

# Climbs Omitted from the Llanberis Guide

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The following small crags above the Pen y Gwyrdd to Capel Curig road were omitted from the new *Llanberis* guidebook as it was felt that it would be more logical to put them in the new *Ogwen* guide, which is currently in preparation.

## Craig yr Haul

OS Ref 675 575

After a mile (or so) of driving from Pen y Gwyrdd to Capel Curig, park your car at a lay-by, go through a grey gate, and start walking. The crag is high up on the side of the mountain (note: it is not the lower broken buttress). The rock is superb; there is currently scope for more routes. A perfect place for the seekers of solitude, it is south-facing and sunny all day. This cliff is marked on the present OS map as Clogwyn Du – this name should refer to the lower broken buttress, and the name given is made up.

In the centre is a slabby tower, with some easy-angled slabs to the right. Left of the tower is a prominent rib with an obvious corner at two-thirds height. Left again are some short walls, one with a small corner at its top. The first route takes this.

## Partially Obscured by a Tall Sheep

12 metres Very Severe 4b (13.3.93)

Start at the base of the vertical crack. A series of mantels, layaways, and other forms of climbing leads to the corner. Climb this to jugs. Smile a lot.

## Fermat's Last Theorem

11 metres Hard Very Severe 5b (23.6.93)

A well-protected route with some fun moves. Start about 10 metres right of *Partially Obscured...*, at a vertical crack in a 'pebbledash' wall. Climb the wall to reach the base of the upper crack; positive holds and crystals lead to a flake and small blocks. Continue up, the difficulty easing all the time.

## Ossum

23 metres E1 5a (13.3.93)

Start at the base of the obvious rib with the prominent corner at two-thirds height. Easy climbing leads up to the corner; place some good gear before tackling it. A final easy slab leads to belays.

## Annie Get Your Oakleys

27 metres Very Severe 4c (13.3.93)

Start as for *Alexandra Technique*. Climb the crack for about 2 metres and then traverse left to a perched flake. Climb the cracks and flakes above, very enjoyable, to finish up the escapable arête. Belay well back.

**Alexandra Technique** 27 metres Hard Very Severe 5a (13.3.93)

The central crack-system in the slabby tower. Climb the crack to a short 'chimney', and step left to gain the middle cracks. Bridge up or layback the cracks, with some good protection, to gain a ledge and a breather; the final moves past an obvious flake are also entertaining. Belay well back.

Round to the right are the slabs. The first route on these starts at a scoop below some quartz.

**Belbin's Bull** 27 metres Very Severe 4c (23.6.93)

A delightful pitch. Start as for *Alexandra Technique* but take the crack curving up rightwards to reach a flake; semi-layback the crack to reach a ledge. Continue up the upper crack.

Further down and right, at the base of the buttress, are two vegetated corners with a stepped arête: the next route follows this.

**Shed's Arête** 18 metres Hard Severe 4a (23.6.93)

A bold little route. Start at the base of the arête and ascend the knobbly rock to reach the base of a steepening. Good holds and a spike (thin sling) lead to a ledge and the upper section of the arête.

**Matt's Pad** 37 metres Very Difficult (13.3.93)

Climb the scoop, then the rib above to the quartz, and past this to a large ledge. Ascend the bulge/overhang using a block to finish up the slab. More fun if done without using the edge of the block, which forms the slab.

Down and right of *Matt's Pad* is a damp area, formerly an ephemeral natural Jacuzzi at the foot of the slab. The next route starts just left of this.

**Herbie the Cat** 50 metres Severe (13.3.93)

**1** 23m. Climb the slab to a rib, and then go up this to some heather. Belay above the heather at the base of an open quartz groove.

**2** 27m. Ascend the quartz-streaked groove and go up the right-hand crack on the slabby finishing block.

**Ejectamenta** 18 metres Severe (23.6.93)

A nice filler-in. Start just right of the damp area. Ascend the slab to the bottom of a short groove. Awkward moves lead up to the easy slab above. Climb this past quartz and various bits of ejectamenta. Round and right again are some more slabs, split by a broad heather ledge.

The following route starts at the very toe of the slab.

**Llados** 41 metres Severe (13.3.93)

**1** 23m. Climb the pale slab, with great interest but no protection to the heather ledge.

**2** 18m. Take the diagonal crack in the upper slab, but after about 5 metres go up the slab direct to the top.

The next two routes are on either side of the top pitch of *Llados*.

**Bistromaths** 18 metres Very Difficult (13.3.93)  
Climb the slab left of *Llados*, past flakes and up the clean strip of rock.

**Stu the Rabbit** 18 metres Very Difficult (13.3.93)  
Start 5 metres right of *Llados*, where there is another area of clean slabs with some interesting moves.

