



INTERIM GUIDE BOOK

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Civil Defence
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The main area of climbing interest lies just to the South of the lighthouse. Cars may be parked on the grassy park some two hundred yards before the lighthouse gates. Access to the crags is possible through a gate in the fence at the top of the lighthouse steps and a descent alongside the wall to the top of an arete with a path winding down to the rocks shore.

Gob ny Strona is the name of the crag to the immediate North of the descent arete, and is a short steep wall of good rock lying above large ledges at high tide level. The routes are described from left to right :

MARINE CORNER HS 30ft. The awkward curving groove.

KILN FUNNEL S 30ft. The black, inverted funnel shaped crack with the overhang at half height.

HOPTUNAA D 30ft. The obvious square-cut chimney groove in the centre of the wall.

YELLOW BUTTRESS D 30ft. The yellow ramp between Kiln Funnel and Hoptunaa, climbed first right then left.

PHEW HVD 30ft. The thin crack at the right hand end of the wall.

Several other variations have been climbed.

Stack Buttress lies almost at the bottom of the descent scramble and can be identified by the prominent large mine entrance in its right flank. The arete itself gives a rather loose 200ft Moderate scramble.

SHAFT ? 110ft. A route has been recorded on the right of the arete, up the obvious corners, however, much has recently fallen down and what remains seems rather unsafe and cannot be recommended.

Cliff of the Gulls lies in the next bay to the South and is cut off from the descent scramble at high tide.

PLUMBAGO VS 185ft. From the back righthand corner of the bay climb steeply up broken looking rock to a ramp leading to a square-cut corner. Belay. Climb the corner which is rather loose and finish at the top of Stack Buttress.

EVASION S 180ft. This route climbs the slabby walls above the large area of overhanging rock at the back of the bay. Reach the slabs from the top of the rib on the left. 45ft-up the slabs to an overlap which is crossed to a stance on the right. 100ft-continue up steeper rock to a crack on the left, up this to the final wall. 35ft- climb the very loose corner to finish.

Clett Buttress is best reached by walking along the top of the crags immediately under the boundary wall of the lighthouse property before scrambling steeply down grass then rock to large ledges underneath a very impressive vertical wall.

A huge slab leans against the seaward face of the buttress forming a large cave. The next three routes start by descending onto large boulders and ledges inside the cave.

GUILLEMOT SHELF VD 200ft. From the cave scramble through a chimney onto the seaward face of the slab. Climb the slab and grooves on the left taking care with loose blocks.

PUFFIN HVD 140ft. From the cave climb easily up the back wall until an obvious ledge in the bottom of the chimney can be reached, traverse through the chimney to the seaward face and belay. Climb the cracks above direct to the top or (easier) finish as for the previous route.

CORMORANT HS 160ft. Starting as for Guillemot Shelf climb up and right on the seaward facing slabs to a snelf on the right hand arete, belay. Climb the black corner above to a loose finish.

Twin Cletts are the two small sea stacks just off Clett Buttress. They can be reached by scrambling at low tide. Access to both Cletts is from the gully between them, descent is by abseil.

BIG TWIN HVD 80ft. Climb the bulging, cracked wall on the seaward side, starting from large ledges.

* JUBILEE CLIMB S 90ft. Climbs the slabby landward face.

* LITTLE TWIN S 60ft. Climb the gully face, best reached by a complete circumnavigation at sea level.

Cliff of the Lapwings is the more Southerly of the two obvious ribs in the back of the bay. The other - called Kittiwake Rib-gives a moderate scramble which is useful as a means of ascent.

* HIGH HEELED SNEAKERS S 90ft. Climb an obvious chimney crack line past several overhangs.

DHOON BAY GR 462865

The climbs are easily reached from the beach at the foot of Dhoon Glen.

Slab Of Dhoon stands aloof above the sandy beach, an isolated block with a triangular face on the seaward side. Descent is by retreat down the routes or abseil.

CRACK OF DHOON VD 90ft. Follows a crack and shallow corner line a few feet left of the centre.

HIGH DHOON VD 90ft. Starts at the right hand corner of the slab, up a flake, left and up a crack finishing over a quartz bulge. A direct start is possible up the thin slab to join the crack at half height.

To the right about a hundred yards a steep slim buttress rises from the sea and can be reached at low tide.

BUTTRESS SLAB DIRECT S 200ft. Starting from a large ledge climb the crack past a flake roof at 50ft. Trend right and up to a small stance. Climb directly up to finish. One or two variations have been recorded.

On the hillside above the seacliffs is a very obvious large area of easy angled slab, out of sight from the beach but easily seen from the path to Bulgham Bay. The slab is in two parts with the upper much larger section giving the following route :

GARDEN SLAB S 200ft. Starting at the foot of the upper slab climb diagonally right to a large earthy ledge. Peg belay in the right wall of the shallow corner. From here trend left and up to the top. Belays and protection are scarce.

The angle of the slab is such as to provide just enough friction when dry, consequently many variations and problems could be devised.

