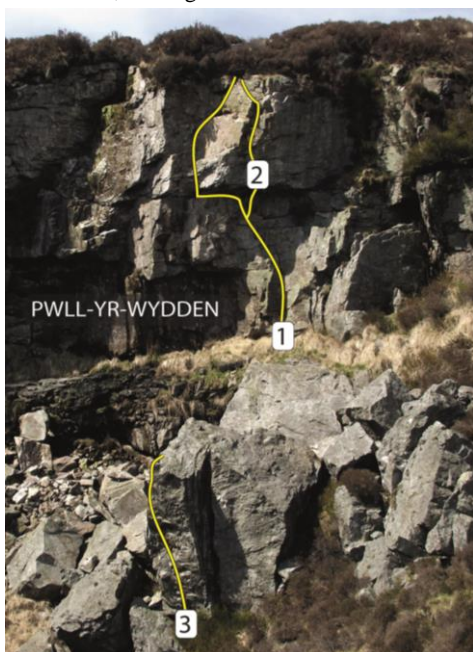
This is a sinkhole 400 metres WNW of Pwll-y-Cawr. A Twrch Sandstone cliff in the sinkhole offers a couple of novelty routes next to a 10-metre waterfall. An atmospheric venue but the climbs are best avoided when the waterfall is full bore or the wind is too strong – unless a soaking is desired.

The waterfall rarely ever dries up but it becomes more of a trickle after a dry spell. Its waters have been traced to the Dan-yr-Ogof cave system.

Approach

The waterfall is visible from moorland above Pwll-y-Cawr. Just follow the fence.

Ethic: Trad, soloing



1 *Descent into the Maelstrom 12m E2 5b (20.4.2016)

Excellent, with good gear on the hard climbing. Start 6 metres right of the waterfall. Climb a shallow groove leftwards on flakes to a roof (peg, but bomber gear too). Traverse the break leftwards and then pull steeply into an open corner, which leads to the top. Fencepost belays. FA Martin Crocker (roped solo)

2 *Fall of the House of Usher 10m E4 6a (20.4.2016)

Supersteep climbing up the grooved prow above the start of *Descent into the Maelström*. Follow that route to the roof. Stretch round for good pockets (one houses a cam 0.5 placement), and then climb straight up (peg) to slopers, stepping up left to exit. Fencepost belays. FA Martin Crocker (roped solo)

3 *Pit and the Pendulum 5m E3 5c (13.3.2016)

Yes, very Poesh. In the sinkhole under the waterfall is a boulder jumble. The largest

boulder forms an arête hanging over the pit. Compress up either side of the arête to a jug on top. Convertible to a V2 with multiple spotters and a mat – but the effort involved would rate V9. FA Martin Crocker (solo)

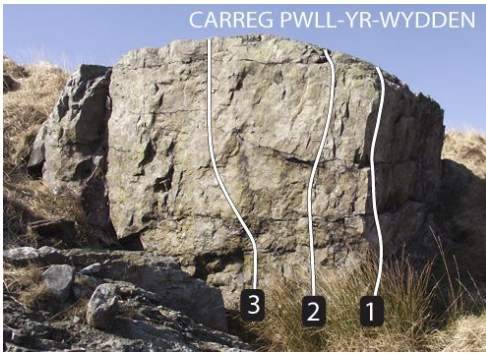
CARREG PWLL-YR-WYDDEN OS 8301 1569

The escarpment running S from Pwll-yr-Wyddden hosts two minor crags of Twrch Sandstone, the first of which is located 100 metres left of the waterfall.

This is a broken SE-facing edge, pleasant in the morning sun. Though small it is especially appealing if you like sit starts or wish to escape the howling W to NW gales so common in these parts. The crag is clearly visible on the approach to Pwll-yr-Wyddden. So far as is known, the problems as described were first climbed in 2015 and 2016.

Ethic: Bouldering

The routes are described from right to left.



The 3-metre high Dance Boulder far right has a clean S face and an arête.

1 **Castles in the Sky** V1 (5c) SS the arête.

2 **Fiji** V0+ (5b) The face just left of the arête.

3 **In Search of Sunrise** V2 (5c/6a) The centre and then left side of the face.

The larger and somewhat lichenous boulder just left has a leaning main wall facing the valley.

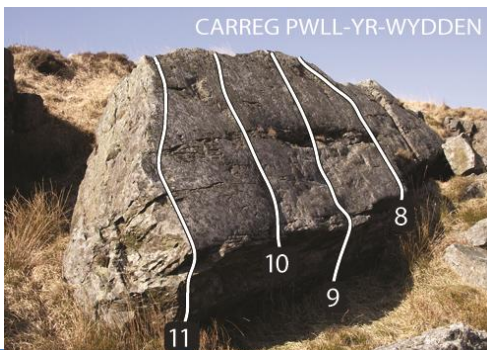
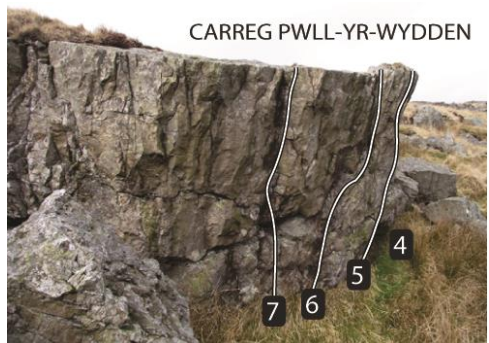
4 V0- (4c) The right-hand arête above rocks.

5 V1 (5b) The leaning wall left of the arête, using the jug on the left to avoid a mossy exit.

6 V0- (4c) The right-trending ramp.

7 V1 (5c) The shallow groove, hard to start, with an interesting mantel exit.

To the left is a fine 4-metre high Slab Boulder. There is more potential here for hard SSs.



8 4a The right-hand arête. **Project:** SS the arête.

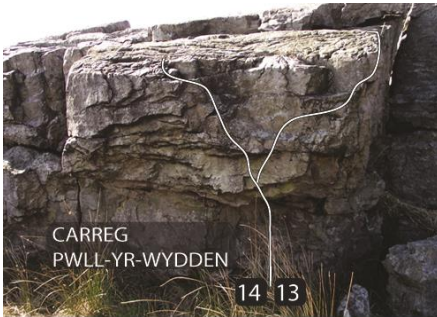
9 **A Puff of the White** V0 (5a) A rock-up a metre left of the arête. Much more rewarding with a SS (*V4, 6b).

10 **Trigger Happy** V0 (5a) The left side of the slab. **Project:** SS – looks *V6/7 and gnarly.

11 **In My Sights** D Left arête. SS is V2 (5c).

The next problem is on a leaning wall encrusted with finger-jugs left of the slab.

12 *Fire at Ghosts, Fall like Flies V4 (5c/6a) Traverse from right to left, keeping feet very low on the steep wall (and therefore with only a few tiny footholds). Six long metres means it's graded for a persistent pump of puny pecs and malfunctioning musculature.



Five metres below problem 12 is a short stepped overhanging prow: the Deceitful Boulder.

13 A Pair of Rats with Little Pinkies V2 (5c) From the jug on the lip, swing right and palm up the arête to mantel leftwards.

14 *In Maidjan V3 (6a) SS the overhangs, and – from a jug on the lip – swing left for a mantel.

CARREG PWLL-YR-WYDDEN FACH OS 8296 1538

At the S end of the escarpment, adjacent to another impressive sinkhole, is a pair of 3-metre high square blocks of Twrch Sandstone with steep walls facing Cribarth (and, more importantly, the sun). So far as is known, the problems as described were first climbed in 2016.

Ethic: Bouldering

The routes are described from left to right.



On the left-hand block is:

1 Korobu V3 (6a) SS the right-hand arête and progress if you can.

On the right-hand block:

2 Plus Difficile pour Moi V2 (5c) Left-hand arête from a crouch.
Project: SS

3 *Geometric Iceberg V3 (6a) The left-slanting crack, starting to its right.

4 Funk or Flunk? V3 (6a) The wall left of the right arête.

5 Shit Crags on Mars (so Forget Going There) V3 (6a) SS the right-hand arête.

6 Orbital Manoeuvre V5 (6b) A traverse of the right-hand block.



DYFFRYN SYCH

DYFFRYN SYCH OS 8218 1570

This is an edge comprising shapely Twrch Sandstone boulders that makes a heart-warming visit especially in the morning sun (they are mostly E-facing). The landings are generally not too bad. So far as is known, the problems as described were first climbed in March, 2015.

Approach

From Pwll-y-Cawr follow the fence and occasionally boggy path to the boulder of Carreg a'r Gap. Head WSW across a dry valley, descending slightly, to the crag (500 metres from Carreg a'r Gap).

Ethic: Bouldering



The routes are described from right to left.

On the right is a boulder (The Heart) with a fine 4.5-metre high smooth slab.

1 **Heart Bypass D** The easy crack on the right.

2 **The Auricle 4a** The right-hand and better-defined of two cracks in the slab.

3 ***Palpitations V1 (5c)** Reach an open pocket at the base of the left-hand, hairline crack. Tiny holds should lead to the top, save half-hearted efforts.

4 ***Open Heart 4b** The fine left-hand arête, with space all around.



5 ***Have a Heart V3 (6a)** Layback the left-hand side of the arête; avoid the large foothold at the base on the left.



6 **Fading Pulse V0- (4c)** The little leaning groove.

7 **Slasher Movie V2 (5c)** The traverse of The Heart from SS far left, and without using the large foothold at the base of *Fading Pulse* and the pocket of *Palpitations*.

