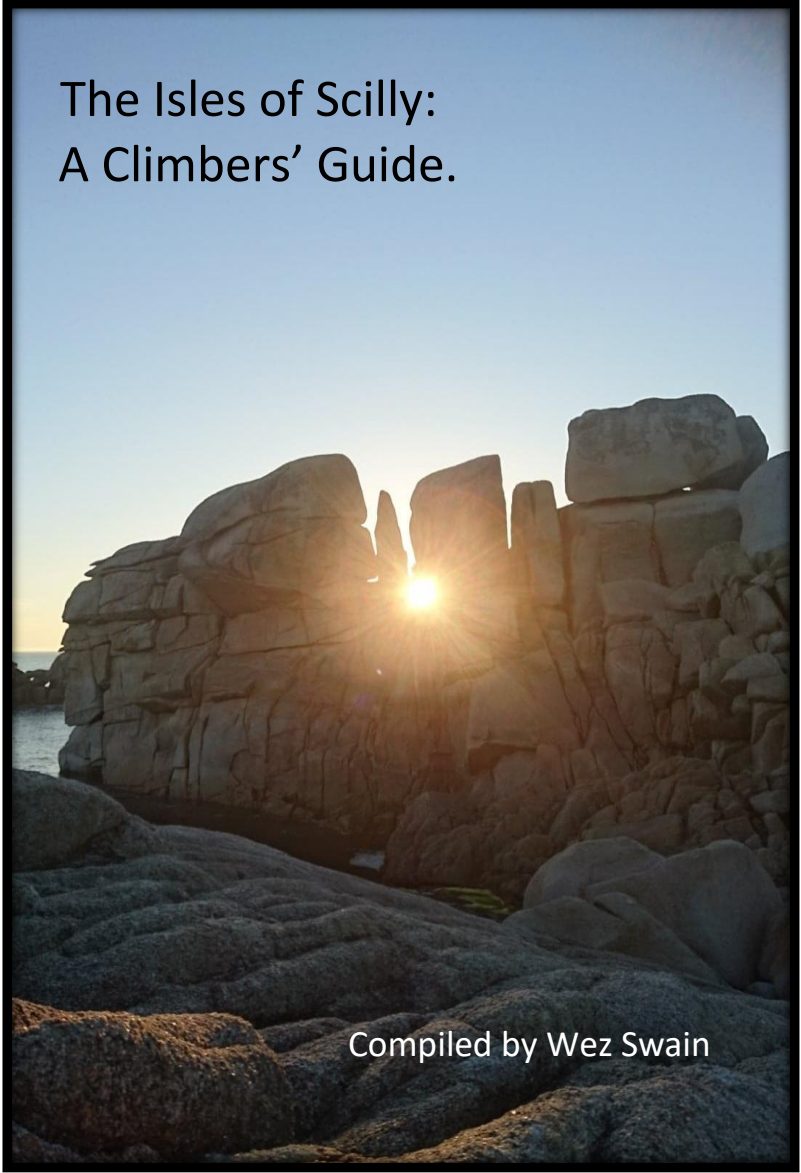


The Isles of Scilly: A Climbers' Guide.

Compiled by Wez Swain



The Isles of Scilly: A Climbers' Guide. Compiled by Wez Swain.

Author: Wez Swain

Cover design: Wez Swain. Front: The Monk's Cowl South Face

Back: The Author on Viva La Tolman. E1 5b.

© Wez Swain

Contents

- 5. Introduction
- 21. Carn Maheal
- 24. Dutchman's Carn
- 32. Peninnis Head:
 - 32. Inner Head
 - 43. The Monk's Cowl NW Face
 - 47. The Monk's Cowl SW Face
 - 49. The Monk's Cowl SE Face
 - 54. Outer head – Krakistan
 - 60. Outer head – Tooth Area
- 63. Pulpit Rock
- 68. Carn Leh
- 72. Outer Blue Carn
- 80. Viva Crag
- 82. Church Rocks
- 84. Giants Castle
- 94. Clapper Rocks
- 96. Tom Butt's Bed
- 101. Camel Rock
- 107. Deep Point
- 112. St Martins: - Carn Wethers
- 115. St Agnes
- 122. Useful Links
- 124. Acknowledgments

Introduction

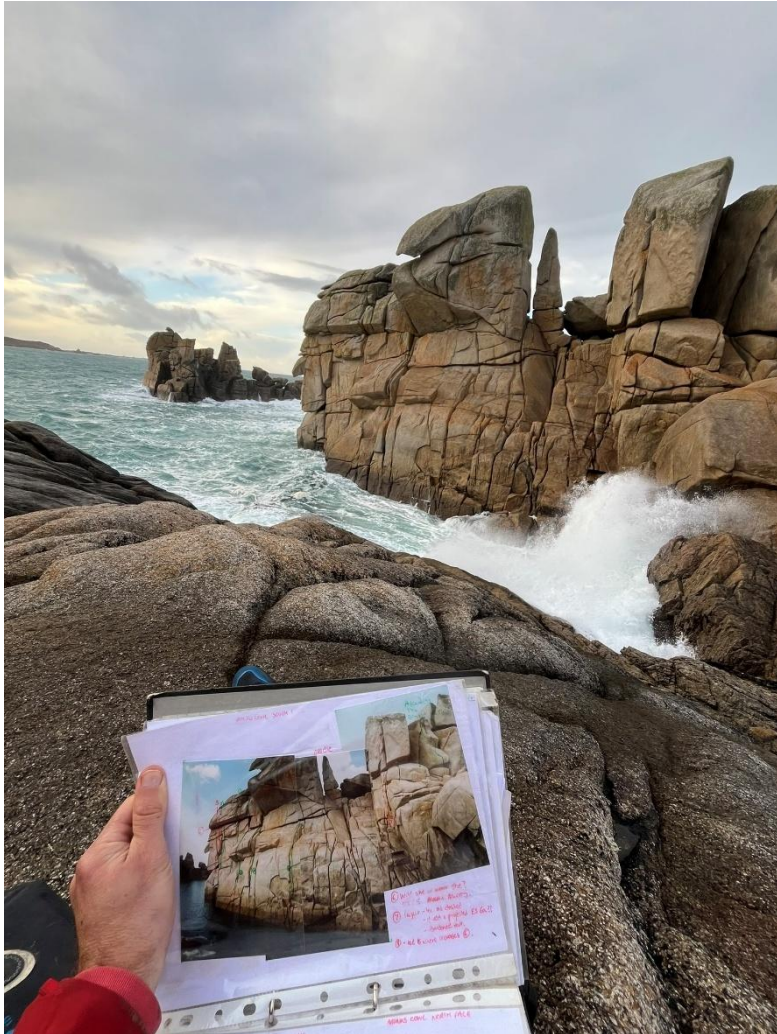
When I first started climbing on St Marys, I had an old article from Climber magazine (Dec 2011), a copy of the Climber's Club West Cornwall guide, but most importantly I was able to borrow Murray Hodgson's 'Black Folder!'

If visiting climbers had contacted Murray through the Climbers Club before their visit, they were met on the quay and handed 'The Black Folder!'

This folder contained all the known records of climbs on Scilly. Visiting climbers added to this if they were able to put up any new lines. The folder was made up of printed photographs with lines drawn on the polypocket sleeve! Some climbs had names, a couple had descriptions, but none had any indication of where they were. You just had to have a good walk and hold the pictures to the landscape to make your judgement. For most climbs, this was ok, as there were a few background landmarks to give the location away, but some climbs took over a year to actually locate!

This was a one-off folder, if it was lost or misplaced by the visitor then a second print would be almost impossible to complete. Murray's trust and willingness to make sure he was able to meet all climbers at the quay on the start of their adventure is a true testament to the great person he is and the trust that Scillonians have both of each other and visitors.

Due to this eclectic source of resources, I felt it was time to try and collate all the guides and information together to form a more definitive guide; I hope I do the black folder justice!



Using the famous black folder on a windy day to work out where some of the climbs could be.

Since starting this compilation, I have found there is also some information on UKClimbing.com. Some climbs can be hard to find, as some crags are classed as Cornwall and others as Scillies (which locals hate; We refer to the islands as, The Isles of Scilly or just Scilly)

It has been great to revisit these climbs with Murray to check I have the details correct. A huge thanks to him and Mat Johnson for keeping a record of all known routes, both from their own personal climbs and from 1998 onwards any visitors climbs.

With this information and new previously unrecorded lines found by current local climbers, this book is close to a definitive guide to route climbing on Scilly. However, as with all things, new eyes will often find new lines, and I am sure there are plenty of potential new climbs ready to be discovered.

The first batch of recorded climbs were by D and J Bassett in 1977.

These included: *Trident*, *Zest*, *Peninnis Chimney*, *Britannia*, *Excalibur* and *Neptune*. These classic lines are in the Severe to Very Severe grade range and are all on the Peninnis Head area. These climbs prove a testament to the original climbers as these are the most repeated and iconic climbs on Scilly.

They duo returned in '81 to add *Bastille* HVS 5a at Giant's Castle. With its formidable overhang on the second pitch, the climb has shut down many of today's climbers even with their improved protection.

Then came a big sweep of hard climbs from 9–12 September 1996 by Andy Grieve and Sean Hawken accompanied by Robin,

a student from Plymouth who by chance bumped into Sean and Andy during their attack of Peninnis. *Sean's Cleft, Time and Motion, Island Life, Robin Bastard, Gone Fishing, Caravan Convert* and *Fantasy Island* were their lines ranging from HVS to E4 which set the new gold standard for Scilly.

Sean and Andy returned the following year on the 10th and 11th July 1997 and put up more of the hardest known climbs on Scilly; *The Alien, Rock Hard Peninnis, Sunk Without Trace* and *Curving Crack*. The routes, again ranging from HVS to E4, added to the top of the climbs here. It is currently believed that the first 3 of these climbs still remain unrepeated!

During 1999-2000, local, Murray Hodgson teamed up with the local police officer at the time, Mat Johnson, and a friend who regularly visited the island, Mark Dicken. Together they put up a lot more lines in new areas. Most lines were in the HVS – E2 range. Until now these have been kept as the more unknown classic lines, with highlights such as *Viva la Tolman, I am Barry Kiri* and *Copper* which are all in the E1 grade.

In 2017 – 2019, Matt George, often with Dan Morell, added a load of new lines including the busy development of Carn Leh and Black Rock. They also repeated many of the classic lines. The pair, based in Penzance, made many trips across to St Mary's to take groups coasteering along the fabulous coastline with Matt's company, Kernow Coasteering, often extending their stay by a day or two to add to their collection of new routes on Scilly.

(To book a session of sensational coasteering around Peninnis Head on St Mary's, visit www.kernow-coasteering.co.uk)

The current times are being spearheaded by two new locals, the author, Wez Swain, and Craig Evans. They are based on St Mary's have spent many days looking for more possible lines on this great archipelago. Their new lines have been a further extension of known crags as well as development of Outer Blue Carn, Krakistan and Clapper Rocks, as well as Castle Brose on St Agnes. We have added many new low-grade lines along with some mid-grade climbs to enjoy too. Current highlights are *Pulling Teeth*, *Stormin' the Castle* and *Dancing with Dolphins*.

Recently, Murray has started to join Craig and I on our climbing antics which had been brilliant. One of my favourite moments to date has been when he said to me, "You boys are getting strong; I don't think I could have followed you up some of these climbs ten years ago!" This made me chuckle, coming from a climber in his eighties.

About Climbing on Scilly.

The archipelago of the Isles of Scilly is based on Granite rock. As such there are many outcrops, crags and boulders strewn around the Islands. This guide concentrates on the known traditional rock-climbing routes. The majority of which are on St Marys, the biggest of all the islands

The rock climbing here is great, pristine, almost untouched granite with a stunning backdrop for just about every climb. It is a very rare day to meet another climber at a crag and as such climbers nearly always get to climb on undisturbed crags with only nature and wildlife sharing their environment.

To quote a visiting climber, James Cootes, after a climb at the Monk's Cowl, "Fantastic area. Every route should get at least one star just because of the incredible location. Beautiful."

The climbing style on Scilly is similar to the Dartmoor granite. With rounded slopers and open flares joining various sized cracks as the three main styles of climbing,

Visiting climbers beware; It may take a few climbs to get into the swing of Scilly style climbing; choosing climbs within your normal grade or lower for on-sighting would be advised, especially for your first couple of routes. Many climbs have either been unrepeatable or have less than a handful of repeats, this can lead to the odd climb either being well within the grade, or a sandbag.

With all the new climbs Craig and I have put up, I have used previous published climbs as a guide to determine the new

climb's grade. Due to the fact, that Craig Evans and I have very little experience with climbs other than those on Scilly, please take the grades with a pinch of salt.

Having a knowledge of crack climbing will help, and crack gloves will allow you to enjoy your climbing for longer. Long sleeves, both arms and legs are advised due to the sharpness of the rock.

Climbs are often short and a 40m rope will be more than adequate for every climb. (There are no vertical climbs over 20m in height on St Marys.) A set of nuts, a variety of cams (large ones come in handy) and 8 extendable quick draws should be plenty.

Craig and I each have a full set for cams (either Black Diamond or Wild Country) from 0.3 up to size 6. We also have doubled up on 0.75, 1, 2, 3 and 4. This means that often we have 4 of what we call the middle-sized cams available to use. This may seem excessive, but a few climbs (especially the traverses) seem to eat up the cams. One complete set will do for most climbs though.

Many climbs are tidal and planning your adventure to work with tides and weather adds an extra challenge especially if there is a strong breeze and swells ready to smash into the belay area. However, on a calm day with neap tides most climbs can be accessed even on or near high tide.

There are a few classics on Scilly, many of which were published in the Climbers' Club guide, West Cornwall. However, many routes have seen very few if any repeats and fresh eyes often find the opportunity for new lines.

There are climbs on most of the inhabited islands; St Agnes, St Martins, Bryher (though no recorded routes yet) with the most routes on St Mary's. Tresco doesn't have any climbs (that have been found) though it does have Piper's Hole. The legend of this cave on the Northeast of Tresco is thought to be linked to the Piper's Hole on St Marys with stories of old telling of a dog that went in at the Tresco end, and was discovered at the St Mary's end, but missing all its fur!!

There are many uninhabited islands within the archipelago, however the majority have either seasonal or full restrictions to access. (Please see the map on page 17 for more details)

An additional note: the Isles of Scilly offers many bouldering opportunities on all islands. These are not covered in this guide, but all known problems are recorded on UKClimbing.co.uk

There are many climbs recorded here that to date are not on UKC or have only recently been added to the database. As such, other climbers have climbed what they have believed to be a first ascent and given the route a different name and put these routes to view on UKC. I have stuck to the original names and credited the best recognised first ascensionist.

UKC also shows other routes on Shipman Head (Bryher) But with no topo included I have decided not to include these climbs. Be aware the FA climbed them in Sept, though access is restricted from and including April to September, I don't believe this was intentional.

About Scilly.

When I moved to Scilly in 2014 there were a few phrases that kept cropping up when locals were describing Scilly to me;

“It’s just 2000 drunkards clinging to a rock!”

“The visitors are either newlyweds or nearly dead’s!”

So, with my drinking days behind me, and hopefully my nearly dead days way in front of me I wondered how I would get on within this small island community.

It didn’t take long to realise this is really an undiscovered playground for anyone interested in anything outdoors.

As you arrive, either by boat, helicopter or plane, the first views are the crystal-clear turquoise seas that surround each island. These provide fantastic environments for sea swimming, kayaking, wind surfing, boating, kite surfing, snorkelling, diving and gig rowing.

Scilly is the birthplace of Gig Rowing and since 1989 has hosted the World Pilot Gig Championships every May bank holiday. This international event often brings in excess of 130 crews in both the male and female classes. Some local crews still race in original gigs, like the Bonnet built in 1830!

There are also local businesses that will give you the chance to go coasteering, swimming with seals, wildlife safaris, shark fishing, diving to see wrecks, charter a boat and inter-island sea swimming.

Other businesses give the chance for equipment hire or instructional lessons with Kayaks, Stand Up Paddleboards, Windsurfing and Sailing. (Links to local businesses are at the back of the book.)

On land the walks and trail runs are fantastic, both on the coast paths and through nature reserves and gardens. Obviously, there is great climbing and bouldering.

There are also so many historical sites on Scilly it would take many visits to see them all. Spring and especially Autumn bring in rare birds blown off track during migration. There are many gardens worth visiting, Treco's Abby Gardens is world renowned and the beautifully kept, volunteer run gardens of Carrig Dhu in the middle of St Marys is wonderful, it even seems to even have its own microclimate.

If wildlife is your thing, then there is plenty to look out for. The Scilly Shrew and the Scilly Bee (very rare) but also in recent years we have been visited by humpback whales, fin whales, dolphins, porpoises and in 2021 Wally the Walrus caused havoc to the local boats – much to the amusement of onlookers for nearly 3 months!

In 2023 Author, Wez organised up a trail race, Scilly60. A 60km run covering every bit of coast path on every inhabited island with boat rides in between. His company has now grown, and Scilly60 Events hold trail runs, walks and swimruns from April – September. From half marathons to 24 hour races, these events are memorable adventures for all.

(For more info visit www.scilly60.co.uk)

But you don't have to be a big outdoors enthusiast to get a lot out of Scilly. It is a calling place to artists with the spectacular 'light.' Or for those who love to appreciate art there are galleries on each island showcasing local work.

It's also a great place just to really get away. Often with patchy phone signal and very quiet beaches it is a great place to come to unwind and slow down from the everyday hustle and bustle of life.

Travel to Scilly can be by boat from Penzance (Easter to Oct 31st), plane from Land's End/Newquay or helicopter from Penzance.

For more information visit

www.islesofscillytravel.co.uk

www.penzancehelicopters.co.uk.

There are a variety of accommodation styles available on all islands, however booking early is an essential if there are specific dates you need. For more information visit www.visitislesofscilly.com

There are no current birding restrictions on the inhabited islands, so climbing is year-round. If you are blessed with a few continuous dry days, the mild temperature can still be comfortable enough to have an enjoyable few hours on the rock throughout the whole winter.

During summer you can travel between the islands on tripper boats. These services run throughout the day. The operators often announce their scheduled trips the morning of that day. Between October and Easter most services stop running so boating becomes much more expensive as you must order a 'special' – approximately £75 each way and so most people find winter climbing is restricted to the island on which you are staying.

Notes:

At the start of each crag is a key:

 Low and Calm.  No.  SE Face.

 The wave lets you know what the sea state needs to be to climb. It is usually 2 things; the first is the tide and the second is the wind speed.

 The abseiler lets you know if you need to abseil in.

 The compass lets you know which way the climb is facing, this way you can determine what time of day may be best for your climb.

First Ascensionist are named on each route if known.

UKA is Unknown First Ascent

Tide tables can be bought in the Stone shop and Tideline on St Mary's or the app, 'Tide Charts Near Me' is a good resource.

Even at low tides, big swells can cause problems for belayers!



Belayers' beware of crashing waves! The Author belaying on Time and Motion.

If you are new to the British grading system, below is a table showing the order of grades. As this guide only covers up to E4, the table shows up to E5.