Lower down and to the left is another area of slabby ribs containing several large blocks. Further identification is provided by a dead tree trunk low down to the left of the slab.

HIGHTOP VD 95ft. Start at the left corner of the slab and climb up to a small flake edge, over this and follow the edge to a grassy patch, belay. Climb the steeper slab to its highest point.

BULGHAM BAY GR 460862

From the car park at the head of Dhoon Glen take the minor road across the tramlines for about 200 yards before turning right over a stone stile onto a grassy footpath. Follow the path through the trees and onto the open hillside (good views of the Dhoon Bay routes) and then downhill to a sharp left hairpin bend over-looking a desperate scramble to the shore. A few yards past the hairpin turn right again and follow straight down the steep hillside along an overgrown wall to an obvious rocky point. This point lies between North and Middle Coves (see map), with access to Middle Cove, and at suitably low tide to South Cove also. North Cove is reached from the other side.

Bulgham North Cove offers a pleasant little slab and crack at about Moderate.

Bulgham Middle Cove. The old 'blue guide' refers to this area as having apparent potential for harder climbs. So far Two lines have been completed although more remain including a superb arete that will be very hard. From the rock point reached as above drop down a short wall to ledges just above sea level.

CARMEN DRAGON VD 100ft. Climb up and rightwards on a variety of lines to reach the bottom of a small ramp running from right to left which is followed to the top.

The next prominent feature to the left of this slab is the superb and as yet (May 81) unclimbed arete on the right edge of the next belt of slabs. A flake crack a few feet left of the arete provides the next route.

FLAKE CRACK VS 100ft. Climb directly up to join the crack, moving left then right at the top, finishing up the easy section of the arete.

* ARCTIC CATERPILLAR VS 120ft. A good route starting just left of the above and taking the line of the shallow gangway sloping up to the left. A blank section in the middle is avoided by a short traverse left to reach a thin crack which is climbed for ten feet to rejoin the gangway. At the top of the gangway move right and up, finishing rather insecurely over gorse bushes.

Bulgham South Cove can be reached from Middle Cove if the tide is low, or else by a horrendous scramble down from the hairpin on the approach track. The main wall separating Middle from South contains a small cave at sea level and gives the first route.

SEA PINK GROOVE VD 50ft. From the level of the cave climb up and left to a ridge abutting the gable end of the crag. From here follow the obvious line of the strata up and rightwards.

The arete on which Sea Pink Groove finishes gives the line of Bluebottle Direct, in a similar but far easier situation to the prominent arete of Middle cove.

- * BLUEBOTTLE ARETE DIRECT HVD 210ft. Starting from sea-level climb more or less directly up the arete with the hardest section in the top half.

BLUEBOTTLE HVD 180ft. Starting about the middle of the buttress at sea level, climb straight up to a rock pool before traversing on enormous ledges to join the Direct variation at the arete.

GOAT LEG BELAY VD 240ft. Follows a rather indefinite line about 20ft left of Bluebottle all the way to the top.

ORIGINAL ROUTE VD 260ft. Starting at the left end of the buttress climb up a slab almost on the edge of the buttress for about 130ft. til the rock peters out. From here walk left to the foot of a large smooth slab (not visible from the top of the previous pitch). Take the easiest line up this upper slab.

The horrendous scramble referred to in the access description of South Cove crosses between the two climbing sections of this route.

LAXEY HEAD GR 445836

From the Shore Hotel, Laxeey take the path leading North along the clifftop for about half a mile, until a large iron post is encountered above a steep stone shoot. Continue just past this point to the top of the slabs where an abseil can be arranged to reach large ledges just above high tide level.

TWINKLETOES S 80ft. The rib bounding the slab on the left is climbed fairly direct via a crack and overlap.

ROUTE 1 S 90ft. Just to the right is an obvious line up a corner with a dirty crack on its right. The route will become both easier and pleasanter as the crack is cleaned. A harder variation immediately right can be made.

- * DOUBLE TROUBLE VS 140ft. From the righthand side of the slab an overlap runs across to the top left of the crag. Starting just before this climb up and left to a large cleaned ledge below a corner, pull out left and climb almost up the edge of the slab to meet the overlap left of a gorse bush. Traverse left to finish.

Further North above the rocky beach is another group of small but good buttresses.

Oak Tree Buttress GR 449840. The crags lie in a stand of small Oak trees, the easiest descent is to the North. Lower down to the left is Acorn Buttress giving the following good short routes.

ACORN CHIMNEY vd 25ft. The stepped chimney in the middle of the crag, loose blocks at the top. Can be used as a descent if care is exercised.

IVY CRACK S 25ft. At the right hand end climb an obvious groove to a small roof which is crossed on the left.

CORNFLAKE VS 25ft. Just left of the above

FLAKEOUT HVS 25ft. A few feet left again and just right of the chimney. Climb steeply onto an obvious flake ledge and crack line above to finish.

So far no routes on the main buttress have been climbed.