## The RAC Boulders Crag OS Ref 697 573

These popular pocketed blocks lie in the field below a 15-metre crag in Dyffryn Mymbyr, about a mile and a half west of Plas y Brenin, at a lay-by on the A4086. The boulders give good sport, but are on private land. The owner, who lives in the house just above and to the left of the crag, seems tolerant of climbers as long as they ask for permission, keep a low profile, and leave no litter. The crag is divided by an area of broken rock on the left and a grassy gully on the right. All the easier lines have been ascended; other harder lines were first pegged in the 50s.

The left-hand buttress is Atom Art Buttress. This is split by an off-width dogleg crack, and capped by a large tree.

**Jiggit** 9 metres E6 6c (13.5.89)  
Sustained climbing on minute holds up the well-ried wall and groovelet left of the off-width crack (peg) to finish just right of the tree.

The off-width itself is a painfully obvious traditional Hard Very Severe; a detailed description seems superfluous.

**Atom Art** 9 metres E6 6b (18.5.86)  
Wrongly referred to as *Atom Arm* in a previous guide, this carnivorous little horror takes the pocketed wall and crack, starting 2 metres right of the dogleg off-width. It is reputed to be the safest of the three hard routes here.

**Pygmy Passion** 8 metres E5 6c (24.5.87)  
The thin crack and tiny arête just right of *Atom Art* are sustained, but give good protection.

A short way to the right is Central Buttress. This is by far the widest and highest of the three sections of the crag. There are three main lines.

**Swcad** 15 metres E1 5c (1956)  
The central groove finishing over the roof gives a fine pitch.

**Stor Klumpe** 14 metres E4 6a (28.6.84)

The immaculate crack right of *Swcad* does not yield without a struggle.

**Spanish Bomb** 12 metres E1 5c (7.84)

On the right-hand side of the buttress, this is the groove right of *Stor Klumpe*, with a finish up the arête.

Across a wide grassy gully, to the right and set back, lies the final small buttress, cut by a slim right-facing corner.

**Retchus (The Longer Reach)** 9 metres E5 6c (10.87)

The wall with a faint crackline left of *El Groove*. From the central flake, swing left and finish up the arête – dynamic and strenuous with one very hard move.

**El Groove** 9 metres E1 5c (1960s)

The slim right-facing corner is short, but cute.

**Craig Garth** Ridge Crag OS Ref 704 565

There are a series of small buttresses on the opposite side of the valley to The RAC Boulders. The following routes lie on the left-hand crag, where a steep and undercut wall faces towards Capel Curig. Approach by passing Garth Farm on the lakeside; then cross the very boggy valley. Worth a visit if one is going – well – very well.

Just before the undercut wall, the first small cliff reached has a prominent crack in the arête: **Come to Hughie's and See the World** (9 metres Very Severe 4c).

**The Call of the Raven** 12 metres E5 6b (16.8.87)

This takes the left-hand of two prominent cracks. Climb ledgy ground to a peg runner; then jump for the jug in front of it. Continue up the crack to finish over stacked blocks.

**The Big Bird** 9 metres E6 6b (28.9.87)

An excellent route taking the right-hand crack past four peg runners and finishing direct.

At the right-hand end of the crag sits an obvious undercut arête bounded by a mossy corner:

**The Beast Beneath Me** 14 metres E6 6b (9.87)

Start below the mossy corner, then rock up onto the wall. Traverse left on pockets to gain the arête with hard moves leading to a grassy ledge. Follow the arête on its left side (two peg runners) to a rounded hold on its edge. Pull out right past a peg and continue to the top.

## First Ascents

- 1956 **Swcad** R Orgill  
*Rediscovered and named by L Clark on 28.6.84.*
- 1984 June 28 **Stor Klumpe** L Clarke, C Waters
- 1984 July **Spanish Bomb** L Clark (solo)
- 1986 May 18 **Atom Art** J Silvester (unseconded)  
*Short, fingery, and very powerful.*
- 1987 May 24 **Pygmy Passion** G Smith, A George
- 1987 Sept 28 **The Big Bird** G Smith, P Hawkins
- 1987 Sept **The Beast Beneath Me** P Hawkins, G Smith
- 1987 Aug 16 **The Call of the Raven** P Hawkins, G Smith
- 1987 Oct **Retchus** J Silvester (solo)
- 1989 May 13 **Jiggit** N Dixon  
*Redpoint ascent! Hard on the fingers!*
- 1993 March 13 **Partially Obscured by a Tall Sheep, Annie Get Your Oakleys** J Green, I A Jones
- 1993 March 13 **Ossum, Alexandra Technique, Herbie The Cat**  
I A Jones, J Green
- 1993 March 13 **Matt's Pad, Bistromaths, Stu the Rabbit** J Green (solo)
- 1993 March 13 **Llados** I A Jones (solo)
- 1993 June 23 **Belbin's Bull, Shed's Arête** D Ferguson, I A Jones
- 1993 June 23 **Fermat's Last Theorem** I A Jones, D Ferguson
- 1993 June 23 **Ejectamenta** I A Jones, D Ferguson (both solo)
- 1997 May 25 **Elegant Inevitability** T Keep, S Macartney
- 1997 June 16 **Steal My Dreams** T Keep, S Macartney