

A CLIMBING GUIDE TO  
**CWM CRAFNANT**

by Tony Shaw

assisted by  
Alan Espie, Colin Foord and Martin Wragg

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1962 Climbs in the Crafnant Area by Brian Royle	23 page typescript
1964 (March) Appendix to Crafnant Climbs by Jim Perrin	7 page typescript
1966 (June) Appendix to Crafnant Guide by Marshall Reeves	6 page typescript
1966 (Sept) New routes in Crafnant by Marshall Reeves	1 page typescript
1966 Carneddau by Tony Moulam Climbers' Club	Climbers' Club
1970 Clogwyn yr Eryr update by Marshall Reeves	11 page typescript
1970 Snowdon East by Tony Moulam Climbers' Club	Climbers' Club
1980 New Climbs, CCJ by Pete Gomersall	Climbers' Club
1983 North Wales - 1982 Supplement by Andy Pollitt	Climbers' Club

Map of Cwm Crafnant	Helen Ball
Drawing of Little Stanage	Helen Ball
Photograph of S.H. Wall	Tony Shaw
Other Drawings	Phil Gibson

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The 1997 guide is no longer available. The *original* route descriptions text and diagrams for Crafnant are here being made available to bridge the gap. Please note that this is not a supplement or update – the content is completely unmodified.

Crafnant is to be incorporated in a completely new guide to the Carneddau, which will also include Dyffryn Conwy. If you have any comments on the route descriptions or any new-route information, go to the Climbers' Club website, click on the 'Guidebooks in preparation' tab, and follow the instructions.

Good action photos (any format) are also sought. If you would like to offer photos for consideration please use the contact details in the "Guidebooks in preparation" page.

[www.climbers-club.co.uk](http://www.climbers-club.co.uk)

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Special thanks must go to Geoff Milburn whose timely intervention turned a typescript into a publishable manuscript and Ian Smith for technical assistance.

Tony Shaw  
Litton Mill  
1996

## FOREWORD

There has not been a complete guide to Cwm Crafnant since Brian Royle produced his limited edition in 1962. This was updated in 1964 by Jim Perrin and again in 1966 by Marshall Reeves, but these supplements reached a very select audience. The Climbers' Club 1966 revision of the Carneddau guide came the nearest to being comprehensive, but soon became out-of-date and out-of-print, as did the 1970 Snowdon East guide. The subsequent 1975 Carneddau guide ignored Cwm Crafnant completely. Mountain magazine carried some updated information on the S.H. Wall routes in 1980, as did the C.C. Journal for 1979/80. Finally, Andy Pollitt's section in his North Wales New Climbs 1982 highlighted the need for a complete guide.

Geoff Milburn the CC Editor in the 1980's has been bursting with enthusiasm to see details of the Crafnant area in print and has maintained a good natured pressure on the editor "to get on with it" for over 10 years.

Climbers have long been active in the valley, despite the lack of up-to-date information. With increasing numbers climbing in Wales, inevitably more climbers 'discovered' Crafnant, and already some 'first' ascents have been claimed of routes done 10 or more years previously. This guide should help clarify that situation.

Perhaps the Mynydd Climbing Club has been too possessive or too secretive about Crafnant. Certainly this guide has been undertaken with some misgivings. I suspect the truth is that Crafnant, apart from S.H. Wall, will never be very popular. It is too far from the centre of things. Time, however, may prove me wrong. However, if this guide passes on to others the knowledge which will enable them to enjoy the pleasant variety of climbing available here in one of the most beautiful of Welsh valleys, its production will have been a worthwhile task.

Tony Shaw  
Litton Mill  
1996

## INTRODUCTION

This guide-book fulfils two purposes. First and foremost it provides a guide to the many excellent climbs in Cwm Crafnant and secondly it is a record of all explorations during the last 50 years on Crafnant rock.

Explorations on rock and rock-climbs do not necessarily coincide – consequently a number of the routes recorded here are of marginal value. They are included as a matter of public record and for completeness. Sadly many of the climbs that the valley has to offer are in a vegetated state due, mainly, to lack of use. For this reason it is easy to dismiss the less popular buttresses. In a few cases this is justified, but by no means does it apply to everything. Remember, the Three Cliffs were not always as denuded as they are today!

It is difficult to use an absolute value judgement system, represented by star rating, to climbs on Clogwyn yr Eryr and to climbs on Clogwyn Mannod. The star ratings of the former are compatible with the system in overall use in North Wales, whereas those on the lesser buttress are largely inter-referential - consistent with Crafnant, but probably not compatible with those at Pen Trwyn or Gogarth, for obvious reasons! The numerical grading should be understood by most climbers. For those inexperienced in climbing on damp, lichenous, possibly overgrown rock the grades will provide a topic for lively discussion.

A few of the climbs described here still rely on aid, and several are awaiting a second ascent. Although almost all the S.H. Wall routes are 'clean', room exists for someone to make a name for themselves elsewhere in the valley. The convention adopted, and hopefully adhered to in the future, in the matter of free ascents, is to retain the original route-name whilst giving credit to a clean ascent in the first ascents list. Where pegs are referred to in the text they are for protection only unless otherwise stated.

The major crags are all conveniently grouped round the head of the valley, and are described (unless otherwise stated in the text) in a clockwise manner. The approach by car from Trefriw is straightforward, tourists permitting. There is limited parking by the last gate on the road where it divides to go to Blaen y Nant and Hendre. Parking is not permitted at Blaen y Nant, nor at Hendre. The easiest access to the crags is detailed in their individual descriptions.

By far the most pleasant approach is on foot from Capel Curig. A path leads from opposite the Post Office, gently up Nant y Geuallt to the bwlch between Clogwyn Mannod and Crimpiau. Allow about an hour. It is important, or even vital, to note that in summer tea may be obtained at Cynllwyd, by the lakeside.

In 1976 Les Holliwell wrote about the Carneddau: "Climbing quality varies enormously, with an unusually high proportion of routes that will repulse the clean rock addict. The contrast between traditional climbs, loose, vegetated and often discontinuous, and the fierce, technically demanding products of more recent years, is more marked than in any other area of North Wales."

Quite – but lichen and vegetation have their devotees! Moreover, there is clean rock here, and, like Tremadog, Crafnant often enjoys better weather.

## RESCUE

The nearest public telephone is situated on the left-hand side of the road between Cornel and Cynllwyd going down the valley, some 400 yards from the gate below Blaen y Nant. There is a stretcher and limited first aid equipment at Blaen y Nant, although the hut is not always occupied.

## DISCLAIMER

This Guide attempts to provide a definitive record of all existing climbs and is compiled from information from a variety of sources. The inclusion of any route does not imply that it remains in the condition described. Climbs can change unpredictably: rock can deteriorate and the existence and condition of in-situ protection can alter. All climbers must rely on their own ability and experience to gauge the difficulty and seriousness of any climb. Climbing is an inherently dangerous activity.

Neither the Mynydd Climbing Club, The Climbers' Club nor the authors and editor of this guide-book accept any liability whatsoever for any injury or damage caused to (or by) climbers, third parties or property arising from its use. Whilst the content of the guide is believed to be accurate no responsibility is accepted for any error, omission or mis-statement. Users must rely on their own judgement and are recommended to insure against injury to person and property and third-party risks.

## ACCESS NOTES

This guide attempts to provide a definitive historical record. THE INCLUSION OF ANY CRAG OR CLIMB DOES NOT IMPLY THE EXISTENCE OF ANY RIGHT OF ACCESS TO THE CRAG OR OF ANY RIGHT TO CLIMB UPON IT. Save as mentioned below neither the publisher nor the authors or editor of this guide are aware of any access restrictions at the time of writing.

## FORESTRY COMMISSION LAND

The following conditions are stipulated by the Forestry Commission regarding access to routes in afforested areas. At the date of publication the only area in this guide affected is the right-hand end of Forestry Buttress.

- 1) There must be no climbing from the first of March to the thirtieth of September inclusive in order to protect nesting raptors.
- 2) No gardening to be performed on this area of cliff.
- 3) A permit is required before access can be allowed. Permits are issued free to groups or individuals and are valid for a year. They are obtainable from:  
The Forestry Commission,  
Forest District Office, Gwydyr Uchaf, LLANRWST, Gwynedd.

Where climbs in this guide are affected by these conditions attention is drawn to them in the text.

## SLATE

The only slate quarry in Crafnant other than at Overlapping Buttress is situated above Pen y Llyn, near Cornel. The ownership and access position is not clear with regard to this quarry. Some tentative explorations have been carried out here but no routes have yet resulted. The owners of the cottages at the entrance to the quarry have requested that no further activity takes place and, as it has marginal value in the context of Crafnant climbing, it seems reasonable to respect their wishes in this matter.

## NATURAL HISTORY and CONSERVATION NOTES

Cwm Crafnant is an impressive glaciated valley on the southern edge of the Carneddau. It forms part of Eryri, the mountains of Snowdonia – an internationally important area which includes Yr Wyddfa (Snowdon), Y Glyderau and Y Carneddau. The whole massif contains a diversity of geology, soils, topography and other environmental factors which give rise to a wide range of plant and animal communities.

This diversity is reflected on a smaller scale in Crafnant, its complex geological structure giving rise to a variety of interesting vegetation types. Slates and siltstones comprise most of the area, but exposures of dolerite and pumice tuff occur locally. The tuffs have a relatively high lime content and are easily weathered, producing conditions which favour the growth of a richer flora than that found on the more acidic rocks. This richer flora often includes species which are uncommon in Wales such as mountain sorrel and green spleenwort. The Cwm itself is generally at too low an altitude to support true arctic-alpines, but a number of interesting species can be found on the rock outcrops and in the valley base – these include the Ivy-leaved Bellflower, Aspen and Grass of Parnassus.

The woodland in the Cwm varies, some being dominated by Birch, some by Sessile Oak. The National Nature Reserve (Cwm Glas Crafnant) at the head of the valley contains a remnant ash woodland and a range of tree species including Wych Elm, Bird Cherry, Hazel and Hawthorn. Approximately five acres of this woodland were fenced in 1961 to exclude grazing and allow natural regeneration to take place. The enclosure has been very effective in enabling this process to occur, as can be seen by comparing the woodland and ground flora inside and outside the fence. Sheep grazing throughout the rest of the Cwm has severely restricted tree and dwarf shrub regeneration, resulting in large areas of grassland with encroaching bracken.

Where grazing pressure is less intense, as on the upper north-western part of the Cwm, large stands of calluna (heather) moor have developed. This also occurs on much of the broken ground on the slopes to the south. This type of steep, broken slope with rock outcrops often provides some of the last refuges for plants which would otherwise be affected by agricultural improvements, grazing or recreational developments. Their relative inaccessibility has so far ensured their survival. Notice the relative abundance of shrub and tree species compared with the more accessible areas on the lower slopes. This feature is becoming increasingly important in the conservation of many of our upland sites and every effort should be made to retain as much of this cliff flora as possible. This is not to say that no-one should remove even a blade of grass, but we should be aware of the problem and not repeat some of the more dubious, large-scale gardening exercises which have occurred in the past, when whole sections of cliff were denuded of their vegetation-cover.

Fortunately for nature conservation interests, the cliffs which have the greatest botanical interest are not usually those which concern the rock-climber. The loose, broken, well vegetated pumice tuff which favours the growth of a varied and interesting flora is not usually the most enticing proposition for rock-climbing, whereas the more solid, open acidic rocks forming Clogwyn yr Eryr, bear a relatively poor flora and are far more amenable to modern climbing activity. Routes have been recorded on the lower slopes of

Clogwyn Mannod and the outcrops at the head of the Cwm. If they are repeated then a plea is made that as little disturbance as possible is caused to the vegetation.

The more basic outcrops adjacent to the National Nature Reserve should be avoided as they provide some of the richest sites for plants.

The heather moor (and the vegetation transition into it) is an important conservation feature in the Cwm, as large stands of heather are uncommon features in Snowdonia. Such areas provide a valuable habitat for birds of prey such as the peregrine and hen harrier, which have been seen in this part of North Wales. There has been a great deal of discussion in recent years concerning the disturbance of nesting birds, especially peregrines, by climbing activities. In most cases however, both climbers and birds can co-exist peacefully as long as discretion and good sense are exercised. If you do see or come across a nest whilst climbing or exploring the Cwm, then the Nature Conservancy Council would ask for your co-operation to avoid causing any further disturbance. Please leave the site as quickly as possible so that predation or desertion of the nest does not occur.

Equally we would also ask for co-operation in the form of any interesting or unusual records of sightings from the area, especially of birds of prey, pine martens and red squirrels. Both of the latter species were traditionally associated with the Cwm and have been seen in the past. There is little evidence of their presence in recent years however, so any information on these animals would be particularly welcome. This should be sent to:

The Nature Conservancy Council,  
Plas Penrhos,  
Ffordd Penrhos,  
BANGOR,  
Gwynedd                      or to the local NCC Warden.

The whole head of the Cwm is a Site of Special Scientific Interest as well as being of great landscape value. It is hoped that this guide will stimulate further interest in the natural history as well as in the climbing possibilities. An appreciation of both will doubtless enhance the enjoyment and experience of a visit, whether it be to rock-climb or just to wander along the footpaths in the valley.

Barbara Jones  
Nature Conservancy Council/Cyngor Gwarchod Natur

## HISTORICAL

There can be few climbing areas in the country that have enjoyed such a leisurely development as Cwm Crafnant. The ambience of the place induces an attitude which is more conducive to gentle strolling and tea drinking than pioneering rock-climbs up virgin vegetation. Cwm Crafnant and the Mynydd Climbing Club were a perfect match.

The climbing possibilities of the valley were first noted in the literature of the sport by J A Watson, who compared the main buttress of Clogwyn yr Eryr unfavourably with that of Carreg Alltrem. Subsequent development has shown the reverse to be true. However the two crags are strikingly similar when first seen in profile from their forestry approaches.

Coincidentally with Watson, Humfrey Berkely and Geoff Barker, members of the North Wales Mountaineering Club, visited the valley and climbed Route I and Route II on Craig y Dŵr. Both are excellent climbs and remain valley classics. On Route I, which it is safe to assume was climbed first, they were accompanied by Sydney Wignall, the subsequent leader of the only Himalayan expedition to be captured by the Chinese. Barker lived in Crafnant at the time and it is surprising that this was his only contribution.

They were not, however, the first to record a route in the valley. This privilege went to W H Ward on 23rd August 1947 when he climbed what is probably now Daddy Long Legs, although we cannot be certain. The line he took - 'An 80 foot crack at the back of a striking square cut recess' - is fairly unequivocal.

During the mid and late 1950s the Hughes brothers, Gwynfor and Meurig, from Trefriw, accompanied by two other local lads Ray Williams and Peter Williams made a number of unrecorded ascents mainly in the vicinity of Forestry buttress. They also made repeat, probably second, ascents of the Craig y Dŵr climbs, Route I and Route II.

The last climb recorded in the valley before the crags fell under the jurisdiction of the Mynydd Climbing Club was in 1957 again on Forestry Buttress by a Cromlech Club party: Brian Wright, Dave McKelvey and Claude Davies. The exact line taken is a little vague but aligns loosely with that taken by *Blaen y Nant*, or possibly *Daddy Long Legs* again.

In 1958 the Mynydd Climbing Club acquired the lease on Blaen y Nant and shortly after began a tentative exploration of possibilities. It was at this time that most of the buttresses were named. In the main the new names were simply descriptive, whereas others reflected a more fundamental preoccupation.

Clogwyn Mannod became Bog Buttress, so named because it could be seen, due to the absence of a door, from the primitive toilet facilities then available. A note in the log-book records that spectators rights were reciprocal. The coprological theme continued in the naming of the S(hit) H(ouse) Wall, a soubriquet which has gained some permanence in the literature of the area despite having a more fitting Welsh alternative. The upper cliffs of Clogwyn yr Eryr were nicknamed Little Stanage for no apparently good reason but the name remains as an easy identifier of this collection of buttresses.

It was on "The Bog" that the Mynydd, represented by John Edlington and Brian Royle made its mark with *Squitter* in July 1958. In the same month Royle and Edlington also recorded their first routes on Forestry Buttress, *As You Like It* and *Blaen y Nant*. In August Alban Crowther made his superb single contribution, *Little Green Jug*.

On the Christmas meet that year Bob Brayshaw produced the first Very Severe route in the valley, *Jofad*, in partnership with Geoff Skitt and Keith Froggatt. This pair, in the summer of 1959 climbed *Beer Stain* and graded it Very Difficult. It was so very difficult that its standard goes up annually. It is currently VS 4c and probably undergraded at that. The previous month Joe Morran had driven the first piton into Crafnant rock starting a trend that took years to reverse.

The other notable ascent of that year was Paul Nunn and Bob Brayshaw's ascent of *Belshazzar*, later to be renamed *Beelzebub*, on S.H. Wall. Again a torpor descended, not for the last time, on Mynydd activity in the valley.

1960 opened dynamically with Bill Ross and Geoff Skitt making a first ascent on New Year's Day but during the remainder of the year and until the following October, little disturbed the peace of the valley except perhaps the sound of two 'plums' falling, *Astoroth* and *Connie's Crack*. The former to Bas Ingle and Paul Nunn; the latter to Ron James and Johnny Lees.

In October Marshall Reeves wandered up to Forestry and climbed the insignificant *Bertram* and the excellent top pitch of *October Exit*, solo. It was in fact an October entrance, marking the appearance of the man who was to dominate Crafnant climbing for a decade and whose influence is powerfully felt today. Marshall is a man of prodigious energy and enthusiasm much of which he channelled into his crusade to realise the full climbing potential of the valley. During the following twelve months Marshall was on the first ascent of thirty two new routes, 70% of the total and was instrumental in pointing out the possibilities of several of the remainder. The Reeves habit of enlisting anybody and everybody to the cause can be seen from his collection of partners during 1962.

However he was not the only one active at the time. There were several other very competent climbers around: Brian Royle, Jim Williams, Nev Hine, Elwyn 'Taff' Griffiths, Bill Ross and Arthur Williams amongst them and their contribution was not inconsiderable: *Cymro-Sais*, *Castle Crack* and *Hot Wall*.

*Hot Wall* was another of those Very Difficults that don't take their grade for granted. Bill Ross was either way ahead of his time in ability or had no idea of grading systems. Let's be charitable. If the wall is taken direct, as it should be, with no sidling off right at half-height, it is probably 5b.

However, when it comes to sheer quantity during this period, Marshall wins outright. There were routes of quality also: *Cross Cut*, *Curving Groove*, *Prometheus*, *Recess Wall* and *Vypon*.

*Vypon* started life as 'Underpants Arete' – a feature which held out against the attack of Bill Ross, on one occasion without his trousers, Keith Seddon and Tony Lyons, eventually

succumbing to Marshall, Arthur Williams and seven pitons.

1962 also saw Bob Brayshaw, *in extremis* on *Blue Lights Wall* – an impressive lead for a winter's day, and a route that has given several competent leaders the brush off. Brayshaw was never heard of in Crafnant again.

The momentum was maintained throughout 1963 and 1964, spurred on in part by the publication of Brian Royle's guide-book. If anything, the quality of the discoveries improved. *Hawk's Chimney*, *Allegra*, *Sostenuto*, *Helynt*, *Jug Handle* and *Gobeithio* all date from this period and carry the Reeves hallmark. A thirty-three route supplement to Brian's guide was produced in 1964 by Jim Perrin and marked the beginning of another period of torpor, fourteen months and nothing fresh unearthed!

When activity recommenced it was at a much lower level. From 1965 until 1970 a constant 10 routes a year was maintained. Again the presiding spirit was Marshall Reeves more often than not accompanied by his wife Barbara who was more than a match for his wilder excesses, on rock at least. Other activists of this period were John Grieve and Jack and Helen Ball.

Jack Ball's contribution is not reflected in the first ascents list although he pointed the way in reducing or eliminating aid points on many of the big routes on S.H. Wall. He was a powerful and intelligent climber of great ability, matched with a wonderful sense of the absurd, who put a lot of effort into exploring and cleaning routes in the valley. But it was probably his ability to extract the maximum humour out of any situation and to turn almost every event into an excuse for a party, the wilder the better, which meant he was usually elsewhere instead of claiming his share of the glory. The Mynydd has always been a very social club. Not that it has raised more glasses at more parties than other clubs, only that it has done so consistently for longer than most. In Jack Ball they found a natural leader.

Browsing through the list for this period we find that:

1965: Al Bromage and Brian Royle climbed a terrific combination on Two Tier Buttress, *Little Cludge* and *Piano Piece*. Lighthearted routes of some integrity as befits their progenitors.

1966: the impressive *Phoenix*, on S.H. Wall, was climbed by Jack Ball and Marshall Reeves.

1967: a free ascent of *Vypon* by Jim Perrin and Ray Evans. *The Web* and *Oriole*, two major lines on the Wall, fell to John Grieve and Marshall. Dave Pownall cruised impressively up *Gondor*.

1968: Reeves coolly ascended the then unprotected *Hobbler* followed later in the same day with the *Direct Finish to Prometheus*. *Rocking Horse* on Forestry Buttress, a stunning impending crack was climbed by Dave Pownall and led clean by Andy Pollitt in 81. *Skylark* fell to the Grieve - Reeves team.

1969: *Purple Haze* and *Monroe* by Pete Boardman accompanied on the latter by Barry Monkman who said he would do 'owl' and in 1970 did. *Mordor* first pitch was led clean by Tony Shaw, but the top pitch resisted.

There was rumour of a new guide during the winter of '69 causing a flurry of activity in early '70. Of the twenty two routes recorded several deserved stars. Pete Boardman and

Martin Wragg made their ascent of the futuristic *Snowdrop*, up the magnificent headwall of Clogwyn yr Eryr.

Marshall Reeves, Roger Beswick and Dave Spencer found *Rainbow*. How it had been overlooked for so long is a mystery. A collection of oddly named little groove lines, on the left wall of Craig y Dŵr North Buttress, were excavated and climbed by various very energetic teams whose nuclei comprised Jack and Marshall, Doug Stansfield, Al Bromage, Buzz Clarke and Barry Monkman. Meanwhile over on Bog Buttress, Tony Shaw spent several weekends emulating a mole, to unearth *Septimus*, named in honour of the recently completed septic tank at Blaen y Nant. He seemed to think it was worth it!