8 V0 (5a) SS the crack in the round boulder to the left.

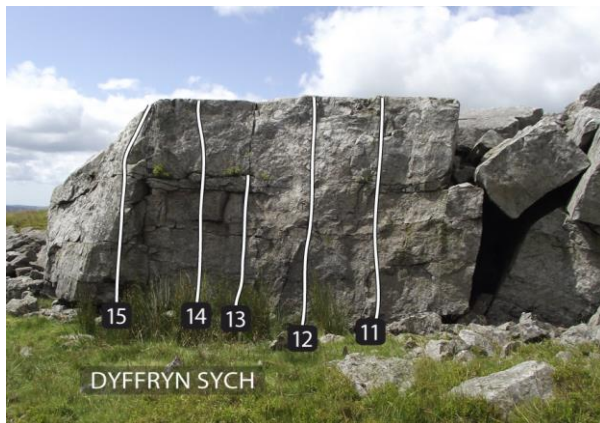


Set back a little is a buttress above boulders containing a yawning fissure.

9 **Solving Issues in Sleep V0 (5a)** Layback the crack.

10 **Solving Issues with Sheep V4 (6a)** A low rightward-rising traverse. Start at the crack, and traverse right past an undercut and a barndoor flake crack.

On the left is a 3.5-metre high wall above grass.



11 Sticky Vicky V0- (4c) The right side of the wall.

12 Sticky Toffee Pudding V1 (5c) An eliminate with a low crimpy start right of a bottomless crack.

13 Sticky Fingers V0- (4b) The bottomless crack.

14 Sticky Wicket V1 (5c) The bulge left of the bottomless crack with an orangutan-reach from the flake to the top.

15 Sticky End 5b (V0+) The rib left of the easy-looking crack, with a long final move.

16 Bilberries V3 (6a) A sustained traverse via the bilberries-festooned flake-line; start low right in a cave. Hardest on the right (avoid the large footholds just above grass level).

Y WAL DDE OS 8238 1623

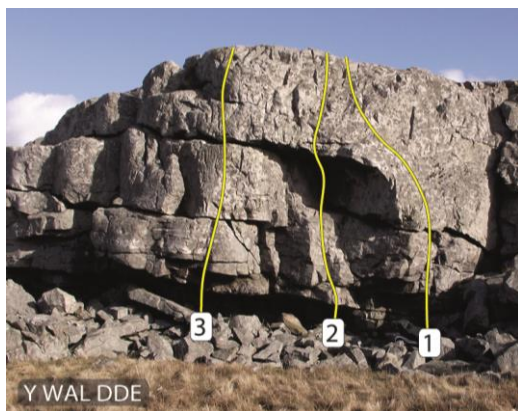
Just visible from, and 300m NNE of, the isolated block of Carreg a' r Gap is a 6 metre-high wall of fine quartzite. Unfortunately the ground beneath is rock strewn, but the difficulties are manageable.

Approach

Walk in from the isolated block of Carreg a' r Gap or – cutting corners – approach by walking NW over rough ground from Pwll-y-Cawr.

Ethic: Soloing, (leading practicable)

The routes are described from right to left.



1 Who's Right, Who's Wrong 6m VS 4a (4.3.2015)

Climb diagonally leftwards above the overhang starting up a short steep rib.
FA Martin Crocker (o-s solo)

2 Inalienable Right 6m HVS 4c (4.3.2015)

Climb over the centre of the overhang; very agreeable.
FA Martin Crocker (o-s solo)

3 Responsibilities 6m HS 4a (4.3.2015)

Climb the rounded rib left of the central overhang past two breaks.
FA Martin Crocker (o-s solo)

Y WAL CHWITH OS 8275 1629

This is the W wall of a flat open valley (the E wall is Y Wal Dde). It doesn't look terribly inviting from the E and its base appears littered with rocks. However the best walls, initially hidden from view, are tucked away in a wide trench with patches of grass underfoot that help mitigate the ankle-snapping landings. It is a Godsend hereabouts to be able to escape a W or NW gale *and* be in the sun until early afternoon. So far as is known, the problems as described were first climbed in 2015.



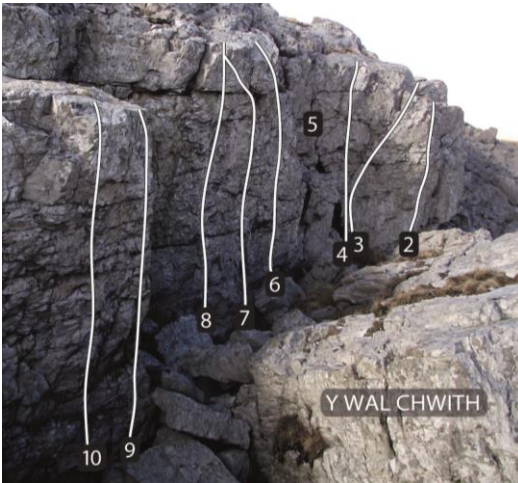
Approach

As for Y Wal Dde; the crag is a further 150 meters, on the opposite side of the 'valley'.

Ethic: Bouldering, soloing, trad

The routes are described from right to left.

1 V0- (4c) A steep rib near the right-hand end of the crag.



2 4b The rib next left.

3 D The rightward-trending flake crack.

4 V0+ (5b) Just right of *Descent Route* reach an obvious shallow pocket in the white wall, and stand up in it.

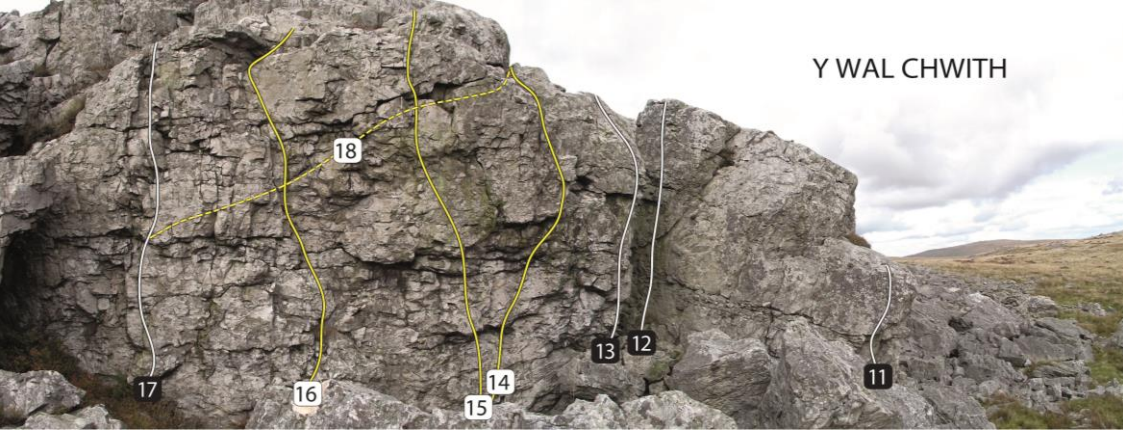
5 **Descent Route** D The wide broken crack.

To the left is a sheer 5-metre high wall containing a series of serious highballs (though the landings could be worse).

6 **Ideologue** V0 (5a) Climb straight up just right of a tiny niche near the top; positive holds all the way.

7 ***Far from the Tweeting Crowd** V0+ (5b) (H) Make a thin move to get hands in a tiny niche. Grope over the lip; then two jugs slightly left make pulling over less traumatic than expected.

8 **Bathshiba** V0 (5a) A metre left of the tweeters, climb direct to the two finishing-jugs.



There is a shorter wall and arête on the left.

9 **Passable Piffle** V0- (4c) Climb the arête; rocks below.

10 ***Halfwittery** V1(5c) Reachy and superb. Take the leaning wall a metre left of the arête direct.

11 **Boulderdash** V2 (5c) The bulging front arête of the squat pinnacle at the front of the crag; start low right, traverse left onto the protruding jug and mantel over.

12 **Poppycock** 4a The pleasant arête of the squat pinnacle, within the chimney.

Round to the left again is another leaning wall, with a bit more height.

13 **Shadow of a Former Shadow** V0- (4c) The right-hand arête, using a chockstone. 'Fall' across the chimney for an entertaining way down.

14 **Wandering Star** 6m HVS 4c (26.3.2015)

Start as for *Wanderlust*, but move up right past a break to a prominent jug. Finish direct.

FA Martin Crocker (solo)

15 ***Wanderlust** 6m E2 5b (26.3.2015)

Could be protected well. Start under a left-trending crack. Bear leftwards on jugs past a sharp undercut until a long reach leads to a small niche. Mantel out.

FA Martin Crocker (solo)

16 **Will the Other Wainwright Step Forward?** 6m VS 4b (26.3.2015)

Climb the flake crack (and look out for Arthur).

FA Martin Crocker (o-s solo)

17 **He's Hiding** V0- (4c) The short juggy wall right of the little chimney

18 **Dark Sky Orbit** 8m E1 5a/b (8.10.2015)

An exposed high-level traverse of the wall. Start up 17, move right into *Wanderlust*; then follow the crack rightwards across the wall to the top.

FA Martin Crocker (solo)

CASTELL Y GEIFR AREA

This beautiful tranquil area is strewn with Twrch Sandstone grit forming the occasional climbable edge and boulder. Only exceptionally will you see anyone else hereabouts (and care little).



Pic: *Privileged Sapheads of Rank Bow to the Mettle of Real Men*

CWM O DAN CASTELL Y GEIFR

A considerable amount of rock outcrops in the belly of wild cwm under Castell y Geifr. So far as is known, the problems as described were first climbed in March, 2015.

Approach

From the isolated block of Carreg a' r Gap walk NNW for 600 metres into the cwm.

