

STACK ROCK 2020

**An illustrated guide to sea
stack climbing in the UK &
Ireland**

- Old Harry -
- Old Man of Stoer -
- Am Buachaille -
- The Maiden -
- The Old Man of Hoy -
- over 200 more -



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In late 1996 Ben Linton, Ed Lynch-Bell and Ian Brodrick undertook the mammoth scanning and OCR exercise needed to transfer the paper text back into computer form after the original electronic version was lost in a disk crash. This was done in order to create a world-wide web version of the guide. Mike Caine of the Manx Fell and Rock Club then helped with route information from his Manx climbing web site. Other contributors include Andrew Donson and Richard Jones. Duncan Irving contributed information about a new stack and climb at Ru Idrigill, Trotternish, Skye in March, 1997.

Steve Le Feuvre and James Burton contributed hugely to the Channel Islands section in 2019. Also in 2019 Iain Miller very kindly shared his astonishing Unique Ascents information and photos on the hundred or so Donegal sea stacks. David Linnett contributed some great photographs. All mistakes and omissions are the compiler's.

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Stack Areas In The UK



INTRODUCTION

What Is A Stack?

A stack is an isolated cone, pinnacle or tower of rock entirely surrounded by the sea at high tide. The term comes, I think, from an old Norse (Viking) word - stac - meaning a steep rock or conical hill. It is still used in Scottish Gaelic with places such as Stac Pollaidh which is a very conical inland peak.

Blackchurch Rock is a stack even though its main face is a triangular-shaped slab. However a stack should be rocky on all sides and involve scrambling at the very least to get to the top. Gannet Rock on Lundy scrapes in by the skin of its teeth on this count.

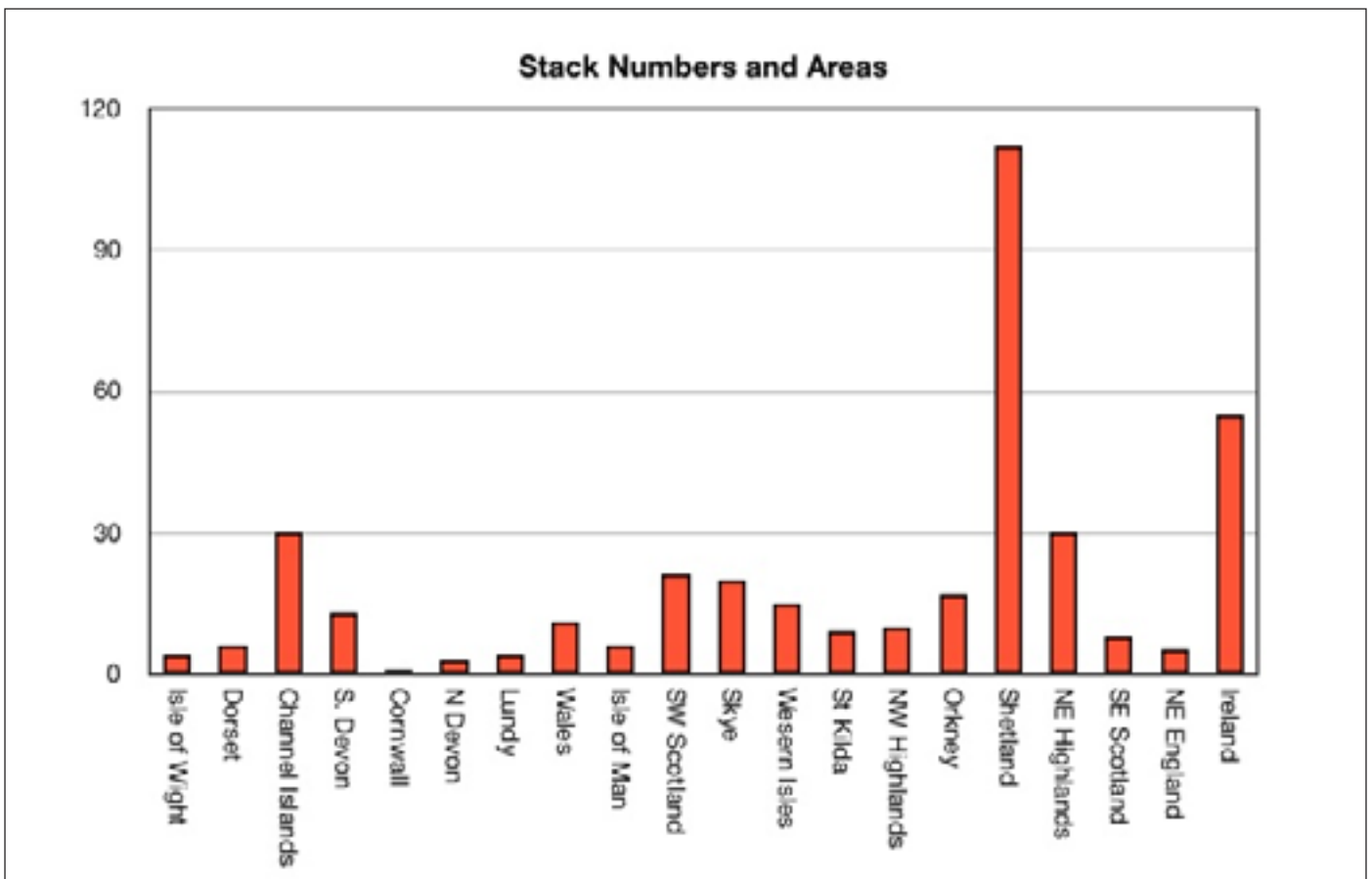
A stack ought not to be an island. How can you tell the difference? A rough and ready definition is: if its top is significantly further across than the height then it is an island. I think a stack should be at least 6 - 10m high. Below that it is a rock. This stack climbing compilation has been pretty liberal about what constitutes a stack though.

Why do stacks exist?

The answer is water pressure and solubility. Stacks are created by water - sea, rain - wearing away and dissolving the rock along lines of weakness such as bedding planes and vertical joints. The rock has to have these weaknesses for the water to do its work but to be otherwise strong enough to withstand wind and storm after it is created as a sentinel standing in advance, as it were, of the cliffs and thus attracting the full force of storm waves. An appendix describes the stack formation process in more detail.

Stack Distribution

If we look at the distribution of stacks around the coast of the British Isles it is apparent that they are asymmetrically distributed, with far more in the Channel Islands, Donegal in Ireland, and the north of Scotland and its islands, than elsewhere. A chart illustrates this:



Stack Areas Around The UK

There are some 565 climbs, spread across about 390 stacks, listed in this compilation with around 70 stacks in England, 10 in Wales, 55 in Ireland and 275 in Scotland. Of these about a 110 are located around the coasts of Shetland and of these about 80 are around the coast of Mainland. Stacks tend to occur where they do, obviously, because of favourable rock formations. The distribution could also be a function of the stormy weather of the Channel Islands, north-west Ireland and the northern seas around the UK which may erode rocks faster.

No Cornish Stacks?

There are several stacks in Cornwall, e.g.; Bedruthan Steps, Kynance Cove and the north Cornwall coast, but they are of little interest to climbers being low in height and generally more like conical rocks than pinnacles. But Gull Rock is of climbing interest.

*'The bird's neck had swollen hugely; its eyes glared.
It looked as if it had something urgent to communicate.
It had. Its beak shot forward, opened, and drenched us
in foul smelling slime. I recalled the fulmar's peculiarity.'*
Tom Patey, The Old Man Of Stoer, SMC Journal, 1967

Stacks & Birds

In accounts of stack climbing, such as Tom Patey's story of climbing the Old Man of Stoer, birds are seen as just another hazard to be negotiated. No consideration is given to them. However stacks are choice nesting sites for birds because they are, or have been up until recently, safe places. In these days of access agreements and agreed climbing restrictions to safeguard nesting sites, e.g. Swanage, it can't be long before 'twitchers' - bird lovers - call for the bird populations on stacks to be protected too. This will probably happen first on stacks which are off or on coasts administered by organisations such as the Nature Conservancy or the National Trust. It already is in places like Bass Rock.

In anticipation of this, it is best not to climb on stacks with birds nesting on them from the beginning of March to the end of June. For details of individual birds see the appendices.

Definitions

stacca'to (-ah'to) *a.*, *adv.* & *n.* (*pl. s*). **1. (Mus.)** *a.* & *adv.* (to be played in abrupt sharply detached manner (cf. LEGATO. TENUTO) **br>**; **~mark**, dot or stroke above or below staccato note in score. **2.** *a.* & *n.* (uttered etc. with) delivery or presentation in separate short bursts. [It., p.p of *staccare* = *distaccare* DETACH]

stâck *n.*, & *v. t.* **1.** *n.* circular or rectangular pile of grain in sheaf or of hay, straw, etc., usu. with sloping thatched top, rick; **c-yard**, enclosure for these. **2.** 11 (As measure of wood) pile of 108 cu. ft. **3.** pile or heap of anything, esp. in orderly arrangement; (colloq.) large quantity, (*has stacks of money, a whole stack of work to get through*); stacked group of aircraft; pyramidal group of rifles, pile; **~(-room)**, part of library where books are compactly stored and to which public does not have direct access. **4. (chimney-)**~, number of chimneys standing together. **5.** isolated tall factory chimney; (**smoke-**)~, chimney or funnel to discharge smoke of locomotive or steamer; *BLOW¹ one's stack **6.** I I high detached rock esp. off coast of Scotland and Orkneys. **7. v.t.** pile in stacks(s); arrange (cards, or fig. circumstances etc.) secretly for cheating; aircraft to fly round same point at different levels (aircraft waiting to land at airport);~ (= PILE³) **arms**. [ME, f, ON *stakkr* haystack, f. Gmc **stakkaz*]

[The Concise Oxford Dictionary]



Blackchurch Rock, Blackchurch, North Devon. Climbers on Les Invalides and Jamaica Dub.

Special Notes:

1. If the stack height is not listed it is not known.
2. Right and left are used in the sense of facing the cliff unless stated otherwise.
3. If the first ascent details are not known and no climb is listed then the presumption is that you have a virgin stack on your hands. All stacks which have had no recorded ascent or visit by a contributor have their names printed in italics. The stack notes in this are not to be taken as gospel, more as suggestions for exploration.
4. Map References: The Ordnance Survey reveal that six figure map references are not unique in that one such reference could refer to more than one place in the British Isles. To make them unique they are adding a two-letter code prefix to them. E.g.; 370287 becomes HU 370267. Irritatingly these two-letter prefixes identify, uniquely identify, large grid squares which do not coincide with Ordnance Survey Landranger map sheets. Thus a map could have the top two thirds in, say, the HU square, and the bottom third in a different square.

I think that the Ordnance Survey have made a mistake, insofar as ordinary map users are concerned, in that the map reference alone does not tell you which Landranger map to use. Consequently I have used the six-digit map reference prefixed by the Landranger sheet number so that you know which actual map to refer to. E.g.; Instead of HU 350116 as a reference for Broad Stack on Shetland's Mainland I use Sheet 4 350116 instead.
5. The 't' symbol by a climb indicates that it has not received very many ascents and so the grade and other details have not been verified. Gradings in general are far more variable and changeable than for standard climbs because of the effects of weather, erosion and fewer climbers to agree them.
6. The editor has not climbed all the stacks. Neither has any one else. Therefore do not look for consistency in either the grades or the descriptions. Regard this directory cum guide as a compilation from many different sources.

HISTORY

Sea stacks are such spectacular challenging affairs that they attract strong climbers of a very adventurous disposition. The overall pattern is of such climbers concentrating on their area and playing a lead role in its development. When such climbers are not present then stack bagging activity falls away.

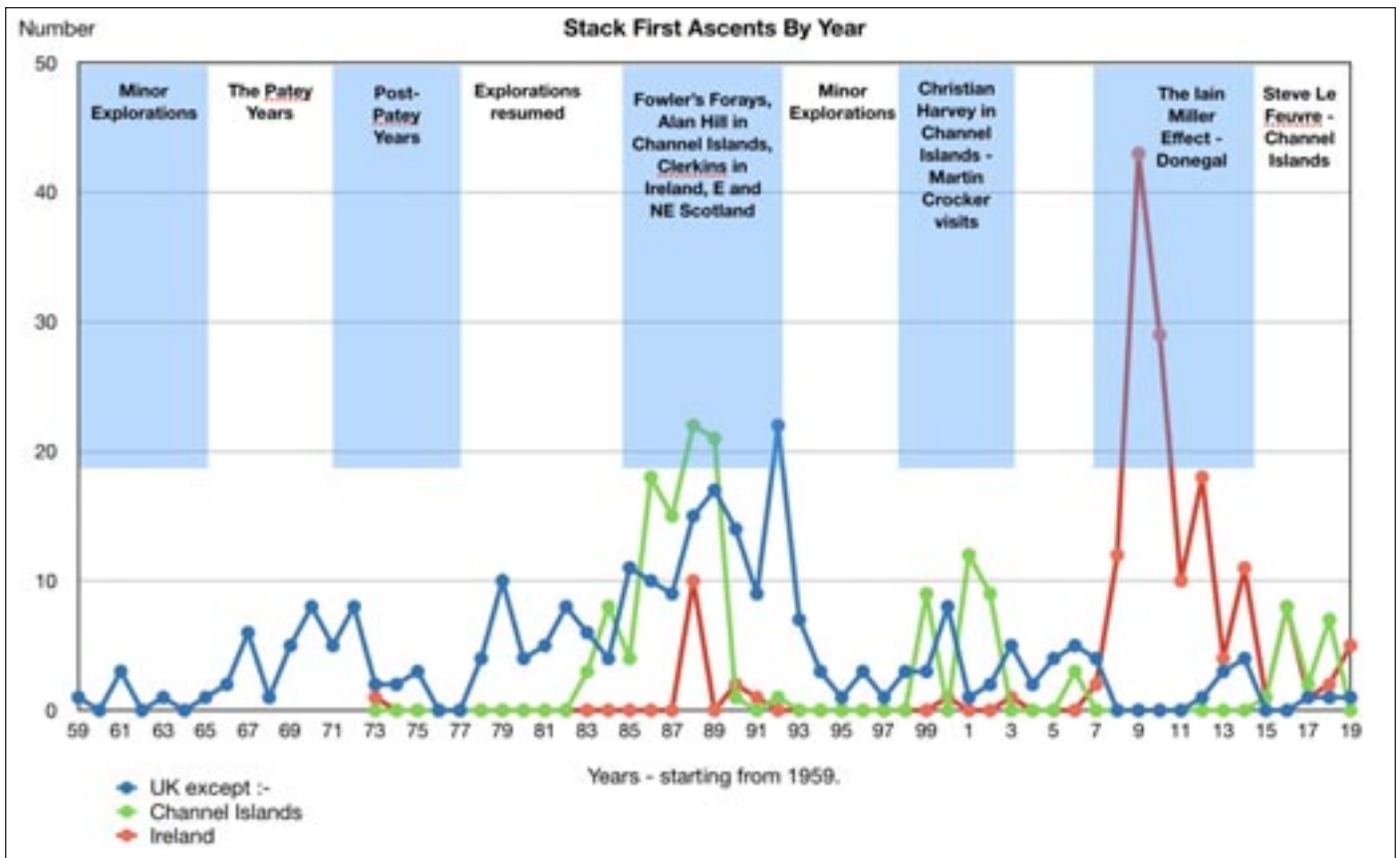
There are several climbers who have inspired others and dominated stack attacks. The peaks in the chart below graphically show the effects of Tom Patey, Mick Fowler, Alan Hill (Channel Islands) and Iain Miller (Donegal). The history of stack climbing falls quite naturally into eight periods:

1. Beginnings	Before 1933
2. Minor explorations	1933 - 1965
3. Doctor Stack - Tom Patey and the Hoy circus	1966 - 1970
4. Post- Patey years	1971 - 1978
5. Explorations resumed	1979 - 1985
6. Fowler's forays	1986 - 1993
7. Channel Islands and Alan Hill	1983 - 2018
8. Donegal and Iain Miller	2008 - 2019

The boom years were 1985 to 1992 when 176 routes were climbed as simultaneous explorations took place in Scotland, the Channel Islands and Ireland. The best ever stack first ascent year was 2009 when Iain Miller recorded an amazing 40 ascents in Donegal, the peak year in a frenzied 2007 - 2014 period of activity by him.

Beginnings

In the beginning there were the St. Kilda egg hunters. No one knows for sure when they started climbing stacks to harvest the birds but it may be as early as the twelfth century. They stopped in the nineteenth with their way of life harried to death by Victorian fundamentalist missionaries, tyrants in the practise of their religious bigotry. One St.



Kilda native, Donald MacDonald, did climb onto the Great Stack of Handa, hand over hand on a rope, copied 89 years later by Tom Patey. Other Victorians built a lighthouse on one of the Needles and their steps survive.

However, the first recorded instance of what may have been recreational stack climbing occurred in 1883 when a C. Barrington ascended Stac Biorach on St.Kilda. It was described in the Alpine Club journal and must have seemed very curious at the time, being so far removed from normal mountaineering experiences.

Minor Explorations

Recreational climbing of stacks started between the wars with an ascent of the Sugarloaf in the Isle Of Man by Doctor A. W. Kelly of whom we hear no more. Twenty one years later D. S. Byrne climbed the Crack Of Dhoon on a slabby stack in Dhoon Bay also on the Isle.

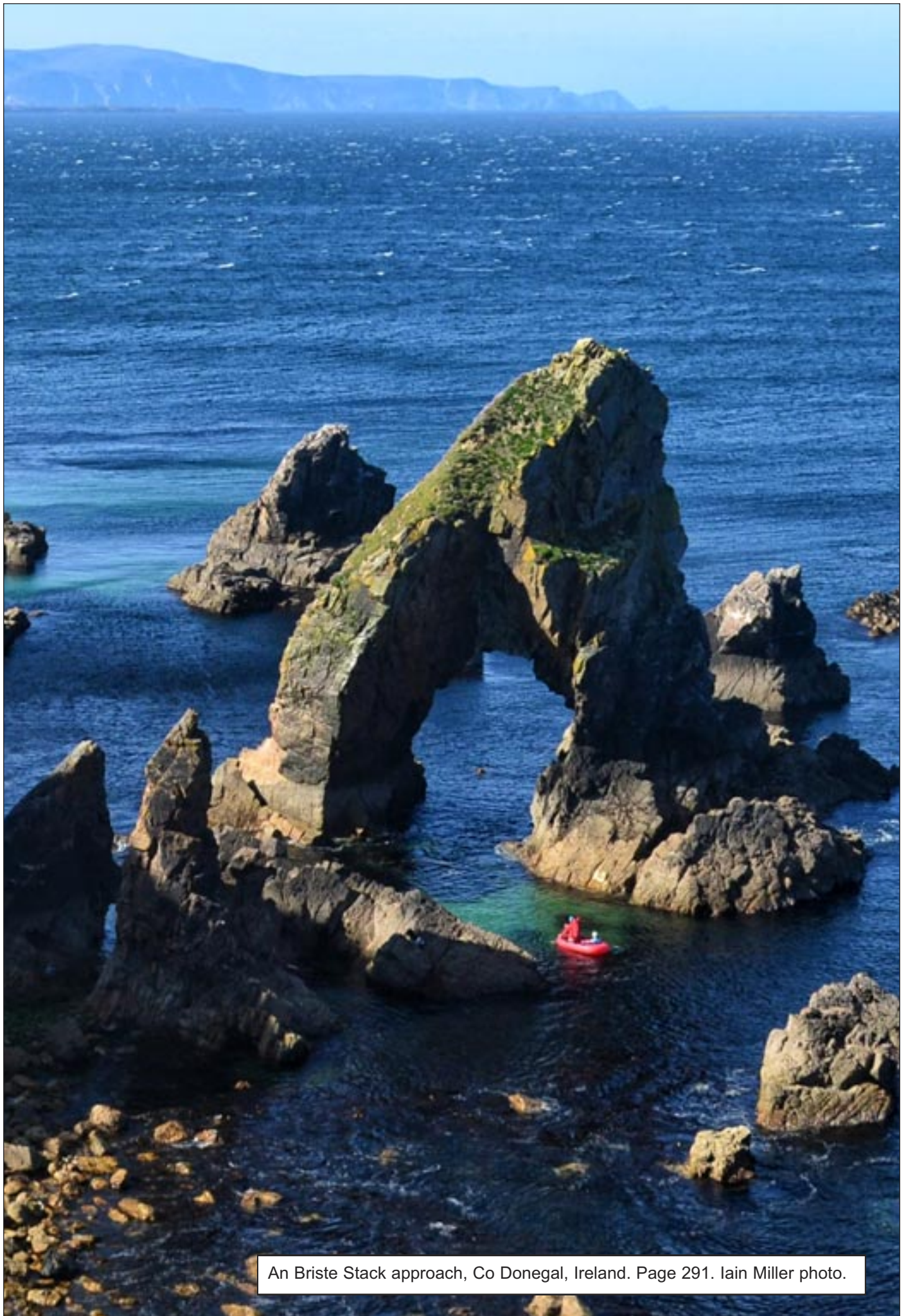
Seven years after that three stack climbs were put up on Lundy associated with Admiral Lawder's south west England coastal explorations. E. C. Pyatt was also involved. By 1965 two more climbs had been put up on Lundy stacks.

The theme of this period was incidental stack climbing in pleasant and accessible locations. Tom Patey changed this utterly. Perhaps the main precursor was provided by another forceful Scottish climber in the shape of Ian Clough. He climbed the first of Macleod's Maidens on Skye in 1959 and climbed with Patey on The Herdsman in 1967.

Doctor Stack

Tom Patey or Doctor Stack as he became known put up many brilliant lines in the Scottish Highlands. The stack scene was dominated by him between 1966 and 1970. He became associated with stacks because he popularised them so effectively and fell to his death from one in 1970.

His career on stacks commenced with The Old Man of Stoer climbed in 1966 with Paul Nunn who was sadly and ironically in the party that went for The Maiden in 1970. Next Patey hit the big time with his involvement in the first BBC broadcast of ascents of The Old Man of Hoy also in 1966. Stacks became indelibly imprinted in the climbing scene. A second TV extravaganza followed in 1967. Patey followed up Hoy with The Herdsman and then The Maiden in 1970. He also replicated Donald McDonald's Handa feat with jumars.



An Briste Stack approach, Co Donegal, Ireland. Page 291. Iain Miller photo.

Patey provides a couple of characteristics that apply to most stack climbing. He dominated his geography and stack climbing, although important, was not the main event for him. Stacks are the spectacular excursions outside the mainstream.

In the Patey period a J. Fowler, no relation to Mick, began exploring South Devon stacks and was subsequently involved with the ascent of every one of them but he didn't climb elsewhere. Hamish McInnes put up ascents of the Great Stack of Handa and an R. Balharry took a party to St. Kilda and did the two big ones - Stac Lee and Stac an Armin. Ten stack climbs were recorded in 1969, three in 1970 and thereafter activity tailed off. When Patey fell whilst abseiling from The Maiden most Scottish stack explorations abruptly ceased.

Post-Patey Years

Between 1971 and 1987 there were 16 years of incidental explorations which culminated in the arrival of Mick Fowler. But first stack explorations became refocused on safer stacks such as those of the Isle Of Man where G. Gartrell dominated his back yard so to speak with a steady flow of pleasant routes. J. Fowler with Peter Biven and others were active in South Devon and importuned Keith Darbyshire to help with the harder ones such as the E3 Parson in 1971. The pace of events slowly picked up.

Explorations Resumed

It was as if the climbing world, the mainstream climbers, had to regain confidence in climbing hard lines on remote stacks. And they did it by putting up harder and harder lines on comfortable stacks until they felt strong enough to venture north again.

The south west climbing stalwarts such as Littlejohn and Pete O'Sullivan put up steadily harder routes on the Blackchurch Rock slab culminating in some 6a climbs. A few bits and pieces were picked off in Skye. Jim Perrin hit the Pen-y-Holt stack in 1980 with his South Wales explorations but the real trigger for the next period was Arnis Strapcans, a forceful individualist who put up an HVS on the chalk Old Harry stack in Dorset in 1979. This was bad rock indeed.

In 1982 he traveled north to Hoy and did the Ancient Mariner at E2 5b/c. This was the first major route on a Scottish sea stack for 12 years. The immediate reaction to this was no reaction. There were no stack climbs done in 1983. But next year things were different. Messrs Whillance and Hamilton put up two more big and hard lines on Hoy - A Few Dollars More at E3 5c and A Fistful Of Dollars at E5 6a.

Following Ground

It is noticeable that stacks are not forcing grounds for climbing. They are a following ground. When standards have risen in the main climbing areas then climbers visit the stacks and overlay a pattern of new, harder climbs on top of the existing ones. The progressive increase in standards on the Old Man Of Hoy exemplifies this very well. From E1 5b to E5 6a in eighteen years.

Skye stacks were now explored. Jerry Moffat and C. Dale put up a forgettable severe, The Mitre, and the stacks/pinnacles of Kilt Rock were breached. But things didn't really start to move until a committed stack climber appeared and that was Mick Fowler with Pressgang Pinnacle on Dorset chalk in 1985.

Fowler's Forays

Mick has a tremendous eye for a empty niches in the climbing world and his ability to single-handedly inspire a group was shown to great effect in southern chalk cliff climbing. It was repeated with a smaller cast of characters on the Scottish sea stacks.

He followed Patey by twenty one years and set foot on the Old Man Of Stoer's North-West Corner in 1988. Thus emboldened, as it were, he behaved like a latterday weekend Viking raider over the next two years as he and friends such as Nikki Dugan, Steve Sustad, Guy Muhlemann, Simon Richardson, Jon Lincoln and Chris Watts laid siege to stacks all around the northern Scottish coast.

They were helped by Deflowerer - an inflatable boat with an outboard which enabled them to reach the offshore stacks. In 1988 a Fowler party put up four climbs on the Maiden. They went to Dunnet Head and Holborn Head. They also put up more stack climbs in Dorset and the Isle Of Wight. Next year saw the Duncansby Head stacks visited and very impressive ascents of Cape Wrath stacks

Mick contributed a memorable pair of articles to Mountain magazine, entitled Stacks To Go At, which spread the word about these adventurous outings far removed from the developing ethos of sports climbing.

Although his rate of stack attacking dropped in 1990, the year saw perhaps his most outrageous adventure with the ascent of The Needle on Hoy. In 1991 his attention moved to Irish stacks, a prescient move. Two friends, Guy Muhlemann and Simon Richardson, revisited Skye and attacked the remaining Maidens amongst others.

The 80s and early 90's also saw a lot of stack climbs done in eastern Scotland at Covesea and Cummington. Mick returned to the Isle of Wight in 1992 and also put up ten stack ascents in Shetland on a ten day trip in May. Not a bad average. Lastly Gary Gibson put up an E6 6b on Needle Rock during his annual Lundy trip in late 1993.

Channel Islands

Two areas developed in relative isolation; the Channel Islands and Donegal, Ireland. We'll cover the Channel Islands first. Exploration there falls naturally into three periods. The first, 1983 to 1990, saw Alan Hill and a group of climbers he seems to have inspired rampaging across the cliffs and stacks on the south coast of Guernsey. Then activity died down until a second burst of stacking there from 1998 to 2003.

During that period Christian Harvey was the main local activist, along with Haydar Koyupinar. Martin Crocker visited Guernsey in this time and raised standards. Explorations then relaxed until starting again in 2015, with activities led by James Burton and Steve Le Feuvre. Le Feuvre found adventurous stack climbs in Sark, Les Autelets, in 2018, following a 2016 visit by Christian Harvey, and these are sterner and more committing stacks than the generally lower, friendlier ones in Guernsey.

The Donegal Extravaganza

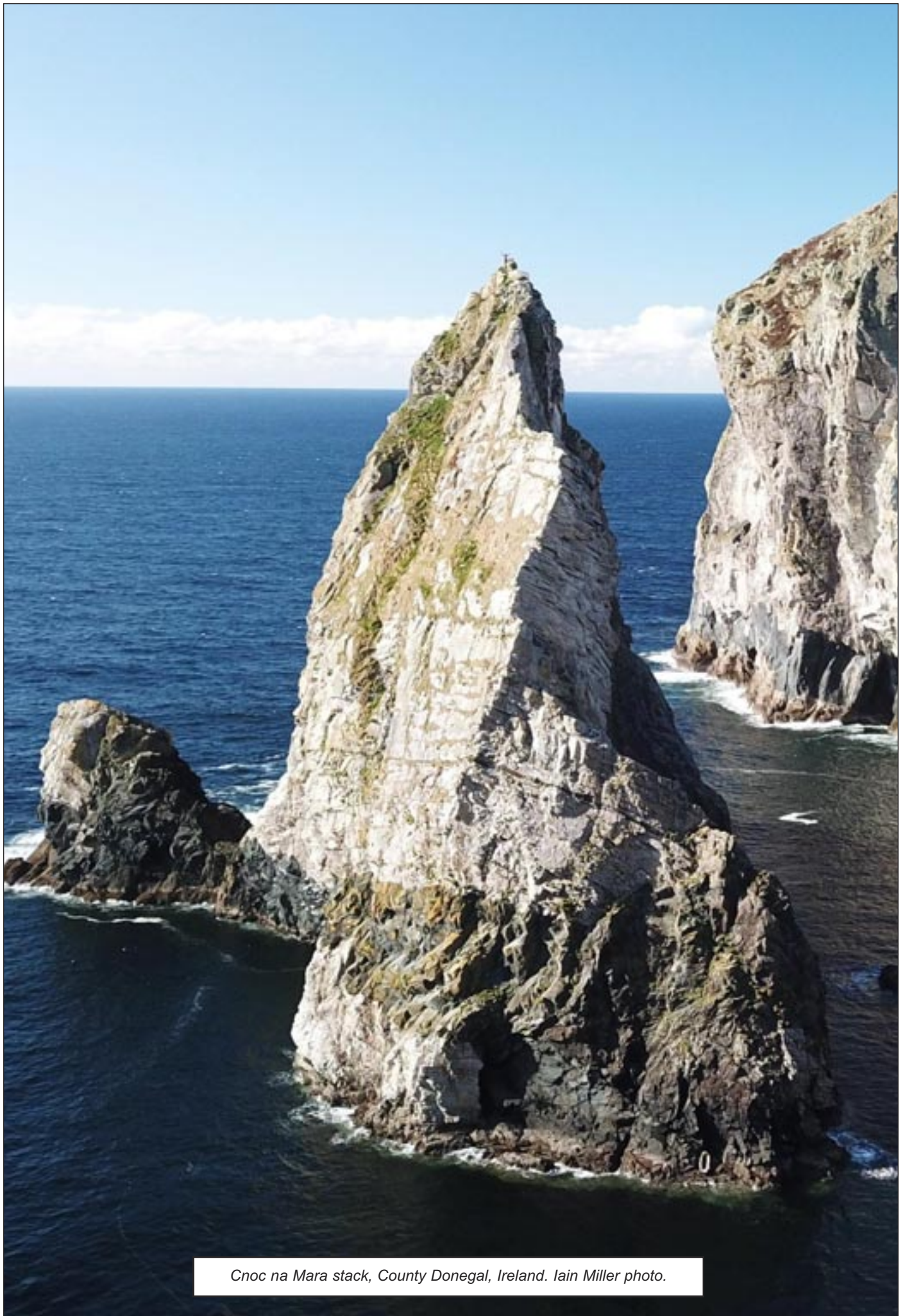
Ireland is something else entirely. This area was almost totally neglected until 1988 when the two Clerkins put up ten first ascents in the An Port area and then vanished from the scene. Two years later Mick Fowler and friends visited and put up two climbs graded MXS, a typical Fowler grade. Branaunmore climbed a stack offshore from the precipitous Cliffs of Moher while Doonbristy ascended the Dún Briste stack in County Mayo. Fowler and Steve Sustad returned in 1991 climb Lover's Leap Rock in County Clare, a 5c extreme.

Things ticked along until May, 2008, when local professional climber Iain Miller put up a VDiff, Lurking Fear, at Tormore Island in Donegal, followed by eleven more first ascents at Tormore and An Port. He had found stack heaven and single-handedly led Donegal sea stack climbing into the mainstream, being involved in around 150 first ascents overall. Interestingly Miller had previously spent time in the Orkney Islands, making a rope solo second ascent of the Clett of Crura in 1999. He produced an online stack and sea cliff climbing guide to Orkney; www.orkney-seastacks.co.uk/stacksindex.htm. Discovering Donegal's stacks must have seemed like coming home.

Where Are We Now?

This 'stacklopaedia' or 'stackalogue' records over 400 stacks. It is likely that over 50 of them have never been climbed or had a recorded ascent. These are virgin summits awaiting their first human foot. Other stacks like Hoy, The Herdsman, and the Old Man of Stoer form a group of classic approachable stacks that should be on everyone's hit list.

The third group of offshore stacks, the ones which need a boat, will see fewer visits. The increased difficulty of access and commitment needed will see to that. But the rewards of climbing them are great. You will get no greater mountaineering high this side of the Alps. Watch some Iain Miller videos to get a taste. For example; climbing Cnoc na Mara stack: <https://youtu.be/OCRpGiUUAqY>.



Cnoc na Mara stack, County Donegal, Ireland. Iain Miller photo.

ENGLAND

Map: p4.

Stacks in England are found in the southern chalk coastal areas in the Isle Of Wight and the Dorset Old Harry group, in the south Devon sandstone coast, at Ladram Bay for example, the north Devon coast at Blackchurch and in Greenstone regions of Cornwall. There are no Cornish granite stacks of interest to climbers. All these areas have been fairly well explored. Indeed some stack climbs have already fallen down. E.g., one in Freshwater Bay on the Isle Of Wight.

Isle of Wight

Map: p4.

A band of chalk runs east-west across the island from Culver Cliff to the Needles. At its western end there are three stacks forming The Needles. The rock runs east along the coast forming the fine line of cliffs between The Needles and Freshwater Bay. The cliffs have been breached at Freshwater Bay and have left two stacks behind. (There used to be three but the middle one fell down in 1992).

The Needles.

Map: below. Photos: p15, 16.

For those in search of an excellent aquatic experience The Needles will provide all that they are looking for. A boat would seem to be necessary and anybody contemplating a swim would be well advised to spend time watching the tidal stream ripping through the gaps between The Needles.

Inner Needle

MR: Sheet 196 293848. Photo: p15, 16.

This pinnacle can be reached without a boat but only at absolute low tide. And, of course, this guarantees that your return will involve partial or total immersion unless you have set up a tyrolean.

Detailed access: The inner needle is accessible thus: walk to the western extremity of the beach at Scratchell's Bay then continue (dead low tide necessary) to an exposed promontory that stops just short of the pinnacle. Make an awkward step across a gap on to the south face and traverse for 9m to a ledge about 8m above sea level.

The Crisp HVS 5a

1. 5a. This starts from the landward side of the needle and climbs the crack passing a dubious block. When the crack ends trend left to reach the crest 5m to the left of the highest point. The top is easily gained to the right.

First ascent: Mick Fowler, Lorraine Smythe 4 Nov 1992.



The Needles – Google Earth view. From left: Outer Needle, Middle Needle, Inner Needle.

Middle Needle

MR: Sheet 196 291847. Photo: below, p16.

Detailed access: Take a boat. Swimming is out the question due to distance and very strong currents. There might be/should be scope on the north and east faces as well.

West Face Sev 24m

The West face is climbed.

First ascent: Unknown.

South Face Sev 24m

This has frequently been lowered onto during RAF training sessions but appears not to have been climbed previously. Start just left of the centre of the south face in a shallow bay with a left- trending line leaving its left-hand side. Climb steeply up left and continue in the same line before moving right to a steep concluding 3m and the summit ridge. Traverse the ridge to the top. Descend by down climbing, abseil or continue the ascent by RAF helicopter!

First ascent: Mick Fowler, Jon Lincoln, 21 May 1988.

Outer Needle

MR: Sheet 196 290847. Photo: below, p16.

There may be scope here for ascents of the other faces and arêtes. The technical grades of the existing routes look amenable.

Detailed access: Take a boat.

Lighthouse Arête Diff c24m

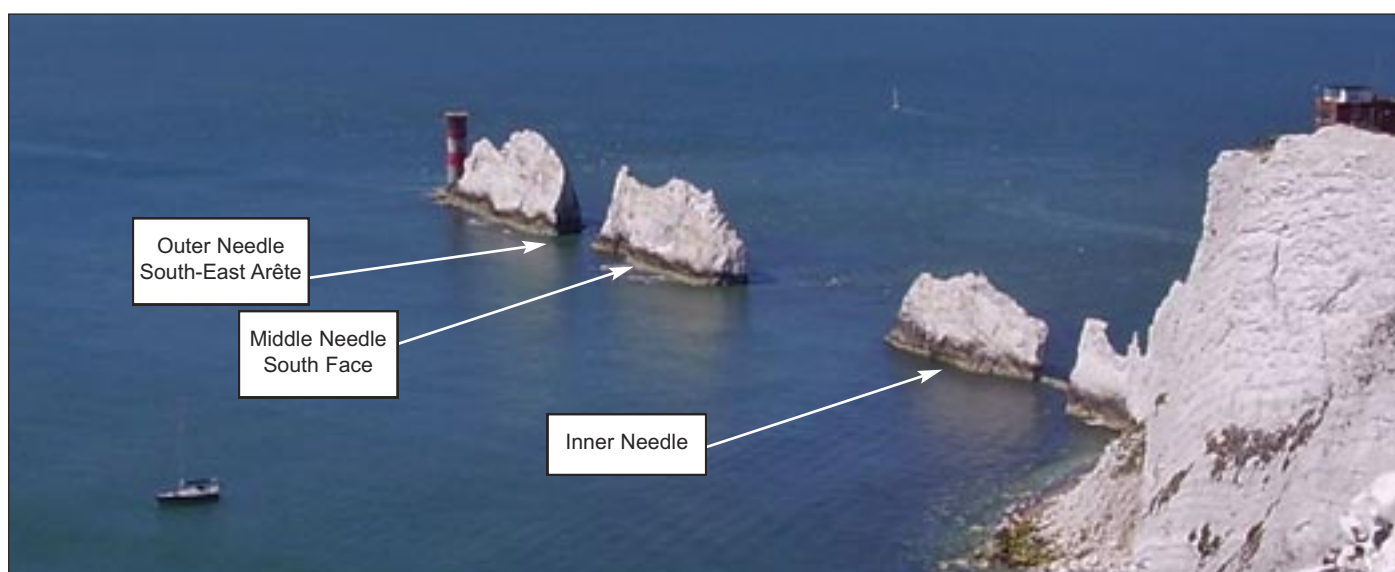
The arête above the lighthouse is climbed with in-situ Victorian steps and ironmongery.

First ascent: Lighthouse workers 19th century.

South-East Arête Sev c24m

Start just west of the true south-east arête and trend right up to the arête. Make an awkward move up a slab and eventually gain easier ground leading to the top.

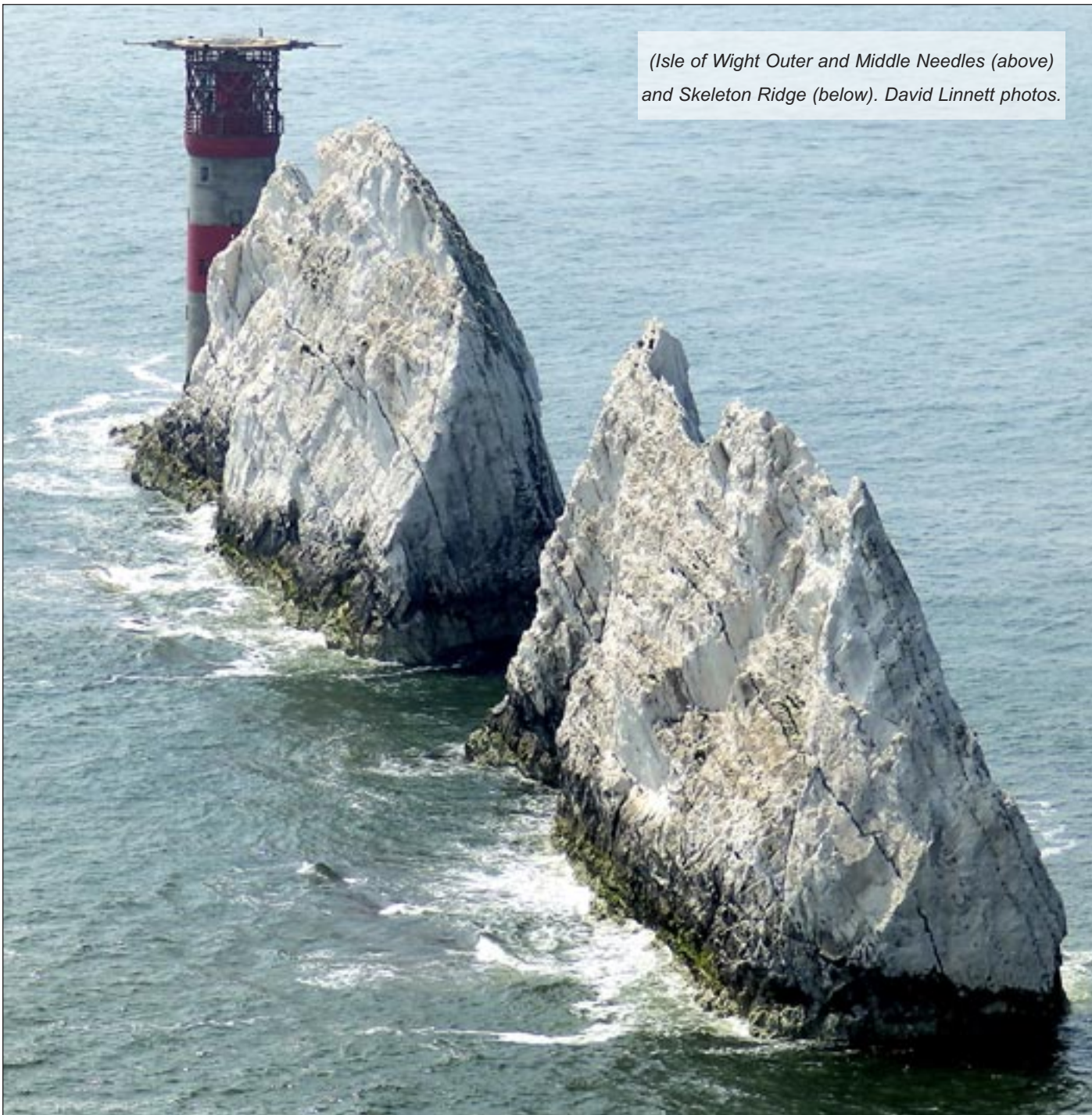
First ascent: Mick Fowler, Jon Lincoln, ~ May 1988.



The Needles – view from the viewpoint near the former experimental rocket testing station. Seen from above Scratchell's Bay.

From left: Outer Needle, Middle Needle, Inner Needle.

(Isle of Wight Outer and Middle Needles (above) and Skeleton Ridge (below). David Linnett photos.)



Freshwater Bay

MR: Sheet 196 347855

The waves broke through the cliff defences here and scooped out Freshwater Bay. Three cliff remnants were left behind in the bay. Now only two remain. Each has a climb. To get to them travel to Freshwater Bay by whatever means you have, and then swim or take a boat to the stacks. A boat is to be preferred because your gear stays dry. Rigging up tyroleans is impractical.

Stag Rock Sev 18m

The most westerly stack. Climb up the left (east) side of the landward face.

First ascent: R Hoare, Jon Lincoln, Nikki Dugan, Mick Fowler, 22 May 1988.

The other stack here, Arch Rock, was climbed on the same day by the same team, but collapsed into the sea a few months later. (Probably from the shock of having its solitude breached by Mr. Fowler's team of stack baggers.)

Bear Rock VS 26m

This is the most easterly and enticing stack in the bay. Start on the south west corner which is approached by boat or a 5c traverse. Climb the edge and trend right at 8m to gain steep grass and the top. Simultaneous abseil descent.

First ascent: Mick Fowler, Nikki Dugan, Jon Lincoln, R Hoare, 22 May 1988.

DORSET

The Isle of Wight chalk resurfaces here as it runs up into a ridge that goes west behind Swanage's well-known limestone sea cliffs. Where these, in turn, give out at Durdle Door the chalk meets the sea again. The chalk stacks though are located at the eastern end of this ridge.

Old Harry Group

In the region of Handfast Point between Swanage and Studland lie six "stacks", though some purists would argue that only three of these are true stacks. The headland of Handfast Point is approached via the coast path from either Swanage or Studland. From the Studland end the first stacks one comes across are the Old Harry group.

Sensible access is by boat, however, either a long walk at low tide from Studland or an abseil from the cliff top will suffice.

Inner Main Stack

MR: Sheet 195 055825. Photo: p18.

More of a small island than a stack, easily approachable at most states of the tide.

Original Route HVS 4a 18m

Start from the right-hand side of the small bay out of sight from the headland. The route climbs 30 feet to a fault-line before moving horizontally left along it and up to the top via some large loose blocks. Descend using a retrievable ice-axe technique (!)

First ascent: Arnis Strapcans, Louise Heinemann, A Henderson, 1979.

Team Teva Sev 18m

This route climbs the scoop in the middle of the north face.

First ascent: Duncan Hornby and Dave Barlow, Sept 1992.



Old Harry Group. Alan Holiday aerial photograph. 23 July 2011. Copied from Southampton University document;
<http://www.southampton.ac.uk/~imw/Harry-Rocks.htm>.

Outer Main Stack Sev 21m

MR: Sheet 195 056826

Like the inner stack this is quite large and equally loose. Two lines have been climbed. The first, starting from a slight bay near the northern corner of the stack required an ice peg for protection. It was looser than the second route which follows the attractive slim ridge (that nearly connects with the Inner Main stack) starting from its outer edge. A stake was left in situ to facilitate an abseil descent.

First ascent: Scott Titt, D. Gunn, 1976 and Richard Crewe, Tim Tanswell, 1976.

Hidden by the Outer Main Stack lies Old Harry's Wife, more of a stub than a stack!

Old Harry's Wife VDiff 8m

MR: Sheet 195 056826

The obvious short stubby thumb of rock alongside Old Harry. Traditionalists will perform a handstand on top.

Old Harry

MR: Sheet 195 056826. Picture: p19, 20

Obscured by the inner stacks lies the impressive Old Harry. Seemingly overhung on all sides and cut off by a deep channel of water, this stack remained inviolate till the adventurous Simon Ballantine took the matter in hand. Without a boat it is a very necky proposition requiring a sound understanding of tides and currents. Even with a boat access and return are very serious.



Old Harry and his latest wife. Image by Cmcqueen at English Wikipedia. A view of Old Harry shot from the north Studland Bay side whilst in a canoe, July 2008 using a Canon Ixus 55.

The Witch's Tit V 23m

This route takes the west face via a combination of free, ice and aid techniques. A tough proposition! Start at the right-hand side of the landward face. Climb up left to follow a very shallow depression directly to a loose finish. Belay using ice screws or lower off down the far side and place pegs. Simultaneous abseil descent.

First ascent. Simon. Ballantine, J. Henderson, May 1986.

Old Harry East Face XS 5c 24m

The second ascent went up the east face and was climbed in two pitches belaying on the obvious pillar where ascensionists are invited to carve their initials. Mick Fowler has graded this route as "High Rocks 5c"! Say no more! (For people unfamiliar with south-east sandstone climbing this means nearer 6a!)

1. 12m 5a. Climb rightwards to skirt overhangs then come back left to a fault leading to an obvious belay ledge.
2. 12m 5c/6a. Climb up the leaning wall on the right to a resting niche then go rightwards over bulges to a loose finish. Belay using ice screws or lower off down the far side and place pegs. Simultaneous abseil descent.

First ascent: Mick Fowler, Chris Newcombe, Mark Lynden, Andy Meyers, 14 May 1987.

Towards Swanage lie the other two stacks both of which it would seem sensible to use a boat to approach though the Tusk has been approached by abseil from the cliff top and a short swim. The pinnacles are quite different in shape and form a magnificent and challenging pair with The Winebottle being a particularly fine specimen.

The Clerk

MR: Sheet 195 053823

This, the easterly pinnacle, gives :-

Press Gang Pinnacle HVS 4c 24m

Climb the easier angled side with interesting and delicate "mixed" climbing. Start on the left edge of the east face. Peg runners are used throughout. Ascend rightwards to a depression, step left out of it then climb directly on loose rock to the summit. Abseil from peg belays placed on the far side.

First ascent: Mick Fowler, Chris Newcombe, 22 Sep 1985.

The Wine Bottle

MR: Sheet 195 053823

The second stack is a most impressively shaped architectural structure and features the very well named Tusk plus another great route called The Plunge.

Detailed access: Access to this stack is dangerous as the tidal currents are strong. A boat is strongly recommended.

The Tusk XS 5b 36m

The narrow westerly pinnacle gives a memorable day out. Start beneath a groove on the west face.

1. 12m 5b. Climb to overhangs at 5m and pull over and up a groove to the lefthand end of the prominent ledge.
2. 24m 5b. Climb the left side of the mainland arête to ledges. Move 3m left to the centre of the face and go up a left-trending crack to the top. Abseil descent from peg belays placed on the far side.

First ascent: Mick Fowler, Andy Meyers, Sonja Vietoris, 9 May 1987.

The Plunge XS 5b 36m

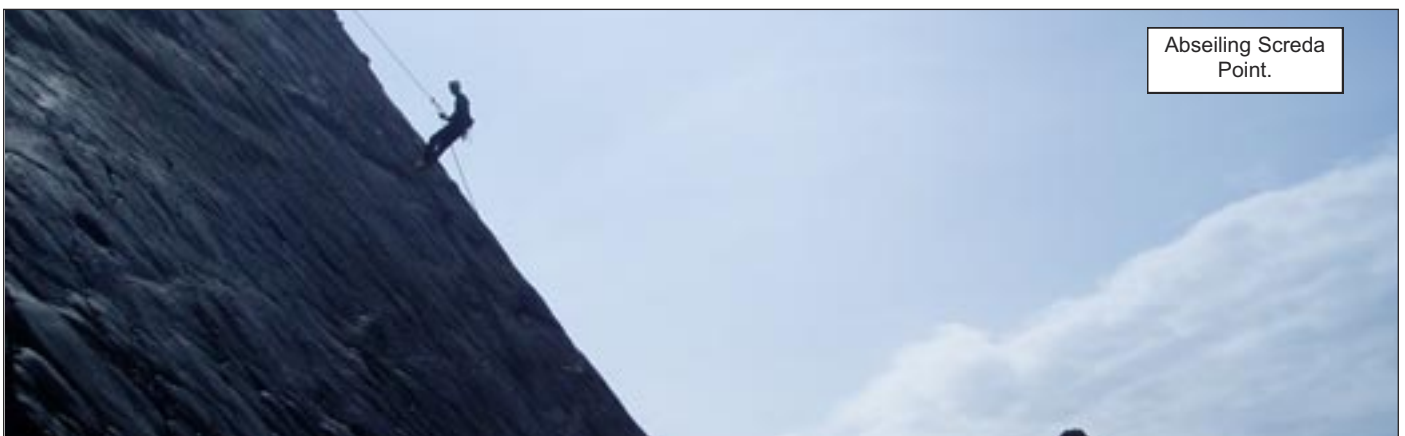
Climbs the groove on the seaward face migrating rightwards onto the arête to finish.

1. 30m 5b. Surmount the initial overhangs either direct or by climbing the groove just to the right and stepping back left. Follow the groove for 30 feet until it is possible to traverse 10 feet right to a ledge. Continue more easily to a good stance on the arête.
2. 6m 4c. Climb the arête to the top surmounting the overhang on the left.

First ascent: Mick Fowler, Duncan Tunstall, 16 July 1988.



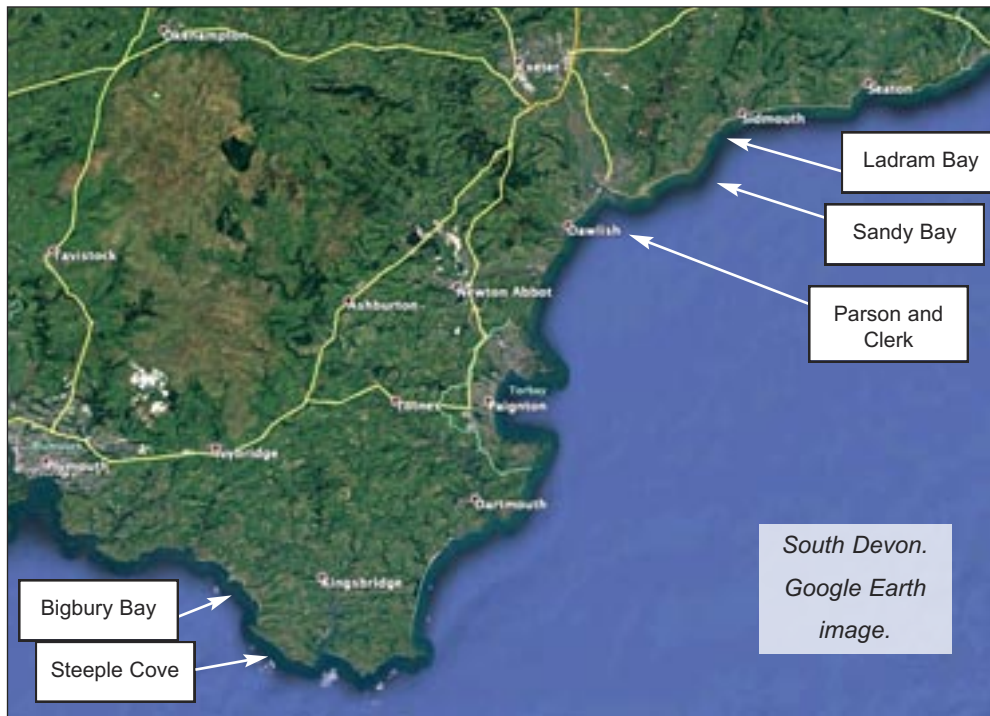
Old Harry.



SOUTH DEVON

South Devon features a string of sandstone stacks dotted along its coast starting with Ladram Bay. This part of the county is a gently rolling plateau with the harsher landscape of Dartmoor to the north. Apart from the limestone of Tor Bay it is generally composed of sandstone.

The stacks in this area tend to be less serious, partly because they are nowhere near so remote than the Scottish ones to the north or the chalky horrors of Dorset.



LADRAM BAY

MR: Sheet 192 105857; map: above, p22. Photo: p323.

The stack centre of south Devon. It is akin to a polar glacier spawning icebergs. Like Blackchurch Rock these sandstone stacks are accessible at low tide but cut off at high tide. So they are not that serious, apart from the Bonetti Tower at E2 and The Parson at E3. They are situated offshore near the village of Otterton.

The first ascent details show famous names such as Peter Biven and Keith Darbyshire. Descents are generally by simultaneous abseil. Running from north to south (or east to west!) we have:

Big Picket Rock

This is the most eastern of the stacks and is about half a mile east of Ladram. The setting is marvellous as there are 150m high cliffs on the coast with this pinnacle set in front of them.

Detailed access: At low tide you can walk across to the stack. Your return will probably involve a paddle or worse.

Big Picket * HVS 42m

Scramble up to a ledge and belay below a cave and chimney in the west face. You may need pegs and a pen.

1. 18m. Go up leftwards using ledges then move rightwards to a cave.
2. 9m 4c. Ascend from the cave, then go right to a steep wall with peg protection and featuring cut holds (somebody bottled out). Move round the arête to a ledge which goes right to a stance.
3. 15m 4a. Go leftwards to reach ledges leading via a corner to the summit, passing an in-situ angle iron on the way. There is a visitors' book at the top hidden in plastic bags. Descent is by simultaneous abseil.

First ascent: Peter Biven, Keith Darbyshire, I. Fowler, November 1971.



Ladram Bay and stacks. From Google Earth image.

Lost World HSev 18m

Moving west we reach a stack called Lost World. There is a nose on the south side. Start on its south.

1. 9m. Go up a steep wall, moving left at its top past a very old 6 inch nail and reach a large shelf.
2. 9m. A corner crack leads to slopes which lead, in turn, to the summit vegetation.

First ascent: Peter Biven, J. Fowler, A. Ohyskievich, November 1971.

Bonetti Tower E2 24m

Close to Lost World is the Bonetti Tower, 24m of fun.

1. 12m. Go up a slab on the seaward face and belay below a corner.
3. 12m. The corner - which used to be aided.

First ascent: Keith Darbyshire, A Onyskievich, Peter Biven, November 1971.

The Razor HSev 27m

1. 6m. Go up a short wall by the arête on the seaward side.
2. 12m. Move left, perhaps on your abdomen, and ascend a wall to big ledges (Potential abseil point.).
3. 9m. The corner leads to an earthy slope which leads to the top. Best abseil from the big ledges.

First ascent: J. Fowler, A Onyskievich, 1971.

Tower Of Babel Sev 15m

As is usual now start at the bottom of the seaward side.

1. 9m, Go up a steep wall, nail for aid (!) and move left onto a big ledge and belay.
2. 6m. Take the corner to the top.

First ascent: J. Fowler, Keith Darbyshire, Peter Biven, 1971.

Ladram Lady VDiff 18m

It could be a good idea to approach by boat and step onto the seaward face.

1. 18m. Climb a wall for 5m feet to a ledge. Now go left until you can scramble up mud slopes to the top.

First ascent: J. Fowler, 1968. (Presumably he reversed it!)

Chocolate Finger VS 24m

The climb begins on the south side near a nose.

1. 15m. Go up via ledges to a large ledge about 15m up.
2. 9m. Go up the wall to the top.

First ascent: Peter Biven, I. Fowler, 1971.

Sandy Bay

MR: Sheet 192 036798. Map: p21.

This stack is on the west side of twin-headed Straight Point, which projects into the sea between Exmouth, to the west, and Budleigh Salterton, to the east. It has a large caravan holiday park behind it. Sandy Bay beach runs from Budleigh Salterton, narrowing towards Straight Point. The stack is, in fact, an arch with an adjacent stack and a chimney between them. You traverse from Sandy Bay east of Straight Point to these stacks on the west side of Straight Point. Mid-tide or lower is needed for this traverse.

Kamin Number 5 VDiff 15m

15m. Climb the chimney between the two stacks summiting on either of the two. Expect no protection. Now for the fun bit. The descent is by simultaneous abseil from the higher summit going over the natural arch. Outrageous! You can talk to each other on the way down.

First ascent: Keith Darbyshire, J. Fowler, 1972.

Simul abseil, Kamin Number 5. David Linnett photo.

The Parson And The Clerk

MR: Sheet 192960747. Map p21.

A cliff runs from Dawlish to Teignmouth and the large stack of The Parson is by this cliff. The Clerk is a little way offshore and requires a boat or confidence in your swimming. The Parson is at the end of a headland and needs a little expedition to get to it.

Detailed access: Go along a lane running to the sea southwards of this headland. You come to a railway tunnel. It is 213m long. (Go back to the car and get the torch). Walk through the tunnel and abseil from an embankment to the beach.

Now you can traverse to the bottom of The Parson, but it is not over yet. Climb the cliff on the landward side of it to a ledge with a spike. From here lasso another spike on The Parson. This enables you to traverse out to the seaward face and start the climb which is a tough little number.



The Parson E3 43m

There is loose rock, not over generous protection, and a missing belay. This is a serious proposition.

1. 15m. Go up the seaward arête to ledges below a large overhang.
2. 15m. Go right to a mud slope, christened the Brown Spider, below a corner. Climb the corner to saddle where there is no belay. As soon as the second commences climbing it now becomes as dangerous as soloing.
3. 12m. The wall above brings you to the summit. Leap across to the mainland.

First ascent: Keith Darbyshire, Peter Biven, J. Fowler, S. Nicholls, 1971.

The Clerk Sev 16m

Note the hole about 12m up the stack.

1. 12m. Go up the south west arête to a shoulder where the hole is to be found. Thread belay.
2. 6m. Go up the arête to the top.

First ascent: J. Fowler, 1974.

Steeple Cove

MR: Sheet 202 705637. Map: p21.

The Steeple stack is near Salcombe between Bolt Head and Bolt Tail.

Detailed access: No further information.

The Steeple Sev 24m

The rock is loose and poor quality. Ascend a wall behind the boulder bridge and move right onto the seaward face and so to the top. Descent by abseil presumably.

First ascent: Keith Darbyshire, J. Fowler, Peter Biven, 1970.

Soar Mill Cove

MR: Sheet 202 705637

This stack is c320m south-east from Soar Mill Cove. You can get down to the beach via a gully opposite the stack and then cross a boulder bridge to reach a platform on the stack's seaward face.

Erotica HSev 23m

This is fairly serious for hard severe. Ascend a groove on the right to reach a niche at which point you go left and then climb straight up to the top. Simultaneous abseil descent which is not usually a feature of severe climbs. *Do not attempt this unless you are an experienced abseiler.*

First ascent: J. Fowler, S. Fowler, S. Bell, 16 January 1977.

Bigbury Bay

MR: Sheet 202 659434. Map: p21. Photos: this page, p25.

A pinnacle, BAntham Hand, lies between Thurlestone and Bantham on the east side of the estuary. Access it at mid to low tide.

Bantham Hand VS 9m

The north face provides a steep slab which is ascended via a depression in the middle of the face, reached from the right. Now go right to the ridge leading to the top.

First ascent: J. Fowler, S. Nicholls, C. Gibson, 1974.

Climber on top of Bantham Hand.

David Linnett photo.



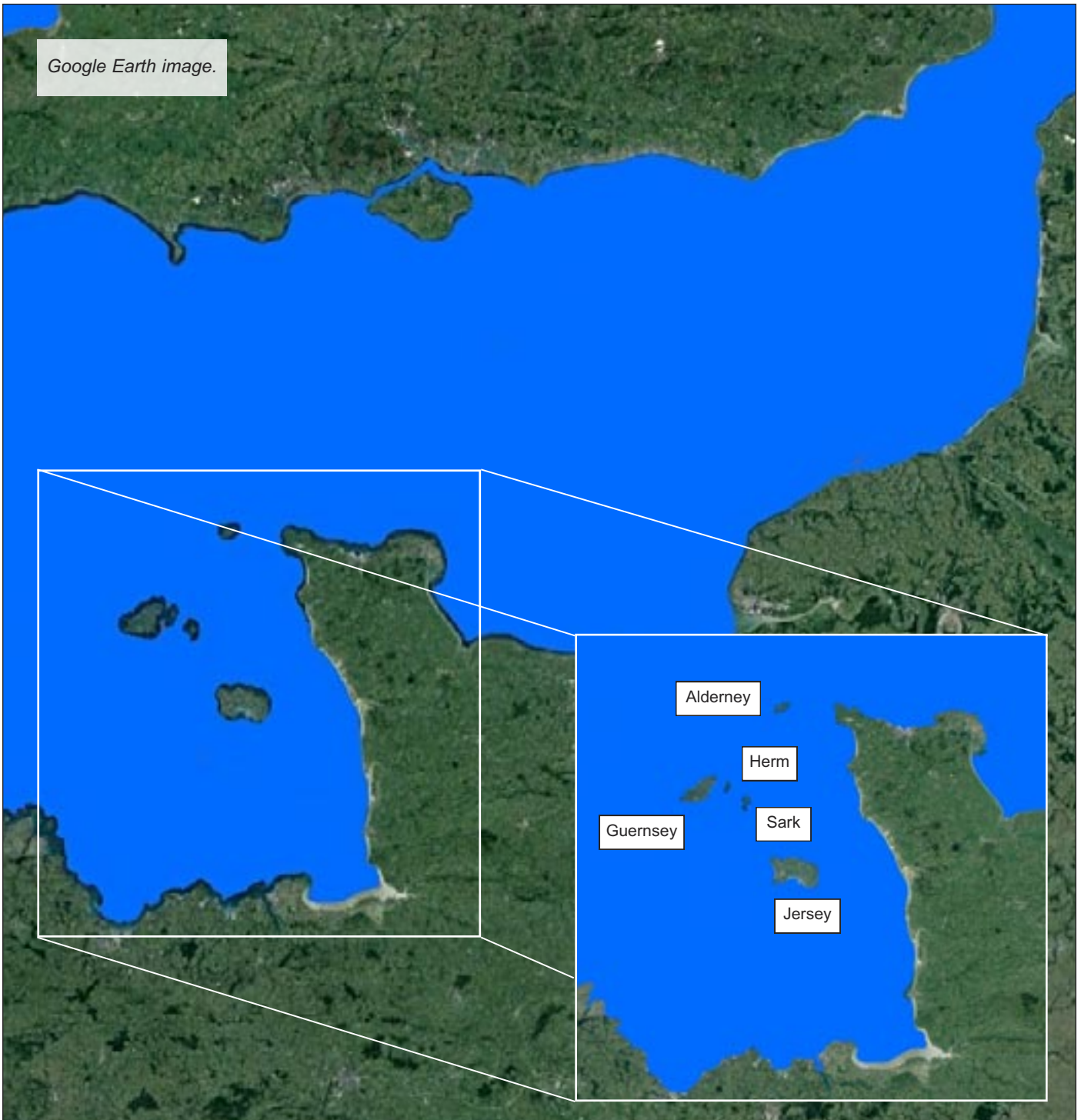
*Bantham Hand.
David Linnett photo.*



CHANNEL ISLANDS

Map: below

A group of islands located between England and France. The source text and photo diagrams have been produced by Steve Le Feuvre, a local activist, and GSV Trad author James Burton.



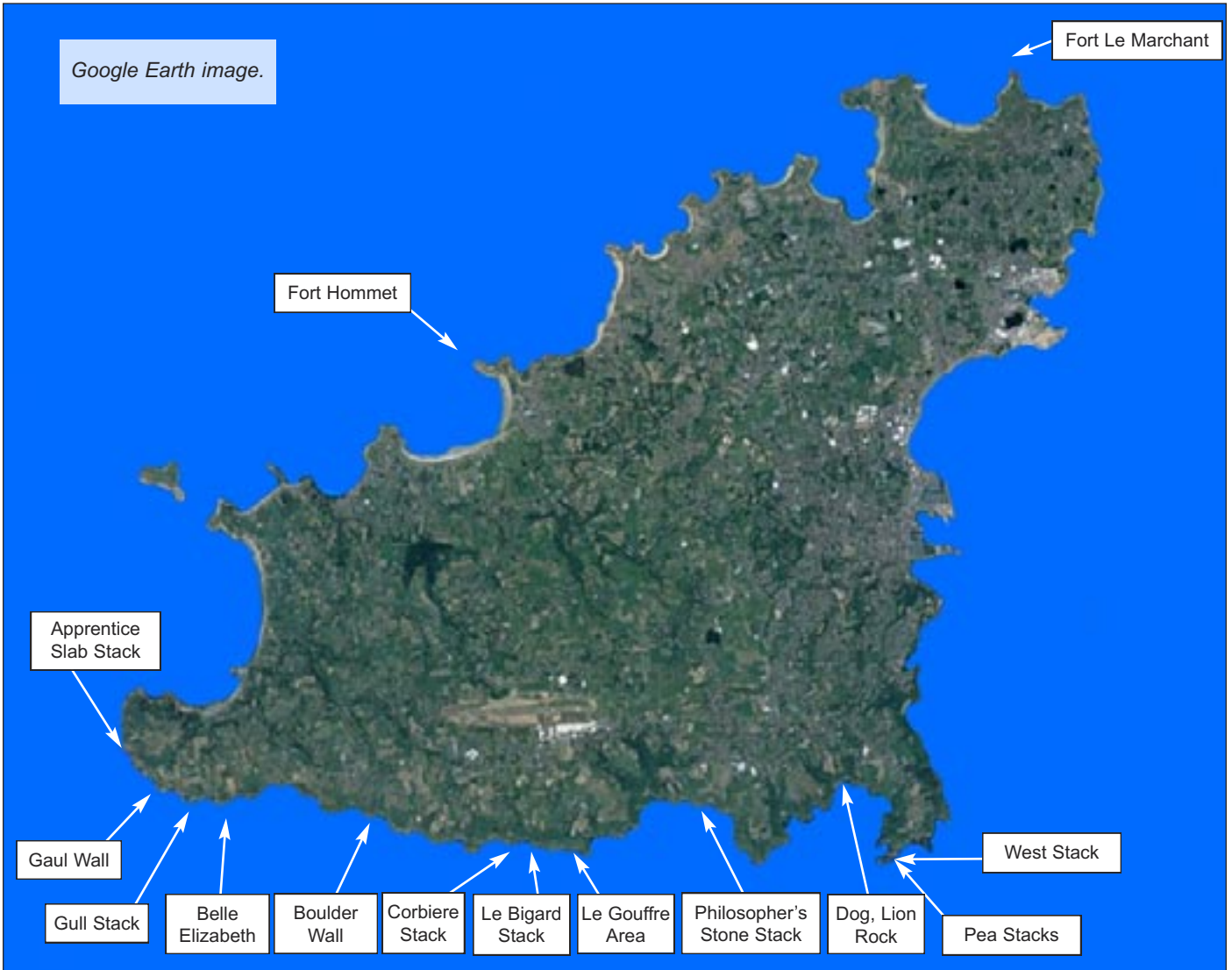
There are five main islands; Alderney, Guernsey, Herm, Sark and Jersey.

We'll cover Guernsey first.

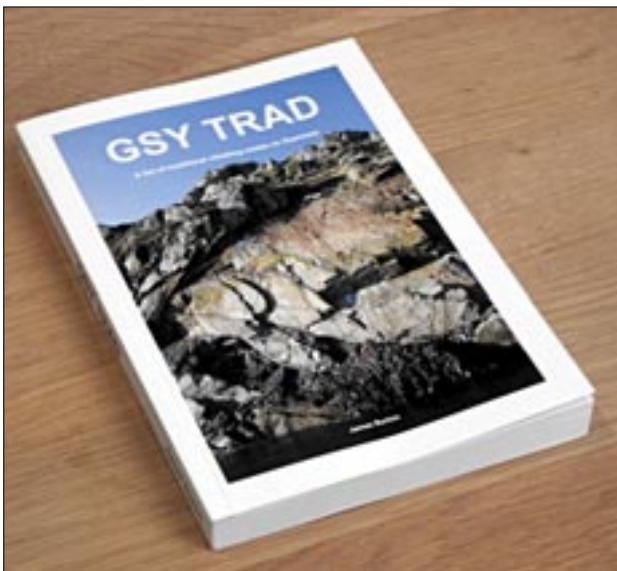
GUERNSEY

Map: below

The second biggest of the Channel Islands. It has several stacks along its south coast. Guernsey has its own climbing guidebook, the excellent GSY Trad written by James Burton. It costs £25 + P&P from Needle Sports.



North Coast - Fort Le Marchant



Fort Le Marchant is an old fortification on the north coast of Guernsey. It is located on the east side of L'Ancrese Common at Vale. A red flag indicates the rifle range is being used. There are two stacks north of it and two to its side.

Plomb Roque

Plomb Rocque is the largest stack north of Fort Le Marchant. There are climbs on its east, south and north sides.

Type Sev

No description. Have fun finding it.

First ascent: C. Harvey, T. Harvey, date unknown.

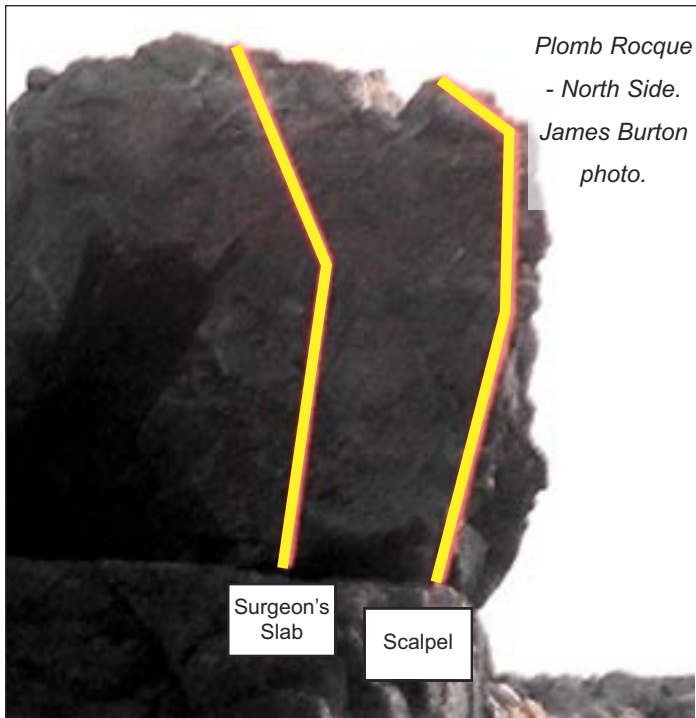
Fort Le Marchant. Google Earth image.

Plomb
Rocque

Small
Stack

Scaff's
Stack





Surgeon's Slab VDiff

Climb the short slab on the far north side.

First ascent: Unknown.

Scalpel VS 4c

Climb the arête at the at the right-hand end of the slab.

First ascent: Unknown.

Side-Step Sev 33m

Start at the foot of Scalpel and traverse rightwards along an obvious crack.

First ascent: A.Hill (solo), 4 September 1989.

Erazor HVS 5a 12m

Start 6m right of Scalpel, at the right-hand end of the ledge. Climb to the bulge (Friend 1.5), move right a few feet then ascend the slab.

First ascent: A. Hill, L. Broad, 4 September 1989.

Unknown Name HVS 5a

Climb directly up the rounded arête to the right and finish up the Erazor slab.

First ascent: C. Harvey, S. Humphries, 12 May 2002.

Rugosity Wall HSev 4b

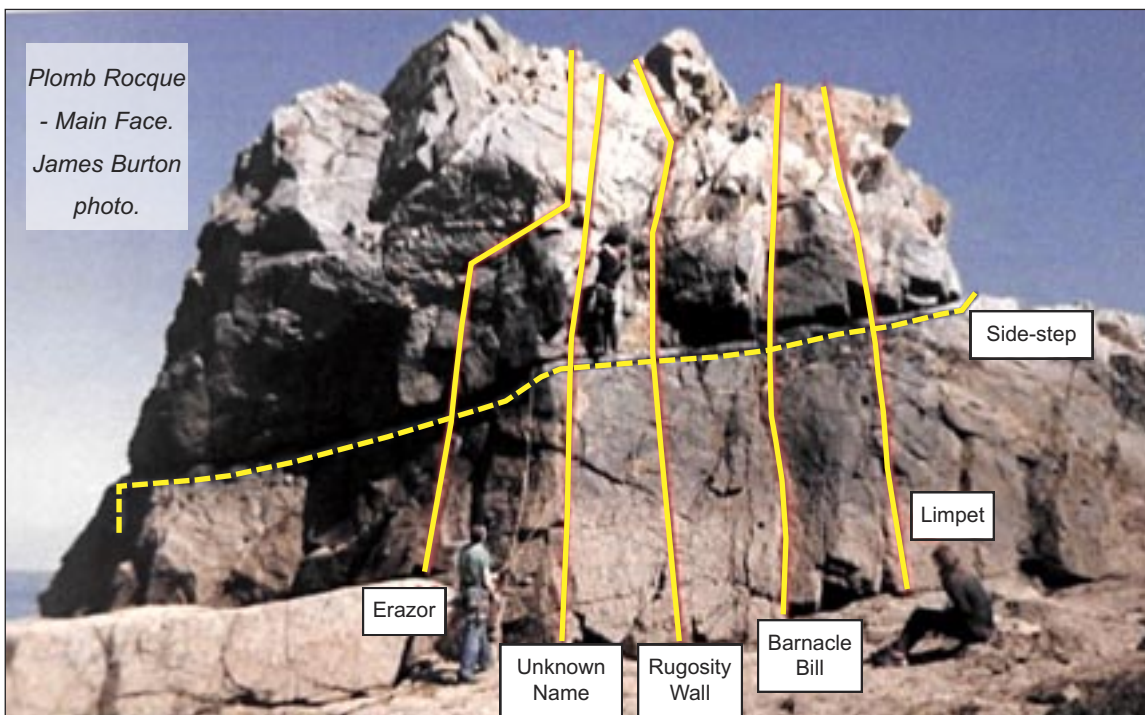
Start beneath the east-facing wall and climb straight up a steep grey slab. Get over a ledge and bulge to finish up a groove.

First ascent: Unkown.

Barnacle Bill VS 4c

The top has been destroyed by a rockfall. Over to the right you find a small rock pool. Climb the corner above this, and continue up the overhanging corner above the ledge.

First ascent: Unknown.

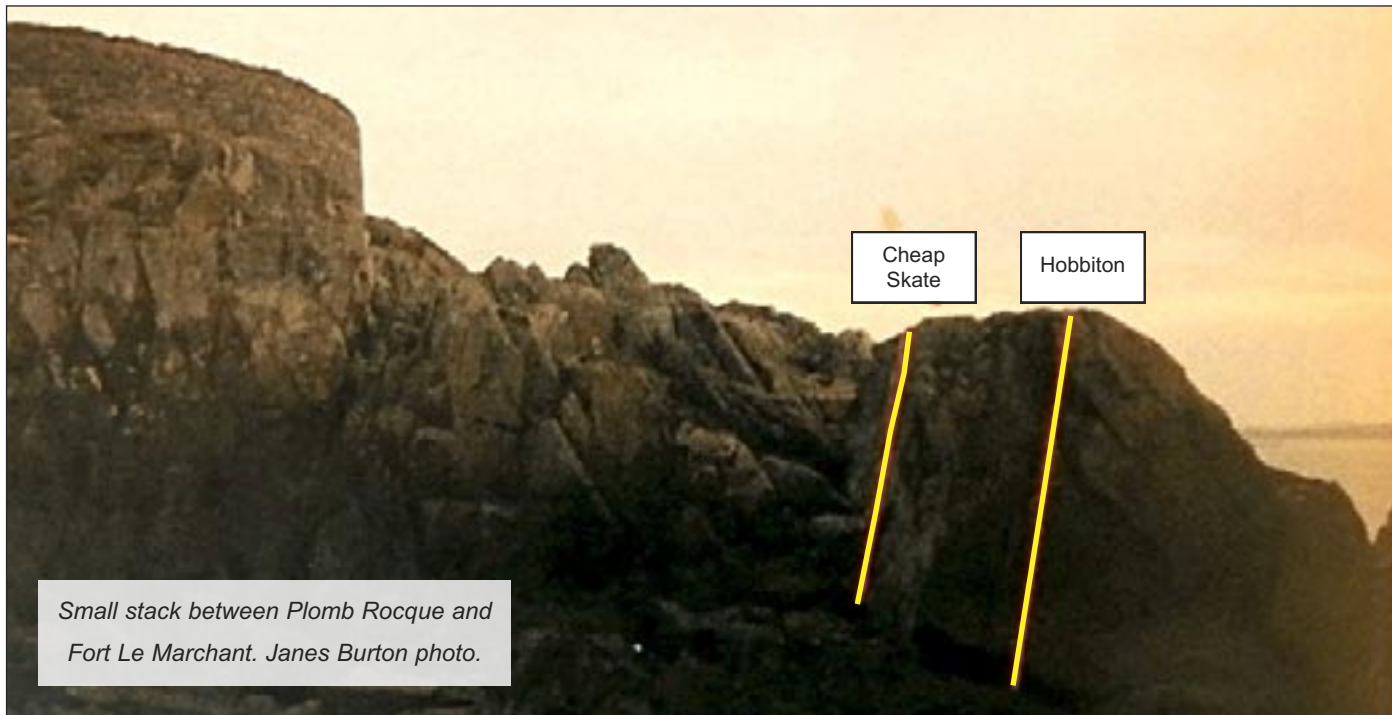


Limpet VDiff

Climb a faint groove and wall 2m to the right.

First ascent: Unknown.

There is a small stack between Plomb Rocque and Fort Le Marchant.



Hobbiton Mod/Diff

Follow the crack on the north (facing Plomb Rocque) face.

First ascent: Steve Giles (solo), September 2006.

Cheap Skate Sev/HSev 4b

Climb the crack on the east face, finding the crux at the start.

First ascent: Steve Giles, Dan Yabsley, September 2006.

Travelling Man Sev/HSev 4b

Climb the crack on the south (facing Fort Le Marchant) side of the stack.

First ascent: Steve Giles, Dan Yabsley, September 2006.

Two stacks are located below Fort Le Marchant. The large one, Scaff's Stack is directly west of the smaller one.

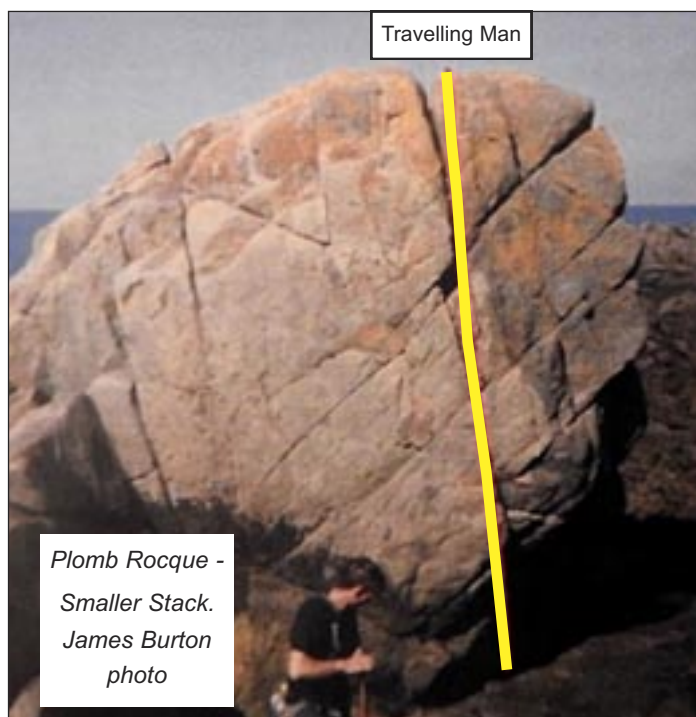
Scaff's Stack

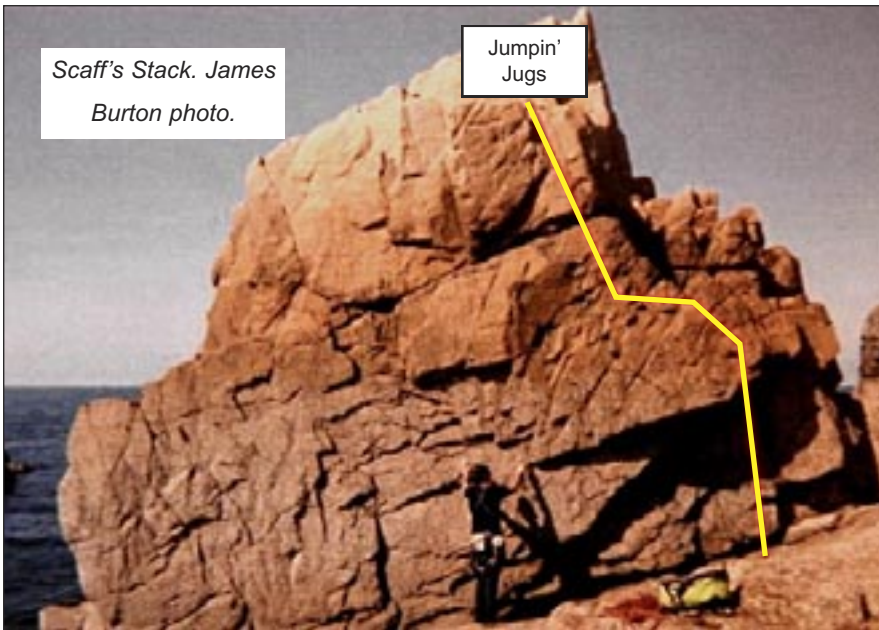
The car park face is half covered with barnacles.

Jumpin Jugs VDiff

Jump up to gain a jug. Pull up on to the ledge. Move left onto the wall, finishing up a cracked/juggy groove.

First ascent: Chris Jackson, James Burton, 6 April 2015.





Scaff's Stack. James Burton photo.

Jumpin' Jugs

Un-named Stack south of Fort Le Marchant

There is a small stack to the south of Fort Le Marchant. It has no name.

Unknown Name

This route ascends the north face.

First ascent: C. Harvey, T. Harvey, date unknown.

Fort Hommet

There are stacks just west of the Fairy Caves on the north side of the Fort Hommet headland. Find the next climb on the southerly stack.



Unknown Name

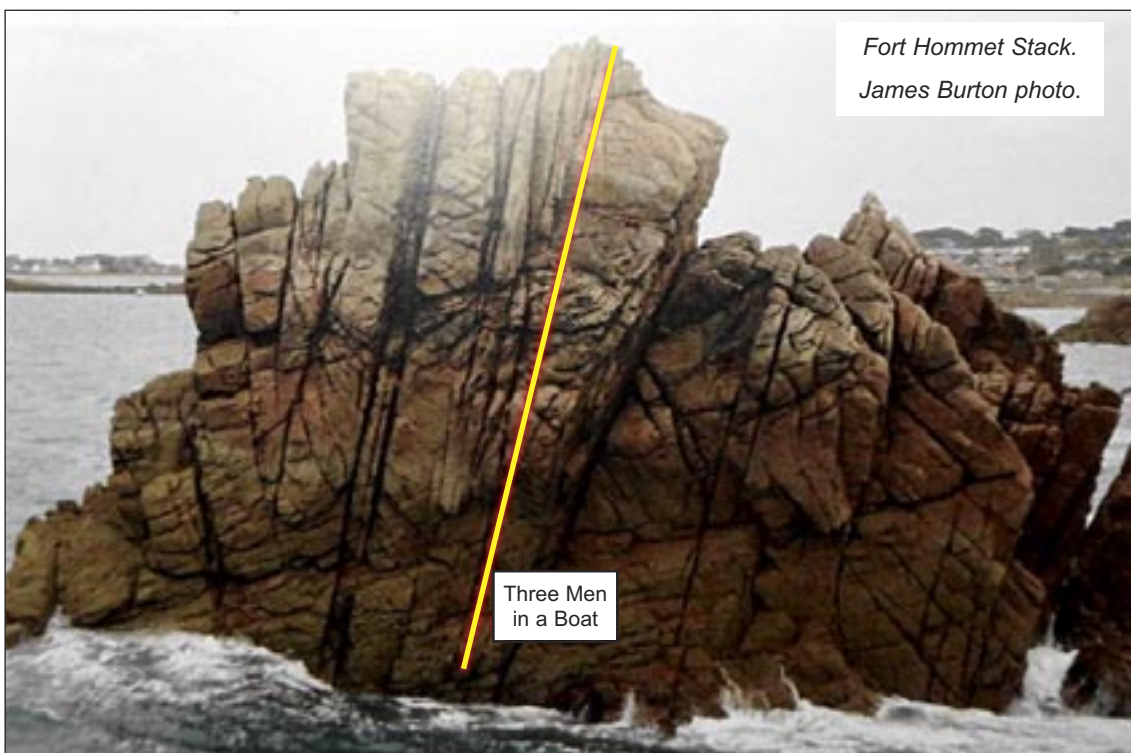
Un-named Stack south of Fort Le Marchant. James Burton photo.

Three Men in a Boat Diff 7m

This route climbs the north face. It is the longest route up the face. Start on a ledge to the left of a left-facing corner, and climb through a horizontal crack to reach a series of ledges leading to the summit.

First ascent: Chris Harvey, Matt Harvey, January 2008.

A further 5 or 6 new routes are possible on these stacks.



Fort Hommet Stack. James Burton photo.

Three Men in a Boat

South Coast - Pleinmont Point

Pleinmont Point is the westernmost point of Guernsey. Apprentice Slab is referred to by the Guernsey climbing community as a stack, so we shall do the same. Locate Pleinmont Tower on the point and park your vehicle in the car park underneath it or on the side of the road leading to the tower.

Apprentice Slab Stack

This is 33m high and there are five climbs on the slab; three diffs, a severe and a hard severe. It is possible to climb all five routes in a single visit if you are quick. The slab is accessible after half tide.

Detailed access; Walk downhill from the car park to join the cliff top path. Now walk east (left facing the sea) along this path until just before it turns to head back towards the road. Make your way south towards the sea and down the slope to a narrow coupee. Cross this onto the top of a cliff called Main Wall and scramble down an easy slab on the south side of this to a platform. Go across a gully to Apprentice Slab

White Star Diff 17m

Climb the left-hand arête to belay left of and below the summit.

First ascent: Unknown.

Greased Knobs HSev/VS 18m

Climb the black corner at the left-hand side of the slab and over its capping overhang to belay as for White Star.

First ascent: Mark Page, John Addy, 2001.



Apprentice Slab. Climbers in the central line are on Greased Knobs while the ones on the right are ascending Meteor. James Burton photo.

Greased Knobs Variation Sev 18m

Step right from underneath the overhang and then go up and leftwards, following the Meteor groove to the belay.

First ascent: Mark Page, John Addy, 2001.

Meteor Diff 21m

Climb up a groove which trends left to the White Star belay area.

First ascent: Unknown.

Red Shift Diff 33m

Ascend the red-veined slab on the right, finishing direct up the bulge or traverse left below it.

First ascent: Unknown.

Herpin Rock Area

Herpin Rock, named for the rock off shore, is located at the western end of the south coast. There are several climbing areas on the cliffs here, but we are only interested in the western area, Gaul Wall, where there is a small stack which has eight routes on it. Access is dependent upon the tide and the rock usually dries 2 to 3 hours after high tide.

Gaul Wall Stack

Detailed access; See picture below. There is a car park by the motorbike scrambling circuit. Park here for Gaul Wall. Walk straight down the cliff and, tide permitting, find an easy descent between two spurs of rock. Make an easy scramble down to the base of Gaul Wall and access the small stack in front of it.



Unknown Name Sev 12m

Step off the large boulder and climb straight up the wall.

First ascent: A. Hill (solo), 24 March 1990.

Vital Statistix HVS 5b 12m

Ascend the short corner 2m left of Obelix.

First ascent: A. Hill, C. Jordan, J. Moss, 6 November 1988.

Obelix HVS 5a 12m

This route climbs the east side of the stack and is difficult to start. Locate a corner above a water-filled undercut. Climb this up to a crack and so to the summit.

First ascent: Paul Torode, Alan Hill, 6 May 1985.

Dogmatix HVS 5b 12m

Climb the arête above a shallow pool 2m right of Obelix.

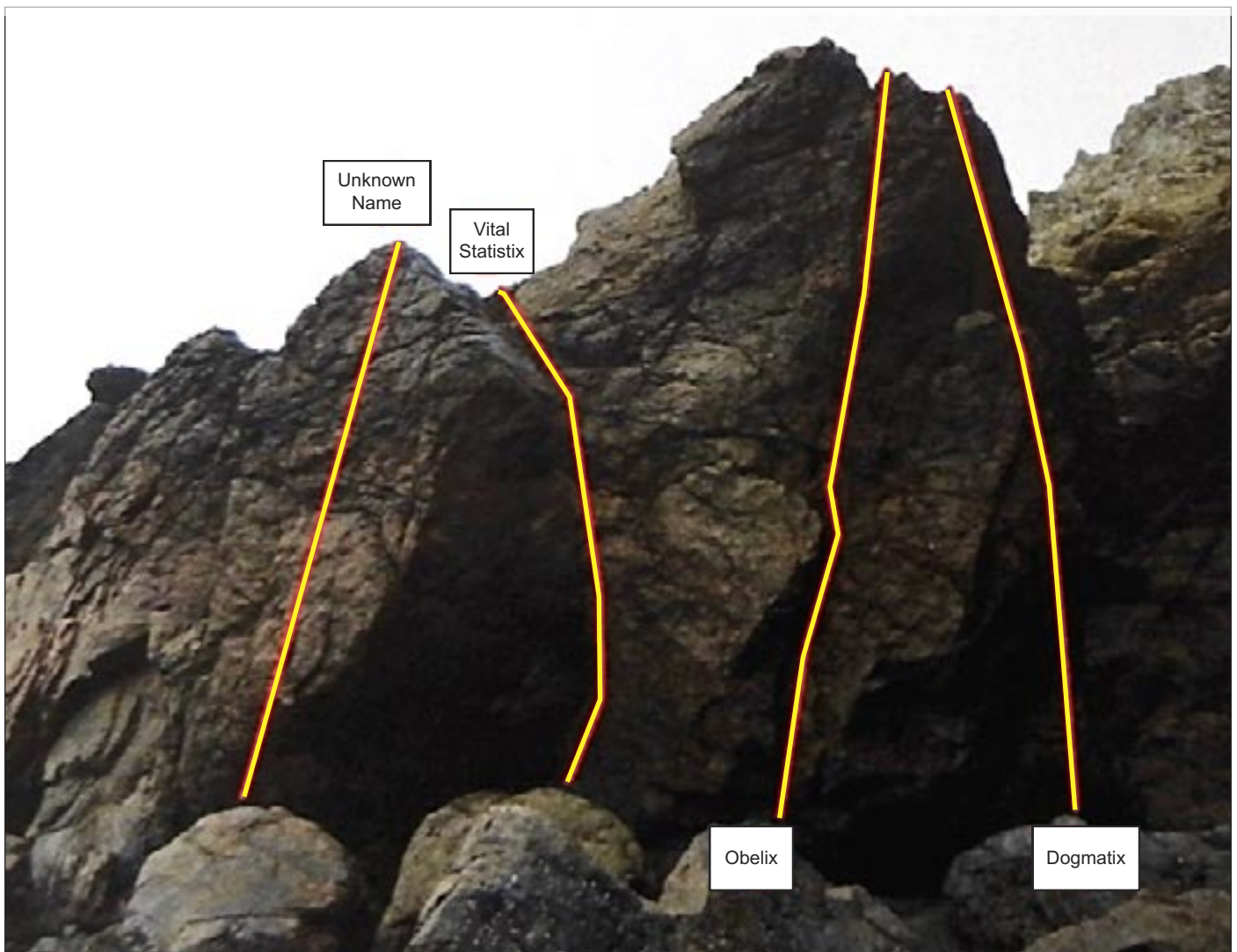
First ascent: A. Hill (solo), 6 November 1988.

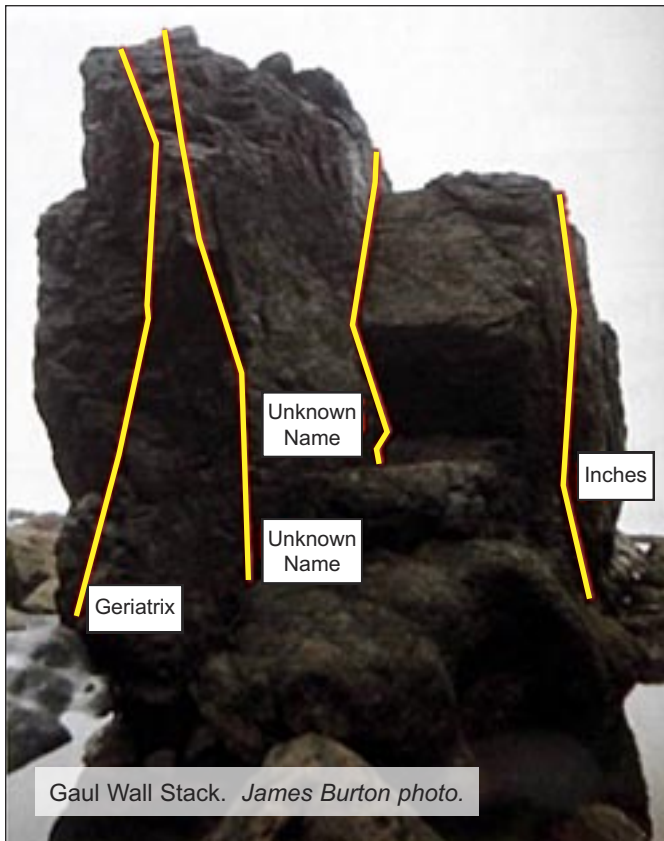
Geriatrix HVS 5a 12m

Climb the face almost 3m right of Dogmatix to a groove, finishing up an arête.

First ascent: A. Hill, J. Moss, 6 November 1988.

Gaul Wall Stack. James Burton photo.





Unknown Name (2) HVS 5a 9m

Start up and right of Geriatric, and follow the blunt arête.

First ascent: A. Hill, S. Maugher, 7 October 1989.

Unknown Name (3) VDiff 8m

Ascend the distinct elbow-shaped corner to the right.

First ascent: D. Hurdley (solo), 17 October 1989.

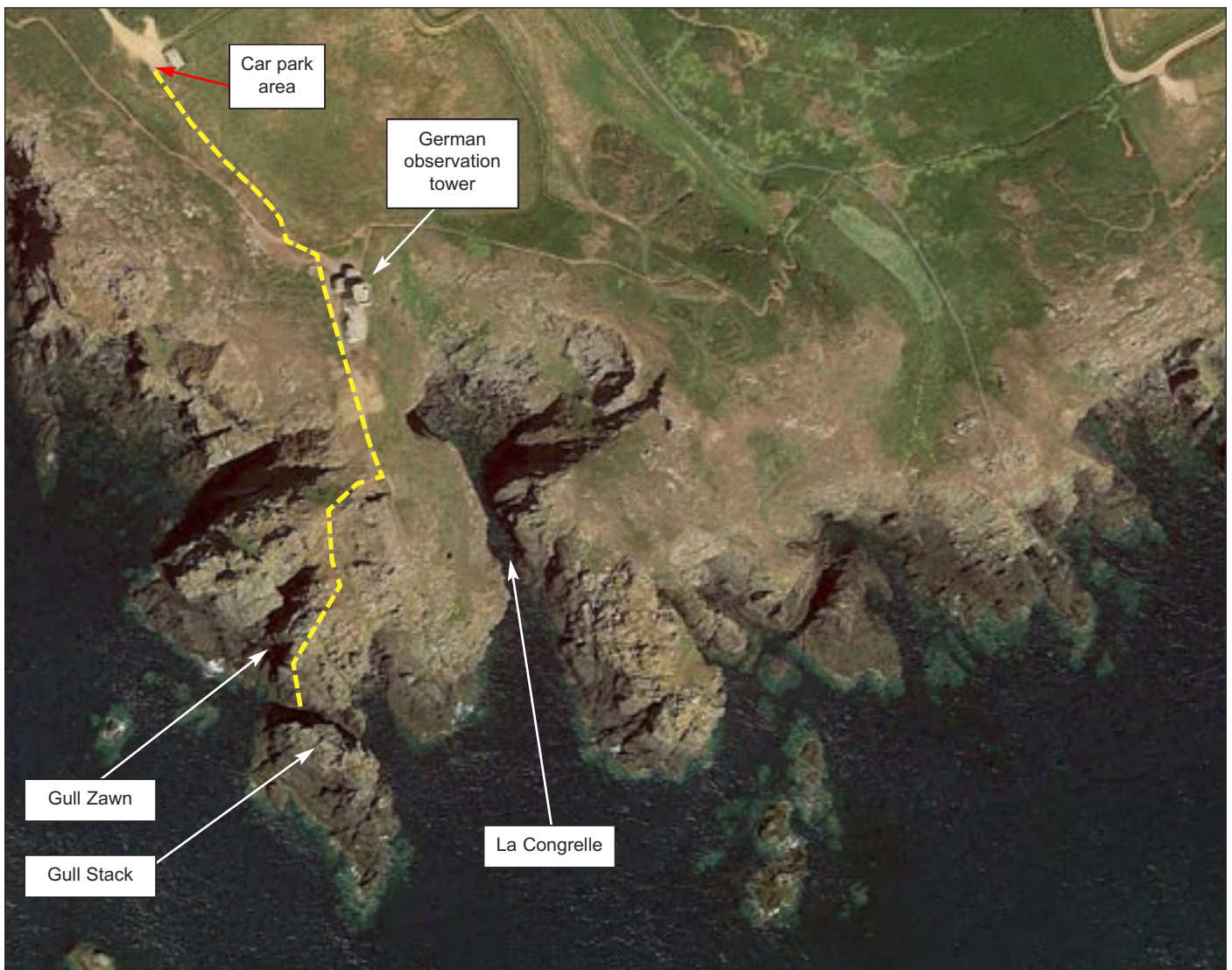
Inches E2 5b

The crack line in the centre of the stack's west face.

First ascent: Steve Giles, Dan Herve, April 2000.

Gull Stack

Gull Stack is south of Pleinmont, where there are German observation towers, one to the west and one to the south south-east, which is the one we want. Take a turning south from the Rue du Chemin le Roi, and drive to a parking area by a gun emplacement. Go eastwards along a path and down to the observation tower. Now head south towards Gull Zawn, reaching a small quarried area. Go round this to the right, and down towards the zawn, across



Gull Stack access from Google Earth.

steepish slopes, to make an abseil from the zawn's left-hand side looking out. Alternatively go right of the zawn and scramble down a slope to its entrance. You can make your way across the gully to Gull Stack at low to half tide.

The stack's landward face is dominated by a full height central corner, ascended by April Shower. Dune climbs a wall and arête on the right. Arthur Fairweather climbs the right arête of the corner while Typhoon ascends the corner's right wall. After the Flood goes up the corner then across its left wall, while Mistral climbs its left arête, both finishing on a ledge below the top of the stack.

Dune VS 4c c20m

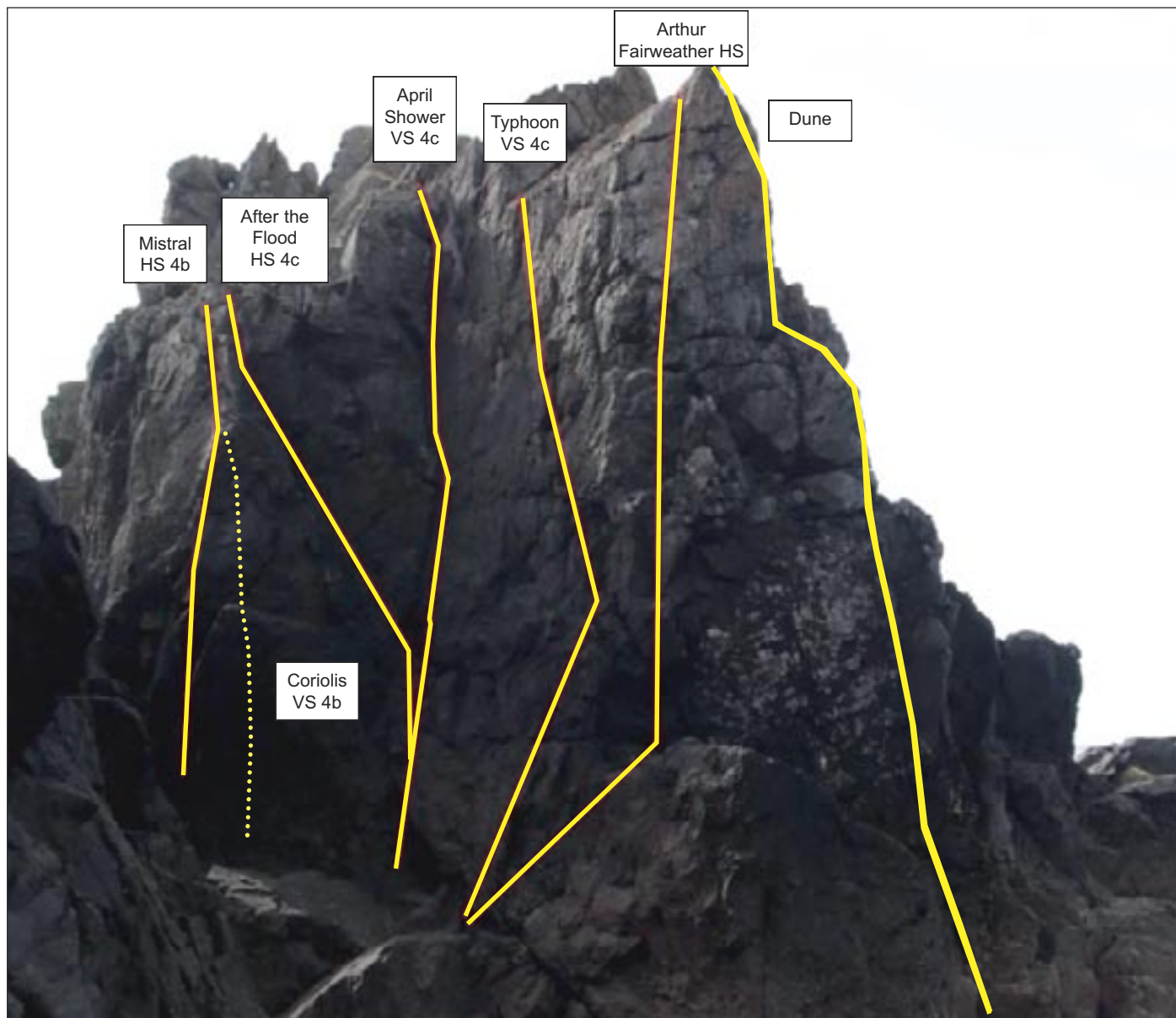
Locate a white speckled wall below the arête at the right-hand side of the stack. There is a groove on the right-hand side of this. Climb awkwardly to the groove, go up it and gain a ledge by stepping left to a short crack. Now climb the arête to the top.

First ascent: A. Hill, P. Gorman, 21 May 1988.

Arthur Fairweather * HSev 18m

Enjoyable but protection can be scarce. Start from the right-hand end of the ledge below the corner. Climb up and right to a sloping ledge and then ascend the arête left of the speckled wall finishing in the centre of the wall.

First ascent: Paul Torode, Alan Winstanley, Andrew Crebere, 4 May 1985.



Gull Stack route lines. Picture from http://www.gmc.org.gg/o/Pictures/gullstack_topoA.jpg. Coriolis line is very approximate.

Typhoon * VS 4c 15m

More enjoyment. Start as just left of Arthur Fairweather and go up to the edge of a sandy-coloured overlap. Ascend the sharp flakes forming the overlap's edge.

First ascent: Alan Hill, Simon Roland, 11 November 1984.

April Shower VS 4c 17m

Climb the enjoyable corner crack which is difficult to reach.

First ascent: Arthur Collins, Alan Hill, 24 April 1984.

After the Flood HSev 4c 15m

Start at the bottom of the corner as for April Shower and go up and across the left wall following a ramp.

First ascent: Pete Gorman, Alan Hill, 19 May 1984.

Coriolis VS 4b 17m

Locate Mistral and its quartz vein. Climb a corner right of this to reach a ledge, then climb up to join Mistral, finishing up that climb.

First ascent: A. Hill, P. Borman, 21 May 1988.

Mistral HSev 4b 17m

Where you jump across the gully there is a quartz seam. Climb up it to reach a sort of arête and go up this to a big ledge.

First ascent: Unknown.

Belle Elizabeth

This area is located between Mont Herault and Les Tielles. There are four stacks here; Pharaoh Stack, Little Stack, Loose Stack and Dry Tool Stack.

Access; GSY Trad tells us to locate the Mallard Cinema at Rue De La Villiaze, Guernsey GY8 0HG. It is north-east of Les Heches on the Rue des Prés. South of Les Heches locate the Rue de Manor and head west towards Pleinmont. The road eventually becomes the Rue de Pleinmont. Keep on this until the last left turn, Rue de Mont Herault, before it goes downhill into La Rue Des Portelettes.

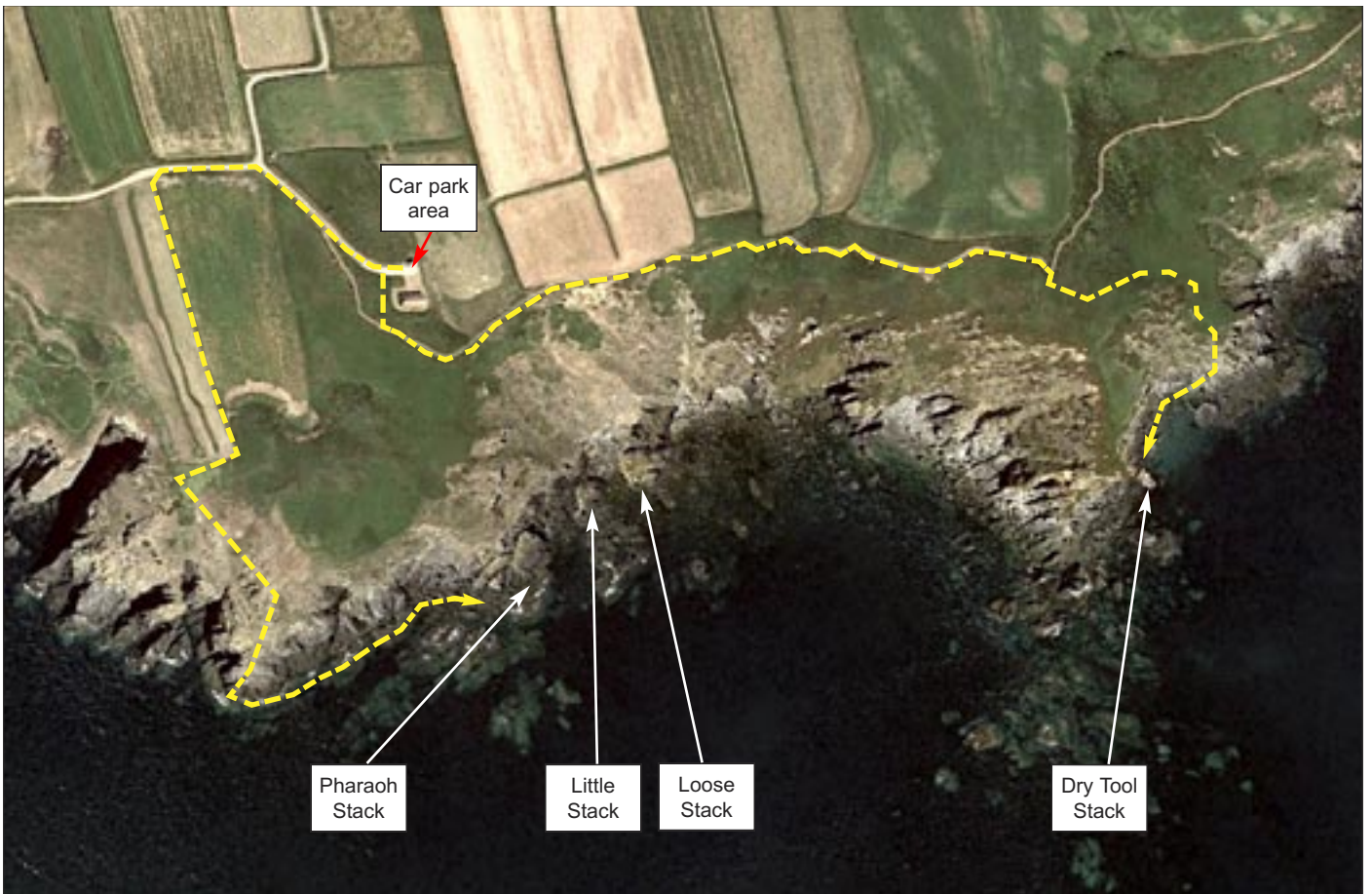
Go along the Rue de Mont Herault to its end to find a car park at the Mont Herault Watch House. Little Stack, Pharaoh Stack and Loose Stack can be reached by following tracks north-west, then west, and then south along the eastern boundary of two long thin fields. Walk down to the bottom of the two fields and find a small slope. Go down to the bottom of this and take a track passing through undergrowth towards the sea.

Once past the shrubbery head down slightly eastwards then follow the ridge down to the sea. Make an awkward step down to get on to the platforms under the main area at Mont Herault. Scramble eastward around the base of the crags to reach the stacks.

Pharaoh Stack is first with Little Stack and Loose Stack next. Dry Tool Stack is reached by taking a path eastwards from the car park. Walk about 350m to a point where the path makes a 90° bend inland. Take a track to the right through sloe bushes, down through kaffir fig, then more sloe bushes and reach the remains of a dry stone wall. Go along the line of this down to the east side of a small bay east of Belle Elizabeth. Scramble down to the shore there and find Dry Tool Stack on the west side of this bay.

Pharaoh Stack

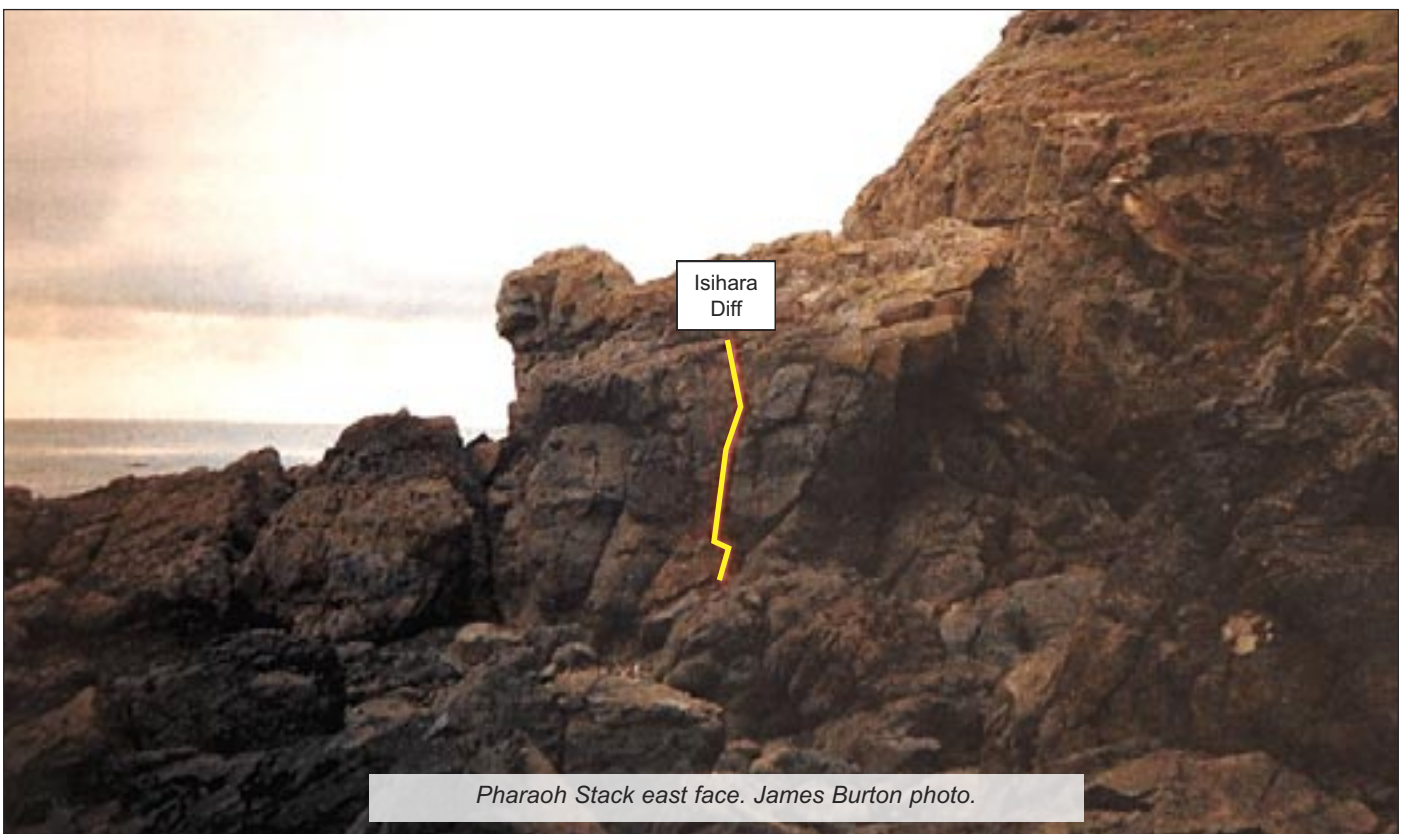
One recorded route along with new route potential. The stack is accessible a couple of hours either side of high tide. Descent by see-saw abseil or a scramble down the seaward side.



Isihara Diff

There is pillar-like feature in the middle of the east face of the stack. There is a corner left of this with red and green speckled rock at its base. Climb the corner and move slightly left at its top.

First ascent: James Burton (solo), 13 May 2017.



Pharaoh Stack east face. James Burton photo.

There is new route potential on the east, west and seaward faces of this stack.

Little Stack

Picture below.

No recorded routes - yet. The stack is accessible a couple of hours either side of high tide.



Loose Stack

Picture to right.

A larger-looking stack in the middle of the bay and with a loose top. No recorded routes but some potential.

Dry Tool Stack

Pictures below.

The seaward face of this stack looks like a sloth from the Ice Age films, to those with a lot of imagination. Routes are listed from left to right going anti-clockwise from the west face. There are two routes on the seaward face.



The Sloth's Traverse Sev

Pictures below.

Climb The Sloth's Nose (the next climb) to the Sloth's head. Traverse left from here around a blunt arête to a patchy marble corner and climb this to the summit.

First ascent: Kim Torode, James Burton, 31 December 2016.

The Sloth's Nose VS 3c

Start at the base of a slab and climb this and the wall above to reach the Sloth's head feature. This is a bulging wall



split by a set of breaks, rails and flakes. Go straight up this wall to the summit (crux.)

First ascent: Kim Torode, James Burton, 31 December 2016.