As no guide-book was forthcoming, activity tailed off. In the mid-Seventies Dick Williams began to paw around an unpromising bit of rock to the left of Castell y Gwynt to scratch out a delightful little three route slab, starting with *Bear Garden*, whilst to the right Roger Hill walked up *Market Street* with a few friends.

It was at about this time that Colin Foord became imbued with the valley – reasoning that any steep terrain must have rock underneath it somewhere. A strong team of landscape gardeners performed sterling service on West Gully Wall and he was able to conclude with a magnificent trundle to reveal *Cascade of Prisms*. An unusual route born in unusual circumstances.

At the close of the Seventies the new wave arrived in the valley. Crafnant had been discovered once again. The first route to herald in this movement was Stewart Cathcart's *Crash Landing*. It was an extremely bold route up a line that had repulsed at least one Alpha club member and one or two of the Black and Tans in years past, not to mention several hopefuls from the Mynydd. It was the first route in Wales to be given an initial grading of 6c.

There followed a welcome spate of free ascents of the established routes on S.H. Wall by Pete Livesey and Pete Gomersall. They also added their own contribution of *Clonus Left Hand* and *Screech Owl*. In 1982 Andy Pollitt linked *Connie's Crack* with *Snowdrop* to produce *Carousel Waltz*, a successful route name that he had tried out on another crag the previous year.

The boldest route in the valley to date is probably Loz Francomb's *Happy Landings* on Craig y Dŵr, a wildly improbable line to the left of Crash Landing and Jim Moran's 1986 ascent of the blank arête to the right of *Crash Landing* provides a fitting complement. He named it *Soft Landing* more in hope than expectation I suspect. In the September of the same year John Adams and Ian Carr claimed the *Direct Finish to Gobiethio*, an impressive line which had been ignored for too long.

During the latter part of the Eighties, new route activity was minimal but the results significant. On a brief visit in 1988, two of the Llanberis stalwarts Nick Dixon and Paul Pritchard climbed the middle pitch of *Tremor* free to produce *Sad Landings*, followed by Paul's solo find *I Am A Scientist*. A name which Paul dredged from his esoteric musical library rather than his profession.

Something in the air on 2 July 1989 enabled previous scratchings to coalesce into two excellent routes. One, *The Illusionist* on Two Tier, climbed in fine style by Bob Lock and Martin Wragg, is a very neat little test piece of considerable difficulty. The other *Dawnwatch* on Castell y Gwynt had long been the dream of Tony Shaw who had several good names for the route but not the ability to climb it. This privilege was claimed by the ever enthusiastic Colin Foord fittingly accompanied by an aficionado of this crag Dick Williams. Both routes are destined to become classics.

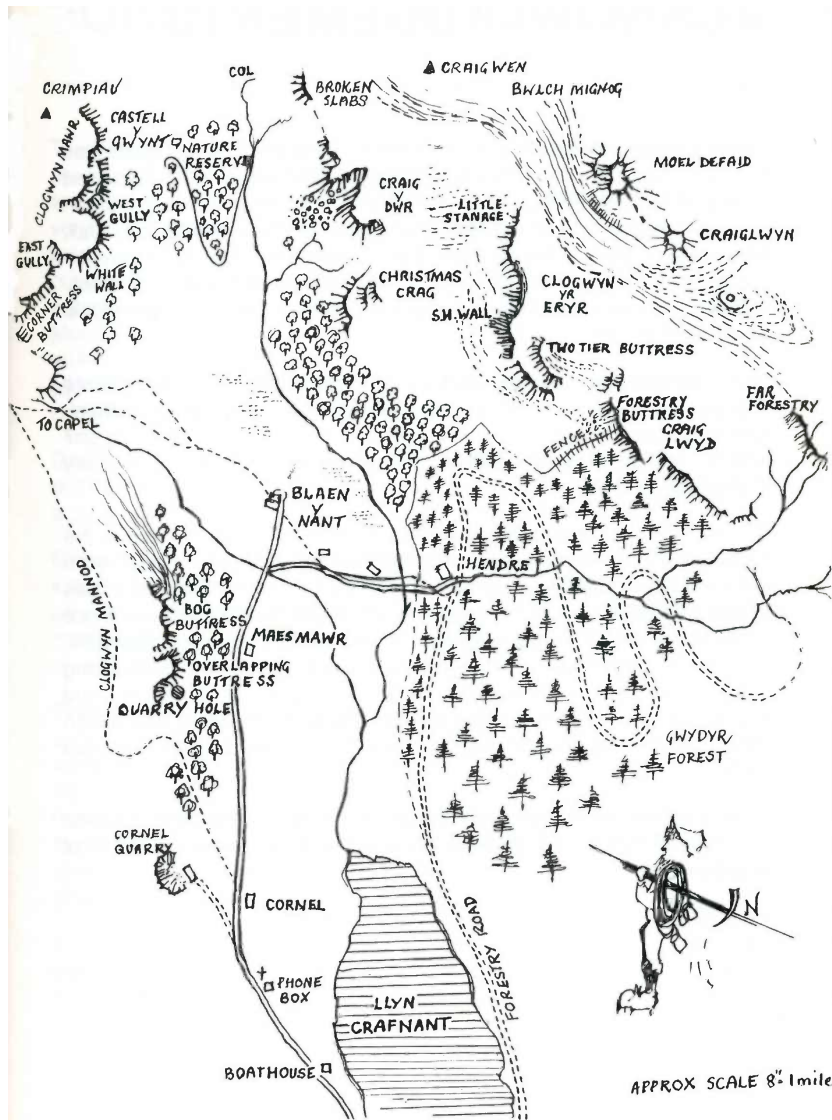
A few routes in the valley still rely on the odd point of aid. No doubt over the next few years these will be whittled down or removed altogether. A number of the routes described in this guide have not had second ascents and there are also some good lines waiting to be claimed. It will be interesting (and safer) to watch.

## WINTER CLIMBING

Cwm Crafnant lies at a relatively low altitude and has no climbable north-facing watercourses. However, in exceptional winters the waterfall of Craig y Dŵr occasionally provides a 120 foot grade III route. A first ascent was claimed in February 1986. It is conceivable that *Beer Stain*, being a line of constant seepage, might provide good sport in the right conditions and a first ascent was claimed, at grade IV, in February 1991.

## CLOGWYN MANNOD

### CWM CRAFNANT



The first of the Cwm Crafnant crags one encounters when driving up the valley towards Blaen y Nant lies above Maes Mawr on Clogwyn Mannod. There are two distinct buttresses known as Overlapping Buttress and Bog Buttress. Overlapping is relatively clean and compact, whilst its neighbour is scruffy and rambling. Access to both Overlapping and Bog Buttress is via the Capel Curig path from Blaen y Nant. No right of way exists from the road directly to the crag. There is limited parking by the last gate on the road below Blaen y Nant. Please avoid blocking either the Blaen y Nant or Hendre tracks.

### OVERLAPPING BUTTRESS

The crag lies on the left of the valley overlooking Maes Mawr. It is a separate, clean, largely slabby buttress with an arched, quarried hole on its left. The climbs start from the sheep-cropped green-sward at the foot of the buttress. It faces north and receives little sun. The rock is slaty, on the whole sound, but due to the absence of traffic rather lichenous. The left-hand side of the cliff has been quarried to give a deep hole with an overhanging wall that should appeal to those who consider that the Llanberis slate quarries are too easy and well protected. It has been top-roped at least once. The routes are described from left to right as one faces the crag.

Take care when descending, as the vegetation considerably overhangs the edge of the pit. Aim for easy ground in the trees on the left of the hole.

**Ordinary Route** 130 feet Severe 27.4.62

A good introduction to climbing on this side of the valley, exposed with modest protection. Start just right of the quarried hole

1 70 feet. The wall is climbed trending first right then back left to a good ledge overlooking the hole. Climb the edge for a few feet until an easy traverse right, round the cutaway rib, leads to a stance with a thread belay.

2 60 feet. Climb the wall above the stance eventually moving right to a rake leading left. Block belay.

**Overlapping Buttress Direct** 110 feet VS 4c 8.8.74

An unprotected route requiring dry conditions for maximum enjoyment.

1 50 feet. 4c. From the wall of the sheep-pen climb to a rounded boss beneath bulging rock. Make an awkward move left to reach jugs (crux) and the stance of *Ordinary Route*.

2 60 feet. Finish up *Ordinary Route*.

**White Slab** 125 feet HVS 5a 29.4.62/70

A difficult and somehow pointless excursion.

1 40 feet. 4a. The obvious mossy slab right of the sheep-pen. Climb the left-hand subsidiary slab on good holds, then step delicately right onto the long mossy slab. Follow this to a sloping ledge which provides a small stance. Peg belay.

2 25 feet. 5a. Move left beneath the overhang on good finger holds (peg), pass a dirty groove with difficulty and continue left to the stance of *Ordinary Route*.

3 60 feet. Pitch 2 of *Ordinary Route*.



**Purple Haze** 130 feet VS 4c (2 pts.) 15.6.69

The apparent instability of the rock above the overhang makes this route feel rather serious. Probably more illusory than real. A strong leader could well dispense with the points of aid, but not at 4c. Climb *White Slab* to the ledge under the roof and step left (peg). A jug on the lip enables a peg to be placed on the wall above. Use this and a further point of aid to gain a crack on the right. Swing over tottering blocks and finish up the slab. Belay well back in the jungle.

The overhanging quarried wall, starting from the arch, has been ascended on a top-rope. First recorded ascent 31.11.83

## BOG BUTTRESS

The large rambling vegetated crag directly above Blaen y Nant. Despite its impressive profile when viewed from lower down the valley it is probably the least inviting of all the Crafnant crags. Descent is easiest on the far right of the crag beyond *Septimus*.

At the left-hand end of the buttress where the crag faces the lake is an overgrown wall with a large diagonal slot in an angular recess low down.

**North Wall Slant** 180 feet VS 4c 1.7.67

Some good climbing despite the ever present vegetation.

**1** 60 feet. 4b. Start at the slight groove 15 feet right of the angular recess. Climb the slab trending left to a small overhang. Take the steep groove above to a small ledge beneath a large tree.

**2** 80 feet. 4c. Ascend a few feet then go horizontally left beneath vegetation towards a large overhang. Step right of this into a small corner. Pull out left onto the face and move diagonally across to its far edge. Continue round the corner with some difficulty (*crux*) into a groove which leads easily to a stance on the pedestal.

**3** 40 feet. The wall above the pedestal.

**Rush Wall** 165 feet VS 4c 12.5.74

Every ascent feels like a first.

**1** 45 feet. 4c. Start as for *North Wall Slant* but instead of moving left climb the wall direct. Tree belay on the right.

**2** 60 feet. 4a. Continue in the original line via a large oak tree, to a commodious ledge.

**3** 60 feet. 4a. Start up the groove behind the oak, then after a few feet move left to a second groove in the quartz rib. Climb the rib to finish at a small rowan.

Round the corner and at a higher level, 40 yards from the toe of the buttress, there appears to be a large finger of rock that on closer inspection turns out to be a hollow rib.

**Izal Groove** 55 feet Very Difficult 26.5.73

Climb the groove on the left of the rib. The heather above succumbs to a resolute approach. Now wash your hands.

**Nyd** 60 feet Very Difficult 1.1.60

Climb the rib for 20 feet, until an ascending traverse right leads one to the base of a heather filled groove (rowan at the top). Climb its right-hand edge. A long heathery scramble remains.

Twenty yards right is a broad quartz-dappled rib.

**Quisling** 120 feet Severe 27.5.70

An open route that makes the most of this section of cliff.

**1** 50 feet. Climb the rib to a good ledge and thread belay.

**2** 70 feet. Traverse a few feet right and move up into a short groove. Go left and through a large twitching oak. Take the wall behind this to a horizontal weakness. Move right and finish direct up the wall.

10 yards right again and directly below a prominent left-facing corner (*The Bestest*) is another quartz covered slab.

**Squitter** 140 feet Hard Difficult 9.7.58

A rambling traditional route which is best sampled in the worst possible weather. A good antidote to the frustrations of a wet day spent cowering in the hut.

**1** 90 feet. Climb the slab on quartz holds and continue up to a ledge. Go left to a holly tree stance.

**2** 50 feet. Climb up and left through a second holly to a heathery break. Vegetate left awkwardly to escape. Belay well back.

Just right of the quartz slab of *Squitter* is a short groove capped by two holly trees.

**The Bestest** 130 feet HVS 5a 17.10.65

The second route on this buttress whose quota of rock exceeds that of heather. The final groove is quite taxing and the landing awkward. There is a perfect pocket on the left wall of this groove which sometimes holds a kestrel's nest. Please approach, and use the pocket, with caution.

**1** 60 feet. 4c. Climb the cracked groove to a ledge above the holly trees and continue up slabs to the roof and climb diagonally left beneath this to the foot of the obvious corner.

**2** 70 feet. 5a. The big corner above to a bulge. Continue with difficulty, past an old aid peg, to exit right. Thread belay well back.

A scramble up to the right of *The Bestest* leads to the foot of an open groove. This is the start of *Septimus*.

**Septimus\*** 80 feet Hard Difficult 2.5.70

A good easy route that goes in any weather and most hours of the night. Climb the open groove exiting left. Thread belay well to the left. (difficult to find in the dark).

## CLOGWYN MAWR

The next three buttresses lie on the north-east slope of Crimpiau. Crimpiau is the 'peak' (1480 feet) which lies in the south-west corner of the valley. Clockwise from the Capel Curig path the first buttress one encounters is:

### CORNER BUTTRESS

The large broken crag that lies back into the hillside. Its main feature is a more or less continuous line of narrow slabs separated by bilberry covered ledges. At the lowest point of the main buttress is an easy-angled slab which has an ash tree and a hawthorn at its foot. It is often and easily overlooked.

**O-Gam-I-Gam** 310 feet Hard Severe 4b 1.7.62

It starts pleasantly enough, but peters out after the third pitch.

**1** 70 feet. Climb the slab to a large ledge below a steep wall.

**2** 20 feet. A walk. 20 feet right along the large ledge is an easy-angled groove. The spike belay a few feet above this is more suitable for the following pitch.

**3** 55 feet. 4b. Ascend the groove to a ledge. Trend left with difficulty under the overhang (crux). Climb the vertical corner to a large block flake. Step up and mantelshelf onto a ledge. There is more spacious accommodation on the right. Peg belay.

**4** 25 feet. Move right along the ledge and step round the corner onto a slab. Climb delicately up the left edge to a small ledge with a good belay.

**5** 55 feet. Step onto the ridge on the left. Trend right up the continuing slab until heather is reached. This is followed to a spike belay to the right of the huge overhanging boulder.

**6** 85 feet. Climb the slab between the overhangs. Finish by the ash tree. 60 feet of scrambling remains to the top.

**O-Gam-I-Gam Ledge Variation** 60 feet Very Difficult 9.7.62

An important though artificial variation, as this avoids the only difficult pitch of the climb (pitch 3) and thus creates a long climb of Difficult/Very Difficult standard. From the end of pitch 1, walk about 30 feet left up the gully to where an ash tree and holly tree grow together.

Climb right of the trees and scramble up behind them to a grassy ledge. The aim now is to reach the square-cut recessed ledge in the wall above. Climb the overhanging wall to this and with hands on the ledge move round the corner to where the angle is easier. Climb up and diagonally right to the second ash tree on a large heather ledge. The ridge at the right-hand end of this is the start of pitch 5 of the original route.

**O-Gam-I-Gam Slab Finish** 100 feet Very Difficult 9.7.62

A better finish than the original.

Step down and go right from the belay at the end of pitch 5. Move round onto the slab and climb this all the way to the top.

**O-Gamble-I-Gamble** 60 feet Hard Severe 29.7.62

A harder alternative start to *O-Gam-I-Gam* which starts about 4 feet right of that route.

Reach the vertical corner of *O-Gam-I-Gam* from directly below.

**Bog Meander** 110 feet Repulsively Severe 22.8.64

Some technical interest plus compelling triviality. Time might be more profitably spent picking bilberries. Early Mynydd CC members invoke its name to frighten their grandchildren. Start at the foot of pitch 3 of *O-Gam-I-Gam*.

**1** 60 feet. Severe. Climb the groove to the ledge and move right to a good mantelshelf. Traverse right across a groove, step down and walk past a slimy waterfall to a tree belay. Finish on a continuation of the same ledge that harbours your shrinking second. This may be the most pointless pitch in Wales.

**2** 20 feet. Repulsive. Climb the black slime-covered wall to a projecting loose boulder. Belay on a tree. One of the more challenging pitches in the valley.

**3** 30 feet. Worthless. Join pitch 4 of *O-Gam-I-Gam*, or make a short abseil and walk off.

To the right of Corner Buttress and at a slightly lower level is a light coloured wall of rock (White Wall) at the base of a broad tree-covered buttress. The remains of a fence runs up to the foot of the wall. On the left of the buttress is the East Gully whose right-hand wall yields the third longest route in Crafnant, whilst to the right of the buttress and 100 feet higher is the West Gully Wall. Its columnar structure is an easily recognisable feature.

With regard to belays, it is advisable to assume that the pegs where mentioned are no longer in situ. The prudent will trust a modern rack, or plan accordingly.

These crags were originally developed after 'carpet roll gardening' on a grand scale. They yielded good climbs on rough, compact, and sound rock, but the NE aspect and persistent seepage from the steep vegetated slopes above have conspired to encourage nature to take over again at an amazing rate. Few routes will appeal to those averse to the presence of significant vegetation and some may be lost forever. This is a good place for adventurers to admire not only the irrepressible forces of nature, but also the fortitude and vision of the pioneers.

### WHITE WALL

The first three routes could prove impossible without major re-gardening so full descriptions are omitted.

**Silver Blades** 130 feet Hard Severe 2.8.69

Started at the fence and climbed the blunt rib above with a stance at 85 feet.

**Popov** 145 feet Hard Very Difficult 27.3.70

Started as for *Silver Blades* but detoured left before trending back right, stance, to a clean pillar which was climbed to the top.

**Spectrum** 130 feet Severe 4.8.62  
Took the curving crack line about 20 feet right of the fence to a stance at 60 feet before zigzagging up the undulating slab above. (Once a mini-classic).

**Silky** 80 feet HVS 5a 20.6.70  
Up and to the right of *Spectrum* start is a fingery concave wall. This provides a good, delicate, but poorly protected route, when dry. Start in the centre of the wall. Go left along a ledge and step left into a pocket with some difficulty. Continue straight up to meet *Spectrum* where it passes the overhang. Climb to the ledge above this and traverse right along ledges towards the centre of the face. A good tape runner can be fixed here. Carry on moving right on poor holds to reach a thin vertical crack. (An aid sling was used in the crack a few feet above the traverse level on the first ascent). Move right and up, with faith, to reach jugs. Climb an easy slab above to a roof. Pull over the roof and follow the groove to a birch tree.

**Slalom** 90 feet VS 4c (1 pt) 19.7.70  
Start about 20 feet right of *Silky* beneath an overhang near the right edge of the crag.  
**1** 60 feet. 4c. Climb the overhang. Step left to a sloping ledge and go up to an aid peg. Tension right to a second peg and climb the wall to the right of this to a good ledge. Continue up the broad edge above to gain a large heather ledge. Peg belay.  
**2** 30 feet. Climb the wall above the ledge finishing on steep vegetation to reach trees. Abseil down to the right to regain the foot of the route. This saves a very long unpleasant scramble.

**The Demented Snake** 410 feet VS 4c 25.5.70  
A rambling route in an interesting position, which now makes a good navigation exercise. Start up the bank to the right of *Slalom* where an obvious break leads easily left onto the wall.  
**1** 40 feet. Traverse left to a large heather ledge. Peg belay at far end. Or, better, pitch 1 of *Slalom*.  
**2** 70 feet. Go horizontally left along the slab, then step down a short steep wall to a good stance. Peg belays.  
**3** 40 feet. Continue diagonally left up a steep wall (*Silver Blades*) and go left again to a little bay with rowan saplings.  
**4** 50 feet. Keep moving up and left across ledges and steep walls, then step down left to a stance by an ash tree.

[The original start to the route came in at this point. **Cannonball** Very Severe. Start 15 feet left of the dry-stone wall at the foot of the shallow gully. 60 feet. Climb the wall on the right and step right to a ledge by a tree. Continue behind the tree up a diagonal groove to a stance by an ash tree. Continue as for *Demented Snake*.]

**5** 50 feet. 4a. Move up left to a ledge, climb over an overlap and continue onto a large traverse slab. Belay at the far end beneath a large tree.  
**6** 75 feet. 4b. Step down round the corner, moving diagonally left to an obvious upward break. Climb the steep wall to small ledges. Peg belay.  
**7** 25 feet. Move up left into the corner. Pull round onto an excellent stance

**8** 60 feet. 4c. Step up onto a ledge on the left. Go down and round a very steep corner. Climb the overhanging wall (peg in place - suspect rock) then trend left via slabs and bulges to finish over the projecting cannon. Peg belay on the slab at the top.

Scramble up to the top of West Gully and descend this or follow the Crimpiau path eastwards and back via the foot of Clogwyn Mawr. The descent of the East Gully is not recommended.

## WEST GULLY WALL

The slanting columnar slabs above and to the right of White Wall are an obvious feature of this hillside when seen from Blaen y Nant. The slabs are separated from the steeper buttress to the left by the obvious groove of *Refraction*. The next five routes are described from right to left, starting at the slabs..

**Cascade of Prisms\*\*** 130 feet E2 5b 30.5.76  
Once an excellent and unusual climb, but currently requiring cosmetic surgery.  
**1** 80 feet. 5b. Start just right of the toe of the buttress. Climb up left along the apparently easy ledges then ascend direct following the largest of the vertical grooves to a terrace with a remarkable 'hook' belay.  
**2** 50 feet. 5a. Climb the groove in the blunt arête then trend delicately leftwards to easier ground.

