

Dinas Mot Area

Dinas Mot forms the gable end of the north ridge of Crib Goch and it dominates the south side of the valley when seen from almost any direction. It is around 120 metres high and about 400 metres wide. It is easily reached from the Cromlech Boulders lay-bys. The cliff has three main facets, the most dominant being the detached buttress of the Nose, the huge triangular slab at its centre. Above this broken rocks arbitrarily divide the main cliff into the Eastern and Western Wings. To the right of the Western Wing, and separated from it by Jammed Boulder Gully and the slim Groper Buttress lies Plexus Buttress. The different parts of the cliff are dealt with separately.

A close examination of both wings of Dinas Mot will reveal a confusion of slabs, cracks, striking grooves and corners in all areas of the cliff; sometimes terminating in huge roofs and jutting overhangs. The climbing of most of these lines is given a tremendous sense of character due to their imposing nature and sometimes commitment due to difficulty of retreat. The Nose, on the other hand, seems to be much softer and slabbier in form and far more inviting; don't be deceived, some of the routes here can be very airy and bold. In short, these cliffs provide an interesting counterpoint in both structure and style of climbing to those on the opposite side of the valley.

Garn Cri Rowan Cairn

OS Ref 630 563

Between Dinas Bach and Dinas Mot, nearer to the latter, is a small crag comprised of jumbled boulders and grassy ledges with a prominent twin-spiked overhang at its left edge. In the centre of the crag is a large triangle of grass. Above its apex rises an obvious flake crack, the substance of *Dracula Spectacula*. The crag is approached by starting up the track to Dinas Mot from the Cromlech boulders lay-bys and then breaking up the hillside to the left.

Salem's Slab 18m HVS 5a (28.8.93)

A filler-in. Start at the base of a slender slab with a perched block at its top about 45 metres left of *Dracula Spectacula*, just right of a wide crack. Step up and right to reach a thread, and climb directly up the slab via a couple of juggy breaks to finish at the perched block.

★ Vlad the Arête 8m E4 7a (9.88)

The arête left of *The Bat Passage* sports two pegs and may be very frustrating on first acquaintance.

The Bat Passage 15m VS 5a (19.5.87)

A good companion to *Dracula Spectacula*. Start left of that route and either chimney or bridge the crack using the pillar to the left of that route, or boldly layback the crack and continue to the top (good protection).

Dracula Spectacula 15m E1 5b (17.11.83)

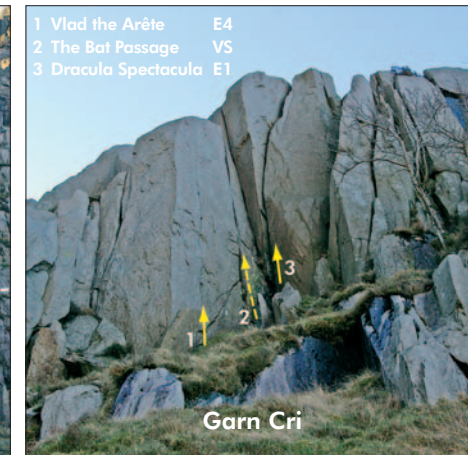
A worthwhile little pitch in the esoteric vein. Start by scrambling up to the foot of the flake, the bottom metre or so of which is green and grassy. Avoid the green section by climbing jammed blocks on the left for 5 metres. Use the left-hand corner to gain the crack (crux), and then rapidly layback the batwing-shaped flake to the top.

Climate Change in the Mountains

The impacts of climate change are becoming ever more evident in the Welsh mountains, with less snow and warmer winters over the past few years. This is certainly a problem for snow and ice climbing, but in the long term how will it impact on the wildlife of Snowdonia?

To investigate this, a long-term monitoring programme has been set up on Snowdon to look at a range of meteorological (including snowline measurements), chemical and biological (vegetation, bats, birds, butterflies, etc.) variables. The challenge is to try to interpret whether any changes in numbers or distribution of animals and plants are being caused by long-term changes in the weather and/or diffuse pollution events. This network has been in existence since 1992 and the Snowdon site is one of twelve scattered throughout the United Kingdom. For more information on the programme, go to www.ecn.ac.uk.

BARBARA JONES



Dinas Mot Area

Cysgfa Fawr Big Dwelling (Dinas Mot Outcrop) OS Ref 630 565

This outcrop lies just up and across the road from the Cromlech Boulders, upstream of Pont y Gromlech. It is easily approached from the Cromlech Boulders, via a gate just uphill of the bridge. The slabs are popular with outdoor groups, offering a selection of routes from VD to VS; however, belays take a little finding. The excellent boulder problems on the right side of the crag on what are known as the Pont y Gromlech Slabs are described opposite. The prominent arête next to the bend in the road has been regularly ascended since the 50s at about 5b – no more claims please. There are three routes in the modern idiom, however, which justify description. To the left past the prominent arête is a series of broken walls and corners, which are bounded by an obvious overhanging arête with a thin crack to its right. The arête is taken by *Beginner's Mind*.



- ★ **Beginner's Mind** 11m E6 6c (3.6.93)
Guaranteed to rip the skin off your fingertips. Climb the obvious and vicious arête, past two poor pegs and a microwire. The start is hard, the rest is harder.

- ★ **Grin's Twins** 9m E6 6b (30.6.94)
The twin cracks in the overhanging wall just right of *Beginner's Mind* are safe but strenuous.