Ethic: Bouldering, trad, soloing

At OS 8239 1645 in the E side of the cwm, is Soapbox Wall, a fine white W-facing wall.

1 Privileged Sapheads of Rank Bow to the Mettle of Real Men V1 (5b) The left-hand side of the wall without using the left arête.

2 * 'All the Heroes are Dead' V0 (5a) The obvious line up the highest part of the wall to finish over a tilted boulder. Ne'er forget Harry Billinge.



3 Wealth to the Elite Insists Telegraph Writer V3 (6a) Start low on crimps just left of a deep crack.

4 Democratize The Lords (or Away with It! D The deep crack.

5 Arise, the Undeservedly So V3 (6a) A right-to-left traverse using the crack/seam and not the jug-line just above it.

Craig Two Sheepfold OS 8235 1652 and OS 8228 1651

There are two S-facing Twrch Sandstone crags at the head of the cwm sheltered from anything howling from the N. The routes justify bringing a small lead rack and rope.

The routes are described from right to left.

The right-hand crag is a 9-metre high wall; the best two routes are on its left-hand section.

On its right the crag can be soloed anywhere without any real difficulty; those ways up with a semblance of a line are: the 6-metre high pillar (S); the open groove left of the pillar (D); the left-facing flake crack (D); and the wall left of a flake crack (at 5b you have to search for difficulties).

1 *Mr Happy HotPants 9m HVS 5a (8.10.2015)

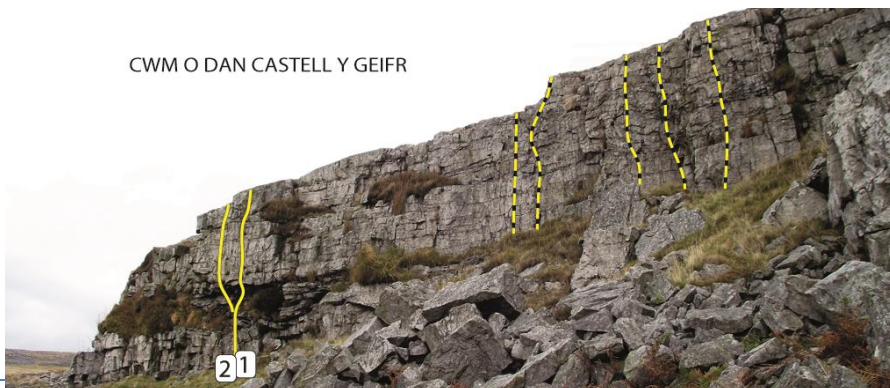
Start under the centre of the wall at some blocks on the ground. Move up left and pull over the small overhang to a white rock-spike (runner). Finish up the headwall.

FA Martin Crocker (solo)

2 Godfather of Gloom 9m E1 5c (8.10.2015)

One hard move, which – hallelujah – has a solid wire placement. Move onto a projecting pedestal. Crank around the small roof; then take jugs and a small groove to the top.

FA Martin Crocker (roped solo)



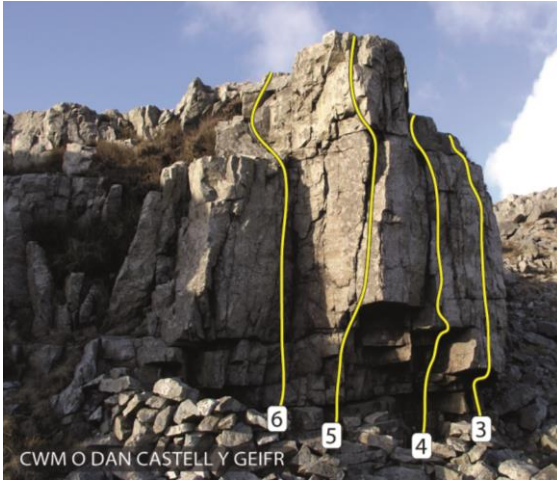
A rocky gully separates the above from the left-hand crag (there is a small crag in the gully's right wall, which holds several 5-metre problems above rocky ground the descriptions of which I've lost).

A sheepfold has been constructed under the crag (be careful not to hasten its demise).

3 **My Beautiful Sheep** HVS 5m 5c (26.3.2015)

The broad white rib right of *Folded Earth*; make a hard start over the roof, and then take good spaced holds to a heather ledge.

FA Martin Crocker (solo)



4 **Folded Earth** 5m VS 4c (26.3.2015)

Enter the deep crack from the right-hand sheepfold, and sprint to the top.

FA Martin Crocker (solo)

5 ***Sheep that Fold Space** 7m E3 6a (26.3.2015)

The superb sustained arête; very protectable. Make a hard move to start the crack in the arête. Take the arête (useful cam 0 on left), and finish on good holds.

FA Martin Crocker (roped solo)

6 **Drystone Corner** 7m HVS 5b (26.3.2015)

Climb the corner on the left to a sloping ledge; easy rock above.

FA Martin Crocker (solo)

Bryn Gwyn OS 8214 1639

Here's a small buttress ('The Terraformer') of near-pristine white Twrch Sandstone quartzite with both soft and rocky landings. The crag is situated on the W side of the cwm 250 metres from Craig Two Sheepfold. So far as is known, the problems as described were first climbed in March, 2015.

The routes are described from right to left.



1 **Bad Glam and the Destroyers** V0 (5a) The right-hand arête.

2 **Thomas the Terraformer** V1 (5c) An eliminate up the bulging wall; keep off your neighbours.

3 **Blame it on the Hackers** V0- (4c) The right-hand crack; fortunately all natural.

4 **Denial File** V2 (5c) Eliminate, start low right.

5 **Why Thrill, When You Can Drill?** D The left-hand crack; boulder below.

6 **RetroSEWer** A convivial traverse at V1 (5b).



To the left, past tumbledown walls, loiter an arête and a leaning wall.

7 Winners' Wall V3 (6a) From SS bear diagonally rightwards across the overhanging wall; projecting block below.

8 Losers' Arête V1 (5b) Climb the arête from SS; nasty landing.

UNREQUITED SS BOULDER OS 8217 1664

This is a low (2.5-metre high) boulder of perfect orange Twrch Sandstone quartzite 200 metres SW of Point 531. It is fairly easy to find by heading NNE from the head of Cwm o dan Castell y Geifr. So far as is known, the problems as described were first climbed in 2015.

The desperate (V7 to V9) SS projects will require six-packs and a mat (or – as Ron once put it – some serious reorganising of the local landscape).

Ethic: Bouldering



1 Rob the Testosterone Bank V3 (6a) A devious rogue: the left-hand arête, with a step off the underlying boulder.
Project: SS.

2 *Slow Acting, Time-Release Sex Serf V3 (6a) An awkward blighter: from crouch, fight up the crack.
Project: SS.

3 A Love Letter to the Past V4 (6a) A vain pretender: from crouch, slap up either side of the arête right of the crack. *Project:* SS.

4 *Platonic Bomb V4 (6a/b) A stubborn cuss: the sheer face right of the crack involving a static move on tines to the sloping top. *Project:* SS – looks about V10, whatever that might be.

POINT 531 OS 8235 1682

Affectionately known simply as ‘531’ by a passer-by, this is the toothy Twrch Sandstone skyline that crowns highpoint 531 (metres). It supplies some interesting climbing but mostly above dangerously rocky ground. The crag faces W in an exposed position and is best avoided in strong winds – even in summer. V grades are not given because of the serious fallout zone: take great care. So far as is known, the problems as described were first climbed in 2015.

Approach

If coming here direct it is slightly quicker to do the following. From the top of Pwll-y-Cawr sinkhole, track rightwards in a NNW direction up rough ground either contouring around the NW side of Castell y Geifr or following its broad ridge. Point 531 is an obvious high point at the N end of the ridge (and also an approximate halfway marker *en route* to Sinc Giedd). Alternatively, approach via Cwm o dan Castell y Geifr.

Ethic

Soloing

The routes are described from left to right.

1 **For You** 5a The front face of the left-most tower, starting on small fingerholds.

2 **42 and missing** 4c The right-hand arête of the left-most tower.

There are two problems in the rift behind the left-most tower.

3 **5...4...3...2...1** 5b The flake crack in the wall.

4 **54321!** 5b Starting low take the blunt arête right of the flake crack

Six metres right of the rift is a small tower.

5 **My Name ain't Jack** 4a Jam the wide crack

6 **Nor the Mighty Quinn** 5b Take the narrow face of the tower past a triangular finger-jug.

The central tower – the main event – provides the best climbing here; it is just short of 6 metres high and the landing site is *relatively* comfortable.