**Refraction** 120 feet VS 4c 6.6.76  
The steep corner left of the Cascade Wall.  
**1** 70 feet. 4c. Climb the crack 10 feet right of the start of the groove. Go over the bulges to where the crack and groove join. Continue up the groove to ledges.  
**2** 50 feet. Step right and climb diagonally left over large blocks following the obvious break.

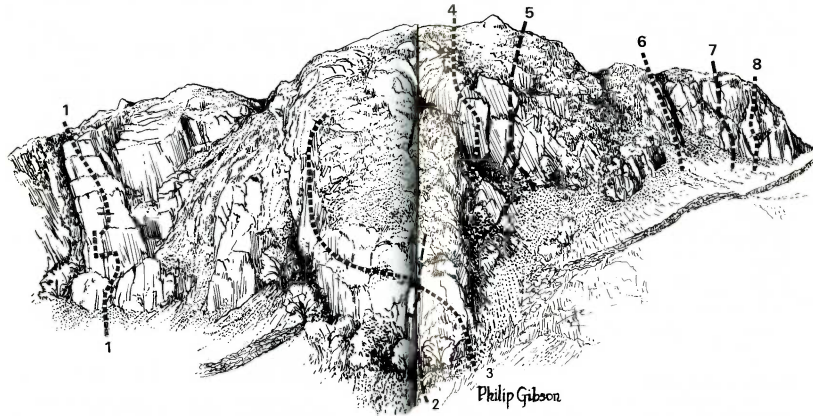
**Star Trek** 140 feet VS 4c 19.4.73  
Just left of *Refraction* is the highest part of a triangular wall which diminishes in height as the gully ascends  
**1** 80 feet. 4c. Start about 20 feet left of *Refraction*. Move right to reach a grooved weakness at a projecting spike. Continue straight up with some difficulty for about 20 feet. before trending right to a terrace.  
**2** 60 feet. 4b. Climb the wall behind the ledge just right of a small birch tree. As soon as possible trend left on sloping shelves making for a good ledge on a blunt arête. Finish straight up.

In the gully left of *Star Trek* are two slight parallel weaknesses. *The Godfather* takes the right one and *Joat* the left.

**The Godfather** 125 feet VS 4b 20.4.73  
A good route with interest maintained to the last move.  
**1** 45 feet. 4b. Climb the right-hand weakness to the terrace ledge. Peg belay.  
**2** 80 feet. 4b. Start directly above the line of the first pitch and keep trending left all the way to the top.

**Joat** 120 feet VS 4b 14.10.73  
 1 40 feet. 4a. Climb the left-hand weakness to the terrace.  
 2 80 feet. 4b. Gain access to the wall behind at either of two points, make a series of moves left to reach an area of fractured rock beneath a well-defined groove. At its termination (*The Godfather* comes in here) move left and go awkwardly up to a slab on the left. Finish direct.

## Clogwyn Mawr and Castell y Gwynt



1 O-Gam-I-Gam	HS	5 Cascade of Prisms	E2
2 Silky	HVS	6 Bear Garden	VS
3 Demented Snake	VS	7 Tony's Gift/Night Shift	HVS
4 Star Trek	VS	8 Dawnwatch	E2

## CASTELL y GWYNT

Situated at the top left-hand corner of the valley directly under the summit of Crimpiau, and well worth a visit for an hour or two. It faces approximately north and consequently only catches the sun in the early morning and late evening, but dries remarkably quickly in summer. The main feature of the crag is the deep bottomless chimney bounding the left-hand side of the tower in the centre of the buttress. This is *Hawk's Chimney*. To the left and higher up the hillside just above the legendary 'Lying Stones of Crafnant' is an area of clean slabs, up the centre of which pads *Bear Garden*. Approach via the rib on the left of the gully bounding the left side of the fenced National Nature Reserve. The climbs are described from left to right.

**Standing Stone Slab** 100 feet Difficult 26.7.70  
 Trivially meander up a slabby corner at the extreme left and follow the easiest line to a short groove at the top.

**Bear Garden \*** 100 feet VS 4b 23.4.72  
 Start 10 feet right of the lowest point of the buttress. A gr-r-r-r-rand route with bea(r)utiful moves. Pad up the groove and bear right to an overlap which is taken direct using good paw holds on the lip. Climb direct to a grizzly block about 20 feet below the top, then either follow the groove above or go right and up the slab – harder. Peg belay.

**Bare Face** 80 feet VS 4b 3.6.82  
 The slab between *Bear Garden* and *Grizzly Slab*. Bridge up strenuously just right of *Bear Garden* and pull right onto the slab over a small overlap. Take the slab to a junction with *Bear Garden* and finish to the right of that route.

**Grizzly Slab \*** 80 feet Severe 14.9.75  
 A pleasant well-protected route. Start 15 feet right of *Bear Garden*. Climb the slab for 40 feet trending leftwards towards the top corner of *Bear Garden*, until a difficult series of moves right enables a ramp leading rightwards to be reached. Either follow this or better, go easily up the crack above the ramp to the top. (Paws to reflect on your achievement).

On the left-hand side of the main crag a ramp slants leftwards from the foot of *Hawk's Chimney*.

**Tony's Gift/Night Shift** 75 feet HVS 5a 30.6.83/7.7.84  
 An open climb with an acrobatic top pitch. Start 20 feet left of the foot of the ramp.  
 1 50 feet. 4c. (Tony's Gift). Follow the obvious pockets past a hollow flake and exit right onto the ramp. Protection is poor. Belay high up the corner below a flake system in the right-hand bounding wall, 15 feet higher than the most prominent groove line.  
 2 25 feet. 5a. (Night Shift). Pivot on pockets to reach the bottom of a thin flake. Layback steeply up on improving holds, past a flake to an awkward step left and good belay.

**Market Street** 120 feet Difficult 1.5.76  
 The ramp.  
 1 20 feet. Start at the foot of the easy rib at the lowest point of the main buttress. Climb the rib until the obvious corner slab appears, then step right and downwards to a stance and peg belay which is usually *in situ*.  
 2 100 feet. Step back left to the ramp, and – ignoring the temptation of easy heather on the left – ascend the slab by its right-hand corner and the short steep wall at its top. (The first ascensionists did the last 20 feet via the dirty groove on the right!).

**Hawk's Chimney** 100 feet VS 4c 11.8.63  
 The conspicuous gash facing Blaen y Nant. The hawk has long since departed and one day so will the right-hand bounding pillar.  
 1 60 feet. Start at the foot of the *Market Street* rib but follow the groove on its right to vegetation and onto a cavelike recess on the right. Or, cleaner, pitch 1 of *Market Street*.  
 2 40 feet. 4c. The formidable overhanging chimney narrows to a crack, awkward to start. The loose inner recesses of the chimney are best avoided. Belay at the top of the pillar.

**Dawnwatch \*\*\*** 100 feet E2 5b 8.7.62/83/89

A steep and technical route which climbs the wall and hanging rib to the right of *Hawk's Chimney*. Start just right of the dirty corner which forms the lower part of the chimney. Climb the pocketed wall avoiding a small overhang on its right-hand side before gaining a ledge above it. Follow a ragged crack trending rightwards, then use a diagonal crack to gain a resting place at the bottom left corner of the final tower. Pull up on good holds and swing right to a downward pointing spike. Continue up the narrow front face of the rib to the top.

**Castle Crack** 100 feet Hard Severe 1.7.62

A very good route despite its shortness. The size of the holly on the first pitch has reduced the route's former attractiveness. Start at the holly-filled groove a few feet right of *Hawk's Chimney*. Climb to the holly and step across to the obvious crack. Climb steeply on large holds to a recess. Take the wide crack and finish up the exposed right wall. Very enjoyable.

**Coruscation** 110 feet VS 4b 13.9.65

The steep groove 25 feet right of *Castle Crack*, followed by a thin crack, gives a good direct route.

**1** 45 feet. 4b. The start of the groove is difficult and lichenous, but the layback crack, leading to a ledge, is soon reached. Now go up the corner and over the gendarme, to belay.  
**2** 65 feet. 4b. Steeply into the crack on the left and follow it over two bulges.

**Quadrupeg** 110 feet HVS 5b 8.7.62/81

An old exercise in pegging. The top pitch tries to turn a boulder problem into a route, without much success. Start at a crack in the centre of the wall a few feet right of *Coruscation*.

**1** 40 feet. 5b. Climb the weakness in the centre of the wall. Exit right with difficulty.  
**2** 70 feet. The wall above is climbed trending left to a big flake just right of the overhang. Climb straight up and onto the slab to finish. Much easier than the first pitch.

Right of the previous route the crag becomes more broken and the angle eases. One can scramble about all over the place but two routes have been recorded.

**Groove and Slab** 120 feet Very Difficult 25.11.61

**1** 65 feet. Start beneath a whitish groove 50 feet right of *Quadrupeg*. Climb the groove then trend up and right to belay on the higher heather ledge beneath a short prominent corner.  
**2** 55 feet. Ascend the corner and move right onto a large slab which is climbed to the top.

**Rib and Slab** 90 feet Very Difficult 11.7.62

**1** 40 feet. 20 feet right of the previous route an incipient rib terminates the real crag. Climb up a maze of cracks and ribs to a heather ledge.  
**2** 50 feet. Move right to climb the cracked groove to the foot of a slab. Continue up the centre of the slab via a shallow groove.

## CRAIG Y DŴR

Craig y Dŵr stands above the boulder field in the top right-hand corner of the valley when seen from Blaen y Nant. It consists of two distinct crags, the North and the South, separated by a large vegetated gully. The rock is massive, rough and sound, and dries relatively quickly (except for the routes by the waterfall). Both crags are straightforwardly approached via Blaen y Nant and gentle meadows leading up to the base of the boulder field.

### SOUTH CRAG

The South crag is distinguished by a long, easy-angled arête (*Underpants Arête*) leading to the steep upper face. All routes are described with reference to the foot of this arête which marks the start of *Vypon*. The best descent is a vague path north of North Crag.

**Red Groove** 120 feet VS 4c 22.5.65

A good climb once the preliminaries have been dispensed with. Start up the bank left of the long arête of *Vypon* and climb the short wall blocking access to the corner. A slab of vegetation then leads to a prominent corner groove.

**1** 60 feet. 4c. Start 10 feet left of the corner and traverse right beneath a bulge. Ascend the steep corner and a deeply-cut chimney, to an oak tree ledge on the left.  
**2** 60 feet. 4c. Step back and bridge up until it is possible to step out right. Continue into an awkward corner which leads to twin cracks. Either of these may be climbed, but the right-hand corner crack gives the better finish.

**Python** 110 feet VS 4c + A2 14.10.72

This route relied heavily on the in-situ hardware on the chimney pitch of *Vypon* (the 'bracket' on pitch 3). Since this pitch has long since gone free and the reintroduction of aid is neither necessary nor desirable it is questionable whether pitch 2 is possible as described here. Start in the vegetated gully left of *Vypon*.

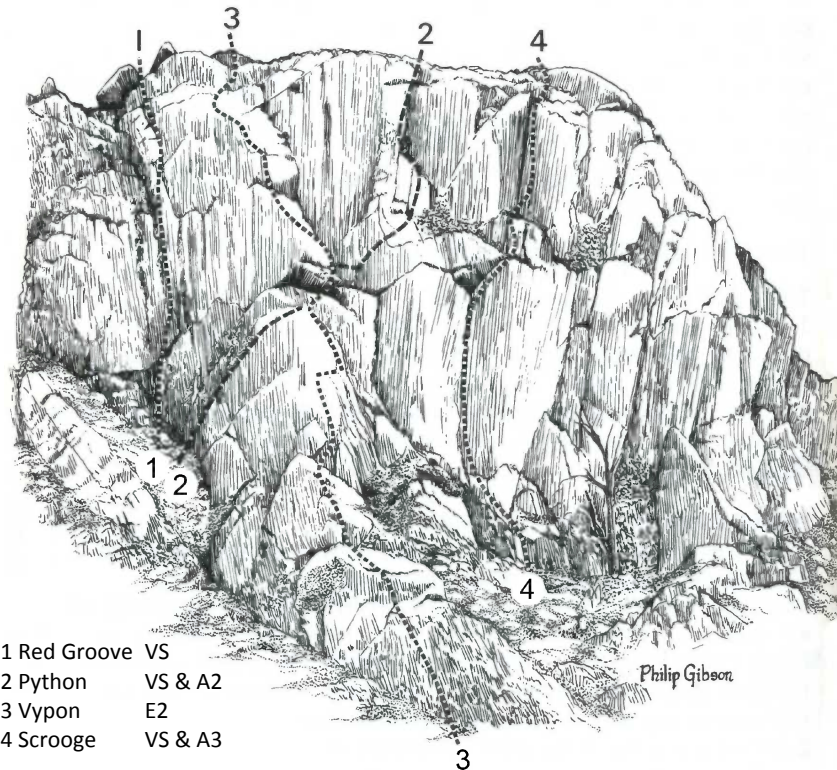
**1** 50 feet. 4b. Ascend the gully and move across the right wall to the overhang belay on *Vypon*.  
**2** 30 feet. A2. Follow *Vypon* to the large 'bracket'. Tension off this to a crack in the steep right wall (long reach). Follow this with 4 aid pegs to a ledge on the right.  
**3** 30 feet. A1 4c. Gain the ledge above the belay and move left via a hard mantelshelf into the steep corner. Ascend this with 3 aid pegs to a heather finish.

**Vypon \*\*** 310 feet E2 5c 11.11.61/66/67

An exposed and varied route, one of the best in the valley. Start at the foot of the long arête of South Crag.

**1** 110 feet. Climb easily up the slab and over a block, forming an arch, to a tree.  
**2** 80 feet. 4c. Move up to some spikes on the arête, then go right to a crack leading to a small ledge. Traverse right with increasing difficulty to the corner and ascend to a sloping ledge below the prominent overhang.  
**3** 55 feet. 5c. Pull up into the base of the wide shallow chimney above the overhang with difficulty (crux). Climb the chimney, move left to the slabby arête, and go up to a stance and belays.

## CRAIG y DŴR - SOUTH CRAG



- 1 Red Groove VS
- 2 Python VS & A2
- 3 Vypon E2
- 4 Scrooge VS & A3

**4** 20 feet. 5a. A mantelshelf behind the stance leads to a ledge system going awkwardly left into a groove with a heather finish.

**5** 45 feet. Scrambling leads to the top of the buttress.

**1a/2a Brothers Start** 130 feet VS 4b 23.8.64

The variation is perhaps more in keeping with the difficulty but not the character of the parent route. Traditionalists take note. Start at a crack 50 feet up the left side of the arête near a tree. Climb the crack to the stance at the top of pitch 1, go left to a further crack which leads to the stance at the top of pitch 2 of the parent climb.

**Poltergeist** 250 feet Difficult 23.6.62

Not a route to raise the spirits but it provides good exorcise. Start as for *Vypon* and climb to the rock arch on pitch 1. Escape left into the vegetation. An awkward wall leads to an ash, then a slab to a crack on the left edge. Finish easily.

**Scrooge** 180 feet VS 4c + A3 26.12.69

Start by a scramble up right of *Vypon* to a large forked tree.

**1** 30 feet. Climb the slab bearing left then go straight up to a ledge beneath the prominent roof-capped groove.

**2** 65 feet. A3 4c. Climb the groove to the second of two good flakes. Continue by difficult pegging to the roof and exit right. A slab round the corner is taken to a ledge on the right.

**3** 35 feet. A1. The straight crack behind the belay overhangs gently but soon gives way to a slabby groove and large heather ledge beyond.

**4** 50 feet. Move up right to a V-shaped groove. Climb this easily to a perched block which can be avoided by a mantelshelf on the right. Ascend straight up on ledges to gain the large tree via a steep little wall.

## NORTH CRAG - Right Side

The main buttress above the boulder field has two features useful for orientation. On the right-hand side is the waterfall, which in a normal Welsh summer, falls from the top of the crag into a basin at half-height and thence down pitches 1 and 2 of Route II. A terrace runs across the face, at about 30 feet, which can be gained easily from the right and terminates at the foot of an open groove on the left, taken by *Crash Landing*. For routes on the left wall *Short Cut* makes a potential, if jungle-bashing, descent, otherwise walk round to the right.

The routes are described from right to left.

**Toffee Rabbits** 100 feet Severe 10.3.73

**1** 60 feet. Start up the shallow groove about 20 feet left of a vegetated gully. The wall is climbed eventually moving right to a large corner ledge with trees.

**2** 40 feet. Climb the groove at the back of the ledge for a few feet and then move right onto the steep wall (take care with blocks). This soon eases and slabs lead to the top.

**Kaleidoscope** 100 feet Hard Severe 8.6.62

Start up a shallow groove on the buttress between *Toffee Rabbits* and the waterfall, on the higher, smaller terrace.

**1** 80 feet. Follow the slight groove to a mantelshelf at 20 feet. Move left into a recess. Leave this on the left and go awkwardly up to large spikes. Climb to the next grassy ledge and move right onto a shelf. Continue right and up the easier-angled slabs which are followed delicately up the right edge (crux) to another grassy ash tree ledge.

**2** 20 feet. Climb the awkward cracked groove.

**Chocolate Elephant** 100 feet Severe 11.3.73

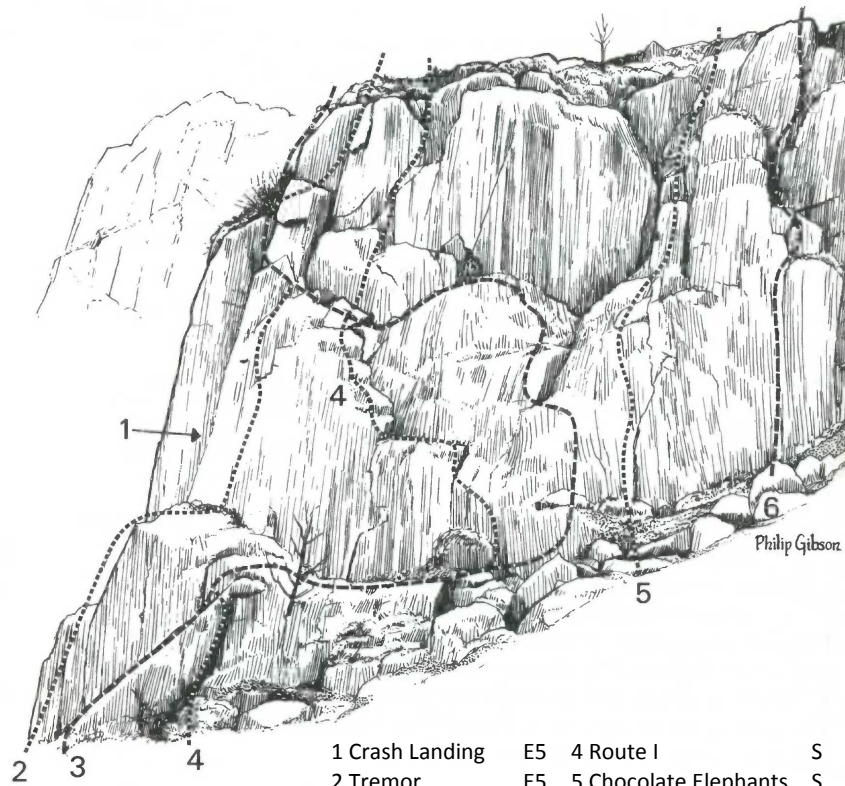
Start at the groove 10 feet right of the watercourse, as for *Kaleidoscope*.

**1** 80 feet. Climb the groove for 10 feet and trend left and up on a series of small ledges to slabby rock. Move right and follow the diagonal groove in the rib up and leftwards to a grassy ledge and tree belay.

**2** 20 feet. Follow the corner to the top, finishing to the right on good holds.



CRAIG y DŴR NORTH CRAG  
RIGHT SIDE



1	Crash Landing	E5	4	Route I	S
2	Tremor	E5	5	Chocolate Elephants	S
3	Route II	S	6	Toffee Rabbits	S

**Route II**      270 feet      Severe      6.50

A classic of the valley, circuitous and exposed in places. Start at the foot of the buttress at a slab leading to a terrace. (Terrace Slab 9.6.62).

- 1 70 feet. Climb the slab to the large ledge. Go right 20 feet to belay at a tree.
- 2 60 feet. Cross the watercourse to a higher terrace on the right and go up the wall for 20 ft to a ledge. Traverse left across the stream and move up to the waterfall basin.
- 3 50 feet. Mantelshelf left and go along the ledge to belay at a wide horizontal crack.
- 4 90 feet. Take the obvious line to the left and move across the slab by a straightforward hand-traverse. Climb the corner crack to a holly tree, and either step left to a slab and climb the crack to the top, or ascend through vegetation to the top.

**Route I \*\***      150 feet      Severe      6.50

The better of the two, more direct but less popular! Start below the terrace just right of the obvious slab.

- 1 30 feet. Climb to the overhang above the square recess. Exit left and gain the terrace. (A La Terrasse. 1.8.59) Cross the terrace going slightly right.
- 2 75 feet. Climb the steep wall just right of the waterfall to a ledge at 15 feet where a gangway left leads to a belay below a vertical crack.
- 3 45 feet. Ascend the crack, in two sections, to a crevassed ledge and then follow the vertical corner above.

**Tremor (Sad Landings)**      170 feet      E5 6a      5/6/12.9.64 (3.4.88)

The difficulties are concentrated in the second pitch which is a direct and free version of an earlier A3 pitch, very much in the modern idiom. Start just right of the easy break leading up to a ledge below the left-hand end of the terrace.

- 1 40 feet. 4c. The wall to the ledge, then a steep corner to the terrace. Go right for a few feet and belay beneath an undercut ledge on the wall.
- 2 50 feet. 6a. Climb the wall to a flake/undercut at 25 feet, at the top of a blind groove. Pull left onto a wall and climb this to a scary 5c finish. Belay as for *Route II* pitch 3. A taxing pitch.
- 3 80 feet. 4c. Traverse left and climb the crack (*Route II* pitch 4) to the holly ledge and mantelshelf to the right. Layback diagonally right and climb the right-hand crack to finish over grassy slabs.