There are more climbs on the stack's east face. The obvious first line is a crack and corner left of Name to Follow. The V-shaped notch top-out is loose and best left alone.

Name to Follow VDiff

Climb a wall, featuring jugs and ledges, left of I'm Being a Wimp to the right-hand V-shaped notch at that climb's top.

First ascent: James Burton (solo), 13 May 2017.

I'm Being a Wimp VDiff

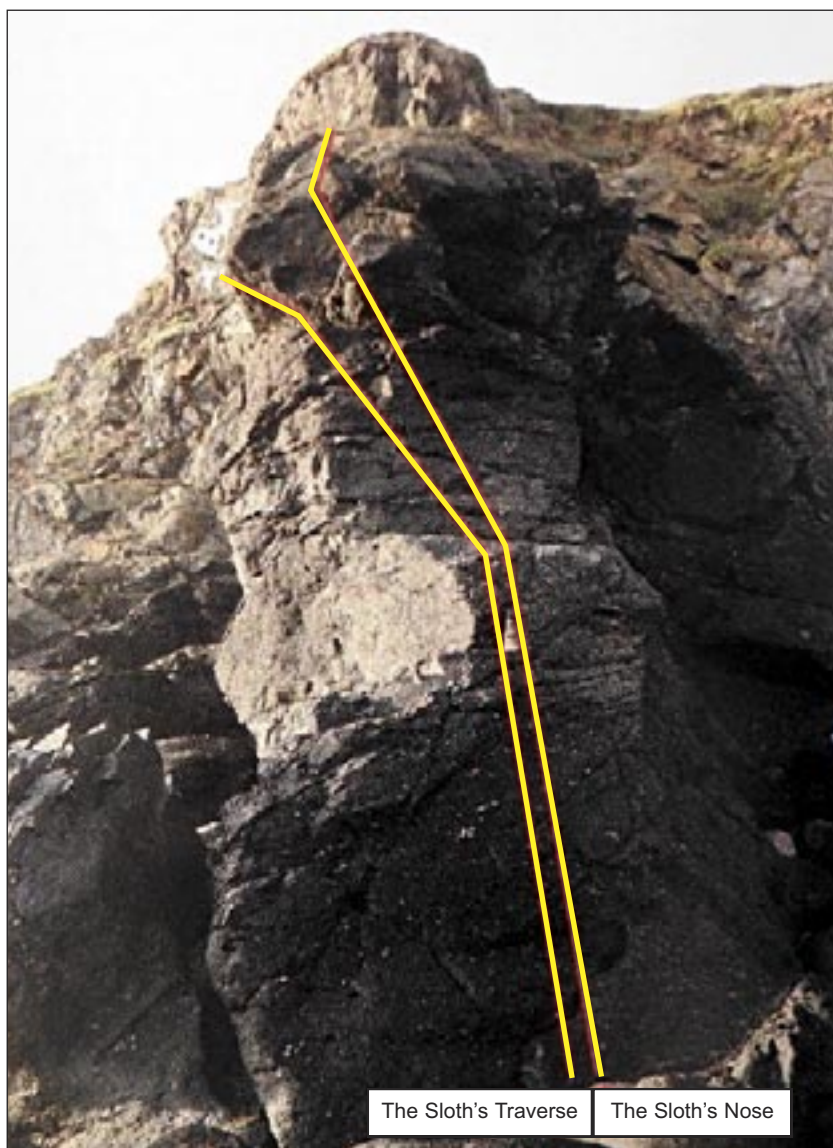
Climb a short wide chimney under a triangular roof. Move left at the top to a short corner and so up under the roof. Climb the slab/ramp leftwards to finish left of the roof.

First ascent: Kim Torode, James Burton, 18 December 2016.

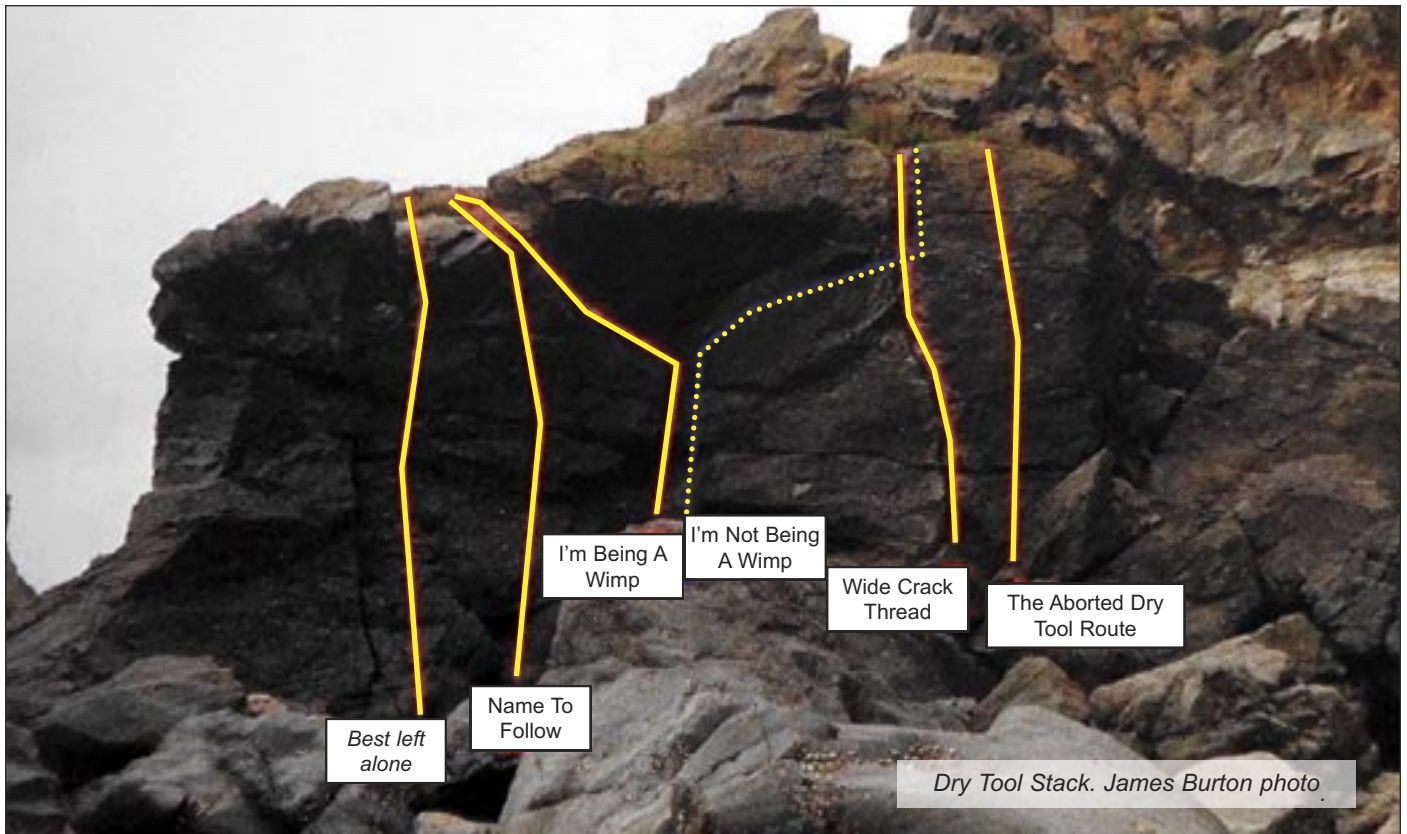
I'm Not Being a Wimp Sev

Climb I'm Being a Wimp to the roof and then go rightwards up across a slab to the finish of Wide Crack Thread. Traversing right below the slab is lower quality and easier.

First ascent: James Burton, Kim Torode, 31 December 2016.



Dry Tool Stack - lines of two Sloth routes.



Wide Crack Thread VDiff

Climb the wide crack running up the left of the slab at the right-hand end of the face. Great gear all the way, including a thread.

First ascent: James Burton, Kim Torode, 18 December 2016.

The Aborted Dry Tool Route HSev 3c

Climb the slab right of Wide Crack Thread with small holds and no gear at the bottom.

First ascent: James Burton, Kim Torode, 18 December 2016.



Le Prevote Watch Tower Area

There are two stacks in the Boulder Wall area here. To access them locate the Mallard Cinema at Rue De La Villiaze, Guernsey, GY8 0HG. Head along Rue Du Manoir towards Pleimou. The road makes two 90° bends and becomes the Route De La Palloterie. Shortly after the second 90° bend, take the first left into Rue De La Prevote. Follow this to its end and park in the gravel car park underneath La Prevote Watch Tower.

Boulder Wall Stacks

The two stacks here are climbable here at high tide in calm conditions.

Detailed access; Walk westwards along the cliff path past the first set of stairs to a green bench on the seaward side of the path. Find a faint track, approximately 100m after the green bench, which heads off through the bracken to a rocky promontory. From here scramble down to the top of an easy angled slab. This is downclimbed via an obvious diagonal weakness and there you will find Boulder wall and the two stacks.

Routes are described as they are encountered from the bottom of the approach. The first stack reached has a large boulder which has fallen away from its landward side.

High Steppa HSev 4b 12m

Start 5m right of the right-hand side of the detached boulder, where there is a green jammed boulder. Gain a small ledge on the vague arête, then finish direct.

First ascent: A. Hill (solo), 30 April 1988.

Biarritz HVS 5a 14m

Climb the corner a few feet to the right, then follow a thin crack.

First ascent: B. Aplin, P. Torode, A. Hill, 30 April 1988.

Common Sense Sev 14m

Start 5m to the right at the end of the gully which separates the two stacks. Climb the arête.

First ascent: D. Hurdley, O. Harrison, N. Wilson, 30 April 1988.

Nonsense HVS 5a 12m

From the foot of the arête traverse right for 2m, then climb the bulging corner.

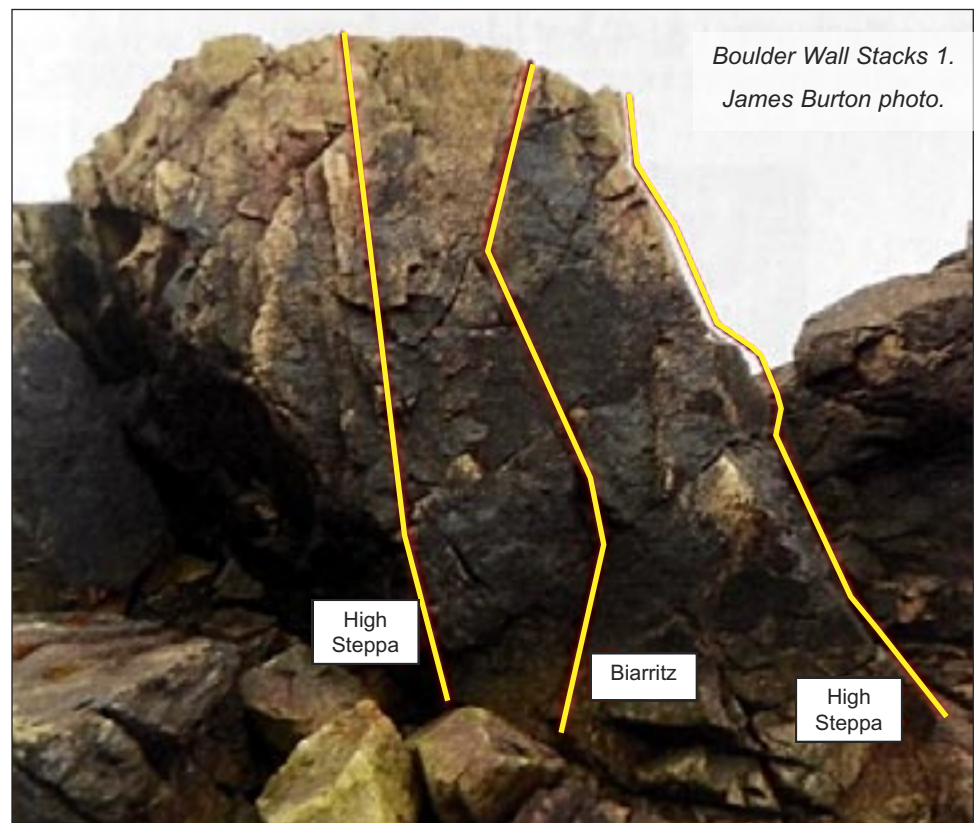
First ascent: A. Hill, P. Torode, 30 April 1988.

Senseless HVS 5a 12m

The corner a few feet right of Nonsense.

First ascent: B. Aplin, D. Hurdley, 12 November 1988.

On the seaward side;



New Worlds Mod 12m

The overlap above the venus pool at the left-hand end of the face.

First ascent: A. Hill (solo), 1 May 1988.

The Underworld Sev 12m

The overlap just right of New Worlds.

First ascent: A. Hill, P. Torode, B. Aplin, 12 November 1988.

Rogue's Gallery VS 4c 12m

Climb the wall and overlap 2m right again.

First ascent: B. Aplin, P. Torode, A. Hill, 12 November 1988.

The Godfather HVS 5b 12m

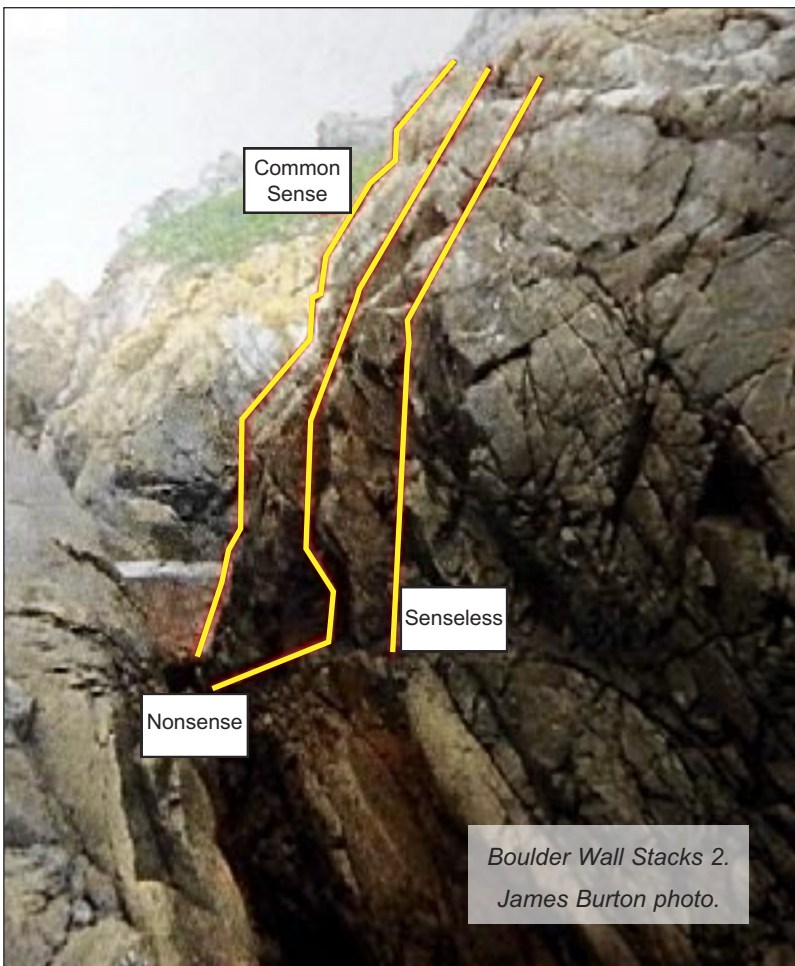
Start at the foot of the rightward trending crack at the right-hand end of the face. Climb directly through a triangular recess.

First ascent: A. Hill, P. Torode, 12 November 1988.

Close Encounter Sev 12m

This route follows the rightward trending crack and finishes up a short slab.

First ascent: A. Hill (solo), 1 May 1988.



Corbiere Stack

This stack is immediately opposite Corbière slab. Gain the cliff top path from La Corbière and go down to the top of a slab. Descend a ramp on the left, facing out, to the shore and access the stack across a gully, from low to mid-tide. It has shortish routes on goodish rock and the climbs are described anti-clockwise, starting by a cave in the west wall. They are reached by traversing west. Descend the stack's landward side.

Libra VS 5b 21m

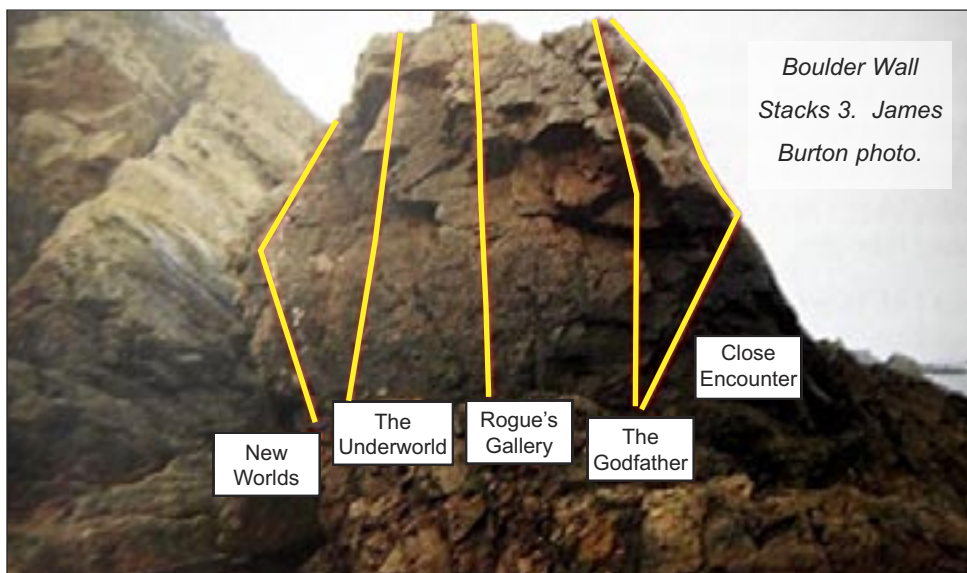
Start below a short corner 2.4m left of the cave. Climb the corner (crux) to the arête, then follow this with ease.

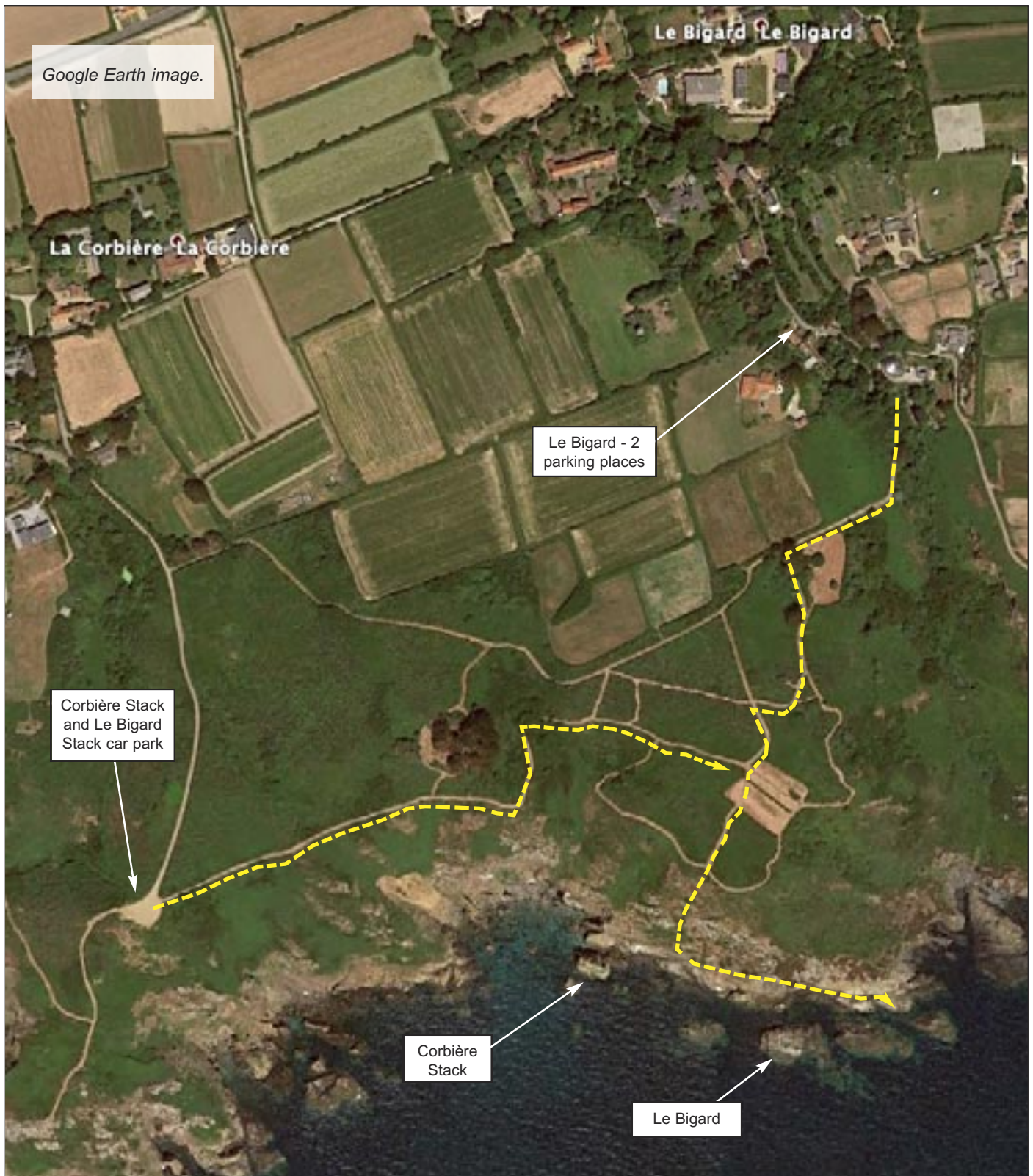
First ascent: Unknown.

Footloose VS 4b 15m

Gain the ledge right of the cave. Make a delicate move to the lower of the leftward trending cracks. Continue to and up the arête.

First ascent: Alan Hill, Brian Rushton, 3 December 1983.





La Corbière and Le Bigard area. From Google Earth.

Rufous ** E1 5b 15m

Hard but well protected. Start as for Footloose, but climb the second crack line which is undercut at the bottom, and leads through a small roof to the top.

First ascent: Alan Hill, Brian Rushton, 3 December 1983.

Emma Sev 28m

Follow the obvious ramp them up to the summit.

First ascent: Unknown.

Emma Variation VS 4b

Leave the ramp to climb the small roof.

First ascent: Unknown.

Harlequin HVS 5a 23m

Start at the left hand end of the black ledge to the right. Climb the arête to a small triangular overhang. Move right around the edge to a good crack. Trend leftward to the top of the arête.

First ascent: Steve Taylor, 2 March 1986.

Masquerade ** HVS 5a 23m

Climb directly up the wall 4m right of the arête.

First ascent: Mike Rhodes, Alan Hill, 11 May 1985.

Tumble HVS 5a 25m

The crack system 3m to the right, then the corner to a ramp.

First ascent: Brian Rushton, Alan Hill, 4 March 1984.

Gelert's Groove ** HVS 5a 18m

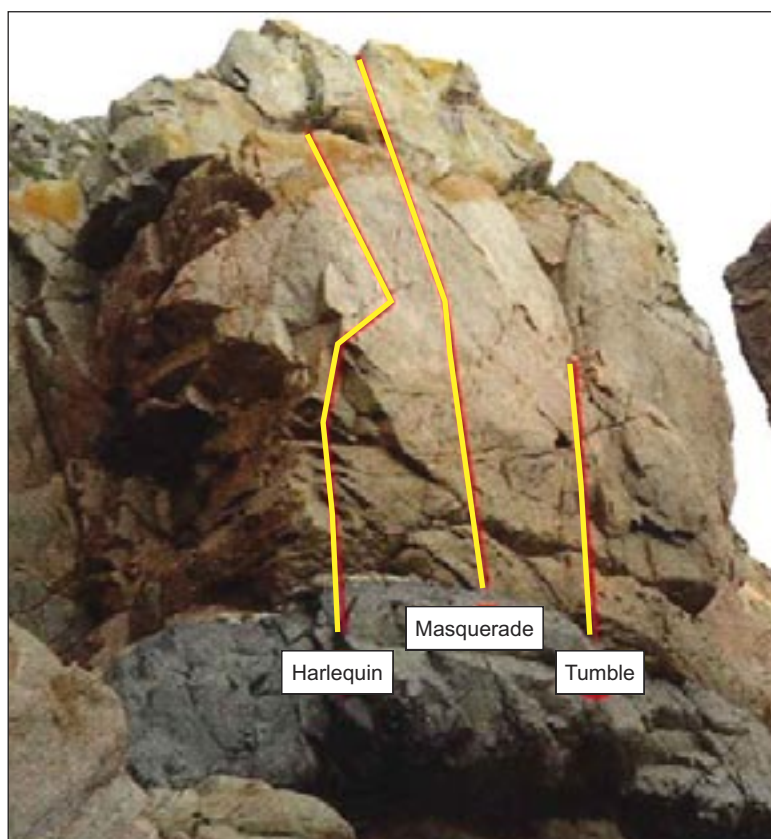
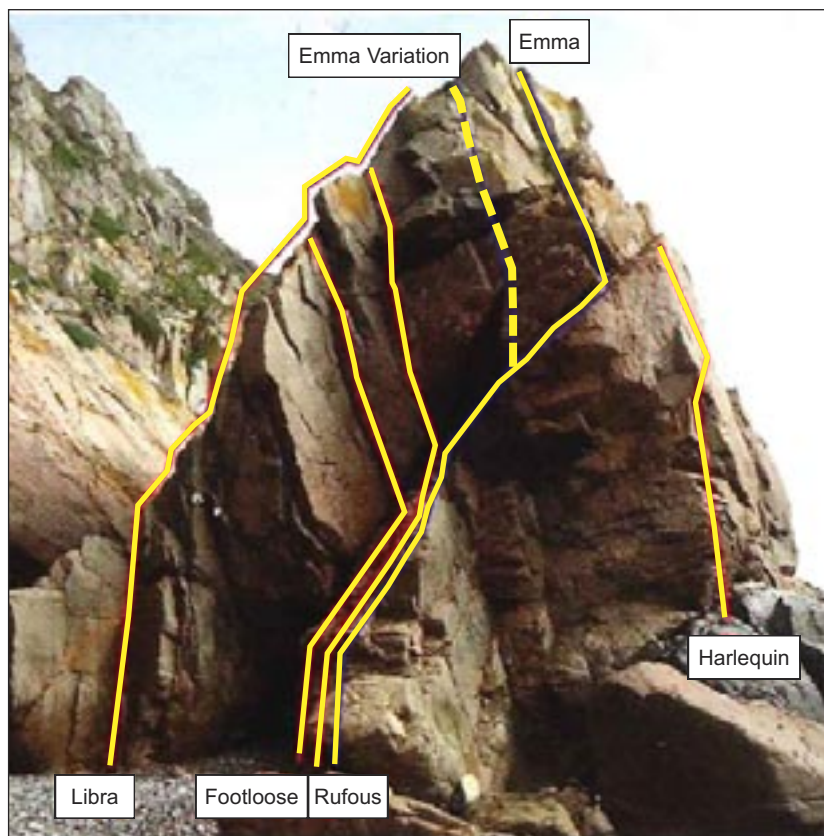
To the right is a horizontal sharp edge. Climb the corner to the ledge. Continue up the crack to small flakes below an overlap. Move left up the rightward trending ramp.

First ascent: Alan Hill, Steve Dorrity, 24 September 1983.

Corbomight *** E6 6b 18m

Thin technical face climbing on the immaculate pink wall left of the seaward arête. Despite two good wire-slots, big-fall potential remains high. Climb centrally or from the right to meet a left-trending line of finger-jugs at 6m. Move up to good finger-holds (and the first wire slot) in the centre of the wall. Bear right and make a super-hard move (bodyweight only tied-off Camp 1 knifeblade (removed) protects) to better holds on the right. Some final gnarly manoeuvres lead to a swing left above a small overhang to exit.

First ascent: Martin Crocker, Christian Harvey, 6 April 2002.



Go around the corner for the next climbs, finding an incut ledge from where you can go up and right across a wall to find a belay stance below the arête.

The Bean VS 5a 26m

A good route climbing the arête, with difficult moves over a bulge. Pass the prominent nose on the left, moving right to finish.

First ascent: Unknown.

Bean and Gone VS 5a 28m

Climb the short wall between The Bean and Freebie to a slab. Move into Freebie, then climb directly up the steep overhanging wall just left of a grey streak. Finish more easily.

First ascent: Paul Torrode, Alan Hill, 14 November 1987.

Freebee Sev 30m

1. 18m 4b. Climb the corner to the right and belay.
2. 12m. Traverse left to the arête, then climb up broken ledges.

First ascent: Rory Williams, Alan Hill, April 1984.

Edgehog Sev 30m

Start at the foot of the corner of Freebie. Move right to a hold on the arête and climb the wall just right of this to finish as for The Jam.

First ascent: Rory Williams, Alan Hill, April 1984.

The Jam HSev 4b 30m

Takes the wide crack on the east face, rarely dry.

First ascent: Brian Rushton, Alan Hill, February 1984.

Le Bigard Stack

Lat and Long 49.419222, -2.605799

Map - page 167.

Nester's Crack HSev 4b 14m

The cracks 2m right of Swing'in in the Rain.

First ascent: Unknown.

Swing'in in the Rain VS 4c 12m

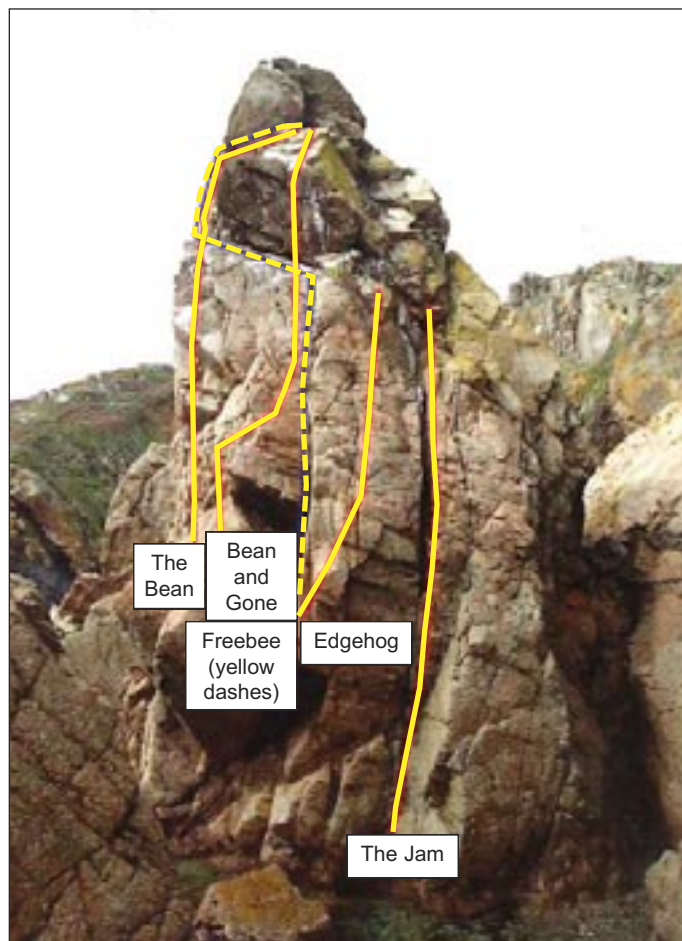
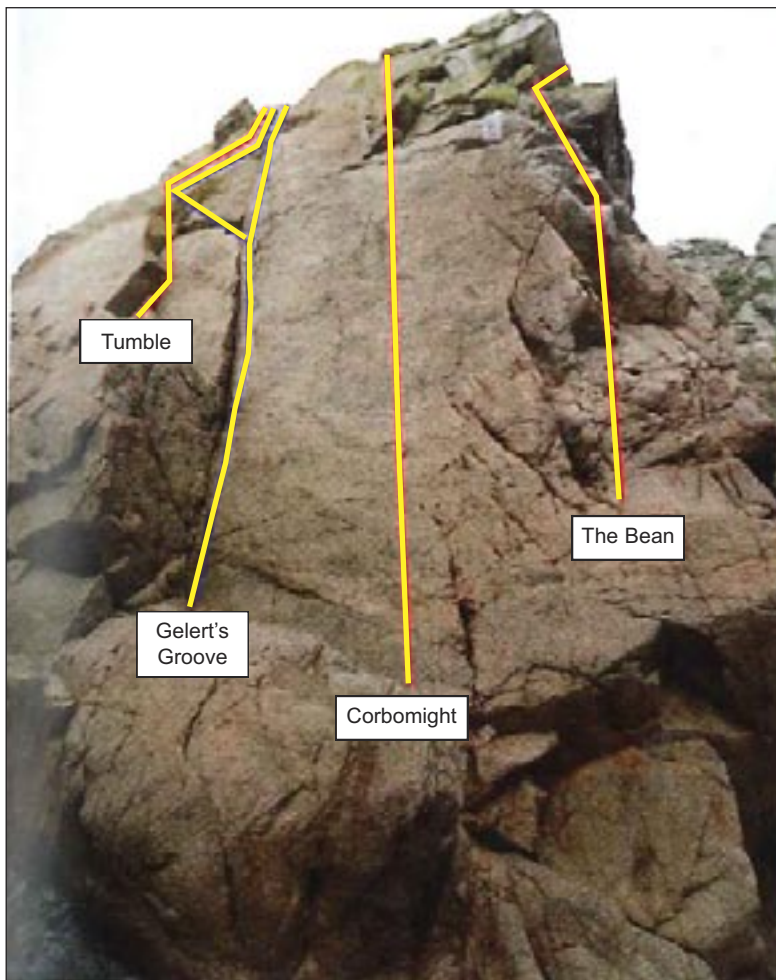
Start in the centre of the wall, at the right hand end of a thin channel. Climb the crack-line which trends slightly left, then over a bulge.

First ascent: Brian Rushton, Alan Hill, February 1984.

Mafioso HVS 5b

No description.

First ascent: A. Hill, B. Aplin, 8 November 1987.



Dark Secret ** Sev 21m

Start just to the left, before the arête. Climb a juggy intermittent crack line to a scoop at 8m, then get over a bulge.

First ascent: Alan Hill, Nic Wilson, Johnathon Brehaut, 1 June 1986.

Le Bigard Arête VS 5a 23m

Start around the arête, below a triangular overhang at 9m. Gain a ledge at 2m (hard). Move up to the overhang, climb this near its right hand edge. Continue up the arête to the top.

First ascent: Alan Hill, Nic Wilson, Johnathon Brehaut, 1 June 1986.

Spirit of the Age *** HVS 5a 23m

An excellent line. Start at a small open corner 4m left of the arête. Climb this to a groove system at 6m. Follow it around bulges and finish up a short wall.

First ascent: Alan Winstanley, Alan Hill, 28 May 1986.

Animal Magic ** HVS 5a 20m

No description.

First ascent: A. Hill, S. Taylor, 17 May 1987.

Sarcophagus ** HVS 5a 20m

Start 4m to the left. Climb up to a horizontal undercling at 6m. Move over the bulge above this (crux) to good jugs. Follow a flake rightward to gain a final short corner system and the top.

First ascent: Alan Winstanley, Alan Hill, 28 May 1986.

The Roaring Silence *** VS 5a 20m

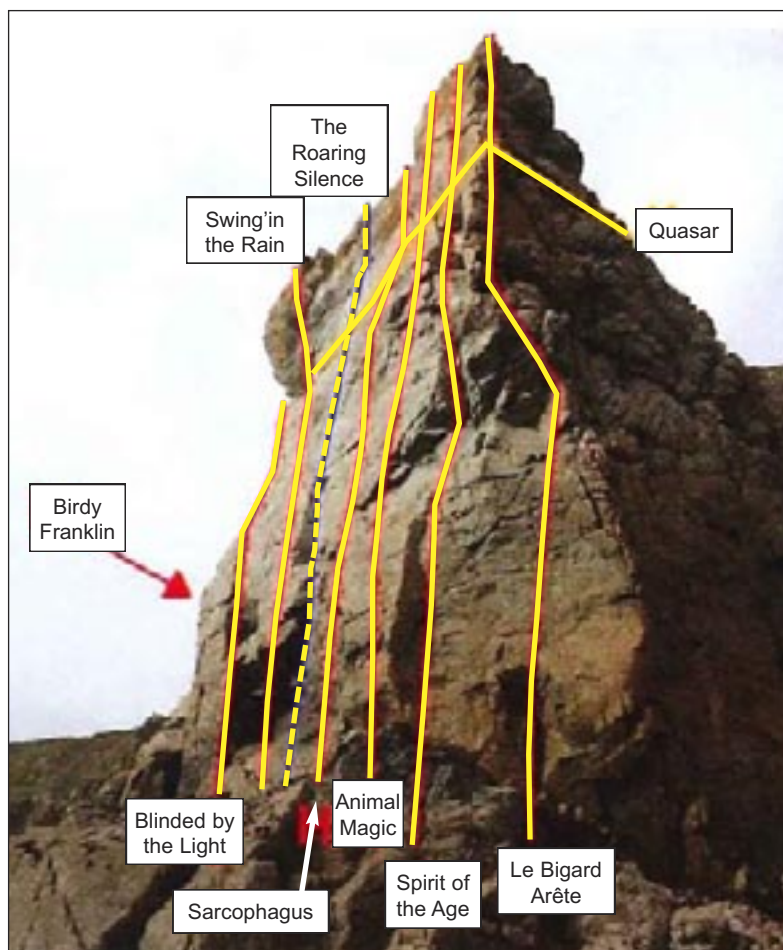
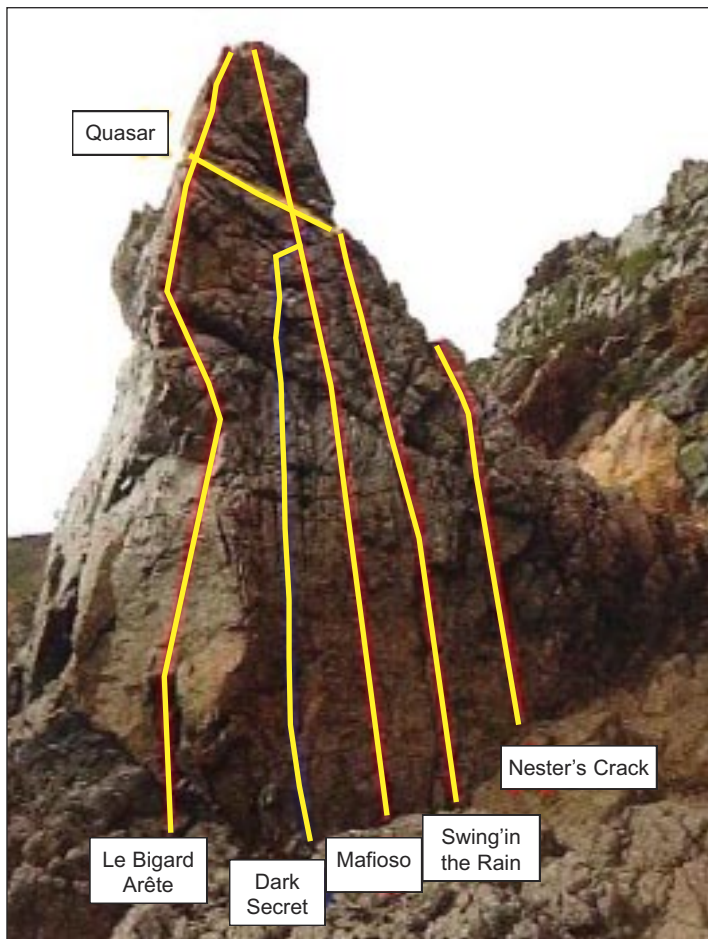
To the left is a black overhang at head height. Turn this on the right and gain a stance at 5m. Now climb direct through two bulges to the summit.

First ascent: Alan Hill, Nic Wilson, Johnathon Brehaut, 1 June 1986.

Damnation Alley E1 5c 21m

Climb direct through the centre of the overhang, then continue up to the large bulge. Climb this via the thin crack and so to the top.

First ascent: Alan Hill, Nic Wilson, Johnathon Brehaut, 1 June 1986.



Quasar HVS 5a 32m

No description.

First ascent: A. Hill, R. Geering, 7 November 1987.

Blinded By The Light Diff 20m

Start at the left hand end of the overhang. Trend slightly leftward to the left hand end of the skyline bulge.

First ascent: Alan Hill, Nic Wilson, Johnathon Brehaut, 1 June 1986.

Birdy Franklin HVS 5b 5m

No description.

First ascent: A. Franklin, C. Harvey, 4 May 1992.

Le Gouffre Area

There two stacks here; the Knife Edge Stack and La Moye Stack. To reach the Le Gouffre area head along Forest Road from St. Peter Port. It runs into Le Bourg and then Rue des Landes. Pass the airport on the right and take the first left turning; Rue du Mont Marche. Follow this to Le Gouffre and park in the small gravel car park at the end of Rue du Gouffre. Alternatively park on the roadside near the cafe, not blocking emergency access to La Moye moorings.

Knife Edge Stack

This is an elongated stack with a prominent knife-edge. It features some fine short climbs on solid rock in an atmospheric location. Access to the Knife Edge Stack is a tad complicated.

Detailed access; Follow the wide track from the car park until it makes a 90° turn. Just past the turn, a track cuts down through the bushes. Take this path and follow it down to a small rocky outcrop. Continue down the path to



reach a much larger outcrop with an obvious notch in it. Pass through the notch and follow the slope down the back of the much larger rocky outcrop to a stream. Cross the stream, and follow its banks to where the top of the waterfall can be seen. From here cut up towards a small col below an outcrop. This is the top of Waterfall Buttress.

From the top of Waterfall Buttress keep following the top of the cliff west until you reach the top of the gully that divides Sunset Slab. Cross this and then descend the ridge on the other side down into the rocky bay. Reach Knife Edge Stack by scrambling west across the rocky bay.

The routes are described from right to left, looking landward. Climbing here needs, preferably, a low spring tide.

Direct HSev 8m

Climb directly up from the base of the crack of Edge of Infinity. It is pretty technical but there is a good landing.

First ascent: A. Hill (solo), 14 October 1989.

Edge of Infinity * Sev 10m

There is a right to left rising crack near the stack's right-hand end. Climb this with really nice climbing; worth a star.

First ascent: A. Hill (solo), 14 October 1989.

H to He * HSev 12m

Start below the top of the crack of Edge of Infinity, and climb directly up the crack and groove.

First ascent: A. Hill (solo), 14 October 1989.

The Aerosol Grey Machine HSev 12m

Start as for H to He. Climb up and left to a small ledge at 5m, then directly up short cracks.

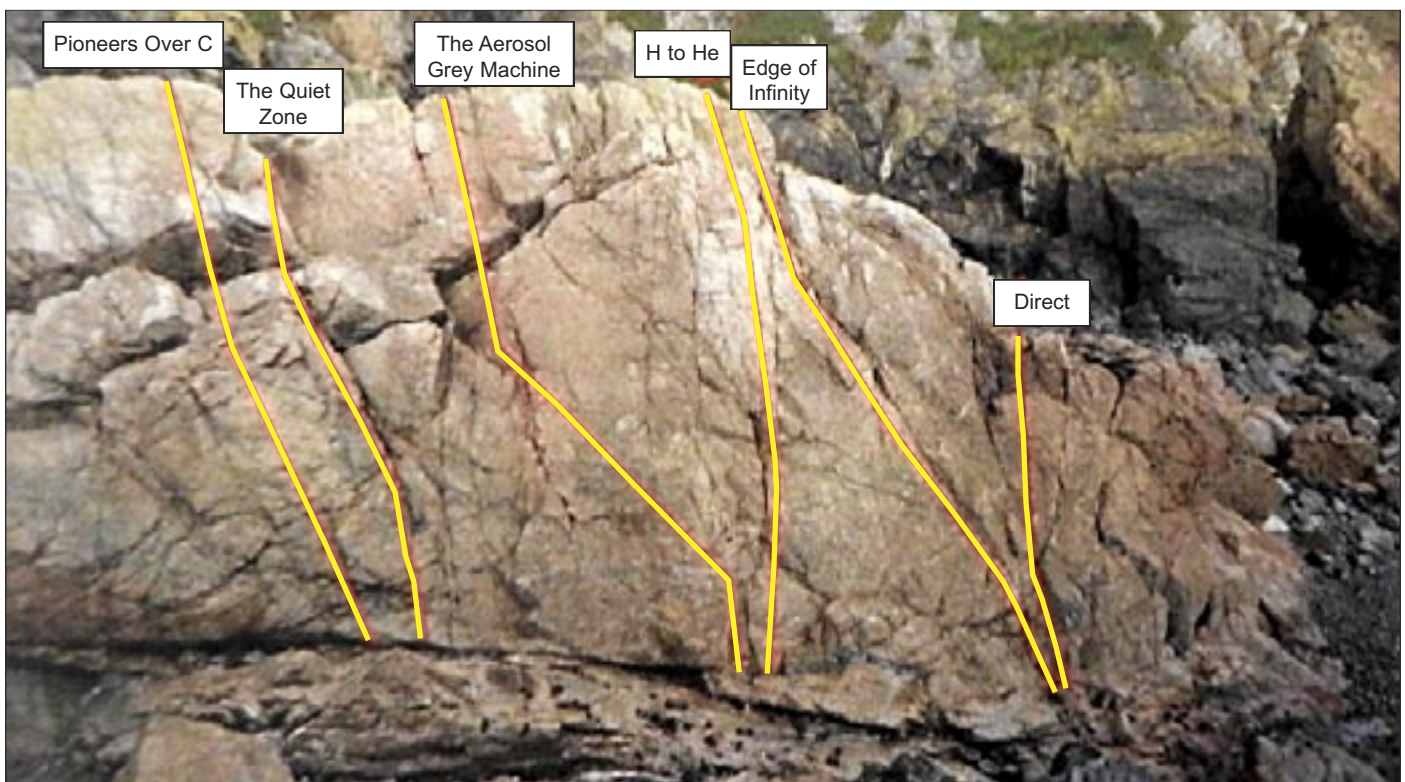
First ascent: A. Hill (solo), 14 October 1989.

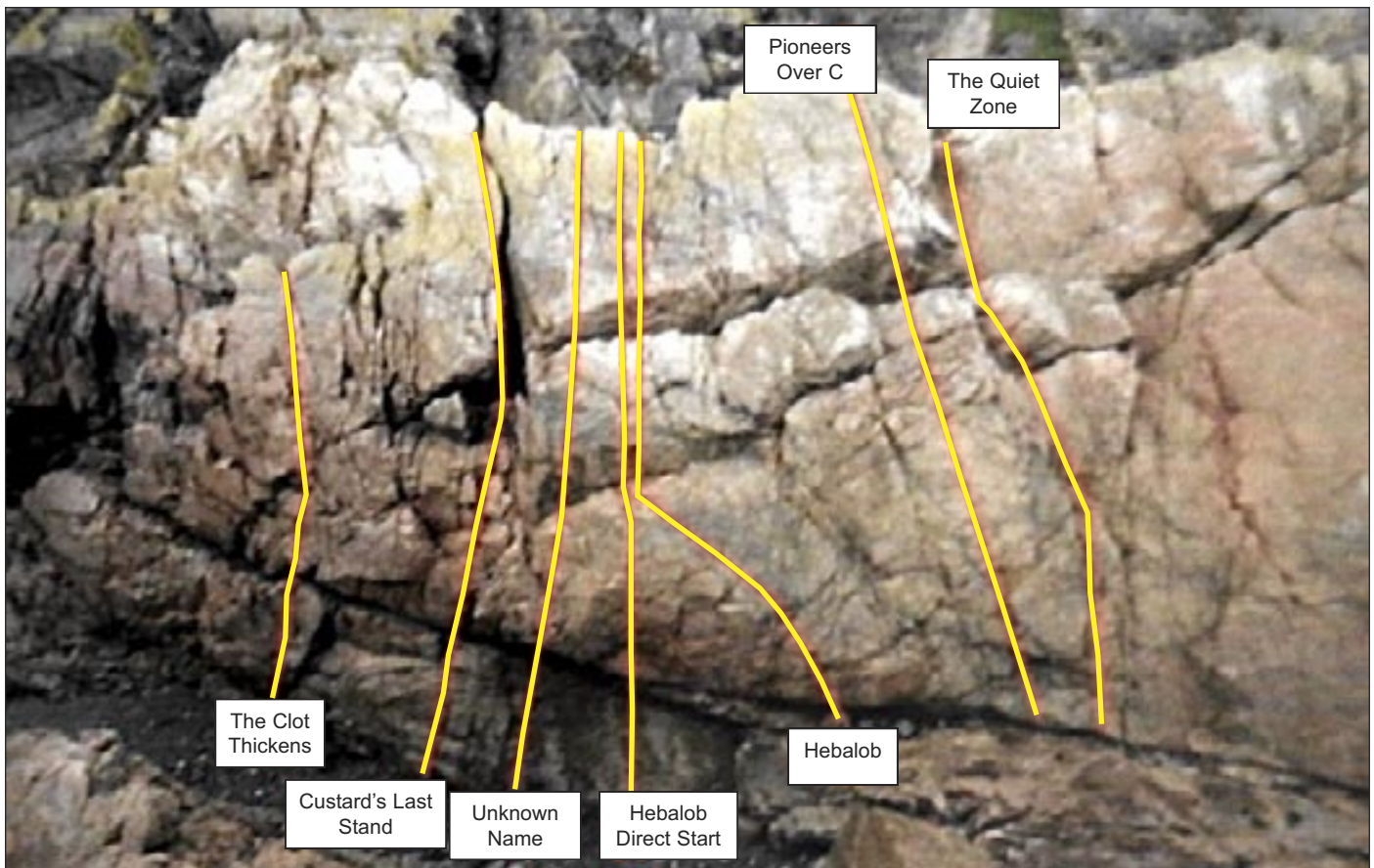
The Quiet Zone Diff 14m

Climb the reddish blocky corner 5m to the left.

First ascent: A. Hill (solo), 14 October 1989.

Knife Edge Stack - right-hand side. James Burton photo.





Knife Edge Stack - left-hand side. James Burton photo.

Pioneers over C VS 4c 14m

Start slightly left of the foot of Quiet Zone, move up and left, then through the bulge.

First ascent: A. Hill, M. Rhodes, 14 October 1989.

Hebalob * VS 5a 14m

Start 3m to the left. Move up and left onto a sloping ledge, then direct.

First ascent: A. Hill (solo), 14 October 1989.

Hebalob Direct Start * VS 5a 14m

Start to the left at a good thin flake and climb direct to the sloping ledge through the bulge with some boulder moves. Much more fun and with a better landing than the original.

First ascent: C. Hervey (solo), 17 February 2002.

Unknown Name VS 5a 12m

Another good boulder problem through the bulge to the left. Make a move to gain a hold over the overhang by a small prow, and continue up to finish up the wall right of Custard's Last Stand.

First ascent: C. Hervey (solo), 17 February 2002.

Custard's Last Stand Sev 12m

Start at the left-hand end of the overhang to the left, and climb up through a peapod niche.

First ascent: A. Hill (solo), 14 October 1989.

The Clot Thickens VDiff 10m

Start 5m to the left and climb directly to the top.

First ascent: A. Hill (solo), 14 October 1989.

La Moye Bay Stack

There are 14 routes on this stack, ranging from Diff to E2 in difficulty, most in the lower grades.

Access; follow the wide track from the car park round the 90° turn and head down towards the Pointe de la Moye peninsula. About 100m after this turn, a track cuts down through bushes on the right. Climb over the wall and take this track down past a large tree to the stack below. Routes on the stack can be reached by scrambling round either side of the stack.

La Moye can be reached at any state of the tide, but the routes are climbable from half tide onwards. On the stack's west (right facing the sea) there is a leftward trending crack above a slab. To the right is a series of stacked overhangs. Spring Fever starts from a ledge just right of these.

Ancestral Vices Sev 21m

The overhangs left of Spring Fever.

First ascent: Alan Hill (Solo).

Spring Fever * Sev 23m

Climb the wall to finish right of the skyline overhang. Juggy and exposed.

First ascent: A. Hill, M. Elliott, Nick, 16 March 1986.

Bird Man Sev 23m

The wall 5m to the right, through the cracked overhang at 8m.

First ascent: Alan Winstanley, Alan Hill, 28 May 1986.

Bucket City Sev 23m

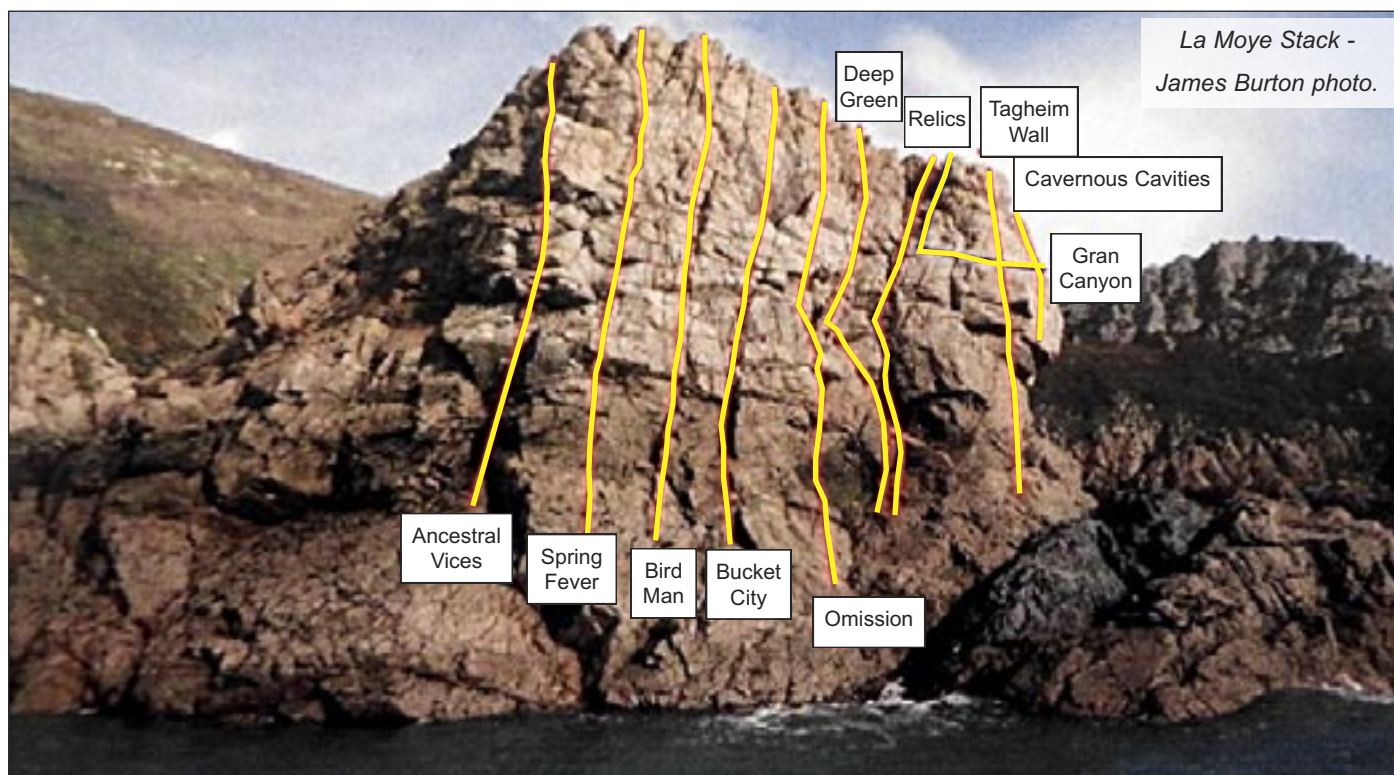
The corner and bulge 5m to the right.

First ascent: Tim Hodgkinson, 17 March 1986.

Omission E1 5b 23m

Between Bucket City and Relics is a smooth slab below a bulge. Climb the slab, enter the groove with difficulty and follow this to a ledge. Climb the bulge above this to good finishing jugs.

First ascent: A. Hill, L. Broad, P. Torode, 12 June 1988.



Deep Green VDiff 15m

Start as for Relics, then move up and left to gain the left-hand crack. Follow this to the top.

First ascent: R. Pierce, A Macaskill, I. Cheldek, 19 April 1987.

Relics VDiff 23m

Climb the obvious deep crack to the right, continuing up a deeper crack above a ledge, finishing rightward over a bulge.

First ascent: Alan Winstanley, Alan Hill, 28 May 1986.

Tagheim Wall HVS 5b 21m

The short bulge on the wall right of the crack, via a thin layback flake.

First ascent: Tim Hodgkinson, 17 March 1986.

To the right is a face with overhangs.

Cavernous Cavities VS 4b 21m

Climb to the ledge below the overhangs, then directly up just left of the triangular overhang.

First ascent: A. Hill, P. Torode, 12 June 1988.

Pictish Guru ** E2 5c 23m

Climb to the overhang as for Cavernous Cavities, then move up and right round the overhangs (long reach to place Rock 1) in an excellent position. Finish up the crack.

First ascent: A. Hill, P. Torode, 12 June 1988.

Arachni * E2 5c 18m

The overhanging arête just to the right (slot for Friend 2.5) has some wild moves.

First ascent: A. Hill, P. Torode, 12 June 1988.

Sassenach E1 5c 17m

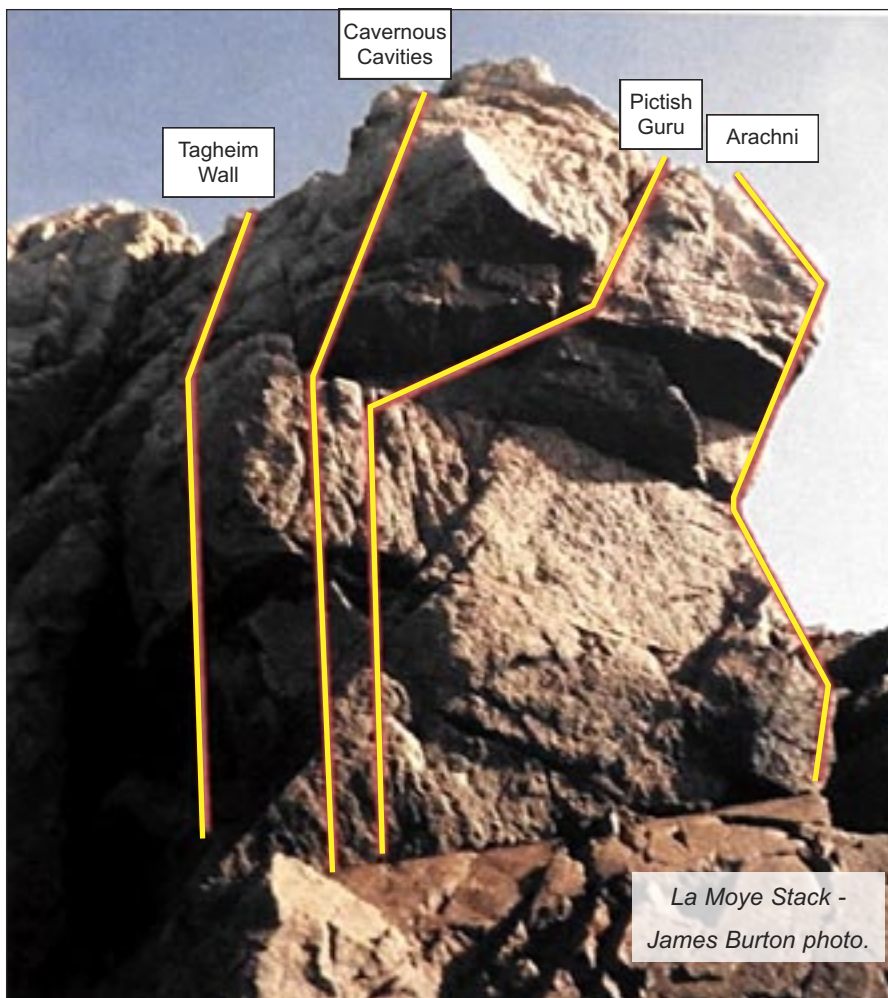
Start just to the right of the arête, below a horizontal slot. Climb directly past this, and move leftward to below the obvious corner and go up this.

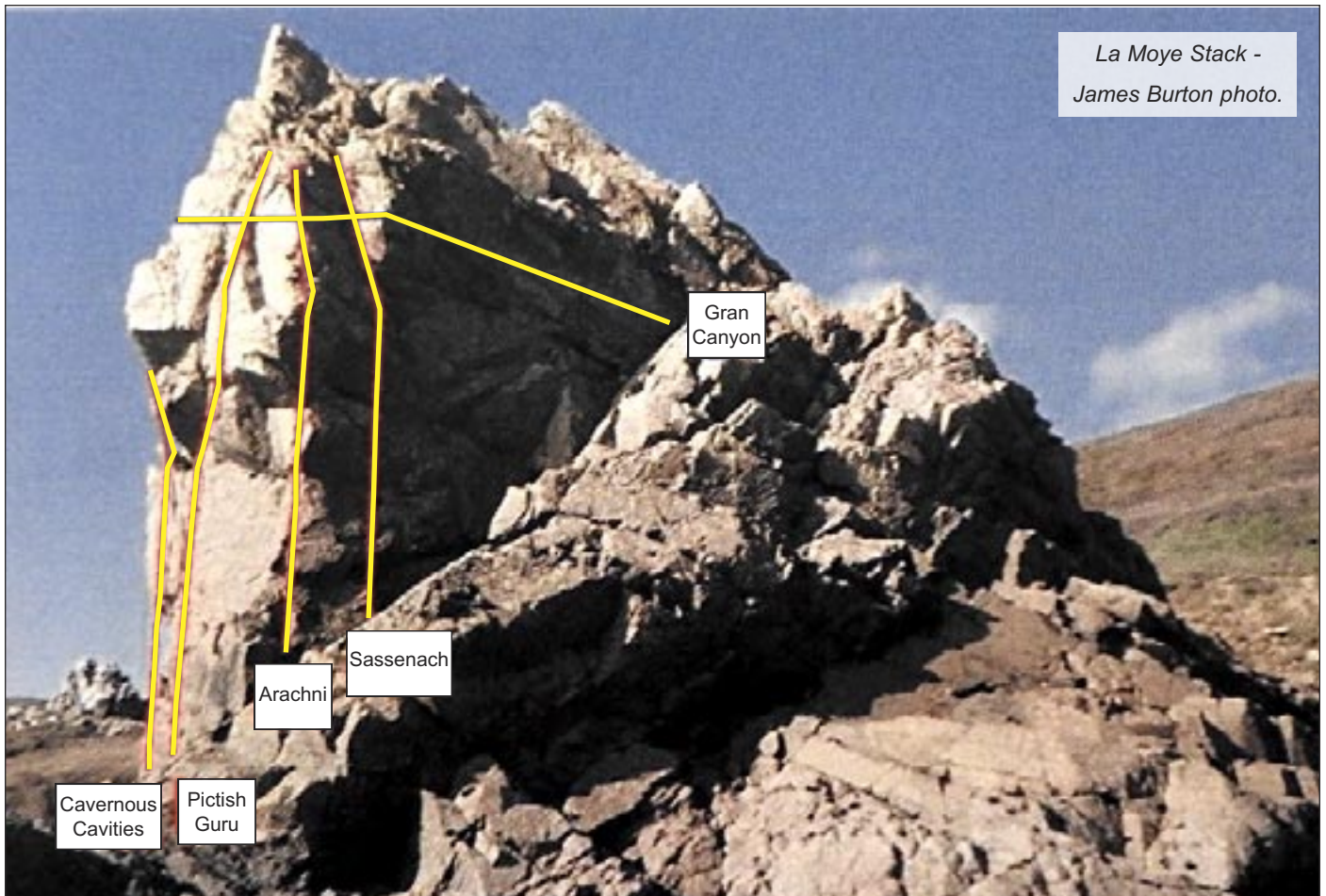
First ascent: P. Torode, A. Hill, 12 June 1988.

Gran Canyon Sev 27m

A traverse of the seaward face of the stack, above the line of the overhangs.

First ascent: D. Hurdley, N. Reade, 12 June 1988.





Point de la Moye Stack

The Point de la Moye lies to the east, next to the Le Gouffre area. It's so close that the same car park is used to access the Point de la Moye stack, Knife Edge stack and La Moye Bay stack. The stack is on the very edge of the Point. It is reached by walking along the wide track from the car park, as for La Moye Bay stack, but continuing east until you can walk down the spine of the Point to its end, and there scramble down to the stack.

It has good quality rock and features a series of short, beautiful lower grade routes. The stack is exposed to any swell and its best to assume you need half tide or lower to climb on it.

20% Armadillo ** HSev 4b 17m

The chimney at the left-hand end.

First ascent: A. Hill (solo), 11 January 1989.

Total Pangolin ** VDiff 15m

2m right of the chimney; up and slightly left over the brown slab.

First ascent: A. Hill (solo), 11 January 1989.

Barbegazi ** Sev 14m

Start as for Total Pangolin; climb up and rightward.

First ascent: A. Hill (solo), 11 January 1989.

Doppelganger Wall ** HSev 14m

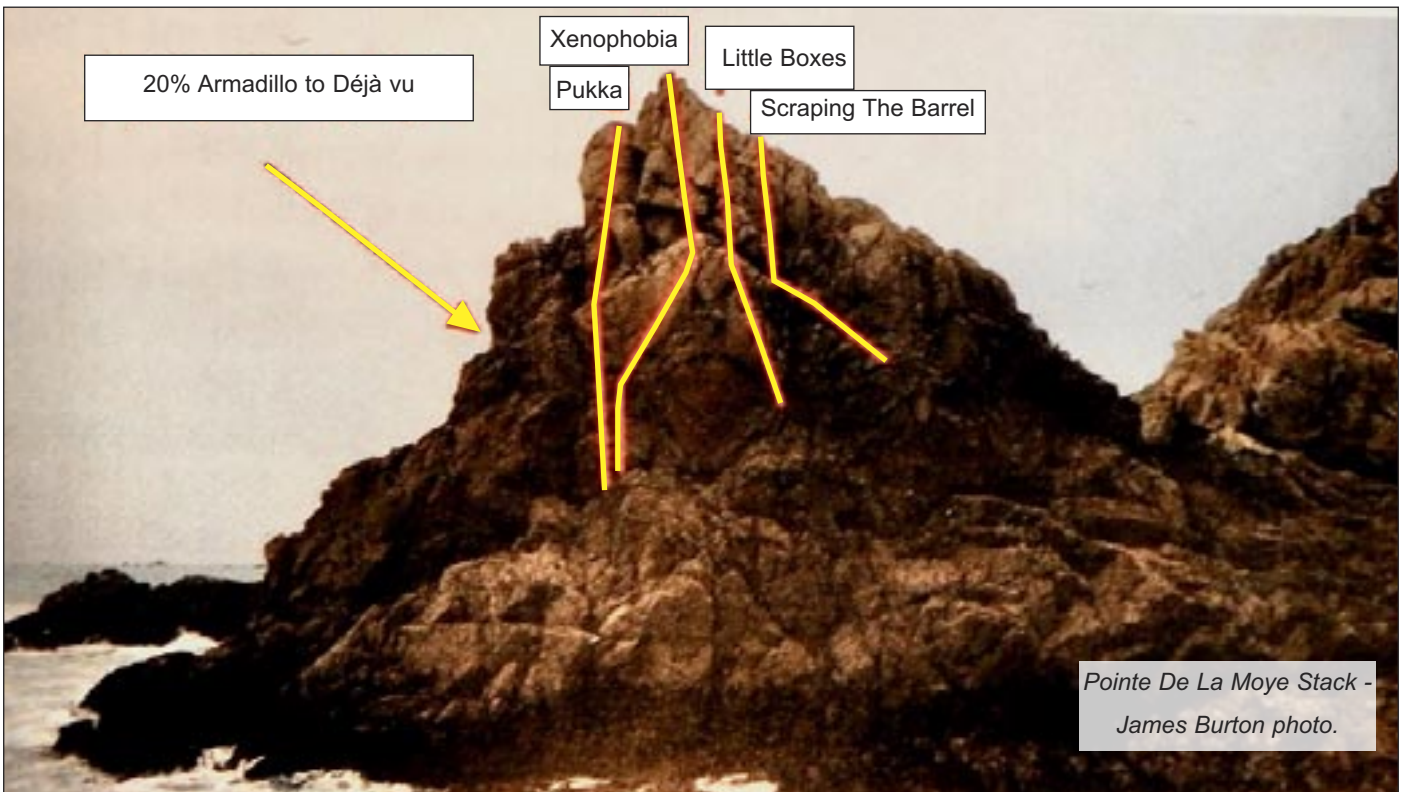
Start almost 3m to the right. Climb up just right of a rib.

First ascent: A. Hill (solo), 11 January 1989.

Hoi Polloi ** VS 5a 14m

Between Doppelganger Wall and Déjà vu is a small triangular spike at about chest height. Climb the wall directly above.

First ascent: C. Hervey (solo), 14 January 2001.



Déjà vu E1 5a 14m

Start 2m to the right of Doppelganger Wall, where the ledge starts to rise. Climb past pockets at almost 3m to a bulge, move left and up.

First ascent: A. Hill, J. Tucker, S. Bown, 14 January 1989.

Pukka ** Sev 17m

Start 12m down and to the right, round a corner. Climb an easy wall to a ledge then through a V in the upper wall left of an overhang.

First ascent: A. Hill (solo), 11 January 1989.

Xenophobia ** HVS 5a 18m

Start as for Pukka. Climb rightward along a thin groove to the ledge, then over the overhang right of Pukka.

First ascent: A. Hill, J. Tucker, S. Bown, 14 January 1989.

Little Boxes * Sev 14m

Climb the arête to the right, over the bulge and up the left-hand side of the slab.

First ascent: A. Hill (solo), 11 January 1989.

Scraping the Barrel VDiff 14m

Climb easily along the crack, step left and go up the centre of the small slab.

First ascent: A. Hill (solo), 11 January 1989.

Portalet Pinnacles

These pinnacles are washed daily by the Atlantic Ocean. There are a large number of climbs here and they are all located on the second pinnacle. Routes are only accessible on a low spring tide. Watch out you don't get cut off.

Detailed access: Heading along Forest Road from St. Peter Port, the road turns into Le Bourg and then Rue des Landes. After passing the airport on your right, take the first left, Rue du Mont Marche. Follow this and the signs to Le Gouffre until you can turn left into the Rue des Fontanelles. Go along this for about 250m and turn right down a dirt track past a battlemented house to another house. Park in a widened out section of the track 100m or so before this house, taking care not to block access.

Follow the dirt track to the cliff top path. About 20m before this path makes a right-angled bend, a track on the right cuts down through undergrowth. Follow this track past various rusty saws down to the top of a steep gully. Scramble down east (left facing the sea) to reach the pinnacles.

Alternatively, keep following the cliff path past the bend, following the signed path down to Portalet bay. From the bottom of the steps, scramble west (right facing the sea) to reach the Portalet Pinnacles.

Second Pinnacle

The first routes are on the seaward face, which is split by a left to right V-groove and crack.

The Final Fling ** HVS 5a 17m

A tremendous little route which starts at the foot of the V-groove and then moves left to a foothold on the arête. Now climb over to juggy overhangs to the top.

First ascent: Alan Hill, Mike Rhodes, 2 November 1986.

Humdinger ** VDiff 17m

Starting just to the right, climb up a short wall to the overhang and over this on big holds.

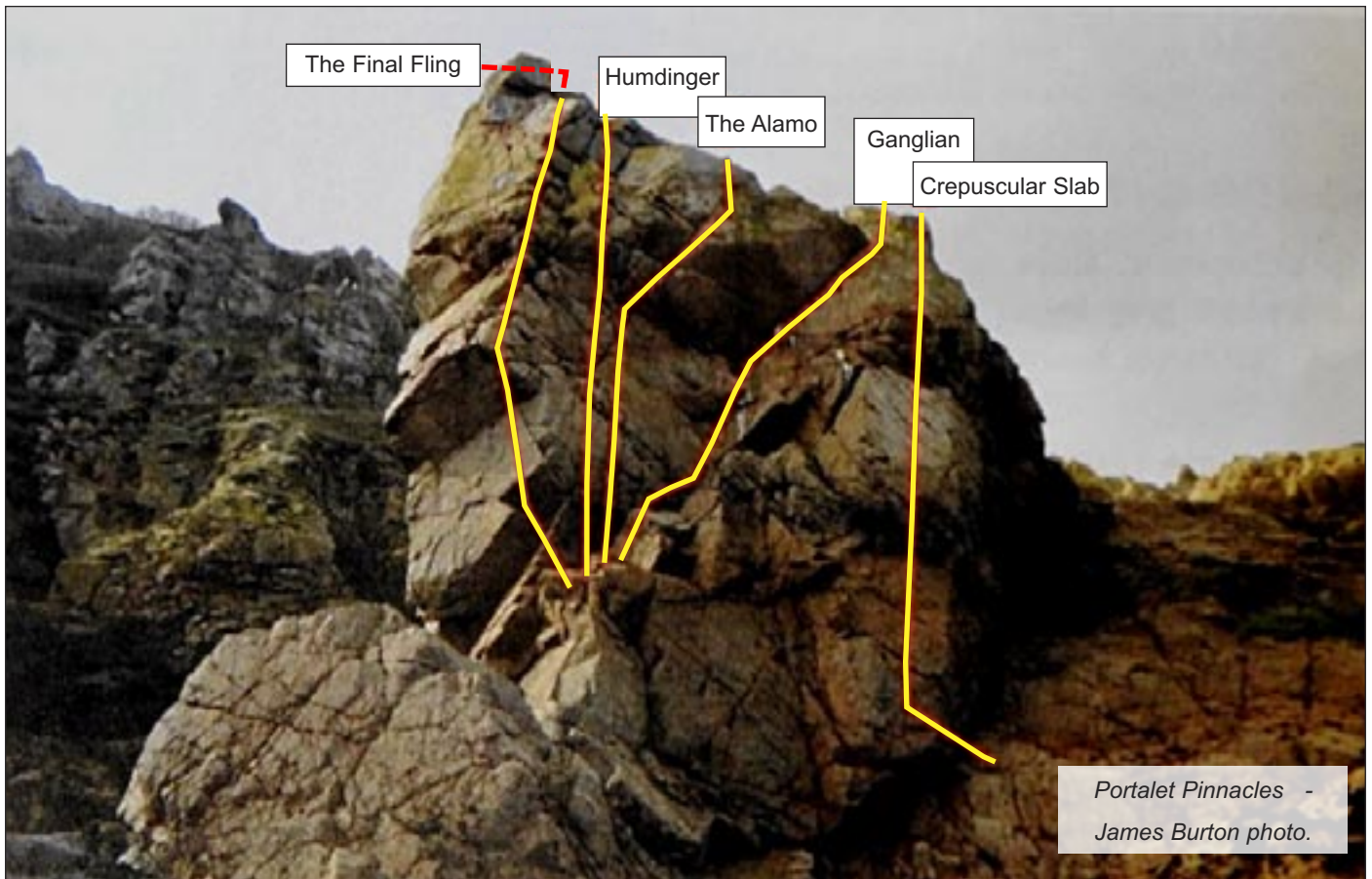
First ascent: Steve Taylor, 1 November 1986.



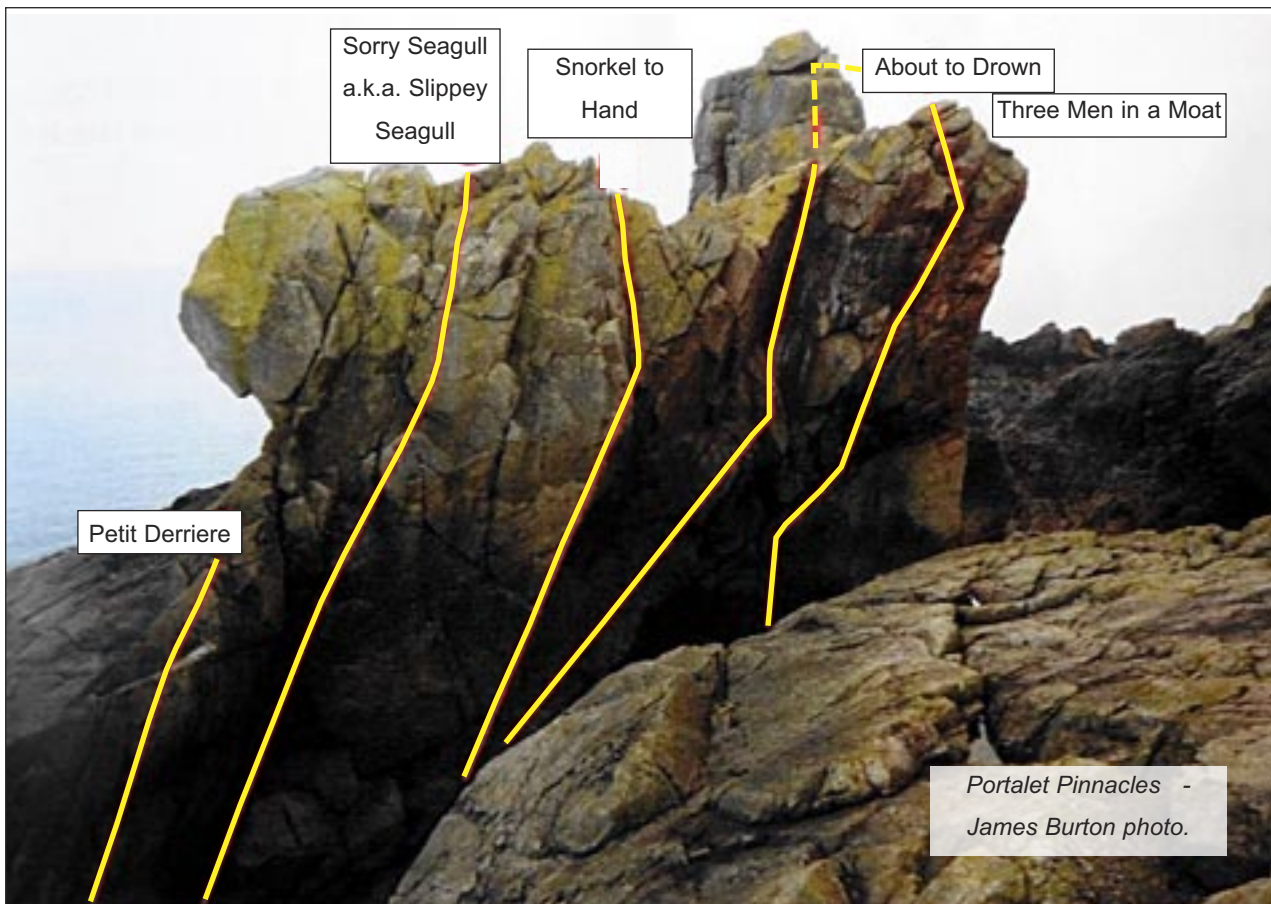
The Alamo * VS 4b 17m

Start as for Humdinger and move slightly right to an overhang by grey streaks. Move right, go over the overhang and climb a short wall.

First ascent: A. Hill, P. Torode, A. Delisle, 14 May 1988.



Portalet Pinnacles - James Burton photo.



Ganglian Mod 17m

Climb the V-groove, then up and right over a short slab.

First ascent: Unknown.

Crepuscular Slab * VS 4c 17m

Start on a small weedy ledge 6m to the right. Swing left around the arête onto the steep slab. Climb this direct and go over the small roof to the top.

First ascent: Steve Taylor, 1 November 1986.

At the eastern end of the south-east face there is a short, square-cut arête right of a slight boulder-filled inlet.

Petit Derriere E2 5c 12m

Effectively a solo above a crap landing. Delicate moves up the arête lead to a long reach for a finger jug at 5m. Climb more easily and mantel onto a projecting ledge.

First ascent: Martin Crocker (solo), 27 May 2001.

The next four climbs are on the landward (north-facing) wall of the pinnacle.

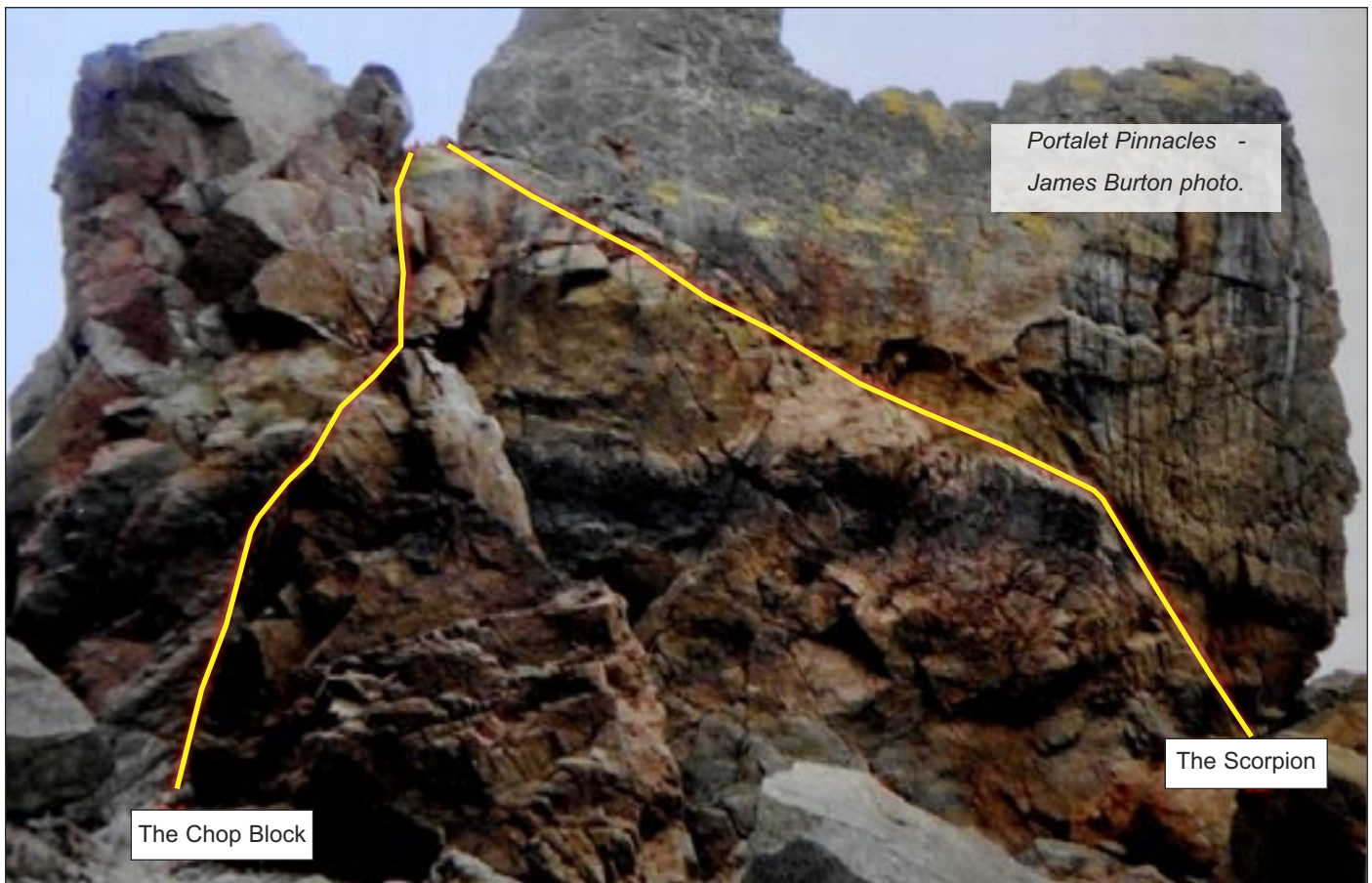
Sorry Seagull a.k.a. Slippery Seagull VS 5a 12m

Gain the ledge at 2m then climb the short corner left of Snorkel to Hand and follow the crack up the easier lichenous slabs above. Originally graded Severe, repeated by Paul Davis and Mark Page (as Slippery Seagull) on 16 May 2010 and regraded as VS 5a.

First ascent: C. Harvey (solo), 10 June 2001.

Snorkel to Hand * E2 5c 12m

Steep and very protectable; this is the square cut arête on the left. Follow a thin crack to a rounded spike. Continue



slightly rightwards up the crack in the arête, and exit up an easy groove.

First ascent: Martin Crocker, Christian Harvey, Haydar Koyupinar, 28 May 2001.

About to Drown E2 5c 12m

Follow an obvious ramp rightwards for 6m. Make a hard move into a short hanging corner and finish with ease.

First ascent: Martin Crocker, Christian Harvey, Haydar Koyupinar, 28 May 2001.

Three Men in a Moat * E3 5c 15m

A very good climb that homes in on the overhanging V-groove in the upper right hand half of the wall. Climb a thin bulging crack; often wet, and then work around a slight bulge into the V-groove. Move up and right onto the rib of the groove; then swing left to exit at the top of the groove.

First ascent: Martin Crocker, Christian Harvey, Haydar Koyupinar, 28 May 2001.

The next two routes are on the landward half of the west face of the pinnacle.

The Chop Block HSev 3b 14m

Start near the left hand end of the west face of the seaward pinnacle. Climb to the top of a large detached block, then up the somewhat loose blocky groove above.

First ascent: Alan Hill, Richard Geering, Tim Hodgkinson, 19 February 1987.

The Scorpion HSev 4c 23m

Start below the overhanging section 7m from the right hand end. Follow the obvious ramp leftward beneath the lichenous wall to the top of The Chop Block.

First ascent: Alan Hill, Richard Geering, 20 February 1987.

The following routes are located on the seaward half of the magnificent sheer and leaning west face of the pinnacle.

Desire ** E3 6a 20m

Climbs the parallel cracks a metre or so left of Schlüsselstelle. A good size 0.5 or 1 Friend can be placed at full stretch from a horn type hold. After this several strenuous technical moves reach a line of jugs. Continue up the still tiring crack and slab above.

First ascent: C. Harvey, Haydar Koyupinar, 13 June 2001.

Schlüsselstelle ** E5 6b 23m

A superb climb that reaches the obvious flake high left by some powerful climbing. There is adequate small wire protection on the crux, but it may not be immediately apparent. Start below the centre of the face as for Penial Servitude. Climb up via a small groove to a line of jugs at 7m. Hard moves diagonally left are followed by a launch (the 'Schlüsselstelle') for jugs. Reach the flake above and sprint for an easy exit.

First ascent: Martin Crocker, Christian Harvey, Haydar Koyupinar, 27 May 2001.

Portuguese Man o'War *** E6 6b 23m

An awesome central line, and one of the hardest routes on the island. Start as for Penial Servitude. Climb up via a small groove to a line of jugs at 7m. Step right and place good wires in a diagonal break just above. An out-of-control move up the face on the left leads to a sloper in a hopeless break (sound Camp 1 knifeblade 0.5m higher; removed). Use awkward holds on the left to gain a jug-rail (in-situ thread). Reach right to pockets in a grey streak; then climb straight up the trying crack and groove left of the arête (peg runner) to a pointed jug immediately beneath the top.

First ascent: Martin Crocker, Christian Harvey, Haydar Koyupinar, 27 May 2001.

Penial Servitude ** E3 6a 23m

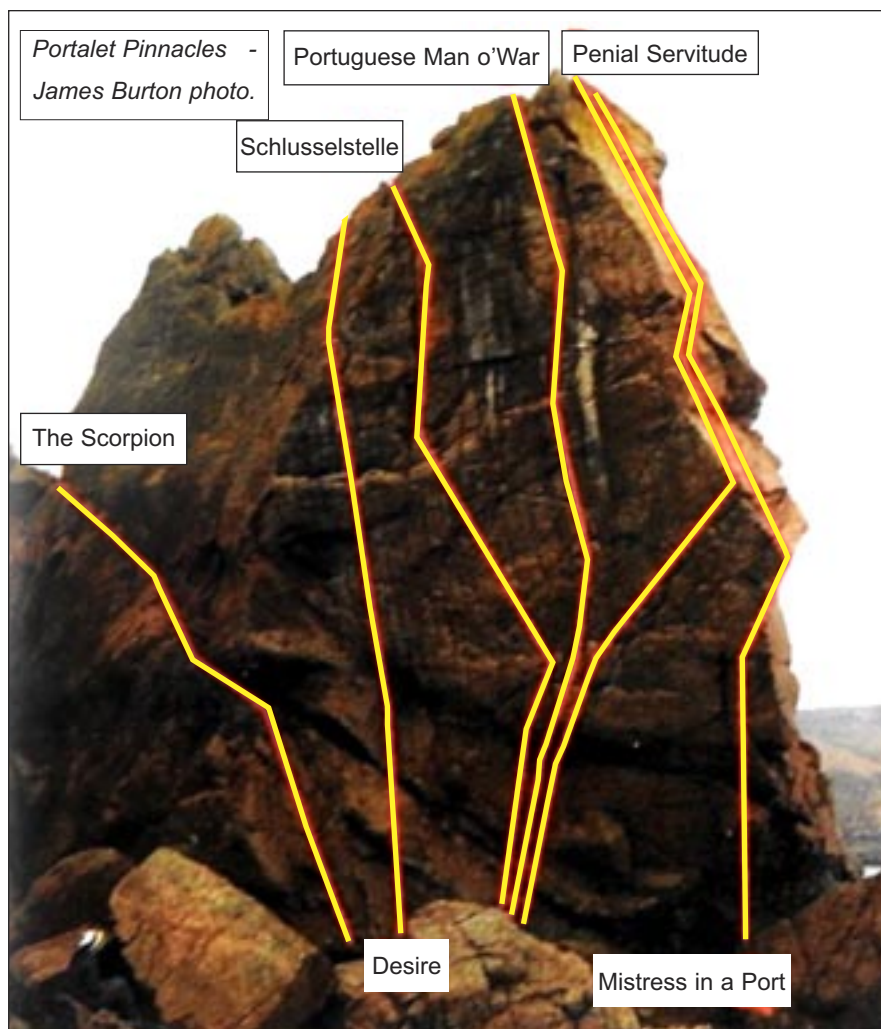
From the foot of the ramp climb the overhanging crack to a juggy rest at 8m. Climb up 2m then follow a thin crack rightward to the arête. Climb upon jugs just left of the arête, then move right around the arête to finish up a slab.

First ascent: Alan Hill, Richard Geering, 19 February 1987.

Mistress in a Port * E5 6a 21m

The impressive seaward arête of the face; bold to start. Climb the left-hand side of the arête to a short angular groove; awkward gear. Make a very difficult move diagonally rightwards onto the arête; wire on the right. Climb the arête strenuously direct to large holds (junction with Penial Servitude). Continue up the final slabbier section to the top, as for Penial Servitude.

First Ascent: Martin Crocker, Christian Harvey, 27 May 2001.





Icart Point (West)

Icart Point is a good venue for a lazy day. Head from St. Martin's village towards Pleinmont along Route Des Cornus/Forest Road. About 0.4km after the Longue Rue House old people's home on the left, turn left into La Villette Road. This runs into Rue Des Marettes which ends in a t-junction. Turn right and follow Icart Road past Saints Bay Hotel to a square car park at Icart Point. Walk west to reach Philosopher's Stone Stack.

Philosopher's Stone Stack

This is reached by heading west from the car park along the cliff top path until it divides. Note a sign carved into a granite block which indicates the way to La Jaonnet Bay. Follow this path down to La Jaonnet Bay, and then down the ladder into the bay. Head across the bay to the boulders and a few minutes scrambling will bring you to the stack.

Routes are dry for an hour or so either side of low tide; two maybe three hours on a big spring tide. It is possible to Deep Water Solo some of the routes if the sea-level is high enough and the waves calm enough. The north face of the stack is clean and slightly overhanging; the west face more easy angled with a roof higher up.

Lockheart E5 6a

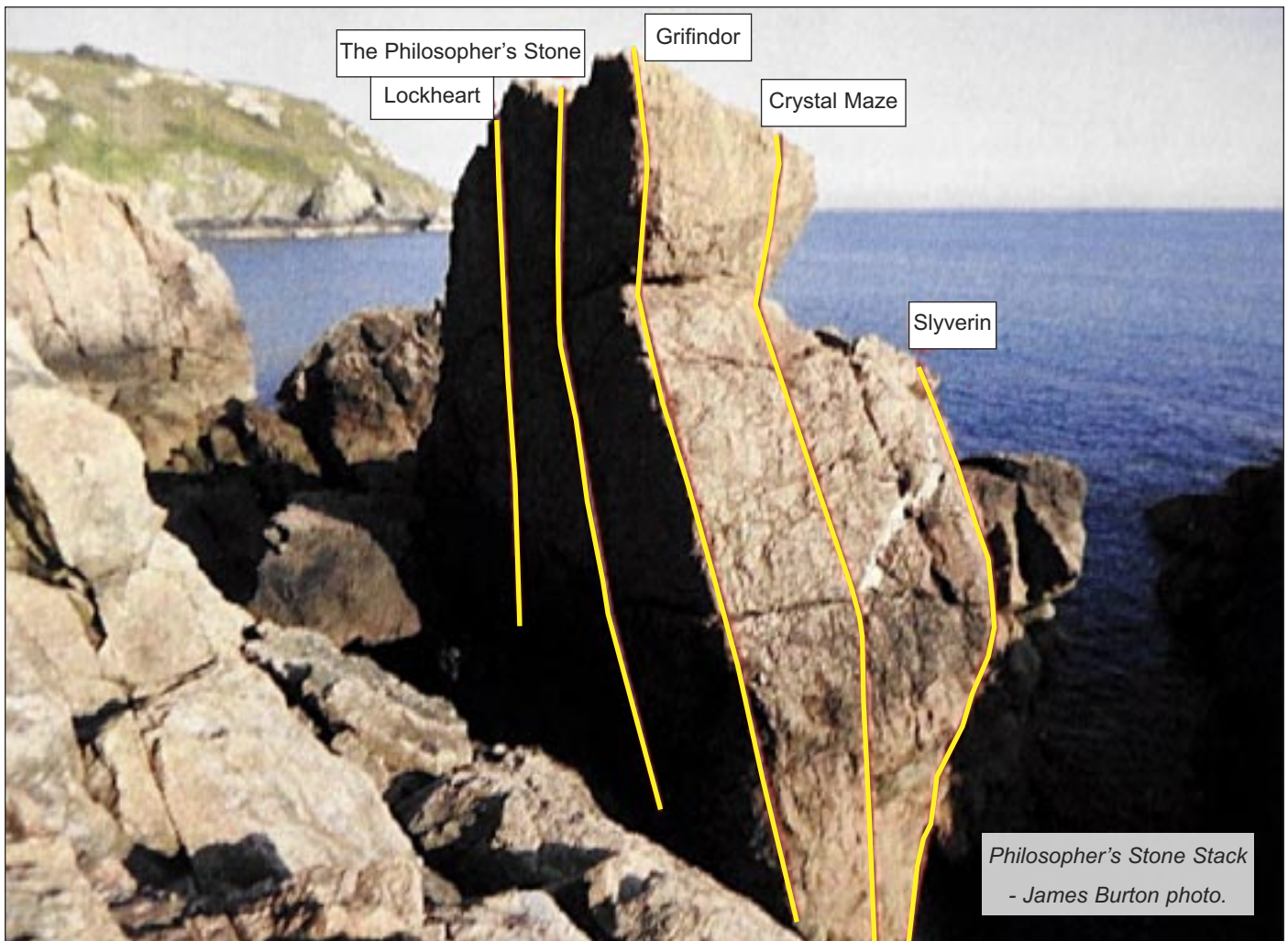
The line left of The Philosopher's Stone.

First ascent: Martin Crocker, 8 April 2002.

The Philosopher's Stone E3 5c

Follow the vague crack line up the centre of the north face. The route isn't technically difficult but protection where it is needed is mediocre and difficult to place (half in Rock 3 and sideways Walnut 4 in the crack line itself). Climb easily to the horizontal break, then several harder moves up the crack lead to improving holds, better gear in another horizontal break and the top.

First ascent: Christian Harvey, Haydar Koyupinar, 15 September 2001.



Grifindor E1 5b

The arête right of The Philosopher's Stone.

First ascent: Martin Crocker, 8 April 2002.

Crystal Maze HS 4a

Climb the easy west face finishing up the right hand end of the roof. The harder, unprotected left hand end of the roof, just right of the arête, was seconded at about 5b but has not been led.

First ascent: Christian Harvey, Haydar Koyupinar, 8 April 2002.

Slyverin E1 5b

The west facing arête as a deep water solo.

First ascent: Martin Crocker, 8 April 2002.

Smaller Stack

Up to You E3 6a

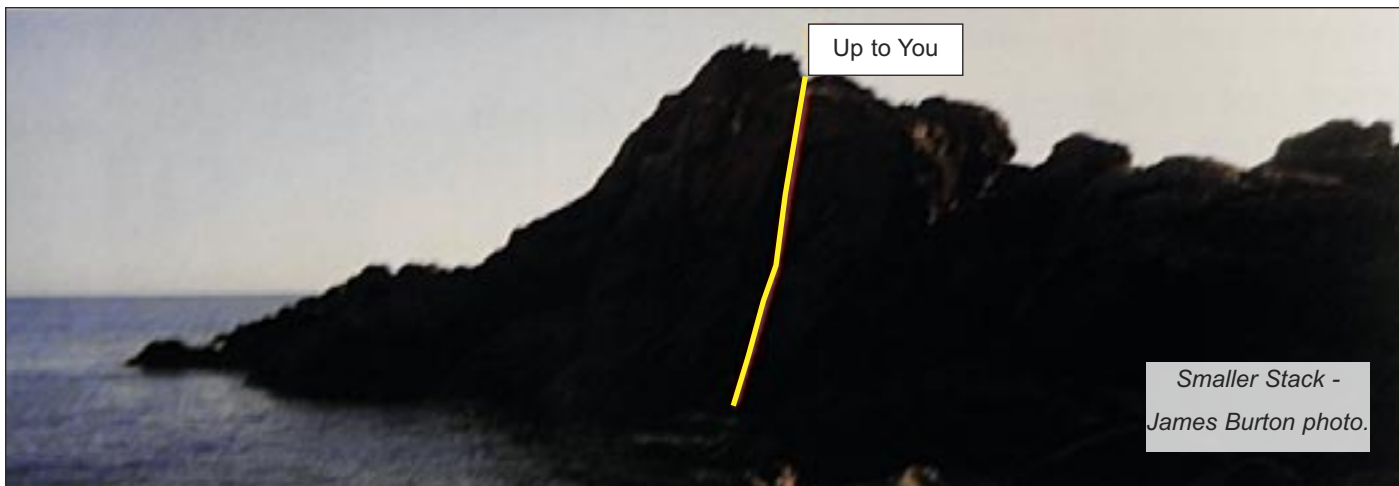
The perfect little groove; a deep water solo. The water depth is okay if you get the timing right.

First ascent: Martin Crocker (solo), 8 April 2002.

Unknown Name E1 5c

Something right of Up To You; no more details.

First ascent: Martin Crocker (solo), 8 April 2002.



Dog Rock and Lion Rock

Lat and Long 49.423488, -2.550186

A much-photographed pair of sea stacks. Both require a low spring tide to access.



Moulin Huet, Dog Rock and Lion Rock area. From Google Earth.

Detailed access: From the car park at Moulin Huet, follow the cliff path west. Once a memorial stone is reached look down to sea and an area paved with granite flag stones can be seen. Scramble down to this. On the east is a small tree where a fisherman's rope runs down a vegetated slop to a rocky ridge. Boulder hop across to Dog Rock and Lion rock.

Lion Rock

The seaward stack.

The Third Cat Get the Cream * 18m HSev

From the centre of Lion Rock on the landward side climb easy ground leftward until a large block at the bottom of an arête is reached. Climb the arête on its right-hand side. Move onto the face and up to the top on positive holds.

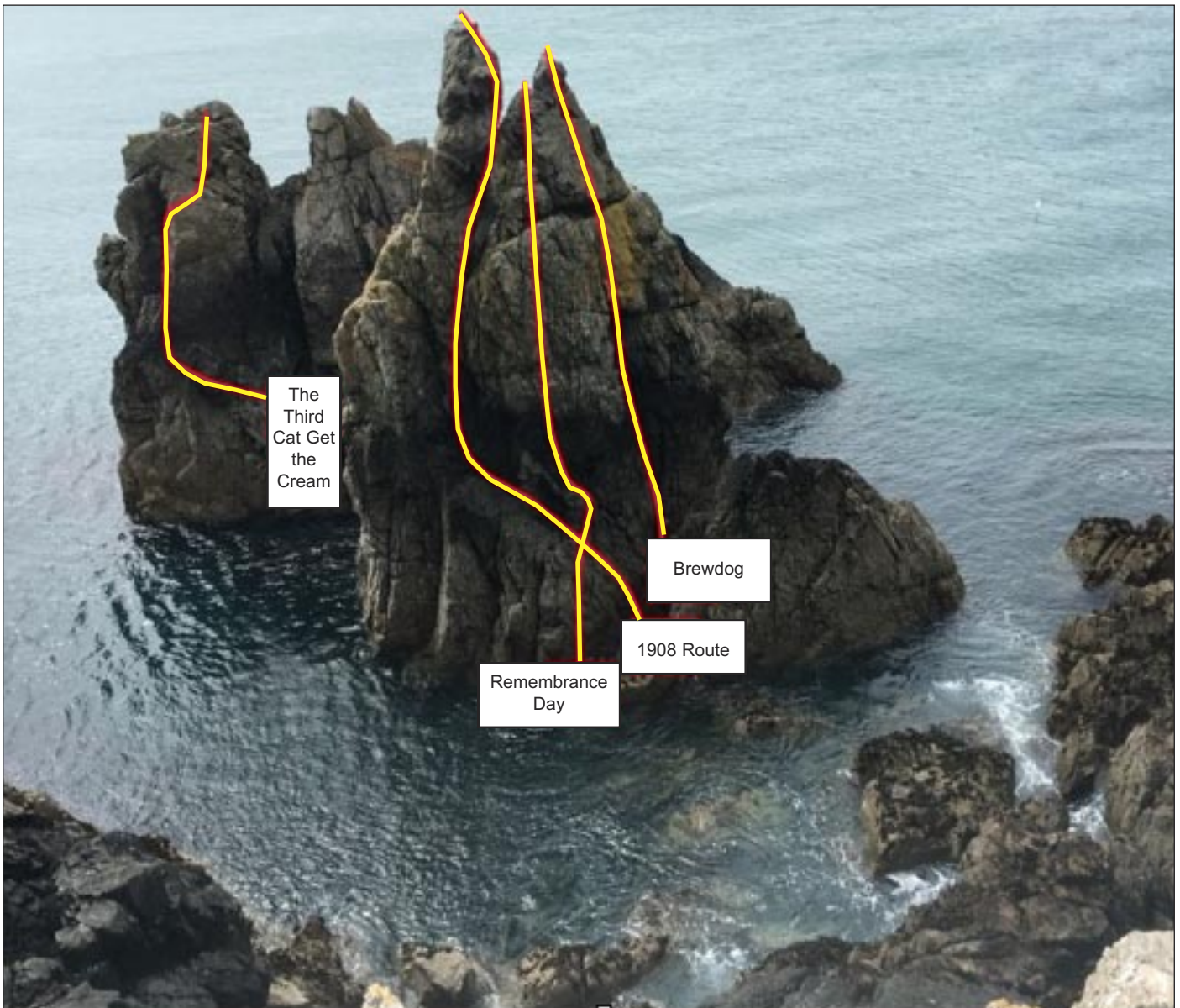
First ascent: Steve Le Feuvre and Martin Smith, 16 May 2018.

Dog Rock

The landward and most impressive of the two.

1908 Route *** VDiff

From the Climbers Club Journal Vol. XI No.41 September 1908;



Lion Rock (rear) and Dog Rock (front.) Steve Le Feuvre photo.

"We climbed it from the big rock abutting against its base on the land side, and climbed up a shallow recess inclined a little to the left for 10 feet. We then crossed a bit of rock on our right into another and rather steeper recess, straight up which we climbed into the gap between the two top blocks. The higher of these is on the right, and is reached by standing on the edge of a sharp splinter of rock. The top of this is about eight feet above the gap, and is just large enough to comfortably stand upright upon".

Note: The higher of the two top blocks described above has fallen off.

First ascent: F. H. Grenfell and Brother, 1908.

Remembrance Day Sev 18m

Takes the line between the 1908 route and Brewdog. Start below the landward face where a system of vertical cracks can be seen. Climb these direct to the top.

First ascent: Steve Dorrity and Steve Le Feuvre, 11 November 2018.

Brewdog Sev 18m

In the centre of the landward face there is a faint corner. Take this until you reach a small overhang at $\frac{2}{3}$ height. Climb this direct to gain a small slab, with delicate moves guarding the western summit.

First ascent: Steve Le Feuvre, Steve Dorrity, 11 November 2018.

Cat Burglar * HSev 18m

Follow the right hand side crack on the east face (seaward side) to the ledge at 20m. From the ledge follow the flake and crack feature to the summit.

First ascent: Steve Le Feuvre, Martin Smith, 16 May 2018.



Pea Stacks

Lat and Long 49.418181, -2.539706

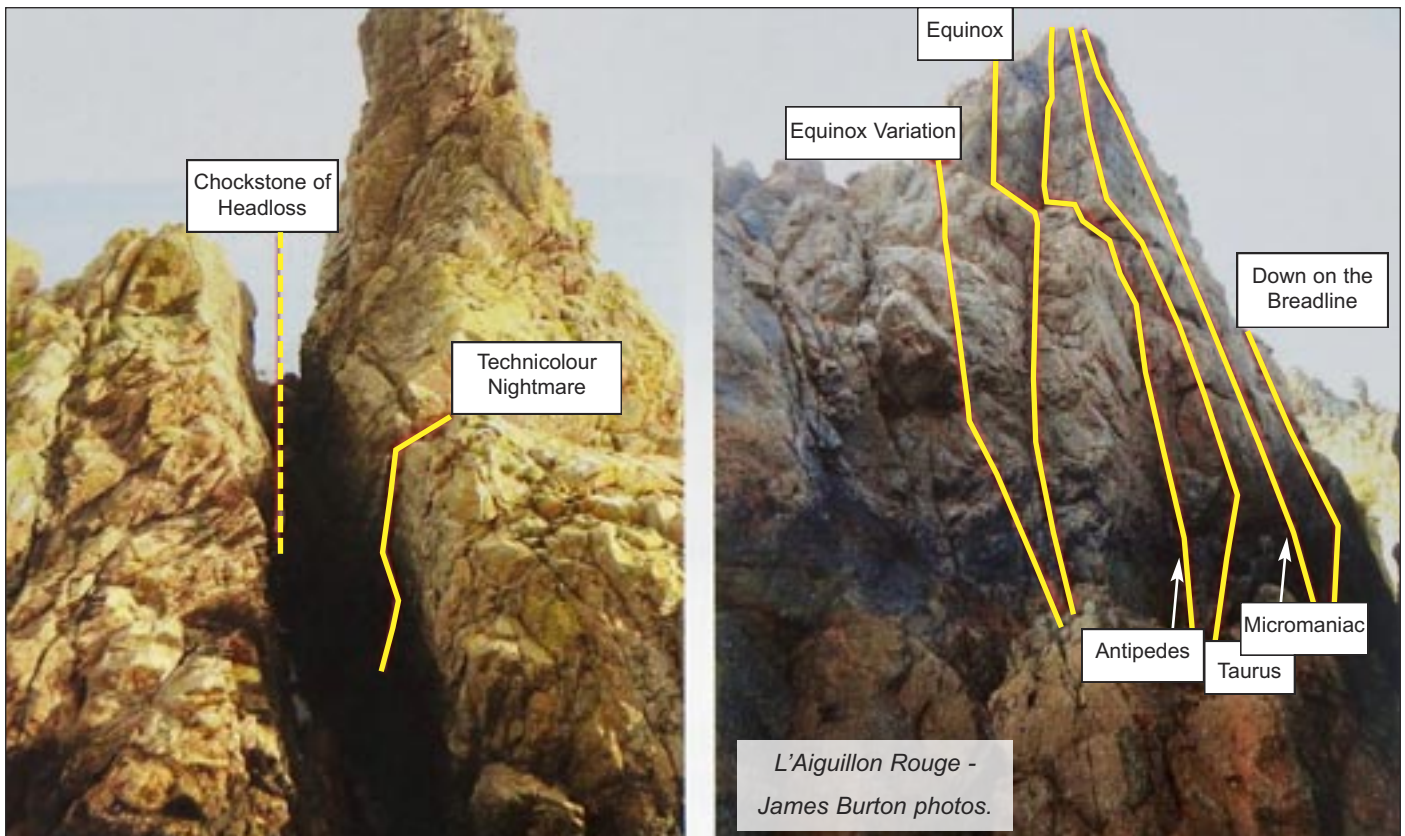
The Pea Stacks are found at the tip of the Jerbourg peninsula, the southeastern tip of Guernsey. They are made of gneiss rock and there are six or seven of them, looking like a row of teeth. The outermost three are much



photographed. Two of the inner stacks have climbs on them; L'Aiguillon Rouge and the Smaller Stack. The other, and outer, Pea Stacks have route possibilities but access will be difficult, needing a dinghy or a very low spring tide, which probably won't enable access to the outermost stack. The West Stack is to the east in Le Harve L'Elin D'Colin bay. The Pea Stacks are accessed from the car park at Jerbourg Point. Walk west from this car park along a narrow tarmac track running behind Hotel Jerbourg and in front of the houses on the cliff top. Near the end of the track you will find a white bungalow called "Seaplane Bungalow" with a clear area opposite it with a memorial stone and a wall running down one side.

Take the clifftop path off the end of the tarmac track. Pass two bunkers on the seaward side of this path. Turn left at the second bunker and head down the west side of the bunker to the point below. Keep to the east side of the point, scramble down to the entrance of the gully that separates the Pea Stacks from the mainland, and then scramble along the gully to reach the stacks.

In general it's possible to access the two Pea Stacks with routes on them for 2 to 3 hours either side of a low tide on a neap tide. However a low spring tide is preferable. Note, spring tides occur twice each lunar month all year long. Neap tides, also occurring twice a month, happen seven days after a spring tide when the sun and moon are at right angles to each other. That minimises the height difference between low and high tides.



The Pea Stacks on a low neap tide may require abseil access. The stacks are separated from the mainland by a gully, and there are climbs on the landward side of this gully. They are described in the GSY Trad guidebook.

L'Aiguillon Rouge (The Red Needle)

Technicolour Nightmare Sev 14m

7m right of the head-height chockstone, which marks the start of Headloss climb, is a narrow chimney.

First ascent: Alan Hill, Jamie Tucker, 31 January 1987.

Headloss VS 5a 15m

Climb the wall above the chockstone.

First ascent: Unknown.

Down On The Breadline Sev 28m

Start at the left hand end of the rock pool beyond the chockstone. Follow the groove system rightward.

First ascent: Unknown.

Micromaniac ** E2 5b 28m

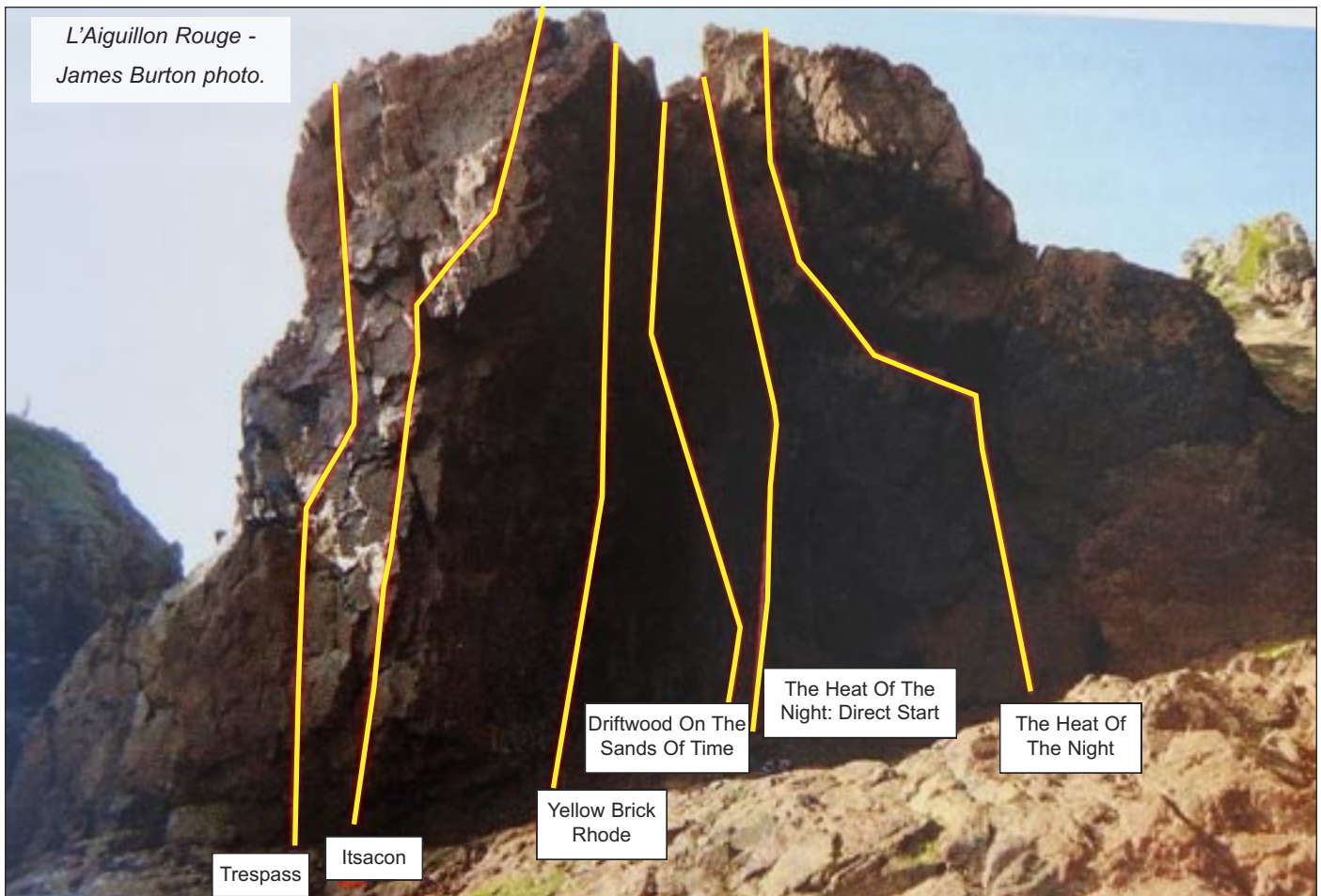
A good route, though with marginal protection. Start as for Down On The Breadline. Climb up to a small ledge at 5m, then continue up to a small leftward-facing corner. Climb past this, then go up the summit block.

First ascent: Pete Gorman, Alan Hill, Matthew Litten, 4 October 1986.

Antipedes Sev 28m

Start from the leftmost jammed boulder. Climb the corner system above this, then finish up the right of the two corners on the summit block.

First ascent: Unknown.



Taurus VS 4c 30m

Start as for Antipedes. Trend up and right to the arête, and follow this to its top. Move right to climb the blunt arête right of the crack of Antipedes.

First ascent: Unknown.

Equinox ** VDiff 30m

Start down and to the left. Climb the obvious corner on good jugs to a ledge. Finish up the left of the two corners in the summit block (slightly harder). Variation; from a ledge at 9m move up and left through the bulge.

First ascent: Unknown.

The Smaller Stack

The following climbs are on a small stack to the west which becomes separated towards high water. It has a clean seaward face, and a right-angled corner.

The Heat Of The Night VS 4c 14m

Start at the right hand end of the cliff. Climb to a crack and traverse along this, then up and left to a short corner.

First ascent: Unknown.

The Heat of the Night Direct Start

Grade and height unknown. Start as for Driftwood on the Sands of Time. Climb up and right to the small overhang, then go right of this to join the main route.

First ascent: Unknown.

Driftwood On The Sands Of Time VS 4c 12m

A good route climbing the corner to the left. A fine exercise in bridging and laybacking.

First ascent: Unknown.

Yellow Brick Rhode E1 5b 12m

Climbs the black face between Driftwood On The Sands Of Time and the arête of Itsacon. Climb up and right over small overhangs at 3m, then direct to the top.

First ascent: Alan Hill, Jamie Tucker, 31 January 1987.

Itsacon HVS 5a 11m

The arête to the left, climbed on its seaward edge.

First ascent: Unknown.

Trespass Sev 11m

The crack and corner near the left hand arête.

First ascent: Unknown.

Brill Sev

Climbs the wall a metre or two left of the arête.

First ascent: Unknown.

Dog Eat Dog VDiff

2m to the left and goes through a tiny overhang.

First ascent: Unknown.

One For The Vine VDiff

Takes the wall through the right of the two black streaks.

First ascent: Unknown.

Vagrant Sev

Climbs the bulge to the left of the black streaks.