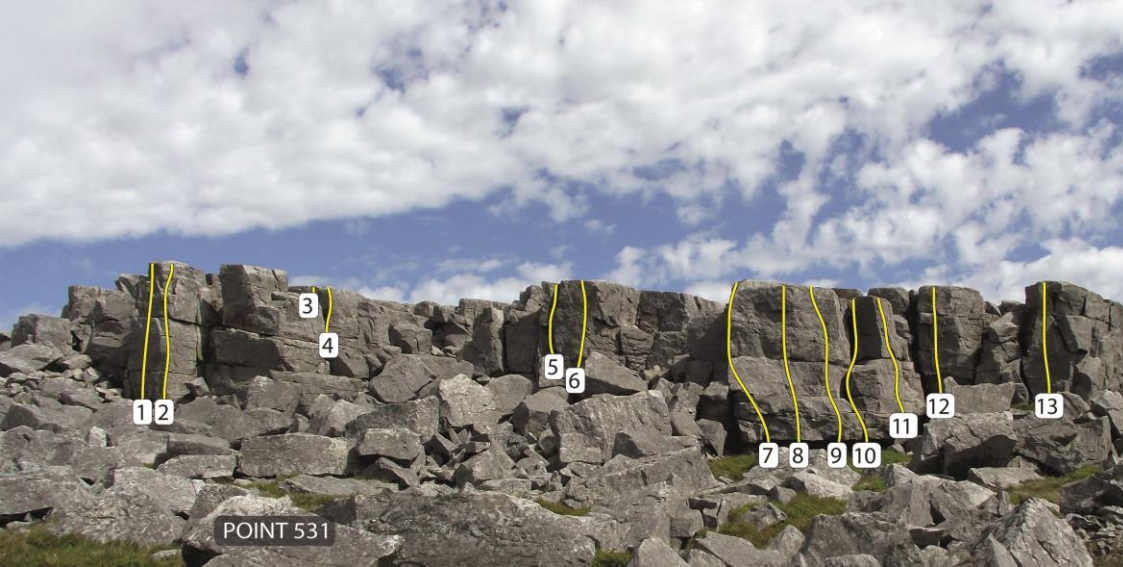
7 **Do Wah Diddy Diddy Dum Diddy Do** HS 4a Climb the left-hand arête to a steep finish.

8 **Earthbound** HVS 4c Climb the centre of the face; rather squeezed in.

9 **Blinded by the Light** E3 5b Climb the blunt right-hand arête of the front face; a scary mantel top-out is the reason for the grade.

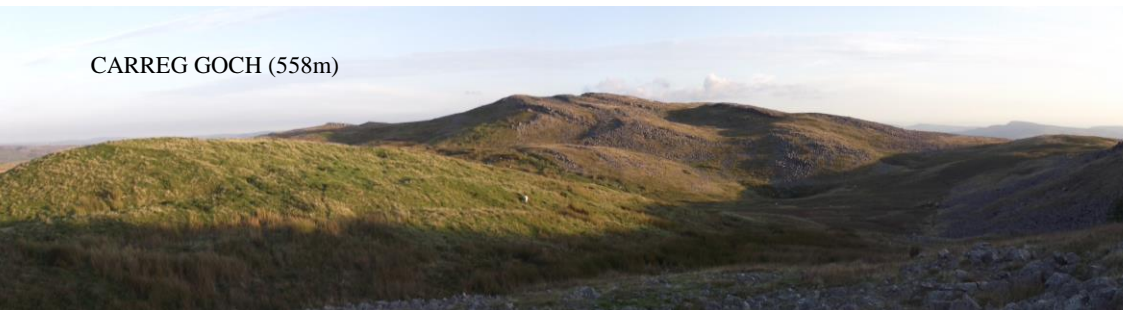
10 **‘Ha Ha’ said the Clown** D Plod up the crack.

11 **Pretty Flamingo** 4b The short face round to the right.



12 **Joybringer 5a** Climb the face of the next narrow tower using some too-good-to-be-solid flakes.

13 **If You Gotta Go, Go Now 5a** The left-hand arête of the final tower, avoiding the use of the large cracked block.



CARREG GOCH (558m)

Although Carreg Goch is smattered with rocks, explorations have so far revealed only one site of climbing (infinitesimal) interest. On its N slope, overlooking Afon Haffes, is a scruffy Twrch Sandstone boulder with an overhanging face (at OS 8186 1722). It is visible from the walk-in to Sinc Giedd. So far as is known, the problems as described were first climbed in 2015.

Ethic: Bouldering



1 **Hurrah Ned Ludd V1 (5c)** From SS take the bulging face left of the wide crack using a high pocket (and not the rattling jug next to it). Avoid using the boulder at the base on the left.

2 **Dunyah V0- (4c)** From SS layback the wide crack.



**ROYAL CANADIAN AIR FORCE WELLINGTON
MF509**



Aircraft MF509 a Wellington MK10 took off from Stratford-Upon-Avon, satellite airfield to RAF Wellesbourne Mountford (No22 Operational Training Unit) at 19.26 hours on Nov.20th 1944 for a night cross country navigation training exercise. Shortly before 20.50 hrs the crew sent a radio message asking permission to go below cloud as they were having trouble with the starboard engine, perhaps due to icing in the carburetor. Permission was granted and as they descended over the mountains of the Brecon Beacons their aircraft flew into the South West slope of Carreg Goch.

No visit to the area is complete without paying your respects at the wreckage of a Wellington bomber which crashed on Carreg Goch on 20 November 1944 with the loss of its six Canadian crew members. It is located on the W side of the hill 250 metres SW of the summit (at OS 8178 1693).





DISGWYLFA (544m) is a craggy mountain with bountiful hidden treasure on its W side. Here the resistant layered gritstone forms a series of short steep edges which break away into boulders as they crack, slip and tumble inexorably across time towards the Afon Giedd below. Taken together with the Sinc Giedd crags, this is one of the most rewarding and ‘away from it all’ Twrch Sandstone climbing areas in the BBNP. The crags are described from N to S; the routes from left to right.

Approach

Take a route according to taste which might include a stop off at another crag on the one-hour approach march. The quickest route from Craig-y-Nos – involving the least abortive ascent – is as follows. From the top of Pwll-y-Cawr sinkhole, track rightwards in a NNW direction up rough ground and contour around the NNW side of Castell y Geifr. Eventually you’ll see Point 531 above and left. Carry on contouring, now in a NW direction, around Carreg Goch to a col between it and Disgwylfa. Follow a grassy ridge N onto the top of Disgwylfa. The N outcrops are located just ahead on the N crest of the mountain facing the back of Fan Brycheiniog whereas the W outcrops are variously downslope to your left overlooking the Afon Giedd. You can of course approach Disgwylfa using the well-worn path from Glyntawe.

There are two outcrops on the N side close to the summit. A pleasant hour can be spent here on superb quartz-pebble grit conglomerate.

Ethic: Bouldering

The first crag is set in a shallow valley on the N crest of the hill (at OS 8159 1789). The minor problems in its right-hand half are complemented by some warm-up scrambles to the left. So far as is known, the problems as described were first climbed in 2016.



1 **Maverick** 4b
SS the hand-jam crack.

2 ***Crank** V3 (6a)
SS the roof right of the crack; two-finger pocket for left hand at start.

3 **Oddball** V0 (5a) The little ramp through the overhangs.

4 **Mishit** V0 (5a) The narrow rib.

5 **Misfit** 4a The front of the right-most block.

The second, substantive outcrop is 50 metres to the NW (at OS 8156 1791). So far as is known, the problems as described were first climbed in May, 2015.

1 Hey Joe, where are you going with that mat on your back? V0+ (5b) SS the arête on the left.

On the main buttress to the right, which has an overhanging nose, are:

2 *Dynamite Joe V3 (6a) SS the nose and climb it direct past an awkward mantel.

3 Rik Van Nutter V0 (5a) Climb the nose on its right-hand side; mantel over, and exit up the short headwall.

4 D The right wall of the buttress, above rocks.

5 D The short wall set back on the right.

There is a gorgeous triangular boulder – Trance Boulder – just in front of the crag, above a grassy landing.

6 Toca Me M The left-hand arête.

7 Insomnia VD The centre of the slab.

8 As the Rush Comes V0 (5a) Avoiding the ledge on the right, balance up the right-hand arête.



THE OASIS OS 8135 1766

One hundred and fifty metres SW of the Disgwylfa summit is an extensive boulder-field with a small 'green' in its centre. Overlooking the green is a series of problems; and there is scrambling potential on adjacent easy-angled boulders too. So far as is known, the problems as described were first climbed in 2015.

Ethic: Bouldering



At the top of the boulder-field is a NW-facing wall.

1 Narrow Wall 1 V0- (4c) A narrow wall on the left, with blinkers.

2 Narrow Wall 2 V0 (5a) The next narrow wall with a mantel over a roof to exit.

3 Narrow Wall 3 V0 (5a) The crack and arête to the right, harder than it looks.

At the top of the small green is a left-to-right S-facing tilted block.



4 Hottest Show in Town V1 (5a) Hand traverse the overhanging block on the left of the 'green' around its two steep sides – strenuous.

5 No Sweat V0 (5a) SS under the overhang; then work out left onto an easy slab.

6 *Turn and Burn V4 (6a/b) Follows the tilted block from left to right. From a low start palm the slick blunt arête rightwards to a powerful finale up the right-hand arête.

7 Heat Signature V3 (6a) The right-hand arête, starting on a jug.

Just below the green is another recessed area, with a square face at its head.



8 Snuggle Bunny D The left arête of the face.

9 Infants' Turf Wars V0- (4c) The thin crack in the N-facing wall to the right.

Eight metres below 'the green' is a N-facing leaning wall containing a flat hand-ledge.

10 Clap with One Hand V1 (5b) SS the arête to reach the hand-ledge. Now latch the top.



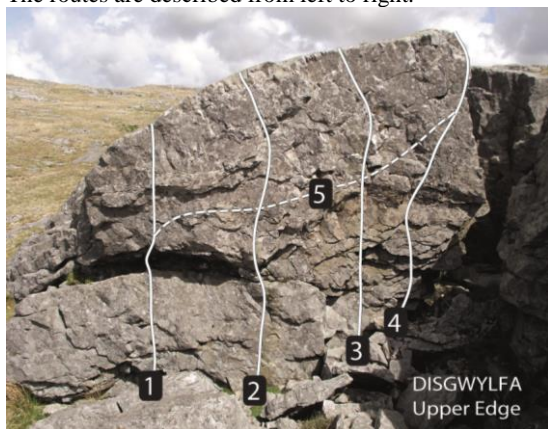
DISGWYLFA UPPER EDGE OS 8142 1766

There are two fine edges overlooking the Giedd valley 400 metres SSW of the summit. So far as is known, the problems as described were first climbed in 2015 and 2016.