- ★ **My Favourite Route in the World, Ever** 10m E7 6c (2001)
This is based on a short wall 20 metres down and right of *Beginner's Mind*. Climb a corner, and then follow thin edges out to the arête. Finish up this in a fine position.

Grin's Twins (E6) Pete Robins ROBINS col

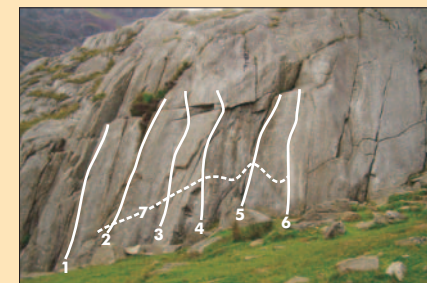


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Pont y Gromlech Slabs

A classic, old-school bouldering crag featuring a series of slabby and slightly highball problems on the slabs which form the right side of Cysgfa Fawr, and which are approached as for that crag.

- ★ **1 V4/Font 6b!**
★ The high rib with a prominent undercut at 4 metres provides a gripping challenge.
- ★ **2 V1/Font 5**
★ Layback the arête formed by the edge of the crack, finishing boldly either left or right.
- ★ **3 V2/Font 5+**
★ Gain the hanging flake with some thin moves and continue quickly for the top. Superb.
- ★ **4 V3/Font 6a**
★ A tricky start gains the flake in the arête; continue boldly past the horn.
- ★ **5 V1/Font 5**
★ The crack left of the blank slabby wall feels a touch bold at the top.



- ★ **6 The Seam V3/Font 6a+**
★ The clean slabby wall provides a classic problem. Gain the mini layaway rib from a two-finger pocket, and continue past an obvious hold to the top.
- ★ **7 The Pont y Gromlech Traverse V6/Font 7a**
★ An intense and technically sustained affair, traversing the base of the crag left to right, into a finish up *The Seam*. (NB. Avoid the low grassy ramp beneath problem 4).

The Seam (V3/Font 6a+) Noël Craine PETER ROBINS



Dinas Mot Area

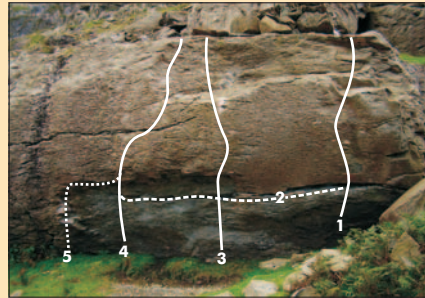
Barrel

This fierce bulging wall hosts a series of superb and intense problems. The action occurs on the steep right-hand section; the left side of the face is high and the sloping landing disqualifies the lines here as boulder problems.

Approach: from the main Cromlech lay-by, cross the river and follow the wall (swapping to the left side via an A-frame) to gain a zigzag path leading up to the face of the Barrel, which is the obvious horizontal cigar/barrel-shaped face in the complex of boulders right of the path leading up to the Nose of Dinas Mot.

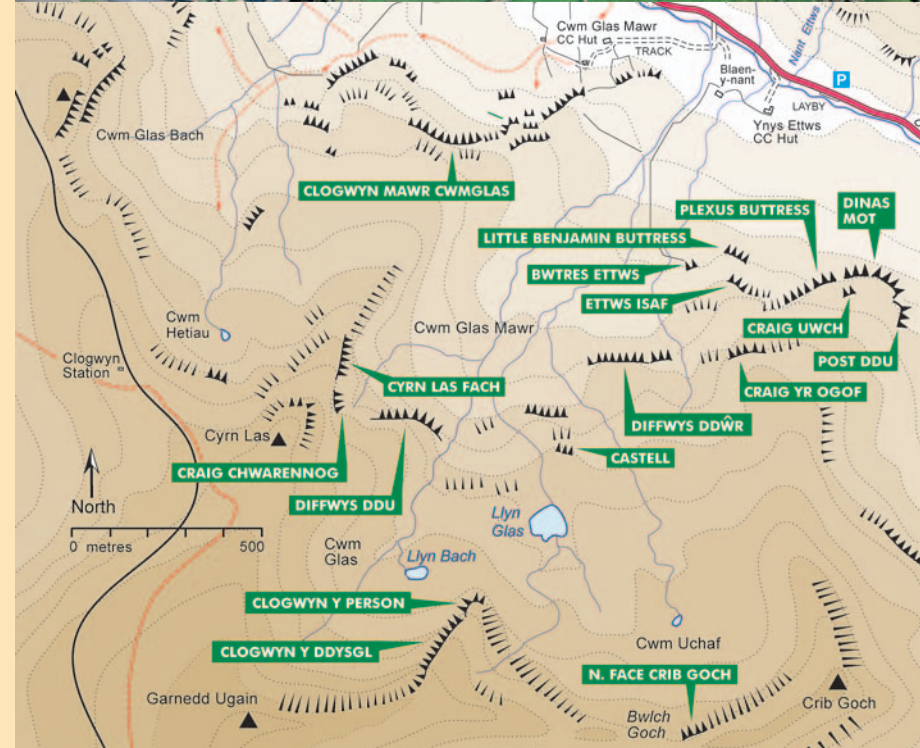
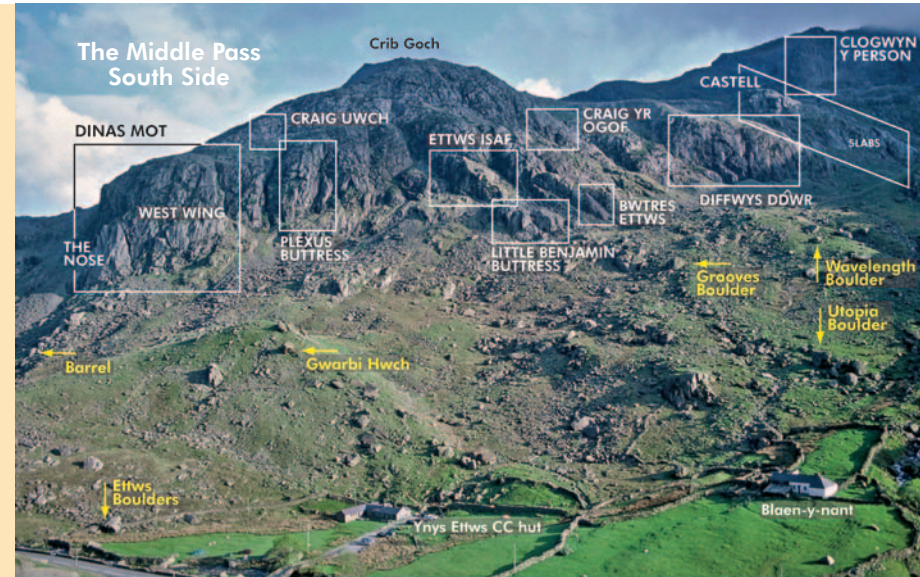
Just down the hill a long low bulge provides a useful warm-up traverse along the lip and a powerful low level traverse at the back of the roof (**One Line Drawing** V8/Font 7b).