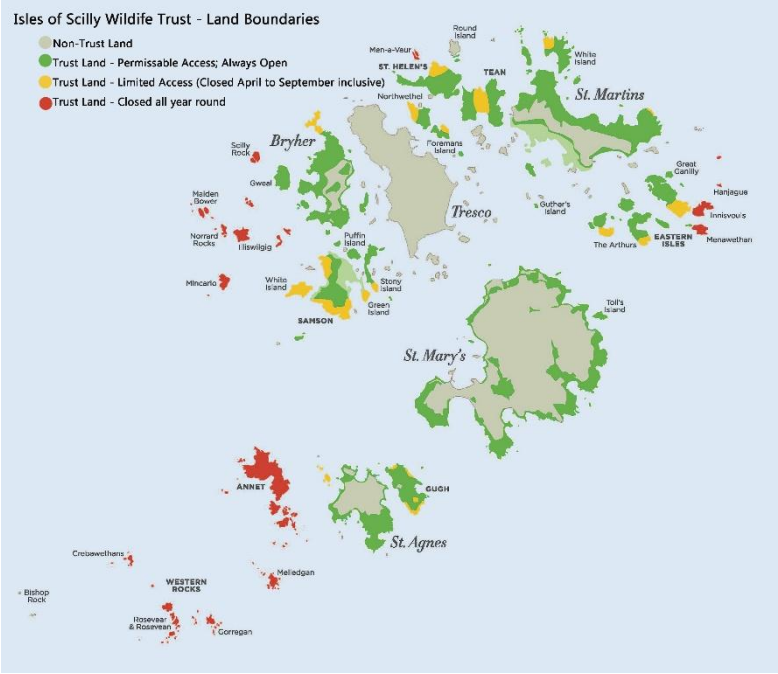
Moderate	Mod	<u>Technical Grade</u>		
Difficult	Diff			
Very Difficult	VDiff			
Hard Very Difficult	HVD			
Severe	S	Bold	Normal	Safe
Hard Severe	HS	3c	4a	4b
Very Severe	VS	4a	4b/4c	5a
Hard Very Severe	HVS	4b	4c/5a	5b
Extreme 1	E1	5a	5b	5c
Extreme 2	E2	5a	5b/5c	6a
Extreme 3	E3	5b	5c	6a
Extreme 4	E4	5c	6a	6b
Extreme 5	E5	6a	6b	6c

On the next page there is a table to give a brief summary of all the known crags on the Islands. It also shows the number of climbs in various grade ranges as well as any environmental restraints.

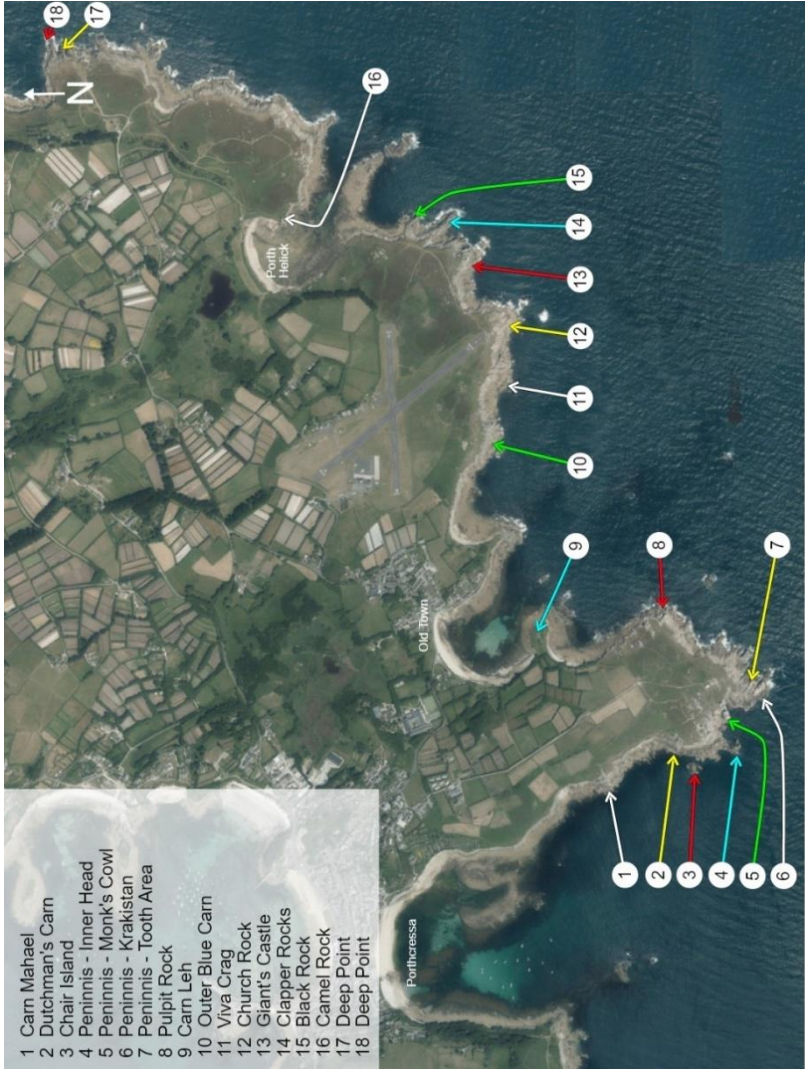
Page Number	Crag Number	Crag Name	Number of Routes	Up to Severe	HS - HVS	E1 - E3	E4+	Face Direction	Tide State	Sea State
21	1	Carn Mahael	3	2	1	0	0	SE	Mid - Low	Calm
24	2	Dutchman's Carn	9	7	2	0	0	S	Any	Any
30	3	Chair Island	3	3	0	0	0	S	Mid - High	Calm
32	4	Peninnis Inner Head	19	0	12	6	1	Mainly S	Mid	Calm
43	5	Monk's Cowl NW Face	7	1	3	1	2	NW	Any	Any
47	5.2	Monk's Cowl SW Face	1	0	0	1	0	SW	Low	Calm
49	5.3	Monk's Cowl SE Face	10	2	4	2	0	SE	Mid - Low	Calm
54	5.4	Peninnis Outer Head, Krakistan	14	2	4	8	0	SW	Various	Mild
60	5.5	Peninnis Outer Head, NE Face	5	0	5	0	0	NE	Low	Calm
63	6	Pulpit Rock	5	1	4	0	0	NE	Any	Any
68	7	Carn Leh	14	8	6	0	0	SE	Any	Any
72	8	Outer Blue Carn	14	5	9	0	0	Mainly S	Various	Mild
80	9	Viva Carn	2	0	0	2	0	SW	Low	Calm
82	10	Church Rock	1	0	1	0	0	SW	Any	Calm
84	11	Giants Castle	5	0	3	2	0	SW	Various	Mild
94	12	Clapper Rocks	2	0	2	0	0	SW	Low	Calm
96	13	Tom Butt's Bed	6	0	5	1	0	E	Very Low	Calm
101	14	Camel Rock	5	4	1	0	0	S	Any	Any
107	15	Deep Point	6	0	4	2	0	SE	Various	Mild
112	16	St Martins - Carn Wethers	3	0	2	1	0	SE	Low	Calm
115	17	St Agnes - Beat Carn	1	0	1	0	0	W	Any	Any
116	17.2	St Agnes - Castle Brose	7	2	4	1	0	SW	Very Low	Calm

Useful Maps

Land Access Map



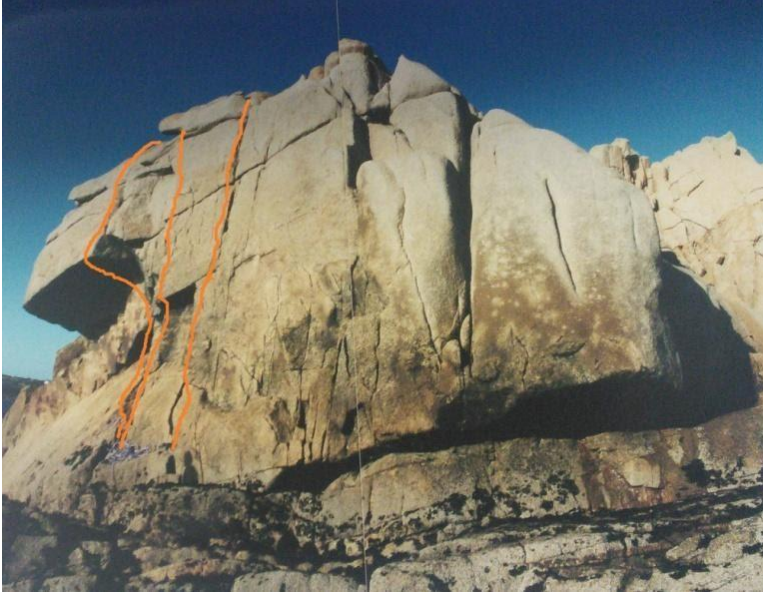
Map of St Mary's



If you are looking for the best physical map. Then the OS explorer map number 101 covers the Isles of Scilly.

1 Carn Maheal

 Low and Calm.  No.  SE Face.



Carn Maheal: Before and After!

1 Scilly Appeal HS 4a



This is an interesting start to the guide as the first two climbs (noted with a *) are now not there due to a massive chunk of the crag being ripped off by the tide. These climbs are likely to have been unrepeated before the rockface was changed. Carn Maheal is situated off the coast path halfway between Porthcressa and Peninnis. It is not an easy crag to spot and due to tidal restrictions and with only one climb left, this area is rarely visited. With a copy of the original picture, this is a great place to visit to see just what the power of the sea can do to the supposedly solid granite rocks of Scilly.

1.1 *Porthcressa peeler. E1 5a

Mat Johnson, Murray Hodgson 30 Jan 2001

1.2 *Monte Carlo or Bust. HVS 4c

Mat Johnson, Murray Hodgson. 30 Jan 2001

1.3 Scilly Appeal. HS 4a (Originally before rockfall HVS 4c)

8m. The last remaining climb. It has changed since its first ascent as the top 2/3s are now an arête rather than a straight face. Although the protection is scarce, it is good.

Mat Johnson, Murray Hodgson. 30 Jan 2001

20m to the South lies the cave of wonders. A small cave with a few mini boulder problems inside plus,

1.4 Onwards and Upwards. S.

 Mid and Calm.  No.  SE Face.

12m. To avoid rope drag could be two pitches! Possibly the shortest multi pitch you'll ever do!

7m. Climb the left-hand wall of the cave (looking inwards), across the roof and out the window.

5m. From the window head out and up through the off width gap between rocks.

Wez and Craig. 19 Dec 2020

1.5 Am I missing a toe? S 4a

 Mid and Calm.  No.  SW Face.

Just to the South of the Cave,

7m. An easy climb on good holds. Some holds are a bit spaced out with not much protection in between.

Climb the face, holds on the arête make it easier.

Wez and Craig. 19 Dec 2020

5 Am I missing a toe? S



2 Dutchman's Carn

2.1 Dutchman's Carn East



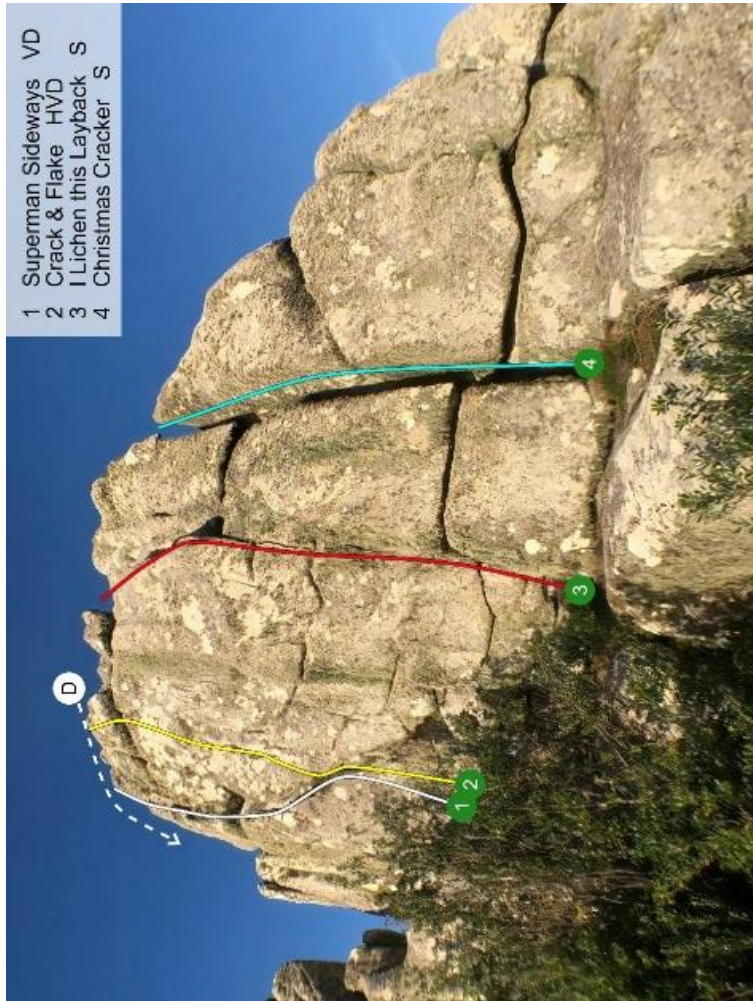
Any.



No.



S Face.



Dutchman's Carn is reached by heading right towards Hugh town from Peninnis Lighthouse.

There are three different buttresses on the south side of the Carn, the first two being much easier than the lower buttress which offers harder climbs, one of which is a particularly trick climb. The top can also be accessed by a scramble (Mod) to the left of *Superman Sideways*.

2.1.1 Superman Sideways. VD

7m. Follow the obvious big crack up and left.

Wez and Craig. April 2020

2.1.2 Crack and Flake. HVD

7m. A more direct route taking in a couple of enjoyable moves, nice spike for a 60cm sling halfway.

Wez and Craig. April 2020

2.1.3 I lichen this layback. S ★

7m. A great small climb, though hairy. Follow the finger crack up, when it finishes at 5m, stay on the face and continue to the top.

Wez and Craig. April 2020

2.1.4 Christmas Cracker S

A deep and hairy offwidth which can often feel like you are getting pushed out.

Wez Swain. 24 Dec 2021

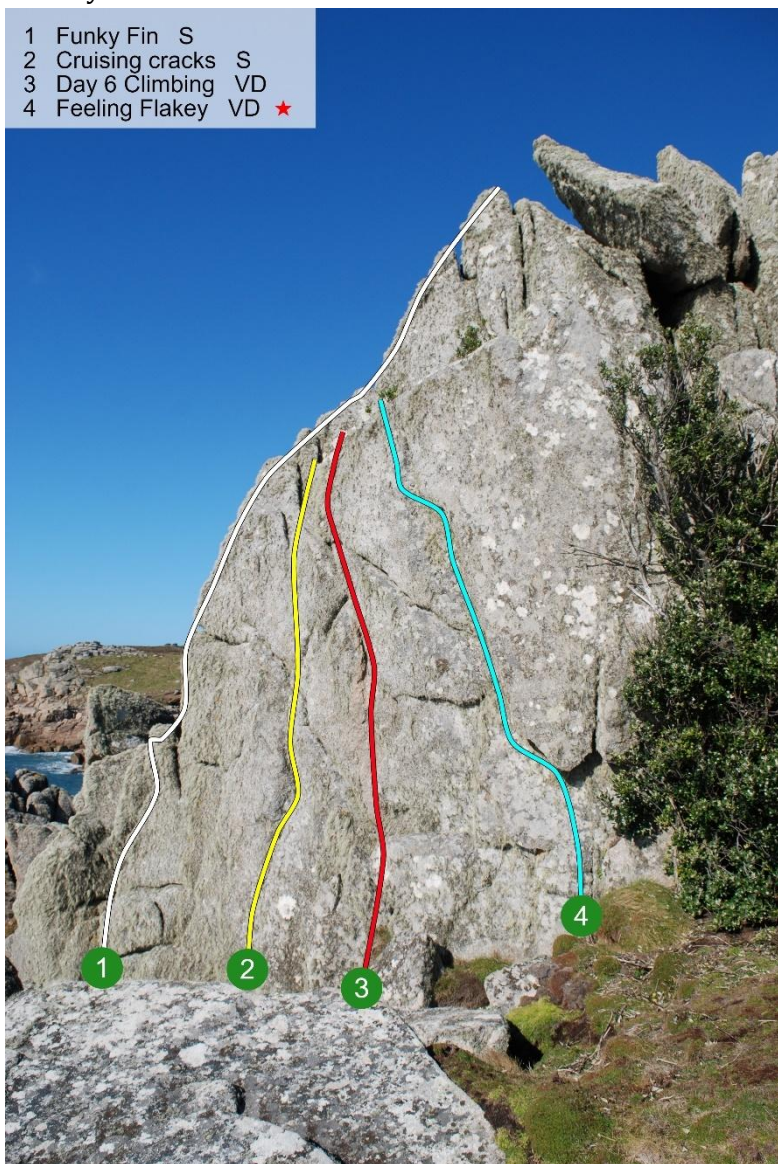


Inset – View from Porthcressa, South side of Dutchman's Carn

2.2 Dutchman's Carn Middle

 Any.  No.  S Face.

- | | | |
|---|-----------------|------|
| 1 | Funky Fin | S |
| 2 | Cruising cracks | S |
| 3 | Day 6 Climbing | VD |
| 4 | Feeling Flakey | VD ★ |



Four short and easy climbs here. The last three can also be easily rigged for a top rope. The top can also be accessed by a scramble (Mod) to the left of *Superman Sideways*.

2.2.1 Funky fin S.

8m. A short fun climb up the arête, slightly trickier in places.

Wez and Craig. March 2021

2.2.2 Cruising Cracks S

8m. Follow the thin crack before joining the top of *Day 6 Climbing*

Wez and Craig. March 2021

2.2.3 Day 6 climbing VD

7m. A nice short simple climb.

Wez and Craig. March 2021

2.2.4 Feeling flaky VD ★

7m. A short fun climb up the big flake.

Wez and Craig. March 2021

On the back side of this crag is a 70 degrees simple face of about 15m which can be fun for very young children.

2.3 Dutchman's Carn West



Any and Calmish.

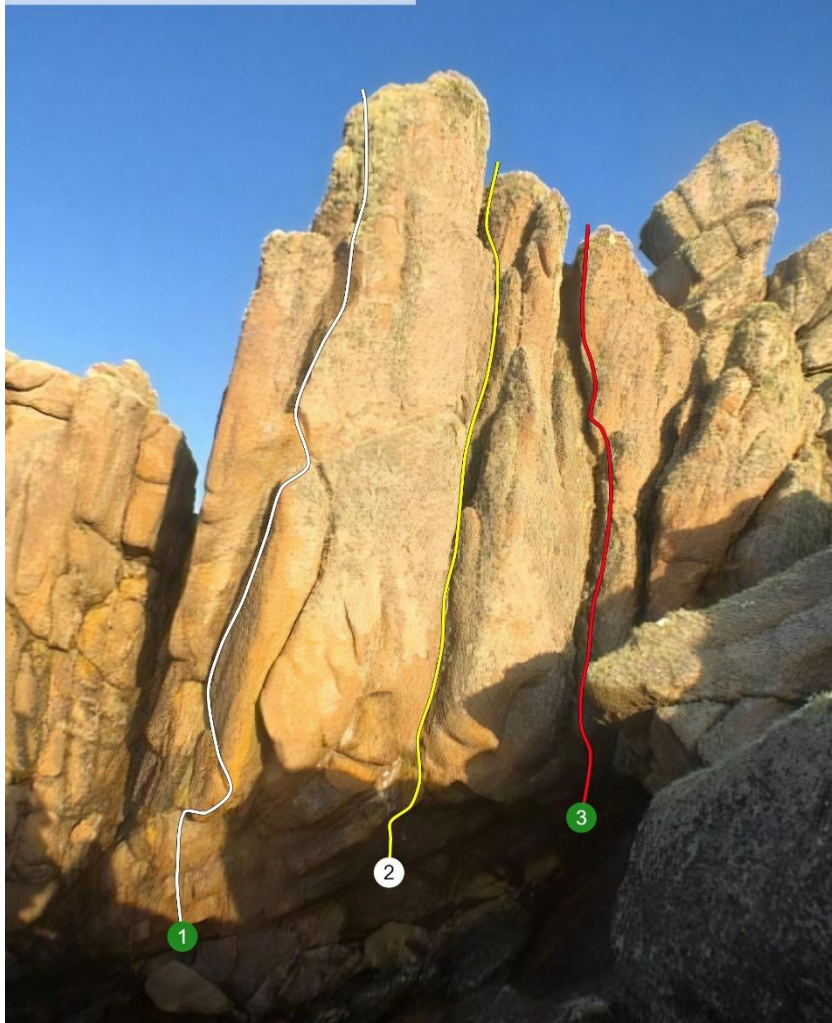


No.