In the left side of the Upper Edge is the Healing Boulder which features a SW-facing wall. The landings are rocky, so look out.

Ethic: Bouldering

The routes are described from left to right.



1 ***Stone, Bone, Fur, and Muscle V1** (5c) Start low, on a jug-line. Gain crimps over a small roof and crank for the top.

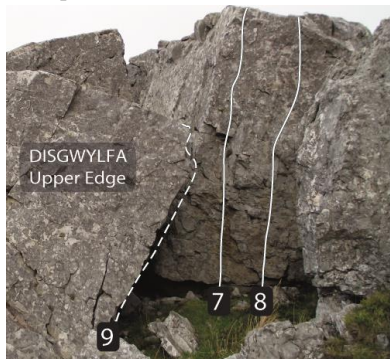
2 ***Heilung V2** (6a) Just right of the small roof take crimps up bulging rock.

3 **Miracle V1** (5b) The line of weakness.

4 **Energy Therapy V1** (5b) Gain a jug and swing right onto the arête.

5 ***Mumia V3** (6a) A left-to-right traverse finishing up the arête: just one hard move, but stamina desirable.

6 **Balsam V2** (6a) SS the right-hand end of the steep E face of the boulder, and hand traverse left to the top. No boulder to start.

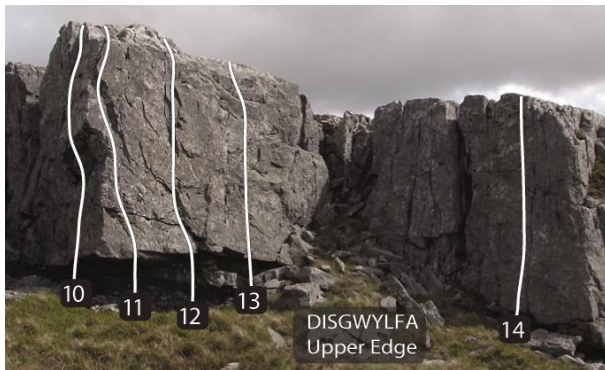


Ten metres right of the elliptical boulder is a 'pit'.

7 **Recessed Arête V0** (5a) Climb the grooved arête

8 ***Mad Pit V2** (5c) Find and climb the steep wall in the pit; immersive and technical.

9 **Hard Lay at Dawn V3** (6a) SS the left overhanging wall of the pit, working up right for an awkward climax.



Right again is the Square Boulder, above grass.

10 **Top It** V0- (4c) The left-hand side of the arête of the boulder.

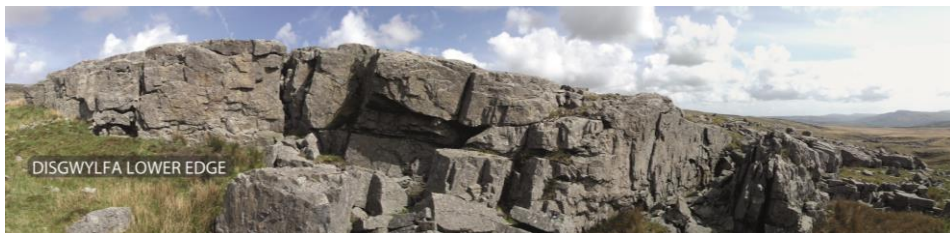
11 ***The Flunk** V0- (4c) Climb the right-hand side of the arête.

12 ***Krigen** V1 (5c) A difficult rockover starts the thin crack.

13 VD The easy wall to the right.

14 **Lost in Space (not Really)** V0- (4c) The N-facing wall right of the boulder.

DISGWYLFA LOWER EDGE OS 8135 1767



Towards the left-hand side of the crag – and left of a 6-metre high orange face – is a small cave, possibly a lair for a mysterious moorland beast (given the sheep bones and sizable waste products outside). So far as is known, the problems as described were first climbed in May & June, 2015.

Ethic: Bouldering, soloing

The routes are described from left to right.

1 ***Wild Groove-Cat Wall** V3 (6a) While *it* nibbles your toes, take the wall left of the cave on hard-to-spot micro edges – excellent!

2 **Fashionista** V2 (6a) The short blunt arête right of the cave, with a difficult pull on a crimp to start. Or – better – SS it at V4*, which involves some slapping up the arête.

To the right is an orange wall which is too high for V grades (in my book anyway).

3 ***Laws of Unintended Political Consequences** 6m VS 4c (7.5.2015)

The centre-left side of the orange wall on surprising finger-jugs.

FA Martin Crocker (o-s solo)

4 **Big Chief Juncker** 6m S 4a (7.5.2015)

The slight groove via a sharp suspect flake.

FA Martin Crocker (o-s solo)

5 *Blair God Complex 6m VS 4c (7.5.2015)

Climb direct and preach over a small overlap, 1.5 metres left of the right-hand arête.

FA Martin Crocker (o-s solo)

6 *Messianic Bojo Heals the World HVS 4c (7.5.2015)

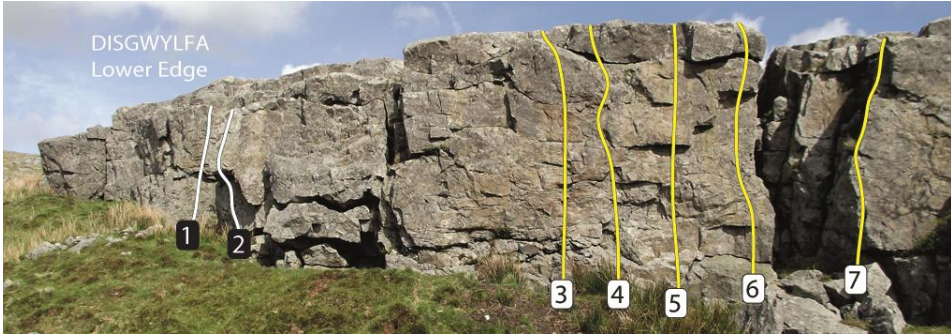
The right-hand arête: grow your ego when you succeed.

FA Martin Crocker (o-s solo)

7 Absolutely None of the Above HS 4a (7.5.2015)

The long, easy arête immediately right of the orange wall.

FA Martin Crocker (o-s solo)



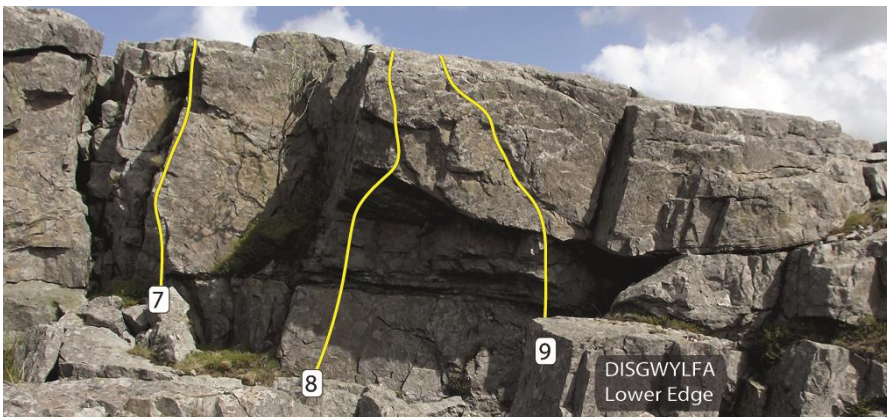
Right of the orange wall is an undercut arête above a back-breaker boulder.

8 *No Signal, Limited Service; but Fuck It** 6m E5 6a (4.6.2015)

The roof: exquisite as long as you don't fall into the boulders! From its left end span right to a fingerhold just right of the apex; improvise right for a jug-rail a little higher, cut loose for the top.

FA Martin Crocker (solo)

9 Out of Range (3.2 million likes) V0 (5a) Start on the flat-topped boulder right of the undercut arête; pull up on jugs on the face right of the arête to a difficult finish.



At the lower end of the edge is a glittering leaning orange face in a wide rift (Trickling Wall) where a spring can be heard vacillating under the crag. Beware the odd awkward or jagged landing.

There is a wide crack left of centre.

10 **Screwed V0-** (4c) The bulging rib on good finger-holds, far left.

11 ***Nails V2** (6a) Dyno from a low sidehold to an obvious hold (a proven skin-slicer – look out!) in a tiny groove and press on direct.

12 ***Noddy Holder Burns V1** (5b) Climb the obvious layback flake (left of the wide crack), reach a jug on the left, and finish direct with a long reach.

13 **A Building of Character V1** (5b) (H) Left of the crack, pull up to gain a suspect thin flake, and go for the top on good holds.

14 **Mountain's Perspiring 4a** The broken wide crack.