**Soft Landing \*\***      75 feet      E5 6a      5.79

Another modern horror: limited protection and the crux well above it. Start on the terrace. The right arête of *Crash Landing's* groove. The only protection is provided by an in-situ peg. The crux is near the top. Then join *Route II* at the hand-traverse.

**Crash Landing \*\***      75 feet      E5 6b      5.79

A fine bold and sustained route following the open groove at the left-hand end of the large terrace. A series of problematic moves with no protection for the first 30 feet leads to an overhang. Layback round this on its left-hand side, to join *Route II* after the hand-traverse.

**Happy Landings \*\***      100 feet      E6 6b      25.4.84

A difficult and serious route with limited protection. Pre-inspection is heartily recommended. Start at the foot of the blunt arête and climb the thin crack and wall above with difficulty to a resting place. The easier-angled wall directly above leads to the holly tree ledge of *Route II*. A side runner was placed on the first ascent..

## NORTH CRAG - Left Side

**Helynt \*\*** 175 feet VS 4c 22.12.63

An excellent route with a magnificent crack on the first pitch. Start just left of the nose below the prominent stepped flake crack.

- 1 70 feet. 4c. Gain and climb the crack boldly until a move left can be made to the remains of a tree stump. Ascend the groove above.
- 2 40 feet. 4a. Take the slab on the left then climb the groove on the right, before following the wide left-hand crack through the overhang. Exit right to belay.
- 3 65 feet. Climb right for a few feet and cross a big ledge leftwards to a corner. Follow this to the top.

**Brown Crack** 190 feet VS 5a 4.9.64/66

Another good climb. Disappointingly the crack is frequently damp. Start just right of the groove of *Sostenuto*.

- 1 60 feet. 5a. Climb the thin curving crack over the bulge to a stance on *Sostenuto*.
- 2 30 feet. 4b. Follow the steep right twin crack to a stance on the right.
- 3 100 feet. Ascend to a terrace then go left and finish as for *Allegro*.

**Sostenuto \*\*** 130 feet E1 5b 4.11.63/65

A very good climb. Start below and right of the oak tree, where an indefinite groove rises from a small niche.

- 1 90 feet. 5b. Climb the niche and gain the shallow groove on the left. Follow it, exiting right beneath an ash tree ledge. Climb over the blocks to the right. Make a difficult move into *Helynt*. Take the wide crack on the left of the overhang, and step right to a small stance, as for *Helynt*.
- 2 40 feet. The crack on the right followed by a scramble right or step left and take a short steep wall and slab.

**Allegro \*** 80 feet HVS 5b 15.12.63/66

An amusing little climb. Start from the right-hand end of Oak Tree Terrace.

- 1 35 feet. 5b. Delicately up the slab onto a ledge and peg belay.
- 2 45 feet. 4a. Ascend to the tree and continue to the top.

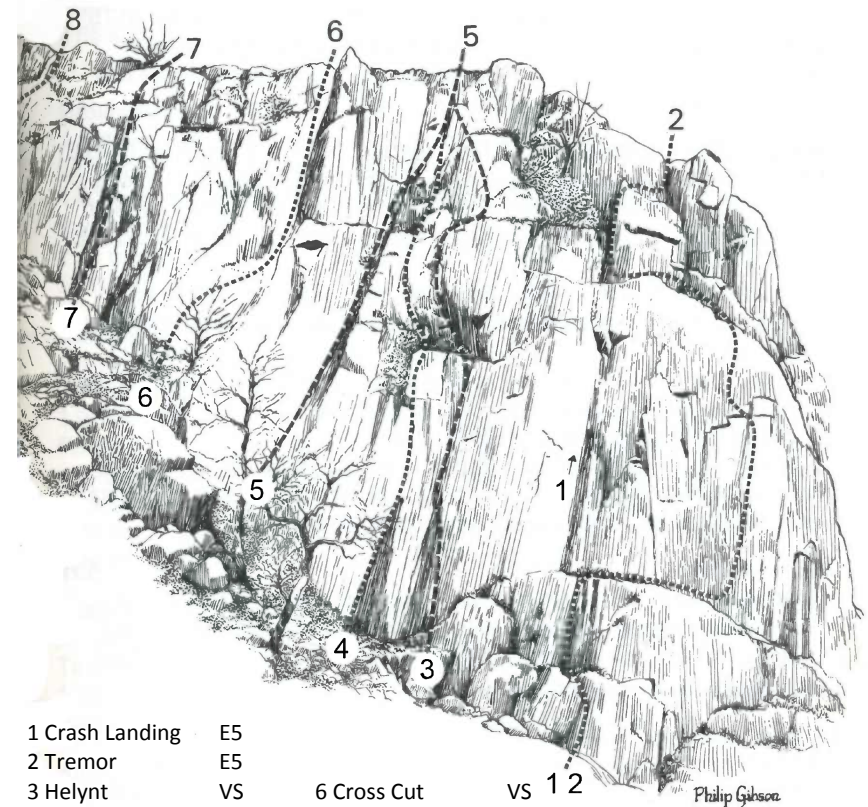
**Allegro Direct Finish** 45 feet VS 4b 10.4.71

2a. Continue directly up the obvious corner by a pleasant layback. (Harder than the normal finish but well protected).

**Cross Cut \*** 100 feet VS 4c 17.6.62

A fine pitch. It starts about 15 feet left of the Oak Tree Terrace up a wide crack by a detached block. Continue up the steep crack (crux) to reach the slab above which is followed to the easy groove.

## CRAIG y DŴR NORTH CRAG LEFT SIDE



1 Crash Landing	E5	6 Cross Cut	VS	1 2
2 Tremor	E5	7 The Iron Lion	HVS	
3 Helynt	VS	8 Short Cut	Mod	
4 Brown Crack	VS			
5 Allegro	HVS			

All the remaining routes are now heavily vegetated. Therefore the following descriptions and grades are approximate.

**Vagabond** 75 feet Very Difficult 19.5.64

Start at a groove and crack 15 feet left of *Crosscut*.

- 1 50 feet. Climb the deep groove to a crack and exit left via an ash tree. Follow the slab, trending left, followed by a steep cracked wall to an enormous block belay.
- 2 25 feet. Ascend right of the block to a sloping ledge. Step down right to a groove and climb this to finish.



**Snorkel** 90 feet VS 4b 9.4.71  
 Start 15 feet left of *Vagabond* at an enormous flake. Follow the left-hand crack of the flake into the big corner. Climb this with some difficulty and follow the groove to easier ground.

**Aramis** 70 feet Mild Severe 27.5.62  
 Start on the left wall of *Snorkel* corner at a cracked arête. Climb the cracked arête to a large spike. Follow the cracked weakness rightwards and go up to a ledge. Continue awkwardly to the ledge on the right then move up and right again to a big holly tree.

The arête just to the left of *Aramis* has been top-roped by a person or persons unknown.

**The Iron Lion** 70 feet HVS 5b (1pt.) 23.5.70  
 The obvious corner with the slabby right wall. Climb the corner with a sling for aid about half way up. Easier ground then leads to the big holly tree.

**The Zinc Sphinx** 70 feet Difficult 23.5.70  
 Start 10 feet left of *Iron Lion* at an easy-angled groove. Climb the easy-angled groove to a monster block on the left. Pull onto the block and then left onto the face. Climb this and the easy arête above to finish.

**Crucifix** 75 feet Severe 9.4.71  
 Start 10 feet left of *Zinc Sphinx* at yet another groove. Follow the obvious groove to a ledge. Climb the steep crack on the left until a move right leads to a wall. Finish in the direct line.

**Blackstein's Theory** 70 feet Severe 10.1.70  
 Start 20 feet left of *Crucifix* at a slabby groove bounded by a steep wall on the left. A steep entry gives access to the slab. Climb this until the groove steepens then gain a ledge up to the left. Move up and left behind a large leaning block and continue up a flake crack exiting left.

**Chrome Molly Dolly** 70 feet Hard Very Difficult 23.5.70  
 Start 8 feet left of *Blackstein's Theory* at a crack behind a large fallen tree. Climb the slanting crack and the cracked groove above, to a hole which leads to the top.

**Owt** 60 feet Severe ('If you hit it right') 16.5.70  
 Start about 4 feet left of *Chrome Molly Dolly* at a groove. Climb the groove and continue direct to finish.

**Wheelbarrow** 45 feet Hard Difficult 9.4.71  
 Climb the groove just right of *Short Cut* and 15 feet left of *Owt*, to a vegetated ledge and continue up the tree-filled crack.

**Short Cut** 40 feet Moderate 26.2.62  
 Five feet from the top of the left wall of the crag a grooved weakness leads to a crevasse, (this ought to be mounted *à cheval*). Continue right to finish at a small crooked tree.

**Girdle Traverse** 300 feet HVS 5b 14.12.63

An unbalanced route crossing some interesting terrain.

**1** 55 feet. 4c. Start up *Cross Cut* to the ledge beneath the groove (peg).

**2** 30 feet. 5b. A descending traverse right to a horizontal, cracked weakness and round the corner with some difficulty.

**3** 40 feet. Traverse right to the holly tree ledge on *Route II*.

**4** 40 feet. Descend the crack, traverse right easily until a semi-hand-traverse leads to the start of a huge ledge. Pitch 4 of *Route II* in reverse.

**5** 60 feet. Go along the large ledge and down into the waterfall basin. Pitch 3 of *Route II* in reverse.

**6** 55 feet. Climb a small slab and mantelshelf up a short wall. Now go down right to meet pitch 1 of *Kaleidoscope*. Move right onto the slab and reach a tree belay.

**7** 20 feet. The cracked groove. Pitch 2 of *Kaleidoscope*.

## BROKEN SLABS

Between the boulder field of Craig y Dŵr and the bwlch at the head of the valley (just beyond which, on the right, is some excellent bouldering) is a broken hillside. In this jumble of outcrops lies an easy-angled corner with a small slab on its right-hand side. This is Broken Slabs. It is one of the lost crags of Crafnant, and arguably, for conservation reasons, should retain such status although there are far worse places to while away an hour or two with the children.

**Balcony Wall** 100 feet Very Difficult 1.8.62  
 The wall left of the corner.

**Jackal** 60 feet Difficult 11.4.71  
 The obvious corner groove.

**Fluellen** 80 feet Difficult 15.7.62  
 Ascend the centre of the slab on good holds.

**Llewellyn** 90 feet Difficult 15.7.62  
 Start up the right-hand side of the slab then trend left for 30 feet and finish direct.

## CHRISTMAS CRAG

This lies on a level with the Craig y Dŵr boulder-field and about 300 yards to its right. From Blaen y Nant the obvious feature is the clean curved beak of rock rising from the trees - *Blue Lights Wall*. Apart from this, and its neighbouring route *I Am A Scientist* there is nothing to detain a competent party. However, on a lazy summer afternoon there is no finer place to sport oneself: it being, with one or two surprising exceptions, a collection of short boulder problems, and excellent festering spots.

**January Crack** 25 feet VS 4b 19.1.64  
The wall of the gully on the left of the crag. Ascend the groove up the centre using a bastard layback technique.

**February Wall** 30 feet VS 4c 10.2.64  
On the same wall. A technical problem. On the right of the wall a thin crack disappears into the ivy. Climb to the ivy, traverse left and go up to the base of the left-hand wide crack. A layback move enables one to move out left (crux) onto the wall. Finish by two mantelshelves. Dry conditions are essential.

**Duet** 50 feet Very Difficult 29.7.62  
Start high up to the left of Christmas Crag where there is a large ash tree about ten feet below a square-cut cracked corner. A pleasant little climb on good rock.  
**1** 25 feet. Climb the cracked corner starting with a layback to the shelf on the right. Continue left up the flake cracks to a ledge with large blocks.  
**2** 25 feet. Go left and climb the wall.

**Honeysuckle Ridge** 115 -130 feet + walking Difficult/VS 29.7.62  
The route can be easily varied to suit the party and it is a very determined man who does not linger for at least half an hour on the mid-terrace for a pipe or two. Start at the left-hand side of the crag near the apex of a large boulder .  
**1** 35 feet. Climb to the holly tree and take the groove behind this to the left. Step up on the ledges and finish with a pull over the Pinnacle Block or more sedately round the corner.  
**2** 35 feet. Climb the blocks on the left and go back right into the groove. Finish up the short crack.

or  
**2a Heather Crack** 40 feet Hard Very Difficult  
Walk 20 feet left and climb the steep cracked corner.  
**3** 30 feet. Walk to the foot of the next tier and crawl into the hole by the wall and the fence. Wriggle up the chimney and emerge on a pile of blocks. Step on to the Pinnacle Block and so to the top.

or  
**3a Pinnacle Block Variation** 30 feet Very Difficult  
Step up above the wall to a ledge. Swing right on the Pinnacle Block. Step up on this and move left up the broad ridge to the top.

or  
**3b The Flake Crack** 30 feet Severe  
Start as for the *Pinnacle Block Variation* and layback straight up the flake crack above the ledge.

or  
**3c The Z Crack** 30 feet Severe  
Five feet right of the ordinary tunnel route. The obvious but not easy zig-zag crack leads to a ledge. Mantelshelf behind this and continue to the top.

or  
**3d Ladies Variation** 40 feet Very Difficult  
Ten feet right of *The Z Crack* is a crack opening into a groove. Climb this and move left at 10 feet and so to the ledge. Go left and up the prominent crack.

**3e The Creeper** 35 feet Difficult  
Ascend the block right of *Ladies Variation* then wander up left.  
**4** 15 feet. Walk 30 feet back to the final short wall. This is climbed a few feet left of the prominent crack.

or  
**4a The Crack Finish** 15 feet Very Difficult  
The prominent crack swinging out right to finish.

or  
**4b Technical Rib** 15 feet VS 4c  
Climb the face to the right of the crack direct.

**Minor** 80 feet Difficult 28.2.64  
A few feet right of *Honeysuckle* is a short steep ridge. Start left of the ridge and move right onto it about half way up, then go up to easy ridges which lead right onto *Little Ridge Climb*. Traverse right to a corner and move steeply right to climb the face of the buttress.

**Little Ridge Climb** 80 feet Very Difficult 10.9.63  
An interesting little route; more difficult than it first appears. About 30 feet right of *Honeysuckle Ridge* is a little corner. Go up the corner and over the block to an ash tree on the left, then climb the groove behind this to the foot of a steep wall. Step left and pull up onto the arête. Follow the smooth slab using the left edge to a good ledge. Traverse right for a few feet then make a long stride back left to a broad ridge leading to the top.  
Variation: From the slab go right, awkwardly, onto a nose which leads easily to the top.

**Mole** 70 feet VS 4b 8.3.64  
The Mole has long since gone underground. Start about 10 feet right of *Little Ridge Climb* above a large holly. Climb a slab trending right to a rib which runs up into a definite groove. This is awkward and a peg is used, for protection, just beneath a chimney which leads to a ledge out left. Step back right onto a steep wall and mantelshelf to the top.

**The Crack** 70 feet Severe 8.9.63  
A once obvious crack 30 feet right of *Mole*. The first part of the crack falls most easily to a semi-layback technique. Move right round the corner to an easier finishing crack.

**The Pillar** 70 feet VS 4c 31.4.71  
Takes the arête to the right of *The Crack*. The arête is the edge of a pillar which rises from the foot of a tall ash tree. Climb the arête direct (the tree was used for protection only. Some quite thin moves if one does not cheat.) and move to easier ground on the right. An excellent little pitch.

**Curio** 15 feet Difficult 23.12.63  
An insignificant route on the upper tier, included for completeness. It starts 30 feet right of the second pitch of *Blue Lights Wall*, just left of a fence and follows the obvious chockstone crack.

**I Am A Scientist** 60 feet HVS 5b 3.4.88  
Start at the groove 20 feet left of *Blue Lights Wall*. Climb the groove and when this gives out, the bulging wall above. A neat little pitch.

**Blue Lights Wall \*\*** 105 feet VS 4c 27.12.59

An excellent climb. The substance is in the first pitch which is splendid. The top pitch, although spoilt by its artificial connection, is worth the trouble to find. To the right, and lower than the rest of the crag, is a prominent buttress, rounded in profile. The climb starts a few feet right of the foot of the nose at an easy crack.

**1** 70 feet. 4c. Climb the wide crack to a good ledge. Move slightly left stepping up and round the corner with difficulty to a small sloping ledge. From the ledge move right onto the face and continue steadily to a rounded summit.

**2** 35 feet. 4c. Walk across to a second tier where there is a brown-streaked wall. Climb this on sloping holds (peg).

## CLOGWYN yr ERYR

Clogwyn yr Eryr is the general title applied to the more or less continuous line of crags running north-east to south-west and stretching from the Forestry Commission plantation via the impressive undercut buttress finally to peter out high on the slope overlooking Bwlch Mignog.

For convenience it is split into four sections which, starting at the far left when looking from Blaen y Nant, are Little Stanage (Upper Cliffs), S.H. Wall (The Main Crag), Two Tier Buttress and Forestry Buttress. The approach to all these buttresses for parties arriving by car is to park by the last gate on the road where the track splits to Hendre and Blaen y Nant. Walk towards Hendre and follow the footpath signs onto the Forestry track. Take the track left as far as the first hairpin bend whence a stile gives access to the open hillside. Follow the edge of the Forestry plantation until Forestry Buttress is reached at the small watercourse that marks the start of *Daddy Long Legs* etc. An easy path now leads across under Two Tier to S.H. Wall. Little Stanage is steeply up the slope beyond. The buttresses are described from left to right.

### LITTLE STANAGE (UPPER CLIFF)

This is the line of crag which forms the left-hand continuation of S.H. Wall and is distinguished by the 'Donkey Ears' prominently visible from Blaen y Nant. After the first two buttresses the crag rapidly diminishes in height. However, what it lacks in stature is compensated for by the steepness of the landing. It contains a number of good short routes which amply reward the effort of the approach. The best descent for routes up to about *Shadowfax*, is the easy but hidden gully which slants from left to right under *Stoat Wall*. Otherwise walk round the left-hand end of the crag.

The routes are described from right to left starting at the foot of the ivy-covered buttress 30 yards left and below the foot of the undercut S.H. Wall.

**Summit Route** 180 feet Difficult 2.10.62

Start on the left of the isolated buttress below the ash tree.

**1** 80 feet. Climb the groove, squeeze behind the tree and move up and right to broken ground on the crest of the ridge.

For maximum enjoyment follow the crest of the easy-angled ridge to the summit of the buttress. Descend to the col and scramble 100 feet up steep heather to the foot of a definite cracked groove in the continuation wall.

**2** 100 feet. Climb the groove and take the gangway leading right. At a block, climb direct passing left of the broom and holly tree. Exit steeply right on good holds.

**Caterpillar** 120 feet Severe 27.8.66

Start 10 feet left of pitch 2 of *Summit Route*.

**1** 70 feet. Climb the obvious wall trending left to a tree in a groove. Follow ledges up right to a massive oak.

**2** 50 feet. Follow the groove up left of the tree and when it ends step right to finish up a small shallow groove.

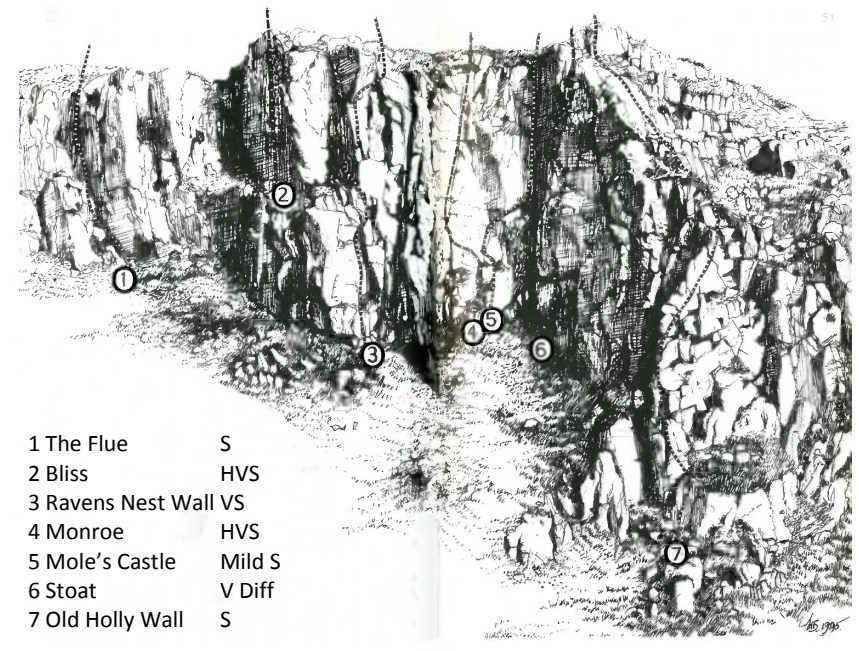
**The Pear** 120 feet VS 4b 28.9.69

Start a few feet left of *Caterpillar* at an arete.

**1** 60 feet. 4a. Climb the right edge of the arete, then move left and go up to ledges. Follow these up right to a large oak.

**2** 60 feet. 4b. Climb the corner behind the oak. Swing out left onto an arete then go up with interest on the edge of a groove to a ledge. Pull up a steep wall on the right to a slabby bay. Exit left from the bay up a steep wall on good holds.

### LITTLE STANAGE



- |                    |        |
|--------------------|--------|
| 1 The Flue         | S      |
| 2 Bliss            | HVS    |
| 3 Ravens Nest Wall | VS     |
| 4 Monroe           | HVS    |
| 5 Mole's Castle    | Mild S |
| 6 Stoat            | V Diff |
| 7 Old Holly Wall   | S      |

At the left-hand side of the base of the next buttress is a 6-foot wall topped by a large heather shelf. In the centre of the wall is a cracked weakness which is the start of the next route.