- ★ **1 Barrel Groove V8/Font 7b+**
★ Start sitting with hands in the low break; powerful, fingery moves lead up the shallow groove. (The reverse link of *The Barrel Traverse* into this problem rates V11/Font 8a.)
- ★ **2 The Barrel Traverse V8/Font 7b+**
★ Start sitting as for *Barrel Groove*, and then trace the break-line leftwards, passing a brutal, slopy crux section. Finish up problem 5. A modern classic.
- ★ **3 The Minimum V7/Font 7a+**
★ Move up from the right-hand-most undercut to reach a disappointing crimp with your right. Gaining the slopy upper ledge from this position proves to be quite a challenge. The traverse link from the start of *The Barrel Traverse* is a superb V8/Font 7b. A harder link still (V9/Font 7c) comes up from the reverse of the main traverse.
- ★ **4 Bulling 747 V6/Font 7a**
Take the undercut on *The Minimum* with your right, reaching up left and matching poor sloping holds at the end of the thin break, before slapping to the sloping ledge. The link from *The Barrel Traverse* is a cracking, albeit relentlessly hard V8/Font 7b.



- ★ **5 V3/Font 6a**
★ A powerful undercut move gains the thin break. Make a few short moves right before lurching up right to a good hold on the sloping ledge.
- ★ **6 V4/Font 6b**
Start low on the juggy ledge system on the left; move right, matching a good undercut and reaching to the thin break. Traverse right to finish as for problem 5.

Barrel Groove Gaz Parry SIMON PANTON



Dinas Mot Mot's Fortress

OS Ref 627 563

The Eastern Wing, although bristling with overhangs, has no modern desperates on it – as yet. Routes generally weave their way up through intimidating territory at a relatively modest standard with good protection when needed. This is in marked contrast to the smooth open slab routes on the Nose, which have the occasional long poorly-protected run-out. On the two-tiered Western Wing, routes tend to follow devious lines, which are difficult to identify on first acquaintance, and there is more vegetation. Further right, beyond the narrow Groper Buttress, sits Plexus Buttress with its superb climbing on rough compact rock.

Dinas Mot is supposedly named after a legendary giant; although Mot is a popular name in North Wales for a dog. The Eastern Wing has its own name, Post Ddu, as in doorpost; so called because it frames the view of the Pass when coming from Pen y Pass.

Post Ddu Dark [or] Black Jamb (The Eastern Wing)

Aspect	East
Altitude	400 metres
Approach Time	15 to 20 minutes

The Eastern Wing of the Mot is bounded on the left by the vegetated Staircase Gully, and its right edge is defined by Eastern Gully and the steep broken arête above the Nose. Beside the upper part of Staircase Gully is a tower-like buttress split by a groove in its upper half (taken by *The Toad*). This tower is well defined on its right by the sloping slab of *The Mole*. Right of *The Mole* the cliff becomes much larger, extending down to the level of Eastern Gully, and is divided by an obvious grassy rake which slants up right (*Troglodyte Wall*). Below the rake are steep mossy walls, and above it are large overhangs and grassy ledges. The structure of the cliff is such that route finding can be very complicated. Most climbs have been drastically transformed from their original vegetated state, but grassy ledges and lichenous rock are still encountered. A lack of traffic on a number of the routes has led to some of the gear placements having filled up with soil, and it is worth carrying a nut key on the lead.

Despite being a bit lichenous, and still rather vegetated on some routes, the rock here is superb. In fact, on a dry day, the lichen hardly impinges on the tremendous friction of the rock. Not only is the friction of the rock like that of gritstone, so is the style of climbing; imagine six gritstone edges stacked one on top of the other.