SANTON AREA

The coastline North of Santon Head up as far as Port Soderick contains a number of important crags. The area can be reached either by a clifftop walk beginning at Port Soderick, or by driving down the Balnahow track off the old Castletown road, and turning right towards the rifle range. If the range is in use the red warning flags will be flying and this latter approach cannot be used. Starting from the Northern end we have :

Gob Lhiack GR 347719. A descent can be made at the very point of the headland down a short steep crack that starts from a level 'gully' between two rock ribs. From the bottom large ledges stretch round under the main crag to the South. The crag itself is a complex series of overhung and undercut steep slabs and walls, separated by crack and chimney lines.

LUCOZADE VD 30ft. Just around the Southern corner from the descent route is a short orange coloured wall with a large overhang low on the right. Starting on the left climb up to a ledge at half height and up the middle to finish.

CRANKSHAFT VS 120ft. A few yards left of the previous route the sea level ledges end under a short cracked slab. Climb this to the top of a pinnacle, step left across a wide crack which is climbed steeply to a pull-out right onto slabs, belay. Traverse the slab rightward to a slabby corner which is climbed to finish up a grassy gully.

Across the bay from Gob Lhiack can be seen a steep grey wall just above sea level. This can be reached by a scramble down the headland and a traverse at sea level onto a large platform underneath the crag. So far no routes have been climbed on the wall.

Further South again is a large sea cliff hidden from view from the North and not easy to find, although the crag can be seen quite well from the hill side immediately North of Fisketallr Wall. Access is described from the Pistol Castle end.

Pistol Castle GR 339715

These crags are best approached from the Balnahow track off the Old Castletown Road, parking the car close to the rifle range. From here walk down to the bottom corner of the shooting field from whence a good view of Fisketallr Wall to the left, and an approach over the hill and down to sealevel just past the Southern flag-pole, to large easy angled slabs.

PISTOL CASTLE SLABS VD/S 200/250ft. The slabs can be climbed almost anywhere, the only difficulties being the vegetation and the lack of belays.

* RICOCHET VS 290ft. Starting at the bottom left hand of Fisketalle Wall the route follows roughly the line of the arete, finding its way around several overhangs. 90ft. Climb an obvious ramp up left to a corner and stance. 60ft. Up the corner for a few feet then delicately left round the arete and up below an overhang. 60ft. Up to an overhang, back left on the lip of the overhang, over a bulge and up to stance on the arete. 90ft. Up and right then up the wall to finish.

MOODY GROOVE HS 250ft. Right of Fisketallr Wall is another buttress containing a huge black left facing corner. Below and right of this is another corner starting at sea level. Access is by abseil down the rib on the right. From the top of the lower groove traverse left at the level of the start of the top black groove until the upper slab can be reached and followed to the top.

Just around the corner North of Moody Groove is a most impressive sea cliff reached down a steep ramp from the North and so far unclimbed. From this point Santon Crag itself can be clearly seen to the North.

Santon Crag GR 345718. On a first visit the crag is probably best approached from the South by a long traverse downhill starting a few yards North of the wall referred to above. The traverse goes underneath a small isolated buttress containing a very prominent black rightward leaning groove (Bhokhassar) and finishes on large ledges at sealevel underneath a huge overhanging shattered bay immediately South of the main crag.

* FOXTROT VS 150ft. From the large ledges under the South bounding rib of the crag climb the slab into a groove and up to the top of a pillar on the edge of the crag. Peg belays. From here climb up and left into a shattered bay and then out rightward along a rising traverse line to the top.

VICTORY GROOVE VS 150ft. At the righthand end of the crag is an obvious right facing large corner. The route follows this with a diversion near the top to avoid a loose pillar.

MARTINI VS 150ft. Starting from the same point as the above route, but takes the centre of the wall on the right, taking the easiest line.

The crag still holds potential for more routes.

The short cracked wall a few feet right of Martini has been climbed and is regularly used as a descent route. However the top can be rather hard to find and this practice is not recommended until some knowledge of the crags topography has been gained.

One or two routes have been climbed on the easier angled crags to the North.

BHOKASSA HVS 70ft. The route follows the line of the prominent black groove in the buttress high on the hillside above and left of the main crags. Some rather bad rock remains and care is needed. The buttress is quite steep, an abseil from the top is completely free after the first few feet.

The crags stretch from the rocky point of Port St Mary Bay almost as far as the Anvil, a large isolated block in the bay just east of the Sugarloaf. The best access is to walk from the end of the Glen Chass road, although it is quite possible and pleasant to approach from the Chasms end.

Primate Area is the first wall immediately west of the rocky point and consists of a steep first part on good rock topped by an easy wall. The face is split by three chimneys.

KING OF THE SWINGERS HVS 220ft. From the extreme right of the wall traverse to a stance in the righthand chimney. Traverse left past the central chimney into the left hand which is descended to a hanging stance. Move left across the steep wall, up a notch and finish via cracks.

GIBBON S 80ft. The central chimney, finishing up a quartz wall.