SW Face.

- 1 Bring out the Butterfly HVS 4c ★
- 2 Brutal Beginnings ★
- 3 Deceptive Daydreams S



This rock provides some interesting and challenging climbs, though it can be a bit brittle. In two sessions we have broken off three holds, whereas this hasn't happened on any of the other rocks over the last two seasons. If you love picking lichen from your pants, then these are some climbs for you!

2.3.1 Bring out the butterfly HVS. 4c ★

A tricky start, followed by a lovely layback. The middle horizontal crack (on the seaward face) can be used for feet here and a tricky mantelshelf to stand up on before a simpler finish. A harder variation is to not use the middle crack for hands and to get inverted on the hand jam; get gymnastically upside down with your foot in the horizontal crack before cranking on it to gain the next vertical flare. This adds a couple of grades.

Wez and Craig. 23 April 21

2.3.2 Brutal Beginnings. Ungraded. ★

As the name suggests, a very strenuous start up a high off-width. Once established, which may take a lot of effort, the top of the route is gained with easier effort.

This is hard to grade as the first 5m is much harder, likely HVS 5b, a high placed number 6 Camalot makes for a safer start. This is followed by an easy Severe for the next 8m.

Wez and Craig. 23 April 21

2.3.3 Deceptive Daydreams S 4a

As the name suggests, it looks easy, but it is a bit tricky. Starting on the sloped floor, after a hard start, delicately climb up being very wary of the potential of breaking holds. Try to stick to the crack as much as possible.

Wez and Craig. 23 April 21

3 Chair Island.

A small island just off from Dutchman's Carn. This is a little island with a steep entry into the water and as such is a Deep-Water Solo arena. Although steep faces, there is one rock set back a couple of meters behind the landing of the SE face so please be mindful of your body position and how you may fall.



As this guide is for Trad routes, please see [UKClimbing.com](https://www.ukclimbing.com) for more details of Andy Pemberton's 3 DWS's from Sept '21.

3.1.1 Armchair S0 F5

8m. The SE face of 'The Chair' island is above deep water. This DWS traverses in from the right (facing in) and pulls steeply into cracks. Probably best at mid tide as the easiest entry has your feet in the barnacles and to go higher looks nails.

Andy Pemberton. 03 Sept 2021.

3.1.2 Sofa S0 F5+

8m. The SE face and S arête of 'The Chair' island are above deep water. This S0 DWS F5+ shares the start of 'Armchair' by traversing in from the right (facing in) but continues on a rising diagonal line, with funky moves pulling into and then out of a hanging groove on the southern arête. Finish with a mantle onto a suspiciously white ledge (not as disgusting as it sounds but stay well clear in the nesting season). Pink line on topo. Probably best at mid tide as the easiest entry has your feet in the barnacles and to go higher looks nails.

Andy Pemberton. 03 Sept 2021.

3.1.3 Deckchair. S0 f3

7m. Climbs cracks in the seaward side of the southern arête of 'The Chair' island. Not visible from shore. Either access from a SUP / boat etc or, even better, traverse in from the northern end of the west face about halfway up the crag via a "Northwest Face of Half Dome" style foot ledge (I may be pushing that a bit but it is fun) and downclimb the bottom of the route to start. The rock is perfect and the moves are lovely. A great easy DWS. S0 F3. Start is shown with the green arrow on the topo.

Andy Pemberton. 03 Sept 2021.

4 Peninnis Head

4.1 The Inner head.

The Inner Head holds many impressive and hard climbs including the classic test pieces of 'The Alien' and 'Robin Bastard.' Here is the nearest to land, *North* Eastward face. This rock is closest to Porthcressa and although classed as the Inner Head, this is before you cross onto the main 'island' of the Inner Head.

4.1.1 Spanked Scilly - HVS 5a



Mid to low and Calm.



No.



E Face.

A fun pitch with a committing move into a crack line on the arête with its sinking finger locks before a finish on rounded holds for more open-handed slapping

Jude Spancken. May 2011

On the seaward side of this rock is

4.1.2 Angel Fire E2 5c



Low (if roped, High if DWS)



No.



W Face.

12m. Start at the seaweed strewn slab at the Northern end. Enter a tiny square cut groove on the arête and follow until you are forced right around the arête to a deep cut horizontal break. Follow the rising diagonal crack to

If you climb this as a DWS, beware, you need to jump quite a long way out to avoid the shelf at the base of the route.

Mark Dicken. 1999. DWS.

1 Spancked Scally HVS 5a



1 Angel Fire E2 5c



4.2 The Inner head.



Mid and Calm.



No.



Climbs in all directions.



A view from land across 'The Cauldron' to The Inner Head.

To get to the Inner Head, travel towards Peninnis Lighthouse, turn right and you will see the Inner Head in the sea.

During high tide or rough sea's this crag becomes an island, so although the climbs are mainly non tidal, to get there (and back again) you need to watch the tides.

Near high tide (around 3.5m) you will get wet feet climbing to or from the inner head. If the sea state is rough, even at low tide you will get wet passing onto the Inner Head. (All climbs have a mid-tide symbol due to this.)

The first of the high rocks on the Northeast (Landward) Face holds *Rising Tide*. On two other corners of this block are *Robin Bastard* and *Alien*.

4.2.1 Rising Tide HS 4a



Mid and Calm.



No.



E Face.

10m. On the inner head, facing the shore. At the diagonally opposite corner to *Robin Bastard*, climb the crack just left of the arête until it peters out at half height and then make a difficult move rightwards around the arête using a horizontal break to a vertical flake. Follow this to the top (crux). Descend via retrievable / simultaneous abseil.

UFA

4.3 Peninnis Inner head - Southwest face.



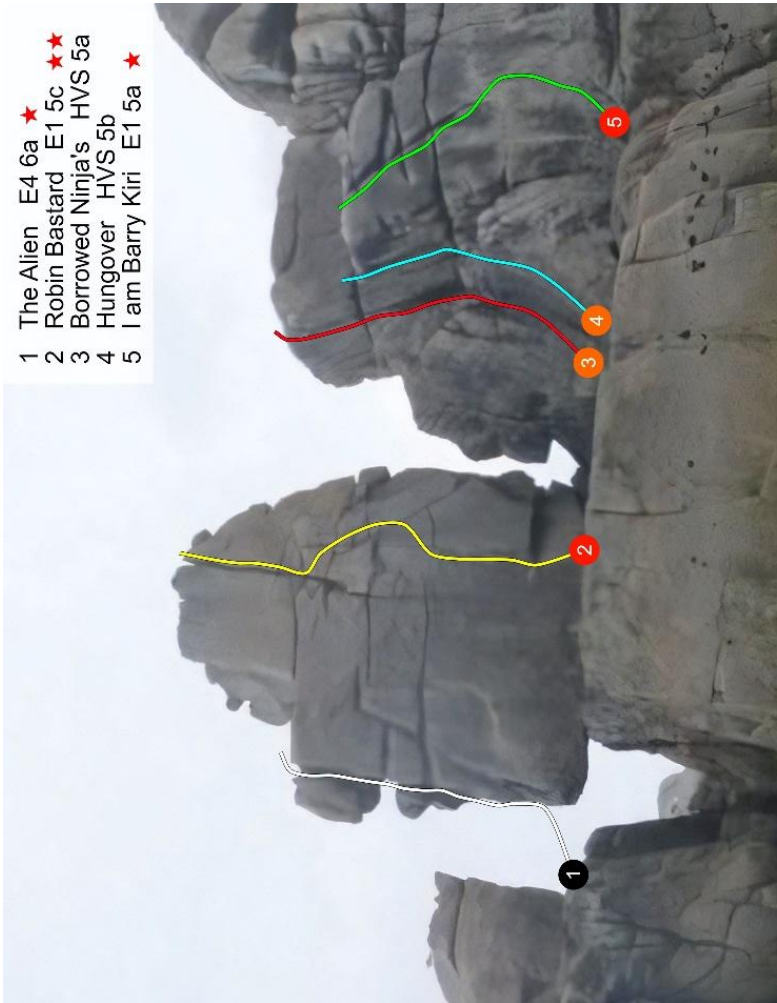
Mid and Calm.



No.



Many directions.



4.3.1 The Alien E4 6a ★

🌀 Mid and Calm. 🧑 No. 🧭 N Face.

8m. Starts with a committing step across a gully which leaves you feeling off balance from the start. Rounded cracks lead up to the 'alien', which is climbed to the top. A cunning lasso over a rounded ledge provides protection.

Andy Grieve, Sean Hawken. July 1997
(Also graded E1 with Rope brick!)

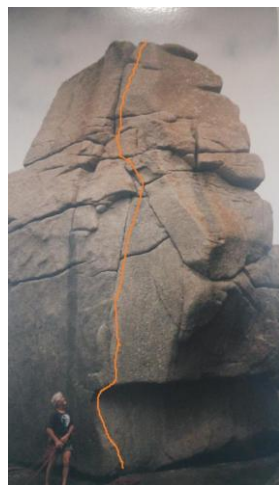
4.3.2 Robin Bastard E1 5c ★★

🌀 Mid and Calm. 🧑 No. 🧭 SW Face.

10m. Start 6m right of The Alien, at a clean slabby wall. A boulder style start to an off-balance climb. Climb the wall and follow a thin (but widening) crack at the top.

Andy Grieve, Sean Hawken, R Plymouth. Sept 1996

Picture: Murray Hodgson at Robin Bastard.



4.3.3 Borrowed Ninja's E1/HVS 5a

🌀 Mid and Calm. 🧑 No. 🧭 NW Face.

7m. A small but overhanging crack climb. Just right of *Robin Bastard*.

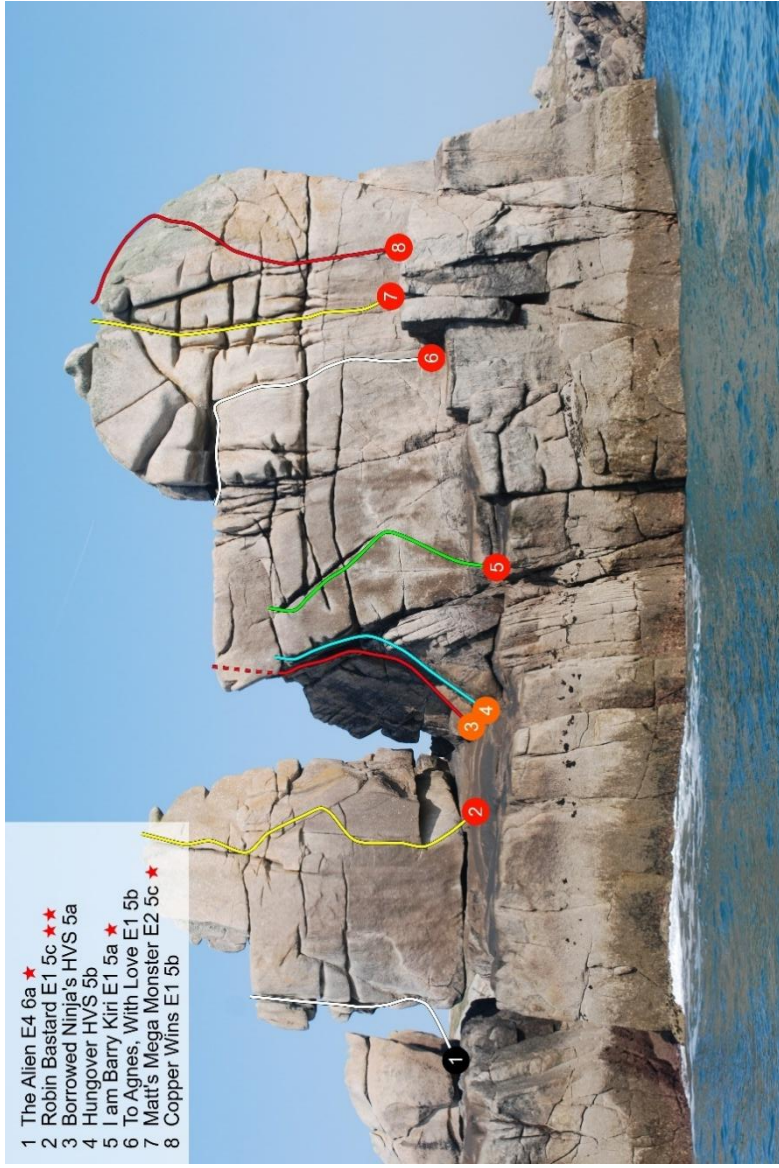
Mat Johnson. 1999

4.3.4 Hungover HVS 5b

🌀 Mid and Calm. 🧑 No. 🧭 NW Face.

6m. A very small but overhanging crack climb to the right of Hungover.

Mat Johnson. 1999



4.3.5 I am Barry Kiri E1 5a ★

7m. A thin set of cracks that feel not quite good enough.

Mark Dicken. July 1999

4.3.6 With love to Agnes E1 5b

7m. A Hand Jam struggle.

Mat Johnson. July 1999

4.3.7 Matt's Mega Monster E2 5c

10m. This route was put up by Matt in 2001, however on UKC it was reclinbed by James Cootes under the name

Whose idea was this? E3 5c. I have used James's description of the route below.

12m. The face contains three main deep bulging cracks. This climb uses any, or a combination of all three. The climb looks way easier than it is. Needs time to dry, much harder if at all wet or greasy. It can be started on the smaller tidal ledges below at a similar grade.

From the main ledge take the curving right crack to gain the first horizontal break. This is the only resting point. Then choose your crack wisely and use plenty of chalk and friction. The holds are plentiful but they're mostly bulging slopers that never quite seem to be good enough. Gear is great all the way, mostly large cams.

Mat Johnson May 2001. (WIWT - James Cootes. Sept 2020.)

4.3.8 Copper E1 5b

10m. Steep intake moves left to a rest place, continues up a lichen covered flake to finish.

Mat Johnson. 1999

4.4 The Inner Head: Southeast Face.



Mid and Calm.



No.



SW Face.



The South Face holds some fun lines, with Trident being at the top for aesthetics.

4.4.1 The trouble with litchen. ★ HVS 4c.

13m. Starting from the left arête move up a little then traverse right to find the crack and hidden holds. Move left again when you reach the rounded boulder jugs then again back right and up to finish.

James Cootes. Sept 2020.

4.4.2 Trident HS 4b ★★ (Originally graded VS 4c)

13m. A rewarding pitch. From the reef, move left and scramble down a boulder-filled gully to a ledge and start here. Step down and leftwards onto the arête (tricky) and traverse the face to a beautiful wide crack, which is climbed with a finish to the left.

Option 2 is to top rope, abseil down to the lowest point and enjoy the pure crack.

D and J Basset. 1977

4.4.3 Poseidon HS 4a

13m. Same start as Trident but following the smaller crack in the middle of the face before pulling over the last boulder.

Wez Swain. 5 Sept 2020

4.4.4 Inner Arête HS

13m. This arête gives nice climbing, just with little in the way of gear.

Mat and Murray. 1999.

4.4.5 Rock VS

7m. A very short but sweet climb.

UFA

4.4.6 Paper HVS.

8m. A slightly longer climb up the middle of the face,
Traversing R – L. UFA.

4.4.7 Scissors. HVS

7m. Same start but following the right-hand arête from
halfway. UFA

4.4.8 Curving Crack HVS 5a

This climb is on the Northeast side on rock.

20m. Start beneath the obvious black slab split by a curving
crack, which faces The Monk's Cowl. Climb the crack and the
lighter-coloured block above to the top of the Inner Head.

Andy Grieve, Sean Hawken. July 1997

5 The Monk's Cowl,

5.1 Northwest Face.

 Any.  No.  NW Face.

This is the first most obvious crag at Peninnis. It holds many short but surprisingly challenging climbs for their grades.

The climbs are mainly open flares or some form of crack/chimney climb, but either way, they don't give up without a fight.

To the left of 'The Canine tooth / needle' is a small window. If you climb through this window, it will take you through to the Southeast face. Through the window is a 'windowsill'. This is a great place just to sit in a storm and be immersed in the characteristics of the islands!

5.1.1 Murray's Meander HS 4b

A route encompassing bits of the first 4 climbs on the Monks Cowl.

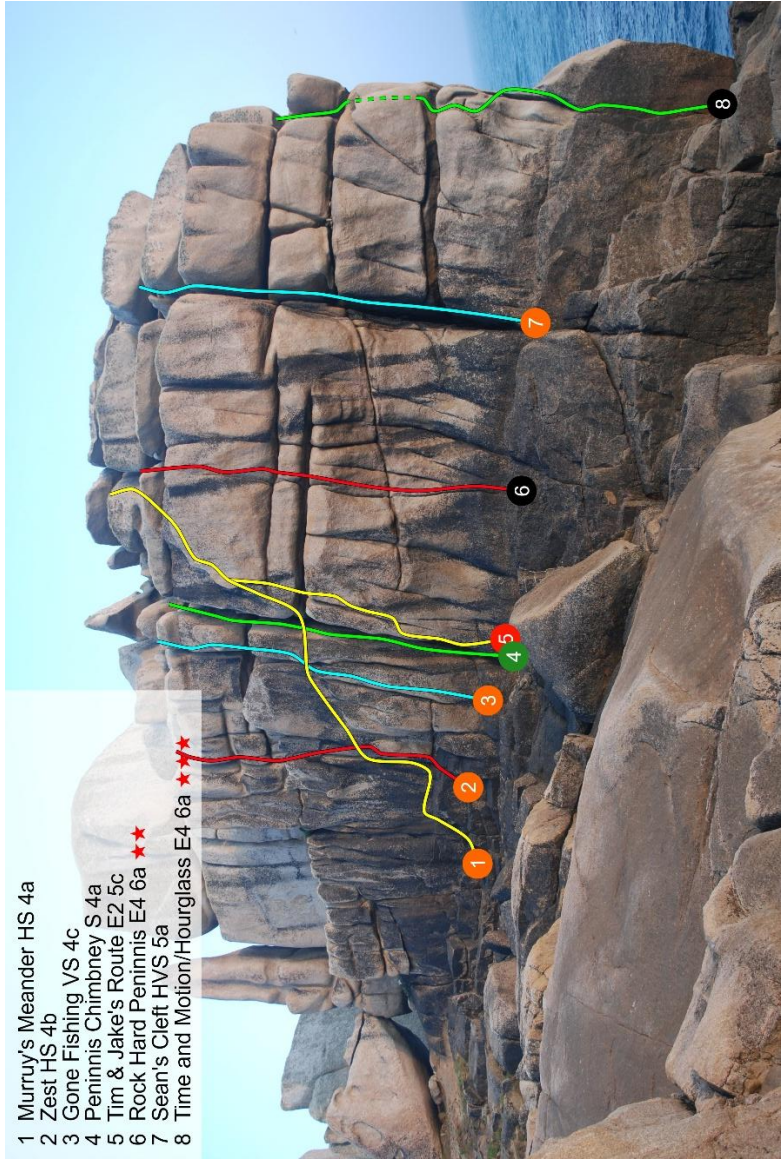
Murray, Matt and Mark. 1999.

