

# South Devon stuff

Martin Crocker

## South Devon stuff; some new climbs (*version 1.2.2024*)

### Introduction

This voluntary production has been getting larger and larger, so I thought I'd best add an introduction to set out the context and my expectations. In the last three years it has been invigorating to have had the opportunity to spend time in south Devon. I've been revisiting old haunts, lapping up routes I haven't done before, and in doing so noting various new possibilities and climbing them: they're described here. I can't be sure that they are all new, but that doesn't matter. In fact I'd be very happy if anything described below *has* been climbed before: by all means put me straight by sending an email via my website.

The purpose of this update is to publish details of new climbs in order to complement other information resources and platforms, especially Pete Saunders' (and Simon Wooster's) South Devon guidebook published by The Climbers' Club. My expectation is that it is being made available ultimately to help inform future definitive guidebooks where those guidebooks are not for personal profit.

### Donation

If you have downloaded this update and enjoyed making use of it on the crag, please make a suitable donation to a regional mountain rescue team or to the coastguard service.

### Guidebook Disclaimer

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<b>Access</b>	Check the Regional Access Database (RAD) on <a href="http://www.thebmc.co.uk">www.thebmc.co.uk</a> for the latest access information	
<b>Parking</b>	Park carefully – avoid gateways and driveways	
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<b>Respect</b>	Groups and individuals – respect the rock, local climbing ethics and other people	
<b>Wildlife</b>	Do not disturb livestock, wildlife or cliff vegetation; respect seasonal bird nesting restrictions	
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<b>Litter</b>	'Leave no trace' – take all litter home with you	
<b>Toilets</b>	Don't make a mess – bury your waste	
<b>Economy</b>	Do everything you can to support the rural economy – shop locally	

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## Sharkham Bouldering Area

There is a 5m high overhanging wall above an inlet immediately east of *Undercut Arête* boulder. Hell, you'd might as well do these DWS titches while bumbling around here. High spring tide recommended but even then there is a reef you must either avoid or jump onto in the event of messing up.

### Happy Campers' Traverse 8m S2/3 F5

Traverse the wall from north to south along a jug-rich break, taking full note of your landing after half-distance.

FA: MJC (on-sight solo) 25.10.2020

### Mein Camp 5m S1/2 F5

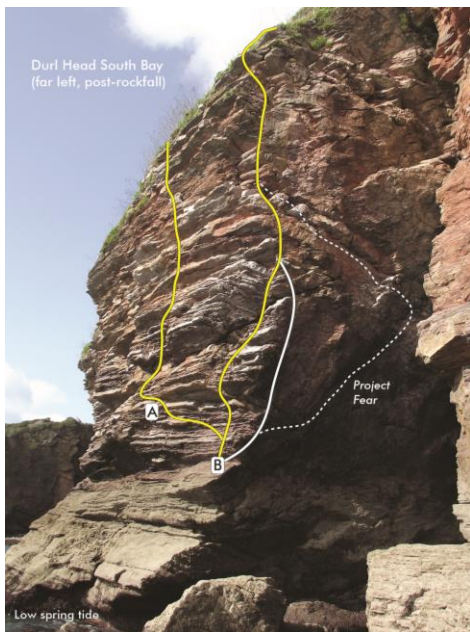
Traverse in from the north for 3m, and pull over onto a slab using a short diagonal crack over the lip.

FA: MJC (on-sight solo) 25.10.2020

## Durl Head

**Note.** For *Lip Stick Limpet*, *Rip Van Winkle*, and *Ripping Yarns* you should pre-place a rope to steady the escape over unstable blocks suspended in the cliff-top earth. To achieve this safely, ideally you'll place a stake 8m or so east of the bolt belay (which is too far west to be used in isolation for these routes).

The first two routes climb to the left of the *Pigeon Post* zawn. They start from a sloping perch just above the HWM which can be reached at dead low tide with calm seas by a short climb. More reliable – at most tidal states but not high seas – is to execute a keep bouncing abseil (or by placing one piece of kit to keep you in) from blackthorn belays. There is a good horizontal crack for belays 2m above the perch.



### A) No Bag of Bones 23m E3 5b/S3 F6b

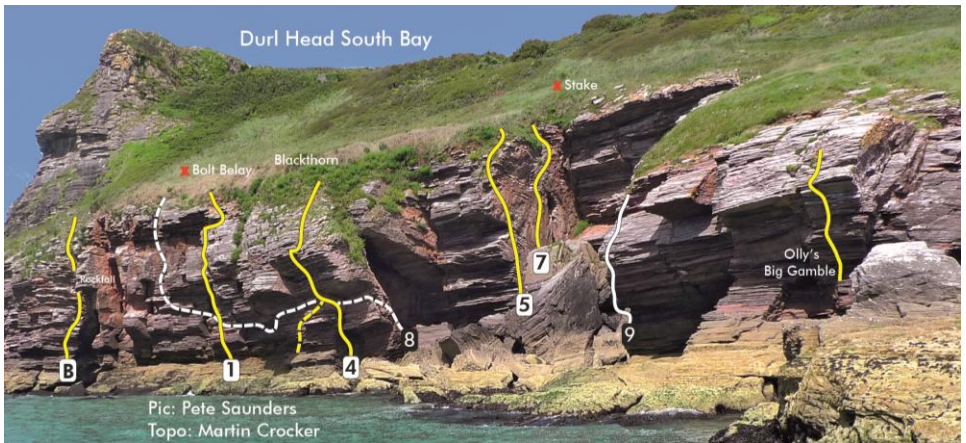
The first ascent was deep water soloed out of laziness, but the protection is reasonable. Either way great care is needed with the rock in the upper third. From the perch traverse left for 3m to a horned side-jug. Pull up to the lip of the bulge; then – using holds on the left – gain a niche with various threads. Climb up past two hidden handrails; then make a crucial reach left (past a good cam/nut slot) to a flat hold on a narrow orange band. Continue strenuously up bulging rock and onto easier-angled ground using a flake embedded in soil or your access rope. Scramble to the top. Helmet advised – especially if soloing. FA MJC (solo, after much hold-checking!) 29.9.2023

### B) \*Bully Seas 20m E1 5a (13.11.2022)

One of the best routes on the crag; burly but well-protected climbing up the southern arête of the *Pigeon Post* zawn. Pull over a roof into a groove in the arête. Take the groove and arête above, with a long reach, to spaced good holds which lead directly up the right-hand side of the arête to a step left at the top. (Ignore the serrated crack and undercut rail just left of the arête). Scramble to the belays.

Variation: **Wave Rebound** S0 F5 A deep water solo that leads nowhere safe. Swing down right from the perch and bound up the right-hand side of the arête for 8m. Reverse the parent route and then jug out on your rope, or solo the preceding climb, or swim out.

FA MJC (led with Soloist) 12.11.2022. Variation: MJC (solo) 29.9.2023



### 1 Lip Stick Limpet 23m E1/2 5b

Not bad, and quite well protected. Start 2m left of *Rip Van Winkle* at a short thin crack. Make a few quick pulls over the small roof left of the crack; and then trend slightly leftwards before pulling right into a niche under a decent-sized roof. Use the rail on the right initially, pull straight over the roof, via a short crack; then step up right to join *RVW* in its finishing groove.

FA MJC (led with Soloist) 11.10.2021

**Note.** Exit from and belays for *Peppa Pig Flies Again* to *Pidgin English*.

By far the best arrangement for these four routes is to belay on the cliff above the difficulties (at the stance indicated). Then, for pitch 2, climb the easy and pretty solid square-cut groove directly above onto steep grass and the blackthorn belays. Ideally you'll chuck down a 10m hand-line from the western limit of the clump of blackthorn, beforehand; or abseil in this way at low tide.

### 2 \*Peppa Pig Flies Again 23m E2 5c

A substantial and easier variation to *Ripping Yarns*, which provides a great alternative finish.

1 13m 5c Follow *Ripping Yarns* (threads renewed 2021) to its rest at 8m above the roof. Step right into a chimney/recess and follow large holds out right (*in-situ* thread) onto easier ground and belays.

2 10m Climb the easy square-cut groove directly above onto steep grass and the blackthorn belays. (Hand-line to help with the grass advised.)

FA MJC (led with Soloist) 25.11.2021

### 3 \*Moral Support from a Kindly Seal 23m E3 5c

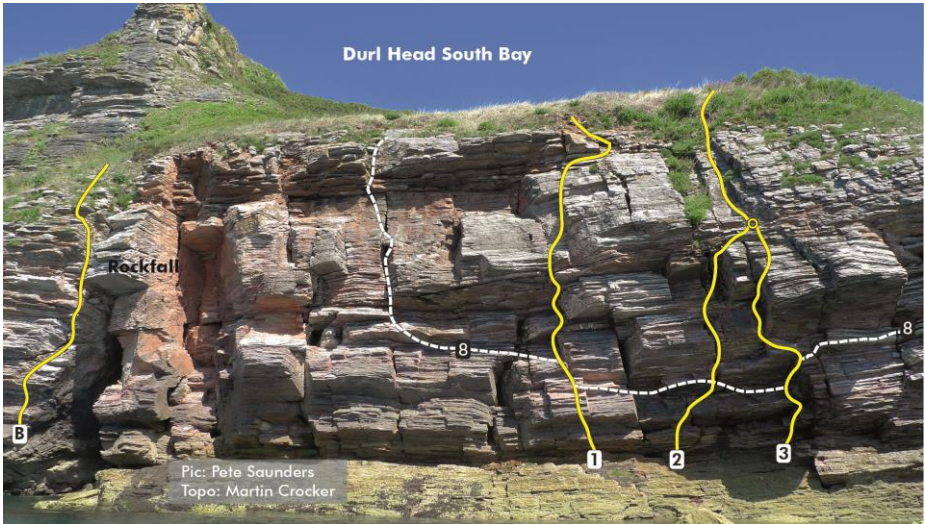
The impressive line of grooves and hanging off-width-things immediately left of the roof of *A Drop in the Ocean*. Committing, and probably high in the grades.

1 13m 5c Pull up into a short left-facing corner; then move up right onto an arête under the left-hand side of the large roof (of *A Drop in the Ocean*). Reach up left for a good rail (and gear), and strenuously enter the hanging brown groove on slopers. Good rest now. Undercut/head-bang right below the hanging off-width-things (*in-situ* thread), pulling out onto easier ground and belays.

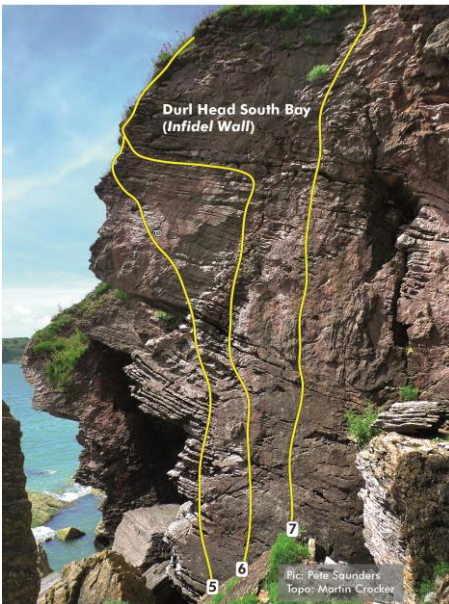
2 10m Climb the easy square-cut groove directly above onto steep grass and the blackthorn belays. (Hand-line to help with the grass advised.)

FA MJC (led with Soloist) 22.11.2021

*Rip Van Winkle*, *Ripping Yarns*, and *Pidgin English* are all well worth doing, assuming you've organised the cliff-top belays as advised



*A Drop in the Ocean* was deep water soloed on a high spring high tide by Ken Palmer on 29.9.2023. Seems like the best way to do the route – about F6c (apparently). The ‘drop’ was tested by his mate Rich Pollard.



#### 4 **Not So, Priti** 27m E3 5b

Toweringly Ogmorian; strenuous and protectable – just don't pull on the orange shale at the top.

1 12m 4b Follow *Dragnet* to a semi-hanging belay on threads and nuts on the left arête. (You can also gain this stance at the same grade via the crack of *Pidgin English*.)

2 15m 5b Pull over the roof, and step up right into a kind-of-a-crack. Move up and use a series of jugs in the grey rock left of the crack until hands are just above the bulge at the top. Now swing carefully right to rock over. Scramble up easy ground and grass to belay on the clump of adequate blackthorn.

FA: MJC (led with Soloist) 11.9.2021

#### 5 **\*What Were You Twenty Years Ago?** 25m E2 5b

The best of the trio, though it is dependent on a peg – albeit a big chunky one. Climb on jugs near the left edge of the wall, until it becomes undercut by the huge roof on the left. Trend left above the lip past a long reach to a finger-jug (peg). Continue diagonally to the arête and a careful pull to join the end of *Infidel's* traverse. Finish as for *Infidel*.

FA: MJC (led with Soloist) 11.9.2021

#### 6 **\*Infidel** 25m E2 5b

The centre of the wall; reasonably protected. From the huge rectangular boulder, climb up (left hand on obvious grey pancake) onto a rippled wall. Climb the wall with wire runners in the shallow ragged crack immediately to your right, and so gain a traversing-break. Follow the break, taking special care when rocking around onto the arête.

### 7 Zinfandel 22m E3 5b

A super-direct up the narrow pink wall right of the shallow ragged crack. To help, if not guarantee, the preservation of life and limb, you'd best check the highly specific small cam placements by abseil. Start atop the rectangular boulder. Climb direct to a pink spike (sling) and pocket above (where there is a fragile thread – don't bother to thread it; small wire down left). Make a long move to pockets overhead and carry on straight up past difficult cam possibilities to a deep break (large cam and rock-spike). Continue up the headwall, keeping right of a ramp, and gain a niche. The exit looks awful, but it is well-protected and not as serious as that of *Infidel* – just pull over on the grass rather than the embedded stones!

FA: MJC (led with Soloist) 13.8.2021 Maybe the original *Infidel started this way and then promptly swung into the big niche on the right?*

### 8 \*\*Crock's Kaleidoscopic Cruise 60m S3 F6a+

An old skool adventure with some stimulating route-finding and variable sea depths. The route tops out by soloing *Wings of a Dove* above very shallow water; it is highly advised you lead it first so you get its overhang sorted beforehand (alternatively you could dangle a rope down and jumarc-protect that route's top 12m, which will be less satisfying but safer – though still S2). Abseil into the *Infidel* zawn at high tide, and scramble down left under *Monster Munch*. Climb up leftwards on red rock, and traverse left below the large roof into a corner. Continue left past a rib and on beneath the roof of *A Drop in the Ocean* until the rails run out. Drop down a tricky corner (shallow water now) and creep left along a gangway to easier ground on *Rip Van Winkle*. Carry on at a higher level to meet *Wings of a Dove*, which is soloed to the top.

FA: MJC (on-sight solo at the S3; had climbed *Wings of a Dove* before) 16.10.2021

### Winter Hots 12m E3 5c

A sauna of esoteria, suitably tucked away from the masses. Limited protection; and care is required with the rock. Start on the large flat block as for *Up the Aunty*. Climb straight up over a finery bulge into a recess (don't miss the Rock 6 placement just right). Move up to a large pocket (*in-situ* thread), and continue steeply slightly leftwards to exit up a short rib.

FA: MJC (led with Soloist) 18.1.2024

**Cod Gives You a Stiffy** (E1 5a/b 20m) is actually pretty good (and pumpy). Starting in/above a gully and right of the loose corner, climb easily to a grey flake in a red scoop at 8 metres. Swing right onto the steep wall, and climb it trending slightly right to a short vertical slot on the right. Finish direct up the wall, exiting just right of a prominent overhang. Lots of breaks give plentiful protection opportunities.

### Wes the Wayward Wallaby 20m E1 5b

Has all the attributes of its fishy companion, but is less well protected (E2?). Start 2m right of *CGYAS* under a slight groove. Climb into the groove and, 2m below the obvious plant cluster, swing right around a bulge and proceed to a hand-ledge. Move up just right of a flake; then continue slightly leftwards directly above the plant cluster to a better break. A hard move up the yellow-lichen face gains a grey sloper under a triangular point at the cliff-top. Swing left to exit up its companion.

FA: MJC (led with Soloist) 18.1.2024 Was Wes ever found?

### 9 \*\*Get ya' Horny 15m S3 F6b+/6c

A wild lip-traverse of the 45-degree keel at the mouth of the *Infidel* zawn. The first ascent was made with a 4.5m tide; even a higher (5m), spring tide would yield only 2m of water at best. Traverse in from the west (or abseil in and traverse in from the east). Yard and hook along the very lip, using a surreal horn section, to a jug-rail just under the apex, and finish directly with a tricky mantel. Escape seems possible on the left at all times, but that doesn't impact upon the fun.

FA: MJC (after abseil-checking the horns could be played forte) 19.9.2021

### 10 Ollly's Big Gamble 9m E3 5c

The narrow overhanging buttress immediately left of the descent, taken centrally. Strenuous! Pull up under the roof (Rock1 & R2 in roof slightly left) and haul around (good cam) to finish via a short crack right of the larger crack of *Bouncing Babies*.

FA: MJC (led with Soloist) 15.1.2024 *This was the third attempt; on the second visit, after watching raging seas for four hours, neighbouring climber Ollly committed to crossing the tormented chasm for a Durl Rock solo.....*

### Zawn Boulders

A trivial if not fool-proof interlude best taken in the winter sun. Two huge chunks shed from the back-cliff offer some small but serious climbs/solos in the shelter of the zawn. Approach by abseil or by a scramble round two hours either side of low tide.



a) 10m E1 5a Climb the centre of the tall seaward face of the western boulder; the crux start is bold. There are two undercut cracks above that could take cams - so soloing isn't obligatory.

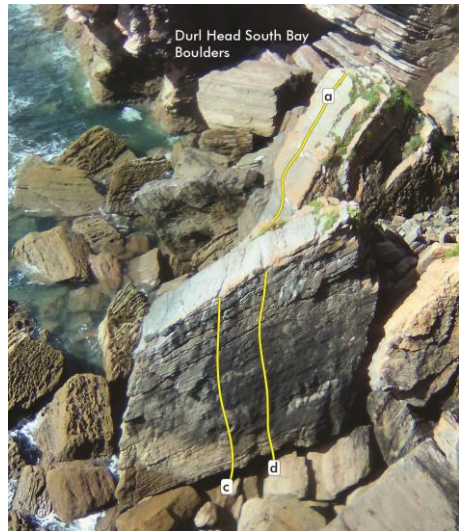
b) 8m VS 4c The fun off-width corner crack between the two boulders; protecting the start looks difficult.

The remaining two routes pop up the black east face of the eastern boulder. They appear to offer some gear.

c) 7m HS 4a Pull up onto a small ledge left of centre, continuing direct past a tiny triangular roof.

d) 7m HVS 4c Eliminate: take the smoothest part of the face between and without using the two ledges.

FAs: MJC (solo; (b) and (c) on sight) 18.9.2023 Done before?



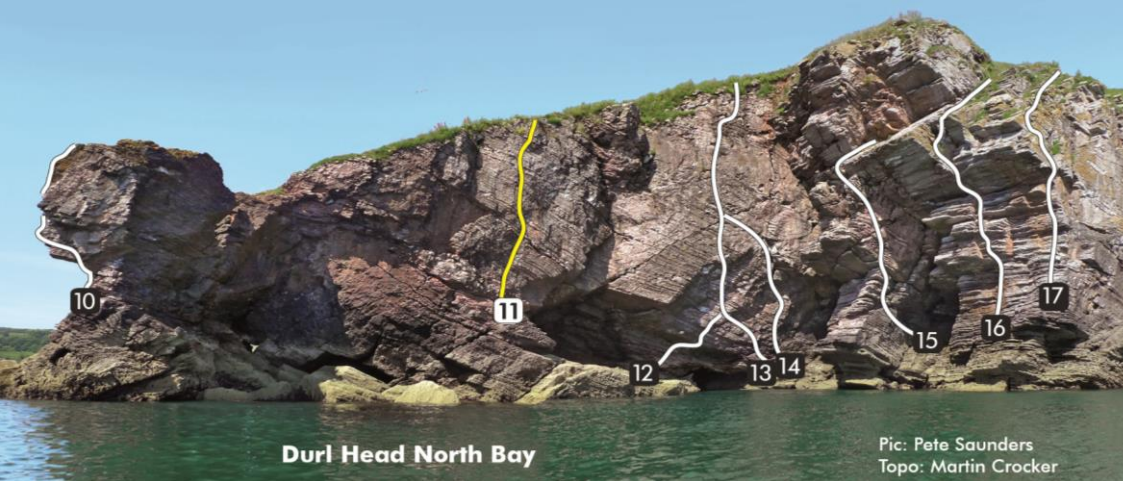
### Durl Rock

Access is possible for just about 2 hours either side of low tide, given a flat sea.