* ORANG UTAN HS 80ft. The lefthand chimney and corner above.

GRITSTONE TWAT HVS 80ft. Climbs the wall between the central and lefthand chimneys.

OCTOPUSSES GARDEN VS 120ft. From the cave at the left end of the wall climb up to join a crack rising from the roof of the cave. Follow this finishing to the right.

Penlite Area is the next wall past the cave and is rather more difficult to reach. At the southern end a fence runs down from the Chasms anding above a big corner. The corner is Penlite Crack. It is possible to abseil down the arete a few feet east of the corner or there exists about 40 yards further east a ramp on the main face down which it is possible to scramble to large ledges at the foot of the wall. From here a walk back west at low tide or a Diff. traverse at higher tides leads to the start of Penlit Crack.

PENLITE CRACK HS 90ft. From the lefthand end of the ledge climb up to reach the wide corner crack which is followed to a finish up the right wall.

EASY CRACK VD 90ft. Takes the crack almost on the arete right of Penlite Crack, reached from the right.

- * PENLITE WALL VS 90ft. Using whatever rope tactics seem appropriate cross the chasm below Penlite Crack onto good ledges. Take the obvious groove line up the middle of the wall to belay just below the top under an overhanging corner. The corner is climbed direct in an impressive situation to finish.

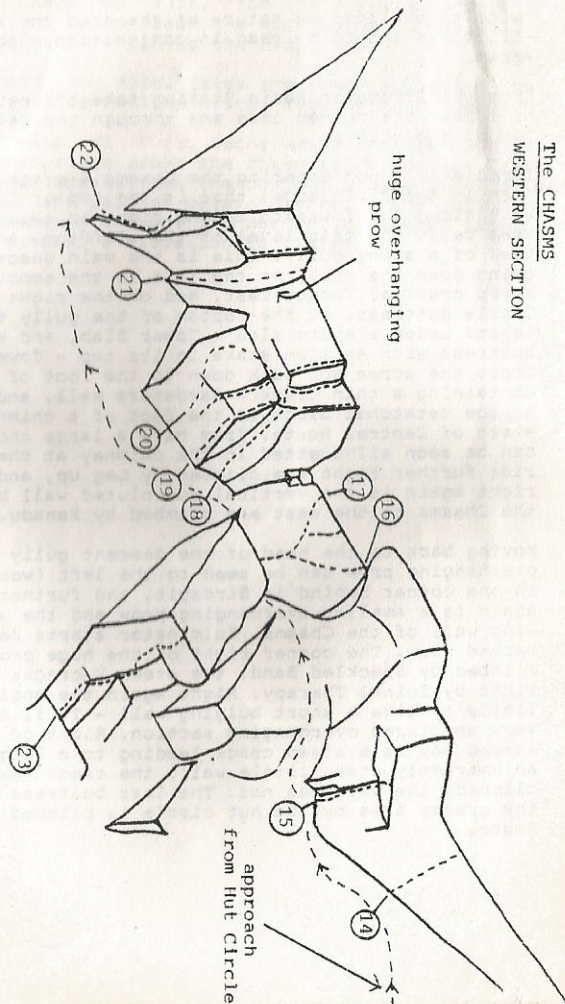
THE CHASMS GR 192664

Owing to the complex nature of the area the route descriptions should be read in conjunction with the diagram.

From the Cregneish Radio Station take the path down the hill past the ruined cafe and through the gate to the top of the cliffs.

Immediately upon entering the Chasms a crack can be seen in the cliff edge, this is the top of Central Route. Walk along the footpath to the right to a large grassy area below the main level of the clifftop, and at the head of a stony gully. This is the main descent gully, going down the gully on the left is the smooth wall and steep crack of Torque Test, and on the right is Hut Circle Buttress. At the bottom of the gully turn left (east) under a short slab - Tower Slab, and an isolated buttress with an iron stake in its top - Tower Buttress. Cross the scree and walk down to the foot of a slab containing a thin crack - Gardeners Wall, and up behind a huge detached block to the foot of a chimney - the start of Central Route. From here a large chockstone can be seen silhouetted in the chimney at the top. The ribs further right are climbed by Leg Up, and further right again is the vertical convoluted wall bounding the Chasms to the east and climbed by Xanadu.

Moving back to the head of the descent gully a huge overhanging prow can be seen to the left (west). Beyond in the corner behind is Birdspit, and further left again is a smaller overhanging prow and the west bounding wall of the Chasms. Fulminator starts below this second prow. The corner right of the huge prow is climbed by Speckled Band, the steep V-cracks to its right by Spinal Therapy. Right again the angle eases a little to give a short bulging wall - Twill, before a very shattered overhanging section. Right of the shattered bay is a steep crack leading to a ledge below an extremely steep little wall; the crack has been climbed, the wall has not. The last buttress before the grassy area by the hut circle is climbed by Army Route.



The Chasms - Western Section

From the Hut Circle walk along to join the obvious buttress rising from a small chasm to the moor. There is a small pinnacle about halfway up.