**Old Holly Wall \*** 110 feet Severe 9.6.63

A pleasant excursion at the lower limit of its grade. The difficulty is confined to two moves on the first pitch, the remainder being about Difficult.

**1** 50 feet. Follow the weakness to a ledge, from the left of which climb a wall. Move left and go up to a dead holly.

**2** 60 feet. Mantelshelf up the wall behind to a ledge, from which a crack leads to a further ledge. Trend right now and up a scoop with gorse to a crack, climb to a ledge and traverse right across a wall to finish.

For the purist a further 100 feet of pleasant scrambling exists, up the left edge of the continuation rock, or walk off right.

**Sweeper Chimney** 100 feet VS 4b 23.8.70

Start a few feet left of *Old Holly Wall*.

**1** 30 feet. 4b. Climb the chimney. Belay beneath a thin crack.

**2** 70 feet. Climb the crack and the broad arête. Finish rightwards across a pleasant wall, to join *Old Holly Wall*.

The next obvious feature of the crag is a very prominent corner (*Mole's Castle*) to the left of which the general aspect of the crag changes to face Blaen y Nant. The buttress between the prominent corner and the hidden descent gully on its right is *Stoat Buttress*. The steep wall on the right of the descent gully contains two routes.

**Deuteronomy** 80 feet Very Difficult 12.10.62

Start at the centre of the wall and climb rightwards to a ledge. Go up the wall for a few feet and then diagonally right for 20 feet and finally bear left to the top.

**First Peel Two Goblins** 60 feet Very Difficult 26.3.83

From the foot of the hidden descent gully, traverse right onto the wall proper. Much more enjoyable than it appears. Climb the series of parallel, shallow grooves trending rightwards when necessary. Finish leftwards.

The next three routes tackle the buttress which lies between the prominent corner on the left (*Mole's Castle*) and the descent gully on the right.

**Stoat** 85 feet Very Difficult 24.7.66

Start at the lowest point of a large triangular slab about 20 feet down and right of the corner (*Mole's Castle*) at a faint arrow. Climb 10 feet to a ledge and then the steep wall above, first trending right and then left to the apex of the triangle at a ledge. The small steep wall just right of a black crack provides the finish.

**Peechay** 80 feet Very Difficult 31.7.66

Start 20 feet left of *Stoat*. Climb the left corner of the buttress and traverse right diagonally for 20 feet, then back left to a rib and on to a ledge. The arête left of the small overhang is climbed on good holds for 25 feet to finish.

**Ferret** 80 feet Very Difficult 22.10.67

Start up a steep groove at the base of the buttress. Move left, crossing one groove to a second which trends right and is followed until it peters out. Finish directly above.

At the foot of the wall left of the corner is a large flake.

**Mole's Castle \*** 120 feet Mild Severe 11.4.68

A fine pitch. Stand on the flake, step left and mantelshelf on to a small ledge

Above, an obvious traverse right leads to the huge corner groove which is taken direct.

**Monroe \*** 100 feet HVS 5a 23.8.69

Start at the flake belay of *Mole's Castle*. The climbing follows the obvious corner between slab and wall. Climb up and left onto the corner above a gorse ledge. Climb delicately over bulges to a thread belay just below the top. A serious, unprotected, pitch.

**Shadowfax** 115 feet VS 4c 24.7.66

About 30 feet left of the prominent corner is a small overhang at the base of the wall (*Cairn*). Start just right of this. The pitch can be split at the trees. Climb the slab left of the foot of a steep groove to where the groove splits. Take the right-hand branch and follow this to an ash tree above which is a holly. From the holly, move round to the right onto the prominent rib which at this point forms a corner with the wall on the left. Climb the corner to the top.

**Ravens Nest Wall** 120 feet VS 4b 24.3.67

Start a few feet left of *Shadowfax* at a corner groove with a mangled tree at 10 feet.

**1** 40 feet. 4b. Climb the groove past the tree to a peg. Bridge past this, exit left and go up to the summit of a large pedestal.

**2** 80 feet. 4a. Move left and go up to large blocks at the right-hand end of the terrace. From the right-hand of this, make an interesting move onto the arête. Ascend (keeping well away from the raven's nest) until a traverse right can be made between overhangs. Pull onto the arête and go straight up to finish.

**2a Variation Finish** 40 feet Severe 4a 22.10.62

From the blocks on pitch 2 move up and right to a mantelshelf. Balance delicately round the corner to the left and finish on good holds up the wall above.

**Esque** 100 feet VS 4c 2.9.68

A good steep direct route. Climb the first pitch of *Ravens Nest Wall* as far as the peg and trend right to a small holly tree. Climb straight up into an overhung reddish groove. Move awkwardly left past the bulging right arête of this and follow the left edge of the slab above to the top.

**Shelob** 80 feet Very Difficult 24.10.66

Start 50 feet left of *Shadowfax* below a square recess at an indistinct arrow.

**1** 40 feet. Surmount the ledge and go diagonally right towards a square chimney whose right wall is formed by a pinnacle. Climb the chimney using the pinnacle to a grassy ledge from the right-hand end of which move up to the terrace.

**2** 40 feet. The crack in the corner of the square recess.

Left again are two small steep walls, in front of the left-hand one there is a small projecting buttress.

**Bliss** 40 feet HVS 5b 12.6.83

The right-hand wall above a large heather ledge is split by a prominent centre crack.

Climb the steep crack with increasing difficulty to finish on good holds.

**The Flue** 60 feet Severe 20.3.83

A fine clean little route. Start on the right of the projecting buttress. Climb one of the chimneys to a large ledge. Finish steeply up the excellent hidden crack.

Finally for completeness:

**Eeyore** 25 feet Severe 26.3.83

The cracked wall behind, and finishing at, the 'Donkey's ears'.

## S.H. WALL (MAIN CLIFF)

The showpiece of the valley: steep, undercut and uncompromising. The majority of the routes follow clean-cut groove lines. The wall is often unaffected by rain but is, in any event, quick drying. The climbs once relied heavily on aid but in keeping with the times the majority now go free, many of the former aid pegs providing barely adequate protection.

Previous guides have subdivided the crag into North and South Buttresses. This convention has been abandoned.

The climbs are described from left to right starting at the top end of the side wall. The descent, if you get that far, is easiest on the right-hand side when facing the crag or by abseil from the top of *Oriole*.

**Legolas** 90 feet Hard Severe 22.7.67

An indifferent route with an exposed finish. Start at a large flat-topped boulder well up the gully.

**1** 40 feet. Follow the broken corner on the left-hand side of the wall to a holly.

**2** 50 feet. Scramble up right to a short corner and diagonal ramp which leads to the top.

**The Hobbler\*\*** 120 feet E2 5b 25.5.68

Sustained steep climbing with poor protection on the first pitch. Start below the steep wall 10 feet right of the corner of *Legolas*. The unclimbed direct start looks exciting.

**1** 70 feet. 5b. Ascend vertically just right of the rust marks to a niche at 30 feet (peg).

Traverse right and climb a thin crack and arête above to a pinnacle block belay.

**2** 50 feet. 5a. Step down right to a bulging crack, climb this and the continuation chimney above.

The next feature is a steep, unclimbed groove, 15 feet right of which is an easy groove which leads to a steep flake crack.

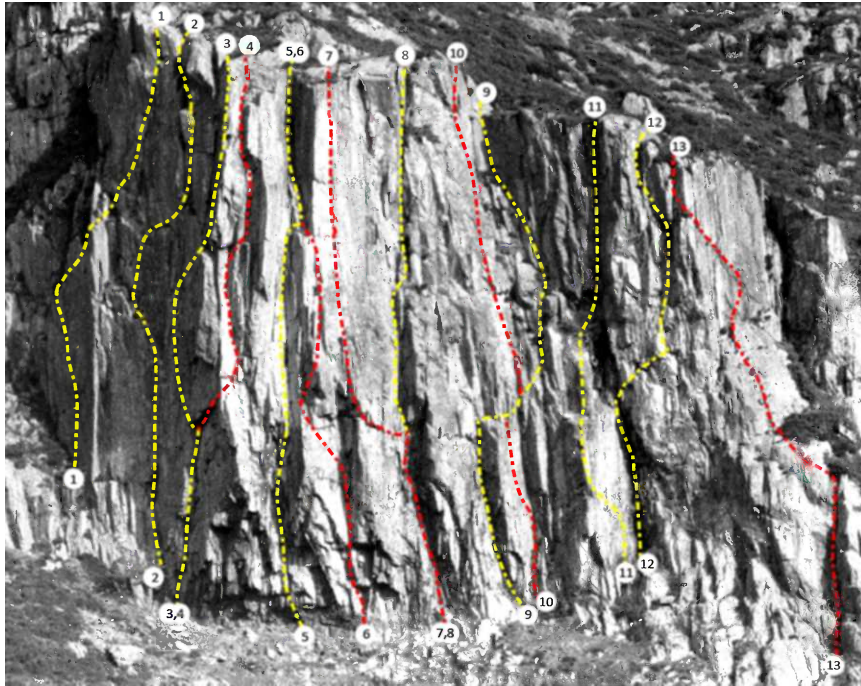
**Skylark \*** 130 feet E3 5c 14.9.68/78

The strenuous flake crack leads to a rather lichenous wall and an easier finish.

**1** 70 feet. 5c. Go easily up to the base of the crack (peg) and climb it until able to move diagonally leftwards, and up into a groove. Climb the wall above (pegs) to a ledge and spike belay.

**2** 60 feet. 5b. Traverse right to the base of a steep groove and climb this to the top. Where it is split by a pillar at mid height the right option is easier (whereas the wrong option ... ).

## S H Wall



1 The Hobbler	E2	6 Connie's Crack	E4	10 Gondor	E2
2 Skylark	E3	7 Snowdrop	E4	11 Mordor	E2
3 Oriole	E4	8 Astoroth	E2	12 The Web	E3
4 Phoenix	E2	9 Beelzebub	E1	13 Gobeithio	HVS
5 Clonus	E3				

### **Oriole \*\*\*** 130 feet E4 6a 5.11.67/80

A magnificent route offering steep and sustained climbing in spectacular positions. Start down to the right of *Skylark*, below a corner capped by a roof.

**1** 90 feet. 6a. Enter the corner from the left with difficulty and climb it directly almost to the roof. Move left onto the arête and pull over the overhang (peg) onto the wall above. Climb leftwards to a shallow groove; go up this until it steepens, to reach some spikes. Traverse rightwards on small holds and move up to an exposed ledge and belay. A fine pitch.

**2** 40 feet. 5a. Climb up trending rightwards to gain the arête for the final moves.

### **Phoenix \*\*\*** 140 feet E2 5c 14.5.66/80

A sensational route; one of the classics of the valley. Start as for *Oriole*.

**1** 100 feet. 5c. Follow *Oriole* almost to the roof and then make an airy traverse up rightwards below the roof and out onto the arête (peg, possible belay). Climb the arête in a fine position (peg) until it is possible to step right into another groove. Climb this (peg) and mantelshelf awkwardly onto a good ledge with a fine belay.

**2** 40 feet. 5b. Bridge up the corner (peg) move left under the roof and pull up into another groove. Finish up this. Alternatively:

**2a** 60 feet. 5b. Belay lower than normal at a ledge on the arête. Climb the arête at first on its right side and then finish up its left-hand side in a fine position on surprising holds common to *Oriole*.

### **Screech Owl \*\*** 130 feet E3 6a 20.4.80

A technically interesting alternative approach to the arête of *Phoenix*. Start directly below the arête under a small square niche.

**1** 90 feet. 6a. Pull into the niche and move up to its top. Pull over the roof on its left-hand side and ascend to join *Phoenix* at the end of its traverse. Follow this to the stance.

**2** 40 feet. 5b. Finish as for *Phoenix* pitch 2.

### **Clonus Left Hand \*\*** 130 feet E3 6a 19.4.80

Another superb route breaking out left from the main V-shaped groove in the front face of the buttress. Start directly below the groove.

**1** 90 feet. 6a. A hard move off the ground (peg) leads to a good hold below an overhang at 15 feet. Move right and climb the groove on huge holds past an enormous thread to a spike then cross to a crack in the left wall. Climb this, crux, to some downward pointing flakes and ascend strenuously leftwards into a short corner. Climb this to another spike, then go up and left again onto the arête of *Phoenix* (pegs) to the stance.

**2** 40 feet. 5b. As for *Phoenix* pitch 2.

### **Clonus \*** 130 feet E3 6a 19.9.64

A fine route taking a very direct line up the steepest part of the cliff. Start as for *Clonus Left Hand*.

**1** 100 feet. 6a. Follow *Clonus Left Hand* to the downward pointing flakes, then cross back right and pull over bulges into the main groove line. Climb this (peg) to an overhung ledge, and using jugs on the right wall, climb up to a good ledge below the final incut groove. Peg belay.

**2** 30 feet. 5a. Bridge the groove to the top.

### **Connie's Crack \*** 130 feet E4 6a 8.61/78

This old aid route is now a fine free climb in the modern idiom. Start right of *Clonus*, beneath a square-cut niche which gives access to a V-shaped groove above and left.

**1** 100 feet. 6a. A ferocious start through the overhangs (3 pegs) leads leftwards to the groove, which is hard to enter but leads to good holds at 10 feet. Traverse left across the wall, above a peg, to the arête and more pegs. Go straight up into a slim groove and climb this with a hard move (peg) to a leaning block and go up the crack above until it is possible to step left to the *Clonus* belay.

**2** 30 feet. 5a. Climb the groove to finish as for *Clonus*.



**Carousel Waltz \*\*** 130 feet E5 6b 17.7.82

A technical link between *Connie's Crack* and *Snowdrop* with a very exposed independent finish. A route of great character. The first pitch is very strenuous, while the second pitch is more serious. Start as for *Connie's Crack*.

**1** 100 feet. 6a. Follow *Connie's Crack* over the roofs and up into its main groove. Do not traverse left but continue straight up into the overhanging groove of *Snowdrop*. Wide bridging leads to a peg in the left wall, then small holds above allow an exit right onto a slab. Climb this and cross left to the leaning block of *Connie's Crack* which is followed to the belay.

**2** 30 feet. 6b. Step right onto the exposed arête and climb it direct to the top.

**Snowdrop \*\*\*** 150 feet E4 6a 24.6.70/78

Yet another superb route, and the first in the modern idiom, finishing up the phenomenal headwall to the right of *Clonus*. Start to the right of *Connie's Crack*, below the next groove which provides the line of *Astoroth*.

**1** 60 feet. 5c. Climb the groove past a bulge then step left to the foot of the continuation groove of *Astoroth*. Traverse left along a gangway to the arête. Hanging belay (pegs). This minimises rope drag normally experienced when the *Clonus* belay is used.

**2** 90 feet. 6a. Move up into the overhanging groove and climb it, exiting right onto a slab. Climb directly up the prominent ever-steepening crack line. A magnificent pitch. It is possible to split this pitch by traversing left to the *Clonus* belay but this reduces the experience!

**Astoroth \*\*** 140 feet E2 5c 14.6.1

Another marvellous route. Start as for *Snowdrop*.

**1** 80 feet. 5c. Climb the groove past a bulge, then step left and climb the smooth V-shaped groove above with difficulty to where it closes. Swing out onto the steep right wall (pegs) and climb to a large perched block. Belay.

**2** 60 feet. 5a. From the stance, move up and right to an overhanging flake crack. Climb this to easier ground, exiting leftwards at the top

**2a The Direct Finish \*\*\*** 50 feet E4 6a 19.4.80

The *Snowdrop* headwall is bounded on its right-hand side by an open left-trending groove. A brilliant pitch.

**Beelzebub** 150 feet E1 5b 17.4.60

Probably the easiest of the many groove lines on the crag. Start in the next groove right of *Astoroth*.

**1** 50 feet. 5b. Climb the left wall to a small ledge and then ascend the groove to a stance and peg belay on the right.

**2** 100 feet. 4c. Step right past a spike runner to a rib, and go up this to a good hold. Move up and rightwards to a holly and perched block. Surmount the block and climb the groove above to an ash tree. Finish up the corner crack.

#### Variation finish

**2a** 30 feet. 5a. Cross the groove and slab on the left to the foot of a steep crack. Climb this to a ledge and belay.

**3a** 50 feet. 4c. Climb grooves and pillars just right of *Astoroth's* groove, then take the crack on the left to finish.

**Gondor \*** 140 feet E2 5b 4.10.67

A pleasant route with a strenuous first pitch. Start just right of *Beelzebub's* holly, at the foot of a smooth groove.

**1** 50 feet. 5b. Go up the groove for a few feet until a step left can be made to reach a steep crack-line near the arête. Climb this and step left at its top to the belay of *Beelzebub*.

**2** 70 feet. 5a. Move right to a good spike then go straight up to an overlap. Pull over just left of the square-cut roof and climb the slab via a series of thin cracks, moving left at the top to an oak tree belay.

**3** 20 feet. The grooved rib on the right is climbed with ease.

**Prometheus \*** 150 feet E1 5b (1 pt) 11.3.62/68

Start as for *Gondor*.

**1** 100 feet. 5b. Climb the right wall of *Gondor's* groove and move round the arête into another groove. Climb past a peg and use a second peg to exit rightwards to reach a ledge. Move left more easily and climb straight up a steep depression to gain the left-hand side of an enormous perched block. Climb the groove on its left to a grassy ledge (junction with *Beelzebub*) and belay.

**2** 50 feet. 5b. Follow a ramp diagonally rightwards across the wall, using undercuts, to a flat-topped spike on the arête. Climb the steep wall direct on excellent holds to finish.

**Mordor** 140 feet E2 5b (3 pts) 25.2.68/69

A strenuous route with a slight break between pitches. Start at the foot of the tree-filled corner gully.

**1** 70 feet. 5b. Scramble up to a platform. Climb the wall, passing a perched block on the arête – 'Shaw's Chopper' – to a ledge. Climb a corner to a spike on the arête and continue to a holly tree belay.

**2** 70 feet. 5a. Surmount the perched block behind the trees. The wall on the right is then climbed, keeping just left of a bottomless brown groove. Reach up and use 2 aid pegs and a nut to gain the groove at a good spike. Climb the groove on good holds exiting right at the top.

**Stentor** 150 feet HVS 5a 23.5.65

A poor route taking the main corner-gully.

**1** 70 feet. 5a. Climb the rib on the right then go steeply up the corner groove to a belay on a ledge below a holly.

**2** 80 feet. 4c. Climb up through the holly and a groove above – less steep than the previous pitch – to an ash tree. Finish up the corner crack as for *Beelzebub*.

**The Web \*\*** 150 feet E3 5c 20.5.67

A fine climb whose main pitch takes the impressive overhanging wall to the right of *Stentor*. Start as for *Stentor*.

**1** 70 feet. 5a. As for Pitch 1 of *Stentor*.

**2** 80 feet. 5c. Step back across the groove and pull up onto a traverse line crossing the wall which is followed to a prominent spike. Move up leftwards with difficulty to reach a steep groove and climb this, strenuous, to a bulge. Swing out left to gain a ledge above the overhang and climb a V-shaped groove to finish. An outstanding pitch.

**Jofad** 150 feet VS 4c 26.12.58  
 Not a particularly good route. Start 60 feet right of the corner of *Stentor* below a blunt overhanging rib.  
 1 80 feet. 4c. Climb the rib on its right flank and the heathery slope above to belay on a large flake on the left.  
 2 70 feet. 4b. Surmount the flake and cross the gully, finishing via the ivy-clad wall on the right.

**Gobeithio \*\*** 140 feet HVS 5b 13.6.64  
 A good route, the top pitch being particularly exciting and in a very exposed position. Start at a corner 10 feet right of the overhanging rib of *Jofad*.  
 1 80 feet. 4c. Climb the groove and exit right past a loose block. Move back up into the next groove and ascend until it is possible to escape onto the yellow wall on the left. Climb this and the slab above to a tree belay.  
 2 60 feet. 5b. Climb the wall behind to gain an obvious gangway going left (hard). Follow this, past two cracks, to a peg on the arête. Move round to a small ledge and climb the groove above to an exciting exit on a large spike.

2a **Gobeithio Direct Finish \*** 30 feet HVS 5c 20.9.86  
 Climb the ragged crack behind the tree-belay to the top.

**Sobad** 140 feet VS 4c 12.11.61  
 An aptly named route. Start as for *Gobeithio*.  
 1 100 feet. 4c. Follow *Gobeithio* to the escape onto a yellow wall, then move right to the arête. Gain the heathery ledge with difficulty. Continue to a block.  
 2 40 feet. 4a. Finish up the gully above.

**Linkway** 140 feet VS 4c 20.6.64  
 A good combination of the first pitch of *Gobeithio* and the second pitch of *Sobad*.

**The Daisy Chain \*\*** 410 feet E2 5c (1 pt) 1962  
 A tremendous high girdle of the crag on steep rock with great exposure. Start up *The Hobbler*.  
 1 70 feet. 5b. *The Hobbler* pitch 1.  
 2 70 feet. 5a. Traverse along the ledge, cross the groove and descend the diagonal crack to the arête of *Phoenix*, *Phoenix* alternative pitch 2 in reverse. Descend to a small ledge and belay where *Phoenix* gains the arête.  
 3 40 feet. 5c. Move up right to a peg runner and swing down right (aid point) into the main groove of *Clonus*. Move up and then traverse right to the arête and belay.  
 4 100 feet. 5a. Climb the crack in the arête, *Connie's Crack*, to reach a traverse across the *Snowdrop* wall to *Astoroth*. Continue by a delicate traverse across the slab on the right which leads to a groove. Descend this to a stance.  
 5 70 feet. 5b. Move down again to some trees, then gain the obvious traverse line crossing the steep wall of the *The Web*. This is difficult to start and rounding the arête is harder, but easier ground lies immediately beyond. Block belay.  
 6 60 feet. 4b. Go right and finish up the corner.  
 6a 40 feet. 5c. Alternatively finish up *Gobeithio Direct Finish* (better).