### \*\*Freshers' Day 10m E2 5c

The left arête of the landward face on superb rock. There's a bit of run-out above the gear cluster. Take the black left-hand side of the lower arête and reach over an overhang to place a small cam and wires next to a blocky jug. Haul over and then reach back up right to the edge of the arête (small wires). Easier moves on pockets reach the top.

FA: MJC (led with Soloist) 18.9.2023



## Durl Head North Bay

Pic: Pete Saunders  
Topo: Martin Crocker

### North Bay

#### 10 **\*Rapid Flow Test** 9m S1 6b+

An acrobatic way over the sizeable roof above the first part of the traverse-in. Wait for a good high tide, as there is a big subsurface shelf below. Stretch for a sharp jug on the right side of the roof; cut loose to jugs up left; then take the lovely slab above on slopers. Really good, boasting by far the best rock of the trio.

FA: MJC (solo)

#### 11 **\*Full Bleed** 18m E3 5c

A great muscular direct above *Dog Bites Back*, which can be protected well. Follow *Dog Bites Back* for 6m to a square white block for right hand. Swing up left to a sloping hand-ledge; then continue direct on spaced good holds (peg to help mark the line) to exit steeply over a small nose.

FA: MJC (led with Soloist) 22.9.2021

#### 12 **\*Mermaid** S0 F6c

A fun ceiling, but you'll have to ab' in (as for *Dog Bites Back*) or swim around. Not possible at high spring tide due to 'dabbing' potential (it's that low). Scramble around the back of the cave and – as the inlet materialises – move up onto juggy bands. Swing right under the ceiling and extend round to a choice of great holds. Cut loose, pull round and ascend to *La Rage* traverse, which is descended rightwards. Now jump into the sea to recover your starting point or reverse *MMT3*.

FA: MJC (on-sight solo) 21.9.2021 *A local mermaid dived into the water a few minutes later.*

#### 13 **A Passion for Shadows** 30m S3 F5+

Takes the centre of the *Chuck Berry* Wall. Could be led at E1/2. The S3 is for the height. Traverse in from the north (*MMT3*). Follow *La Rage* leftwards for 4m. Now climb up slightly leftwards on jugs galore (keeping left of a dusty pink ledge), and surmount a white crystalline barge on finger-pockets. Easier ground lies above (S1 to this point). Follow cracks up the wall, taking care with the rock, and reach past some stuck on blocks to a line of holds leading right into the exit of *LoS*

FA: MJC (solo) 4.8.2021 *But is this the original Chuck Berry?*

14 **Chuck Berry** provides an excitingly high DWS. To keep above deep water, traverse left 5m from just short of its junction with *Berry Red Wall/Lady of Shame*. Follow cracks up the wall, taking care with the rock, and reach past some stuck on blocks to a line of holds leading right into the exit of *LoS*. Like this it's F5+ and S3 (because of its height). Reach it by traversing in from the north (*MMT3*).

Soloed by MJC, 20 July 2021 (after checking by abseil for loose rock on the exit).

15 **Flangipan** is S2 F5+ as a DWS. The S2 is for the high upper section, but that's no harder than F4+.

On-sight DWS by MJC 20 July 2021



### 16 **\*\*Foaming at the Gusset** 15m S1 F6b+

A fantastic roof with a run of whopper jugs – once you reach them. Climb the front of the little buttress straight to the stance of *Foaming at the Mouth*. Above the right-hand end of the ledge is a hanging niche with a flake on its left arête. Extend for a finger-jam in the groove; then fire out left for the flake. Haul over into the niche, and exit easily.

FA: MJC (on-sight solo) 20.7.2021 *The roof was wet with condensation, so I'm not sure about the grade.*

### 17 **Freedumb Day+1** S1 F5

A good intro to DWS on this crag. It climbs the right arête of the North Bay. Traverse in and climb the arête, pulling over a little roof into a groove. For an exposed finish tiptoe left long the lip of the roof.

FA: MJC 20 July 2021 (on-sight solo) Done before?

## Cradle Rock area

Zone DWS: as identified on Page 195: a series of ribs with jutting roofs. There are two DWS's here which take lines either side of a black chimney/blow hole (descent for *MMT3*).

### P.S..... 9m S1 F4+

Traverse in under the huge roof (mid-tide) or reverse the chimney to sea level. Follow diagonal cracks leftwards up the west wall of the chimney/mini-zawn eventually emerging above the higher and larger roof. Good holds proliferate.

FA: MJC (on-sight solo) 4.8.2021 Done before?



### Note to Self 9m S2 F6a

Descend the blow hole for 6m and then bridge seawards until it is possible to persuade yourself to transfer onto the east wall (rock below). Swing right (good water below now), reach over the roof and take juggy diagonal breaks rightwards to the top. Fresh conditions desirable.

FA: MJC (on-sight solo) 4.8.2021



### 1 **\*\*Slasher McGee** 20m E4/5 (20.11.2021)

Beautiful aerobic laybacking up the left side of the *Cut-throat* arête. Follow *Cut-throat* but throw in some large cams and place a sling above a rock-spike at the top of the crack under the chimney. Descend to the base of the arête, and follow it with crisp laybacking all the way to the top. The short-lived comforting top-rope morphs into a big run-out with crux moves near the top. (A wire runner above the initial bulge for the right-hand rope may help the outcome of any fall from height.)

FA: MJC (after top-roping), Matt Goater

The buttress at the end of *MMT2* (crossed on barnacles at low tide) appears to have good water at mid-to-high water. Not a bad place to cut your teeth on deep water soloing.

## 2 *Seafari* 12m S1 F5

Start on the offshore rocks. Carefully start the traverse, and proceed rightwards a metre or so above high water mark before following a ramp up to the top of an *arête* (*Milk Teeth*). Or you could keep low for.....

FA: MJC (on-sight solo) 4.8.2021 Done before?

## 3 \**Calpol Days* 12m S0 F6b

A more soothing way to climb *Milk Teeth*, a great DWS. Traverse in as for the above or descend the buttress at an arbitrary point until paused by a glazed leaning wall. Make a fingery traverse down right across the wall, just above high water mark, to reach bigger holds on the *arête*. Pull up into the niche (*Milk Teeth*) and pass said deranged teeth (must be adult teeth by now) to finish steeply.

FA: MJC (on-sight solo) 4.8.2021

## 4 \**A Lord for 3 Million* 20m E3 5c (7.11.2021)

The striking isolated *arête* right of the main, *Pinch* wall. Superb, well-enough-protected climbing before the sleaze of the scabby and friable slab near the top. The first ascent was made on-sight and left a discreet *in-situ* belay beneath the impenetrable blackthorn above. Flow up the *arête* on great pinches and jugs, but nonetheless strenuously, to a slight niche under a bulge. A reassuring cam-crack on the left protects crux moves up over onto a good ledge under the 'sleaze-slab'. Teeter carefully up the slab to a peg and roped nut belay 2m beneath the top (check and supplement the kit as necessary).

FA: MJC (on-sight), Matt Goater (who ably dodged multiple avalanches from the 'sleaze-slab').



## Berry Head

### Oz Wall

#### **Still Groovy After All These Years** 12m S1 F5+

The slanting groove and ramp right of *Groovy Gang*: high, but – from White Rhino Tea Area – a consistent way to the top. After traversing under the roof on the Oz Wall Traverse, climb direct up the groove and the easier ramp to a longish move to the break near the top. Stride left and, while testing your holds carefully, traverse left to the right edge of the Terminal Zawn platform.

FA: MJC (solo; after first checking the rock on the traverse) 16.10.2021

### Red Walls

#### **\*\*Witches' Knickers** 15m F6b S1

A stunning companion of *Forrest Gump*, mostly jug-pulling – but 'out there'. Approach as for *Relay* etc. to the overhung ledges. Climb over the overhang, up a short pink corner (just left of where *Karmacoma* pulls over). Pull rightwards over the bulge (*Karmacoma* swings left here), and bear right on big holds to the lip of the main roof. Jugs lead into and up the crack over the lip, 2m left of *Forrest Gump*. Wave to your audience to the south.

FA: MJC (solo; I had climbed *Karmacoma* before) 26.10.2020

#### **Mindbomb** S1/3 F5+ 6/12m

Quick fright? Reverse *Neanderthal* for 6m. Traverse left to an exposed position right of the *Forrest Gump* roof. Shuffle left along the orange shelf; finger-traverse the lip of the roof, and reach a square-cut jug inset at the base of the hanging crack. Pull airily up left and take the crack to the top. The original (S3) ascent started 6m lower and soloed the prow of *Pathos* – just a skim of water even at spring tides.

FA: MJC (solo) 15.10.2021

### Coastguard Cliff

#### **\*Someone Else got that Number** 12m S1 F6c

An aerobic dalliance with the hanging arête left of *Piracy*. Take the *Douglas Fairbanks* corner for 3m to a deep pocket on the right wall. Make hard moves right to stand up on a projecting foothold, swing right, and grab the hanging arête. Now above deeper water, layback the arête while to the best of your ability avoiding the barn door. Andy's *Piracy* finish lies directly overhead.

FA: MJC (on-sight solo) 12.9.2020

### Cloudburst Buttress

#### **\*Long John Silver** 8m S0 F4+

The beautiful little grooved arête above good water immediately left of Coastguard Cliff. Traverse in from the west via a ledge and finger-rail. Delicately work up the groove.

FA: Barry Clarke 2018 (on-sight solo)

#### **Shades of Ray** 12m S2 F6a+

Climb the left side of the isolated arête of *Hidden Groove*, finishing as for that route. Lures you into a scary sloping mantel on the left – don't fall.

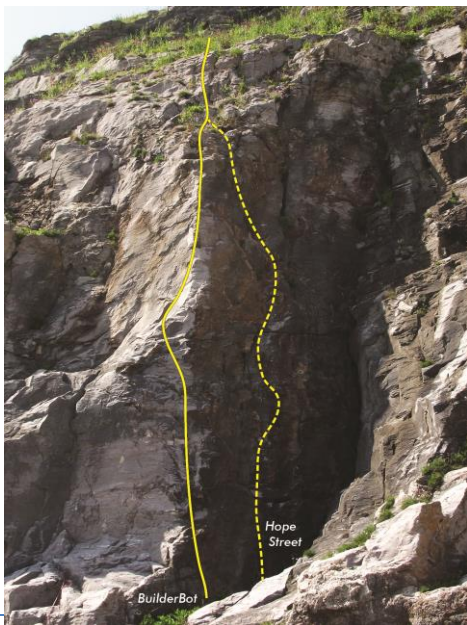
FA: MJC (on-sight solo) 7.6.2021

### God I Need a Drink! 15m S3 F6b+

A direct harrowing finish to *Dry and Wet*. After rocking-up onto the calcite wall, balance straight up to finger-pockets under the leaning headwall. Crank up, rather than crack up, and mantel over to safety. On-sighting would be courageous but foolhardy: best check the sturdiness of the holds beforehand.

FA: MJC (solo; a big 'solid' brain-mashing layaway block came off during headpointing ) 12.9.2020

By the way *Ben* (probably F6b+, as it is tech harder than *Calcite Diamond*) is S3: a fall would lead to arms and legs severed by the knife-edged arête below. In reality the *Cloudburst* buttress isn't best suited to DWS: any fall would lead to a chaotic flailing on the underlying slab and a blood-slick in the water.



Above: easterlies whip up a chop taking the swell halfway up the sea-cliffs – not deep water soloing conditions.

### Easy Buttress

**No** 6m E1 5a is an eliminate up the (eastern) wall of the buttress. Start low in the gully (no bridging), reach the obvious finger-jug, and take nice holds to the top. FA: MJC (on-sight solo), 7.6.2021 – done before?

### \*BuilderBot 25m E1 5a

Something of an unexpected gem. This is the left arête of *Hope Street's* tufa wall. Lovely rough rock on the arête is topped by the same scrappy finish as *Hope Street*. Climb delicately up a crescent-shaped groove to mantel onto a large ledge on the left. Ply a load of small wires in the vertical crack above, and take the edge of the bold arête on positive holds to the broken ground. Belays 10m higher. Scramble down to the left (facing in).

FA: MJC, Matt Goater 13.5.2023

## Living Zawn

**Buggie Boogie Woogie.** The tiny corner can be reached by a sequence diagonal traverse at F6a+.

## Hidden Zawn

You can make a F4+ S2 entry into the rightmost routes from the east (thus improving them), as follows. After the initial groove of *Sealed*, move left around the rib and take a line of footholds towards the back of the 'zawn'. Bridge across and descend the opposite wall to link up with *Meds* and *Placebo* (and in fact *Tied Line* – which is nebulous when approached from the west – makes much more sense this way).

FA: MJC (on-sight solo) 26.10.2020 Done before?

## Sugar Pill S1 F5

A line filling the gap between 47 and 48 is worth describing. Take the bubbly eliminate slab just left of a thin roof and carry on direct using big holds on the right.

FA: MJC (on-sight solo) 26.10.2020 Done before?

## Coastguard Upper Wall

An alternative means of reaching the base of the *Flying Fifteen* slab is by a 55m abseil from a good thread at the very edge of the cliff, 12m north of the compass. This brings you over the centre of the slab and straight to the two-peg belay. It is probably politic to avoid this approach during the peak holiday season.

Although it appears that a lot of the holds high up are grass-covered, there still remain plenty that are clean – you just have to have faith. A few routes are redescribed to help get the blood flowing.

### 1 Sun's Rays in the Mist 23m E1 5a

Very bold; there is gear – but it is very spaced. Start 2m short of the left end of the underlying glaciair at some pockets. Climb fairly directly up shallow compact grooves to a hairline crack and peg runner (first gear). Proceed delicately on small holds to reach the flat white-topped ledge of *Flying Fifteen*, peg above (microwires too). Traverse left onto the light grey slab and climb it leftwards onto pocketed rock (some 'worth having' gear here). Finish carefully over a grass cornice onto the main ledge with peg belay 4m back.

### 2 \*Flying Fifteen Direct 23m E1 5a

Anyone frustrated by the torturous toing and froing of the original route or is carrying only a single rope may find this version the best line on the slab. Start at a tiny step in the underlying sloping platform. Move up and diagonally left onto a narrow foot-ledge. Climb up to bigger holds and a couple of wire placements at the left-hand end of a rightward-rising ledge system (original line). Above is an obvious white-topped small flat ledge; gain it delicately and clip the peg above (microwires below it). Now, back once more on the original, climb up on good, spaced holds finishing via a thin crack. Two-peg belay 5m back on the left. The original *Flying Fifteen* is E1 5b and bold; a mind-warping line at its 1968 grade of Hard Severe – now that's grade inflation!

### 3 FRB 20m E1 5a

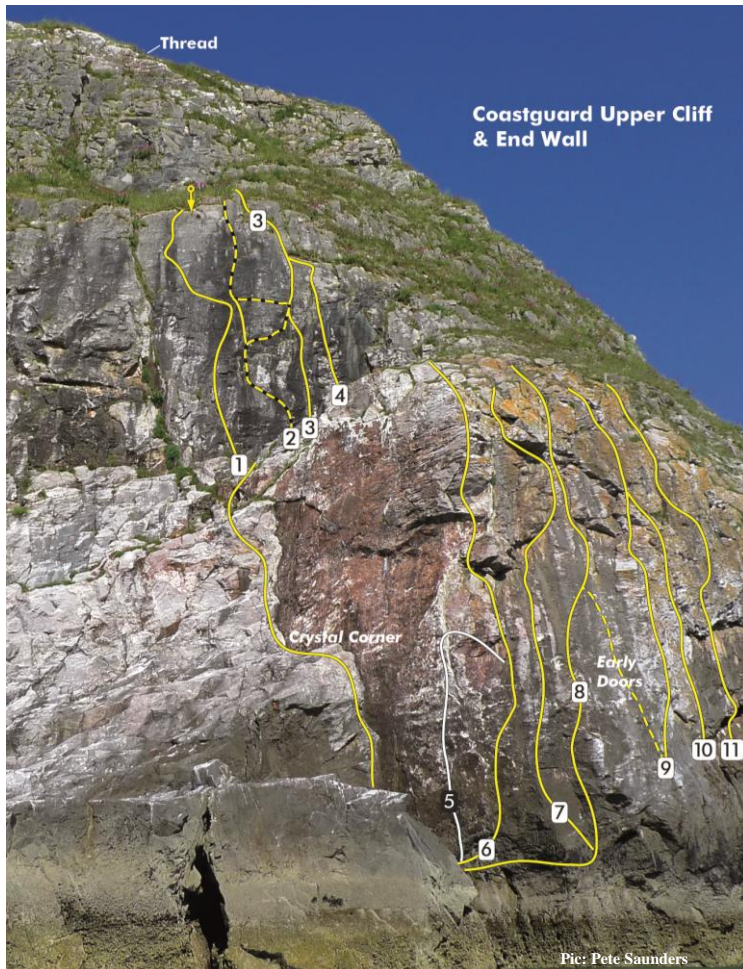
Very good, but getting to the knackered old peg is bold. Climb the thin black crack direct to the right end of *Flying Fifteen's* ledge system (reasonable micro/RP as you pull up onto the ledge – worth finding); old peg, but good wires. Climb direct to the left end of a grassy ledge, and continue up a karst slab on good pockets (and gear), bearing left to the belay ledge. Someone has left in a Rock 8 as an intermediate belay, at the right-hand end of the belay ledge.

### 4 Nation of Inflation 20m E1 5c

The safest route on the slab, for as long as the peg lasts. Two metres right of the thin black crack climb easily to clip a peg at 5m. Climb straight past the peg on good holds, pulling up into a tiny groove 1.5m right of *Flying Fifteen's* old peg. Continuing direct, make a long reach for a high fingerhold; then use holds below the grass to stride left to a good foothold on *FRB* – finish as for that route.

FA: MJC (led with Soloist) 19 August 2022

## Coastguard End Wall



Pic: Pete Saunders

## 5 \*\*The Crystal Ship 10m S1 F6c+

The centre of the slabby wall under *Little Red Book* on fantastic bubbly rock and amazing holds. Described so you can reverse down (or solo up) *Hawkin's Climb* rather than being forced up *LRB*. From *Crystal Corner*, traverse right (feet on barnacled pockets, as per usual entry) for 2m. Pull up onto the wall and take sandstone knobs, limestone pockets, and crystal crimps direct to the obvious white seam\*. Some steeper moves pinching the seam enable you to stand up in balance. Traverse right under a little overhang onto *Hawkin's Climb*. \*The guidebook mistakenly indicates that the seam is taken by *LRB* (which climbs 2m to the right enjoying what the first ascensionist described as 'reasonable' protection).

FA: MJC (solo after abseil inspection) 8 August 2022

6. *Little Red Book*. Logistically it would be much easier to belay on the ledge at the foot of the corner, then traverse right 3m to carry on up the shallow groove onto the wall and arête (this first 8m provides a nice solo at F4+, reversing across *Captain Flint*, route 7 on the topo, and down route 8, *Hawkin's Climb*).

The next three routes take the fine textured wall right of the last pitch of *Quality Street*. They can be approached by a straightforward abseil from a rock-spike and nuts in the sloping platform under *Flying Fifteen*. This lands you at the belay of *Early Doors* with its good thread. Or, traverse in (not high spring tides). They are not deep water solos.

**9 \*A Friend the End** 18m E2 5a/b

Lovely steady climbing on great rock (though I couldn't see any gear placements). Start 2m right of the thread belay of *Early Doors* at the top of an arête (small right-facing rock spike here). Climb up to two open pockets. Continue up the right-hand side of the blunt arête until a shallow pocket on the arête enables the top of the diagonal cracks of *Quality Street* to be reached.

FA: MJC (solo after top-roping) 8 August 2022

**10 \*Take it as it Comes** 18m E3 5c

Beautiful rock – and there's gear too for those who wisely bring ropes. Start 4m right of the thread belay of *Early Doors* at the top of a corner (giant thread here). Pull over the roof, climb a crack and big holds above; and gain a superb jug (with thread) on the left. Make a difficult move, reach a finger-rail above, and then pull up to the large flake on *Quality Street*. Step up on the flake and finish up the smooth wall (just right of *Hawkin's Climb*), taking care with a large vibrating flake on the exit.

FA: MJC (solo after top-roping) 8 August 2022

**11 Rupert's Dropped Nuts** 18m E4 5c

Pretty serious, as there's very little gear, and a ledge to hit before bombing into the sea. Start 6m right of the thread belay of *Early Doors* at the left end of a long ledge (on *Quality Street*). Using a vertical crack pull up over an overhang. Move up to a second overhang above a pink/brown glazed area. Above is an obvious ragged calcite pocket. Undercut the pocket; and then traverse right above the roof for 2m using a sharp crimp. Climb direct up the slabby wall to a prominent right-facing layaway whereupon a reach left gains a deep finishing crack (original finish of *Quality Street*).