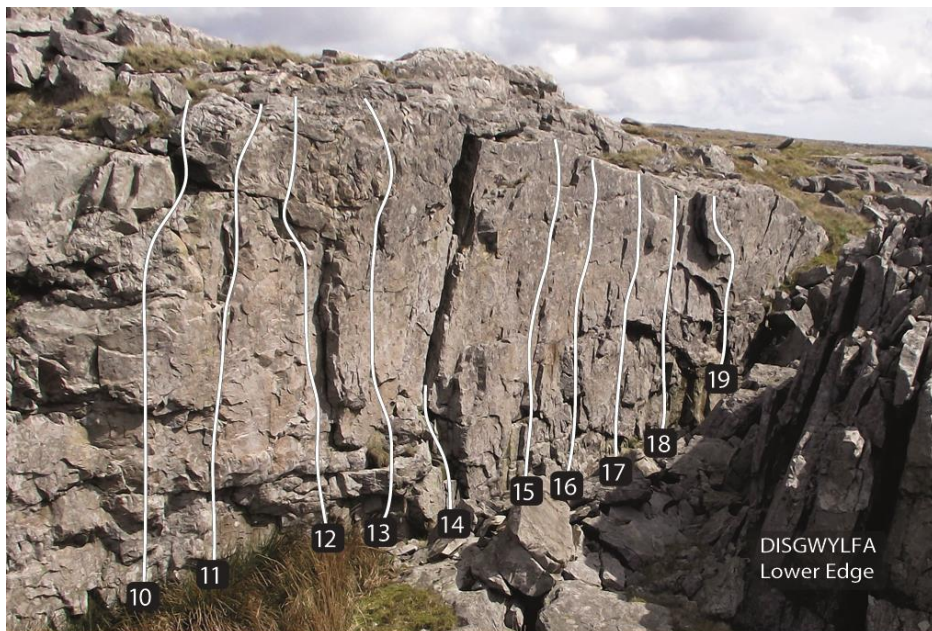
15 ***Forum Mystique V1** (5c) The slight crackline right of the wide crack; poor landing.

16 **Cags in the Distance V0+** (5b) The very slight groove, using a large layaway on the left to start.

17 ***Dormus Aurea V2** (6a) Somehow connect the two layaways.

18 **Armour Fou V3** (6a) Start low and climb the thin crack.

19 **Praia da Ursa V0** (5a) Take the undercling at the right-hand side of the wall.



SINC Y GIEDD AREA

A magnificent location for wilderness bouldering and highballing on mostly superb Twrch Sandstone quartz-pebble conglomerate. Though 4 to 5 kilometres from the road, it is one of the few sites where you might see cagoule-clad fellow man (on the Beacons Way, but mercifully only in the distance). Wild ponies substitute.



Sinc y Giedd is the sinkhole through which the meandering little river of Afon Giedd disappears into the underlying limestone. It is set in a N to S valley, the line of an ancient fault in the Earth's crust.

Approach

Probably the most straightforward approach is via the well-worn path from Glyntawe, though parking may prove difficult. This way also departs from the common familiar access route from Craig-y-Nos which has the luxury of mix-and-match options on the way in or out. So, follow the route from Craig-y-Nos to

the col between Carreg Goch and Disgwylfa. Avoid climbing up Disgwylfa (unless you want to), and continue contouring around, eventually descending SW across a patch of scree and a few sinkholes to the N end of Clogwyn o Sinc Giedd or to Sinc y Giedd below. That's about a one and a quarter hour's walk without a breather.

CLOGWYN O SINC GIEDD OS 8123 – 8120 1790

On the E side of the valley, facing W towards Sinc y Giedd, is a low escarpment and boulder-field 200 metres from the river. (This is the base of the W slope of Disgwylfa.) The crags are sunny and significantly less windy than many others nearby. The boulder-field extends 250 metres to the S. So far as is known, the problems as described were first climbed in May, 2015.

Ethic: Bouldering, soloing

The routes are described from left to right.

At the left-hand end of the escarpment is a pair of 6-metre high buttresses (boulder to their left).

1 ***Bend it Like your Banana** V2 (6a) SS the S-facing arête of the boulder; satisfying and uncontrived (unlike some SSs).

2 V1 (5b) The right-hand side of the arête in the crag behind the boulder.

3 4a The short dark recessed wall above rocks.

The next five routes are not boulder problems; the first two are on the left-hand buttress.

4 **Disappearance** 6m Very Difficult (11.5.2015)

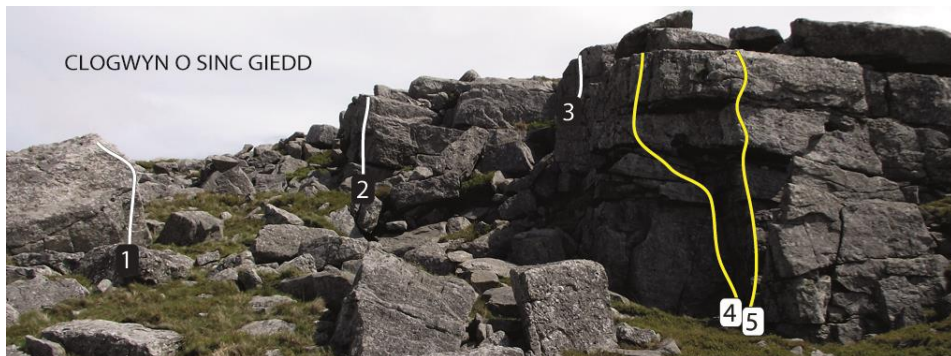
Climb the corner onto blocks; step left and exit up a small groove.

FA Martin Crocker (o-s solo)

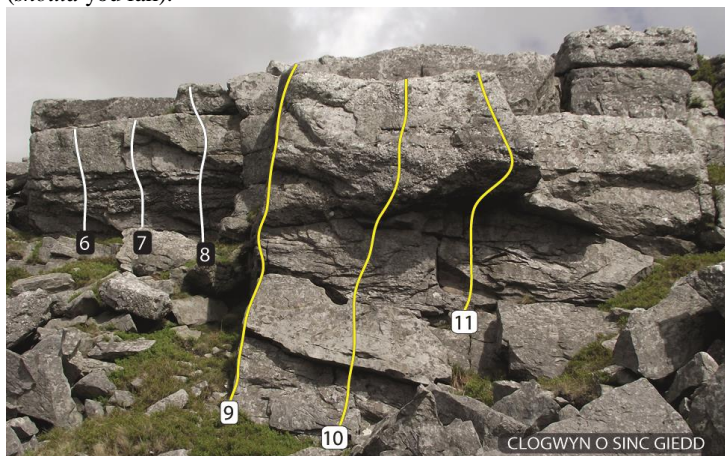
5 **Belief in Byron** 6m E1 5a/b (11.5.2015)

Seriousness is mitigated by the potential to jump onto the pinnacle in front of the route. Climb the right-hand arête of the corner, make a committing reach over the bulge, and pull up to safety.

FA Martin Crocker (o-s solo)



Between the two buttresses is a short overhanging wall at a slightly higher level: mind how you fall (*should* you fall).



6 **The Rus** V2 (6a)

The wall just right of the (unclimbed) rounded arête.

7 **Erik the Red** V2

(6a) The wall to the left end of the pointed overlap.

8 **Leif Erikson** V2

(5c) The bulging left of the corner.

9 ***Wrong Choices to get to the Right Place** 6m HVS 4c (11.5.2015)

The left-hand arête; easier than it looks.

FA Martin Crocker (o-s solo)

10 ***The Explorer** 6m E4 6a (11.5.2015)

The centre of the buttress. Step onto a ledge; reach over the roof for finger jugs and make an awfully long reach for the top. Rocks below.

FA Martin Crocker (solo)

11 **Emperor's Concerto** 5m E3 5c (11.5.2015)

Take the left-hand side of the right-hand arête; insecure, again with rocks to ruin the performance.

FA Martin Crocker (solo)



Fifteen metres to the right, where the escarpment is lower, are two problems with a tree between.

12 Feudal System 4a The affable rounded rib with a crack, left of the tree.

13 Peasants' Revolt V0 (5a) The wall with overlaps just right of the tree.



A little up the hillside above the tree is a recessed wall with the indispensable...

14 **Bang Goes my Knighthood V4 (6a/b) Take the seam left of (and without using the corner); slick, dynamic, and maybe one day to be recognised – if only outside my lifetime.

Back at escarpment-level a short walk right confronts The Bottle, a long flat boulder nature-crafted to be hand traversed. However, before doing so check out the white face 6 metres to the left.

15 Taken in Baby Steps V0+ (5b) The left-hand side of the face via crimps in a horizontal crack.

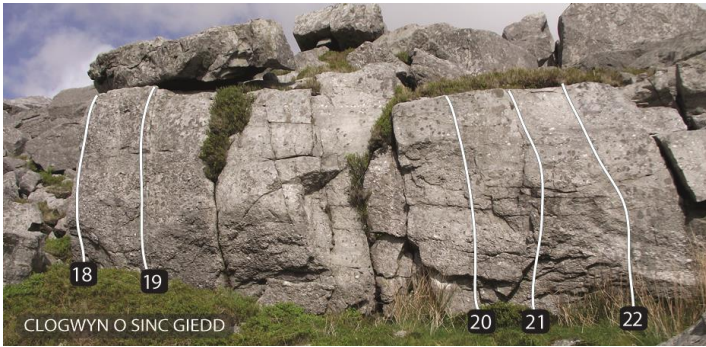
16 Picket Line V0- (4c) The right-hand side of the face via the obvious finger-jug.

17 *Ploumanac'h V1 (5a) From SS round to the left of the 'top' of The Bottle, hand traverse right, with an exciting finale as jugs turn to slopers.

Stroll past various easy possibilities to a 3.5-metre high wall split by bilberry-congested vertical cracks.

18 Do Good V1 (5c) The left-hand arête above a block.

19 Do God V0+ (5b) Crank from a low finger flake into a thin vertical crack.



And on the square right-hand part of the wall are three tight lines.

20 V2 (6a) The eliminate smooth face into a sloping mantel.

21 V0- (4c) The slim groove on big layaways.

22 V0 (5a) The right-hand side of the face.



Further right, behind a sinkhole, is a steep face with a sometimes weeping horizontal break low down.