**Storm \*** 340 feet E3 5c (2pts) 23.10.66  
 A lower girdle than *Daisy Chain*. It is similar in quality but with a harder crux pitch. Start as for *Phoenix*.  
 1 60 feet. 5c. Follow *Phoenix* up to the corner and go out under the overhang onto the arête. Step up to belay on a small ledge.  
 2 70 feet. 5c. Move right and descend the groove (aid point), *Clonus Left Hand* in reverse, until it is possible to move right (aid point) into *Clonus* and go up this for a few feet to a block. Climb down rightwards to reach the arête of *Connie's Crack*. Descend this until able to traverse right across a wall (peg low down) beneath a roof to reach another groove. Climb this to another roof and traverse right to the arête and belay in slings, as for *Snowdrop*.  
 3 50 feet. 5a. Traverse right to join *Astoroth*. Continue rightwards until good holds lead to the arête. Traverse across the slab then drop down to a sloping ledge. Belay as for *Beelzebub*.  
 4 30 feet. 4c. Ascend diagonally rightwards to a holly tree belay.  
 5, 6 130 feet continue as for *Daisy Chain* pitches 5 & 6.

## TWO TIER BUTTRESS

This obviously named buttress lies to the right of S.H.Wall and provides light relief from the seriousness of its near neighbour. With few exceptions the climbs are short, clean and very enjoyable excursions. The descent from either tier is shortest and easiest on the left when facing the crag.

## LOWER TIER

The centre of the buttress is marked by a steep undercut nose. To the right of it the crag rapidly diminishes in height, whilst to the left after an apparently slabby section it disappears into vegetation. The routes are described from left to right.

**Yew Tree Slabs** 100 feet Very Difficult 19.5.62  
 The traditional entry to the upper tier. Start up the slabs 30 feet left of the nose.  
 1 70 feet. A variable line trending left up the slabs to a ledge. Climb the wall behind with an awkward landing, then scramble behind the blocks to the yew tree. Steeper than it looks.  
 2 30 feet. Squeeze up the wall behind the tree on good holds to finish by a finger of rock on the left.

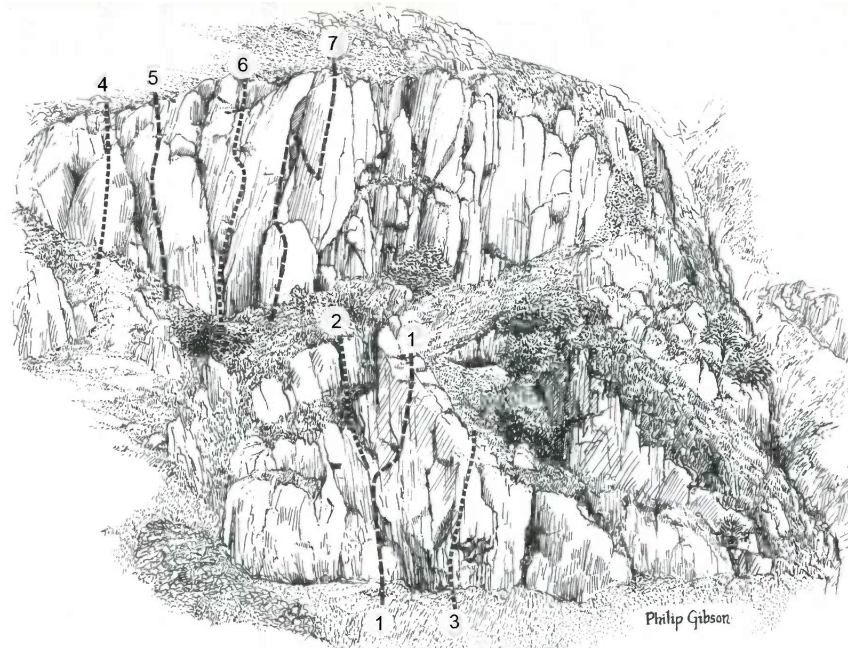
## Yew Tree Rib (Difficult) and Yew Tree Groove (Difficult)

Take the obvious lines left of the start of the slab route. They join *Yew Tree Slabs* at the first ledge and share its finish. Other harder variations can be found by the determined.

**Little Cludge \*** 60 feet Hard Severe 3.7.65  
 A pitch of real quality. Start in the centre of the slab and climb direct to the foot of a cracked weakness in the steep wall above. Climb this direct and exit right at the top via a very satisfying handhold.



## TWO TIER BUTTRESS



1 Curving Groove	VS	3 The Illusionist	E4	6 Rainbow	HVS
2 Orchid	HVS	4 Gorse Wall	HS	7 Pinnacle Wall	S
		5 Piano Piece	HVS		

**Curving Groove \*** 80 feet VS 4b 2.6.62

A consistently interesting pitch, when vegetation allows, with an excellent alternative finish. Start 10 feet left of the nose. Start up on good holds and move right into the shallow groove with difficulty. Climb this direct to the yew tree or much more impressively:-

**The Right Finish \*\*** 90 feet VS 4c 3.5.82

Climb the groove until level with a large spiky pocket on the right wall near the top of the groove. Pull up into this and climb steeply out right to the arête. Step boldly onto the arête and go up with adequate finishing holds.

**Orchid \*\*** 80 feet HVS 5a 23.5.65

A very good pitch, with a hard but well protected crux. Take *Curving Groove* to the obvious vertical cracked groove, which is entered from the left. Climb this to reach *Pendulum Ridge*.

**Orchid Direct** 70 feet E3 5c 1976

Poorly protected, considerably harder than the normal route and not direct at all. Climb the groove immediately left of the nose via a large pocket and reach the diagonal ramp with difficulty. It leads to the upper groove.

**The Illusionist \*\*\*** 45 feet E4 6a 2.7.89

Just right of the direct start to *Orchid* is a hanging groove. It is both better protected and on better holds than first appears. Climb the groove on the left to pinch grips on a 'pencil' feature. Move right where it steepens and then go back left onto the rib 10 feet higher, and so to the top.

Twenty feet right of the nose is a short groove now almost filled by a holly tree. It was not always thus!

**Pendulum Ridge** 100 feet Severe 31.7.62

The severity consists of the pain incurred passing the holly. The climbing is trivial.

**1** 20 feet. Climb the groove via the holly or more practically the steep wall just left of the groove.

**2** 80 feet. Scramble easily up the ridge overlooking the lower tier. Finish through the blocks of *Yew Tree Slabs*.

### UPPER TIER

The principal feature of the upper tier is the large detached flake, The Pinnacle, in the centre of the crag. 20 feet left of the pinnacle is a steep groove with a large block at its foot and bounded on the right by a slab. Left again, passing a shallow square-cut chimney, one arrives at a water-streaked groove just before the crag expires.

**Felicity** 50 feet VS 4b 20.6.64  
Climb the water-streaked groove.

**Gorse Wall** 50 feet Hard Severe 1.6.63

The wall right of *Felicity* has a vegetated crack near its centre. Climb the crack or the wall to its right to the break and then the groove on the left to finish. The crack and the wall were originally recorded as separate routes.

**S.R. Chimney** 50 feet Mild Severe 10.3.62

Start at the foot of the obvious shallow square-cut chimney. Climb the chimney until an exit can be made on to a ledge on the left. Take the slab on good holds to a traverse line which leads right to a heather-covered ledge. Climb the wall behind the stance, and belay well out of ear-shot among the heather.

**Piano Piece \*** 50 feet HVS 5a 3.7.65

On the steep wall immediately right of *S.R. Chimney* is a shallow weakness. A fine fingery few feet composed of sharp and flat holds. Climb the weakness with increasing difficulty to the heather ledge, then the wall above.

**Rainbow \*\*** 70 feet HVS 5a 27.6.70

An excellent pitch, technical and strenuous. Start at the foot of the next groove right, by the large block. Climb the corner to the roof, swing left on huge jugs and exit awkwardly onto the slab above.

**Pinnacle Slab \*** 85 feet VS 4c 24.3.63

It looks artificial but doesn't feel it. The slab is well worth doing.

**1** 60 feet. 4c. Start as for *Rainbow* and take a crack-line going right, across the slab, to the top of a flake. A delicate move right (crux) followed by small holds up the wall lead to the cave stance.

**2** 25 feet. Traverse left to a corner groove, then take this until a step left enables the slab to be gained. Finish up this.

**Pinnacle Wall \*** 90 feet Severe 26.11.61

Although short, this is one of the best of the less serious climbs in the valley, varied and interesting. Start at the left-hand side of the pinnacle.

**1** 50 feet. Climb the pinnacle and step across to the wall above. Take the slab on the left to a stance in the groove.

**2** 40 feet Descend the groove, until a step onto and beyond the right arête can be made. Finish on excellent holds

**Pinnacle Wall Direct** 80 feet Hard Severe 30.7.62

Climb the centre of the pinnacle, the groove to the stance and the overhanging corner above.

**Pinnacle Wall Indirect** 80 feet VS 4c 15.4.63

As for *Pinnacle Wall Direct* to the stance and then cross the right wall of the groove at this level finishing up the arête.

Sixty feet right of the Pinnacle is a square gully. The next route starts just left of this.

**Hi-Jacker** 70 feet Severe 26.4.70

The start is unpromising but it improves steadily. Move left off a block and into a groove. Climb this and exit right (stance possible). Go right into the groove which splits the arête and from the top ledge move right round the corner and finish up the wall on the left. A direct exit can be made from the top ledge finishing up the groove above at about Very Severe with one point of aid.

**Double J Gully** 60 feet Hard Severe 19.1.64

The rock is not above suspicion in parts but this does not detract from the experience. Start below the gully and climb a short slab to a ledge. Finish up the fine shallow gully.

**Parasite** 60 feet VS 4b 27.4.70

A one move route. Start just right of *Double J Gully*. Climb the arête.

**Teeny Bop** 40 feet Very Difficult 26.10.69

Start 30 feet right of *Double J Gully*, at a slight groove in a rib. Climb the groove.

**Measure for Measure** 200 feet VS 4c 9.2.64

A rather contrived girdle of the Upper Tier, but with worthwhile climbing. Start up *Felicity*.

**1** 80 feet. 4c. Follow the groove for 30 feet and traverse right past an awkward corner, step down and traverse the nose.

**2** 40 feet. 4c. Traverse the slab to a groove, descend and continue to the stance on *Pinnacle Wall*.

**3** 50 feet. 4a. Descend the groove of *Pinnacle Wall*, cross the arête and go up on good holds.

Carry on right to a crevassed stance.

**4** 30 feet Gain the steep wall on the right, and continue to a crack to finish.

## FORESTRY BUTTRESS

The buttress lies above, and to the left of, the Forestry Commission plantation on the north side of the valley. A long stretch of crag decreasing in height but not in steepness towards the left-hand end. The climbs are without exception deceptively steep, as some would-be soloists have found to their cost. The rock is mainly sound but as many of the routes described have not had a lot of traffic they should be treated with some respect on first acquaintance. The normal and easiest descent is down the shallow gully at the far left-hand end of the crag. The routes are described from left to right.

## UPPER BUTTRESS

The first four routes are situated on the buttress above and left of the descent gully. This buttress can be approached in two ways. Either go directly up the wet broken and vegetated wall to the left of the descent gully (60 feet Severe) or the terrace below the crag proper can be reached by a descending traverse from high up the large gully on the left.

**October Exit \*** 50 feet VS 4c 30.10.61/64

The left-hand of three grooves is followed to the top.

**Flash Back** 50 feet VS 4c 3.5.70

The middle groove is followed almost to the overhangs which are avoided on the left, finishing as for *October Exit*.

**Mianda** 90 feet Severe 27.1.62

Follow *Flash Back* for 30 feet and then traverse diagonally right to a holly. Climb the short steep wall behind the holly.

**Flay \*** 60 feet HVS 5a 27.4.70

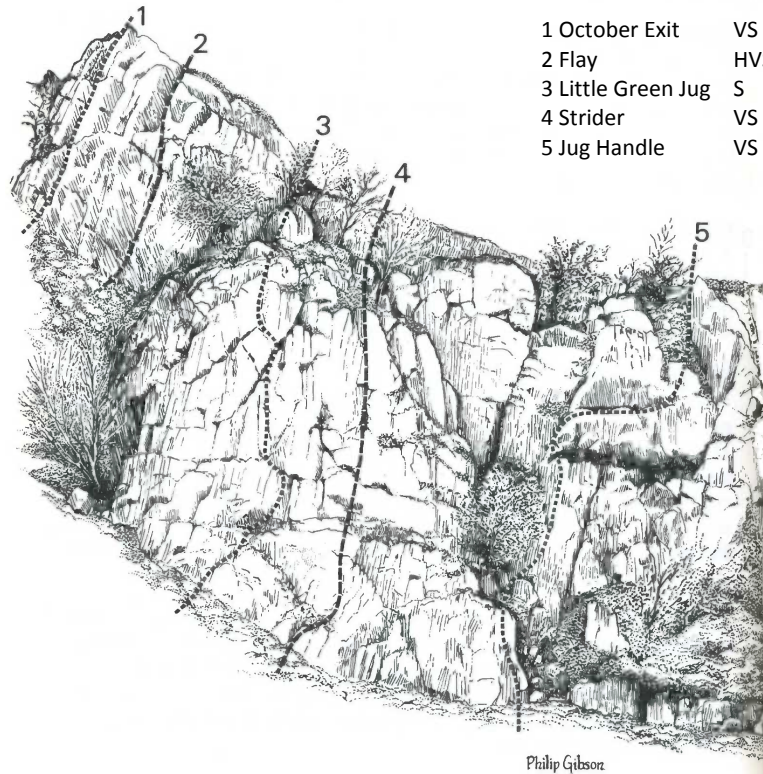
A good steep pitch up the right-hand and best defined groove. Climb past a peg to finish right of the overhang.

## MAIN CRAG

This crag has a number of features;

- 1 The left end is formed by a steep arête behind a large holly.
- 2 70 feet right is a low relief rib which leads in 25 feet to a heather ledge.
- 3 To the right of the rib a vegetated ramp leads diagonally left.
- 4 A large ledge system runs across the buttress to the right at 30 feet and leads to a wooded bay.
- 5 Right of the ramp the lower crag sports an ivy of impressive proportions.
- 6 Above and right of the ivy is a large triangular overhang. The wooded bay is to the right.
- 7 The edge of Forestry Commission land is marked by a fence which abuts the crag below the right-hand end of the wooded bay.

## FORESTRY BUTTRESS - LEFT SIDE



- |                    |     |
|--------------------|-----|
| 1 October Exit     | VS  |
| 2 Flay             | HVS |
| 3 Little Green Jug | S   |
| 4 Strider          | VS  |
| 5 Jug Handle       | VS  |

**Recess Wall \*** 60 feet Hard Severe 5.11.61  
 Start at a short groove 40 feet right of the holly which leads to a ledge at 6 feet. The wall above is climbed to a second ledge just below the rectangular recess. Climb past this, trending slightly left, to the top.

**Strider \*** 60 feet VS 4c 18.9.66  
 A fine steep pitch. Start just right of the previous route and climb to a balcony at 10 feet. Ascend a horizontal weakness, move right and then go straight up, keeping to the left of the edge.

**As You Like It** 90 feet Very Difficult 20.7.58  
 A moderately interesting route on good rock, when you can find it. Start at the curious groove just left of the low-relief rib. (Direct Start 5.11.61)  
**1** 20 feet. Climb the groove until the arête can be gained and followed up to the ledge.  
**2** 50 feet. Straight up the wall, and reach the rake via a short crack. Continue up the rake, taking an awkward crack in the corner or the face outside, to the trees.  
**3** 20 feet. Descend a little and step right onto the wall. Climb this on good holds.

Variations:  
**1a Original Start** 20 feet Hard Very Difficult 20.7.58  
 Get onto the wall by the block left of *Recess Wall* and traverse delicately to reach the ledge at the top of pitch 1.

**1b Flying Start** 25 feet HVS 5a 5.5.62  
 Climb the steep groove on the right of the rib, with difficulty until easier climbing leads up to the rib on the left, or, continue up the groove.

**Hot Wall** 25 feet HVS 5b 8.4.62  
 A boulder problem that lands you in vegetation (one way or another). Climb directly up the bulging white wall to the right of *Flying Start*.

**Hot Wall Continuation** 40 feet VS 4a 8.4.62  
 An attempt to get one out of the vegetation. The wall beyond the trees slightly below the last pitch of *As You Like It*. Traverse right round a bulge to gain a ledge and then straight up the wall to finish midway between two holly bushes. Belay well back.

**Jug Handle \*\*** 90 feet VS 5a 16.5.64  
 An excellent climb, especially the last two pitches. Start 15 feet left of the easy rake.  
**1** 25 feet. Climb the overhung rib, eventually moving right to a good ledge.  
**2** 25 feet. 5a. Step right and climb a smooth groove with sloping holds, to a line of overhangs. A weakness on the left allows a hold above the roof to be reached, and some dynamic moves lead to a foot-ledge and belay.  
**3** 40 feet. 4c. Traverse right below a bulging wall and pull up to a small ledge. Cross to a wall beneath a rowan on the right and climb up steeply. Finish direct.

**Variation**  
**3a** 50 feet HVS 5a 23.5.64  
 The rib left of the stance and the wall above. Difficult at the finish.

**Bertram** 40 feet Severe 30.10.61  
 Start at a steep arete. Climb the arete, if the holly will permit.

**Much Ado About Nothing \*** 45 feet VS 4b 22.4.63  
 The blocky wall and groove 6 feet right of the arete.

**Pigs in Space \*** 45 feet VS 4c 2.5.82  
 Delightful moves up the wall 10 feet right of the holly finishing steeply on sharp pockets.

**Second Sight** 50 feet Severe 3.5.70  
 Start in a small recess 15 feet right of the holly. Climb to and then follow a slight left facing groove before finishing direct.

**Little Green Jug \*** 50 feet Severe 27.8.58  
 An excellent steep pitch – one of the valley classics. Start 20 feet right of the holly at a quartz outcropping. Climb to a little green bulge and move right to a shallow depression beyond. Take a steep groove until a swing left can be made around a nose and then go up to the terrace. Sadly the eponymous jug departed years ago.



**Golliwog** 90 feet VS 4c 24.3.62

Rather a poor start, but quickly improves to steep climbing in a good position.

**1** 30 feet. Gain the ash in the ivy on the right of the rake, either by climbing the left arête of the rake and a traverse right, or by a vegetated scramble up the bed of the rake. Neither is very pleasant; however, persevere.

**2** 30 feet. 4b. Go left above a hawthorn and climb the wall, until a swing right gains an obvious traverse. Climb more or less straight up, to a small holly with two large perched blocks.

**3** 30 feet. 4c. Above the stance it is awkward to gain an easy-angled groove leading to a belay on the right.

**Quiver \*** 95 feet VS 4c 2.6.62

Much better than *Golliwog*, and probably, a little harder.

**1** 20 feet. Ascend the rib right of the ivy to the big ledge.

**2** 45 feet. 4c. Climb leftwards above the ivy and up a smooth wall to a ledge. The overhanging wall above leads with some difficulty to a landing amongst the *Golliwog* holly.

**3** 30 feet. 4c. The *Golliwog* groove.

The next seven routes have their substance above the wooded bay which is easily reached via the first pitch of *Daddy Long Legs*.

**Daddy Long Legs** 100 feet Hard Difficult 17.2.62/47

A good easy climb at the left-hand end of the back wall of the bay. The start is 15 feet left of the Forestry Commission's fence.

**1** 40 feet. The natural staircase trending left, then walk up to hollies in the left-hand corner of the tree-covered slopes of the bay.

**2** 60 feet. Climb just left of the corner, then enter the chimney and continue with interest.

**No-Mu** 90 feet HVS 5a 17.5.64

A steep and serious pitch, with some suspect rock. It starts below the left-hand side of the wooded bay. Pull carefully onto a block, and climb up right until a groove on the left can be reached, via loose blocks. Bridge up with difficulty, and continue up a corner.

**Weasel** 75 feet HVS 5a 26.8.66

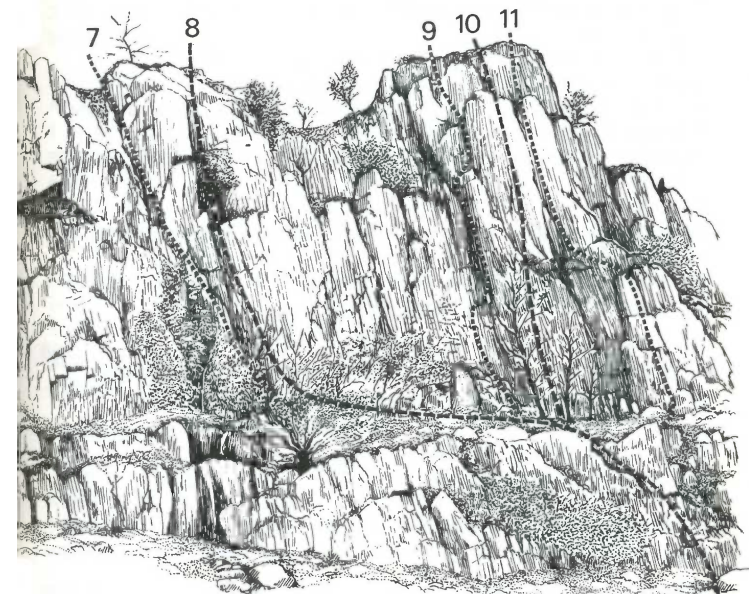
An entertaining route with a difficult traverse. The difficulties can be well protected with a little forethought. Start about 12 feet left of the corner of *Daddy Long Legs* pitch 2.

A steep crack on the left side of the pedestal past a small tree and right to an ash. Climb the tree to ledges on the wall. Move up right to a ledge under a smooth wall, and go left along this to a groove (low peg and nuts in pockets). Go awkwardly into the groove, and up this to a small ledge. Ascend a short crack to a roof, go over this and just right, to finish up a groove past a tree.

**Cymro-Sais** 80 feet Hard Severe 4.3.62

A surprisingly good steep climb, with a soft option. Start at a broken groove 30 feet right of pitch 2 of *Daddy Long Legs*. Climb the groove for 50 feet. Move left along a line of small pockets and then straight up the face in a good position to finish. It is possible to avoid the crux by moving right to the trees below the traverse.