FA: MJC (solo after top-roping) 8 August 2022

Arch Zawn

**Pigeon Salvo** 15m S3 F6b

The orange corner far left. Beware being startled off the rock by pocket-launched pigeons. The crux isn't that high (8m above HWM), but a submerged boulder lies directly below: a high spring tide will help a little. Go across as for the traverse (this section is S2!), swinging down into the corner. Move up the corner, reach over a short leaning section – and pull up using a pinch on the right arête. Much easier now: take the corner on pockets to a network of shite-filled tubes. Move up behind a pinnacle, descend on the right a metre, and traverse carefully right to meet with the standard escape.

FA: MJC (solo after top-roping) 20.9.2021

**Arth-rotator-itis** S1 F6b

Merely an alternative start to *Old Man's Ladder* (or *Stannah*). Groan, creak and ache up the right-slanting flake and groove left of *Stannah*, pulling direct onto the foot-ledge of *OML*. Continue as for that route. (Note the line of *OML* on the topo is not quite correct – it takes a far more direct line up the white wall.)

FA: MJC (on-sight solo) 21.7.2020 Done before?

**Labyrinth Pinnacle**

The next two routes (and *Pigeon Street*) ideally need a pull-out rope because of terminally slippery grass.

**My Precious** 9m S1 F5+

Starting 3 metres left of *Pigeon Street* climb the rectangular wall via a grey mark, big flat hand-ledge, and shallow yellow-lichen groove. Finish straight up via jugs and onto the grass (and pre-fixed rope).

FA: Pete Saunders (solo) 2018

**\*ASBO Derek 9m S1/2 F6a+**

Climbs the slight angular arête immediately left of *Pigeon Street*. Move up to a large white jug, continuing direct with a long reach for a finger-flake for left hand, and so reaching a break. Carefully move right and up onto the grass (and pre-fixed rope).

FA: Martin Crocker (solo) 13.9.2023

**Churston Sea-cliffs****Churston Deep Water Soloing**

No reason to get too excited. Safe soloing here is severely limited by rock quality considerations as well as water depth in many parts.

There are three main zones:

- a) the cliffs in the far east of the quarried area ('The Pinnacle area', under Bloodhound Quarry),
- b) a 'pinnacle' under the ridge between Sugar Mountain Quarry and Jungleland Quarry, and
- c) the run of low black cliffs under Sugar Mountain Quarry.

**Alternative Approach**

This is the quickest way into and out of Bloodhound Quarry, the path visiting the top of Jungle Wall on the way down. Take the path out of Churston Cove to the junction at the edge of the golf course. Turn right along the coast path (normal way), but after only 60m or so turn right onto a narrow but well-worn path that zig-zags down to a short polished scramble to the quarry floor. Facing out, the Pinnacle is to your left, Jungle Wall to your right. Now change your mind and go do some sport routes.

**Jungle Wall**

Named after the eponymous 12-metre jump the care-free kids perform, this is the slabby black wall on the Churston Cove side of the quarry platform. It features two excursions for tourists.

**1 No Way through the Jungle 10m x 2 S1/S2 F6a+**

Two routes in one: an up and then a down, since a top-out would be unthinkable loose. Care with the rock is required, especially on the downer. Descend to the block-piled ledge at the west side of the wall.

Traverse onto the wall and step down to a pink ledge at the HWM. Climb up and, starting by using a fat black pinch for right hand, bear slightly leftwards on small holds into an open groove. Spaced good holds lead onto a ledge. (Note there would be much easier ways to the left, but this is the most interesting way up the wall.) Now for the down-climb! Joining the right side of the high ledge is a second shallow groove: ease down this using an obvious square black pinch for right hand and then by using sideholds under a plant on the right. The large calcite vein enables an easy descent to the boulders.

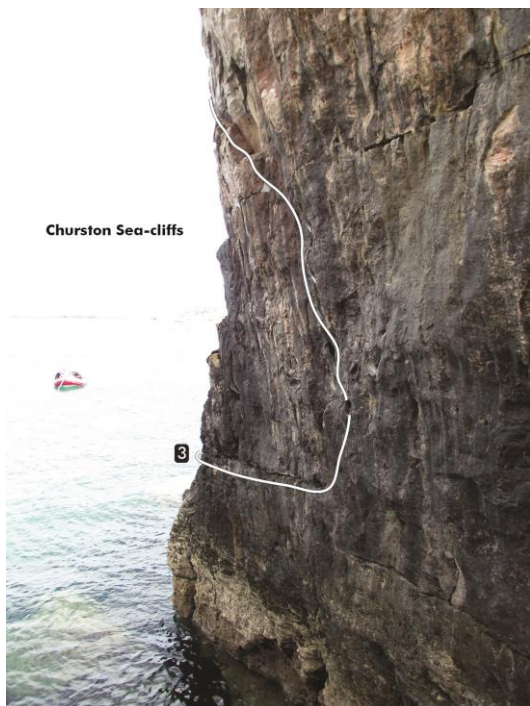
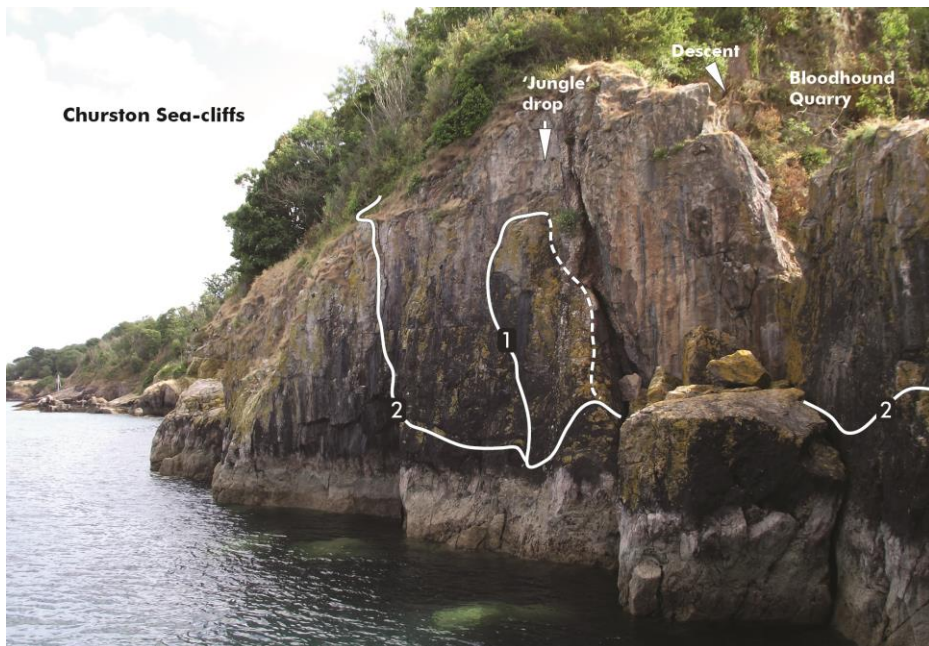
FA: MJC (after top-roping above mid-height) 25.8.2022

**2 \*Splitz 60m S2 F6b+ (F6a)**

Quite an adventure, mostly above good water – you'd best wait for high tide though. This is an eastward traverse from the promontory across the small walls and then Jungle Wall to finish up the obvious flake crack. Start by bridging across a wide chimney; then hand-traverse ledges and a double break across various mini-butresses, eventually onto the block-piled ledge west of the slabby black wall. Traverse left and descend to a pink ledge on the slabby wall. Follow the hand-traverse break across to an arête (large block below, though out a few metres). Swing left onto a jug in the corner, and make powerful moves up the corner, before swinging left onto a hand-ledge. (There is a much easier way - F6a - up the edge of the arête using a good edge but not the weak sharp thread, though the boulder beneath presents a significant risk.). Gain a rattling flake under the flake crack; then follow the crack very carefully, striding left to top out. Disappear into the jungle and pull up a short ivy bank to the descent path.

FA: MJC (on-sight apart from abseil-cleaning of the flake crack area) 25.8.2022





### Inner Pinnacle Wall

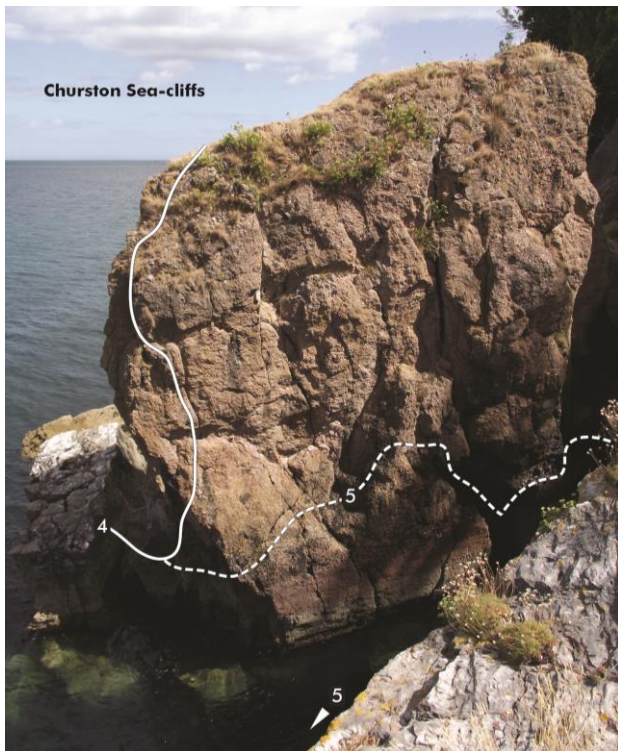
Wishfully (mischievously?) claimed to have deep water soloing potential in Pete's guidebook, this is the leaning gully wall of the smaller, inner pinnacle. Alas the assumed 'deep water' is merely a 5 to 6 foot skim at a 4.5m tide; any higher a tide will put the footholds on the traverse under water.

### 3 Rot at the Top 9m S3 F6c

Isn't there always? If the shallow water wasn't enough, you also have to contend with exiting onto and across rubble. Shame really because the first 6 metres is great! Scramble in from the east (Churston Cove) side to the arête of the wall. Take the horizontal break (challenging to keep feet dry at a 4.5m tide) to a crack and deep pockets above. Unleashing a Thiem backhand from a high sharp finger-jam is the key to grabbing the obvious flat ledge. Reach a jug on the left, stride left, and then pull up to a large spike jug. Move up then nimbly cross the crystal alopecia to escape left. FA: MJC (after top-roping and giving up on cleaning the upper section!)

25.8.2022

As you transfer from Sugar Mountain quarry going eastwards you'll see an orange 'pinnacle' down to the left; this hosts a couple of deep water solos. However, great care is required with the rock, especially near the top, which in places looks and feels like kaolinised granite (or maybe cereal). They are approached by scrambling in from the east to a square platform (with stubby iron spike) under the blunt seaward arête.



#### 4 Alpen Arête 10m S2 F6c

This would be S0 and garnished with stars if the rock was solid – it isn't! Be careful what you pull or stand on as you near the top. Nonetheless the route is well-positioned, and low in the grade. From the square platform swing right and gain an obvious high slanting pink crimp with your left hand. Hinge around the arête to sidepulls, and gain a jug up to the right. Pull up a steep hairline crack to large holds and finish cautiously to the narrow top. Highline off.

FA: MJC (solo after abseil cleaning) 20.8.2022

#### 5 One 6 Short of the Devil 30m S3 F6b+

A suitable adventure for 66-year olds. This is an east to west traverse of the inlet west of the pinnacle, which must be taken at high neap (and hence with shallow water in places). If that's not enough, care is required with the rock. From the square

platform traverse right on jugs (feet on barnacled pockets) and reach a side-jug on the arête. Make awkward moves around the arête (good water); then move up on weak crystalline rock, bearing right to a brown chimney. Reverse a few metres, so gaining a solid handrail on the right which leads with a step up to the right end of the east wall. If you've got the tide right duck under an overhang into the back of the inlet. Now for the west wall: traverse along the obvious line to a juggy rocking block. Move down a wide crack before a few steep moves gain easier ground. (The west wall section is F6a+ and more solid than the east.)  
FA: MJC (on-sight solo incorporating ripping off a big pinch which looked solid – close call!) 20.8.2022

### Sugar Mountain Sea Walls

In front of the eastern side of Sugar Mountain Quarry is a brace of black sea-cliffs between 5 to 8m high. They offer some highly esoteric soloing above an irregular tidal ledge (bad landing), mostly at low tide. Care is required with the rock which is sometimes not as solid as it looks.

Probably the safest tactic would be to solo the routes at low tide above a couple of mats, or/and to top-rope them first. If a mat was used on the first ascent it is noted. Some of the routes may well have been climbed before?

**1 \*Honey I Shrunk the Squids** 6m HVS 4c

Dedicated to Kwasi. The lovely square wall, probably the best of the bunch. Pull up into the crack of *Pound Plummet*, but immediately step out left onto the face. Delicate climbing twists up the face to the top. You could shallow water solo it by descending the crack.

FA MJC (on-sight solo) 24.9.2022

**2 Pound Plummet** 5m VD

The crack, after a tough pull to start.

FA MJC (on-sight solo) 24.9.2022

**3 Dollar Strong** 6m VS 4a

The left side of the arête.

FA MJC (on-sight solo) 24.9.2022

**4 Bankers This Way Please** 6m E3 5c

Eliminate, and serious. Start just right of a low triangular barnacled nose, under the arête. Step up left onto the nose, and reach high with left hand to a good finger-pocket in light grey rock. Continue steeply direct using a big layaway for left to a reckless exit. Take an uncapped bonus, whether you make it or not.

FA MJC (solo after top-roping) 24.9.2022

**5 What a Truss Up** 5m VS 4c

The black corner: eminently protectable.

FA MJC (on-sight solo) 24.9.2022

**6 \*\*\*Oop Bop Sh'Bam** 7m V3+/E5 6a

A sublime little wall with a grade range that embraces a choice of back-up resources. The shelf under the sheer black wall is clear of water two hours either side of high spring tide; it is horizontal but uneven – using one mat at least seems sensible. Pull up the centre of the wall to incuts, stretch left for a ragged pocket; then reach for a good finger-pocket for right. Long reaches between great holds lead via a hold near the right arête; but don't escape out right – finish on a high jug for left in the top centre of the wall.

FA MJC (solo after top-roping, above a mat) 10.10.2022

**7 \*Economy Gastronomy** 6m E3 (E1/2) 5b

Around to the right beyond a sheer black wall is a recess, and then a taller slabby wall. Step up into the recess; then span left into the superb finger crack. Jams, a jug, and a big layaway lead up, before a long stride and reach left is needed to gain the top. Looks protectable (E1/2?)

FA MJC (solo after top-roping) 24.9.2022

**8 Recession** 7m E2 5b (HVS/E1)

From the recess, climb the open groove using a flake crack on the right. Take the fine flake above, before escaping across the top of the groove on the left. Looks protectable (HVS/E1?)

FA MJC (solo after top-roping) 24.9.2022

**9 Higher Interest** 12m S3/E1 5a/F5

A shallow water solo across the slabby wall. From the rib west of the wall descend to just above HWM. Cross a corner; then traverse across the wall (feet at the HWM) to gain a flake on a blunt rib. Move up the rib, and finish as for *Recession*. (The line aims for interest; a higher traversing-level would be much easier.)

FA MJC (on-sight solo) 24.9.2022



## Slipshod Slab

*Slipshod* looks completely defunct!

### Quite Enough Terror for One Day 14m E4/5 (E3?) 5c

By far the cleanest part of the slab, which hosts this very bold, fine climb if you're partial to underprotected smearing. There appear to be some wire-placements (needing a scrape with a nut tool), which might take the grade down to E3. Start 3m left of the tree under *'Morons'*. Climb up to a bulge and rock over using a pocket. Move up to the base of a thin crack (small wires?) and traverse right for 2m onto a narrow ledge initially using an obvious mono for left hand. Now make a daring smear up, continuing with sustained moves until holds improve in a final shallow scoop (finish of *'Morons'* I assume). Good luck.

FA: MJC (solo after top-roping) 20.8.2022

## Saddle Point area

A much better start to *Blue Monday* is up a crozzley crack feature at a point 2m from the right-hand end of the long ledge at the HWM. No change in grade. (*Devil's Alternative* starts from the right-hand end of the same ledge.) You can approach the ledge, which is pretty roomy, by a direct abseil from shrubs.

*Mass Murderer* is an E6 6a solo above a 'death landing' whatever the state of the tide: great climbing though. There are four bolt stubs in the upper slab; a fascinating piece of history given it must have been one of the country's earliest purpose-built sport routes (yet in such an anachronistic place). It is even more unsettling when accompanied by the screams of the tombstoners consuming Big Mac.

**Donnarumma** F5 S0 The short arête above good water down and right of Big Mac. Reverse the corner to its right until an orange patch under the arête on the left. A tricky move starts the arête; then it's easy. FA?

The next cluster of deep water solos, which taken together justify the diversion, climb the grey and orange wall under the concrete 'jumping step' under the right-hand side of the quarry. Not recommended if the tombstoners are jumping. Also, wait for high tide because there's a rock platform under most of the routes (and the step, bizarrely). Surely they have been done before my low-tide o-s solo ascents on 13.7.2021.?

5m F4 S0 Traverse right along the break for 2m. Take the pleasant pock-marked slab to the top.

5m F4+ S1/2 Traverse along the break to a ledge under the orange wall. Climb up and leftwards to exit just right of the concrete jump-step.

5m F5+ S1/2 From the ledge climb the centre of the orange wall and finish on spaced jugs. Eliminate.

6m F5 S1/2 A double-handed undercut in the right side of the orange wall enables the first of a series of mega-jugs to be reached: continue to the highest point. Quite good.

## London Bridge

No new super route (not from me anyway), but here's something for someone who has done everything else they can do here...

### **Lady Rafter's Rock-up** 12m S2 F6c

Dedicated to the young lady on the tourist raft who insists London Bridge 'could collapse at any time'. Eliminate and escapable, but with a fun move or two up the face and right arête of *Dancing on Dinkies*. Launch backwards if you fall off. Traverse in from the east low on *Archibald* to the inset crimp for left hand in the centre of the face or gain it from the shelf below if clear. Balance up to a good finger-jug on the right arête; then make an enormous rock-up onto it. A less contorted rock-up above gains the finish of *Dancing*.  
FA: MJC (solo, after top-roping) 8.10.2022

### **The Watchtower cliff-line**

Around the first rib of the traverse, and loitering with intent high above the sea, is an overhanging orange flowstone wall: your destiny.

### **\*\*Death Metal Mountain** 15m F7a/F7a+ S3+

More the British E5 6a grade than the French 'equivalent', this is the totally committing line up the centre of the wall. If you pump out or mess up the start, make sure you push/jump out of the way of the underlying ledge and slab – either way it's 25 – 50 feet to the sea. Start under an obvious grey flowstone layaway 4m up the wall, right hand on sharp crimp. Make an intricate sequence to gain the layaway; then lay one on for the deep pocket up to the right. Sustained strenuous moves above gain a projecting block-hold (just use its left side, as it's somewhat hollow). Easier now; but carefully select holds above to ease out onto a scenic karst slab.

FA: MJC (after top-roping) 22.6.2021. Note: the tombstoners have just discovered this!

Recalling the perfect east wall of Thunder Hole, I took an ab.... You could incorporate the next route in your *Watchtower* traverse itinerary; alternatively reach it by a 30m abseil to the foot-ledge at the base of the groove at the eastern end of the *Watchtower* crux traverse. At the base of the zig-zags on the way to London Bridge, hop over the fence and take a descending track with steps to near its end. Locate a substantial holm oak 5m below the path, which has a jammed limestone block in its roots; abseil from this, take jumars to get out again (if not exiting via *The Watchtower* traverse), and mind your head.

### **\*\*Where Old Men Came and Went** 12m S0 F7a+/7b

Very finery indeed, and the best footholds are hard to spot. From the groove, traverse left (and down slightly initially) under a thin overhang, before making a testing rock-up left to reach sharp holds at the right end of a jug in the middle of the glorious orange wall. From the jug, one neat move above will get you to the centre of *Watchtower's* crux traverse: take it rightwards, descending, to your starting point.

FA: MJC (solo, after abseil approach) 15.9.2020

A number of forays have been made into the right-hand section of *The Watchtower Part 2*. Reach them from Telegraph Hole by following the Victorians' Thunder Hole viewing trail just above the cliff-top. The dug path is still very evident – though occasionally obscured by the interminable holm oak – and stops short just short of Thunder Hole. Unfortunately, impenetrable veg then prevents a link-up with London Bridge – trust me, I've tried. The path passes above a gully, which gives a steep scramble down into the small quarry at the end of *The Watchtower*.

The first two routes take the cliff below a large holm oak 5m below path level, and are approached by abseil (or *The Watchtower*). Find the tree by ducking and diving through the holm oak for 20m beyond the gully into the quarry. It is identified by a triangular block jammed behind its trunk. Abseil from the tree down a scrubby groove to the long vegetated ledge on *The Watchtower* (just before the 6c section under the grey slab of *Crenellations*).