ARMY ROUTE VD 80ft. Starting just above and right of the chasm, climb the slabby walls, up right of the loose pinnacle, stepping left to finish.

Scramble left from the foot of Army Route, across a large boulder and drop down a short steep wall to scree below a large shattered bay. The rock to the right is sound, that to the left quite rotten. Low down on the right an obvious wide steep crack rises to a short groove and a ledge below an alarmingly overhanging wall.

THE RUNAWAY WALL HVS 35ft. Climb the crack and the short groove above with difficulty to belays on the ledge. Heroes will attempt the upper crack, Ordinary Mortals will retire by abseil.

16/ HERRINGBONE HVS 65ft. Just left of the shattered bay is a clean grey wall, rather undercut at the start. Pull onto the wall at the obvious weakness in the middle and traverse diagonally right up a short gangway. Pull awkwardly onto the slabs above which are climbed easily to the top.

* 17/ TWILL VS 60ft. Start as for Herringbone but climb the leftward trending crackline to the upper slabs.

* 18/ SPINAL THERAPY HVS 100ft. Below and left of the wall of Twill is the steep buttress immediately right of the huge prow. In the middle of the steep upper section are obvious V-cracks. Climb an easy angled slab, traverse left to an ivy field and up to the bottom of the V-cracks. Follow the lefthand crack in a fine position to the top.

19/ VIRGINIA FLAKE VS 120ft. Left of the start of the above route is a corner crack below a flake. Climb these and the loose wall above the flake til an exit right can be made round a blunt arete.

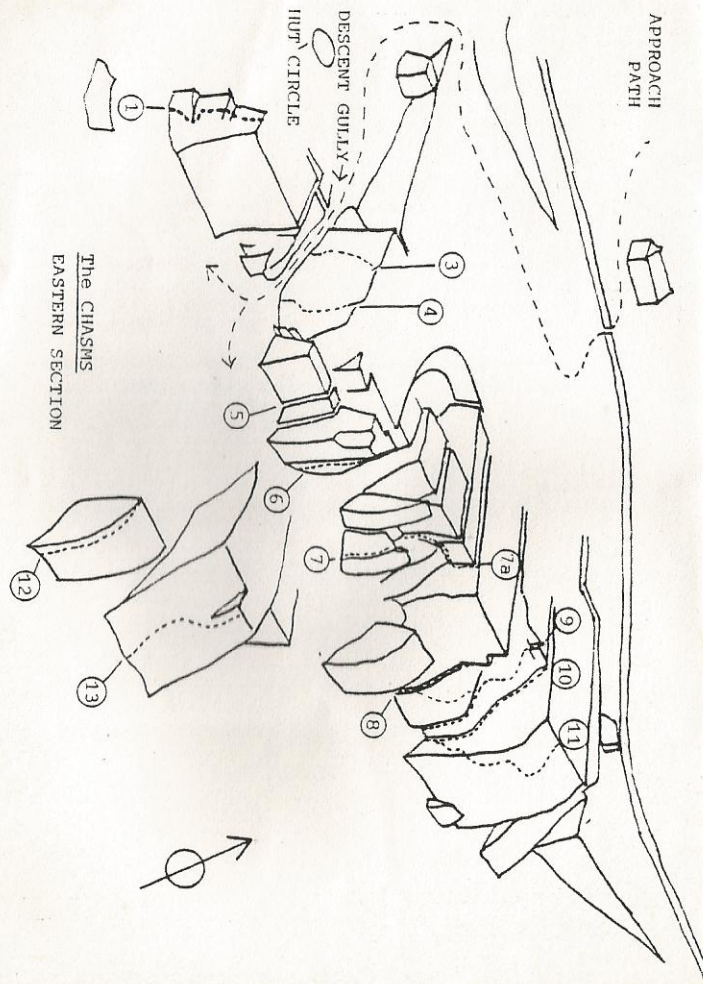
20/ SPECKLED BAND VS 120ft. Make a rising leftward traverse across the slabs to a ledge leading back right into the corner. Belay. Climb up the arete on the right of the corner stepping back left at the top to finish.

FINGER RIPPER HVS 30ft. Climb the thin crack directly to the first belay of Speckled Band. Probably best climbed as a more logical start to Spinal Therapy.

21/ BIRDSPIT VS 100ft. The wall on the left of the huge prow contains two parallel cracks. Reach these directly from the foot of the prow and climb them first on the left then on the right.

22/ FULMINATOR HVS 120ft. Climbs the corner to the right of the more westerly smaller prow. Start at the very toe of the buttress, much lower than the previous routes, where a chimney leads up to a big ivy field. Follow a crack line into the chimney groove which is climbed til a capstone forces an exit right. Struggle through the ivy field to the foot of the corner which is climbed direct to the top.

* 23/ GULGOND mVS 60ft. On the seaward face of the large block immediately below Twill is a fine crack rising out of a deep chasm. Climb the crack direct from the bottom over several bulges.