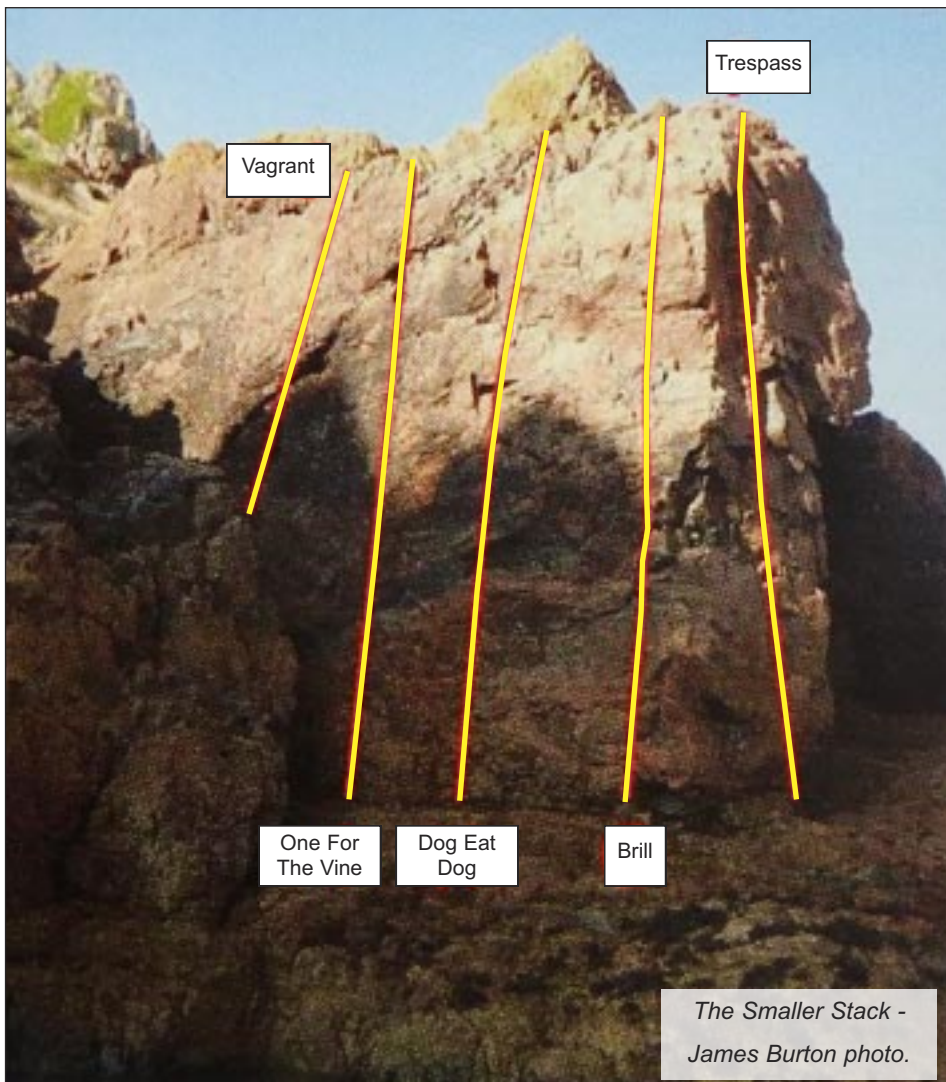
First ascent: Unknown.

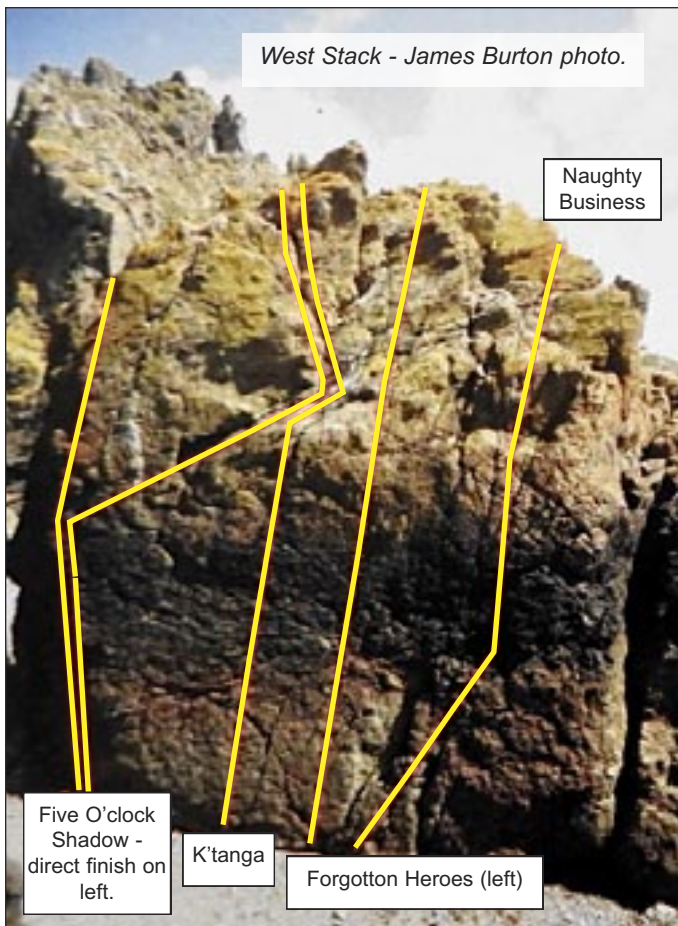
West Stack

This stack is in a small shingly bay called Le Harve L'Elin D'Colin.

Access: The bay is accessed from the car park at Jerbourg Point as for the Pea Stacks. At the Seaplane Bungalow memorial area, follow the line of the memorial area wall and walk down to the ridge or *coupée* that separates Le Harve L'Elin D'Colin and the bay behind a large rocky platform; Bainchu Island. On top of, and towards the end of the ridge/*coupée* is a boulder bridging between two other boulders. This marks the top of a steep narrow gully that is followed down to an area of rock known as Floating Slab. If the tide is low enough then scramble down into Le Harve L'Elin D'Colin bay or, if not, abseil from from the top of the lower half of Floating Slab.

Routes on West Stack are accessible, via abseil, from from about half tide onwards.





Five O'clock Shadow VS 4c 17m

At the left hand end of the wall is an arête with a hanging flake. Climb up to the flake, then traverse 4m right to gain good holds. Move up to a ledge and easy finish.

First Ascent: Alan Hill, Mike Rhodes, 16 September 1987.

Five O'clock Shadow Direct Finish VS 4c 17m

Continue straight up past the flake to the top.

First Ascent: Alan Hill, Mike Rhodes, 19 September 1987.

K'tanga VS 5a 14m

Start 4m to the right and climb directly up to the finish of Five O'clock Shadow.

First ascent: Alan Hill, 16 September 1987.

Forgotton Heroes E1 5a 14m

Start 2m right of K'tanga, left of a series of step-like holds. Climb directly to and over small quartzzy flakes to the top.

First Ascent: Alan Hill, Mike Rhodes, 19 September 1987.

Naughty Business Sev 14m

Climb the step-like holds just right of Forgotton Heroes

and finish up a short tricky wall.

First ascent: Alan Hill, L. Broad, 16 September 1987.

SARK

Map: p70

There is a lovely quartet of stacks here; Les Autelets. In order to travel to Sark you will have to catch a passenger ferry operated by Sark Shipping from Guernsey which takes about 45 minutes. There are no cars in Sark so the favoured mode of transport is by bicycle. These can be hired in the village centre.

Les Autelets

Lat and Long 49.440636, -2.368985. Photo: p71.

A much-photographed group of four sea stacks. Rumour is that the first summit of the main stack, perhaps a scramble up the easy north side, was ascended by the Dame of Sark. The stacks are home to a colony of guillemots and therefore climbing is to be avoided during the nesting season, which is February to mid-July.

Detailed access: By foot: all the stacks can be reached by taking a path down to Port du Moulin and then scrambling north round the coast. A low spring tide is recommended for all the stacks.

By boat: a recent ascent of all four stacks utilised a boat. There is suitable deep water north of the stacks to drop anchor and there are a number of platforms on which a dingy can be landed, calm seas recommended.

Outer Stack

First summited previous to 2016 by an unknown route.

1. Un-named * HSev 4c 11m

Climb the obvious crack on the face overlooking the Main Stack.

First ascent: Nicky Pledger and Christian Harvey, November 2016.



Main Stack

By far the largest of the four stacks. It has a small archway in its centre which can be walked through at low tide. First summited previous to 2016 by an unknown route.

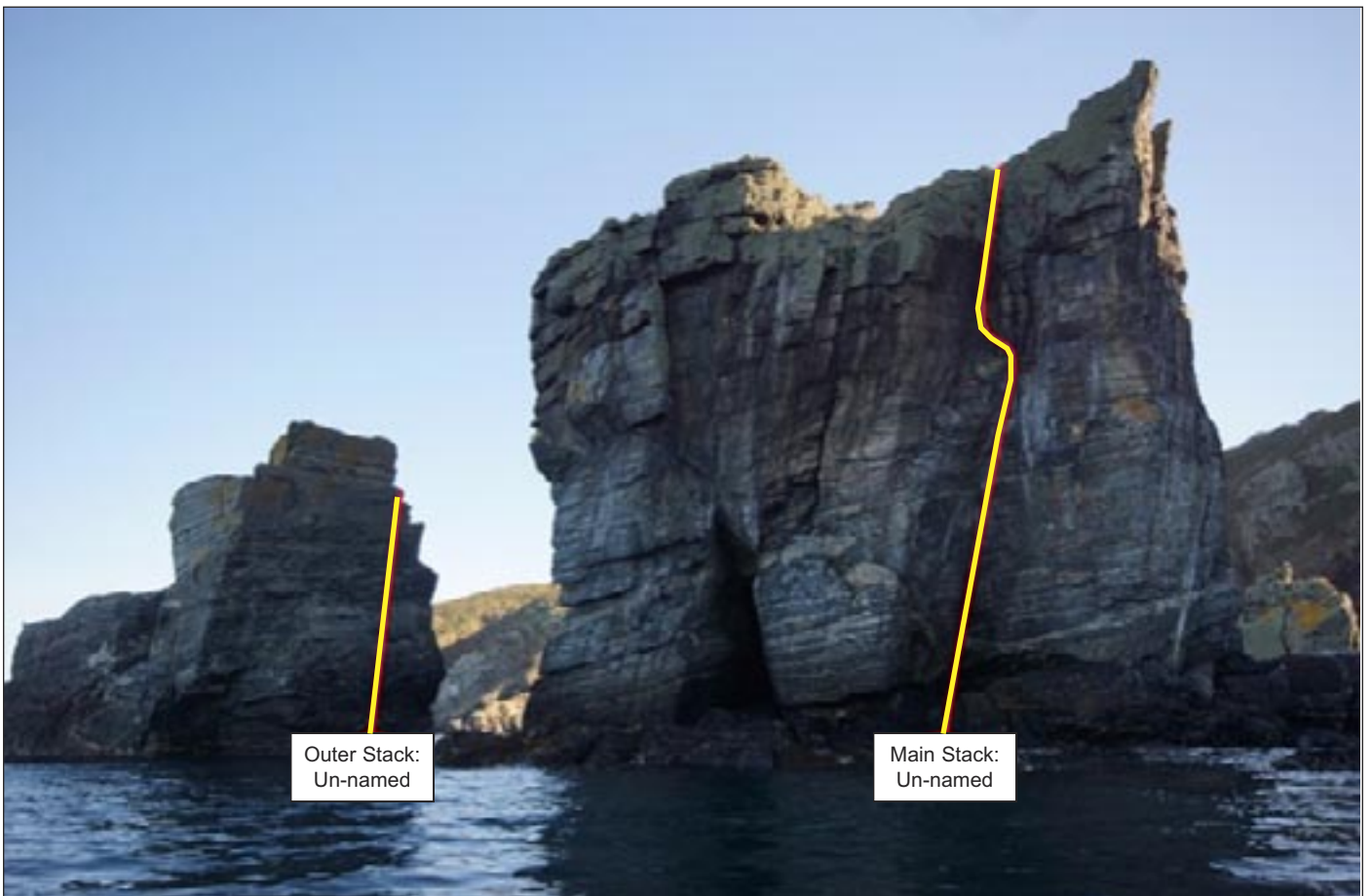
2. Un-named HSev 4c 11m

Good quality rock low down becoming poor the higher you go. On the southern face at the eastern side climb the corner until $\frac{2}{3}$ height. Move left where another and slightly more solid corner can be gained. Take this to the summit.

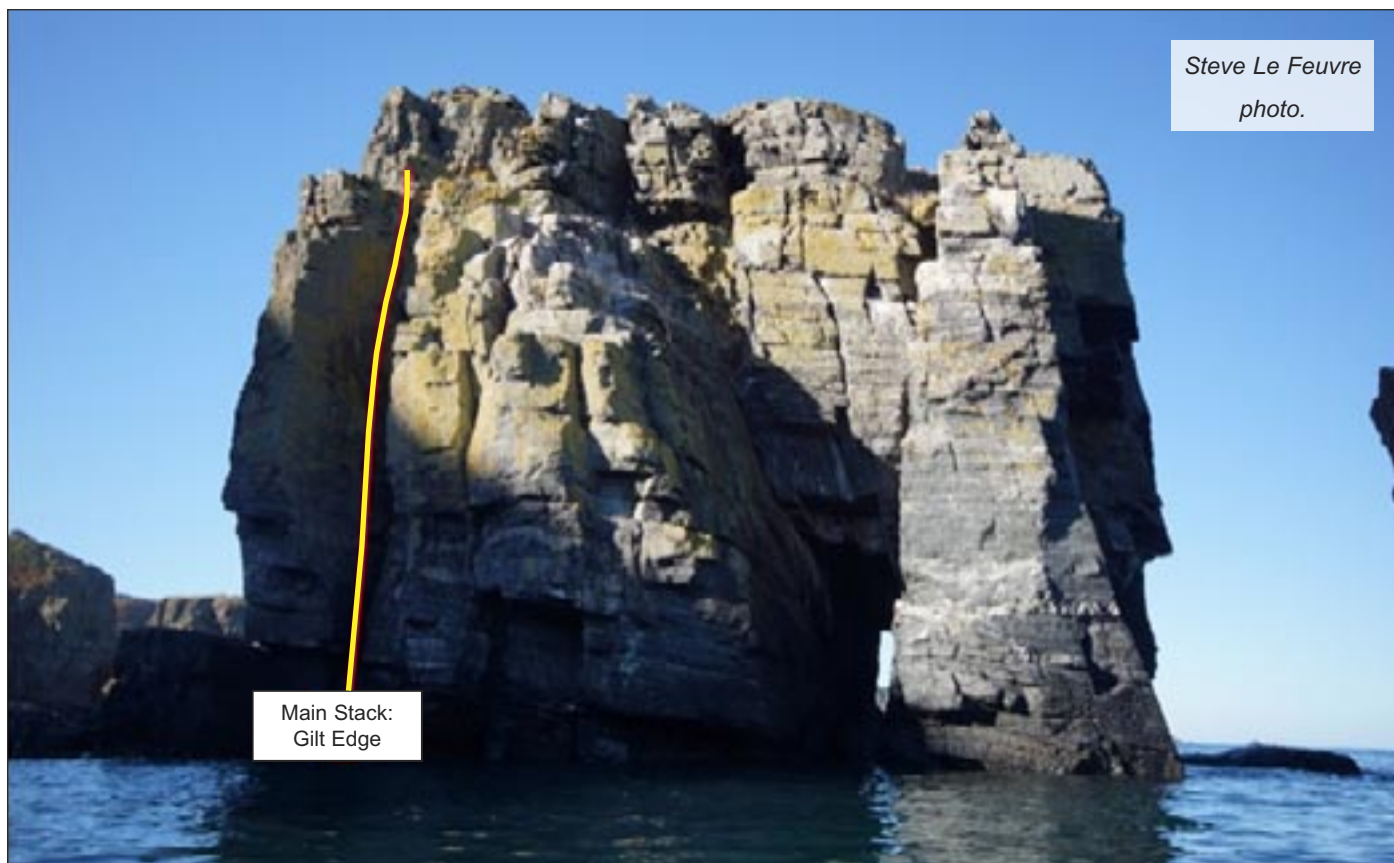
First ascent: Nicky Pledger, Christian Harvey, November 2016.



Les Autelets - Steve Le Feuvre photos.



Steve Le Feuvre
photo.



Gilt Edge * VS 5a 14m

Good quality rock low down becoming poor the higher you go. On the Southern Face at the Eastern side climb the corner until $\frac{2}{3}$ height. Move left where another and slightly more solid corner can be gained. Take this to the summit

First ascent: Ben Francis, Steve Le Feuvre, 26 September 2018.

Inner Stack West

Resolution * E1 5b 12m

The southern face of the stack is split by a fist crack. Climb this by the initial off-width chimney and gain the face with difficulty. Follow the crack to the summit.

First ascent: Ben Francis, Steve Le Feuvre, 26 September 2018.

Inner Stack East

Substitution HSev 4b 18m

On the seaward face find and follow a vague system of cracks. Optional belay on ledge at 8m.

First ascent: Ben Francis, Steve Le Feuvre, 26 September 2018.

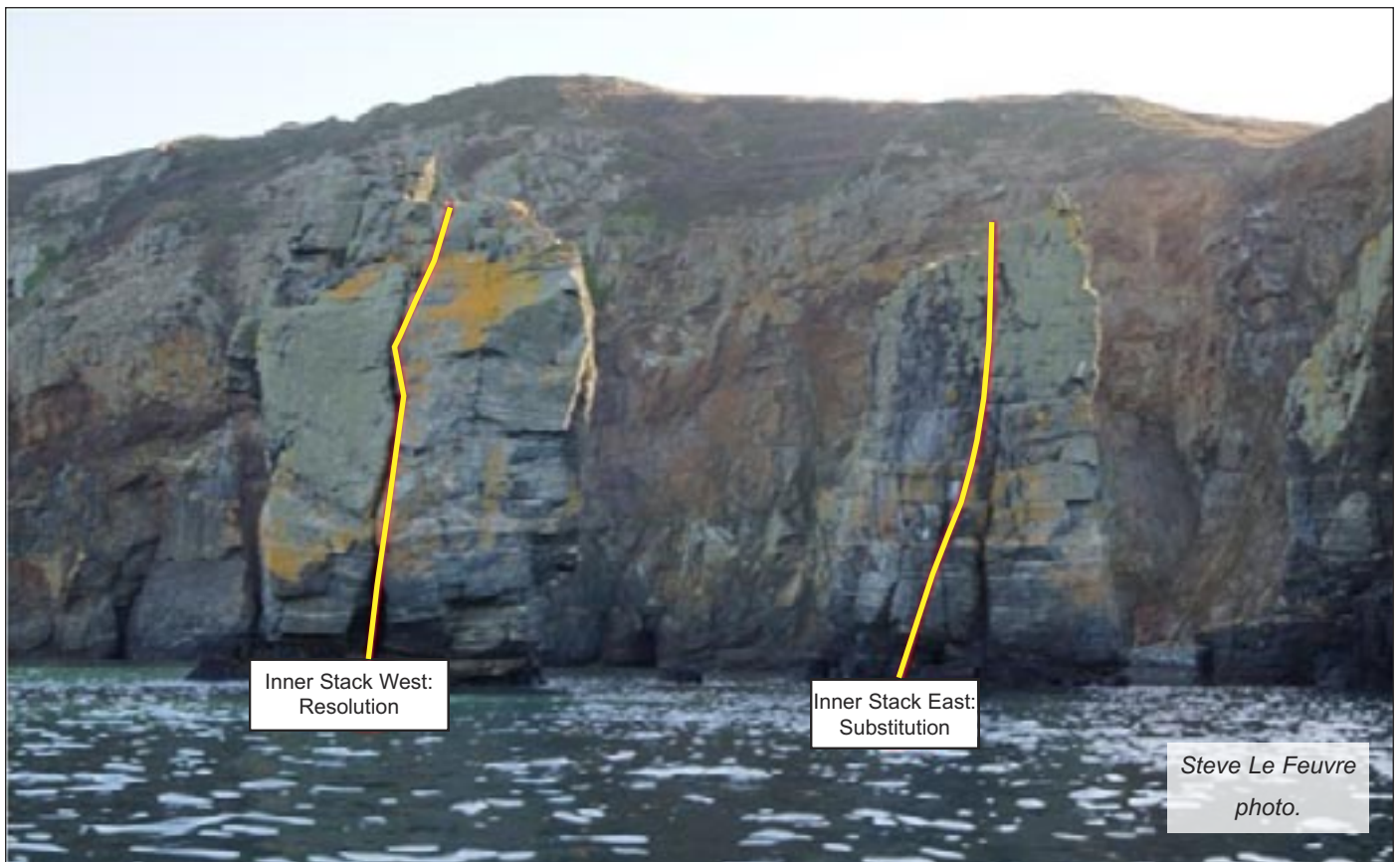
ALDERNEY

Map: p73

This is the northernmost of the inhabited Channel Islands and there is a pair of magnificent stacks off its south coast, known as the Sister Rocks. Alderney is accessed by boat from Guernsey or by air from either Southampton or Guernsey.

Sister Rocks

At high tide 'La Nache' is 55m and 'Fourquie' is 43m high. As far as is known they are unclimbed, and probably offer an interesting Alpine / XS experience to any potential first ascensionists! The seaward faces are steeper.



'La Nache' is not French but Auregnais, an ancient Norman dialect language, and means, in medieval French, 'the buttock'.

Access: Either by boat, or do a monster abseil (90m?) from close to the small German observation post south of Telegraph tower and walk/paddle across at low tide. It should be possible to scramble round from Telegraph Bay on a low spring tide. NB. the descent path to Telegraph Bay is in poor condition and likely to need a rope handrail at the least.



North Cornwall

Map: below

The north Cornwall coast has a stack formed from culm rock. It is not far from the border with Devon, between Welcombe in Devon and Morwenstow in Cornwall, at Marsland Mouth. This terrain is crossed by the North Cornwall coast path and the scenery is wonderful.

Gull Rock

MR: SS 2045 1719. Photo: p75.

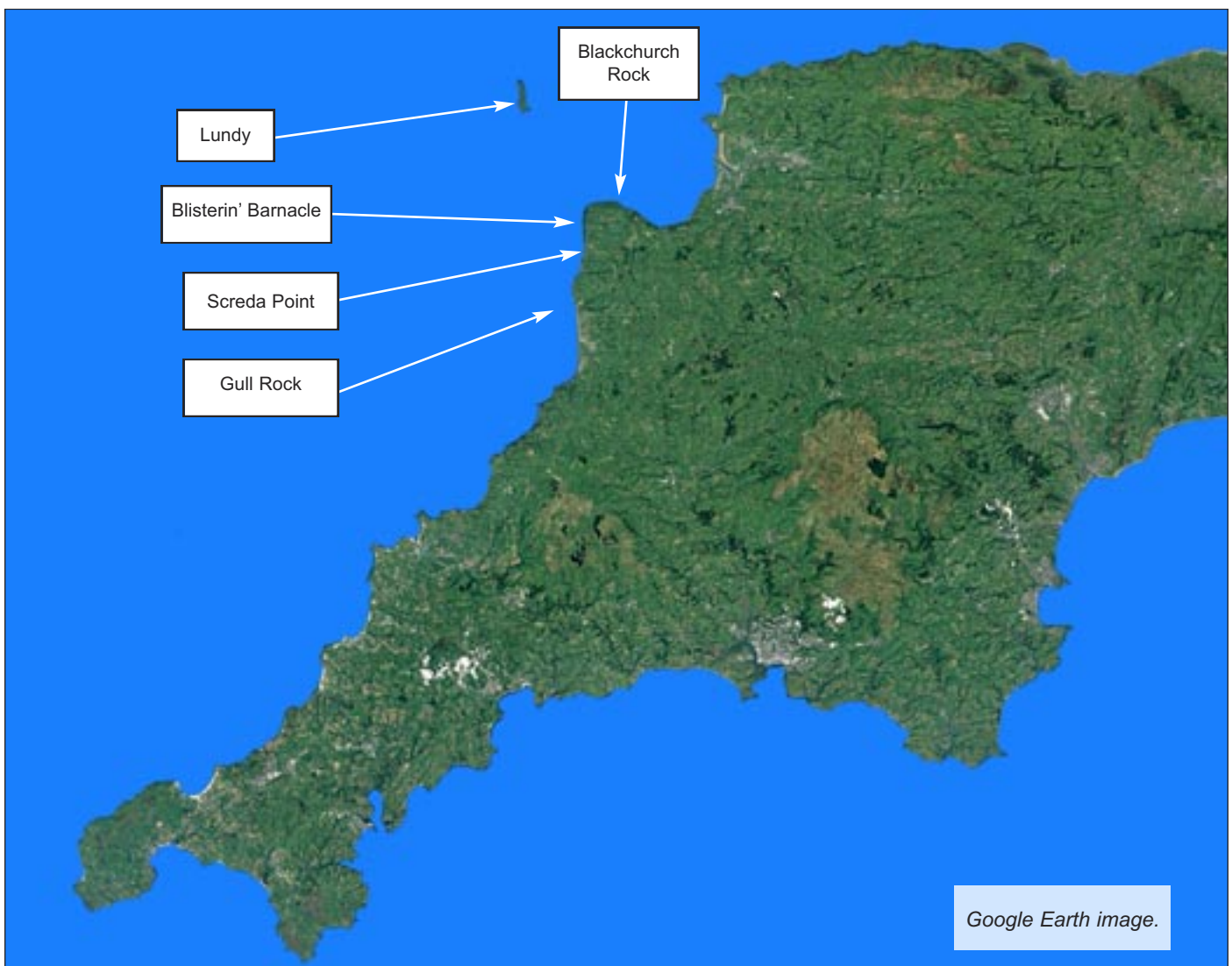
Gull Rock is the stack at the end of the headland forming the south end of a bay into which the Welcombe and Marsland streams flow. From the A39 south of Higher Clovelly, make your way to a village/settlement called Mead, south and west of Welcombe. Turn right at a t-junction in Mead, taking a narrow lane to Welcombe mouth. Go downhill to come to a cross-roads, and turn left, signposted Welcombe Mouth. You continue down a valley and come to a turning circle and parking area at the coast.

Now, assuming it's low tide, walk about half a mile south along the foreshore to find the headland with the stack to its right. The stack can be reached 1½ hours each side of low tide.

The climbs are on its south and slabby side. Descents are made down the seaward crest or the north side of the stack if the incoming tide has reached the seaward tip. It is a seabird nesting site from March to July, and best avoided then.

The climbs are listed from left to right, and the first six are found left of The Devil's Hole through cave.

North Cornwall and North Devon stacks. Google Earth image.



Gull Rock.



Gullible Too Sev 12m

Climb the cracked and pocketed slab near the left arête.

First ascent: S. Mooney, B. Voss, R. Bloxham, 2 August 1992.

Tha' Wer' Easy HSev 12m

Climb up the second crack from the left arête.

First ascent: W. Marland, A. Gipps, A. Cunningham, 1994.

Fitzharber HSev 12m

Find a bouldery-style start which gains a crack and pockets leading up past a recess to the top.

First ascent: R. Bloxham, S. Mooney, 11 October 1992.

Little Lambs VS 4c 12m

Start midway along the base of the slab and climb straight up to its highest point.

First ascent: D. Hillebrand, K. Siemund, 4 April 1992.

Deimos VS 4c 12m

Left of the landward arête find a set of diagonal crack. Climb these.

First ascent: S. Mooney, R. Bloxham, B. Voss, 2 August 1992.



Silence of the Lambs VS 4b 24m

Start at a ledge above the pool at the entrance to the through-cave. Climb the rightward arête of the slab, getting over its overhang and then continuing up the slab and arête to the top. Poor protection.

First ascent: D. Hillebrand, K. Siemund, 4 April 1992.

There are two more slabs right of the through-cave.

The Teardrop Explodes E4 5c 26m

Careful. Traverse from the right to gain the right arête of the through-cave. Climb this to the top in a serious position with poor protection and loose rock at the top.

First ascent: S. Hawken (solo), 13 August 1995.

Electric Lemonade E1 5b 26m

Right of the arête of Teardrop Explodes there is a deep crack. A crack starts 5 feet left of this and trends rightwards to a small overlap. Climb this crack. Continue up the loose slab above to a point where you can traverse right to easier rock and find a stake belay above.

First ascent: W. Marland, A. Gipps, 1994.

Tha' Wer' 'Ard E1 5b 26m

Find a couple of converging cracks left of the landward arête. Climb these to an overlap which needs attention to overcome and continue up a crack with easing difficulties to a stake belay at the top.

First ascent: W. Marland, A. Cunningham, 1994.

Elend VDiff 26m

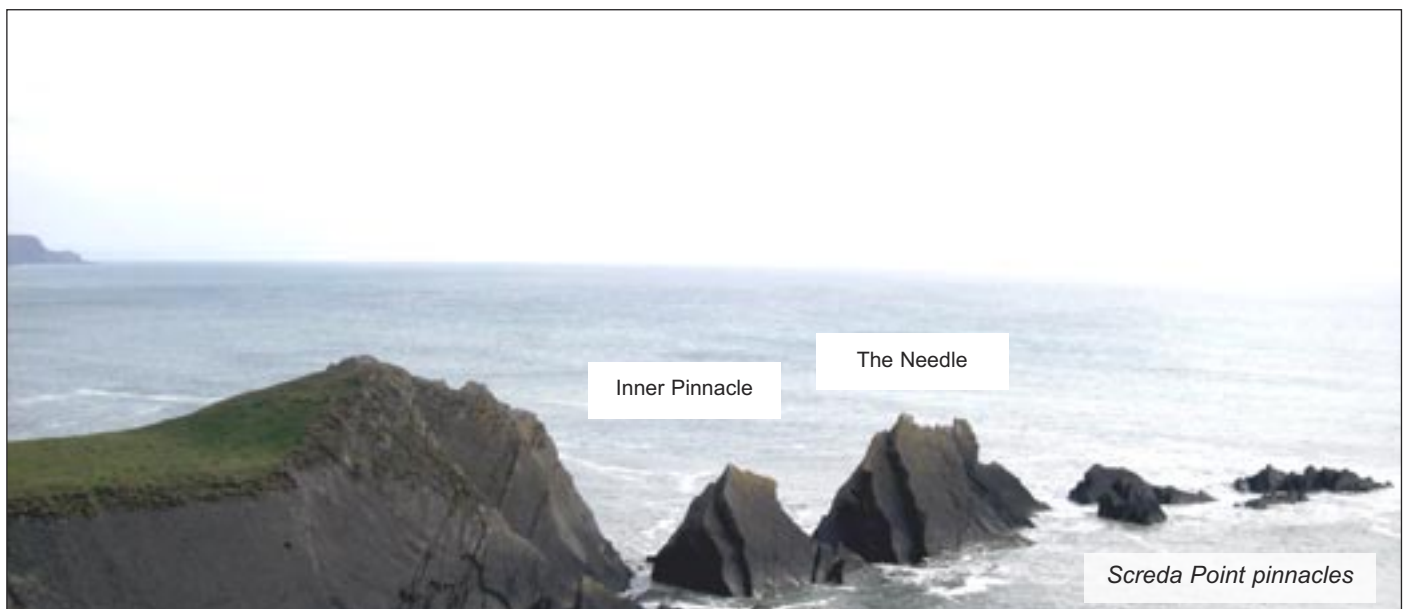
There is a folded wall at the landward end of the stack. Climb this, finishing up a groove on the right.

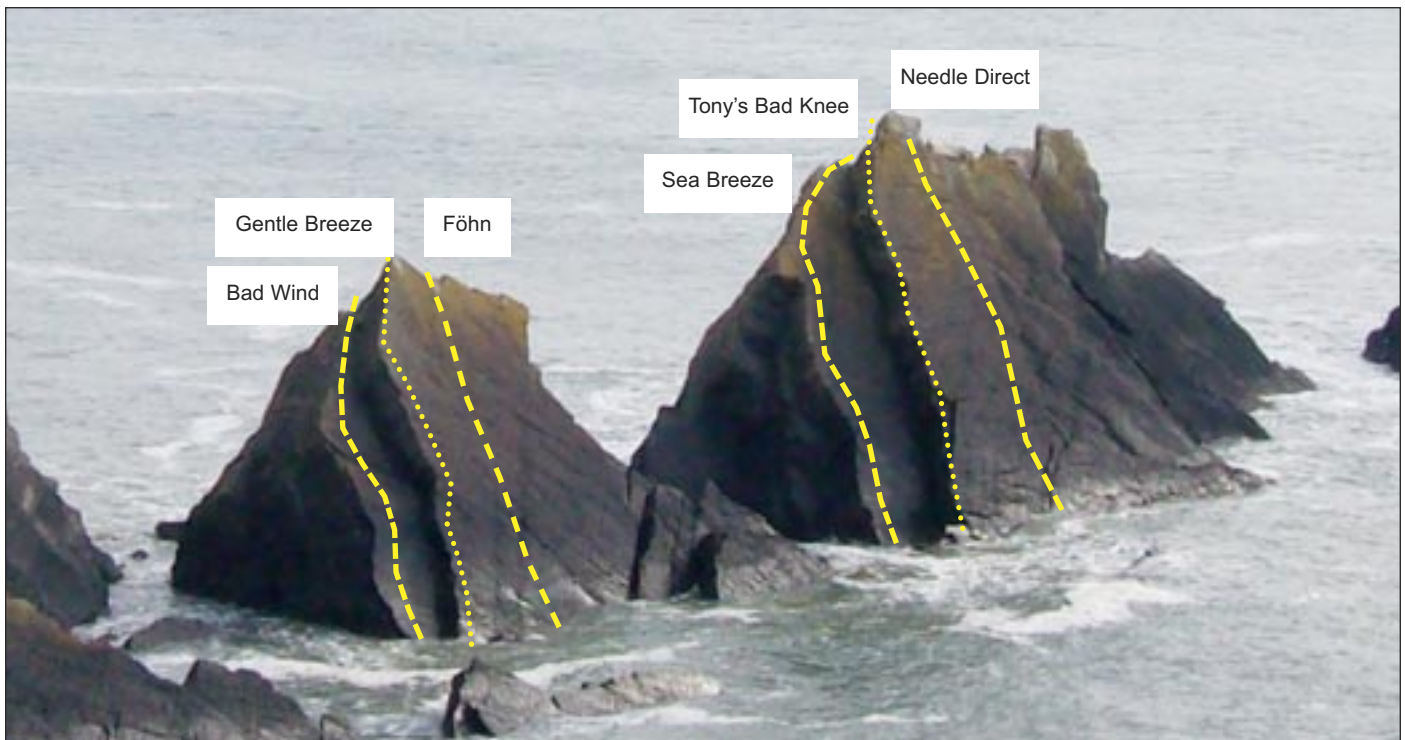
First ascent: D. Hillebrand, K. Siemund, 4 April 1992.

North Devon

Map: p74

North Devon has several stacks running up its culm coastline towards Harland Point. There are stacks at Screda Point, near Dyer's Lookout and also Blackchurch. Generally culm rock is too weak to form a stack which can withstand the waves for long. Climb these ones while you can.





Screda Point Pinnacles

Photos: above, p76, 78.

There are two stack, slabby pinnacles, at Screda Point in North Devon. This is reached from the A39 road running south from Bideford to Bude. Follow a turning off it signed for Hartland and drive to and through the village, picking up signs for Stoke. There, press on following signs to Hartland Quay. Park at the toll booth, situated before the road drops down the slopes to the Quay. Screda Point is short westward walk across a shingle beach from the Hartland Quay hotel, and its food and drink and toilet delights. The pinnacles consist of slabby culm rock. Low tide is needed to access them.

Inner Pinnacle

There are five routes up the inner and smaller of the two pinnacles. It is less tidal of access than the outer pinnacle.

Bad Wind HSev 4b

Climb the left, landward arête of the Föhn fin to its summit.

First ascent; D. Simonite, S. Coughlan, T. Mynette, 1990.

Mistral HSev 4b

This may climb the corner/groove between Bad Wind and Gentle Breeze.

First ascent; Mark Kemball, 18 April 2017.

Gentle Breeze HSev 4b

This climbs the arête left of Föhn, moving right near the top then back left to re-join the arête to finish.

First ascent; unknown.

Föhn HSev 4a 18m

This is a pleasant climb up the centre of the slab using deep cracks initially; they fade away higher up. The protection is not great. Start behind a large boulder under the top of the stack.

First ascent; R. Mear; P. O'Sullivan, 29 May 1979.

Greybeard's Phone HSev 20m

Start at the left foot of the slab and climb rightwards following cracks to reach and join The Snuffler at the arête at a notch. One crux move, etc.

First ascent; unknown.

The Snuffler VS 4b 18m

Locate a cave right of Föhn. Climb its right edge and gain a slab. Go straight up to the arête at a notch. One crux move brings the top soon afterwards.

First ascent; M. Whitaker, R.Howard, 9 October 1990.

The Needle

The outer and pinnacle is not a very needle-like stack, except when viewed end-on. There are six climbs and low tide is needed for access.

Sea Breeze * HSev 4a 24m

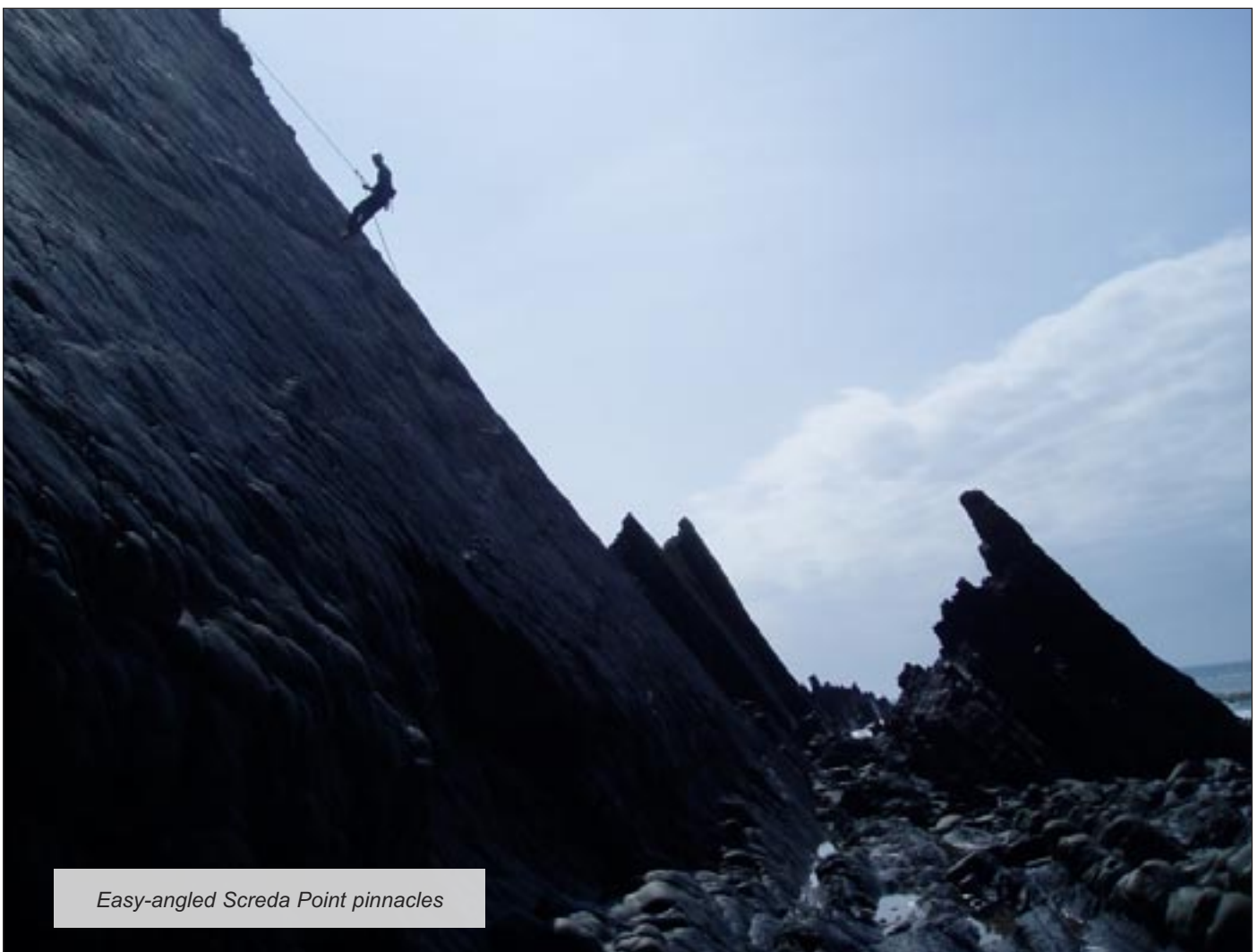
Ascend the landward arête of the pinnacle. This is to the left of the left-hand chimney. Good gear and pleasant climbing.

First ascent; R. Mear, P. O'Sullivan, 28 April 1979.

Tide's In V Diff c20m

The landward chimney.

First ascent; unknown.



Easy-angled Screda Point pinnacles

Tony's Bad Knee HSev 4b

This climbs the left arête of the Needle and is well protected.

First ascent; D. Simmonite, S. Coughlan, T. Mynette, 1990.

Needle Direct * VS 4b 24m

The climb with the most substance on these pinnacles. Climb up the centre of the pinnacle and go left just under the summit.

First ascent; I. Peters, A. Clarke, April 1974.

The Needle VS 4b 18m

Ascend the right-hand side and arête of the slab.

First ascent; Tom Patey. 27 September 1959.

The right-hand side of a needle's eye feature can be climbed at a Very Difficult standard. There is some loose rock at the top.

Give Us a Break * VS 4c 18m

Climb a quartz break snaking up the middle of the seaward slab right of a slot. It's sustained, delicate and enjoyable.

First ascent; B. R. E. Wilkinson, M. A. Grapes, 1994.

Pan VS 4b

This goes up the arête and slab 3m right of Give Us a Break. The first half has poor gear but, overall, the climb is a pleasant challenge.

First ascent; Mark Garland, Dave Roderick, 2 April 2002.

Hook Diff

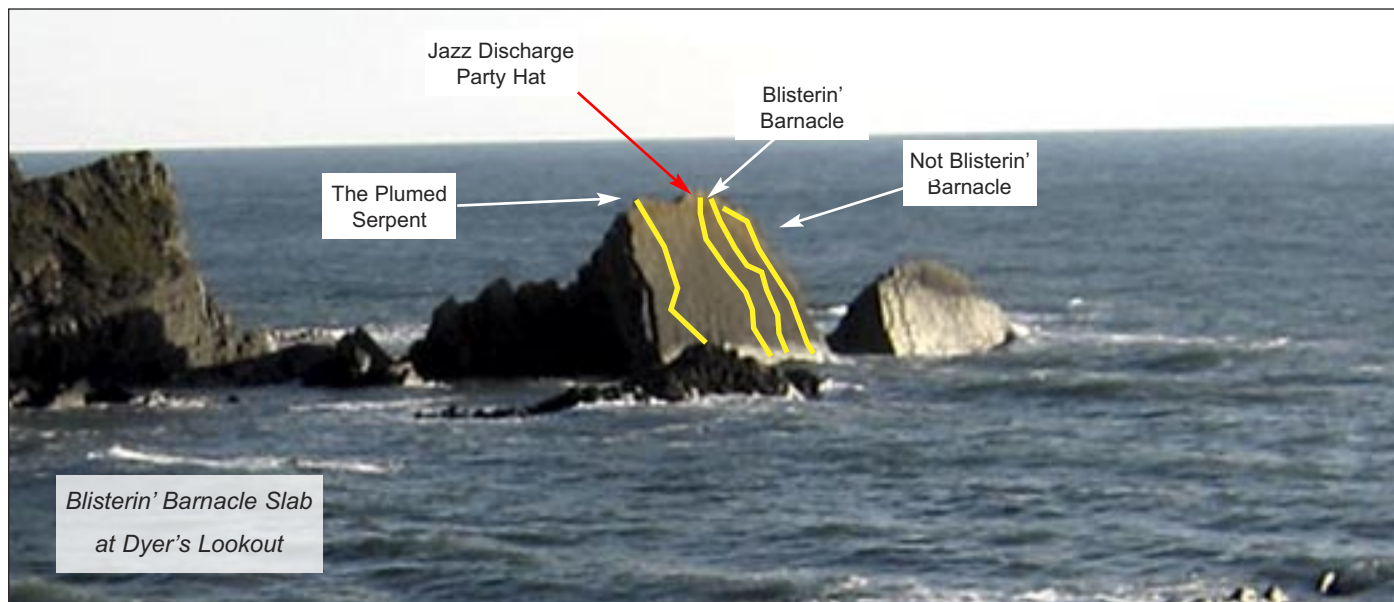
A obvious diagonal quartz crack to the right of Pan.

First ascent; Mark Garland, Dave Roderick, 2 April 2002.

Tinkerbell HVS 5a

This follows a fine crack line going up the middle of a small slab 8m right of Hook and above a rock pool (at low tide obviously.)

First ascent; Mark Garland, Dave Roderick, 2 April 2002.



The next stack is north of Hartland Quay and south of Dyer's Lookout. It's a seriously steep, smooth and rippled culm cliff with a pleasantly cracked and slabby face.

Blisterin' Barnacle Slab

MR: 224 256 (Dyer's Lookout) Map: p74. Photo: p79.

At Harland Quay find and follow the coastal path northwards. Pass a ruined tower and keep on the path as goes downhill to a cottage and the foreshore. The cliff of Dyer's Lookout is to your right but we stack-baggers turn left to find two pinnacles. The largest one is Blisterin' Barnacle and ledges at its north-facing base are accessible at mid- to low-tide when the sea is calm. The south side of the stack affords an easy scramble down. You can then head to the seaward end of the stack and go round to its north side to find a platform below its right-hand and smoother side, which is accessible at half tide. The climbs, which go up good and solid rock, are described from left to right.

Briny Walk * HSev 4a 24m

Enjoyable and well-protected. There is a shallow groove running up the left arête. Traverse right, from a corner on the landward aspect of the slab, to the groove and climb it to a step right at the top.

First ascent: P. O'Sullivan, B. Adams, J. Maund, May 1979.

The Plumed Serpent ** HSev 4a 24m

Another pleasant outing. Three metres right of Briny Walk, and at the left-hand side of the slab, is a snaking crackline. Climb leftwards from the end of the narrow and sloping lower ledge at the base to gain the bottom of the cracks and ascend them with good protection to the top.

First ascent: P. O'Sullivan, B. Adams, 1979.

Crumbs HSev

Unknown description.

First ascent: unknown.

Stuffed Badger HSev

Unknown description.

First ascent: unknown.

Zaith E1 5b 20m

Find a short corner 10m left of Jazz Discharge Party Hat. Climb a hard start and follow a vertical overlap to the top.

First ascent: Jason Lloyd, Mark Garland, 1 June 2003.

Jazz Discharge Party Hat * E1 5b

Consistently good climbing on good rock with thin microwire protection. Locate a small vertical corner at 10m with a rightwards trending crack below it. Interesting and bold moves up the crack ease and you then climb up thin intermittent cracks 3m right of the vertical corner to the top.

First ascent: M. Milne, R. Jones, I. Hamilton, 1982.

Blisterin' Barnacle ** E2 5b

Enjoyable slab climbing with thin protection in its lower half. Right of Jazz Discharge Party Hat below a thin crack in the upper part of the slab. Climb boldly up the slab to find protection at a thin seam along with better holds. Climb the seam then go left to the upper crack and climb it enjoyably to the top

First ascent: Pete O'Sullivan, B. Adams, May 1979.

Not Blisterin' Barnacle ** E2 5b

A repeat 2-star Blisterin' Barnacle experience. Start left of the right arête of the slab. Make a bold start up the slab to gain a crack at mid-height, and follow it to the top, moving left up the crest to the Blisterin' Barnacle belay.

First ascent: Dave Garnett, Hilary Sharp, 30 July 1982.

Funky Appendage Sev

Climb the right arête of Blisterin' Barnacle Slab. The finish is a leftwards hand traverse to the summit

First ascent: John Bull, 12 April 2004

On the seaward fin of Blisterin' Barnacle Slab we find three, possibly four, routes.

Allez Ratour Espania Sev 12m

Start c12m right of the landward arête and climb an obvious right to left diagonal crack.

First ascent: Mark Garland, Jason Lloyd. 1 June 2003.

Languishing Limpet HVS 5a

There is a climb recorded here but no details other than it climbs a crack 5m from the arête.

First ascent: unknown.

Olive Oil Sev 12m

Start 7m right of the landward arête and 1.5m right of Languishing Limpet. Climb the obvious line on straight crack to the top.

First ascent: Mark Garland, Jason Lloyd. 1 June 2003.

Popeye V Diff

Start 1.5m right of the landward arête and follow a series of overlaps easily to the top.

First ascent: Mark Garland. 1 June 2003



Blackchurch Rock stack with Blackchurch Cliff beyond.

Blackchurch

Blackchurch Rock

MR: Sheet 190 299267. Picture p7, 81, 83.

Blackchurch stack is awesome. The seaward face of it is a slab so it does not feel like a stack, more like a miniature version of a Baggy Point promontory further up the coast. It is composed of culm, a kind of metamorphic sandstone like slate but coarser grained. The bed of culm forming Blackchurch rock has been tilted so that the bedding plane is about 70°. It is seamed with small cracks that are tailor made for RPs and small rocks.

There are eight routes on the seaward face of this stack which is completely cut off at high tide. At low tide walk across the rocky foreshore to get to it. The main problem is getting to Blackchurch itself.

Detailed access: Park the car at Brownsham Farm (MR: 286259) and walk for a mile through woods to the coast by some old lime kilns at Mouth Mill. You can now get down to the base of the crag quite easily. Blackchurch is north facing and has an offputting reputation which is very well deserved as the rock is loose and parts fall down fairly frequently. A climb's half life here can be five years or less.

Blackchurch Rock is the antithesis of this. Glorious steep slab climbing with good protection. Definitely worth a cream tea afterwards.

Noir Et Blanc HVS 5a 26m

Start at the foot of the obvious corner and follow this until at the barnacle limit. Now go left to the arête and ascend this carefully to the top. You can scramble down the landward side of the stack from the top.

First ascent: Gary Gibson, Derek Beetlestone, 27 April 1980.

Rite Of Spring VS 4c 24m

This nice route takes the corner and groove line on the left of the stack.

First ascent: Pat Littlejohn, Peter Biven, A. Chadwick, J. Hammond, 8 February 1970.

Les Invalides E2 5c 31m

This climbs the main slab just to the right of the left arête. You begin below the arête but climb up to its right and reach a crack at 21m. Now go leftwards to a grassy gully and so to the top.

First ascent: Pete O'Sullivan, C. Woodhead, 22 July 1979.

Sacre Coeur *** E2 34m

Pure delight with great rock and good small wire protection. There is a line of thin cracks on the left side of the slab with a slot right of them at the 6m level. Ascend to the slot and then traverse left to the cracks. Follow these upwards moving right near the top to another crack line when the first cracks fade away.

First ascent: Pat Littlejohn, H. Clarke, 20 May 1974.

Dance On A Volcano E3 5c 31m

A tougher proposition than Sacre Coeur. Climb to the slot again but now go up and right to a smallish ledge. Go rightwards for a 5m before striking out for the top with bold climbing to a crack.

First ascent: C. Nicholson, B. Wilkinson, 11 October 1982.

Jamaican Dub ** E3 6a 31m

More of the same with good small wire protection and involving climbing. Begin to the right of Sacre Coeur and go up to some flakes. Move right to a crack and go over a bulge using a good fingerhold. A line of cracks goes leftwards for 8m after which you can move right to a better crack which joins the top of Notre Dame.

First ascent: Pete O'Sullivan, P. Bingham, I. Thompson, 11 July 1981.

Rant * E3 6a 46m

Wow! A girdle going from right to left across the slab. Best do it when nobody is climbing the other routes!
Commence below the right arête and climb boldly to the arête and up it until, at the 12m level, you are at the same height as a small bulge. Go left and cross it at a thin crack which is on Jamaican Dub. Traverse left on small (very) holds to reach Sacre Coeur at a slot. Go to the left arête, cross into Rite Of Spring and go up this to the top.

First ascent: Pete O'Sullivan, N. Crowhurst, 12 July 1987.

Notre Dame * VS 4b 40m

This climbs the slab's right arête. Climb up and follow the arête to a good ledge 5m below the top. Continue up the line of the arête which is harder and better than the alternative crack to the left. A direct start up the slab is possible at about 5b.

First ascent: Keith Derbyshire, D. Garner, 1974.



Blackchurch Rock. Dave Thompson climbing Les Invalides (left) after a previous leader backed off and stripped all except the lower-off runners. A second halfway up Under The Volcano (right.) The crack of Sacre Coeur is visible between them.

LUNDY

Map: below

Lundy is situated in the Bristol Channel and is about 3 miles long by $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile and largely composed of granite. It features one public radio telephone, its own stamps, no roads, one shop, one restaurant and pub, no cinemas, amusement arcades, buses, cars, police stations, televisions, radios and most other things we take for granted.

The island is owned by the National Trust, leased and administered by the Landmark Trust and features peace, birds, peace, great diving, peace and miles of great granite cliffs on its west side with three star routes everywhere. It also features four stacks but don't confine your climbing to these.

Lundy has its own boat, the MV Oldenburg, which can take up to 250 passengers to Lundy from either Bideford or Ilfracombe. Day trips are possible but you only get to stay on the island for 4-6 hours. You can hire your own vessel - ask at Ilfracombe harbour - and get slightly longer, tides and weather permitting.

The best choices involve more cash. One is to stay on the island either camping - cheap - or staying in a Landmark cottage - more expensive. Alternatively take a helicopter trip at c£400 return for up to five people. There are bird restrictions which mean climbing starts before April 1st or after July 31st. Contact the Lundy booking office, tel: 01271 863636, or the Landmark Trust - Shottesbrook, Maidenhead, SL6 3SW, tel: 0162 882 5925 - for details of transport to and accommodation on the island.

The stacks will be covered by going around the island anti-clockwise starting in the north-east. Note: right and left are used assuming you are facing out to sea.

Gannet's Rock

MR: Sheet 1 654756. Photo: p85.

From Landing Craft Bay a network of paths lead up the east coast, centre and west coast of the island. Since you can go virtually anywhere on the island don't be hesitant about

cutting directly across moorland or fields. Beware the Devil's Limekiln in the south west of the island. It is a great big blow hole shaped like a funnel and over 30m deep with climbs up the inside of it. It would be quite easy to slip into it and clock up air miles that you would never get the chance to spend.

Gannet's Rock is a large stack-cum-island on the north-east coast of Lundy, out past Threequarter Wall. Make your way to the village. Follow the main path north past Quarter Wall, Halfway Wall and Threequarter Wall. After the track veers around the depression that runs east into the sea take paths eastwards until you see Gannet's Rock.



Overlooking the rock is Gannet's Buttress, the approach to which is down a steep path on the north side of the buttress. This leads to a ledge splitting the buttress at half height. From here scramble down to its foot.

Detailed access: Now the fun begins. At low tide scramble down to sea-level boulders and hop across to Gannet's Rock. At higher tides have someone swim across and set up a Tyrolean traverse.

Gannet's Rock Crack HSev 31m

Start by scrambling up to the grass ledge with a large boulder about 31m above the shore.

1. 15m. Go up a broken groove to the left and reach a ledge leading round onto the north face. Climb this and then go back right to a belay ledge below the crack in the landward face.
2. 16m. Ascend the crack to the top.

Descent: Abseil or scramble down the south face and then round to the landward ledge.

First ascent: R. Evans, maybe, 1963.



Devil's Chimney

MR: Sheet 13 194570. Photo: p86.

This is the name of a stack! It is located in the corner of a large bay called Jenny's Cove and features 300 feet high cliffs close behind it and a committing approach.

This is a serious place as an ascent of the stack does not get you to the top of the cliff and you could get cut off. The shore is composed of large slippery boulders with no beach and a descent down a grassy pillar that is best achieved by abseil. It is recommended that you time your visit carefully to give you maximum climbing time without being cut off. You can generally get to the bottom of the stack about 1½ hours either side of low tide.

Detailed access: Make your way up the west coast path from the Old Light - Lundyspeak for the fine though unused lighthouse situated on the west coast near the village. Cross the Quarter Wall and go almost all the way to the Cheeses, conspicuous rocks on the plateau edge above Jenny's Cove just before Halfway Wall. Identify the deep narrow Deep Zawn and the inlet south of that and walk west to the slope and down just south of this inlet. You meet a path which leads to a place on the edge of the cliff where the path cuts back east (right) and down to a small bay.

On your right is a grassy rocky pillar down which the descent path goes. There are nut slots a plenty near by and a pinnacle so you can set up a good abseil. Do not abseil straight down unless you (a) have a 60 metre rope and, (b) are confident about scrambling up the grassy pillar on the way back. The reason for this is that there is a holdless wall at the bottom of the 60 metre abseil. Otherwise abseil over and down the grassy pillar as far as you can and use the rope as a handrail on the way back.

Now go boulder hopping to the stack. Note that the coastline here faces north so that the south side of the stack is the landward side and will probably be in the shade.



Devil's Chimney stack looking south at the north face, Jenny's Cove, Lundy.

The Devil's Chimney ** HVS 5b 45m

This was a VS but the sea has wrought changes at the start and the first pitch is now much harder than the other pitches. Commence under a shallow groove on the west face's right-hand side.

1. 11m 5b. Climb the groove with small wire protection to gain a belay stance under two slanting cracks. (*Note. An August 2018 UKclimbing.com comment says further rockfall means P1 is now 4c again.*)
2. 13m 4a. Go up the right-hand crack and then move left to a large ledge with lots of boulders.
2. 21m 4c. There is a steep slab above with a thin crack in its middle. Climb this up to a small overhang which you go over and continue up the steep wall, above in fine position, going leftwards to the top.

A variation finish - The Original Finish, 4b - climbs a steep groove made by a pinnacle at the left edge of the south face. Then continue up a looseish arête to the top. Not so nice. Descend by abseil with much tat at the top. The return to the Lundy plateau is described as an "horrendous scramble/prussik back up the ab rope."

First ascent: R. Shaw, J. Logan, June 1961 with original finish. R J. Tancred, R. S. Macnair, August 1969 as described.

Poltergeist ** E1 5b 47m

The south-east arête provides an exposed and spectacular route. Low tide will reveal a large boulder under a slight groove in a black wall on the east side of the pinnacle. The start can be greasy and Devil's Chimney pitch 1 is an alternative.

1. 17m 5b. Get into the groove via committing moves from the boulder and ascend to the Devil's Chimney stance below twin cracks. If the boulder moves then the start may be impossible.
2. 30m 5a. Time for fun. Go 4m up the right-hand crack then cross over right to a thinner crack which takes you to the arête. Climb up a wide diagonal crack, enjoying the exposure, and gain a small ledge. Ascend a tricky wall to a larger edge and thence to the summit via a slabby left-hand arête.

First ascent: P. Harrison, S. Wilkie, 11 August 1986.

The Johnny Weed E3 5c 27m

2. 27m 5c. A variation on Poltergeist following its pitch 2 out to the arête and then carrying on going right across the overhanging face via a line of holds taking you to a crack on the far side. Go up this to the top.

First ascent: R. Whitwelll, K. Fleming, 23 August 1990.

Uncontrolled Gurning *** E6 6b 42m

Described as an audacious and sensational climb up a stunning overhanging crack at the back (east face) of the Devil's Chimney pinnacle. It is rarely dry. Low tide start required to gain a ramp covered with seaweed.

1. 42m 6b. Climb the ramp to small ledges at 6m. (These can also be gained by down-climbing from a large platform on The Devil's Chimney.) At their right-hand end climb a groove boldly to a vague niche (small wire protection). Climb up and right to gain a smooth wall past a thin crack. Go up the wall to some flakes in a roof, one solidly jammed. Use this to pass the roof and reach a slab with a possible belay. Now step back down and swing round into a thin diagonal crack. Initial good fingerlocks in this lead to a large niche and you get to the top from here via a slabby arête on the left.

First ascent: Crispin Waddy, I. Wilson, 25 September 1990.

Eye Of The Needle ** E3 6a 49m

A sensational route which goes right through the pinnacle, the 'eye', to finish up a hanging slab. Exciting stuff. Start just to the left of The Devil's Chimney climb.

1. 11m 5b. Devil's Chimney pitch 1, belaying left of the twin cracks.
2. 21m 6a. Pass through the 'eye' and gain a ledge on the right arête (facing out). Ascend a thin crack to the right of the arête to where a hard move leftwards enables you to reach holds around the arête. Move up to ledges below a hanging black slab.

3. 17m 4c. Follow a crack on the left going up the slab past two overlaps to a block on the arête. Reach the top by climbing the arête taking care with the rock.

Descend by abseil.

First ascent: Steve Boyden, Paul Harrison, 1 August 1984.

White Riot * HVS 42m

This climbs the west face.

1. 22m 4c. Ascend a small crack on the right of a large crack to an overhang. Avoid it on the right and go up cracks to the large ledge of Devil's Chimney.

2. 20m 5b. Get onto the slab at the left end of the ledge and move left onto the face. Reach a flat-topped spike with difficulty and climb rightwards to ascend cracked blocks to the top.

There is a Left Hand Start variation (21m 4c) which involves climbing the large crack until a swing right gains the arête. Ascend a cracked wall which brings you to a V-groove and ledges leading to the big ledge on the right.

Descend by abseil.

First ascent: R. P. Hastings, M. Winstanley, 1 September 1979. Variation start by D. Roberts and J. Lord, 4 August 1981.

Needle Rock

MR: Sheet 12 924557. Map p84. Photo: p89, 90.

This is situated in a much less forbidding place being out in the open but access is tricky. It is a short but delightful stack with good rock and half a dozen good little routes on it including two hard ones. These routes on the stack group themselves into two classes - the 6a's and the rest. We will go clockwise starting with The Ordinary Route.

Detailed access: You reach Needle Rock by continuing down the slope past the turnoff point for Devil's Chimney then take steep slopes to the south and descend to boulders. These slopes are difficult and there are no obvious abseil anchors. (Take a large stake and make your own.) Cross a boulder bridge except, possibly at high tide, to reach the stack.

The Ordinary Route * Diff 20m

Start at the seaward end of a large ledge below the north face.

1. 12m. Climb up and right onto the west face and up and rightwards again to a big ledge.

2. 8m. Go back rightwards onto the face and then directly to the top. Descend by reversing the route or abseiling from a flake reached by going down steps on the north face to the north-west arête.

First ascent: Admiral K. M. Lawder, E. C. Pyatt, June 1961.

The Obverse Route HSev 24m

Start beneath the landward face.

1. 24m. Climb up to a narrow rake which runs diagonally rightwards. Go up this using small holds to a ledge and then go up two walls and so to the top.

Descend as for The Ordinary Route.

First ascent: A. Swan, B. Martindale, May 1965.

Hammer House Of Horrors E6 6b

This climbs the face just to the left of the south-east arête. This stack is a surprising combination of exceptionally hard climbs and more amenable ones. Curious.

First ascent: Gary Gibson, ano, August 1993.

Sea Of Tranquillity ** E4 6a 23m

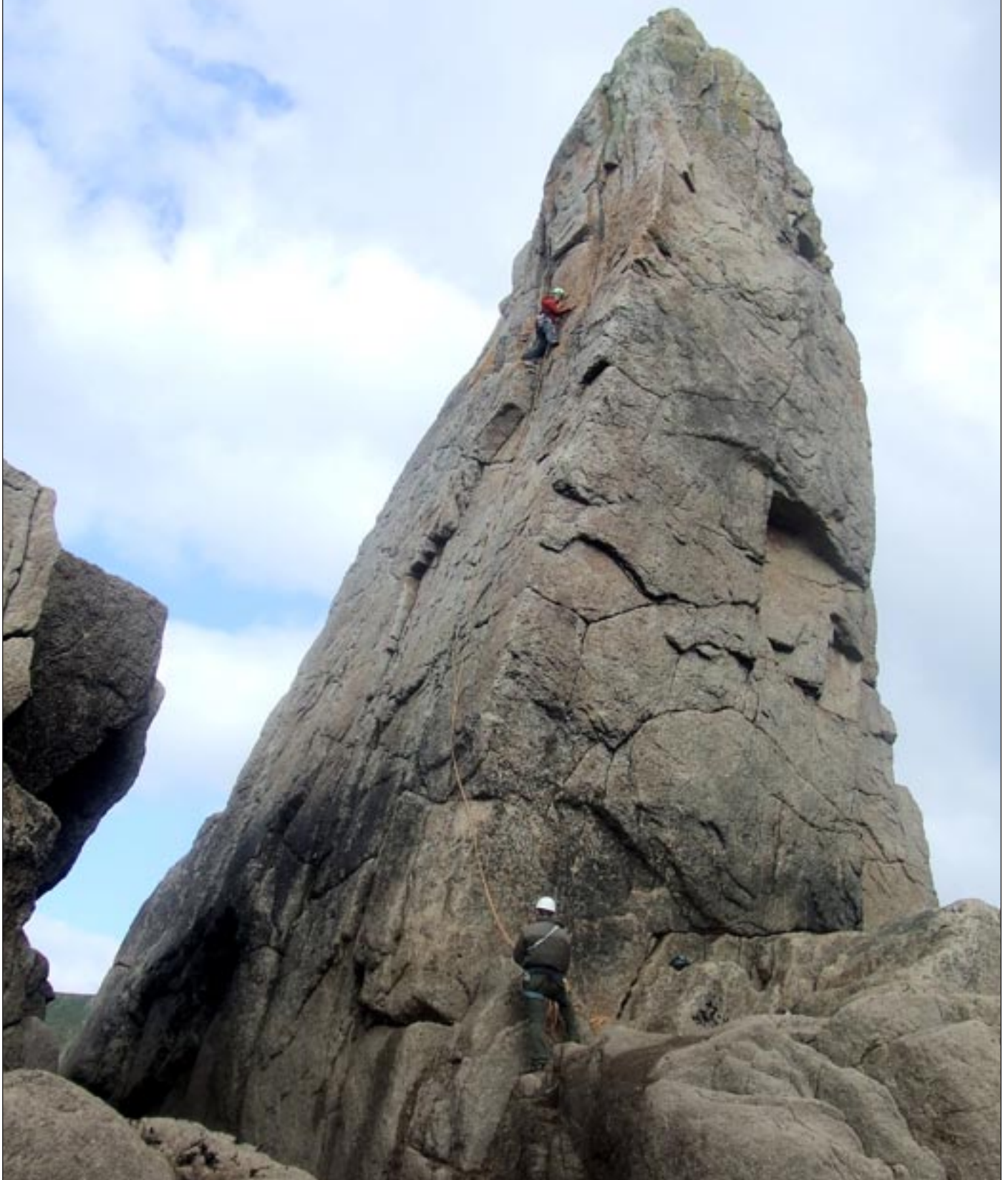
Good granite on a south-facing wall with involving climbing and small wire protection that feels in short supply. Start

*South face of Needle Rock Lundy,
David Linnett photo.*



Needle Rock, Lundy. Climber on Integrity.

David Linnett photo.



on a big ledge below the centre of the south face.

1. 23m. 6a. Climb the narrow groove to its finish and move on to the wall above (Friend 3) and hard climbing up a thin crack which brings better holds and easier climbing on the left of the crack moving up the centre of the face to a big flake and the summit. Descend as for The Ordinary Route.

First ascent: Unknown.

Sea Of Dreams * E3 6a 23m

This parallels Sea Of Tranquillity on the left and seems a more tranquil proposition at E3.

1. 23m 6a. Climb twin cracks left of the centre of the face. Where they go off to the right you go straight up the face moving from break to break to a white fin on the arête and so to the top.

Descend as for The Ordinary Route.

First ascent: Unknown.

Integrity ** HSev 4c 24m

This climbs the steep southern face which is festooned with holds.

1. 24m 4c. Traverse left onto the west face from the start of Invincible and ascend a crack a few feet left of the arête for 9m. Now go right and so gain a sharp spur on the arête. Climb up and rightwards to the south face and up a large flake to the top.

Descend as for the Ordinary Route.

First ascent: D. W. Brown, F. Bingham, K. Gill, J. A. Gaskill, 29 March 1967.

Invincible * VS 4c 23m

This climbs the south west arête of Needle Rock.

1. 23m 4c. Enjoy exposed climbing up the sharp clean arête to easier climbing near the top. Descend as for the Ordinary Route.

First ascent: Unknown.

Goat Island - Les Aiguilles du Montague

MR: Sheet 13 104370. Map: p84.

Locate a bay north of the Montague Steps. There are three stacks here and the eastern two provide three climbs. They are south of Goat Island which is on the south west side of Lundy. From the village take the path to the Devil's Limekiln but skirt this to the north and so reach the west coast path. Ignore the path leading down to Montague Buttress but go down a promontory to the north which encloses a broad, rocky bay with cliffs set back from the shore between it and Montague Buttress.

Detailed access: scramble down to the shore via a large gully 100m north of the Montague Steps descent path. Walk/scramble south to reach the stacks which are just north of Montague Steps - artificial steps laid down to enable salvage operations on HMS Montague, a brand new battleship which sailed straight into Lundy and ran aground in the early part of last century.

Strenuous attempts were made to salvage equipment from the wreck before the winter gales broke her up. The cables from the cableway that was set up still dangle from the cliff top.

Flash Dance 17m VS 5a

A sustained climb with good protection. Climb the central corner and layback crack on the south face of the easternmost (landward) stack.

First ascent: A. Dance, P. Balcombe, 8 April 1988.

Pocket Battleship 16m E1 5b

Find a thin and curving groove leftward of Flash Dance. Go up this with elegant climbing.

First ascent: P. Harrison, T. Sawbridge, S. Cardy, 19 August 1999.

Jack Adcock 16m VDiff

Pleasant climbing up the slabby northern side of the seaward arête of the stack.

First ascent: S. Cardy, T. Sawbridge, P. Harrison, 19 August 1999.

Flight Of The Valkyrie VS 5a 17m

Climb the south west face of the seaward stack which involves passing an overlap/overhang and taking a crack to the top.

First ascent: P. Balcombe, A. Dance, 8 April 1988.

Gollum's Revenge VS 4c 17m

Climb a corner 3m to the left of Flight Of The Valkyrie.

First ascent: P. Balcombe, A. Dance, 8 April 1988.

Uncle Monty VDiff 17m

Find a large flake on the stack's north side and start under it. Climb direct up overlapping slabs to the summit.

First ascent: T. Sawbridge, M. Snell, 18 August 1999.

Snap Crackle and Pop HSev 4b 20m †

Start at the right-hand end of the east side of the seaward stack. Climb a leftward-rising ramp and continue up the middle of the wall to a slab. Move left and follow the arête to the summit.

First ascent; C. Dale, M. Gutteridge, A. Clarke, 7 August 2013.

Goat Island

Photo: below

A rock island at the north side of the bay; but we're being liberal and treating it as a stack. It's accessible by a bouldery neck at low to mid tide. The climbs are on its south face.

Detailed access: scramble down to the shore as for Les Aiguilles du Montague and go across the land neck. Scramble onto the landward side of the island. Traverse at up to VDiff standard, and above the high tide mark,



cc-by-sa/2.0 - Goat Island by David Medcalf - geograph.org.uk/p/595842

round onto the south face. The climbs are described from right (facing in) to left. Descent is awkwardly down the east (landward) ridge

A Big Box Full of Clockwork Ducks HSev 4c 17m

Locate a belay on the right-hand side of the face near an obvious V-groove. Climb this direct and carry on upwards, passing a pair of prominent overlaps to a tricky mantelshelf onto a sloping ledge. Now use undercuts to traverse left and finish.

First ascent: M. Telfer, R. Freeman, 10 September 2005.

Black Beard VS 4c 20m

Start at the previous route's belay.

1. 10m. Climb leftwards onto the face, traverse a juggy break, to descend a little under an overlap, and then climb to good ledges and a stance.
2. 10m 4c. Go right to climb a corner passing an overhang. Move right to climb a rightward slanting crack through a bulge to gain a flake and easier climbing to the top.

First ascent: D. Corben, B. Chambers, 26 August 1989.

The Cocktail Party HSev 4a 20m

1. 10m. Black Beard pitch 1.
2. 10m 4a. Climb straight up using steep flakes and a break in a pillar to easy ledges and the top.

First ascent: M. Telfer, I. Whitehouse, 4 September 2005.

There is a large gangway and a through cave halfway along the south face.

Chequered Sports Shorts of Yesteryear VS 4c 30m

Start at the foot of the gangway.

1. 17m 4c. Climb up and leftwards, under an overlap, and then use good holds to pass over a second overlap and rain a break slanting leftwards. Traverse left and climb up into a groove slightly right of a small overhang. Ascend the groove to find a belay on the left.
2. 13m 4a. Climb to the right using a slanting crack to pass a steep section. Climb an arête to reach a good ledge. A loose groove then takes you easily to the top.

First ascent: I. Whitehouse, M. Telfer, 4 September 2005.

You or Your Memory E2 5c 29m

The hardest climb on the face and said to be worth remembering. Find a large ramp towards the seaward end of the south face.

1. 29m 5c. From its foot climb on good holds and then directly via two thin breaks and then a shallow groove (crux) to the top of an easy ramp. There is a projecting ledge in an overhanging wall on the right. Get on to this and climb steep ground to an overlap. Pull over this with help from a crack on the right and finish up a short slab on the left.

First ascent: M. Telfer, I. Whitehouse, 4 September 2005.

Variation; downgrade the climb to E1 5b by avoiding the crux groove. Climb the initial easy ramp on the left and then step in below the overhanging wall.

WALES

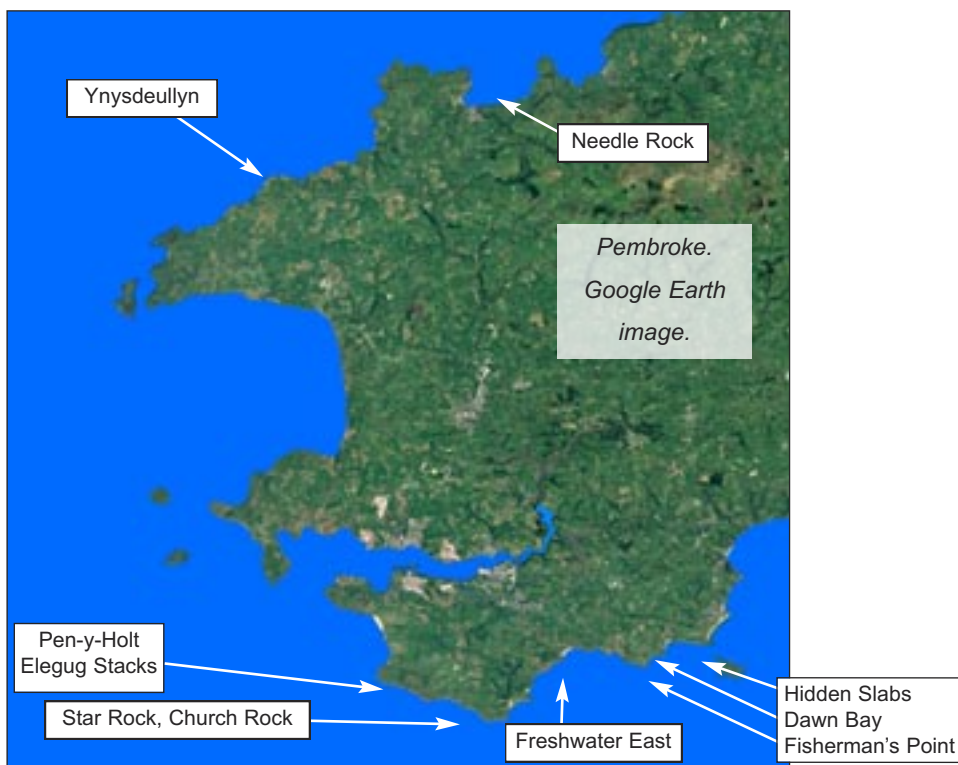
Map: below.

Wales is not well endowed with stacks. The ones in Range West are okay with the Elegug stacks being great fun. Apart from these and Needle Rock the principality can be more or less dismissed. It is, perhaps, surprising that the limestone coast of Pembroke has not produced more stacks. The geologists may have an answer.

PEMBROKE

Map: below

The big event in Pembroke is the Elegug stacks. However, there are a string of minor stacks before we get to them starting as we do at the south-east part of Pembroke and then moving clockwise around the coast. There is also a substantial E2 on Needle Rock just east of Fishguard.



Proud Giltar Area

The following stacks are along the stretch of coast between Lydstep and Tenby.

Hidden Slabs Stack

MR: Sheet 158 123984 (approx.)

In the Giltar Slabs area we find Hidden Slabs halfway between Giltar Point and the boundary fence of the Penally Army Firing Range. There is a pyramidal sea stack some 30 yards west of the slabs.

Detailed access: Unknown.

First ascent: Not listed as at 1985. Perhaps unclimbed.

Dawn Bay Stack

MR: Sheet 158 120983 (approx.)

This zawn lies west of Hidden Slabs and is divided in two by a ledge. One part of the bay contains another pyramidal sea stack.

Detailed access: Unknown.

First ascent: Not recorded.

Fisherman's Point Stacks

MR: Sheet 158 108984 (approx.)

There are two small stacks in the sea in line with this point. The A4139 skirts the southern edge of the Penally Army camp. After passing through Penally and going past the camp entrance it passes under a railway bridge. About $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile before the bridge a track goes south, passing under the railway line and going to the coast. Their turn right and walk west to reach Fisherman's Point. Near the point is an old stone lime kiln which is useful as a landmark.

Detailed access: A boat or a swim I suspect.

First ascents: Not listed.

Freshwater East Pinnacle

MR: Sheet 158 024981. Map p94.

Between Stackpole Quay and Lydstep the Pembroke guide mentions "an isolated pinnacle at Freshwater East". The rock is sandstone as a change from the usual south Pembroke limestone.

Freshwater East Pinnacle Diff 12m

Climb the seaward ridge.

First ascent: Not known.

Freshwater East Pinnacle North Face VS 12m

Climb the north side.

First ascent: Not known.

Church Rock

MR: Sheet 158 024980 (aprox.) Map: p94. Photos: p96.

There is a stack with a clean cut shape 500 yards offshore

Detailed access: Via boat. The stack has a tidal ledge at its base.

419 HDiff

Start on the north face some 3m left of the point where the west ridge meets this, the main face. Easy climbing on blocky holds leads to the unstable upper section. Go leftward to climb a short slab and corner to gain the summit.

First ascent: David Beynon, Henry Castle, 27 September 2014.

Man Underboard VS 4c 24m

Start from the tidal ledge. Climb up and out leftwards in a spectacular position to gain the west ridge which you follow to the summit.

First ascent: B. Watson, D. Carroll, 28 August 2000.

Man Under Chopping Block HSev 4b 20m

Climb directly and steadily up the middle of the west face from the tidal ledge. The top third of the climb is worryingly loose.

First ascent: Henry Castle, David Linnett. David Beynon, 26 September 2014.

South Ridge Sev 21m

First ascent: C. Mortlock, 12 July 1970.

White Funnel Line HVS 5a 18m

This appears to climb the east face.

First ascent: D. Carroll, B. Watson, 28 August 2000.



Church Rock, Pembroke, seen from the beach (above) looking east with west ridge on right sky line. Climbers on Man Underboard (below). Both images from David Linnett. See his Bald Eagle video of the Man Underboard ascent: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aaypcRZiOug&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR1oHLiQWr3OaZ-RbDJKg1AGvAsytEhM8Wla_4-BL42nnRdtTQt0ieP_myM



Church Rock Girdle Sev 4a 30m

Start from the tidal ledge and circumnavigate the stack.

First ascent: C. Mortlock, 12 July 1970.

Broad Haven

This is the bay into which Bosherton fish ponds drain.

Star Rock

MR: Sheet 158978937. Map p94.

This is a pinnacle on the foreshore which is accessible at low tide.

Detailed access: Go to Bosherton on the B4319 and then a minor road. Take a track to Broad Haven. Star Rock is on the south edge of this bay. Walk across at low tide.

South Face Diff 31m

A mediocre climb.

First ascent: Unknown.

Star Rock Slab Sev 31m

An entertaining route.

First ascent: Unknown.

NoName Stack VS 4a

There was an unclimbed stack at Broadhaven. It's located in one of the small tidal coves below the National Trust carpark and is about the same height as the rest of Pembroke (150ft?) Nb. this isn't the stack which lies at the west end of the main Broadhaven beach.

Climb the landward spur. Descend by simultaneous abseil.

First ascent: Dave Scott-Maxwell, Kath Pyke, Helen Ward, Matt Ward, Andrew Donson July 1996.

St. Govan's Head

MR: Sheet 158 969929

There is a large square stack here which furnishes the descent chimney for this famous section of cliff. The stack doesn't feel stack-like. You can walk onto the top of it as it is that close to the cliff top. It is mentioned here for completeness. However, the climbs on it are not described here and can be located in the Pembroke Guidebook.

Flimston Bay

MR: Sheet 158 933944

There are two stacks in the west side of Flimston Bay which is a mile eastwards of Elegug Stacks. So park there and walk east along the coastal path.

Detailed access: Not known.

Flimston Stack 1

This is the large stack and there is a route on it.

Flakaway HSev 4a/b 15m

Climb the seaward face on the right hand side.

First ascent: Details not found.



Elegug Stacks, Pembroke. Photo: Andrew Locking of Andrews Walks: <https://www.andrewswalks.co.uk>

Flimston Stack 2 E1 4c/5a

Reported to be pretty crumbly. Solo up and then solo down or rope up and ab down.

Possible First ascent: Andy Donson, solo, May 1991.

STACKS BAY

Map: p94

And now for a proper stacks experience.

Elegug Stacks

MR: Sheet 158 927944. Map: p94. Photo: above.

At the boundary between Range West and Range East the Elegug stacks are to be found. These are the least remote you could imagine as they are within five minutes of a car park. However, getting to them can be fun, and you will probably gather an audience. These limestone pillars get their name from the Welsh word *heligog* meaning guillemot. The stacks are bird sanctuaries and colonies of guillemots, razorbills, kittiwakes and fulmars nest on them.

Detailed access: Access is restricted from March 1st to August 15th because of nesting birds. Go to the Stack Rocks car park south of Flimston. Walk to the clifftop path and head east. Very soon the stacks come into view. You can reach the bottom of each one for an hour at low tide. In detail you abseil into the bay using a concrete post as an abseil anchor. Walk or swim to the stack of choice and set up a tyrolean.

Retreat: After climbing a stack, abseiling from the top, crossing the tyrolean and retrieving the rope you now have to get back up the abseil rope using prussik loops or ascendeur devices. Just the thing for the end of a long day, particularly with a rucksack full of gear.

Elegug Tower VS 45m

The larger stack. The start is below a rib on the landward side.

1. 21m. Ascend for a few feet then traverse up and left, return to the right on dirty rock to gain a shoulder. This leads to a belay at the bottom of a crack.
2. 24m. Go up the crack to the top. Poor anchors enable a two stage abseil to the bottom.

First ascent: October 1970.

Guano Love VS 4b 45m

Start underneath the landward rib of Elugug Tower.

1. 21m. Go up the rib for a metre or two to reach a small ledge then traverse rightwards, going round a corner to reach a pocketed slab. Climb this to a ledge which leads to a belay beneath a crack.
2. 24m. Climb the crack to the top. Poor anchors enable a two stage abseil to the bottom.

First ascent: Andrew Chitty, 13 November, 2016.

Elegug Spire VS 45m

The smaller stack. A shorter, harder and better climb than its neighbour. Begin underneath the west face.

1. 22m. Go up steep rock to a half-way traverse line and go right along this to a chimney and belay.
2. 22m. Ascend the chimney to the top of the stack. Descent is by abseil from poor anchors. Alternatively a simultaneous abseil technique can be used.

First ascent: October 1970.

RANGE WEST

Map: p94

This is a comparatively newly-opened up area along the southern edge of the Castlemartin firing range. The ground is littered with shell fragments and the occasional tank or armoured car blasted into tortured rusty shapes by years of functioning as a target. This coast is very strange because there is absolutely no litter - apart from the shattered shell and mortar warheads. Unlike the dreadful and ubiquitous Kleenex tissues, drink cans and cigarette butts these add to the attractions of the place. Please keep it in this other-worldly state by carting your litter out.

The BMC, courtesy of Bill Wright and his successor, has helped to arrange access by parties of climbers. The party members must have attended a Range West briefing which happen two or three times a year. These briefings say, in essence, stick to the coastal path and don't touch the warheads as they could explode.

Pen-y-Holt Stacks

MR: Sheet 158 896953. Map: p94. Photos: below, p101, 102, 257.

You drive to the car park at the western end of Range East, as for the Elegug Stacks, and then walk north-west a



Pen-y-Holt stacks with the outer stack to the left. Seen from the coastal track east of the stacks. David Linnett photo.

couple of miles or so along the coastal path to the area known as Cabin Door with a wonderful geological syncline. The two stacks are obvious offshore. Pen-y-Holt bay to the east, with the syncline, is beautiful.

Detailed access: Abseil down the cliff just to the east of the smooth slabs facing Pen-y-Holt stack or descend the basin of the syncline west of the stacks. You should find the inner stack fairly easily reachable if it is not high tide. The outer stack is reachable only at low tide and then probably with wading unless it is Spring low tide. A boat might be an alternative. There is a good David Linnett Bald Eagle Productions video of its ascent on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wJYsnor94Zk>.

Pen-y-Holt Outer Stack

The stack, with overhangs on each side, is layered with many horizontal or near-horizontal bands providing hand holds and foot ledges, and overhangs where part of an underneath band has fallen away. It has a very large platform on its east side and a higher and smaller one on its west side. The climbs are described moving anti-clockwise from the shoreward part of the west face. Abseil descent from the top. There may well be a maillon in place, probably with tat there as well.

Making Passage HSev 4b 27m

Start just left of the arête and climb straight up through the horizontal banding. Expect the top to be loose.

First Ascent: B Watson, C Morey, B Irdman, S Monks, 12 September 1992.

House of Cards HVS 5a 24m

This takes a line towards the left side of the west face. Find and limb a shallow groove about 3 metres right of the arête to a small roof. Climb over this and carry on up to a roof right of a large block. Avoid this with a hand traverse right and then make a long reach up to the next break. A step right from here gains the top of Ship to Shore.

First Ascent: Paul Donnithorne, K Matthews, M Slee, 9 October 1994.

Pasta La Vista Baby HVS 4c 27m

It is possible to start up House of Cards to avoid the first roof of Making Passage.

First Ascent: Unknown August 1984.

Ship to Shore E2/3 5c 24m

Climb the central west face crack, skirting the first roof on the left and climbing the second direct. Friend 3 useful.

First Ascent: Paul Donnithorne, Emma Alsford, 13 September 1992.

Here We Go Looby Loo HSev 4a 30m

Climb up and then diagonally leftwards to the landward side of the face. Climb the arête for a few moves, until you can traverse horizontally right beneath a coffin-shaped roof to regain the seaward arête. Climb this to the summit.

First Ascent: Fran Kenden, Dave Wright, 13 November 2004.

Passage Migrant E2 5c 27m

Near the right-hand end of the west face, climb the wall to the large V-shaped break in the overhang. Climb up this and go rightwards to the wall above. Now climb leftwards to an open corner and rib above the first overhang and so gain the summit.

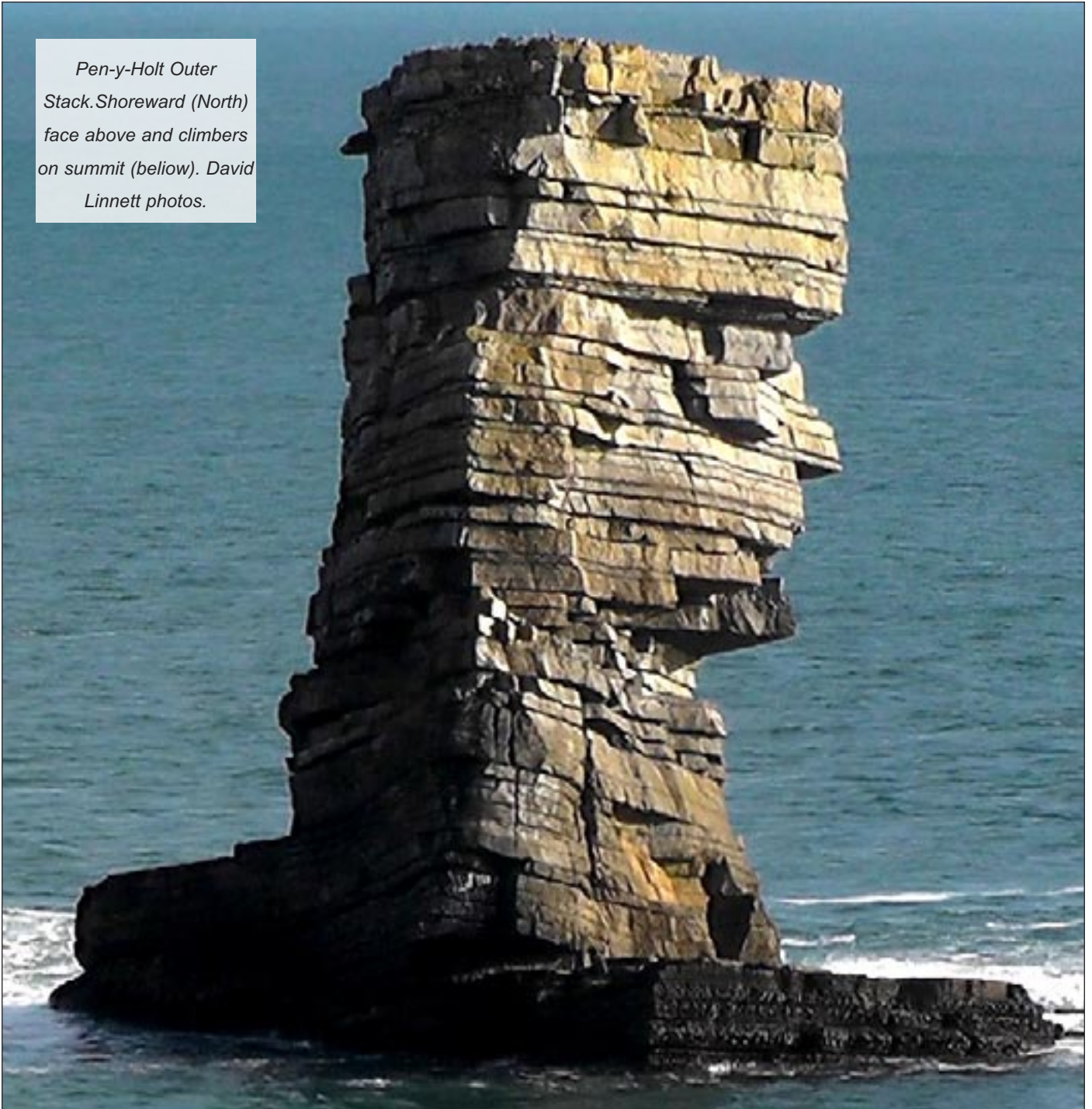
First Ascent: S Monks (unseconded.)

Where's the Ferryman? HVS 4c 24m

On the right side of the south face find an obvious groove. Climb it steeply, pass a jutting flake and gain a ledge; move right to another ledge. Go right again to a large detached block. Climb the headwall crack from this block.

First Ascent: Emma Alsford, Paul Donnithorne, 13 September 1992.

Pen-y-Holt Outer Stack. Shoreward (North) face above and climbers on summit (below). David Linnett photos.





Pen-y-Holt Inner Stack (Cabin Door) with Captain Pugwash slab on the right. (Photo: <https://seanandjonsexcellentadventure.wordpress.com/tag/wales-pembroke-climbing/>)

Pen-Y-Holt Crack E1 5b 27m

Climb the loose crack in the East Face starting from the platform on the west side.

First ascent: Jim Perrin, 'Blob' Wyvill, 1980.

East Face HVS 4c 27m

A poor route starting to the right of Pen-y-Holt Crack. Head up and right, passing below a bulge, then go back up left to muddy ledges. Traverse left over blocks, then a final steep move left of the overhangs.

First ascent: D Carroll, V Moisey 24 October 1992.

Pen-y-Holt Inner Stack or Islet - known as Cabin Door

The inner stack has a Blackchurch-like slab, but with easier climbs, facing the shore and is reachable at low tide. It is composed of three subsidiary slabs. The leftmost one has a high and large overlap/overhand running diagonally across it. The middle slab has a smaller overlap running across it, roughly at half-height, while the right-hand slab, the Captain Pugwash slab, is overlap-free. There are a number of routes up this islet, some with names redolent of schoolboy humour. The climbs are listed from left (east) to right (west) and descent could involve abseiling off a jammed fisherman's float, or, better, scrambling down the back (seaward) side.

Simon The Bar Steward Sev 23m

Climb a left-slanting slab in the islet's east face continuing fairly directly to the summit with loose rock.

First ascent: D. Wilkinson, C. Umarova, E. Vincent, 28 May 2005.

The Black Pig Sev 4a 18m

Start at the left end of the slab and climb up a crack to a ledge on the arête, then go up right onto the upper slab, where the protection becomes sparse and the rock vegetated and loose, and ascend to the top.

First ascent: J. Bradley, R. Swift, 16 August 1992.

Roger The Cabin Boy VS 15m

This climbs up the thin crack right of The Black Pig, crossing the overlap on the way to the top.

First ascent: Unknown.

Slaphead HVS 5a 23m

The crack and overlap towards the left side of the slab. Above the overlap step right to a delicate finish.

First ascent: 24 October 1992.

Red Sunset HVS 5a 23m

Climb up the central crack of the left slab with a hard move getting over the overlap.

First ascent: I. White, J. Dance, 31 August 1991.

Blue Horizon HVS 5a 23m

Find and ascend cracks on the right of the slab, and cross the overlap at its right-hand end.

First ascent: 24 October 1992.

Klingons on the Starboard Bow HVS 5a 15m

Pull over a bulge and climb cracks into the corner of the upper tier. Go up to the next overlap; step left onto the main slab and climb this to finish.

First ascent: S. Sturgess, A. Leary, 13 September 1992.

Blue Klingon could combine the above two routes.

Minor Immorality HSev 4b 23m

Start by a right-facing corner and step onto the slab. Climb cracks to the top of the corner at the base of the upper tier. Step left onto the slab to the slab to finish.

First ascent: J. Dance, I. White, D. Cook, 25 August 1991.

Pigeon Loft HSev 4b 23m

Climb the loose corner (or the crack just to its right) of the central crack of the middle slab to the notch. Go delicately up the corner, or across the slab and up.

First ascent: J. Dance, I. White, 31 August 1991.



Climbers' Club Pembroke Range West Climb front cover with photo of Blue Horizon by Don Sargeant.

Seaman Staines Sev 15m

Ascend the arête on the left of Master Bates. The move over the overlap is interesting.

First ascent: D. Hornby, D. Barlow (solo) 3 August 1991.

Master Bates Diff 15m

Go up the corner on the left side of the Captain Pugwash slab finding protection en route.

First ascent: D. Hornby (solo) 3 August 1991.

Bristol Fashion VDiff 15m

Start as Captain Pugwash and follow the obvious thin crack leftwards towards the top of Master Bates. Where the crack closes climb straight to the top with poor/no protection.

First ascent: 23 August 1997.

Captain Pugwash VDiff 15m

Climbs the rightmost slab with pleasant albeit unprotected climbing.

First ascent: D. Hornby, D. Barlow (solo) 3 August 1991.

Pirate Willy VDiff 17m

An enjoyable climb in a good position up the right edge of the Captain Pugwash slab. The climb ends on an arête to the right of some vegetation. Sparse protection and looseish rock.

First ascent: D. Wilkinson, C. Umarova, E. Vincent, 28 May 2005.

Passing The Port 15m VS 4c

This climbs an obvious chimney on the west face, 3m right of the arête.

First ascent: Emma Alsford, Paul Donnithorne, 13 September 1992.

Little Harden 12m Sev 4a

Start at a wall right of the arch which itself is right of Passing The Port. Climb the wall, to find an overhang at three quarters height by going left to the arête, and then direct to the top.

First ascent: Fran Kenden, N. Barry, 15 August 2004.

Now we have to move from south to north Pembroke where the climbers are fewer and the coast is less level. This is not a limestone plateau like south Pembroke.

Trnyllwnog

MR: Sheet 157 868346

This stack with an unpronounceable name is in the west side of a bay to the west of the Pen Morfa headland. The Pembroke guide refers to a "low, broad, sea stack."

Detailed access: No information.

First ascent: Not listed as climbed in 1985.

Ynysdeullyn

MR: Sheet 157 845342. Map: p94.

Drive south west on the A487 from Fishguard towards St. David's. After about 8 miles you pass Mathry and minor roads should now be signed on the right to Abercastle. This village is on the coast at the head of an inlet. North-west from Abercastle there is a headland with two islands offshore. Between these islands is a stack. Walk north-west for about one and a half miles to the headland of Ynysdeullyn and look for the stack.



Needle Rock seen from Kayak: <https://kayakfishinguk.wordpress.com/tag/kayak-fishing-pembrokeshire/>

Detailed access: It can be approached at low tide.

North Arête VDiff 21m

As the name implies, climb the eponymous feature.

First ascent: Nat Allen, Derek Carnell, Les Peel, S Manning, 26 May 1973.

Laird's Cliff Pinnacle 27m

MR: Sheet 157 880376

The Pembroke guide mentions a nicely-shaped pinnacle on the foreshore. Note that this area has a climbing exclusion from Feb 1st to 31st July due to nesting sea birds.

Detailed access: No information.

First ascent: Not listed as climbed in 1985.

Next we take a trip around the coast to North Pembroke and come to Needle Rock Promontory which is 1 mile east of Fishguard lower town.

Needle Rock

MR: Sheet 157 975380. Map: p94. Photo: above.

This is a dolerite stack with a hole through its base and which stands c40m high. There is a route going up its landward face. Less steep possibilities may exist on the seaward face.

Access Restriction: Due to nesting birds no access is allowed between 1st Feb to 31st July.

Detailed access: Abseil down the facing cliff. This is a 57m job with a changeover ledge at 45m. The last section overhangs to add interest and you land on boulders 2 hours either side of low tide. Cross the boulders to the stack.

Needless To Say E2 5c 40m

Start on the left arête (facing seawards) and climb up for twenty feet. Now traverse right onto the wall and up with difficulty to a ledge. A jamming crack now leads to a ramp which brings you back on to the left arête. Follow this to the top.

Descent is by abseil. (If you need to climb back up the coastal cliff the easiest route appears to be Three Men In A Boat, 190 feet, VS. It starts about 7m to the right of the stack (facing the land) and takes easy rock to an obvious corner-chimney forming the left side of a pedestal. Go up this and then climb up to a ledge and an obvious corner to the top.)

First ascent: Brian Davison, Richard Jones, 31 Aug 1991.

There would seem to be scope on the east and west faces as well as the seaward face of Needle Rock. Getting to the seaward face would probably involve a swim across the through cave.

ANGLESEY

This island off North Wales has a large area of cliffs on its western side; Gogarth, the Upper Tier, Mousetrap Zawn, Red Walls Castell Helen and so forth. Between Mousetrap Zawn and the Upper Tier of Gogarth we find South Stack. North of Gogarth we find North Stack.

Although these are called a stacks they are, in fact, fairly large islands each with a substantial lighthouse on its summit. There is no climbing interest on South Stack but stacks (!) on North Stack. Refer to the Climber's Club Gogarth guide for information on these. There are some stacks on the other side of Castell Helen from South Stack.

These are pretty inconsequential affairs and have been ignored by climbers.

ISLE OF MAN

Map: p107.

The north-west of England is another relative stack desert. However, things look up with the Isle of Man. There are four stack areas here. The rock is mostly slate but seemingly unlike North Wales slate. The island can be reached by a ferry to Douglas from Liverpool, Stranraer or, for the well-off, by flying in to Castletown airport. There is lots of varied holiday accommodation on the island and the road system is pretty good. We'll start in the south at Port Erin and go round the island anti-clockwise.

Mountain Rescue: Coastguard stations are located at Port Erin, Port St. Mary and Ramsay.

Warning: It is not known here whether the terms left and right are to be viewed facing the rock or looking out to sea. (The source document is old and not well printed.) Assume they're meant to be facing the rock, unless otherwise specified, and turn round if that doesn't seem practicable!

Bradda Head

There is a stumpy stack here with such an outrageous name that it could almost be a joke on someone's part.

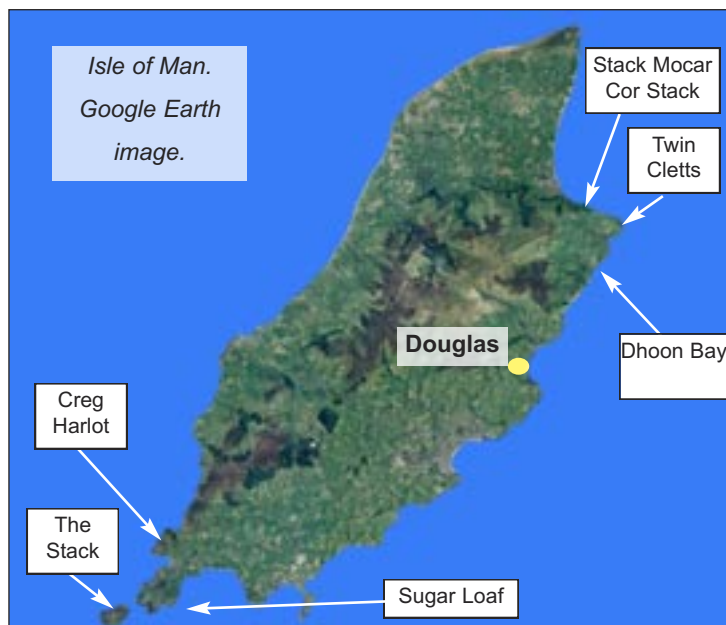
Creg H'arlot

MR: Sheet 95 186706

Port Erin has Bradda Head to its north with Milner's Tower, an old folly, on its top with a drivable track running almost all the way to it from the Youth Hostel in Port Erin. Follow a path from the car park to the cliff top where an old miner's track runs down a grassy gully, or rather zigzags down, to the beach and the stack.

Detailed access: Unknown.

First ascent: No details found but unlikely to be a virgin.



Calf of Man

The Calf Of Man is an island at the south west tip of the Isle Of Man. It is owned by the Manx National Trust and is a bird sanctuary. There is a stack off its western tip which is called - The Stack.

The Stack

MR: Sheet 95 147656

Looks like a boat is needed. Check with the Manx National Trust over any access restrictions. On the western coast of the Calf Of Man is a group of three lighthouses. A fingery island is offshore from these and the stack lies off the north-west tip of this.

Detailed access: No further information.

First ascent: Unknown.

The Chasms

Here is the most notable stack on the island: the Sugarloaf. It is in a lovely area of coast south of Port St. Mary called The Chasms because of sea-eroded fissures reaching to the cliff top.

Sugarloaf HVDiff 49m

MR: Sheet 95 194662

This is a twin-headed stack whose eastern half has rock of poor quality and a loose summit. Get to this stack by, first of all, taking a lane from Cregneish to the Wireless Telegraph station at Cronk-ny-Arrey. (This information comes from an old source so it might not be accurate any more.) There is a carpark at this W.T. station so drop the car off here and go down a path to the top of the cliffs.

Detailed access: Not known. One source suggests taking a boat from Port St. Mary and 'landing' at the right hand side of the edge of the seaward face. This is an interesting and exposed way up the seaward face of the stack to gain the western and higher summit.

1. 12m. Simple climbing gains a shelf. Traverse this to its left hand end to a chimney and belay.
2. 18m. Go up the chimney to a subsidiary chimney to the right with a belay below a chockstone.
3. 15m. Ascend the corner above the chimney to the col between the two summits.
4. 3m. Find your way to the restricted space on the western summit.

Descent: Reverse the climb or abseil.

First ascent: Dr. A. W. Kelly 1933 Solo.

Dhoon Bay

This is an area of pleasant slabs in good coastal walking country. Right and left here mean facing the slab. The climbs are solo propositions for climbers of VS or greater standard.

Slab Of Dhoon

MR: Sheet 95 463864

This is somewhat akin to Blackchurch rock in that its seaward face is a triangular slab. Go up the main A15 road north towards Ramsey. There is supposed to be a large carpark by a lane which leads to the entrance to Dhoon Glen. Take the path into the wooded glen for Dhoon Bay. The stacks stands on a sandy beach. Descent - the way dhoon - is by abseil or dhoondown climbing (!).

Crack Of Dhoon VDiff 27m

This climbs the left hand side of the slab. It is probably okay to do it in one runout.

1. 8m. Climb a crack for about ten feet and the slab above to a small stance at the base of a corner.
2. 17m. Go up the slab to the right of the corner and climb a bulge to the top.

First ascent: D. S. Byrne 1954.

High Dhoon VDiff 27m

This starts up the right hand side of the slab but then transfers to the centre and goes straight up to join the Crack Of Dhoon.

1. 9m. Start in a corner on the right and climb a flake to a ledge. Belay possible here.
3. 18m. Traverse left to a crack which is climbed to a thin slab. Go up this and the quartz bulge to join the Crack Of Dhoon and so reach the top.

First ascent: G. Gartrell, 1970.

High Dhoon Direct VDiff 27m

This provides the direct start to High Dhoon.

1. 27. Start in the centre of the slab and climb the sharp flake to the crack after the traverse on High Dhoon. Now continue up High Dhoon to the top.

First ascent: G. Gartrell, 1970.

Maughold Head

MR: Sheet 95 496914

This is a much more impressive area on the easternmost part of the island to the south of Ramsey. Take the lane from Maughold Village. Go left by the church and then to a car park by a lighthouse. Clett Ny-Foillan is directly out to sea and the Twin Cletts are to your right facing seawards. A cliff top path takes you south west to a promontory just before Twin Cletts. Descend and go down a 'path' on its right-hand side to the bay with the Twin Cletts.

Clett Ny-Foillan

This appears to require a boat or a swim. There are no details available about its height or nature.

Detailed access: Unknown. *First ascent: Unknown.*

Twin Cletts

These are two fine stacks very close together and accessible at medium to low tide; the Big and Little Twin.

Little Twin HVDiff 18m

Gain a ledge on its western side. Climb to a ledge on the seaward face and start in gully between the two Cletts.

1. 18m. Ascend the gully face, going left to avoid an overhang, and left again to finish.

Descent: Abseil down the landward face.

First ascent: S.M Thomas, G. Gartrell, R.B. Evans, May 1972.

The Razor's Edge VS 15m

This goes up the slabby face of the smaller clett. Use a thin crack and get to the right arête and finish up this.

First ascent: Unknown.

Big Twin Sev 24m

Scramble from the gully between the two Cletts at low tide to the seaward face. Scramble to a large platform belay.

1. 24m. Go up the bulging wall to a ledge. Climb the wall on the left, flake crack, to the summit. Abseil descent.

First ascent: R. B. Evans, S. M. Thomas, G. Gartrell, May 1972.

Jubilee Climb Sev 27m

Climb the landward slabby face of the largest clett.

First ascent: Unknown.

Maughold Brooghs

Cor Stack

MR: Sheet 95 495923

This stack stands up from a foreshore uncovered at low tide with cliffs behind. Walk north-east along a coastal path from Maughold Head until you see the stack.

Detailed access: Descend the cliff somehow and explore.

First ascent: Unknown.

Stack Mocar

MR: Sheet 95 484927

A mile further west from Cor Stack. Gain it by continuing along the Maughold Brooghs coast path.

Detailed access: Descend the cliff and explore.

First ascent: Unknown.

SOUTH WEST SCOTLAND

There are many more stacks off the Scottish coasts than in any other part of the British Isles. The stack population increases dramatically as soon as we cross the border into Scotland. The south west islands lie east of the outer Hebrides, south of Skye and west of the Scottish mainland. There are lots of them and several possess stacks. The Galloway peninsula also features some stacks. Many appear not to have been climbed; Jura being an exception but then the island has a long climbing heritage.

Galloway

Map: p110.

This is that section of the Scottish coast that runs from just above Carlisle out to Stranraer and then north to Ayr and Glasgow. It is a relatively minor area that is still being explored. Three stacks are known about so far.



Southwick Needle's Eye

MR: NX 916 561

Included more as a warning, this is situated above the coastal marsh directly under the Clifton road end on the A710. The pinnacle has been climbed by its seaward face (moderate); by its east face on steep vegetation (ungradeable); and by a crack just left of the south-west corner, at the right end of the overhanging face. This latter route is VDiff, thoroughly rotten and quite unjustifiable.

Lot's Wife

MR: NX 909 558

The Lookout

MR: NX 907 557

These greywacke pinnacles and slabs are non-tidal and face south-east. They overlook the coastal marsh near Southwick, west of the Clifton road end. The climbing is radioactive, due to the presence of a nearby vein of naturally occurring material, but otherwise undistinguished. Headtorches are presumably not required.

Detailed access: as for Clifton Crag, along the A710. About 0.5 miles after the Clifton turn, a downhill leads to a bridge. Park just before the bridge and descend steep grass to the pinnacle of Lots Wife.

For the Lookout, continue on the A710 for a further 200m, to a wooden cottage on the left (the Lookout). Concrete steps lead down to the coast from the Lookout. At low tide the coast can be traversed between the two crags, but the mud is fairly unpleasant.

Lot's Wife 30m

This is the largest of the pinnacles. The seaward face is Mod, the buttress at the left (west) end of this face is Diff, and the north-east arête is a loose, vegetated Diff.

First ascent: Unknown.

The smaller pinnacles have all been climbed at Mod or Diff.

Balcary Bay

MR: NX 824 487

This is a large and extensive greywacke cliff, scenically located and facing south-east, with Lot's Wife stack offshore; a different Lot's Wife from the one near Clifton Crag near Southwick. Development of the cliff has been very limited; probably due to two factors. Firstly, it bottoms directly into deep water, making it difficult to see the crags from above. Secondly, the cliff tops are often loose and vegetated, making for unattractive abseils or major gardening. Those in search of the truly bizarre are pointed to the World Flounder Tramping Championships, held in nearby Palnackie.

However, the Lot's Wife stack, towards the east end of the crags provides a good climb. It is tidal.

Detailed access: From Dalbeattie go west on the A711. One mile west of Dalbeattie, at traffic lights, take the A711 to Auchencairn. At the war memorial at the entrance to Auchencairn, turn left to Balcary, parking in the car park at the end of the road. Follow the path straight ahead, aiming for a low depression on the skyline. The Cave Traverse starts in the bay immediately to the left, while Lots Wife is in the next main bay to the left (1 mile -15 min) and located towards the east end of the crags. The most obvious access is by abseil down very loose and dangerous ground. The stack can then be reached by a jump across a narrow channel.

Lot's Wife * VS 4c 25m

Climb the stack by the available line.

First ascent: W. Birkett, J. White, P. Cheung, 1990s.

Burrow Head

MR: Sheet 83 449341. Picture p115.

There is a 30m high sea stack below the camp/caravan site here and to the west of the main cliff. Take the A747 from Monreith or the A746 from Wigtown becoming the A750 at Whitham to Isle of Whitham on the coast east of Burrow Head. A minor road runs south-east to Cutcloy 2 miles away. Tracks now lead to the campsite in half a mile.

Detailed access: Stake abseil east of the caravan site, where the path turns sharply east after fences; 5 mins.

The Fin HVS 4c 31m

Climb the direct line up fairly sound, orange coloured rock to the left-hand end of the flat, narrow arête right of the summit.

First ascent: C. MacAdam, A. Fraser, 24 September 1980.

Monreith Stack

MR: Sheet 83 370393

This stack doesn't have its own name so I have taken a liberty and given it one. It is, in fact, a pinnacle providing very good bouldering. The rock has the strange name of greywacke. The stack is south of the A747 - but is not a jumbo. Drive east from Stranraer along the A75 for about 13 miles to Glenluce. Take the A747 going south-east to the tip of The Machars peninsula. Twenty three miles later you reach Port William. About four miles further on you pass Monreith and come to a campsite. Go to a carpark by the beach. via a turning by the St. Medan golf course. Walk east across Back Bay to reach the stack in less than a half mile.

Detailed access: Low tide access is needed I think.

First ascent: Unknown.

Crammag Head

MR: NX 089 340.

There is a pinnacle here known as the Black Slab. Crammag Head is a small headland with a lighthouse which is south of Laggantalluch. Get to Kirkmaiden on the B7065 and take the second turning on the right. Go past Barncockrie Farm and a cottage overlooking Portenockrie Bay. Go right at the next fork and, after asking for permission, park at Slockmill Farm. Crammag Head cliffs run from the lighthouse to the headland. South of them is the Crammag South climbing area, in the bay between Crammag Head and Dunman hill.

Detailed access: An adventurous half day trip, only accessible at low to mid-tide. Just before the start of the hill of


Dunman is a small island, joined to but separated from the mainland. The landward side of this is a large black slab, up which the route lies. Access is by walking 200m uphill to the top of the prominent descent gully just south of the Black Slab. Descend this, scramble over the col between the Black Slab and the mainland, then descend to the base of the Black Slab.

The Black Slab * HSev 4b 30m

Traverse right onto the slab to avoid the initial overhanging bay, then continue directly to the top of the slab.



The Black Slab. Photo: Andrew Fraser



Iain Magill on the first ascent of The Black Slab. Photo: Andrew Fraser

Descend over the top of the island to get down the vegetated line above the aforementioned col (VDiff). To regain the top of the mainland opposite either retrace steps up the descent gully or climb the innocuous shallow gully just left of the col. This is loose, vegetated and has no protection. It's recommended that a rope be placed down this in advance.

First ascent: Andrew Fraser, Iain Magill, 28 June 2008.

The Witch Rock Sev 15m

MR: Sheet 82 993544 (approx.) Picture p114.

There is a small, twin-headed sea stack just over half a mile north of Portpatrick harbour. Take the A77 south and then west from Stranraer to Portpatrick.

Detailed access: Walk north-west up the coast to find the stack under the second wireless mast. Low water needed.

1. 15m. Climb the obvious landward-facing groove system. Descent by downclimbing.

First ascent: E. C. M. Heath, 25 June 1899.

Juniper Rock

MR: NW 960 649

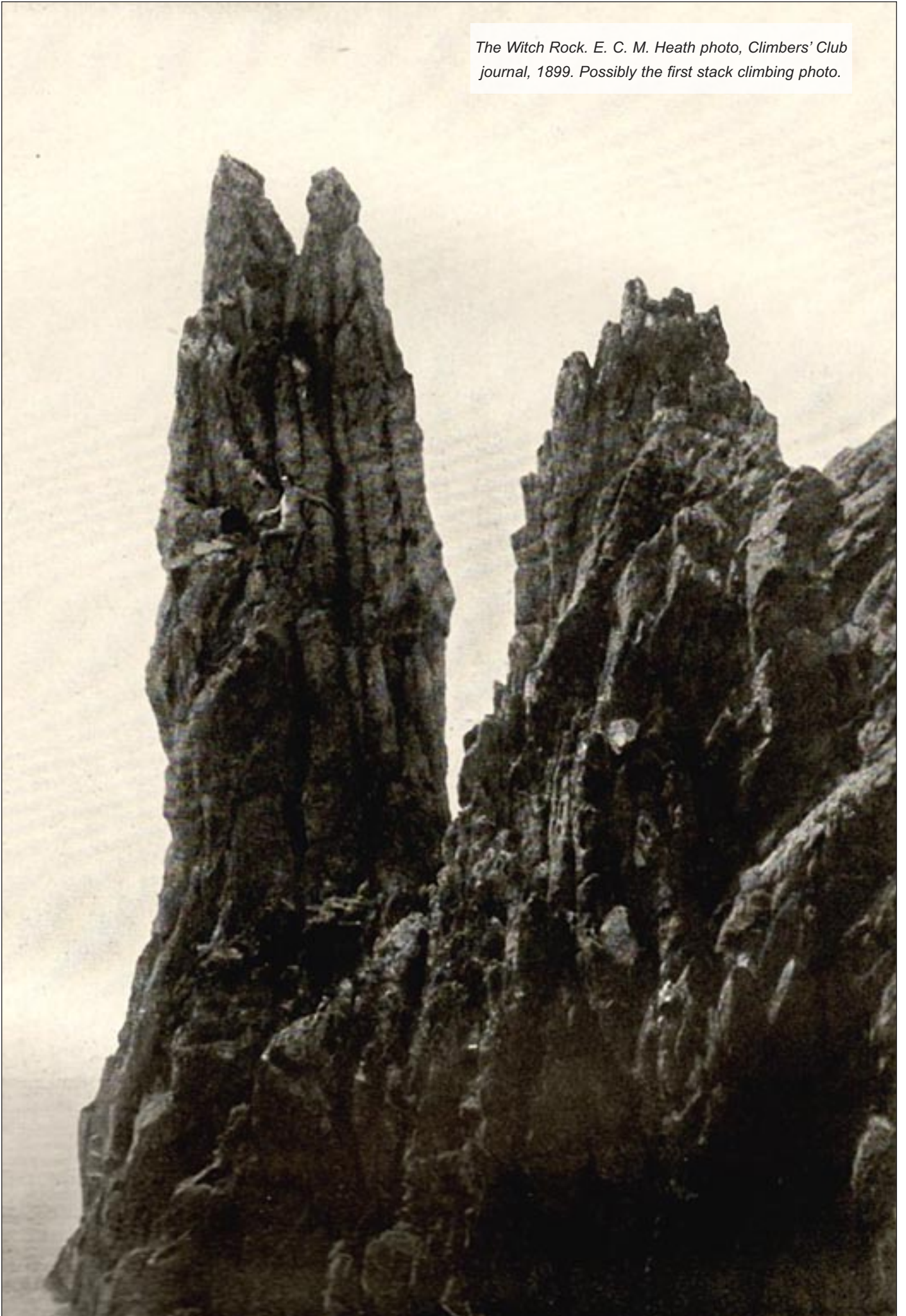
One mile south of the Portobello climbing area (MR: NW 961664) is a large cove with a striking 25m pinnacle at its southern end and a large red fin in the middle. Its FA is quite interesting. According to Roger Rankin, a local farmer, he and his neighbour had spotted a pair of Germans climbing the stack to raid a peregrine's nest on top. They had incubators with them. The police were called, they were arrested and ended up in Stranraer Sheriff Court.