### 1 **The Only Question Is S2 F6b**

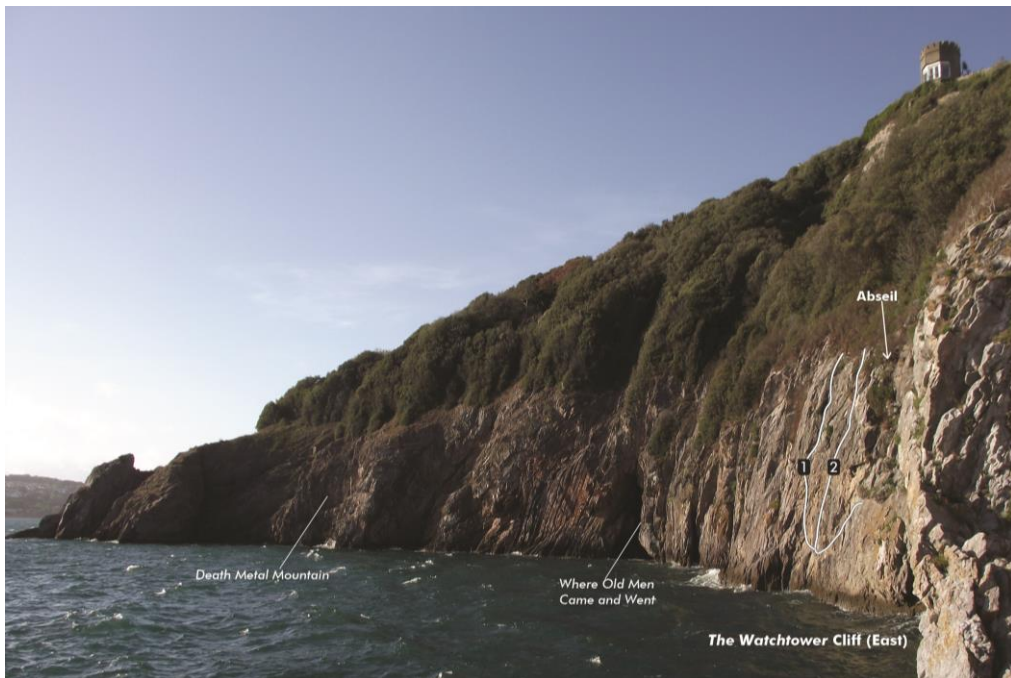
Every reason to get excited here. So, you may prefer to check the layaways by abseil first, especially since a fall may lead to a glancing blow at the cliff-base; whatever, this one isn't for the risk averse. Reverse *The Watchtower* for 10m until just before a step across a short right-facing corner at sea level. Above is a steep brown groove replete with said layaways. Bridge up delicately to gain them; then off you go to twin horns – the upper of which wobbles but seems to be jammed. Make a long reach up to the top of the groove, and climb more easily up a ramp onto the short scrubby slope.

FA MJC (solo) 8.10.2022; after top-rope inspection

### 2 **\*Who Are You? S1 F5+ 20m**

Steady and rather svelte. Reverse *The Watchtower* for 8m until beneath the toe of a slabby grey rib (short line of green plants 3m above). Pull up on sharp incuts to the plants and move up slightly right to a jug in a bulge. Reach for a right-facing flake (sharper holds still!) and make a tricky rock-over onto a slab. Step right and then bear left past the left edge of a white scar (not me, Guv) to an easy exit and scramble back to the abseil tree. Note there is a risk of grazing the cliff-base in the event of a fall.

FA MJC (solo) 8.10.2022; after top-rope inspection



### 3 \*\*Crenellations 30m S1 F6c+

Well worth tracking down; a fine adventure climaxing in a brilliant Costa Blanca slab. Keep to the description and you should keep on line and away from any loose rock. The slab is gained by reversing the easiest finish of *The Watchtower*: foot-traverse its break 5m out onto the face, and then drop down to a jug-line containing a solid jammed block. Swing left, and descend the right arête of a narrow left-facing corner to gain a pocket at its base (chalked-up by *Watchtower* riders). Reach left onto a line of good holds, and move down to a white inset jug. Move left onto a pair of sideholds under the centre of the grey slab (all this last series of holds on *The Watchtower*). Now crank up onto small holds on the slab and take it direct, very sustained, and step up above using a sharp undercut. Stride right to the left end of a narrow veggy ledge, and climb up on good if weak holds onto the scrubby slope above. Make your way up to the holm oak above. Note that you stick to the very centre of the slab (all the big sideholds and undercuts out right are off-line).

FA MJC (solo) 6.10.2022; after top-rope inspection and some cleaning of loose rock including a lethal rectangular block in the narrow corner that was about to wipe someone out.

### 4 Loopaloser 9m S1 F4

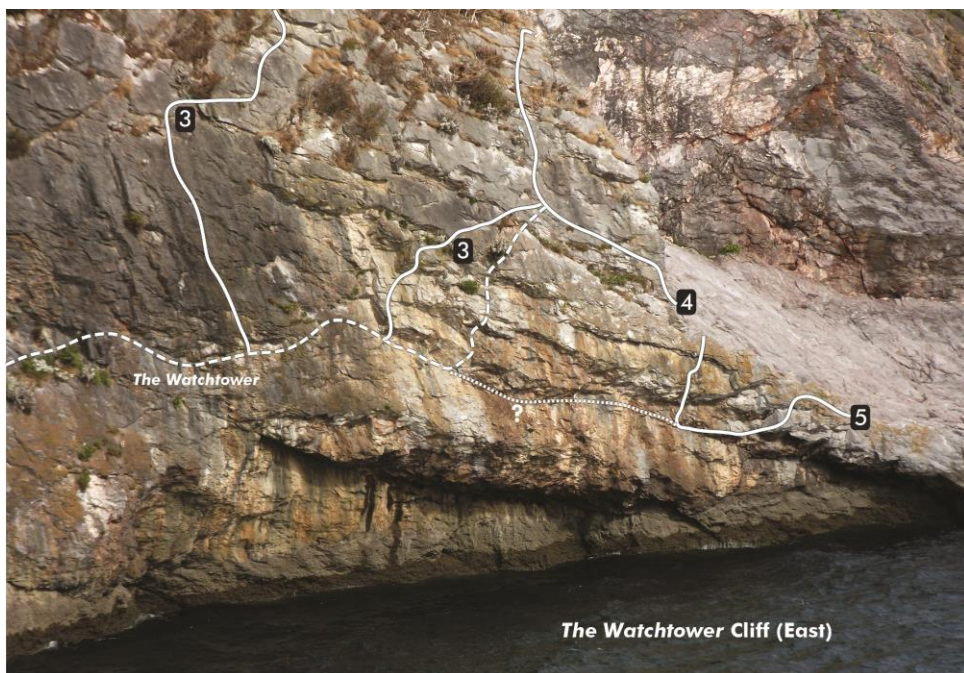
Fairly pointless except for achieving a view and a little anxiety. Follow the break of *The Watchtower* out onto the face for 4m. Take the cleanest line up the slab to a ledge and walk off right.

FA: MJC (solo, after abseil cleaning a few holds) 23.8.2022

### 5 Lifer's Loop 7m S0 F6c

A couple of stiff pulls make it hard for the grade. Start from the obvious square projecting foothold under a plant in front of a block. Hand-traverse the lip leftwards for a metre, drop down for a jug (not the big white one higher left), and drop down left again for a sharp jug. Span left along the orange band to a pinch; then make powerful moves over the bulge past an undercut crack to the top.

FA: MJC (solo) 23.8.2022 Note the whole of the horizontal orange band was well-chalked up including dabs on footholds – someone had recently been working it on a rope. This 'loop' may not be new?



## Telegraph Hole (sea walls)

A few of these can be previewed in *Freddie the Frog Hits Telegraph Hole* – a mini-film on YouTube, embedded in [www.martincrockerclimbing.com](http://www.martincrockerclimbing.com).

### Disunited Kingdom 30m S2 F5+

Really only a variation to *Pinnacle Traverse Continuation*, but described here as a high tide excursion in its own right. Descend the *Winklepicker* wall diagonally left; step up and traverse across the seepage onto ledges at the back of the zawn (this is the S2 part). Step down to another ledge, on the far wall. Instead of ducking down under the ‘winklepicker’, launch up the black wall to a jug-line which is followed leftwards onto the top of said projection (this is the fun part – and only SO, F4+). Scramble up into the wood.

FA: MJC (on-sight solo; possibly climbed before) 15.9.2020

Right of *Powder Blue* (which is F6a and much better than it looks) and *Winklepicker* (which is \*S2 F5) are a few shorties. The brown drainage line is F4+ (and useable as a descent, making it feel a lot harder), the thin flake to the right is F5, while the arête earns itself a description.

### 1 Pickled Winker 7m S1/3 F5+

This is the left side of the white, right-bounding arête. Approach by a suitable solo descent of the *Winklepicker* wall; traverse right with feet at or just below the barnacle line, and move up to a big sidehold on the arête for right hand. Undercut to ledges and finish up the top step. Come at high spring tide, so at least to pretend the unmissable rockshelf below isn't there. Note: the reported F3+ takes the arête's right-hand side, though it won't be S0.

FA: MJC (solo at S3, but after top-roping because the tide had gone out) 10.9.2020

The next two routes offer but a skim of water at high tide, raising the rhetorical question: ‘Why an S grade, then?’ They have some decent gear too, by the looks of it, so maybe leading them makes more sense. Approach them by descending the Diff corner and traversing the lowest foot-ledge.

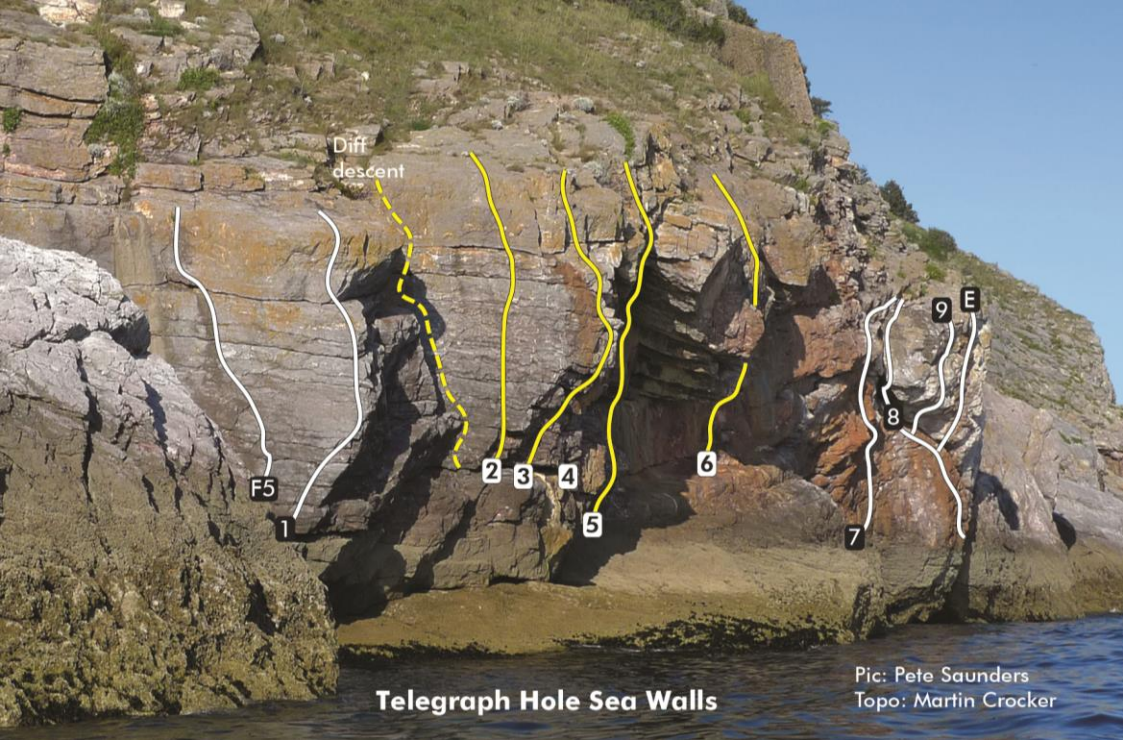
### 2 \*BJ Vanity Project 9m S3+ F5 (E1/2 5a to lead?)

Much easier than it looks. Pull up onto the grey face on finger-jugs. Delicately balance up its centre to a break, and proceed direct past a second break to the top. Video still, below.

FA: MJC (after top-roping, expecting it to be much harder) 12.6.2021







### 3 \*The Great Reset 9m S3+ F6a+ (E2/3 5c to lead?)

The superb yet short right-hand arête of the grey wall. Pull up to breaks under the small roofs in the hanging arête, and make a stiff pull to jugs high above. Yank over, and finish easily. If you miss the capacious thread-hold under the roofs and you could have problems!

FA: MJC (after top-roping) 12.6.2021

The next three lead routes take the previously unprobed roof-laden orange walls to the right (below which *Pinnacle Traverse Continuation* rambles along a sloping barnacle shelf. The shelf is exposed other than 1 to 2 hours either side of high tide). Approach them by descending the Diff corner or by abseil (from trees set 15 metres back). The walls are dominated by a left-slanting corner/roof line.

### 4 Ship Chat 9m HVS 4c

No S grade here. If soloing, traverse 2m beyond the *The Great Reset* arête. Big holds on very steep rock lead into an awkward finishing groove (avoid the easy escape left onto the arête). Protectable and therefore best led, at low-to-mid tide.

FA: MJC (solo) 12.6.2021 *Two of the Covid-anchored liners were deep in fog-horn conversation.*

### 5 BJ Gaffe Machine 12m E3 5c

Spare us the see-through soundbites: this is a real-life strenuous battle, despite its brevity. Start in line with the top of the corner (roof). Pounce up the initial bulging wall onto a ledge. Pull up past a mini-arch in the folded grey rock and gain a big side-hold flange in the apex of the corner. Use large holds on the left wall to exit – hyperbolae at the ready.

FA: MJC (led with Soloist) 18.6.2021

### 6 \*'Greed is Good' (God help us) E3 6a 12m

Powerful but can be protected to the hilt, strength permitting. Start just to the right of an undercut prow which forms the bottom right-hand end of the roof. Reach jugs over the roof, cut loose, and get established on the wall. Make a fingery move to a ledge and easy ground.

FA: MJC (led with Soloist) 18.6.2021

The *Eventide* buttress is quite a nice little deep water solo site, with fine rock and nothing to hit in the water save paddleboarders. Here are a few add-ons, which might not be new.

### 7 Skjelvet 18m S1 F6b

Pretty good climbing up the red rock just before the underlying platform gets in the way. Follow *PTC* to within 2m of the ledges. Climb up and make strenuous moves over a bulge into a left-facing scoop. Steeply exit on large holds, quaking.

FA: MJC (on-sight solo) 15.9.2020.

### 8 \*Num-Yum 15m S0 F5+

Follow *PTC* (as for *Eventide*), but carry on until beneath the left end of the roof. Above is a hanging corner, which provides a short-lived tussle. Good fun.

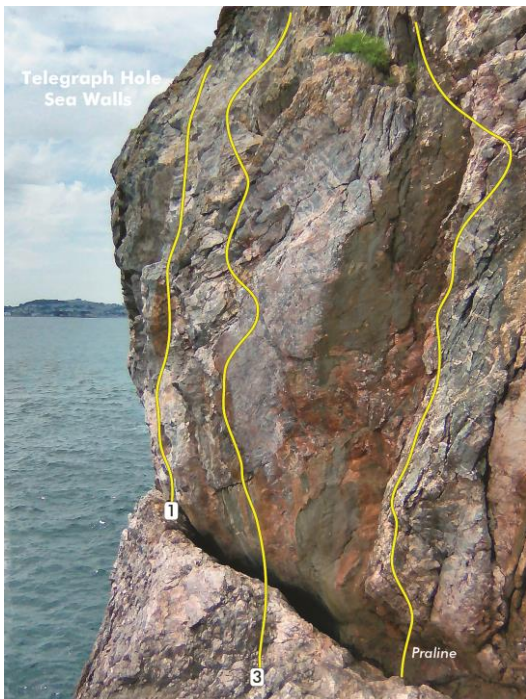
FA: MJC (on-sight solo) 15.9.2020 Climbed before?

### 9 *Eventide* Variation S0 F6b

Step left again beneath the roof, undercut for big holds on the lip, and make one strong pull to get onto the headwall. Proceed direct, clawing over onto a serrated slab to exit.

FA: MJC (on-sight solo) 15.9.2020 Climbed before?

There are two snippets, not snap-its, right of *Saline*, to ease boredom; and a challenging solo.



### 1 *Elizabeth Line* 9m VS 4b/F4 S1

Start with hands on the *Pinnacle Traverse* handrail. Pull onto the wall 2m right of *Saline* and use a finger-jug to move up onto a difficult rib to finish (keeping just left of a small shaky cracked block cluster). FA?

### 2 *Easyline* 9m S 4a/F3 S2

Follow the left-facing mini-groove of big layback holds left of *A Dream of Brown Sugar*. Note that you'll hit rock before hitting the sea should you fall. FA?

### 3 \**A Dream of Brown Sugar* 10m E5 6a

The superb leaning wall left of *Praline* via the tantalizing hand-ledge. It could just about be converted to a V3 highball with many mats. Step up onto the start of the large handrail and using a choice of pinches in a thin groove stretch for finger-jugs up in the smooth wall to the right. Swing right onto a monster-jug on the hand-ledge; then rock up to more large holds and easier ground.

FA MJC (after top-roping) 23.6.2022 *After humping a mat down I chose not to use it to avoid a stupid hybrid grade and niggling regrets.*

**HMS Prince of Wales 6m F5**

A neat warm-up on the rib between *Eventide* and the groove of *Telescopic Arms*. Start beneath the latter and swing around an arête (considerably harder than 5a at high tide), trundling left until under the front of the rib. Forge straight up, finishing with an athletic layback up the true arête.

FA?

**The Toss Off: I Love You Nick, Ultimate Low Start S0 F6c**

An extending few moments needing tides no higher than 4.1m and a relatively calm sea so the footholds don't get wet. Reverse *Naked Surprise* (or traverse in), and descend further towards the base of the arête until you can reach a good side-hold for right hand left of the arête (somewhat contorted). Standing on the obvious flat foothold at the HWM, reach around high for a fat rounded pinch and power it to gain the routine jugs well above.

FA: MJC (solo) 20.6.2021

**\*Turn it On 7m S1 F6b+**

Bridge across the mini-zawn using the obvious fingerhold, as for *The Toss Off*. Take the concretions and crimps straight up the otherwise smooth wall to a break just below the top. Exit easily. (No 'escaping' left onto the arête.) This sounds similar to the original description of *TTO*: 'do the splits to get established on the right side of the arête at its base. Using the concretions, delicately secrete up the arête to jugs on its edge and an easier finish'. Beware the narrow landing trench. So, this looks like a direct finish to *TTO*, up the wall (with *TTO* swinging left onto the obvious jug on the arête after 3m).

FA: MJC (solo; had climbed *The Toss Off* before) 10.9.2020

**\*\*Rule of Sex 7m S1 F5**

A cult classic to be (?), with some whopping jugs. Descend the corner (Diff) as for *The Toss Off* etc. Keeping low, enter the chimney right of said indulgence, and – ass to the wall – back-and-foot all the way to the top. Come when the air and maybe you are feeling fresh, but beware the tight landing-trench.

FA: MJC (on-sight solo) 10.9.2020

**NaughtyNick 10m (these aren't 15m) S3 HVS 5a F5**

Pull over the initial overhang (I started *Stratagem* just to the right of the Nick), and forge straight up between it and *Megatarts*. Best led as – should you fall – you will maim yourself on the traverse-ledge and then drown. But don't let that put you off: the holds are good.

FA: MJC (on-sight solo) 10.9.2020

**Tongue of the Sea 8m S2 F5**

From the col between Daddyhole Pinnacle and the mainland you will see a white and brown-streaked arête 15m to the west. At high tide traverse in from the east and stretch left to an obvious jug in the white wall. Take the very escapable arête above, exercising self-discipline to stay tight to it. Don't fall off.

