

Cheddar Gorge – New Routes

29/04/2008

Pinnacle Bay

*****Stone Cold Fever 100m WINTER ONLY**

Diverse and mostly amenable climbing on a direct line that ascends the full height of the Pinnacle Bay. The climb is well bolted throughout (F6a+ obl). It is possible to abseil from rim to floor – 70m rope required (note: first abseil is exactly 35m so be careful). Start 10 metres to the left of the large cave beneath Terrace Gully.

(1) 20m. F6a+

Ascend an initial easy slab then make a stiff pull diagonally leftwards through the bulge.

Follow the easy corner above to a good ledge and belay at a double ring abseil station on wider ledge just above. Eight bolt runners.

(2) 20m. F6b+

Climb the elegant technical groove before continuing more easily up rightwards on large holds to a semi-hanging stance at a three bolt abseil station (with two rings). Seven bolt runners.

(3) 7m. -

Pull up onto the slope above and scramble up to a tree belay (with a belay bolt just above)

(4) 16m. F6b.

Move up onto a raised ledge (peg runner) then step up and swing around onto the left side of the arête. Follow the arête to a pleasant mid-height resting ledge. Clip a high bolt runner on the right before continuing up the left side of the arête and finishing leftwards to a ledge and double ring abseil station in a short corner. Seven bolt runners.

(5) 7m. –

Make a final move up the short corner to gain a narrow ledge above, then step across to the right and scramble carefully up the grass slope to reach the walkway and bolt belays on the left of a clean corner. One bolt runner.

(6) 30m. F6a. Surmount an initial bulge to gain a slight groove and continue straight up on the wall on continually surprising holds to reach a slight upper groove. At the top of this step across to the right on a wide ledge and finish up an awkward scoop to a hanging stance at a double ring abseil station. Thirteen bolt runners.

(7) Pull over onto the summit and walk up the slope to belay in the welcome sunshine at a convenient tree.

FA: (Pitches 1-5) Gordon A Jenkin, Yvonne Jones 14th January 2007

FA: (Pitch 6) Gordon A Jenkin, Martin J Crocker (both led), Yvonne Jones 3rd February 2007

It's Going to be Ugly 40m WINTER ONLY

Worth doing for its good first pitch pulling directly through its sizeable bulge at a surprisingly low grade. The suspect structure of upper pitch requires experience and care to gently climb the narrow 'fin' arête. Start below a hanging slab on the left edge of the large cave beneath Terrace Gully.

(1) 20m. F6a+

Gain the slab with difficulty and follow it to where things get considerably steeper. Reach for a large pocket and make a stiff pull on good holds to easy ledges and a double ring abseil station above. Six bolt runners.

(2) 20m. F5

Climb diagonally across a small slab and carefully follow the hollow groove above to where one can step right onto the narrow 'fin' arete. Follow this arete and the slabby wall above to a large ledge and double ring abseil station. Eight bolt runners.

FA: Gordon A Jenkin, Ed Heslam (both led) 10th February 2008

Horseshoe Bend Buttress

One Horse Town F5+ 30m

Right to left girdle traverse of Horse Bend Buttress starting up 'Reunion at Nightfall' and finishing at the double ring abseil station of 'Partners In Crime'. Plenty of bolts.

FA: Gordon A Jenkin 26th January 2008

Reunion at Nightfall F5 15m

Slabby wall to roof then traverse left and pull directly up to double ring abseil station of 'Tourist Distraction'. Five bolts. Rather fun

FA: Gordon A Jenkin, Yvonne Jones (both led), Cathal Connern 7th October 2007

Her Indoors F6a 15m

Disappointing and a bit snappy in parts. Short groove leads to a tricky brittle scoop. Double ring abseil station directly above. Five bolts.

FA: Gordon A Jenkin,, Cathal Connern 2nd November 2007

The next two routes share a common double ring abseil station.

Just for Fun F6c 9m

Rightwards diagonal line through prominent bulge. Not immediately obvious. Two bolts.

FA: Gordon A Jenkin, Edwin Heslam (both led) 1st March 2007

It Ain't Necessary F6b+ 8m

Stiff bulge that originally finished up a pleasant easy corner groove. The belay has since been lowered upon request from Cheddar Caves. Three bolts.

FA: Gordon A Jenkin, Yvonne Jones, Cathal Connern 7th October 2007

Placebo VS 4c 12m

Slim groove immediately right of 'Fat Slapper'

FA: Harry Allan, James A Parrott 1st March 2008.

Burmese Wall

***Trusty Rusty F6a+ 10m**

Just left of 'Arbi's Virgin Start' is a short, steep wall on suprising incuts that makes a useful warm-up in an otherwise tough neighbourhood. Three bolt runners above initial belay bolt.

FA: Gordon A Jenkin, Edwin Heslam, James A Parrott , Harry Allan, Mark Tomlinson (all led) 1st March 2008

Great Rock – Must Be Small Wall

This is the (very) short tier located beneath the lines of 'Lost Cause' and 'Piped at the Post' (page 105) beneath the approach path to 'Morning Glory'

Big is Beautiful F6b 6m

The white overlap on the left side of the tier lasts as long as the walk in. Tricky move to blind hold hidden up on the right. Three bolts for your safety.

FA: Gordon A Jenkin, Daniel P Jenkin (both led) 9th March 2008

Sister Morphine F7a+ 7m

Can you resist the open groove that bounds the left edge of the large impenetrable overhang? Four bolts guarantee no harm will come to you.