23 *Above and Beyond the Sinkhole in which Dreams are Buried V2 (6a) Use a shallow two/three finger-pocket for left hand to conquer the face.

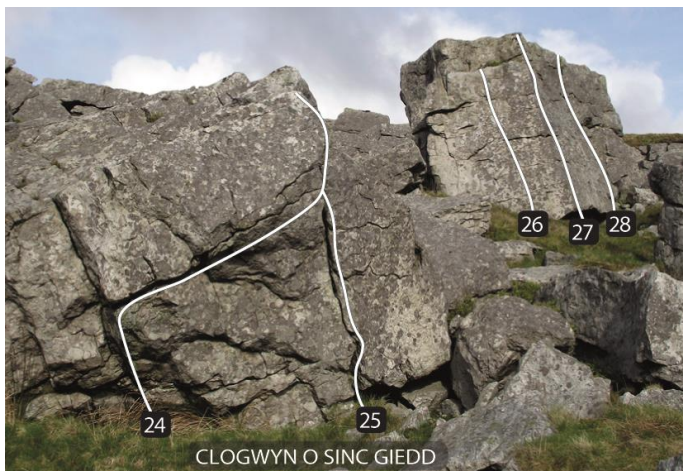


To the right is a large square boulder, Crap Leaders' Block, and just in front of it a smaller one with a steep S face.

24 ***The Big Bazoo** V4 (6b) SS from at a crack low left. Take the finger-rail that rises across the overhanging face to finish via an unkind chemical reaction.

25 **Metaphysical Oxidation** V2 (6a) SS the fierce crack on the right – painful!

Ideally Crap Leaders' Block could do with tilting 20 degrees to the E!



26 **Squandered That**

V1 (5c) SS the wall facing the valley.

27 ***Hear you Smile**

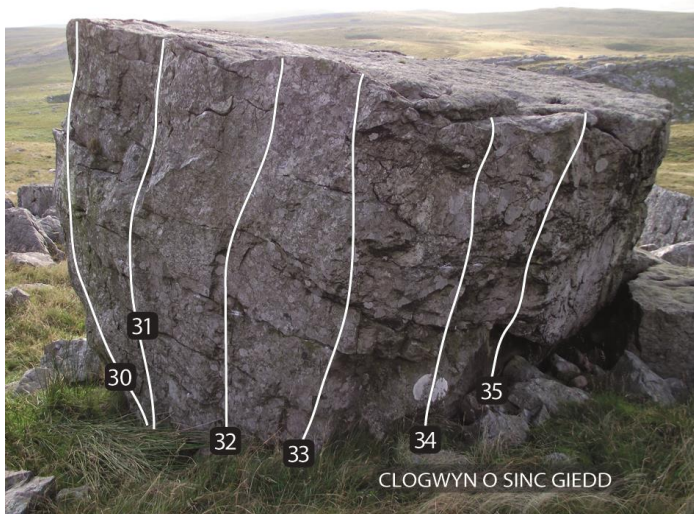
V0 (5a) The left-hand side of the arête facing the valley (only 4a on its right-hand side).

28 **Tilt It!** 4b Climb a metre right of the arête.

29 **Cojab Moss-Rug**

D to 4b The slabby wall right again (lots of variations possible).

The back of the boulder is short but leaning: all here are SS which flow well.



30 **Maybot** V0 (5a) SS the left-hand arête.

31 **Rocket Man** V1 (5c) SS via a flat ledge.

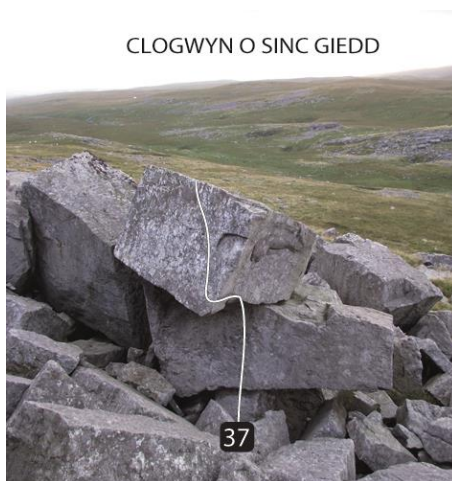
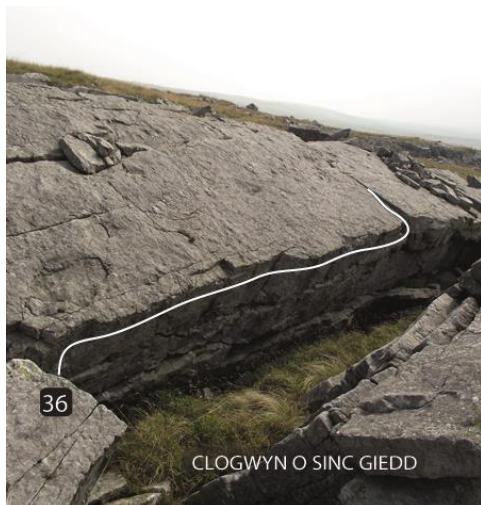
32 **Wet Noodle Putin** V4 (6b) SS just left of little blunt arête; use layaway for left; then long snatch.

33 **Defying Gravity (Trump's Hair)** V2 (6a) SS the blunt little arête.

34 **Manu** V3 (6b) SS just right of the blunt arête using twin crimps.

35 **Fraulein Frau Nein** V2 (6a/b) SS over low overhang.

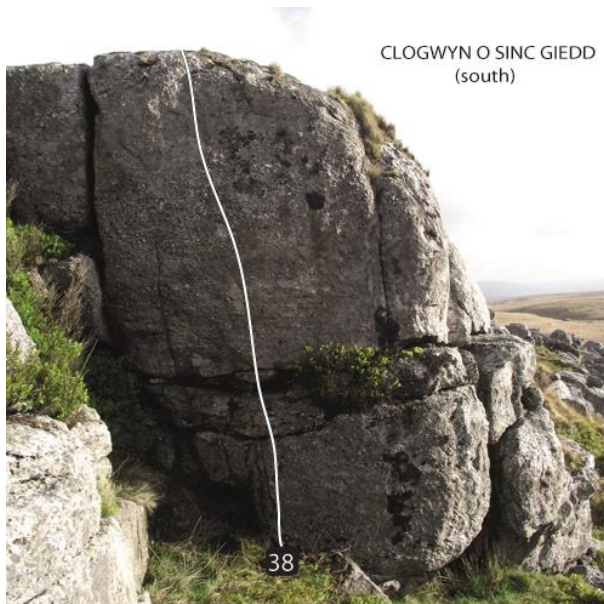
Sixty metres up and left is a narrow grass-bottomed rift overlooked by a toppling wave.



36 ****Unstoppable V3 (6a)** Unmissable! Start at jug on left and hand traverse 8 metres right along the crest of the wave to exit up an awkward crack, whereupon you do stop.

Fifteen metres down to the left is a projecting roof.

37 **Cool don't Clap V1 (5c)** SS, reach for a pinch above the roof and swing left to pull over – contrived but nice.



Finally, at OS 8105 1751, 150 metres to the S of the boulder-field, is a small outcrop which has a steep N-facing wall. Lovers of Forest of Dean pebble-pulling will feel right at home, though they will be missing the trees.

38 ***Very FoD V1 (5c)** Climb the centre of the face, mostly on pebbles. (Keep away from big holds out left.) A trouser-filling exit, but the landing is soft.

CRIB GIEDD OS 8095 1771



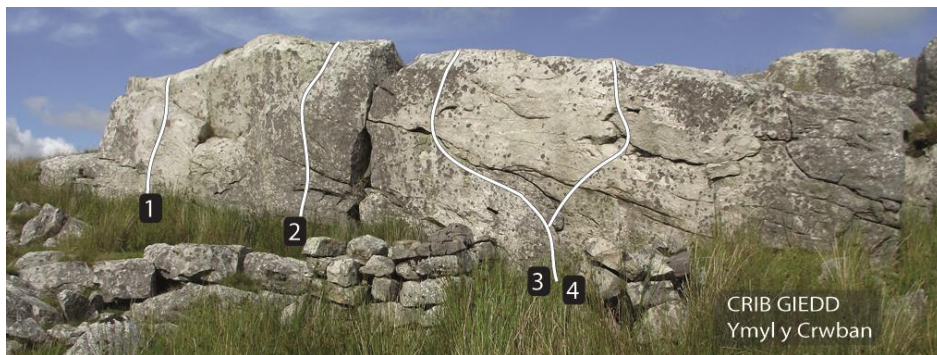
This is the low ridge immediately above and W of Sinc Giedd. Unpromising when viewed from the E, a quick pop round to the sunny W side reveals Ymyl y Crwban, a small crag of character with beautiful rock and strong features including a bionic turtle (or is it an Angler Fish?). So far as is known, the problems as described were first climbed in July, 2015.

Ethic: Bouldering

Ymyl y Crwban

Far left is a white bluff above a five-star sheepfold. There is a ramp in the wall left of the sheepfold.

West side



1 **Who You Know** V0 (5a) The white bulge left of the left-to-right ramp.

2 **Who You Pay** V4 (6a) Small holds on the grey wall left of a vertical crack leads to a smooth exit onto the right-hand end of the ramp.

3 **Shear Escapism** V0+ (5b) Starting inside the sheepfold, take a left-curling crack to exit just right of the crack.

4 **Ambling Rambling Club** V0+ (5b) Starting inside the sheepfold, use the left-curling crack to make a long reach diagonally right for a slot.