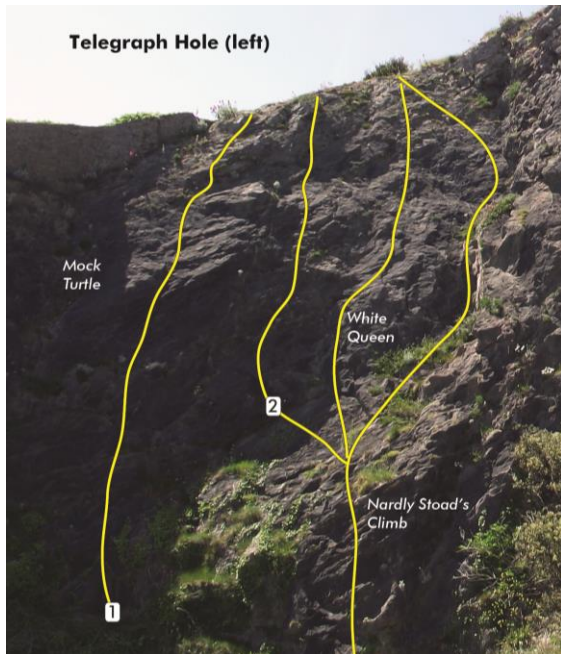
FA: MJC (on-sight solo) 10.9.2020

**Dive Bomb 6m S2 F6c**

But falling off will need a good aim. From the ledge layback the neat arête just left of *Jam-Master* to gain a finger-jam for left hand. Move up and steeply left to good sideholds; then (to keep above water, more or less) span up right for the sharp arête and a 'don't barn door' finish.

FA MJC (after top-roping) 23.6.2022

## Telegraph Hole (left)



## Telegraph Hole

### 1 The Caterpillar 18m VS 4a

Scramble up 6m and then climb a very pleasant rippled slab 2m right of *Mock Turtle* via a slight groove. Exit over a block roof on the right on a big jug. Looks unprotected.

FA: Must have been climbed before 7.4.2022!

### 2 The White Rabbit 20m HVS/E1 5a

Start up *Nardly Stoad's Climb*, but branch leftwards to a point 2m left of its corner under a small roof. Pull over the roof; then trend rightwards to the obvious hand-ledge in a bulge. Use crimps above and right to stand up on the hold and ease up onto the slab above. Continue direct and finish carefully up a flake. The E1 is for the solo; gear looks probable at HVS or less.

FA: MJC (solo) Could well have been climbed before 7.4.2022?

### 3 \*\*Jet force 30m E5 6a/b

A very thin crux section where skeddaddles lead to a damn good grating on the textured underlying slab! A brilliant super-eliminate with a fair dollop of new climbing. Follow *Bird Scarer* for 7m, to its first horizontal gear-crack. Climb straight up to a second horizontal crack (good wire placements immediately right, also used by *Blinding Flash*). Continue direct and then slightly left to clip a peg in the bulge (just before the clip you can stretch left to use the *BS* peg for your left-hand rope). Work up to sloping crimps above the (new) peg and balance up left very thinly above the bulge. Boldly proceed to the angle peg and bomber gear at the base of the diagonal crack of *Blinding Flash*. Traverse right from the peg for a metre, tenuously moving up and right to gain a reasonable run of holds which lead straight up the final slab (you can reach right to hero-loop the projecting peg) to an easier finishing crack.

FA: MJC (unseconded, rope and falls held by Matt Goater) 9.12.2022

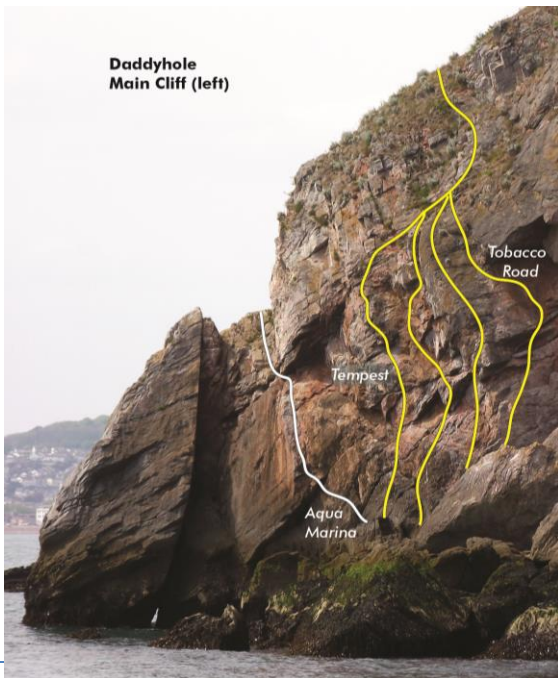
### 4 Hammurabi's Laws 27m E3 5c

Surprisingly amenable and safe-enough climbing up the bulging slab left of *Discuss the Thoughts of Chairman Moa*. Follow that route over its crux bulge; then step left onto the slab and move up to good gear placements left of an undercut block. Make steep moves up a rib (peg), continuing direct (*in-situ* thread) to a brilliant hand-placed thread. Finish straight up (past the second peg of *Buzby*, Pitch 2).

FA: MJC (led with Soloist after abseil inspection) 28.1.2023

#### Note: Let Your Fingers do the Walking

Thought I'd provide some more info' on this route, especially as the line on the topo in the 2018 guidebook isn't quite right. To cross the main slab: from the peg on 22, take the rising seam on the right, moving up to the thin crack of 24 (you can also gain this diagonally right from the two gear-breaks lower down on 22). Place gear in the thin crack, step up right to a good handhold and pull up right to the top of the ramp on 25 (twin pegs). Step down right and gain the *Crinoid* rib. Move up the rib to clip a peg and then climb rightwards to a hand-ledge under a short leaning black wall. Stretch right to clip a peg (Rock 2 just right), and make fierce moves up the wall past the peg to crimps above. Rock up right onto slabby rock and finish easily enough. The line on the topo is as I climbed the route, which also accords with the 1995 guidebook.



## Daddyhole Main Cliff

### \***Tempest** 25m E3 5c

Beautiful, if short-lived, climbing up the crag's best rock; well, that's before it ends in the shattered junk in common with *Tobacco Road*. It climbs the broad rib between *Caliban* and *Good Dog*, and is well protected. From the reef, climb easily direct to a horizontal slot (cams) in a bulge. Make a big move to the obvious projecting finger-hold and gain the little break above. Continue up a flake-line mostly on undercuts and pull up a thin crack to a ledge. To avoid the shattered rock overhead, traverse right 2 metres to the top of *Good Dog*. Scramble up the loose slab of *TR* to finish.

FA: MJC (led with Soloist) 23.7.2021 *Can't be sure of the grade because of that day's post-heatwave tempest – could be anything between E2 5c and E3 6a.*

### Goading Neptune 30m E2 5b

A direct line up the slabby face right of *Triton*, which goads *Neptune* at one point only. A bold and balancy crux start makes it serious for the grade. From *Triton*'s chockstone belay, climb the face 2m to the right via the obvious tall layaway for left hand (you don't step onto the plant-infested ledge to the right). Move up past good breaks to the left end of the main horizontal crack where *Neptune* forks right, so quitting the face. Climb up to a decent small cam placement at the foot of a minor right-slanting crack; then step left to a large undercut, pulling onto the extensive hollow flake above. Bear boldly right to finger-jugs over the bulge and rock up onto a small slab. Keeping left of a line of creaky blocks, pull up the undercut arête onto the final slab which leads with care to the tree belays.

FA: MJC (led with Soloist, after top-roping) 17.12.2023

### Daddyhole Upper Cliff

#### A Foot in the Grave 18m E3 6a

A counter-line to *Football Graveyard*, with a bouldery start that – given the bad landing – requires careful climbing (and belaying). Start under the steep arête. Using holds just either side of the arête (and not the deeper pockets further left) power up past a crucial Rock 1 placement making a long reach for a huge jug over the bulge (*in-situ* thread). Pull up to a rest and junction with *FG*. Traverse left along the lower of the two breaks and pull up on small pockets into a square-cut recess. Surmount the bulge (*in-situ* thread) onto ledges; then move up and left (old thread) to the top of the *Coldfinger* corner and its abseil point.

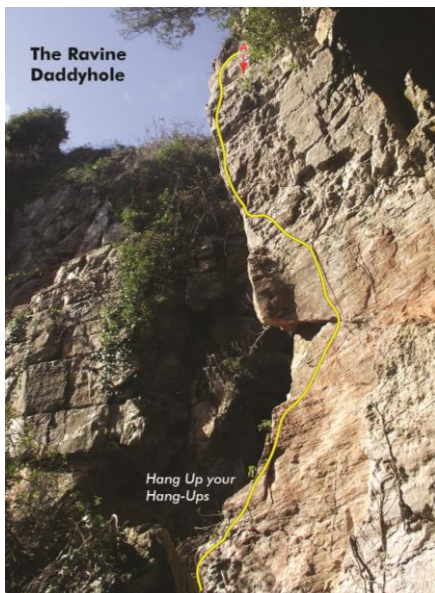
FA: MJC (unseeded; rope held by Matt Goater) 23.4.2023

**Note on *Football Graveyard*.** There is an unstable, progressively cracking large flake above the second break 12m up *FG*. You have to place gear in it and pull up on it. It's probably wise to finish up *A Foot in the Grave*, unless you want to become part of the graveyard below.

#### Get On Up 9m E4 6b

The super-steep crack left of the arête. Climb easily to a flat ledge; load up the crack with gear and then make a very hard move over the overlap from hidden holds. Follow the crack until a powerful move gains victory jugs. Lower off as for *Hang Up*'.

FA: Chris Vollenhoven 4.3.2023 (unseeded; ropes held by Chris Ebbutt)



**\*\*Hang Up your Hang-ups** 15m E5 6b

Feeling down? Then blast this for a pick-me-up – the superb hanging arête at the top of the ravine. It's rather too intense to grade it E4, but – if you can cling on – very protectable. From the top of the detached pillar, step up and right to a finger-crack. Extend powerfully high left to clip a peg (long blade) runner and reverse for a breather. Power back up, and make some wraparound moves up the arête to a break (Friend 0.5). A crack around to the left aids a quick dash up medium jugs on the tip of the arête which in turn leave you spent at the ab' point. (The ab' point avoids the need to pull on a load of crumbly stuff under the trees – though with a massive demolition job I guess this could be cleaned up.)

FA: MJC (led with Soloist) 14.11.2022

**Monomania:** a repeat at last – by Chris Vollenhoven. As expected it's more like E6 6b (F7b+) and a testament to the modesty of the first ascensionist. (I had a quick go on it previously and found a way of pre-clipping the peg from slightly-off-line sidepulls just to the right – mat no longer required therefore.)

Here come two problems up the textured wall between *Corner* and *Gravity Crack*; an easy to locate wart above head-height starts you off:

**Wart (left)** V2 (f5+) Pinch the wart with right hand and extend to the sloper in the traverse-break above.

**\*Wart (right)** V4 (f6b) Pinch the wart with left hand, reach up right for tinies and crimp hard for the break.

FAs: MJC 25.9.2020

**Matt's Lost Weight** 10m E1 5c

The thin inverted-V cracks left of the narrow corner of *Austin Seven*; plentifully if strenuously protected. Great, compact rock. Climb past breaks and pull direct up the cracks (no arête to right), and then make a long move above to easier ground. Abseil off the small tree.

FA: MJC (on sight), Matt Goater 24.1.2023

**\*End of Empire** 15m E2 5c

The beautiful face right of *End Crack*; surprisingly protectable. Hop onto the vegetated ledge, and climb straight up the face 2m right of *End Crack* on mostly good edges. From jugs in the break above (take care to avoid disturbing the Rock Stonecrop) move up and right into a deep left-slanting crack. Above is a compact pink headwall: forge directly up it above a good wire/small-cam slot, long reach, and gain the holm oak above. Scramble to the top or abseil from the tree.

FA: MJC (led with Soloist) 1.12.2021

**\*Relyon** 6m V5 (f6c) Pays its respects to a Relyon king size mattress that had been dumped over the cliff; this is the left side of the 'project arête'. No big white block. Sit start the arête and take its edge (no rockfall scar jug to right), laybacking up powerfully until a trying crux rock-up gains a hand-ledge. Finish at height.

FA: MJC 25.9.2020

**Magawa** 6m V3 (f6a+)/E3 6a The improbable (at these grades) wall left of *Just one Kiss*. Using a big sidehold in the rockfall scar to the left, reach the first of two good holds. Pull hard to the next, and then make a long, long reach up right for a thin projecting layaway. Pull up to an OK exit. On-sightable with multiple mats, I suppose; though you'd best brush the exit first.

FA: MJC (solo, after top-rope) 25.9.2020

**Love's Labour Lost** variation: V2 (f5+) An eliminate up the slab just left of (and avoiding holds in) the initial crack. One difficult rock-up.

FA: MJC 25.9.2020

*Antony and Cleopatra* can be started direct via a finger-jug and a high sharp layaway to gain the hand-ledge (E2 5c like this). Avoids the original bottom-heavy start which is a good boulder-problem in its own right.



#### \*GOAT 22m E3 6a

A testing filler-in, but with great climbing. The peg placement is sound but can be backed up with tricky wires in the same crack. Climb the steep kinked crack just left of *Sunshine Playground* to gain a hand-ledge. Swing right across *Sunshine Playground* and teeter up to clip the peg in the steep blank wall. Gain a good crimp above the peg for left hand; then make a fingery move direct to the break of *Flight of the Forearms*. Enter the cracked slim groove above, and pull round the roof to join and finish up *Sunshine Playground*.  
FA: MJC (after placing the peg on abseil; unseconded; ropes held by Matt Goater) 6.11.2022

#### Rock Umbrella 20m HVS 4c

An alternative, bold start for *Sabre Tooth* (or even *Just out of Reach*, but then at overall E2). Pull up onto a ledge under the right-hand, slabby side of the *Just out of Reach* arête. Balance up the arête (vital twisted wire in small pocket just right) to bigger holds and a horizontal break above. Move up and join *Sabre Tooth* at its fang, and finish direct up the corner to the cliff-top tree. This line is distinct from the obvious diagonal crack (*Sabre Tooth Direct*) in the left wall which is not used (including for protection).  
FA: MJC (on sight), Matt Goater 6.11.2022

#### Mouse 15m E2 5c

Entertaining moves up the right-hand side of the *Thoughtforms* arête, which enjoy – for the most part – the luxury of good gear in the groove of *Magpie*. Pull into the groove of *Thoughtforms*, and then rock up onto the right arête. Step up the steep slab; then place bomber gear in *Magpie's* groove to the right. Balance up the left edge of the slab using a sharp sidehold in a hairline crack to jugs above. Finish to suit.  
FA: MJC, Christian Vollenhoven 2.12.2022

#### The Buddy Rich Intro 18m E3 5c

A powerful direct start to *Brass Bound Crack* with some virtuoso jamming to ensnare. From the projecting triangular ledge at the base of *BBC* step well out right onto a pink ramp. Reach up to a short vertical crack in the arête (crucial wire): finger-jam it, and bound around left into the main crack. Still on a roll, jam up to merge with the original. On this start feet are always on overhanging rock, and without any bridging into the initial *BBC* groove to the left.

FA: MJC (led with Soloist after leading the original) 30.1.2024



## Meadfoot Sea-cliffs: The Pinnacle Area

### 1 The Pinnacle Direct 8m HS 4b

Climb the centre of the front face of The Pinnacle; steep and with a tricky finish. The least stressful descent from the top of the Pinnacle is down the *Left Arête* (last person down can be belayed from beneath the centre of the Pinnacle's north face).

### 2 Lammas 6m F4 S1/V5 4a (?/1.8.2018)

The open black corner on good holds, this being the right-hand of the pair of corners right of the 'overhang above the high water mark'. A nice variation (*Craquelure*) is to step left onto the foot-ledge above the overhang and finish up a rib.

FA Barry Clarke (on-sight solo) – probably climbed before, if only in mistake for *Lamb's Tail* (F4)?

### 3 Two Shakes S/F3+ S2 (17.8.2018)

Step left from the base of *Pig's Ear*. Climb the wall on good holds, trending left to a fine finger-crack.

FA Barry Clarke, S Zeki (on-sight solo)

A number of minor routes have been on-sight soloed on the slabby sea-cliff cliff that stretches eastwards towards Triangle Point. Given the low-angled nature of the rock, they are not safe deep water solos, though a high spring tide may help. Consequently both trad solo and deep water solo grades are given. Access is as for *Lamb's Tail* – by a steep scramble down a bubbly orange scoop.

### 4 Flux Ache 6m HS/F3 S2 (5.12.2021)

Descend and traverse right for 3m. Climb a rust-coloured groove and slight rib to the top.

FA: Barry Clarke (on-sight solo)

An obvious V-overlap is the target for the next three climbs, which are all worth doing.

### 5 Platelets 7m VS 4b/F4 S2 (17.8.2018)

Descend and traverse right for 5m, and move up to the left side of the V. Using 'disturbing' undercut flakes climb up leftwards before stepping out right onto the top of the slab.

FA: Barry Clarke, S Zeki (on-sight solo)

### 6 \*Mount Venus 7m HVS 4c/F5 S2 (28.5.2022)

The best of the trio. Descend, traverse right for 6m, and climb up to get established under the point of the V. Using handholds either side of the V, make a bold step up onto the toe of the smooth slab. Pad up direct to the top. Possibly E1 5a – either way, you wouldn't want to fall.

FA: Martin Crocker (on-sight solo)

### 7 Cool Isolation 7m VS 4b/F4+ S2 (1.8.2018)

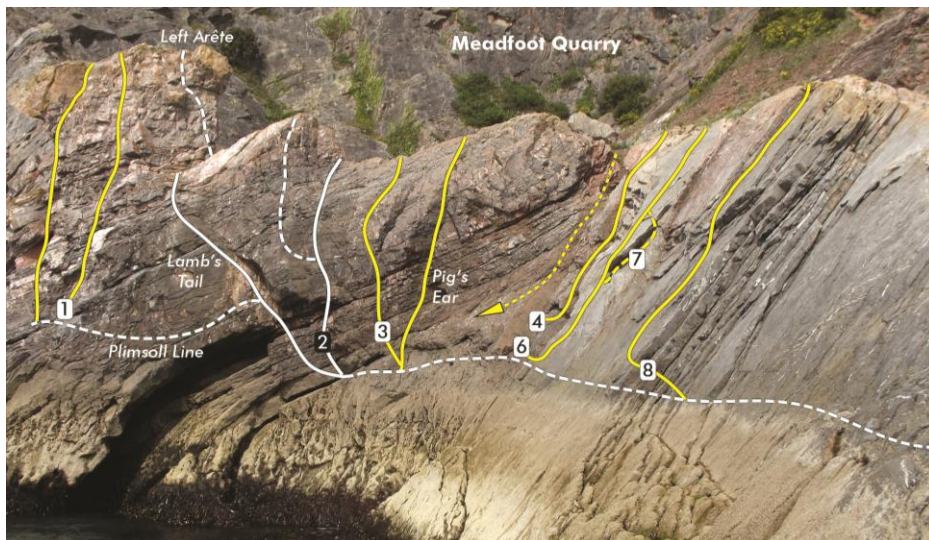
Descend and traverse right, and move up to the right side of the V. Climb slightly rightwards up a groove to a jug; then make a delicate step out left onto the V slab. Finish up the slab.

FA: Barry Clarke (on-sight solo)

### 8 BC, Micro Visionary 7m HVS 4c/F5 S2 (30.4.2022)

Three metres right of the V is a narrow right-facing stepped corner feature. Approach it by an easy climb down to its right. Traverse left and climb a smooth slab to the corner. Take the technical corner to the top.

FA: Martin Crocker (on-sight solo) Is this *Folding*, though I can't match the descriptions or grades?



## Triangle Point

This is the pyramidal sea-cliff under the viewing platform next to Meadfoot Quarry, prominent from Meadfoot Beach (and the Osborne Apartments webcam, when it's operational). Solo investigations by Barry in 2020 have probed its deep water soloing potential.

### Southern Routes

The routes here explore the gentle east-facing slab from a slight notch near the southernmost tip of the Point. It would be incredibly repetitious to describe the lot, since – after sharing the substantive traverse-in – they tackle the easy overlap and slab successively from left to right (facing in). If you like it here you need only repeat the start of the described route, drop down under the roof, and climb lines up the slab to suit. The traverse-in is the common crux.

Note that there is a reef at the base of the cliff, which becomes submerged at high tide but arguably not sufficiently so even at high spring tide. Consequently both trad solo and deep water solo grades are given.

### \*Access Code VS 4b/F4 S2 (27.5.2020)

From the notch descend the east-facing wall, and make an interesting traverse under a white wall to an arête which marks the left (southern) edge of the slab. Move up onto the arête; then climb the slab direct. Variation: HVS 5a/F5 S2 Climb the white wall, finishing with an exposed step up left onto an undercut nose. FA: Barry Clarke (on-sight solo); variation: Martin Crocker (on-sight solo), 28.5.2022

### Triangle Point Slab variations. VS 4b/F4 S2

Follow *Access Code* under the white wall, drop down, and then choose your line over the overlap and up the slab. The recorded lines are; *Codex*, *Ossen Feather*, and *Oaliburn*; first ascents Barry Clarke (on-sight solo), 27.5.2020/9.8.2020.