Optimum Conditions This is a summer venue, and after a dry period at that. In the summer, the cliff receives plenty of sunshine from very early on, till just after midday; in short it is a nice shady place to be on a hot afternoon. Climbing here in winter would be a very different proposition. Despite receiving the sun in the morning, some of the lines can take a long while to dry. Apart from being east-facing and generally shady, the cliff here is very open, and on a windy day you feel the cold.

Approach As for the Nose. The path leads left and up to the foot of Eastern Gully. Scramble left up screes to reach the base of the cliff in fifteen to twenty minutes from the road depending on which route is to be climbed.

Descent Staircase Gully is not the usual descent. This is by a shallow gully and broken rocks 60 metres further to the left (east). Once at the top of the cliff, look for a series of quartz streaks coming down diagonally leftwards from the north ridge of Crib Goch.

A final splash of quartz provides a marker for the top of the gully. An alternative is to go down Jammed Boulder Gully (see page 226).

The first two routes are not on the Eastern Wing proper but lie on a small wall well up and round to the left. It is in fact the retaining wall of the descent gully.

Honky Tonk Corner 36m S (11.9.71)

Interesting but rather dirty. The first prominent feature when coming down the descent gully is a corner on the left (facing out). Start directly beneath the corner.

1 27m Climb the corner to a ledge on the right (possible belay). Step left and continue in the same line as the corner, passing an overhang on the left, to belay below an overhanging chimney.

2 9m Climb the overhanging chimney.

Tarotplane 42m VS (1 pt aid) (11.9.71)

Start just down the gully from *Honky Tonk Corner*, at the base of a rib beneath a fine-looking flake crack that leads to the ledge on the right 18 metres up *Honky Tonk Corner*.

1 24m 4c Climb delicately up the rib to the foot of an overhanging groove. Climb the groove (sling for aid) until it is possible to layback into the flake crack above. Follow this to the ledge 18 metres up *Honky Tonk Corner*.

2 18m 4c Above the ledge is a white tree. Starting from the right, climb a leftward-slanting crack to the tree. Climb the groove behind the tree to a horizontal crack leading to the arête on the left. Layback up this and step left into the short groove above the overhang.

Staircase Gully 101m M

The normally damp gully climb that defines the eastern limit of the cliff proper. The fairly sound rock gives an interesting scramble for 46 metres. The gully now steepens, with a 6-metre crux wall 24 metres higher, and then eases off to finish.

Although a scramble rather than a climb, but with some historic interest, details of **Terra Incognita** (6.6.49) are given in the First Ascents section.

The next two routes are approached by scrambling up Staircase Gully for about 25 metres to a grassy bay just below where the gully steepens, a few metres above the rake of *Troglodyte Wall*.

The Toad 60m E3 (10.63)

A serious and technical route on good rock and in a fine position. It goes up the tower-like buttress just right of Staircase Gully. The peg that used to protect the crux has long since gone, making this a bold lead as nut protection only exists way down to the right; so point your mate at this pitch, and don't let him (or her) read the guide.

1 12m 4a Pleasantly climb a pocketed wall to the grassy ledge on the right.

2 24m 6a Follow the horizontal crack right to join the short rib of *The Mole*. Climb this and move left and then up to the left to surmount the overhang. Go easily up slabs to belay by a flake.

3 24m 5b Climb the shallow groove on the left, with difficulties soon easing. Finish up short easy walls on the left.

★ **MPP** 60m HVS (4.10.64)

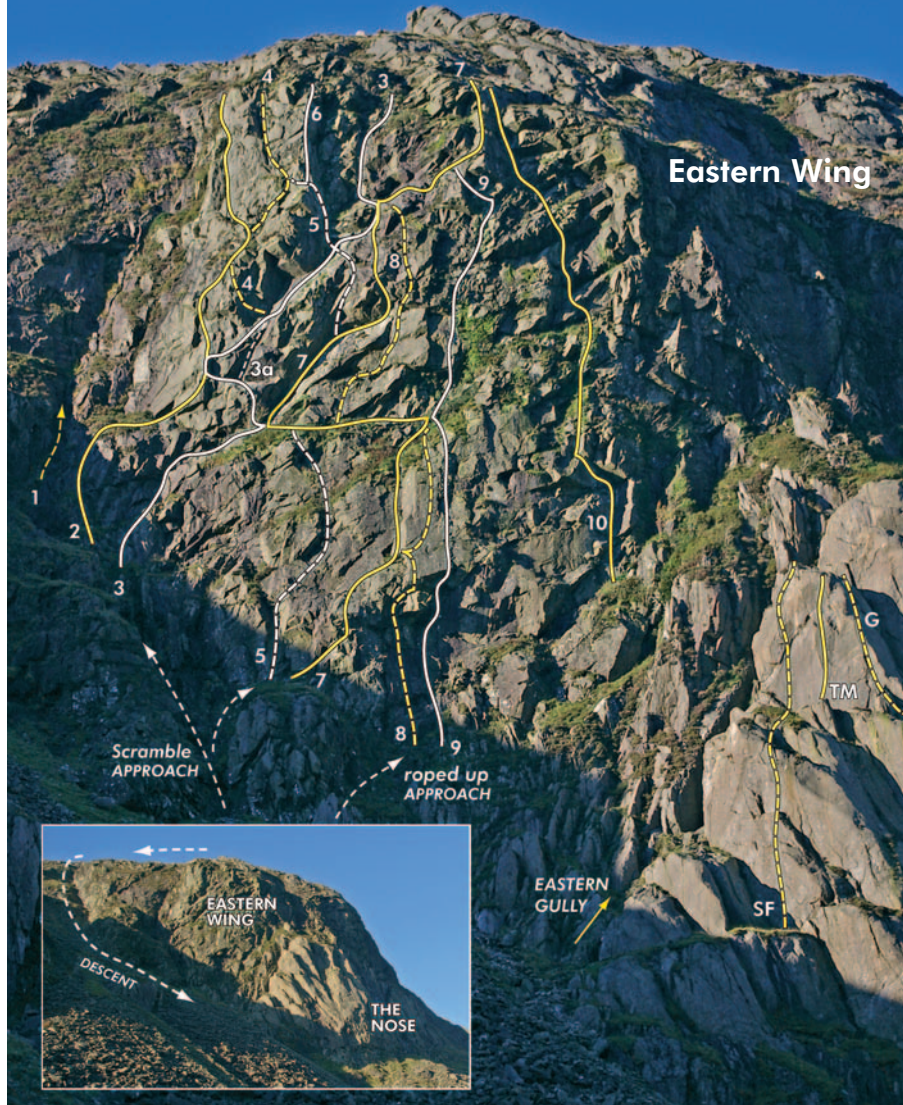
A good climb, which starts up *The Toad* and then the crux rib of *The Mole*. Well worth seeking out. The crux traverse is delightfully exposed and quite bold for its grade.