5.1.2 Zest HS 4b

10m. A line of flakes and flares run up the landward side of the rock. Climb the wall for 3m then make interesting move left before following more flakes and flares to the top.

D and J Basset. 1977

- 1 Murruy's Meander HS 4a
- 2 Zest HS 4b
- 3 Gone Fishing VS 4c
- 4 Peninnis Chimney S 4a
- 5 Tim & Jake's Route E2 5c
- 6 Rock Hard Peninnis E4 6a ★★
- 7 Sean's Cleft HVS 5a
- 8 Time and Motion/Hourglass E4 6a ★★



5.1.3 Gone Fishing VS 4c

10m. Climb the cracks and flakes midway between Zest and *Peninnis Chimbley*.

Andy Grieve, Sean Hawken, R Plymouth. Sept 1996

5.1.4 Peninnis Chimbley S 4a

10m. Make awkward moves to enter the Chimney, after squirming and scrabbling it slowly leads more easily to the top. A good fun tussle.

D and J Basset. 1977

5.1.5 Tim and Jake's route E2 5c

10m. This Climb follows the crack starting just right from *Peninnis Chimbley*. A boulder start from the chimney heads right to the start of the crack which is a tricky move. Commit and gain the horizontal break. Follow the flake easily above to the right to top out.

Tim and Jake. 8 July 2021.

5.1.6 Rock Hard Peninnis E4 6b ★★

(Also known as 'When the boat comes in')

10m. An excellent climb, probably the hardest known climb on Scilly, which starts halfway between *Peninnis Chimbley* and *Sean's Cleft*. Follow the pair of steep cracks to horizontal breaks. Climb the faint continuation cracks and make steep, dynamic layaway moves to finish.

Andy Grieve, Sean Hawken, R Plymouth. Sept 1996

5.1.7 Sean's Cleft HVS 5a ★

15m. Climb the deep chimney near the right-hand side of the face. Another fun tussle.

Andy Grieve, Sean Hawken, R Plymouth. Sept 1996

5.1.8 Time and Motion E4 6a ★★★

(Also known as the Hourglass)

 Low or Calm.  No.  NW Face.

20m. The seaward arête. Start beneath an 'hourglass' feature, at a shallow black corner. This corner is a very balancy climb on tiny holds and thin corner crack. Follow the groove to the 'hourglass', which takes a sling. Continue left to gain the next horizontal break before moving right into a flared offwidth. After gaining the top of the off-width finish easily up the groove and flakes to the top.

Andy Grieve, Sean Hawken, R Plymouth. Sept 1996

5.2 The Monk's Cowl - Southwest Face.

 Low and Calm.  Yes.  SW Face.

The Southwest face holds the classic test piece in my opinion, the best climb on the Isles of Scilly;



Fear of the Furnace E2 5c ★★★

20m. Starting from the low tide lower ledge, (which is dry at most states of tide if there is little swell) Climb what looks like a simple slabby crack, which proves to be the first crux, on greasy slopey holds with difficulty.

A rest can be gained to the left or carry straight up and rightwards to start the second crux, a tricky boulder problem to get into 'the window'.

From here climb the crack line to the flake above. The third crux is committing to the move leftwards around the edge of the flake before pulling over for a rest before the final crux.

The top crux involves a tricky rockover to the right, followed by a slappy sloper move to top out, a good jug, although out of sight at the start of the move is not far off once you commit to the movement upwards.

In the original West Cornwall guidebook it was also noted, "at high tide and in good conditions could be tackled as a DWS" but be warned, there is a ledge underneath visible at low tide, and the last bold move at around 18m above the sea is a fair commitment for a DWS.

'Azzzy.' 1990's

5.3 The Monk's Cowl – Southeast Face.



Mid to Low and Calm.



Optional.



SE Face.

The Monks Cowl South Face holds some of the classic lines, it is often the face of choice for visiting climbers. With its impressive unclimbed* big overhanging roof and many other features it really is a great day out if the tide and waves allow.

**Below is a new aid route on the overhang, but, to date, it has not been climbed free.*

5.3.11 Deep Crack. Awaiting FA

Normally I wouldn't put in an unclimbed line, however, I would like to see climbers notice it and give it a consideration. This incredible line follows a set of deep cracks from the water line to the bottom of the overhang. Then the test begins! This amazing horizontal crack of about 2.5m slowly gets wider until it corners over to a featureless slab. There are many battles waiting to happen here. I would love to be there if someone eventually finds a sequence!

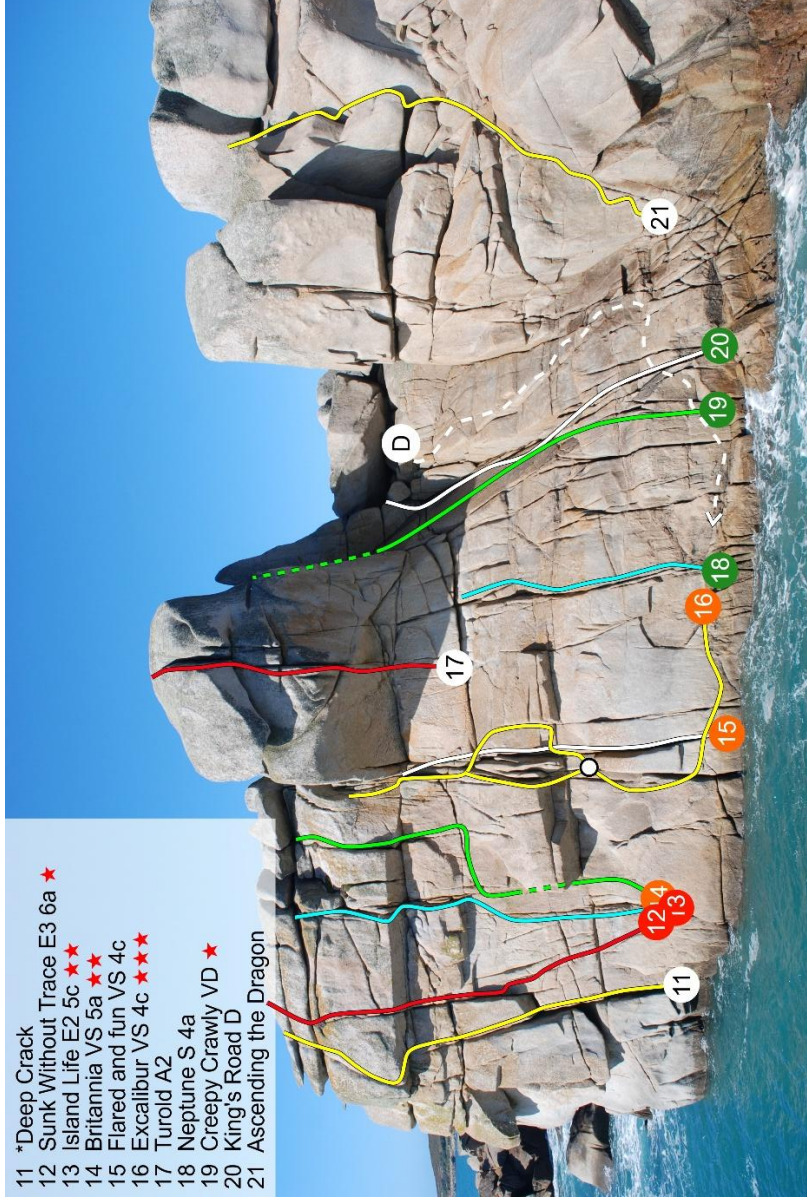
5.3.12 Sunk Without Trace E3 6a ★★

25m. A fine line up the striking undercut crack on the left side of the south face. Traverse left along the base of the wall and belay below *Britannia's* lower corner.

Make a rising traverse leftwards to the deep crack and follow past a large block to the roof. Cross the roof and finish up the crack above.

Andy Grieve, Sean Hawken. July 1997

- 11 *Deep Crack ★
- 12 Sunk Without Trace E3 6a ★
- 13 Island Life E2 5c ★★
- 14 Britannia VS 5a ★★
- 15 Flared and fun VS 4c ★★
- 16 Excalibur VS 4c ★★
- 17 Turold A2
- 18 Neptune S 4a
- 19 Creepy Crawly VD ★
- 20 King's Road D
- 21 Ascending the Dragon



5.3.13 Island Life E2 5c ★

25m. From the *Sunk Without Trace* belay, climb the shallow crack just to the left and step into the corner at its top. There are two cracks above splitting the roof; gain the left-hand crack and climb it with difficulty to the top.

Andy Grieve, Sean Hawken. July 1997

5.3.14 Britannia VS 5a ★★

35m, 3 pitches. This line goes up the left edge of the overhang made by the gangway.

15m. From the spike at the base of the descent ramp traverse left past twin cracks to reach a square ledge.

15m. 4b. Climb the wall above, skirting an overhang on its left to follow a slabby corner, which leads to a ledge below the left edge of the upper overhang.

10m. 5a. Climb an overhanging groove to finish.

The last two pitches can also be done as one single pitch.

D and J Basset. 1977

5.3.15 Flared and fun VS 4c

With a similar start to *Excalibur* this climb follows the middle medium flared crack. On reaching the top, a simple walk off right, or join the steep enjoyable crack at the top of *Excalibur* to finish.

Wez and Craig. Sept 2022

5.3.16 Excalibur VS 4c ★★★

35m, 2 pitches. A worthwhile route with a great first pitch. Approach either by the decent ramp beneath the tooth (diff) or across a narrow ledge at the back of the zawn starting at a large ledge (original spike belay is now gone). Requires low tide.

1. 15m 4b. From the ledge, traverse seaward past the first faint crack, the medium crack and onto the larger crack.. Climb this to a pedestal belay left of an obvious corner.

2. 20m 4c. Climb the short corner to gain the gangway (optional belay) then climb the upper continuation corner left of the huge overhanging roof. This original route follows the topo line on the right.

D and J Basset. 1977

2a. 20m HVS 5a. From the pedestal head directly up through the left-hand crack of the overhang directly above. (Left line on topo) a great addition to this already great line, well worth the deviation from the original.

UFA

5.3.17 Turoid. A2

This is the only aid climb in the guide. The first Ascensionist, Mark Collins gave it 3 stars.

20m. Climb the crack vertically for three metres before striking out across the roof. The crack widens as the ground returns to the vertical and the crack is crossed by three breaks. From the furthest of these, awkwardly enter the squeeze chimney above and continue in this vein to just below the summit, where the crack ends and it is necessary to break out onto the slab and pad to the top. However, once reached there is nothing to belay from.

The first ascent was completed as a 'Lead rope solo', so the ascensionist was able to abseil down the north face, anchor the rope to the bottom and return to the south face to clean via the fixed rope.

Mark Collins. 12 Oct 2021.

5.3.18 Neptune S 4a

15m. From the spike at the base of the descent ramp, climb the rounded crack on the right of a sickle shaped break in the face and belay on the gangway. Escape up the gang way or finish up the final pitch of Excalibur.

D and J Basset. 1977

5.3.19 Creepy Crawly VD

30m, 2 pitches. Supposedly an outing of acquired taste.
15m. Climb the centre of the smooth slab.

15m. Climb a crack in left wall of the notch between the Tooth and the Main Head. Harder if you don't chimney climb. Crawl and worm around the back along the horizontal break. 'Interesting!'

D and J Basset. 1977

5.3.20 Kings' road D

15m. Climb the crack on the right of the smooth slab. Finish to the right of the base of the tooth. (not shown on topo)

D and J Basset. 1977

5.3.21 Ascending the Dragon. Ungradable.

 Any.  No.  SE Face.

A simple start followed by a brutal off width extravaganza that just wants to spit you out! A classic scraping and thrutching off-width extravaganza. It is easier leaving your harness behind to give more room to move.

4m. Start $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way down the descent ramp and climb a simple break to a large platform. Enter the off-width and enjoy.
Matt and Murray. 1999

5.4 Peninnis Outer Head - Southwest Face

Known locally as Krakistan!



High to Low and Calm.



No.



SW Face.

On the most Southern point on St Mary's lies the Outer Head. Make your way Southwest and you will find this fine wall with many features, and a whopping great sleeping giant on top. Climbers beware! Rumour has it that the jingle jangle of pro on a harness can wake the sleeping beast. Is it this reason alone why only a few climbers brave visiting the Isles of Scilly?!

With its large number of climbs of various grades, it really is one of the greatest areas on Scilly. Most climbs start from stepping over a gully about 1m wide and 4m deep, or at low tide from the bottom for the added adventure.

5.4.1 The Kraken's Krack D

8m. A simple wide crack climb at the North End of Krakistan. Wez Swain. 15 June 21

5.4.2 King Kraken E2 5b★★

A long traverse with lots of good jams with a few hard tussles thrown in for good measure.

20m. Following the first horizontal crack you come to. Head right then join *Caravan Convert* (At this point you can add a belay to save rope drag and cams if desired.) Take the top horizontal large crack heading right. Follow this in its entirety and finish up the last moves of *Out of the Trench*. The last section is the crux

Craig Evans. Aug 2021

5.4.3 Caravan Convert HVS 5c ★★

8m. The left-to-right diagonal crack near the left-hand end of the wall. A fine line also enjoyed by many pigeons!

Andy Grieve, Sean Hawken, R Plymouth. Sept 1996

5.4.4 Kracky Steve. HVS 5a ★★

A long traverse starting at *Caravan Convert* and finishing at the south end of the crag. Following the horizontal break in its entirety. Depending on how many middle size cams you have (BD 2 – 4) results in either 1 or two pitches.

The traverse relies upon good hand jams the whole way with poor feet, but with many rest points.

A fun climb, especially as the tide is coming in. To escape at high tide, climb up *Lost in the Crevasses / Don't wake the Kraken* Wez and Craig. 17.4.21

5.4.5 Catch a Pigeon E1 5a (Originally graded E3 6a)

8m. Climbs a straight line up through *Caravan Convert*, starting 2m to the right of that route.

Follow the obvious vertical line - the good flake on *Caravan Convert*, keep going straight up past a lay-back flake and a rounded groove above. The tougher top move gives it the grade.

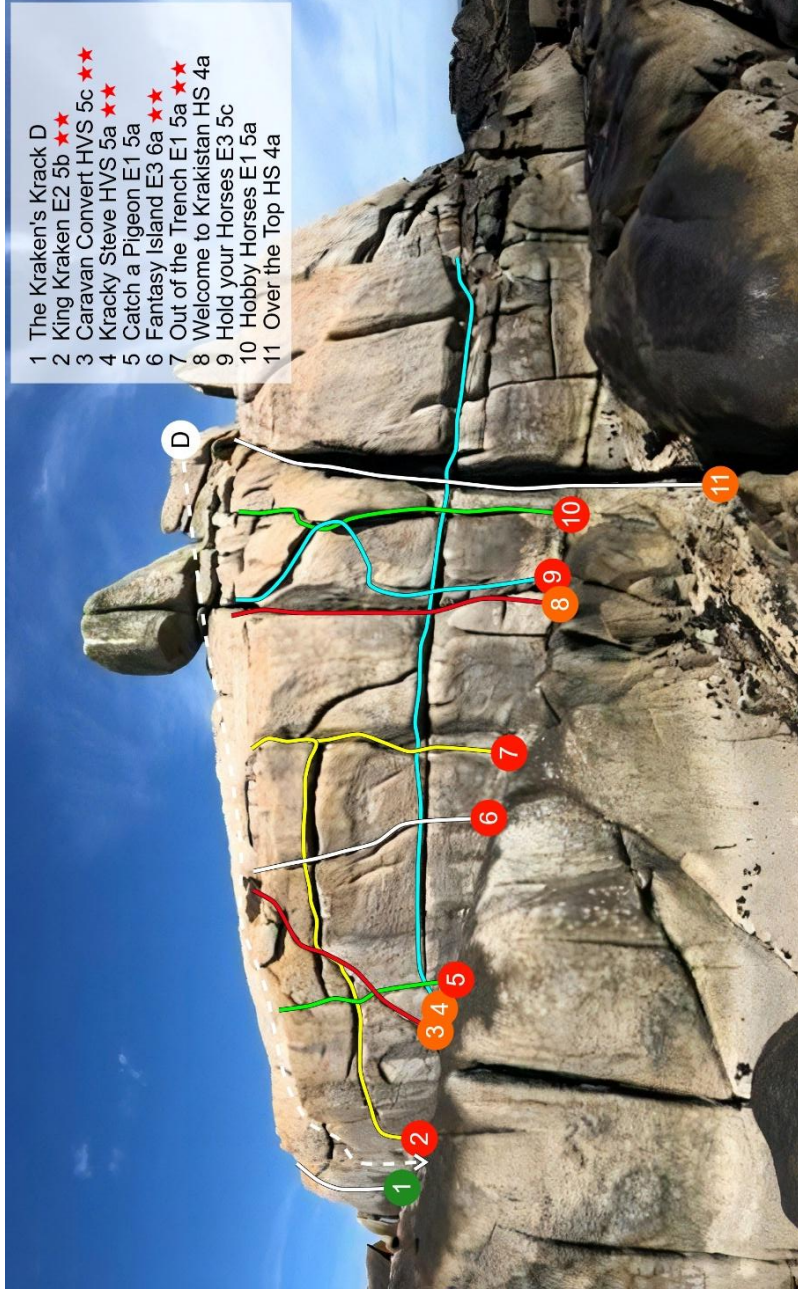
It is unclear how it gained its original grade.

UFA

5.4.6 Fantasy Island E3 6a ★★

8m. The staggered rounded cracks which start 5m right of *Caravan Convert* succumb to a good traditional tussle.

Andy Grieve, Sean Hawken, R Plymouth. Sept 1996



5.4.7 Out of the Trench E1 5a ★★

8m. Right of *Fantasy Island*. From little mineral ledges climb opposite the end of the main ledge the other side of the trench, up the deep crack with much huffing and puffing.

James Cootes. Sep 2020.

5.4.8 Welcome to Krakistan HS 4a

10m. Right of *Out of the Trench*, climb an enjoyable crack with a few good thrutching moves thrown in for good measure.

Wez and Craig. November 2020

5.4.9 Hold your Horses. E3 5c

8m. The more subtle crack line. An interesting 'horse's head' handhold appears near the top. Starting by *Welcome to Krakistan*, follow a line heading slightly right, before heading left on the flake.

James Cootes. Sep 2020

5.4.10 Hobby Horses. E1 5a.

A fun line to play with. Start in the chasm and head directly up the left-hand crack on the side of *Over the Top*. A few tricky moves, but an enjoyable climb.