The northern, landward side of the Point is a different kettle of fish. A sheer crystalline, triangular sidewall hosts a prospector's peg (Nick's?), but I haven't found any evidence of ownership. A site of the utmost geological fascination, the wall represents the face of a fault and, nearby to the west across an exemplar coral reef, minor gold deposits have been found.

The sidewall's left arête concludes the Meadfoot promenade spectacularly, and provides good beach-hut viewing with afternoon tea.



#### **Trojkat Katarzyna 15m E4 5c**

A few weak flakes to trust, but there is *just* sufficient protection. You could probably drop a grade if you exited the upper arête at the earliest opportunity. Move up to a diagonal crack above the bulge and follow it leftwards to flakes under a shallow runnel under the arête. Reach high up with left for a finger-flake in the runnel (thin sling), commit to the flake, and make a long pull to a good sidehold with monster-jug just above. A big rock-up gains the top arête. You could bale here by rocking out left (E3?); instead excitedly layback the right-hand-side of the arête to the apex of the triangle. **Front cover** pic by Jonathan Crocker.

FA: MJC (unseconded; ropes held by Jonathan Crocker) 12.5.2023

#### **Katzenvellenovan 25m VS 4a**

An adventurous and intimidating solo, largely above rock; safer to lead (drop a grade). Start from boulders at the end of the Meadfoot beach-hut promenade under the sidewall. Climb left along a diagonal line of white crystal encrusted holds (some fragile)

making a steep pull up onto the arête (the right edge of the Triangle Point Slab). (Don't take either of the two steeper diagonal lines!) Traverse easily left to a recessed ledge under the slab's overlap. Pull direct over the overlap and follow pleasant twin cracks to the top.

FA: Barry Clarke (on-sight solo) 27.5.2020

## Black Head

### Approach

The best and quickest approach to Black Head is to park near the Ilsham Marine Drive/Richmond Close junction (lots of space) and follow the coast path northwards towards Black Head. After approx. 600m there is a wooden seat on the left adjacent to a rocky pulpit on the right – a viewpoint across Brandy Cove to Hope's Nose. Continue along the path around a broad left bend after which the path descends. Forty metres after the start of the descent is an obvious narrow track on the right over a low stone wall. Follow the path which twists through the woods (and bracken) to the top of the cliff, 300m from the coast path.

The following outlier is a solitary dolerite column in the Black Head woods facing Hope's Nose (from which it is readily seen). Park at the Ilsham Marine Drive/Richmond Close junction and follow the coast path towards Black Head for 400m. Keep your eyes open for the pillar 20m above the coast path. To reach the route it is best to walk up the open gully to its north and abseil from an oak tree at the top of the pillar.

### Monument Builder 10m E3 5c

Unusual for Devon; it looks like a theft from Stonehenge. Follow the lower rib easily to a ledge (which would get in the way of a long fall). Using a positive crimp on the left arête, balance up the front of the pillar, perhaps with a slap or two to the right arête; and pull over the cap on good holds. The grade assumes the highest runner is in the thin horizontal break (microwires; but with back-up cams on the left). Double ropes and a high cam on the left would reduce the grade, probably to E1.

FA MJC (led with Soloist after top-roping) 21.3.2023



### Main Sea Cliff

The left end of the main cliff has seen some action on great rock at a range of grades. The hardest routes have overhanging bouldery starts, most of which were safeguarded with one and a half mats and no spotters. They are pretty high and, unless you come equipped with a stack of pads and spotters, you'd best retain the E grades! In common with the other routes they require a pre-placed rope – you'll have to scuddle through the sprawling sycamore at the cliff-top to fix it. Stays dry in showery weather.

The open cave far left has potential for a few way-hard boulder-problems; the only way over so far is:

### 1 **Plastic Chocolate Doughnut Appreciation Society** 6m V4, E3 6b

Start under the right-hand edge of the cave, extend for a dish above the lip with left hand, and make hard moves to reach a series of flatties high up right on the wall. Proceed with trickiness to large holds; and then climb past a rightward-pointing rock-spike to re-join your pre-placed rope.

FA: MJC (solo, as a boulder-problem) 25.7.2023

### 2 **\*Alston Powers** 7m E5 6a

Less bouldery than its neighbours; hence soloed conventionally as a route on the first ascent (possibly E4 to lead, given there is gear at and above the hand-ledge at 5m). Start below the thin crack 5m left of *Suspect Devices*. Contort over the bulge to gain and power up the layaways in the crack, so grabbing the hand-ledge. Continue steeply but on jugs, stepping left onto comfortable ledges and within reach of your rope. The landing-site under the bulge is relatively level; a rope and a few jumpers will help fill the irregularities. A stack of mats and a spotter will furnish a very-highball hard-V3.

FA: MJC (solo, after top-roping) 19.7.2023

### 3 **\*Let's Go, Barbie** 8m V4/5, E5 6b

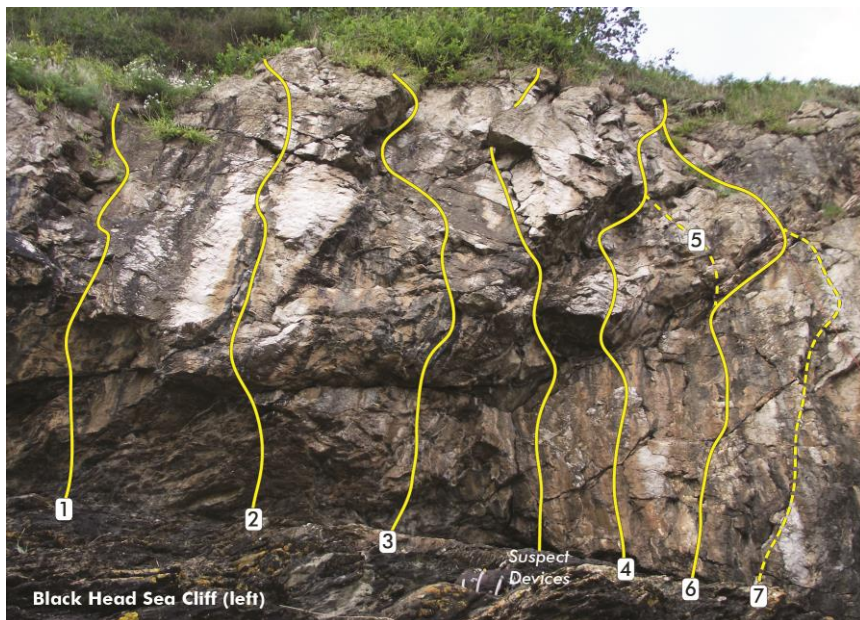
Unarguably the cliff's principal bouldering challenge. But beware: because the underlying platform slopes, the crux reach feels exposed and un-nerving despite any mats below. Start under two finger pockets in the bulges, left of *Suspect Devices*. Gain a finger-jam in the second and extend for the left end of a hand-rail. Now comes the crux which involves a powerful reach/snatch directly for a projecting white jug. Swing left and saunter up the large flake to the end of the rock and your pre-placed rope. Could well be only hard V4.

FA: MJC (solo, as a boulder-problem) 25.7.2023

### 4 **Putin's Vices** 10m E2 5c

An eliminate line right of *Suspect Devices*, combining with the 1997 variation. Starting a metre right of *Suspect Devices*, climb up to a white flat finger-ledge. Using a good undercut on the left extend to a jug over the bulge (vital 2xRock 2 just right of the jug), and pull hard straight over into the groove/ramp. Swing right and, in common with the 1997 variation, climb the crack, stepping right to your abseil rope.

FA: MJC (led with Soloist) 23.7.2023



### 5 Missing Primitive 11m HVS 5a

A committing climb requiring strong arms to find and place the gear. Starting 2m right of *Suspect Devices* pull up into a niche. Gain the break above, swing right and up to a jug, and pull strenuously leftwards into the groove/ramp. Finish up the common crack.

FA: MJC (led with Soloist thinking I was climbing *Primitive*) 23.7.2023

### 6 Primitive 11m VS 4c

(Existing route.) A good climb of the grade. Starting 2m right of *Suspect Devices* pull up into a niche. Gain the break above, and traverse airily along it rightwards before moving up awkwardly up onto ledges. Climb easily up a wide crack to the abseil rope.

### 7 EmzShed 11m VS 4c

A variation to *Primitive*; high in the grade and typically steep. Climb rightwards up a slim white ramp left of *See Emily Play*, so gaining a white jug in the rib above *SEP*. Pull up to a break, and move awkwardly up onto ledges as for *Primitive*. Climb easily up a wide crack to the abseil rope.

FA: MJC (solo) 23.7.2023

### 8 Red Arrows 10m E2 5b

Not as spectacular as the Teignmouth Air Show, but not far off. Climbs the white arête left of *Big Red Rock Eater*. Pull up over the low roof, swing right onto the underside of the arête, and take it strenuously direct via a jug. Exit as for *BRRE*. Drop a grade if you take an off-hands rest in *BRRE*.

FA: MJC (led with Soloist) 1.7.2023

### 9 Cruel Bibby 11m E1 5c

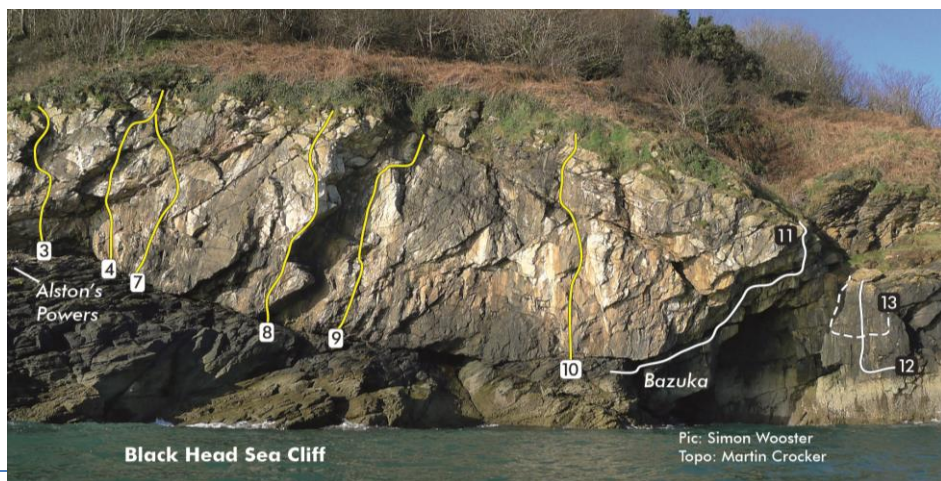
A worthwhile eliminate. Start 2m right of *Big Red Rock Eater* at a grey seepage patch at the cliff-base. Make a fingery pull into a slight groove and follow it to a large semi-solid rock-spike. Take the thin flake-line above, stepping up and right onto the top of a white arête (large cam in crack high left). Swing right to exit up *Sing Harpy* (fixed rope required as standard here).

FA: MJC (led with Soloist 19.7.2023)

### 10 \*Arnold Layne 10m E4 5c

Another A-side single for the cliff, which takes the immaculate glazed orange rib right of the tidal trench. Protectable after the committing entry. Start 1.5m left of *Spacehopper*. Pull up the rib on positive holds to a flake under a small overhang – first gear. A long reach over the overhang gains a flattie; from which jugs lead onto a ledge. Finish up the big flake. You could reduce the grade to E3 by placing a wire up into the *Spacehopper* corner, which would be a fair on-sight strategy.

FA: MJC (led with Soloist after top-roping) 22.5.2023



### 11 **\*\*Bazuka: Spot On Finish** S1 F6b+

An airy direct finish which magnifies the pump. Follow *Bazuka* until just past its slopy crux (2m from the end of the traverse) a long reach for a wide pinch is made with right hand. Extend up leftwards for a black rail on the lip and exit via the short groove on the left. Walk off right, beneath the trees.

FA: MJC (solo) 1.7.2023. Done before – seems pretty obvious?

### 12 **\*Room to Breathe** 6m S0 F6c+

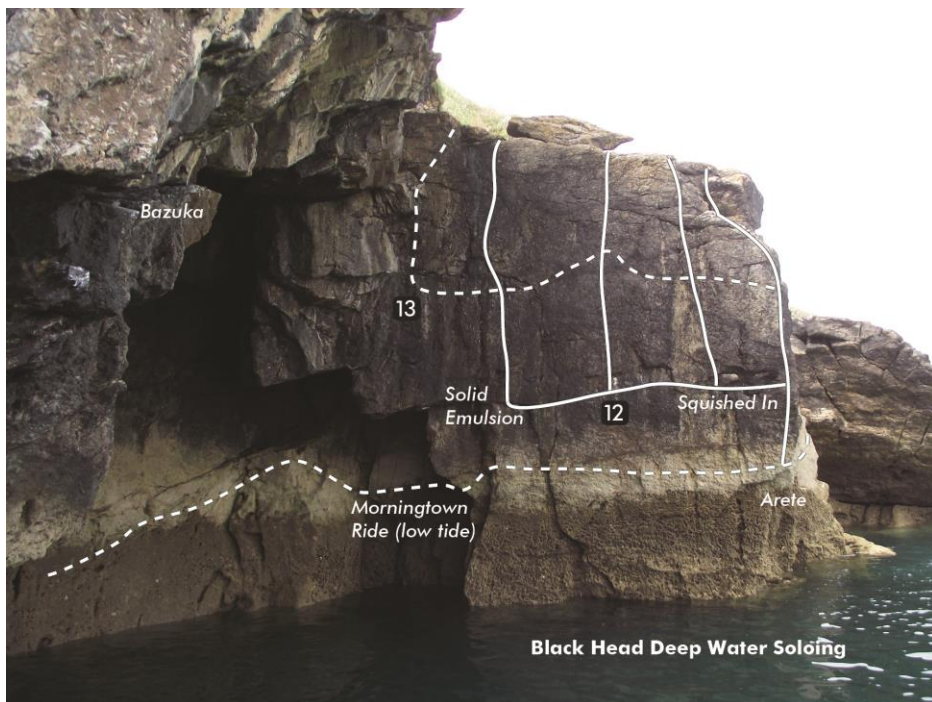
Follow the traverse-in to both hands in the horizontal finger-slot (small white streak) in the centre of the black wall. Take crimps, dinks, and dimples straight to the top. High tech flat-on-the-wall climbing, possibly harder than 6c+ if you prefer bigger holds. Note: there is plenty of space for this: *Squished In* seems to take an eliminate line up a ragged crack just left of the arête and *Solid Emulsion* is way over left up cracks just before the corner.

FA: MJC (solo) 31.8.2020, climbed before?

### 13 **Dimple Time** S0 F6c 10m

A fun traverse across the centre of the wall. From the square-cut recess descend *The Arête* for 2m. Traverse left past a good low sidehold, stepping left and up slightly onto the inset foot-ledge with a white streak. Intricate, stretchy moves lead low left to larger holds on *Solid Emulsion* and then step left into a short bottomless corner. Make a tough move up the corner to a finger-jam and the exit of *Verruca*.

FA: MJC (solo) 19.7.2023



### Black Head Pinnacle (a.k.a. *Mad Zone*)

Where the path joins the cliff-top 100m west of the main cliff, you'll see to seaward a squat dolerite pinnacle with a leaning crack-seamed wall. Many will have walked past and thought 'nah', a twit walked past and thought 'ahah!' Consequently there are three routes on the crack-seamed wall. They start from a ledge at the HWM which will only stay dry at high tide with a flat sea. Two big rock spikes on top facilitate abseil inspection and are gained via a scramble at any tide. *Gongs for Goons* was climbed on a 4.4m tide.



### **Mad Dad's Day** 9m E5 5c

Happy Father's Day! Weak rock and a terminal landing at any tidal state would make an on-sight sectionable. Start at the blunt rib. Rock up left onto the obvious square-cut foothold. Using a pocketed sidepull make a long reach for a sharp finger-jug with left hand. Continue up the rib past a good finger-jam in a groove and exit babbling. Keep to the description and so avoid weaker rock to the left. FA: MJC (solo after top-roping) 19.6.2023

### **\*\*Gongs for Goons** 9m S3 F6b+/6c

Dedicated to Partygate tossers. Nonetheless this is as good as its peer *Dolerite Sprint* but with a sloping reef to hit should you fail to execute a backwards launch into a deep trench to seek safety. Nonetheless the rock and holds are good; and it looks protectable, probably a tough E3 to lead. Start at the right end of the ledge at the HWM, left hand in the deep central crack. Transfer up right into the right-hand crack and follow it with sustained long reaches to large finishing holds.

FA: MJC (solo after top-roping) 19.6.2023

### **Afterthought Arête** 9m S1 F5-

Reasonable water at high tide, with a good aim. From the right end of the ledge swing right and jam a crack to jugs. Ignore the mantel on the right and layback straight up the right side of the arête to the top.

FA: MJC (solo) 1.7.2023

### **Morningtown Ride**

For anyone seeking a classical coasteering traverse away from their usual haunts, the original 2.5km traverse is a great expedition. The Black Head (Brandy Cove) section is especially enjoyable and features complex scrambling and climbing for 300 metres up to Severe standard, on beautiful dolerite. More tenacity is required for the steeper, final shale bluffs. Here a hidden, overhanging black wall above a boulder provides a sting in the tale at strenuous 5b; if the tide isn't too high you can use the boulder as a stepping stone. Or simply take to the sea. The traverse is best started an hour or two before low tide; at high tide you'd end up faffing around in scrub at the cliff-top and missing the best climbing.



## Anstey's Cove

### \*Send in the Clowns V4 (6a/b)

On the Redgate Beach boulder (which is really under-rated). Slap up the right-hand side of the far right arête (i.e. right of *Laid Back*).

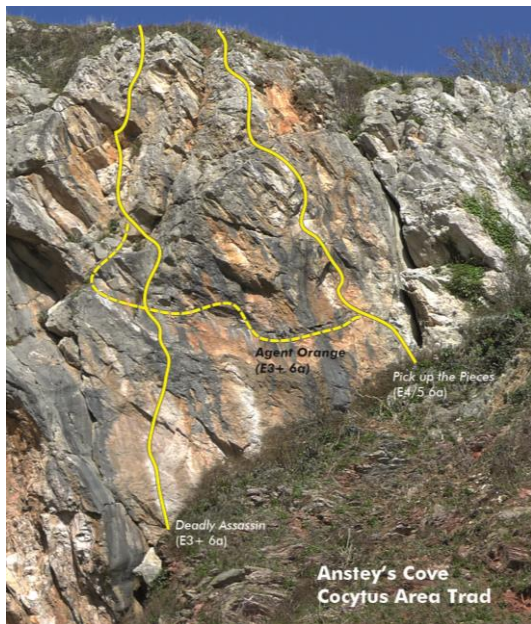
FA: MJC 11.10.2020 Done before?

## Cocytus & Acheron Area

### Skyfalling In 18m/10m E2 5b

A solo variant to *Blue Sky* on good rock, with a ledge to catch a fall (if you're lucky). From the left end of *Blue Sky's* starting ledge, pull up steeply onto a flake hold; whereupon more sideholds gain a big rounded ledge over the bulge. Move up the short borehole onto an easy rib, and solo off left or up *Blue Sky*.

FA: MJC (solo) 20.11.2022



### \*\*Pick up the Pieces 18m E4/5 6a

Funky, soulful, or jazzy; maybe all those things and more: you decide. An old Jon Gandy project, presumably, this is the overhanging wall left of the chimney of *Gutbucket* which deserves its two stars up to the ledge below the loose headwall. The three stainless steel pegs are serviceable, but wires are needed too. Pull out left from the base of the chimney to a peg at 4m. Climb up steeply (peg) past a break (good Rock 5) to a flat ledge with hidden delight. Continue powerfully up (peg; Rock 2/3 in pocket two feet above) and then leftwards to positive sideholds that gain a ledge under the loose headwall. Either (a) lower-off a rope you've pre-placed from the large holm oak bush or (b) from an ancient peg climb the left side of the rib to exit as for 'Variation 118b' on loose rock.

FA: MJC (ropes held by Matt Goater)

4.3.2023; the full route to the top was led.

Two of the three pegs were already *in-situ*.

*Agent Orange* has been reclaimed, with Soloist, after checking the pegs. Surprisingly perhaps, it provides a brilliant pitch on great rock, which is best finished up Variation 118a. An on-sight grade awaits. Some encouragement is offered by way of a revised description.....

### \*\*Agent Orange 25m E3 6a

Simultaneously delicate and strenuous, sustained climbing along the sandwiched slab, which can be protected well if you include a few chunky wires and smallish cams in your rack. The two stainless steel pegs are serviceable, the second of which can be backed up. High in the grade 1 15m 6a Pull out left from the base of the chimney to a peg at 4m. Drop down leftwards along a pocketed break and around onto the slab. Make a technical long move to clip a peg (back-up 0.5 cam up to its left) whereupon a stimulating undercut sequence leads to a low ragged pocket (good wire above). Continue the traverse leftwards to the end of the slab; then step up right past perched blocks to belay in the right-hand side of the niche of *Lethe*.