Apparently the Germans were fined, paid the fine immediately, and departed the country quickly, leaving no FA details. The rumour is there were international warrants outstanding which the court was unaware of when sentencing. It's possibly not been climbed since. Avoid the pinnacle in the nesting season from mid March to July.

Approach: Park as for Portobello, and follow the coast south for about 2km (25 mins). Alternatively, park as for Kiln o' the Fuffock and follow the coast north for 1km. The line will almost certainly be up the seaward arête.

There are also a couple of other stacks near Juniper Rock; a red-coloured one 20m high about 100m north, and a 15m one at March Bay, at the southern end of Portobello. Next we look at the islands east of the outer Hebrides and south of Skye.

The Witch Rock. E. C. M. Heath photo, Climbers' Club journal, 1899. Possibly the first stack climbing photo.





The fin at Burrow Head. The Fin climbs the centre of the steep red wall. Photo: Andrew Fraser.

Islay

Map: p116.

Pronounced 'ila' this island lies in the Firth of Lorn south of Mull. For the most part it is low lying and is principally noted, in some quarters, for there being eight whisky distilleries. Such a number in a small area not being found elsewhere. You can sail to Islay by Caledonian MacBrayne ferry from Kintyre to either Port Ellen or Port Askaig and the crossing takes about two hours.

The coastline from the Mull of Oa to Port Ellen is steep and eroded into caves and stacks. Only sketchy information is available. The stacks are not impressive enough to attract climbers in their own right and nor are the cliffs big enough to attract climbers in their own right and so bring attention to the stacks. You can be assured of peace and quiet.

Dun Athad Easy 37m

MR: Sheet 60 324412 (approx.)

This stack has an iron age hill fort on the top. A grassy isthmus links it to the mainland. The seaward ridge is little more than a scramble but enjoyable enough.

Detailed access: Go to Port Ellen. Take the minor road south west for the Mull of Oa. At Risabus, 4 miles from Port Ellen, take a track going to the south-east. At the t-junction three quarters of a mile further on take the right-hand track for just over a mile to Inerval. Strike across moor land south-east to reach the coast in half a mile. Search out the stack. No further information.

First ascent: Unknown.

American Monument Stacks 24m

MR: Sheet 60 270415

This monument is a tall, pointed, stone tower. To the north of it there are schist stacks reaching a maximum height of 24m. Start from Port Ellen and take the minor road to Cragabus and Risabus. From the end of the road it is a two and a half mile walk to the American Monument.

Detailed access: No further information.

First ascent: Unknown.



Jura

Map: this page.

A stack was found in West Loch Tarbert and climbed by a sailing stack climber called I. Davidson.

Impact Stack Sev 24m

The line is "excitingly loose" according to the first ascensionists and it is mentioned by them "more as a warning to other owners of rose tinted binoculars." The exact line is not known, nor is the exact location!

Detailed access: By sailing boat.

First ascent: I. Davidson, P. Heneghan, P. Stewart, May 1988.

LISMORE, MULL AND STAFFA

This area is dominated by the island of Mull. It has a scattering of much smaller islands around it, some of which are famous - Iona, Staffa - and others which are relatively minor - Muck - or almost unknown like Lismore. There are about ten stacks here and climbing sailors will be at a distinct advantage.

Lismore

This long narrow island is set in the mouth of Loch Linnhe where it becomes the Firth of Lorn to the east of Mull. It can be reached by ferry from Oban or from Port Appin. The B8045 runs the length of the island. There is a stack but the information is not complete.

Castle Coeffin

MR: Sheet 49 853437

There is ivy-covered masonry, a ruin of some sort, set on top of a rocky limestone stack. A ¼ mile south west of Clachan on the B8045 take a track going west. It curves and then goes north to Castle Coeffin in about a mile.

Detailed access: No information. *First Ascent: Very long ago by the castle builders.*

Mull

Map: below.

This is the second largest inner Hebridean island after Skye and, like Skye, has a very indented coastline. It has a web site as well. The stacks are in the south and the north so you need transport to cross the island. A Caledonian MacBrayne vehicle ferry runs from Oban to Craignure and the crossing time is 45 minutes. The long peninsula in the south is called the Ross of Mull and on its south side is Malcolm's Point and Carsaig Bay.

Carsaig Stack

MR: Sheet 48497185 (approx.)

At Malcolm's Point there are natural rock arches called Carsaig Arches. This tall pinnacle stack, 3½ miles south west of Carsaig Bay, is pierced by one. A minor road runs south from Pennyghael on the A849 to Carsaig Bay.

Detailed access: Walk along the coastal path south west from Carsaig Bay until you find the stacks.

'Landward Side' VDiff 15m

Climb the landward side encountering loose rock at the top.

First ascent: Unknown.

Stac Glas Bun Un Uisge

MR: Sheet 48 415305

On the coast of Ardmeanach. From the B8035 at Balnahard (MR: sheet 48 452343) go south and take a track to Balmeanach half a mile away. Walk south west along the pathless coast with steep slopes for 3 miles to the stack.

Detailed access: No information.

First ascent: No information.

Moving across to the north-west of the island we find an area called Quinish with Quinish Point at its northern tip.

Quinish Point

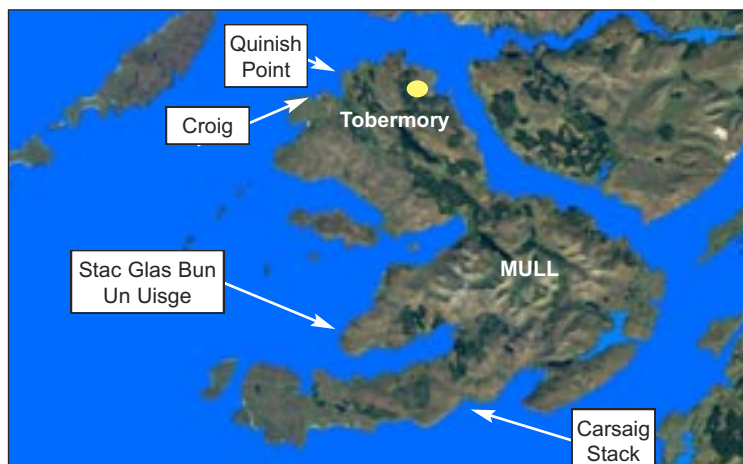
MR: Sheet 47 408571

A small coastal stack is apparently to be found here. Go to Dearvaig on the B8073. Take a track north-west to Cuin I mile away. Follow tracks northward to Mingary in two and a half miles. Follow a stream north-west to the coast reached in I mile and then walk northwards to the point in just over a quarter of a mile. What a trek!

Detailed access: No information.

First ascent: Unknown.

The next area to the east is called Mornish and Croig is a small settlement on the east side of this looking across the sea loch back to the Quinish coast.



Google
Earth
image.

Croig

MR: Sheet: 47 402539

A stack is reported here, a small one, near Croig. The map reference is for Croig itself which is reached along a minor road north from the B8073. The views are supposed to be lovely.

Detailed access: No information.

First ascent: Unknown.

Iona

This island has great religious significance because of the landing by St. Columba in 563 AD and the subsequent monastery and abbey. A daily Caledonian MacBrayne ferry crosses from Fionnphort on Mull to Iona (5mins trip).

Stac an Aoineidh

MR: Sheet 48 251225

This is shown on maps of the south west of Iona but no other information is available. There is a central islet with features to the north and south.

Detailed access: No information.

First ascent: Unknown.

Stac Liath

MR: Sheet 48 264239

A stack in the north of Camas Cuil an t-Saimh. A minor road crosses the island to this bay.

Detailed access: No help here apart from noting a need for a boat to get to Iona.

First ascent: Unknown.

Stac Mhic Mhurchaidh

MR: Sheet 48 241262

An islet/stack about 2 miles west of Iona.

Detailed access: By boat obviously. No further information.

First ascent: Unknown.

Staffa

This island, famous for the basalt columns of Fingal's Cave, is owned by the National Trust for Scotland and located close to the west side of Mull. It may also boast a stack. The feature is called Am Buachaille (as in The Herdsman!) and stands by Clamshell Cave. Take the boat from Mull to Staffa and land at Clamshell Cave.



Am Buachaille

MR: Sheet 47 326352

Not the famous Am Buchaille. Since the island is owned by the National Trust and the presumed stack close to the landing place it is probably a very good idea to check with the National Trust over climbing access.

Detailed access: No information.

First ascent: No details.

Treshnish Isles

A 5 mile long string of uninhabited islets and skerries strung out in an arc from Treshnish Point on Mull. You need to charter a boat to reach these islands. The central island is called Lunga. Off its west coast below Cruachan there may be a stack. (There is certainly a stack in the Treshnish Isles, witness this quote from the Independent on Sunday, 12 Jan '97, Travel Special; "At Treshnish, seals bellyached on the rocks and vomiting fulmars and fussy puffins rootled around in the cliffs. Just offshore stood a mighty stack of basalt seething with guillemots and razorbills all effing and blinding at each other.")

Dun Cruit 29m

MR: Sheet 48 278420 (Cruachan map reference.)

It is separated from Lunga by a 2m channel.

Detailed access: No further information.

First ascent: Unknown.

Muck

This small island is about 15 miles north of Mull as the crow flies.

The Spichean

MR: Sheet 39 405790 (approx.)

This is a prominent rock pinnacle on the west side of a sheltered bay called Camas Mor. It may be a stack. Ferries from Rhum and Mallaig via Eigg call at Port Moran on the south side of Muck. Walk a mile west over rough ground to the bay called Camas Mor. The west side of it is 1 mile long and the pinnacle is somewhere along it.

Detailed access: Unknown.

First ascent: Unknown.

Rhum

Map: p120.

Rhum or Rum is one of the inner Hebrides and is located just to the south of Skye. It is served by a Caledonian MacBrayne ferry service from Mallaig. The island is owned by the Nature Conservancy Council who class it as a National Nature Reserve and restrict access to people who apply successfully to the Chief Warden, Rum NNR, The White House, Isle of Rum, near Mallaig, Scotland. The telephone number is 01687 462026. Note that camping is restricted and the bothies cannot be booked in advance.

Rhum is a very distinctive island, a little like a Scottish, and mountainous, Lundy. The best stack on the island is not a sea stack; it's Orval Pinnacle, a 31m high dramatic slender finger on the side of Orval mountain north of Harris. This provides an E3 5b route of the loose kind. The ferry lands at Kinloch and a track runs generally south from there to the Dibidil bothy and beyond to the stacks.

Mountain Rescue: Contact the Chief Warden as best you can.

Stac nam Faileann

MR: Sheet 39 407932

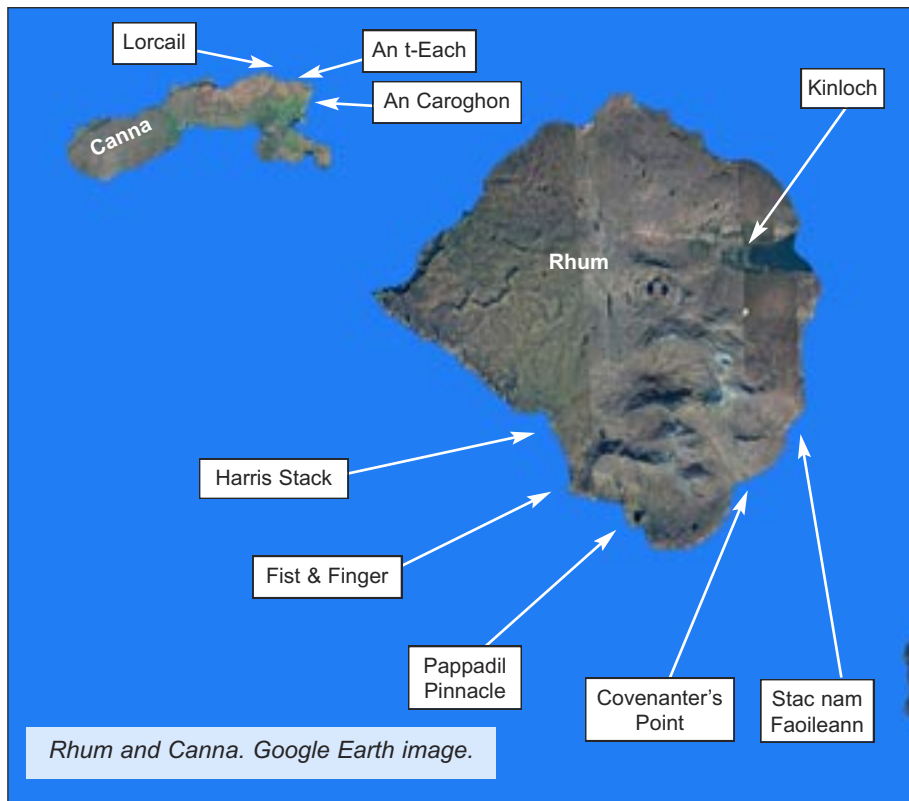
This lies about one mile east of the bothy at Dibidil. There are two stacks here with the second being to the south.

Detailed access: No details.

Stac nam Faolleann North Diff 12m

Climb the landward side.

First ascent: Ian Clough and party, May 1967.



Stac nam Faoileann South Diff

This has a more pleasing shape than its neighbour.

Detailed access: Descend the sea cliffs for 31m then the information stops.

First ascent: Unknown.

Covenanter's Point Stack

MR: Sheet 39 404929

About three quarters of a mile east of Dibidil bothy there is a point with a stack. Hamish Brown in his guide to Rhum places a stack at Stoatir Point "c20 mins from Dibidil on the path to Kinloch." I assume it is the same one.

Detailed access: Abseil from a block at the top of the cliffs to sea level. Go towards the stack and cross through a tunnel to the north side of the cliffs from where you can reach the stack at low tide. Diff.

Climb a ramp to the seaward side and then gain the summit.

First ascent: Wright and Eadie, 28th March 1980.

Papadil Pinnacle Easy 9m

MR: Sheet 39 364918

The name sounds like something from Tolkien's The Hobbit. This stack is to be found west of where the stream draining Loch Papadil runs into the sea. Its setting is particularly fine.

Detailed access: Continue along the track from Kinloch past Dibidil bothy to Papadil. Now start exploring.

Climb the north-east face heading to a deep crack in the seaward edge.

First ascent: Unknown.

Fist & Finger

MR: Sheet 39 344942.

Named for its shape this stack is 503m south-east of Sgor an tSnidhe which is two miles south of Harris. It is a twin stack with the main part connected to the shore by a gravelly neck uncovered at low tide. The landward side of the stack is steep whilst the side facing the sea overhangs. At the far north of this little peninsula is the Finger stack.

Detailed access: Go to Harris from Kinloch and then walk east towards Dibidil and so come to the stack.

Pinkey Crack VDiff

Go to the south part of the main or Fist stack and climb up to a pedestal. Ascend a weakness leftwards until you can move right to the final wall and overhang. A curving crack (crux) is followed on the left.

First ascent: H. Brown and N. Hunter, 1 June 1970.

Note. The Finger may be unclimbed. (It was unclimbed in 1988.)

Sgor an t-Snidhe Stack

MR: Sheet 39 346931 (approx.)

This small stack is found off Sgor an t-Snidhe, the main point on the coast between Harris & Dìbidil.

Detailed access: As for the Fist & Finger stack and encounter this stack en route. At low tide get over onto the stack and contour round the Papadil side to gain the seaward face.

The Sea Roofs VDiff

Scramble up the north end and then climb two steep slabs, known as the 'sea roofs', to reach the summit.

First ascent: H. Brown, 1 June 1970.

Harris Bay Stack

MR: Sheet 39 338956 (approx.)

Another small and minor stack.

Detailed access: Reach Harris from Kinloch and find the stack in the bay.

No further information.

First ascent: Unknown.

A Possible Stack: Hamish Brown's Rhum guide shows an illustration of a flat-topped pinnacle with a sea cave through its base near the mouth of the Glen Shellesder burn which is near Guardil Bay. This is right across the island from Kinloch.

Canna

Map: p120.

Canna lies about 5 miles to the west of Rhum and can be reached via a Caledonian MacBrayne ferry from Mallaig. The island is owned by the National Trust for Scotland and plenty of good camping sites can be found. There is a stack just over a quarter of a mile north from the harbour entrance and two more in the north-east of the island.

An Coroghon

MR: Sheet 39 280055

This is a conglomerate stack almost linked to the mainland by a grassy bank and with a ruined tower on its summit.

Detailed access: Walk north from the harbour across Rubha Car-unnis then around the coast to An Coroghon. The stack should be obvious.

First ascent: By the tower builders. I don't know who the first recreational ascensionist was.

An t-Each

MR: Sheet 39 277066

Conglomerate again. Just over three quarters of a mile across Compass Hill from An Coroghon. The hill has a plateau top which falls away to the sea via cliffs and steep slopes.

Detailed access: By boat again.

First ascent: Unknown again.

The top of Am Buachaille.

Photo: David Linnett



Lorcail

MR: Sheet 39269068

Another conglomerate stack. It is 1¼ miles north-west from Canna Harbour across rough ground.

Detailed access: By boat or swimming I suspect.

First ascent: Unknown.

SKYE

Map: p124.

This island has made its reputation because of its mountains. Stacks are a minor feature and, it can be argued, the most stack-like feature, The Old Man of Storr, is inland and not a sea stack at all. Nevertheless Skye does possess over a dozen stacks in the north and south west parts of the island.

In northern Skye there are three fingery peninsulas reaching out into the sea between Skye and the outer Hebrides. These are known by their old Norse names of Trotternish, Vaternish and, the most westerly, Durinish. To the south of Durinish is an area called Minginish. The stacks are located around the coast of Trotternish, to the south of Durinish and the west coast of Minginish.

Skye is reached by taking the new road bridge (toll) from just north of Kyle of Lochalsh to Kyleakin. Once across the A850 heads into the centre of the island via Broadford.

Mountain Rescue: There is a mountain rescue post at Glen Brittle. Contact this or Gerry Akroyd at Stac Lee, Glen Brittle.

We will go round the island in an anti-clockwise direction northwards from Portree on the east coast. The A855 circumnavigates the Trotternish peninsula, becoming the A856 at Uig. It provides the main access route to the Trotternish stacks.

Kilt Rock Area

MR: Sheet 23 507666

There are five possible stacks here. The rock is dolerite and the cliffs have steep shaly slopes below them.

Detailed access: Drive up the A855 from Portree north towards Staffin. Just by Loch Mealt on the left there is a turning on the right for a viewpoint and waterfall. There is a car park here and you now walk along the cliff top northwards for a quarter of a mile to Kilt Rock. The stacks described in the Skye guides and the various New Climbs Supplements seem to be land-bound pinnacles. We'll describe their location but not any climbs on them.

They lie a little further up the coast. In general descent is by abseil and any abseil stakes in place should be backed up. However there is a descent gully which is best located thus: from the car park walk north up the A855 to the public phone box. Now locate a wall on the right and leave the road after it and walk north-east towards the coast. You reach a wire fence preventing you falling down a gully that has cut back from the cliff edge. Go down this gully without too much difficulty. The Elishader Wall area is now to your south.

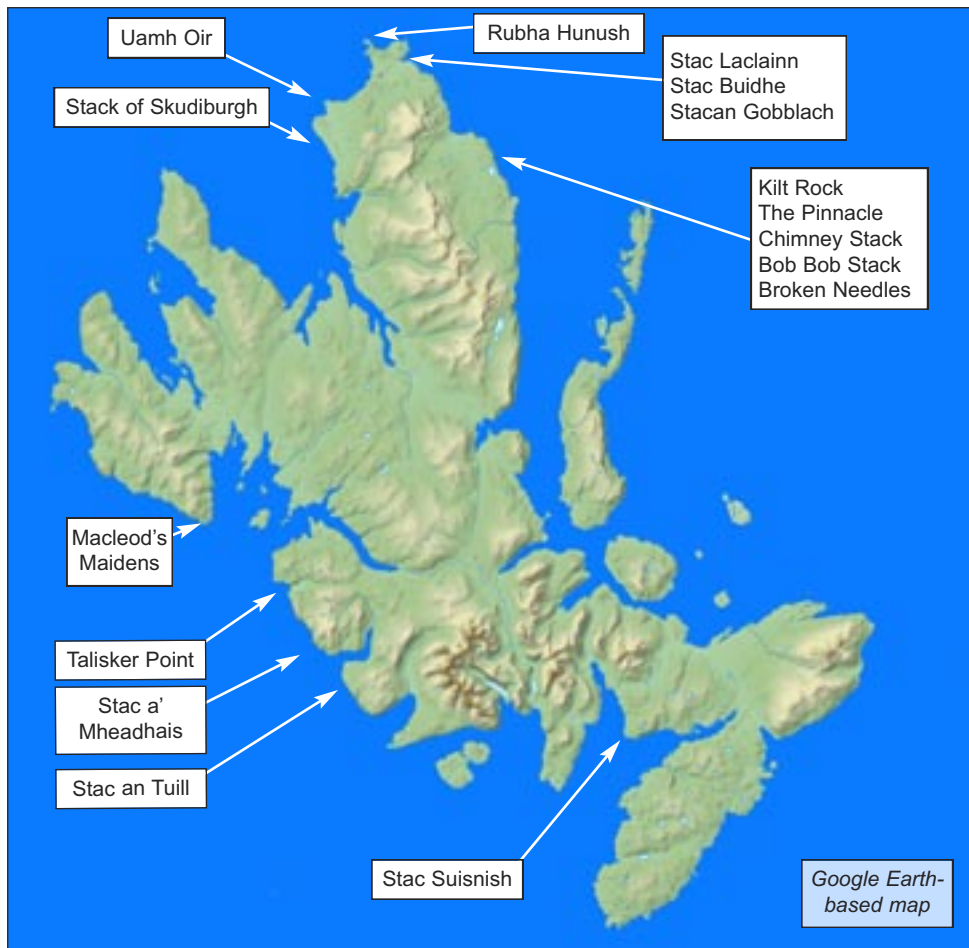
Elishader Pinnacle

This lies at the southern end of the Elishader Wall area and is an obvious feature visible from the descent gully. It seems to be a land-bound pinnacle.

Chimney Stack

Another land-bound pinnacle. It is composed of dolerite. (No doubt it was formed as a stack and the sea level dropped.) The local guides and SMC Journal term this a stack so, for the sake of thoroughness, details are included. The climbs here are big time E-grade jobs.

Detailed access: Either abseil to the base of the stack from the adjacent cliff top or walk along the base of the cliffs to the stack and climb 50 feet of, possibly, HVS rock to reach it.



Bob Bob Stack Mod

This may be a proper stack albeit an inconsequential one. It is c200m north of Tempest Buttress and you climb(?) it from the col between it and the main cliff. The descent is by the second stack(?) which was unclimbed in 1986.

First ascent: B. Wightman, Bill Birkett, 26 May 1985.

Broken Needles

This is a suggestive name but there is no further information.

Stacan Gobhlach Diff 15m

MR: Sheet 23 452744

This twin stack with its lovely name (sic) is by a small but pronounced promontory with cliffs about 30m high. Go up the A855 from Staffin and, just over two miles north of Flodigarry, take a track north to a viewpoint for a beautiful stretch of coast. You should be able to see the stack to the north. Walk half a mile up the coast to reach it.

Detailed access: Descend the cliffs, probably by abseil, and go out along the promontory. Swim across at low tide.

Climb the south ridge of each pinnacle.

First ascent: Guy Muhlemann, Simon Richardson, 8 June 1991.

Stac Bhuidhe HSev 24m

MR: Sheet 23 468746

This stack lies in a small bay just to the north of Stacan Gobhlach. Walk to the cliffs above that stack and continue along the coast for almost a ¼ mile until you see the stack offshore.

Detailed access: Hmmmm.

Climb the north ridge.

First ascent: Ed Grindley,? Williams, ano, 1990.

Stac Lachlainn

MR: Sheet 23 442755

This stack sports an HVS route. Go up the A855 from Staffin and just after it bridges the Kilmaluag river take a left turn onto a minor road and so reach Port Gobhlaig in three quarters of a mile. Turn left at the t-junction on the sea front and go as far as you can before parking the car. Walk northwards around the coastline for three quarters of a mile to reach the stack.

Detailed access: It stands on a foreshore that is uncovered at low tide.

Double Dragon HVS 5a 23m

This climbs the south west side of the stack. Start by locating a biggish ledge below a wall between two grooves at the bottom of this face. Climb the wall and carry on upwards until it is necessary to go leftwards to reach a loose groove. Ascend this for 5m and then go across on good holds to the belay. No information on the descent

First ascent: R. Bates, P. Agnew, Summer 1981.

Rubha Huinish

MR: Sheet 23 407770

This, the most northerly point in Skye, possesses three stacks in superb scenery with an interesting two mile walk to reach them. Go to Duntulm on the A855 and then east to where there is a public telephone about a half mile past Duntulm. Take a minor road going north-east to Shulista and park your vehicle as near to its end as you can.

Now walk north-west for one and a half miles across gently falling and then rising ground to the top of Meall Tuath whose steep northern slopes overlook the peninsula of Rubha Huinish. On your west is a valley which provides a way to bypass these slopes so descend into it and walk north onto the peninsula. Go along the peninsula over a small hill to its tip where you will find the three stacks.

Detailed access: Abseil down the cliff north of a prominent corner to a small platform. Then swim for about 30m to the stacks.

Stack 1 Sev

First ascent: Unknown.

Bodha Huinish

The central stack of the trio provides a sustained climb.

Eilean Groove EI 5b 35m

There is an obvious corner facing north. Climb this meeting loose rock.

First ascent: Simon Richardson, Guy Muhlemann, 31 May 1992.

It appears that "highly skilled antics with grappling irons" were needed to reach this and the southernmost stack summits on the first 'impure' ascents according to the SMT "Islands of Scotland" guide.

Stack 3 E1

First ascent: Unknown.

Fladda-Chuain Isles

MR: Sheet 23 360800

These are an arc-shaped group of stacks and islands some 2 miles off Rubha Huinish. The rock is basalt and the stacks may be 30 to 40m high.

Detailed access: By chartered boat I guess and with an admiralty chart. I have no further information.

First ascent: Unknown.

Uamh Oir c24m

MR: Sheet 23 370719

Tom Prentice refers to the Uig Organ Pipes in his book, 'The Climbing Guide To Scotland.' There doesn't appear to be a formal description of their location so what follows is, hopefully informed, guesswork.

Drive north from Uig on the A855 for just over five miles to Kilvaxter where a minor road goes off left. Ignore this but take the next minor road on the left in less than a ¼ mile. Follow this for about a ¼ mile and turn right onto a road running north-west to the sea.

Park ¾ of a mile later at its end and walk north a short distance to the coast. Now walk west along this for about half a mile past a natural arch and continue for another 190m to, hopefully, the stack.

Detailed access: There is an easy descent 190m east of the stack. Hopefully, always hopefully with this description, landward access is feasible.

The Mitre Sev 27m

Climb up cracks in the east face staying on the left side of this face.

First ascent: Jerry Moffat, Chris Dale, 2 April 1984.

Mitre Groove E2 5b 31m

Gain a prominent square corner on the north corner of the stack from the right. Go up the corner to its top and then move right to a ledge and climb the crack above to the "rickety summit. "

First ascent: Simon Richardson, Guy Muhlemann, 1 June 1992.

Stack of Skudiburgh

MR: Sheet 23 373647

This is just north of Ru Idrigill point immediately to the west of Uig. Go up the A855 for about one mile after the hairpin bend on the way north out of Uig. Here a track goes off left to Skudiburgh. Park the car at its end (half mile) if you can and walk south west to the obvious conical hill of Dun Skudiburgh on the coast just over half a mile away. The stack should be located near here.

Detailed access: Hopefully it is attainable from the land.

Landward Face VS 4b 20m

First ascent: Roger Brown, Andrew Holden, November 1995.

Seaward Face VS 4b 20m

First ascent: Mark Hudson, Inneke Willabordse, November 1995

Ru Idrigill Stack

MR: Sheet 23 376635 (estimated)

A solitary non-tidal stack is reported (thanks to Duncan Irving) to exist at Ru Idragill point on Trotternish. From Uig take minor roads leading south west towards the Ru Idragill headland. Where the road ends descend to sea level and go round the coast to the south west stack hunting.

Detailed access: You just read it!

Route HSev 4b 120m

Climb a crack system which is to be found on the right-hand side of the mainland-facing face. Simultaneous abseil descent.

First ascent: Unknown.

Central Scoop Route * HVS 5a 20m

There is a central scoop and crack system in the mainland-facing face. Climb up this to finish up a boulder-choked overhung crack. Good rock overall until the last 3 or 4m with the technical difficulty sustained at 4b apart, obviously, from the harder section. Descent by simultaneous abseil.

First ascent: Duncan Irving party 24th May 1996.

Duncan Irving reckons there may be an E3 5c'ish line on the seaward face of the stack.

Ascrib Islands

MR: Sheet 23 400640

These are a group of islands and stacks in the entrance to Loch Schizort between Trotternish and Durinish. They are made of basalt and the islands are uninhabited.

Detailed access: By boat but no further information is available.

First ascent: Unknown.

Durinish

There are several stacks here, however the most famous are the three Macleod's Maidens. This is a walker's coast with long approaches being the order of the day, and, if you are unlucky, long returns being the order of the night. In mitigation the coast is a glorious one with dramatic cliffs and natural arches as well as stacks.

Glen Lorgasdal

MR: Sheet 23 222380

Two stacks are to be found here, one wedge-shaped with a knife-edge summit ridge. There is also a natural arch to add to the interest. Walk north up the coast from Macleod's Maidens to reach them. Alternatively, drive to Hamaraamore on the B884 and take five miles of very minor road south to Ramasaig. Walk south along a footpath from here to the Lorgill River and the coast some three miles distant. Follow the coast southwards to Glen Lorgasdal three and a half miles away. The Lorgasdal river flows into the sea between the stacks so it should be a pretty spot for a picnic.

Detailed access: The stacks appear reachable at low tide.

First ascent: Unknown.

Macleod's Maidens

MR: Sheet 23 243363. Photo below.

At the south west tip of Durinish lies Idrigill Point with a group of three stacks in the sea to its west. These are



Macleod's Maidens and they are named after a mother and two daughters of Clan Macleod who drowned when their boat was wrecked nearby.

Head south-east from Dunvegan on the A863 then take the B884. Next take a minor road to Orbost. Follow a track, possibly signposted for Idrigill Point, and then its continuation footpath for about five miles to the point. The footpath passes above several other stacks which are, apparently, of no climbing interest. (Alternatively sail a boat across Loch Bracadale to the same place.)

Detailed access: Abseil down the 117m high cliffs on the south side of the headland. You can reach The Old Lady at low tide. The outer two stacks are reached by a 50m swim.

The Old Lady VS 4b 65m (E1 now suggested.)

The largest of the three, therefore the mother and, therefore again, not a maiden. (Maidens are maternally challenged.) The grading has been called inappropriate with E1 being more suitable considering the rock's state.

1. 15m. Climb up to a ledge to the left and then trend rightwards to a grassy patch and belay.
2. 20m. Ascend leftwards up a gangway to reach a groove and so to a terrace at the base of a wall.
3. 20m 4b. Go up the wall passing a flake to reach a ledge. Traverse to a crack on the left and climb this and carry on to a shoulder.
4. 10m. Climb along the ridge and ascend a wall with loose rock to the top.

Descend by abseil.

First ascent: Ian Clough, J McLean, 26 April 1959.

Middle Maiden VDiff 18m

A dumpy pinnacle.

First ascent: Unknown.

Outer Maiden E2 5b 31m

An impressive thin blade of basalt when viewed from most angles. Follow a line of cracks on the south face to enter the prominent final clean cut corner. Climb this steeply to a very loose finish pulling out right at the top.

First ascent: Guy Muhlemann, Ed Grindley, Simon Richardson, 30 May 1992.

Minginish

In Minginish just to the north of the Cuillins and the Glen Brittle forest there lies the remote and unspoiled Talisker Bay, home to the small village of Talisker and its old distillery. (The Sligachan Hotel stocks Talisker malt whisky and it's worth sampling.) To the south-east coastal cliffs rise to 900 feet. It is an austere scene. The south side of Talisker Bay culminates in Talisker Point where there are two stacks which can both be reached at low tide. I assume that the larger one is called The Fiddler and the smaller has no name.

The Fiddler

MR: Sheet 23 313200. Photo: p129.

This is a quite big affair being about 45m high with vertical south and east faces and a line of overhangs below the grassy upper reaches of the north and west faces. The rock is conglomerate and mudstone.

Leave the A863 at Drynoch and follow the B8009 past Merkadale to where you can turn onto a minor road just before Carbost. Five miles further on you reach Talisker. Go through the village to the end of the road in the southern part of Talisker Bay.

Detailed access: The stacks can be reached at low tide.

The CorkScrew VDiff 64m

Start by going up a shallow gully and an arched rib to reach a ledge on the south west corner of the stack.



Talisker Point stacks.

1. 19m. Traverse left for 15m under overhangs and then pull up on grass and loose rock to a crest and belay.
2. 45m. Traverse left across the grassy north face and then climb directly up steep rock to the summit.

First ascent: R. O'Donovan, 1971 (estimated).

Noodle Sev 62m

1. Climb the south arête to a ledge and belay.
2. Go over the overhangs to large ledges and a belay.
3. Follow the arête to the summit over precarious blocks.

First ascent: B. Taplin, D. Sharp, 3 June 1971.

West Ridge VS 46m

Get up easily to a large platform and look for an obvious rib on the west edge of the stack. Climb the rib easily until below an undercut slab on the right. Go up the slab to a ledge and then climb a corner to a terrace and peg belays. The summit can be reached by climbing loose blocks.

Descent by abseil. The peg belay ledge just below the summit is a good place for abseil anchors.

First ascent: Unknown.

The Bow?

The Fiddler's twin. This stack is around 23m high, and loose and overhung in places.

Detailed access: As for The Fiddler.

First ascent: Presumed unclimbed.

Stac a'Mheadais

MR: Sheet Sheet 32 330254

This stack is found just over four miles south of Talisker and seems to be a little way offshore below 120m high cliffs. A boat is a safe bet and can be launched from Eynort at the head of Loch Eynort a little distance further south. Drive north from Sligachan on the A893 down Glen Drynoch. At Drynoch take the B8009 eastwards for two miles and turn onto a minor road after Merkadale. Turn left at a t-junction in just over a mile and left again at a fork a half mile further. Now drive down and to Glen Eynort and launch the boat. Alternatively follow the coast line to the north

on foot for just over four miles to reach the stack.

Detailed access: No further information.

First ascent: Unknown.

Stacan Tuill

MR: Sheet 32 355215

South of Loch Eynort there is a hilly area before Loch Brittle, the coast of which features 135m high precipitous slopes. The stack lies off this coast and may be accessible at low tide. Drive along the B8009 to Carbost from Drynoch on the A855 and then take a minor road four miles to Eynort. Enter Glen Brittle Forest on your left just before the road bridge over the Eynort river at the entrance to Eynort village. It may be possible to drive further if you have either a company car or other off-road vehicle and there are no locked gates on the track. Otherwise prepare yourself for a trudge through the forest.

Take the track which runs south-east through the forest parallel to the shore of Loch Eynort. Choose the right fork at any junction so that you stay in the same line until, about two and a half miles from the start, the track goes uphill. Take a footpath parallel to the shore, and 3 miles after entering a forest exit at the small Kraiknish settlement.

Walk in a south-east direction across rough ground keeping the main slope of An Cruachan on your left for one and a half miles until the line takes you up a slope to the coast with the stack visible below.

Detailed access: Descend the slopes somehow and gain the base of the stack. This probably requires low tide.

First ascent: Unknown.

Stac Suisnish

MR: Sheet 32 585163

Rubha Suisnish separates Loch Slapin to its north from Loch Eishort. The stack is on the west side of this headland. Take the A850 out of Kyleakin for Broadford and turn left onto the A881 at the far side of Broad ford. Pass Loch Cill Chriosd after four miles or so and go about a mile further to where a track goes off to the left.

Park the wheels and follow the track. Ignore a turnoff to the left by some buildings which you reach quickly. The track forks in a little while and you take the left (south west) option and tramp to the east shore of Loch Slapin where you and the track turn south and head for Suishnish two and a half miles to the south.

Detailed access: Just before Suishnish where the track goes to the east of a small summit near a building walk west for half a mile to the coast. Find the stack at the end of a small promontory near a waterfall.

First ascent: Unknown.

Camus Islivig Bay

At Ard Phenis Head, two miles north of Brenish village you find Camus Islivig Bay and there are supposed to be several sea stacks in the bay. (There is a Camus Islivig on Lewis near Mangersta, MR: Sheet 13 982281, and the Skye reference may be mistaken). At Waterstein Head (MR: Sheet 23 143468) There is an offshore feature labelled An Stac here which sounds suggestive.

OUTER HEBRIDES

Map: p131

This area includes all the islands from Lewis in the north to Mingulay in the south. The Western Isles are a collection of rugged islands which take the brunt of Atlantic gales and polar storms. Their surface has been gouged away by ice sheets. Crofting residents have seen the grand schemes of absentee landlords, ever the curse of the Scottish country dweller, blown away by wind, remoteness, the unforgiving climate and the inhospitableness of the market. Up here the weather is harsh, the landscape is austere and the living is never easy. Life can seem bleak, black and white. You hang on to what you have with little thought for the fripperies of life. The only substance that providence has been over generous with is water. It is everywhere and surrounds the islands and fills every little hollow so that parts of Harris and Uist are more loch than land.

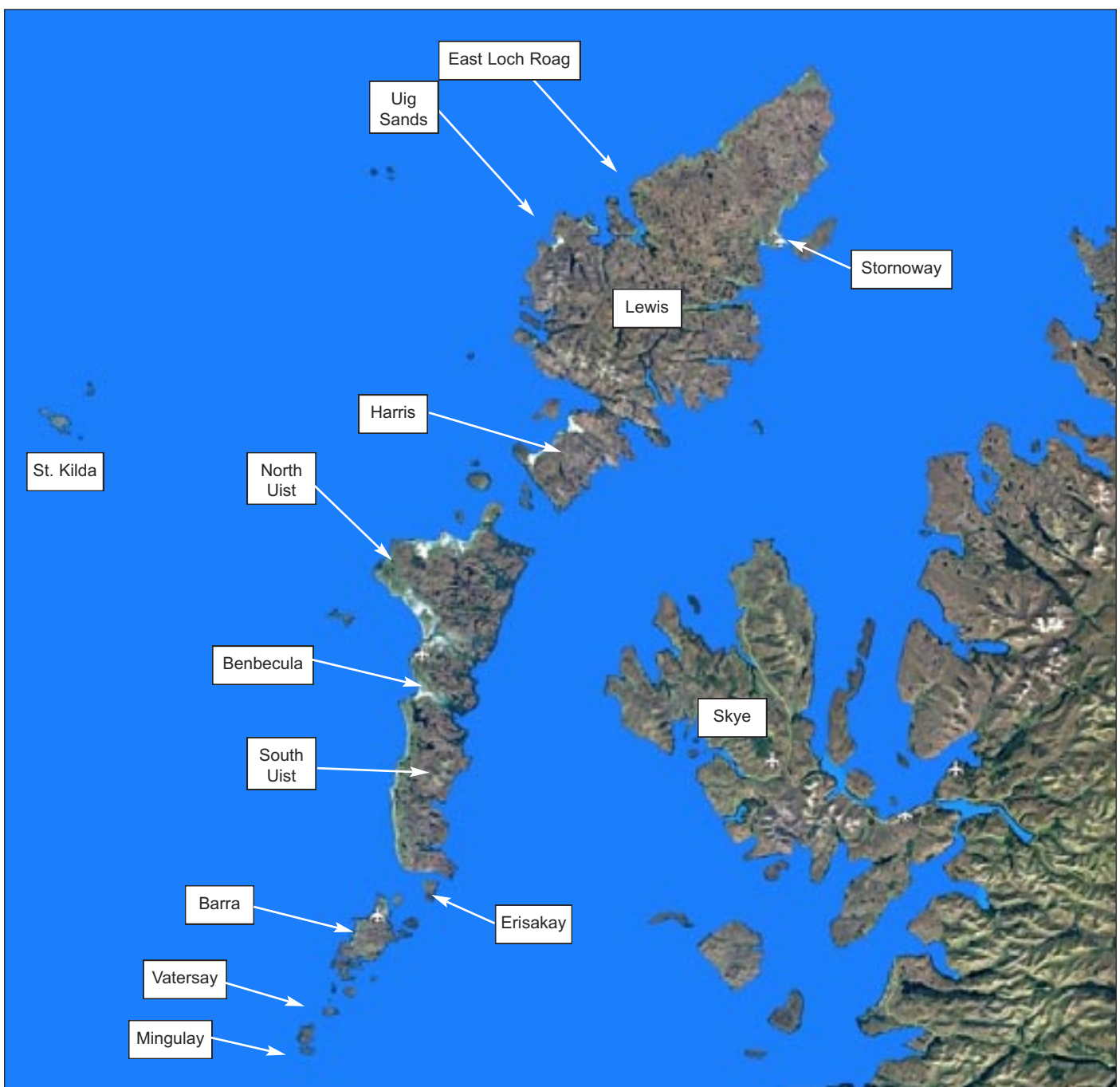
Nevertheless the landscape can have an awesome beauty. The sea, the sky, the lochs, the mountains and the coast are sublime. You come upon the islands by water, by ferry from Ullapool to Stornoway on Lewis, or from Uig on Skye to Tarbet on Harris, or perhaps from Oban to South Uist. The stacks are concentrated around the north and west coast of Lewis with some possibilities down in the south on Mingulay and Berneray.

Lewis

Eilean Leodhais has the capital of the Western Isles, Stornoway, which is the main ferry terminal for the group. Caledonian MacBrayne ferries sail to Lewis. Eg; to Tarbet from Uig on Skye and to Stornoway from Ullapool on the Scottish mainland. Lewis is the largest of the islands and is a severely glaciated plateau in the north and middle with mountains to the south in the part called North Harris. The western coast, especially around Great Bernera, is very beautiful.

Mountain Rescue: Find a telephone and dial 999.

The first stack is found on the north-east coast a little south and east of Stornoway and we will start there and continue round the island in an anti-clockwise direction.



Western Isles. Google Earth image.

Stac Shuardail

MR: Sheet 8 461307

The A866 heads east from Stornoway. A little way from Stornoway a minor road goes generally south-east to Holm. Walk south west from here and find the stack along the coast a mile or so, possibly two or more, from Holm.

Detailed access: Unknown. You might need a boat.

First ascent: Unknown also.

Grey Castle

MR: Sheet 8 533485

This stack is located on the coast north of New Tolsta. It has a 45m high face on the landward side and a 75m high one on the seaward side. There are two long corners on the northern side.

Go up the B895 from Stornoway to North Tolsta and then New Tolsta to reach it. Go to the north end of the sands at Tolsta and then continue north up the coast until you see the stack.

Detailed access: A neck of land sticks out from the mainland towards it and you can abseil down this to reach the base of the stack. There is a climb on the south side of the stack.

Looksee Crack Mild VS 46m

Start by the large detached flake on the south side. Climb up behind it to a recess and overhang. Layback up to a heathery ledge and then continue via a wall on the right, a terrace and choose your corner leading to the summit.

First ascent: I. Mackenzie, A. McDonald, 14 Aug 1971.

There may be more stacks on the west coast. The SMT 'Islands of Scotland' guide says that there are "a few sea stacks" at the northern tip of Lewis.

Stac na Caoraich Lachduinne

MR: Sheet 13 174424

On the north shore at the entrance to Loch Carloway. Take the A858 from Stornoway to Breasclete on the shore of East Loch Roag. Continue to Carloway. Here take a minor road west to Borrowston. Go to the end of the road (1½ miles from Carloway) and follow a footpath to its end. Now walk about a mile along the coast to the stack.

Detailed access: It may be possible to swim to it once you have descended to the shore. Or, it may not.

First ascent: Unknown.

Stac a'Bhanain

MR: Sheet 13 361204

This stack is on the east shore of East Loch Roag just north of Breasclete on the A858. Walk north-west from Breasclete to the coast and, hopefully, find the stack at the head of a twin-headed peninsula. Which head? No idea.

Detailed access: Unknown.

First ascent: Unknown.

Stac an Tuill

MR: Sheet 13 121424

On the south side of the small island of Bearasay north-west of Great Bernera. This will definitely need a boat. You could probably sail approximately due west from Loch Carloway.

Detailed access: No details.

First ascent: No details.

Stacan Neadacliv

MR: Sheet 13 057384.

On the coast to the east of Gallan Head which is north of Uig Sands. Take the A858 from Stornoway but, before

reaching Breasclete go south west on the B8011 and follow it to its end about nineteen miles further on. Now take the minor road going north north-west to Aird Uig. Stacan Neadacliv is at the tip of a promontory forming the eastern side of the bay of Camas na h-Aird here and is about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile away.

Detailed access: Unknown.

First ascent: Unknown.

Staca na Berie

MR: Sheet 13 029359

On the west coast south of Gallan Head but north of the lovely Uig Sands. Go to the end of the B8011, turn right onto the minor road and then take the second turning on the left in $\frac{1}{2}$ a mile along another minor road for about one mile to the point where a track goes off to the north and the road starts a big turn to the south and Crowlista. Walk north-west from here over rough ground for just over a mile to reach Fiavig Bagh (Fiavid Bay?) Go round the northern edge of this and find the stack where the bay meets the open sea.

Detailed access: No details available.

First ascent: No details.

Stac Dhomhnuill Chaim

MR: Sheet 13 002315

Map and picture page134.

On the coast west of Mangersta. Go to the end of the B8011 and drive along minor roads for about $5\frac{1}{2}$ miles to Mangersta. The stack is on the coast to the west about $\frac{1}{2}$ a mile away. However the coastline has many small headlands and inlets. It looks from the Landranger sheet 13 as if this stack is at the southern end of a twin-pronged promontory and is reachable at low tide.

Detailed access: No details.

First ascent: Unknown.

Stac Leathann

MR: Sheet 13 982281

This stack lies on the coast south of Mangersta. Take the minor roads to Mangersta but, at the fork on the south side of Loch Scastavat, take the left (south) turn and drive just over three miles to Islivig. Park at the northern end of the village and walk due west skirting the bay of Camas Islivig to the headland. On the north-western part of this the stack should be encountered. It is about a mile from Islivig.

Detailed access: The stack appears to stand on a platform uncovered at low tide.

First ascent: Unknown.

Stacageo

MR: Sheet 13 995225

On the west coast south of Mealista. So drive to Islivig as for the previous stack and continue through the village, through Brenish to the end of the road where it becomes a track. Off-road vehicles can continue south on the track while others will have to walk.

Follow the track to Mealista and on to its end about two miles from the road. Walk south and count the inlets. Stackageo is by the third inlet encountered to the south and is about a mile from the end of the track. Not surprisingly it is by a geo.

Detailed access: Nothing is shown offshore on the map so I guess it is accessible from the land.

First ascent: Unknown.



Stac
Dhomhnuill
Chaim

Above; Mangersta area. Google Earth image.

Below; Stac Dhomhnuill Chaim. Photo of Inlet on the coast beyond Mangurstadh by Duncan Grey.



North Uist

Haskeir

MR: Sheet 18 615820

There are two islands, called Haskeir Island and Haskeir Eagach, which lie 7½ miles north-west off the north-west tip of North Uist. They are attended, apparently, by sea stacks. It seems that Haskeir Eagach is actually made up of 5 islets/stacks with deep water channels between them.

Detailed access: Obviously a boat is needed but there is no further information.

First ascent: Unknown.

Eriskay

This small island is further south in the chain and lies south of South Uist. It has a tail of small islands called The Stacks. The main island is called Stack Island.

Eilean Leathan

MR: Sheet 31 786075

Detailed access: By boat.

First ascents: Unknown.

The Stack

MR: Sheet 31 786070

Detailed access: By boat.

First ascent: Unknown.

Vatersay

MR: Sheet 31 630960

This island is yet further south. A 2 mile long chain of islets and stacks runs eastwards to Muldoanich from Vatersay's eastern coast. Again this may be worth exploring if you are in the area.

Mingulay

There are 245m high cliffs at the southern tip of this island with stacks mentioned in some references. The island is quite small being 1 by 2 miles in extent. There are no inhabitants although there were 140 of them at the beginning of the century. It is now the domain of guillemots, kittiwakes and puffins. You will need a boat to visit Mingulay.

Mountain Rescue: Take a radio set and call up the helicopter rescue service.

Geirum Beg

MR: Sheet 31 551813

Detailed access: Unknown.

First ascent: Unknown.

Geirum Mor

MR: Sheet 31 548813

This is a bigger islet south-east from Geirum Beg.

Detailed access: Unknown.

First ascent: Unknown.

Lianamul

MR: Sheet 31 549837

A very steep sided stack or islet on the west side of Mingulay that is home to large numbers of birds and whitened by guano. (Take rubber gloves.) There was once a bird harvesters' rope bridge connecting it to Mingulay.

Detailed access: A boat.

First ascent: Unknown.

There may be stacks off the coast of Bernaray to the south and Pabbay to the north of Mingulay. It's worth exploring if you have a boat.

ST KILDA

Map: p137.

The most remote island group in the British Isles being thirty miles or so west of Lewis. St. Kilda possesses cliffs that rise sheer out of the sea for almost 450m. The group also possesses the highest stack in the British Isles in the shape of Stac an Armin. St Kilda used to be inhabited but was evacuated in 1930 after a winter of dire hardship and is now home only to birds, sheep and the army who man a missile tracking station.

There are four islands in the group; St. Kilda itself known as Hirta, Dun, Boreray and Soay. The St. Kilda group is not open to the public. Permission is needed from the National Trust of Scotland who organise trips for summer visitors. The St. Kilda group constitutes a wild bird sanctuary of the first water and the statistics are impressive. A million seabirds call the islands home and fill the air with their constant screams. They include:

- 50,000 gannet pairs - the world's largest colony
- 63,000 pairs of fulmars on Hirta
- 300,000 pairs of puffins - half the entire UK stock
- 15,000 guillemot pairs
- 2,600 pairs of razorbills and
- 7,800 kittiwakes

There are 40,000 pairs of gannets on Stac Lee alone. In the nesting season the stacks can become ankle deep in guano. Winter storms wash a lot of it away. It is, perhaps, best to climb before the nesting season and to consider climbing in sticky rubber wellington boots.

The islands were inhabited for 4,000 years and the inhabitants lived off birds and sheep and cattle. Birds provided food - flesh and eggs, shoes - gannet necks, and oil for lamps. The St. Kildans grew very skilled at cliff climbing in their need to 'harvest' birds and it became part of their culture that a man had to demonstrate prowess at this before being able to take a wife.

St. Kilda is included on the World Heritage List alongside such attractions as the Grand Canyon. (Yes, well, politicians) Supposedly they were formed 60,000,000 years ago, give or take a year, and form the rim of an extinct volcano. To reach the islands you will need a boat, a sturdy, Atlantic storm-beating boat, a party of experienced people and co-operation from the National Trust of Scotland.

Mountain Rescue: contact the army or the Nature Conservancy Council warden.

Hirta

Map: p137.

The largest island being 1,575 acres in extent. It possesses the highest sea cliff in the British Isles in Conachair at 478m. You land in Village Bay if the weather - fog, wind, waves - permits. As long as the island of Dun shelters the bay you should be ok. However you will need calm seas to reach the stacks. It is quite possible to be marooned on Hirta for weeks at a time due to the weather. So take emergency provisions.

St.Kilda group. Google Maps image.

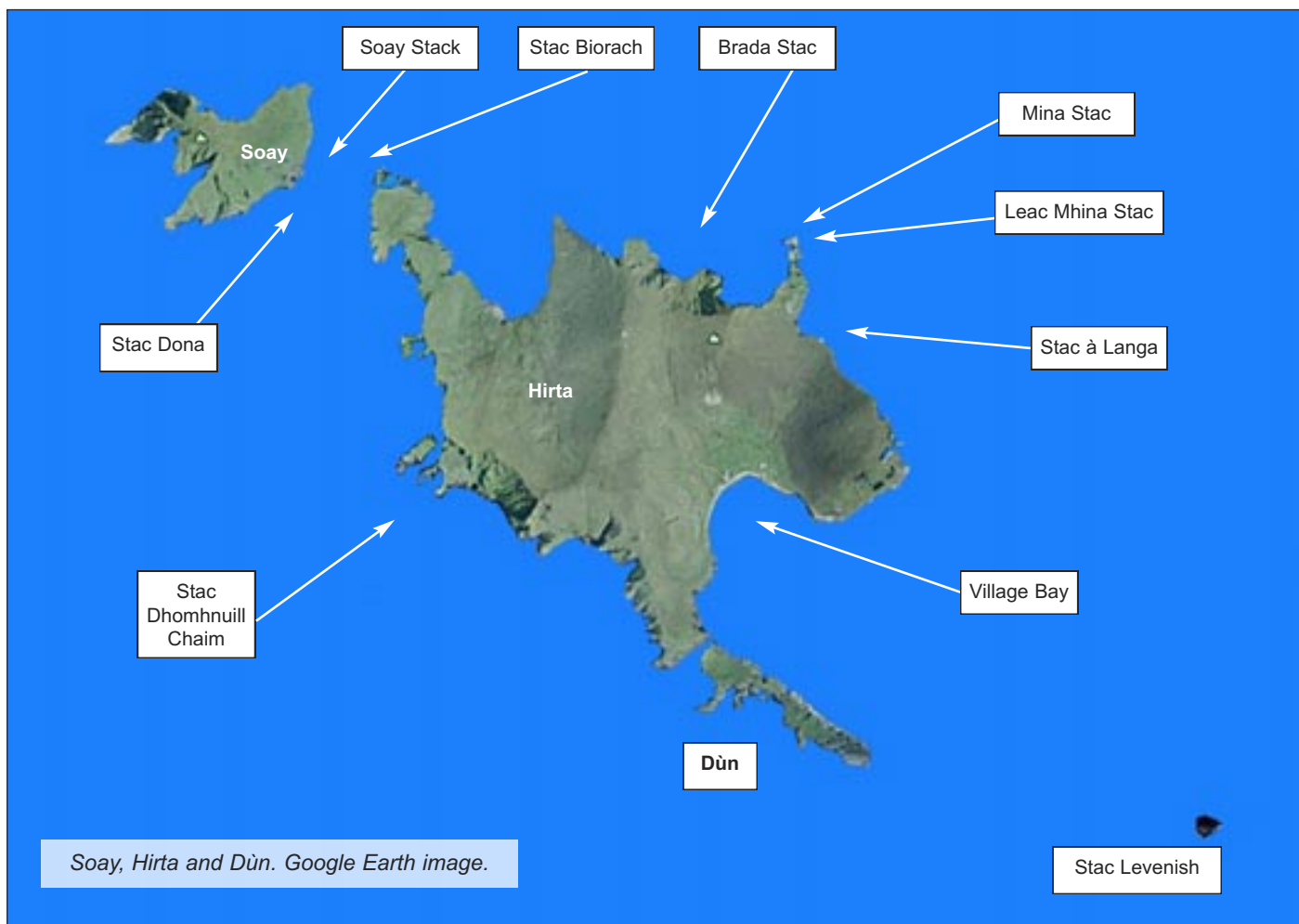


Stac a' Langa

MR: Sheet 18 107002

Detailed access: Sail and explore.

First ascent: Unknown.



Leac Mhina Stack

MR: Sheet 18 (unknown)

Detailed access: Sail and look around.

First ascent: Unknown.

Mina Stack

MR: Sheet 18 104008

Detailed access: Sail and explore.

First ascent: Unknown.

Brada Stac

MR: Sheet 18 097007

Detailed access: Sail and investigate.

First ascent: Unknown.

Stac Levenish

MR: Sheet 18 134966

This six acre pyramid-shaped stack is 1½ miles south of Hirta, stands 56m high, and guards Village Bay. John Ridgeway recounts how he nearly sailed into this stack in his book 'Floodtide'.

Detailed access: Unknown.

First ascent: Unknown.

Boreray

This island is 189 acres in size. There are two marvellous and prominent stacks off the coast here. Both require boats to get to and both are very big indeed and absolutely covered with nesting birds in the breeding season. The Colin Baxter book has some tremendous photographs of the Boreray stacks. The weather is going to be of vital importance so visit timing would be crucial to obtain a fair weather window. If you ever get the chance to climb here the experience would be something to be treasured.

Stac Lee 166m

MR: Sheet 17 143048. Photo: p140.

This is high, huge in fact. The name means 'Blue Stack.' It is a massive stack which should have a cornucopia of potential lines on it. Unfortunately they will probably remain potential rather than become actual.

Detailed access: Sail and explore.

First ascent: R. Balharry and party, 1969.

Stac an Armin 191m

MR: Sheet 17 152064. Photo: p140.

Even higher than Stac Lee and it's the highest stack in the British Isles. Although higher than the Old Man of Hoy it is much more massive and should have many potential lines on it. Again, access difficulty will likely prevent it happening. Its name means 'Warrior Stack.' I have no information about the line taken on this humungous rock.

Detailed access: Sail and explore.

First ascent: R. Balharry and party, 1969.

Other possibilities on Boreray include:

Am Biran MR: Sheet 17 154045 (aprox) No further information.

Sgarbhstac MR: Sheet 17 154045 (aprox) No further information.

Soay

Soay is home to the breed of sheep of the same name and is 244 acres in size. There are three stacks which lie in the channel, Soay Sound, between it and St. Kilda.

Stac Biorach 73m

MR: Sheet 17 072013

The 'Pointed Stack' is shaped like a kind of power station cooling tower.

Detailed access: Unknown.

First ascent: C. Barrington, 1883 (Mentioned in the Alpine Journal, vol 27, page 195.)

Soay Stac 62m

MR: Sheet 17 073013

There is a tunnel right through this stack and it is comparatively birdless.

Detailed access: Unknown.

First ascent: Unknown.

Stac Dona

MR: Sheet 17 069011

The name means the 'Bad Stack' as no birds nested on it. It is split right through by a crack.

Detailed access: Unknown.

First ascent: Unknown.

Below: The three stacks in Soay Sound. Russell Wills photo. Wikipedia (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.0/>).





*Boreray with Stac an Armin (left) and Stac Lee (right) from Conachair, St Kilda. Stephen Hodges photo. Wikipedia
(<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.0/>)*



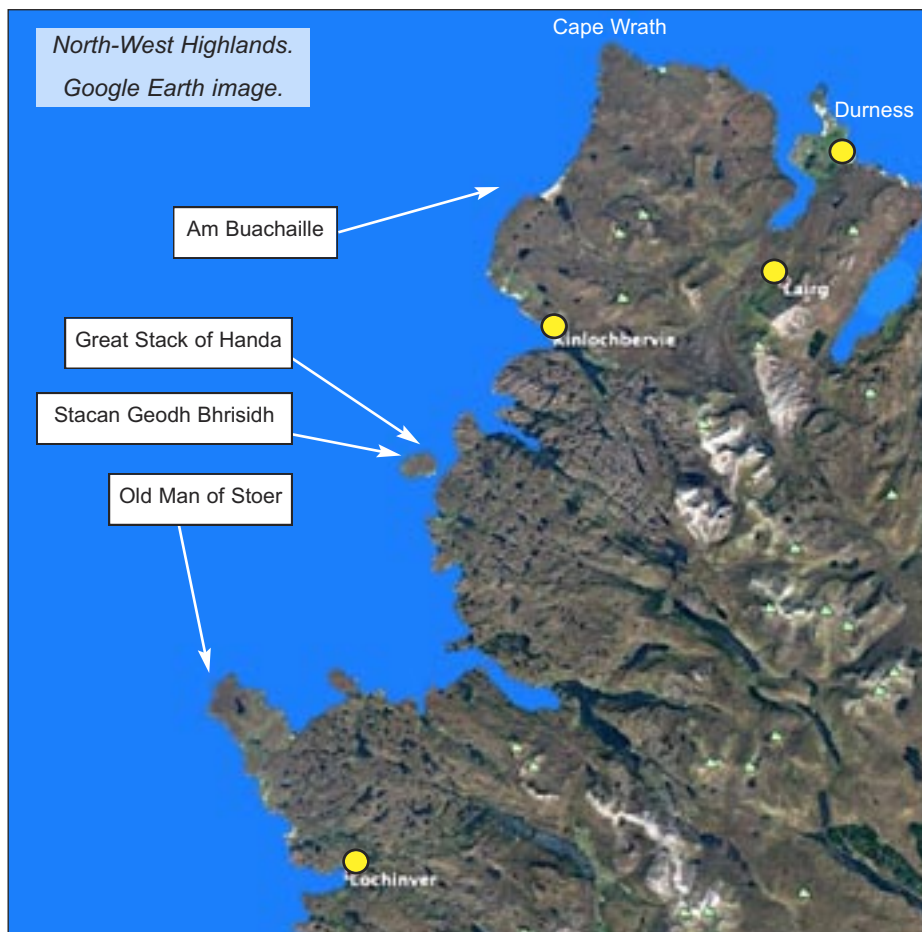
*Bradastac Stack below the northern crags of Conachair, St Kilda. Richard Webb photo. Wikipedia
(<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.0/>)*



Above: Stac Clo Kearvaig, near Cape Wrath., Wikipedia CC 2019-11-19 at 19.46.42.jpg.

Below: Climbing Am Buachaille. David Linnett photo.





NORTH-WEST HIGHLANDS

Map: This page

This region includes the western Scottish mainland coast running up from Ullapool to Cape Wrath and round it to Whiten Head and Dunnet Head. It also includes the island of Sule. There are superb and classic stacks to be found here. The landscape, particularly in the far north, is as remote and wild as you can imagine. Stacks occur north of Ullapool and the first one is The Old Man of Stoer. (The 1953 North Highlands Guide said that the Old Man was “evidently unclimbable.”)

The Old Man Of Stoer

MR: Sheet 15 018353. Photos: p143, 144, 145, 146, 147.

The Rubha Stoer peninsula lies north of Lochinver and sticks out into the Minch. The Point of Stoer is at its tip and the Old Man, a superb stack of Torridon sandstone, is about half a mile south of here. The village of Stoer is 7 miles from Lochinver. From the village go towards Raffin lighthouse, through the village of Raffin. You can drive this far but, just before the lighthouse, leave the car and take a track north through a peat bog region for about a mile to the coast and the stack. You descend steep grass slopes to reach it.

Detailed access: Cross a 9m channel by swimming across to the platform at its base, or use a ladder(!) and set up a Tyrolean. You can start from here at a cluster of pegs, or traverse leftwards to the left arête of the landward face where the vertical climbing starts.

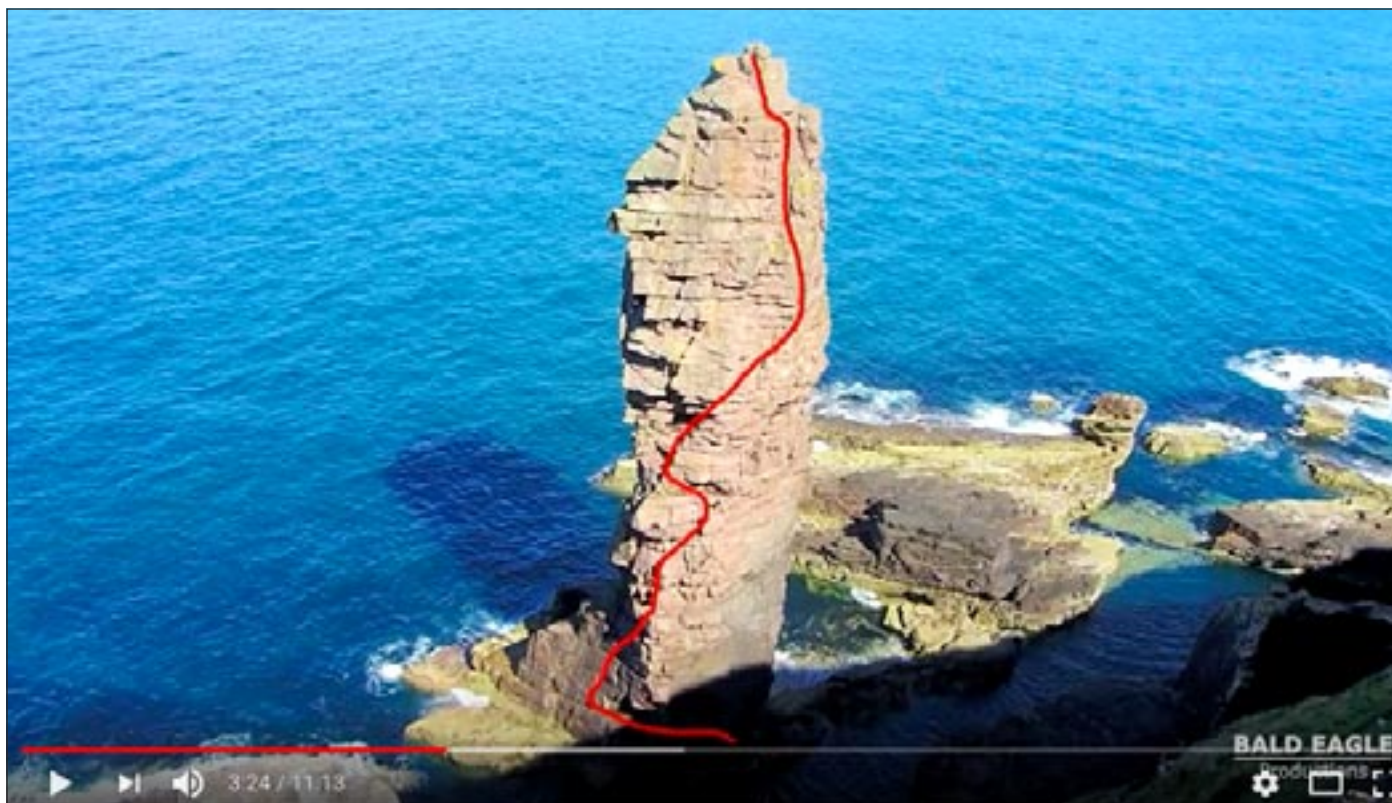
Original Route *** VS 5a 73m

Some route descriptions call pitch 1 the traverse leftwards from the Tyrolean landing point. The description here does not.

1. 20m 4c. Climb the landward face for 3m to gain big horizontal cracks going round the left arête - may be slimy, friend protection - to a large corner ledge. Climb up leftwards from under an overhang to reach a groove. Now go directly up a crack to a large ledge on the arête.

*Magnificent; the Old Man of Stoer.
David Linnett photo.*





Above: David Linnett video of Original Route climb on the Old Man of Stoer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=btBQeb-sw>

2. 20m 5a. Ascend the steep slab/wall via a rightwards curving crack to overhangs and pass through these using a crack. Next, go delicately left to ledges and continue to a cave with a thread belay.
3. 10m 4a. Go rightwards around the arête back to the landward face and go up a ramp rightwards, ignoring the first upward break, to gain a small ledge with a block belay. You may encounter fulmars.
4. 20m 4b. Climb the obvious V-groove to easy rock with the finish up a short corner or ramp to the left. More fulmars may be met on this pitch.

Descent: Make a 46m abseil, mostly in space, down the south-east corner to a platform. Then abseil to the base from further right along a ledge. Bring your own ab anchors for safety. Two 60m ropes recommended.

First ascent: Tom Patey, B Robertson, B Henderson, Paul Nunn, 1966.

If, after crossing to the Old Man of Stoer by Tyrolean, pitch 1 (the initial traverse) of Original Route is found to be unclimbable because of slime, then this alternative line is an exciting low tide option. It has probably been done before, but the presumed first ascensionists thought it merited a proper description as they think it's a worthwhile alternative.

The Un-Original Start 15m

1. Move left along the starting ledge of Original Route and where it narrows, disappears and becomes a horizontal crack, drop down and continue on barnacled foot ledges until it becomes necessary to start steeply traversing on hand and fist jams. Move awkwardly around and onto a nose where an ungainly move gains the ledges below pitch 1 of the Original Route.

First ascent: Mike Buddle, Ben Sparham, 4 August 2012.

Diamond Face Route *** E1 5b 60m

This climbs more directly to the pitch 2 belay of Original Route and then tackles the diamond-shaped face above its cave stance. Start at Original Route belay.

1. 30m. 5a. Climb a chimney and the crack above to a ledge left of Original Route's second belay. Continue to a pod and up a wide continuation crack. Avoid a roof on the left and go rightwards to the Original Route cave stance.



Tyrolean manoeuvre across the channel to the Old Man of Stoer. David Linnett photo.

2. 30m. 5b. Get over the roof and gain a groove going up and right to arrive at a large ledge. Mount a block on the left to reach the next break. Climb up and leftwards to a corner above the right side of a roof. Climb the corner and go rightwards at its top to the summit stance.

First ascent: R. Edwards, B. Gordon, June 1987.

Original Diamond Link * VS 5a**

This provides an enjoyable and direct finish to Original Route that is claimed to be fulmar-free and a tad harder. Cimb pitches 1 and 2 of Original Route to the cave belay. Now climb up and right as for Original Route but don't step round to the landward face. Go straight up as soon as you can and step left onto a thin ledge below a prominent corner crack; and join Diamond Face route by climbing this to the summit.

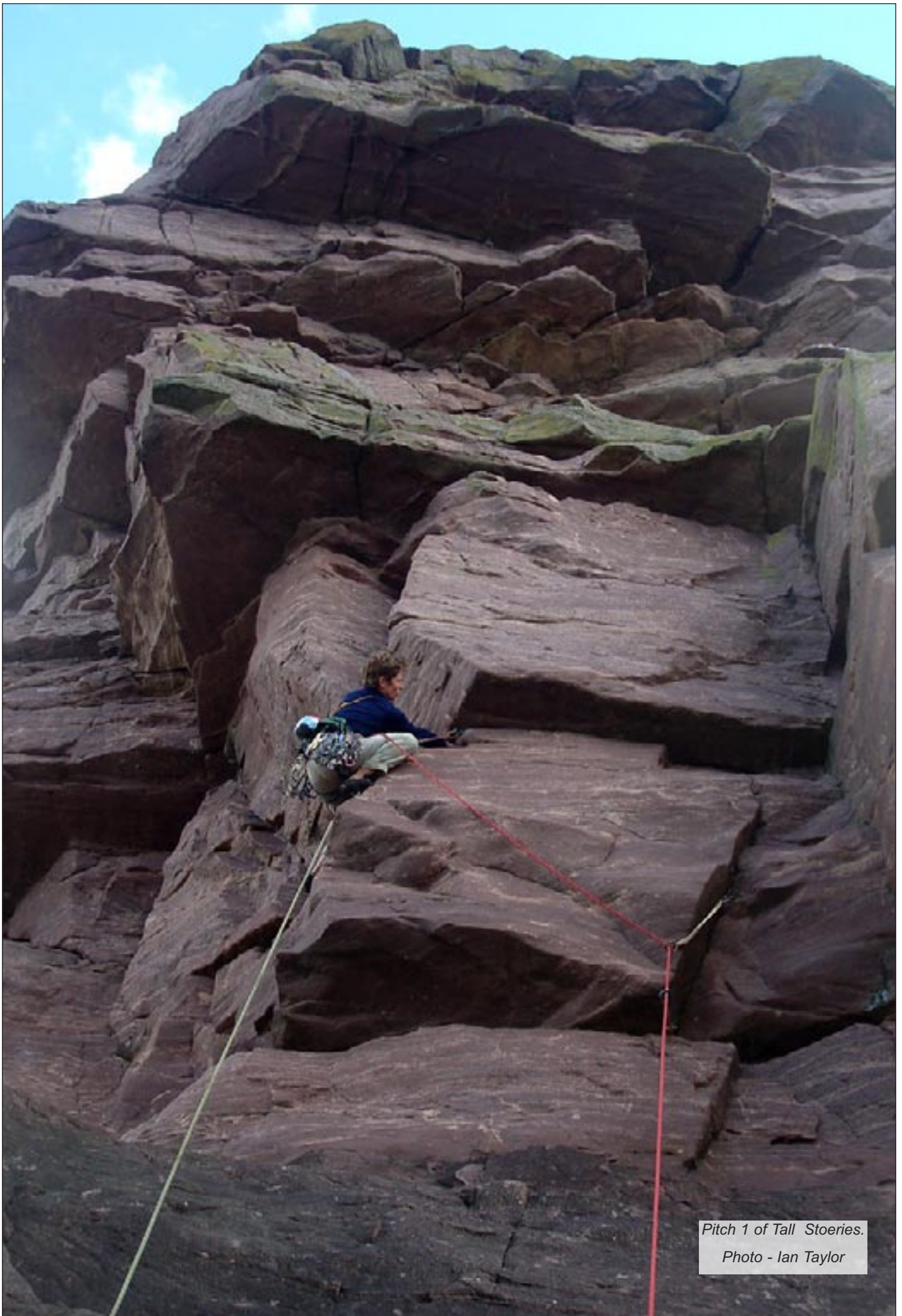
First ascent; Andrew Marshall, David Docherty, 25 August 2013.

North-West Corner E3 6a 69m

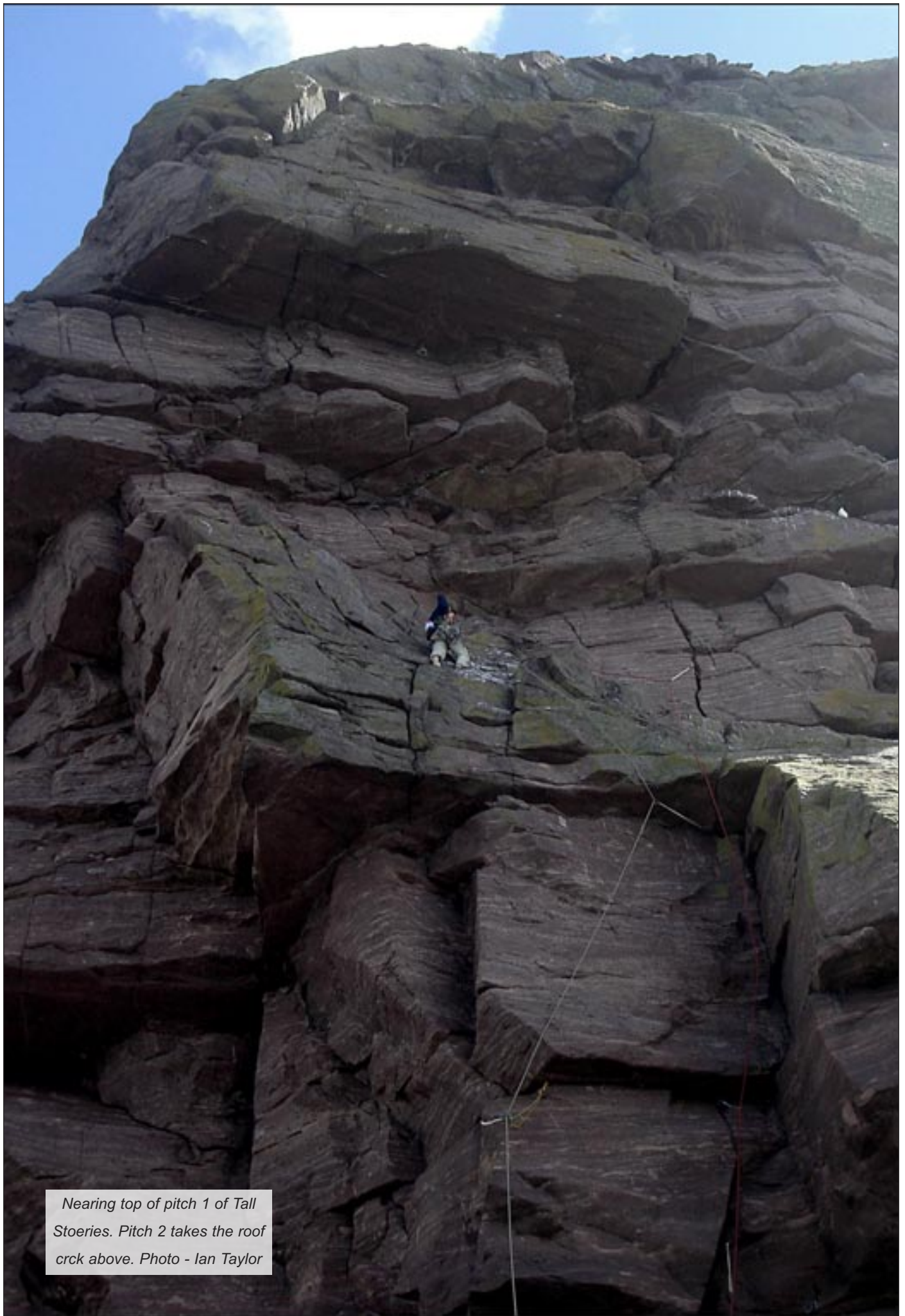
This ascends the right-hand arête of the landward face (looking from the cliff top.) A lot of Friend protection is available. Possibly E4.

1. 15m 6a. Climb the left side of the arête past a hard section at 6m to a ledge and Friend belay.
2. 18m 5b. A layback flake just left of the arête enables you to reach holds leading up right to a resting place on the arête. Move up right on the right-hand side of the arête and then follow a leftward slanting crack to regain the crest. Go left to a good belay ledge.
3. 35m 6a. Climb the obvious leftward-trending ramp (two old peg runners at the start) to a ledge at its top. (This is the final belay of Original Route. I think this means the belay at the top of pitch 3 of the original route.) Move out right to a large ledge just left of the arête and then follow the arête to the top.

First ascent: Mick Fowler, C. Newcombe, 29 August 1987.



*Pitch 1 of Tall Stoeries.
Photo - Ian Taylor*



Nearing top of pitch 1 of Tall Stoeries. Pitch 2 takes the roof crack above. Photo - Ian Taylor

Ring Of Bright Water E1 5b 81m

Start at the right-hand end of the west (seaward) face.

1. 5b. Climb a short wall to a slab underneath a roof. Cross over to the left around the roof and around the arête to get to a steep flared crack on the north face. Go up this to its top where you traverse left again along a ledge to peg belays on the east face.
2. 5b. Climb the bulge above the stance (crux) to gain a hanging slab. Follow this up to the left to gain the deep obvious V-groove of Original Route. Go up this and a short corner above to the top.

First ascent: S. Yates, I. Halliday, June 1987.

Tall Stoeries *** E4 6a 70m

Photos: p146, 147.

On the Old Man's seaward face find a slab with a large overhang above and with a crack breaching the overhang and a flake line above that. Said to be very top of the grade and with some spooky rock.

1. 20m 5c. There is a left-facing corner above. This is gained by climbing up well round to the left to reach a break, then traversing the break right rightwards into the corner. Ascend the corner and move rightwards at its top to gain a green-coloured slab. Climb up to a belay on the left.
2. 50m 6a. Find a hanging slab and cross this heading right with bold moves to reach the overhanging crack. Go up this to attain the flake and gain a small ledge (30m, possible belay). Continue to easy slabs and blocky ground at the top, possibly passing a fulmar.

First ascent; Dave Brown, Andy Reeve, 27 June 2011.

Handa

The island is surrounded by sheer cliffs apart from a single small landing beach. It was adopted by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds in 1962 and has the greatest concentration of seabirds in the north-west. They can create a "deafening cacaphony of noise." It also possesses the Great Stack of Handa which is a magnet for climbers. However, climbers are very unwelcome in the nesting season. (Assume 1st February to end-June.)



*Great Stac of Handa. Photo from WalkHighlands:
<https://www.walkhighlands.co.uk/news/our-pick-scotlands-great-sea-stacks/0012781/>*

Access to Handa is as follows: Take the ferry from Tarbet which lands at the south-east corner of the island at Port an Eilean. There is a well-marked path to the north-west of the island and the stack.

Great Stac Of Handa

MR: Sheet 27 133487. Map: p142. Photo: p148.

This great sandstone stack is to be found on the north-west corner of Handa almost totally enclosed by the encircling coast with a narrow geo between it and the Handa mainland. It is about 107m high, flat-topped and supported on three legs! RSB permission is needed to climb the stack.

It is quite large so there ought to be many climbing possibilities. The stack was originally reached by Donald McDonald from St. Kilda going hand over hand across a rope stretched across the top of the stack by being fastened to anchors either end on the enclosing headlands. When Tom Patey repeated this feat with jumars 183m of linked rope was needed and a 37m long tyrolean traverse got him onto the summit of the stack.

Detailed access: Yes. The stack is enclosed by a narrow deep geo so you either abseil down into the geo, climb up the stack, abseil down the stack, prussik out of the geo and collapse in exhaustion or look at options 2 and 3.

Option 2 is to cross to the top of the stack by 'jumaring' across a rope tied between the two headlands enclosing the Stack. Now abseil to the bottom, climb back up and repeat the tyrolean to get back to the Handa mainland.

Option 3 starts from the observation that a boat is needed to get to Handa in the first place so why not use it to get round to the geo and land at the base of the stack, climb up, abseil down and regain the boat. That way you need slightly less rope as well as saving bags of energy. Have fun.

First ascent: Donald McDonald - hand over hand via a rope - 1876.

The Great Arch *** VS 107m

Climb the north face on good rock and with few interruptions from birds.

Start at the bottom of a steep green wall on the north face.

1. 12m. Go up to a ledge and belay at 12m.
2. 49m. Ascend a wall on the right to a ledge and go up a steep groove to a point where you can traverse left above the great arch to a hidden corner. Go up this and the wall and overhang that follow to belays on a feature called the Diving Board. The situation is said to be spectacular.
3. 46m. Scramble up 46m to reach broken rocks with a loose chimney barring the way to the top. Abseil descent.

First ascent: Hamish McInnes, G. N. Hunter, D. F. Lang, July 1969.

Stacan Geodh Bhrisidh

MR: Sheet 9 135488. Photo: right.

This stack is about 320m east of the Great Stac and has been described as an 'elegant detached flake.' Walk across Handa to the cliffs opposite the stack.

Detailed access: Make a grassy descent from the cliff top.

Great Corner VS 61m

This climbs up on the landward side from a stance in a corner which is indicated by an arrow.

1. 21m. Go leftwards and then work your way up loose rock to the obvious corner crack. Go up this to a belay ledge featuring loose blocks.
2. 40m. Ascend flakes to the crest of a ridge. Go right along a ledge for 9m and so reach a groove that leads to the top.

Descent: There is a bolt on the summit from which you abseil 15m to a ledge on the north-west face. Ab again to reach the bottom.

First ascent: Hamish MacInnes, G.N. Hunter, D.F. Long, July 1969.



Stacan Geodh Bhrisidh, Handa

*Stupendous; Am Buachaille.
David Linnett photo.*



Puffin Bay Stack

MR: Sheet 9?

According to the SMC Journal there is an obvious stack in Puffin Bay. It's so 'obvious' there is no further informatio.!

Detailed access: No information.

First ascent: Hamish MacInnes, G. N. Hunter, D. F. Long, August 1969.

Am Buachaille

MR: Sheet 9 200652. Pictures: front cover, p122, 141, 150, 152, 220.

This truly great stack is also known by the translation of its gaelic name as The Herdsman. Sandwood Bay is south of Cape Wrath and is one of the most remote, unspoiled and beautiful bays in Scotland. It is over a mile across from end to end with dunes behind the beach. The southern end of the great sweep of pale pink sand is bounded by a promontory at the end of which is the very prominent and picturesque Am Buchaille. Get on to the road running between Blairmore and Sheigra. A moorland track leaves this for Loch a'Mhuillin. From there a path leads to Sandwood Bay. The distance from the road is 3½ miles.

Detailed access: There is a stubby stack platform north of the Buachaille. Either descend the southmost of two prominent gullies or the vague path on the steep hillside between it and the Buachaille. Walk down to the non-tidal boulder beach shore north of the stack and traverse around until opposite its broad platform base from which you are separated by a 9m channel. Low tide is necessary for the next step.

If there is a north-easterly wind the channel may feature rough water. Swim across the channel and set up a tyrolean for the other members of the party. Low tide is needed for the tyrolean anchor points to be exposed. There are four hours available for the climb before the bottom is awash with the briny again.

Descent is by two abseils from the top.

Original Route ** HVS 5b 55m

Great adventure climbing but the rock is of poorish quality. Start left of centre on the landward face. There isn't a good belay point at the bottom and protection is not good.

1. 26m 4c. Use large jugs to get up the overhanging wall and go right to a prow. Then climb straight up to a ledge below a steep wall. Go left to a belay on a ledge.
2. 29m 4c. Go back right and ascend a wall right of a corner using a thin crack. (The crack above the corner was the original way but is on poor rock.) Reach a deep overhanging corner crack and traverse underneath it leftwards until you can mantelshelf between two large plates of rock. Go across the slab to a crack and make an awkward pull up to the top.

First ascent: T. W. Patey, J. Cleare and Ian Clough, 1967.

Landward Face *** VS 4c 50m

This goes right after the first pitch of Original route.

1. 26m 4c. Use large jugs to get up the overhanging wall and go right to a prow. Then climb straight up to a ledge below a steep wall. Go left to a belay on a ledge.
2. 29m 4c. Go back right to find and climb a crack up the steep centre of the face.

First ascent: Unknown.

Landward Arête E2 5b 46m

A direct first pitch for Landward Face.

1. Start as for Landward Face. At 5m do not go right but go left instead to find and then climb the arête direct to the first belay of Landward Face.
2. As for Landward Face.

First ascent: Mike Shorter, 25 June 2016.



David Linnett video of climbing Landward Face. www.youtube.com/watch?v=-WowxZUkFgA&feature=youtu.be

Atlantic Wall E1 5b 55m

This climbs the west, seaward face. Start at the left end of the base platform below the south face. Better rock and security than the 1967 route.

1. 15m 5a. A little left-facing corner leads to a roof under which you traverse left to the arête. Up this to an exposed stance.
2. 15m 4c. Go up the overhanging flake on the west face which is strenuous. (This flake may now have fallen down.) Relax a bit and carry on up to a big ledge underneath the headwall.
3. 25m 5a/b. There is a big detached block on the right. Climb a thin crack above this to a horizontal break where you can traverse left to another crack which leads up to easier rock and the top. Descent by two abseils.

First ascent: Simon Richardson, R. Clothier, 15 September 1990.

Atlantic Wall Direct ** E2 5b 55m

1. 30m 5b. Start in the centre of the south face where there is a corner facing left. Climb this and go up to a wide break at 20m. Climb leftwards going up stepped corners to a ledge on the arête and a belay.
3. 25m 5a/b. As for Atlantic Wall. There is a big detached block on the right. Climb a thin crack above it to a horizontal break. Traverse left to another crack which leads up to easier rock and the top. Descent by two abseils.

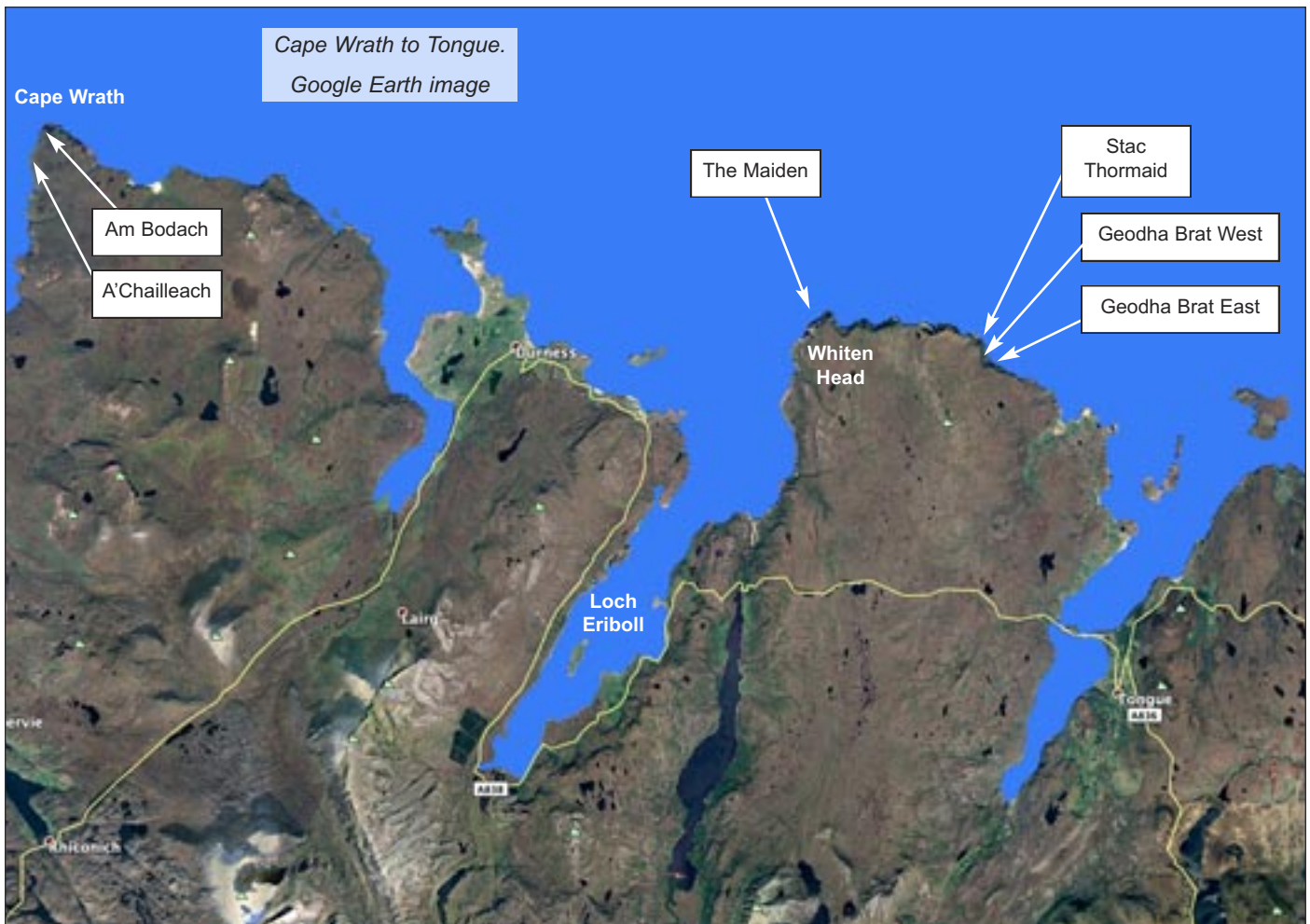
First ascent: Dave Turnbull & Chris Rees, 30 April 2011.

CAPE WRATH

Map: p153.

Here Torridon sandstone plateau meets the sea as the coast turns to the east. The cliffs are huge and the sea almost always runs a huge swell. It is a magnificent wild and remote place which rewards the adventurous who reach it with splendid scenery, tough walks and memorable experiences. This place is on the edge.

There are two stacks situated one mile south of Cape Wrath, six miles from Sandwich bay. Their names translate to the Old Woman and the Old Man respectively. They are best reached by walking south along the coast from Cape Wrath. If you start from Durness and take a ferry across the Kyle of Durness you can then follow the track to Cape Wrath Lighthouse. There is a minibus service along this track which is used to take tourists to the lighthouse.



A'Chailleach

MR: Sheet 9 249737

This is the lesser of the two stacks but is a more impressive sight. Good gneiss rock on the stack and few birds.

Detailed access: Scramble down quite easy rocks to the south. Once on the shore there is a ten foot channel between the stack and the mainland which you can swim across in calm seas. Unfortunately the seas are rarely calm and enormous waves are the normal situation. Once across set up a tyrolean. If you want to avoid this and have everyone swim over then only one 55m rope is needed.

South Face HSev 24m

Start on the south side facing Am Bodach and climb up right to reach the arête facing the nearest point of the mainland. Follow this to the final overhanging wall which is avoided by a short traverse right.

Descent: free abseil to the base.

First ascent: Simon Richardson, Guy Muhlemann, Mick Fowler, Nikki Dugan, Chris Watts, 17 June 1989.

Am Bodach

MR: Sheet 9 249736

Stack-naming conventions know nothing of political correctness so this, the bigger of the two, is called The Old Man. As with its partner, few birds will be encountered.

Detailed access: There is a narrow channel between it and the mainland which can be stepped over at low tide when the waves are small or infrequent.

South Face Diff 40m

Climb the south side of the stack by a line of steep cracks and good holds followed by scrambling to the top.

First ascent: Guy Muhlemann, S. MacIntyre, Simon Richardson, 27 May 1989.

Stac Clo Kearvaig

MR: Sheet 9 295737. Picture p141.

This fine stack rises to 40m at the western end of the Clo Mor cliffs. There are two towers with one large and some smaller jammed boulders between them. They are the same height with a third lower summit to the south. It is usual for the seas to be rough and the currents strong.

Detailed access: Take a boat and land at a large platform at the north-east end of the stack.

Seaward Stack HVS 5a 55m

1. 35m 5a. Move round the the corner on to the seaward face and trend right, then back left to eventually gain a short right-angled corner with a crack in the back. Climb this (3m) to a ledge next to the left arête (when viewed from the seaward side). This ledge is level with the highest of the wedged boulders between the summits.
2. 20m 5a. Move up rightwards to a ledge and follow a short but awkward right slanting open groove to easier ground which leads to the top.

First ascent: Mick Fowler, Chris Watts, Guy Muhlemann, Simon Richardson, 18 June 1989.

Landward Stack HVS 5a 55m

1. 35m 5a. As for Seaward Stack to the ledge next to the arête.
2. 15m 5a. Traverse horizontally across the wall to reach the highest of the huge wedged boulders. Cross this to reach the landward stack and climb a right-angled corner to a corner ledge.
3. 5m 4c. Climb the corner to the top.

First ascent: Mick Fowler, Chris Watts, Simon Richardson, Guy Muhlemann, 18 June 1989.

The third, south, summit to this stack is unclimbed.

Stac Clo Mor VDiff/AI 31m

MR: Sheet 9 300736

Half a mile east of Stac Clo Kearvaig is Stac Clo Mor. It is a 31m high sandstone stack, conical in shape with a small (8m) finger of rock at its top.

Detailed access: A boat is need to reach it.

1. 31m. Climb up to below the rock finger and then lassoe the top and prussik up the rope to the summit. Probably free climbable.

First ascent: Simon Richardson, Guy Muhlemann, Chris Watts, Mick Fowler, 19 June 1989.

Whiten Head

The Maiden

MR: Sheet 9 496686; Map: p153. Photo: p155, 157, 224.

There are two quartzite stacks, *Stacan Bàna* in gaelic, here, separated by a deep channel, and remote, being a long way offshore. The eastern stack, 56m high, is known as The Maiden and has a cave at its foot giving the appearance of legs. Tom Patey fell to his death in a tragic accident whilst abseiling from the eastern stack's summit after the first ascent.

The western stack, lower at 46m, doesn't have its own name. The stacks now have a fine complement of climbs with Waterfront Wall being an outstanding severe, and March's Route and Ode being excellent HVS'. They can be reached either by boat, or a long walk and swim. If by boat then a three mile crossing of Loch Eriboll, departing from Rispond, is needed to reach Whiten Head and the stacks.

Low tide is best for landing at the channel between the stacks whilst high tide is better for landing on the landward side. The plinth beneath the stacks can be reached by an eleven kilometre walk, descending the steep headland and swimming around 46m. This makes for a demanding day out, and the stacks are rarely visited.

The Maiden (East Pinnacle)

The eastern pinnacle gives an impression of overhanging rock and verticality.



The Maiden (Stacan Bana). These white stacks are just to the NE of Mol Mhor. © Copyright Chris and Meg Mellish and licensed for reuse under the Attribution-ShareAlike 2.0 Generic (CC BY-SA 2.0) Creative Commons Licence.

Original Route * HVS 4c 55m

The original route up the stack. From the large platform on the landward side traverse under the west face to a stance at the bottom of a groove on the north side.

1. 35m 4c. Climb a steep groove to an overhanging crack. Avoid this by traversing right and up a steep wall for 8m. Traverse left into the crack-line and continue to a good square ledge. Climb the easier wall above and belay.
2. 20m 4a. Climb the ramp above and then go up loose flakes to the summit.

First ascent: Paul Nunn, Brian Fuller, D Goodwin, C Rowland, Tom Patey, 25 May 1970.

March's Route ** HVS 5b 65m

This line was taken when Patey's abseil rope and other gear was being recovered. A fine steep line up the west face, although avoids the direct second pitch taken by in Ode. Start from the large wave-washed platform about 5m left of the cave running through the stack. Initial overhangs here guard access to a scoop and a right-trending ramp.

1. 30m 5b. Climb the overhangs to a ledge and the hanging crack above to another ledge.
2. 35m 4c. Traverse along the ledge to the seaward side of the stack and ascend an obvious crack line directly to the summit.

First ascent: Bill March, John Cunningham, after May 25th, 1970.

Ode ** HVS 5a 55m

This climbs a prominent line up the steep west face which faces the west pinnacle. Start just right of the cave running through the stack where initial overhangs prevent access to a scoop and right-trending ramp.

1. 30m 5a. Get over the overhangs trending left, move back into the scoop and follow the ramp rightwards to more overhangs. Move right to get to ledges and follow these back left to a belay underneath the prominent central fault cleaving the upper part of the face.
2. 25m 5a. Go up the steep corner line to an exit on the left. The overhanging final wall is avoided on the left.

First ascent: Mick Fowler, C. Newcombe, 28 May 1988.

Funeral For A Friend E1 5b 75m

This takes the eastern face of the eastern pinnacle. Easier climbing follows the good and hard first pitch. Start at the bottom of the east face at the base of a pillar to the left of the cave.

1. 20m 5b. Climb the pillar and go over a small roof to a niche on the right. Move up to the right and go over another overhang to reach a short wall. Climb this to a ledge.
2. 25m 4a. Go to the right-hand end of the ledge and move up a corner above for about 3m to reach a ledge and belay.
3. 30m 4c. Continue up the corner then go directly up short walls interspersed by ledges to the top.

First ascent: Chris Watts, Jon Lincoln, 28 May 1988.

West Pinnacle

There is no information available that mentions how to get from one pinnacle to the other. As you will have got to these pinnacles by boat in all probability then both land and sea options are covered. Descent is by abseil down a groove in the north face starting from an obvious notch. The landing is a small ledge just above sea level.

Waterfront Wall ** Sev 58m

This superb route climbs the impressive north-east seaward corner on solid rock. Start at the corner base.

1. 26m. Take your own line using good holds to a depression below a steep band. There is a stance on the right.
2. 21m. Climb the small overhang above the stance and then move left to a short and discontinuous crack line. Climb this for about 6m to overhangs and traversing left to a sensational stance on the arête.
3. 6m. Easier rock leads to the top.

First ascent: Mick Fowler, C. Newcombe, 28 May 1988.

Maiden Without A Hole HVS 4c 77m

This is a loose route on a face facing the eastern pinnacle. Start in the centre of the east face.

1. 32m 4c Climb awkwardly onto a ramp/traverse line. Move left along this for about 24m to a belay stance at the bottom of a shattered groove.
2. 14m 4c. Climb the shattered groove to a large stance.
3. 31m 4c. Move along the ledge rightwards and climb a short wall to gain another ledge. Cross this to the base of the headwall and climb up right in an exposed position to gain the top.

First ascent: Chris Walls, Jon Lincoln, 28 May 1988.

Against The Grain HVS 4b 80m

A loose route up the south west (landward) arête.

1. 35m 4b. Start from a series of small ledges at the base of the arête. Go up a few metres and then step right and after 2m move back to the arête. Climb this through loose ground to a large ledge at 25m. Climb the wall and precarious groove/short crack above to another large ledge.
2. 15m 4a. Traverse along the landward side for 5m and climb the wall to belay beneath the arête of the SW summit.
3. 15m 4b. Climb steep ground to the top and traverse the summit to belay amongst blocks.
4. 15m. Down climb from the south west summit and up onto the north-east summit.

First ascent: Ross I. Jones, Roy Plenderleith, 13 July 2002.

Hymen E2 5b 75m

This climbs the west face of the western stack. In anything other than perfect conditions, wind and waves, the landing is serious and best made at mid to high tide. A series of little steps lead to a large ledge well above high tide level, but probably not above storm tide level. The route starts up the centre of the West Face.

1. 30m 5b. Climb a sinuous groove to a band of overhangs above which is a small ledge.



Stacan Bana, The Maiden. Photo:
Jonny via Steve Le Feuvre.

2. 30m 5b. Follow a narrow crumbling ramp diagonally to the left to reach an arête and ascend to reach a poor belay on a shoulder of the arête.
3. 15m 5a. Climb through the overhang above the belay to reach the first runner and then more easily to the summit.

First ascent: John Bickerdike, Martin Wragg, 1 May 1994.

Stac Thormaid

MR: NC5467. Map p153. Photo: p158.

This stack, located east of The Maiden, has been compared to the Old Man of Stoer in terms of its climbing quality and appearance. The approach for Stac Thormaid and Geodha Brat West and East is as follows: Park at Achinver and follow the track west through a farmyard and up a hill until it ends. Continue across moorland to a headland just east of Geodha Brat and for the descent to Geodha Brat – East Stack (40mins). A stream lies a further 5mins to the west (access for Geodha Brat – West Stack) and Rubha Thormaid is a further 10mins to the west where another stream cascades into the sea. Stac Thormaid is here. Scramble down the cliffs and then access the stack 1½ - 2 hours either side of low tide by wading. Abseil descent using tat at the top.

Original Route ** HSev 4b 40m

1. 40m 4b. Climb the landward arête. Climb to a ledge and continue up to a steep wall. Move left around the arête, climb a wall for 2m, and then zoom up the arête to the summit. Some think it Severe and not Hard Severe.

First ascent: Unknown.

Rùn-diomhair HVS 4c 40m

The name means a secret in Galic. There is a chimney left of the seaward face. Start here.

1. 40m 4c. Climb the chimney and wall above the chimney for 3m and then go boldly up and right to avoid an overhanging wall. Pull through blocks to gain a large ledge with easy scrambling to the summit.

First ascent: Ross I. Jones, Rob Reglinski, 22 April 2006.

Geodha Brat West

MR: NC 550 676. Map: p153.

This is a classic 30m high stack east of Stac Thormaid. Access as for Stac Thormaid. Scramble down a gully 50m north of a stream to gain the shore. Walk 400m along the shore from mid to low tide. Other stacks seen here are close to collapse. Abseil descent from an in-situ stake.



Stac Thormaid. Photo by R. I. Jones and licensed for reuse under Attribution-ShareAlike 2.0 Generic (CC BY-SA 2.0). Original Route climbs the right arête. Rùn-diomhair climbs the seaward arête.

A' Bòcan HVS 4c 35m

1. 35m 4c. Start to the right of an overhang on the south-east face. Get over this on the right and then move up leftwards to the arête. The steep final wall is climbed via a right-slanting groove to the top.

First ascent: Ross I. Jones, Neil Wilson, Simon Nadin, 1 April 2007,

Geodha Brat East

This 25m high stack can be viewed from a headland east of Geodha Brat. It's a tad adventurous. Make a 100m abseil down cliffs using a thread and stakes, which you need to bring. Abseil again for 60m from rock blocks. Swim across a 15m channel and step onto a platform on the stack's south-west side. Descent by abseil from a thread.

A' Càmhhal HVS 5a 28m

The name means the camel.

1. 12m 3b. Climb cracks to a sloping platform and traverse it to below the stack's east wall.
2. 10m 5a. Go up the hanging exfoliated wall and pull through on to a ledge on the left.
3. 6m 3b. Climb the easy ramp to the top.

First ascent: Ross I. Jones, Helen Stocks, 18 September 2006.

Lady Bighouse Rock

MR: NC 909657. Photo: below.

This is a fine 25m stack that is precariously perched on the edge of a sloping ramp east of Melvich.

Approach: Park at the farmhouse (NC 894649) east of Bighouse from where it is a 20 to 25 mins walk. Make a 20m abseil from a large block overlooking the stack into the sea followed by a 15m swim. Return by tyrolean or swim.

When the Big Lady Sings HVS 4c 20m

Climb the corner on the east face before traversing up and leftward to pull through onto a large ledge on the landward (south) face and then ascend easily to the top.

First ascent: R. I. Jones, M. Dent, 6 May 2006.

Unnamed Stack

This is about 1km east of Lady Bighouse Stack. Walk out to the coast via a track which starts between the main road signs indicating the Sutherland/Caithness border. This is a couple of miles east of Melvich. On reaching the coast the stack is soon apparent. Make an abseil and then swim to the stack.

Unnamed Stack Sev 22m

The climb takes the easiest line just to the right of a deep green corner on the seaward end of the north face.

1. 10m. Climb up easily to beneath a large overhang.
2. 12m. Traverse left and up to finish just right of the green corner.

First ascent: Steve Sustad, Mick Fowler, 30 June 2006.



Lady Bighouse Stack. Photo by David Gass and licensed for reuse under Attribution-ShareAlike 2.0 Generic (CC BY-SA 2.0).

ORKNEY ISLANDS

Map: p161.

There are not many stacks here compared to Shetland. Yet, ironically, the group boasts the single most famous stack in the British Isles in the Old Man of Hoy. It also boasts more prehistoric sites than anywhere else in Britain. Orkney differs from Shetland and the difference has been expressed in the idea that an Orcadian is a farmer with a boat while the Shetlander is a fisherman with a croft.

Like Shetland the main island in Orkney is called Mainland. To its south and west is Hoy, famous for the Old Man whilst to its south and east is South Ronaldsay. Between these three islands is the large natural harbour of Scapa Flow. North of Mainland there is a set of smaller islands, such as Westray, scattered around the Stronsay Firth.

Orkney is generally reached by taking a daily P and O vehicle ferry from Scrabster, near Thurso, to Stromness on Mainland. The crossing takes 2 hours and takes place twice a day. You can reach Scrabster by car, by rail to Thurso (from Edinburgh), or you can fly to Kirkwall airport on Mainland some 10 miles to the east of Stromness. Lastly you can take a weekly P and O ferry to Stromness from Aberdeen but it is a long trip. We will describe stacks on Mainland first followed by Hoy and South Ronaldsay.

Mountain Rescue: Get to a telephone and dial 999.

Mainland

Map: p161.

Orkney can be likened to a capital letter H. Hoy and South Ronaldsay are the two lower legs. Mainland is the crossbar. Rousay/Westray and Stronsay/Sanday are the upper arms. The stacks are on the west and north coasts. We will begin with Mainland and go round in a clockwise direction starting from near Stromness in the south west.

North Gaulton Castle

MR: Sheet 6 or HY 2I7134. Pictures p162, 163, 164, 345.

This 50m high stack, shaped like a narrow fin and with two overhanging sides, was used in a Rover advert - they helicoptered a Rover car and lowered it onto the stack - lies to the north of Outertown, Stromness and about two miles south of Yesnaby Castle. Drive up the A967 to Ouholmslie, take a minor road west for just over a mile to Caulhome and then a track for two miles or thereabouts to Mousland farm (HY 229128.) Now walk northwest for about 1.5km across open fields to the coast and the stack offshore from an amphitheatre of cliffs.

Detailed access: Take a boat or abseil c40m (no stakes in situ) to platforms south of the bay at the base of the cliffs. Now swim 40m across to wave-washed flat rocks at the landward end of the stack.

Apparently a huge tyrolean can be rigged up to gain the the stack. This involves stretching a rope between the two sections of coast either side of the stack. The rope stretches and using this you could gain the stance at the top of the first pitch.

Out of the Deep ** HVS 55m

This climbs an obvious crack line on the right side of the south face. Start, tide permitting, at the bottom of the landward arête. It is described as Original Route in the SMC Northern Highlands North guide.

1. c18m 5b. Climb 5m to a good non-tidal ledge, crux, with no protection, or locate a roof 6m left of the arête and climb a a left-facing corner/ crack line, if dry, with a big move to gain the ledge. Now ascend easy cracks, crossing horizontal breaks to reach a stance on the arête.

2. 36m 4c. Go left to climb a big crack to and up an open-book corner on the left of the arête on the south face. At its top there is a large ledge. Walk left 5m to another open-book corner and groove set above the middle of the ledge. Ascend this with frighteningly loose rock towards the top.

Descent. Abseil descent down the route from anchor stake. Climb a 40m HSev line up the mainland cliff to avoid prussiking. Climb a wall right of the ledge, poor rock, to access a left-slanting groove at $\frac{2}{3}$ height. Up this to the top.

First ascent; H. Folkard, T. Robins, June 1979.

Solitude * E2/3 5b 45m

This route goes up the north-west arête and then launches leftwards up a slanting groove line on the west face and just above half height. Picture topo: page 164.



Access; by boat and high tide is okay.

1. 25m 5b. Climb up 7m of solid, wave-washed rock, going rightwards to reach a recess. Gain the arête. Climb this, going through blocky overhangs at 15m, crux and large cam protection, to arrive at a ledge. Go left (facing in, north) round the corner and pull up to a ledge. Nut and microwires for poor and constricted belay.

2. 20m. Climb a leftward-slanting green-stepped groove line with poor microwire protection to bold and committing climbing left of a thin groove to reach a big ledge and good protection. Go up short cracks to the summit. Descent by abseil, stake, down south face.

First ascent; Kevin Woods, David Macmorris, 23 July 2017.

Original Route HVS 40m

This climbs up the the eastern (landward) arête to a large belay ledge and then goes up leftwards to an open book corner. A headland-to-stack tyrolean runs to the belay ledge and Original route then went out left. A route called Out of the Deep is the pitch from sea-level to this belay ledge and the two pitches now form Original Route. So...

1. c18m 5b. Out of the Deep pitch 1.
2. c22m. Climb up the south side of the arête. Descent by abseil, stake, down south face.

First ascent: Pete Minks, Cliff Phillips, Easter, April 1970. Out of the Deep: Iain Miller and party, 2007/8.

Atlantic Odyssey HVS

This is a half circumnavigation of the stack, starting on the north, seaward face, and traversing around to the landward face and across to join the Out of the

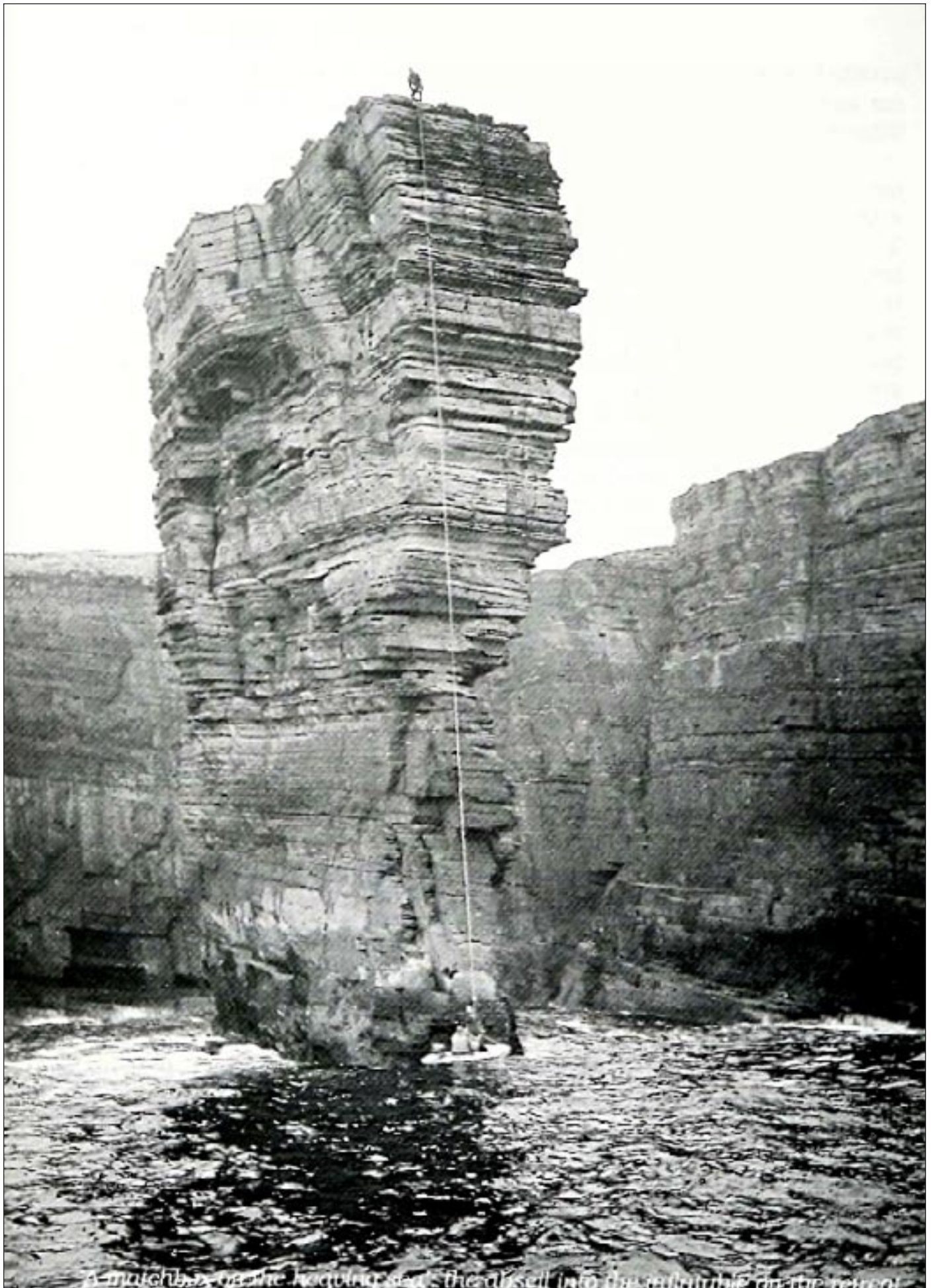
Deep corner cracks at mid-height. However the description comes from a Climbers' Club journal entry (<http://climbers-club.co.uk/journal/original/1998%20Journal-p116-124.pdf>) and is a tad vague. We reproduce it here for its historical and entertainment value.

It reads; "North Gaulton Castle is vaguely rectangular in plan on an east-west axis but the western elevation is certainly the bow, cleaving those big Atlantic rollers, whilst the stern is to the east. Nevertheless, we identified a weakness on the northern side of the bow: a crack and corner system, which we thought could be exploited if we could but effect a landing. Eventually this was achieved on the North Face and a difficult traverse to the bow effected. The assault team of Kevin and Keith were then able to secure a fixed line which enabled reinforcements in the form of Graham and myself to be landed. The corner was then ascended to mid-height on the stack - at which point the bow began to severely overhang. These difficulties were avoided by a traverse across the South Face to a junction with the corner cracks on the South-East Arête, whereupon the Original Route was followed to the summit."

First ascent; Kevin, Keith. Graham, Martin Wragg, 1978.



*North Gaulton Castle from
geographic.org.uk. Colin Smith.*



A matchbox on the heaving sea. The abseil into the inflatable on the retreat from North Gaulton Castle.

Photo: Martin Wragg. On first ascent of the Atlantic Odyssey, 1998.

Yesnaby Castle

MR: Sheet 6 218158. Picture: below, p164.

An absolutely magnificent stack with through caves at its base that you can walk through. Yesnaby Castle is off the west coast of Mainland near the Stone Age village of Skara Brae and the Brough of Bigging.

Drive north from Stromness on the A965, then the A967 for four or so miles to the junction with the B9056. Take this and then the minor road running west to Yesnaby in half a mile. There is a car park at the end of this road and the stack should be visible to the south-east. Walk south along the coast to the Brough of Bigging promontory and find the stack off the north-west side of this.

Detailed access: There are cliffs to descend by abseil and a channel to cross by swimming. A boat maybe a useful alternative.

South Face Route ** E2 5b 35m

The original route. Beware rusty pegs.

Climb up to a good ledge and ascend past horizontal breaks to an old peg. Continue to another about halfway up the right side of the south face, then traverse left, crux, to reach the base of a left-trending crack and groove. Go up this easily to loose rock and the summit.