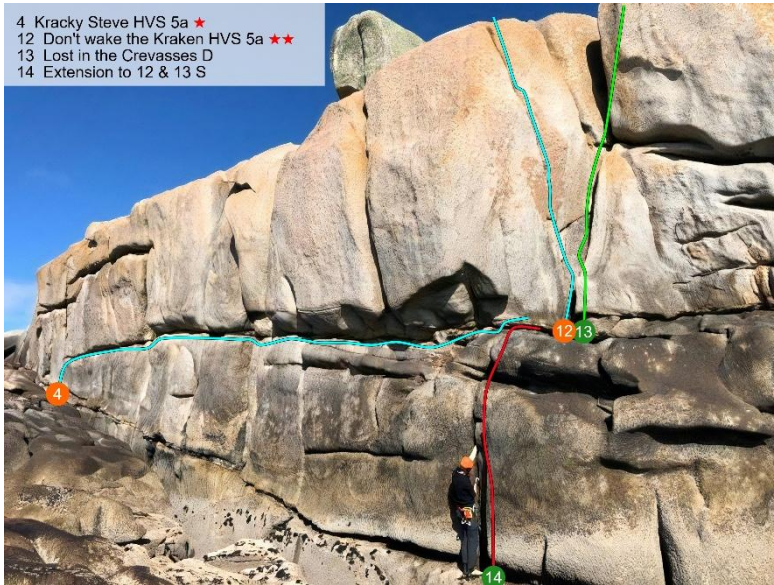
Wez and Craig. Aug 2021

5.4.11 Over the Top. HS 4a

8m. The large chasm type chimney is great fun. Plenty of thrutching. Don't do it in your best clothes!

James Cootes. Sept 2020

- 4 Kracky Steve HVS 5a ★
- 12 Don't wake the Kraken HVS 5a ★★
- 13 Lost in the Crevasses D
- 14 Extension to 12 & 13 S



5.4.12 Don't wake the Kraken HVS 5a ★★

🌀 Low and Calm. 🦎 Both. 🧭 SE Face.

8m. A fine thin crack at the Eastern end of the crag. A tricky crux in the middle of this short climb makes for a great climb, especially enjoyed in the sun. Can be extended with a short 3m climb from the normal base to the start by heading up a wide hand jamming crack. At high tide can be accessed from the top and abseiled into.

Wez and Craig. 17 April 2021

5.4.13 Lost in the Crevasses D

An enjoyable slabby crack climb on the inner corner of the Eastern edge and the same starting base as 'Awaken the Kraken'. A great introduction into a few different widths of crack and body jams.

James Cootes. Sept 2020



Craig Evans seconding *Fear of the Furnace* E2 5c. Belayed by the Author. 2021.

5.5 Peninnis Outer Head - North Face



Low and Calm.



No.



N Face.

- 1 Pray to the Tooth Fairy VS 4c ★
- 2 Pulling Teeth HVS 5a ★★★
- 3 Taming the JABerwocky HVS 5a
- 4 SWAK HVS 5a



All climbs on this face are notoriously wet within all cracks. (If it has rained at any point in the last 48hrs it will still be dripping!) Best after a day or two of complete dry weather with a North or Easterly wind. Head South past the lighthouse and onto the boulder field below. You should be able to see the obvious 'tooth' from there.

5.5.1 Pray to the tooth fairy? VS 4c ★

10m. Start from an obvious ledge. Follow the corner crack until you hold the bottom of the tooth. Traverse left and up until you find yourself with two options of off width cracks. Choosing what crack and which side of your body to put into the crack changes the grade up or down a notch or two! A fun climb.

Wez and Craig. 5 Nov 2020

5.5.2 Pulling teeth. HVS 5a ★★★

A really great climb, comfortably top 3 of its grade on Scilly.

10m. Use the same start as *Pray to the Tooth Fairy*, without using the side face on your right for feet. When you get to the tooth reach into a deep crack and shuffle upwards. A nice double shoulder jam gives a good rest after the crux before placing gear. Stay on the same face to finish.

Using the back wall for feet drops the grade to HS 4c.

Wez and Craig. Oct 2020

5.5.3 Taming the JABberwocky HVS 4c

A quick climb the day after my second Covid 19 Jab, hence the name. A relatively easy start gets you to the base of the main crack. What looks like a simple off width quickly becomes a classic off width battle, with two fist jams followed by a couple of meters of pure off width, but with just room for one arm in the crack, your options become limited quite quickly. Once you

reach the horizontal break in the left face, the climb eases, becomes safe and you realise you can't fall out, but still puts up a small fight for your poor beaten body!

Wez and Craig. 5 May 21

5.5.4 SWAK (Sealed with a Krak) HVS 5a ★★

A really interesting climb. You'll stay dry on a calm day, and it can be climbed at most tides, but we got wet on our windy attempt day. Although there is a good amount of protection, it all seems to get in the way of the climbing. A classic off width tussle which is really enjoyable. We had a seal lying back watching our lead sounding his approval!

This may be hard for the grade if you are new to crack climbing.
Wez and Craig. 17 May 21

5.6 Un named Rock.

There is also a small rock around the mid tide line between the outerhead and Pulpit rock.

5.6.1 Why not? VS 4c.

8m. A short climb on the most Southwestern corner with a crux about ½ way up. There are a couple of ways of doing this climb, one is easier than the other.

Wez and Craig. Dec 2021

6 Pulpit Rock.

6.1 West Face



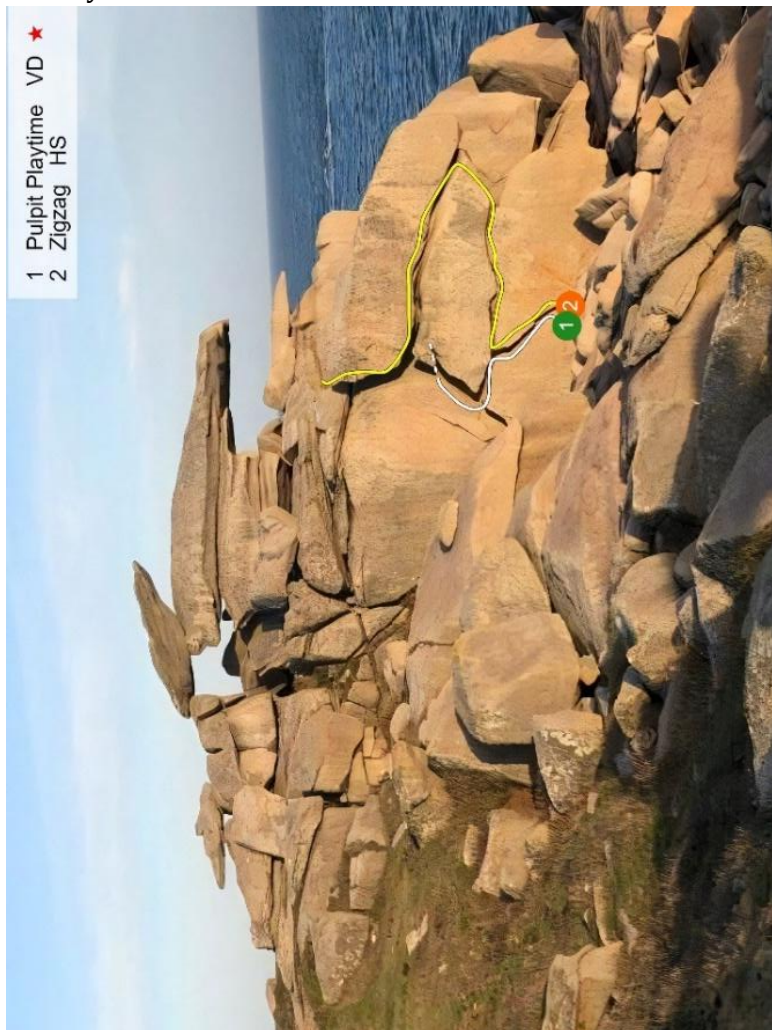
Any.



No.



SW Face.



6.1.1 Pulpit Playtime VD

15m. A fun little exploration climb can only be climbed as a solo. Start up the crack (the same first 2m of *Zigzag*) and traverse left then up and into the crack and out of sight from the start. Once inside traverse seaward. Step across the void and climb up the slab using the rock on the right. At the top walk across, then up a small chimney until you are under the Pulpit overhanging rock. For an added bonus the hand traverse with a horizontal body position underneath the rock is fun too. Wez Swain. March 2014

6.1.2 Zigzag HS

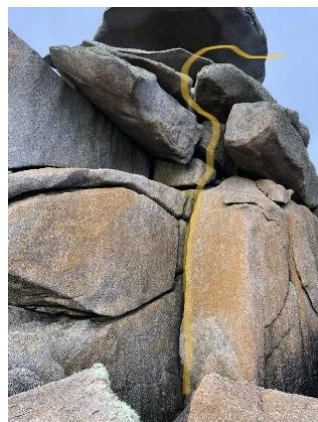
9m. On the west face is a detached boulder not part of the cantilever Pulpit Rock but has this one contrived but fun line on the face.

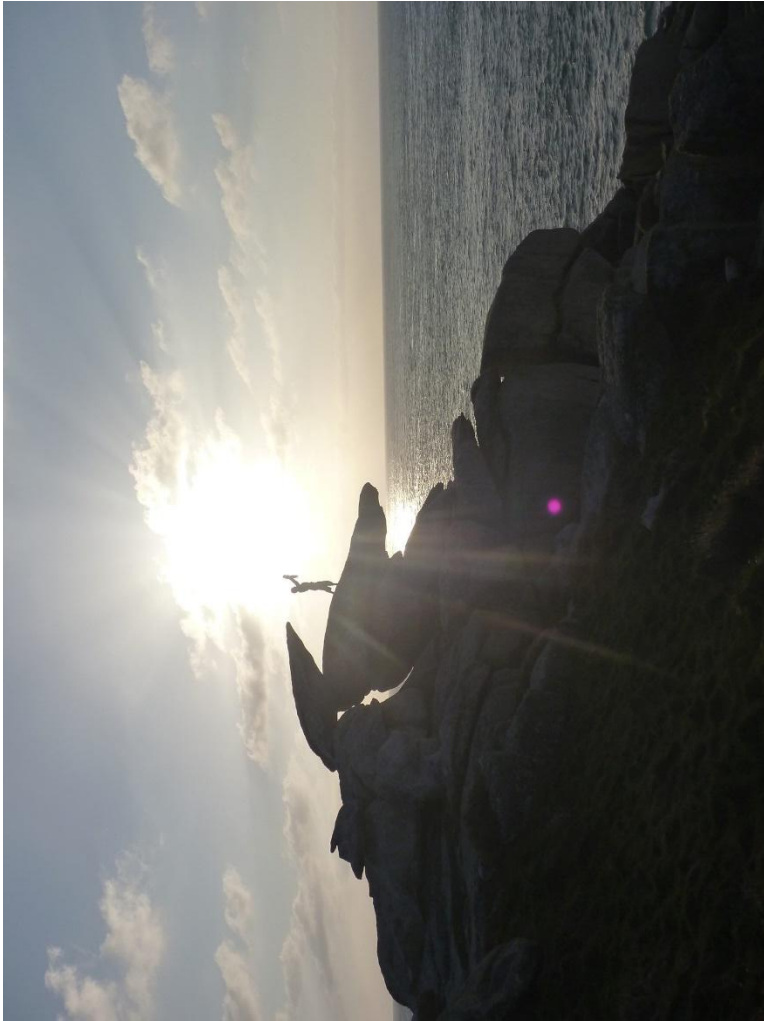
Take the curving crack to the first horizontal break. Hand traverse right until you can rock up and gain the second break. Then traverse back left into the main deep groove to summit. James Cootes. Sep 2020.

6.1.3 More Tea Vicar HS 4b

 Any.  No.  NE Face.

12m. Wide crack and corner system at the base of the cliff of the Pulpit Rock outcrop itself. Found on the right-hand side of the seaward face of the outcrop. Lead up and squirm through various gaps, trending left, to top out right under the overhanging capstone of Pulpit Rock. Dan Morrell and Matt George. 18 Sept 2018.





Pulpit Rock is a beautiful looking stack of granite. With an early winter sunrise, a perfect Lion King moment can be enjoyed here with your 2 month old daughter!

6.2 Pulpit Rock East Crop.

 Any.  No.  NE Face.

- 1 Opium of the People HVS 5a
- 2 Holy Crack HVS 5a



30m north of Pulpit Rock is a small, northeast-facing wall with several capping overhangs. Reached by scrambling around the north of the small buttress.

Although they made it into the guide, Matt's words to me were, "Don't waste your time to climbing these, it's often damp and there are so many better climbs nearby!"

6.2.1 Opium of the People HVS 5a

12m. A poor escapable route. Starting at the left-hand end of the wall, climb the breaks before a hard move using a sloping shelf and a side pull in a fluted crack gains the next horizontal break. Surmount this and move right under the next large roof. Pull up leftwards through a gap in the roof, using a juggy hold in the next roof above. Either go straight up via the next break to the top, or move left under the roof, before pulling up and moving rightwards to gain the same top-out.

*Matt George. Sept 2018

*James Cootes Sept 2017 is also recognised as climbing this with an earlier ascent on UKC

6.2.2 Holy Crack HVS 5a

12m. On the right side of the wall, a short offwidth crack is gained by climbing a grassy corner. Go up the offwidth and continue straight up through the roofs via copious amounts of lichen and scratly rock.

Dan Morrell. Sept 2018

7 Carn Leh



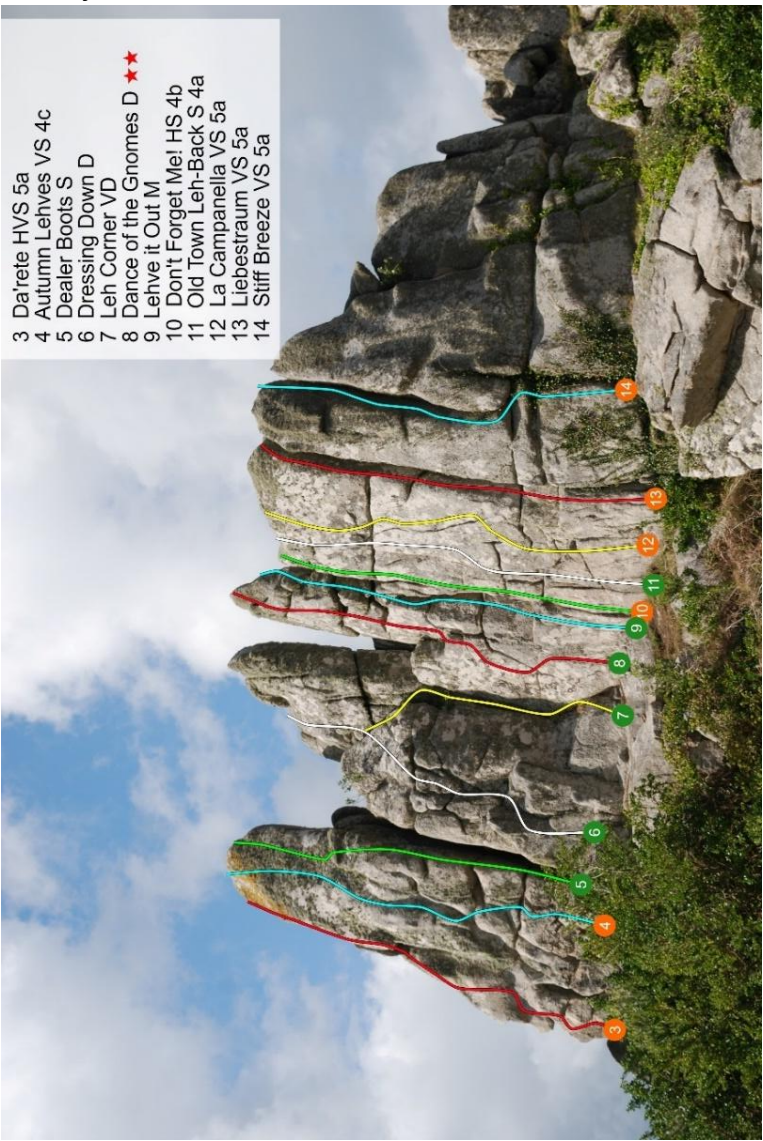
Any.



No.



SE Face.



This small crag is situated between Peninnis and Old Town on the Coast Path. The quickest way is to head to Old town, then back West past the old church. There are some good climbs here, and it's great for small introduction groups. There are better areas if your time is short, however it is a lovely non tidal crag enjoyed in the afternoon sun.

7.1 West Crack S

6m. Climb the jamming crack in the middle of the narrow west face of the crag. A good test of jamming technique for the grade. Dan Morrell, 18 Sept 2018

7.2 Chimleh VD

8m. Climb the wide chimney on the right side of the west face. Matt George, 18 Sept 2018

7.3 Da'rete HVS 5a

9m. An interesting climb, however, the large flake $\frac{3}{4}$ up feels pretty weak and sketchy. This flake provides holds and gear – be warned.

Dan Morrell. 18 Sept 2018

7.4 Autumn Lehes VS 4c

9m. Start 3 metres right of the left arête of the main face of the crag. Move up using rounded flakes, avoiding the chimney groove to the right. Gain a small ledge before climbing the final slab that leads to the top of the pinnacle. Take a long sling for the top.

Matt George, 18 Sept 2018

7.5 Dealer Boots S

8m. Gain a small ledge before climbing the final slab that leads to the top of the pinnacle. Take a long sling for the top.

Dan Morrell. 18 Sept 2018

7.6 Dressing Down D

8m. Climb the short wall between the chimney and the corner on pleasant holds. At the top of the wall, step right and climb the adjacent pinnacle to its top.

Matt George, 18 Sept 2018

7.7 Leh Corner VD

8m. A nice simple climb up the corner then onto the face of one of the pinnacles.

Dan Morrell, 18 Sept 2018

7.8 Dance of the Gnomes ★★ D

8m. A pleasant climb. Climb the wall between the corner and the groove.

Matt George, 18 Sept 2018

7.9 Lehve it Out M

8m. Climb the easy groove to the top of the crag.

Matt George, 18 Sept 2018

7.10 Don't forget me VD ★

A lovely eliminate crack line. Without using the groove of *Lehve it out* and the flakes of *Old Town Leh-Back*.

Wez and Craig. Dec 2021

7.11 Old Town Leh-Back S 4a

8m. A lovely climb following an obvious session of flakes.

Dan Morrell, 18 Sept 2018

7.12 La Campanella ★ VS 5a

8m. A worthwhile eliminate with some nice climbing. Climb up the wall between *Old Town Leh-Back* and *Liebestraum*, without using either of these routes for holds or protection. Pull up to a horizontal break, and then follow a shallow flake upwards which allows the next break to be reached. Continue to the top.

Matt George, 18 Sept 2018

7.13 Liebestraum ★ VS 5a

8m. Climb the offwidth crack to an awkward finish.

Matt George, 18 Sept 2018

7.14 13, Stiff Breeze VS 5a

8m. A nice start with a tricky crux halfway up.

Dan Morrell. 18 Sept 2018

8 Outer Blue Carn

8.1 West Crop



Low and Calm.