The Chasms - Eastern Section

1/ IMPENDING MADNESS VS 30ft. Climbs the west bounding wall of Hut Circle Buttress, up three short overhanging walls separated by ledges.

MIKE'S HORROR VD 50ft. A loose chimney groove on the main face of H.C. Buttress, just to the right of the left arete.

- * 3/ TORQUE TEST HVS 60ft. Climbs the obvious thin crack in the wall of the descent gully.
- * 4/ COMMANDER COOL mXS 60ft. Climbs the wall to the right of Torque Test, up a shallow scoop in the upper half. Protection peg in place.
- 5/ TOWER SLABS & CHIMNEY offer several easy grade routes.
- 6/ TOWER BUTTRESS VD 80ft. The eastern wall can be climbed almost anywhere at a uniform standard.
- 7/ GARDENERS WALL S 30ft. Actually a crack up the middle of the wall, best climbed by layback.
- 7a/ WEST'S ROUTE S 100ft. The back of Gardeners Wall is an enclosed area known as The Quad. Climb the crack in the east wall almost in the corner to a large perched block. Walk along the ledge to the chimney which is followed to the top.
- * 8/ CENTRAL ROUTE VD 120ft. A good chimney climb in two pitches with a fine finish around the silhouetted chockstone at the top.
- 9/ JOHN'S DILEMA S 100ft. Climb Central Route for a few feet then traverse diagonally across the righthand wall to the crack in the corner. Follow this to just below the top, step left and climb a short steep notch in the wall to finish. A direct start exists up the steep flared chimney in the middle of the wall but has not as yet been led.

10/ JOHNATHAN'S DILEMA VD 90ft. Climbs the chimney crack to the right of the previous route.

11/ LEG UP HS 100ft. Starting from the foot of the above route climb up and rightwards to a cave like stance on the face of the buttress. Finish up the face near the left edge.

LEG HIGH VS 110ft. Climbs roughly up the middle of the face to the right of the previous route.

12/ TOOTH DIRECT HVS 60ft. Climbs the seaward face of the Tooth, a large spike of rock, the top of which is directly below the descent gully.

TOOTH D 120ft. Climb easily up a corner on the eastern face, traverse to the arete and follow this to the top. Descent is by abseil or reversing the route.

13/ BULGING WALL VD 120ft. Takes the easiest line up the middle of the seaward face.

PLAQUE VS 25ft. Climb the landward face of the Tooth just right of the left arete.

The Chasms - Xanadu Walls

To the East the Chasms are bounded by a line of vertical crags extending from just below the ruined cafe to the headland by the Sugarloaf (the obvious isolated sea-stack). Most of these cliffs are unclimbed and in view of the poor rock and the very high resident bird populations are probably best left so. However, the section below the ruined cafe rising above the grassy ramp that runs down to the sea, contains two long, serious and high quality climbs.

* XANADU HVS 220ft. Starting from the grassy ramp about halfway down to sealevel is a very obvious line of weakness trending right to left up the cliff. The climb takes this line and the cracked walls above. On close inspection the weakness turns out to be a ramp which is reached by awkward moves from the left and followed for about 80ft to a poor stance. Continue in the same line till forced left onto the main wall which is followed steeply to a sensational stance in 80ft. The final 40ft wall is climbed in the same line on steep but sound rock.

* MYLREA VS 200ft. In the same wall as Xanadu but starting lower down the ramp is a huge corner facing out to sea. The feature is in fact not at all obvious when viewed face on. The corner is climbed direct all the way, with a finish on the right at the top.

SUGARLOAF VD 160ft. This splendid stack has been reached by swimming, boat, and an exciting abseil and pendulum from the headland opposite. The traditional route climbs a dirty chimney between the two summits although it has been reported that the landward face has been climbed.

HEADLAND SOLO S 250ft. From the foot of the wall just opposite the Sugarloaf, facing south, climb short walls and corners to the large flat ledge overlooking the gap between the stack and the headland. From here climb steep corners to a final short corner below the top.

BLACK HEAD GR 187658

This headland, lying between the Chasms and Spanish Head is best approached from the path to the latter. The main climbs lie on the south facing walls and are probably best reached on a first visit by abseil down to large ledges at the foot of the crags. It is possible to climb down from a point about 50 yards west of the tip of the headland, and this descent forms an easy way back to the top of the crag. The best abseil point is more or less on the point of the headland itself, just west of a large gully/chimney.

MATADOR HVS 100ft. Climbs the left of two chimneys a little to the left of the descent abseil, starting from the large ledges high above the sea. A problem start to the right of the chimney leads to a pocket, swing into the chimney then finish up the pleasant wall on the left on large flakes. Belay near the top of the descent route.

EL'BOW VS 180ft. From the start of Matador traverse left and down to the foot of a large chimney crack in a corner. The route takes the walls and arete to the right of the crack. Climb the arete moving left awkwardly onto an overhang and up to large ledges at 110ft. From here traverse right on the wall til an ascent can be made up large rather doubtful holds.