Descent; Descend the landward face by abseil, using a nose of rock projecting above the seaward face as an anchor, with discarded rope or tape slings running across the top of the stack. Then prusik or jumar back up the cliff abseil rope.

First ascent: Joe Brown and party, July 1967. Peg for aid.



Dune cross-bedded aeolian Yesnaby Sandstone forming the sea stack Yesnaby Castle, Yesnaby, Mainland, Orkney.

Photo by Mike Norton. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yesnaby_Sandstone_Group#/media/File:Yensaby_castle_1.JPG

Direct Finish E2 5b

Climb directly to the top from the second peg using cracks. The rock is good, at first, and it is more strenuous than the original way.

Meditation * E2 5c 25m

This provides good climbing up the left side of the south face, and goes more directly to the South Face route's finishing crack.

Start in the cave/arch and go up right to a large ledge. Follow good holds out left to find a difficult wall with sloping holds. These lead to better holds taking you to the easy flake/groove on South Face Route. Go up this to the top.

First ascent; Gary Latter, T. Pringle, 10 July 2002.

Yes, Please ** E3 6a 25m

Climb up an overhanging finger crack on the seaward edge. Commence proceedings at the seaward edge of the stack where there is a sloping ledge. Climb up and then swing round to the left-hand side using a good hold; poor peg. Boldly climb up and right to a resting place on the arête. Take the strenuous finger crack on excellent but overhanging rock to an overhanging hand jamming crack to the top.

First ascent: Mick Fowler, Crag Jones, Julian Freeman-Attwood, 19 July 1996.

Landward (East) Arête ** E2 5b 25m

1. Start at the far right end of the south face. Ascend the landward arête to a large ledge at $\frac{1}{4}$ height. Go up a blunt corner between the landward and south faces to a small stance on a loose block below the leaning headwall.
2. 5b. Clip a peg and, at about $\frac{2}{3}$ height, make a pair of hard moves to a good ledge below the summit. Go up loose rock to the summit.

First ascent; 1967.

Stack o'Roo

MR: Sheet HY 228229

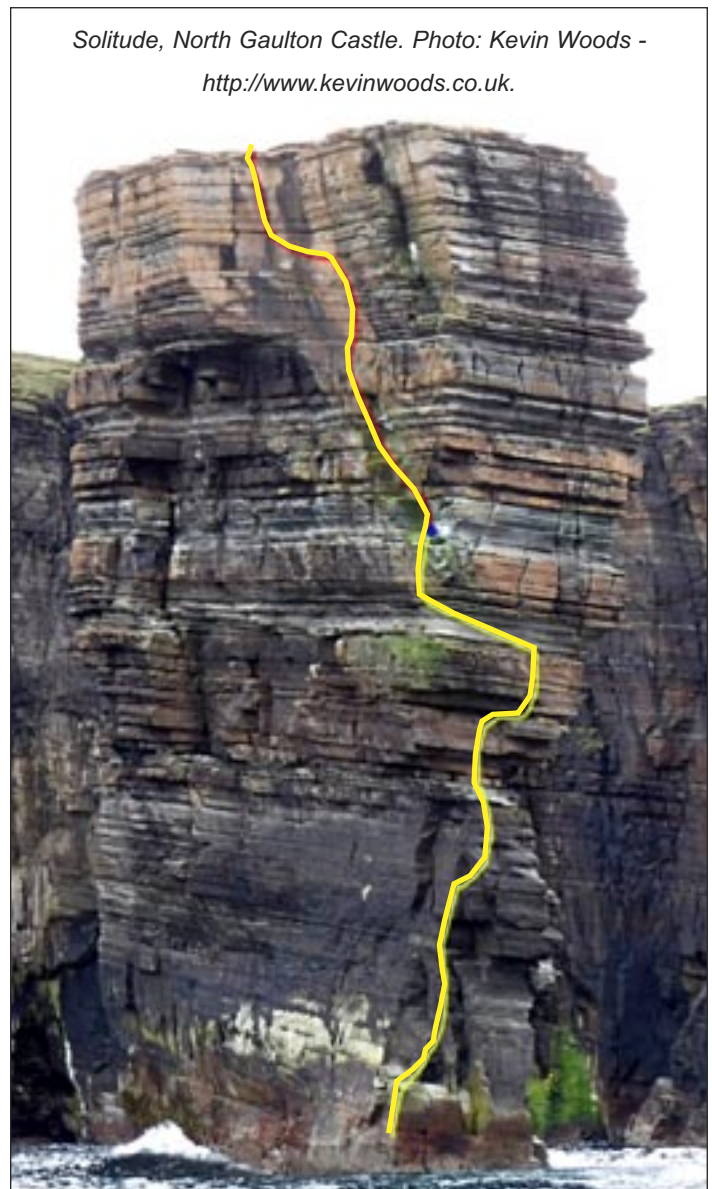
Once known as the Spoord, this short stack has a cave running through it, and appears to overhang on all sides. It is situated north of the Bay of Skail however the Landranger Sheet 6 map doesn't actually show it. Locate Vesta Fiold farm on the B9056, west of the A967. Take the Vesta Fiold track (MR HY 230244) to its end and head SSW to the coast and the stack.

Detailed access: It is 30m offshore. There is a headland to the north. Abseil down the blowhole on this to a large seal-level platform. Then swim across the channel to the stack.

Original Route Sev 20m

The climb has been described as loose and dirty. Start in the through cave. Climb along a ledge heading landwards and go left to an obvious fault. Ascend this and pull out left to gain a ledge. Easy climbing up loose ground leads to the summit.

First ascent: J. Upton, E. Sweeney, A. Harris, K. Toms, May 1970.



A Family Affair * HVS 5b 20m

The north face has good and clean rock washed by the sea, and it overhangs a lot with a semi-detached flake running up it. This is a harder climb. From the extreme end of the seaward ledge make a committing and difficult move up to a good ledge. Traverse leftwards to reach the flake and climb it, sometimes almost inside, to the top.

First ascent; Iain Miller, S. Herd, 3 June 2003.

Standard Rock

MR: Sheet HY 301304

Found just off Costa Head in the far north of Mainland, this twin-headed stack lies east of Brough Head. Once more drive north on the A967 but this time to a junction with the A966 very near to Brough Head. Now go east on the A966 to find a small car park at Swanney Loch (MR: HY 296305.) Walk 1km to the cliff top opposite the stack.

There is a lot of loose rock on the landward face while the leaning seaward face is cleaner and has a couple of cracklines.

Detailed access: Descend the cliffs guarding it. Face the landward end and find a small niche in the cliff top. Abseil from here to a ledge at half-height and then ab again to the shore; 70m total abseil. Swim across a 40m channel to the stack and set up a tyrolean using a ledge below the landward arête of the stack at about 5m above the sea.

Original Climb Sev

This climbs the landward end. Start at the 5m ledge and climb up in three pitches. The second is the hardest with a rightwards ascending traverse. The third pitch is loose.

First ascent: Unknown.

Hemp Stack

MR: Sheet 6 441061

This stack is 2½ miles south from Kirkwall. It's no big deal. Drive south from Kirkwall on the A961 and take the fourth track on the left to Gaitnip. Park the car and walk for less than a ¼ mile to the coast. There are cliffs immediately opposite the stack but these give way to steep slopes a short distance to the north.

Detailed access: Unclear.

First ascent: Unknown, so to avoid getting in dire straits mount private investigations.

Westray

Castle of Burrian

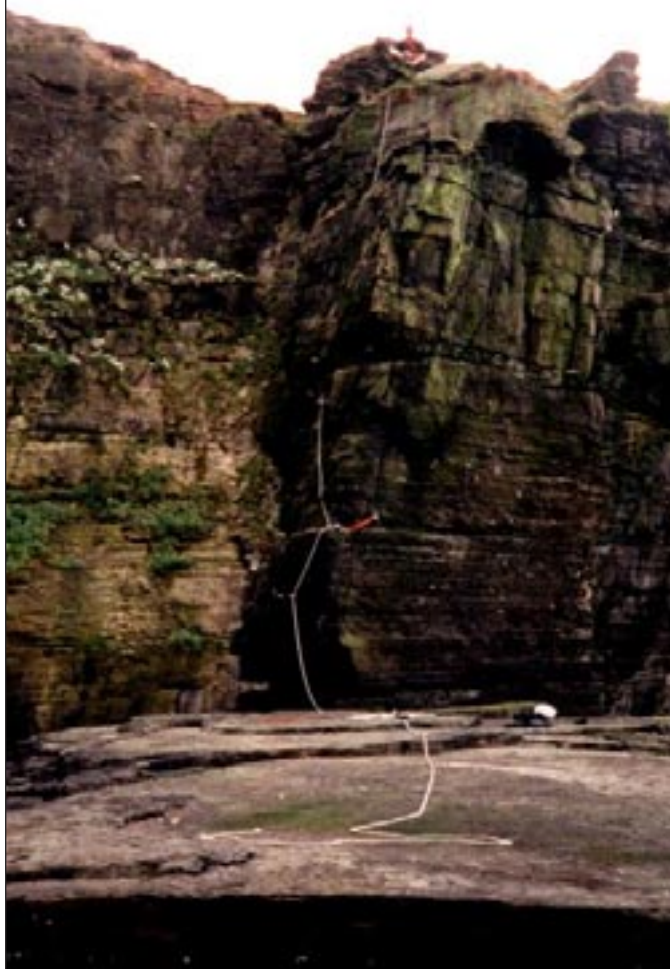
MR: Sheet 506428. Photos: p167.

It is noted in an Orkney tourist web site that the Castle of Burrian is an imposing rock stack on the south-east corner of the island. It was the site of an early Christian hermitage and building remnants can be seen on its top. This is a relatively huge, sinuous and flat-topped stack, but it is not the one we want which is slender smaller thing nearby.

Leaving Pierowall, travel south on the B9067, fork left (south-east) on the B9066. Go five miles to a telephone, then 750 yards further to a farm road on the left. This leads to Rack Wick; follow the shoreline a half mile N.N.E. (Thanks to Jim Thompson for directions.) Alternatively, travel north on the B9066 from the ferry terminal at Rapness for 2 miles to a sign for Puffins. A track to the right leads to the car parking at an old mill. A short walk along the coastal path leads to a big flat stack; the Castle o' Burrian. Continue on the path for a couple of hundred meters past this to the cliffs over looking what's called an amusing wee stack in the Orkney Sea Stacks website (<http://www.orkney-seastacks.co.uk/burrian.htm>).

Detailed access: Locate a concrete (fence) strainer post on the cliff top close by the stack and make a 30m abseil to the shore. For a return you can prussik up this rope or cross sea-level platforms to the other, bigger stack, with a short traverse over a sea cave. You can apparently regain the cliff top from here. In reverse this provides an alternative access to the stack.

Castle of Burrian stack showing route line. Photo by Iain Miller.



Castle of Burrian stack. Photo by Kathie Touin; Californian musician, songwriter and recording artist who now lives in Orkney. See <http://www.kathietouin.com>.

Original Route Sev

The stack is on a wedge-shaped plinth. On the seaward side of this ascend the landward corner to a hand jam crack at half-height. Poor rock now leads to the top.

First ascent; Iain Miller, Mark Dowel, July 2002.

Stronsay

There is a large and flat-topped stack at the south-east tip of Stronsay, called The Brough, and it lies off Burgh Head.

The Brough

Photo: p168.

Once on the island, using a ferry from Kirkwall to Whitehall, follow the road south from Whitehall and head for the south-east tip of the island to arrive at Cleat Farm. Seek permission to cross the landowner's arable and other fields. Walk across them for c40 minutes. Alternatively park your vehicle at the end of the Kirbuster farm road (MR: HY 682 238) to the north-west of the stack and take a longer and more scenic walk to it.

Detailed access; The surrounding cliffs are loose and crumbling. Approach via steep grassy bay west of the stack's southern end with a shore line above high-water. Scramble across tidal boulders to a large and non-tidal ledge at the south west corner of the stack.

Descent; Abseil 30m down the landward face, from the summit cairn which has an angle iron stake behind it. The stake and tat were left here in July 2003. Bring your own disposable abseil tat.

The Brough VS 4c 70m

1. 40m 4c. From this ledge traverse along the south face at sea level, passing several steep moves and two good belay stances, to the bottom of a large green left facing ramp.
2. 10m. Climb up the ramp to the large ledge and belay.
3. 20m. Climb directly up on easier broken ground to the summit. The only belay anchor found on top was the 'grave stone' in the centre of the summit.

Pitches 2 and 3 can be combined if you are climbing on a 60 meter rope, as the belay is well back from the edge.

First ascent; Iain Miller, Howard Clarke, July 2003.

South Ronaldsay

Map: p169.

You reach South Ronaldsay either by catching a ferry from Stromness or taking a passenger ferry from Duncansby Head on the Scottish mainland.

Stackabank

MR: Sheet 7 434866. Photos: p170.

This stack is on the west coast near Greenvale, in the south of South Ronaldsay, about 3km north of the Burwick passenger ferry. The easiest and nearest approach from the main road is from Lythe (MR 442863) on the A961. Leave your car here and follow the overgrown track to the derelict Greenvale croft (MR 436866). From Greenvale it is a 5 minute walk down through the fields to the stack. Prepare for anything as the rock is extremely loose with no solid holds.

Detailed access: The stack sits on the beach and for approximately an hour at high tide it is surrounded by water. At all other states of tide it sits high and dry on the stony beach.

Original Route VS

The SMC Northern Highlands North guide says the actual line is unknown; there is a choice of three obvious lines.

First ascent; A. and S. Roberts, August 1970



The Brough with first ascent party on the summit. Iain Miller photo.



Never Again E3 5c 30m

This climbs the south face. The 5c crux at half height is very poorly protected, as is most of the route, it is also very difficult to back off the stack as gear is always suspect. The route name provides a clue to this.

Starting on the non tidal platform at the bottom centre of the face, climb up to a smaller ledge and place some reasonable gear in the lip of the overhang. Go past the overhang to the base of the prominent left trending fault line.

Follow this fault to a very loose roof at about 20m. Place good gear in the roof cracks and traverse left across the leaning wall for 4m on to the seaward face. Scramble up this to the summit. Once on the summit there are no good belay points. The first ascent party used a full rope length to parcel the entire summit in two halves and then tensioned between the two.

Descent; There is a reasonable abseil stake at the top of the landward arête. A backup rope is advisable if using this stake.

First ascent; Les Gorham, Iain Miller, July 2002.

Clett of Crura

MR: ND 463875. Photo: p171, p172.

This short squat stack is situated on the east coast of South Ronaldsay, at Windwick Bay, and can be accessed from the beach car park at MR: ND457 868. From the car park walk back up the road for 50m and follow the overgrown cliff top path for about 500m to the cliffs overlooking the stack.

Detailed access: Stand on the clifftop facing the centre of the stack's summit ridge. Scramble down a few meters to a large exposed lump of rock perched on the side of a mini geo. Use this for anchors and ab down the geo to a good non-tidal ledge at sea level.

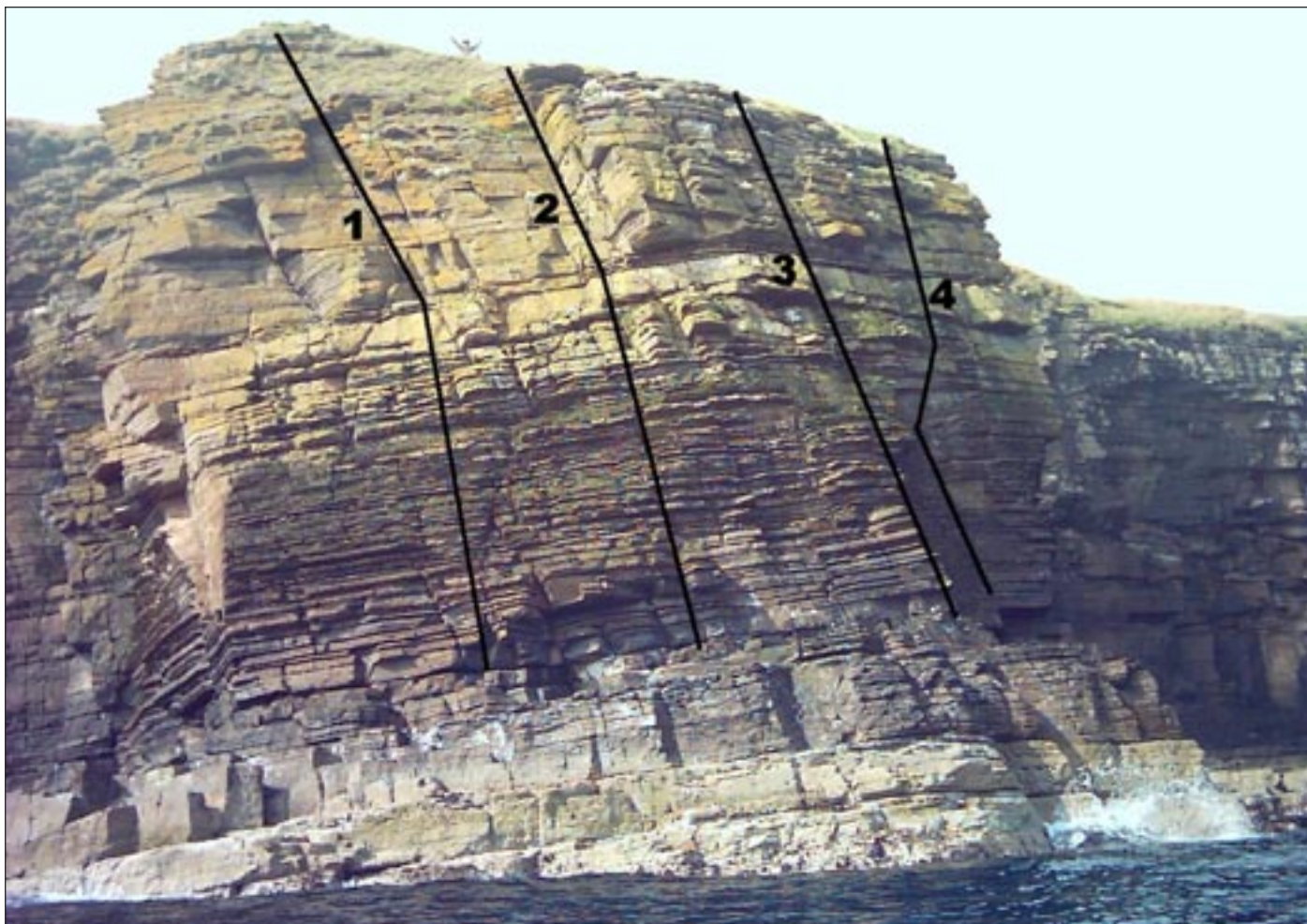
Make a short swim to sea-level ledges at the base of the stack's landward face. Due to the stack's close proximity to the surrounding cliffs the landward face is rarely dry and very green.

The seaward face is a much more pleasant place to be, with perfect rock and a huge non-tidal ledge along its entire base. At lowish tide it is quite easy to traverse around the western end of the stack on sea level ledges. There is an old piton hammered into a break showing the way round. This traverse becomes increasingly difficult as the tide rises.



Stackabank. A tottering pile of choss comes to mind. Clockwise from top left; landward view, another landward view, the north face with Never Again party on top, the south face with Never Again climber on the route. Pictures from Iain Miller





The seaward face of the Clett of Crura. Route 1 - Ode to my Friend. Route 2 - Original Route. Route 3 - Sea Spray. Route 4 - A Drop in the Ocean. Iain Miller photo.

Descent: Abseil down the seaward face traverse back around the western end to the base of the landward face. The summit is very loose and good abseil anchors are easy to arrange for this descent. To regain the cliff top climb The Great Escape, Sev 4a 25m, up the green arête on the cliff facing the stack's landward face. Follow the most exposed edge on broken cracks to the exposed block at the top of the mini-geo.

The Landward Route VS 25m

The landward face of the stack offers a rather green route, with difficulty concentrated in a short section. Swim to the base. From ledges on the landward side gain and climb ledges in a depression left of centre. At 20m a short overhanging crack has to be climbed to gain a metre of easier climbing to the top. The short hard section can be climbed by placing a runner high on the right side behind a good flake. Traverse into the crack, place more gear, and pull through to the easier ground and the top.

First ascent; Steve Sustad, Nikki Dugan, Mick Fowler, Summer 1990.

Ode to my Friend HSev 4b 27m

Approximately 4m to the left (west) of the large open book groove in the upper centre of the seaward face, climb the faint full crag height groove up to and through the smaller overhung left-facing groove. Top out at the summit cairn.

First ascent; Iain Miller, Les Gorham, 28 July 2004.

The Seaward or Original Route Sev 25m

This takes the central fault-line in the seaward face following an obvious fault in the centre of the face to an open book corner and the top.

First ascent; A. and S. Roberts, August 1970.

Sea Spray Sev 25m

To the left of A Drop in the Ocean, climb the juggy arête and continue up the face, again on good rock.

First ascent; Iain Miller, Steve Herd, 10 May 2003.

A Drop in the Ocean Sev 25m

This climbs the large groove at the eastern end of the seaward face. Pull out right at the top of the groove on to good rock leading to the summit.

First ascent; Steve Herd, Iain Miller, May 2003.

The Clett

Photo: this page, 173.

The Clett is the smaller stack in the bay located between the car park and The Clett of Crura to the east. It is an almost exact replica of the larger Clett of Crura.

Detailed access: It is easiest to walk along the stoney beach from the roadside car park to as close to the stack as possible, followed by a swim to it's base. At low tide it is a 30m swim, and at high tide an epic 300m one.

Things Complete Sev 21m

This route climbs the stack's seaward face. Descent by abseil down the centre of this face.

1. c11m. From the western end of the seaward face climb the wide hand crack to a wee stance to the left of a likely resident fulmar. Carefully step right to a good stance, shared with the fulmar.
2. c10m. Follow the smaller right trending crack up the nicely angled wall to the knife blade summit.

First ascent: Les Gorham, Iain Miller, 28 July 2004.

Stack of Kame

MR: Sheet 7 490924

In the north-east part of South Ronaldsay a bulbous headland called Grim Ness sticks out into the sea. The Stack of Kame is on its southern tip just to west of the mouth of a geo. Just south of where the A961 comes south from Burray across Churchill Barrier number 4 onto South Ronaldsay the B9044 goes south south-east to South Cara. Take this and then, in under a ¼ of a mile, take the first minor road on the left. Follow this ¾ of a mile north-east to the coast and then south south-east for 1¾ miles to the end of the road and subsequent track at Head on Grim Ness. Walk a third of a mile in the same line to the stack.

Detailed access: It seems that landward access is feasible from the map so go for it.

First ascent: Unknown.



This picture shows the view looking east, from the start of the cliff top path leading to the Clett of Crura access geo. From here you get a good look at the two stacks along this coast. The furthest away stack is the Clett of Crura. Between it and the car park is the smaller stack simply known as The Clett.



Scottish sea stack coast scene. Photo: Steve Le Feuvre.



The Clett, South Ronaldsay. Iain Miller photo.

HOY

Map: Page 174.

Hoy is the quite large island forming the western border of Scapa Flow. It is linked to Mainland by a ferry running from Stromness to Linksness on Hoy - if the weather is not too severe. You can then take a taxi to Rackwick Bay and its attendant youth hostel, B&B facilities or campsite. Provisions can be bought at Longhope on Hoy or at Stromness. There are two stacks here; the Old Man of Hoy is justly famous and is probably one of the most developed stack in the United Kingdom in terms of the number of routes on it. The Needle is an outrageous adventure in its own right.

Mountain Rescue: There are facilities at the police station in Wick and a telephone in Rackwick.

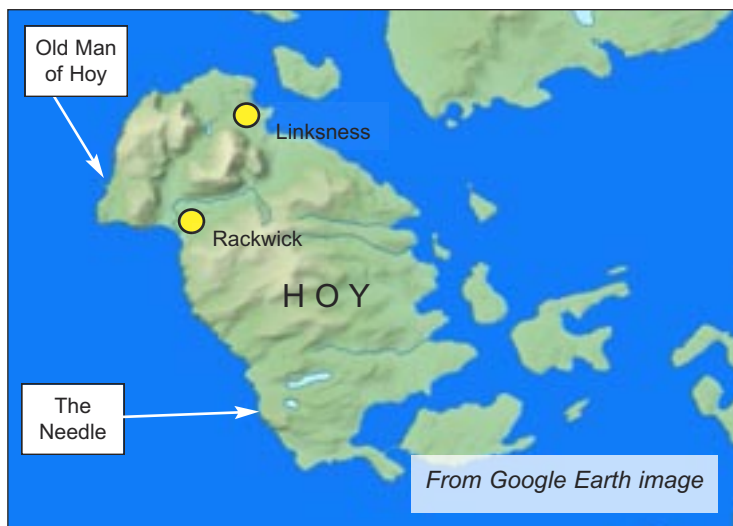
The Old Man Of Hoy

MR: Sheet 7 175009. Map: p173. Photos: p175, 176, 177.

This is the most famous sea stack in Britain as a result of the Bonnington, Patey and Baillie TV extravaganza. Yet ... to be pedantic, it is not actually a stack as it is not, yet, totally surrounded by the sea. But this pinnacle gets honorary stack status nevertheless. It is composed of rather decaying Orcadian sandstone standing on a granite plinth and features five climbs ranging from an acceptable EI right up to E6. The stack is found just to the north of Rora Head which is east of Rackwick.

It is a 1½ mile walk to the stack. Go diagonally up the hillside from the old schoolhouse. The cliffs start at Rora Head and run north to St. John's Head where it is the third highest sea cliff in the British Isles at 338m. Conachair on St. Kilda is the highest with the Kame on Foula next.

Detailed access: Descend the 120m to sea level down steep grassy slopes which involves a traverse over what can be steep and slippery mud. At sea level you can reach the stack without swimming by crossing the boulder bridge, presumably the remains of the arch that once connected the stack to the Hoy mainland. We'll describe the climbs going round the stack in an anti-clockwise direction starting with the east face.



Original (or East Face) Route *** E1 5b 140m

This is the original route up the east face of the stack and a memorable excursion well worth the trip. Careful attention to rope work and your descent pays dividends here.

- 21m 4b. A relatively easy pitch up sound, juggy, easy-angled rock. Ascend the shattered pillar rising from the boulder bridge up to a large ledge known as The Gallery. In the nesting season you will probably meet a fulmar here.
- 37m 5b. The big pitch. After downclimbing a short way traverse right onto the east face for 30 feet to a big corner crack. Go up this on sometimes small and indistinct holds to belay in a triangular niche on the right at the top. (Leave a rope on this pitch tied to the belays at either end. It is necessary for the abseil descent.)
- 24m 4b. Go right and then move back to the left over ledges to regain the crackline. Follow it to another large ledge.
- 37m 4b. Ascend the wall on the right then go straight up to the bottom of the final corner.
- 21m 4b. The final corner crack is like some Orcadian version of Cenotaph Corner but not nearly so tough. Climb the corner. Towards the top where the stack is split right through a seeming gale can issue from the corner crack.

Descent: Two or three abseils down the face up which you have just climbed get you to the top of the big overhanging section - pitch 2. The next abseil involves descending below the overhangs and then swinging back in to a relatively small ledge. Use the rope left behind on that pitch (clip it into your harness) and thus pull yourself to the belay ledge. The last one down has the most fun as this guide rope has to be untied from the top belay leading to a real 'out-in-space' ab experience. Now abseil to the bottom of the stack.

First ascent: Tom Patey, Rusty Baillie, Chris Bonnington 1966.

Variation **Space Station Finish** *** E1 5b 25m

This climbs the impending left wall of the final corner pitch; a superb, well-protected pitch in a stunning position.

- 25m 5b. From the belay gain the obvious left trending flake line. Follow this, then move left and up to a wide crack in the bulging wall above. Gain a thin crack on the right and make tricky moves up the wall to gain a good foot ledge below two parallel hand cracks. Climb these, move right to a wide crack and continue more easily to the top.

First ascent: D. Moore, S. Clarke, 13 August 2015.

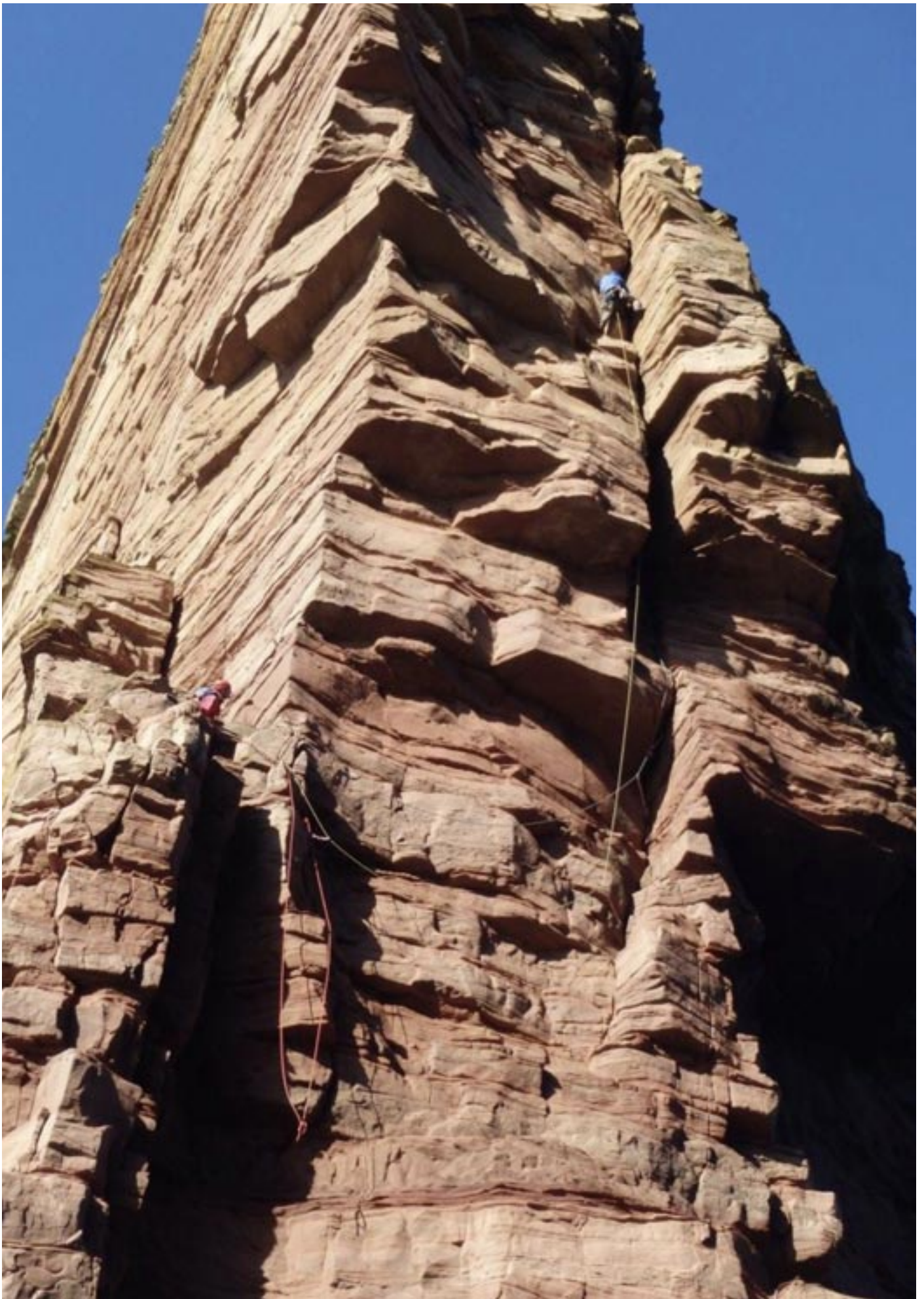
South-East Arête A4 159m

This route has been superseded by A Fistful Of Dollars

First ascent: Dougal Haston, Peter Crew, 8-9 July 1967 - 2nd BBC day.

*Old Man of Hoy's east face showing line
of Original (East Face) Route.*





Climbing Original Route. Photo: Crags Adventures; www.cragadventures.com; Mail: info@cragadventures.com.

From south-east



From north



From south-west.
Orkneying Saga
line shown.



From south



A Fistful of Dollars ** E5 6a 143m

This is a direct and free version of the aided South-East Arête. It is a big route in every sense and wimps need not apply. (That rules me out.) You are advised to have a rack with lots of Friends 1-3 and Rocks 1 - 9, mostly large ones and a leader, a good one.

1. 21m. Climb up to the gallery as for the Original Route. Above is an overhang with a flake to its left.
2. 40m 6a. Climb the corner on the left for 30 feet and then step up onto the steep wall from the top of a pinnacle. Go up rightwards to the flake on the left of the overhang, climb up to the left and ascend the flake/groove to its top. It is now possible to traverse rightwards towards the arête and meet a thin crack. Ascend to a narrow and long ledge on the right.
3. 24m 5c. Now go up the arête until you can step right to a crack in the overhang and then move up to a ledge on the right. Go up ledges on the right side of the arête and then climb another thin crack through another overhang and so to a squarish ledge with old peg belays.
4. 27m 5c. Go up and cross over to the left side of the arête. Now climb up to a good crack on the left and up this to reach a nice ledge on the arête. From here climb a crack on the right going left to insubstantial-looking ledges on the left at its top. Ascend the wall and go over a small overhang after which you go left to the arête. Belay ledges are 6m further up.
5. 31m 5c/6a. Another big pitch. Carry on up the arête to an overhang which you take on its left and so reach a niche. Ascend the finger crack above to gain small ledges on the headwall. Climb rightwards up and across the wall and then go up cracks to reach the arête and the top.

First ascent: Murray Hamilton, Pete Whillance, Paul Braithwaite, 1984.

South Face ** E2 5b 183m

This climb provides some exciting positions in the middle two pitches passing through a series of overhangs.

1. 21m 4b. Climb up to The Gallery as for the Original Route.
2. 37m 5b. Now the climb changes character and forces a way up a big wall heading for the bands of overhangs above. Ascend the corner on the left, step onto the wall and go up this steeply to a flake by which you move leftwards to reach a belay ledge. The position is somewhat exciting.
3. 18m 5b. To the left a crack passes through the overhangs. Climb this using the horizontal breaks to gain a recess on the left which provides a belay.
4. 46m 4c. Another big pitch but at an easier standard. Climb rightwards to regain the crack and follow it once more past another set of overhangs and horizontal breaks to reach The Haven, a grassy ledge.
5. c40m 4c. Embark on a rightwards traverse to gain the base of the final corner of the Original Route on the east face. You end up out of sight and sound of your second.
6. 21m 4b. Climb the corner as for Original Route watching out for the gale blowing from the corner crack.

First ascent: Joe Brown, Ian McNaught-Davis, 8-9 July 1967 - 2nd BBC day.

The Orkneying Saga * E6 6a 155m

A direct line up the centre of the south face. Start in the centre of the face a little way to the right of a left-facing flake-corner at 30m. Approximate line: p176.

1. 30m 5c. Climb an S-shaped set of sloping ledges to reach the flake. Ascend it to a belay on its top.
2. 30m 5c. Climb a left-leaning crack then carry on up and left with difficulty to a belay on a large ledge.
3. 35m 6a. This is a serious pitch. Right of the belay find and follow a crack system up a smooth wall to a point 10m below a grassed terrace. Belay on the left.
4. 20m 5b. Climb up right to a terrace and find an ancient peg belay well back.
5. 20m 6a. Climb up a crack to the left. It goes up to and splits a roof. Go right and mantel onto a ledge.
6. 20m 5c. A difficult start leads to a corner. Make an unlikely traverse left to arrive at easier ground and so to the summit.

First ascent: John Arran and Dave Turnbull 25 May 1997.

Ancient Mariner E2 5b/c 168m

The destination of the climb is the crack-cum-chimney above the half way point of the west face. To get there entails starting on the south face and crossing over. You start at a point 12m to the right of the arête between the west and south faces.

1. 46m 5b/c. Go up a wall for 9m and then up a groove until you can traverse left along an obvious line about 3m below the top of the groove. Traverse into the centre of the wall, climb up for a metre or two and continue the traverse to the arête and go up this to a ledge with a very large block. Now watch your second calculating the pendulum possibilities if he or she comes unstuck.
2. 46m 5b. Onto the west face by climbing a short groove on the left and then crossing over into the target crack line across steep rock. Go up the crack to reach a belay. There are lots of ledges on the way.
3. 46m 5a. Relax and romp up the crack for a rope length.
4. 31m 4c. Relax some more and go up to the large grassy terrace on the right. From its top climb a wall on the left and then a corner to reach the top. Wow.

An abseil descent of A Few Dollars More provides a 4 pitch descent minus the rope antics involved in descending the Original Route.

First ascent: Arnis Strapcans, ANO, 1982.

GMB *** 145m E5 6a

The west face and north-west arête provides arguably the best route on the Old Man. Begin in the middle of the west face beneath a short left-facing corner. Sustained.

1. 20m 5c. Climb a short roofed corner and continue left to a ledge and block.
2. 25m 6a. A flake-crack leads up right. At its top, traverse left and up to a committing move below a roof just right of the arête, then swing right to a belay perch above the Atlantic.
3. 30m 5c. Mantel up to a larger ledge, then continue up and left to a belay on the arête.
4. 40m 5c. A cracking pitch taking the very edge of the square-cut arête directly to a huge terrace.
5. 20m 6a. The crux pitch climbs grooves in the wall just left of the arête passing a cracked roof. Traverse right beneath the upper roof, then hand jam a crack to a ledge.
6. 10m 4a. Scramble up easier terrain to the top.

First ascent: Dave Turnbull, John Arran, 29 August 1997.

A Few Dollars More ** E3 5c 137m

This is thought by some to be the best route and takes the obvious line of cracks in the north face. From the bottom of the south face cross over the west face by an obvious break to the initial buttress of the north face. A belay is gained by 9m of scrambling.

1. 46m 4c. Go up the open groove and then follow a chimney in the right wall. At the top cross a ledge to the right and the main groove. Go up this to a ledge surmounting the initial buttress.
2. 31m 5c. Step right onto the wall and climb a groove and flake to its top. Now ascend steep rock to a break in the overlap. From here climb a crackline to reach a biggish cave.
3. 31m 5b. Ascend the steep crack at the left end of the cave to gain ledges near the left arête. After climbing short walls on the right you reach a grass ledge situated below the middle of the final wall.
4. 31m 5b. Now go up the wall using thin cracks to arrive at a bottomless groove which is followed to a ledge on the left. Ascend a crack and a wall to the top. Descend as for East Face Route.

First ascent: Murray Hamilton, Pete Whillance, Paul Braithwaite 1984.

After The Old Man anything else on Hoy might seem is a bit of an anticlimax the very antidote needed is the awesome adventure represented by The Needle.

There are some cliffs south of Rackwick Bay with this stack at their southern tip. Go south on the B9047 on Hoy to Saltness (MR:7 274901). From here walk westwards along the Glen of the Berry to the coastline and the stack. It is an excellent adventure.

Detailed access: A grassy promontory juts out from the main cliff almost level with the top of the stack. The promontory forms the south side of a geo biting deeply into the cliffs. An abseil stake is in place at the end of this promontory. Remove clothes and abseil 61m directly into the sea in the geo. Swim across to ledges on the far side and traverse round until opposite the stack. Now swim across to ledges on the south side.

1. 15m From the landward corner of the south side trend up leftwards and then back right above overhangs to a good ledge.
2. 31m 5c. Climb through the band of overhangs above at the obvious place near the centre of the south face (crux) and trend rightwards to a shallow depression which leads left to another good ledge. Serious.
3. 15m Move round onto the seaward face and climb up to the summit.

Descend by abseil and then swim back to the promontory and jumar back up to the clifftop or swim off to the south.

First ascent: Mick Fowler, Steve Sustad (alt), Nikki Dugan, 27 May 1990.

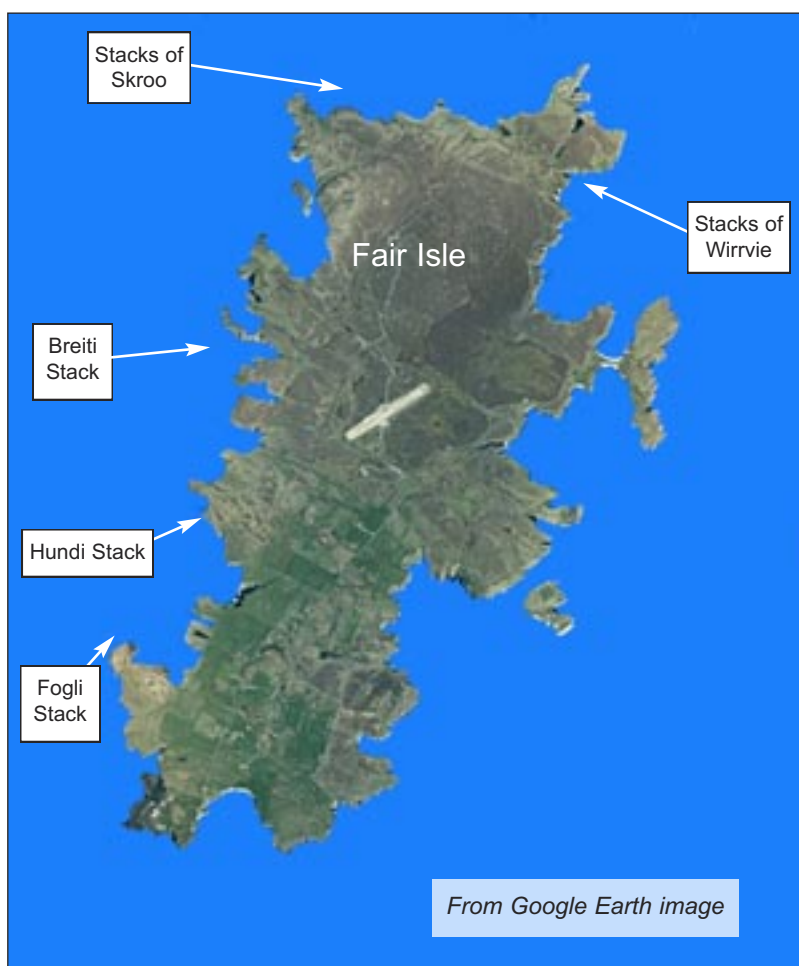
Advice: Abseil and swim with clothes in a polythene bag to help your floatation and them dry. Pull gear bag across.

FAIR ISLE

Map: This page

This is the most remote inhabited island in the British Isles, lying halfway between the Orkneys and Shetlands and rising spectacularly from the waves. The Fair Isle knitting pattern comes from here. This knitting pattern has been traced back 2,000 years to Balkan nomads. An alternative story traces it to a wrecked Spanish armada galleon.

Apparently the composition of the dyes that go into the wool is still kept a secret. The island is owned by the



National Trust of Scotland and there is an observatory on the island to monitor bird movements. The 75 inhabitants live in a village with two churches, a post office, shop and village hall all within sight of one another.

There are six, possibly seven, stacks around Fair Isle, most of which are on the west coast. This coast is generously bestowed with cliffs, geos, stacks and skerries. We will go round the island in a clockwise direction starting in the south. Landward access directions will be provided but a boat would be a useful accessory for most west coast stacks and essential for the Stacks of Skroo.

Mountain Rescue: There is a coast guard station in the south of the island by Stonybrecks.

Fogli Stack

MR: HZ 1948 7090

From the ferry terminus go south on the minor road to Stonybreck. From here walk south west to Malcolm's Head and go out to its north-west tip where you will find Fogli stack separated by a channel from the shore. It seems a substantial pyramid-shaped stack.

Detailed access: Cross the channel and explore the stack.

First ascent: Unknown.

Hundi Stack

MR: HZ 2006 7142

Go to Stonybreck and walk just over a ¼ mile north-west to and along the coast to the stack. It seems to be on the south of a geo and may require a swim to reach it.

Detailed access: Try a boat.

First ascent: Unknown.

Breiti Stack

MR: Sheet 4 201725

From the landing place walk south west to the airfield and then due west for ½ a mile over the hill of Burrashield and so to the coast. Breiti Stacks is a substantial structure with a channel between it and the shore.

Detailed access: No idea so you will have to explore.

First ascent: Unknown.

Stacks of Skroo

MR: Sheet 4 209742

There are two or three stacks here which are in a very unsheltered position. Expect heavy swells. Take a boat north from the landing place in North Haven and sail round Skroo headland. You will encounter the stacks a mile west from here.

Skroo Stack 1 and Skroo Stack 2 and 3 too?

First ascents: Unknown.

Stacks of Wirrvie

MR: Sheet 4 223734

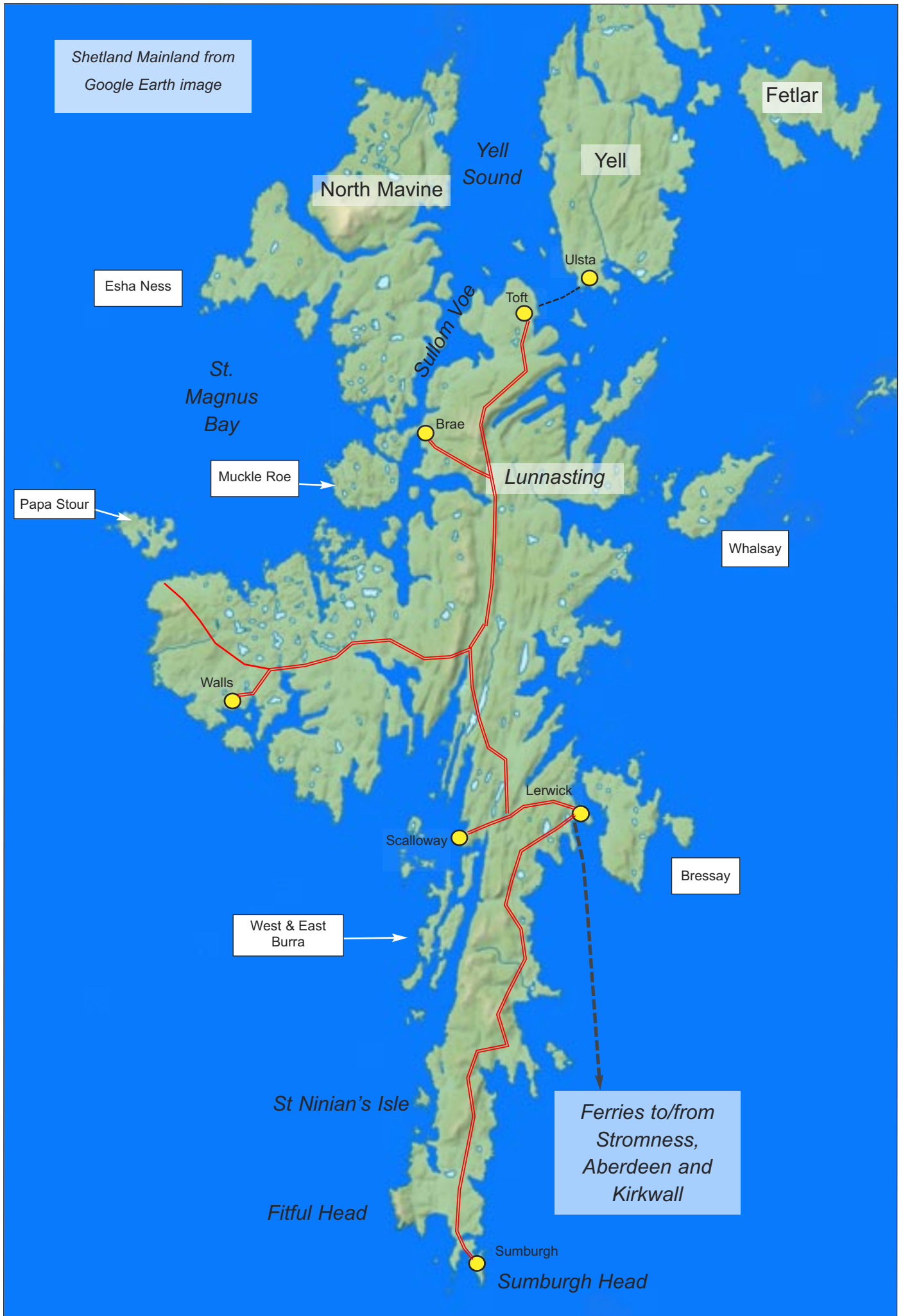
The name implies more than one stack although the map shows just one possible item. We'll assume two. They are the only stacks on the, most probably, sheltered east coast. Either take a boat from North Haven or walk north from the landing pier. Actually you cross westwards from Bu Ness and take the north (left) fork at the minor road junction. Go about a mile from the junction, walk a few yards east to the coast and hunt for the stacks.

Detailed access: Descend cliffs and investigate.

Wirrvie Stack 1 and 2 *First ascent: Unknown.*

Shetland Islands from
Google Earth image





SHETLAND ISLANDS

Map: p182.

These islands provide a 'stack-rich' environment and lie 110 miles north of the Scottish mainland. In the main they are treeless, windswept, peat-covered with many zawns or geos incised into their rocky coasts. They are also very remote from Britain being 200 miles north of Aberdeen. The nearest mainland town is Bergen in Norway and the 23,000 strong population see themselves as more Norwegian than Scottish or British. Apparently Norwegian is taught in the schools.

The number of birds in Shetland is astonishing. Most of them are sea birds as no part of the group is more than three miles from the sea. It is estimated that in summer there are 30,000 gannets, 140,000 guillemots, 300,000 fulmars, 3,000 pairs of great skua and a quarter of a million puffins.

The main town is Lerwick to which a 14-hour ferry service operates from Aberdeen. (NorthLink Ferries, Aberdeen. www.northlinkferries.co.uk, tel: 0845 6000 449, car and passenger service. Sailings each day except Sunday.) You can also fly if you are rich or have duped your company into paying the fare. It should be pointed out here that there are many features named as stacks on the OS Landranger maps. Where stacks have not yet been visited then the stack name will be in italics to signify that you are reading information based on deductions from the maps and other sources.

There are six main islands - Mainland, Yell, Unst, Fetlar, Bressay and Whalsay - amongst the 15 inhabited islands. However there are over 100 islands in total and hundreds of islets. We will start with Mainland.

Mainland

Map: p183.

This is the main island of Shetland. Mainland has more stacks than any other island in Britain. Most of them are on the west coast of the island and many of them have not had a recorded ascent. For convenience the island has been divided up into areas as we journey round it. We will go round Mainland in a clockwise direction starting at the eleven o'clock position in an area called North Mavine. It is known thus because it is north of Mavis Grind (pronounced "grinned"), the point where Mainland is almost cut in two by the sea.

North Mavine

Map: p184.

First there are a couple of stacks on the north-west coast of North Mavine before the small group of stacks, rocks and islands - Gruney, Fladda - off the Point of Fethaland.

Moo Stack (number 1)

MR: Sheet 1 306901

There are several Moo Stacks on Mainland so we will distinguish them with numbers.) Take the A970 north from Lerwick to the settlement of North Roe. Here three tracks go off westwards one after the other. Take the northernmost one and choose the left fork after nearly half a mile. Continue along it for a mile after which it becomes a footpath. Don't stop. Carry on along the footpath for almost two miles until past Mill Loch. Now strike out westwards to Whitley Hill and onwards to the coast 1½ miles from the footpath. Walk ½ a mile or so south along the coast until Moo Stack (number 1) is encountered.

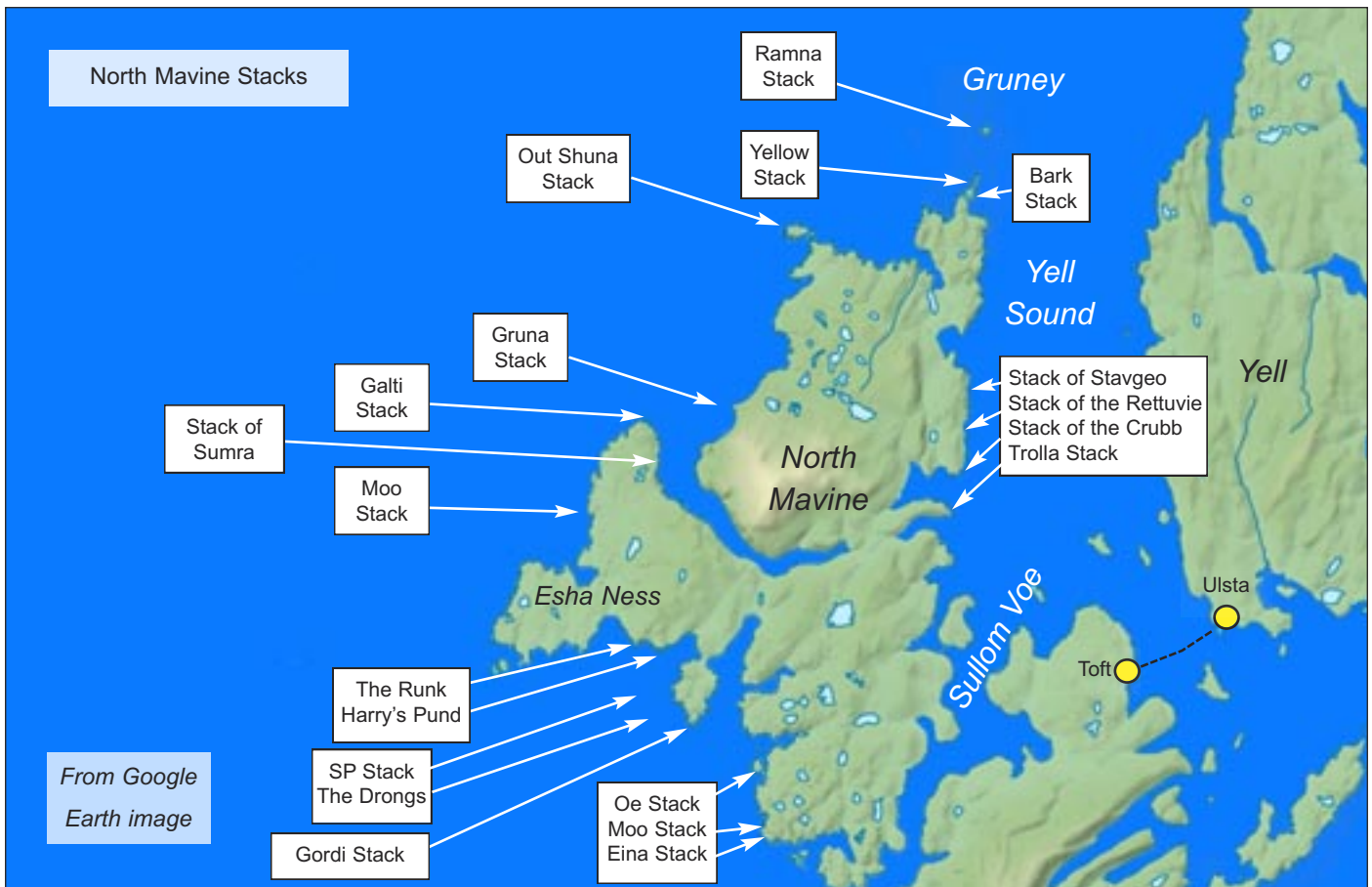
Detailed access: An abseil descent down cliffs seems necessary with the stack then accessible, possibly, across a channel. A boat is probably a good idea. You could then visit Out Shuna Stack on the same trip.

First ascent: Unknown.

Out Shuna Stack

MR: Sheet 1 306927

At the north-western tip of North Roe - the area not the settlement - the island of Uyea is to be found. It can be



accessed at low tide but Out Shuna Stack is distinctly offshore, about ¼-½ mile off the western side of Uyea. You could launch an inflatable boat from Sand Voe, a sheltered inlet a short distance north of the settlement of North Roe. Alternatively there is a good jetty and slipway at North Roe itself.

Detailed access: Unknown.

First ascent: Unknown.

Galti Stack

MR: Sheet 1 327925

Another offshore example by the north-west part of North Mavine It appears to lie just to the north of a small island in the next bay west from North Wick which is, in turn, the first bay west of Uyea island.

Detailed access: Unknown.

First ascent: Unknown.

Yellow Stack

MR: 377950

The Point of Fethaland with its lighthouse forms the northern extremity of Mainland. Yellow Stack lies a short distance south and west from the lighthouse. The walk to it looks and is great fun. Go to the end of the A970 a mile after North Roe settlement and take the footpath going east at first through the micro settlement of Houll. Follow this path which eventually turns north and passes the Upper Loch of Setter.

It ends after 1½ miles but you continue north past another but smaller loch, over the Hill of Breibister and down onto the Fethaland peninsula which features a low-lying narrow neck halfway up its length. Follow the peninsula north, cross this neck and mount the other side. The stack is to be found on the last small peninsula/promontory to the west before the lighthouse.

Detailed access: No information so make your own way to the stack.

First ascent: Unknown.

Stuack

MR: Sheet 1 378952

This suggestively-named feature is west of the lighthouse on the Point of Fethaland. It seems worth a look if you go to Yellow Stack.

Detailed access: No information.

First ascent: No information.

The next set of stacks are in a group of islands, the largest of which is Gruney, which lie about two miles north from the Point of Fethaland. Bearing in mind the size of the waves around here a fairly substantial boat is probably to be recommended. It could be launched from Burra Voe, the bay by the settlement of North Roe. Sail north to Gruney, pass this to the west and thread your way to Fladda. The stacks are to the north of this small island.

Ramna Stacks

MR: Sheet 1 375974

There appear to be three of these strung out like stepping stones to the north of Fladda island. The area is a nature reserve, no doubt because of the sea bird population. All three of these stacks are thought to have been climbed but no details are available. The east side of them is gently sloping.

Detailed access: No information.

Ramna Stack 1 - The southern one. *First ascent: Unknown.*

Ramna Stack 2 - The middle one. *First ascent: Unknown.*

Ramna Stack 3 - The northern one. *First ascent: Unknown.*

Outer Stack

MR: Sheet 1 376978

This is ½ a mile or so north of Ramna Stacks and appears to be, or to be on, a small island called, surprise, surprise, Outer Stack. This is the largest island north of Fladda in this group.

Detailed access: Unknown.

First ascent: Unknown.

Back on Mainland there is a stack on the east side of the Point of Fethaland.

Bark Stack

MR: Sheet 1 379946

A tri-headed promontory projects eastward ½ a mile from the tip of the Point of Fethaland. The stack could be on it or just offshore from it. Since the promontory has cliffs on its sides a boat looks like a smart idea. You could sail from North Roe.

Detailed access: Unknown.

First ascent: Unknown.

Stack of Stavgeo

MR: Sheet 3 377865

This stack lies north of Sutton Voe, where the oil terminal is located. Take the A970 north from Lerwick. Pass Sutton Voe on the right and continue north past the turn off for the west A970 spur to Hillswlck. (This is the (?) one place in the British Isles where the road splits in two and each part is still given the same designation. You are still on the A970.)

Just over five miles ahead the road meets the sea at Brig. The village of Housetter is next. Take the minor road that turns off to the right by the start of the Loch of Housetter, take the left fork after the loch and go to its end

where the road divides into two tracks. Go left and park the vehicle. Walk north north-east to the stack which is partially enclosed by a U-shaped indentation in the coastline.

Detailed access: Low tide access seems feasible.

First ascent: Unknown - may be unclimbed.

Stack of the Rettuvie

MR: Sheet 3377848

This lies about 1½ miles south of the Stack of Stavgeo. Turn off the A970 at the Loch of Housetter as for Stavgeo but take the right fork after the loch. Go to the sea at Lochend, turn left and head north, back inland, for a ¼ mile or so to the track end at Fladda, a small settlement. Here a footpath goes south-east. Follow it as it turns and reaches a settlement called Stourl. Continue north-east to the clifftop where the stack should be visible.

Detailed access: Unknown but low tide access appears ok.

First ascent: Unknown - may be unclimbed.

Stack of the Crubb

MR: Sheet 3377844

A few hundred yards south of the Rettuvie stack one comes to the Stack of the Crubb. Take the footpath to Stourl as for the Rettuvie stack. From Stourl walk west to the clifftop and then follow the cliffs south and east. The stack lies at the most easterly point of this section of coastline, near the Neap of Skea.

Detailed access: Unknown but a boat may not be needed.

First ascent: Unknown - may be unclimbed.

The next 'thing' may be a stack, hence the italics.

The Castle

MR: Sheet 3 369828

It is a short distance north of Trolla Stack and a boat would be needed to get to it.

Trolla Stack

MR: Sheet 3 372827

Just before the A970 (north spur) reaches Housetter it runs through the small village of North Collafirth. A humped peninsula called the Noss of Queyfirth projects into Yell Sound just south of the village and Trolla Stack is just north of its tip by a section of cliff called The Ords. There is a public telephone on the A970 just over 1½ miles south of North Collafirth. Here a minor road goes east to Ollaberry.

A hundred yards to the north is a track heading north-east to the Ness. Take this and go left at the fork after just over ¾ mile. Park where convenient and follow the crest of the Ness over Hoo Field (c350 feet high). Head due east to strike the coast at The Ords where the stack should be visible.

Detailed Access: Unknown but low tide access appears ok if you get to the foot of the cliffs.

First ascent: Unknown - may be unclimbed.

North and South Nesting

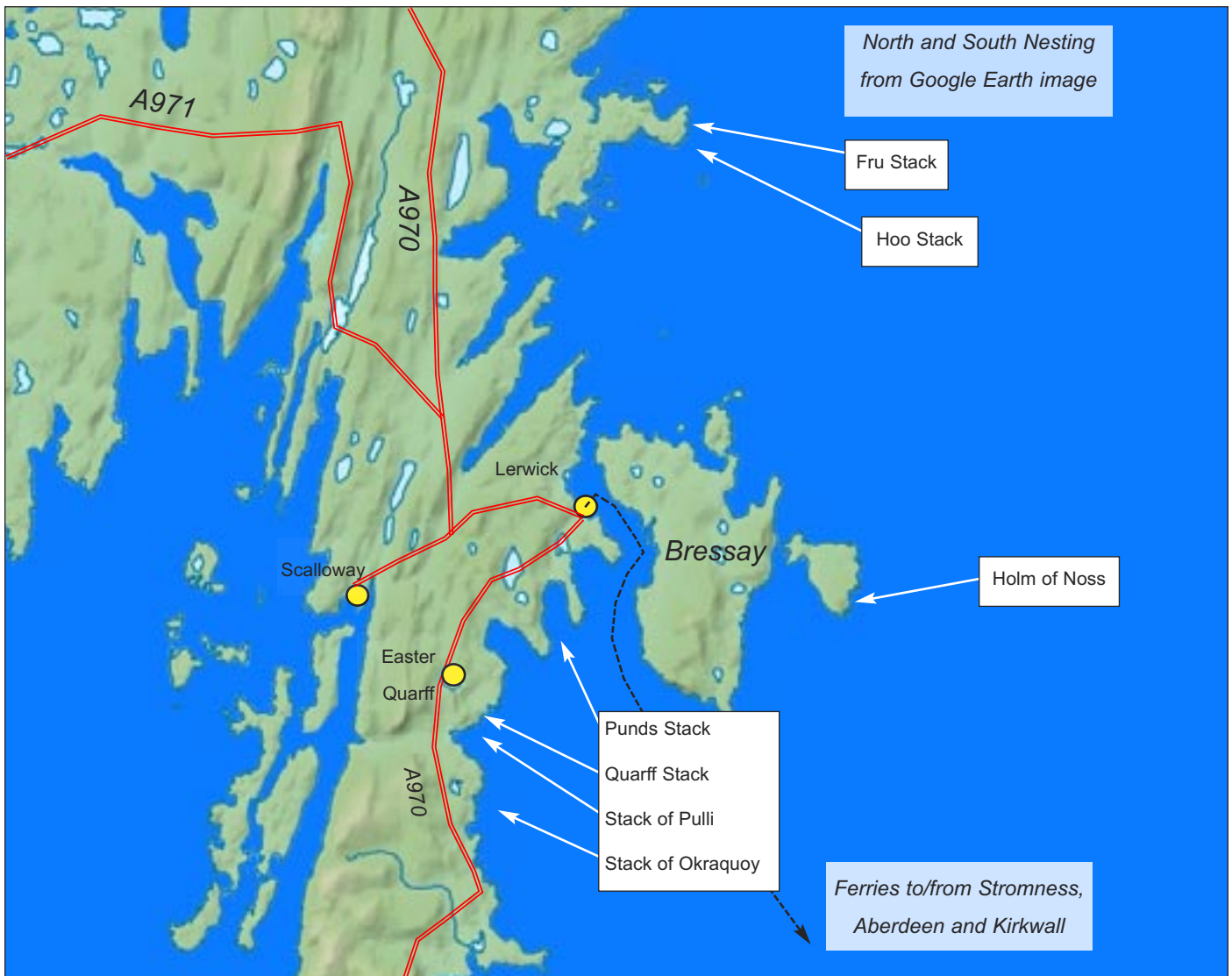
Map: p188.

These areas together with Lunning and Lunna are rocky and attractive.

Ura Stack

MR: Sheet 3 501576

South of Lunnasting an area called North Nesting is found. At its eastern end it culminates in a picturesque coastline of geos, headlands and islands. Ura Stack lies near its south-east tip just west of the Hill of Neap. Drive north on the A970 from Lerwick and, after about 11 miles take the B9075 east through the area of



South Nesting. After 4½ miles the road reaches Brettabister and turns inland. Continue north-east on a minor road through Housabister and Kirkabister to a settlement called Neap. Ignore the turning north just before Neap. Park the car and walk south for almost ½ a mile to the coast and the stack

Detailed access: It appears that you can get across a low tide platform to the stack.

First ascent: Unknown - may be unclimbed.

Fru Stack

MR: Sheet 3 502534

The next big headland south of Ura Stack is the Moul of Eswick in South Nesting. (The names in this part of the world must provide rich pickings for writers of fantasy fiction). Fru Stack is located at its eastern tip by the Flaach lighthouse. Take the B9075 as for Ura Stack and, after the Quogs of Catfirth (!!), take a minor road going south past the Loch of Freester on the left. Go round the western end of the Loch of Benston to Vassa.

Don't take the turning south west to Gletness but carry on towards Benston. Before reaching it take the minor road east south-east to Brough and Eswick. Park the car where this road ends and tramp east south-east over rough ground, skirting two or three small lochans, to reach the lighthouse and the stack in about a mile.

Detailed access: Low tide access seems ok.

First ascent: Unknown - may be unclimbed.

Hoo Stack

MR: Sheet 3 505522

This stack is on, or is, a small island called, presumably, Hoo Stack which lies about one mile south south-east from the lighthouse on the Moul of Eswick headland. A boat is the only practical way to reach it, and could be launched from the Quogs of Catfirth in South Nesting on the B9075 just off the A970, a few miles north of Lerwick.

Detailed access: No information.

First ascent: Unknown.

Stacks of Vatsland

MR: Sheet 4 469461

There appear to be two stacks here on the east side of the headland of Kebister Ness about three miles north of Lerwick. However it is not nicely situated being near the local rubbish dump and scrapyard!

Landward access seems feasible at the risk of having to swim a channel or two. If you forego a boat trip then go north on the A970 from Lerwick centre to the museum just after the power station. Take the minor road going north from here and the subsequent track. At the end of the track continue walking north to the Bight of Vatsland. The stacks form a tooth-like barrier north of this bight.

Detailed access: Descend to the shoreline and cross a channel, probably needing low tide, to the first stack. A second channel needs to be crossed to gain the second stack which appears to stand on a platform uncovered at low tide.

Vatsland Stack 1 - *First ascent: Unknown.*

Vatsland Stack 2 - *First ascent: Unknown.*

Holm Of Noss

MR: Sheet 4 550391

There is a stack at the Holm of Noss on the east coast of the Isle Of Noss just to the east of Bressay. It is c160 feet high and 30 yards or so out from the main cliff. Go to Lerwick and take the ferry to Bressay. Take minor roads and a track east across the island to the small harbour where a ferry crosses to the Isle Of Noss. There are no roads and the island is a nature reserve. There are a very great number of birds here.

Walk across the island towards its high point, Noss Head but veer south south-east as the hill of Setter becomes visible on the skyline to the right. Just above the south-east tip of the island there is a promontory called the Holm Of Noss connected to the main mass of the island by a neck. The stack should be visible from here.

Detailed access: It has been reached by means of a box cradle and ropes. The engineer who did this drowned on the return journey. This suggests that a tyrolean may be possible.

First ascent: Unknown but perhaps the drowned engineer should be credited with it.

Punds Stack

MR: Sheet 4 459375

South of Lerwick, main town of the Mainland, is a headland called the Ness of Trebister. At its tip is a peninsula with Punds Stack at its tip. Apparently it looks quite feasible although the rock could be suspect. Take a left turn off the A970, running south from Lerwick, for Trebister. Take a track south-eastwards for a graveyard and then walk just over a mile to the Ness. There are three small lochans at its tip and the stack is to the east of them at the end of a long promontory.

Detailed access: unknown.

First ascent: Unknown - may be unclimbed.

Quarff Stack

MR: Sheet 4 436354

Go south from Lerwick on the A970 just over four miles to the village of Easter Quarff. A track leads left (east) to the sea at the East Voe of Quarff in under ½ a mile. Walk the same distance along the north shore of the voe to reach this rather squat stack. It is not, apparently, a true stack but does have three good schist faces.

Detailed access: No details other than a reference that access at high tide is difficult.

Distant Storm HSev 24m

Climb the north-east arête of the stack moving right at the top.

First ascent: L Davidson, R Cookson, 22 June 1989.

Coall Head Stacks

MR: Sheet 4 443337

There are three stacks off the line of cliffs running around Coall Head. They are not marked on the OS Landranger map. They are accessible from the shore. Note that the stacks have a large population of birds and the rock is friable.

The best approach from Lerwick is to drive south on the A970, take the turn for Fladdabister and park about 50 yards along the road. Cross the farm, turn right, and head down towards the coast. When you reach this head north along it. The stacks are obvious after passing the Coall with its trig point.

Detailed access: The stacks are accessible from the shore, presumably at low tide.

North Coall Head Stack Mild VS 24m

First ascent: J.A. Long, 1986

Middle Coall Head Stack V.Diff

The smallest member of the trio.

First ascent: Unknown.

South Coall Head Stack 24m

This stack is, as far as I know, unclimbed.

First ascent: Still to happen.

Stack of Pulli

MR: Sheet 4 442336

There is a stack marked here on the OS map, however it is possible that this stack is really one of the Coall Head stacks. To check it out go to the coast as for Coall Head stacks. Walk north past the stream that drains the Loch of Fladdabister. Pulli Stack is just north of the stream mouth.

Detailed access: No other information.

First ascent: Unknown - may be unclimbed or it may not exist!

Stack of Okraqouy

MR: Sheet 4 443313

The A970 continues south from Easter Quarff to Fladdabister. The old road now goes south just east of the new road. Take it and go to the settlement of Okraqouy. Half a mile south a track goes east to the south side of the Bay see the Stack of Okraqouy

Detailed access: Unknown.

First ascent: Unknown.



South Mainland

Map: p191.

For the purposes of this guide I have called the area south of Lerwick South Mainland.

Stack of Billyageo

MR: Sheet 4 446212

This is just off the southern tip of a fingery peninsula called No Ness on the east side of the southern peninsula of Mainland. A minor road goes half way down this peninsula but you have to walk the last mile in a south south-east direction.

Detailed access: No Ness is fringed with cliffs so descent will probably be by abseil unless you sail to the stack from Sandwick.

First ascent: unknown - may be unclimbed.

Stack of the Brough

MR: Sheet 4 409157

On the easter side of the southern peninsula of the Mainland. The A970 runs north-south along this southern part of the Mainland. At Boddam a minor road goes east to Outvoe and then turns north to Dalsetter. Just before Dalsetter a track goes off to the south-east. Take this and walk the last half mile across the moorland to the stack which is by a distinct small peninsula pointing into the sea.

Detailed access: Unknown.

First ascent: Unknown - may be unclimbed.

Stack of Otter Geo

MR: Sheet 4 409115

This is almost at the bottom of the island lying on the east coast just north of Sumburgh Airport. Go down the A970 until just before Sumburgh Airport. Turn left (east) to Exnaboe and continue to Eastshore. Go to the end of the minor road and tramp across moorland to the coast and the stack lying a little way offshore.

Detailed access: Unknown.

First ascent: Unknown - may be unclimbed.

Broad Stack

MR: Sheet 4 350116

There could be several stacks here. It or they lie off the south-east tip of the nicely named Fitful Head. The nearest road is a minor road running south west from the A970 just north of Gallow Hill. It runs through Rigasta, Hillwell where you turn left (south) for Quendale.

Take the car as far as you dare along the track and then walk south to Garthbanks where you can leave the track and strike out west across moorland and make for the south-east peninsula of Fitful Head across fairly steeply rising ground. A 'Danger Area' is marked on the OS map but it only means there is a derelict military radio station there.

Note: The farmer of the land around this radio station is extremely touchy about people driving up the road to the radio station since he was overrun during the Braer disaster. (You can see the bow of the wreck from nearby the abandoned radio station.)

The headland scenery is spectacular and girded by cliffs below very steep slopes, although the map suggests that the cliffs are above them. It is deceptive. The greatest height is 928 feet. So marine access might be easier and Spiggie beach is probably a good launching point. The rock of the stack looks dubious apparently.

Detailed access: Unknown.

First ascent: Unknown - may be unclimbed.

Ripack Stack

MR: Sheet 4 347117

Access as for Broad Stack.

Detailed access: Unknown.

First ascent: Unknown - may be unclimbed.

Stack o' da Noup

MR: Sheet 4 353167

North of Fitful Head the village of Noss is located north of Noss Hill on an area of land between the sea and the Loch of Spiggie. Noss village can be reached from the A970 taking the minor road for Ringasta (as for the Broad Stack and Ripack Stack access). Just before Ringasta turn north on another minor road going through Bakkasetter and Symblissetter. A ½ mile further turn left (west) for Noss. West of the village a peninsula, wider at its end than its neck, points out to sea with the stack at its tip.

Detailed access: Unknown.

First ascent: Unknown - may be unclimbed.

Cloki Stack

MR: Sheet 4 356181

This is a mile and a half north of Stack o' da Noup as the crow flies. Go in Symblissetter as for that stack but continue straight on to Spiggie. Then walk west north-west to the headland of Fora Nas. A promontory sticks out to the north-west with Goki Stack at its tip.

Detailed access: unknown.

First ascent: Unknown - may be unclimbed.

Stack of the Ship VDiff 81m

MR: Sheet 4 359210

This is found on the west coast of St. Ninian's Isle which is connected to the mainland by a thin isthmus. This is a perfect example of a 'tombola' which is a two-sided beach created by wave action. The stack is opposite the island of Hich Holm off the west coast of St. Ninian's Isle. It is linked to the coast by a knife-edged arête.

Detailed access: Go to Bigton on the B9122 just over 4 miles from its junction with the A970 at Skelbeny 3½ miles north of Sumburgh airport. Leave your vehicle and take the track south west to the tombola connecting the mainland with St. Ninian's Isle. Walk across this and continue west north-west to reach the coast opposite Hich Holms. Now march out to the stack.



Climb up the arête taking in an exposed traverse and a short steep wall with added interest provided by fulmars.

First ascent: G.E. Little, 7 July 1992.

Billia Cletts

MR: Sheet 4 366234

These may or may not be stacks. There are three of them in a bay north-west of Ireland - the village of Ireland that is. For landward access go north from Sumburgh on the A970 until about 8½ miles north of the airport. Now turn left (south west) onto the B9122 and continue for about two miles to where a minor road passes through Williamsetter on its way to Brecks Of Bigton.

Turn right and reach Ireland in about a mile. A track goes north from here heading up the Ness of Ireland. Take it, bearing left at the fork in a ¼ of a mile, continue for about ¾ of a mile, bear left at the next fork and head west across flattish ground after another ¼ of a mile. The coast is now a ¼ of a mile away with the Cletts offshore.

Detailed access: Unless you are a strong swimmer a boat is probably the best way of reaching these stacks. Spiggi beach or St. Ninian's Isle seem to be good places to launch a boat from. Maywick, about three miles north of Williamsetter, is not as beach access is difficult.

First ascent: Unknown.

Burji Stacks

MR: Sheet 4 366239

Half a mile north of Billia Cletts. For landward access start as for Billia Cletts and continue up the track from Ireland after the second fork instead of bearing left. The end of the track occurs in ½ a mile. Follow a stream west to the coastal cliffs - ¼ mile - and go north a short distance to the stacks which are next to one another at the end of two short promontories. They appear from the map to be non-tidal as far as access is concerned.

Detailed access: Unknown.

First ascent: Unknown.

West & East Burra

Map: p193.

This area covers the islands of Trondra, East and West Burra lying south of Scalloway on the eastern side of mainland. There are, in total, five islands connected to one another and Mainland by bridges. Burra is said to be populated by alcoholics and Baptists. It is now part of the Lerwick commuter belt.

To reach the area leave Scalloway on the A970 and, after a ¼ mile, turn right (south) on to the B9074 down the east side of the East Voe of Scalloway. After a mile the road crosses over to the first island and, two miles further on, crosses a long bridge to gain West Burra. Go left on a minor road at Meal before Hamnavoe. and reach Bridge End two miles later. Here there is a bridge across to East Burra. The stack access notes assume that you start from Bridge End.

Stacks of Houssness

MR: Sheet 4 372285

There could be any number between two and ten stacks here! The map is unclear but the probability is that there are some scrappy stumps. They lie at the extreme south of Housness, another island connected to East Burma by the bridge and bank called Ayre Dyke.

Detailed access: By boat but no details available.

First ascent: Unknown.

Point Of Stakka

MR: Sheet 4 371286

This is encountered on the way to the Stacks Of Housness and the name suggests there may be a stack here.

Fugla Stack

MR: Sheet 4 370287

This stack looks horrible. It is located off the west coast of the southernmost island connected to West Burra by yet another bridge. There is no road, only a footpath from the settlement of Papil on West Burra. As the stack is offshore a boat is probably the best choice. Swimmers should walk south from Papil (1½ miles south of Bridge End) over the bridge and to the island's high point. The stack lies north north-west and is only c185m away.

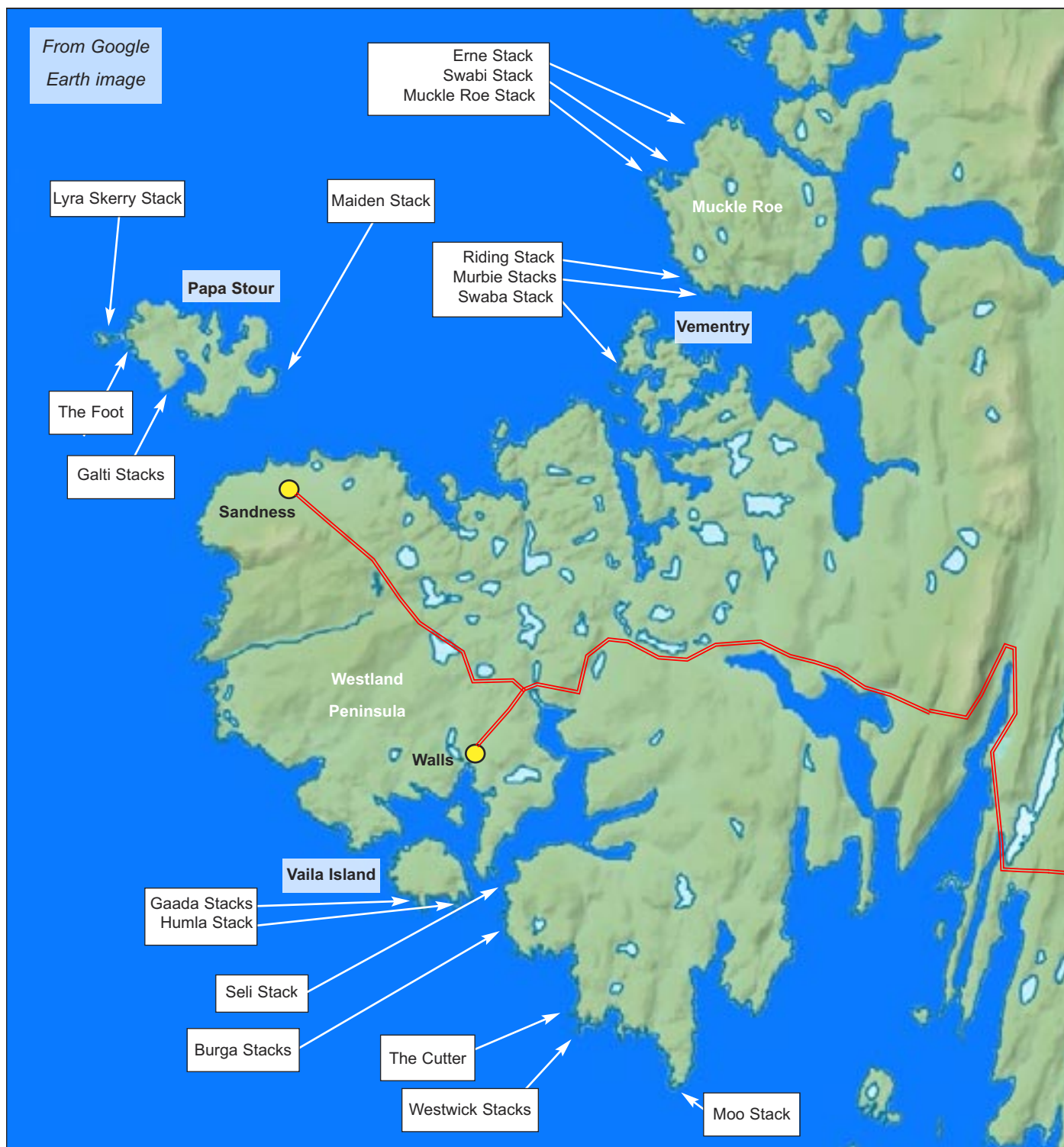
Detailed access: Descend the cliffs and swim? Look for a boat?

First ascent: Unknown.

Clettnadel

MR: Sheet 4 358301

A rocky something nestles in a small bay, like an egg in a nest, just short distance north of Fugla Stack.



Kame Of Riven Noup

MR: Sheet 4 361311

This wafer-like entity is about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile north of Clettnadel and $\frac{1}{2}$ a mile west of Papil.

Stack of Sandwich

MR: Sheet 4 359325

This conical stack is about a mile south of Bridge End on West Burra. Take the track from Bridge End that heads generally westwards for $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile passing to the north of the Loch of Sandwich. From the end of the track walk south west up to a hill top and down to the coast in the same line - about $\frac{1}{2}$ a mile. The stack is offshore and stands on a platform that may or may not be exposed at low tide.

Detailed access: Descend the slopes to the shore and cross the gap - somehow. Boat?

First ascent: Unknown.

Scalloway to Muckle Roe

Map: p195.

As we move up the coast from Scalloway past the islands of Papa Stour and Vementry to the island of Muckle Roe we find the highest concentration of stacks in the British Isles.

Moo Stack (number 2)

MR: Sheet 4 298406

Moo Stack (number 2) is almost 4 miles south of the village of Easter Skeld reached by driving south on the B9071. Take the minor road from Easter Skeld that runs south to the small settlement of Scarvister 2 miles away. Park your vehicle. Follow the track south for almost a mile to where it ends, Go head due south to Moulie Loch 1 mile away. Next walk due west for under a $\frac{1}{4}$ of a mile to coastal cliffs. Go south a short distance until you can see the stack.

Detailed access: Descend to the foreshore and cross the gap - somehow! Anyone got a boat?

First ascent: No details.

Westwick Stacks

MR: Sheet 4 277420

There are two flat-topped stacks here located at the west side of the entrance to the bay of Wester Wick. The area has a plentiful smattering of caves, arches, stacks and islands.

Detailed Access: By boat I think.

Westwick 1 VDiff

This is the western Westwick. Climb up its north side.

First ascent: Unknown.

Westwick 2 Sev

The other stack is climbed by its north-west side.

First ascent: Unknown.

The Cutter HVS 4c 31m

MR: Sheet 4 273422

A lovely knife-edge stack situated between the northern tip of the island of Giltarump and the mainland.

Detailed access: By boat and land just to the left of the base of the south-east arête.

Climb a groove just on the left of the south-east arête to the top.

Descend by abseil.

First ascent: Andy Nisbet, Ion Lincoln, Craig Jones, Mick Fowler, 19 May 1992.

Burga Stacks

MR: Sheet 4 255442

There are three two stacks here.

Detailed access: They are offshore so a boat is needed. It could be launched at nearby Stead of Gulswick bay reached by driving along a minor road a ½ mile before the end of the B9071. A ¼ mile track leads to the sea.

Burga Stack 1 Diff

This is the one nearest the land. Climb its north-west arête

First ascent: Unknown.

Burga Stack 2 Sev

Climb the south arête of this central stack.

First ascent: Unknown.

Burga Stack 3 Sev

This is the seaward stack which has an arch. Climb up its eastern end, cross over the arch and then descend the western side.

First ascent: Unknown.

Seli Stack

MR: Sheet 4 255462

The map has the words 'Seli Stack' running across from one side of an inlet to another so the stack could be on either side. I would plump for the east side rather than off Green Head to the west. Take a boat; hedge your bets.

Detailed access: Unknown.

First ascent: Unknown.

The next set of stacks are off the southern coast of Vaila Island.

Humla Stack

MR: Sheet 4 244457

This stack lies to the east of a different Green Head from that mentioned in the Seli Stack notes. This Green Head is the south-eastern extremity of Vaila Island a couple of miles south west from Walls, the ferry terminal for Foula. Take a boat, possibly from Walls, and pass Vaila on its eastern side to reach the stack.

Detailed access: Unknown. Land on the stack somehow.

First ascent: Unknown.

Gaada Stacks

MR: Sheet 4 238454

The map shows seven candidate marks for stacks here. In fact there are five and they have all been climbed. West of Green Head we find Vine Geo. Between it and Cookie Geo to its west is another headland. The stacks lie just to the south of this.

Detailed access: Looks like a boat will be necessary.

Gaada Stack 1 Sev

This is the stack nearest the land.

First ascent: Unknown.

Gaada Stack 2 Sev

This one has an obvious tall block on its top.

First ascent: Unknown.

Gaada Stack 3 VDiff

This one is an arched stack and provides a traverse over the arch.

First ascent: Unknown.

Gaada Stack 4 Diff (aprox)

No other details.

First ascent: Unknown.

Gaada Stack 5 Diff (aprox)

No other details.

First ascent: Unknown.

Back on Mainland we encounter;

Rusna Stacks

MR: Sheet 3 208469

There could be four or five of these but I'm guessing there are only two with the other candidates being low rocks. Again they are offshore with a fairly wide channel between the mainland and a platform, apparently uncovered at low tide, which could have the stacks standing on it.

Take a boat, from Walls possibly, and sail north of Vaila Island. The stacks lie off the most south-westerly part of the coast where it turns a corner and heads north-west.

Detailed access: No information available about getting to and/or landing on the stacks.

Rusna Stack 1 *First ascent: Unknown.*

Rusna Stack 2 *First ascent: Unknown.*

West Stack

MR: Sheet 4 186495

This stack should be relatively simple to reach from the land. Take the A971 to Walls. A minor road leads to Mid Walls after two miles. Take a left turn onto another minor road which goes to Skarpigarth ½ a mile or so to the south. Walk south to the coast and go along it to the south-west first and then the north-west. After just over ½ a mile heading north-west a straight and narrow geo is reached with the stack on its north side.

Detailed access: Unknown, however no cliffs are shown that would impede an approach to the base of the stack.

First ascent: Unknown.

The next three stacks to the north are offshore and a boat will be needed to get to them. Walls would be a convenient departure point. The coast features a multiplicity of islets, rocks, promontories, arches and geos.

Lang Stack

MR: Sheet 3 173536

Long and thin in cross-section according to the map and possibly accessible at low tide from the shore. The shore features a beach and is backed by high cliffs so a boat seems a safer bet than walking from Dales, two miles from Mid Walls.

Detailed access: Unknown.

First ascent: Unknown.

Erne's Stack

MR: Sheet 3 172543

This stack is about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile north of Lang Stack and is triangular in cross-section. It is at the end of the second promontory south from the Bay of Deepdale.

Detailed access: Unknown.

First ascent: Unknown.

Litla Stack

MR: Sheet 3 172547

This is about a $\frac{1}{4}$ mile offshore from the first promontory to the south of the Bay of Deepdale, just under $\frac{1}{2}$ a mile north of Erne's Stack.

Detailed access: Unknown.

First ascent: Unknown.

Papa Stour

Map: below.

An island northwest of Norby on Mainland. Its abundant wild flowers and general peacefulness once attracted a hippy colony now long gone. The next two stacks or, rather, stack and stack group, lie off this island. A passenger ferry runs from West Burra Firth, about nine miles north of Walls by road. Maiden Stack on Papa Stour might be accessible from the land but the Galti Stacks most probably need a boat.

Lyra Skerry Stack HVS 5a 37m

MR: Sheet 3 144615

This splendid looking stack lies off the western coast of Papa Stour and a boat is most definitely needed to reach it.

Detailed access: Unknown.

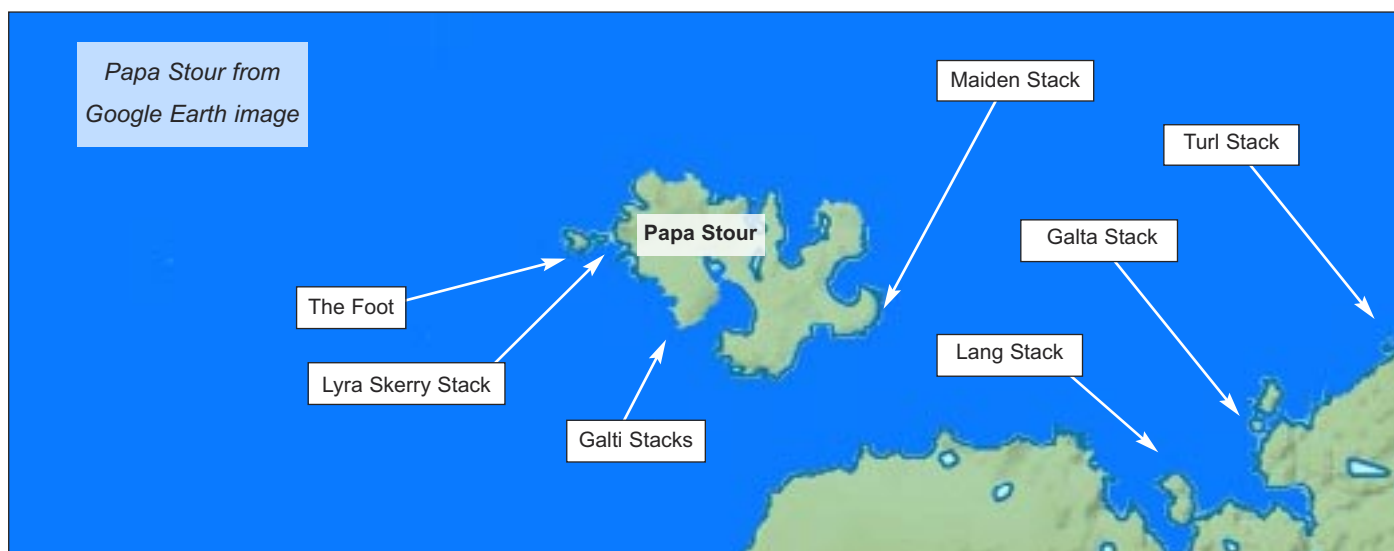
On the right side of the wall of the stack which faces the island of Lyra Skerry there are a set of steps which culminate on the left in a steep crack left of a wide corner crack on the right-hand edge of the wall. Climb the steps and steep crack. Friends 2 and 3 are recommended.

First ascent: Andy Nisbet, Jon Lincoln, Craig Jones, Mick Fowler, 22 May 1992.

The Foot (Spindle) XS 5c 37m

MR: Sheet 3 144613. Photo: p200.

This superb slender stack lies off the south-east tip of Lyra Skerry. It is a classic stack requiring marine access and deserving its second name - the Spindle.



Detailed access: Sail to the stack by a boat of some kind and get on to the left side of the south face, the side facing away from Lyra Skerry.

Climb a short crack and then step right to a ledge and possible belay. Go rightwards up the overhanging wall above and reach a shallow groove which is followed to the top. Peg runners were used. Descend by abseil.

First ascent: Mick Fowler, Craig Jones, Andy Nisbet, Jon Lincoln, 15 May 1992.

Galti Stacks

MR: Sheet 3 155598

There may be three stacks here and the, potential, trio is located a short way offshore to the south-west of Mauns Hill and ½ a mile north-west of the entrance to Hamna Voe in the south-western part of Papa Stour.

Detailed access: Unknown.

Galti Stack 1 *First ascent: Unknown.*

Galti Stack 2 *First ascent: Unknown.*

Galti Stack 3 *First ascent: Unknown.*

Maiden Stack

MR: Sheet 3 189605

This stack is on or very near to the northern part of an islet called Brei Holm which is connected to Papa Stour by a narrow isthmus. It is in the south-eastern part of Papa Stour and should be visible from the passenger ferry as it enters Housa Voe on the eastern side of Papa Stour.

Detailed access: Not clear as the precise location of the stack isn't clear either.

First ascent: Unknown.

Back on Mainland

Lang Stack

MR: Sheet 3 235577

Take the A971 towards Walls. The A971 is a curious road as it splits in two after the Bridge of Walls and yet each branch is called the A971. Perhaps the Department of Transport ran out of numbers. Anyway about 1½ miles before the bifurcation (to the east of the Bridge of Walls) a very minor road, a track with pretensions, goes northwards to Burraview and the Papa Stour ferry.

Drive the five or so miles to West Burrafirth and continue for just over a mile to the end of the road at Snarraness. Walk for a ¼ mile along a track onto the Snarra Ness peninsula. It is now a further ½ mile to the northern tip, a lovely spot, where a smaller and thinner peninsula sticks out. Lang Stack should be to one side of this peninsula.

Detailed access: You probably need low tide to gain the stack across the foreshore. There are no cliffs shown on the map to impede a descent to the foreshore.

First ascent: Unknown.

On a small island ¼-½ mile onshore in West Burrafirth we find Galta Stack.



The Foot, Lyra Skerry. © Copyright Doug Lee and licensed for reuse under this Creative Commons Licence: <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.0/>.

Galta Stack

MR: Sheet 3 246575

This stack is smack in the middle of West Burma Firth so you need to use to a boat to get to it, possibly from Burraview. Reach Burraview as if you were travelling to Lang Stack.

Detailed access: Uncertain.

First ascent: Unknown.

Back on Mainland

Turl Stack

MR: Sheet 3 260589

This looks quite interesting from the map. Just before Burraview - refer to Lang Stack notes - a track goes north to West Burrafirth. Take this and then walk a mile and a little more northwards over rough ground to the coast. You should arrive at the shore to the east of Tainga Skerries and the Isle of Burrafirth.

Detailed access: Turl Stack stands on a quite large foreshore apparently exposed at low tide. There are no cliffs to obstruct your passage to the shore. What you do next is unclear so investigate.

First ascent: Unknown.

Vementry

MR: Sheet 3 284613

On the island of Vementry there are the two Swaba Stacks. They are separated from each other by a channel and the inner stack has another channel between it and Vementry, so Vementry is an island. A boat is essential. Sail the vessel to the western side of Vementry and find the two stacks south of John's Head and Corbie Geo.

Detailed access: Unknown.

Swaba Stack 1 *First ascent: Unknown.*

Swaba Stack 2 *First ascent: Unknown.*

Muckle Roe

Map: p202.

We next come to the island of Muckle Roe. This has four stacks or stack groups along its western coast. And, better yet, you can drive onto Muckle Roe via a bridge over Roe Sound. At the head of Sutton Voe Mainland is almost cut in two at a place called Mavis Grind. The A970 runs north-south through Mavis Grind. Go $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile south along this from Mavis Grind and take the minor road running south to Muckle Roe. Once on the island follow the road south to get to Little-ayre after about three miles.

Murbie Stacks

MR: Sheet 3 303629

By a lighthouse on the south-west corner of Muckle Roe. There seem to be two fairly substantial stacks with contour lines shown on the map. They are separated from the shore by a channel so a boat recommends itself. Sail to just north of the south-west corner of Muckle Roe.

Detailed access: Unclear.

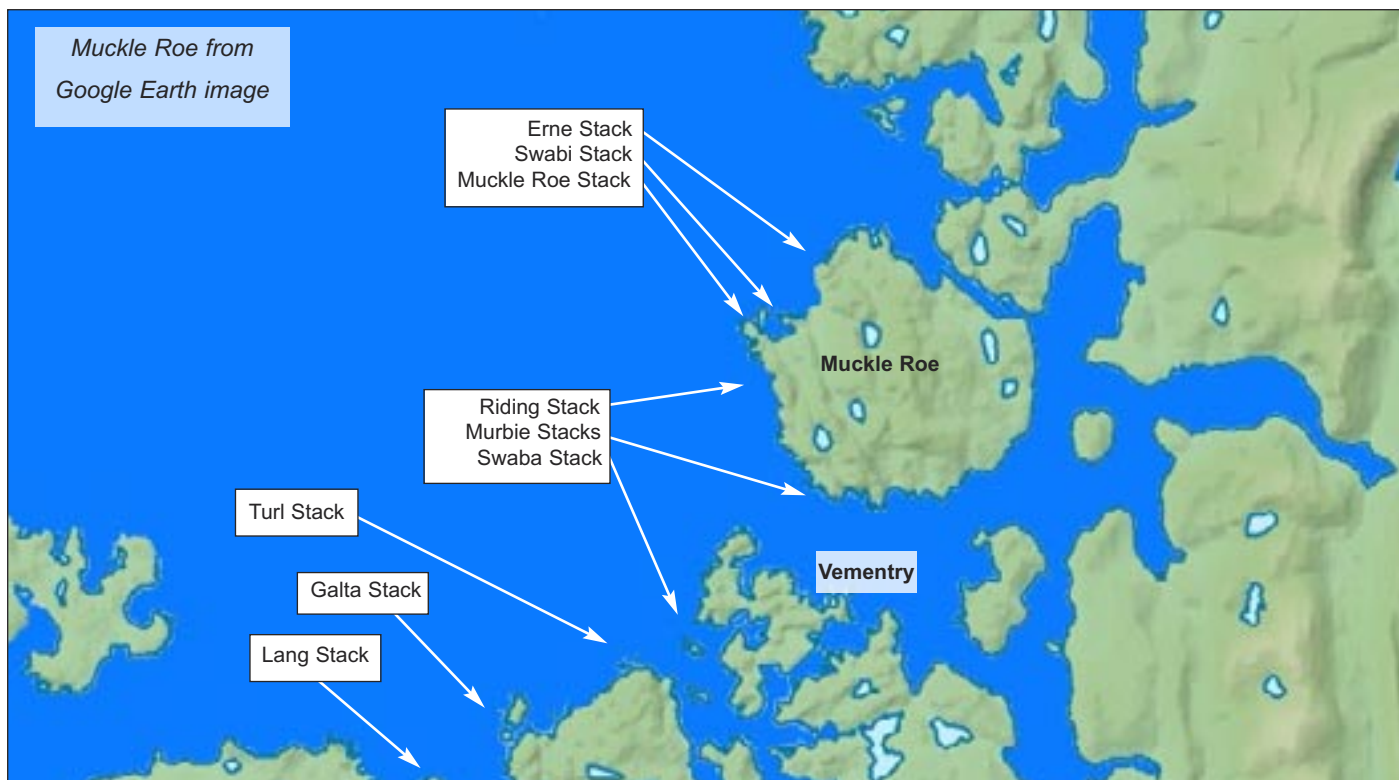
Murbie Stack 1 *First ascent: Unknown.*

Murbie Stack 2 *First ascent: Unknown.*

Riding Stack

MR: Sheet 3 301633

This stack appears to be reachable from the land. Follow a track north-west from Little-ayre for about a mile until



you can reach the coast $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile to the west by walking between the two lochs of Muckla Water and Gilsa Water. The stack seems to be on the north side of a geo.

Detailed access: Unknown.

First ascent: Unknown.

Muckle Roe Stack HVS 4c 26m

MR: Sheet 3 299659

This is a fine stack at the outer end of an inlet of the Hamms of Roe. It can be reached from the land - just.

Detailed access: From Little Ayre at the end of the minor road in the south of Muckle Roe a track strikes north north-west. Follow this for 2½ miles to its end. South Ham and north ham are two bays separated by a bulbous peninsula. From the end of the track follow the stream along the side of Green Hill until the hump of this peninsula comes into view in a ¼ mile or so. Go out onto the right-hand side of the peninsula (looking out to sea) to find the inlet. Abseil down the cliffs (leave the abseil rope!) and swim across to the landward side. Set up a tyrolean.

Climb the landward side by a series of steps and a flake moving right at the top. Descend by abseil, get back across the channel and prussik/ jumar/shunt back up the abseil rope.

First ascent: Craig Jones, Jon Lincoln, Andy Nisbet, Mick Fowler, 17 May 1992

Swabi Stack

MR: Sheet 3 300665

Marvellous coastal scenery here with natural arches, curving headlands enclosing a micro-island and the stack separated from the shore by a narrow channel. The island is great walking territory but a boat is probably a safer option. If chancing it by land walk to the end of the track running north-west from Little-ayre and continue past Town Loch to the sea at North Ham. The stack is just off the west side of a curling headland forming the northern enclosing arm of North Ham. (This headland has wonderful geos on its north side.)

Detailed access: No cliffs to impede descent to the shore and no other information.

First ascent: Unknown.

Erne Stack

MR: Sheet 3 305671



Just over a ½ mile north-west up the coast from Swabi Stacks and it seems reachable by land. In fact it appears to be connected to the shore by a thin neck. Go to Swabi Stacks and walk up the coast to reach it.

Detailed access: It looks as if an abseil descent will be necessary to gain the base of the stack.

First ascent: Unknown.

St Magnus Bay North

Map: above.

This is a large bay enclosing Muckle Roe and the south of Esha Ness. Starting from the south we arrive at ...

Eina Stack

MR: Sheet 3 303708

This stack is about two miles north-west from Mavis Grind, which sounds like the name of the local good time person, PC rules o.k., as the crow flies. Go up the A970 from Mavis Grind for about two miles and turn left onto a minor road heading south-west to Mangaster which is reached in ¾ of a mile. Take the footpath south-west from here to the Pund of Mangaster and then follow the coast for two miles up hill, down dale and around inlets until you reach the stack just north of Lang Head but south of Mill Geos.

Detailed access: No details available.

First ascent: Unknown.

Moo Stack (number 3)

MR: Sheet 3299719

One mile, as the crow flies, north of Eina Stack and it is best to approach it from the north. Go up the A970 for about a mile north of the Mangaster turning and take the next minor road to the left. Drive 2½ miles along this to its end at Nibon. Now walk southwards for 1½ miles along a beautiful coastline to the stack. There is no footpath.

Detailed access: The stack seems to stand on a platform uncovered at low tide. There are no cliffs to obstruct your passage to the shore but there may be a channel between the shore and the stack.

First ascent: Unknown.

On the Isle of Nibon there is good climbing on cliffs of diorite. It is one of the most beautiful places in Shetland. Near to the village of Nibon there is a footling stack:

Oe Stack

MR: Sheet 3 298726

This stack is passed on the way to Moo Stack (number 4). It is by the southern tip of the Isle of Nibon and a boat is needed to reach it. The boat could be launched from Nibon which is reached by the minor road running westwards from the A970. Refer to the notes for Moo Stack (number 4.)

Detailed access: Cross a platform, hopefully exposed at low tide, to reach the stack.

First ascent: Unknown.

The next stack on Mainland is;

Gordi Stack

MR Sheet 3 274748

As the A970 runs north from Mavis Grind it forks in two by Sandy Lochs. Take the left fork for 3½ miles to Hillswick. Walk just over one mile south to the Ness of Hillswick and the coast. The stack is, or is by, a fingery peninsula jutting west into the sea about a ¼ mile north-west of Baa Taing lighthouse.

Detailed access: Go on to the peninsula and commence your explorations.

First ascent: Unknown.

The Drongs

MR: Sheet 3 260755. Photo: below.

This is a well-known and spectacular set of stacks, including a 31m high rock pillar, located a mile out to sea off the western side of the Ness of Hillswick. Main Drong and Slender Drong can be picked out from their height. Slim and Stumpy Drongs should be distinguishable by their shape. But be careful, it's easy to go drong!

Detailed access: A boat is needed. These stacks are a long way out to sea with no sheltering islands nearby so it is important to keep an eye on the weather.



The Drongs as seen from Braewick. Photo - Ronnie Robertson - Drongs IMG_4616 from Wikipedia CC-BY SA.20

Main Drong Mild XS 5b 59m

This Drong has a main summit and a subsidiary, lower summit. The route takes a line on the north-east face that rises to the left. Start below and to the right of the gap between the two tops. Note that a pair of 50 metre ropes will be needed for the abseil back from the lower summit.

1. 50m 5b. A long pitch. Go up easy steps to a corner which proves awkward to climb. Carry on to the crest of the ridge and follow this easily to the lower summit.

2. 9m 4c. down and up! Descend into the gap and climb the right-hand side of the summit tower to the top.

First ascent: Mick Fowler, Andy Nisbet, Jon Lincoln, Craig Jones, 13 May 1992.

Slender Drong XS 5b/c 31m

A fine climb up the south face. Start at the extreme left end of the south face at a sea-washed greasy groove. Climb up the groove and then trend right under large overhangs to reach a shallow cave. Escape left through the overhang, then climb a steep crack to a ledge. Move out left and ascend the final wall on surprisingly good rock.

First ascent: Mick Fowler, Andy Nisbet, Jon Lincoln, Craig Jones, 13 May 1992.

Slim Drong VS 5a 15m

Climb a shallow corner on the landward (east) side.

First ascent: Mick Fowler, Andy Nisbet, Jon Lincoln, 20 May 1992.

Stumpy Drong Sev 15m

Climb an obvious line on the seaward side of Mr. Stumpy.

First ascent: Mick Fowler, Andy Nisbet, Jon Lincoln, 20 May 1992.

SP Stack VDiff 24m

MR: Sheet 3 263767

This is a bizarre leaning stack stuck out in the sea. It is not marked on the OS Landranger map.

Detailed access: Sail to the stack and transfer onto its low-angled side.

Climb the low-angled side to the top. Do not abseil down unless you fancy a free abseil into the water.

First ascent: Andy Nisbett, Jon Lincoln, Mick Fowler, 20 May 1992.

Harry's Pund HSev 35m

MR: Sheet 3 266772

A stack in a more sheltered position than the Drons being off a headland called the Heads of Grocken in a bay called Sand Wick. From Hillswick go north-east up the A970 for a mile and then turn left onto the B9078. Follow this for about 2½ miles to Zoar and park the car. A footpath goes southwards to finish by a building (½ a mile). Carry on to the coast and see the stack some hundreds of metres offshore. Oops.

Detailed access: Go back to Hillswick and launch the boat! Sail to the stack and land on it at the base of the south-west arête.

Climb up the south-west arête and then traverse the seaward side to gain the top of the south-east arête.

Descent by abseil or downclimbing.

First ascent: Andy Nisbet, Jon Lincoln, Mick Fowler, 20 May 1992.

The Runk HVS 5a 46m

MR: Sheet 3 254774

Nicely situated off the headland of The Neap. From Hillswick go north-east up the A970 for a mile and then turn left onto the B9078. Follow this for about three miles and park the car. Walk south with Watch Hill on your left and then out along the narrowing headland until you see the stack near the tip.

Detailed access: It is probable that you can gain this stack from the land.

1. 31m 4c. Start at the north-west end on the seaward face. Climb a right-slanting groove to a col.
2. 15m 5a. Cross to the landward side then climb a shallow comer to the top. Descent by abseil.

First ascent: Andy Nisbett, Craig ones, Jon Lincoln, Mick Fowler 10 May 1992.

Esha Ness

Map: p207.

Pronounced "Aysh Ness", this headland's coast is a riot of geos, islets, inlets, arches and cliffs. There is sea cliff climbing at the Grind of the Navir and possible stack climbing at ...

Moo Stack (number 4)

MR: sheet 3 209793.

Just how many Moo Stacks are there on Mainland? This is number four. The northern limit of St. Magnus Bay is formed by Esha Ness and this, apparently substantial, stack is half way along the two mile long north-west front of this. One mile before Hillswick at the end of the western fork of the A970 the B9078 runs westwards for about six miles. Drive along this almost to its end and take a minor road for a mile to Calder's Geo lighthouses. The stack is about a mile north-west from here along the deeply-incised coast. It is separated from the shore by a channel with an intervening islet, like a stepping stone in it.

Detailed access: Swimming to the stack is one option. Boating to it is another, perhaps from Hamna Voe, east of Moo Stack (number 4) which is a six or seven mile round trip.

First ascent: Unknown.

The west slide of Ronas Voe is trackless so a boat is probably the best choice. It could be launched from Skeo Head or Voe at the head of this large inlet.

Galti Stack

MR: Sheet 3 259859

Sail up Ronas Voe, which is about 5½ miles long, to the north-west tip of the coast forming its western shore. Here there is a geo - Galti Geo - with this sizable flat-topped stack offshore just to its east. The rock may be suspect.

Detailed access: Unknown.

First ascent: Unknown.

Stack of Sumna

MR: Sheet 3 265838

This stack of rotten granite will be encountered 1½ miles before Galti Stack as you sail up Ronas Voe.

Detailed access: No information

First ascent: Unknown.

Point of Quida Stack

MR: Sheet 3 272830

This stack will be found about a mile before the Stack of Summa. It is also composed of rotting Shetland granite.

Detailed access: No information.

First ascent: Unknown.

North Mavine Again

Map: p207.

Little Gruna Stacks and Gruna stack are part of a small cluster of islets lying a ¼ mile or so off Turl's Head which is a mile or so the the north of the entrance to Ronas Voe. This western side of North Roe is trackless and four miles or more from the A970 road running up the east side of the island, The western coast is less cluttered with

indentations than other parts of Mainland. The Gruna Stacks (little and large) are part of group of islets to the north and south of spectacular and remote beach: called the Lang Ayre which can only be reached at its southern end. It is not visible from any road or settlement and is worth a visit just of its atmosphere. The rock hereabouts is the rather crumbly Shetland granite - so be warned,

Little Gruna Stacks

MR: Sheet 1 287866

The tallest of these stacks looks quite impressive. Sail up Ronas Voe and then north to the Gruna islet cluster. Little Gruna Stacks are a trio of features a ¼ mile west of Turl Head.

Detailed access: You are on your own.

Gruna Stack

MR: Sheet 1 286869

This stack has a main summit and at least one interesting sub-summit. Sail up Ronas Voe as for Little Gruna Stacks. Now sail north-west to the obvious large islet and then round to its west side to see Gruna Stack.

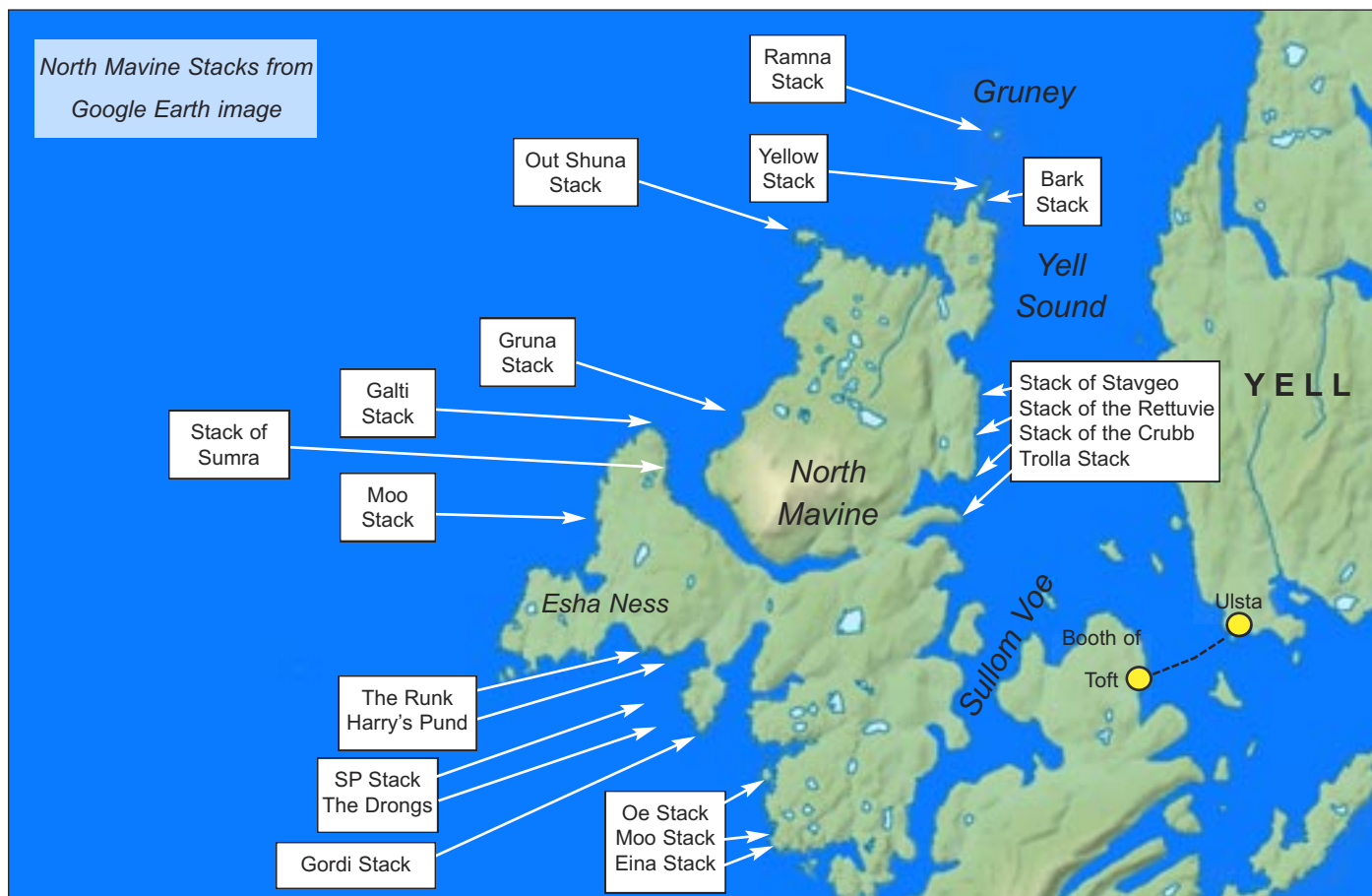
Detailed access: Unknown.

First ascent: Unknown.

Fetlar

Map: p208.

The name means fat island referring to the relatively fertile soil. Fetlar is known for breeding the finest Shetland ponies in the islands. To get to Fetlar from Mainland you drive north from Lerwick on the A970, take the A968 at Hillside and go to Tofts Voe from where a car ferry takes 15 minutes to cross to Ulsta on the island of Yell. It is all well signposted. Continue along the A968 through Mid-Yell and go to Gutcher on the east coast. Here take a 25-minute ferry trip with your car to Oddsta on Fetlar. Go down a minor road southwards to Brough Lodge where you meet the B9068 which crosses the island from west to east.



Mountain Rescue: Call the emergency services on 999.

There are several stacks around the Fetlar coastline most of which can be reached in principle by walking north or south from the B9068 at the appropriate place. Starting at Brough Lodge we go round the island clockwise.

Stack of Birrier

MR: Sheet I 637946

On the north side of Fetlar is the Stack of Birrier. Go to it either by boat or by driving east along the B9088 to Southdale and then striking out north-east across the island passing between Stackaberg hill and Skutes Water - a loch. Go over the ridge of Muckle Scord, across the valley of Moorins and over Busta Hill. Go down on to the promontory to the east of this and the stack is on a fingery promontory off the west side of the main one.

Detailed access: Unknown.

First ascent: Unknown.

Stacks of Scambro

MR: Sheet 1 675919

There are three stacks here, apparently. Go to the eastern end of the B9088 and then head north up the track to Everland which is about a mile away. From here head north-east and mount the hill of Baa-neap. North-north-east from here is the coast in under half a mile and the stacks should be clearly visible offshore.

Detailed access: Unknown, possibly a boat?