## FORESTRY BUTTRESS - RIGHT SIDE



7 No Mu	HVS	10 Rocking Horse	E2
8 Daddy Long Legs	H Diff	11 Forestry Groove	VS
9 Beer Stain	VS		

Philip Gibson

**Blaen y Nant** 60 feet Very Difficult 21.7.58

Fifty feet right of *Daddy Long Legs* pitch 2 the wall becomes recessed. Start on the arete left of the recess. Trend left up the wall to ledges at 30 feet. Pull awkwardly onto a narrow ledge and go up to a heather shelf with tree (or shorter traverse and ascend before the white wall). Make the most of the rock on the left.

**Beer Stain** 100 feet VS 4c 27.6.59

A good steep pitch leads to easy ground; an easier though artificial continuation extends the interest. The obvious dark-stained water course above the right-hand end of the bay. It looks seductively simple.

**1** 60 feet. 4c. Climb first to the left of the stain, then gain it where a few very steep feet lead to a narrow gully.

**2** 40 feet. Traverse right below an overhanging face, then go up and round a corner to a ledge. Climb the corner above.

**Rocking Horse \*\*** 90 feet E2 5c 2.9.68/81

An impressive climb. The first groove has some poor rock but can be quite well protected. The crack above is, not surprisingly, strenuous. Start at the groove directly below the obvious undercut crack at the right of the bay. Climb the overhung groove and the impending crack above.

**Forestry Groove \*** 140 feet VS 4c 17.1.65

A good climb. Start at a milestone-like block, where the forestry fence abuts the crag.

**1** 40 feet. From the block move right under a bulge and follow the groove to a ledge. Climb a rib on the left to trees and a block belay.

**2** 30 feet. Climb the buttress right of the bay to a fine ledge with a holly.

**3** 70 feet. 4c. The bulge in the lower part of the groove is difficult but it soon eases to a heather ledge. Continue easily in the line of the groove to the top.

Variation

**2a** 40 feet 5a Starting just right of the dirty corner of *Rocking Horse* climb into a little leftward-slanting groove. Step right across the steep pocketed wall to find a hidden hold round the arête. Pull up onto the ledge on the front and ascend to the holly.

**Little Mollusc \*** 150 feet Hard Severe 17.3.68

A good steep route on large holds. Start 6 feet right of the milestone.

**1** 20 feet. Ascend the edge of the buttress to a large terrace.

**2** 40 feet. Start as for pitch 2 of Forestry Buttress but move diagonally right to a large holly in the big bay.

**3** 90 feet. At the back of the bay is a prominent crack. Climb this for a few feet then move right across the steep wall past a small holly. Continue straight up the wall until a delicate move right leads to a small ledge. Climb the steep little wall on the left on large but doubtful spikes.

**Sylvian Crack** 150 feet Hard Very Difficult 15.7.62

**1** and **2** 60 feet. Follow pitches 1 and 2 of *Little Mollusc*.

**3** 60 feet. Climb the prominent crack at the back of the bay.

**4** 30 feet. From the top of the crack, move 10 feet left and ascend direct to the top.

The remaining routes on Forestry Buttress lie to the right of the fence and therefore have their starts on land leased to the Forestry Commission. Certain conditions regarding access must be observed. Please see notes on access.

The next two routes are not particularly good lines but do give (in dry conditions) pleasant scrambling with very little vegetation. Useful for beginners.

**Cascade** 200 feet Very Difficult 15.4.68

Go right from the forestry fence to the first water-course - a mossy steep corner groove. The climb starts up the first groove to the right of this.

**1** 70 feet. The groove is steep but soon leads to easier ground. Follow pleasant rocks just right of the stream to a large holly.

**2** 55 feet. Straight up on ledgy rock to belay by an erect block.

**3** 75 feet. Climb the fine steep groove above then easier rocks trending to the left.

**Waterworn** 210 feet Difficult 15.4.68

About 10 feet right of the next groove beyond *Cascade*.

**1** 60 feet. Step up the blocks behind the tree and climb the fine steep rib above to a tree. Continue up the corner on the right and through trees to a stony hollow.

**2** 150 feet. Pleasant rocks with ledges and steep sections bearing slightly left at the top. Stances to suit.

Beyond and above the start of *Waterworn* is the shapely Forestry Pinnacle. The chimney behind it and its overhanging face provide ways to the top. They are useful starts to *Kin Bazaar*.

**Pinnacle Chimney** 25 feet Difficult 1.1.59

Climb the obvious chimney.

**Pinnacle Face** 20 feet Severe 17.5.59

Climb the overhanging face, then go up right and so to its top

**Kin Bazaar** 70 feet Severe 1.2.59

The name is apparently 'Scouse' for jolly good. Pleasantly up the loose wall behind the pinnacle.

**Truffle Hunter** 190 feet Very Difficult 12.1.69

A good climb. Harder and generally better to take the rib direct. Start 100 feet right of the Forestry Pinnacle at a fairly obvious rib.

**1** 100 feet. Climb the rib.

**2** 90 feet. A steep wall gives access to the left edge of the upper pillar, or gain this more easily from the right.

**Forestry Girdle** 490 feet HVS 5a (3 pts) 17.5.64

A good climb with well maintained interest and difficulty. Start near the left end of the crag at *Little Green Jug*.

**1** 100 feet. 4a. Move onto the wall, and follow a quartz-marked horizontal weakness to the ledge of *As You Like It*, and continue to belay as for *Jug Handle* pitch 1.

**2** 50 feet. 4c. On the right a smooth groove with sloping holds leads to a line of overhangs; traverse right on friable rock, until an awkward move up lands one on a ledge. Continue round the corner to the holly ledge of *Golliwog*.

**3** 40 feet. 5a. Start up a detached pillar right of the stance, and reach for a peg (aid). Two more aid pegs and a difficult free move lead onto a ledge and holly belay.

**4** 40 feet. Go beneath the tree and over the ribs and vegetated grooves to the trees round the corner.

**5** 30 feet. Descend onto a steep wall by a cracked block. Traverse beneath an overhang and then go slightly up to the chimney of *Daddy Long Legs*.

**6** 70 feet. Descend the chimney and follow the ledge past the fine holly round into the groove of *Cymro-Sais* and descend to a block belay.

**7** 70 feet. 4b. Go up a few feet and traverse to the groove of *Beer Stain*. Descend for 20 feet, then go straight across to the holly ledge on *Forestry Groove*.

**8** 90 feet. 4c. Pitch 3 of *Forestry Groove*.

## OUTLYING CRAGS

### FAR FORESTRY BUTTRESS

G.R. 734614

This is a rambling remote crag high above the forest on the north side of the valley not visible from the upper reaches of Cwm Crafnant. It is approached via the Forestry Commission roads which run up to 1600 feet. This crag lies outside the forest and permits are not required.

**Crochet** 100 feet Difficult 26.11.61

On the steep left-hand wall of the main crag. Start at the pocketed wall on the right. Go straight up on pockets to good ledges. A second tier gives a pleasant finish.

**What You Will** 430 feet Mild Severe 29.2.64

Artificial in line but worth the walk. The route is described in detail but, as the name implies, there is room for some individual interpretation. Start at a slab on the left of a broken buttress, well below and left of an obvious chimney crack.

**1** 100 feet. Ascend the slab a little and then a groove. Above this, traverse right to a slab at the top of which is a stance.

**2** 40 feet. Climb the groove behind to a glacis then the wall behind to a commodious heather ledge.

**3** 100 feet. Scramble pleasantly to the foot of an overhanging crack.

**4** 30 feet. The crack is climbed using a loose spike to another of like mien. Continue strenuously.

**5** 60 feet. Go down right to a groove, which is climbed to a slab then a wide crack to a stance.

**6** 100 feet. Pleasant scrambling remains.

**Minim** 80 feet Mild Severe 2.10.66

Start on the upper tier 30 feet left of *Crochet* and just right of a deep crack. Move diagonally right into the obvious vertical crack which is prominent at about 40 feet. From the top of the crack climb easy-angled ground to finish.

### KLONDIKE BUTTRESS

G.R. 769627

This small, compact buttress, sometimes called Caravan or K2 Crag, is on the lower slopes of Grinllwm. It is visible on the opposite side of the valley from the Crafnant road about a mile and a half out of Trefriw and is directly across the river from a large white house. The crag can be approached by several routes, but not directly across the valley bottom.

From the Llanrhychwyn road out of Trefriw, take the second footpath on the right, next to Y Wern, which leads across the hillside to the top of the crag in approximately 20 minutes. Alternatively approach from either end of the Trefriw to Llyn Geirionydd path to the top of the crag in about the same time. The top is recognisable by its open aspect, several metal belay stakes in place and a gate across the path at the north end of the crag. The quickest way to the crag is by a public footpath which drops down from the valley road (at G.R. 768629) to a footbridge over the river. Across a stile, a dirt track leads up the valley. Opposite the white house and where the valley bottom broadens out, a track bends back up the hillside. After 50 yards, strike directly up the wooded, scree-covered hillside. A small pinnacle is soon reached and the central groove of *Pheasant Plucker* is 30 feet above. If you reach telegraph cables leading up the hillside from the valley road, then you have gone too far and the crag is back to your left.

The crag consists of several corners with slabby aretes and clean upper walls. Descent is possible at either end of the crag but is easiest at the right-hand end. The routes are described from right to left.

**Sais Y Dderwen (English Oak†)** 65 feet Very Difficult 4.90

The right-hand, south end of the crag is formed by an open corner. This gives a pleasant pitch, recognised by the lone, pruned oak sapling near the top of the slab.

† - the correct translation of *Sais Y Dderwen* is *English (people) of the Oak or Oak English*. *English Oak* would be *Derwen y Sais*.

**Vera Llyn** 65 feet VS 4c 8.5.95

This route follows the left arête of *Sais Y Dderwen* and starts 20 feet left of and below the corner. Climb up past two holly trees and onto a small slab beneath a short overhung wall. Avoid this by stepping left onto a rib and gain the upper slab. The wall is 5a if taken direct. Move right and climb the right-hand edge of the slab.

**E Route** 60 feet Very Difficult 8.5.95

Midway between *Pheasant Plucker* and *Sais Y Dderwen* is a mossy, tree-filled corner. Climb the clean, slabby left wall to reach the ridge, which is followed to the top.

**Little Boy** 60 feet Severe 4a 30.7.95

From the recess between E Route and the arête of *Open End*, this climb gains the undercut slabby upper wall on the right. Climb up for 20 feet, then traverse right descending slightly, until the upper wall can be gained. Climb this to a large ledge and then up the short bulging wall to finish.

**Open End** 65 feet Severe 4a 4.90  
Start below the blunt arête 20 feet right of *Pheasant Plucker*. Follow it directly to the top, with good, sometimes small holds and ample protection.

**Open Air** 65 feet E1 5b 4.90  
This climb starts in the groove of *Pheasant Plucker*. After a few feet move right to climb the middle of the wall. A few steep, fingery moves with poor protection lead back into the groove at the final corner, which is climbed to the top.

**Pheasant Plucker** 50 feet VS 4b 1975  
The original route of the crag follows the obvious slabby groove. Below the final corner, traverse right to finish at the top of the arête. The direct exit is harder and better combined with *Open Air*.

**Umbilical Umbrella** 65 feet HVS 5a 4.90  
The open book corner of *Pheasant Plucker* is capped by an overhanging block. Climb a ramp on the left side of the corner and continue up the left wall. Layback a large flake until it is possible to reach the nose of the overhanging block. Swing out and pull up over the block.

**V Route** 55 feet VS 4c 8.5.95  
Climb up *Pheasant Plucker* for 10 feet and then climb the left wall by a short corner with layaway flakes. This leads to the arête and an easier finish.

## GEIRIONYDD WEST G.R. 762608

These routes are included for completeness. It is unlikely that they have been visited in over thirty years and in all probability have never had more than one ascent - the first. For this reason full descriptions have been omitted.

There are several small crags in the vicinity. Tower Buttress being the most prominent. The climbs are described from right to left, beginning at a buttress left of the containing wall at a low level.

### Yew Tree Buttress

**Jungle Joy** 85 feet Hard Difficult 3.6.62  
Start at a wide crack right of the yew tree on the left-hand side of the buttress. Follow the crack and vegetated slab to a yew tree, finishing up a crack behind the tree via two mantelshelves.

**Jungle Joy - Variation Start** 30 feet Hard Difficult 3.6.62  
Climb the left edge of the slab left of the original start to join the parent route at the second yew tree.

To the left of Yew Tree Buttress across a scree gully and at a higher level above a scrappy lower tier, is a slabby buttress which contained:

**Introductory Crack** 45 feet Moderate 12.5.62  
Start on the right of the buttress, continue rightwards over large blocks and finish up a prominent crack.

**Acute** 90 feet Severe 3.6.62  
From 20 feet up *Introductory Crack* traverse first leftwards under a bulge and then back rightwards up a slab to a crack which is followed to the top.

**Barrier Slab** 50 feet Very Difficult 12.5.62  
Start 10 feet from the right-hand edge of the buttress. Climb to the overhang which is overcome on the left. Finish direct via the wide crack.

**Holly Slabs** 50 feet Severe 12.5.62  
Start beneath a holly tree 55 feet from the right-hand edge of the buttress. Climb up left of the holly, over an overlap, to exit right. The left edge of the slab has been climbed on a top rope (delicate).

Left again is a prominent buttress.

### Tower Buttress

**Tower Zig Zags** 165 feet Severe 6.5.62  
Start at an easy-angled slab on the right-hand side of the buttress which is followed for 70 feet. Step out of the groove leftwards, across the face, onto the right arête of the buttress. Finish by a leftwards traverse into a V-shaped Chimney which is climbed to the top.

**Set Back Slab** 190 feet 3.6.62  
Start as for *Tower Zig Zags* and continue in the same slabby line, keeping out of the obvious corner.

**Tower Groove** 110 feet 6.5.62  
Climb the groove, rib and corner starting from a quartz band up and to the left of the buttress.

**Slab Edge Route** 100 feet 3.6.62  
Start a few feet left of the previous route at a short wall and continue up the slabs and ledges above.

## FIRST ASCENTS

### CLOGWYN MANNOD

- 1958 July 9 **Squitter** J Edlington, B Royle (alt)  
 1960 Jan 1 **Nyd** W Ross, G Skitt  
 1962 April 27 **Overlapping Buttress Ordinary Route** J P Moody, M A Reeves. (alt)  
 1962 April 29 **White Slab** J P Moody, M A Reeves, (alt) Mrs B P Reeves  
*The whole route was climbed free on 8 August 1970 by K George, S D Astington.*  
 1965 Oct 17 **The Bestest** D Pownall, B Royle  
*The independent start was added on 27 May 1970 by T Shaw, M A Reeves.*  
 1967 July 1 **North Wall Slant** M A Reeves, J Warhurst, J Booth  
 1969 June 15 **Purple Haze** P D Boardman, T Shaw  
 1970 May 2 **Septimus** T Shaw, M A Reeves  
*Sadly, after considerable excavation, this route replaced a previous Very Severe named Haemorrhage. June 1962 W I Hyslop, J Williams (alt). Haemorrhage was climbed as an escape route from Squitter and had the finest qualitative description of any route in Wales. Here is an extract:*  
*"The last 50 feet are climbed on small holds consisting of greasy nodules of quartz, microscopic slivers of friable slate and yielding accretions of slime."*  
 1970 May 27 **Quisling** M A Reeves, T Shaw (alt)  
*The first pitch had been climbed previously by M A Reeves and J Grieve in September 1965. The top pitch is the old Elsan Wall Finish to Squitter first climbed on 9 July 1958 by B Royle and J Edlington.*  
 1973 May 26 **Izal Groove** I Clarke, B Monkman, A J Bateman  
 1974 May 12 **Rush Wall** M A Reeves, I Hyslop  
 1974 August 8 **Overlapping Buttress Direct** M A Reeves (solo)  
 1983 Nov 30 Top-rope of the right wall of the quarried hole M Payne, N Gilman.

### CLOGWYN MAWR

- 1962 July 1 **O-Gam-I-Gam** M A Reeves, E T Griffiths (alt)  
 1962 July 9 **O-Gam-I-Gam Slab Finish and Ledge Variation** M A Reeves (solo)  
 1962 July 29 **O-Gamble-I-Gamble** E T Griffiths, N Hine (alt)  
 1962 Aug 4 **Spectrum** E T Griffiths, M A Reeves (alt)  
*The direct route on pitch 2, 18 July 1970 M A Reeves, T Shaw.*  
 1964 Aug 22 **Bog Meander** J Perrin, D P M Jackson (alt)  
 1969 Aug 2 **Silver Blades** A Bromage, M A Reeves, (alt) T Shaw  
 1970 Mar 27 **Popov** A Oliver, M A Reeves, Mrs B P Reeves  
 1970 April 19 **Cannon Ball** M A Reeves, Mrs B P Reeves  
*Prematurely claimed after extensive gardening by the Demented Snake team. This route has been incorporated into The Demented Snake.*  
 1970 May 25 **The Demented Snake** A Bromage, T Shaw, M A Reeves (various leads)  
 1970 June 20 **Silky** (1pt) M A Reeves, A Bromage  
 1970 July 19 **Slalom** (1pt) M A Reeves, A Mills (alt)  
 1973 April 19 **Star Trek** M A Reeves, R Redfern  
*A second pitch was added on 14 October 1973 by M A Reeves, T Shaw.*

- 1973 April 20 **The Godfather** M A Reeves, C Foord (alt)  
 1973 Oct 14 **Joat** M A Reeves, T Shaw  
*The first pitch was climbed on 3 November 1973 by M A Reeves, S Johnson, J Craig.*  
 1976 May 30 **Cascade of Prisms** C Foord, M A Reeves  
 1976 June 6 **Refraction** M Wragg, Miss H Swift

### CASTELL Y GWYNT

- 1961 Nov 25 **Groove and Slab** M A Reeves (solo)  
 1962 July 1 **Castle Crack** J Williams, N Hine (alt)  
 1962 July 8 **Quadruped** (HS/A1) J Williams, E T Griffiths  
*Free ascent 6 September 1981 D Holmes and N K Gilman*  
 1962 July 8 **Marley's Wall** (S/A1) M A Reeves, J Marron (alt)  
*Superseded by Dawnwatch*  
 1962 July 11 **Rib and Slab** M A Reeves (solo)  
 1963 Aug 11 **Hawk's Chimney** M A Reeves *Second declined to follow*  
 1965 Sept 13 **Coruscation** A J J Moulam, G D Roberts  
 1970 July 26 **Standing Stone Slab** M A Reeves, J Ball  
 1972 April 23 **Bear Garden** D Williams, S D Astington, D Spencer  
 1975 Sept 14 **Grizzly Slab** D Williams, M A Reeves  
 1976 May 1 **Market Street** R Hill T Shaw, (alt) Miss S M Outhwaite, B Monkman  
 1982 June 3 **Bare Face** D Holmes, D Rundall  
 1983 June 30 **Tony's Gift** D Holmes (solo)  
 1984 July 7 **Night Shift** D Holmes, R Howarth  
 1989 July 2 **Dawnwatch** C Foord, D Williams  
*Part of the Lower Wall was climbed as Marley's Wall using aid to traverse in from the left. T Shaw added a direct start to this in 1983 which is incorporated in the route now described.*

### CRAIG Y DŴR

- This crag was originally known as the Crag of Underpants Arête. This was due to the antics of W Ross during early attempts at an ascent, when he dispensed with his trousers in order to... well who knows? *Underpants Arête* was eventually renamed *Vypon*.  
 1950 June **Route I** H Berkeley, G Barker, S Wignall  
*The present first pitch of this route was originally known as A La Terrasse, climbed on 1 August 1959.*  
 1950 June **Route II** G Barker, H Berkeley  
*The present first pitch of this route was originally known as Terrace Slab and was climbed on June 9 1962.*  
 1959 August 1 **À La Terrasse** W Ross, K Seddon  
 1961 Nov11 **Vypon** (aid) M A Reeves, A Williams (alt)  
*Pitch 3 was climbed free by J Perrin and C Hamilton-Gray in August 1966.*  
*The arête above the stance of pitch 2 had been top-roped by M A Boysen some time in the late Sixties!*  
 1962 Feb 26 **Short Cut** M A Reeves, J Williams, M Lyons (solo)  
 1962 May 27 **Aramis** J Williams, Miss S Hoskyns  
 1962 June 8 **Kaleidoscope** M A Reeves, Mrs B P Reeves