1 12m 4a *The Toad* pitch 1.

2 27m 5a Climb the horizontal crack rightwards to the rib of *The Mole*. Follow *The Mole* to the thread runner in the corner. Hand-traverse sensationally out leftwards, around the arête, to where a startling move gains a tiny ledge and peg. Traverse left

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1 Staircase Gully	M	5 Molehill	E3	10 Beorn	E1
2 The Toad	E3	6 Molehill Direct Finish	E3	11 Mordor	E3
3 The Mole	HVS	7 Gollum	HVS	SF Sombrero Fallout	E2
3a Mole variation		8 A New Austerlitz	E3	TM Truncheon Meat	E6
4 MPP	HVS	9 Gandalf	E1	G GBH	E2



again to meet the easy part of *The Toad* above its overhangs (care should be taken to ease rope drag on this section). Scramble up to the flake below as for *The Toad* pitch 2.
3 21m 4c Move right to the arête, and take the left-slanting crackline over some bulges to a small ledge. Finish up a short wall.

★ MPP/The Mole Combination 74m HVS

★ Start up the initial section of MPP, and then continue up *The Mole*.

★ The Mole 84m HVS

(8.4.61)

★ A justifiably popular route on superb rock, although it is often wet and is then harder. The steep tower taken by *The Toad* has a prominent line of undercut slabs running up underneath it from left to right. These give the substance of the route. Start by scrambling up the gully for about 20 metres to below a grassy bay and just above the grassy rake of *Troglodyte Wall*.

1 27m 4a A small grassy rake leads to a short steep slab. Climb this to a grassy bay just right of a huge flake.

2 34m 5a Ascend the huge flake and walk left to a steep rib. Climb this (crux) and move right to the diagonal slab (thread runner up in the corner). Move right to the slab's edge and go up a corner. Traverse right below the overhang and go up a short groove to a ledge.

3 23m 4c Move into the groove on the left and follow it until an obvious traverse right to ledges leads to a finish up easier rock – a pitch which is often wet.

Variation

2a 32m E1 5b Climb pitch 2 to the thread runner; then continue up the small black corner. Traverse delicately rightwards to regain the original route.

Troglodyte Wall 91m VS

(5.2.55)

Disappointing. The easiest line up the Eastern Wing provides good views of other routes but has little else to commend it. It follows the narrow, grassy rake winding out of Staircase Gully and crosses *Beorn* at the prominent L-shaped block seen on the skyline from the foot of the crag. Above this it breaks back left to finish near the top of *Beorn*.

★ Tales from the Riverbank 72m E3

(1989)

Surprisingly good, sustained and technical climbing tackling an impressive part of the cliff. Start left of *Gollum/The Molehill*, at a thin crack leading to a groove, just left of the groove of *The Molehill*.

1 24m 6a Climb the crack and step slightly right to gain a sharp downward-pointing spike below the roof. Layback up leftwards to enter the groove; then move up onto the right wall to climb a small groove and pillar above. Belay on the large ledge.

2 12m 5b Move left and layback up to gain a small niche. Exit awkwardly left to reach a belay above pitch 1 of *The Mole*.

3 18m 5c Pull directly up the rib on the left and continue to the right to the traverse on *The Mole*. Follow the rightwards-leaning groove above after a worrying start. Continue to a good handhold, and move up diagonally rightwards to the thread on *The Mole*.

4 18m 5c A very deceptive pitch. Follow the traverse of MPP to the arête, move right and climb the groove direct to a sensational pull-out rightwards. Trend back left over easy ground to belay on a large thread on the top pitch of *The Toad*.

The next two routes are approached by going up the gully and then moving out right to a grassy ledge with a pedestal.

★ The Molehill 95m E3

(16.7.77)

★ A stupendous route up some very steep rock, technical and bold.