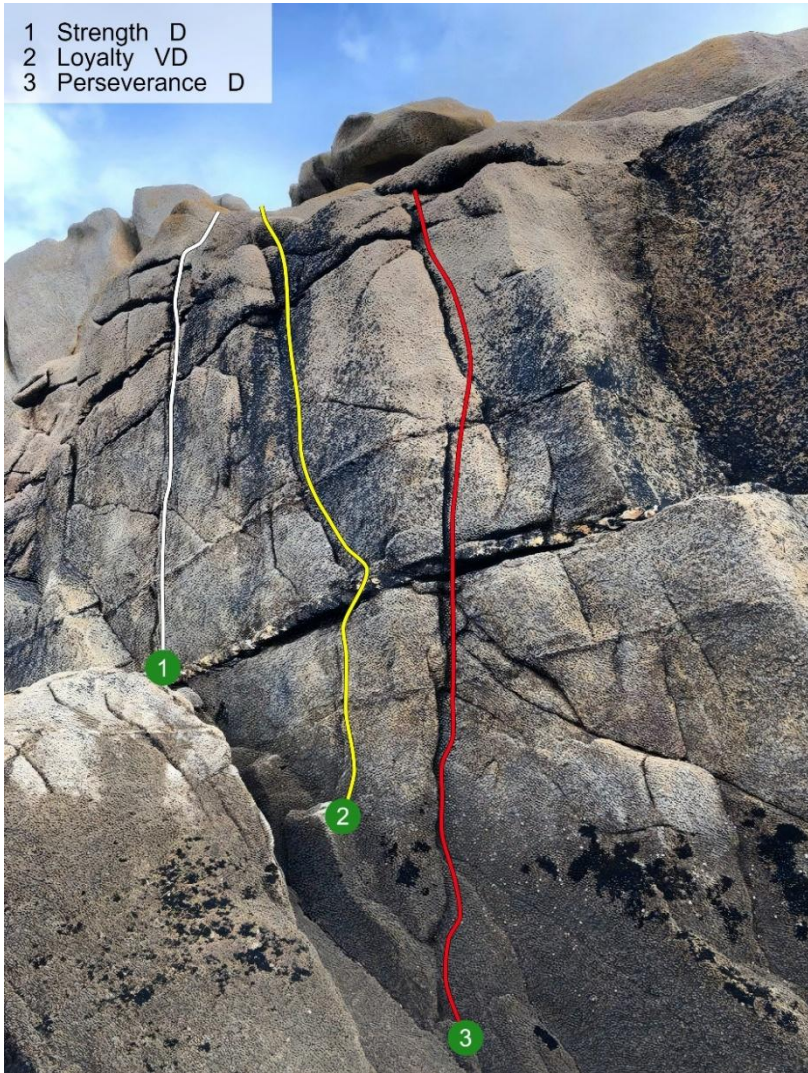


No.



SW Face.

- 1 Strength D
- 2 Loyalty VD
- 3 Perseverance D



This craggy outcrop lies 5 minutes' walk from Old Town. Head West towards the airport. You will notice Inner Blue Carn on your left, head seaward here and go and explore, plenty of interesting boulders and routes of all grades and sizes here. This is the first small tidal crag with three easy climbs.

8.1.1 Strength D

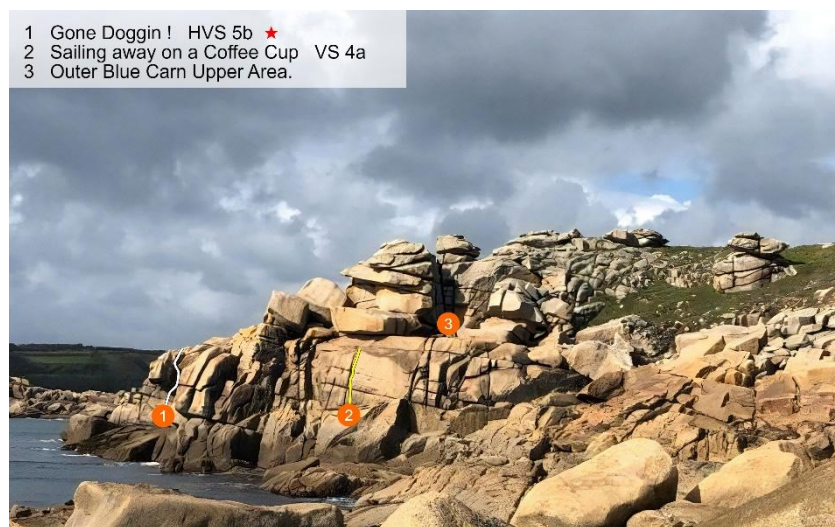
7m. The first of 3 easy climbs. Climb the first obvious crack line. Wez and Craig. 15 Oct 2020

8.1.2 Loyalty VD

7m. A nice climb up the shallow flake. Not much protection. Wez and Craig. 15 Oct 2020

8.1.3 Perseverance D ★

7m. The third obvious climb on the face. A slightly diagonal R to L diagonal crack. A nice bit of fun climbing. Wez and Craig. 15 Oct 2020



Above is a view of Outer Blue Carn from the South.

8.2 Outer Blue Carn. Middle Crop

 Any.  No.  S Face.



North of *Gone Doggin!* A big face with 2 obvious cracks and a belay rock 3m above the start holds.

8.2.1 Back in Crack HVS 5a ★

10m. A Boulder style start with a surprisingly good layback on the bottom of the faint crack on the left of the face. The crux is getting to the horizontal crack, where the first bit of pro can be placed. On reaching the horizontal break continue up the crack which can prove trickier than expected. An easy finish on the ledges.

Wez and Craig. 5 April 2021

8.2.2 Blue Joe. S 4a (Previously graded VS 4c)

10m. Climb the easy crack, then follow the sickle shaped groove to the left and up. The top may be harder for the shorter climber. (A size 3 and 6 camalot come in handy)

Joe McCarthy. 14 Oct 2014

8.2.3 Too Blue. VD ★ (Previously graded VS 4c)

10m. From the same start as Blue Joe, continuous enjoyable easy grade climbing direct to the top.

Joe McCarthy. 14 Oct 2014

8.2.4 Too Blue and Reachy Too. HS 4b

10m. Climb the obvious right crack from the floor. Simple climbing leads to a crux of 4a, likely to be considerably harder (probably HVS 4c) if you are less than 6foot! Finish to the left of the hanging boulder.

Wez and Craig. 15 Oct 2020



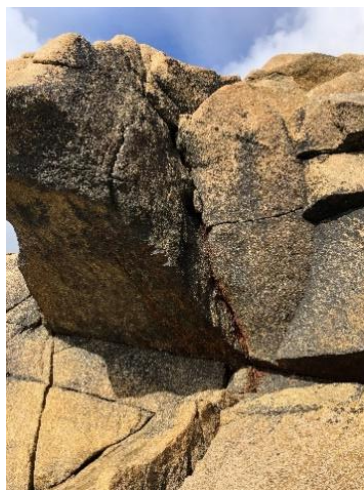
8.2.5 Gone Doggin! HVS 5a ★

Any. No. SW

Face.

7m. About 15m left (looking at the sea) of *Perseverance*, (and directly seaward of *Back in Crack*) is a hanging rock on top of a slab. Starting on the East face at the top of the slab, climb the steep overhanging crack and up the face.

Wez and Craig. 15 Oct 2020



A view of the rock with some light on it.

8.3 Outer Blue Carn. East Crop



Any.



No.



SE Face.

This interesting area is another 15m to the East. It has some great lines to enjoy. Many climbs take a while to dry, so best enjoyed after a few days of fine weather.

8.3.1 Impending Lockdown ★ HVS 5a

8m. A very balancy and committing start, leads to a great first-hand hold. This is followed by the crux; a powerful and off balance move onto the horizontal crack. The 2nd half is very pleasant climbing.

Wez and Craig. 31 Oct 2020



8.3.2 Stairway to heather. D.

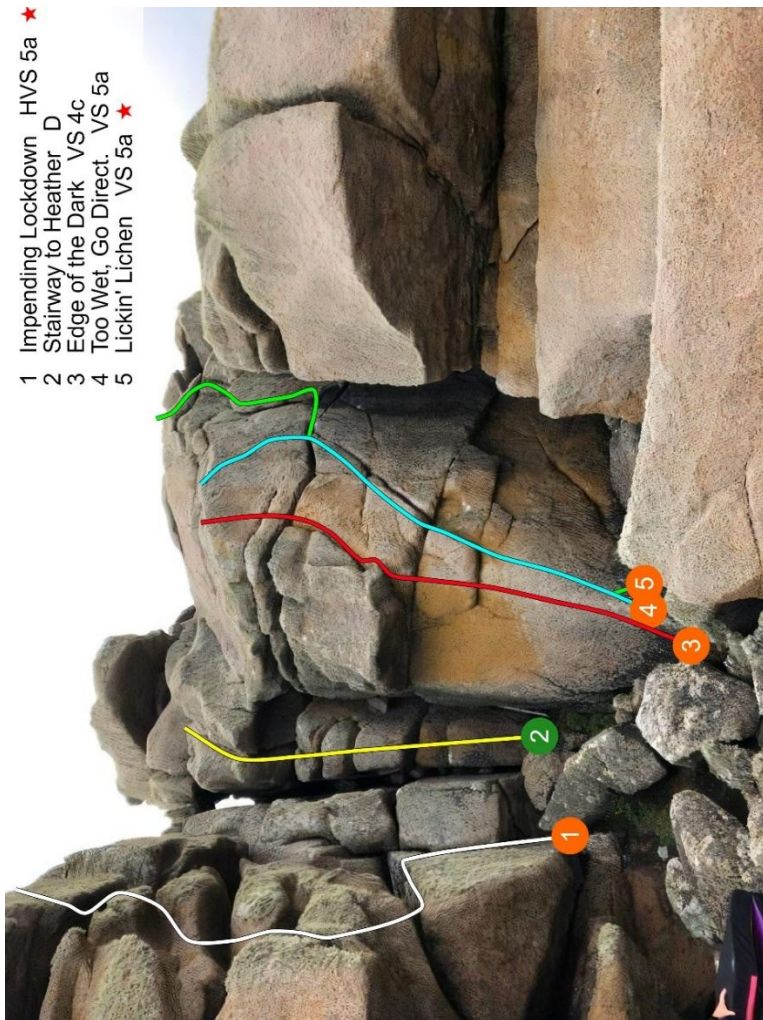
6m. Straight up the steps without using cracks on either side. The crux is the start.

Wez and Craig. 31 Oct 2020

8.3.3 Edge of the dark. VS 4c

Climb the arête on the right. All gets easier from the Horizontal break

Wez and Craig. 29 Oct 2020



8.3.4 Too wet, go direct. VS 5a.

Follow the start of *Lickin' Lichen*, but at the end of the diagonal, before the wet streak of rock, head straight up on a R-L flare.

Wez and Craig. 8 March 21

8.3.5 Lickin Lichen. VS 5a ★

Following the obvious L-R crack line then join the vertical flake to finish. To get from the diagonal crack to the Horizontal is an interesting crux, followed by another crux from the end of the diagonal to getting into the vertical flake. In between the crack and the flake often has a wet streak running down the rock. This adds an interesting twist.

Wez and Craig. 8 March 2021

8.3.6 Sailing away on a Coffee Cup. VS 4c



Low and Calm.



No.



S Face.

7m. From the above area, head directly towards the sea.

Scramble down to a large ledge to be greeted with a vertical shallow crack with a couple of vertical breaks. Climb the slabby shallow crack with a tricky top half.

When resting before the climb, don't drop your thermos flask cup, or you will watch it sail away!

Wez and Craig. 8 March 2021

9 Viva Crag



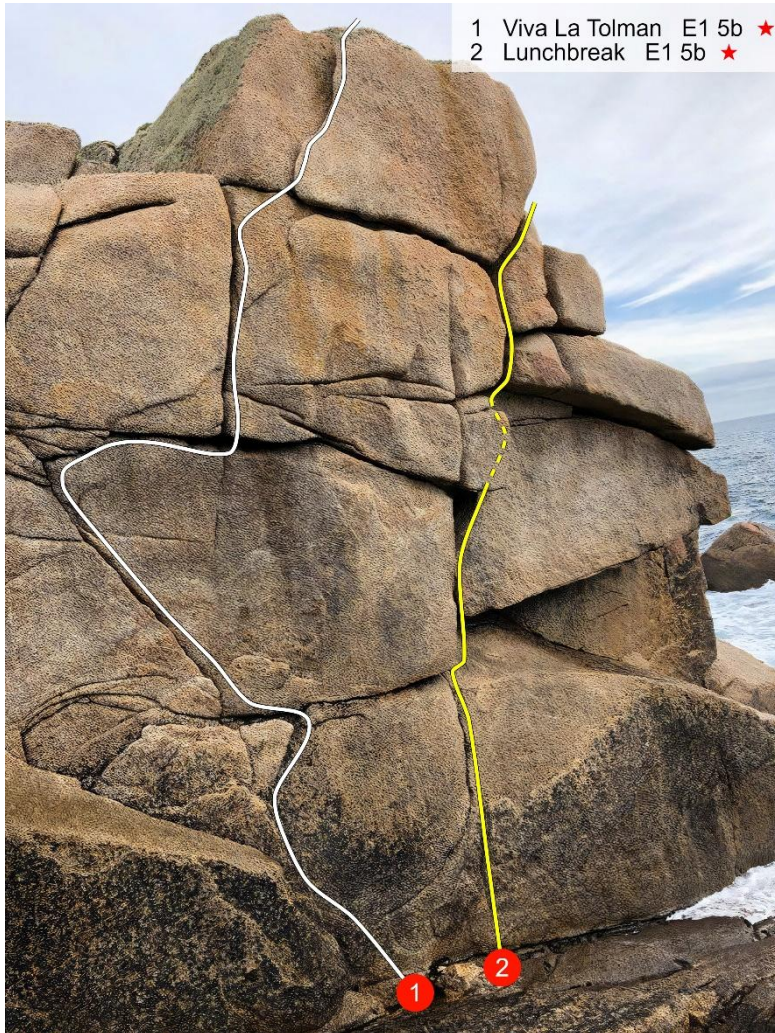
Low and Calm.



No.



SW Face.



- 1 Viva La Tolman E1 5b ★
- 2 Lunchbreak E1 5b ★

Another 100m further East from *Outer Blue Carn*, is this small low tide crag with two great hard climbs to enjoy.

9.1 Viva La Tolman E1 5b ★

A steep face leads to a good finger crack and a committing layback. Once through this an easy finish up the flake.

Matt and Murray. 1999

9.2 Lunchbreak E1 5b ★

A boulder problem start which leads into some tricky moves with hard to place gear following the obvious breaks in the rock.

A strenuous rest on a ledge allows a kind of break before finishing up the diagonal crack.

A great way to enjoy a lunchbreak!

Jordan Harper and Wez Swain. 07 March 2022

10 Church Rocks



Any tide but if its windy spray may get you!

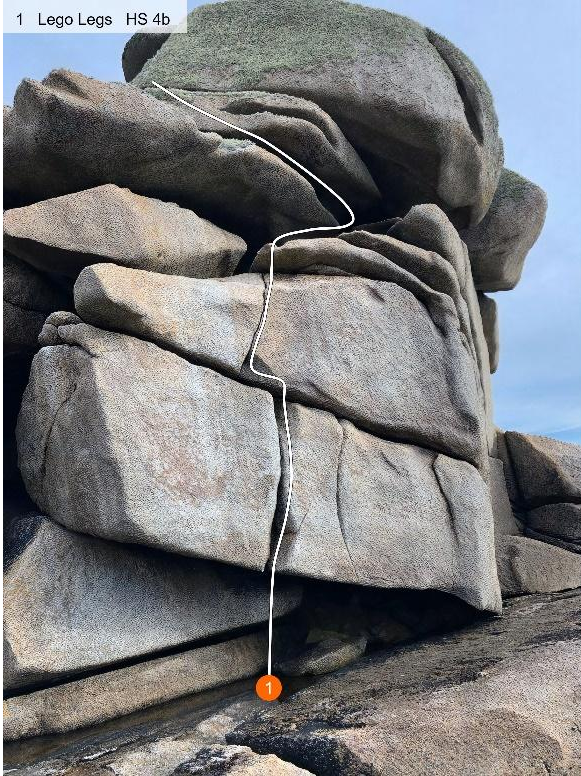


No.



S

1 Lego Legs HS 4b



This small crag is directly below the airport runway, as such it can be loud on occasion. This crag is often wet from sea spray.

10.1 Lego Legs HS 4b

A high step sets you on a nice little crack climb. Deceptively steep and if it's been wet, the horizontal crack is greasy. The last move with another high step finishes the climb.

W Swain. 14 Dec 2020

10.2 Grovel Grovel HVS 5b. ★★

What a route! Take the grade with a pinch of salt, it's a climb that is either your style or not! A classic weird and wonderful climb for those feeling adventurous.

10m. Start in the cave as deep as possible. Climb up, in and onto the horizontal ledge and *Grovel* your way across.

Transfer your body position back to vertical and use the great foot ledge feature. Follow the horizontal cracks left with holds getting better along the way before finishing up the vertical offwidth. Belay from this large ledge.

To exit, strip off your harness and helmet and *Grovel* your way through a gap at the back of the ledge.

*Not for the faint hearted or wide hips!

Rope management is a complete puzzle to solve before you set out.

Wez and Craig.
20 Jan 2022.



11 Giants Castle.

 Any.  No.  SW Face.

Carrying on along the Coast Path from Old Town is Giant's Castle. This crag is around 75m East of the airport runway.



11.1 North West Face

Left of the main face and up a level of rock is the NW face. This shortish slab holds a couple of lines to play on, with very little slab climbing on Scilly this can be a bit of bold fun.

11.1.1 Craig's Climb E1 5a

From the ground a very easy looking climb. At around half way the easy part disappears and turns more into a delicate dance with little gear.

Craig and Murray. July 2022

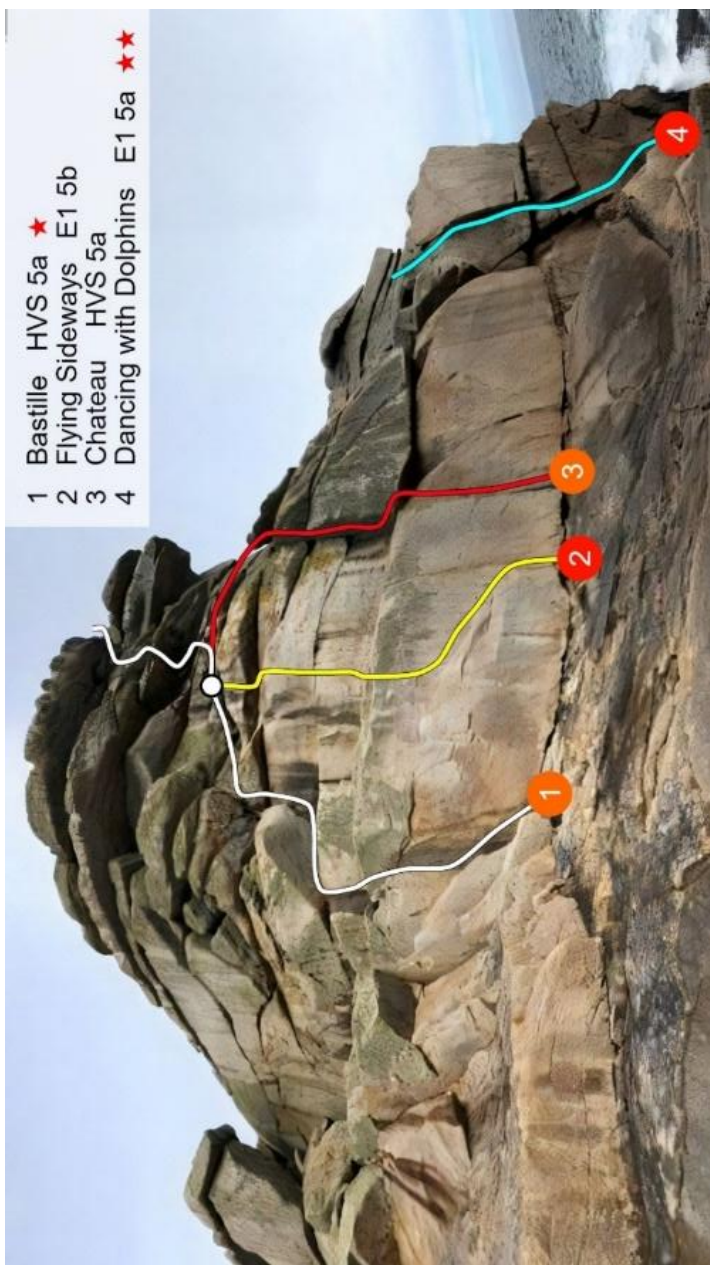
11.1.2 Craig's Clamber HVS 5a

Another easy looking climb with some long reaches with minimal gear.