1962 June 9 **Terrace Slab** M A Reeves (solo)  
 1962 June 17 **Cross Cut** M A Reeves, J Williams (alt)  
 1962 June 23 **Poltergeist** E T Griffiths, M A Reeves (alt)  
 1962 July 15 **Llewellyn** J Williams, E T Griffiths (alt)  
 1962 July 15 **Fluellen** J Williams, E T Griffiths  
 1962 Aug1 **Balcony Wall** M A Reeves, Mrs B P Reeves  
 1963 Nov 4 **Sostenuto** (3pts) M A Reeves, G Wilson  
*Three pegs were used on the first ascent. The second and third were dispensed with on 5 June 1965 by M A Reeves, B P Reeves, P Clarke. Climbed completely free by D E Alcock, A J J Moulam 14 August 1965.*  
 1963 Dec 14 **Craig y Dŵr Girdle** M A Reeves, J Grieve (alt)  
 1963 Dec 15 **Allegro** (2pts) M A Reeves, J Grieve  
*The first pitch was climbed free by J Ball, T Shaw circa 1972 but they were probably pre-empted by J Perrin and C Hamilton-Gray in 1966.  
 The direct finish was added on 10 April 1971 by M A Reeves, P D Boardman.  
 The first ascent of Allegro Direct was claimed in error by J F Kerry and J Gliddon 17 May 1974.*  
 1963 Dec 22 **Helynt** M A Reeves, J Williams (alt)  
*Three slings were originally used as the second groove was very dirty. These were dispensed with on 2 September 1964 by M A Reeves B P Reeves.*  
 1964 May 19 **Vagabond** J Grieve, M A Reeves  
 1964 Aug 23 **Vypon: Brothers Start** A Williams, G Williams  
 1964 Sept 4 **Brown Crack** (aid) D W Mathews, M A Reeves  
*Led clean by J Perrin and C Hamilton-Gray August 1966.*  
 1964 Sept 5 **Tremor (Pitch 1 & 2)** D W Mathews, M A Reeves.  
 1964 Sept 6 **Tremor (Pitch 3)** (A3) M A Reeves, A Williams  
 1964 Sept 12 **Tremor (Pitch 4)** D W Mathews *Climbed on a top-rope.*  
 1965 May 22 **Red Groove** R J Finn, M A Reeves (alt)  
 1969 Dec 26 **Scrooge** J Craig, M A Reeves, (alt) Mrs B P Reeves  
 1970 Jan 10 **Blackstein's Theory** M A Reeves, J Craig, D Lord  
*The aid sling was dispensed with by S D Astington and R Beswick 19 July 1970.*  
 1970 May 16 **Owt** B Monkman, I Clarke  
*The bush, the indiscriminate use of which was recommended on the first ascent, was trundled by I Clarke (Buzz) and R Redfern (CGS) on 24 May 1970.*  
 1970 May 23 **The Iron Lion** J Ball, M A Reeves  
 1970 May 23 **Chrome Molly Dolly** M A Reeves, J Ball  
 1970 May 23 **The Zinc Sphinx** M A Reeves, J Ball  
 1971 April 9 **Snorkel** M A Reeves, D Stansfield, A Bromage  
 1971 April 9 **Wheelbarrow** D Stansfield (solo)  
 1971 April 9 **Crucifix** A Bromage, M A Reeves  
 1971 April 11 **Jackal** A Bromage, Miss J Allen  
 1972 Oct 14 **Python** J Craig, S Johnson, D Oliver  
 1973 Mar 10 **Toffee Rabbits** M A Reeves, Miss S M Outhwaite  
 1973 Mar 11 **Chocolate Elephant** D Williams, M A Reeves  
 1979 May **Crash Landing** S Cathcart G Griffiths  
*The first Welsh route to be given an initial grading of 6c. Also the first Crafnant route where first ascensionists, allegedly, resorted to hold-chipping.*

1984 April 25 **Happy Landings** L Francomb, J Sonczak  
 1986 Feb 23 **Winter ascent Craig y Dŵr waterfall** D Harrison, D Peterson (alt)  
 1986 **Soft Landing** J Moran, J Sonczak, J Hayden  
 1988 April 3 Pitch 2 of Tremor free, named **Sad Landings** by N Dixon, P Pritchard

### CHRISTMAS CRAG

1962 July 29 **Duet** M A Reeves, J Williams  
 1962 July 29 **Honeysuckle Ridge** M A Reeves and Most Variations  
 Mrs B P Reeves, Miss J Westwood, J Williams  
*The Creeper and Technical Rib were climbed during Easter 1963 by J Perrin (solo).*  
 1962 Dec 27 **Blue Lights Wall** R A Brayshaw, R Johnson  
*Pitch 2 was first climbed as part of Little by Little on 21 July 1962 by W Ross K Baldwin  
 The first pitch of Little by Little (HVS) went right from the top of the short crack on pitch 1 of Blue Lights Wall and into what is now vegetation. It appears to be irretrievably lost.*  
 1963 Sept 8 **The Crack** M A Reeves, Mrs B P Reeves  
 1963 Sept 10 **Little Ridge Climb** M A Reeves, Mrs B P Reeves  
**The Variation** M A Reeves (solo)  
 1963 Dec23 **Curio** J Perrin (solo)  
 1964 Jan 19 **January Crack** J Williams, J Perrin  
 1964 Febr10 **February Wall** J Perrin, P Edge  
 1964 Feb 28 **Minor** M A Reeves (solo)  
 1964 March 8 **Mole** M A Reeves, Mrs B P Reeves  
 1971 April 31 **The Pillar** M A Reeves, J Craig  
 1988 April 3 **I Am A Scientist** P Pritchard (solo)

### LITTLE STANAGE

1962 Oct 2 **Summit Route** K Seddon, M A Reeves (alt)  
 1962 Oct 12 **Deuteronomy** N K T Froggatt, G Skitt  
 1963 June 9 **Old Holly Wall** K Baldwin, M A Reeves, (alt) G Skitt  
 1966 July 24 **Stoat** J Ball, Mrs H Ball, J Booth  
 1966 July 24 **Shadowfax** J Ball, Mrs H Ball  
 1966 July 31 **Peechay** V Hague, R Bullen  
 1966 Aug 27 **Caterpillar** M A Reeves, Mrs B P Reeves, K Seddon  
 1966 Oct 24 **Shelob** K Seddon, J Ball (alt)  
 1967 March 24 **Ravens Nest Wall** M A Reeves, P D Boardman (alt)  
*The variation finish was added on 22 October 1962 by M Henshaw and B Monkman.*  
 1967 Oct 22 **Ferret** B Monkman, M Henshaw  
 1968 April 11 **Mole's Castle** M A Reeves, Mrs B P Reeves, B Monkman  
 1968 Sept 2 **Esque** P D Boardman, B Monkman  
 1969 Aug 23 **Monroe** P D Boardman, B Monkman  
 1969 Sept 28 **The Pear** T Shaw, M A Reeves, (alt) A Bromage  
 1970 Aug 23 **Sweeper Chimney** M A Reeves, Mrs B P Reeves  
 1983 Mar 20 **The Flue** S Roberts, M Warwicker  
 1983 Mar 26 **Eeyore** M Warwicker, T Shaw  
 1983 Mar 26 **First Peel Two Goblins** M Warwicker, T Shaw  
 1983 June 12 **Bliss** J Horsey, S Dale

## S.H. WALL

1958 Dec 26 **Jofad** R A Brayshaw, G Skitt, N K T Froggatt  
*Apparently this ascent was made in poor conditions (Just One F\*! Awful Day).*

1960 April 17 **Beelzebub** P J Nunn, R A Brayshaw  
*This route was first recorded as Belshazzar 120 feet Hard Very Severe in 1959. P J Nunn, R A Brayshaw.*  
*Variation finish 1965 M A Boysen, A Williams and A N Other.*

1961 January **Astoroth** (3pts) B Ingle, P J Nunn  
*Variation finish crossing below the headwall to finish up Connie's Crack was climbed in June 1961 by R James and party. First free ascent unknown. First ascent via the Direct Finish by P Livesey and P Gomersall 19 April 1980.*

1961 August **Connie's Crack** (aka Gamekeepers Groove) (HVS/A2) R James, J R Lees  
*First free ascent R Fawcett and S Foster July 1978.*

1961 Novr 12 **Sobad** M A Reeves, A Williams (alt)

1962 Mar 11 **Prometheus** (S/A2) J R Jones, M A Reeves, J Williams (alt)  
*First climbed as Severe + A2. It was climbed as Hard Very Severe with two points of aid on 18 May 1968 by M A Reeves, T Shaw (alt.) Mrs B P Reeves.*  
*Pitch 2 was added on 25 May 1968 by M A Reeves, Mrs B P Reeves with a point of aid. Free climbed by K George in 1989. The route originally finished up the corner crack of Beelzebub.*

1962 **The Daisy Chain** (HVS/A1) R James, D Yates

1964 June 13 **Gobeithio** M A Reeves, J Williams (alt)

1964 June 20 **Linkway** M A Reeves and Edge Hill Training College Party  
*Not a new route but the addition of the first pitch of Gobeithio and the last pitch of Sobad.*

1964 Sept 19 **Clonus** (VS/A2) M A Reeves, R Hornby (alt on Pitch 1)  
*First free ascent by R Edwards. Date unknown. Probably in the 1970's.*

1965 May 23 **Stentor** R J Finn, P Clark

1966 May 14 **Phoenix** (HVS/A2) J Ball, M A Reeves (alt)  
*The aid in the groove was reduced by M A Boysen 1976. First free ascent P Livesey and P Gomersall 20 April 1980.*

1966 Oct 23 **Storm** (HVS/A2) M A Reeves, J Grieve (alt)

1967 May 20 **The Web** (aid) M A Reeves, J Grieve (alt)  
*Aid was used on the first ascent. It is reputed to have had a rest-free ascent but nobody has yet owned up to it.*

1967 July 22 **Legolas** J Booth, M A Reeves, (alt) J Williams

1967 Oct 4 **Gondor** (1pt) D Pownall, J Grieve, M A Reeves

1967 Nov 5 **Oriole** (HVS/A1) J Grieve, M A Reeves (alt)  
*First free ascent P Gomersall and P Livesey 20 April 1980.*

1968 Feb 25 **Mordor** (5pts) J Grieve, D Pownall, (alt) P D Boardman  
*The first pitch was climbed free on 1 November 1969 by T Shaw and M A Reeves.*

1968 May 25 **The Hobbler** M A Reeves, Mrs B P Reeves

1968 Sept 14 **Skylark** J Grieve, M A Reeves  
*First free ascent by R Fawcett and S Foster, July 1978.*

1970 June 24 **Snowdrop** P D Boardman, M Wragg Climbed with one point of aid.  
*The new ground from Astoroth to Connie's stance was climbed by P D Boardman, M A Reeves and A Oliver, 12 April 1970. Poor weather on this occasion obliged them to resort to aid to escape. Boardman returned with Wragg in June to complete the route properly with only one aid point. First completely free ascent by P Gomersall and P Livesey, 18 June 1978.*

1980 April 19 **Clonus Left Hand** P Livesey, P Gomersall  
*Not much new ground was covered by this route.*

1980 April 20 **Screech Owl** P Livesey, P Gomersall  
*Really a direct start to Phoenix with only a short section of new climbing.*

1982 July 17 **Carousel Waltz** A Pollitt, P Bailey  
*The groove had previously been explored by M A Reeves and J Grieve as early as 1969.*

1986 Sept 20 **Gobeithio Direct Finish** J Adams, I Carr

## TWO TIER BUTTRESS

1961 Nov 26 **Pinnacle Wall** M A Reeves (solo)

1962 Mar 10 **S.R. Chimney** M A Reeves, J Williams (alt)

1962 May 19 **Yew Tree Slabs** M A Reeves, K Seddon (alt)

1962 June 2 **Curving Groove** M A Reeves, J Williams (alt)  
*The Right Finish was added by D Holmes, C Foord and T Shaw 3 May 1982.*

1962 July 30 **Pinnacle Wall Direct** N Hine, J Williams

1962 July 31 **Pendulum Ridge** M A Reeves, N Hine (alt)

1963 Mar 24 **Pinnacle Slab** A Williams, J R Jones

1963 April 15 **Pinnacle Wall Indirect** T Shaw, R Chamberlain, DPM Jackson

1963 June 1 **Gorse Wall** A Williams, B Royle  
*A peg was used on the first ascent which was later dispensed with by J Grieve and R Finn.*

1964 Jan 19 **Double J Gully** J Williams, J Perrin

1964 Feb 9 **Measure for Measure** J Grieve, J Perrin, M A Reeves

1964 June 20 **Felicity** R Finn, J Grieve

1964 June 20 **Gorse Wall Crack** J Grieve, R Finn

1965 May 23 **Orchid** E Birch and Party  
*Using a more direct start than that described.*

1965 July 3 **Piano Piece** A Bromage, B Royle

1965 July 3 **Little Cludge** A Bromage, B Royle

1969 Oct 26. **Teeny Bop** Mrs B P Reeves, M A Reeves, T Shaw

1970 April 26 **Hi-Jacker** D Oliver, T Shaw, (alt) D Holland  
*The direct exit was climbed in error on the second ascent by A Oliver and I Clarke.*

1970 April 27 **Parasite** T Shaw, R Beswick

1970 June 27 **Rainbow** M A Reeves, R Beswick, D Spencer

1976 **Orchid Direct** M Wragg, Miss H Swift

1989 July 2 **The Illusionist** R Lock, M Wragg  
*First conceived as Diplodocus – because it had the longest neck of all – it only became justifiable with modern protection.*

## FORESTRY BUTTRESS

1958 July 20 **As You Like It** J Edlington, B Royle (alt)

1958 July 21 **Blaen y Nant** J Edlington, B Royle, (alt) P Henell  
*It is possible that part of this route was first climbed by a Cromlech Club party, B Wright, D McKelvey and C E Davies 24 May 1957.*

1961 Nov 5 **Direct Start (to As You Like It)** N Hine, W I Hyslop, K Pierce

1962 May 5 **Flying Start (to As You Like It)** B Royle, M A Reeves  
*It was graded Severe but unnamed.*

1958 Aug 27 **Little Green Jug** A Crowther, P Henell

1959 Jan 1 **Pinnacle Chimney** R A Brayshaw, W Ross

1959 Feb 1 **Kin Bazzar** W Ross, R A Brayshaw

1959 May 17 **Pinnacle Face** G Skitt, W Ross

1959 June 27 **Beer Stain** G Skitt, N K T Froggatt, D Doody, S Bowen  
*A Winter ascent was made in February 1991 by W Shakell.*

1961 Oct 30 **Bertram** M A Reeves, B Royle, E Tebb

1961 Oct 30 **October Exit (pitch 2)** M A Reeves (solo)  
*Pitch 1 was climbed on 31 October 1964 by M A Reeves and J Grieve.*

1961 Nov 5 **Recess Wall** M A Reeves (solo)

1962 Feb 17 **Daddy Long Legs** Mrs B P Reeves, M A Reeves (alt), P Farrington.  
*May have been the third ascent!*  
*There is evidence to suggest that this was the first recorded route in the valley. Climbed by W H Ward on 23 August 1947. (See also **Blaen y Nant** first ascent)*

1962 March 4 **Cymro-Sais** J Williams, B Royle (alt)  
*The route was given a more logical finish on 28 February 1965 by A Williams and M A Reeves.*

1962 Mar 24 **Golliwog** M A Reeves, J Williams (alt) Miss J Westwood

1962 April 8 **Hot Wall** W Ross, K Baldwin

1962 April 8 **Hot Wall Continuation** W Ross, K Baldwin

1962 June 2 **Quiver** M A Reeves, J Williams (alt) Miss J Saunders

1962 July 15 **Sylvian Crack** J Williams, Miss S Hoskyns (alt)

1963 April 22 **Much Ado About Nothing** J Perrin (solo)

1964 May 16 **Jug Handle** M A Reeves, J Grieve (alt)  
*Direct finish added on 23 May 1964 by A Williams, B Royle and J Perrin.*

1964 May 17 **No-Mu** A Williams, W Ross  
*Arthur Williams was an engineer and regarded the lack of friction on this route as a handicap.*

1964 May 17 **Forestry Girdle** (3pts) M A Reeves, J Grieve (alt) G Wilson (Pitches 1-4)

1965 Jan 17 **Forestry Groove** J Grieve, M A Reeves  
*First climbed with aid as Two Peg Route on 2 May 1959 by J Marron, K Pierce and B Toogood.*  
*The variation to pitch 2 was added by J Appleby, H Drasdo 23 Sept 1996.*

1966 Aug 26 **Weasel** M A Reeves, Mrs B P Reeves K Seddon

1966 Sept 18 **Strider** M A Reeves, D Pownall

1968 Mar 7 **Little Mollusc** D Pownall, J Grieve (alt)

1968 April 15 **Waterworn** M A Reeves, Mrs B P Reeves (alt)

1968 April 15 **Cascade** M A Reeves, Mrs B P Reeves (alt)

1968 Sept 2 **The Rocking Horse** D Pownall, M A Reeves (3 points aid)  
*First free ascent A Pollitt and N Clacher 13 Sept 1981.*

1969 Jan 12 **Truffle Hunter** M A Reeves, D Stansfield (alt) A J Bateman

1970 April 27 **Flay** J Ball, M A Reeves, A Bromage  
*The direct finish and hence the route as now described by J Ball, M A Reeves and Mrs H Ball 3 May 1970.*

1970 May 3 **Second Sight** T Shaw, A Bromage

1970 May 3 **Flash Back** M A Reeves, Mrs H Ball, J Ball  
*Shares common ground with a previous route Mianda, 21 January 1962. M A Reeves, J Henderson (solo).*

1982 May 2 **Pigs in Space** D Holmes, T Shaw

#### FAR FORESTRY

1961 Nov 26 **Crochet** B Royle (solo)

1964 Feb 29 **What You Will** M A Reeves, J Perrin (alt)

1966 Oct 2 **Minim** A Bromage, B Royle

#### KLONDIKE BUTTRESS

c1975 **Pheasant Plucker** D Oliver, R Williams

1990 April **Umbilical Umbrella** J H Schwelm, G Griffiths

1990 April **Open Air** J H Schwelm, G Griffiths

1990 April **Open End** J H Schwelm, G Griffiths

1990 April **Sais y Dderwen** J H Schwelm, G Griffiths

1995 May 8 **V Route** C Cullen, A W Espie

1995 May 8 **E Route** C Cullen, A W Espie

1995 May 8 **Vera Llyn** A W Espie, C Cullen

1995 July 30 **Little Boy** A W Espie, Mrs H Duncan

#### GEIRIONYDD WEST

1962 May 6 **Tower Zig Zags** R Pettener, M A Reeves (alt)

1962 May 6 **Tower Groove** J Williams, Miss W Collins

1962 May 12 **Introductory Crack** Miss J Saunders, K S Seddon and M A Reeves

1962 May 12 **Barrier Slab** M A Reeves, K S Seddon

1962 May 12 **Holly Slabs** M A Reeves, K S Seddon

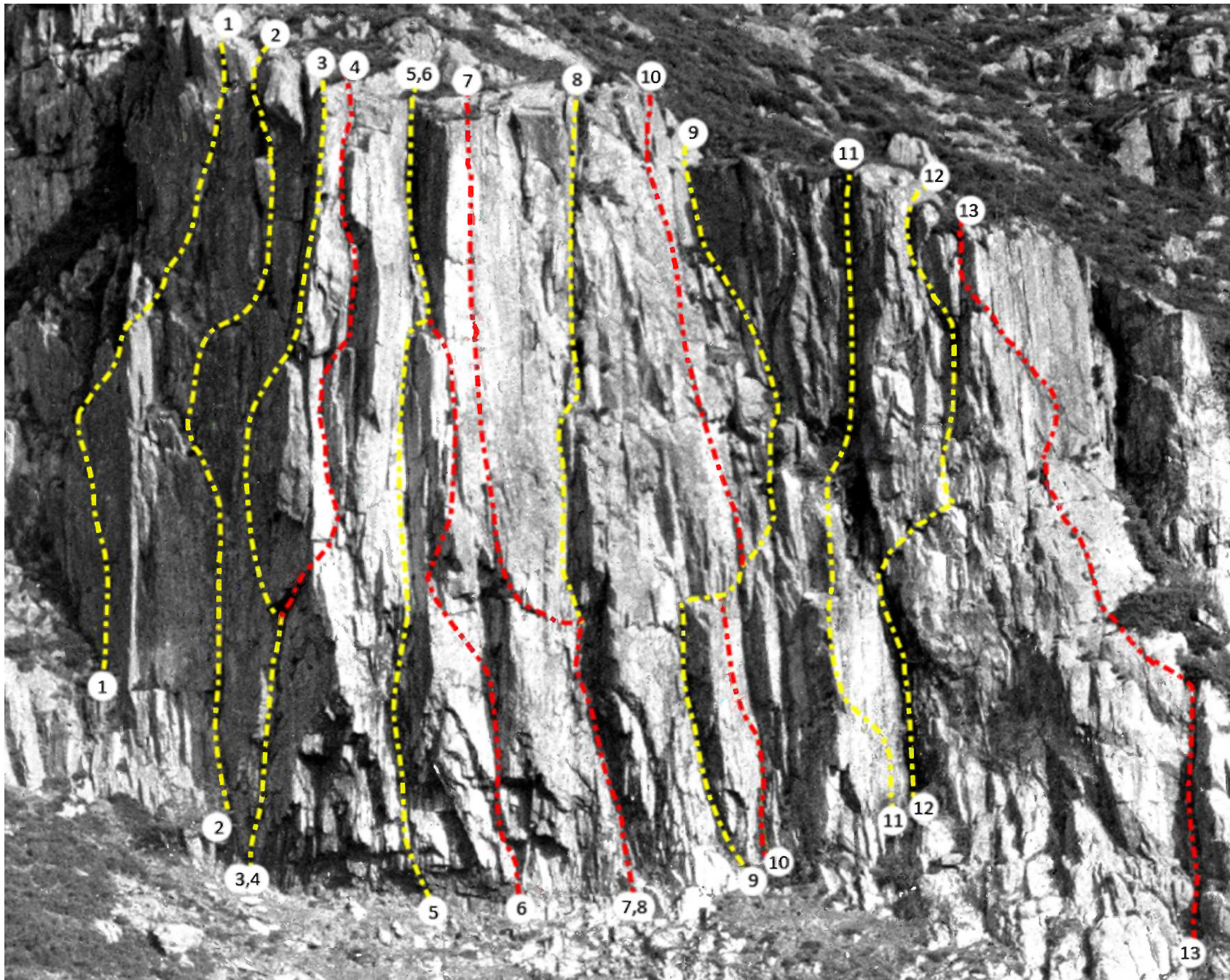
1962 June 3 **Slab Edge Route** M A Reeves, E T Griffiths (alt)

1962 June 3 **Set Back Slab** W Ross, R Pettener

1962 June 3 **Acute** W Ross, K Baldwin

1962 June 3 **Jungle Joy** Mrs B P Reeves, E T Griffiths (alt)

1962 June 3 **Jungle Joy - Variation Start** M A Reeves (solo)



### S H Wall

1 The Hobbler	E2
2 Skylark	E3
3 Oriole	E4
4 Phoenix	E2
5 Clonus	E3
6 Connie's Crack	E4
7 Snowdrop	E4
8 Astoroth	E2
9 Beelzebub	E1
10 Gondor	E2
11 Mordor	E2
12 The Web	E3
13 Gobeithio	HVS