1 37m 6a From the belay, bold moves lead fiercely up into a short groove. Climb this and the small easy slab to a flaked wall that funnels into a groove leading to small trees. Trend left up easier rock to belay at the top of *The Mole* pitch 1.

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2 24m 5c Go up the slab into the corner. Boldly negotiate two roofs by agonizing bridging (all very technical) and continue via a bulging crack to an awkward exit. Continue up to a stance about 5 metres below the top of *The Mole* pitch 2.

3 34m 5a Traverse left along the obvious line of slaty holds, and then move up left to blocks on the arête. Climb the arête and eventually finish up the final crack of *MPP*.

Variations

3a Molehill Direct Finish 21m E3 5c The poorly-protected arête immediately left of *The Mole* proves to be a serious, soul-searching lead, but a fine continuation for the nerveless.

3b 34m 4c Instead of traversing left under the overhangs, continue up to the stance above pitch 2 of *The Mole*. Traverse left, around the arête (of the *Direct Finish*), to join *MPP* and the normal finish.

★ **Gollum** 91m HVS (27.3.64)

★ A fine route with a spectacular overhang on its second pitch that more than compensates for the grassy terrace on its first. The climb takes a shallow groove up the lower walls and the slabby groove under the overhangs of *The Mole*.

1 30m 5a Go diagonally right up to and over a bulge. Climb the slabs to a ledge below the flake crack. Follow the crack to a tree belay on the rake of *Troglo-dyte Wall*. Stroll 15 metres left to *The Mole* pitch 1 belay.

2 34m 5b Climb the slab diagonally right for 9 metres. Power up the overhang on good holds in a sensational position. Climb a shallow groove, move left and go up to the belay above pitch 2 of *The Mole*.

3 27m 4b Traverse right across a slab to an enjoyable finish up the exposed, juggy arête to a belay. Scrambling remains.

Some grassy scrambling diagonally right up an obvious break is needed to reach the starts of the routes in this area. It is probably best to rope up for this.

★ **A New Austerlitz** 100m E3 (25.4.82)

★ An excellent route, with sustained and interesting moves in impressive surroundings. Start just left of, and below, the huge perched block of *Gandalf*, at a wide shallow groove in a slab.

1 21m 5c Climb the groove or the crack to its left into a dirty niche just left of the huge block. Bridge up its left-hand side via a huge protruding spike, to pull boldly over the bulge onto a short slab. Belay at the base of the flake.

2 18m 5b Step right round the corner onto a slab, then climb a thin crack to its end, and continue direct up the edge of the slab to easy ground. Walk 12 metres left to belay on the right-hand side of a flake.

3 34m 5c Starting 1½ metres right of the flake, pull over the initial roof at a slim groove to gain good holds. Pull up to the next roof and traverse right to a groove at its right-hand end. Climb this to below the overhang of *Gollum*. Step right and surmount the overhang on massive holds to a resting place on a big flat-topped block. Ascend directly up the slab on small hidden holds. Take the short groove above and exit to a grassy ledge; nut and cam belays.

4 27m 4b *Gollum* pitch 3.

★ **Gandalf** 104m E1 (24.8.66)

★ An excellent climb, similar to *Beorn* but cleaner, with an intimidating first pitch. Start at a good flake belay just right of the cave formed by the large overhang.

1 37m 5a Move left into the recess below the overhang and climb up onto the large protruding block. Step right round a spike, and turn the roof on its right-hand side to

good holds. Follow the flaky crack and move left to finish on a grassy ledge. Good holly tree belay 3 metres higher in a grassy bay.

2 40m 5a Climb the small rib on the right to a ledge. Go diagonally left and pull up into a small corner (good cam in a horizontal break). Climb diagonally rightwards for 3 metres to a peg and stride left to a ledge. Pull up, step right, and slant up rightwards, making for the left end of a diagonal band of overhangs. Pass these on the left, and then step right immediately onto the slab. Climb this for 2 metres, step left and go up into a corner below the uppermost of two large overhangs. Traverse left along the lip of the lower overhang and swing round the arête to belay in a corner as for *Gollum*.

3 27m 4b *Gollum* pitch 3.

★ **Gangol Combination** 98m E1

★ It is possible to create a hybrid route by combining pitch 1 of *Gandalf* with pitch 2 of *Gollum*.

The Wobbler 97m HVS (3.66)
Not a very good route. Start as for *Beorn*.

1 34m 5a Descend a short way and surmount a line of overhangs to a small ledge. Go left along a ramp to more ledges, which are climbed until a step left can be made into a groove. Ascend the groove, moving left at the top to a large grassy ledge and tree belay.

2 21m 5a Climb the rib and grass on the right to poor belays. Climb over creaking blocks on the left to a small ledge (ancient peg). Move right, and go up a steep groove and the wall above to a small stance and peg belay.

3 18m 5a Traverse left under a line of overhangs to a groove. Go up this until a mantelshelf move out left leads to a grass ledge.