Craig and Murray. July 2022

11.2 Giants Castle.

 Any.  No.  SW Face.



There are three climbs on this main face but they all have the same hard finish, or an easy walk off to the right. Different climbers have graded it differently. I have left both in to show differences between 35 years of climbing and protection available. The crux in all the climbs is surmounting the overhang on pitch two.

11.2.1 Bastille. HVS 5a ★

30m. A steep orange coloured wall rises from the huge platform. Start to the left side of the wall.

18m. Climb easily to the first ledge on its left side and then trend up and rightwards via walls & ledges to below a break on the right of the overhangs.

12m. 5a. Make hard moves through the break in the overhang. It is this battle that gives the climb the star, a real test of Scillonian climbing. Huge credit to the pioneers of this route! D and J Bassett. April 1981

11.2.2 Flying Sideways. E1 5b

26m, 2 pitches. A quality route taking a committing line up the centre of the buttress beside Bastille. Micro nuts on P1 and a number 5 black diamond or equivalent cam on P2 useful.

14m 5a. Start at the right of a sloping ledge in the middle of the buttress. Mantle onto the ledge and move left for 4m. Move straight up with poor micro nut protection to get established onto the good ledge. Move up the slab to belay on a large ledge above. Poor protection throughout.

12m 5b. Well protected, and rather committing. Climb stylishly from the belay up onto a rightwards rising rock before heading straight up to the obvious wide crack weakness in the centre of the impressive roof. Prepare for yet more exciting climbing

as you manoeuvre round the lip and climb up with satisfaction to good belays above.

Dan Morrell, Matt George. 19 Sep 2018.

11.2.3 Château. HVS 5a

25m, 2 pitches.

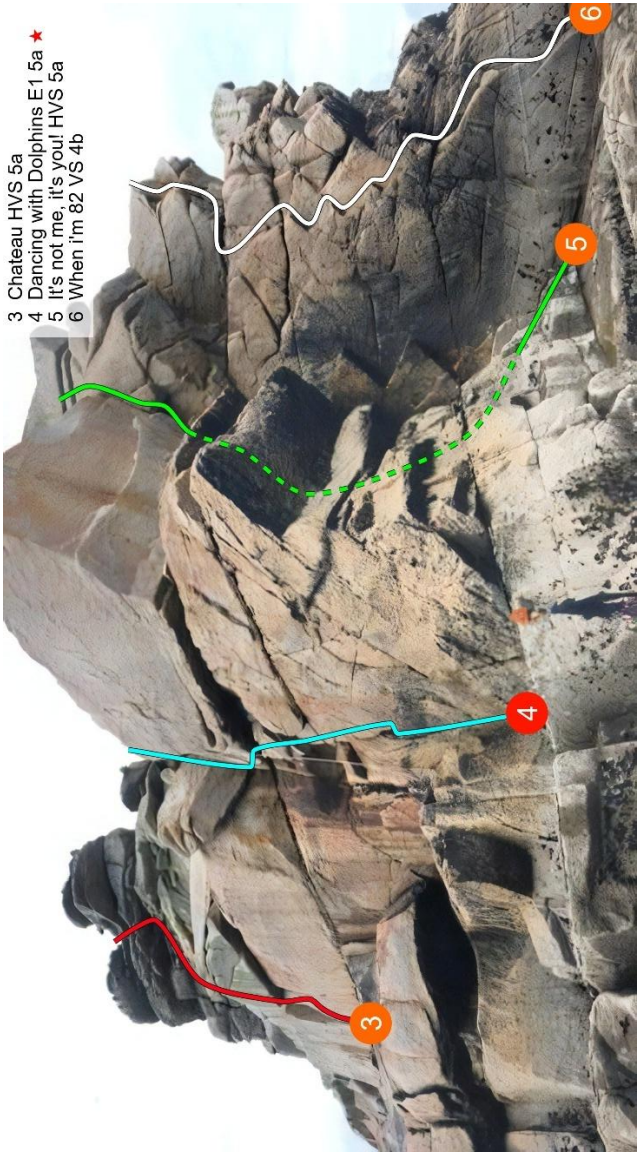
15m 5a. Locate the shallow hand and finger crack weakness 5m right of *Flying Sideways*. Climb the crack carefully straight up, and mantle left onto a good ledge at 6m. Rest, then continue up the clean corner and finger crack to belay on a large ledge.

10m Climb off easily trending rightwards and up to finish. A good alternative is to walk left across the belay ledge to finish up the roof crack second pitch of *Flying Sideways* E1 5b.

Dan Morrell, Matt George. 18 Sep 2018.

Giants Castle: Lower area.

 Low and Calm.  No.  SW Face.



This lower area offers some good climbs when the tide and sea state allows.

11.2.4 Dancing with Dolphins E1 5a ★★

A nice line following a thin finger crack in a corner.

10m. Start at the lowest point and mantle onto a ledge. Reach to the crack at overhead height.

Using the rock on the left to climb up the crack to the horizontal break. Surmount the overhang with much huffing and puffing and follow the finger crack to the top.

A great climb, made even better if you get a 15-minute show from a pod of dolphins whilst racking up!

Wez and Craig. 22 March 2021



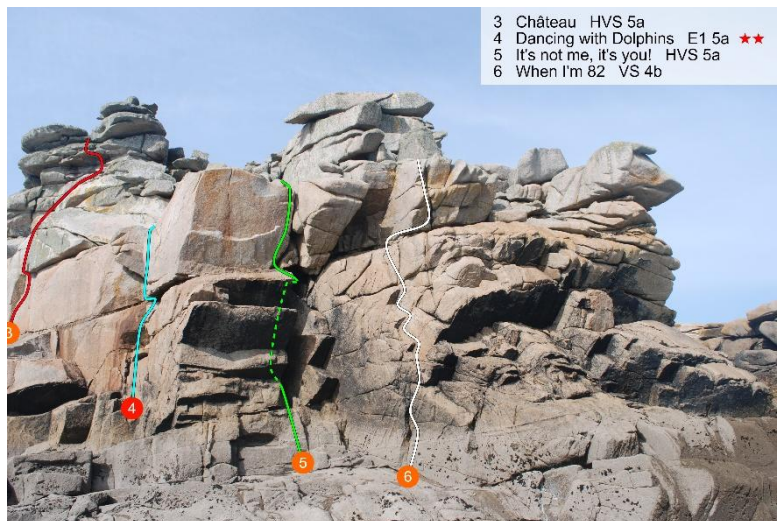
11.2.5 It's not me, it's you! HVS 5a

15m. A fun climb starting in the back of the chasm. Chimney climb up either side onto a large ledge. Climb over the chasm to the West side. Climb up the steep overhanging crack using a

bomber fist jam and top out with the elegance of a dying walrus!

Named after my climbing partner Craig got himself a new job after two years which will limit our climbing antics!

Wez and Craig. 30 March 2022



11.2.6 When I'm 82. VS 4b.

10m. The start is pleasant climbing following what almost seems like a set of rough-hewn stairs cut into the rock off angle. At the ledge climb the most seaward edge over a slightly overhanging bulge to mantle onto the top. (Considerably harder than the start) It is also easy to walk off to the rock right from here if needed.

Wez and Murray. 24 March 2021



Craig Evans seconding the FA of *Jungle Massive*. Due to access only at Lowtide, the artwork of the 'Thong weed' below is amazing.

12 Clapper Rocks



Low and Calm.



No.



SW Face.



Clapper Rocks is the next little promontory heading out East from the airport along the coast path towards Porth Hellick.

12.1 Moby Dick HVS 5b

Named after the many sightings of Humpback and Fin Whales close to the Islands over the last week. The closest to land in known history. (Since Christmas 2021 sightings of Whales has become quite regular especially in the winter. There is a Humpback whale called Pi, who has returned every year since 2021. The day before this climb I kayaked to Samson and spent half hour within 50m of Pi! It was amazing!)

8m. A great climb up the most vertical crack in the middle of the face. The crux is saved for the final couple of bold moves. The climb can be extended by topping the boulder on the right. Wez and Craig. 2 Jan 2021

12.2 Dick Dastardly HS 4b

8m. A big crack that seems simple, with a cunning tricky offwidth thrown in for good measure halfway up. A nice short fun climb.

Wez and Craig. 26 Sept 2021.

13 Tom Butt's Bed Crag/Black Rock.

13.1 West Face



Low and Calm.

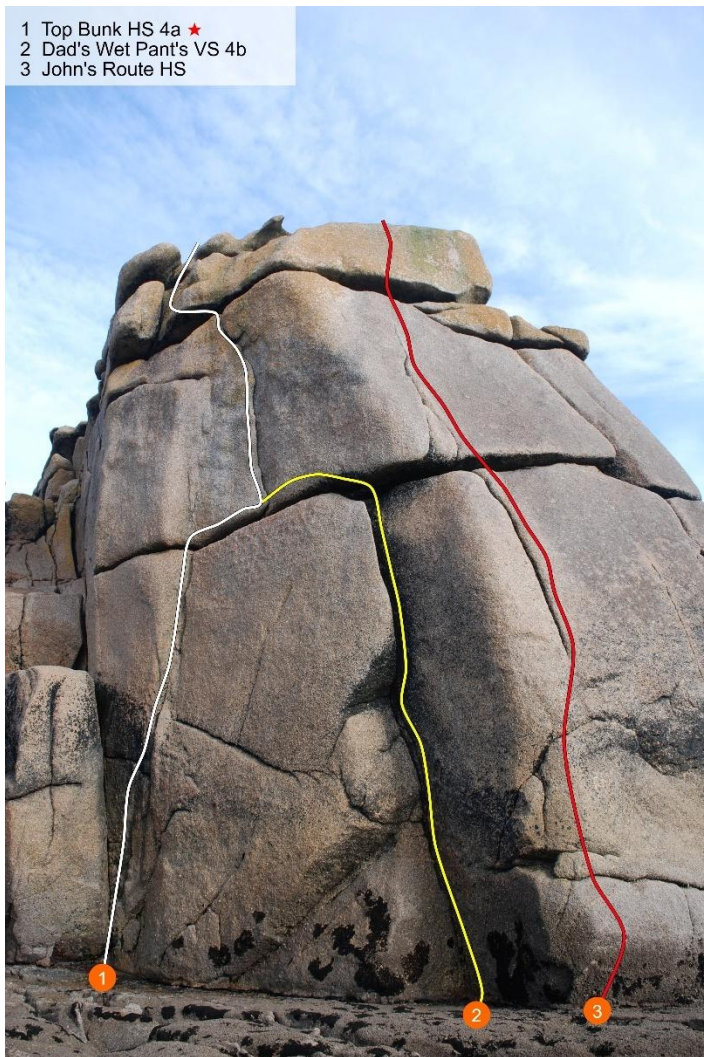


No.



W Face.

- 1 Top Bunk HS 4a ★
- 2 Dad's Wet Pant's VS 4b
- 3 John's Route HS



The next outcrop is Tom Butt's Bed. A nice outcrop with a few good lines on it. The East face even hold climbs where crack gloves are not needed!! A nice playground when the tide allows.

13.1.1 Top Bunk. ★ HS 4a

10m. A nice variation climb to start *Dad's Wet Pants*, the first part to the horizontal break is bold with no gear placements. Get good gear in the break and traverse right before joining the large flake of *Dad's Wet Pants* to the top. Enjoyable climbing. Wez and Craig. 02 April 2022

13.1.2 Dad's Wet Pants.

10m. following the large flake on the seaward side of the face climb up to the horizontal break and traverse left to the middle. From here climb the R/L flake to the top.

If you like your second, do this route on a calm day at low tide. Starting this climb on a quickly rising mid tide with a strong on shore wind can result in the second belaying with the seawater level above their ankles, not to mention the sea spray from crashing waves. Sorry Dad.

Jordan and John Harper. 20 March 2022

13.1.3 Johns Route

The first of two crack climbs on the South Face. A tricky start to get established on the slab, before delicate moves up the slab with a bold move to finish.

John and Jordan Harper. 20 March 2022

13.2 Tom Butt's Bed: East Face.



Low and Calm.

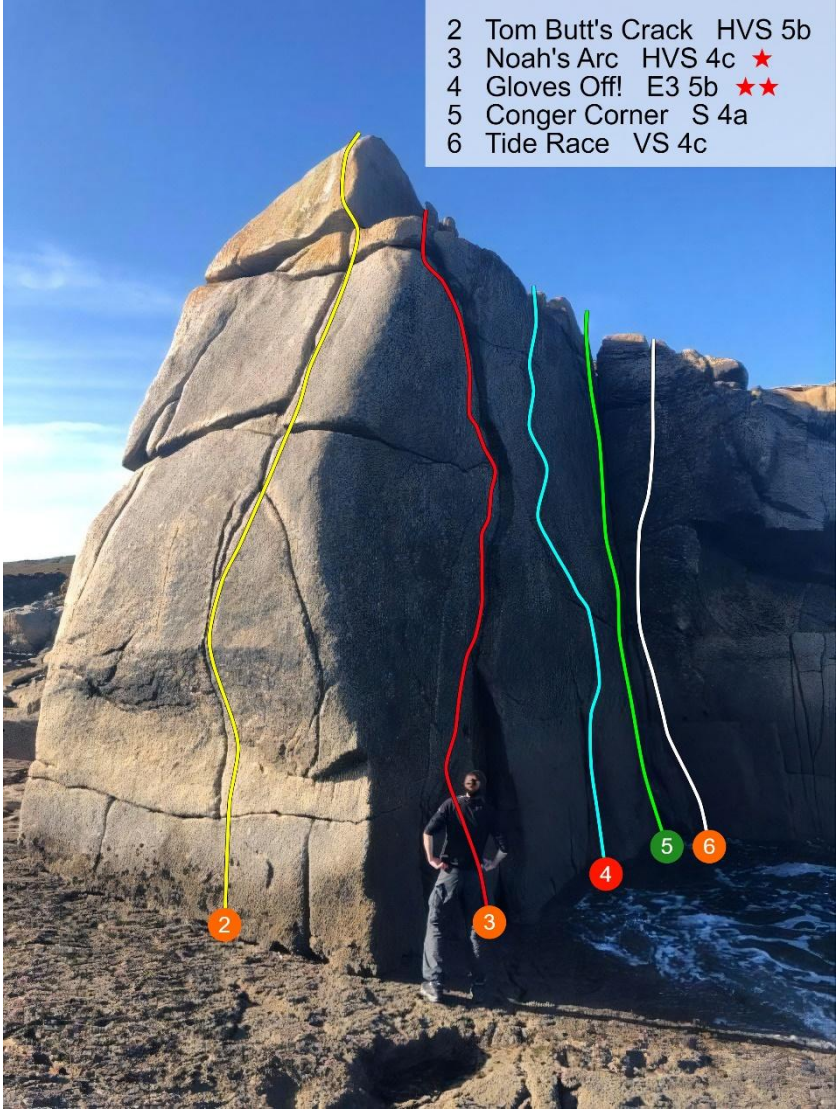


No.



E Face.

- 2 Tom Butt's Crack HVS 5b
- 3 Noah's Arc HVS 4c ★
- 4 Gloves Off! E3 5b ★★
- 5 Conger Corner S 4a
- 6 Tide Race VS 4c



13.2.1 Tom Butt's Crack HVS 5b (South face)

10m. Climb the crack (with help from a subsidiary crack) on the right side of the front face of the promontory. Tricky moves, with hard to place gear, leads to a ledge on a large horizontal break. Follow the now wider crack with ease, until it terminates at a ledge. From here, step left and climb a final section of slab to the top of the buttress.

Matt George and Craig Evans. 19 May 2019.

13.2.2 Noah's Arc ★ HVS 4c

10m. Following the obvious edge. Nice climbing throughout with good holds in the right place at the right time. (Poorly protected from halfway.)

Wez and Craig. 17 Aug 2021

The next three climbs require a very low and calm tide.

13.2.3 Gloves off! ★★ E2 5b?

10m. Between *Noah's Arc* and *Conger Corner* is another crackline in the face. Follow this up and trend left with the edge line. Beautiful climbing with some rare Scillonian delicate moves. Makes a nice change to crack climbing. Very poorly protected.

Only climbed on top rope, still awaiting first ascent.

13.2.4 Conger Corner S 4a

10m. Climb the obvious, square corner on the south-eastern side of the buttress.

Matt George and Craig Evans. 19 May 2019.

13.2.5 Tide Race VS 4c

10m. Pleasant climbing, if a little eliminate. Climb the wall just right of Conger Corner, following a thin crack system, and avoiding using Conger Crack for holds or gear. Nice climbing, with somewhat hard-to-find-gear (that's any good, anyway).
Matt George and Craig Evans. 19 May 2019.

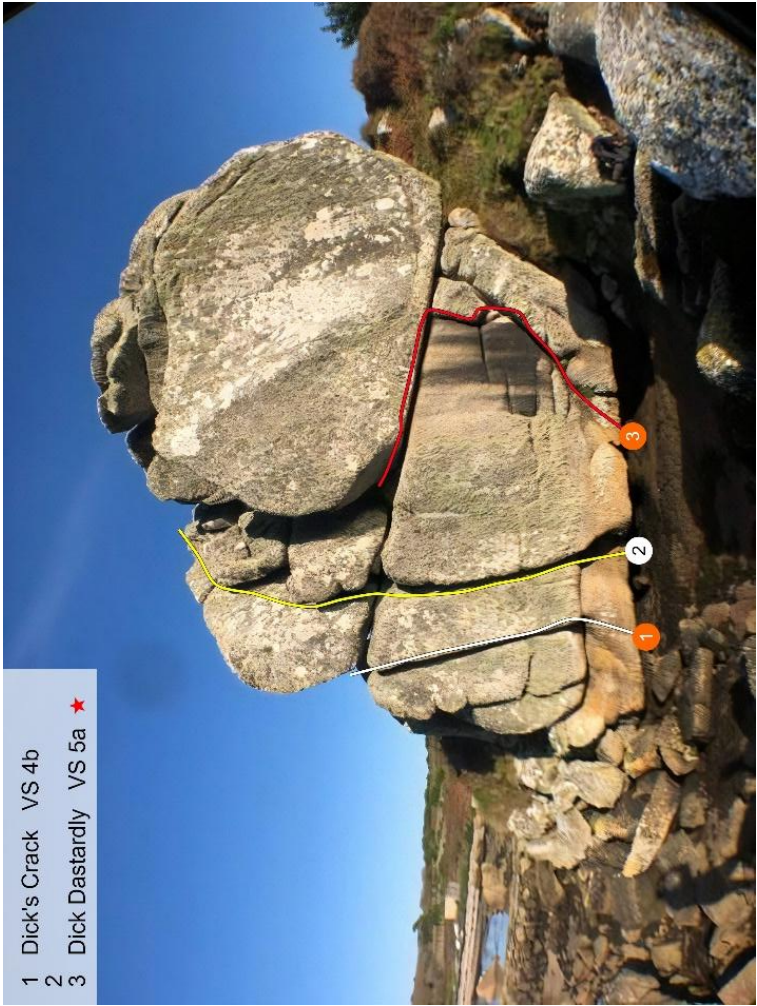
14 Camel Rock / Dick's Carn



Camel Rock is on the East side of Porth Hellick Bay. For a fun few hours *Wormin' and Squirmin'* up some chimneys / off widths, this is the place for you. Approach is either from Old Town, following the coast path East, past the airport and earlier crags to the East side of Porth Hellick Bay. Or take the nature trail through 'Higher Moors' when exiting the trail head to the East (left) side of the Bay.