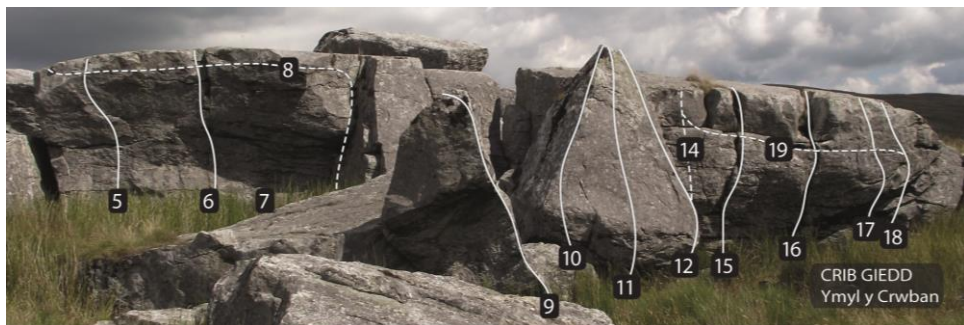
The main crag, to the right, is characterised by its turtle-shaped boulder in front and a metronome-shaped pinnacle just right. To their left is a leaning wall, which doesn't look like anything else.

5 **Strap-a-Hughes-to-Me** V3 (6a) Start from crouch and gain the fingerholds in the left side of the wall. Top out.

6 ***'Good God!' in the Sack** V3 (6a) Start from crouch and blast up the central crack. **Project:** SS.

7 **Project** (V6/7?) A macro-dyno to the top from the black finger-slot in the right side of the wall.

8 **Turtles in Time** V1 (5c) A fun hand-traverse from right to left (V2 the other way round).



9 **Tom the Turtle** V1 (5b) Start low right and swing along the turtle's neck to mantel onto his scalp.



On the Metronome are:

10 **2/4 4a** March up the left-hand arête.

11 ***3/4 V0** (5a) Waltz up the centre of the slab without using either arête.

12 ***4/4 V1** (5b) Pop up the right-hand side of the right arête.

Right of the Metronome is a bulging wall. All problems are SS.

13 **Can't do Simple** V0- (4c) SS the corner-crack.

14 **Slam Dunk** V4 (6b) From SS on a low jug right of the corner-crack make a long move to the break.

15 **Judge 100 years** V2 (5c) SS the left-hand crack via a hand jam.

16 ***Prince Buster** V1 (5b) SS the right-hand crack.

17 ***Nuts for the Winter** V5 (6b) SS the bulging wall right of the right-hand crack bearing a little leftwards via small rounded fingerholds. Ignore the jug high right.

18 **Leading Light** V0 (5a) SS the right-hand side of the grey rib via the high jug disallowed in the previous route.

19 **Onedownmanship** V3 (6a) Traverse right to left via the pumpy break; hardest to start.

20 ***Hook, Line, and Sinkhole** V3 (5c) On the ridge behind the Metronome is a flat boulder suspended above a rift. From SS on the left lip traverse right around the boulder to sit finish far side. Mind your back (given this isn't the optimal place for an accident).

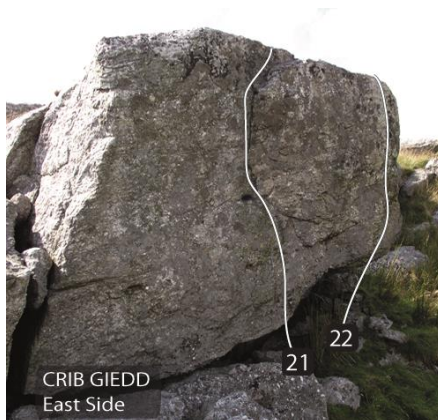


Hook, Line, and Sinkhole



20

CRIB GIEDD
Ymyl y Crwban



21

22

CRIB GIEDD
East Side

East Side

There are quite a number of boulders on the E side of the tor; but most are lichenous or the preserve of SS gymnasts. The following boulder, which is undercut by a cave, is just worth a peek-e-boos.

21 **The Kawczynski File** V0- (4c) The flakeline.

22 **Hate** V1 (5b) The right arête using a deep pocket and a pinch involves a big reach for the top.

And there is a 3-metre high wall situated about 12 metres east of the 'turtle'.

23 ***First-class Smarty Parts** V2 (5c) A sustained 7-metre traverse using the intermittent thin break.

LLE UNIG OS 8116 1709

This crag is situated low on the far W slopes of Carreg Goch 300 metres from the Afon Giedd. The dissected Twrch Sandstone plateau here has left a large 5-metre high pedestal, with rifts behind, facing NW towards Sinc Giedd. It offers some excellent problems away from both strong winds and civilization. So far as is known, the problems as described were first climbed in July, 2016.

Approach

It is easy to connect up with other crags near Sinc Giedd. An alternative, more direct approach is to walk in from Carreg a'r Gap over Carreg Goch via the Wellington bomber crash site.

Ethic: Bouldering, soloing

1 Easy Way up, Easy Way Down D The obvious groove and large holds in the E rift.

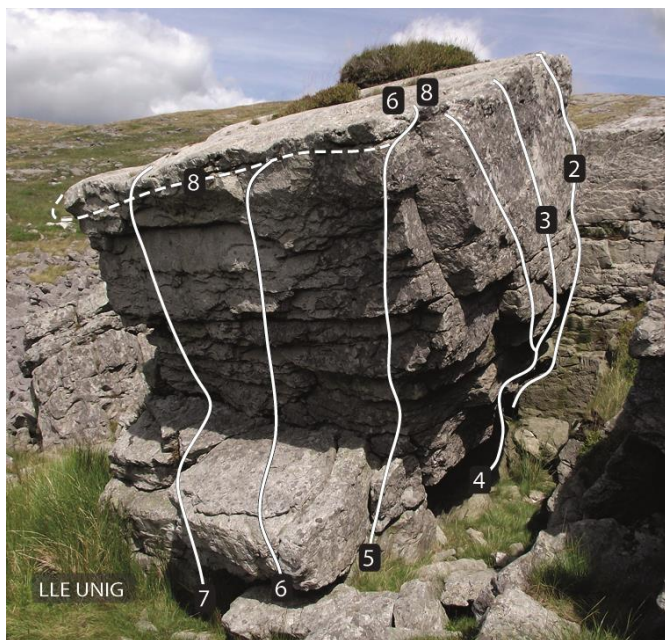
2 Precious Ark V0- (4c) The arête between the S and E rifts; tricky move at the top.

The next two problems start from an orange niche at the base of the S rift.

3 Of Lions, Not Lambs V0 (5a) SS and climb pretty much straight up, all on jugs.

4 Like a Tree Fell on Ya V2 (5c) SS and bear diagonally left through the roofs finishing with a strenuous long reach just right of the sharp arête.

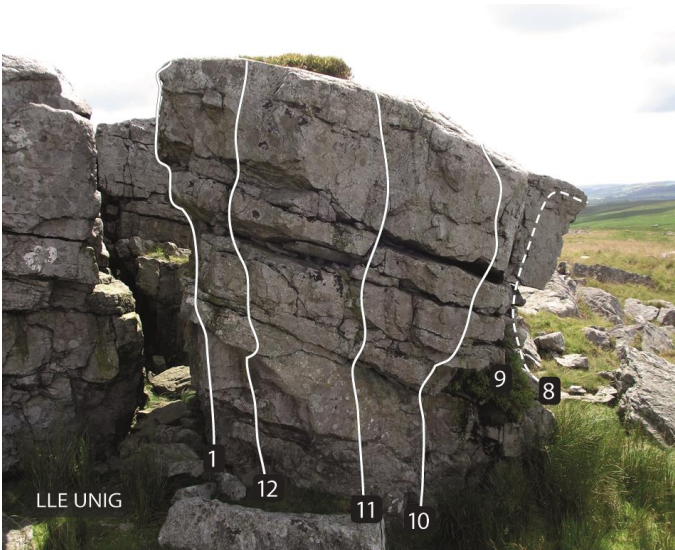
Feeble attempts at different lines on the overhanging W face have met with measured success and no broken bones, as yet. Without mats and spotters mantelling out onto the sloping glacier-smoothed shelf at 5 metres is totally bricking.



5 Hanging Arête V2 – V5 (5c /6b) **(H)** A long move from a rattling chockstone to a jug high left. Mantel out. Unequivocally reach-dependent. Poor landing.

6 No Way Hosé V2 (5c) **(H)** Start centrally and use an undercut 'horn' to get hands on top. Hand traverse right to exit on the hanging arête. The hideous direct finish awaits.....

7 *Twrch Special V3 (5c/6a) **(H)** Start under the left-hand side under a vertical crack. From the ledge grab the top and mantel contortedly out.



8 *Anything but the Twirl V3 (5c)** A Twrch essential. Start up the groove on the left and then hand traverse the top of the pedestal rightwards all the way to *Hanging Arête*. The landing-site becomes increasingly unattractive left to right.

On the N face are:

9 4a The dirty groove at the junction between W and N faces.

10 *Sunspot Sector Rejector V2 (5c) Superb. Climb the rounded rib of the N face, past a deep break, exiting direct over the smooth top (nice small pockets help here). A soft landing is welcoming if rejected.

11 Tech Bev V0 (5a) Climb the shallow groove and wall past the juggy break.

12 Unsocial Media VD The NE arête.

There is quite a lot of rock at the edges of the mini-plateau, but nothing to get the juices flowing. A NE-facing wall staring at Carreg Goch is worth detecting (V0, 5a).



Four hundred metres to the SSE, not far from the Wellington bomber crash site, is a block and a 4-metre high pinnacle (at OS 8130 1677).

1 Skeleton Skies V0 (5a) Take the valley face of the pinnacle via a shallow pocket to its summit.

There are a few morsels on the block too.