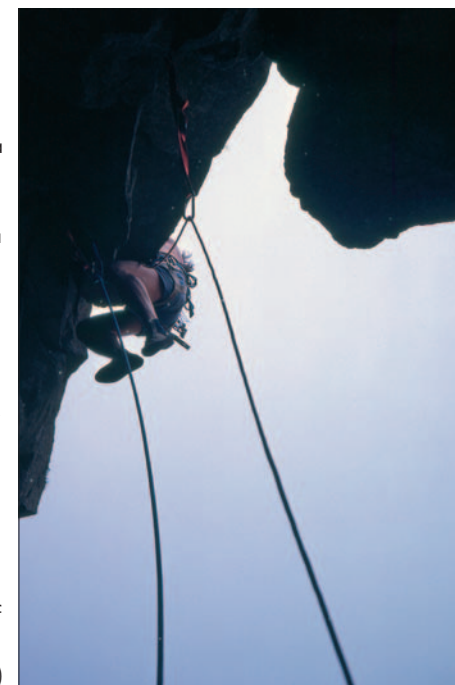
4 24m 4b Climb straight up the rib to finish.

★ **Beorn** 71m E1 (3.4.64)

A very good route, with exciting positions, that takes a devious yet logical line up through the overhangs on the right-hand arête of the wall. A bit scruffy at the time of writing. Start by scrambling up rightwards from below the *Gandalf* cave to belay in a small corner directly above the start of Eastern Gully, below and just left of a square black overhang with a small white tree above it.

1 34m 5c Climb a short wall and then a 6-metre groove to the roof. Make a hard traverse left from an ageing peg to gain the arête. Move left into the next groove, and then go back up right and climb the slab to cross the long diagonal overhang at its weakest point. Pull over to a small grassy stance and flake belays.

2 37m 5b Climb 3 metres to a higher grassy ledge. Ascend a 3-metre wall and pull leftwards over the roof at the top. Traverse left to the big groove and ascend it leftwards to the main overhang. Surmount this and go up airily to the top overhang, which is avoided by a mantelshelf on the left. A short groove leads to the top.



Gandalf (E1) John Barry DAVEALCOCK

Mordor 66m E3

(24.6.68)

This fierce climb sees very few ascents and is almost always dirty. It is, however, in a good position and has some interesting climbing. Most of the dangerous loose blocks have been cleaned off, but care should still be exercised. Start as for *Beorn*, below the prominent groove that leads to a roof.

1 15m 4c Climb diagonally rightwards up a heavily vegetated ramp and groove until it is possible to move left at the top of the groove to a grassy ledge and prominent tree above the square, black overhang of *Beorn*. Belay in a cave (good thread).

2 24m 6a Move 2 metres left and climb the blocky wall to an old peg at the foot of a blank V-groove. Move right with difficulty (crux) below the level of the peg to gain a niche below a roof. Move back left under the roof on good holds until beneath a groove in the vague arête. Climb the groove between two huge, suspect pinnacles to a sloping stance. Belay to any number of rather hollow blocks.

3 27m 5b Move slightly left and climb an awkward, out-of-balance groove beneath the loose flaky-looking overhang. Good protection is difficult to arrange. Layback the roof boldly on the flakes (which turn out to be solid), move up, and turn the large roof on the right to finish up the arête. Belay well back.

Variation

1a 18m 5c Follow *Beorn* until it is possible to break out right to the white tree and cave belay. Cleaner and more in keeping with the route's standard.

East Wing Girdle 108m HVS

(1966)

A disappointing climb. Start from the top of the Nose and scramble up to a belay below the steep wall.

1 24m Climb diagonally left just above the lip of the overhangs to a stance beyond the skyline.

2 12m Descend for 8 metres, and then move left to a stance and belay.

3 15m Move down a short way to a slab on the left. Climb the groove on *Beorn*, moving left at the top to a small stance and peg belay on *The Wobbler*.

4 18m *The Wobbler* pitch 3.

5 9m Traverse left to belay on *The Mole*.

6 30m Climb the corner for 3 metres, and then move round the arête to finish up the slanting crack and short wall (as for *MPP* pitch 3).

Flammarian 60m VS

(2.6.68)

From the top of the Nose, traverse left for 15 metres to a grass-topped pinnacle and then across more grass to a slabby wall.

1 9m Cross the wall, and then go up to two trees below overhangs and a large ledge.

2 15m Go left again, and climb straight up easily to the belay above pitch 1 of *Beorn*.

3 18m Step right to take a rightward-slanting crack, finishing in jammed blocks. Climb over these and traverse round the overhangs into a wide easy corner.

4 18m Go up left into a pleasant V-chimney and then up a slab to the top.

Eastern Gully D

(1901)

The short straight gully defining the Nose on its left side is a quick way up, or a tricky descent from its summit. A rock step near the gully foot may prove to be a 'stopper' in the wet.

The Nose

Aspect	North-east to north
Altitude	330 metres
Approach Time	10 minutes

The smooth slabby face of the Nose, with its good sound rock, is a worthy counterpart to Dinas y Gromlech opposite. Above its undercut base are some 15 metres of steep rock with fine holds, which merges into smooth slabs at a lesser angle with good, but widely-spaced, holds. The final steep section, rising from two large recesses separated by a central rib, provides cracks and corners. Just to the right of the very foot of the Nose is a large rock scar where part of the initial band of overhangs collapsed; all the climbs between *The Direct Route* and *Diagonal* now have a common starting-point, although the *Zeta* start has been re-climbed at a loose and dirty 5c.

Optimum Conditions In summer the Nose is blessed with the possibility of both early morning and late afternoon sunshine on respective sides of the Nose. Although it is a generally shady place to be on a hot day, around mid-summer the crag can surprisingly be in sun all day. Windy days can be a bit of a pain here as the crag is very open; being on some thin crimping moves in blustery conditions does not give confidence. In winter, climbing is possible on a fine dry morning with the sun streaming onto the slabs on the left-hand side of the Nose, the area around *The Cracks* and *Lorraine*, which have been scraped clean over the years, would probably be best.