14.1 Camel Rock: Southwest Face

 Mid and Calm.  No.  SW Face.



14.1.1 Dick's Crack. VS 4b

6m A short climb with good deep hand jams and a slightly trickier top.

Wez and Craig. Oct 2021

14.1.2 Unclimbed

A tough offwidth with a hard start due to the undercut nature of the rock. Follow the deep crack in the middle of the rock. Various hard moves and body positions needed to conquer this brute. Easier to belay from the second break before the easy climb to the top and descend so you can watch your partner squirm!

Awaiting a FA. The author has been close many times, but not quite manged the last couple of moves on lead.

14.1.3 Dick Dastardly VS 5a ★

9m. With good hand jams throughout, this is a great climb with lovely moves and great jamming. The final move from the crack onto the ledge is really hard! This one move gives the 5a grade. Enjoy!

Wez Swain. Dec 11, 2021

Descent is on the East side at the Northern end, long legs are helpful.

14.2 Camel Rock: South East Face.

 Any.  No.  SE Face.

- 4 Wormin' HVD
- 5 Easy Arête D
- 6 Squirmin' VD



14.2.1 Wormin' HVD

Get halfway into the gap and start *wormin'* your way to the top using hands, shoulders, hips, knees and feet. A good bit of silly fun.

Wez and Craig. Oct 2021

14.2.2 Easy Arête D

A lovely simple climb. This can be the arête itself or staying to the west ward side. Both are simple and enjoyable climbs.

Wez and Craig. Oct 2021

14.2.3 Squirmin' VD

A slightly thinner gap to Wormin' but another bit of fun. It has a few more foot holds than *Wormin'*. Depending on chest width, getting under the resting rock at the top can be tricky. A helmet can make it harder!

Wez and Craig. Oct 2021

14.2.4 Hedgehog Humping S

The harder of the three gaps to climb. Once established it gets easier but feels very tricky to get into a comfortable position. The route is covered in lichen that sticks into you like a hedgehog!

More ridiculous fun!

Wez & Craig.
Oct 2021.





Wez Swain leading *The Hourglass / Time & Motion* E4 6a
One of the few climbs where half ropes come in handy.
July 2021

15 DEEP POINT

This area is easily accessed from the road. Head towards Normandy and follow the signpost to Porth Hellick ancient burial ground. You can park here just before Spray View house, then follow the track towards the sea. It can also be reached by the coast path that continues on from Old Town – about 3.5km from Old Town, 1km further on from Camel Rock.

This area has a few different styles of climbing. Some of the rock has interesting features with some variations of rock type.

The following climbs are best at mid to low tide on a calm day.



15.1 Deep Point South Promontory.



Mid and Calm.



No.



S Face.



15.1.1 Where's the Doughnut's VS 4c

8m. Easy climbing to the crux of about 4m. Climb through the overhang via the crack system.

Wez and Craig. 12 Dec 2020

15.1.2 HVS 5b - Megan May.

9m. Make straight forward moves to roof swing wildly over and approach second roof. A beached whale manoeuvre gains the belay.

Mark Dicken. 30 Dec 2000

15.1.3 Bus Route to your Heart. E1 5b

8m. Following the obvious off-width gap.

Mark Dicken. 30 Dec 2000

15.1.4 Last Stop to Lyonesse. E1 5b

This climb was originally graded (HVS 5a) however compared to other local routes it is very bold with very little protection.

9m. Climb the slab on its right/East edge. Lead is just one runner.

Matt Johnson. 30 Dec 2000

15.2 Deep Point North Promontory.



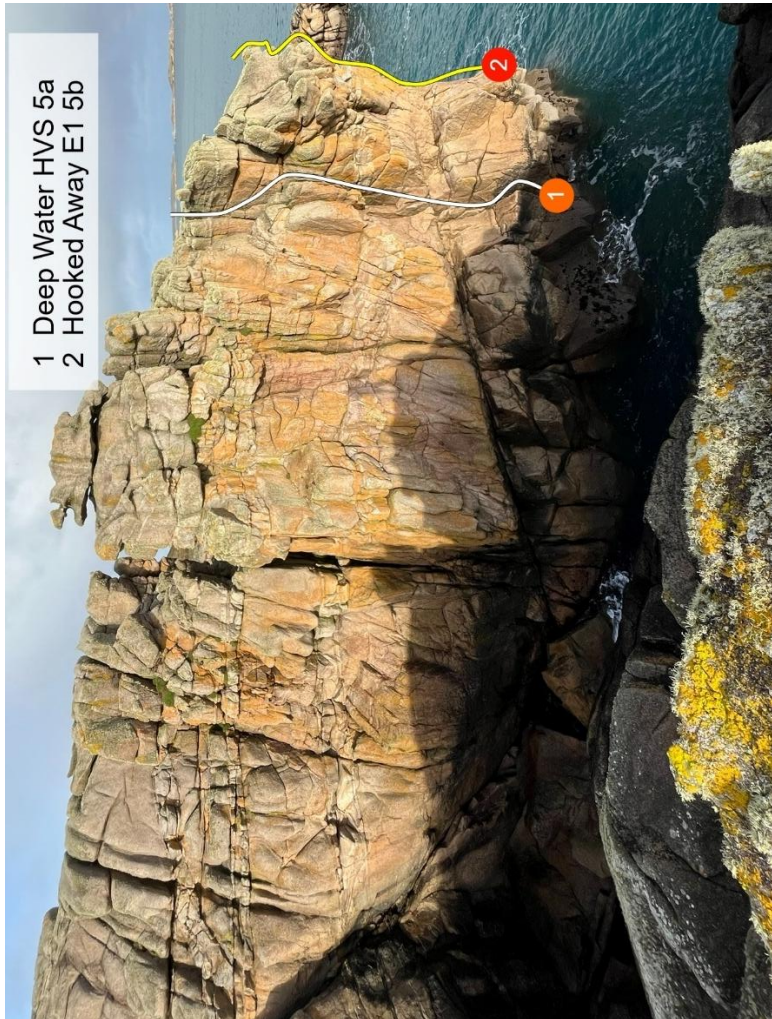
Low and Calm.



Both.



S Face.



A beautiful crag very under developed due to accessing the bottom.

15.2.1 Deep Water. HVS 5a.

16m. Move into corner and up through impending corner and through overhang using right hand edge.

*Approach via abseil or low tide from northward side and around seaward end.

Mark Dicken. Dec 2000

15.2.2 Hooked away. E1 5b.



Low and Calm.



Both.



S Face.

16m. Bold for grade. Starting from arête just above high-water mark. Moves right onto the seaward face of the rock. Lead onto a short steep slab. From top right edge move up through overlap. Gymnastic moves to finish.

Mark Dicken. Dec 2000

16 St Martins - Carn Wethers



Low and Calm.



No.



SE Face.



- 1 Fantasia E2 5c VS 5a HS 4b
- 2 A Scilly Chicken Wing
- 3 Chim Chim Cher-ee

On The island of St Martins lies the cliff edge of Carn Wethers. This is the South Eastern corner. Accessed by following the coast path from Highertown East for about 10/15 minutes. If you are staying on St Martins, this offers some good fun, however, if you are staying on a different island, it's not really worth the effort of getting there.

These are currently the only known roped routes on St Martins.

The tidal crag is accessible from about 3.5m and lower on a calm day.

If you decide to kayak over to the crag there isn't an easy landing point, its best to land about 300m to the West.

16.1 Fantasia E2 5c

25m. Head up the obvious deep corner in the middle of the face. A tricky balancy start to save you from wet feet from the rockpool at the bottom. The crack disappears in the middle (crux). It eases off at the top with exposed bridging and lovely hand jamming crack.

A few no hands rests help to rid the pump from the middle section, a nut protects the scratchy jamming top out.

B Winston. 6 July 1995

16.2 A Scilly Chicken Wing VS 5a

20m. This starts about 6 meters to the right of Fantasia. Start below the ledge, in the seaweed, heading up an obvious crack towards the left-hand side of an overhang. Squirm up the off-width or be a bit Scilly and use a chicken-wing to gain the grassy ledge.

Walk to the left-hand side of hollow sounding very large boulder. Aim left and start climbing towards the arête and then

move right 1.5meters towards a large crack in the middle of the face and make an awkward exit!

Steve Moore. 01 Sep 2012.

16.3 Chim Chim Cher-Ee HS 4b

20m. Two meters to the right of "A Scilly Chicken Wing". Start on top of a ledge and head up an obvious crack towards the right-hand side of an overhang.

Walk to the right-hand side of hollow sounding very large boulder. Head straight up this wide crack to the top using the boulder behind you as bridge/"chimney".

Steve Moore. 31 Aug 2012.

17 St Agnes

St Agnes boasts of a few good climbing areas and, if time and tide allows, well worth a visit.

17.1 Beat Carn

 Any.  No.  W Face.



17.1.1 Shrewed awakening. HVS 4c. ★

Following the very obvious right to left crack up the main face. A beautiful climb with plenty of tricky bits to work out. Great in the autumn evening sun.

Even better when your second, after watching you struggle up the climb, points out a Scilly Shrew as it follows you scampering up the route!

Wez and Craig. 10 Oct 2021

17.2 Castle Brose



Very Low and Calm.



No.



SW Face.

Castle Brose is possibly one of the best climbing crags on Scilly. Boasting climbs around 20m it enjoys many of the longest climbs on the islands. Following the coast path from Troytown heading south, stay on the path past *Shrewed Awakening* on Beat Carn. Before you get to the overhanging crop of Uncle Tom's point there is a seaward crag. During a calm day this can be reached on a tide lower than 4.5m. The Southeastern side is where the fun begins. A really enjoyable crag, well worth the effort of getting there.

17.2.1 Lowtide Lovin' VD

A super lowtide climb. At a tide of 0.8 or lower a few more rocks become exposed allowing a ground level start. A high foot kicks us off before following the cracks into a wide corner and into the left-hand flute.

To descend, head down the larger crack to the left/East and walk around the Northward side of the rock.

Wez and Craig. 12 Oct 2021

17.2.2 Where is Repunzel? VD

Another lowtide extravaganza. A fun easy climb following the large cracks at the bottom, and the thinner cracks to the right-hand side of the corner of *Lowtide Lovin'*. Follow the right-hand flutes to the top.

Wez and Craig. 12 Oct 2021

17.2.3 Stormin' the Castle. HVS. 5a ★

Following the Eastern / Left arête up the largest part of the castle. From the lowtide platform, follow the left-hand edge of the overhang. Head straight up and into the larger crack. Follow this to the top.

Wez and Craig. 12 Oct 2021

17.2.4 Jungle Massive. HVS 5a ★★

A ridiculous adventure with nature. Starting on a big low tide, climb the barnacle covered lower section and into the overhang on the right-hand side. Follow this deep crack up to the slab under the overhang which has piles of bird droppings to enjoy. Climb up the overhang and into the jungle for an interesting off width and vegetation escape.

This climb is not for all, but if you enjoy wild climbing, then this is a great bit of fun.

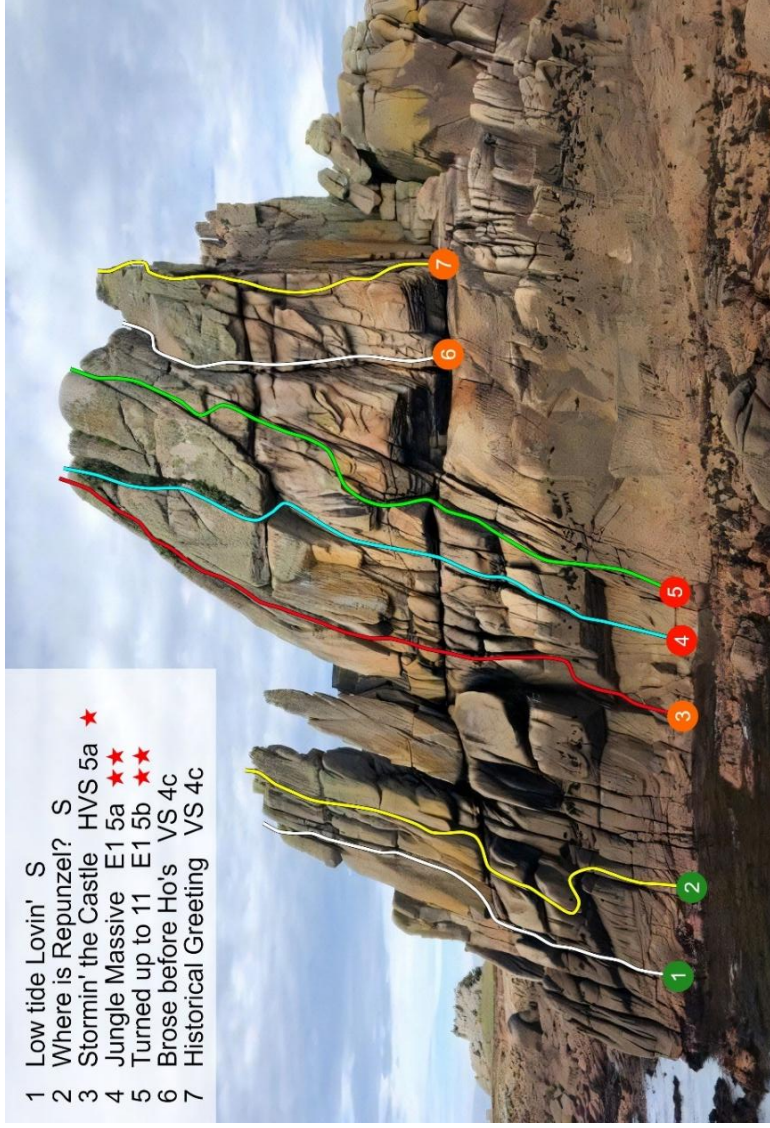
Wez and Crain. 9 Oct 2021

17.2.5 Turned up to 11. E1 5b ★★★

The test piece of Castle Brose. Starting up a simple crack system follow this to the base of a 45-degree overhang. Step into the left corner following both the crack system above and to the right.

At the next big horizontal break follow the crack systems to the highest point of the castle.

- 1 Low tide Lovin' S
- 2 Where is Repunzel? S
- 3 Stormin' the Castle HVS 5a ★
- 4 Jungle Massive E1 5a ★★
- 5 Turned up to 11 E1 5b ★★
- 6 Brose before Ho's VS 4c
- 7 Historical Greeting VS 4c



17.2.6 Brose before Ho's. VS 4c ★

This climb and *Historical Greeting* can be climbed on an ebbing tide from mid tide, any higher and you will get wet getting on/off the castle.

Following the vertical crack from the large platform up a corner to finish on a large ledge.

Wez and Craig. 9 Oct 2021

17.2.7 Historical Greeting VS 4c

Follows the right-hand arête. Starting on the right/Eastern edge pull up into a right to left crack taking you to the southern side of the arête. Using both sides of the arête follow this up to a horizontal break before riding the large flake on the Eastern edge to its right end then stepping back up left to the top. Another class climb.

Wez and Craig. 9 Oct 2021

17.2.8 Low traverse

A low traverse has also been completed as a DWS, however as noted on UKC, the water is not very deep! I am not sure of the line of the route. However, from experience, all climbing here is fun, so choose your line and enjoy.

Andy Pemberton. 2 Sept 2021

17.3 Uncle Tom's Point/Pink Carn

 Any.  No.  SW Face.



Tim Monks on the FKA of *High Time* f6a.

17.3.1 High Time. f6a ★

The first ascent was completed as a boulder problem, but there is gear if you feel inclined.

8m. Climb the obvious west-facing wall of Pink Carn, via a pinch on a distinctive disc shaped hold below the roof.

Tim Monks. Aug 2010.

Useful Links

Here are a few links to websites of local businesses worth checking out if you have spare time on your visit to Scilly

Sea swimming with **Wild and Scilly Mermaids**. Offering safe bespoke and group swim adventures for all abilities.

<https://www.wildandscillymermaids.co.uk>

Scilly60 Events – to experience great running and swimrun events hosted by the Author, check out www.scilly60.co.uk

Seal swimming. Based on St Martins. A truly beautiful opportunity to get up close with majestic Sealife.

<https://www.sealsnorkellingadventures.com>

Kernow Coasteering on St Marys. One for the adrenaline seeker, with jumps pushing up to 10m, this is an adventure you won't forget.

<https://kernow-coasteering.co.uk/>

Kayak hire from each island

St Marys and Tresco, <https://www.sailingscilly.com/>

St Agnes, <https://www.agneswatersports.co.uk/>

Bryher, <https://www.hut62.co.uk/> &

<https://islesofscillyboathire.com/>

St Martins, <https://www.stmartinswatersports.co.uk/>

Glass workshops & gifts -

<https://www.phoenixstainedglass.co.uk>

[illegible]

Thank you and acknowledgments:

A huge thanks to Murray Hodgson. This guidebook could not have been put together without the original 'Black Folder' guide. It has been great talking through the climbs and even adding new routes with Murray over the last while.

The Climbers Club who printed the original West Cornwall guide, which included the Isles of Scilly. I have used most of the original text when describing the climbs that featured in this guide.

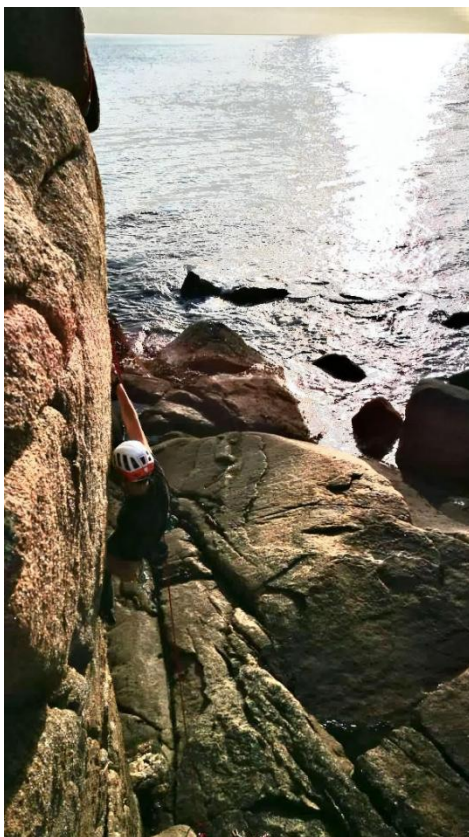
After reaching out to the Climbers Club to let them know that I was putting this compilation together, they put me in touch with Nevil Hewitt who kindly let me use his topo software to really bring this book to life. He has since made this software available for everyone here, <https://topoeditor.com/>

Craig Evans for always having motivation to climb if I managed to get hold of him. He also let me lead every route we climbed together as he'd rather laugh at me struggling, than bother with leading. Although work has got in the way a bit now, the two-year climbing holiday we shared was bloody great.

The Isles of Scilly contains some of the most picturesque single pitch climbs in the UK.

With mild weather, pristine sharp granite and climbs that may only have had a couple of ascents a decade, the Isles of Scilly truly is a climber's paradise.

There are many more opportunities for bouldering on all islands, however this is a definitive guide to roped rock climbing on The Isles Of Scilly.



November Climbing!