Scambro Stack 1 *First ascent: Unknown.*

Scambro Stack 2 *First ascent: Unknown.*

Scambro Stack 3 *First ascent: Unknown.*

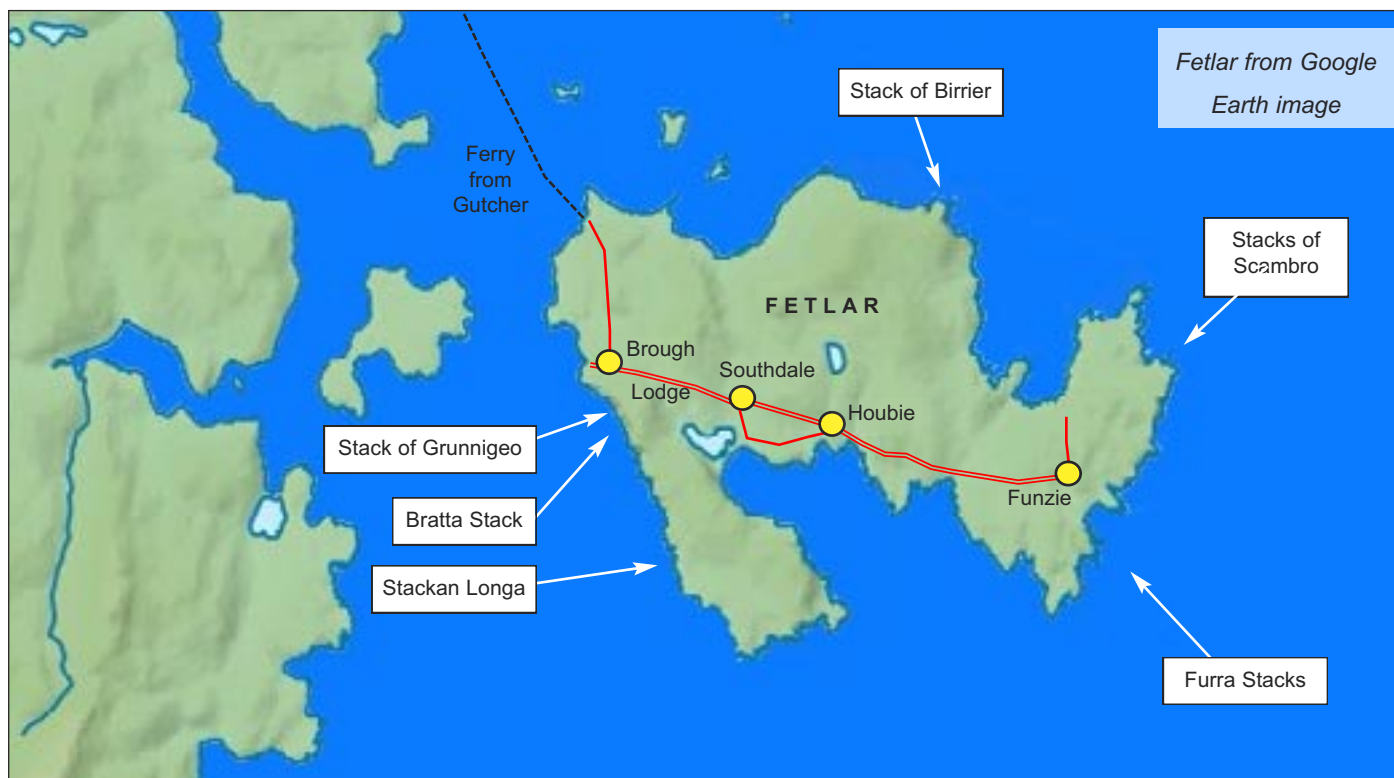
Furra Stacks

MR: Sheet 1 665887

Head south from the end of the B9088 to gain Funzie Bay. Follow the southern edge of this past the small island of Stany Holm and reach the stacks in about a mile from the road.

Detailed access: Looks like a low tide or short swim job.

First ascent: Unknown - may be unclimbed.



Horn of Ramsness

MR: Sheet 1 612870

This may be a stack. The name suggests so. It is on the extreme southern tip of Lamb Hoga, the big peninsula reaching south from Papil Water. Follow a track south-west from Tresra to its end and then go about a mile due south to strike the coast by a small lochan with the 'stack' apparently accessible at low tide. You probably have to abseil down cliffs to reach the foreshore.

Detailed access: Unknown

First ascent: Unknown - may be unclimbed.

Stackan Longa

MR: Sheet 1 598886

On the south-west side of Lamb Hoga peninsula. Go along the track as for the Horn of Ramsness and, at a place called The Dale where a footpath goes south-east to the top of Gillis Field (100+ metres), go west south-west for about a mile to the coast.

Detailed Access: Unknown but appears to be accessible at low tide.

First ascent: Unknown.

Bratta Stack

MR: Sheet 1 593899

A mile and a half north up the coast from Stackan Longa. Leave the track for Dale at a place called - Klifts and go west over the rise to the coast. It appears accessible from the shore.

Detailed access: Unknown.

First ascent: Unknown.

Stack of Grunnigeo

MR: Sheet 1 592902

This stack is a short distance up the coast north from Bratta Stack. It is on the south side of a zawn, Grunnigeo, with a col between Lamb Hoga and Gallow Hill, known as the Scord of Grunnigeo, above it.

Detailed Access: Unknown but appears to be accessible without a boat.

First ascent: Unknown.

Yell

Map: p210.

There are more than ten stacks on Yell which are found mostly on the west and north coast with one solitary one down in the south. Going round the island in a clockwise direction we start at West Sandwick. North from here there is a five mile long peninsula with Nev of Stuis at its tip. It is separated from the rest of Yell to the east by the fjord-like Whale Firth. There are five stacks along its western side.

As the coast here is trackless and the stacks seem to lie offshore access by boat recommends itself. West Sandwick appears to be a convenient harbour for this purpose

Mountain Rescue: Find a telephone and call the coastguard and/or police.

Sweinna Stack

MR: Sheet 1 436917

Sail out from West Sandwick and, after rounding the Ness of West Sandwick, head north for 3½ miles. The stack is in, or is by, an oblong inlet about a ¼ mile long.

Detailed access: Unknown.

First ascent: Unknown.

And now another set of suggestive horns:

Horns of the Roe

MR: Sheet 1 441928

This feature could be another set of stacks. They lie a mile north-east from Sweinna Stack.

Detailed access: No details.

First ascent: Unknown.

Whale Geo Stacks

MR: Sheet 1 444935

These stacks seem to be in line with the natural arch on the shore of Whale Geo, the bay after the Point of Bugarth, ½ a mile north from the Horns of the Roe. Sail from West Sandwick.

Detailed access: Unknown.

Whale Geo Stack 1 *First ascent: Unknown.*

Whale Geo Stack 2 *First ascent: Unknown.*

Ern Stack

MR: Sheet 1 454964

This twin-pronged stack is about 3½ miles north Whale Geo Stacks and has two towers. It lies a couple of hundred yards west of a promontory near the tip of the peninsula in an area called Graveland. What a romantic name.

And now a geological digression: the rock is texturally a pegmatite. Geochemically it seems to behave too much



like quartz to be a syenite and is more likely to be a grano-diorite or granite! Spectacular rock though. Spectacular pinnacle too, high on the hillside and easy to reach. (This appears not to be sea-encircled and so not a true stack.)

This 'stack' can be reached by land. Take the A968 to where a minor road leads north to Grimster. Go north and then west over moorland to the stack. A climb has been recorded here.

Detailed access: Unknown.

Ern Stack Climb VDiff

First ascent: 1980.

Aastack

MR: Sheet 1 457968

This looks to be a fairly large offshore stack in the middle of a group of eight or so micro-islands. It is just over $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile north of Ern Stack.

Detailed access: Unknown but clearly by boat.

First ascent: Unknown.

Stacks of Stuis

MR: Sheet 1 464974

These stacks are at the tip of the Nev of Stuis peninsula. There could be up to three here.

Detailed access: Unknown.

Stacks of Suis 1 *First ascent: Unknown.*

Stacks of Suis 2 *First ascent: Unknown.*

The northern part of Yell is divided into two parts by another fjord-like inlet called Gloup Voe. The western part is called North Neaps. Perhaps it was once famous for turnips.

Aastack (number 2)

MR: Sheet 1 477045

This is quite a large stack separated from the mainland by a narrow channel which one might be able to swim. A landward approach would involve driving up the north-east tip of Yell via the B9082 to the Haa of Houlland. Continue on a minor road for just over two miles to Gloup.

Now leave the car and walk three miles south to the bottom of Gloup Voe, round it and go back up the west side using a footpath which, when you are opposite Gloup, turns south-west. Go to its end and then walk west for $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile to a stream. Follow it $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles to the sea at the Geo of Vigon. The stack is at the tip of the promontory forming the north side of the geo.

Detailed access: Go by boat and save yourself a long walk. If you do walk descend the cliffs somehow to get on to the promontory and then get across to the stack.

First ascent: Unknown.

Baagi Stack

MR: Sheet 1 477052

This is a mile south of Aastack (number 2) as the arrow flies. The map legend placement suggests that it could be on either of two promontories. For a landward approach go to Aastack (number 2) and follow the coast north to the first of two multi-headed promontories. If the stack isn't on the north side of this then try the south-west tip of the next one.

Detailed access: Unknown.

First ascent: Unknown.

Half a mile north of North Neaps there is an island called Gloup Holm.

Whilkie Stack

MR: Sheet 1 483062

This stack stands a few yards off the south-west shore of Gloup Holm.

Detailed access: Unknown. Sail to the island and start exploring.

First ascent: Unknown.

Eagle Stack

MR: Sheet 1 486061

Off the south-east coast of Gloup Holm and a little closer to the shore than the previous stack.

Detailed access: Unknown so get exploring.

First ascent: Unknown.

Stack of the Horse

MR: Sheet 1 536812

This one is all alone and evermore shall be so! The rock in this area is suspect. Take the B9081 from Ulsta in the south-west of Yell and go to Upper Neapaback. Walk, or drive if you have an offroad vehicle, past the Heights of Ramnageo by a track to their west.

From the end of the right fork walk due east to a promontory called the Horse of Burravoe and out along it to its tip. The stack should be found on or off the eastern face.

Detailed access: Unknown.

First ascent: Unknown.

UNST

Map: p213.

Quite a few stacks here - twenty five at least according to the Ordnance Survey map. Their height is not given and, in some cases, the actual item on the map that is called a stack is not clear. It could be an offshore islet or it might be a pinnacle rising from the shoreline. So the stacks could be interesting towers or ugly stumps. Because Unst is far away the likelihood is that many of them have not been climbed at all. In effect the notes below indicate areas to be explored.

Unst is reached by crossing by ferry from Mainland, as for Fetlar, to Gutcher on Yell. Here you take another but short ferry crossing north-east to Belmont on Unst and then continue on the A968 to your destination. Like the rest of Shetland, Unst has many bird colonies and Herma Ness is a nature reserve for that reason.

Mountain Rescue: Get to a telephone and call the coastguard or police.

We will go round Unst in a clockwise direction from Belmont:

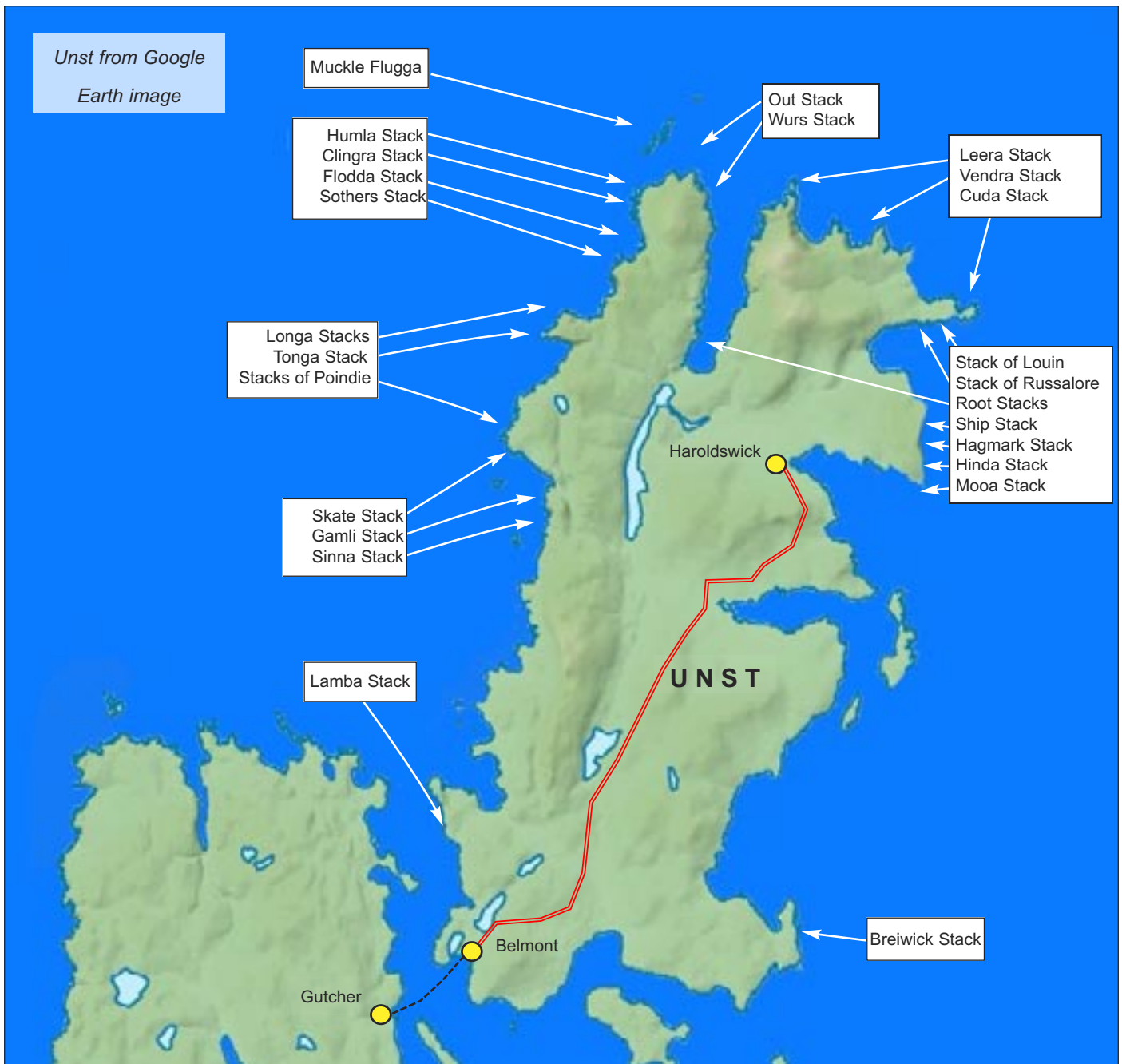
Lamba Stack

MR: Sheet I 559 040

This stack is on the west coast of Unst 2 miles north of Belmont. Go up the A968 past the B9084 turning on the right, and continue for about a ½ mile to where a minor road goes west for Burragarth and Westing. Follow this for just over ½ a mile to a place where a track goes off left. It may be signed for standing stones. Follow the track for about ½ a mile to its end past a small settlement called Liand. Then walk slightly north of west passing the Loch of Vigga on its north side and continuing west to strike the coastal cliffs. A small headland projects into Bluemull Sound and Lamba Stack is at its north-west tip.

Detailed access: Descend the cliffs somehow. It appears from the map that low tide access is feasible.

First ascent: Unknown - may be unclimbed.



Burra Firth

The north of Unst is divided into two unequal parts along a north-south line by the long inlet of Burra Firth, the Loch of Cliff and, further inland in the same valley, the Loch of Watfleet. The majority of Unst's stacks lie on the two sides of the peninsulas thus formed. Most are reached via the settlement of Burrafirth at the head of Burra Firth, one of the loveliest inlets in the Shetlands. Access is via the A968 north from Belmont and then going on to Ballista, just off the A968, for Sinna, Gamli and Skate Stacks. The western peninsula culminates in Herma Ness, a bird sanctuary, which has five stacks dotted around its sides.

Sinna Stack

MR: Sheet 1 580103

Go up the A968 past the Loch of Watlee to the first minor road going to Ballista. Take this, turn left at the fork and go straight over the crossroads. Take the next right (about ½ a mile) and then turn left at the t-junction. The road crosses the Burn of Mailland and then climbs up the western side of the valley enclosing Loch Cliff. Ignore a track going right and park the car. On your left (west) are two hills with a col between them.

Walk over the col, almost due west, and then head west south-west downhill, cross a stream, continue in the

same line uphill, cross another stream and the crest the slope in front of you and so reach the coast. The two islands and rocks that make up South Holms are offshore and Sinna Stack should be visible below you.

Detailed access: Unknown but low tide access looks possible once you have descended the cliff.

First ascent: Unknown - may be unclimbed.

Gamli Stack

MR: Sheet 1 581106

Head for the coast as for Sinna Stack but at the second stream, just a couple of hundred yards or so from the crest of the slope overlooking Sinna Stack, turn downstream and follow the water north-west to the coast. Gamli Stack should now be visible northwards.

Detailed access: Unknown.

First ascent: Unknown - may be unclimbed.

Skate Stack

MR: Sheet 1 578117

Go to the col as for Sinna and Gamli Stacks but walk north-west from it to go down the Dale Of Woodwick and its stream. It meets the coast at a little bay with the North Holms island and rock group offshore. You may be able to see Skate Stack from here as it about 1½ miles north-west up the coast. Follow the coastline northwards until you reach the stack.

Detailed access: Unknown but low tide access might be feasible if you can get down the cliffs.

First ascent: Unknown - may be unclimbed.

The next group of stacks are approached by taking the A968 all the way to Haroldswick and then following the B9086 to Burraflrth (the settlement) and the neck of land between the Loch of Cliff and Burra Firth (the inlet). At the west side of this neck a track runs along the side of the valley. Park the car and then follow the directions for the individual stacks.

Stacks of Poindie

MR: Sheet 1 580139

There appear to be several stacks here with a boat or swim necessary to reach them. To reach them by land take the track running south-west along the side of the valley from the neck of land between the Loch of Cliff and Burra Firth. It goes along the loch for a little way and then turns directly up the slope. Follow it to its end and continue trudging uphill for slightly over a mile to reach the top of Libbers Hill and tremendous views in all directions. Walk due west downhill to reach the coastal cliffs and the stacks.

Detailed access: Unknown but marine access suggests itself from a map inspection.

First ascent: Unknown - may be unclimbed.

Tonga Stack

MR: Sheet 1 578149

This appears to be a quite large stack, a very small island possibly, off the south-west tip of the Tonga headland. It may be feasible to swim to it but since Langa Stacks are nearby and also offshore a boat trip recommends itself. Determined walkers should park the car at Stackhoull - down the right turn at the t-junction after the end of the B9086. Cross the Herma Ness peninsula in a west north-west direction and go to the south-west tip of the small peninsula of Tonga. This is a walk of about 1½ miles.

Detailed access: Unknown.

First ascent: Unknown - may be unclimbed.

Longa Stacks

MR: Sheet I 581153

There appear to be three stacks here, all off the north-west face of the Tonga peninsula. Access by boat seems best but a walking inspection is possible by getting to the headland as for Tonga Stack. Walk north-east along the western coastline of Tonga until the stacks loom into sight.

Detailed access: Unknown but water will play an important part.

First ascent: Unknown - may be unclimbed.

The next set of stacks - from Sothers Stack to Wurs Stack - all lie around the north tip of Herma Ness and are reached on foot by walking up Herma Ness from Stackhoul near Burrafirth.

Kame Of Flouravoug

MR: Sheet 1 594168

This may be a stack. It lies about a ¼ mile offshore. The map is unclear as there is also a headland which could have the Kame adjacent to it. It may be worth exploring the coast for ½ a mile south of Sothers Stack to see if other stacks exist.

Detailed access: By boat (!)

First ascent: Unknown - may be unclimbed.

Sothers Stack

MR: Sheet 1 601170

Go to Stackhoul after the end of the B9086 and continue for ¾ mile to just before the end of the road. Park the car, if you can, and walk up a short track going off to the left (north). It becomes a footpath and you continue along it for 1½ miles to a flattish area called Sothers Brecks just before the path goes up the main slope of Hermaness Hill. Follow a stream, which drains a small lake, downhill to the north-west. At the point where it flows into the sea a promontory juts into the sea to the south. Sothers Stack is on or by this promontory.

Detailed access: Unknown.

First ascent: Unknown - may be unclimbed.

Flodda Stack

MR: Sheet I 599175

An offshore stack of considerable horizontal extent, enough, perhaps, for it to be a rocky islet, which is quite close to the mainland. Go to Sothers Brecks as for Sothers Stack and follow the stream downstream until at the cliff top. These cliffs extend to the north and this section of coast is called Humlataes. Follow it northwards for about a ½ mile when the stack should be visible offshore with an island on its north side.

Detailed access: A longish swim or a boat from Burrafirth?

First ascent: Unknown - may be unclimbed.

Clingra Stack

MR: Sheet I 598177

A short distance north from Flodda Stack there are three small peninsulas with Clingra Stack apparently at the tip of the northernmost one. Walk along Humlataes as for Flodda Stack but continue past that until you reach the northern peninsula of the three. Walk out to the stack.

Detailed access: Unknown but appears feasible at low tide.

First ascent: Unknown - may be unclimbed.

Humla Stack

MR: Sheet I 599180

Just north of Clingra Stack another peninsula juts out from the coast between two islands - The Greing to the north

and an unnamed one possessing a natural arch to the south. Humla Stack seems to be at the tip of this peninsula. Follow the coastline north from Clingra Stack for less than a ¼ of a mile until you can walk out along the peninsula and so reach the stack.

Detailed access: Unknown but landward access appears possible.

First ascent: Unknown - may be unclimbed.

Wurs Stack is the next stack we come to on Herma Ness but, in order to preserve our clockwise integrity, Out Stack is described next. It and the next stack are possibly best reached by sailing from Burra Firth since that way you have to pass one stack to reach the other.

Out Stack

MR: Sheet 1 613203

Muckle Flugga is the most northerly point in Britain, being further north than some of Alaska. Out Stack is in the sea north of Muckle Flugga lighthouse off, in turn, Herma Ness on the northern coast. So it is the most northerly stack in the British Isles. The circumference of this rounded rocky lump is about a ½ mile and it is girdled by cliffs. Which is why it is also the home of hundreds, thousands of birds - huge skuas, guillemots, kittiwakes and gannets. It will be necessary to bring or charter a boat. The nearest coast town is Burrafirth. Sail north up Burra Firth and out past Muckle Flugga keeping it to your west. Out Stack is about 5 miles from Burrafirth.

Detailed Access: Unknown but definitely by boat!

The stack has had many ascents over the years. No recorded ascents have been found.

First ascent: Unknown.

Wurs Stack

MR: Sheet 1 613203

This is located on the east side of Herma. Ness and you walk up to Sothers Brecks as for the previous Herma Ness stacks and then walk north-east for about ¾ of a mile to the coastal cliffs. The stack lies offshore at the edge of a small bay accompanied by three other rocky excrescences. It may be possible to swim to it. Alternatively take a boat from Burrafirth and sail 2½ miles up Burra Firth to reach the stack.

Detailed access: Unknown.

First ascent: Unknown - may be unclimbed.

Root Stacks

MR: Sheet I 616144

These stacks are near the head of Burra Firth. Take a very minor road from Burrafirth for Buddabreak just after a disused quarry on the right as you come near Burrafirth on the B9086. Go up this road for ½ a mile and fork left to Buddabreak. Park the car and walk westwards following a stream to the sea. The two stacks will appear just to the north. One appears to be accessible at low tide; the other will need a swim or a boat being a few yards offshore.

Detailed access: Unknown.

First ascent: Unknown - may be unclimbed.

Leera Stack

MR: Sheet I 626175

Leera Stack is 2½ miles to the north of Root Stacks at or near the tip of a small peninsula projecting into the east side of Burra Firth. Go up the A968 to Haroldswick and turn right onto the B9087. Go to a crossroads where there is a public telephone and turn left onto a minor road. Follow this for about 3 miles to a t-junction with two tracks.

This junction is to the east of Sothers Field with its two radio masts on the hill top. Take the left-hand track and go about ¾ of a mile to where the track doubles back on itself. Park the vehicle and contour north around the slope of Saxa Vord then descend in a north north-west direction to the small peninsula and the stack. In effect

you keep in line with the track that you have just driven along.

Detailed access: Unknown.

First ascent: Unknown - may be unclimbed.

Vendra Stacks

MR: Sheet I 656169

The coastline to the east of Burra Firth has many headlands and geos on it. The stacks are located on the eastern part of this headland near a track. Drive up to Haroldswick and take the B9087 as for Leera Stack. Go to its end at Kirkaton where there is a t-junction with two minor roads. Turn left and go round the coast of Nor Wick bay. The road climbs up a steep hill. Continue past a track off to the left and another minor road to the right. Go over a hill and down the other side to The Haa at the Wick Of Skaw bay. Park the car here and walk north-west for about ½ a mile to the geo with Vendra Stacks on its eastern side.

Detailed access: Unknown and the number of stacks here is not known either.

First ascent: Unknown - may be unclimbed.

Cudda Stack

MR: Sheet I 673157

This one lies offshore in the middle of a small bay on the north side of Lamba Ness headland. You could reach it by sailing from Burrafirth or Haroldswick. It lies about 5½ miles north from Haroldswick. It is also possible to drive to within a hundred yards of it by taking the minor road going right (east) on the way to Vendra Stacks after Nor Wick. This minor road runs out along the narrowing headland of Lamba Ness. Park at or near its end and walk back to the narrow point of the Ness with Cudda Stack lying in the cliff-encircled bay to the north.

Detailed access: Unknown.

First ascent: Unknown - may be unclimbed.

Stack of Louin

MR: Sheet 1 665153

On the south side of Lamba Ness there is a line of cliffs that form the northern limit of the bay of Nor Wick. Take the minor road running out along Lamba Ness, as for Cudda Stack, and park the car by a building about halfway to the headland. There is a very small bay or geo to the south and the stack is on the right-hand side of this (looking out to sea). The Stack of Russalore lies to the west.

Detailed access: Descend the cliffs to reach the stack. Low tide may be necessary.

First ascent: Unknown - may be unclimbed.

Stack of Russalore

MR: Sheet 1 660153

This stack is about ½ a mile west of the Stack of Loum. Take the same minor road and park the car by some buildings after about a ¼ mile. Walk south south-east for another 1/4 mile to the coastal cliffs and the stack.

Detailed access: Descend the cliffs and attain the stack . . . somehow.

First ascent: Unknown - may be unclimbed.

The next group of four stacks lie on, or rather off the very steep east face of the Hill Of Clibberswick. This forms a headland between the bays of Nor Wick to the north and Harold's Wick to the south. The slopes of this headland are steep and horrible. They rise to over 150m on this headland so the stacks could be quite high. It looks to be classic stack geology with a 1½ mile section of coast being pushed back by the sea leaving four stacks of harder rock behind. The nature of the rock on the headland indicates that the stack rock could be horrible too.

Ship Stack

MR: Sheet 1 667133

Go to Haroldswick at the end of the A986 and then take a minor road to Clibberswick about ½ a mile after the two radio towers. Park the car at the end of the road and hump your gear the 1¼ miles uphill to the top of the Hill Of Clibberswick. Admire the view and then follow the high slopes northwards for about ¾ of a mile to Ship Stack.

Detailed access: The usual guesstimate! Get down the steep slopes somehow and attain the bottom of the stack with, perhaps, low tide being helpful.

First ascent: Unknown - may be unclimbed.

Hagmark Stack

MR: Sheet 1 66512

Lovely name! A ¼ mile to the south of Ship Stack at the base of a precipitous 135m slope lies this evocatively-named stack. Go to the summit of the Hill Of Clibberswick. Below you and on your left, looking out to sea, is a steep slope with Hagmark Stack standing a little way offshore.

Detailed access: Descend the cliff in stages, or use a very long abseil rope, and explore your way to the base of the stack. Usual low tide caveat.

First ascent: Unknown - may be unclimbed.

Hinda Stack

MR: Sheet 1 666126

This stack is ¾ of a mile to the south of Hagmark Stack. Go to the summit of the Hill Of Clibberswick and follow the cliffs southwards gradually losing height until you reach a peninsula projecting eastwards into the sea. Here you should find the stack, located below cliffs a more amenable 350 feet high.

Detailed access: Descend the cliff and find the stack, hopefully, near the tip of the peninsula.

First ascent: Unknown - may be virgin.

Mooa Stack

MR: Sheet 1 665118

A ¼ mile south of Hinda Stack and so you continue walking south along the clifftop past that stack's peninsula until you reach a smaller peninsula which should have Mooa Stack at its south-eastern tip.

Detailed access: Descend the 60m high cliffs and, hopefully, find the stack.

First ascent: Unknown - may be virgin.

The next stack is all on its own in the south-eastern part of Unst.

Breiwick Stack

MR: Sheet 1 639015

This appears to be a classic coastal stack jutting up from a rocky pavement which is exposed at low tide. Take the A968 from Belmont and turn right onto the B9084 to Uyeasound after about 1¾ miles. Follow the coast road eastwards through Clivocast and, two miles further on, Muness. Park your vehicle and walk north-east skirting the Ham Of Muness inlet. The stack is on the eastern side of Ham Ness ¾ of a mile after Muness. There are no cliffs on the coast by it according to the map.

Detailed access: Descend the slope to the shore and go across to the stack at low tide.

First ascent: No details so, perhaps, unclimbed.

FOULA

Map: this page.

Foula, pronounced 'Fulla', is a remote island in the Shetlands group being about twenty miles west of Mainland. The island features the Kame: wonderful high cliffs of old red sandstone reaching a maximum height of 371m. This is the second highest sea cliff in the British Isles after Conachair (471m) on St. Kilda.

The Kame is an awesome precipice. Foula can be cut off by bad weather, sometimes for weeks at a time, which is hard for its small but tenacious permanent population. Unless you can charter a helicopter, marine access is the only option. A ferry runs from Walls on Mainland. There are three stacks here, two to the north and one to the south.

Rippack Stack

MR: Sheet 4 967364

From the ferry terminus settlement of Ham follow the track to Hametoun. From the end of the track stride south-east over a small hill of 39m to the indented south-east side of the South Ness headland. There could be three stacks here plus another two just to the south, one of which would be called Bonibrik.

Detailed access: Unknown.

First ascent: Unknown - may be unclimbed.

Da Stacs 'o' Logat

Photo: p221.

This is a big wedge-shaped stack 300m west of Gaada Stack, with a smaller stack to its east. Get to the summit of the coastal hill called Da Logat west of Ristie. Its seaward face is a cliff. Abseil from stake belays down the cliff to sea-level. Swim across the channel to the big stack, unless it's low-tide when a boulder-hop can be possible. The landward side has a beautiful slab going easily up to the summit whereas the seaward face, featuring a sea cave, has a 35-40m sweep of steeper rock. Mid-way along this face you will find a black wall which has the following three amenable and enjoyable routes on it. Abseil to the stack's seaward face base from its summit.

Peace to the World ** HSev 40m

Abseil down to a choice of small ledges at sea-level, or higher if a big sea is running. Climb the fine left, eastern, edge of the wall.

First ascent: Liu Yong, Simon Fraser. 28 August 2013.

Fraser Ratter *** VDiff 40m

Thirteen-year-old Fraser Ratter was drowned returning from a fishing expedition on the stack in the 19th century. 1. 40m. Climb the excellent central crackline.

First ascent: Mick and Kathy Tighe, 28 August 2013.

Arc of the Ocean ** Severe 40m

This takes a line that trends right from the abseil descent point, trending right above the sea-cave.

First ascent: Liu Yong, Simon Fraser. 28 August 2013.





Above: Gaada Stack, Foula. Photo: Dr Julian Paren.

Below: Climbers on Am Buachaille, David Linnett photo.



Gaada Stack

MR: Sheet 4 95416. Photos: p 220, below.

A spectacular arched stack resembling something like a detached version of Durdle Door. From Ham follow the track north and ignore the turning left for Harrier. Carry on to Ristie at the end of the track. From here Gaada Stack should be visible and will almost certainly require a boat or swim to get to it.

Detailed access: Unknown.

First ascent: Unknown but it has been climbed at least once. The details are not available.

NORTH-EAST SCOTLAND

Map: p222.

This area runs east from Tongue on the far north coast of Scotland, then south from Duncansby Head. There are a surprisingly large number of stacks here in what was once a forgotten coastline.

Fort Rock

MR: Sheet 1 2063710

This stack is overhanging and about 30m high. It is located some three miles west of Holborn Head.

Detailed access: The recommended approach is by boat from Scrabster.

Gaada (right) and Logat (left) stacks, Foula. Photo by Mike Pennington and licensed for reuse under this Attribution-ShareAlike 2.0 Generic (CC BY-SA 2.0) license.





Fort Rock HVS 5a 29m

This route climbs the groove which trends right up the east face. Start by landing on the landward side of the stack and scrambling up to a large ledge at 8m. Go to the eastern end of this ledge move up into a niche and then make a tricky traverse right above overhangs to gain the groove. Ascend this to capping overhangs and then escape left onto the grassy top.

First ascent: Mick Fowler, Jon Lincoln, C. Newcombe, Chris Watts, 29 May 1988.

Clett Rock

MR: Sheet 12 106717

A long stack, over 180m of it, lying off Holborn Head north-west from Thurso. You need a boat to reach it. Note that there are strong currents and the sea is usually rough. The climbing tends to be very steep as well.

Detailed access: Sail to the stack from Scrabster. There is a landing 'platform.'

West Route Sev/A2 48m

This route takes the west face. Abseil descent.

1. 9m. From the left of the landing platform go round a corner and climb a steep slab for 10 feet to a ledge. Go left along the ledge and up to the belay.
2. 12m. Go up and around the corner from the left end of the belay ledge. Now go up a steep slab to gain an overhanging crack. Climb this using aid (A2 section) to a ledge and belay.
3. 15m. Climb a wall on the left of the ledge for a few feet then move awkwardly right onto a small platform. Easy rocks lead to the next ledge.
4. 12m. Climb a prominent crack up the overhanging wall to a ledge and then the top.

First ascent: R. Jolly, M. Willis, D. Young, 14 June 1969.



Duncansby Head stacks; Great Stack (centre), Witches Hat (right), The Knee (extreme right). Photo: BillC.

North Route XS (E3) 44m

Take the crackline trending rightwards on the north face. Start on the seaward side near the centre of the wall where a large flat ledge is obvious just above the high tide level. This ledge is about 9m long and capped by large overhangs 24m up; it is about 12m west of an obvious deep chimney-corner on the face.

1. 24m 4c. From the right end of the ledge ascend an obvious right trending crack system until it is possible to stomach traverse right above overhangs to a ledge on an arête.

2. 20m 5c. Move up leftwards into the overhangs and make difficult moves up right on to a projecting ledge.

Continue up right trending cracks to a ledge and finish by grooves above and to the right.

First ascent: Mick Fowler, Jon Lincoln, J. Cuthbert, Nikki Dugan, 28 August 1988.

The Stacks

MR: Sheet 12 233741

Take the A836 east from Thurso to the left turning onto the B855 to Brough. Follow this to Brough where you take a minor road to Ham. After a mile on the minor road park the car and walk due north for about a ¼ of a mile to the coast and the stacks.

Detailed access: Unknown - descend the cliffs to the foreshore. Low tide will probably be needed.

First ascent: Unknown so they may be unclimbed.

Duncansby Stacks

Map: p222. Photo: above.

South of Duncansby Head and its lighthouse near the town/village of John o'Groats at the northern end of the A9. There are four red sandstone stacks here which can easily be seen from south of Duncansby Head lighthouse. The largest one is also the most southerly and is The Great Stack of Duncansby. Witches Hat Stack is just north of this. A mile to the north are, firstly, The Knee and, secondly, the Little Knee. Both of these are seriously affected by strong tidal currents. We will start at the north end of the quartet.

The Little Knee Sev 31m

Detailed access: Use a boat.

1. 31m. Start at the south-east arête of the stack. Climb the arête to the ledge at 8m. Walk rightwards along the ledge on the seaward side of the stack to its right end. Climb an overhanging wall with good holds to the summit.

First ascent: Mick Fowler (solo) May 1989.

The Knee HVS 5a 46m

MR: Sheet 12 406728

This fine challenging stack is guarded by overhangs all the way round.

Detailed access: Use a boat and get to ledges on the northern end of the seaward face.

1. 31m 5a. From the highest ledge a short steep wall on the right gives access to another ledge. The steep corner on the left leads in 6m to a traverse line which is followed rightwards for 6m to a steep corner. Ascend this to the ledge system girdling the stack beneath the final overhanging section. The corner which leads to the ledge system is just left of a prominent chimney with a large precariously wedged block.

2. 15m 5a. Ascend the overhangs in the centre of the face pulling right onto a projecting ledge. Continue direct to the top. Descend by abseiling down the seaward face.

First ascent: Mick Fowler, Paul Allison (alt), Nikki Dugan, Jon Lincoln, 27 May 1989.

Witch's Hat Stack HVS 85m

This is a high triangular-shaped wafer of a stack just north of The Great Stack.

Detailed access: Use a boat and land at the seaward end.

1. 31m 4b. Climb up on the south side to gain the seaward arête at a ledge. A short steep wall leads to a further ledge from where 10m of shallow cracks lead to a belay just below and right of the start of a prominent shallow groove.

2. 40m 4c. Move up and left into the groove and follow this past several dubious flakes to gain the arête again just below the summit. Follow this to the top. Abseil down the line of the route.

First ascent: Mick Fowler, Nikki Dugan, Paul Allison, Jon Lincoln, 27 May 1989.



*Stacan Bàna or The Maiden, Sutherland.
Photo: Steve Le Feuvre.*

The Great Stack VDiff 70m

MR: Sheet 12 400719

Detailed access: Use a boat.

Start at the south-west corner of the stack and climb friable and vegetated rock to the top.

First ascent: Unknown.

Sinclair's Bay

Map: p222.

There is a stack in Sinclair's Bay bay which is to be found north of Wick.

Sinclair's Bay Stack

MR: Sheet 12 380550 (aprox)

This stack is thought to be on the coast immediately west of Noss Head. The map reference only identifies the square on the map within which the stack should be found. Drive north from Wick on the A9.

Detailed access: Unclear.

First ascent: Unknown.



Wick to Latheron

Map: p225.

Stack of Old Wick

Picture page 225.

This is 200m south of the Castle of Old Wick, located south-west of the Brig O Stack natural arch - which is a stack in waiting.

Detailed access; approach Wick from the south on the A99. Turn right onto March Road and drive out to a group of three parallel headlands where there is a car park. Walk to the stack and abseil down the cliff; fence post anchors or stakes that you bring. Swing on to ledges at the foot of the stack. Abseil descent down landward face from tat. Leave access ab rope in place for prussik out

Lord Oliphant's Bicycle *** 40m VS 4b

This climbs the south-west face of the stack. Start at a ledge.

1. 40m 4b. Climb a crack, and swing left to a large ledge on the arête. Climb up easily until it is possible to move back right to the south-west face and then more crack climbing up the middle of the face leads to the top.

First ascent: Mark Robson, Simon Richardson, 11 April 2004.

On Yer Bike ** 8m HVS 5a.

Photo: p227.

A variation start to Lord Oliphant's Bicycle. Climb direct from the ledge at the base of the south face.

First ascent: Gary Latter, Lee Fleming, 3 September 2008.

The Quest Nest HSev 4c

This climbs the landward cliff and is an alternative to prussiking the ab rope.

1. 25m 4c. Climb up a series of shelves trending leftward; the true adventurer's alternative to climbing the ab rope.

Stack Of Ulbster

MR: Sheet 12 338415

This stack lies about six miles south of Wick. Drive south from Wick on the A9 for five miles to Thrumster. Take the minor road that goes left from the middle of the village for Mains Of Ulbster 2½ miles to the south. Ignore the turning to Sarclet en route. The road ends at Mains Of Ulbster so leave the car and walk south-east a short distance to the coast and the stack.

Detailed access: The stack appears to stand offshore but it may be accessible at low tide. The coastal slopes don't appear to present any descent difficulties judging by the map.

First ascent: Unknown so it may be unconquered.

Mid Clyth Stack

MR: Sheet II 274354

This stack is north of Mid Clyth lighthouse and just north of Syap's Geo. The rock is compact solid sandstone with an initial band of brittle slate. Park at the north end of a long straight road 2 miles north of Lybster. The road down to Mid Clyth lighthouse is 200m further north around a bend. Go to the lighthouse and then walk north along the coast to find the stack between two inlets, inside a set of drying reefs, normally home to a large group of grey seals.

Detailed access: The stack is barely separate from the coastline and is easily missed. Descend to a the partially tidal ledge just south of the stack by abseil from a platform 2m below the top.

Pulsating Toe Climb E2 5c 18m

Takes the obvious crack on the north side of the stack in three short. Start at the platform at the north end.

1. 6m 4a. Climb to a ledge.

2. 6m 5b. Trend right up through shale overhangs to gain a projecting ledge on the north face.

3. 6m 5c. Go up a crack to the top.

First ascent: Steve Sustad, Mick Fowler (alt), 1 July 2006.



Climbing On Yer Bike direct start to Lord Oliphant's Bicycle, Stack of Old Wick. Brig O Stack natural arch behind. Photo: Jonathan Pearson.

Occumster Stack

MR: ND 263 352

This is a thin finger of rock 24m high with very sharp horizontal striations. Park at Occumster (MR: ND 265 354), as for the Occumster sea-cliffs, and head west across a field to the bay. Access to this stack can be gained at low tide, and a scramble takes you to the summit of this rib of rock.

Occumster Stack HVS 4c 25m

Start from a ledge on the south-east corner. Climb a crack on the left hand side of the seaward face. The rock is very poor although there is reasonable protection. Descend by simultaneous abseil watching out for sharp rock.

First ascent: Mick Fowler, Nikki Dugan, Paul Allison, Jon Lincoln, 26 May 1989.

Roy Geo West Stacks

MR: Sheet 11 247347 or ND 245 350

There is a group of five sea stacks located one mile north of Lybster harbour and west of Roy Geo. Three are located on a platform accessible by abseil and then a boulder hop at mid to low tide. Island Stack, a steep sided island permanently surrounded by the sea and South Stack, a finger of rock to the south of Island Stack require a swim or boat. Descent by simultaneous abseil unless stated.

Detailed access: Park by the houses at Clyth (ND 273 362). Roy Geo is a 500m walk to the south south-west. On the coast by the stack you will find a large boulder by a fence. Abseil from this down to an oblong platform, which is covered at high tide. Swim across a 10m channel and set up a tyrolean.

West Stack

Flame on the Horizon VS 4c 25m

Climb the up the centre to the south face into a wide groove. Pull out right onto a terrace and easier ground.

First ascent: R. I. Jones, A. Porter, 24 March 2007.

Centre Stack

Uncertain Entertainment HVS 4c 15m

Climbs the wall below the central groove on the south face. The cracked groove is somewhat precarious. Layback this and pull on to a ledge on the right and the safety of the summit.

First ascent: A. Porter, R. I. Jones, 24 March 2007.

The very loose North-West face/arête was climbed and descended by S. Sutherland and H. Miller in the early 70s.

East Stack

In the Company of Rigs VS 4b 15m

Climb the wall and make a difficult pull into the left of two groove/corners to gain the top.

First ascent: R. I. Jones, A. Porter, 24 March 2007.

The loose west arete was climbed and descended by S. Sutherland and H. Miller in the early 70s.

Latheronwheel

MR: Sheet 11 194322. Map: p230.

Here, according to an old AA Guide to the UK "... a rocky stack stands defiantly against the sea at the mouth of the tiny bay." The situation is picturesque with an unrestricted view up the broad sweep of the Caithness coastline.

Latheronwheel is on the A9 south of Latheron and north of Dunbeath.

Follow the minor road in Latheronwheel to its small harbour. There is ample parking here. Follow the coast for 550 yards southwards. You can descend the cliffs by scrambling down an easy stepped chimney on the north side

of the stack. Alternatively, use a boat to get round to the stack on the north-west of the harbour entrance. There is a lot of cliff at Latheronwheel and one area is called The Stack. This may be a large stack set very close to the main cliff or it may just be a confusing name.

First ascent: Unknown.

Dunbeath Stacks

MR: Sheet 11 174300. Map: p230. Photo: p231.

There are several stacks here; three marked as Cleit Mhor on the OS map, are described. Go north from Dunbeath on the A9. Once up on the plateau, just over a mile from the river bridge in the centre of Dunbeath, take a track on the right to Iver. Walk east $\frac{1}{4}$ of a mile to the coast and the stacks.

Detailed access: For Cleit Mhor and Cleit Bheag abseil using fence posts. Then swim 30 - 50m across to Cleit Bheag; the distance increases as the tide gets higher. Walk around to Cleit Mhor at low tide. Access to Cleit Rhuadh is either by abseil and long swim or a boat.

Cleit Rhuadh

This is the most northerly stack and you climb the seaward face.

Original Route HVS 4c 15m

A well-protected, short and technical overhanging wall at 6m provides the crux. Then the climb eases and heads towards the right arête and up to the summit.

First ascent: Chris Watts, S. Sheridan, Nikki Dugan, Mick Fowler; 2 October 1989.

Original Route Direct HVS 4c 15m

As for Original Route but, above the overhanging wall, go directly to the summit on the lefthand side of the wall.

First ascent: Ross I. Jones, John Sanders, 15 May 2010.

Cleit Bheag

This is the central stack.

Original Route E1 5b 35m

This climb takes the fine central crackline on the side facing the sea. It is much harder than it looks.

1. 25m 5b. Go up with no difficulty for 15m to overhangs, Get over these and up a horrible chimney to a stance to the right.
2. 10m 4c. Go back left and head up the wall to the summit.

First ascent: Mick Fowler, Chris Watts, Nikki Dugan, 2 October 1989.

Yeah Right! * E1 5a 35m

This appears to climb up left of Original Route. Find a stepped corner and climb it to overhangs at 15m. Pull up and leftwards to a grassy ledge. Climb the wall and crack on right to pull through on hanging block onto a large ledge just left of the chimney.

2. Climb the wall above and leftward to finish.

First ascent: Ross I. Jones (unseeded), 14 Aug 2010.

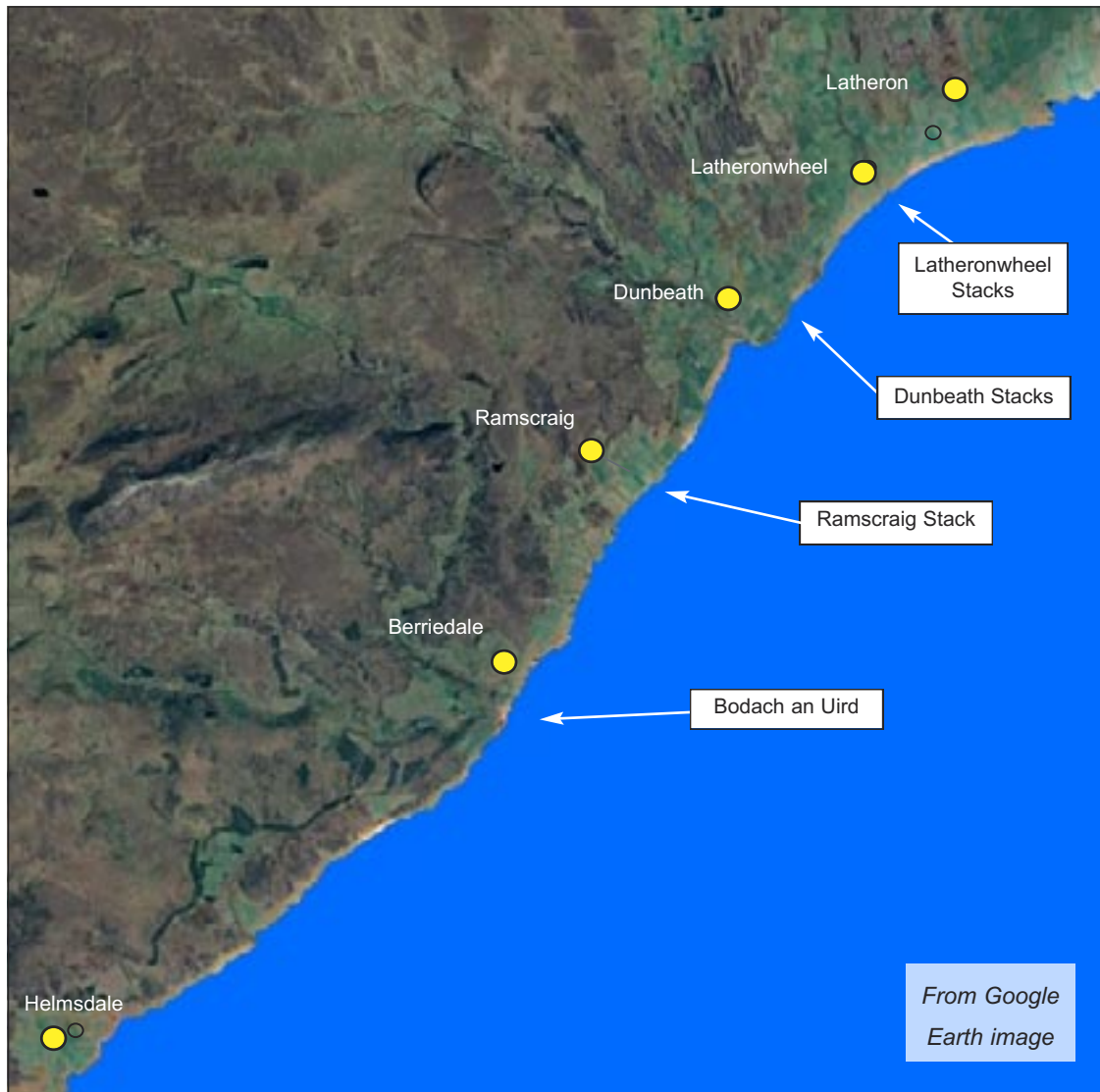
Cleit Mhor

This is the largest of these three stacks.

Stolen Moments HVS 4c 40m

1. 20m 4c. From ledges on the right side of the seaward face, pull through a hanging crack (4c) and climb the wall above to a wide ledge. Traverse 5m left then climb 2m up to belay beneath a wall.
2. 20m 4c. Go up for 5m towards the left arête and a loose block ledge. Get on to the arête and ascend a groove on its left side to the summit.

First ascent: Ross I Jones, John Sanders, 29 April 2006.



RamsCraig Stack VS 4b 50m

MR: NC 145 264. Photo: p231.

Around four kilometres south of Dunbeath we find RamsCraig stack. There is a road going westwards to RamsCraig off the A9 Dunbeath-Wick main road. Park near here and go east to the coast band an old track going down grassy slopes some 100m north of the stack. It brings you to a boulder beach and you can go across this to the stack at low-to-mid tide.

The climb goes up the south-eastern arête on good rock with protection from Friends and nuts.

1. 15m. Go up the south-east arête to a ledge.
2. 20m 4b. Go rightwards along the ledge line to meet and pass a bad step. Then climb the steep wall and come to a grassy ledge. Go back left to the arête and belay.
3. 25m. Go up the arête to the summit.

First ascent: C. Dale, L. Sell, 14 May 2001.

Berriedale Cliffs

Bodach an Uird

MR: Sheet 17 108208. Map: above.

A sandstone stack, 36m high, one mile south of Berriedale and called Bochailean on the Ordnance Survey map. Another one that requires a boat to reach it. There are four climbs on it although it had been climbed before any of them as an abseil sling was found on the top.

Landward access would entail going south for two miles from Berriedale on the A9 until opposite the hill called Cnoc na Croiche to the east. Park the car and walk east to the top of the hill. The 180m slopes down to sea level



Dunbeath Stacks. Cleit Mhor and Cleit Bheag.

are convex and eventually become vertical. The map shows no foreshore at all.

Detailed access: Sail a boat two miles south from Berriedale.

South Route HVS 5a 34m

A good route taking a series of grooves on the south side of the stack. Start at the left-hand of two obvious grooves.

1. 8m 5a. Climb easily up into the chimney in the back of the groove. Traverse the left wall to a stance on the arête.
2. 17m 5a. Climb straight above the belay for 3m and move right to climb a groove to overhangs. Traverse left to the groove's left arête (above the stance) and climb the wall above the overhang trending right to a good stance.
3. 9m 4c. Trend leftwards on rather dubious rock to gain a shallow groove leading to the top.

First ascent: Mick Fowler, Chris Watts, 1 October 1989.



Ramsraig Stack from Vimeo video - One Man Challenge - Day 11 Ramsraig Sea-stack Climb
URL: <https://vimeo.com/66222530>

Landward Face VS 5a 31m

1. From the landing site on the seaward face of the stack, follow ledges up and round the north side to reach a good stance in the centre of the landward face, about 9m above the sea.
2. Climb the steep wall just right of a wide crack to reach a steep crackline that leads to a horizontal break. Continue up the wall above to the summit.

First ascent: Guy Muhlemann, Simon Richardson, 1 October 1989.

North Arête EI 5b 39m

The north edge of the stack features a large hanging flake at 24m. Start directly below this. Exciting climbing on the second pitch.

1. 15m 5a. Climb a steep corner, detouring left then right to reach a good stance on the landward side of the arête.
2. 9m 5b. Follow the corner crack in the hanging pillar above to the right to an overhang, then hand traverse left in a spectacular position and make a difficult exit on to a good ledge on top of the hanging flake.
3. 15m 4a. Continue up the stepped ridge to the top.

First ascent: Simon Richardson, Guy Muhlemann, 1 October 1989.

Bird Poo Wall VS 4c 35m

This ascends the obvious line on the seaward face.

1. 20m 4c. Climb the left facing line of corners and cracks on the right side of the wall to reach a long overhung ledge.
2. 15m 4b. From the left end of the ledge follow the vague crackline up and right to the top.

First ascent: Chris Watts, Simon Richardson, Guy Muhlemann, 1 October 1989.

EAST SCOTLAND

Map: p233.

This area runs southwards from the southern shore of the Moray Firth to Dundee. The Firth of Forth area is in south-east Scotland which is covered in the next section.

Cummingston

MR: Sheet 28 130693.

There is a string of fishing villages along this north-facing coast of the Moray Firth. They have prettily painted stone cottages and tales of fishing vessel disasters associated with North Sea storms. Cummingston is near Burghead just north of the A96 and Elgin. There are quite extensive red sandstone cliffs here and four stacks. It is a pleasant place with its boulder beach on a sunny day. On a bleak windswept day it shows its grimmer side.

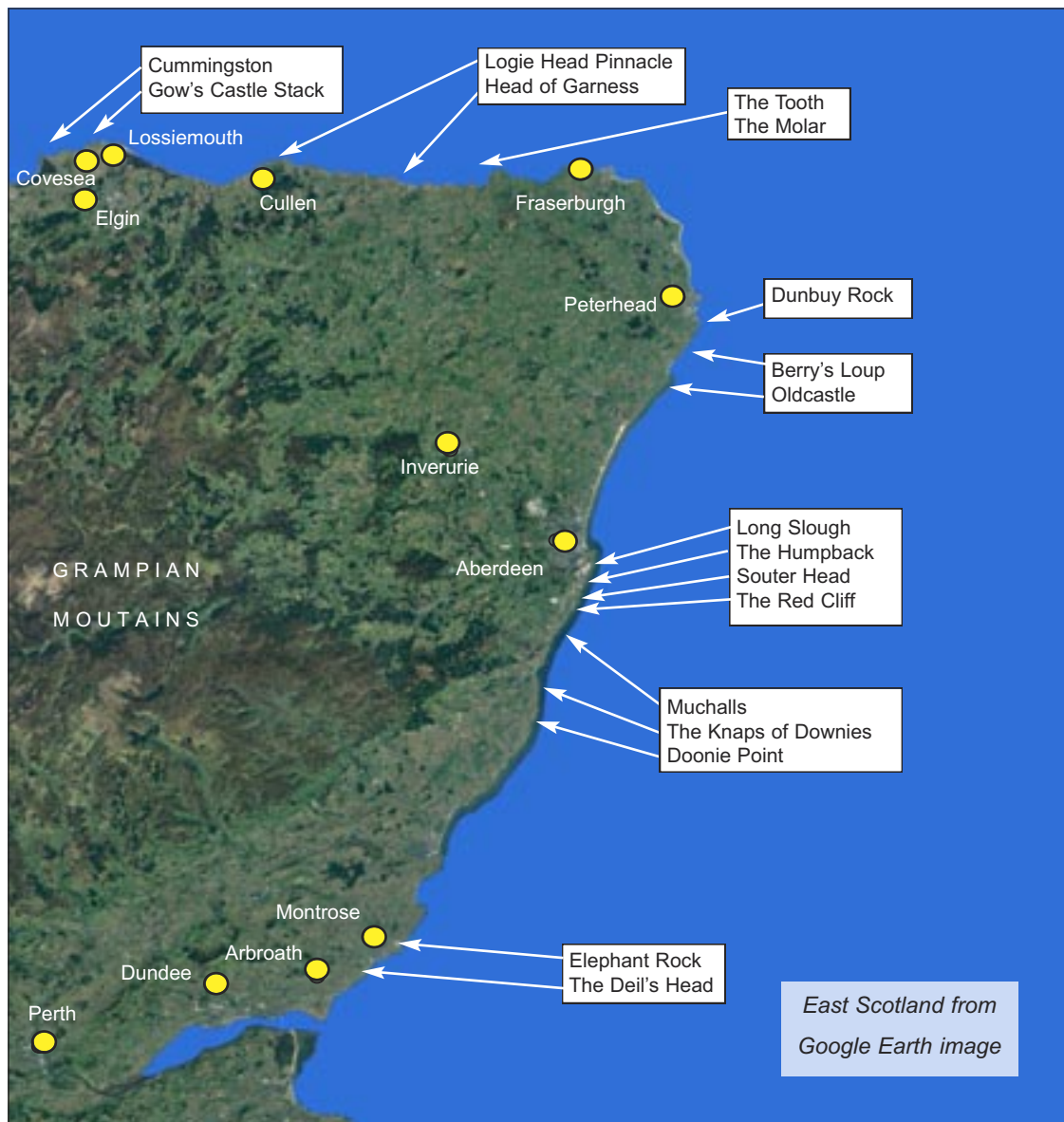
Drive east on the A96 from Inverness and Nairn. About five miles east of Forres the B9013 goes north-west through Newton in about a mile and continues to Burghead. A mile before Burghead another minor road goes west one mile to Cummingston. Find a white war memorial and take a turning north just west of it. The road leads north to the coast from here and terminates at a car-park.

Detailed access: A track goes to the eastern end of the cliffs and an old railway line can be followed for about 180m to where a pebble beach can be gained. The stacks are to the west of this pebble beach.

Cummingston Main Stack

Picture p234.

There are eighteen routes on this stack with grades ranging from E4 down to Moderate and that latter grade is also the line of the descent route. Although cut off by high tides the top is still accessible. This stack is more like a coastal cliff as far as climbing is concerned than your average stack. Abseil descent or downclimb a chimney/corner on the east face; Back Passage, Mod.



Captain Birdseye * E2 5b 12m

This climbs dirty and soft rock which can seem hollow in places. Start at the left side of the landward face. Climb to a niche and then up to to a bulge and groove above. Enjoyable climbing with a crux some find bold.

First ascent: Unknown, 1985.

Fingers Wall E3 5b 12m

The first few metres are unprotected but the climbing is straightforward, albeit scary. Start just right of Captain Birdseye.

1. 12m 5b. Go up to a small square ledge. Now go right to rightwards slanting thin cracks, carefully, and climb them to a direct and well-protected finish up a wall featuring plates

First ascent: Unknown, 1983.

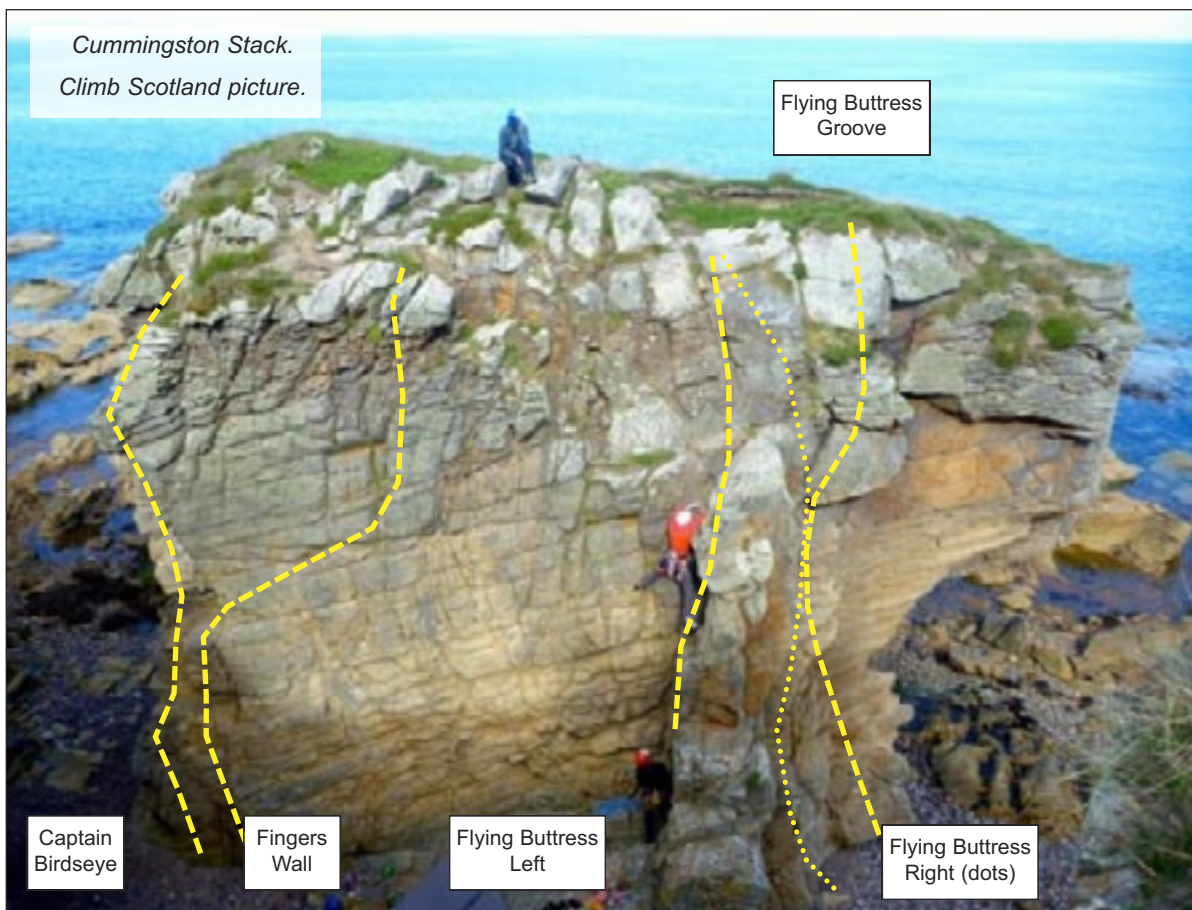
Fingers Wall (Direct Start) E3 6a 12m

This takes a direct line up the wall's centre.

First ascent: Unknown.

Flying Buttress Left Side * VDiff 10m

This ascends clean, un-vegetated and solid rock to provide a decent VDiff. Start at the right hand end of the large ramp at the base of the main stack.



1. 10m. Climb the left-facing corner of the buttress, enjoying great cam placements and a nice introduction to slopers to a ledge on top of the buttress. Then climb the short steep wall, good cam slot, to rocky belays.

First ascent: Unknown.

Flying Buttress Right Side Diff 12m

Start 2m right from the nose of the buttress at the base of the corner and climb a corner to gain a rib.

1. 12m. Easy climbing up big rounded shelves on the edge of an offwidth crack, hex-camming opportunities. Make a slightly exposed move onto the ledge above the half-way point and go up to join Flying Buttress, Left Side.

First ascent: Unknown.

Flying Groove * VS 4c 10m

Nice VS beginners' sea stack climb with a tricky crux getting over the roof at the top of the groove. There's buckets of gear on this route at the bottom if you look for it. Start 2m left of the huge overhang of the Prow. Place a small cam in horizontal crack and make a crux move to good holds on top of the buttress. Finish direct up the steep wall and belay on a choice of anchors.

First ascent: Unknown, 1979.

The Prow ** E5 6a 12m

Classic climbing thuggery up the big overhanging prow on the east side, requiring lots of confidence and arm strength to get up the prow's underside to the final wall.

1. 12m. Climb out on massive holds, then go up the left edge to gain and pass the lip. Finish obviously above. The original ascent climbed directly from underneath to reach the lip further right (6b).

First ascent: D. Dinwoodie, 1987.

Cutty Sark Sev 12m

This route ascends the seaward wall right of the Prow.

1. 12m. Climb the left end of the wall trending leftwards up the edge of the Prow. Then go straight up the wall to an unpleasant finish.

First ascent: Unknown, 1985.

East Side Story VDiff 12m

1. 12m. Climb the wall to the left of Back Passage, going to the right of a grassy ledge.

First ascent: Unknown, 1980.

Back Passage Mod 12m

Often used as a descent.

1. 12m. Ascend the deep and cracked corner.

First ascent: Unknown.

Dirty Old Man VDiff 12m

1. 12m. Climb easy angled and vegetated cracks up the wall right of Back Passage with an easy finish.

First ascent: Unknown, 1985.

Sunset Song * HSev 4b 12m

An enjoyably satisfying climb, with the chance to use a cam in its passive state on the upper plates. Start about 3m right of Back Passage where there is an inset curved groove in the north-east arête. Clean rock.

1. 12m 4b. Climb a shallow groove up a series of well protected cracks to easy bulges. Pull through these confidently to a thoughtful belay.

First ascent: Unknown, 1985.

Footloose VS 4c 12m

A line going up the right edge of the north wall.

1. 12m 4c. Climb up for a few metres, pull up leftwards and go up to a ledge. Go left over an awkward bulge to finish. Direct start possible.

First ascent: Unknown, 1985.

Blocky VDiff 12m

This route goes up the obvious fault just right of the start of Footloose.

1. 12m. Climb to the right end of the ledge and finish up the corner above.

First ascent: Unknown, 1985.

Butchers Broom * VS 4b 12m

1. 12m 4b. Climb cracks on the west wall's left edge with an awkward bulge, possibly helped by using spikes on the left edge.

First ascent: Unknown, 1985.

Shadow Flake HVS 5a 10m

This climbs the west wall of the main stack.

1. 10m 5a. Climb to an obvious flake in the centre of the wall. Pull through with a long reach and finish slightly right.

First ascent: Unknown, 1985.

Coach Bolt Crack VS 4c 10m

1. 10m 4c. Climb the left-hand of two steep cracks on the right side of the wall.

First ascent: Unknown.

Huggy Bear VS 4c 12m

1. 12m 4c. Climb the steep right-hand crack with holds on the south-west arête.

First ascent: Unknown, 1988.

Girdle Traverse 4c or 5b

This is climbed clockwise and 5b if the base of Fingers Wall is included. High tide recommended for maximum enjoyment.

First ascent: Unknown.

The Sentinel

This is the next stack to the west. It has a central tunnel through it and three routes recorded.

The Pedestal * VS 4c

Go through the tunnel and step onto the pedestal. Use large jugs to get over the overhang; heel hooking useful.

First ascent: Unknown.

Jutting Flake Crack HSev 4b

Climb the south-east corner of the stack.

First ascent: Unknown.

Vein Attraction Sev 8m

This ascends a vein of harder rock round the arête from Jutting Flake Crack.

First ascent: Stuart S, Fraser Rowan, 5 Aug 1997.

Ramp Route * Sev

Climb a diagonal ramp near the right edge of the east face. Climb past a jutting flake then direct on large holds.

First ascent: Stuart S, 5 Aug 1997.

Cummingston Nos 3 and 4

West again from The Sentinel. No climbs recorded but it most unlikely to be unclimbed.

Covesea

MR: Sheet 28 176708. Map: p233.

Take the B9012 past Cummingstown where it turns inland and the B9040 continues west along the line of the coast. Just over ½ a mile east of Covesea Skerries lighthouse take a narrow road to the coast. Park and walk to a radio mast and a coastguard lookout 90m further on. Gain the beach by a set of stone steps east of Gow's Castle or use a descent chimney, fixed rope and step ladder 50m west of the coastguard lookout. Go east to Boulder Bay and the next bay with Gow's Castle Stack.

Gow's Castle Stack

Map: p233.

At high tide you can abseil into the stack bay using a large wooden fence post.

Crack-a-Gow-Gow * VS 4c 10m

On the west wall of the stack you climb a crackline. Descend just to the right (facing out).

First ascent: Unknown, 1986.

Logie Head Pinnacle

MR: Sheet 29 528682. Map: p233.

This pinnacle is at the end of a ridge running north out to sea, with many climbs on the east side of the ridge and a few on the west. Birds can be a problem in the nesting season. The approach is a 20 minute walk along a picturesque coastal path. Get to Cullen on the A98. There is a caravan park entrance at the top of the main street with a car park nearby. Walk around the caravan park on the east to find a track heading north. Take it and access a pleasant bay with Logie Head forming the eastern side of the bay. The Pinnacle should be visible and the rock is a fine-grained and compact sandstone. Expect up to 10m of water separating it from the land.

Detailed Access: Turn left off the path from Cullen about 15m before you reach Logie Head, and walk to the pinnacle which is in front of you. High tide cuts off the base of the climbs. Decend to the right as you view the stack.

Remembrance Sunday * E2 5b 15m

1. 15m 5b. Climb the left-hand crack and corner with a hard move above the break at 5m and sustained climbing to the top.

First ascent: Unknown, 1990.

Fianchetto * HVS 5b 15m

1. 15m 5b. Go up a parallel crackline on the right, moving leftwards to a Y-shaped crack at the top. The line joins Remembrance Sunday with a difficult move.

First ascent: Unknown, 1990.

Endgame E1 5b 15m

1. 15m 5b. Climb dis-jointed cracks between Fianchetto and Material Advantage, with a cracked thread on a rock

First ascent: Unknown, 1990.

Material Advantage ** HVS 5a 15m

1. 15m 5a. Climb the obvious central curving crackline with good holds and steep rock.

First ascent: Unknown, 1990.

Hanging Pawn * HVS 5a 15m

1. 15m 5a. Climb the zig-zag crackline on the right of Material Advantage.

First ascent: Unknown, 1990.

Mating Net E1 5b 15m

1. 15m 5b. There is a jam crack on the right. Climb up to move into it at 2m and then go strenuously up to the right, moving back left at the top of the crack. A direct start is 5c.

First ascent: Unknown, 1990.

Head of Garness

MR: Sheet 29 745648. Map: p233.

Drive east on the A98 from Banff and Macduff. About a mile from Macduff the B9031 goes off to the east. Take this for just over a mile until a road goes north to the Mill of Melrose. Leave your wheels and find a gate to the east of the mill. Go through it and follow fences to the north and west to Mull Cleave cliff at MR: sheet 29 743648. About $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile to the east you will find the Head of Garness and its attendant stack.

Detailed access: Go to the grassy promontory from which a ridge leads to the stack. Go along this to the base of the stack. There is no information about the line or the first ascent.

Head Of Garness Sev

No details known.

First ascent: Unknown.

The Tooth

MR: Sheet 29 722648. Map: p233.

Go along the coast road east from Macduff to the open air Tairlair swimming pool. Park at the end of the road. At low tide go to the shore and go across boulders to the base of the stack. At high tide walk up and over the cliff top to the 13th green of the Royal Tairlair golf course. You can reach this stack from here by descending a gully. It has a nice but narrow west face while the other faces are less high, and features five climbs ranging from Diff to E2 6a. Something for most people. Descent is by abseil using an in-situ peg or by reversing Rotten Row on the north face.

Stackattack ** E3 5c 12m

Good rock, strenuous and sustained. Go straight up the middle of the west face right of a rock pool. Reach a small ledge, zig a little left, zag a bit right and climb directly through the overhang to the top.

First ascent: Unknown, 1991.

Walking The Cod ** E2 6a 7m

This climbs the east face. Go up twin cracks right of a hanging corner with the crux at the top.

First ascent: Unknwn, 1991.

Chrichton's Crack Sev 8m

The south face features rock steps with a crack at the top. Go up the steps and the crack.

First ascent: Unknwn, 1991.

Orestes Arête VS 4c 7m

Ascend the south-east arête past an overhang.

First ascent: Unknown, 1991.

Rotten Row Diff 7m

This climbs the narrow and loose north face.

First ascent: Unknown, 1991 although probably climbed before given the grade.

The Molar

MR: NJ 722 649. Map: p233.

A square-ish stack located 20m north of The Tooth across a deep, 10m wide channel. Swim across and set up a tyrolean using a block or spike on Desert Island Discs. The climbs are on the south face and descent could be by downclimbing.

Desert Island Discs Diff 12m

Takes an obvious rightwards-slanting corner.

First ascent: Unknown, 2000.

Message in a Bottle HSev 12m

There is a capped corner right of Desert Island Discs. Climb this.

First ascent: Unknown, 2000.

Marooned Diff 12m

This climbs a chimney right of Message in a Bottle.

First ascent: Unknown, 2000.

Aberdeen Area

Map: p233.

A long line of cliffs runs both north and southwards along the coast from Aberdeen. There appear to be several stacks in the area. The rock is granite. We start north of Aberdeen at North Haven near Longhaven.

North Haven

MR: Sheet 30

The bay of North Haven is split in two by a stack shaped like the dorsal fin of a shark. The bay is to the east east of North Haven village which, in turn, is just off the A975 running south from Longhaven on the A952. The seaward end of the stack has sound rock apart from the loose top section.

Detailed access: Go to the beach and walk across to the stack at low tide.

First ascent: Unknown.

Dunbuy Rock

MR: Sheet 30 110372. Map: po233. Pictures: below, p240.

This dramatic piece of coastal scenery is located north of Cruden Bay and almost a small island. It has an archway separating its eastern and western parts. The two large tops, connected by a neck; the top of the arch, comprise grass and guano, the bird population being immense. There are several climbs here - if you can get to it.

The Rock is accessed by going north on the A975 from Cruden Bay. At a left and between Old Slain's Lodge and Fountain Bleu Fram you will find parking and a track heading east to the coast. Follow this and walk north up the coast to the buttress immediately south-west of the Rock and then the inset bay opposite the stack.

Detailed Access: Descend a grassy gully/trough to reach a pebble beach opposite the west end of the stack. Cross the channel, possible strong current, between you and the stack, 15m wide at its narrowest point, by boat, dinghy or swimming. The rock has crumbling flanks and you can traverse round to the north side to slopes leading to the grassy, guano-ridden top. On the rock's western part we find a climb on the first good-looking wall on the north side;

Pioneers' Traverse VS 30m

1. 30m. Take the obvious traverse line from east to west which runs between overhangs.

First ascent: Unknown, 1973.





Dunby Rock from the south, with the west mass left of the archway and the east mass to its right. The V-shaped channel separating the rock from the mainland is hidden on the left. Photo from <https://holeousia.com>.

Fins not Flippers VS 4c 30m

The location is not clear and it may climb the same section of rock as Pioneers' Traverse. Traverse around the north side from the landing point to come to a wall that has no ledges at sea-level and three overhangs. It is below the top of the western part of the west part of Dunby rock. Abseil down the wall; hanging belay below the lowest roof.

1. 30m 4c. Climb up to and over the lowest roof on the right, then climb direct to go over a middle roof and reach a balancey crack. Ascend this to the upper roof where you traverse right to finish.

First ascent: Unknown, 1998.

The Hanging Slab Sev 20m

Reach this by downclimbing the western side.

1. 20m. Climb up the obvious groove in the slab.

First ascent: M. Milner (solo), 1974.

Now we move on to the eastern part of the stack, the eastern mass, where the rock is generally better quality.

Eastern Circuit Sev 600m

This traverses the eastern mass not much above sea-level and starting at the north-east tip. Traverse southwards across overhanging walls, along shelves and across escape slabs, which provide a descent route. Continue to a platform in the archway gulch. Traverse the tricky eastern slab through the archway to reach ledges on the north side. It now carries on easily under steep walls until you reach easy slopes.

First ascent: Unknown, 1972.

The overhanging back wall of an inlet provides the most northern buttress, called Pirate's Buttress.

Jolly Rogerer * HVS 5a 20m

1. 20m 5a. Move left down a shelf to reach a corner. Go up this to gain an exposed traverse line below the upper roof, with a hand-traverse section. Once across the traverse carry on up to the top.

First ascent: M. Milner (solo), 1981.

In the next rock mass south of Pirate's Buttress we find;

Far East Crack VS 4c 13m

1. 13m 4c. Climb twin cracks up an obvious break.

First ascent: Unknown, 1972.

North Sea Buttress Sev 20m

1. 20m. This climbs a not well-defined leaning buttress south of Far East Crack. Climb up and onto its right-hand slabby edge and go up this.

First ascent: Unknown, 1972.

As you approach the archway window there is a large slab facing south-east. Slabs to its right provide a descent route.

Jelly Fish ** VS 4c 40m

This serious climb ascends the left side of the slab with not much protection and small holds.

1. 40m 4c. Start underneath the arch at a platform. Climb leftwards to where you overlook Arch Corner to the north. Climb up to the arch and finish by the southern corner in a great position. An extra rope is needed to reach a belay among rocks on the far side of the arch.

First ascent: Unknown, 1975.

Arch Corner Sev 20m

The route goes up the north-east side of the arch. The start is reached from the north side or by traversing the south-east slab.

1. 20m. Climb the corner at the left side of the arch to go left at the top. It is quite grassy at the top, necessitating potentially damp detours.

First ascent: Unknown, 1975.

Hand Rail Slab Diff 40m

1. 40m. Find a flake crack line running up slabs left of the arch. Climb this to slabby rock and then grass.

First ascent: Unknown, 1980.

Dunbuy Diedre * VS 4b 45m

There is a large diedre/corner in the steep wall opposite the south-east slab, visible from the mainland, which this route ascends. Kittiwake alert. It needs to be near low tide for the start or else traverse in at a higher point.

1. 45m 4b. Climb down to the bottom of the diedre and go up the corner finishing up the left wall awkwardly.

First ascent: Unknown, 1972.

The Bender VS 4b 35m

This climbs a curving crackline right of the steep wall right of Dunbuy Diedre.

1. 35m 4b. Ascend the steep curving flake line at Severe standard, finishing up the top of Dunbuy Diedre, which provides the VS sting in the tail.

First ascent: Unknown, 1975.

North of the north-east slab of the archway window on the eastern part of the stack, there is the steep Seafarer's Wall. A slanting groove on its left provides a route called Varmint about which there are no details.

Vagitus * E2 5a 20m

1. 20m 5a. Climb a set of flakes up the central part of the wall to the left of two slanting cracks. Unprotected and said to be messy; it's E2 5a for a reason.

First ascent: Unknown, 1982.

Valgus VDiff 15m

1.15m. Climb a rightward-slanting shelf system right of the slanting cracks.

First ascent: Unknown, 1982.

The Sugar Loaf

MR: NK 102361

Long Haven is an inlet east of Cruden Bay (North Sea oil terminal). At its mouth, near Slain's Castle, we find the

Sugar Loaf, a 15m tower of shale with rotten rock. You can scramble down to a platform at the base of the stack, although not at high tide.

The Sugar Loaf XS 5a 15m

1. 15m 5a. Start on the seaward face with two slanting cracks converging at an undercut arête. Go up the right crack strenuously to the arête and climb it with suspect holds.

First ascent: Unknown, 2001.

Berry's Loup

MR: Sheet 30 078325. Map: p233.

This stack is perched on a large platform, known as the Plinth, tapers at its base, and is quite prominent. Loup' is a Scottish way of saying leap and a certain Mr. Berry is supposed to have leapt across on to the stack.

The A952 runs south from Peterhead until it meets up with the A92 Fraserburgh - Aberdeen road. Go south from Peterhead on the A952 for about 6 miles until the A975 goes off to the left. Take this road for almost 5 miles to the point where a minor road goes left to Whinnyfold. Leave the car and walk south along the coast for about a ¼ of a mile until you reach the stack.

Detailed access: From the north scramble across easy slabs unless it is high tide or the seas are rough. There is a platform below the east wall of the stack.

The Berrys * E1 5b 10m

Start climbing up the middle of the south-east wall and follow a line rightwards and then straight up. It's strenuous.

First ascent: Unknown, 1986.

Cyndi Louper * HVS 5a 10m

This ascends the south arête on its right wall finishing on the left side.

First ascent: Unknown, 1986.

Girls Just Wanna Have Fun * HVS 5b 1m

This climbs the south-west face. Get up into a recess left of Cyndi Louper and then go up to and over the overhang using a jamming crack.

First ascent: Unknown, 2000.

There are three climbs on the sides of the Plinth. You get down to the Plinth's base by downclimbing a Diff chimney below Girls Just Wanna Have Fun.

The Issue A1 10m

Climb the thuggish roof crack a few metres right of the descent chimney. It is desperate if free-climbed.

First ascent: Unknown, 2000.

Avoiding The Issue E1 5a 10m

This takes an obvious flange to climb the wall right of the overhang. The flange provides a wire thread.

First ascent: Unknown, 1975.

Tender Cleft Diff 12m

Climb the first crack on the slabby south-east wall round from Avoiding The Issue.

First ascent: Unknown, 2000.

Oldcastle

MR: Sheet 30 053299. Map: p233.

This rock is further south along the coast from Berrys Loup. It has four routes on it. Assume you drive north on the A92 from Aberdeen. Take the A975 after 8 or so miles and go north until the B9003 goes right to Collieston. A road is signed to Whinnyfold before a church. Take this and, after about ½ a mile, walk down a track past a farm to the coast and a headland. The rock is unreliable and the top of the stack is covered with gulls and guano.

Detailed access: The stack is accessible via a boulder beach below Old Slains Castle. It is cut off at high tide.

Old Castle Chimney VDiff 12m

Climb the obvious chimney in the centre of the main face. Descend by down climbing or by a scrambley 'path' at the landward end of the stack or by down-climbing a VDiff corner ramp at the south end of the stack.

First ascent: Unknown, 1975.

Carrion Laughing VS 4c 12m

Right of Old Castle Chimney there are two crack lines. Climb up to and up the second crack line to a ledge from which you reach a higher ledge from which you reach a bulge over which you go to the top.

First ascent: Unknown, 1983.

Morte d'Arthur VS 4c 12m

There is a corner on the right side of the face. Go up a steep wall 3m left of this. Gain cracks and move to the left of a bulge so as to reach a groove which is followed to the top.

First ascent: Unknown, 1983.

Burnt Oft Corner * EI 5b 12m

Climb the corner to the right of Morte d'Arthur.

First ascent: Unknown, 1975.

South of Aberdeen we find a large amount of climbing on the extensive sea cliffs and also a few stacks.

Long Slough Pinnacle

MR: Sheet 38 965030. Map: p233.

This is a prominent stack on the south side of an inlet. A minor road hugs the coast immediately south of Aberdeen

The Sugar Loaf, Slain's Castle. Long Haven inlet. Copyright Bill Harrison and licensed for reuse under the BY-SA 2.0 Creative Commons Licence. (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.0/>)



with a railway track between it and the sea. Once you reach Doonies Farm on this minor road continue for 225m to a point where a farm track goes under the railway line to the coast.

Detailed access: Reach the inlet and walk over tidal rocks under vegetated cliffs on the southern side to the stack.

Long Slough Pinnacle VDiff

Get on to the neck joining the stack to the mainland and climb up to the summit. Thought to be a horror show.

First ascent: H. G. Drummond and party, pre-1910.

North Face Sev

An alternative way is to traverse at sea level from the western end and climb straight up the slabs of the north face.

The Humpback

MR: Sheet 38 965024. Map: p233.

This is a big but low stack situated at the tip of a promontory separating Altens Haven into two parts. There are 17 routes on this stack, making it worth a visit. Continue south on the minor road as for Long Slough until you reach the road to Altens Farm and another farm track that goes under the railway on its way to the coast. MR: 961025.

Detailed access: Follow a ridge leading down to the stack. You can reach the stack at all states of the tide except extreme high tides or in very rough seas. There is an Diff way down at the north end. We start at the landward face.

Obviously Not Quartzite Crack E1 5a

This takes an obvious thin crack that starts halfway up the ramp at the north end of the face. The gear is poor, some holds wobble and there is a suspect block near the top. Done in mistake for Quartzite Crack.

First ascent: Stuart S. Lyons, 6 June 2014.

Quartzite Crack VS 4c 8m

Climb a crack that is very steep, obvious and leaning right near the north end of the face. Go out left to finish.

First ascent: Unknown; 1978.

Left Face HSev 10m

Climb the left side of a vague scooped line of weakness in the middle of the wall, trending leftwards

First ascent: Unknown; 1970s.

Right Face HSev 10m

Climb a flake crack on the right side of the scoop to finish out left.

First ascent: Unknown, 1978.

Humpback Crack * VS 4b 10m

There is a fine and steep crack in the face towards its south end. Climb this.

First ascent: Unknown, 1978.

The Black Ramp * HVS 5a 10m

There is a black ramp at the south end that goes leftward. Ascend a slab steeply and get over a small bulge with easier climbing to gain the summit. There is a ledge at the base of this climb which can be used at low tide.

First ascent: Unknown, 1970s.

(Only Love Can Be) Stranger Than Fiction * E5 6a 10m

There is an impending black wall right of The Black Ramp with an obvious line up it. Gain the flaky line from the left and go up it. There is an important sideways RP5 placement at 6-7m with the hardest moves above it.

First ascent: Unknown; 1991.

Hanging Block Climb HSev 6m

Go up a short and steep cleft right of the Black Ramp but before the prow.

First ascent: Unknown, 1950s.

Next we turn to the seaward face and come to a steep, golden wall above an overhang.

The Brush-off * E2 5b 8m

Climb up the golden wall's centre, getting over the overhang and going up right and then direct to finish. Said to be highly lichenous at the top.

First ascent: Unknown, 1978.

Legover E2 6a 8m

Take the very overhanging crack and a hanging corner (lichenous) to the right of the gold-coloured wall.

First ascent: Unknown, 1983.

Gold Cracks HSev 8m

Climb cracks up the left side of the gold-coloured wall.

First ascent: Unknown, 1970s.

Seaward Chimney VDiff 10m

This takes the obvious shallow chimney/fault in the middle of the face.

First ascent: Unknown, 1950s.

There are three quartz bands at the south end of the face.

Rickety ploon Sev 10m

Ascend the right-hand quartz band to a small roof. Get over this and take a rightwards-slanting slab/ramp to the top.

First ascent: Unknown, 1990.

Quartz Corner * Sev 10m

Climbs the steeper left-hand band with satisfying holds.

First ascent: Unknown, 1950s.

Prowess * E5 6b 8m

This takes the steep band leading to the prow with powerful climbing. There is a peg runner in the quartz band. Go out left using a sidepull and climb the prow to a Rock 3 placement, which is both hard to insert and clip.

First ascent: Unknown; 1991.

Prowess Sidewall XS 6a (Deep water solo)

This goes up the west-facing sidewall of the Prowess prow, climbing up the mottled wall and trending slightly rightwards.

First ascent: Unknown; 30 April 2018.

Humpback Girdle VDiff 45m

Start at their access point for the north end of the landward face. Traverse across the landward face with steep and good climbing. Eventually you come to an overhanging prow at the south end. Get round this awkwardly at sea-level and gain ledges on the seaward face. Continue to a straightforward finish.

First ascent: Unknown, 1950s.

Aitken's Pinnacle

MR: Sheet 38 9622018

There is a small stack at Souter Head. This headland is one of the best known of Aberdonian climbing areas and the stack is a minor appendage. You go south on the minor road again as for The Humpback and find a bridge over

the railway at map reference 959020. A footpath leads east from here to Souther Head. Go north up the coast path towards Burnbank's Haven and Aitken's Pinnacle is found just to the north.

Detailed access: Reach the stack at low tide via a narrow neck of rock.

Direct Route Sev 6m

Ascend the middle of the landward face with the crux at the start. Descend by downclimbing the next route or by abseil using a ring peg on the summit.

First ascent: Unknown, 1944.

Southern Diagonal Traverse VDiff 8m

Start from the neck joining the stack to the shore. Up and right to a ledge on the edge and on easily to the top.

First ascent: Unknown.

The Poor Man VDiff

MR: Sheet 38 958015

There is a sea stack to the south of Red Cliff. Follow the coast road south as for Aitken's Pinnacle and carry on until it turns west to go into Cove. Park the car and walk east along a track passing underneath the railway line and so gain the clifftop path at Black Cove. The stack is found about 100m south of the descent into the cove near a waterfall on the main cliff.

Detailed access: Unknown.

There is no information about the line but the rock is reckoned to be poor.

First ascent: Unknown.

The Knapps Of Downies

MR: Sheet 38 928950. Map: p232.

This is a squat stack near to the village of Downies, south of Portleven. A string of hillocks runs out to sea from the village, the Knaps of Downies. The easternmost of these is Gorilla Head which looks like the head of ... a gorilla. The stack is north of this and reached by a rocky neck, except at high tide. Its rock is a contorted schistose fairly free from vegetation and there are fifteen climbs on. It is more like a sea cliff in atmosphere than a sea stack. Beware birds on the top in the nesting season. Descent is by abseil.

Detailed access: Go south from Aberdeen on the A92 for about 5 miles and look for a minor road on the left signed for Downies. Take it and go to this coastal village where you are asked to be considerate when parking your vehicle. A track goes east from the village to the coast and the Knaps, hump-backed grassy hillocks. Follow a path out on top of the main grassy ridge, The Camel's Back, and go down right and back to reach the rocky neck.

The climbs are described starting at the stack's south face and going from left to right. This face sits on a raised shelf and has two obvious weaknesses.

Splashway VDiff 10m

An exposed climb with poor rock at the top. It goes leftwards up an obvious edge that overlooks a tidal pool.

First ascent: Unknown, 1981.

Quick Lay VS 4c 6m

There is an undercut layback corner at the right end of the shelf. Climb this.

First ascent: Unknown, 1981.

Next come three crack climbs.

Yorkshire Whipper * E5 6b 6m

Climb the left-hand crack with powerful moves. The rock may beed brushing to clean off green stuff. Protection beta; there is a Friend 0.5 placement at 4m.

First ascent: T. Rankin, A. Crofton, 1998.

Downside Upwindies ** E3 6a 8m

Ascend the central crack past two pods, moving right after the second to a peg and large hold. The peg was in a reasonable state in 2016. Move back left to the crack and continue up to a jug, finishing directly.
First ascent: A. Ross (1 yo-yo), 1987.

Upside Downwindies * E3 5c 8m

Take the rightmost crack and start at obvious holds. Climb up left, crux, to clip the Downside Upwindies peg. Move right to climb a hanging corner, jugs, and top out.
First ascent: A. Ross (yo-yoed), 1987.

Moving right to the left arête of the east wall we find;

Smegmatoid HVS 5b 10m

Climb to a ledge and then go up the arête.
First ascent: D. Dinwoodie, 1987.

Spiffing * E1 5b 10m

Climb to a ledge in the overhanging wall to the right of Smegmatoid. Continue to the next ledge and so to the top.
First ascent: B. Davison, N. Morrison, 1983.

Right of Spiffing is an arête and right of that on the north face, is a hanging corner taken by Black Napkins. It is sited above a raised platform.

Laa-Laa * E2 5b 10m

This climbs the arête left of Black Napkin. Locate and climb an overhang left of Black Napkins. Climb up and leftwards to a perch on the edge, gear, to ascend an enjoyable hanging small groove and reach the top.
First ascent: W. Moir, M. Levack, 1997.

Black Napkins ** VS 4c 10m

Climb the hanging corner, cranking directly into it on good holds. You finish up a wall.
First ascent: K. Murphy, D. Dinwoodie, F. Templeton, 1981.

Vanilla Slice E2 5b 10m

Ascend the right edge of the Black Napkins corner. You start up the next climb; Cream Doughnut though, climbing to a break and then go up left to a second break right of the arête's edge, protection placement, and continue up the right side of the edge to the top.
First ascent: T. Rankin, A. Crofton, 1998.

Cream Doughnut * E1 5b 10m

A good line that takes the thin and steep central crack through a crux bulge to an easier finishing groove
First ascent: M. Hamilton, 1998.

The Grand Wazoo ** HVS 4c 10m

Start up Cream Doughnut and make an obvious and strenuous hand traverse right to the arête. Go round this to finish up a groove as for The Greener.
First ascent: Unknown, 1981.

Gateaux of Delirium E3 5c 10m

Climb the Grand Wazoo to its hand traverse until you are below a bulge. Get over this and the wall above which is increasingly affected by bird poo.
First ascent: D. Dinwoodie, 1987.

White Serviette HVS 5b 10m

A direct start up the arête to the end of The Grand Wazoo traverse, finishing up that route.

First ascent: M. Hamilton, 1983.

On the west face we find two climbs with not very elegant names;

Scab and Matter Custard * E3 6a 6m

There is a thin crack and bulge right of the White Serviette arête. Climb these moving up right to join The Greener.

First ascent: D. Dinwoodie, 1987.

Snot and Bogey Pie E1 5b 5m

Start at the left side of a small cleft and climb a bulging wall right of Scab and Matter Custard.

First ascent: D. Dinwoodie, 1987.

The Greener HSev 15m

Start at a big block at the right end of overhangs with a slabby shelf running leftwards above them. Get onto a wall to go upwards to pull onto the shelf by an edge on the right. Move up the shelf leftwards to reach a groove on the left edge. Finish up this.

First ascent: Unknown, 1981.

Grazoopkins ** HVS 4c 30m

A nicely sustained girdle best climbed with the base of the stack covered by an outgoing tide. Start on the west face at The Greener.

P1. 10m 4b. Ascend The Greener to the end of the shelf.

P2. 10m 4c. Downclimb and go round left to the end of the Grand Wazoo traverse. Reverse this strenuous hand traverse and continue left under a bulge to a point where you can climb into the Black Napkins corner.

P3. 10m 4c. Climb the wall up leftwards with good holds to a small ledge round the arête. Traverse left using ledges until you can get over the bulge above as for Spiffing.

First ascent: K. Murphy, 1982.

Muchalls

Map: p233.

Muchalls is on the A9 just over five miles south of Aberdeen. On the coast to its south and north are some rocky items and known stacks that could be worth exploring.

May Craig

MR: Sheet 38 912926

There are two other possibilities just to its north.

Detailed access: No information.

First ascent: Unknown.

Doonie Point

MR: Sheet 38 904909

There is a 9m high stack here which is reached by walking south from Muchalls village. The stack is offshore and made from rotten rock.

Detailed access: Accessible around low tide.*First ascent: Details not known.*

Castle Rock Of Muchalls

MR: Sheet 38 904909 (Doonie Point) Map: p232.

This big stack lies just south of Doonie Point. Gain the point by walking south from Muchalls village for about a ¼ of a mile. It is a clifftop path. At the Point descend to the right and go down a wettish shallow gully to broken ground and the beach.

Detailed access: Cross boulders when the tide permits to reach the stack.

North Face VS 31m

There is a trivial right-facing ramp on the north face. Go up this and then a left-facing groove to a very loose finish. Descend by abseil down the landward face using a block as an abseil anchor.

First ascent: Unknown.

Fame And Fortune Traverse Sev 76m

A girdle of the stack going round in a clockwise direction just above the sea.

First ascent: Unknown, 1991.

There is no information about the next few stacks.

Tilly Tenant

MR: Sheet 38 900902

Detailed access: Unknown.

First ascent: Unknown.

Elephant Rock

MR: Sheet 54?

At Boddin Point on the Scottish east coast. AA Guide p1941/5. A red sandstone stack in which the sea has carved 'legs' and a 'trunk.' Boddin Point lies south of Montrose. A ¼ mile to the north of the point is Elephant Rock.

Detailed access: Unknown.

First ascent: Unknown.

Now we go south again to Arbroath.

The Deil's Head VS

MR: Sheet 54 671418. Map: p232. Photo: p250.

Also called the Pint Stoup or The Poll. It is a bulbous-topped pillar of rock near Arbroath on the east coast of Scotland. Take a minor road northwards from the centre of Arbroath that heads towards the coast and then runs along its edge heading for a nature trail. Take the nature trail northwards along the coast until you reach a point about two miles from the centre of Arbroath. The Deil's Head is to be found where the coastline turns to north-west.

Detailed access: Go down steep slopes and explore.

Climb the side facing the sea.

First ascent: Unknown.

SOUTH-EAST SCOTLAND

Map: p252.

There are a surprising number of stacks in the Firth of Forth and to the east of Edinburgh.

Maiden Rock 12m

MR: Sheet 59 531158

Just over a mile to the east of St. Andrews we find this sandstone tower which is reachable irrespective of the tide. There are more than a dozen climbs on it - which we will not describe as a 'real' stack should be unreachable at high tide at least.

Isle of May

MR: Sheet 39 656994

This island is situated 7 miles from the Fife coast in the mouth of the Firth of Forth. It possesses, apparently, some good small stacks. The Nature Conservancy Council own the island and it is managed as a national nature reserve. You reach the island by hiring a boat at Anstruther. There is a basalt pinnacle all on its own in Pilgrims Haven.

Detailed access: No information.

Pilgrims Haven Pinnacle 24m

Climb the ridge facing the sea.

First ascent: Unknown.

Inchkeith

MR: Sheet 66 293825. Map: p252.

In the middle of the Firth of Forth between Edinburgh and Kington is the island of Inchkeith which has stacks around its coast. The island is owned by the RSPB and is a bird sanctuary.



The Devil's Head, Seaton Cliffs, Arbroath. Photo by Andrew Diack and licensed for reuse under this Creative Commons Licence.

Seal Carr

MR: Sheet 66 288828

Detailed access: By boat. No other information.

First ascent: Unknown.

Iron Craig

MR: Sheet 66 292822

Detailed access: By boat. No other information.

First ascent: Unknown.

Long Craig

MR: Sheet 66 297820

Detailed access: By boat. No other information.

First ascent: Unknown.

Bass Rock

MR: Sheet 58 602874

This guano-covered, bird-infested, privately-owned volcanic plug lies in the southern part of the Firth of Forth. It is owned by Sir Hugh Dalrymple of North Berwick whom you telephone on 0162 02903 to request permission to land on it. You may also telephone the boatman on 01620 2833 to request the same thing.

The rock supports a population of 20,000 gannets and, apparently, Queen Victoria used to receive an annual delivery of Bass Rock gannets for they were considered a delicacy. Well, anyway, at the south-west end of this enormous gannet WC there are stacks reported to exist on which a colony of shags live.

Detailed access: No information.

First ascent: Unknown.

Wheat Stack

MR: Sheet 67 863712

This stack lies off Fastcastle Head. Take the minor road to Fast Castle off the A1107 some 12 miles east of Dunbar.

Fast Castle is about a mile along the track and footpath that runs north from the end of the minor road.

Detailed access: Unknown.

First ascent: Unknown.

Todd's Loup Fin

MR: NT 837 702. Map: p250.

This fin-like stack is 100m west of Midden Craig and has a good north face with an obvious corner separating two slabs. Descent is by abseil or a scramble down the rocky and vegetated south face.

Tidal Race Mod 20m

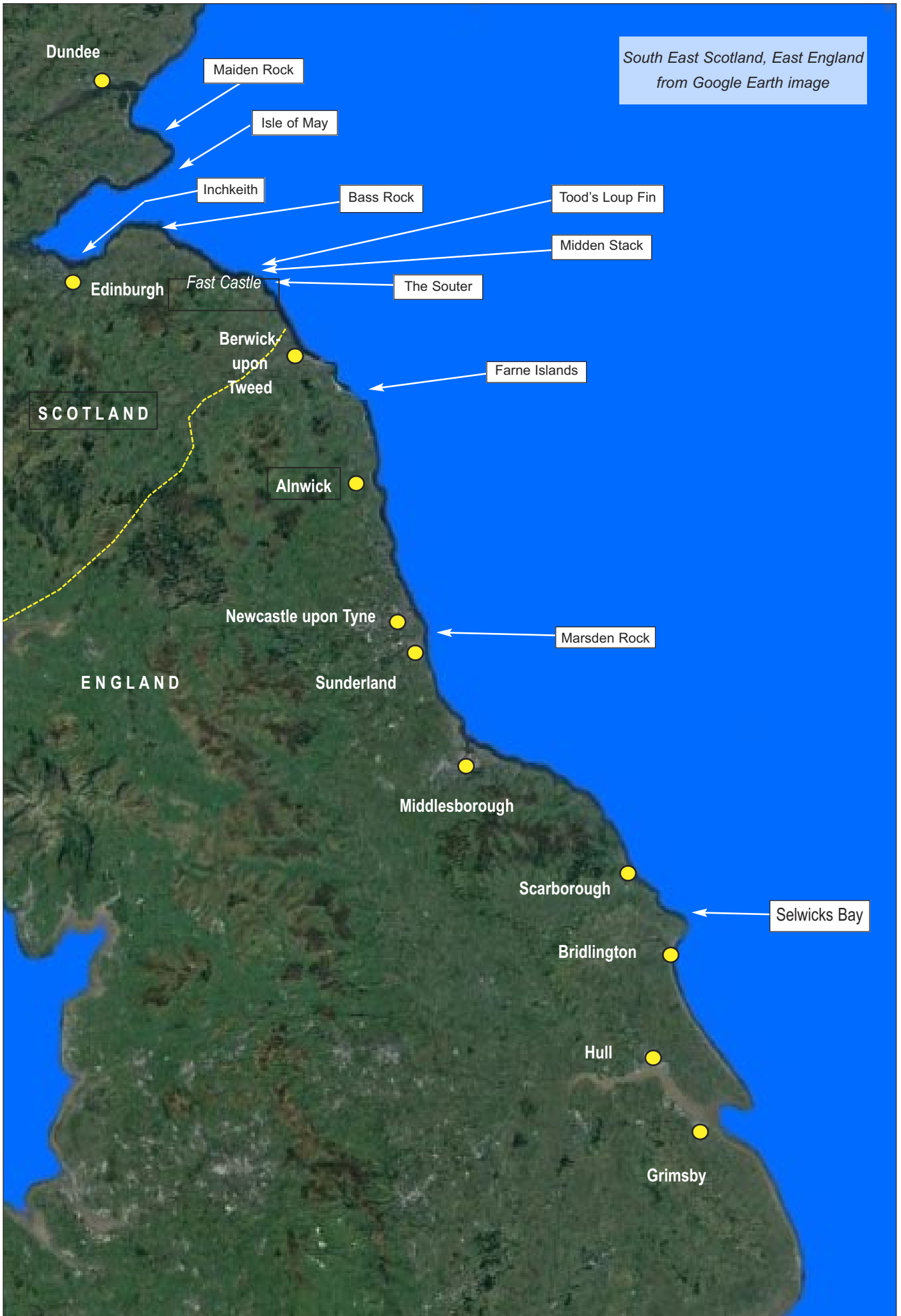
1. 20m. Climb the green corner on the left of the face.

First ascent: A. Matthhewson, G. Watt, A. Hume, 18 September 1993.

Ronald's Rant VDiff 20m

1. 20m. This climbs the arête to the right of Tidal Race to finish direct up a crack.

First ascent: A. Matthhewson, G. Watt, A. Hume, 18 September 1993.



Midden Stack

MR: NT 838702 (Midden Craig) Map: p250.

This is 2 miles to the west of Fast Castle which, in turn, is almost 30 miles east of Edinburgh. The stack is made up from greywacke and has about five routes on it. It is non-tidal and bird-banned from April 1 to August 31. The main climbing is on the south-east face where there is a square-cut goove topped by an overhang in the centre of the face. Climbs are described right-to-left round the stack, starting from the right side of the south-east face.

Detailed access: Drive east on the A1 from Edinburgh for about 25 miles until, just past Cockburnspath, the A1107 goes off to the left signposted for Eyemouth. Follow this for about 3 miles and then take a minor road signposted Dowlaw. After about a 1km locate a small quarry with parking on the right. Cross the road and enter a field to walk NNE to another field with a concrete post in the corner closest to the sea. Cross the fence and walk east (right) and go down steep bracken slopes to a bay with Midden Craig crag on the left with Midden Stack at its seaward end.

Starboard Bow E2 5c 15m

This climbs the wall right of the square-cut groove.

1. 15m 5c. Start right of the groove. Climb up to a break below an overhang right of the square-cut groove. Get over the overhang to then move up and right to the edge of the wall to finish up the arête.

First ascent: G. MacIntyre, C McKee, Bruce Kerr, 20 March 1993.

Turning In-Tide-Out * E2 5c 20m

A line up the corner formed by the left-side of the square-cut groove.

1. 20m 5c. Ascend the corner, moving out left to a ledge near the top. Go up and right to a thin crack and the top.

First ascent: G. MacIntyre, C. McKee, Bruce Kerr, 20 March 1993.

Lunar Pull * E3 5c 20m

This route goes up the pillar forming the left side of the square-cut groove.

1. 20m 5c. Climb the double overhangs left of the corner on chickenheads and with a loose jammed block; hard sequence, then climb to a ledge and finish direct taking care at the topout. Almost worth E3 6a.

First ascent: Bruce Kerr, G. MacIntyre, D. Leckie, 4 April 1993.

Port Bow E1 5c 20m

Ascends the left arête of the face.

1. 20m 5c. Get up over a bulge to a scary-looking jammed flake in a V-groove. Continue up the groove to an overhang, nice moves, and move round the edge to find a wide finishing crack.

First ascent: Bruce Kerr, G. MacIntyre, 4 April 1993.

Unnamed E1 5a 20m

This serious route climbs a green and slabby wall on the south-west face

1. 20m 5a. Go up a groove by the face's left corner and then go left to a ledge on the arête. Now climb right to gain the upper slab and so to the top.

First ascent: Unknown, 1993.

Cracks on the stack's summit block have been climbed at E1. You can scramble boldly up the north side to the stack's summit. This is VDiff and involves starting on the right, climbing up, then traversing left to and climbing up a blocky groove by the left edge.

The Souter

MR: Sheet 67 868708. Map: p250.

This fine looking classic stack is south-east of Midden Stack and you reach it the same way as far as the A1107 is concerned. Once 3 miles along the A1107 look for a very minor road leading to Dowlaw Farm. Take this and follow

a track on the right once you reach the farm which leads across fields to the stack.

Detailed access: The base of the stack is reachable by boulder hopping at low tide.

Squid Vicious *** E5 6a

A route for punks, ho ho. Climb the crack line on the north-west face.

First ascent: K. Spence, D. McCallum, July 1983.

A Golden Hour ** E3 5b 25m

This takes the arête and hanging groove left of Ordinary Route. There are committing moves before gear is reached and the rock can be snappy. Start from the ledge as for Ordinary.Route.

1. 25m 5b. Head up the blunt arête on sloping edges (crucial shothole cam placement) to a ledge, then climb the short hanging groove, which leads to a crack and welcome gear. Finish more easily.

First ascent: Topher Dagg, Sebastien Rider, 23 September 2012.

Ordinary Route HVS/E1 5a 32m

Start at the leftmost part of the south-west face.

1. 9m. Pull up into a prominent crack to a good belay ledge.

2. 9m. Go round the edge and traverse on small holds. Then go up to a ledge.

3. 14m. Retrace the traverse but at the level of the ledge and go round the edge to get above the first belay. Go up a flake to the overhanging summit block. (And so to the top I presume.) Abseil descent.

First ascent: Robin Campbell, Dave Bathgate, 1969?

Seal of Approval * HVS

Seems to climb the south face with a good line in an awesome situation, though the gear is not that good. The rock is said to be brittle. It can be climbed in a single pitch. Make a steep pull through a starting bulge. Climb to a large ledge and step left round the arête. Go up a ramp for 2 or 3m, swing back onto the main face to finish. There is an optional fun wee crack to finish.

First ascent: R.Campbell. 1 April 1990.

Walk the Plank * Sev 4b 9m

The very tidal cracked fin to the seaward of Dried Peach Crack stack. Climb the twin cracks left of centre on the landward face. Maybe get a driftwood plank to get across the rock pool.

First ascent: Bruce Kerr, Rab Young, 23 Feb 2019.

St. Abb's Head

MR: Sheet 67 908695

Between North Berwick in Lothian, Edinburgh's county, and Berwick upon Tweed in Northumberland lies a quiet stretch of coast. St. Abb's Head is just north of



The Souter, near Fast Castle. Lisa Jarvis / CC BY-SA 2.0

the village of St Abb's north, in turn, of Eyemouth. This headland is attended by tall pillars of red sandstone. It is located in the St. Abb's Nature Reserve. Go to Coldingham on the A1107 and then head north-east on the B6438 to St. Abb's. Now walk north-west across the National Trust of Scotland-owned coastal headland to St. Abb's Head and the stacks.

Detailed access: No details.

First ascent: Unknown.

NORTH-EAST ENGLAND

Map: p252.

After the richness of Scotland in terms of stacks we are back in the desert with a mere half dozen or so between the Scottish border and the English Channel. Contrast this with the much larger number found on the west coast of England.

Northumberland

Two stacks here, one a solid shapely tower, the other a crumbling platform of a stack similar to Inner Main Stack at Old Harry in Dorset. South of Lindisfarne lie the thirty or so Farne Islands and we start with them.

Inner Farne Stack

MR: Sheet 75 219359

South of Berwick upon Tweed as you drive down the A1 you pass Holy Island and Lindisfarne and then the A1 trends inland as the coast swells out at Bamburgh and Seahouses. The B1340 runs along the coast connecting these two towns and from the road you can see the Farne Islands. They are a National Trust-owned nature reserve, wild, rocky and treeless. The only inhabitants are ornithologists and wardens.

The inner group has a fairly large member called Inner Farne and the stack is off its eastern side. It comes straight out of the sea and its top is streaked white with bird droppings. This beauty would not be out of place in the Shetlands. You can sail there from 29th March to 30th April and August to the end of September 10 am to 6 pm with access restricted in the sea bird breeding season - 1 May to 31 July 1:30pm to 5 pm. The admission fee is £2.00 (1994 prices) which does not include the boatsman's charges.

Detailed access: Sail about three miles eastwards from Seahouses to reach and then sail round Inner Farne island to the stack. *First ascent: No details.*

Marsden Rock

MR: Sheet 88 400650 (aprox). Photo: p256.

A crumbling limestone stack at South Shields in Northumberland. This stack is on the coast just south of the Tyne. The whole area is part of the Newcastle upon Tyne conurbation and wild solitude is in short supply. Go to Marsden on the coast and get on to the beach. It may be a good idea to take advice from southern chalk climbers and consider an ice-climbing approach.

Detailed access: Walk across to the stack at low tide.

First ascent: Unknown.

Yorkshire

Map: p252.

There is lots of steep rock between Marsden Head and Flamborough Head but it is not hard enough or jointed in the right way to sustain stacks. With Flamborough Head we return to chalk and find a stack or two here. This is the kind of rock that, potentially, requires an ice-climbing approach with crampons and warthogs.



Marsden Rock. Marsden bay looking south-east, near the town of Marsden, Tyne and Wear Paul Lomax 2005.
Wikipedia - Marsden bay and rock tyne and wear.jpg - CC BY-SA 2.5.

Selwick's Bay

Photo: p257.

This is pronounced 'Silex' and is near the tip of the headland being just north of it.

Adam

MR: Sheet 101 254707

This is an isolated chalk stack on the south side of the bay. It had a partner called Eve once on the opposite side. However, Eve collapsed, clearly the weaker of the two. Starting from Flamborough, take the B1259 eastwards to Flamborough Head. You will find a car park adjacent to the lighthouse. There is a path to the left of the lighthouse which leads to Selwicks Bay, The stack should be visible on your right as you go down the path.

Detailed access: The information available suggests that you can get to the stack around mid-to low-tide.*First ascent: Believed to be unclimbed. Get to it.*

High Stacks

MR: Sheet 101 257704 (aprox)

This is a clay and gravel topped promontory of chalk. It may not be a true stack in the sense of being surrounded by the sea at high tide. You reach it by going to the lighthouse car park as for Selwicks Bay and following a track heading eastwards to the foghorn. Follow the cliff-top path south-east to a point where a cliff path leads down to the shore at High Stacks. The stack is about 55m high.

Detailed access: Unknown.

First ascent: Unknown.

Green Stacks

MR: Sheet 101 257703

Flamborough Head runs south from the bottom of Filey Bay and forms a great nose sticking out into the north sea. There are isolated stacks on the headland itself. To reach them you could use the B1255 which runs north-west from Bridlington and goes to Flamborough from where the A259 goes east to the lighthouse. Then follow cliff-top paths out to the head. Better, perhaps, to sail from Bridlington. As with Marsden Head you will find that expertise with ice tools is probably a prerequisite.

Detailed access: Sail from Bridlington and explore.

First ascent: Unknown.



(Above) Pen-y-holt stack, Pembroke. David Linnett photo.

(Below) Cliffs and t tack in Selwicks Bay; John Firth / Cliffs and Stack in Selwicks Bay / CC BY-SA 2.0





IRELAND

Map: p258.

Eire does not possess the structured highly organised climbing clubs like the C.C, the SMC and the Fell & Rock, with their guidebook committees and annual journals with their new routes sections. But it does have Iain Miller and his UniqueAscent climbing experience business and he has been the driving force behind the ascent of hundreds of climbs on the Donegal sea cliffs and stacks as well as further south.

The Irish sea stacks lie along the country's west coast. In the south, in County Kerry there are the Skelligs, now made famous by the Game of Thrones TV series. North in County Clare there are stacks to climb at Loop Head and at the enormous Cliffs of Moher. North again we enter County Mayo and find the seven Stags of Broadhaven well offshore plus the impressive Dún Briste. Now we enter County Donegal and find ourselves literally in stack heaven with dozens of them along this wild and indented coast, featuring cliffs and islands galore. This is Iain Miller's stack hunting ground and it has possibly the greatest concentration of impressive sea stacks and stack climbs in the entire British (and Irish) Isles. The Channel Islands may have more stack climbs but the stacks are generally less impressive.

County Kerry

The Skelligs

These are three stark and jagged rock pinnacles that thrust their way out of the Atlantic rising to a high point of 213m. The Skelligs are reached by boat from Valentia which is nine miles away and there are regular tourist trips in the summer, weather permitting. There are three Skelligs and the larger, Skellig Michael, has an old monastery on it with a flight of 600 steps leading up to it from the landing stage.

Skellig Michael is not really a stack, being more of a rocky island. It was possibly first climbed by monks. Little Skellig Michael boasts 18,000 gannets; the second biggest colony after St. Kilda, plus puffins, shearwaters and fulmars. The third Skellig is a minor affair.

Be aware that the Skelligs are a major tourist attraction complete with The Skellig Experience; a visitor centre with audio-visual displays. You don't travel to the Skelligs to go climbing.

County Clare

Map: p258.

Diarmuid and Gráinne's Rock

Photo: p260.

There is a stack at the tip of Loop Head which forms the north side of the Shannon Estuary. It is called Diarmuid and Gráinne's Rock or alternatively *Oileán na Léime* (Lovers' Leap) and has a flat dome-shaped grassy top. You will not believe the access details.

Detailed access: Drive the car to the edge of the cliff (this can be exciting) and abseil from the car bumper into the deep narrow channel separating the stack from the main cliff. Swim across to sea level platforms at the base of the stack and traverse round rightwards to the east end of the seaward face. Photo: p258.

Lover's Leap Rock *** XS 5c 52m

The climb is in three pitches with the top pitch forming the crux. You traverse right from a ledge on the east arête and then go up corners and chimneys, pulling through overhangs, to reach and climb the final wall.

Descent: The first ascensionists rigged a tyrolean back to the mainland cliff top.

First ascent: Mick Fowler, Steve Sustad, June 1991.

Branaunmore Stack

Photo: p261.

County Clare has some of the most impressive cliffs in the British Isles in the shape of the 8km long, 214m high Cliffs of Moher. These are south-west of the Burren region in County Clare. Branaunmore (*An Branán Mor*) stack is offshore from these cliffs, opposite O'Brien's Tower. The name means Big Prince or the Big Raven or Rook. Beside



the mighty cliffs the stack might seem insignificant, being spindly and rising to only 60m. It affords brilliant views of the main cliffs though and is an excitingly adventurous ascent. The stack is composed of a mixture of sandstone, siltstone and shale which makes for a very brittle climbing medium and an extremely adventurous day out.

Detailed access; A boat, kayak or dingy is clearly necessary to reach the stack. The alternative of a 214m abseil and swim followed by a swim and 214m foot prussik will only be of interest to SAS trainers. Access involves a steep descent to the storm beach at the base of the main face of the Cliffs of Moher. Then it's a 500m paddle to the huge sea level ledges at the base of the stack.



Branaunmore stack and the Cliffs of Moher. Iain Miller photo.