2 10m 5a/b Step left and climb the broad orange groove to a roof. Pull over and finish up the narrow corner. Double metal stake belay above.

### Upper Buttress

I supposed there had to be a route here, that exasperating sense of curiosity chipping away at the reluctance to investigate what could well be a bag. This is the small but super-steep buttress under the cliff-top up to the right of the Cocytus Area.



### **Mahatma Gandy** 15m E5 6a/F7a

The heights of obscurity; weak rock and difficult-to-place gear (including the pegs!) suggest it is best climbed as a pinkpoint.... if at all. Start under the parallel incipient cracks right of the right-slanting fractured orange seam. Step up a short wall under a white bulge below the right-hand crack (peg). Reach fine pockets above, crank up (good wires, pre-placed), stretch up left for a good sidehold (two knife blade pegs) and lock for large holds above (peg above). Follow the groove with much fussiness as to what to trust and exit carefully past a good wire placement. Scramble to the ridge (expansive rock-spike, but back it up with belays on the concrete posts 15m back). Funnily enough if you were to close your eyes and enjoy the holds and movements you could imagine you were in Siruana.....

FA: MJC pinkpointed with Soloist after practice 28.1.2024 (given the infinitely probable lack of interest in the route – deservedly so – I removed the pegs)

## Long Quarry Point

### Seaward Rim: *Escape Route* Wall

Well worth a day's climbing in the winter sunshine, the rock right of *Escape Route* is generally superb and makes up for the routes' brevity. The climbs are accessible at any tidal state, unless a gale is blowing in rough seas. At the southern edge of the plateau between the pinnacle and the backside of Sanctuary Wall is a long 'battlement', which upon closer examination, reveals a rusted-off iron spike – the one-time abseil anchor for the Sanctuary Wall routes. Left of the spike (facing out) is the exit for *Escape Route*. There is a large block belay 20m back from the cliff-edge, from which you can abseil. (Alternatively you can rig an abseil from the iron spike 6m up the pinnacle ridge, which should be backed up with nut placements lower down.) There is a recessed ledge under *Escape Route*, well above high tide level.

### Traverse and Slab 8m E2 5c

Start 2m left of the left end of the recessed ledge. Pull up to a jug in grey rock and gain the thin horizontal crack above. A finery traverse 2m leftwards precedes a delicate move onto the slab and jugs to exit.

FA: MJC (led with Soloist) 18.4.2023 Climbed before?

### 1 Flaking It 6m E1 5c

Start at the left end of the ledge, below a right-facing flake under the cliff-top. Pull over a bulge to jugs. Make hard moves to crank up into the flake and exit using a jug on the left. Safe, after the first move.

### 2 *Escape Route* (Left) 7m E1 5a

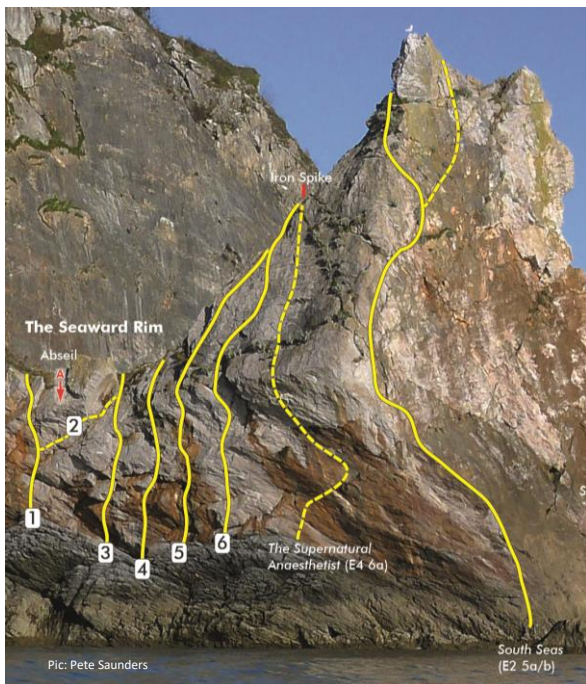
This is the full rightward line of the *Escape Route* groove, and is a serious lead. Start at the left end of the ledge, below a right-facing flake under the cliff-top. Pull over a bulge to jugs (good wires). Using small fingerholds in the steep wall make increasingly bold moves diagonally rightwards before entering the V-groove under the cliff-top. A good wire protects the top out.

### 3 *Escape Route* 7m HVS 5b

The original and –as the guide states – 'interesting' escape route. It's also surprisingly pumpy. Start in the centre of the ledge below a rusted peg stub at 3m. Pull up over a bulge into a small groove with difficulty. More hard moves gain the V-groove under the cliff-top. A good wire protects the top out.

### 4 \**The Son of Magic* 8m E2 5c

Start at the right end of the ledge, 2m right of the above. Use pockets in the orange rock to gain the right end of the long flared undercut. Make a powerful move to step up rightwards onto the small orange slab, so gaining jugs and good gear above. Move up a tiny corner and finish up a short crack to the plateau. FA: MJC (led with Soloist). 27.3.2023 Done before?



### 5 \*The Golden Ass 15m E3 5c

Beautiful rock; a committing lead. Start under the orange streak, just left of *The Lamia*. Move up to gain the obvious undercut layaway with right hand (wire). Fat slopers above lead boldly to decent fingerholds slightly left (tricky small wires here). Make a long reach to a big layaway overhead (good gear now), and finish on positive holds. Iron spike belay 6m up the ridge – back it up.

FA: MJC (led with Soloist) 27.3.2023 Done before?

### 6 \*The Lamia 15m E2 5c

Underrated like many Robbie routes; again the rock is perfect and the climbing eye-popping. An on-sight will feel more like E3 because of some blind holds and protection – don't 'snuff it'! Belay at the right end of the ledge, but stroll rightwards for 3m. Take the white strip (right of the orange streak) making a long reach to a good hold (and difficult gear) just over the bulge. Rock up and reach a horizontal crack. Swing left, pull up to higher jug-line; then prance up the easy slab to the iron spike belay 6m up the ridge – back it up.



### 8 \*The Slipperman 25m E3 5c

A great line, improved since its genesis with an independent, protectable start. Start 3m right of the rightward-slanting crack at a rusted iron stub in the platform. Climb just left of a cream streak to a white jug (good wires) and stretch up to a break. Reach left (junction with original) and gain a high jug. Mantel rightwards onto the edge of the slab – an engaging transition. Step up left into a short shallow groove and pull up onto the Pinnacle arête (junction with *Seaward Edge* – good cam just left of the arête). Climb the right-hand side of the arête (nut in jammed flake on its left side) until pulling left onto its front at a finger-jug left of a plant (or you can do an excursion via the narrow grassy ledge on the right). Gain easier climbing leading to the summit block.

FA: Robbie Warke 26.2.88; independent start by MJC (led with Soloist) 7.4.2023

**11 Seaglow** 25m E3 6a

An absorbing link-up – the best of the extremes on the pinnacle face. Take time to optimise the gear in the hairline crack, as there is a big gap to the next protection below. Start as for *Seaward Edge*, but climb straight up the centre of the slab to the hole on *SE*'s leftward traverse. Step left and gain the flat spike on *SE* above. From here a hairline crack diagonals right across the sheer slab – follow it on tiny holds (good small wire and then microwires, delicate to place) to reach a comforting ragged pocket. Undercut over the bulge to reach a crack which is followed onto the breccia and flowstone of *Afterglow*. Climb straight to the top of the pinnacle finishing via a tiny groove and crack in the summit block.

FA: MJC (led with Soloist after top-roping the crux) 4.4.2023

**12 Afterglow** 27m E2 5b

An interesting geology trip; the protection is not that bad, but some of the rock needs cautious handling. Follow *Seaward Edge* up its diagonal crack and short groove. Now continue diagonally right on a higher crack onto a fresco of flowstone. Move up 2m to place good wires in a slight narrowing corner, and step back down. Traverse left across the steep wall onto a run of good stal fingerholds which, with precise footwork, enable a good crack to be reached. Climb straight up breccia and flowstone holds to the top of the pinnacle finishing via a tiny groove and crack in the summit block.

**13 Slubberdegullion** 25m E2/3 5b

Adventurous; a direct line to and above *Afterglow*, taking in the high groove it avoids. Start up the cracks of *Storm Child* but climb direct to a short deep rightward-slanting slot (extension of the diagonal crack of *Seaward Edge*). Climb rightwards up the slot and over a bulge to the obvious white sidehold. Carry on slightly rightwards up the slab to a flake crack (good wire) – bold. Step up to the flowstone fresco of *Afterglow*. Climb the narrowing corner with a tricky move to a sharp spike – rickety but locked-in-place for the time being. Follow the sustained groove to the top of the pinnacle while taking care with the rock.

FA: MJC (led with Soloist) 18.4.2023

**17 Once, we were Eels** 18m E3 5c

The arête above *Sea Slip* offers perilous climbing on slick rock with a bleak outcome in the event of a fall – notwithstanding the gear high in *Sea Slip*. Fix protection at the top of the groove half way up *Sea Slip*. Reverse 3m and use a sharp jug for left hand to grasp a jug on the undercut arête to the right. Artfully balance up on smears; then layback the left side of the arête until – directly above the now distant gear below – you can pull onto the edge of the arête (small wire). All very scary! Pad up the edge of the arête more easily to the top.

FA: MJC (led with Soloist after top-roping) 7.4.2023

**\*Torbay 2020** 10m S0/1 F7b

Alternative Olympics. Pumps up the narrow leaning left wall of *Jumping Jack Flash* on beautiful holds. The route stays well right of the arête. Start from the basin immediately to the south. Just above high water mark, finger-traverse a narrowing white ledge, and use a low pocket to power up right to a slanting black jug. Athletic moves direct, with a finger-jug high up right, gain a jug atop a rectangular block. One more hard long move up right and a big block-jug is reached. For the S0, move up and escape left around the arête; otherwise continue up the wall before rocking around the razor sharp arête at a higher level.

FA: MJC (solo) 3.8.2021 *Initially, I accessed the wall with feet at white ledge level, so reaching a finger-jam in the rectangular block – still really good like this and only F6c+. Maybe this route has been done before?*

**Blowhole Route variation: Around the Block** S1 F6a+

An option if you don't like tight holes. Instead of descending into darkness, boldly reach left for good holds on the leaning white wall and grab the big juggy block. Move up and escape left around the arête.

FA: MJC (solo) Checked the block was stable beforehand – solid in 2021! Must have been done before?

A note to say that a good option for *Sea Slater Traverse* is to proceed on the lowest variants and return via the higher two (returning right-to-left the F5+ is S2 F6a, and the F6b+ is S2 F6a+).

## Ichor Slab

### \*Southern Frieze 20m E3 5c

A variation finish to *Ikon*, set on an orange crystal canvas. Step left under the overlap and move up to a peg runner. Crimp up onto the crystal face and take the rib above on surprising holds to a long reach to exit, slightly right. Save some microwires and a Rock 1 for the top section, as they go in reasonably well.

FA: MJC (led with Soloist after top-roping) 25.4.2023

*Y Not* has been led as described below, and is not that bad a route. It has not been cleaned, but looks like it will stay clean enough – if required you can poke out additional placements with a broddler, as you climb. The original start is vegetated and looks much looser.

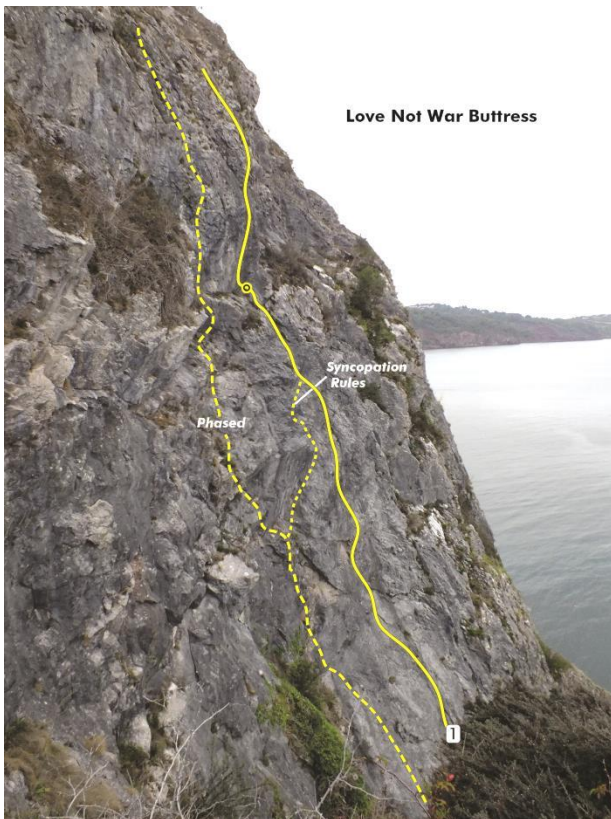
### Y Not 25m E2 5c

A natural line up the grooved right arête of the slab. The gear is spaced but pretty good when you get it. Start 5m right of the base of the rightward-diagonal crack. Scramble up grassy ledges; then take tricky leftward-rising flakes to a deeper crack behind a ramp on the right. Step up the ramp and then make balancy and circuitous moves into the black recess in the arête above. Follow a series of easier grooves in the arête, trending right to the top. Peg and bush belay.



## Main Slab

*Thesaurus Original* ('variation start'), *The Minor Tour*, *The Sorcery of Circe*, *The Poseidon Adventure*, and *Calypto* (Pitch 1) recleaned and reclimbed June - August 2023. *Shelf Life*, *Normal Hero*, and *Carbon Paper* recleaned and reclimbed May/June 2023. All are really good.



Love Not War Buttress

## Love Not War Buttress

### \*Syncopation Rules 40m E3 5b

An off-beat link-up between *Phased* and *Snoopy*, with the accent on a hard bold section. Follow *Phased* but mantel up right onto a sloping ledge above its peg runner. Twiddle in some microwires (there's one good one); then work up the steep smooth groove, making testing moves to emerge on slabbier rock (cam in shothole slightly left). Trend right to join *Snoopy* at its penultimate shot/bore hole; and follow that route to the top.

FA: MJC (led with Soloist) 21.5.2023

*Phased* has had an ascent after a little cleaning on the headwall. Well worth doing; just be mindful of the traverse left (the finger shothole is hidden a metre above the edge of the little leaning wall). The peg can be backed up.

### 1 Respect 40m E3

A stimulating, even nerve-tingling, direct line up the slopy quarried grey wall taken by *Snoopy*. A very run-out pitch 1, though possibly only sustained 5a. The two pitches could be combined, with good ropework.

1 27m 5b Climb the centre of the slab past a shallow recess with shothole, stepping up left to the gangway traverse of *Snoopy* (cam in pocket above – first gear, though only Hard Severe thus far). Move up and left to the right edge of an orange patch under a little roof, peg. Work up right and back left into a niche with a shothole (no gear in it I'm afraid). Gain another niche above, also with a shothole (but this time hosting a welcome No 2 tri-cam). Continue delicately into a third niche (again with a shothole, and a cam 3 placement). Climb a flake to the base of a rightward-slanting groove with good nut and cam belays.

2 13m 5c Step left under the headwall, and clip the peg above. Bridge up a little to get started and then climb straight up the black streak to the undercuts on the upper traverse of *Snoopy*. Reach for jugs over the bulge and climb easily to multiple thread belays. After belaying, scramble steeply to trees on the ridge.  
FA MJC (led in two pitches with Soloist) 25.9.2022

### 2 \*Trickle Down BS 10m S0 F7a

The bulging wall left of the arête of *Mirthless One*, on the sea-level buttress. Fingery climbing on small holds, which would be hard to on-sight at this grade (no previews of the vid!). The yellow lichen will need brushing from time to time. Step right and crank up through the little overlaps, eventually gaining a sharp finger-jug on the left. Now easier-angled, rock up and proceed direct up the slab past an undercut to a step right under loose material at the top.

FA: MJC (solo, after brushing and working the hard part) 22.9.2022

To the right of *Mirthless One* is a beautiful open white groove, hidden unless you've met *The Kraken*.

### 3 \*\*Last of the Titans 12m S1/2 F6c+

Would have got \*\*\* had it not been for the perilous abseil approach. Using the ash trees far back (or the two mystery bolts under *Love Not War*) abseil down the overhanging wall 6m left (east) of *Mirthless One*, positioning the rope over a couple of sturdy blocks on a little white knoll. There is a lot of loose material below – hard hat recommended. Abseil onto barnacle holds up to half-tide, while trying not to bounce around too much (safer to keep in using a nut runner). From the slight rib beyond the corner, climb up a crack on large holds to the right-hand end of an oblong roof. Traverse left under the roof to another crack, under the groove. Reach up left past the unreliable brown band to a good hold for left hand in the base of the groove. Work up the high-tech groove on crimps and small sidepulls, with bits of bridging here and there, to a mono in a ragged crack. Now extend up right for a hidden sidehold in a tiny niche and finish direct with continuing excitement.

FA: MJC (after top-roping the groove; lower half on-sight on my ascent same day of *The Kraken*) 27.8.2022



### 4 \*Get-out Claws 12m S1/2 F6b+

Though worthwhile, potentially its main merit is as a relatively reliable exit for *The Kraken*. Climb *Last of the Titans* to the rest in the crack under the left-hand end of the oblong roof. Reach up left for a juggy hand-ledge under the brown band. Swing left, reach a big slanting layaway and power up left to jugs under a plant on the arête of *Mirthless One*. Layback up, and then finish up the mild arête.

FA: MJC (solo) 22.9.2022



I'm tendering an alternative description of the *The Kraken*, the outcast of the Torbay coastering family, which is an adventurous solo between New Quarry and Long Quarry Point.

**\*The Kraken 230m F6c+**

Forbidding, gloomy, and prone to humidity – an elemental heart to heart with the 'abysmal sea' and shapeless grotts that lurk in your mind, solo. The key constraint is the tide: you'll need a low spring tide for much of the route but, at the crux arête right at the end, you'll be cursing the low water – at least on the high line described.

**1 To *The Wake*: S0 F3**

From New Quarry scramble down boulders and hop onto the cliff. Traverse easily to a black corner. The high variant has fallen down and now looks E5; but no problem – there's an easy low tide variant amongst the barnacles. Continue around various minor inlets to a deeper one above which *The Wake* wall wails (worth coming this far for a touch of the slack-jaws). At low tide you'll be able to walk over large pebbles to a quick leap onto a small pinnacle under the wall.

**2 To: *The Last of the Titans* S3 F6a**

Bridge onto the wall, and carefully move up leftwards to a run of finger-jugs that lead beneath a flattish ledge and down to a spike on an arête. The S3 grade assumes possible greasy conditions and spuming barnacles (if crisp and dry it'll feel like a path). Scramble across and down a slab back into the barnacle zone, which at first sight doesn't look promising. Fortunately positive pockets make this part no harder than S1 F5 – continue around into a black corner beyond which the climax looms.

**3 To: *Love Not War* S2 (low tide) F6c+**

From the slight rib beyond the corner, climb up a crack on large holds to the right-hand end of an oblong roof. Traverse left under the roof to another crack and a good rest. Reverse the crack for 2m and then power around the arête on good sideholds before taking a complex and blind, pumping traverse left across the overhanging wall to the platform under *Love Not War*. Note that boulders are visible under the water below the 'up' crack. (The description in the 1995 guide implies that you stick to the barnacle zone under the arête – this is possible for submariners who can smear on seaweed, and *much* safer.)

## Babbacombe

**All that Fall** recleaned and reclimbed October 2023. Worth E2 if side-runners are not used at the start.

### New Quarry: The Prow

Given the first ascensionist's remarks, here's a note for posterity. Soloed the following after top-roping, without any mats, on 12.9.2021: *High Roller* (E4+ 5b/c), *The Alamo* (E5), *Paleface* (E5 5c/6a), & *Oddjob* (E3). Note: the gear on *The Alamo* looks reasonable and the route on-sightable; same cannot be said for *Paleface* – more like E4/5 to lead on-sight? Great climbing throughout, but the landings are diabolical.

### New Quarry Sea Cliffs

The first two nuggets hide in the Black Jack zawn:

**1 \*Bust It 6m S2 F6b+**

Traverse from the left, passing the sidehold/jug of *Black Jack*; and then move up a slight rib in the centre-right of the wall. There is a crucial long reach off a high left hand crimp at the top and a protruding tongue of rock at the bottom – great care is required. Probably F6b if you swing in from the right.

FA: MJC (on-sight solo) 11.8.2020

**2 Double Down S1 F6a+**

An affable left-to-right traverse just above the pink, with tech moves to gain *Black Jack's* sidehold/jug. Don't fall off at the end.

FA: MJC (on-sight solo) 11.8.2020 Done before?