- * CONQUISTADOR VS 80ft. To the right of El'Bow and left of the descent route are two obvious hanging grooves. The route takes the righthand of these which is reached by a gymnastic pull over a large overhang followed by a steep little wall to the foot of the corner which is climbed to the top.

Much scope remains, with prospects on the big wall to the left of El'Bow of some really big serious routes.

SPANISH HEAD GR 183658

One of the most impressive cliffs on the island, well worth a visit. The easiest approach is as for the Chasms but to follow the well worn path along the edge of the moor until after dipping down to a small stream it rises again to the top of the crag. Scramble steeply down the grassy slope to large ledges at the foot of the wall.

- * DONCELLA VS 370ft. Traverse to a small black ledge just above high water mark, near the left edge of the crag. The route takes the crack line directly above the ledge and the wall above until a good ledge is reached at 200ft. From here the route follows a steep groove line and the wall almost on the left edge of the crag.

TROUBADOR VS 350ft. Starting from the ledges at the foot of the crag, climb a grey fault line forming a ramp situated to the right of the ledges. Continue over the overhangs to good ledges and belays. From here start a long diagonal traverse to reach the arete below the upper wall of Doncella.

PICADOR VS 360ft. A serious route up the highest central part of the crag. Start at the right hand end of the rock strewn platform at the foot of the grassy slope. 80ft. Climb a steep wall trending right to a peg belay below an overhang. 60ft. Round the right of the overhang follow a black diagonal crack to the left then up right to a grass ledge and peg belay below a prominent overhang. 100ft. Climb to a point just right of the overhang, move right and up the edge of an earthy scoop until it is possible to move left onto a steep wall. Up to a grassy amphitheatre, peg belay. 120ft. walk left and climb a pedestal. The pock-marked wall above is climbed trending right til a delicate traverse leads left back to the edge. Continue up and right to an overhanging ledge, left along this til an exposed pull through the overhang leads sudden to the top.

ALDRICK GR 175673

From the Calf Sound take the footpath that runs along the west coast, starting from the carpark. In about half a mile a headland is reached giving good views across Aldrick Bay of an area of small crags on the hillside, well above sea level. The path continues through the crags under an obvious slabby pinnacle.

SLAB & PINNACLE D 30ft. Climb the cracked face of the pinnacle above the path.

GULLY CLIMBS. Below the footpath is a short gully with steep rock walls giving a number of difficult boulder type problems on quartzite faces and steep cracks.

ELBOW JOINT VS 60ft. The first major buttress lies a few yards past Slab and Pinnacle and lies below the path. A steep off-width crack, uncut at the start, finishing up the corners behind.

DECEPTION HVS 90ft. The next buttress along contains an easy looking groove near the left edge. Climb the groove moving right at the top and over the bulging wall to the final slab and wall. Much harder than it looks a and very unprotected.

PUCKOON VS 70ft. Start left of and a little higher than Deception, at a short chimney formed by a large boulder. Climb the wall immediately right of the chimney, move left and climb the final overhang direct.

Left of Puckoon is a short buttress with a very undercut groove. The groove provides a good problem. The final steep wall of these crags provides rather more serious climbing, with some very doubtful rock.

THREE TIMES A LADY VS 70ft. The obvious wide chimney.

VENEER HVS 40ft. Left of the chimney is a crack line up the wall, thin to start but widening higher up. The crack is climbed direct.

FENELLA BEACH - PEEL GR

Although these crags are rather short the rock is the best on the island and the climbs are of high quality. The main walls can only be reached at low tide or by abseil onto one of the large boulders below the walls. From the car park the first section lies at an easy angle providing suitable routes for novices, the sterner stuff lies round the corner. Although the area is small it is a little complex to describe so reference should be made to the plan.

OUT OF THE GLOOM 40ft. Scramble down into the cave traverse out onto the slippery ledge and round onto the easy angle face to finish.

The Lobsterpot Wall lies to the right of the cave and contains some good climbing.

* CRAB CRAWL HS 60ft. Starting from a belay in the cave traverse delicately across the bottom wall and cross the overhang onto the main wall. Traverse easily rightward til a delicate step enables the rib to be reached and followed to the top.