FA: Gordon A Jenkin 30th March 2008

It Won't Take Long F6b+ 9m

The short hanging groove on the right of the large overhang is quickly reached. Four bolts amply protect.

FA: Gordon A Jenkin, James A Parrott, Ally Smith (all led) 30th March 2008

Wind Rock

To Much Cream; Not Enough Jam F5+ 13m WINTER ONLY

The well-sheltered side wall of the unusual zawn provides a minor crumb. Six bolts.

FA: Gordon A Jenkin, Daniel P Jenkin, Tom Heslam (all led) 18th November 2006

The Tower

This is the isolated tower to the right of the Lower Sunnyside Terrace.

Single bolt belay at the base of the first two routes.

***Ice And Easy F6a 20m WINTER ONLY**

A jolly outing that spirals up the striking left arête. Ten bolts.

FA: Gordon A Jenkin, Yvonne Jones 26th January 2007 (The upper section had been climbed previously by Martin J Crocker, Francis Haden on 1st January 1995)

***Cooler Thinking F6a 18m WINTER ONLY**

The square-cut groove and bare face above proves surprisingly amenable. Eight bolts.

FA: Gordon A Jenkin, Martin J Crocker (both led) 13th January 2007

Single bolt belay at the base of the next two routes.

Sun Shine Underground F5 18m WINTER ONLY

This ascends easy ground directly up into a short steep layback corner then follows the open groove above. Eight bolts.

FA: Gordon A Jenkin, Tim Nicholson, Oliver Beesley 3rd March 2007

***Shadows In The Mist F6b+ 20m WINTER ONLY**

A surprising pitch with blind and absorbing climbing. Eight bolts

Climb up easy ground, as for *Sun Shine Underground*, and step right onto a square-cut ledge on the right side of a three metre high pillar. Pull steeply over the first bulge and step left onto the top of the pillar (for an easy next clip). Now step back right, move up to the second bulge above and pull over rightwards with difficulty (crux) to where more straightforward climbing ascends the face above to a double bolt abseil station.

FA: Gordon A Jenkin 13th October 2007

Pride Evans Cliff

***Sprechen Ewe Loos F6c 25m**

Varied climbing up the slab, bare wall and rounded pillar at the far left end of the crag. The hard fourth clip is easily avoided by reaching the draw kindly left by your much taller mate. Well protected by eight bolts.

FA: Gordon A Jenkin, Edwin Heslam, Tom Heslam (all led) 6th April 2008

Subsidiary Wall (aka Canadian Wall)

Keep the Home Fires Burning F6a 15m

The right edge of the wall provides more interest than appearance might suggest. Keep to the line of the bolts. Five bolts protect.

FA: Gordon A Jenkin, Paul Robertson, Peter Shepherd (all led) 9th November 2007

The Narrows

Minor broken walls opposite Horseshoe Bend Buttress.

*** That Hollow Feeling! F6a+ 19m**

Demolished by the National Trust in January 2008!

To the right, up slope behind (what was a mess of vegetation) lies

Totally Elched F6b 15m

Climb to the top of a short deep groove and swing out left to a resting ledge. The edge of bare rib above proves tricky when climbed direct. Avoiding the difficulties makes for a less interesting F6a. Five bolt runners.

FA: Gordon A Jenkin, Edwin Heslam, Martin J Crocker (all led) Tom Heslam 25th April 2007

To the right again is an angular brown buttress

***Spoon Jar Jar Spoon F6a 17m**

The left edge of the angular wall is steeper and better than expected. Plentiful holds and with a surprisingly airy finish. Six bolt runners. (Shoulder sling recommended on the fourth bolt runner)

FA: Gordon A Jenkin, Rob Kinsey, Simon Rogers (all led) 25th November 2007

Arch Rock

Starting over on the extreme left ...

Three Pounds Per Tonne F4- 12m

The easiest sport route in Cheddar and likely to become disproportionately popular. A bit lacking in character but pleasant enough. Four bolts.

FA: Gordon A Jenkin, Martin J Crocker (both led), John Harwood 25th November 2007

Oh Pretty Woman! F5/5+ 16m

Starting as for 'Three Pounds Per Tonne' move up and step right to the first bolt runner. Climb directly up a small tricky groove-let to find a hidden bucket then surmount the final prominent bulge fairly easily. Easier if you start (more logically) from the large ledge and use holds on the right. Four bolts.

FA: Gordon A Jenkin, Edwin Heslam (both led) 1st March 2008

The two routes immediately next share an abseil station.

Lapse in Taste F5+ 14m

The slight rib with an avoidable, hard boulder problem start. Five bolts.

FA: Gordon A Jenkin, Edwin Heslam (both led) 17th November 2007

*** Mr Ripple F6a 14m**

The easy-looking groove is indeed easy for its grade. Finish on the left as for Lapse in Taste. Six bolts.

FA: Gordon A Jenkin, Edwin Heslam (both led) 17th November 2007

The two routes immediately next also share an abseil station.

Big Budget Productions F6a 16m

The central slab topped with a steep finish. Five bolts.

FA: Gordon A Jenkin, Edwin Heslam (both led) 17th November 2007

*** Room with a View F6a+ 16m**

Narrow groove and with a surprisingly tricky leftward finish for its grade. Six bolts.

FA: Gordon A Jenkin, Edwin Heslam (both led) 17th November 2007

Lady Cassidy F6a 16m

The left rib of the arch deserves some courtesy despite the comfortable size of her holds. Six bolts.

FA: Gordon A Jenkin, Mark Tomlinson, Maddie Geddes-Barton (all led) 23rd November 2007