## New Quarry Beach

Pic: Pete Saunders  
Topo: Martin Crocker

Worth describing the route left of 22a climbed by Chris and family: F5a on big creaky jugs.

Between *Jammie Dodge* and *Banana Splits* is a 4m-high pinnacle under a leaning prow (unclimbed – looks F7c/7c+ish though with a *harikari* exit). Take it away, Alexis.

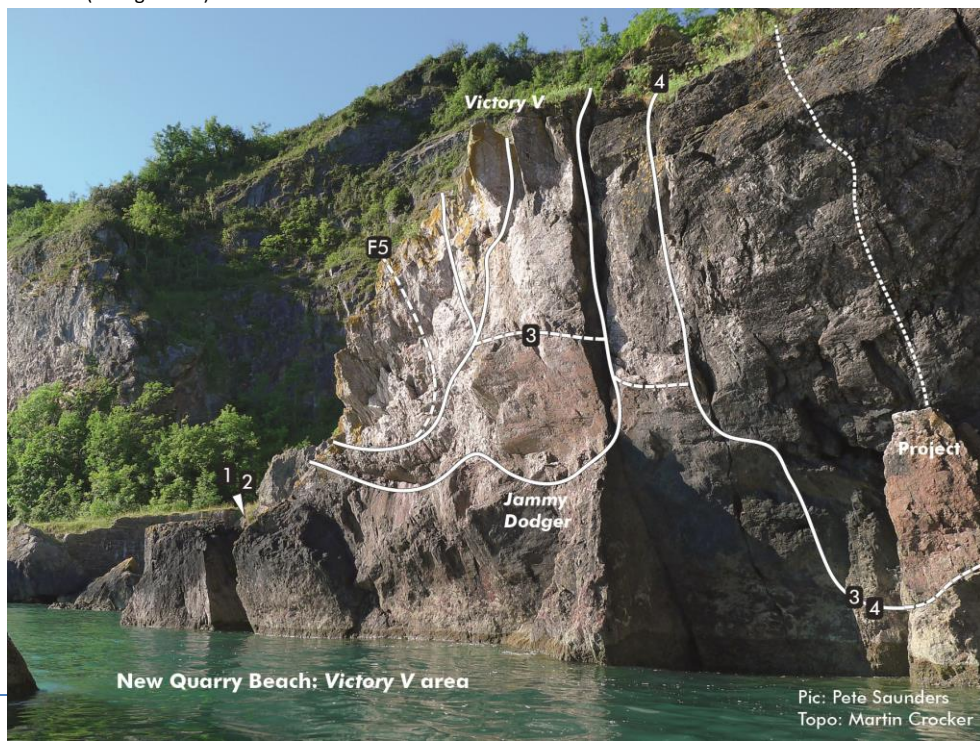
### Curiosity

The section beyond *Big Buzz* is probably its best part: interesting flowstone features, though with little water (S2/3). No need to reverse; just scramble easily above the little cave (water beneath) to the cliff-top.

### 3 \*\*30 in the Shade 25m S1 F6c

Shady explorations. A featuresome traverse of the *Jammie Dodge* area, with the crux above good water (at high tide). Descend the diagonal crack leftwards and bridge across onto the pinnacle (F5 and S1 thus far, a worthy excursion in its own right). On the far side of the pinnacle, launch diagonally left up an overhanging wall to gain a high jug (on *Sweat and Swelter*); then stride left into *Jammie Dodge*. Make one move up to gain a jug-rail above a smooth wall, and then traverse left descending a little to the eastern end of the wall.

FA: MJC (on-sight solo) 11.8.2020



New Quarry Beach: Victory V area

Pic: Pete Saunders  
Topo: Martin Crocker

**4 \*\*Sweat and Swelter** 7m S1 F7a+

Superb: the cracks and groove right of *Jammie Dodger*. Traverse in as for *30 in the Shade*. Launch diagonally left up an overhanging wall to gain a high jug. Make a long reach up the groove; hang whatever comes to hand, and – from a higher jug – finish a little more easily. Quite possibly 7a when cooler – it was hard to be objective in that heat.

FA: MJC (solo, subsequent to *Jammie Dodger* and *30 in the Shade*) 11.8.2020

**5 Little Arête** 4m F4

The left side of the little arête of the prow right of *Banana Splits* is a nice warm-up.

**6 MC Annihilator** 7m S0 F6c

The ‘imposing nose’ on the *Curiosity* traverse; easy to fall off, but with safe water. Scramble down to the left (facing out) of the nose to gain the lowest ledge just above HWM. Reach high left for the sharp arête; then abandon style to join high holds or the drink. Swing right and carefully take hollow jugs to the top.

FA: MJC (on-sight solo) 11.8.2020 *Almost fell off – would have been welcome in the swelter.*

## Withy Point Rocks

**\*Nutters 1 to 3** 9m S0 F6c

Pays homage to the tombstoners’ named jumps from blood-curdling positions up to the right. Traverse along *Undertow* for 3m until just before its hard move up right for the finger-jug. Reach two crimps above the bulge, pull hard on a small round sidehold for left and gain more crimps above. Continue up the narrowing wall on spaced holds; reach the top and mantel over.

FA: MJC (solo) 1.9.2020

## Quick Dip Area

**\*\*End on a High** 14m S1 F6c+

The gorgeous orange wall left of the arête of *Life’s an Ocean*; the best rock on the buttress. Start at the foot of the corner (could be reached by a careful abseil down the corner: I did the traverse when I climbed *Life’s an Ocean*, and it is consistently loose and crumbly as far as the corner). Step right onto the foot of the wall and power straight up on pockets and edges past a very long reach. Continue to a shake-out beneath a wide crack. Ignore the (easy) crack (because it would leave you dangerously above the slab); locate two pinches on the leaning wall on the right and gain a good layaway high on the arête. Keeping in balance, teeter up to fingerholds just around the arête and pull up carefully to the exit of *Life’s an Ocean*.

FA: MJC (solo, after abseil inspection and cleaning the top section) 29.9.2020

*Life’s an Ocean* is \*\*, but full-on 6b (or more) on the arête (many of the holds are weak or very weak, and a wipe-out is highly probable on sight!).

*When the Sun Hits* has 5m of good climbing before degenerating into an absolute bag with atrocious rock – terrifyingly dangerous (but waterwings off to Sir Simon).

## Petit Tor Point

The following notes have been succeeded by a free downloadable Petit Tor Topo which you can find on [www.martincrockerclimbing.com](http://www.martincrockerclimbing.com)

### **\*\*Out of my Pocket** 7m S0 F6a/6a+

I thought it the best route of the wall. Gain the scoop twist 5 and 6. Starting from a high layaway for right hand, climb the left edge of the scoop to gain beautiful finger-holds in the black rock; then reach high left (crux) to a long slanting edge. Finish direct. The white foot-block of 6 is off-this-line (but I think Tim used it on his version – easier?).

### **\*Audience with the Earl of Wooster** 10m S2 F6b

An exciting mini-adventure on a great line. The rock in the top section is better than it looks, but – nonetheless – please avoid going airborne. Follow the traverse and make its first hard move right on the north wall. Stretch up left for a large trembling thread. Use holds up right to gain a handrail up left. Swing right onto a sloping ledge beneath a corner. Take the corner to the top, steadily.

FA: MJC (on-sight solo) 22.7.2020 I initially thought that this might be AP's route, but his (*Neckton*) is some way to the right.

On the north wall of the zawn is a useful little number, no doubt climbed before.

### **Au Petit Bonheur** 6m S0 F6a

At mid-tide traverse left from the mouth of the zawn for 2m and gain large holds in a plant-centric niche above with difficulty. Pull over the bulge and finish direct.

FA: MJC (on-sight solo) 30.8.2020

The little F5+ lip traverse on the left side of the cave (which I thought might be new) is an AP route: *Plankton*. Looking properly I see that the water is pretty shallow – so at least S1 (S2 at neap?).

### **Planet Shiraz** 6m S1/2 F6a

Climb the obvious fault/groove left of *Proper Job*, trending left at the top on big holds. Keep a wary eye on the reef to your left i.e. if you must fall, do so to your right.

FA: MJC (on-sight solo, though it's easy to look over the top) 29.7.2020. Obvious line: done before?

I repeated AP's *White Star Line*, which is exhilarating and easy to access.

Did a bunch of things in the *Cracked Arête* area. All are accessed at mid tide (at high spring tides the sloping barnacle shelf from which the routes start becomes wave-washed or submerged making starting with dry feet nigh on impossible).

Access options: (1) *Shufflebum Traverse* (a pain in the baptising ass, repeatedly, and hard to get the sea conditions right), (2) reverse *Cracked Arête* or *Lock up Your Deep Waters*, or (3) from cams on *Cunard Line* (belay of *Neckline*) abseil down the black corner of *Intimate Dark Contortions* placing a few pieces to keep you from landing in the sea (inadvertently jammed wire deep in corner-crack will help in the interim).

The first four routes start at the black corner left of *Cracked Arête*.

### **\*\*The Youknowwhat** 9m S1 F6b+

The S1 is for the starting move, but once in the air you'll be gurning safely above deep water. Swing up left from the shelf onto a white handrail, and heelhook out into space. At the end of the hand-ledge make a few steep pulls to regain the vertical and *Cunard Line*.

FA: MJC (on-sight solo; well, not really as I first managed to lean in from a rope and brush some of the big clumps of pigeon shit off the edge of the rail) 8.8.2020

**\*\*Missing Brittany Ferries 9m S1 F6c+**

A brilliant link-up; the best route on this wall. Swing up left onto handrail of *The Youknowwhat*. Find a slot for left hand in the roof above and pull long and hard for a jug at the base of a black scoop. Swing right on a jug-line; then rock up left into the black scoop so joining the end of *White Star Line*.

FA: MJC (solo) 30.8.2020

**The Quarantiners 7m S1 F6b**

Start 3m left of the black corner (of *IDC*), and ape up the huge jug-line that rises rightwards into the corner. Safe once you get clear of the sloping shelf.

FA: MJC (solo) 30.8.2020

**Intimate Dark Contortions 6m S2 F6b**

Do so in the impending corner left of *Cracked Arête*. Short, but the crux is perilously above the ankle-snapping rock shelf, so don't de-contort too early.

FA: MJC (solo) 29.7.2020

**\*\*\*Freddie the Frog Floats Again 6m S1 F6b+**

Blissful holds and positions on the underside of the prow left of *Cracked Arête*. From the foot of the *IDC* corner, swing out right onto a mega-jug. Reach up right and then gain the centre of the sloping edge of the large ledge above. Swing right to a jug on the apex and hop over. A future classic?

FA: MJC (on-sight solo) 29.7.2020

**Lock up Your Deep Waters 9m S1 F4+**

Good for acclimatizing. Step right from the foot of the corner and take a short thin crack onto a rounded ledge. Continue easily, move right, and take a broad rib onto *Cunard Line*. (Looks like the section above the ledge is in common with *Desired Lines*?)

FA: MJC (on-sight solo) 8.8.2020

**\*\*Fifty Years of This 9m S1 F6c+**

Immaculate climbing up a *La Crème* like groove (but, don't panic, this is a lot easier). Start 3m right of the corner, past a tricky move. Move up a ragged wall onto a hand-ledge at 4m. Above is a small angular nose: grope, grip and grapple with it to make a powerful stand-up, so gaining small edges in the groove. Sustained moves up the groove lead to the *Cunard Line* traverse.

FA: MJC (solo) 8.8.2020

**\*Stressed Eric 9/10m S1/2 F5+**

An airy and atmospheric solo, but don't be tempted to stray right above a subsurface rock platform. Start 3m right of the corner, past a tricky move. Move up a ragged wall onto a hand-ledge at 4m. Swing 1.5m right along the ledge; then pull up onto a rib hosting a wide red vein. Confidently take good finger-ledges straight up the steepening rib onto *Cunard Line*.

FA: MJC (on-sight solo) 8.8.2020

**Coves North of Maidencombe**

(superseded by a dedicated topo on [www.martincrockerclimbing.com](http://www.martincrockerclimbing.com)).

Out-of-the way bouldering on Permian breccia you've discovered you love so much from going Nudey. The original concept was to chill out on wave-washed boulders above sand, far from the Maidencombe crowds. Well, in Mackerel Cove, Herring Cove, and Badger Cove there are such boulders, plus a concave wall still with (nails) potential at the former.

A plastic sheet/tarpaulin is useful to keep your feet sand-free. Take a bouldering mat for the Mackerel Cove stuff; a few cushions will suffice for Herring Cove and Badger Cove.

There is a little film of some of the problems on YouTube, embedded in [www.martincrockerclimbing.com](http://www.martincrockerclimbing.com).

## Mackerel Cove

At the back of the bay is the concave wall moistened by a semi-permanent waterfall, which is less steep to the right. It lies above a flat wave-washed platform for which you'll need a mat (a couple of mats are advised for the projects).

### Sand Height

When I returned a month later, on my way to smoke herrings, the sand height here was two to three feet higher than on my June visit, burying the sit starts on The Capsule. Bring a shovel.

Problems are described left to right.

**\* Bonito V2 5c** Two rounded black blocks under the bulge precede a little hand-ramp; hand-traverse right to finish off.

**Queen Mary 2 V1 5c** Sit start and climb direct via a square block above the bulge for left hand.

**Mass Extinction V1 5c** The rightward-rising flake to the right.

**Perfection in the Permian V3 6a** A tough fish to fry which passes a triad of limestone pebbles above the bulge. Mind the block behind (feels a bit gripping).

### The Capsule

This is the fine beach-side boulder. At suitable sand levels further sit starts await those who've consumed sufficient Omega-3 to keep knee arthritis at bay.

**Seven Seas** The left arête from standing (V0-) or from kneeling (V0+). The sit start awaits.

**Tuna Fork V2+ (6a)** A sit start with right hand in square pocket, followed by an easy mantel.

**\*\* Omega-3 V4 (6b)**. Mantel the projecting limestone block on the cusp of the little rib. Easier for the more flexible/short-legged. A sit start looks possible, but might reduce the quality (enjoyment!).

**Hard of Herring V0** Between the rib and the right arête, mantel past a good juggy block well over the lip. A contorted sit start with right hand in layaway looks V5ish.

**\*Fatty Acids Forever V3 6a** Sit start the right arête, using a crimp in each hand.

**\*\*Lip(id) Trip V3+** The King Salmon of the bay. Sit start up the right arête, and then hand traverse all the way leftwards to the left arête. The good juggy block set a little further back from the lip (on *Hard of Herring*) is out.

The *Impasse*: well it's not really, but some awkward climbing or/and boulder-hopping is necessary to pass from Mackerel Cove onto the wave-cut platform and boulders leading to the coves further north. Best to keep things simple and lightweight and make sure you climb beyond for no longer than two hours either side of low tide. However, if you mess the tides up, it does look like you can thrash out of Badger Cove to the coast path through lush and painful jungle.

## Herring Cove

There is a cluster of boulders above the left (south) side of the beach.

**\*\*can't Rap it, so Slap it V3+ (6a)** A fine boulder with a sea-facing lip traverse. Sit start far right, gain the lip and take it leftwards and then a series of pebbles under the lip (not-to-be used big limestone jug above) to snatch the left arête. Romp along the easy continuation around the corner for fun.

**What a (bum) Drag** V0+ (5b) Lovely rock. Make an ultra-low lip traverse of the juggy oblong block starting as far left as the sand level allows.

V0- (4c) Make a few quick moves up the rib of the adjoining boulder.

**Knees up Mother Brown** V2 (5c) Eliminate: avoiding both supporting small boulders, pull hard up the leaning wall and flail around on good pebbles to pull over.

Behind is a hanging rib, above rocks this time.

**Landslip Leap** V1 (5c) The rib, with a dynamic start.

Over on the right side of the bay is a long boulder part-buried in the sand with a project lip-traverse that's *One for Tom* (V8?). It looks like the underside will need to be dry (rare) for any chance of success. Consolation prizes are two sit starts: one using the limestone block just left of a vertical crack (V0+) and one two metres further left which starts on two good limestone blocks (V1).

### Badger Cove

In the southern corner of the beach and set above small-gauge gravel and sand is a long low-level lip traverse, probably the best problem in the coves. The rock is wave-washed and the best quality I've seen here.

\*\*\***The MSea Shuffle** V5 (6a) Start at a short wide crack far left. Strenuously shuffle right on slopers and make the decision when to bring a heel up. Fortunately jugs take over where the lip becomes increasingly undercut. Save some strength for the punishing mantel at the far end of the overhang.

### Labrador Bay Area

There is nothing of any significance here, though it's worth a visit to get away from it all. You won't need a mat for the following problems, though you will for various projects in and beyond Cherry Red Cove. Take a plastic sheet to keep your feet dry. All the problems are accessible between low and mid-tide.

Park in the main Shaldon car-park (as for the zoo), or find a free place up adjacent to the A379 above. Approach the shoreline using the tunnel under The Ness which leads onto the northern end of Ness Cove. Head south around Bundle Head (tedious boulders for 'the Mrs') into Smugglers Cove. Cherry Red Cove is the small bay and beach beyond the next minor headland (more tedious boulders) to the south.

The problems are described from south to north.

### Cherry Red Cove

#### Barnacle Boulder

**Barnacle Bob** V0+ (5b) The left side of the sharp arête; don't pull too hard on the finishing holds otherwise you may come unstuck.

**Barnacle Bess** V0 (5a) The right side of the arête.

#### Rail Boulder

\***Jubilee Rail Line** V2 (5c) From sitting steam along the rail in the overhanging wall to its end, whereupon a rock-up left gains the top. (Drop a grade if you finish on the boulder on the right.)

#### Fish Boulder

**Fishy Traverse 1** V0+ (5b) Traverse from left to right without using the top. A fun romp across big lime puddings before a thin move at the end.

**Fishy Traverse 2** V3/4 (6b) From the last pudding, drop down right using a vague sandstone crimp and ballet sketchily onto the right arête.

**\*Platinum Standard** V3 (6b) Start under the far right of the slab, a metre right of the right-most pudding, and make very balancy moves straight up on marginal nicks and micro-knobbles.

**Harry & Meghan Show** V2 (6a) Smear up immediately left of the right arête; contrived, and not true royalty.

#### Project Boulder

The rounded lip-traverse needs a good left shoulder. Looks about V7, and quality.

#### Fin Boulder

The triangular boulder, the tip of a giant buried shark in the sand.

**Fin 1** V0- (4c) Hand-traverse the lip before rocking over near its right-hand end.

**\*Fin 2** V4 (6b) High intensity crimping. Sit/crouch start at the left-hand end and use an arête hold to get started. Now limit yourself to the three pebble crimps: sandstone, limestone, and limestone again before stretching horizontally right for a grey limestone pebble on the lip. Rock over to finish.

**Fin 3** V4 (6b) Sit start on the right below an overhang. Right foot on large white pebble, lip traverse awkwardly round left onto the face. Finish to suit.

In the gully behind is a crunchy arête.

**Crunchy Arête** V2 (5c) Sit start with right hand on monster pebble, and away you go – mind the boulder behind you as feet start popping off the crunch.

Lots of other esoteric and snappier climbing is possible in the cove, but you'll soon learn to know where to draw the line!

#### Smugglers Cove

An occasional nudy beach, the other thing going for it is a block erupting from the sand at its northern end. Here you will rejuvenate following rotator cuff surgery and then segue to a nice picnic.

#### Rehab Boulder

**Rapture** V0- (3b) Swing along the top from right to left and exit before things get bulgy.

**Rapture** V2 (5c) As for Rapture but drop low under the bulgy section and top out beyond on pebbles.

**Keep to Feet** V4 (6b) A low left to right traverse (no top), which is super-thin to start.



## Odds and Sods

Correct name is *Disco Babes from Outer Space*

*Arch Temptress*: on-sight soloed 3.10.98

*Atheist*: on-sight soloed 18.4.97

*Pumping Dancefloor Energy*: correct first ascent date is 18.4.97

Typo on FA date of *Don't Fear the Reef*; should be 3.10.98

*Five Fingered Widow*: on-sight soloed from NS (at 6a+) 4.10.98

*The Watchtower*: on my 31 March 1997 crossing, with a jumar the 'short section of rope' was used for protection *not* tension i.e. twas a free ascent. I slipped off on my first attempt, but was checked by the rope after hitting the west wall. I returned to the starting position and then succeeded unassisted on my second attempt. I didn't want to leave a long rope defacing the cliff, so – according to my notes – I 'de-lassoed' it (not sure if that was by re-running the first part of the traverse or from the opposite wall there and then, probably the former). I guess all that remains is for someone to solo the bridging part which I protected.

## Chudleigh

**\*Dead Cat Bounce** 7m E4 6a (hard-V3)

Climb the right side of the *Dreamboat* arête to finish via a short slim groove. As good as its partner but with a bigger drop.

FA: MJC (solo after top-roping) 11.3.2020