Branaunmore *** MXS 5b 60m

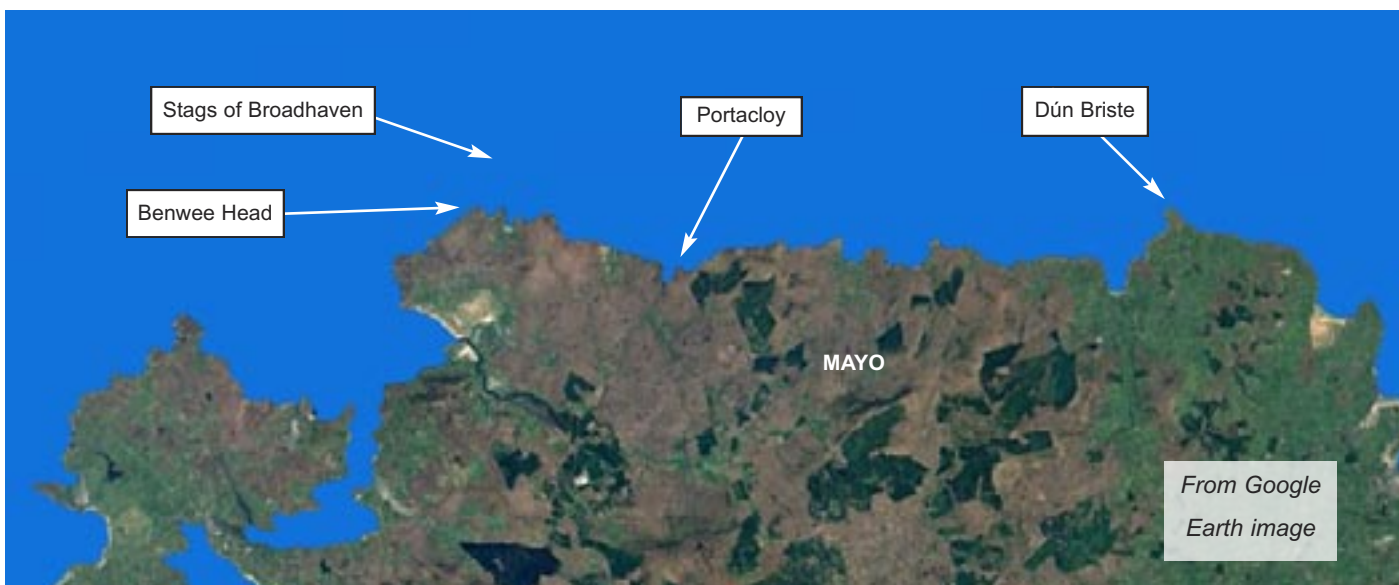
Climb the north-west corner and seaward face via a series of grooves and chimneys to a pinpoint summit in three pitches.

First and possibly only ascent: Mick Fowler, Nikki Dugan, Steve Sustad, May 1990.

County Mayo

Map: below.

There are only two areas of interest here, both in the west of the county. The first is a group of seven stacks well offshore, the Stags of Broadhaven, and the second is a single but very impressive stack called Dún Briste.





The Stags of Broadhaven; An Teach Mór. Iain Miller photo.

The Stags of Broadhaven

These stacks form a mini archipelago and are 1½ miles offshore from Benwee Head. There are seven precipitous stacks rising up to 90m from the sea. Benwee Head is north of the R314 which runs from the Mullet Peninsula to Ballcastle and beyond. Like the Skelligs these stacks are more for a scramble-type ascent than climbing.

Teach Donal O'Clérigh is the highest at 97 metres in height. Teach Mór at 93m and Teach Beg at 71m, are the next highest and two most southern of these stacks. The two most northerly ones are Carraig na Faola, 30m high, and An-t-Oighean, 75m high.

A visit to the Stags of Broadhaven is by far best enjoyed by kayak as the silence and the solitude are why you are visiting these outstanding islands. A paddle out to and around the Stags is a world class kayaking experience. All the stacks have amazing and very dramatic coastlines with An Teach Beg being bisected by an excellent east to west running tunnel and through paddle. The rest of the islands sport huge sea arches except Carraig na Faola. Each island has several sheltered bays and coves and all provide rocky landings.

All five of the islands are currently uninhabited and as testimony to their remoteness and the bouncy unpredictable nature of the sea around their bases, they have never been inhabited or even grazed. They are in a completely natural state and are home to many species of ground-nesting sea birds

Detailed access: Their location out to sea from the the nearest point of land on mainland Ireland is not to be taken lightly. It is always worth bearing in mind that climbing on the Stags is by far the easiest part of your day with the logistics of actually getting out to and landing on these islands being the crux of your visit. The logistics;

1. The Stags are a 7 kilometre round trip sea passage from Portacloy Harbour.
2. The Stags sit 2km directly offshore from Doonvinalla Headland on the remote north coast of County Mayo.
3. The coast is very exposed to any sea motion from south through to north, with almost no lea from the mainland.
4. The constrictions and narrow channels at bases of the Stags are uber prone to amplifying any swell present.
5. The rock on the stack is good but your situation causes everything to appear a wee bit more atmospheric than it actually is.

First ascents: Unknown.

Dún Briste stack with climber on summit. Iain Miller photo.



Dún Briste

Photos: this page, p10.

Dún Briste (the broken fort) stack is 45m, high and located c80m offshore from Downpatrick Head. This is 6km north of Ballycastle, on the coast west of Sligo. This is a 'truly delectable' stack according to the first ascensionists. The Chaos Theory ascensionist said it is huge with colossal roofs and Damocles boulders in its upper reaches. It used to be an arch and functioned as an old coastal lookout. The connecting arch collapsed in 1393. The stack's summit is approximately 50m long and 15m across the centre. The summit still contains the remains of the buildings where people were living on the night of the great storm of 1393.

The stack is one of the most photographed and easily accessible sea stacks on the Irish coast with the clifftops at Downpatrick Head being one of the Wild Atlantic Way signature points. There is ample car parking and a small coffee shop, with a 200m easy stroll to the clifftop viewpoint overlooking the stack.

Detailed access; You need a boat or inflatable dingy. The seas surrounding the base of the stack are a law unto themselves thus making sane nautical access very difficult to predict. When they are calm paddle to the stack, possibly using a through cave underneath the headland, aiming for huge non tidal ledges below its west face. Note; to access the stack the sea must be peaking at less than 0.5m swell from the south-west to west. Any north-west to north motion and the game is over. The amphitheatre of cliffs at Downpatrick Head immediately around the stack is vertical to overhanging with huge shallow platforms running into the sea at their bases. The close proximity of the cliffs and their base platforms cause a massive amount of white water when north-west to west seas are running.

Descent; Bring a stake or rig a grass hummock belay and abseil down the route. The Chaos Theory ascensionists took a 20 metre static rope and a maillon to rig the abseil.

Doonbristy *** MXS 5b 42m

Start at the landward side of the ledge system at 15m on the west face. The route follows the seaward arête of the stack, mainly on the left-hand side.

1. 18m 5a/b. Climb up rightwards over an interesting overhang (on good holds) to gain a shallow groove in a band of lighter coloured rock. Climb this to an excellent ledge on the arête.

2. 24m 5a/b. Climb onto a projecting ledge above the stance - horrendous 5a/5b mantel - and gain a much smaller projecting ledge above. A short wall leads to a good ledge and easier (but loose) ground leading to the top.

First ascent: Mick Fowler, Nikki Dugan, Steve Sustad, May 1990.

Chaos Theory XS 5b 42m

There is a huge non-tidal ledge system at the base, approximately 10m above the sea, of the west face.

1. 18m 4b. From the seaward end of the walkable ledge make a couple of moves up to the grim looking overhang. After a couple of ups and downs hand traverse left above the void to the sanctuary of a large non-tidal ledge. Climb up and over the steps above and crawl through the birded gap above.

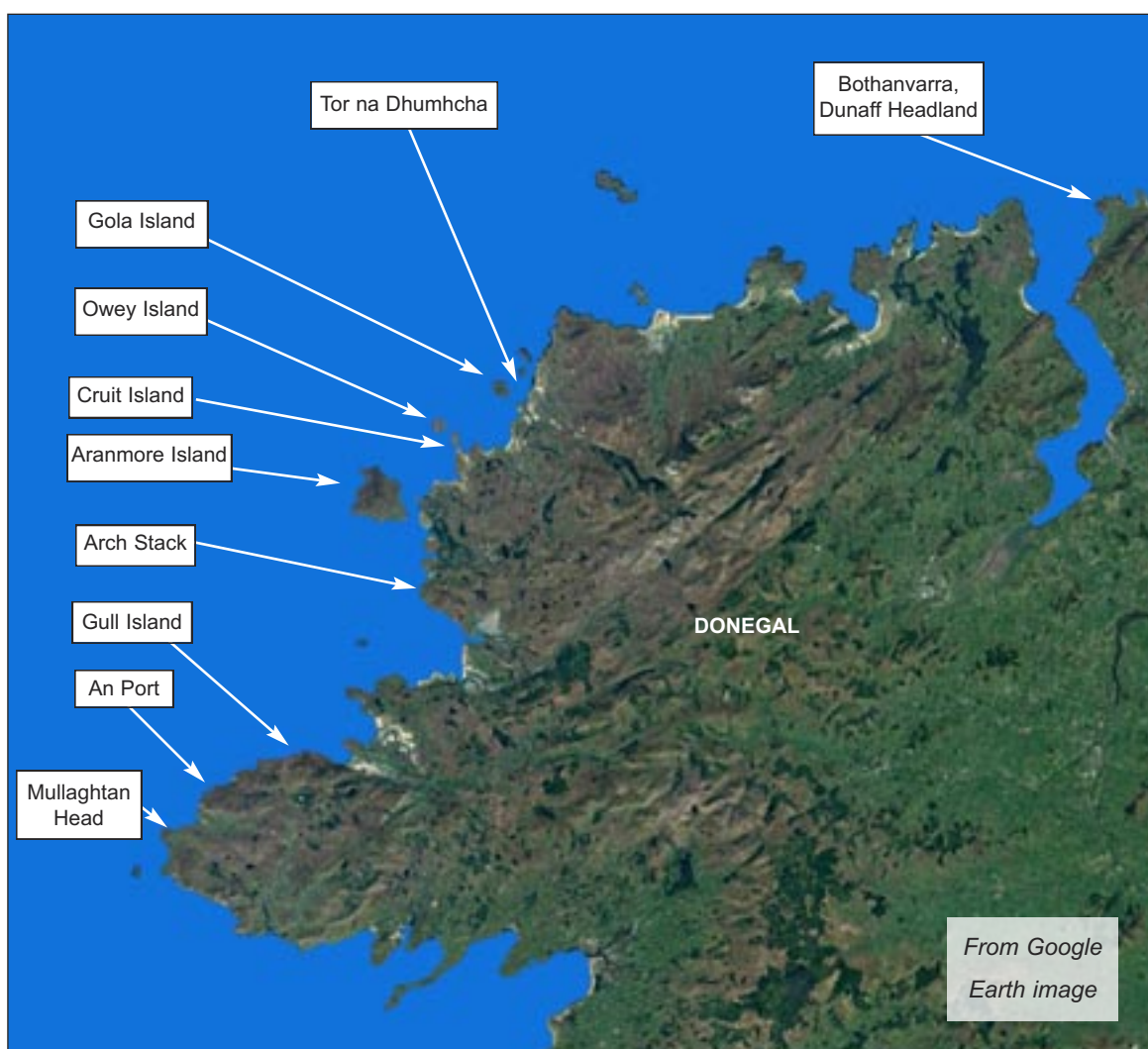
2. 24m 5a/b. At the far left of the huge ledge climb the well protected groove with a hard move onto the ledge system above. Run it out forever (8m-ish) to a small crack in suspect rock above. Climb grooves and ledge systems above to finish up a superb layback corner and awful chimney above.

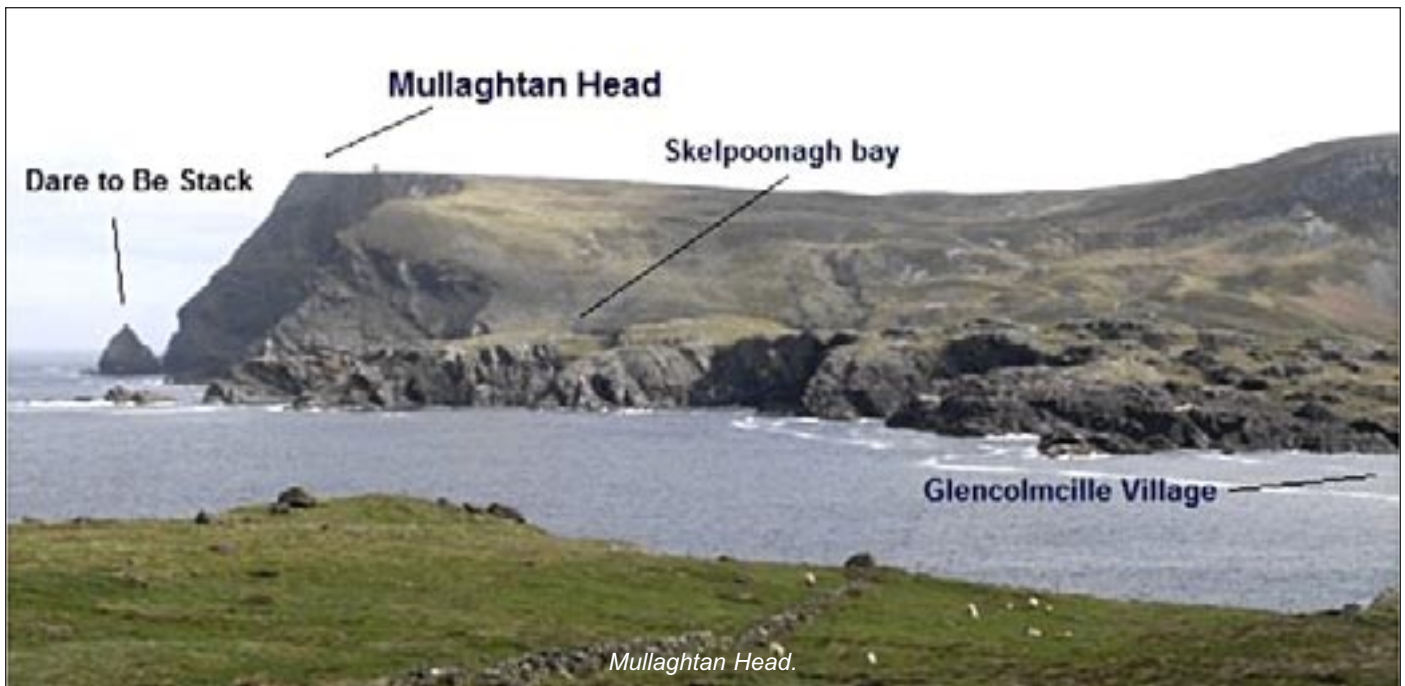
First ascent; Iain Miller, Paulina Kaniszewska, 28 August 2016.

County Donegal

Map: below.

There are approximately 150 sea stack climbs spread across more than 55 stacks on the Donegal mainland coast and islands. The majority were climbed by local activist Iain Miller in an astonishing eleven year period from 2008 to 2019, and he is still active. Miller dominates the Donegal stack climbing scene much as Mick Fowler dominated the Scottish island stack scene in his heyday. We start in the south of Donegal, at Mullaghtan Head.





Mullaghtan Head

“Dare to Be” Stack

Grid Reference G516869. Photo: above.

This monster sea stack can be easily seen from the Glencolmcille to Malinbeg road. It sits equidistant between Skelpoonagh bay to the south and the Sturral Headland to the north. The stack is guarded by huge 200m cliffs in both directions, and a highly committing sea passage is required to land on the beast.

Dare to Be! ** XS 90m

1. 20m. From the huge sea level platform at the southern end of the stack, scramble up to a large ledge below the steep open book corner.
2. 30m. Climb the open book corner and continue up the arête to a superb recess, below the bulge and capping roof.
3. 10m. Climb direct to a boulder field at the southern end of the summit ridge.
4. 30m. Carefully scramble along the ridge to the airy and exposed summit block.

Abseil descent of the route.

First ascent: Iain Miller, Martin Boner, 30 June 2009.

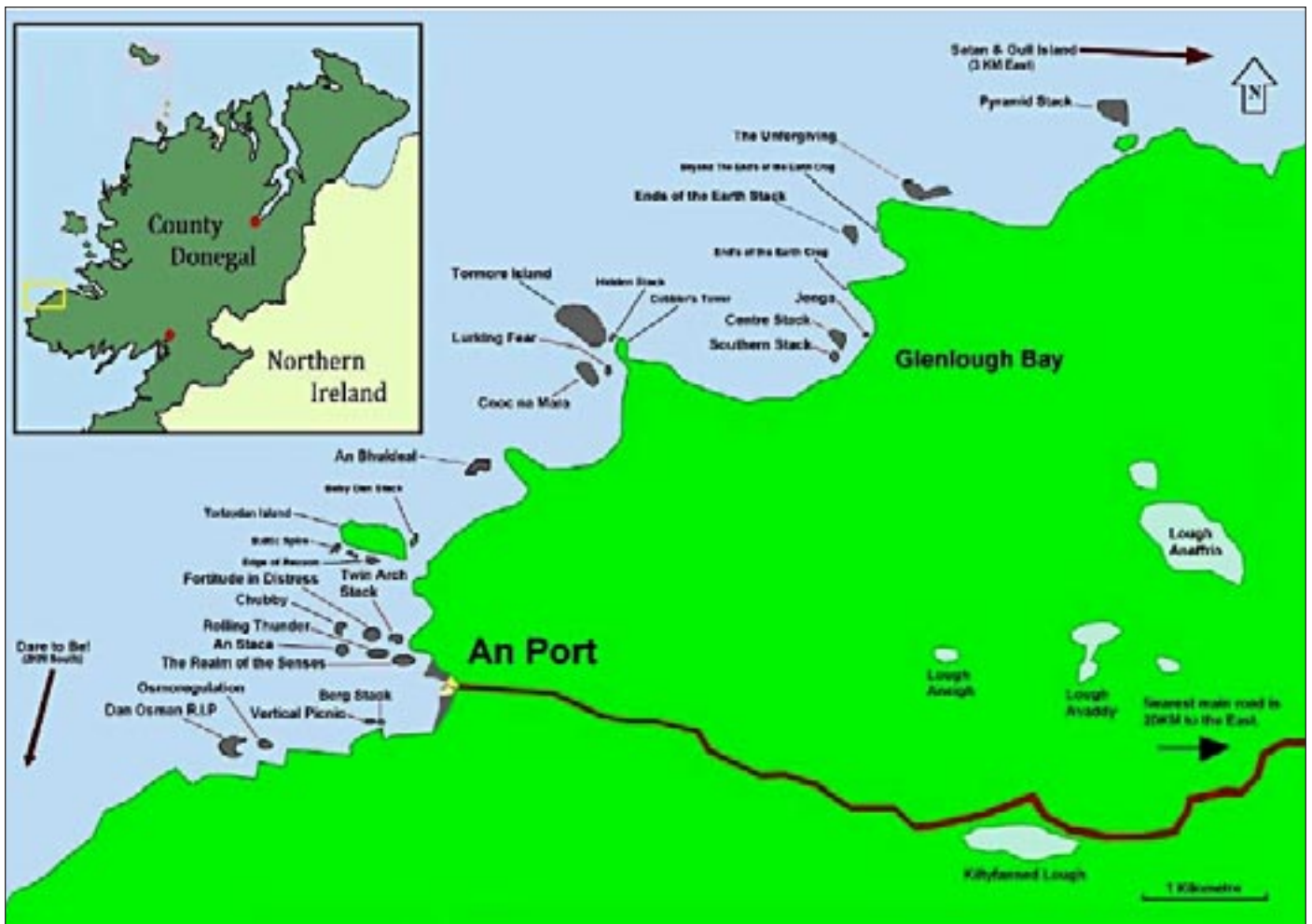
Chaos Stack

Living in the northern shadow of Dare to Be Stack, Chaos Stack provides a suitable journey into the pounding heart of nautical darkness. This route climbs the south face of the stack from the tidal ledge at its south-west tip. Abseil descent from the only good rock on the summit of the stack at the north east corner at bottom of the grass and rubble slope. Considerable nautical and mountain guile are required for a happy ascent of Chaos.

Chaos Stack XS 45m

1. From the southern edge of the tidal ledge climb the horizontally bedded south facing wall on immaculate rock for approx 18m to a rubble strewn ledge. Continue upwards on ever decreasing rock quality with the final 10m a bit of an Alpine jenga fest.

First ascent: W. Gadd, Iain Miller, 28 June 2019.



Iain Miller map of An Port area (above.)

The An Port bay stacks (below.) Iain Milller photo.



- An Port Bay.**
- 1: Dan Osman R.I.P.
 - 2: Osmoregulation
 - 3: Vertical Picnic
 - 4: Berg Stack
 - 5: An Staca
 - 6: Rolling Thunder
 - 7: Twin Arch Stack
 - 8: Chubby
 - 9: Fortitude in Distress

An Port South

Map: p266. Photo: p266.

An Port is quite simply a contender for the most beautiful place in Ireland, and for the most remote public road end. A shade over 20km of winding B road from the N56 Ardara Road takes you to this surreal location.

Directly out to sea from the road end storm beach is a collection of six sea stacks. The most obvious stack is the black phallus sitting approx 500m directly out to sea from the road end, known locally as *Búd an Diabhal* (The Devil's Penis.) Immediately to the North of Búd an Diabhal is "Chubby." These two stacks are composed of basalt and are a small part of a huge basalt vein that runs from Glencolmcille to Maghery. The other four stacks are classic wedge shapes composed of Ashfall Quartz.

Access: The following four stacks are all accessed from the same launch pad; grid reference G544887. From the An Port road end, follow the coastal path south over two bridges for approximately 600m. Leave the path and walk towards the sea, until you are at the top of the easy angled slope and slabs overlooking Berg Stack and Vertical Picnic stack. Descend to the sea level platforms facing Berg Stack, the most northern stack.

Big Daddy Stack

The Big Daddy Stack is 1km to the south of the An Port road end. Photo below.

Dan Osman RIP ** XS 4a 55m

This route climbs the 50m stack by its seaward face.

1. 30m 4a. Climb the right hand side of the conglomerate wall and traverse left along the superb band of black slab until able to ascend to the open book corner. Climb the corner to a big ledge, block belay.
2. 25m. Climb to the summit in fine stack style; no gear and awesome atmosphere.

First ascent: Iain Miller. 7 June 2008.

Osmoregulation Stack

Grid reference G538887. Photo: p 268.



Big Daddy or Dan Osman Stack.



Osmoregulation Stack - clip from UniqueAscent video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dqLwqVkS0k8>

Osmoregulation Diff 23m

This route climbs the smaller of the 2 stacks in an awesome and committing location, 50m to the North of the above stack. Starting just right of centre on the seaward face, climb the black slab of immaculate rock to a stance and then jug haul to the airy twin summits.

First ascent: Iain Miller, 7 June 2008.

Vertical Picnic Stack

Grid reference: G544887. This 35m sea stack is immediately to the south of Berg Stack, and approximately 600m to the south of the An Port road end. Access is by stack hopping across Berg Stack and a swim.

Vertical Picnic VDiff 30m

Start in the centre of the seaward face and climb from the very tidal platform to a superb wee cave and spacious ledge at 4m. Climb the groove directly above on, superb wave washed black rock, to a smaller stance and continue to the summit on the steep left hand crack/corner line.

First ascent: Iain Miller, D. O'Connor, 3 August 2008.

Axe Blade MXS 5b 28m

Climb the superb full stack height arête running up the north face of Vertical Picnic Stack. This arête is easily found.

First ascent: Mick Fowler, Nicki Fowler, 24 August 2012.

Berg Stack

Map ref: G546882. Photos: p269, 271.

Berg Stack is easily visible from the road end beach and can be identified by the two steep grooves on its north side. There are 13 climbs, most of them on its clean landward face.

Shadow Cat Sev 4a 20m

Climb the left corner of the wall.

First ascent: Iain Miller, M. Family, 24 June 2014.

Shallow Groove VS 4b 20m

Approximately 2m right climb the shallow groove and go direct up the ever steepening wall above.

First ascent: Iain Miller, J. Hegarty, 23 July 2014.

Mayday, Mayday HSev 4b 20m

Start at the crack line about 8m from the left edge of the wall. Follow the fault line to a peapod over a loose bulge, and finish up a chimney.

First ascent: P. Clerkin, P. Clerkin, 2 May 1988.

Davy Jones' Nose VS 4c 20m

Start below an obvious nose in the centre of the wall, 3m right of Mayday Mayday. Climb over the nose to a ledge at half height. Follow San Andreas (see below) for 2m until horizontal blocks are reached. Climb over these blocks to the top.

First ascent: P. Clerkin, P. Clerkin, 8 May 1988.

San Andreas HSev 4b 25m

Start 2m left of America. Stagger obviously up a fault line left across the main face and finish up a vertical chimney to the top (as for Mayday, Mayday).

First ascent: P. Clerkin, P. Clerkin, 5 May 1988.

America West Coast HVS 5a 25m

Start as for Cormorant but follow the obvious fault line to a horizontal break at half height. Go over a broken wall to a ledge, step left and finish up to the top.

First ascent: P. Clerkin, P. Clerkin, 15 May 1988.



Berg Stack photo-topo. Iain Miller photo.

America Direct HVS 5b 21m

Start as for America West Coast, but follow the line of weakness between West and East Coast directly to a ledge, and finish up the centre of the smooth face of America.

First ascent: P. Clerkin, P. Clerkin 2 May 1988.

America East Coast HSev 20m

Start 3m left of right-hand corner and follow the fault line up east coast of America.

First ascent: P. Clerkin, P. Clerkin, 2 May 1988.

Cormorant VS 4c 22m

Start as for America but follow a large crack line trending right to a ledge at half height. Step left onto the wall and follow the first crack line directly to the top. Be careful of the flake at two-thirds height.

First ascent: P. Clerkin, P. Clerkin, 8 May 1988.

Cormorant Direct * VS 4b 20m

Climb the right hand edge of the wall.

First ascent: Iain Miller, J. Hegarty, 23 July 2014.

Dequesa Santa Anna HVS 5a 25m

Start 1.5m from the right-hand edge, and follow parallel crack lines to the top. Crux at two-thirds height.

First ascent: P. Clerkin, P. Clerkin, 8 May 1988.

The Girona HVS 5b 21m

Start at the right-hand edge of the wall. Follow a leftward-trending crack past a hedgehog-shaped plant to the top. Crux at two-thirds height.

First ascent: P. Clerkin, P. Clerkin, 8 May 1988.

The Wedge ** Sev 20m

From the platform, ascend the groove on good holds to a ledge. Continue up past the lichen section leftwards to the top.

First ascent: S. R. Young, J. Leonard, 21 May 1973.

Game Face * E1 5b 20m

Climb "The Wedge" to the ledge, traverse out right to gain the arête. Climb the arête with increased exposure, excellent climbing and mild concerns as you leave the good gear far below. Wires can be placed high in "Groove Fest."

First ascent: Iain Miller and Lisa Murdoff, 23 July 2019.

Groove Fest * HSev 4b 20m

Climb the hanging groove between "The Wedge" and "Armada," with excellent steep jug hauling up to groove and excellent airy bridging once in the groove to summit.

First ascent: Iain Miller, J. Hegarty, 23 July 2014.

Armada * VS 4c 21m

Start 1m right of The Wedge, the second and smaller obvious corner. Climb over a series of sharp blocks to about 3m and then step awkwardly up into the corner and bridge up to the top.

First ascent: P. Clerkin, P. Clerkin, 15 May 1988.



Berg Stack. Iain Miller photo.



An Staca. Iain Miller photo.

An Port

Map: p264.

Directly out to sea from the road end there are six stacks. All can be accessed by paddling from the road end slip. An alternative approach is to ascend the slopes directly to the north of the slipway and skirt the cliff tops for approx 500m. Once you are overlooking the stacks, (Grid Reference G546894) descend to the boulder beach between Rolling Thunder Stack and Twin Arch Stack.

From this atmospheric wee beach it is possible to access Twin Arch, Rolling Thunder and Realm of the Senses by boulder hop, given a low tide and a calm sea.

An Staca

Grid Reference G544892. Photos: p 271, this page.

As you drive down the An Port road you can't help but notice a perfect black stack sitting about 500m out to sea, this stack is known locally as An Staca (*Búd An Diabhal.*) The sea journey to this stack is described as being very emotional.

Black Mamba ** VS 4c 22m

Climb the seaward face direct to a steep corner and pull through the corner with the whole world below your heels.

First ascent; Iain Miller, Wolfgang Schuessler 23 March 2011.

Realm of the Senses Stack

Grid Reference G546893

The stack nearest An Port road end is climbed by both its landward and seaward faces. A route at VS 4c was climbed up the bold landward arête on 30 June 2011.

Realm of the Senses Sev 50m

The landward face route starts below the landward arête (facing the road end.) Climb the immaculate rock to a grassy ramp. Follow the ramp with increased exposure and grovel to the summit.

First ascent; Iain Miller, 13 September 2008.

Seaward Face Mod 80m

The seaward face is climbed up a superb ramp and deep grot grovel to the summit.

First ascent; Unknown.

Rolling Thunder Stack

This stack is another classic wedge shape and is located on the seaward side of The Realm of the Senses stack at Grid Reference G545893.

Rolling Thunder VDiff 80m

This stack was climbed on it's seaward(ish) face. Just to the north of the huge seaward ramp lies



An Staca.

a massive basin of rock walls, Scramble up the centre of the lower ramp to a rock scar niche. Climb steeply through the niche and gravel to an exposed summit.

First ascent; Iain Miller, 13 September 2008.

Lobster Corner XS 4c 35m

This route climbs the left facing corner crack left of centre on the landward face of Rolling Thunder stack. Access is by boulder hop at lowest tide.

1. 20m 4c. From a small non-tidal ledge, climb the steep left facing corner to a wee recess below the ominous chimney crack.
2. 15m 4a. Climb the chimney crack and right facing corner to the stack summit

First ascent; Iain Miller, 2 September 2009.

Lobster Wall Sev 4a 35m

This route climbs the jug infested face and corners right of centre on the landward face of the stack. Lowest tide boulder hop.

1. 20m 4a. Climb the juggy corners to a lofty perch at the top of a monster ramp on the north face.
2. 15m 3c. Climb the flake crack up the arête to join Lobster Corner to the stack summit.

First ascent; Iain Miller, 2 September 2009.

1 Millibar HSev 4b 20m

Climb the wide crack/shallow groove up the centre of the wall

First ascent; Iain Miller, B. Barnes, 24 June 2016.

Twin Arch Stack

Grid Reference G546894

This unusual sea stack at has two legs at 90 degrees, one to the other, each housing a super sea arch.

Twin Arch Stack VDiff 40m

Scramble up the centre of the seaward face until forced to make very exposed moves up primary jungle to a tottering pin-point summit. Sounds wonderful.

First ascent; Iain Miller, 13 September 2008.

Swimming Home VDiff 45m

This route climbs the south face of Twin Arch Stack. Access by lowest tide boulder hop.

1. 15m. Gain the narrow ledge at the southern end of the landward face, traverse seaward and gain a higher large platform. Pull through a wee roof onto a huge platform.
2. 20m. Walk along platform like a ballerina to the base of a wide corner.
3. 10m. Climb the wide corner to an airy summit.

First ascent; Iain Miller, 2 September 2009.

Rest and Be Thankful Sev 4a 35m

This route climbs the north face of Twin Arch stack. Access by guile at the very lowest of tides.

1. 15m 4a. From the seaward side of the arch running through the stack climb the right trending hand crack to the summit ridge.
2. 20m. Follow summit ridge/ramp to the airy wee summit.

First ascent; Iain Miller, 2 September 2009.

Seaward face of
Chubby Stack. Still
from Iain Miller video



Chubby Stack

Grid Reference G545893.

500m directly out to sea (west) of the An Port road end, this stack sits immediately to the north of An Staca. The sea passage to the base of this stack is a superb paddle through and under (if you wish) the collection of stacks between Chubby and the road end!

North Ridge ** Diff 35m

Climb its north ridge on superb basalt jugs all the way to the summit. Abseil descent of route.

First ascent; Iain Miller, 28 June 2009.

The following two routes are found on the excellent slab on the seaward face of Chubby Stack.

Central Direct VDiff 20m

Climb the centre of the slab.

First ascent; Iain Miller, Josie McGee 18 August 2012.

Chubby ár lá Mild Sev 20m

Climb the ever narrowing crack up the left side of the slab, delicate towards the top.

First ascent; Josie McGee, Iain Miller, 18 August 2012.

Fortitude in Distress Stack

Grid Reference G545894.

This classic wedge stack is found on the seaward side of the Twin Arch Stack.

Fortitude in Distress VDiff 40m

Climb up the centre of the landward face until you can pull up onto the seaward ramp, scramble up the ramp to the summit. The summit stone has been hit by lightning and is in a burnt out condition.

First ascent; Iain Miller, 13 September 2008.

An Port (North)

Map: p266.

Toralaydan Stacks

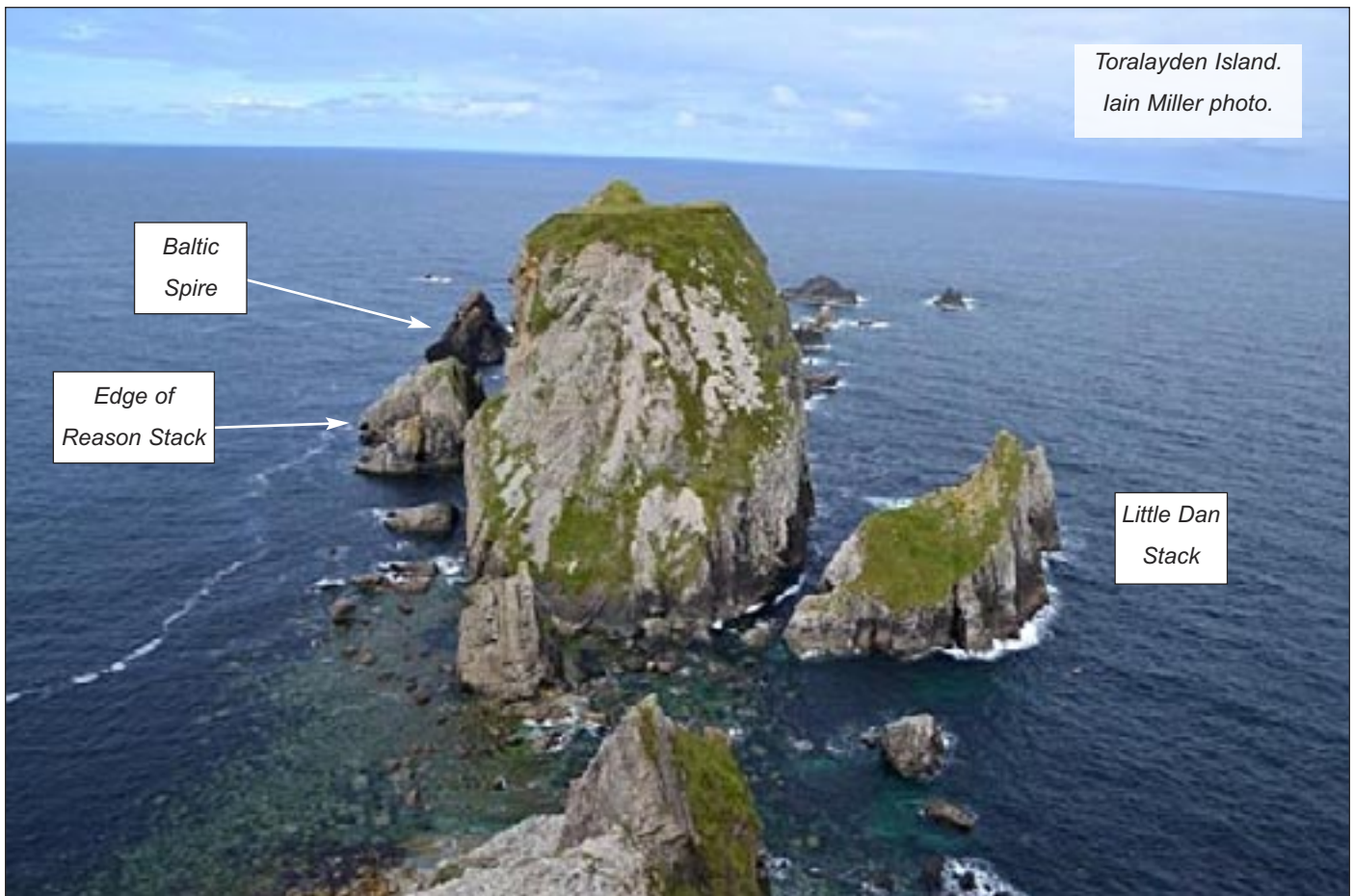
Sitting approximately 1km to the north of An Port sits a cauldron of sea stack all centred around the huge 90m high Toralaydan Island. Access is by a very committing 1km paddle from An Port and takes you to the base of the landward face of the mighty Toralaydan Island.

Running along the South face of Toralaydan is a chain of sea stacks. The furthest out to sea is the twin headed 35m high Baltic spire, a basalt stack which sits in the direct path of the full fury of the prevailing south-west sea motion. Landing on this isolated stack requires calm seas of biblical proportion! The seaward face of its north summit holds an outstanding VDiff climb, one of the best climbs of its grade in the country. Alas it sits so close to the south face of Toralaydan that any sea motion is funnelled and magnified to epic proportions. At the landward end of this chain sits the huge triangular Edge of Reason stack with several easy routes to its pin point summit. The seaward face forms a huge arête with a massive vertical drop between the stack and Toralaydan. Climb this arête with a growing sense of exposure and malaise to its tiny summit.

Immediately to the North of Toralaydan sits Little Dan Stack, its location and surroundings are a mindblower. Commitment to the task at hand are the key to success on this wee adventure.

The massive Toralaydan Island is the daddy of the stacks in this group with a nice easy rubble and grass scramble up its landward face to a summit the size of several football pitches. The view from its summit back towards land is breathtaking.





Access: The easiest method of access is by a long committing sea passage either from the An Port road end or from the huge storm beach at Map Reference: G546894.

Toralaydan Island 130m

Scramble up the grassy scree covered land ward face to the huge summit plateau.

Edge of Reason Stack

Grid Reference G545896.

At the landward end of the chain of three stacks sits a huge triangular stack

The Edge of Reason Diff 60m

Climb the seaward ridge with an increase of exposure and malaise to the superb pointed summit.

First ascent; Iain Miller, 1 September 2010.

Baltic Spire

Grid Reference G543897.

At the seaward end of the trio (furthest from the main land) sits a twin-headed basalt spire.

Icon *** VDiff 35m

This route climbs the smaller domed summit.

Climb the immaculate basalt slab up the seaward face, from sea to summit on the most perfect rock Neptune ever sculpted. Extreme nautical caution is required for the approach to/from this beast!

First ascent; Iain Miller, 1 September 2010.

Baltic Spire * VDiff 40m

This route climbs the main and pointed summit of the twin headed basalt stack.

Climb the Eastern arête direct to the summit.

This stack sits in an extremely dangerous position and a tad of nautical wisdom is essential.

First ascent; Iain Miller, 1 September 2010.

Little Dan Stack

Grid Ref G546898.Photo: p276.

The sense of commitment and insanity on this stack is surreal.

Little Dan VS 4c

This route climbs the seaward face of this remote and difficult to access stack.

1. 40m 4c. Gain the seaward face at the point closest to Toralaydan Island and sea level traverse across the slabs to a vertical wall. Traverse across the vertical wall to gain an immaculate ridge.
2. 30m. Climb the ridge to the grassy summit ridge.
3. 40m. Scramble to the exposed and airy summit.

First ascent; Iain Miller, 21 July 2011.

*An Bhuideal. Iain
Miller photo.*



An Bhuideal (The Bottle)

Grid Reference G549903. Photos: this page, 277, 280.

This is an iconic 50m high twin-headed sea stack 300m out to sea at the base of 250m high sea cliffs. Its remote location and close proximity to a skerry chain immediately to the north ensures it is well guarded from any approach by visitors. This stack is the Irish equivalent to the Old Man of Stoer but with a much tetchier nautical approach. The main tower is the thicker southern one and has two excellent Severe rock climbs. There is a quad rigged belay station on its summit allowing an abseil down the centre of the landward face.

The slender north tower, which looks like an old fashioned milk bottle from the sea, provides one of the most exposed and scary rock climbs in Ireland. At the amenable grade of VS this route winds its way up the landward and north faces to a tiny sloping summit. The summit feels like it sways slightly as you sit on it. The abseil off this summit is not for the faint hearted as it is incredibly exposed and relies on a summit cairn as the primary anchor.

A truly outstanding adventurous day out. More info here: https://uniqueascent.ie/an_bhuideal.

Access: From the An Port road end follow the cliff tops for a shade over a kilometre to the summit of the peninsula (Grid Reference G554899) overlooking and immediately to the east of the twin-headed stack. Descend the very atmospheric peninsula/ridge to approx 50m before the tower to the north. From here descend the broken ground to the lonely wee south-facing storm beach. From the huge flat semi-submerged boulder, paddle the 200m to the landward side of the stack. Extreme caution is required; this sea passage is very atmospheric.

An Bhuideal (main summit) *** Sev 4a 50m

The following route climbs the huge arête at the southern end of the landward face. Easily seen from the surrounding cliff tops. Abseil descent of the landward face.

1. 25m 4a. Start on the excellent non tidal ledge below the centre on the landward face of the main stack. Climb up and trend left to an exposed wee ledge on the arête.
2. 25m 4a. Climb the arête to the summit, every hold is a jug and the final 5m will make you smile.

First ascent; Iain Miller, M. Boner, 12 April 2009.



Seal Song Arête ** Sev 45m

An excellent route on excellent rock. On the landward face of the main stack of An Bhuideal climb the huge black groove which separates the two towers to an outstanding ledge overlooking the abyss. Possible belay at 25m. Continue up the arête to the main stack's summit.

First ascent; Iain Miller, U. Macpherson, Wolfgang Schuessler, 9 August 2011.

The Altars of Madness HSev 4b 25m

On the seaward face of An Bhuideal, scramble to top right of the sea-washed slabs as you face the stack. Climb the sky line on excellent and very exposed rock and continue up through mountaineering terrain to the summit.

First ascent; Iain Miller, L. O'Connor, 11 June 2014.

An Bhuideal (North Tower) *** VS 4c 50m

This route climbs skinny, exposed and spectacular north tower of this excellent stack. Access as for the main stack and an abseil descent of the route.

- 1: 15m. From the groove between the two stacks gain and climb the landward arête to a ledge.
- 2: 25m 4a. Make a rising traverse of the landward face to an exposed platform on the North Face.
- 3: 10m 4c. Climb to summit

First ascent; Iain. Miller, J. Read, Martin Boner, 13 June 2009.

Tormore Group

Map: p266. Photo: p319.

Access: From the An Port road end follow the cliff top path for approx 2km until you are on the headland overlooking these monster stacks. (Grid Reference G557906) For Cnoc Na Mara and Lurking Fear descend the 200m grass slope to the lonely pebble beach facing the stacks. Keep to the grassy slopes, directly above the beach and avoid the scree to your right.

More info: Cnoc na Mara: http://uniqueascent.ie/cnoc_na_mara, Tormore Island: http://uniqueascent.ie/tormore_island.



Cnoc na Mara. Iain Miller photo.

Sharks Fin Stack or Cnoc Na Mara

Grid Reference G555906. Photos: this page, 13, 279, 281, 282.

Cnoc na Mara *** VS 4b 152m

This route climbs the superb landward arête of the 100m “sharks fin” stack just to the south of Tormore Island.

1. 35m. Climb the wide groove right of centre on the landward face to a grassy ledge and block belay.
2. 22m. Scramble up the slab to the base of the huge knife edge arête.
3. 35m. Climb the arête to a peg and block belay on the ledge at its top.
4. 60m. An airy pinnacle traverse along the knife edge ridge to the summit.

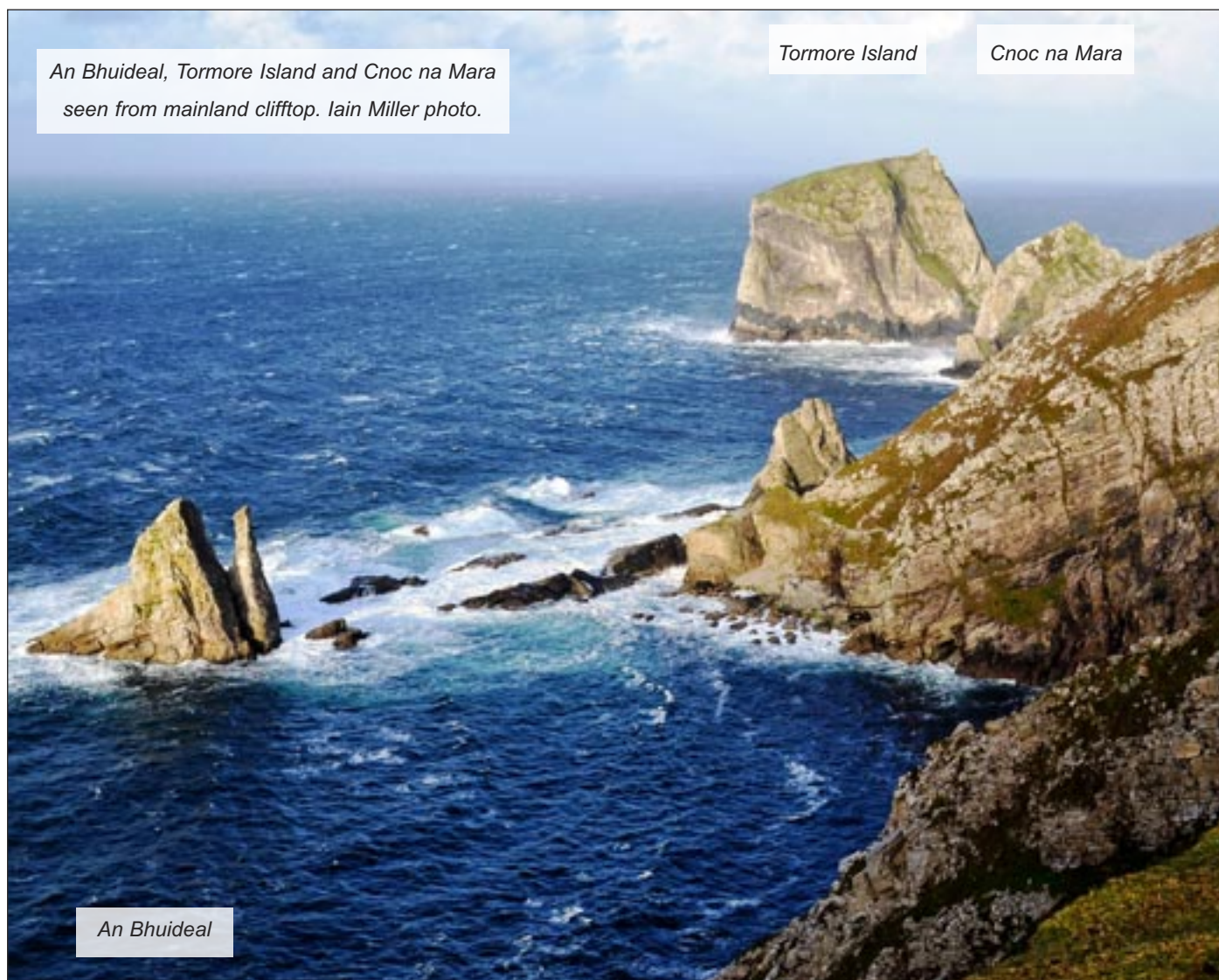
First ascent; Iain Miller, A.Tees, M. McGuigan. 26 July 2008.

A Puffin Too Far * VS 4c 150m

This route climbs the seaward face of the Cnoc Na Mara. A 400m channel crossing from the North end of the beach to the base of the seaward face is the easiest approach. Abseil descent of route from block and peg belays.

1. 25m. From the tidal ledge right of the deep recess climb the black corner to the huge seaward platform and a choice of belay recesses.
2. 45m 4c. Immediately left (north) of the huge seaward recess and big roofs, climb the right trending groove to below an ominous overhung corner. Struggle up the corner to a superb ledge above the void.
3. 40m 4b. In the centre of the ledge climb the steep left facing corner to gain the summit ridge.
4. 40m. Scramble along the ridge to the summit.

First ascent: S. Tait, Iain Miller, 18 April 2009.



Euro Trash VS 4b 121m

This route climbs the groove system to the left of "A Puffin Too Far" on the sea ward face of Cnoc Na Mara.

1. 20m. Climb the wall to the right of the large sea level recess to a large ledge. (as for A Puffin Too Far)
2. 20m. Climb the staircase above trending left to a large ledge.
3. 26m 4b. Follow the V groove and continue up a higher groove. Gain the slopy ledge below the roof.
4. 25m 4b. Exit stage right and surmount the roof, continue up to reach the sea ward summit ridge.
5. 30m. Follow ridge to the summit

First ascent: Wolfgang Schuessler, A. Flynn, 30 July 2011.

Lurking Fear Stack

Grid reference G556906

There is a 25m stack on the landward side of Cnoc Na Mara.

An Appointment with Fear VS 25m

This route climbs south face/ridge of the landward side of Cnoc Na Mara. The atmosphere is considerable.

First ascent; Iain Miller, 15 April 2010.

Lurking Fear VDiff 40m

This route climbs seaward face of the 25m stack on the landward side of Cnoc Na Mara.

1. 20m. Starting at the wee tidal stance at the Northern end of the seaward face, climb the steep wall of immaculate jugs to gain the easy angled ramp, pad up ramp to the sausage-shaped block.
2. 20m. Continue up ramp to a very odd pillar, make an airy move up behind it and crawl to the exposed summit.

First ascent; Iain Miller, 31 May 2008.



Tormore Island

Grid Reference G556908. Photo: below, p280, 281, 319.

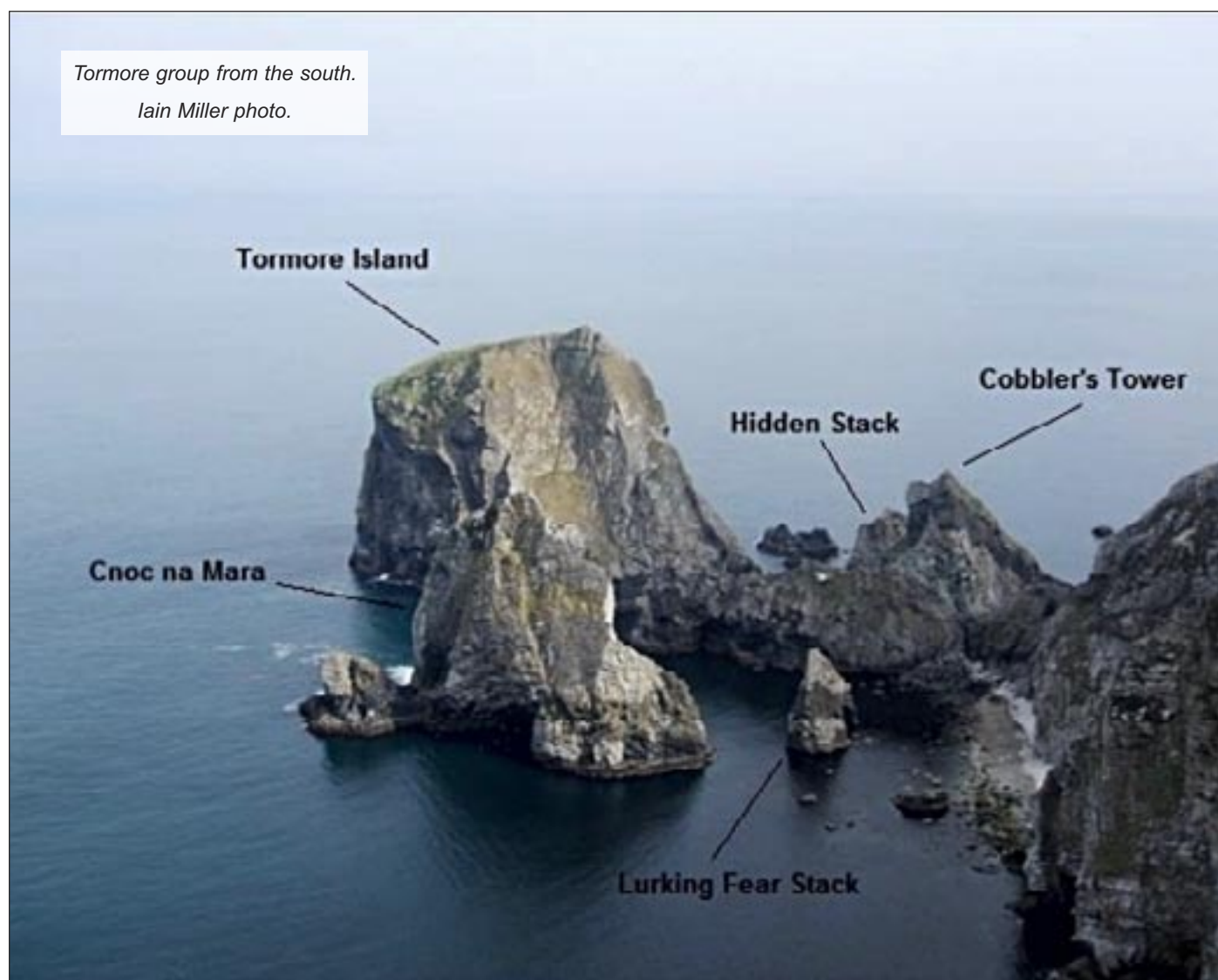
At 150m high this is Ireland's highest sea stack, and the Daddy of Donegal's sea stacks, it can be seen from Dungloe, approx 40km to the north-east!

Access: Access to Tormore Island and The Hidden Stack is an involved affair. Access to this stack by land is a very involved affair and a boat approach is recommended. Follow the access details as for Glenlough Bay stacks. Once on the beach, "coastaleer" your way west along the high water mark to the channel facing The Hidden Stack. For Tormore Island there is a further channel crossing to reach the non-tidal platform at the bottom of the landward face of Tormore. From car to base of route takes approx 3.5 hours. An alternative approach is to paddle from the storm beach as for Cnoc na Mara. This approach requires an uber calm sea.

Tormore Island VS 220m

This route climbs the very obvious landward arête at the Eastern end of the island. This feature can clearly be seen from any position along this coast overlooking the stack. Descent is by 4 abseils back down this route using the block and peg belays described.

1. 45m. Starting on the non tidal ledge in the centre of the landward face, directly opposite the secret 35m stack. Climb the blunt arête to the right of the vertical basalt vein, follow the corners and ledges on superb quartz to a large block belay.
2. 40m. Continue up the arête on slabby mixed ground to a large ledge below the huge capping roof, peg belay.
3. 45m. Climb direct on superb rock to the left end of the huge roofs and become increasingly aware of your



surroundings. Pass the roofs on the left and continue on mixed ground to a huge ledge and peg belay.

4. 45m. Climb gearless, near vertical grass to an exposed wee ridge, follow the ridge for 15m to a block belay.

5. 20m. Scramble up the grass covered ridge to the summit.

First Ascent: Iain Miller, P. McConnel, Alan Tees, P. Cooper; 10 August 2008. FFA Iain Miller, L. Lemanski, 23 September 2014.

Hidden Stack

Grid Reference G556907.

Hidden Stack sits in the channel separating Tormore Island and Cobblers Tower. Access is by a superb paddle from the storm beach as for Cnoc na Mara.

Hidden Stack VDiff 42m

This route climbs the southern ridge, the first feature on the stack you see as you paddle up the channel towards it. The seas around Hidden Stack are very tetchy indeed and require due nautical care.

1. 15m. From the non-tidal platform at the base of the south end, climb the up the left side of the south-facing ridge to a large ledge.

2. 15m. Continue up the ridge to a lonely huge basalt boulder.

3. 12m. Scramble along the summit ridge. Abseil descent down the seaward face from the basalt boulder.

First ascent; A. Wainwright, Iain Miller; 13 October 2010.

Cobbler's Tower

This is the huge tower between Hidden Stack and mainland Donegal, it requires a very calm sea state and considerable nautical guile to stand on its summit.

Cobbler's Tower Diff 130m

Climb the north face of the tower, starting in a scalloped recess on the landward face. The climbing is steep mixed ground leading to a very scary and exposed summit which you will leave as quickly as you can.

First ascent: S. Jock Read, Iain Miller; 10 July 2013.

Glenlough Bay

Map: p266. Photo: p284, 285.

Glenlough Bay is 3km north-east of the end of the road to An Port. It stretches for 2km from Tormore Island at the south to the northern end. Along the way there is a 1km raised storm shingle beach. There are two sea stacks and a beach tower here; the Southern Stack, the Tent Stack, and Jenga Tower, with the End's of the Earth Stack out to sea by its northern headland.

Access: From the An Port road end follow the cliff top path north for approx 3km. Once you pass the Tormore viewpoint (Grid Reference G557906) continue to follow the cliff tops as they descend into Glenlough Bay. At Grid Reference G567904, descend to the wide gully immediately to the south of the large ominous looking buttress. Follow the stream down this gully until approx 70m above the sea, traverse north for 50m and descend the scree slope to the beach, directly below the ominous buttress.

Southern Stack

Grid Reference G567907.

The 45m southern stack sits approximately 80m out to sea and involves a wee sea passage to land on its landward face. The easiest route to the summit is very loose but with nearly 4m of good rock as you pull onto the summit.

Southern Stack XS 4c 45m

This route climbs the landward face of the "flying wedge" stack. Abseil descent of the route.

1. 35m 4c. At the southern end of the landward face, climb the left trending groove and continue upwards to a huge grassy ledge. Classic stack ground; a mixture of good/poor rock and a hint of insanity.
2. 10m 4c. From the ledge centre climb the obvious bulging wide crack on surprisingly good rock and moves up to the summit.

First ascent; I. Chestnut, Iain Miller, 10 May 2009.

Tent-Shaped Stack

Grid Reference G568908. Photo: p285, 344.

The Tent Stack is the 50m high, broad centre stack. It has boulder hop access at low to mid tide. Alas, as the tide floods, it creates a lot of white water around the landward face due to the many semi-submerged boulders. There are two recorded routes to the summit up the landward face; both have a wee bit of jungle bashing involved.

Darkness Descends Diff 95m

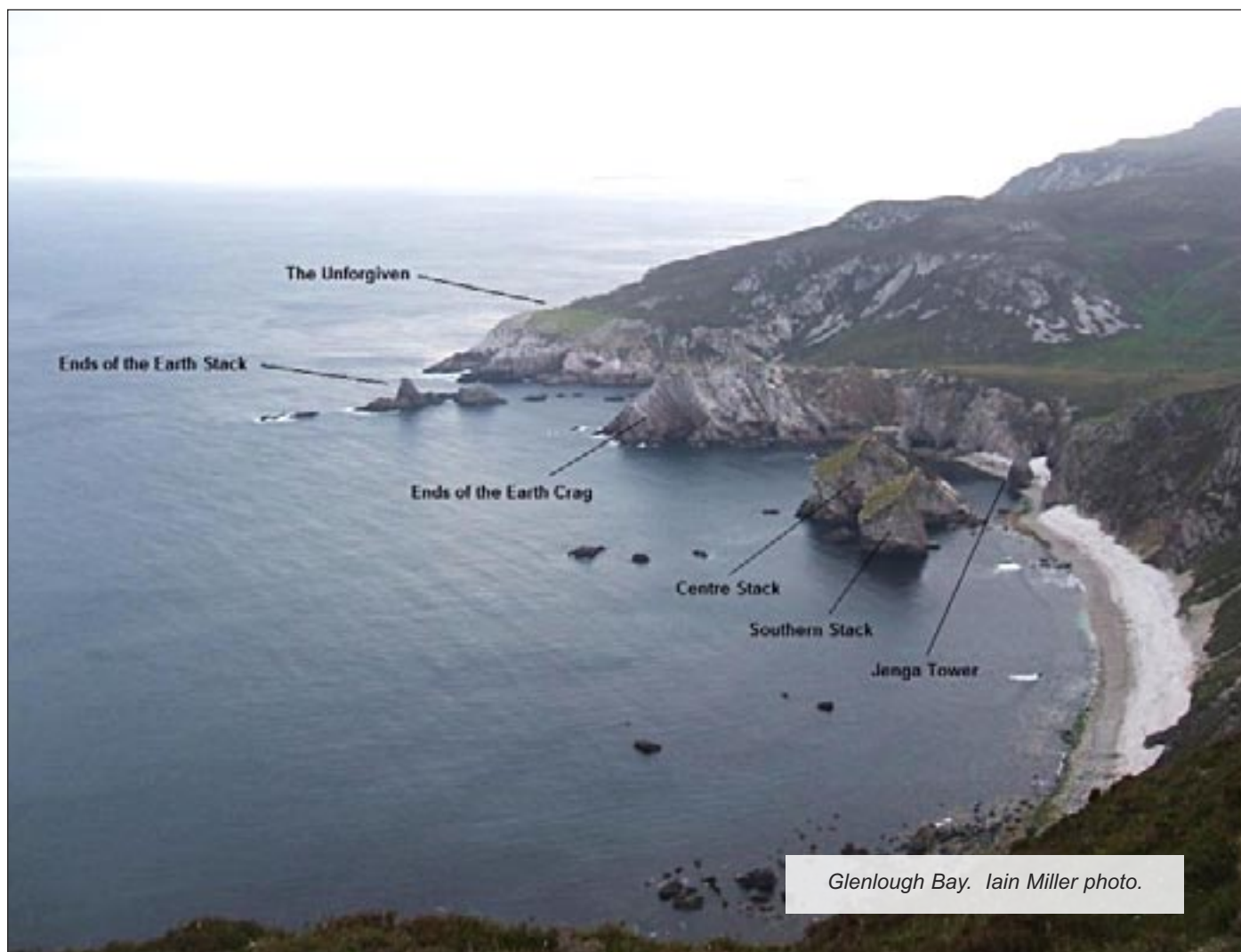
From the large crater/pod at the bottom left of the landward face (southern end), follow the right trending hand crack up the slabs (northward). Continue right (north) through heather, grot and atmosphere to gain the foot of the north ridge. Scramble up the ridge to the summit.

First ascent; Iain Miller, 25 November 2008.

Rainman VDiff 75m

From the pod/crater at the bottom (southern end) of the landward face climb direct to the summit, up superb slabs and positive holds.

First ascent; Iain Miller, 25 November 2008.





Glenlough Bay. From left; Centre (Tent) Stack, Southern Stack, Tent Stack and Jenga Stack from the south. Iain Miller photo.

Jenga Tower

Grid Reference G569908. Photo: above, p284.

This 30m quartz tower sits on the beach between the high and low water lines.

Jenga * E2 5a 50m

This tower is an extremely serious climb, a fall from the last 12 metres would be fatal.

1. 15m 4a. Starting on the high water line at the southern end of the landward face, climb the knobby quartz to a small stance and make a superb rising traverse above the roofs/cave towards the sea to a large airy ledge above the void.
2. 35m 5a. Follow a raising traverse north to the centre of the seaward face. Climb the right trending fault to the southern end of the knife edge summit ridge. Scramble along ridge to summit.

First ascent; Iain Miller, D. O'Connor, 28 December 2008.

Glenlough Bay (North Headland)

Ends of the Earth Stack

Photo: p284, 286, 287.

This 20m high sea stack sits in one of the most beautiful and remote locations in Ireland. It lies 300m out to sea from the lonely wee bay to the north of Glenlough Bay. To the south you have the vast expanse of Glenlough Bay continuing south along the west coast to Tormore Island and to the east you have the vast expanse of the north coast of the Slievetooley Peninsula. Its location ensures it attracts the conflicting tidal streams from both the south and north-west causing a colossal amount of white water violence in the bay surrounding the base of the stack.



End's of the Earth Stack. Iain Miller photo.

Detailed access: follow the coastline path from An Port as for Glenlough Bay and continue to its northern end. Descend steep broken ground carefully, with a huge vertical drop to the sea level slabs beside you, to the wee storm beach in the bay. It's easier and saner to launch from the small rock outcrops flanking the south end of the bay; again descend with care. Paddle out for 300m between the offshore skerries and the stack. Land on the stack point nearest the mainland and scramble along the rocky ridge from the rounded sub-summit to the main summit.

The ridge traverse is a surreal journey into the pounding heart of the ocean as the sea heaves in the cauldron to the south of this ridge. At mid to high tide the ridge is swamped by thousands of tonnes of white water at very regular intervals. The easiest and best way to the top is directly up the slabby landward face. Standing there will leave you speechless, as it is truly astounding place to be.

Ends of the Earth Stack *** Diff 20m

Climb the superb jug covered flake up the centre of the landward face.

First ascent; Iain Miller, 22 June 2010.

Smooth Sailing HSev 4b 30m

Climb the centre of the smooth slabs at the southern side of the landward face.

First ascent; Iain Miller, Mick Fowler, 20 August 2012.

The following three routes are on the seaward face of the End's of the Earth Stack.

The Entrance to Hades * Sev 20m

At the northern end of the seaward face starting 3m to the left of the enormous slot climbed by Davie Jones Locker,



Jug haul up the steepest part of the face, pull round the roof on its left and stand on the summit.

First ascent; Iain Miller, 22 June 2010.

Davie Jones Locker * Sev 20m

Climb the huge right trending groove/cave (internal caterpillar style.) Pull out and jug haul to summit. Immaculate rock, superb climbing and a location that will live long in your memory.

First ascent; Iain Miller, 22 June 2010.

Two Men in a Boat ** HVS 5a 25m

At the southern end of the seaward face the rock steepens alarmingly. Starting below and left of the obvious summit groove climb on huge positive jugs and flakes and up the groove to the summit.

First ascent; Mick Fowler, Iain Miller, 20 August 2012.

The Unforgiving Stack

Grid Reference G573916. Photo: p288.

This 60m twin-headed beast sits in a very remote/lonely location, 4.5km north of the An Port road end. It is fiercely guarded by monster cliff's and a very atmospheric gothic sea channel. This stack sits in without a doubt one of the most remote and inaccessible places in Ireland.

Access; a 750m superb paddle from the headland just north of Glenlough Bay around Neptune's wrath to the southern end of the beast. This involves passing through an outstanding gothic channel between the stack and the mainland, hemmed in by 60m to 200m vertical walls either side, to land in a tunnel running through the stack. Descent of the stack is by guile.



The Unforgiving Stack. Iain Miller photo.

The Unforgiving XS 110m

The stack is climbed by scrambling up the southern ridge to gain the southern summit. This leads to a final monster pitch up the southern face of the main north summit. A beast for the connoisseur. :-)

1. 30m. Easily scramble up the south face of the southern summit.
2. 35m. Continue upwards to the southern summit.
3. 10m. Down climb to the col between the two summits. Block belay.
4. 35m. A monster pitch to the summit of the northern stack, up no grot but alas mucho loose rock/certain death and ultimately mega atmosphere.

First ascent; Iain Miller, Caoimhe Gleeson, 4 July 2009.

Pyramid Stack

Grid Ref G583920. Photo: p289.

Pyramid Stack is another contender for the most remote location on the mainland of Ireland. It sits 200m out to sea at the base of a 300m sea cliff in a most intimidating place. It is the highest point of a collection of stacks and islands that are collectively known as The Enchanted Islands. They are outstandingly beautiful and there is a huge colony of resident seals living around this archipelago. A visit to the storm beach facing out to these islands is a mission in itself and the rewards are spectacular. The stack consists of a huge wedge of Ashfall Quartz, with its landward face being a superb 80m slab leading to a pin point summit above a huge and dramatic vertical drop into the ocean below.

Detailed access: Make a 5km cliff top trek from An Port, followed by a very steep 300m steep grass down climb and a 300m paddle around the grassy island between the stack and land. Its location is mind blowing and is prone to monster seas. A very serious stack, albeit with a straightforward climb on it.



On the summit of Pyramid Stack. Iain Miller photo.

Pyramid Stack Sev 160m

This stack was climbed as an east to west ridge traverse (and back).

First ascent; Iain Miller, 29 June 2010.

Above and Beyond *** HVS 5a 45m

This route climbs the seaward face of Pyramid Stack taking the outstanding corner of the stack in pitch two.

1. 20m. Directly below the summit corner of the stack lies a perfect square cut sea-level recess. Belay on the perfect stance below the roof in this recess. Climb directly up to the left-facing corner on perfect cracks and water sculptured holds. Climb the recessed corner to a palatial belay ledge.
2. 25m. Climb the soaring corner above at first on its right then on its left following perfect holds up to the capping roof. Climb the slotted groove to below the capping roof; consider climbing the roof and then exit airily left onto the summit.

First ascent; W. Gadd, Iain Miller, 29 June 2019.

Cronin's Stack VDiff 30m

Approximately 100m to the East of Pyramid Stack climb the landward arête of the wedge stack.

First ascent; A. Cronin. 26 June 2013.

Gull Island

Grid Reference G613924. Photo: p290.

Gull Island is a huge sea stack sitting in the middle of an expanse of lonely, remote and uninhabited coastline.



Stretching 12km to the east and west of this stack is a wall of outrageous 300m sea cliffs, which effectively guard this stretch of coast.

Access; walk 4km over the Slievetooley summit from the south and descend its northern slopes to an outstanding location on the clifftops over looking Gull Island. Descend the very steep grass to the boulder beach joining Gull Island to the mainland. There is an abseil stake in place (2009) to safeguard the initial part of the descent. This takes you to a huge spit of sea-washed boulders joining Gull Island to the mainland. Access the stack base by a 100m steep grass/mixed ground scramble to a truly atmospheric location on the boulder beach at the base of the stack.

Descent from summit is by guile and 2 abseils down the route.

Gull Island E1 5a 125m

This route climbs an arête of biblical proportions to the summit and has to be seen to be believed. The stack is climbed in three huge pitches up this landward arête. The first pitch could be called the death pitch as it is unprotected for its first 40m but thankfully presents easy climbing.

1. 50m 3a. To the west of the landward arête climb the huge corner crack until it terminates. Traverse right and ascend the ramp to gain the arête and a tri-peg belay. There are three good gear placements in 50m; fall and you will die.
2. 25m. Continue up the arête by a very atmospheric scramble to the big block overhang at the base of the boulder field (2-peg belay.)
3. 50m. Climb the stacked boulder field to the two big boulders on top. Crimp left and ascend up superb rock, continue to the summit through two rock bands.

First ascent; Iain Miller; Martin Boner; 24 April 2009.



Satan Stack

Grid Reference G612926. Photo: p290, above.

This 80m monster sits to the immediate west of Gull Island in a very remote and inaccessible location. **Access;** Access presents considerable logistical and nautical problems requiring a tad of planning prior to attempting an ascent. It is as for Gull Island followed by a 500m sea passage around the west side of Gull Island. Pass through a gothic channel between the two stacks to the only landing place on Satan, at the convergence of the channels in the centre of this gothic labyrinth. This stack will take the souls of the unwary! Abseil descent of route.

Satan XS 4c/5a 90m

The stack is climbed in three pitches up its south face culminating in a superb final pitch up a steep groove and rocky ridge traverse onto the majestic and super scary summit.

1. 25m. Climb the left-trending V-chimney from the sea level 'port' to a col between the main stack and an offshoot lump to the south.
2. 30m. Climb up the centre of the landward face, up steep basalt and belay at the cam crack at the base of the east summit tower.
3. 35m 5a. Climb corner to left of tower, to arrive on summit ridge, scramble to the summit with caution, enjoying considerable atmosphere and exposure.

First ascent; Iain Miller, Martin Boner 19 May 2009.



An Briste (The Trousers) or Arch Stack

Grid Ref B708075. Photo above, p10, 293.

This 60m high twin-legged stack is located 1km to the south of Maghery Village, on the Maghery peninsula to the south-west of Dungloe Village in The Rosses, western Donegal. It's outstanding and provides an excellent day out.

Access; Make an easy descent down the wide grassy gully facing the stack on the land to a wide boulder beach at sea level. Paddle out to the stack through a collection of baby stacks and an assortment of tidal skerries to gain the lee between the legs of the stack. Land on the small ledge just above the high tide mark on the seaward leg in the arch. An excellent traverse out to sea just above the high water mark on the seaward leg brings you to a large sea-level platform at the base of the stack's seaward face. More info here: https://uniqueascent.ie/bristi_stack_maghery.

Arch Stack (Original Route) Sev 4a 25m

Climb the southern edge seaward face by the overhung right-facing groove and follow the shallow corner up the centre of the slab to a wee niche below a head-wrecking steepness. Step right above 'big air' and climb the steep right-facing corner to the salvation of the summit. If you are alone at this point your mind will be in tatters! :-)

First ascent; Iain Miller, 9 June 2011.

North Route VS 4c 25m

Climb the left-facing corner at the northern edge of the seaward face. Step right at the top of the corner onto a sub summit ledge. Pull onto the summit at the wee vegetated niche.

First ascent; Iain Miller, Wolfgang Schuessler, 19 June 2012.



Ned Gaffney's Perch Sev 29m

This route takes the landward face of the stack, starting on the large tidal ledge at the southern side. Climb the steep crack trending right to join the vegetated ramp to the summit.

First ascent; Iain Miller, Ned Gaffney, 21 June 2013.

Bristi Stacks

Photo: p10, 292.

There are several other much smaller stacks in this bay which have all been climbed by their easiest routes to their summits.

Arranmore Island

Map: P294.

This is known as *Árrain Mhór* in gaelic. It is the largest inhabited island of County Donegal, with just under 480 permanent inhabitants, and lies 5km off the mainland port of Burtonport, a coastal village in The Rosses. There are ferries running between Burtonport and Leabgarrow village on the island. Arranmor has seven stacks around its westward coast line and we start in the south-west with Dragon's Back Stack.

Dragon's Back Stack

Grid Ref B636144. Photo; p295.

An immaculate wee stack, 50m high, on perfect black granite. It sits at the base of the 50m sea cliffs approximately 150m west of Stac an Lolar. The stack has an excellent exposed scrambling route to its small flat topped summit.



Access; There is a storm beach at the bottom of a gully known as the 'Gully of the Gods.' Paddle a dingy 600m from this to a recess on the west side of the stack. This is a surreal paddle through the pounding heart of darkness. A very calm sea is required. If there is any south-west motion in the waves then the passage is potentially suicidal.

Dragons Back Stack ** Diff 40m

Climb the landward ridge.

First ascent; Iain Miller, Caoimhe Gleeson, 24 July 2011.

Stac an Iolar

Grid Ref B636147. Photo: p295.

The iconic 35m high sea stack known sits in a truly outstanding location in a monster amphitheatre of 50m - 70m vertical or overhanging cliffs at the south-west tip of Aranmore Island. *Stac an Iolar* means Stack of the Eagle.

Access; Access to sea level is down a superb 120m easy angled gully at the back of the amphitheatre, the 'Gully of the Gods.' The descent is mostly stepped grass with a couple of rocky steps to a final 4m vertical wall onto the amazing storm beach. From the storm beach it is a 150m sea passage by dingy out to the huge sea level platform at the base of the east face of the stack. Once established on the stack it is a short but excellent traverse onto the thin platform at the foot of the stack's skinny seaward face.

Dragon's Back Stack. Iain Miller photo.



Climbers on Stac an Iolar. Iain Miller photo.



Blood Line *** XS 40m

The stack is climbed by a well-defined seaward facing corner on the seaward ridge to a large airy stance. Continue up the wall above on broken egg shells to gain a huge left trending and overhanging offwidth. Ascend this by guile to a mind blowing summit. First ascensionist Iain Miller says: "An ascent of this stack will live forever in your "what the f**k was I doing" memory.

First ascent; S. 'Jock' Read, P. Brennan, Iain Miller; 23 July 2011.

Humped Ridge Stack

Grid Reference B641155. Photo: below.

This excellent 35m quartz stack sits at the northern end of the lonely wee bay just to the north of Cronagarn Hill on the south-west tip of Arranmore Island. The stack currently has six routes ascending all four of its faces. The vertical seaward face contains slightly harder routes, following the main features up the wall. The north ridge is the easiest and best route to the summit. It is a 40m ridge traverse with some incredible exposure for such a modest sea stack. The summit of this sea stack is washed clean by the westerly winter gales, which means in big westerly seas this stack has sea crashing green over its summit.

Access; Take a 1km walk from the main (only) road around the island to the southern end of the 50m cliffs, grass and scree surrounding the landward end of the bay. Descend the grass and scree ramp at the southern end of the bay to a large boulder field storm beach. Paddle 300m out to sea to the base of the stack's slabby landward face.

The North Ridge ** Diff 40m

Start at sea level at the point where the stack is nearest to land, and simply climb the excellent ridge to the summit.

First ascent; Iain Miller; 8 June 2010.

Dark Matter ** HSev 4b 25m

In the centre of the west (seaward) face climb the steep chimney come corner direct to the summit ridge.

First ascent; Iain Miller; 8 June 2010.



Humped Ridge Stack. Iain Miller photo.

At the southern end of the seaward face the steepness eases and quartz jugs become abundant.

Seal Song VDiff 20m

Climb the line of least resistance immediately as the angle of the face eases.

First ascent; Iain Miller, 8 June 2010.

Selkies Song VDiff 15m

3m right of Seal Song climb the airy crack and jug haul to the true summit.

First ascent; Iain Miller, 8 June 2010.

Vice Grip Sev 25m

Climb the seaward edge of the south face, up superb quartz jugs and up through a tricky wee groove to the summit.

First ascent; Iain Miller, 8 June 2010.

Popcorn VDiff 25m

Climb the centre of the seaward face and up the left-trending ramp to the summit.

First ascent; Iain Miller, 8 June 2010.

The slabby east face (landward face) is 40m long and is immaculate knobular quartz, it can be climbed/scrambled anywhere at Diff/VDiff.

Lighthouse Stack

Grid Reference B643188. Photo: p298.

This stack is found below the lighthouse at Rinrawros Point at the far north-west tip of Arranmore Island. There is parking at the lighthouse car park at the road end and it is a 30 second walk through the lighthouse grounds to the cliffs overlooking this superb sea stack. For the best view of the stack follow the coast around past the lighthouse for 100m and you are now looking across at the stack's landward facing ridge.

The rock is immaculate Ashfall Quartz and the ridge is climbed at the very amenable grade of Diff/VDif. It provides the best route of this grade in Ireland.

Access; This is by a super scary 50m abseil down the black slabs facing the centre of the south face of the stack to a wee recess just above the high water mark. From here it is a short sea passage to the huge sea level platforms at the base of the stack's south face.

The Lighthouse Stack *** Diff 85m

This is the easiest route to the summit and follows the stunning landward ridge. The higher you climb the thinner and steeper the ridge becomes, increasing the exposure to an outstanding level. Every hold on this ridge is an immaculate jug and there is gear on demand all the way to the pin point summit. A truly great route on an outstanding sea stack in a very atmospheric and potentially dangerous location.

1. 30m. Starting on the huge very tidal platform at the bottom of the ridge, climb on jugs and immaculate rock to a recess on the ridge. Block belay.
2. 25m. Ascend the ridge to a brief wee flattening. Cam slot belay (1 and 1.5)
3. 30m. Continue up the ridge on endless jugs and perfect rock to a definite and outstanding summit.

First ascent; Iain Miller, 25 July 2009.

Altars of Madness * VS 4c 50m

This climbs a shallow arête at the seaward end of the non-tidal platforms running out from the low-tide land bridge.

1. 25m. Climb the arête to gain the ramp as for The Outer Realms and belay where the angle of the wall above begins to look less steep.

The Lighthouse Stack and access. Iain Miller photos.



2. 25m. Climb steeply to gain the outstanding slab of rippled quartz. Climb the slab on small holds and very small gear to the summit.

First ascent; Iain Miller, L. O'Connor, 11 June 2014.

The Outer Realms ** HVS 5a 50m

This line climbs the ramp and groove left of centre on the south face of the stack.

1. 35m. Climb the superb exposed ramp up through the bulge to a stance below the steepening and wee roof.
2. 15m. Climb the steep groove above to the summit ridge.

First ascent; W. Gadd, Iain Miller, 2 July 2019.

Broken Arrow ** VDiff 50m

This route climbs directly up the north face of the stack.

1. 25m. From the centre of the north face base, climb up through a wee steepening on jugs and immaculate rock to a huge crater in the middle of the wall.
2. 25m. Follow the line of jugs out of the top of the crater heading seaward to arrive on the seaward end of the summit ridge.

First ascent; Iain Miller, 25 July 2009.

Un-Named Stack

Photo: p299.

Follow the lighthouse boundary wall down towards the sea. At the bottom of this wall is a large zawn containing a very obvious sea stack. The stack has climbing on both its seaward and landward faces.

First ascents; Iain Miller. 18 May 2017.



Un-named Stack, Arranmore. Iain Miller photo.



Torneady Point

Torneady Point is Arranmore Island's most northerly point. There is a massive stack here called Giant's Reek Stack plus a smaller one, Torneady Point Stack, nearby. Both require access by sea, using either a dingy, RiB (Rigid Inflatable Boat) or larger vessel.

Giant's Reek Stack

Grid Reference B653190. Photo: above, p301, 302.

This is a 120m high enormous monster stack that sits in the midst of an amphitheatre of huge cliffs. Both routes on it are very serious undertakings and provide a full on adventure quite unlike anything else in Ireland.

Access; This involves an extremely committing paddle around Torneady point or the use of a RiB. The stack is 10km or so distant from from Burtonport on the mainland which is where a RiB might be launched. The cauldron in which the stack is located is prone to the full fury of the prevailing south-west sea motion so a calm sea is needed for an attempt.

Descent; Abseil descent of the seaward ridge in three pitches.

The Seaward Ridge XS 140m

1. 15m. From the sea level platforms scramble up superb quartz to a large ledge at the bottom of the steep ridge.
2. 15m. Climb on jugs up superb rock to a ledge below steep vegetation.
3. 45m. Continue up the ridge, alternating between superb rock and deep grot grovelling. Climb the short vertical mud section (crux) to belay at base of first tower.
4. 40m. Climb the knife edge ridge to the skyline summit ridge tower.
5. 25m. Follow the summit ridge to the airy summit.

First ascent; Iain Miller, James Crowe, 8 August 2009.



Landward face of Giant's Reek Stack. Iain Miller photo.

Fu Manchu XS 140m

This route climbs the landward face. Start from the seaward end of the obvious tidal platform at its foot.

1. 20m. Climb up good rock to the base of a distinct black chimney.
2. 20m. Climb the disconcertingly loose chimney (belayer beware) and exit right to a grassy ledge at the base of a large hairy black slab. Excavate some holds and traverse left across the top for the gully and follow easier grass slope to good belay off blocks in a distinct black corner.
3. 20m. Take a spectacular traverse right following relatively easier ground to belay on at the base of large crack on good quartz on the right-hand side of the stack.
4. 20m. Follow quartz blocks and steps to belay on good ledge above a short steep wall that has some huge loose blocks on the right.
5. 25m. Follow the last of the rock for 10m to reach welcoming grassy summit slope.
6. 35m. Finish along the awesome ground as per the seaward ridge route.

First ascent; Dave Millar, Steven Read, 8 August 2009.

Torneady Point Stack

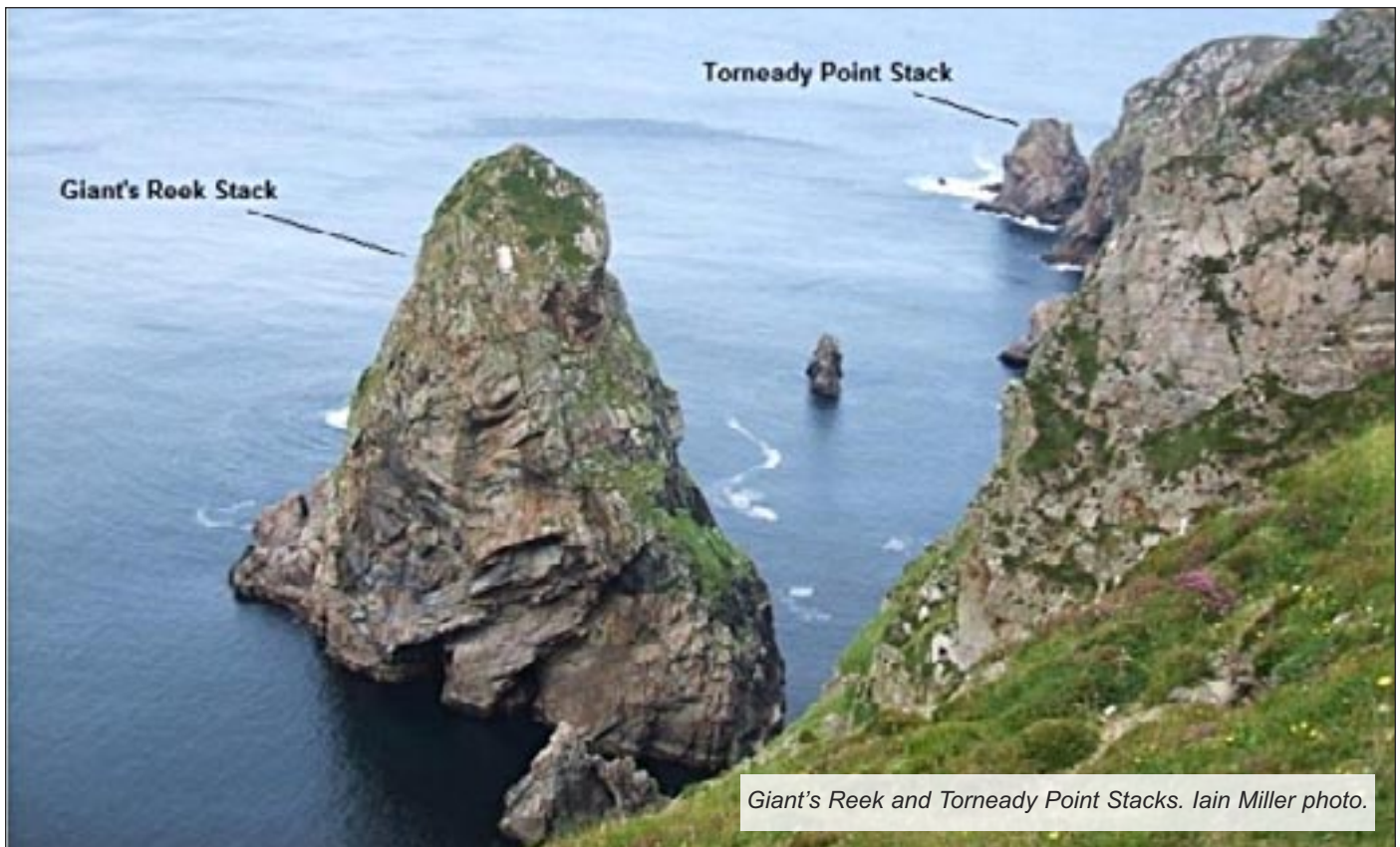
Grid Reference B654196. Photo: p302.

This stack sits just to the west of the northern tip of Aranmore Island. Access is difficult and an atmospheric and committing paddle was made around the headland to the north. Abseil descent of the South Face Route.

South Face Route VDiff 55m

1. 45m. From the small recess ledge/recess at the southern end of the landward face, climb up jugs and the left facing corner to a large ramp overlooking the channel.
2. 10m. Climb the steep juggy corner to the southern summit.

First ascent; Iain Miller, Phillip Stevens, 16 July 2009.



Giant's Reek and Torneady Point Stacks. Iain Miller photo.

Dead Man's Fingers * HSev 4b 85m

This route climbs the north face of this stack. Access and descent as for the South Face route.

1. 30m 4b. Starting at the northern end of the landward face (where the sea level tongue spits out) climb the black slab and wall. Step left and continue up the jug fest to a large belay ramp.
2. 25m 4b. Climb the flake crack out right and continue left. Ascend the steep groove to belay on the summit ridge.
3. 30m. Make an excellent and airy summit ridge traverse to the southern summit.

First ascent; Phillip Stevens, Iain Miller, 16 July 2009.

Cruit Island

Map: p303.

Cruit Island, pronounced 'Critch' and *An Chruit*, meaning harp, or *Oileán na Cruite* in gaelic, is a small inhabited island in the Rosses region of County Donegal, and linked to the mainland by a bridge. It lies near near Kincasslagh and measures roughly 5km by 1.5km. There are no shops nor pubs on Cruit but the views are wonderful.

Torboy

Grid ref: B725231. Photo-diagrams: p304, 305.

Torboy is an island of immaculate granite at the northern tip of Cruit Island, approximately 100m out to sea. We'll treat it as a stack because the climbing looks such fun.

Access: This is by an 800m coastal walk from the Owey pier followed by a short sea passage. Care must be taken on the sea passage as the channels separating the island from Cruit are prone to monster seas.

The Grater Groove VS 4c 18m

At the juncture of the landward facing wall and the east sea-facing wall, climb the wide chimney/groove up/on and through the sharpest crystal rock it is possible to imagine. Falling would be very unpleasant indeed!

First ascent; Iain Miller, Edward Wallace, 3 June 2010.

Jamtastic VS 4c 18m

Approx 5m right of The Grater Groove, climb the full crag height off-width. Big daddy cams are a good idea.

First ascent; Richie Khann, Iain Miller, 14 August 2010.

A Moment in Time VS 4b 15m

Approximately 3m right of Jamtastic, climb the shallow left-facing corner crack.

First ascent; Richie Khann, Iain Miller, 14 August 2010.

Laughing Fools ** VD 20m

Approximately 20m right of The Grater Groove, the cliff steps back to form a steep bay. Climb the left-hand side of the bay by the right-facing corner with the huge mid-height platform.

First ascent; Iain Miller, E. Wallace, 3 June 2010.

Happy Days Diff 18m

Beyond the large bay the cliff contains a steep slabby wall of perfect sea battered granite. Climb the first full crag height groove immediately left of the Distant Drums corner.

First ascent; Iain Miller, 3 June 2010.

Distant Drums Sev 4a 18m

Left of centre on this wall, climb the crack running into and through the right facing corner at half crag height. A cheeky few starting moves.

First ascent; Iain Miller, Edward Wallace, 3 June 2010.

Lump Groove * HVS 5a 18m

2m right of Distant Drums climb the easy looking deep crack, hard start, hard middle and a superb finish.

First ascent; Iain Miller, 4 June 2010.

Boxer Squash * Sev 4a 15m

At the far right of the crag, just before it tapers down into a deep geo, climb the full crag height 8-inch offwidth with internal quartz knobular assistance.

First ascent; Iain Miller, Edward Wallace, 3 June 2010.

Tilted Lift * VS 4b 15m

Climb the leftward trending flake to join the crux of Boxer Squash, finish up groove.

First ascent; Iain Miller, Wolfgang Schuessler, 20 June 2012.

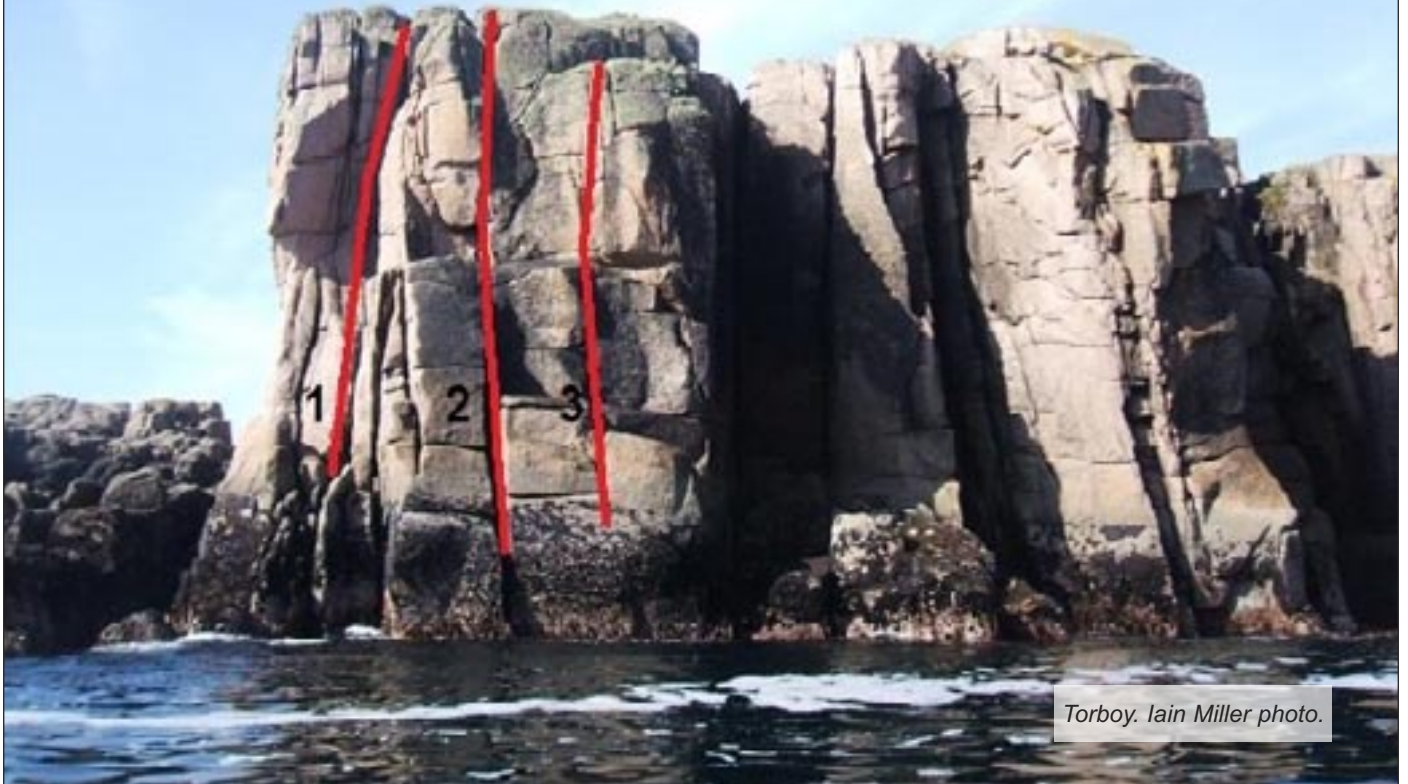
Decime Norberto * E1 5a 15m

Climb the steep right facing flake crack and up the blunt arête above.

First ascent; Wolfgang Schuessler, Iain Miller, 20 June 2012.



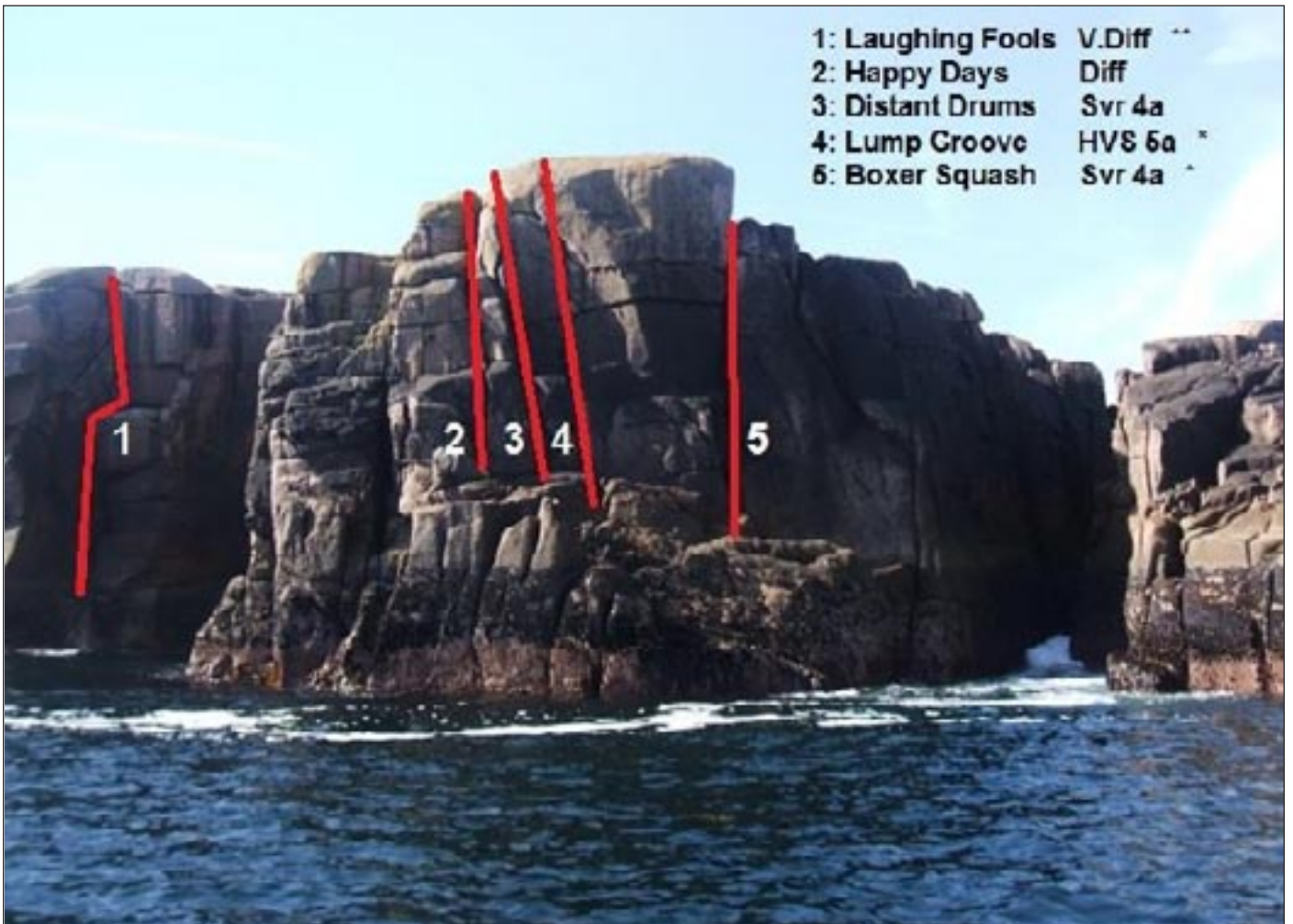
- 1: Grater Groove VS 4c
- 2: Jamtastic VS 4c
- 3: A Moment in Time VS 4b

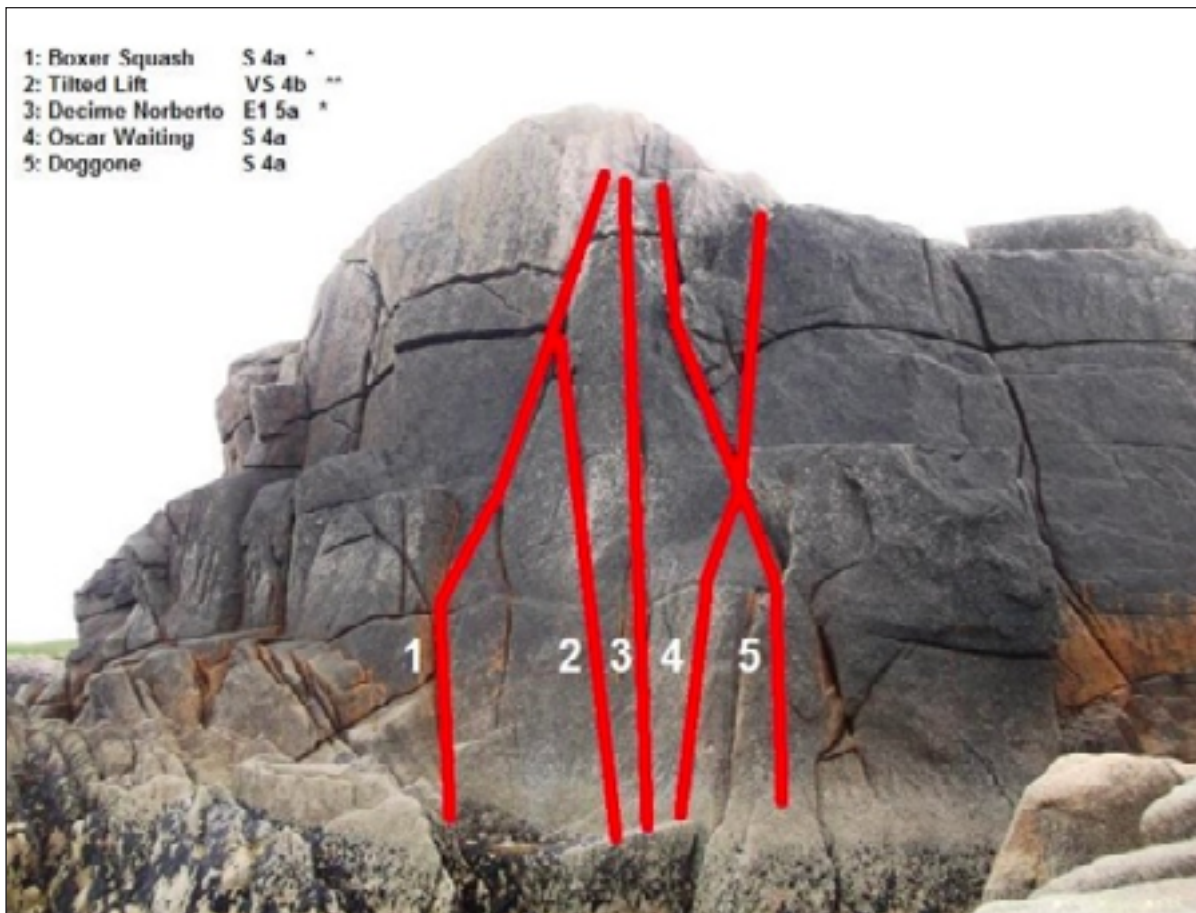


Torboy. Iain Miller photo.

Torboy topo diagrams above and below. Iain Miller photos.

- 1: Laughing Fools V.Diff **
- 2: Happy Days Diff
- 3: Distant Drums Svr 4a
- 4: Lump Groove HVS 5a *
- 5: Boxer Squash Svr 4a *





Oscar Watching Sev 4a 15m

To the right of Decime Norberto, climb the twin cracks and across to a wee niche. Follow the left groove to the summit.

First ascent; Wolfgang Schuessler, Iain Miller, 20 June 2012.

Dog Gone Sev 4a 15m

From the far end of the tidal ledge, climb the wide crack and cross the slab the niche, as for Oscar Watching. Climb the right groove to the summit.

First ascent; Iain Miller, Wolfgang Schuessler, 20 June 2012.

The tidal ledges for the previous eight routes ends abruptly at a deep steep sided zawn of perfect rock. The following route is the first of many to be climbed in this zawn. Access is by a careful scramble down the back of the zawn to a ledge running along the right wall on the high tide mark.

The First of Many * MSev 12m

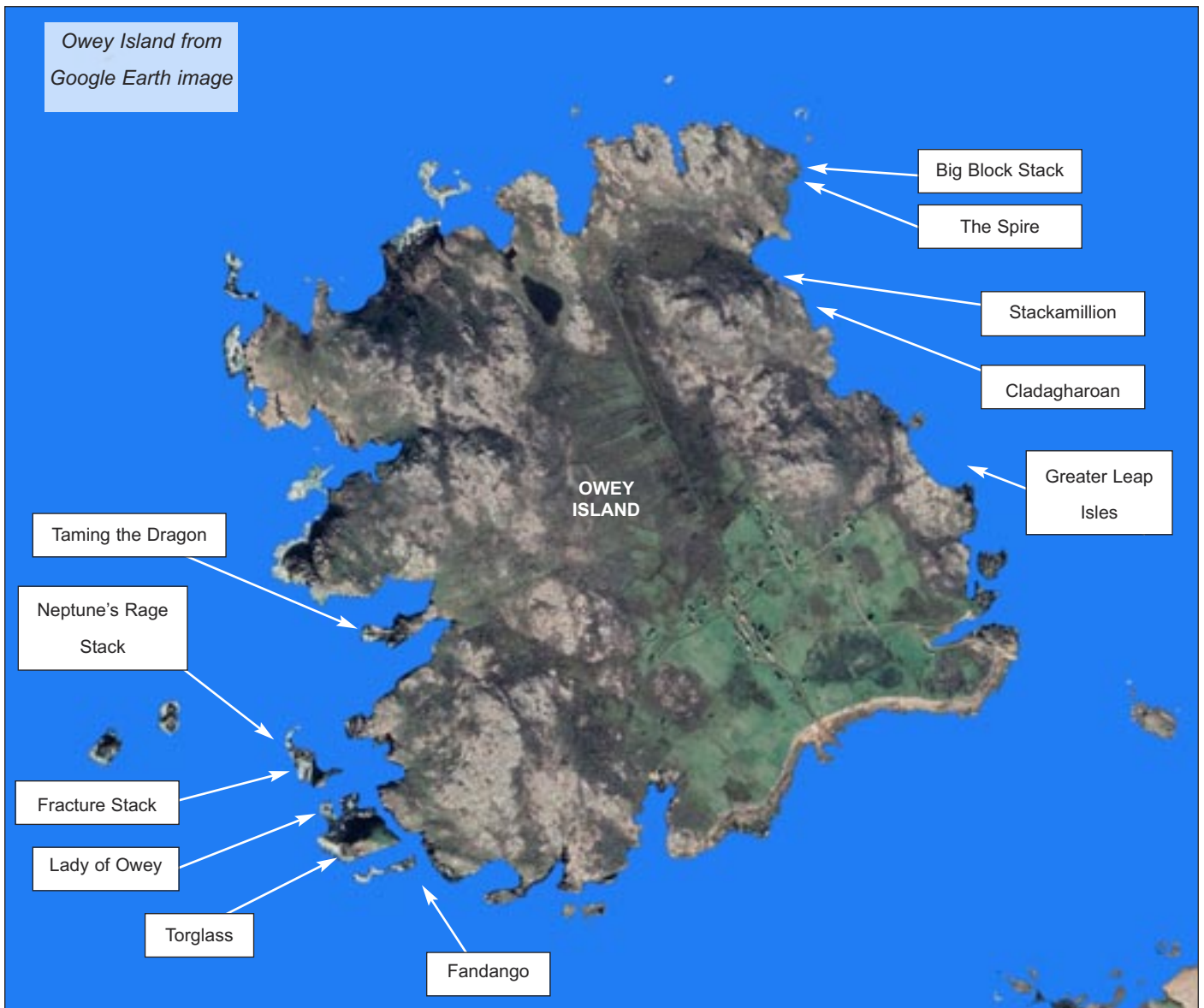
In the centre of the right wall as you face out the zawn, climb the perfect flake to a small pedestal, stand on the pedestal and continue up the left trending flake crack.

First ascent; Iain Miller, Wolfgang Schuessler, 20 June 2012.

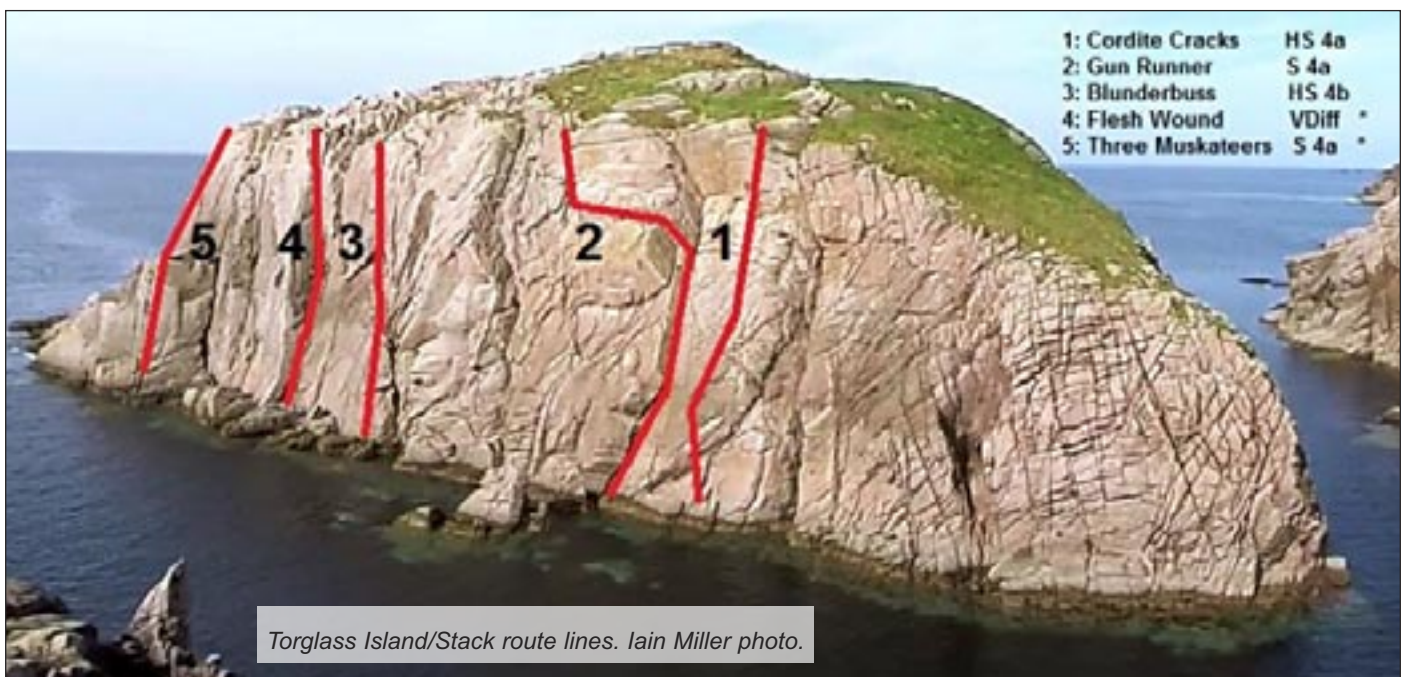
Owey Island

Map: p306.

Owey Island is a small island, of 1.2 square kilometres, located north-east of Arranmore and off the northern tip of Cruit Island. Its name comes from *Uaigh* which means ‘cave’ and there are many sea caves around its coast. There are no permanent inhabitants, the last three residents having left in the mid-1970s. Now there are only summer holiday homes amidst the abandoned older buildings. All the houses are on the south side of the island,



facing Cruit and mainland Donegal. The north is too barren and rocky for homes, and exposed to the gales coming in from the north Atlantic Ocean. There is no mains electricity or mains water supply, but there is a passenger ferry. Give Dan the ferryman a call on 00353 (0) 866013893 prior to leaving home for Owey to ensure the ferry is running. UniqueAscent publishes a PDF climbers' guide to the island; <https://uniqueascent.ie/uploadedfiles/Owey->



[Guide.pdf](#). There are several interesting stacks around the south, south-west, north-west and north-east coastlines. In the southern part we find Fandango Stack.

Fandango Stack

This small stack is south of Dragon Bay, and slightly south of Torglass Island.

Fandango Diff 8m

Scramble down to this detached pillar, wider at the top than the bottom, and climb it by the landward-facing edge.

First ascent; Alan Tees, S. Kennedy, Valli. Schafer, P. J. Monaghan, 23 June 2007.

Torglass Stack

Grid Reference B707224. Phoro-diagram: p306, below.

The south face of Torglass is made up of clean granite slabs of Gola quality, with varying steepness. There are eight climbs here, with the most obvious feature, viewed from Owey, being the prominent corner taken by Gun Runner.

Cordite Cracks HSev 4a 20m

Two metres east of the big Gun Runner corner there is a crack in the slab which disappears at 5m, replaced by a thinner one. After two thin unprotected moves, the climbing eases with a short steep layback crack at the top.

First ascent; Alan Tees, Valli Schaffer, Bill Magowan, 11 August 2012.

Gun Runner Sev 4a 20m

Layback delightfully up the big corner to about two thirds height, where there is a thin crack on the left (just above the feature after which the route is named) giving access to the slab above. There is a temptation to continue up the corner above, but the exit is sugary and unpleasant. Traverse left across the slab under the overhanging step, and climb a short corner to the top. An option would be to go straight up the slab over two furry unprotected mantels.

First ascent; Alan Tees, Valli Schaffer, Bill Magowan, 11 August 2012.

Blunderbuss HSev 4b 20m

Beyond Gun Runner there is a chimney (routes here) which provides an obstacle to traversing along the bottom of the slab. Easier to abseil down beyond this, to a big platform. This route takes prominent twin grooves, which steepen and bear left towards the top. At the top the rock becomes sugary in the corner, so make a thin step left to the arête, treating the flake with caution.

First ascent; Alan Tees, Valli Schaffer, Bill Magowan, 11 August 2012.



Flesh Wound * VDiff 20m

Approx 10m left of Blunderbuss is a trough, with a deep right to left groove leading into a steep corner above it. Start just left of the trough, gain the groove and continue up the overlapping corner on great holds and protection.
First ascent; Bill Magowan, Valli Schaffer, Alan Tees, 11 August 2012.

Three Musketeers * Sev 4a 20m

Beyond Flesh Wound is a stepped layback off-width, and then a lovely arête sweeps down to the sea. This route starts on the right of the arête, and gains it higher up, on perfect rock, with a slight sting in the tail on the last move.
First ascent; Alan Tees, Bill Magowan, Valli Schafer, 11 August 2012.

Russian Roulette HSev 4b 25m

On the north face of Torglass, just east of Forked Lightning is a black ramp. This route climbs the ramp on an unusual combination of crumbly holds and quite good protection. An experience not to be missed.
First ascent; Alan Tees, Bill Magowan, 11 August 2012.

Forked Lightening ** E1 5b 20m

Climbs the obvious forked lightening crack on the north side of Torglass Island. Climb the crack via chimney to start onto ledge then continue up crack as it zig-zags its way up the face, with crux at top. Big gear handy.
First ascent; D. Millar, Martin Boner. Unknown date.

Rachael's Run Sev 4b 16m

Start 20m right of Forked Lightening and climb up onto the block ledges with increasing difficulty. Make awkward move onto final ledge and then climb the corner to the top.
First ascent; John Mallon, Princess Kathy, Aug 2015.

Finbar's Stack

This is the stack between Torglass Tower and Owey, and just north of Torglass itself.

Finbar's Stack Diff 25m

Ascend by a series of big stepped ledges on the seaward side.
First ascent; Finbar Mullen, 22 June 2009.

Lady of Owey or Staca Bhui

Photo: p309.

A stunning narrow sea stack north of Torglass Island on the west side of Owey Island. Paddle out to the island and stack north of Torglass Island by any means possible.

Staca Bhui ** HVS 5b 16m

Belay on large sloping ledge at base of crack and groove on the stack's north wall. Climb the stack on its north face via the crack at first then the groove to the summit.
First ascent; D. Millar, Martin Boner, unknown date,

Fracture Stack

Photo: p310.

This is the big stack north-west of Torglas with a remarkable leaning pillar, which can look like a window from many places. Land in the cave/arch facing Torglas Tower.

Fracture Stack VDiff 30m

A difficult move right, around a corner, leads to delightfully easy climbing on good granite to the summit ridge.
First ascent; Alan Tees, I. Kyrella, Bill Magowan, 22 June 2009.



Lady of Owey Stack - clip from Iain Miller video.

Nautical Folly * Sev 4a 30m

At the seaward end of the east facing wall of Fracture Stack (facing the Lady of Owey stack) there sits a large tidal platform. Climb the prominent right facing corner in the centre of the seaward wall directly above the ledge. Superb rock and holds all the way to summit.

First ascent; Iain Miller, C. Gleeson, Martin Boner, 27 June 2009,

By Hook or by Crook ** E1 5b 20m

This route climbs the west face of the leaning tower on Fracture Stack. Scramble/cave your way to the seaward face of the tower (between the tower and the parent stack) to the massive seaward platforms. At the seaward end of the west face of the tower climb the series of ledges to the left of the obvious roof crack. Micro wires needed. Do not attempt to land on the seaward face of this stack as the funnelling effect of the sea between Fracture Stack and Neptune's Rage Stack is highly dramatic.

First ascent; Iain Miller, Stephen Read, 26 June 2010.

Neptune's Rage Stack

Grid Ref: B707226. Photo: p310.

This dramatic little stack, also known as White Rage Stack, sits to the north-west of Fracture Stack and is guarded by a modicum of Neptune's Wrath.

White Rage Sev 20m

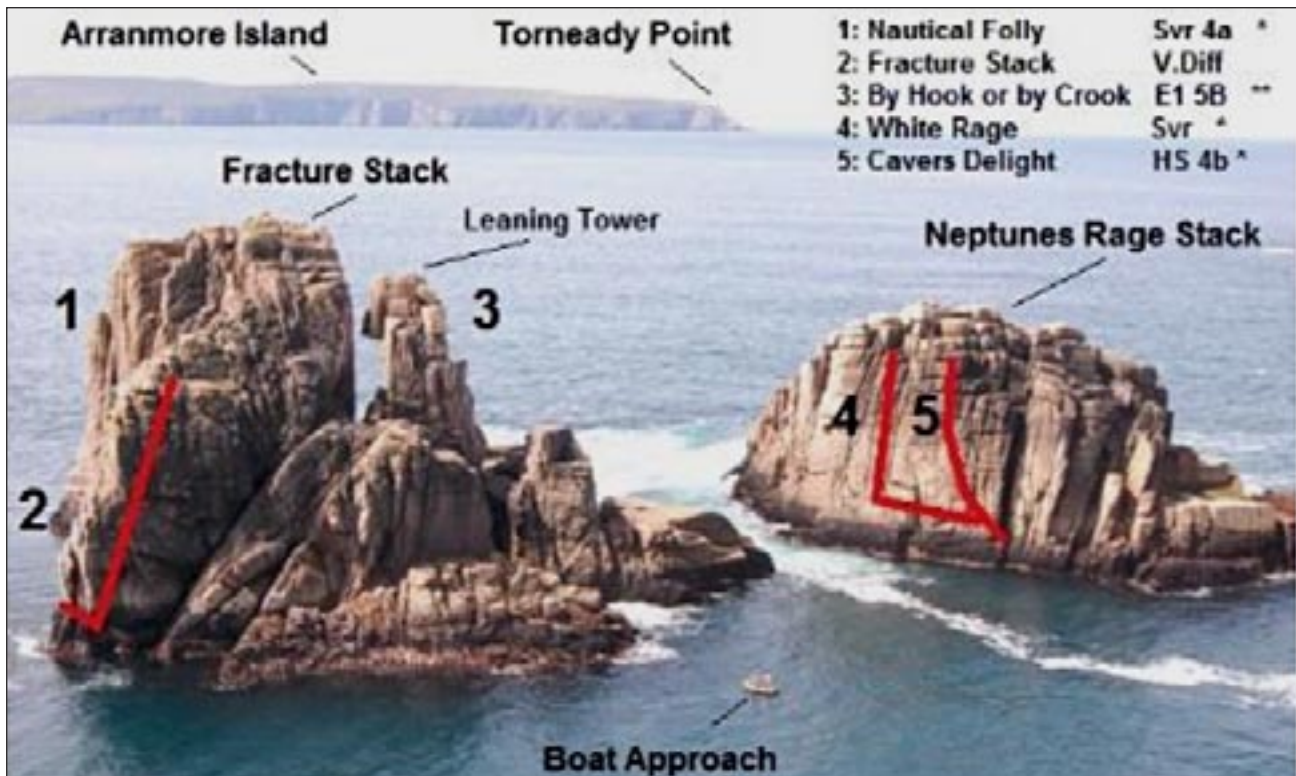
The south-east face is an excellent wall of immaculate wave-battered cracks and features. This route climbs the most obvious deep crack in the left of centre of the wall.