Approach From the Cromlech Boulders lay-bys you can:

- Either walk up the road to the Pont y Gromlech and go through a gate on the right. A path then leads to the base of the screens near a drystone wall; then zigzag up the screens to the base of the cliff in about ten minutes.
- Or cross the river (without getting your feet wet) and head towards the stile over the drystone wall that runs towards the screens and join the zig-zag path.

Descent Of the two gullies bounding the Nose, the easiest descent by climbing is probably down Western Gully. Once out of the gully proper it is possible to descend wet slabs with care, heading for Llanberis. However, both gullies are regularly abseiled, and there is usually plenty of rope *in situ*, but as always you should make your own judgement as to its quality.

Climbers should not gather at the base of *The Direct Route* and *The Cracks*, as the groove-system of the former naturally funnels any debris knocked off the top down onto this area. The potential for a serious accident is quite alarming. Climbers should gear up well to the right or the left of this point.

The first three routes are approached by scrambling up to the left of *The Cracks* to where a grassy ledge runs rightwards from the foot of *Eastern Gully*.

You're Not in Poland Now 9m E1 5b (20.5.87)
The delightful pocketed arête left of *Sombrero Fallout* pitch 1.

God Help the Sailors on a Night Like This! 9m E2 5c (20.5.87)
The thin seam with two pockets next to it just left of *Sombrero Fallout* pitch 1 is climbed using a useful crack for the right hand.

Dinas Mot Area

1 The Cracks	HS	10 The Link	E1	SL Slow Ledge Climb	VS
2 Lorraine	VS	11 West Rib	HVS	BS Black Shadow	E3
3 Lorraine Variation	HVS	12 The Chain	E1	BSp Black Spring	HVS
4 Trauma	E8	13 Western Slabs	VS		
5 Direct Route	VS	14 Crosstie	HVS		
6 Superdirect	E1	15 Scramble approach to			
7 Zeta	E3	North Ridge of Crib Goch			
8 Diagonal	HVS				
9 Stairway to Heaven	E3				



★ Sombbrero Fallout 38m E2 (23.6.84)

A powerful and painful little route. Start from the right-hand end of the ledge, below a steep wall.

1 21m **5b** Climb the thin crack in the middle of the wall, past a resting ledge, to a stance.

2 17m **6a** There is a thin crack behind the belay. Attack this and continue without much respite to finish at the final belay of *The Cracks*.

★ Truncheon Meat 15m E6 6c (20.5.87)

The overhanging groove between *Sombbrero Fallout* pitch 2 and *GBH* pitch 3 used to be one of the most taxing pitches on the south side of the Pass, and it is still a stiff proposition.

★ The Cracks 90m HS (4.30)

A classic climb, one of the finest at its standard in the Pass. The last pitch has a VS mantelshelf, which can easily be avoided. Start just up and left from the lowest point of the buttress, by some blocks above polished slabs in the path.

1 30m **4a** Make a steep move up onto a ledge (well worn), and then follow a small corner/groove slanting back left to ledges. Move across left for 1½ metres, and then continue diagonally left up a slender left-facing corner, finishing up a short crack (hard if wet), to a stance below an overhang. A bold pitch.

2 14m **4a** Traverse delicately right below the overhang (often wet) into a short chimney, which leads to a good ledge.

3 14m **4b** Climb the thin crack splitting the slab on the left to a large ledge and possible belay. Step up and walk rightwards to belay on a large pinnacle.

4 18m **4a** From the top of the pinnacle, make an awkward move right onto a ledge. Climb the crack in the slabby left wall of the corner to another ledge.

5 14m **4c** Climb up to the right and make the infamous mantelshelf onto a smooth rounded ledge. Traverse left and climb the arête to the top of the Nose. The so-called mantelshelf (which may be found to be 5a or more for those of less than average height!) may be easily bypassed.

Variations

Several inferior variations exist to the left of the main route.

★ GBH 83m E2 (29.7.78)

A good route with contrasting main pitches. Start as for *The Cracks*.

1 12m **4b** Climb the rib on the right to belay as for *Lorraine*.

2 40m **5b** Climb straight up between *Lorraine Variation* and *The Direct Route* to a line of shallow grooves, which lead up leftwards via pockets, flakes and cracks. Take a deep breath, and head on boldly until it is possible to step left into the crack just before the ample pinnacle belay of *The Cracks*.

3 17m **5c** Step off the pinnacle, and struggle into the vicious crack just left of the arête.

4 14m **4b** Finish up the arête on the left of the last pitch of *The Cracks*.

★ Lorraine 79m VS (7.9.41)

A pleasant and enjoyable route just right of *The Cracks*. It is a parallel line to that route and the stances are shared.

1 12m As for *The Cracks* pitch 1 to the ledges at 12 metres.

2 20m **4c** Go steeply up and left over a bulge to reach a left-slanting groove formed by a scarp wall. Follow this past a hard section, and then step left into and climb the short chimney on *The Cracks*.

3 15m **5c** Climb the thin corner-crack and a short corner to belay at the large pinnacle on the right, shared with *The Cracks*.



Direct Route (VS, pitch 3)
Wendy Potts DON SARGEANT