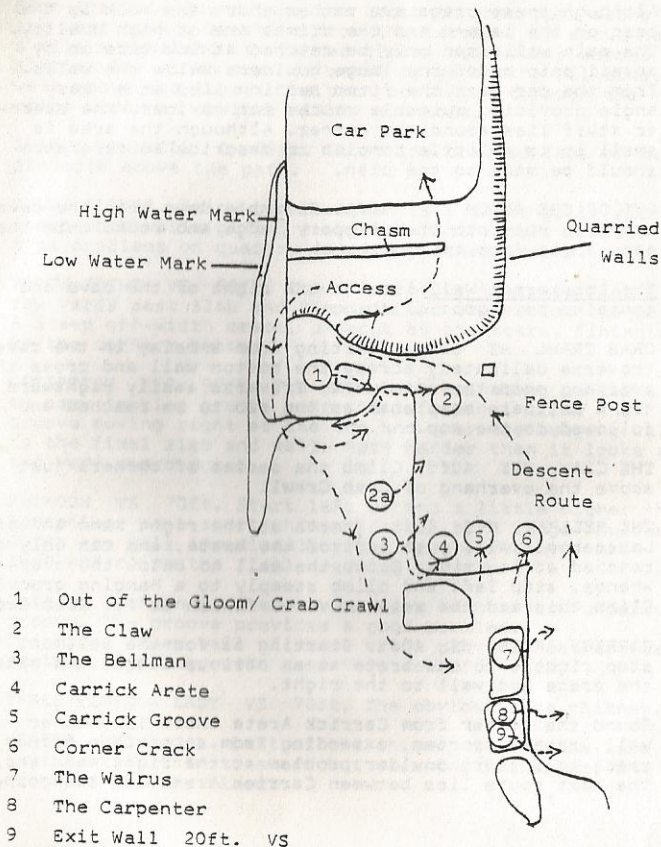
THE CLAW HVS 40ft. Climb the series of corners just above the overhang of Crab Crawl.

THE BELLMAN HVS 40ft. Starts at the right hand end of Lobsterpot Wall, just left of the arete, and can only be reached at low tide. Climb the wall to below the overhangs, step left and climb steeply to a hanging groove. Climb this and the wall above to finish as for Crab Crawl.

CARRICK ARETE HS 40ft. Starting as for the Bellman, step right onto the arete at an obvious ledge, and climb the arete and wall to the right.

Round the corner from Carrick Arete there is another wall, rather shorter, extending from an obvious corner crack to a short boulder problem at the right hand end. The next route lies between Carrick Arete and the corner.

Schematic Diagram - Pennella Beach



CARRICK GROOVE VS 40ft. Halfway between the arete and the corner in the middle of the wall is a slabby black groove line. Reach the groove on the right and climb it on the left wall past a bulge. Finish more easily.

CORNER CRACK VS 50ft. The corner is awkward. Step left and up under the roof, finishing on the left wall of the corner.

* THE WALRUS VS 30ft. In the middle of the wall to the right of the corner climb a crack to a point on the right of a large bulge. Step left and climb the bulging wall direct to an easier finish.

THE CARPENTER VS 25ft. To the right of The Walrus is another crackline. Climb this to the steeper upper part step right and over the bulge to the top.

MINOR CRAGS OF THE ISLE OF MAN

One of the delights of climbing on the island is the abundance of areas providing boulder problems and short routes of various types and standards. The following notes indicate the main areas without attempting provide any proper descriptions.

Cornaa GR 475878. The crags lie to the north of the beach, and include several easy slabs of around 80ft. and one steeper slab reached by abseil from a small sycamore tree at the cliff edge.

Clayhead GR 444805.

Heather Crag GR 438798. The crag is not too easy to find as it lies well above sealevel quite a long way from the road.

Groudle GR 427785. This is the steep black coloured wall easily seen from the main coast road above Howstrake Camp. The east bounding arete of the crag can be reversed at an easy standard to large ledges above high tide. The only route so far is True Blue HVS 40ft. This climbs the wall between the two caves, trending right to the top.

Howstrake GR 413777. Best reached by scrambling down from the bus shelter above the camp on the main road. The only route so far is Ringrond HVS 100ft. Climbs a steep crack out of a cave followed by the loose groove above.

Port Jack GR 401773. The crags just below the Douglas Bay Hotel offer several short problems and one short fairly steep wall offering a number of routes between Diff and Severe, all about 60ft..

Port Greenaugh GR 315703. The rocks to the south can provide an afternoons easy scrambling and probleming.

Langness GR 291665. Rather surprisingly in view of its very low level there are a few good little climbs. The best area lies immediately adjacent to the 16th green. Follow the road to the lighthouse, leaving it to turn left at a ruined house by a gate in the road. Continue at right angles to the road, over the fairway and drop down past the green to the base of a slab containing a large overhang. Several routes have been climbed including the overhang direct at Severe.

Scarlett GR 257662. A small stack of sound volcanic rock offering several short routes and problems.

Lhalttee Ny Beinse GR 214735. Nothing very worthwhile has been found despite the areas inclusion in the old guide.

Stroin Vuigh GR 215742. Some routes have been described, nothing worthwhile.

Crag-Ny-Iree-Laa GR 217746. As above.

Crag-Ny-Greeba GR 316907. A small crag almost hidden in the plantation above the main Douglas - Pell road at Greeba. Four or five routes from Diff to Severe make the crag worth a visit for an afternoon or evening.

Cluggid Fall GR 394922. A pleasant little place next to a waterfall. Rather overwritten in the old guide but nevertheless worth a visit. The 30ft groove in the centre of the crag is Cluggid Groove - Severe, the walls both left and right can be climbed and provide many short problems.