First ascent; Iain Miller, Stephen Read, 26 June 2010.

Cavers Delight * HSev 4b 20m

On the landward face of this excellent little stack climb the groove/face immediately to the left of the monster chimney/gash at the right hand end of the face.

First ascent; Stephen Read, Iain Miller, 26 June 2010.



Taming the Dragon Stack

Grid Reference: B707228

A fine outing, spectacular and photogenic, on the sea stack in the bay. Cross from the sea-facing mainland wall.

Taming The Dragon Diff 40m

Climb the right-hand side of the sea arch to belay at a block on the top. Continue over the arch and climb ramp on mixed rock and some vegetation to belay. Traverse the pinnacle ridge to highest block at the far end.

First ascent; Alan Tees, Bill Magowan, 24 September 2000.

Baby Jasmine's Dragon Sev 4a 26m

On the wall below the sea arch, start climbing up onto good ledges then follow line of dark crack on good holds then climb ramp on mixed rock and vegetation to large blocks belay and abseil point.

First ascent; I. Gault, J. Mallon, R. Mulraney, S. Garcia, 12 July 2013.

Big Block Stack

Grid Reference: B716239. Photo: p311

This stack sits off the north-west tip of Owey and is very easily seen from the Owey ferry pier on Cruit. It is very effectively guarded by 60m cliffs and conflicting seas for over a kilometre along the coast. Its location is outstanding. Access is an involved and emotional affair. :-)

Big Block Stack * Sev 15m

Climb the deep left trending crack/groove on the sea ward (east) face. The summit takes green in big west and north-west seas, The entire stack is made from immaculate rock.

First ascent; Iain Miller, 6 May 2011.

The Spire

Grid Reference: B716239.

This stack sits off the north-west tip of Owey, immediately to the south of the Big Block Stack, which is very easily seen from the Owey ferry pier on Cruit. Like Big Block Stack it is very effectively guarded by 60m cliffs for over a kilometre along the coast. Its location is outstanding.



The Spire * VDiff 15m

Climb the south ridge on immaculate granite. Access by guile. :-)

First ascent; Iain Miller, 6 May 2011.

Stackamillion

Grid Reference: B716237. Photo: p312.

Blade ** E2 5b 20m

From the top of the landward platform climb the wide groove to the small capping roof (2 pegs.) Pull through the roof to an airy wee stance, trend seaward and up to summit on rattling blocks.

First ascent; Andrzej Smialy and party, 4 July 2003.

Cladagharoan Stack

Grid Reference: B717236.

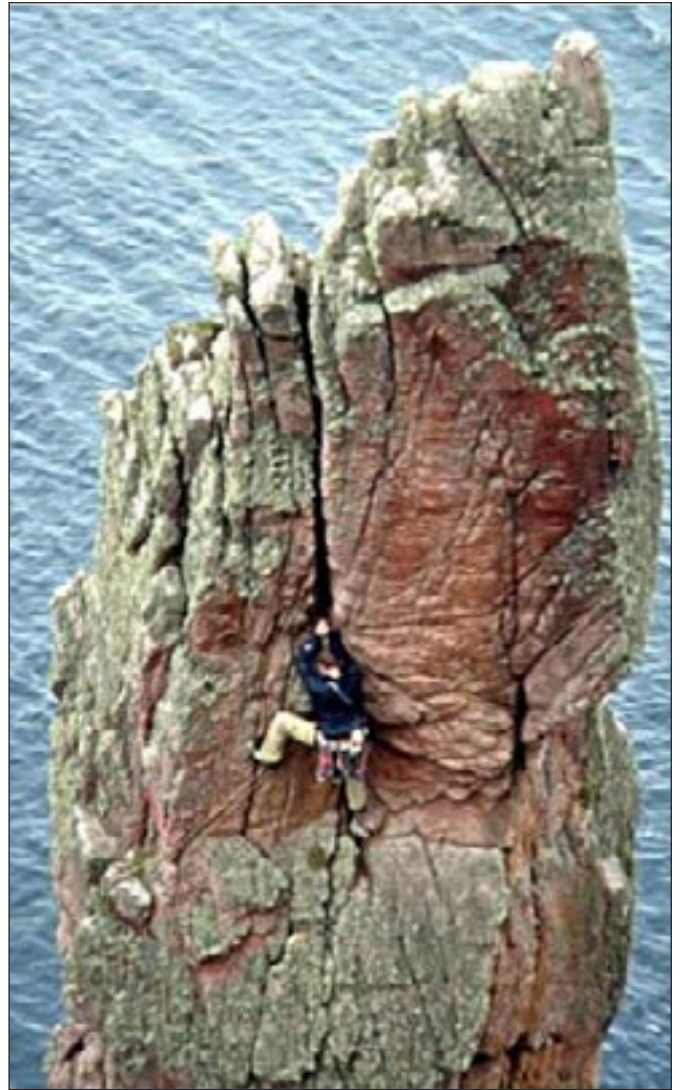
This stack is found to the seaward side of Stackamillion. Access is by a 40m abseil and an atmospheric wee sea passage to the non-tidal platform at the west end of the seaward face (nearest Stackamillion.)

Cladagharoan Sev 3c 35m

1. 25m 3c. Climb the very obvious groove directly above the non-tidal platform to the summit ridge abseil stake.
2. 10m. Carefully scramble/crawl to the summit. Abseil descent of the route from the insitu stake.

First ascent; Iain Miller, E. Read, C. Gleeson, 20 June 2009.

Stackamillion; climbing Blade.



Greater Leap Isles (*Tor Lice Riseagh*)

Grid Reference: B718233

On Owey Island, 10 minutes north of the harbour. There are two sea stacks known as the Leap Isles (or *Tor Lice Riseagh* - the rock of the flags of thong weed.). These are just north of Nordkapp, etc., and are separated from the main island, and each other, by narrow channels. Access by canoe and pendulum on the first ascent. Descent by abseil or tyrolean.

Window Route VDiff 27m

An obvious rectangular window through the sea stack on the left-hand side looking out to sea is The Window. Starting at sea level up to a ledge, bridge up the window to a large slab of rock and an easy scramble to the top.

First ascent; M. Mcguigan, Alan Tees, Bill Magowan, June 2007.

Shannon Collective VS 15m

Climb the first steep corner on the Island directly opposite 'sting'. Access by swim and Tesco inflatable aeroplane on first ascent.

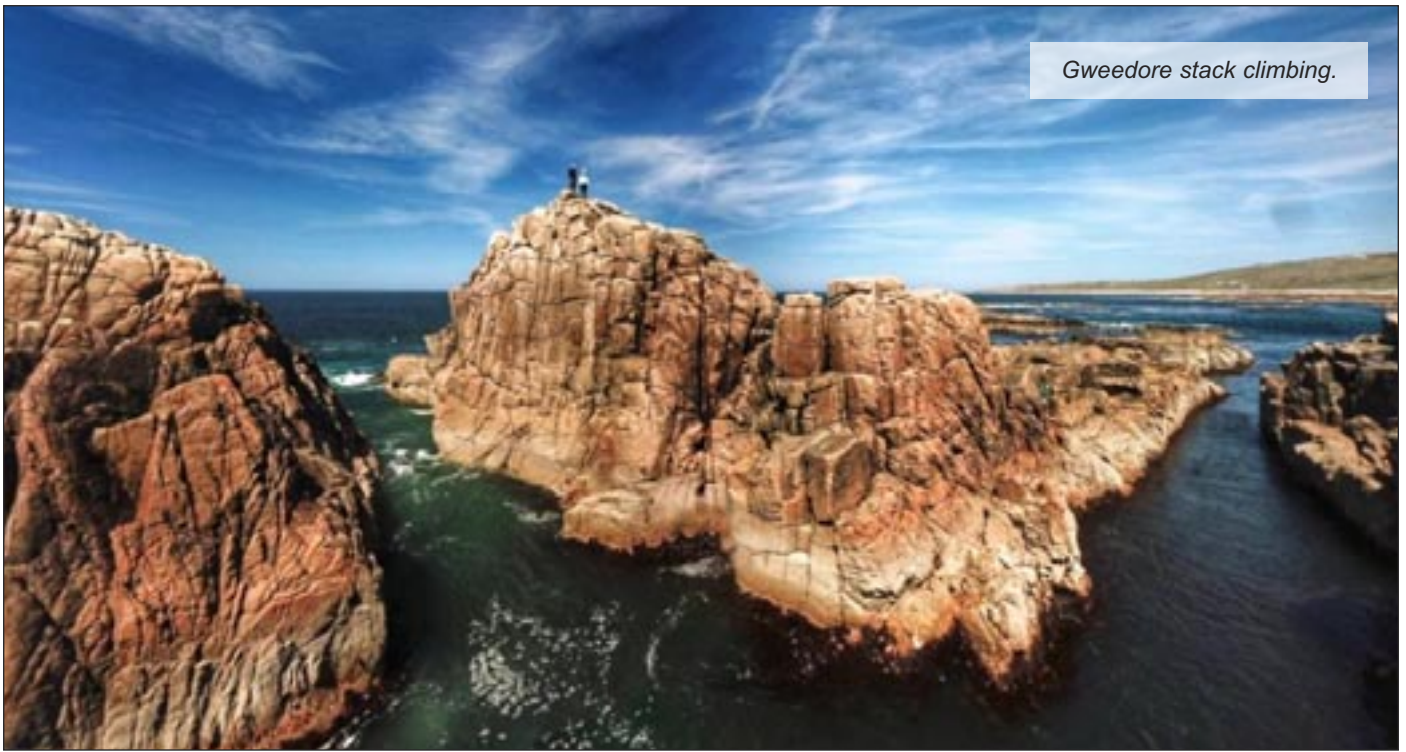
First ascent; Stephen Read, E. Mullen, June 2010.

The following routes are on the sea ward face of the stack.

A Day in the Life ** VS 4c 24m

Climb the thin cracks and small holds immediately right of the groove.

First ascent: Iain Miller, M. Ibanez, 22 August 2016.



Cloud of Midgies * VS 5a 24m

Climb the next crack line right with an excellent well protected finish.

First ascent: Iain Miller, M. Ibanez, 22 August 2016.

On the left stack as you face out to sea

Thrutch VS 4b 12m

Climb the first full crag height open book corner/groove on the northern end of the landward face. It has a large tidal ledge at its base.

First ascent: Iain Miller, L. Murdoff, M. Robertson, 18 June 2009.

Stork VS 4c 14m

Climb the next full crag height groove next as you enter the canyon.

First ascent: Iain Miller, L. Murdoff, M. Robertson, 18 June 2009.

JCVD HVS 20m

From the non-tidal ledge at the base of the south face of the stack, climb up the overhanging groove and step left onto face and follow the cracks upwards, stepping right at the very top.

First ascent: S. Villanueva O'Driscoll, E. Son, 2-6 July 2018.

The next two routes are on the Donegal end of the seaward face of the left stack as you face out to sea from Owey. Access to the base of the routes is by easy sea-level traverse from the Atlantic end of the stack.

Rookies Roost Sev 4a 15m

Climb the deep chimney.

First ascent: Iain Miller, L. O'Connor, J. Bags, 3 July 2014.

Waiting Wife VS 4b 20m

Climb the centre of the slab with thoughtful gear and excellent rock.

First ascent: Iain Miller, L. O'Connor, J. Bags, 3 July 2014.

Gola Island

Map Ref: B763275. Photo: below.

This wee sea stack lives just off the north coast of Gola Island and is simply another great reason to visit one of Ireland most beautiful Islands and best climbing locations. Sitting 30m out to sea from the routes Outdoor Relief, Blackie, etc. lives a prominent wedge-shaped sea stack. All four routes were free soloed with easiest access to the landward wall being a sea level traverse from ledges at the seaward end of the stack. The rock on this stack is immaculate Gola granite.

Hermits Sev 4a 15m

Climb the first set of vertical cracks in from the traverse ledges at the seaward end of the stack.

First ascent: Iain Miller, 1 June 2016.

Hide Away Sev 4b 15m

Climb the second set of cracks and hold directly below the arête and follow the arête to summit.

First ascent: Iain Miller, 1 June 2016.

Main Vein * HS 4b 16m

Climb the centre of the wall direct to half way ledge, continue trending right to highest point on the face.

First ascent: Iain Miller, 1 June 2016.

Corner on the Edge ** VDiff 15m

Climb the corner direct through the two overhangs on enormous glorious jugs.

First ascent: Iain Miller, 1 June 2016.



Gola Island stack.
Iain Miller photo.
1. Hermits.
2. Hide Away.
3. Main Vein.
4. Corner on the Edge.

Tor na Dhumcha

- 1: Nature Always Provides SVR **
- 2: Exit Stage Left VS 4h **
- 3: Unhindered By Talent VS 4c ***
- 4: Fine Display, young Wallace! HVS 5a **
- 5: The Internal Grin SVR **
- 6: Heavens Hexes HS 4a *
- 7: Easy Exit Diff
- 8: Exit Stage Right Diff



Tor na Dhumcha

Grid Reference B803304. Photo: above, p313.

This 20m stack is situated just off the Lower Glashagh headland (Gweedore) at GR B803304. Access is by a short sea passage. The stack's south face is a 20m vertical wall of excellent "Gola" type sea-battered granite.

Directions: From Jacks Hotel as you leave Gweedore take the sharp left and follow the B-class road to the small beach car park. On foot follow the coastal path north over several new wooden bridges to the headland overlooking the stack.

A Bridge Too Far ** Sev 4a 20m

From the large triangular ledge at the seaward end of the face traverse across the steep wall on monster jugs to gain the base of the corner. Bridge (or squirm) up the corner with increasing air between your feet.

First ascent; Iain Miller, Martin Boner, 17 May 2009.

Chatterbox * Sev 4a 15m

Climb the big corner immediately to the seaward side of the main face. Abseil access or a traverse in from the main face is much more sporting.

First ascent; Martin Boner, Iain Miller, 17 May 2009.

Nature Always Provides ** Sev 35m

1. 20m. Starting on the spacious recess at the bottom of Easy Exit, follow a superb sea level traverse just above the high water mark to a smaller stance at the bottom of the arête at the seaward end of the face.

2. 15m. Climb the arête.

First ascent; Iain Miller, Martin Boner, 28 February 2009.

Ziggy Zig Ahh! * VS 4b 15m

Climb the left-most crack on the face.

First ascent; Iain Miller, A. Harding, R. Anderson, 10 August 2014.

Exit Stage Left ** VS 4b 15m

Climb Unhindered by Talent for 3m, make a step left onto a superb series of layback jugs and up these to the top.

First ascent; Iain Miller, Edward Wallace, Martin Boner, 31 May 2009.

Unhindered By Talent *** VS 4c 15m

Climb the superb hand crack up the centre of the face.

First ascent; Iain Miller, Martin Boner, 17 May 2009.

“Fine Display, Young Wallace!” ** HVS 5a 15m

Climb the steep and sustained finger/hand crack to the right of Unhindered by Talent. Eases in the last few metres.

First ascent; Iain Miller, Edward Wallace, Martin Boner, 31 May 2009.

The Internal Grin ** Sev 15m

Climb the superb left-facing corner, right of the centre of the face on huge jugs, big gear and a massive smile.

First ascent; Iain Miller, Martin Boner, 21 February 2009.

One for the Photographer * VS 4b 18m

Starting at the bottom of The Internal Grin, make a rising traverse seaward following the shallow diagonal crack line, join Exit Stage Left and follow it to the summit.

First ascent; Iain Miller, H. McCormack, 9 November 2014.

Heavens Hexes * HSev 4b 15m

Climb the excellent steep jamming crack between The Internal Grin and the Easy Exit chimney, without jamming! ☺

First ascent; Martin Boner, Iain Miller, 28 February 2009.



Easy Exit Diff 12m

At the extreme right of the face climb the wide chimney/groove, finish on the ledge or step left and continue to the summit.

First ascent; Iain Miller, Martin Boner, 21 February 2009.

Exit Stage Right Diff 10m

On the access ramp from the landward side of the main face climb the dark chimney crack.

First ascent; Martin Boner, 31 May 2009.

Bloody Foreland Stacks

Photo: p316.

2km from The Foreland Heights Bar heading north on the R257 take a left at a sharp right hand bend and follow B road to viewing area on left at Altawhinny Bay. The best way to reach the three stacks; Gluin, Scolt and Stol, is to take a gravel road on left 100m past viewing area and follow it to the end.

Detailed access; Get to these three tidal stacks by a 45m abseil to a shale beach or via a small boat journey crossing.

Gluin VDiff 25m

Grid Ref B813334.

Climb the landward arête to alcove between needle and stack and traverse along narrow ledge and exit to the summit at small chimney on poor rock.

First ascent; Martin Boner, 2009.

Scolt VS 4c 22m

Grid Ref B813333.

Climb crack on seaward face, that widens to 10cm wide at summit, by several ledges on poor rock.

First ascent; Martin Boner, 2009.

Stol VS 4c 30m

Grid Ref B813335.

Climb a right-trending diagonal crack with poor protection to a small ledge near seaward face, from here climb vertical crack to cliff top via small ledges on poor rock and limited protection.

First ascent; Martin Boner, 2009.

Tory Island

MR: B868463. Map: p318. Photo: p318, 319.

There are three stacks here.

Directions: Take the Turasmara boat from Magheraoarty or Bunbeg to West Town.

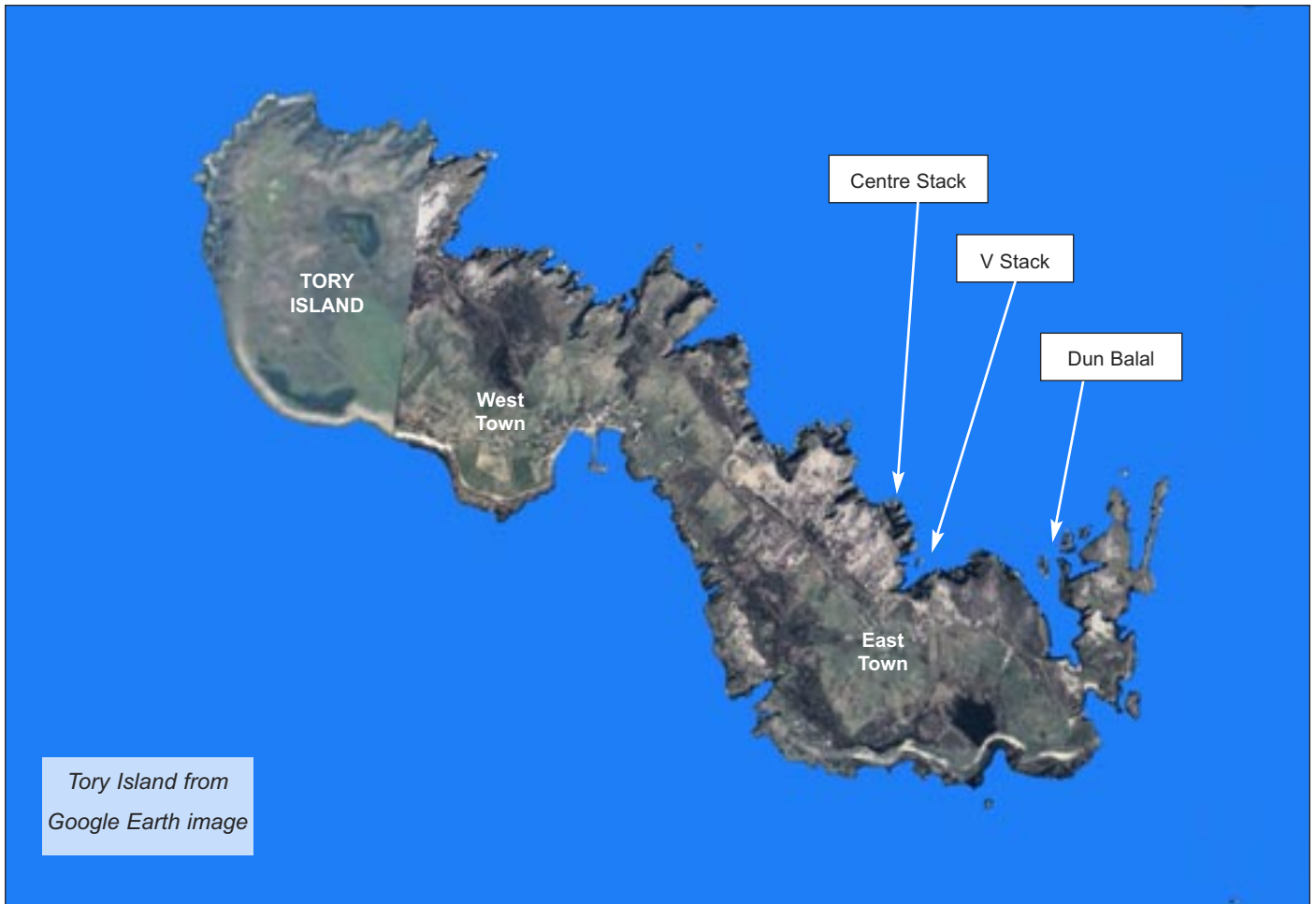
Seaward Face Route Sev 4a 45m

This route climbs the seaward face of the largest and central stack of the trio north of the Tower on Tory Island. Access is by a 50m abseil and a superb wee sea passage.

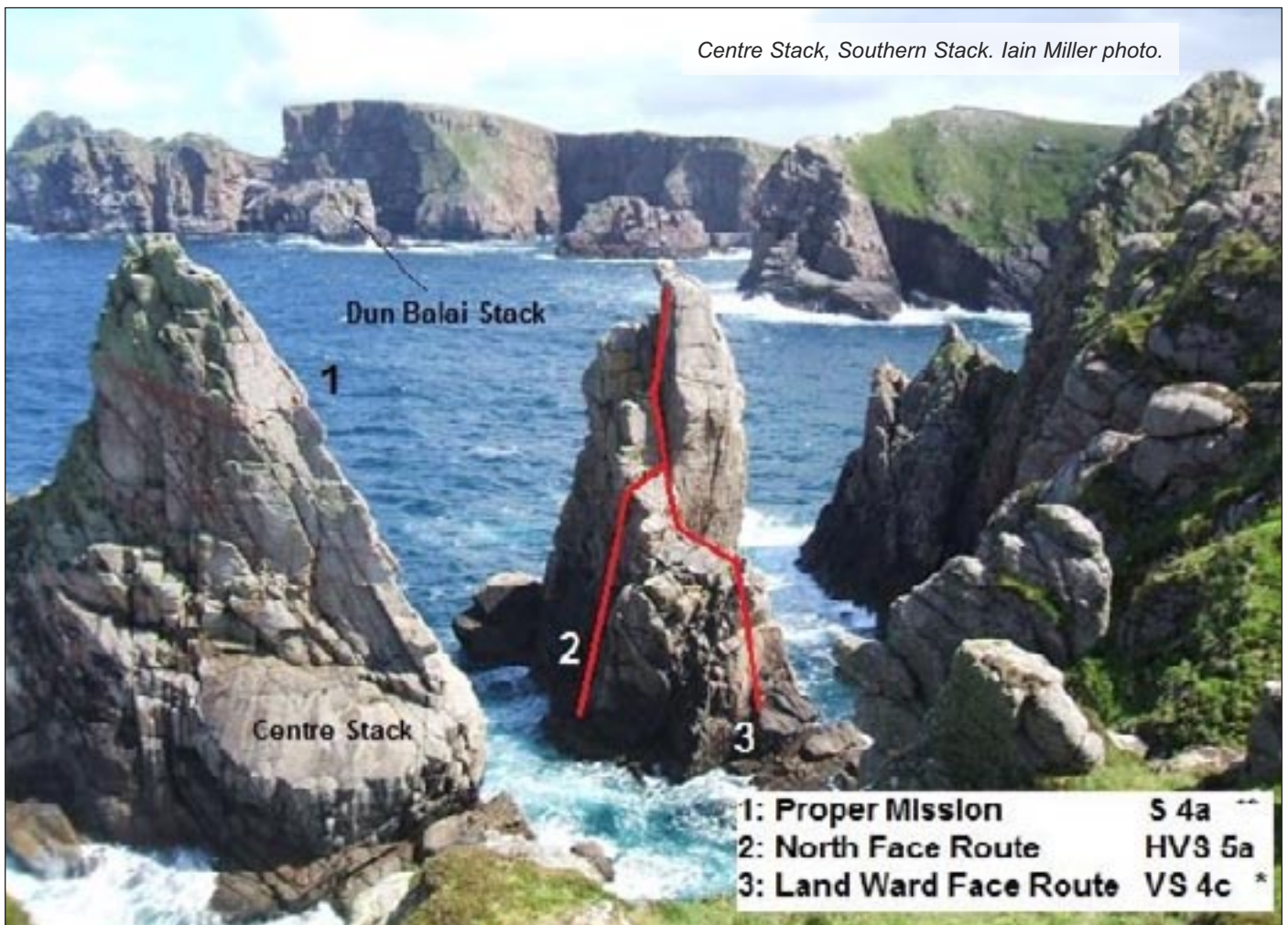
1. 20m 4a. From the seaward end of the channel between this stack and the beast to the south, climb cracks up left of the sea level platform and a steepening, step up and right to belay at base of chimney.

2. 25m. Climb the clean rib to the summit

First ascent; Phillip Stevens, Martin Boner, 18 July 2009.

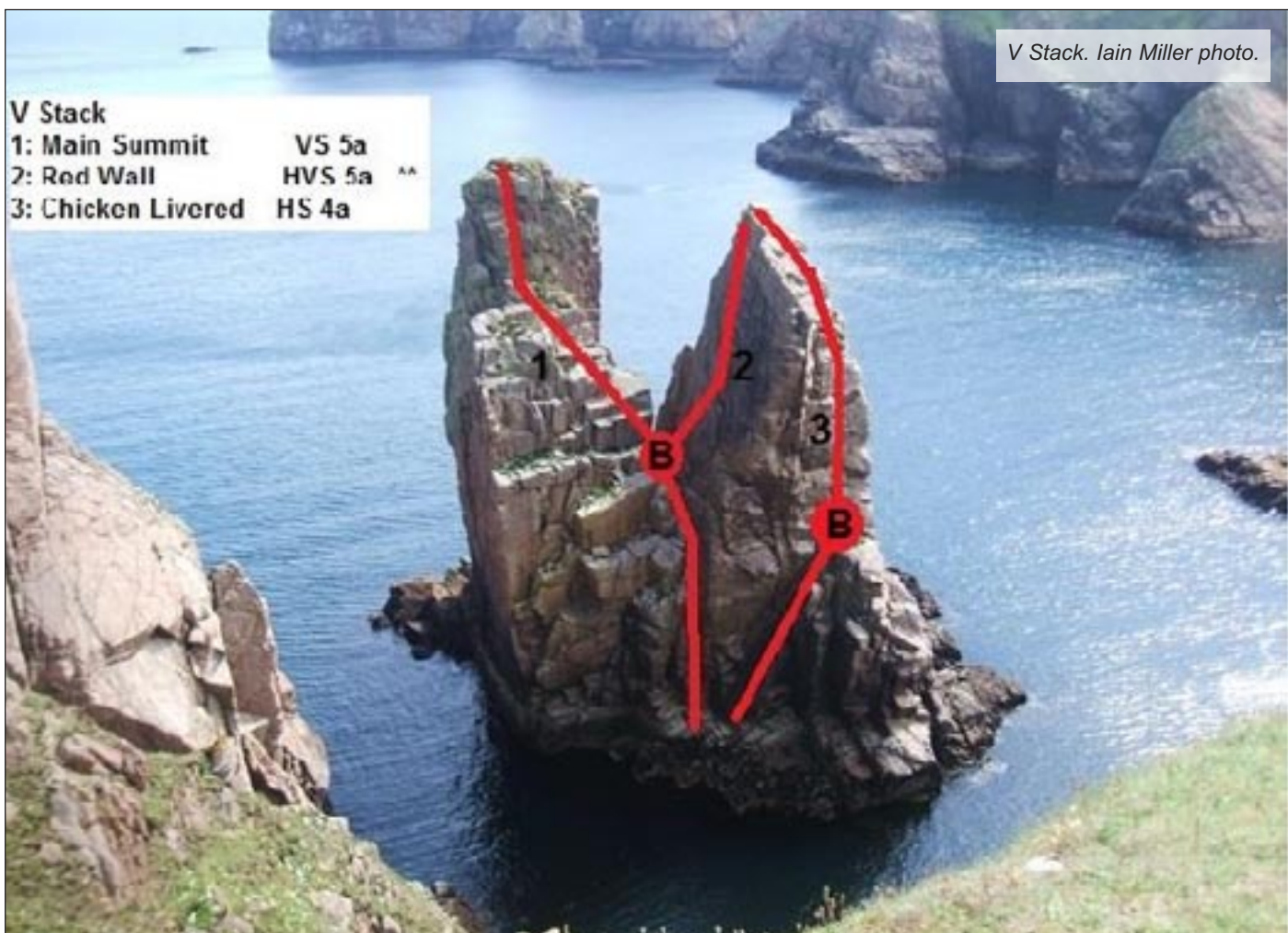


Tory Island map (above) and Tory Island stacks (below). Iain Miller diagram and photo.





Above: John Joseph Gallagher photo of Tormore Island, Donegal.



V Stack. Iain Miller photo.

Centre Stack

Grid Ref. B868463. Photo: p318.

Proper Mission ** Sev 4a 40m

Climb the outstanding landward arête of the centre stack.

1. 10m 4a. Climb the steep face directly below the arête to a large slabby stance.
2. 30m 4a. Climb the arête on excellent rock, holds and gear.

First ascent; Iain Miller, Wolfgang Schuessler, 27 July 2011.

The Landward Face * VS 4c 45m

Grid Reference B868462.

This route climbs the landward face of the superb stack immediately to the west of the tower on the island of Tory. Access by 50 metre abseil and a wee sea passage.

1. 20m 4c. From the base of the landward face, climb the slab and step/swing over the void. Continue upward on massive jugs to belay on the ramp.
2. 25m 4c. Scramble up the ramp, and thrutch up the very obvious chimney. Continue up the very wide crack on superb rock to the summit.

First ascent; Iain Miller, C. Gleeson, 18 July 2009.

Southern Stack

Grid Reference B868462. Photo: p318.

North Face Route HVS 5a 43m

This route climbs the northern face of the Southern Stack, starting at the landward end of the channel separating the 2 stacks.

1. 18m 4c. From the sea level platforms, climb the obvious V-groove in the nose of rock to a belay on the landward facing ramp.
2. 25m 5a. Climb the Chimney as for the The Landward Face Route, and continue to the summit by the steep right hand cracks.

First ascent; Phillip Stevens, Martin Boner, 18 July 2009.

V Stack

Grid Reference B869461. Photo: p319.

A V-shaped stack with two summits. Immediately to the south of the 'tower' on the island of Tory. Access is by a 50m easy angled abseil and a short sea passage.

Main Summit VS 5a 45m

This route climbs the landward face of the left-hand summit .

1. 25m 5a. Starting below the meeting of the twin summits, climb the steep corner, step left and continue to a superb belay between the summits.
2. 20m 4a. Climb to the left-hand summit via the very obvious summit chimney.

Descent is by abseil of the route.

First ascent; Phillip Stevens, Iain Miller, 19 July 2009.

Red Wall ** HVS 5a 43m

This route climbs the right-hand summit of the V-stack on the island of Tory. Access and descent as for Main Summit.

1. 25m 5a. As for main summit route.

2. 18m 5a. From the recess between the twin summits, climb the thin ramp rightward, and continue leftward, climb to the summit up broken cracks.

First ascent; Phillip Stevens, Iain Miller, 19 July 2009.

Chicken Livered HSev 4a

This route climbs the landward face of the right hand summit.

1. 20m. Climb the ramp to a stance at the base of the upper wall.
2. 20m 4a. Climb the wide crack to the summit.

First ascent; Wolfgang Schuessler, F. Donnelly, 2 September 2012.

Dun Balal

Grid Reference B876463. Photo: p318.

At the eastern end of Tory Island and sitting in an outstanding location at the base of a wall of 80m sea cliffs is a remote and highly intimidating 55m sea stack. Access is by an ultra committing 700m paddle from the wee storm beach at GR B876455 and descent of the stack is by abseil down the route.

Dun Balal *** VDiff 50m

This route climbs the centre of the west (seaward) face.

1. 25m. From the centre of the seaward face climb the right-facing corner and up ledges to a large stance below a right-trending crack.
2. 25m. Climb the short steep crack and ascend a series of right-trending steps to the summit.

First ascent; Iain Miller, Richie Khann, 15 August 2010.

The Duke's Head

Grid Ref C062382 on OSI map 2. Photo: p323.

This 20m stack lives hidden away in a small amphitheatre of defending sea cliffs and vertical grass at the mouth of a huge sea cave just off Dundonnell Head.

Access; This is easiest by sea from Marble Hill beach and involves an excellent 3km round trip paddle. The base of the stack catches all north-west to east sea motion with the narrow channel between the stack and mainland Donegal funnelling any motion to prevent safe landing.

Duke's Corner * Sev 4a 15m

Climb the full height seaward facing corner on the north (seaward) face of the stack.

First ascent; Iain Miller, Fiona nic Fhionnlaoich, 19 March 2018.

Inishowen Peninsula

Located off the Dunaff Headland on the west coast of Inishowen is the Bothanvarra sea stack.

Bothanvarra Stack

Map: p264. Photo: p322.

This 70m stack is approximately 100m out to sea from the base of the 220m high surrounding sea cliffs. Access is by a long paddle around the headland from north or south or by descent down a horror show of a gully at Grid Ref C308489 followed by a 300m paddle to the base of the stack. See https://uniqueascent.ie/dunaff_head for more information about world class day out

Bothanvarra Sev 120m

Photo-diagram: p321.

From a non-tidal recess at the south-east tip of the stack climb the corner then chimney to the base of the huge slabs. Pad up the slabs direct to the bottom of the short left-facing steep corner slab. Climb this to the summit ridge, walk and scramble this ridge to the summit at the north end.

First ascent; Iain Miller, 24 August 2014.



Bothanvarra Stack with Bothanvarra route shown (above).

Bothanvarra Stack with climber highlighted (below).



Fiona nic Fhionnlaoich on summit of The Duke's Head stack. Iain Miller photo.



Chocolate Finger stack, Ladram Bay, South Devon. David Linnett photo.

Appendix A:

STACKS AND BIRDS

Being separated from the land, stacks are a favoured nesting site for birds and often enormous colonies settle on them. Skuas, gannets, puffins, guillemots, kittiwakes and fulmars are especially common on the Scottish stacks. These birds provide two hazards for climbers. Ledges tend to be covered with bird droppings - guano - which is greasy and unpleasant. Some climbers say it is stack sliming!

The other hazard comes from birds becoming very aggressive when protecting their nests. Fulmar vomit is foul, evil-smelling stuff and the bird is very accurate. One has every sympathy with them faced with alien lycra-clad invaders sporting tinkling metal jewelry around their waists.

Fulmars

Fulmars are in the same family as Petrels and Shearwaters and eat fish residues. The bird is a summer visitor and grows 47cm long. It's expert in flight but clumsy on land, with difficulty in taking off and landing. The female lays a single egg directly onto the rock with no nest. The bird has prominent tubular nostrils set on top of its beak. Also it squats down on its legs rather than standing up. Fulmars are exceptionally courageous and will stay by their single egg if climbers come close.

They are mostly silent apart from a low cackling noise made to other fulmars. So the first you may know of one's presence is a stream of evil-smelling orange coloured vomit spewing straight into your eyes from a few feet away. Even a young fulmar chick can do this.

Kittiwakes

Kittiwakes on the other hand sing and cry. Their name comes from their cry; 'kittiwaake'. The birds build a nest of seaweed and grass on ledges. They eat small fish and crustaceans and will dive and swim underwater after fish. Adults grows up to 41cm long and the bird is a resident rather than a migrant.

Skuas

Arctic and Great skuas are more very aggressive birds and will dive bomb climber's heads, sometimes even touching them with their claws or beating them with their wings. The Shetland term for them is 'bonxie' meaning bully. This is because they eat by chasing other birds and frightening them into dropping or disgorging their food whereupon the skua will eat it. Arctic skuas also raid other birds' nests. The Arctic Skua grows up to 46cm long whereas the Great Skua reaches 58cm. Skuas are a summer visitor to the extreme north of Scotland and the northern islands.

Guillemots

Guillemots or auks are residents and breed on most of the Scottish coast and northern isles. They lay their eggs directly onto rock ledges with no nest like fulmars. The birds grow to 42cm long (black guillemot: 34cm) and catch fish by diving into the water and swimming after them underwater by using their wings.

Gannets

Gannets are like the guillemot in that they also dive after fish, sometimes from a height of 15m, but, unlike the guillemot, they actually build a nest on rock ledges or sloping ground by a cliff. They look and are quite large with a wing span that reaches 1.8m. Adults have a golden yellow head and it is noticeable that their wings fold backwards the instant before they hit the water. Great to watch.

Puffins

The famous puffin, a type of auk, has an extraordinary triangular beak which is multicoloured in summer. They nest in

burrows on the clifftops and the bird has a very fast, whirring wingbeat in flight. It is a summer visitor rather than a resident bird and grows to 31cm long. They are good swimmers and divers, bringing back almost a dozen fish stacked crosswise across the beak. A good target for the skuas.

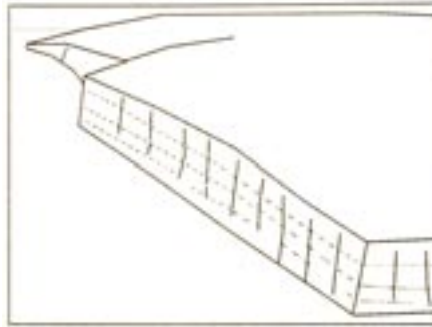


Birds commonly seen on stacks; clockwise from top left: fulmar, puffin, kittiwake, gannet, skua, guillemot. Wikipedia CC pictures.

1. Dick Daniels - Northern Fulmar scotland RWD1.jpg - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fulmar#/media/File:Northern_Fulmar_scotland_RWD1.jpg - CC BY-SA 3.0.
2. Puffin by ianpreston - <https://www.flickr.com/photos/9750464@N02/48296920796/> CC BY 2.0.
3. Kittiwake - Darrel Birkett from Lanchester, Co Durham - Kittiwake nest Uploaded by snowmanradio - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kittiwake#/media/File:Rissa_tridactyla_-_Staple_Island,_Farne_Islands,_Northumberland,_England_-_adult_and_chicks-8.jpg - CC BY 2.0
4. Christine Matthews - Gannet, Bempton Cliffs, Yorkshire - [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gannet#/media/File:Gannet,_Bempton_Cliffs,_Yorkshire_\(geograph_4621592\).jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gannet#/media/File:Gannet,_Bempton_Cliffs,_Yorkshire_(geograph_4621592).jpg) - CC BY-SA 2.0
5. Skua - Patrick Coin - [ile:Stercorarius pomarinusPCCA20070623-3985B.jpg](ile:Stercorarius_pomarinusPCCA20070623-3985B.jpg) - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Skua#/media/File:Stercorarius_pomarinusPCCA20070623-3985B.jpg - CC BY-SA 2.5.
6. Common Guillemot in Bridled form.jpg by Boaworm. CC BY 3.0 (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0/>).

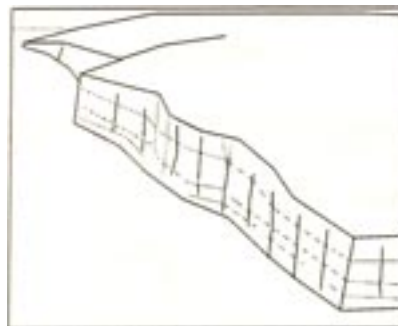
Appendix B: STACK FORMATION

This is a scenario which I hope is broadly true. Geologists may have a fit but here goes. We start with a section of cliff which is composed of weaker and harder sections of rock. The forces of erosion that attack this cliff face are the sea, the rain and winter with its freezing, and subsequent expansion, of water in surface cracks, thus flaking off bits of rock. The rock could be limestone, in which case it is particularly susceptible to acid dissolution by rainwater and freeze-thaw actions, or it could be sandstone or a metamorphic rock like a schist or it could be granite.

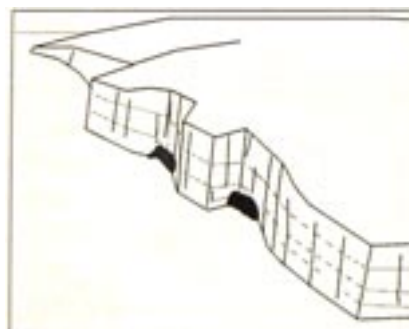


The two main criteria are that it can sustain a perpendicular or overhanging cliff and that the sea can, slowly but surely attack it.

The sea is the main determinant force in stack creation. The waves hurl small pebbles at the cliff, they compress and expand air in the sea-level cavities, they grind the rock by scouring actions with pebbles and they slowly break up the cliff face between low and high water mark. It excavates depressions into the rock, the roofs of which fall in, the debris is washed away and coastal indentations begin to form either side of the harder rock.

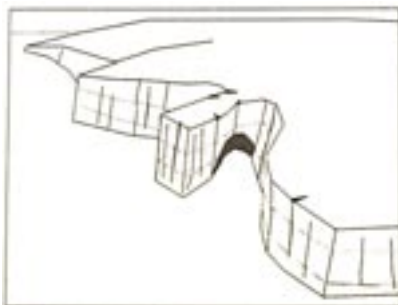


The process continues over hundreds of years. Clearly we need sea-level stability for this. The indentations deepen. Caves may start to form as the sea eats into the weaker rock at sea-level. The future stack is now a discernible promontory. Now the indentations have to deepen again so that the sea can get to work on the flanks and broaden the indentations as well as deepening them.

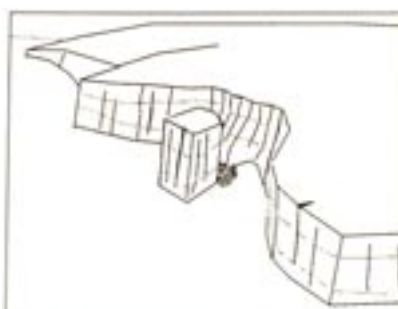


Caves appear in the flanks of the indentations and the ones either side of the stack begin to eat back towards each other forming a natural arch between the future stack and the receding shoreline.

Once the caves meet and an arch exists the function of the sea erosion is to broaden the through-cave so that more stress is put on the roof. Once the roof is above highwater level then the sea cannot work directly on it. Instead air-born erosion becomes relatively more important than before. It helps if the rock is weak in the sense of speeding things up.



Eventually the broadening of the through cave due to the sea and the progressive weakening of the roof due to aerial erosion - rain and freeze-thaw processes - cause the roof to collapse leaving a pile of massive boulders forming a land bridge between the new stack and the shore.



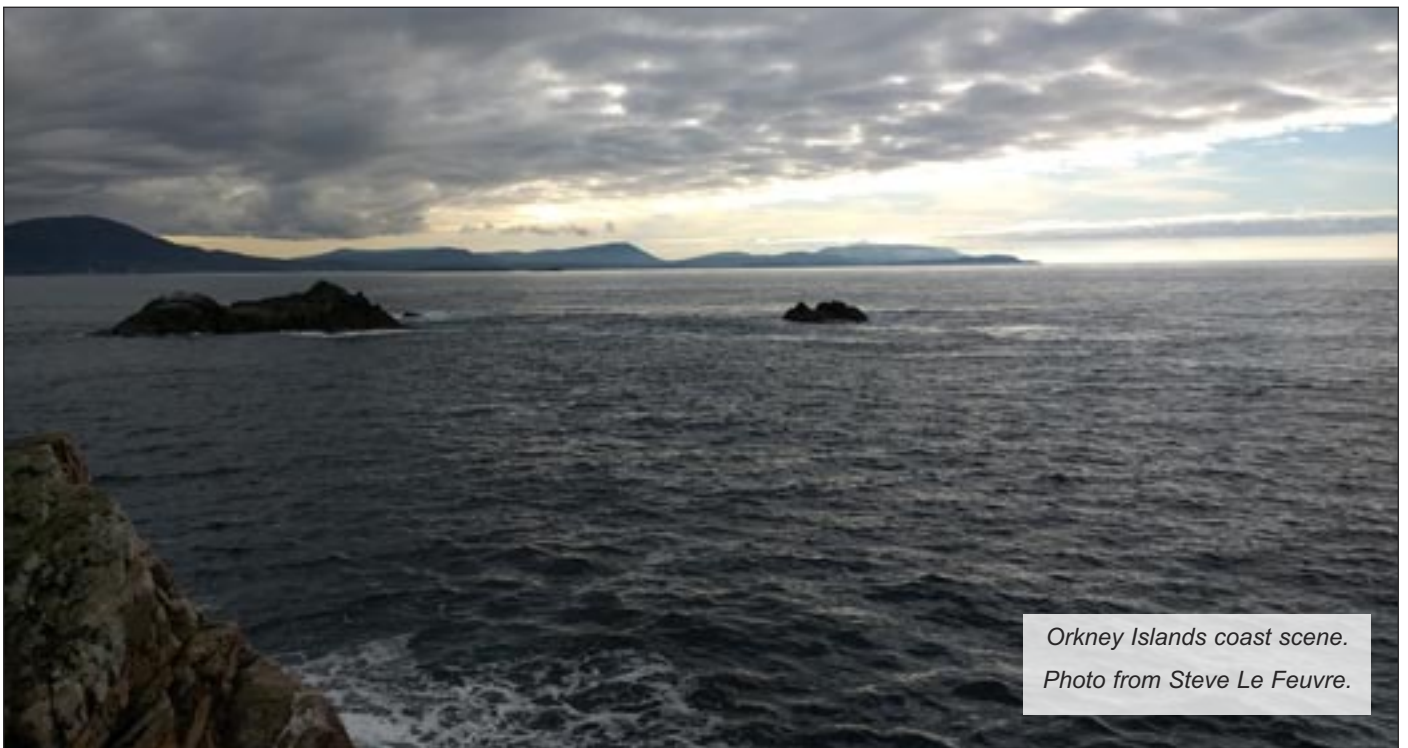
These boulders get progressively smaller so that the landbridge decreases in size and height. Eventually it gets covered at high tide and then immersed all the time.

The coast carries on receding and the stack may end up more than a mile offshore, a lonely passive sentinel blindly withstanding the terrible grinding erosive forces of the sea until its day is done and it collapses, unseen, into the waves

Appendix C: Some Gaelic & Norse Terms

Some Norse and Gaelic words specifically relevant to stack climbing are included here;

An, Am	The
Armin	Warrior
Beag, Bheag	Little
Bodach	Old man
Brough	Cliff, peninsula
Buachaille	Shepherd, herdsman
Camas	Bay
Castle	Isolated stack
Chailleach	Old woman
Clett	A brick-like shape, cf kletterschue.
Dona	Bad
Eilean	Island, islet or stack!
Geo	Narrow inlet, micro fjord, caused by marine erosion
Hoy	High from old Norse 'haegh'
Kame	Ridge
Lee	Blue
Loch	Inland water, lake
Mor, Mhor	Big
Rubha	Headland
Ruadh	Red
Stac	Pinnacle, cliff
Wick	Bay
Voe	A large inlet or sea loch. (Contrast it to geo.)



*Orkney Islands coast scene.
Photo from Steve Le Feuvre.*

Appendix D:

FIRST ASCENT LIST - England, Wales and Scotland

This table lists the date, the stack or climb name, the grade, possibly the stack name again, the area and, lastly, the first ascent climbers. There may be a brief note about the ascent or the personalities appended. This list is not complete as many of the first ascent details are unknown.

Unknown	<p>Back Passage, Mod, Cummington, Unknown..</p> <p>Bass Rock, Inchkeith, Unknown.</p> <p>Coach Bolt Crack, VS 4c, Cummington, Unknown.</p> <p>Crumbs, HSev, Blisterin' Barnacle, Unknown.</p> <p>Flying Buttress Left Side, VDiff, Cummington.</p> <p>Flying Buttress Right Side, Diff, Cummington.</p> <p>Gentle Breeze, HSev 4b, N Devon, Unknown.</p> <p>Girdle Traverse, 4c or 5b, Cummington, Unknown,</p> <p>Greybeard's Phone, HSev, N Devon, Unknown.</p> <p>Head Of Garness, Sev, Covesea, Unknown.</p> <p>Iron Craig, Inchkeith, Unknown.</p> <p>Jutting Flake Crack, HSev, Cummington, Unknown.</p> <p>Languishing Limpet, HVS 5a, Blisterin' Barnacle, N Devon, Unknown</p> <p>Long Craig, Inchkeith, Unknown.</p> <p>North Face, VS, Muchalls, Unknown.</p> <p>North Face, Sev, Aberdeen, Unknown.</p> <p>North Haven, Aberdeen, Unknown.</p> <p>Original Route, HSev, Whiten Head, Unknown.</p> <p>Pilgrims Haven Pinnacle, Isle of May, Unknown,</p> <p>Seal Carr, Inchkeith, Unknown.</p> <p>Seal of Approval, HVS, The Souter, Unknown.</p> <p>Southern Diagonal Traverse, VDiff, Aitken;s Pinnacle, Aberdeen, Unknown.</p> <p>Starboard Bow, E2 5c, Midden Stack, Unknown.</p> <p>Stuffed Badger, HSev, Blisterin' Barnacle, N Devon, Unknown.</p> <p>Tender Cleft, Diff, Aberdeen, Unknown.</p> <p>The Pedestal, VS 4c, Cummington, Unknown,</p> <p>The Poor Man, VDiff, Aitken's Pinnacle, Aberdeen, Unknown.</p> <p>The Deil's Head, VS, Muchalls, Unknown.</p> <p>Tide's In, V Diff, N Devon, Unknown.</p> <p>Tilly Tenant, Muchalls, Unknown.</p> <p>Wheat Stack, Inchkeith, Unknown.</p>
17th(C)?	St Kilda stacks by the indigenous population.
19th(C)	Lighthouse A, Diff, The Needles, Lighthouse workers.
1876	<p>Great Stac Of Handa, A4, N. W. Highland, Donald McDonald from St. Kilda.</p> <p><i>Hand-over-hand using a rope stretched over the top of the stack. A fantastic feat.</i></p>
1883	<p>Stac Biorach, St. Kilda, C. Barrington.</p> <p><i>A curious event. Mentioned in the Alpine Journal of the time. It might have been easier to get to Switzerland.</i></p>

- 25 Jun 1899 The Witch Rock, Galloway, E. C. M. Heath.
- pre-1910 Long Slough Pinnacle, VDiff, Aberdeen, H. G. Drummond and party.
- 1933 Sugarloaf, HVDiff, Isle of Man, Dr. A. W. Kelly.
- 1944 Direct Route, Sev, Aitken's Pinnacle, Aberdeen, Unknown.
- 1950s Hanging Block Climb, HSev, Aberdeen, Unknown.
Humpback Girdle, VDiff, Aberdeen, Unknown.
Quartz Corner, Sev, Aberdeen, Unknown.
Seaward Chimney, VDiff, Aberdeen, Unknown.
- 1954 Crack Of Dhoon, VDiff, Isle of Man, D. S. Byrne.
- 26 Apr 1959 The Old Lady, Severe, Macleod's Maiderts, Skye, Ian Clough, J. McLean
- June 1961 The Devil's Chimney, VS, Lundy, R. Shaw, J. Logan.
Original Finish variation, Aug 1969, R. I. Tancred and R. S. Macnair.
The Ordinary Route, Diff, Lundy, Admiral K. M. Lauder, E. C. Pyatt.
- 1963 Gannet's Rock Crack, HSev, Lundy, R. Evans - maybe.
A cracking little route on a cracking little stack that's a pain to get to.
- May 1965 The Obverse Route, HSev, Lundy, A. Swan, B. Martindale.
- 1966 The Old Man, VS 4c, N. W. Highland, Tom Patey, B. Robertson, Paul Nunn.
The Old Man Of Stoer gets ticked off.
Original (or East Face) Route, EI 5b, Hoy, Orkneys, Tom Patey, Rusty Baillie, Christian Bonnington.
The TV event that turned the Old Man into a national climbing monument. On the first ascent pitch 2 was aided and the climb graded VS & A2.
- 1967 Great Stac Of Handa, A4, N. W. Highland, Tom Patey.
Repeated Donald McDonald's 1876 feat using jumars rather than arms alone. A second 'ascent' really.
The Herdsman, HVS 4c, N. W. Highland, Tom Patey, John Cleare, Ian Clough.
The famous Am Buachaille in Sandwood Bay gets ticked by Tom.
- July 1967 Yesnaby Castle, Mainland, Orkneys, Joe Brown and others.
- 8-9 July 1967 South Face, E2 5b, Hoy, Orkneys, Joe Brown, Ian McNaught Davis
A second BBC extravaganza on the Old Man of Hoy.
- 29 Mar 1967 Integrity, Sev, Lundy, D. W. Brown, P. Bingham, K. Gill, J. A. Gaskill.
- May 1967 Stac nam Faolleann North, Diff, Rhum, Ian Clough and party.
- 1968 Ladram Lady, VDiff, S. Devon, J. Fowler.
The first appearance of Mr. J. Fowler. He was involved in the first ascent of every stack in south Devon.
- 1969 Stac Lee, St. Kilda, R. Baiharry and party.
Stac an Armin, St. Kilda, R. Balharry and party.
The big St. Kilda stacks get climbed for the first time by recreational climbers.
- 1969? Ordinary Route, HVS 5a, Souter, SE Scotland, Robin Campbell, Dave Bathgate.
The first ascensionists dealt with the fulmar petrels by spitting at them straight between the eyes.
- 14 Jun 1969 West Route, Severe/A2, Clett Rock, NE Scotland, R. Jolly, M. Willis, D. Young.
Ripe for freedom.
- July 1969 The Great Arch, VS, N. W. Highland, Hamish MacInnes, G. N. Hunter, D. F. Long.
The Handa stack finally gets an ascent in good style.
Stacan GB, VS, Handa, NW Scotland, Hamish MacInnes, G. N. Hunter, D. F. Long.
- Aug 1969 Puffin Bay Stack, Handa, NW Highland, Hamish MacInnes, G. N. Hunter, D. F. Long.
- 1970 High Dhoon, VDiff, Isle of Man, G. Gartrell.
High Dhoon Direct, VDiff, Isle of Man, G. Gartrell.
The Steeple, Sev, S. Devon, J. Fowler, Peter Biven.

- 1970s Gold Cracks, HSev, Aberdeen, Unknown.
Left Face, HSev, Aberdeen, Unknown.
The Black Ramp, HVS 5a, Aberdeen, Unknown.
- 8 Feb 1970 Rite Of Spring, VS 4c, N. Devon, Pat Littlejohn, A. Chadwick, J. Hammond.
- Easter North Caulton Castle, HVS, Mainland, Orkney, Pete Minks, Cliff Phillips.
Two North Wales-based climbers head north and grab one.
- May 1970 Stack o'Roo, Sev, Mainland, Orkneys, J Upton, E. Sweeney, A. Harris, K. Toms.
This could be the North Wales Al Harris who would have known Pete Minks and Cliff Phillips.
- 1 Jun 1970 Sgor an t-Snidhe Stack, VDiff, Rhum, H. Brown.
North Face, VS, The Maiden, N. W. Highland, Paul Nunn, Brian Fuller, D. Goodwin, C. Rowland, Tom Patey.
A stack too far. The Maiden repaid Tom Patey for being in on the first ascent. He fell abseiling from the summit and was killed. So ended an illustrious career.
- 12 Jul 1970 Church Rock Girdle, Sev 4a, Pembroke, C. Mortlock.
South Ridge, Sev, Pembroke, C. Mortlock.
- 26 May 1970 March's Route, VS, The Maiden, N. W. Highland, Bill March, John Cunningham.
- 1971 Tower Of Babel, Severe, S. Devon, J. Fowler, Keith Darbyshire, Peter Biven.
Chocolate Finger, VS, S. Devon, Peter Biven, J. Fowler.
The Razor, H.Severe, S. Devon, J. Fowler, A. Ortyskievich.
The Parson, E3, S. Devon, Keith Darbyshire, Peter Biven, J. Fowler, S. Nicholls.
The CorkScrew, V.Diff, Skye, R. ODonovan
- 3 Jun 1971 Noodle, Severe, Skye, B. Taplin, D. Sharp
- 14 Aug 1971 Looksee Crack, MVS, Lewis, J. Mackenzie, A. McDonald.
- Nov 1971 Big Picket, HVS 4c, S. Devon, Peter Biven, Keith Darbyshire, J. Fowler.
Lost World, H.Severe, S. Devon, Peter Biven, J. Fowler, A. Onyskievich.
Bonetti Tower, E2, S. Devon, Keith Darbyshire, A. Onyskievich, Peter Biven.
- 1972 Dunbuy Diedre, VS 4b, Aberdeen, Unknown.
Eastern Circuit, Sev, Aberdeen, Unknown.
Far East Crack, VS 4c, Aberdeen, Unknown.
Kamin No. 5, V.Diff, S. Devon, Keith Darbyshire, J. Fowler.
North Sea Buttress, Sev, Aberdeen, Unknown.
- May 1972 Little Twin, H. V.Diff, Isle of Man, G. Gartrell, R. B. Evans.
Big Twin, Severe, Isle of Man, R. B. Evans, S. M. Thomas, G.Gartrell.
- 1973 Pioneers' Traverse, VS, Aberdeen, Unknown.
- 26 May 1973 North Arête, V.Diff, Pembroke, Nat Allen, Derek Camell, Les Peel, S. Manning.
- 1974 Bantham Hand, VS, S. Devon, J. Fowler, S Nicholls, C. Gibson.
Notre Dame, VS 4b, N. Devon, Keith Darbyshire, D. Gamer.
The Clerk, Severe, S. Devon, J. Fowler.
The Hanging Slab, Sev, Aberdeen, M. Milner (solo).
- 20 May 1974 Sacre Coeur, E2 5b, N. Devon, Pat Littlejohn, H. Clark.
The first route on the main slab of Blackchurch Rock. Mr. Littlejohn does not appear again in the annals of UK stack climbing.
- 1975 Arch Corner, Sev, Aberdeen, Unknown.
Avoiding The Issue, E1 5a, Aberdeen, Unknown.
Burnt Oft Corner, E1 5b, Aberdeen, Unknown.
Jelly Fish, VS 4c, Aberdeen, Unknown.
Old Castle Chimney, VDiff, Aberdeen, Unknown.
The Bender, VS 4b, Aberdeen, Unknown.

- The Issue, A1, Aberdeen, Unknown.
- 1978 Humpback Crack, VS 4b, Aberdeen, G. S. Strange, D. Dinwoodie.
- 22 Aug 1978 Quartzite Crack, VS 4c, Aberdeen, D. Dinwoodie, G. S. Strange.
- 23 Aug 1978 Right Face, HSev, Aberdeen, G. S. Strange, D. Dinwoodie.
The Brush-off, E2 5b, Aberdeen, D. Dinwoodie, G. S. Strange.
- 1979 Flying Groove, VS 4c, Cummingston, Unknown.
Original Route, HVS 5a, Old Harry, Dorset, Amis Strapcans, Louise Heineman, A. Henderson.
The Plumed Serpent, HSev, Blisterin' Barnacle, N Devon, Pete O'Sullivan, B. Adams.
- 28 Apr 1979 Sea Breeze, HSev 4a, N Devon, R. Mear, P. O'Sullivan.
- May 1979 Blisterin' Barnacle, E2 5b, Blisterin' Barnacle, Pete O'Sullivan, B. Adams.
Briny Walk, HSev 4a, Blisterin' Barnacle, Pete O'Sullivan, B. Adams, J. Maund.
- 29 May 1979 Föhn, HSev 4a, N Devon, R. Mear, P. O'Sullivan.
- 22 Jul 1979 Les Invalides, E2 5c, N. Devon, Pete O'Sullivan, Cathy Woodhead.
- 1 Sep 1979 White Riot, VS, Lundy, R. P. Hastings, M. Winstanley.
Left Hand Start variation, 4 Aug 1981, D.Roberts and J. Lord.
- 1980 East Side Story, VDiff, Cummingston, Unknown.
Hand Rail Slab, Diff, Aberdeen, Unknown.
Pen-Y-Holt Crack, E1 5b, Pembroke, Jim Perrin, Brian Wyvill.
- 27 Apr 1980 Noir Et Blanc, HVS 5a, N. Devon, Gary Gibson, Derek Beetlestone.
- 24 Sep 1980 The Fin, HVS 4c, Galloway, C. MacAdam, A. Fraser.
- 1981 Black Napkins, VS 4c, Downies, K. Murphy, D. Dinwoodie, F. Templeton.
Jolly Rogerer, HVS 5a, Aberdeen, M. Milner (solo).
Quick Lay, VS 4c, Downies, Unknown.
Splashway, VDiff, Downies, Unknown.
The Grand Wazoo, HVS 4c, Downies, Unknown.
The Greener, HSev, Downies, Unknown.
- 11 Jul 1981 Jamaican Dub, E3 6a, N. Devon, Pete O'Sullivan, P. Bingham, I. Thompson.
- 1982 Grazoopkins, HVS 4c, Downies, K. Murphy.
Jazz Discharge Party Hat, E1 5b, Blisterin' Barnacle, M. Milne, R. Jones, I. Hamilton.
- Summer Double Dragon, HVS 5a, Skye, R. Bates, P. Agnew.
- 1982 Ancient Mariner, E2 5b/c, Hoy, Orkneys, Arnis Strapcans and ano.
Arnis pushes standards in a new area once again.
Vagitus, E2 5a, Aberdeen, Unknown.
Valgus, VDiff, Aberdeen, Unknown.
- 30 Jul 1982 Not Blisterin' Barnacle, E2 5b, Blisterin' Barnacle, Dave Garnett, Hilary Sharp.
- 11 Oct 1982 Dance On A Volcano, E3 5c, N. Devon, C. Nicholson, B Wilkinson.
- 1983 Carrion Laughing, VS 4c, Aberdeen, Unknown.
Cream Doughnut, E1 5b, Downies, M. Hamilton.
Fingers Wall, E3 5b, Cummingston, Unknown.
Fingers Wall (Direct Start), E3 6a, Cummingston, Unknown.
Legover, E2 6a, Aberdeen, G. Livingston.
Morte d'Arthur, VS 4c, Aberdeen, Unknown.
Spiffing, E1 5b, Downies, B. Davison, N. Morrison.
White Serviette, HVS 5b, Downies, M. Hamilton.
- July 1983 Squid Vicious, E5, The Souter, K. Spence, D. McCallum.
- 1 Aug 1984 A Few Dollars More, E3 5c, Hoy, Orkneys, Murray Hamilton, Pete Whillance, Paul Braithwaite.
A Fisful Of Dollars, E5 6a, Hoy, Orkneys, Murray Hamilton, Pete Whillance, Paul Braithwaite.
It took 18 years to get from E1 5b on the Old Man of Hoy to E5.

- The Mitre, Severe, Skye, Jerry Moffat, Chris Dale.
Is this the same Jerry Moffat as the famous late-80's hero?
- Eye Of The Needle, E2 5c, Lundy, Steve Boyden, Paul Harrison.
- 1985 Blocky, VDiff, Cummingston, Unknown.
 Butchers Broom, VS 4b, Cummingston, Unknown.
 Captain Birdseye, E2 5b, Cummingston, Unknown.
 Cutty Sark, Sev, Cummingston, Unknown.
 Dirty Old Man, VDiff, Cummingston, Unknown.
 Footloose, VS 4c, Cummingston, Unknown.
 Huggy Bear, VS 4c, Cummingston, Unknown
 Shadow Flake, HVS 5a, Cummingston, Unknown.
 Sunset Song, HSev 4b, Cummingston, Unknown.
- 26 May 1985 Bob-Bob Stack, ?, Kilt Rock, Skye, B. Wightman, Bill Birkett.
Both solo and grade not given. As they put up an E5 6b two days later it could be anything from Mod to E6!
- 28 May 1985 Over The Rainbow, E5 6b, Kilt Rock, Skye, Bill Birkett, B. Wightman.
- 22 Sep 1985 Press Gang Pinnacle, HVS 4c, Dorset, Mick Fowler, Chris Newcombe.
- 1986 Crack-A-Gow-Gow, VS 4c, Covesea, E Scotland, Unknwn.
 Cyndi Louper, HVS 5a, Aberdeen, Unknown.
 The Berrys, E1 5b, Aberdeen, Unknown.
- May 1986 The Witch's Tit, Grade V, Dorset, Simon Ballantyne, J. Henderson.
- Summer North Coall Head Stack, MVS, Mainland, Shetland, I. (Andy) Long.
 The Tusk, XS 5b, Dorset, Mick Fowler, Andy Meyers, Sonja Vietoris
 Old Harry East Face, XS 5c, Dorset, Mick Fowler, Chris Newcombe, Mark Lynden, Andy Meyers.
 Shear Sear, E5 6a, Skye, Gary Latter.
 Ring Of Bright Water, E1 5b, NW Higlliland, S. Yates, I. Halliday.
- 11 Aug 1986 Poltergeist, E1 c5a, Lundy, P. Harrison, S. Wilkie.
- 1987 Downside Upwindies, E3 6a, Downies, A. Ross (1 yo-yo).
 Gateaux of Delirium, E3 5c, Downies, D. Dinwoodie.
 Scab and Matter Custard, E3 6a, Downies, D. Dinwoodie.
 Smegmatoid, HVS 5b, Downies, D. Dinwoodie.
 Snot and Bogey Pie, E1 5b, Downies, D. Dinwoodie.
 Upside Downwindies, E3 5c, Downies, A. Ross (yo-yoed).
- 12 Jul 1987 Rant, E3 6a, N. Devon, Pete O'Sullivan, N. Crowhurst.
- 29 Aug 1987 North-West Corner, XS 5c, Old Man of Stoer, NW Highland, Mick Fowler, C. Newcombe.
- May 1988 Impact Stack, Sev, Jura, I. Davidson, P. Heneghan, P. Stewart.
- 21 May 1988 South-East Arete, Severe, The Needles, Mick Fowler, Jon Lincoln.
- 22 May 1988 Stag Rock, Isle of Wight, R. Hoare, Jon Lincoln, Nikki Dugan, Mick Fowler.
 Bear Rock, Isle of Wight, Mick Fowler, Nikki Dugan, Jon Lincoln, R. Hoare.
And a jolly good weekend was had by all. There was third stack ascended by the team in Freshwater Bay that day but it has since fallen down.
- 28 May 1988 Ode, HVS 5a, Maiden, NW Highland, Mick Fowler, C. Newcombe.
 Funeral For A Friend, E1 5b, Maiden, NW Highland, Chris Watts, Jon Lincoln.
 Waterfront Wall, Severe, Maiden, NW Highland, Fowler, C.Newcombe.
 Maiden Without A Hole, HVS 4c, Maiden, NW Highland, Chris Watts, Jon Lincoln.
- 29 May 1988 Fort Rock, HVS 5a, Dunnet Head, NE Scotland, Mick Fowler, Jon Lincoln, C. Newcombe, Chris Watts.
Another thundering good weekend for Team Fowler. Two in a row at opposite ends of the UK.

- 8 Apr 1988 Flash Dance, VS 5a, Lundy, A. Dance, P. Balcombe.
Flight of the Valkyrie, VS 5a, Lundy, P. Balcombe, A. Dance.
Gollum's Revenge, VS 4c, Lundy, P. Balcombe, A. Dance.
- 16 Jul 1988 The Plunge, XS 5b, Dorset, Mick Fowler, Duncan Tunstall.
- 28 Aug 1988 North Route, E3 5c, Clett Rock, Holbom Head, NE Scotland, Mick Fowler, Jon Lincoln, J. Cuthbert, Nikki Dugan.
- 26 May 1989 Occumster Stack, MXS 4c, NE Scotland, Mick Fowler, Nikki Dugan, Paul Allison, Jon Lincoln.
- 27 May 1989 Witch's Hat Stack, HVS, Duncansby Head, NE Scotland, Mick Fowler, Nikki Dugan, Paul Allison, Jon Lincoln.
The Knee, HVS 5a, Duncansby Head, NE Scotland, Mick Fowler, Paul Allison (alt), Nikki Dugan, Jon Lincoln.
The Little Knee, Sev, Duncansby Head, NE Scotland, Mick Fowler.
One more of Mr. Fowler's raiding parties north of the border. Meanwhile in a different part of Scotland allies are prospecting.
Am Bodach, Diff, Cape Wrath, Guy Muhieman, Simon Richardson.
Two weeks later the massed band returns.
- 17 Jun 1989 A'Chailleach, HSev, Cape Wrath, Mick Fowler, Nikki Dugan, Simon Richardson, Guy Muhlemann, Chris Watts.
Stac Clo Kearvaig - east and west summits, HVS 5a, NW Scotland, Mick Fowler, Chris Watts.
- 18 Jun 1989 Seaward Stack, HVS 5a, Stac Clo Kearvaig, NW Scotland, Mick Fowler, Chris Watts, Guy Muhlemann, Simon Richardson
Landward Stack, HVS 5a, Stac Clo Kearvaig, NW Scotland, Mick Fowler, Chris Watts, Simon Richardson, Guy Muhlemann.
- 19 Jun 1989 Stac Clo' Mor, Diff, NW Scotland, Simon Richardson, Guy Muhlemann, Chris Watts, Mick Fowler.
Climbed in misty damp conditions. Probably free climbable.
- 22 Jun 1989 Distant Storm, H.Severe, Quarff, Mainland, Shetlands, I. Davidson, R. Cookson.
- 26 Aug 1989 Black Beard, VS 4c, Lundy, D. Corben, B. Chambers.
- 1 Oct 1989 South Route, HVS 5a, Bodach an Uird, Berriedale, NE Scotland, Mick Fowler, Chris Watts.
Landward Face, VS 5a, Bodach an Uird, Guy Muhlemann, Simon Richardson.
North Arête, E1 5b, Bodach an Uird, Simon Richardson, Guy Muhlemann.
Bird Poo Wall, VS 4c, Bodach an Uird, Chris Watts, Simon Richardson, Guy Muhlemann.
- 2 Oct 1989 Cleit Bheag, XS 5b, Dunbeath, NE Scotland, Mick Fowler, Chris Watts, Nikki Dugan,
Cleit Ruadh, HVS 5b, Dunbeath, NE Scotland, Chris Watts, S. Sheridan, Nikki Dugan, Mick Fowler.
Another thunderingly good weekend trip.
- 1990 Bad Wind, HSev 4b, N Devon, D. Simonite, S. Coughlan, T. Mynette.
Endgame, E1 5b, Covesea, Unknown.
Fianchetto, HVS 5b, Covesea, Unknown.
Hanging Pawn, HVS 5a, Covesea, Unknown.
Material Advantage, HVS 5a, Covesea, Unknown.
Mating Net, E1 5b, Covesea, Unknown.
Remembrance Sunday, E2 5b, Covesea, Unknown.
Stac Bhuidhe, H. Sev, Skye, Ed Grindley, Mr. or Ms. Williams, ano.
They littered the top with part of a female shop dummy. Don't ask.
Tony's Bad Knee, HSev 4b, N Devon, D. Simonite, S. Coughlan, T. Mynette.
- May 1990 Landward Side (?), HVS 5a, Clett of Crura, Qrkneys, Steve Sustad, Nikki Dugan, Mick Fowler.
- 27 May 1990 The Needle, XS 5c, Hoy, Orkneys, Mick Fowler, Steve Sustad (alt), Nikki Dugan.
Summer Pinnacle Chimney, Kilt Rock, Skye, C. Moody.
- 16 Jun 1990 Ricketyploon, Sev, Aberdeen, M. Forsyth, T. Farrington (done before?)

- 23 Aug 1990 The Johnny Weed, E3 5c, Lundy, R. Whitwell, K. Fleming.
- 15 Sep 1990 Atlantic Wall, E1 5a/b, Am Buachaille, NW Highland, Simon Richardson, R. Clothier.
This intrepid duo were forced to bivouac on the top because of the tide.
- 25 Sep 1990 Uncontrolled Gurning, E6 6b, Lundy, Crispin Waddy, I. Wilson.
- 9 Oct 1990 The Snuffler, VS 4b, N Devon, M. Whitaker, R. Howard.
- 1991 Chrichton's Crack, Sev, Covesea, Unknown.
Fame And Fortune Traverse, Sev, Muchalls, Unknown.
MacDuff stack routes climbed, Eastern Scotland.
Orestes Arête, VS 4c, Covesea, Unknown.
Rotten Row, Diff, Covesea, Unknown.
Stackattack, E3 5c, Covesea, Unknown.
Walking The Cod, E2 6a, Covesea, Unknown
- 20 May 1991 (Only Love Can Be) Stranger Than Fiction, E5 6a, Aberdeen, W. Moir, J. Lines.
- 8 Jun 1991 Twin Stack of Coblach, Diff, Skye, Guy Muhlemann, Simon Richardson.
Two of Mick Fowler's team strike out on their own.
- 15 Jun 1991 Prowess, E5 6b, Aberdeen, W. Moir, J. Lines.
- 3 Aug 1991 Captain Pugwash, V.Diff, Pembroke, Unknown.
Master Bates, Diff, Pembroke, Unknown.
Seaman Staines, Severe, Pembroke, Unknown.
Whoever it was probably went blind afterwards.
- 31 Aug 1991 Needless To Say, E2 5c, Needle Rock Promontory, Pembroke, Brian Davison, Richard Jones.
- 4 Apr 1992 Elend, VDiff, Cornwall, D. Hillebrand, K. Siemund.
Little Lambs, VS 4c, Cornwall, D. Hillebrand, K. Siemund.
Silence of the Lambs, VS 4b, Cornwall, D. Hillebrand, K. Siemund.
- 10 May 1992 The Runk, HVS 5a, Mainland, Shetland, Andy Nisbett, Craig Jones, Jon Lincoln, Mick Fowler.
The famous four go to Shetland with Mick's trusty inflatable, Deflowerer II, and claim some more virgin summits during a ten day period.
- 13 May 1992 Main Drong, Mild XS 5b, Mainland, Shetland, Mick Fowler, Andy Nisbet, Jon Lincoln, Craig Jones.
There were, apparently, two ascents of the Main Drong before Mick Fowler's but the details appear to be lost.
Slender Drong, XS 5b/c, Mainland, Shetland, Mick Fowler, Andy Nisbet, Jon Lincoln, Craig Jones.
- 15 May 1992 The Foot, Xs 5c, Mainland, Shetland, Mick Fowler, Craig Jones, Andy Nisbet, Jon Lincoln.
- 17 May 1992 Muckle Roe Stack, HVS 4, Mainland, Shetland, Craig Jones, Jon Lincoln, Andy Nisbet, Mick Fowler.
- 19 May 1992 The Cutter, HVS 4, Mainland, Shetland, Andy Nisbet, Jon Lincoln, Craig Jones, Mick Fowler.
- 20 May 1992 Slim Drong, VS 5a, Mainland, Shetland, Mick Fowler, Andy Nisbet, Jon Lincoln.
Stumpy Drong, Sev, Mainland, Shetland, Mick Fowler, Andy Nisbet, Jon Lincoln.
Harry's Pund, H.Severe, Mainland, Shetland, Andy Nisbet, Jon Lincoln, Mick Fowler.
SP Stack, V.Diff, Mainland, Shetland, Andy Nisbet, Jon Lincoln, Mick Fowler.
This must be one Mick's best stack days ever. Ten stacks were claimed in total during this ten day trip and several other climbs were put up as well.
- 30 May 1992 The Outer Maiden, E2 5b, Skye, Guy Muhlemann, Ed Grindley, Simon Richardson.
- 1 Jun 1992 Eilean Groove, E1 5b, Rubha Huinish, Skye, Simon Richardson, Guy Muhlemann.
Mitre Groove, E2 5b, Uig, Skye, Simon Richardson, Guy Muhlemann.
- 7Ju1 1992 Stack of the Ship, V.Diff, Mainland, Shetland, G. E. Little
- 2 Aug 1992 Deimos, VS 4c, Cornwall, S. Mooney, R. Bloxham, B. Voss.
Gullible Too Sev, Cornwall, S. Mooney, B. Voss, R. Bloxham.
- Sep 1992 Team Teva, Severe, Dorset, Duncan Hornby, David Barlow.
- 11 Oct 1992 Fitzharber, HSev, Cornwall, R. Bloxham, S. Mooney.

- 4 Nov 1992 The Crisp, HVS 5a, The Needles, Mick Fowler, Lorraine Smythe.
1993 Unnamed, E1 5a, Midden Stack, Unknown.
- 20 Mar 1993 Starboard Bow, E2, Midden Stack, G. MacIntyre, C. McKee, Bruce Kerr.
Turning In-Tide-Out, E2, Midden Stack, G. MacIntyre, C. McKee, Bruce Kerr.
- 4 Apr 1993 Lunar Pull, E3, Midden Stack, Bruce Kerr, G. MacIntyre, D. Leckie.
Port Bow, Midden Stack, Bruce Kerr, G. MacIntyre.
- Aug 1993 Hammer House Of Horrors, E6 6b, Lundy, Gary Gibson, ano.
- 18 Sep 1993 Ronald's Rant, VDiff, Todd's Loup, A. Matthhewson, G. Watt, A. Hume.
Tidal Race, Mod, Todd's Loup, A. Matthhewson, G. Watt, A. Hume.
- 1994 Electric Lemonade, E1 5b, Cornwall, W. Marland, A. Gipps.
Tha' Wer' Easy, HSev, Cornwall, W. Marland, A. Gipps, A. Cunningham.
Tha' Wer' 'Ard, E1 5b, Cornwall, W. Marland, A. Cunningham.
- 1 May 1994 Hymen, E2 5b, The Maiden, John Bickerdike, Martin Wragg.
- 13 Aug 1995 The Teardrop Explodes, E4 5c, Cornwall, S. Hawken (solo).
- 24 May 1996 Central Scoop Route, HVS 5a, Ru Idrigill Stack, Trotternish, Skye, Duncan Irving party.
*They claim that they set out to climb stacks at Neist Point and ended up here by mistake.
Magnificently bad navigation!*
- July 1996 NoName Stack, VS, 4a, Broadhaven, Pembroke, Dave Scott-Maxwell, Kath Pyke, Helen Ward,
Matt Ward, Andrew Donson.
- Oct 1996 Yes, Please, E3 6a, Yesnaby Castle, Orkney, Mick Fowler, Crag Jones, Julian Freeman-Attwood.
1997 Laa-Laa, E2 5b, Downies, W. Moir, M. Levack.
- 5 Aug 1997 Ramp Route, Sev, Cummingston, Stuart S.
Vein Attraction, Sev, Cummingston, Stuart S, Fraser Rowan.
- 1998 Fins not Flippers, VS 4c, Aberdeen, Unknown.
Vanilla Slice, E2 5b, Downies, T. Rankin, A. Crofton.
Yorkshire Whipper, E5 6b, Downies, T. Rankin.
- 18 Aug 1999 Uncle Monty, VDiff, Lundy, T. Sawbridge, M. Snell.
- 19 Aug 1999 Jack Adcock, VDiff, Lundy, S. Cardy, T. Sawbridge, P. Harrison.
Pocket Battleship, E1 5b, Lundy, P. Harrison, T. Sawbridge, S. Cardy.
- 2000 Desert Island Discs, Diff, Covesea, Unknown.
Girls Just Wanna Have Fun, HVS 5b, Aberdeen, Unknown.
Marooned, Diff, Covesea, Unknown.
Message in a Bottle, HSev, Covesea, Unknown.
- 28 Aug 2000 Man Underboard, VS 4c, Pembroke, B. Watson, D. Carroll.
White Funnel Line, HVS 5a, Pembroke, D. Carroll, B. Watson.
- 2001 The Sugar Loaf, XS 5a, Aberdeen, Unknown.
- Jul 2002 Never Again, E3 5c, South Ronaldsay, Orkney, Les Gorham, Iain Miller.
Original Route, Sev, Castle of Burrian, Orkney, Iain Miller, Mark Dowel.
The first first ascent of a sea stack by Iain Miller. He later moved to County Donegal, Ireland, and found himself in a stack paradise where he ran riot with first ascents.
- 13 Jul 2002 Against The Grain, HVS 4b, NW Highlands, Ross I. Jones, Roy Plenderleith.
- May 2003 A Drop in the Ocean, Sev, Clett of Crura, Orkney, Steve Herd, Iain Miller.
- 1 Jun 2003 Allez Ratour Espania, Sev, Blisterin' Barnacle, Mark Garland, Jason Lloyd.
Olive Oil, Sev, Blisterin' Barnacle, Mark Garland, Jason Lloyd.
Popeye, V Diff, Blisterin' Barnacle, Mark Garland.
Zaith, E1 5b, Blisterin' Barnacle, Jason Lloyd, Mark Garland.
- Jul 2003 The Brough, VS 4c, Orkney Islands, Iain Miller, Howard Clarke.
- 12 Apr 2004 Funky Appendage, Sev, Blisterin' Barnacle, John Bull.

- 11 Apr 2004 Lord Oliphant's Bicycle, VS 4b, Wick, Mark Robson, Simon Richardson.
- 28 Jul 2004 Ode to my Friend, HSev 4b, South Ronaldsay, Orkney, Iain Miller, Les Gorham.
 Things Complete, Sev, South Ronaldsay, Orkney, Iain Miller, Les Gorham.
Les Gorham most unfortunately died on the abseil descent from the stack, only clipping one of the two abseil ropes. He fell onto rocks at the base, and died in hospital a few hours later. Be very careful people.
- 4 Sep 2005 Chequered Sports Shorts of Yesteryear, VS 4c, Lundy, I. Whitehouse, M. Telfer.
 The Cocktail Party, HSev 4a, Lundy, M. Telfer, I. Whitehouse.
 You or Your Memory, E2 5c, Lundy, M. Telfer, I. Whitehouse.
- 10 Sep 2005 A Big Box Full of Clockwork Ducks, HSev 4c, M. Telfer, R. Freeman.
- 22 Apr 2006 Rùn-diomhair, HVS 4c, Whiten Head, Ross I. Jones, Rob Reglinski.
- 6 May 2006 When the Big Lady Sings, HVS 4c, Melvich, R. I. Jones, M. Dent.
- 30 Jun 2006 Unnamed Stack, Sev, Melvich, Steve Sustad, Mick Fowler.
- 1 Jul 2006 Pulsating Toe Climb, E2 5c, Mid Clyth, Steve Sustad, Mick Fowler (alt).
- 18 Sep 2006 A' Càmhhal, HVS 5a, Whiten Head, Ross I. Jones, Helen Stocks.
- 2007/8 Out of the Deep, HVS, Orkney, North Gaulton Castle, Iain Miller and party.
- 24 Mar 2007 Flame on the Horizon, VS 4c, Clyth, R. I. Jones, A. Porter.
 In the Company of Rigs, VS 4b, Clyth, R. I. Jones, A. Porter.
 Uncertain Entertainment, HVS 4c, Clyth, A. Porter, R. I. Jones.
- 1 Apr 2007 A' Bòcan, HVS 4c, Whiten Head, Ross I. Jones, Neil Wilson, Simon Nadin.
- 3 Sep 2008 On Yer Bike, HVS 5a, Wick, Gary Latter, Lee Fleming.
- 23 Sep 2012 A Golden Hour, E3 5b, The Souter, Topher Dagg, Sebastien Rider.
- 7 Aug 2013 Snap Crackle and Pop, HSev 4b, Lundy, C. Dale, M. Gutteridge, A. Clarke.
- 28 Aug 2013 Arc of the Ocean, Sev, Foula, Mick and Kathy Tighe.
 Fraser Ratter, VDiff, Foula, Mick and Kathy Tighe.
 Peace to the World, HSev, Foula, Liu Yong, Simon Fraser.
- 6 Jun 2014 Obviously Not Quartzite Crack, E1 5a, Aberdeen, Stuart S., Lyons,
- 13 Aug 2015 Space Station Finish, E1 5b, Hoy, D. Moore, S. Clarke
- 27 Sep 2014 419, HDiff, Pembroke David Beynon, Henry Castle.
 Man Under Chopping Block, HSev 4b, Pembroke, Henry Castle, David Linnett. David Beynon.
- 18 Apr 2017 Mistral, HSev 4b, N Devon, Mark Kemball.
- 30 April 2018 Prowess Sidewall, XS 6a, Aberdeen, Unknown.
- 23 Feb 2019 Walk the Plank, Sev 4b, The Souter, Bruce Kerr, Rab Young.

Channel Islands

- Unknown Antipedes, Sev, Pea Stacks, Unknown.
 Barnacle Bill, VS 4c, Plomb Roque, Unknown.
 Brill, Sev, Pea Stacks, Unknown.
 Dog Eat Dog, VDiff, Pea Stacks, Unknown.
 Down On The Breadline, Sev, Pea Stacks, Unknown.
 Driftwood On The Sands Of Time, VS 4c, Pea Stacks, Unknown.
 Emma Sev, Corbiere, Unknown.
 Emma Variation, Corbiere, Unknown.
 Equinox, VDiff, Pea Stacks, Unknown.
 Ganglian, Mod, Portalet, Unknown.
 Headloss, VS 5a, Pea Stacks, Unknown.
 Itsacon, HVS 5a, Peak Stacks, Unknown.

Libra VS, Corbiere, Unknown.
 Limpet, VDiff, Plomb Roque, Unknown.
 Meteor Diff, Pleinmont Point, Unknown.
 Mistral, HSev, Unknown.
 Nester's Crack, HSev 4b, Le Bigard, Unknown.
 One For The Vine, VDiff, Pea Stacks, Unknown.
 Red Shift, Diff, Pleinmont Point, Unknown.
 Rugosity Wall HSev 4b, Plomb Roque, unknown.
 Scalpel, VS, Plomb Roque, Unknown.
 Surgeon's Slab, VDiff, Plomb Roque, Unknown.
 Taurus, VS 4c, Pea Stacks, Unknown.
 The Bean, VS 5a, Corbiere, Unknown.
 The Heat Of The Night, VS 4c, Pea Stacks, Unknown.
 The Heat of the Night Direct Start, Pea Stacks, Unknown
 Trespass, Sev, Pea Stacks, Unknown.
 Type, Sev, Plomb Roque, C. Harvey, T. Harvey.
 White Star, Diff, Pleinmont Point, Unknown.
 Vagrant, Sev, Pea Stacks, Unknown.
 1908 1908 Route, VDiff, Dog Rock, F. H. Grenfell & Brother.
 24 Sep 1983 Gelert's Groove, HVS 5a, Corbiere, Alan Hill, Steve Dorrity.
 3 Dec 1983 Footloose, VS, Corbiere, Alan Hill, Brian Rushton.
 Rufous, E1 5b, Corbiere, Alan Hill, Brian Rushton.
 Feb 1984 The Jam, HSev, Corbiere, Brian Rushton, Alan Hill.
 Swing'in in the Rain, VS 4c, Le Bigard, Brian Rushton, Alan Hill.
 4 Mar 1984 Tumble, HVS 5a, Corbiere, Brian Rushton, Alan Hill.
 Apr 1984 Edgheg, Sev, Corbiere, Rory Williams, Alan Hill.
 Freebee, Sev, Corbiere, Rory Williams, Alan Hill.
 24 Apr 1984 April Shower, VS 4c, Gull Stack, Arthur Collins, Alan Hill.
 19 May 1984 After The Flood, HSev 4c, Gull Stack, Pete Gorman, Alan Hill
 11 Nov 1984 Typhoon, VS 4c, Gull Stack, Alan Hill, Simon Roland.
 4 May 1985 Arthur Fairweather, HSev, Gull Stack, Paul Torode, Alan Winstanley, Andrew Crebere.
 6 May 1985 Obelix, HVS, Gaul Wall, Paul Torode, Alan Hill.
 11 May 1985 Masquerade, HVS 5a, Corbiere, Mike Rhodes, Alan Hill.
 1986? Ancestral Vices, Sev, La Moye, Alan Hill (Solo).
 2 Mar 1986 Harlequin, HVS 5a, Corbiere, Steve Taylor.
 16 Mar 1986 Spring Fever, Sev, La Moye, A. Hill, M. Elliott, Nick.
 17 Mar 1986 Bucket City, Sev, La Moye, Tim Hodkinson.
 Tagheim Wall, HVS 5b, La Moye, Tim Hodkinson.
 28 May 1986 Bird Man, Sev, La Moye, Alan Winstanley, Alan Hill.
 Relics, VDiff, La Moye, Alan Winstanley, Alan Hill
 Sarcophagus, HVS 5a, Le Bigard, Alan Winstanley, Alan Hill.
 Spirit of the Age, HVS 5a, Le Bigard, Alan Winstanley, Alan Hill.
 1 Jun 1986 Blinded By The Light, Diff, Le Bigard, Alan Hill, Nic Wilson, Johnathon Brehaut.
 Damnation Alley, E1 5c, Le Bigard, Alan Hill, Nic Wilson, Johnathon Brehaut.
 Dark Secret, Sev, Le Bigard, Alan Hill, Nic Wilson, Johnathon Brehaut.
 Le Bigard Arête, VS 5a, Le Bigard, Alan Hill, Nic Wilson, Johnathon Brehaut.
 The RoarIng Silence, VS 5a, Le Bigard, Alan Hill, Nic Wilson, Johnathon Brehaut.
 4 Oct 1986 Micromaniac, E2 5b, Pea Stacks, Pete Gorman, Alan Hill, Matthew Litten.

- 1 Nov 1986 Crepuscular Slab, VS 4c, Portalet, Steve Taylor
Humdinger, VDiff, Portalet, Steve Taylor.
- 2 Nov 1986 The Final Fling, HVS 5a, Portalet, Alan Hill, Mike Rhodes.
- 31 Jan 1987 Technicolour Nightmare, Sev, Pea Stacks, Alan Hill, Jamie Tucker.
Yellow Brick Rhode, E1 5b, Pea Stacks, Alan Hill, Jamie Tucker.
- 19 Feb 1987 The Chop Block, HSev, Portalet, Alan Hill, Richard Geering, Tim Hodgkinson.
Penial Servitude, E3 6a, Portalet, Alan Hill, Richard Geering.
- 20 Feb 1987 The Scorpion, HSev 4c, Portalet, Alan Hill, Richard Geering.
- 19 Apr 1987 Deep Green, VDiff, La Moye, R. Pierce, A Macaskill, I. Cheldek.
- 17 May 1987 Animal Magic, HVS 5a, Le Bigard, A. Hill, S. Taylor.
- 16 Sep 1987 Five O'clock Shadow, VS 4c, West Stack, Alan Hill, Mike Rhodes.
K'tanga, VS 5a, West Stack, Alan Hill.
Naughty Business, Sev, West Stack, Alan Hill, L. Broad.
- 19 Sep 1987 Forgotten Heroes, E1 5a, West Stack, Alan Hill, Mike Rhodes.
Five O'clock Shadow Direct Finish, VS 4c, West Stack, Alan Hill, Mike Rhodes.
- 7 Nov 1987 Quasar, HVS 5a, Le Bigard, A. Hill, R. Geering.
- 8 Nov 1987 Mafioso, HVS 5b, Le Bigard, A. Hill, B. Aplin.
- 14 Nov 1987 Bean and Gone, VS 5a, Corbiere, Paul Torrode, Alan Hill.
- 30 Apr 1988 Biarritz HVS 5a, Boulder Wall, B. Aplin, P. Torode, A. Hill.
Common Sense, Sev, Boulder Wall, D. Hurdley, O. Harrison, N. Wilson.
High Steppa, HSev Boulder Wall, 4b, A. Hill (solo).
Nonsense, HVS 5a, Boulder Wall, A. Hill, P. Torode.
- 1 May 1988 Close Encounter, Sev, Boulder Wall, A. Hill (solo).
New Worlds, Mod, Boulder Wall, B. Aplin, D. Hurdley.
- 14 May 1988 The Alamo, VS 4b, Portalet, A. Hill, P. Torode, A. Delisle.
- 21 May 1988 Coriolis, VS 4b, Gull Stack, A. Hill, P. Borman
Dune, VS 4c, Gull Stack, A. Hill, P. Gorman.
- 12 Jun 1988 Arachni, E2 5c, La Moye, A. Hill, P. Torode.
Cavernous Cavities, VS 4b, La Moye, A. Hill, P. Torode.
Gran Canyon, Sev, La Moye, D. Hurdley, N. Reade.
Omission, E1 5b, La Moye, A. Hill, L. Broad, P. Torode.
Pictish Guru, E2 5c, La Moye, A. Hill, P. Torode.
Sassenach, E1 5c, La Moye, P. Torode, A. Hill.
- 6 Nov 1988 Dogmatix, HVS 5b, A Hill (solo).
Geriatric, HVS 5a, A. Hill, J. Moss.
Vital Statistix, HVS 5b, Gaul Wall, A. Hill, C. Jordan, J. Moss.
- 12 Nov 1988 Rogue's Gallery, VS, Boulder Wall, B. Aplin, P. Torode, A. Hill.
Senseless, HVS, Boulder Wall, B. Aplin, D. Hurdley.
The Godfather, Boulder Wall, HVS, A. Hill, P. Torode.
The Underworld, Sev, Boulder Wall, A. Hill, P. Torode, B. Aplin.
- 11 Jan 1989 20% Armadillo, HSev 4b, Point Moye, A. Hill (solo).
Barbegazi, Sev, Point Moye, A. Hill (solo).
Déjà vu, E1 5a, Point Moye, A. Hill, J. Tucker, S. Bown.
Doppelganger Wall, HSev, Point Moye, A. Hill (solo).
Hoi Polloi, VS 5a, Point Moye, C. Hervey (solo).
Little Boxes, Sev, Point Moye, A. Hill (solo).
Pukka, Sev, Point Moye, A. Hill (solo).
Scraping the Barrel, VDiff, Point Moye, A. Hill (solo).

- Total Pangolin, VDiff, Point Moye, A. Hill (solo).
Seven solo first ascents in a day for Mr. Hill plus a led E1. Not bad.
- 14 Jan 1989 Xenophobia, HVS 5a, Point Moye, A. Hill. J. Tucker, S. Bown.
- 14 Oct 1989 Custard's Last Stand, Sev, Le Gouffre, A. Hill (solo).
Direct, HSev, Le Gouffre, A. Hill (solo).
Edge of Infinity, Sev, Le Gouffre, A. Hill (solo).
H to He , HSev, Le Gouffre, A. Hill (solo).
Hebalob, VS 5a, Le Gouffre, A. Hill (solo).
Pioneers over C, VS 4c, Le Gouffre, A. Hill, M. Rhodes.
The Aerosol Grey Machine, HSev, Le Gouffre, A. Hill (solo).
The Clot Thickens, VDiff, Le Gouffre, A. Hill (solo).
The Quiet Zone, Diff , Le Gouffre, A. Hill (solo).
Nine solo first ascents in one day for Mr. Hill.
- 4 Sep 1989 Erazor, HVS, Plomb Roque, A. Hill, L. Broad.
Side-Step, Sev, Plomb Roque, A.Hill (solo).
- 24 Mar 1990 Unknown Name, Sev, Gaul Wall, A . Hill (solo).
- 4 May 1992 Birdy Franklin, HVS 5b, Le Bigard, A. Franklin, C. Harvey.
- 2001 Greased Knobs, HSev/VS, Pleinmont Point, Mark Page, John Addy.
Greased Knobs Variation, Sev, Pleinmont Point, Mark Page, John Addy.
- 27 May 2001 Mistress in a Port, E5 6a, Portalet, Martin Crocker, Christian Harvey.
Petit Derriere, E2 5c, Portalet, Martin Crocker (solo).
Portuguese Man o'War, E6 6b, Portalet, Martin Crocker, Christian Harvey, Haydar Koyupinar.
Schlüsselstelle, E5 6b, Portalet, Martin Crocker, Christian Harvey, Haydar Koyupinar.
Martin Crocker flies in and makes his high grade mark.
- 28 May 2001 About to Drown, E2 5c, Portalet, Martin Crocker, Christian Harvey, Haydar Koyupinar.
Snorkel to Hand, E2 5c, Portalet, Martin Crocker, Christian Harvey, Haydar Koyupinar.
Three Men in a Moat, E3 5c, Portalet, Martin Crocker, Christian Harvey, Haydar Koyupinar.
- 10 June 2001 Sorry Seagull a.k.a. Slippery Seagull, VS 5a, Portalet, C. Harvey (solo).
- 13 Jun 2001 Desire, E3 6a, Portalet, C. Harvey, Haydar Koyupinar.
- 15 Sep 2001 The Philosopher's Stone, E3 5c, Icart, Christian Harvey, Haydar Koyupinar.
- 17 Feb 2002 Hebalob Direct Start, VS 5a, Le Gouffre, C. Hervey (solo).
Unknown Name, VS 5a, Le Gouffre, C. Hervey (solo).
- 8 April 2002 Crystal Maze, HS 4a, Icart, Christian Harvey, Haydar Koyupinar.
Grifindor, E1 5b, Icart, Martin Crocker.
Lockheart, E5 6a, Icart, Martin Crocker.
Slyverin, E1 5b, Icart, Martin Crocker.
Unknown Name, E1 5c, Icart, Martin Crocker (solo).
Up to You, E3 6a, Icart, Martin Crocker (solo).
Another Crocker climb-fest.
- 12 May 2002 Unknown Name, HVS 5a, Plomb Roque, C. Harvey, S. Humphries.
- Sep 2006 Cheap Skate, Sev/HSev 4b, Plomb Roque, Steve Giles, Dan Yabsley.
Hobbiton, Mod, Plomb Roque, Steve Giles (solo)
Travelling Man, Sev/HSev 4b, Plomb Roque, Steve Giles, Dan Yabsley.
- 6 Apr 2015 Jumpin Jugs, VDiff, Scaff's Stack, Chris Jackson, James Burton.
- Nov 2016 Un-named, HSev, Les Autelets, Nicky Pledger, Christian Harvey.
Un-named, HSev 4c, Les Autelets, Nicky Pledger, Christian Harvey.
- 13 Dec 2016 I'm Being a Wimp, VDiff, Dry Tool Stack, Kim Torode, James Burton.
The Sloth's Nose, VS 3c, Dry Tool Stack, Kim Torode, James Burton.

- The Sloth's Traverse, Sev, Dry Tool Stack, Kim Torode, James Burton.
- 18 Dec 2016 Wide Crack Thread, V Diff, Dry Tool Stack, James Burton, Kim Torode.
The Aborted Dry Tool Route, H Sev 3c, James Burton, Kim Torode.
- 31 Dec 2016 I'm Not Being a Wimp, Sev, Dry Tool Stack, James Burton, Kim Torode.
- 13 May 2017 Isihara, Diff, Pharaoh Stack, James Burton (solo).
Name to Follow, VDiff, Dry Tool Stack, James Burton (solo).
- 16 May 2018 Cat Burglar, HSev, Dog Rock, Steve Le Feuvre, Martin Smith.
The Third Cat Get the Cream, HSev, Lion Rock, Steve Le Feuvre and Martin Smith.
- 26 Sep 2018 Gilt Edge, VS 5a, Les Autelets, Ben Francis, Steve Le Feuvre.
Resolution, E1 5b, Les Autelets, Ben Francis, Steve Le Feuvre.
Substitution, HSev, Les Autelets, Ben Francis, Steve Le Feuvre.
- 11 Nov 2018 Brewdog, Sev, Dog Rock, Steve Le Feuvre, Steve Dorrity.
Remembrance Day, Sev, Dog Rock, Steve Dorrity and Steve Le Feuvre.

Ireland

- Unknown Forked Lightening, E1 5b, Owey, D. Millar, Martin Boner.
Seaward Face, Mod, An Port, Unknown.
Staca Bhui, HVS 5b, Owey, D. Millar, Martin Boner.
The Stags of Broadhaven, Unknown.
- 21 May 1973 The Wedge S, An Port, S. R. Young, J. Leonard.
- 2 May 1988 America Direct, HVS 5b, An Port, P. Clerkin, P. Clerkin.
America East Coast, HS, An Port, P. Clerkin, P. Clerkin.
Mayday, Mayday, HS 4b, An Port, P. Clerkin, P. Clerkin.
- 5 May 1988 San Andreas, HS 4b, An Port, P. Clerkin, P. Clerkin.
- 8 May 1988 Cormorant, VS 4c, An Port, P. Clerkin, P. Clerkin.
Davy Jones' Nose, VS 4c, An Port, P. Clerkin, P. Clerkin.
Dequesa Santa Anna, HVS 5a, An Port, P. Clerkin, P. Clerkin.
The Girona, HVS 5b, An Port, P. Clerkin, P. Clerkin.
- 15 May 1988 America West Coast, HVS 5a, An Port, P. Clerkin, P. Clerkin.
Armada, VS 4c, An Port, P. Clerkin, P. Clerkin.
The Clerkins dominate Irish stack climbing in 1966 and then vanish.
- May 1990 Branaunmore, MXS 5b, Cliffs of Moher, Mick Fowler, Nikki Dugan, Steve Sustad.
Doonbristy, MXS 5b, Dún Briste, Mayo, Mick Fowler, Nikki Dugan, Steve Sustad.
Mick Fowler opens the Irish sea stack door wider.
- Jun 1991 Lover's Leap Rock, XS 5c, Clare, Mick Fowler, Steve Sustad.
- 24 Sep 2000 Taming The Dragon, Diff, Owey, Alan Tees, Bill Magowan.
- 2001 The Sugar Loaf, XS 5a, Aberdeenshire, unknown.
- 4 July 2003 Blade, E2 5b, Owey, Andrzej Smialy and party.
- Jun 2007 Window Route, VDiff, Owey, M. McGuigan, Alan Tees, Bill Magowan.
- 23 Jun 2007 Fandango, Diff, Owey, Alan Tees, S. Kennedy, Valli Schafer, P. J. Monaghan.
- 31 May 2008 Lurking Fear, VDiff, Tormore, Iain Miller.
Iain Miller starts his astonishing tour de force of Donegal stack climbing. He virtually single-handedly led Donegal stack and sea cliff climbing into the mainstream.
- 7 Jun 2008 Dan Osman RIP, XS 4a, An Port, Iain Miller
Osmoregulation, Diff, An Port, Iain Miller.
- 26 Jul 2008 Cnoc na Mara, VS 4b, Tormore, Iain Miller, A. Tees, M. McGuigan.
- 3 Aug 2008 Vertical Picnic, VDiff, An Port, Iain Miller, D. O'Connor.
- 13 Sep 2008 Fortitude in Distress, VDiff, An Port, Iain Miller.
Realm of the Senses, Sev, An Port, Iain Miller.
Rolling Thunder, VDiff, An Port, Iain Miller.
Twin Arch Stack, VDiff, An Port, Iain Miller.

25 Nov 2008 Darkness Descends, Diff, Glenlough, Iain Miller
Rainman, VDiff, Glenlough, Iain Miller.

28 Dec 2008 Jenga, E2 5a, Glenlough, Iain Miller, D. O'Connor.
2009 Gluin, VDiff, Bloody Foreland, Martin Boner.
Scolt, VS 4c, Bloody Foreland, Martin Boner.
Stol, VS 4c, Bloody Foreland, Martin Boner.

21 Feb 2009 Easy Exit, Diff, Gweedore, Iain Miller, Martin Boner.
The Internal Grin, Sev, Gweedore, Iain Miller, Martin Boner.

28 Feb 2009 Hexes, HSev 4b, Gweedore, Martin Boner, Iain Miller.
Nature Always Provides, Sev, Gweedore, Iain Miller, Martin Boner.

12 Apr 2009 An Bhuideal, Sev 4a, Toralaydan, Iain Miller, Martin Boner.

18 Apr 2009 A Puffin Too Far, VS 4c, Tormore, S. Tait, Iain Miller.

17 May 2009 A Bridge Too Far, Sev 4a, Gweedore, Iain Miller, Martin Boner.
Chatterbox, Sev 4a, Gweedore, Martin Boner, Iain Miller.
Unhindered By Talent, VS 4c, Gweedore, Iain Miller, Martin Boner.

24 Apr 2009 Gull Island, E1 5a, Glenlough, Iain Miller, Martin Boner.

31 May 2009 Exit Stage Left, VS 4b, Gweedore, Iain Miller, Edward Wallace, Martin Boner.
Exit Stage Right, Diff, Gweedore, Martin Boner.
"Fine Display, Young Wallace!", HVS 5a, Gweedore, Iain Miller, Edward Wallace, Martin Boner.

10 May 2009 Southern Stack, XS 4c, Glenlough, I. Chestnut, Iain Miller.

13 Jun 2009 An Bhuideal (N Tower), VS 4c, Toralaydan, Iain Miller, J. Read, Martin Boner.

18 Jun 2009 Stork, VS 4c, Owey, Iain Miller, L. Murdiff, M. Robertson.
Thrutch, VS 4b, Owey, Iain Miller, L. Murdiff, M. Robertson.

22 Jun 2009 Fracture Stack, VDiff, Owey, Alan Tees, I. Kyrella, Bill Magowan.

28 Jun 2009 North Ridge, Diff, An Port, Iain Miller.

18 Jul 2009 Main Summit, VS 5a, Tory Island, Phillip Stevens, Iain Miller.
North Face Route, HVS 5a, Tory Island, Phillip Stevens, Martin Boner.
Red Wall, HVS 5a, Tory Island, Phillip Stevens, Iain Miller.
Seaward Face Route, Sev 4a, Tory Island, Phillip Stevens, Martin Boner.
The Landward Face, VS 4c, Tory Island, Iain Miller, C. Gleeson.

25 Jul 2009 The Lighthouse Stack, Diff, Arranmore, Iain Miller.

19 May 2009 Satan, XS 4c/5a, Glenlough, Iain Miller, M. Boner.

20 Jun 2009 Cladagharoan, Sev 3c, Owey, Iain Miller, E. Read, C. Gleeson.

22 Jun 2009 Finbar's Stack, Diff, Owey, Finbar Mullen.

27 Jun 2009 Nautical Folly, Sev 4a, Owey, Iain Miller, C. Gleeson, M. Boner.

30 Jun 2009 Dare to Be!, XS, Mullaghtan, Iain Miller, Martin Boner.

4 Jul 2009 The Unforgiving, XS, Glenlough, Iain Miller, Caoimhe Gleeson.

16 Jul 2009 Dead Man's Fingers, HSev 4b, Arranmore, Phillip Stevens, Iain Miller.
South Face Route, VDiff, Arranmore, Iain Miller, Phillip Stevens.

25 Jul 2009 Broken Arrow, VDiff, Arranmore, Iain Miller.

8 Aug 2009 Fu Manchu, XS, Arranmore, Dave Millar, Steven Read.
The Seaward Ridge, XS, Arranmore, Iain Miller, James Crowe.

2 Sep 2009 Lobster Corner, XS 4c, An Port, Iain Miller.
Lobster Wall, S 4a, An Port, Iain Miller.
Rest and Be Thankful, Sev, An Port, Iain Miller.
Swimming Home, VDiff, An Port, Iain Miller.

15 Apr 2010 An Appointment with Fear, VS, Tormore, Iain Miller.

Jun 2010 Shannon Collective, VS, Owey, S.J. Read, E. Mullen.

3 Jun 2010 Boxer Squash, Sev 4a, Torboy, Iain Miller, Edward Wallace.
Distant Drums, Sev 4a, Torboy, Iain Miller, Edward Wallace.
Happy Days, Diff, Torboy, Iain Miller.
Laughing Fools, VD, Torboy, Iain Miller, Edward Wallace.
The Grater Groove, VS 4c, Torboy, Iain Miller, Edward Wallace.

- 4 Jun 2010 Lump Groove, HVS 5a, Torboy, Iain Miller.
- 8 Jun 2010 Dark Matter, HSev 4b, Arranmore, Iain Miller.
Popcorn, VDiff, Arranmore, Iain Miller.
Seal Song, VDiff, Arranmore, Iain Miller.
Selkies Song, VDiff, Arranmore, Iain Miller.
The North Ridge, Diff, Arranmore, Iain Miller.
Vice Grip, Sev, Arranmore, Iain Miller.
- 22 Jun 2010 Davie Jones Locker, Sev, Glenlough, Iain Miller.
Ends of the Earth Stack, Diff, Glenlough, Iain Miller.
The Entrance to Hades, Sev, Glenlough, Iain Miller.
- 26 Jun 2010 By Hook or by Crook, E1 5b, Owey, Iain Miller, Stephen Read.
Cavers Delight, HSev 4b, Owey, Stephen Read, Iain Miller.
White Rage, Sev, Owey, Iain Miller, Stephen Read.
- 29 Jun 2010 Pyramid Stack, Sev, Glenlough, Iain Miller.
- 14 Aug 2010 A Moment in Time, VS 4b, Torboy, Richie Khann, Iain Miller.
Jamtastic, VS 4c, Torboy, Richie Khann, Iain Miller.
- 15 Aug 2010 Dun Balal, VDiff, Tory Island, Iain Miller, Richie Khann.
- 1 Sept 2010 Baltic Spire, VDiff, Toralaydan, Iain Miller.
Icon, VDiff, Toralaydan, Iain Miller.
The Edge of Reason, Diff, Toralaydan, Iain Miller.
- 13 Oct 2010 Hidden Stack, VDiff, Tormore, A. Wainwright, Iain Miller.
- 23 Mar 2011 Black Mamba, VS 4c, An Port, Iain Miller, Wolfgang Schuessler.
- 6 May 2011 Big Block Stack, Sev, Owey, Iain Miller.
The Spire, VDiff, Owey, Iain Miller.
- 9 Jun 2011 Arch Stack (Original Route), Sev 4a, Glenlough, Iain Miller.
- 21 Jul 2011 Little Dan, VS 4c, Toralaydan, Iain Miller.
- 23 Jul 2011 Blood Line, XS, Arranmore, S. 'Jock' Read, P. Brennan, Iain Miller.
- 24 Jul 2011 Dragons Back Stack, Diff, Arranmore, Iain Miller, Caoimhe Gleeson,.
- 30 Jul 2011 Euro Trash, VS 4b, Tormore, Wolfgang Schuessler, A. Flynn.
- 9 Aug 2011 Seal Song Arête, Sev, Toralaydan, Iain Miller, U. Macpherson, Wolfgang Schuessler.
- 27 Jul 2011 Proper Mission, Sev 4a, Tory Island, Iain Miller, Wolfgang Schuessler.
- 19 Jun 2012 North Route, VS 4c, Glenlough, Iain Miller, Wolfgang Schuessler.
- 20 Jun 2012 Decime Norberto, E1 5a, Torboy, Wolfgang Schuessler, Iain Miller.
Dog Gone, Sev 4a, Torboy, Iain Miller, Wolfgang Schuessler.
Oscar Watching, Sev 4a, Torboy, Wolfgang Schuessler, Iain Miller.
The First of Many, MSev, Torboy, Iain Miller, Wolfgang Schuessler.
Tilted Lift, VS 4b, Torboy, Iain Miller, Wolfgang Schuessler,.
Rather a good day for the Miller-Schuessler team.
- 11 Aug 2012 Blunderbuss, HSev 4b, Owey, Alan Tees, Valli Schafer, Bill Magowan.
Cordite Cracks, HSev 4a, Owey, Alan Tees, V. Schaffer, Bill Magowan.
Flesh Wound, VDiff, Owey, Bill Magowan, V. Schaffer, Alan Tees.
Gun Runner, Sev 4a, Owey, Alan Tees, Valli Schafer, Bill Magowan.
Russian Roulette, HSev 4b, Owey, Alan Tees, Bill Magowan.
Three Musketeers, Sev, Owey, Alan Tees, Bill Magowan, Valli Schafer.
A six-pack for this team on what looks like a perfect day.
- 18 Aug 2012 Central Direct, VDiff, An Port, Josie McGee, Iain Miller.
Chubby ár lá, Mild Sev, An Port, Josie McGee, Iain Miller.
- 20 Aug 2012 Smooth Sailing, HSev 4b, Glenlough, Iain Miller, Mick Fowler.
Two Men in a Boat, HVS 5a, Glenlough, Mick Fowler, Iain Miller.
Mick Fowler returns to Ireland and climbs with the Donegal stack king.
- 24 Aug 2012 Axe Blade, MXS 5b, An Port, Mick Fowler, Nicki Fowler.
- 2 Sep 2012 Chicken Livered, HSev 4a, Tory Island, Wolfgang Schuessler, F. Donnelly.
- 21 Jun 2013 Ned Gaffney's Perch, Sev, Glenlough, Iain Miller, N. Gaffney.

- 26 Jun 2013 Cronin's Stack, VDiff, Glenlough, A. Cronin.
- 10 Jul 2013 Cobbler's Tower, Diff, Tormore, S. Jock Read, Iain Miller.
- 12 Jul 2013 Baby Jasmine's Dragon, Sev 4a, Owey, I. Gault, J. Mallon, R. Mulraney, S. Garcia.
- 11 Jun 2014 Altars of Madness, HSev 4b, Toralaydan, Iain Miller, L. O'Connor.
- 24 Jun 2014 Shadow Cat, S 4a, An Port, Iain Miller, M. Family.
- 3 Jul 2014 Rookies Roost, Sev 4a, Owey, Iain Miller, L. O'Connor, J. Bags.
Waiting Wife, VS 4b, Owey, Iain Miller, L. O'Connor, J. Bags.
- 23 Jul 2014 Cormorant Direct, VS 4b, An Port, Iain Miller, J. Hegarty.
Groove Fest, HS 4b, An Port, Iain Miller, J. Hegarty.
Shallow Groove, VS 4b, An Port, Iain Miller, J. Hegarty.
- 10 Aug 2014 Ziggy Zig Ahh!, VS 4b, Gweedore, Iain Miller, A. Harding, R. Anderson.
- 24 Aug 2014 Bothanvarra, Sev, Inishowen, Iain Miller.
- 23 Sep 2014 Tormore Island, VS, Tormore, Iain Miller, P. McConnel, Alan Tees, P. Cooper.
(FFA Iain Miller, L. Lemanski, 23 Sep 2014.)
- 9 Nov 2014 One for the Photographer, VS 4b, Gweedore, Iain Miller, H. McCormack.
- Aug 2015 Rachael's Run, Sev 4b, Owey, J. Mallon, Princess Kathy.
- 1 Jun 2016 Corner on the Edge, VDiff, Gola, Iain Miller.
Hermits, Sev 4a, Gola, Iain Miller.
Hide Away, Sev 4b, Gola, Iain Miller.
Main Vein, HSev 4b, Gola, Iain Miller.
- 24 Jun 2016 1 Millibar, HSev 4b, An Port, Iain Miller, B. Barnes.
- 22 Aug 2016 A Day in the Life, VS 4c, Owey, Iain Miller, M. Ibanez.
Cloud of Midgies, VS 5a, Owey, Iain Miller, M. Ibanez.
- 28 Aug 2016 Chaos Theory, XS 5b, Dún Briste, Iain Miller, Paulina Kaniszewska.
- 18 May 2017 Un-Named Stack, Arranmore, Iain Miller.
- 19 Mar 2018 Duke's Corner, Sev 4a, Tory Island, Iain Miller, Fiona nic Fhionnlaoich.
- 2-6 Jul 2018 JCVD, HVS, Owey, S. Villanueva O'Driscoll, E. Son.
- 29 Jun 2019 Above and Beyond, HVS 5a, Glenlough, W. Gadd, Iain Miller.
Chaos Stack, XS, Mullaghtan Head, W. Gadd, Iain Miller.
- 2 Jul 2019 The Outer Realms, HVS 5a, Arranmore, W. Gadd, Iain Miller.
- 23 Jul 2019 Game Face, E1 5b, An Port South, Iain Miller, Lisa Murdiff.



Standing on summit of Tent-Shaped Stack,
Glenlough Bay, Co Donegal, p284. Iain Miller photo.



*Original Route, North
Gaulton Castle, Orkney
Islands. Iain Miller photo.*