

Sample Pages

Lundy

Paul Harrison

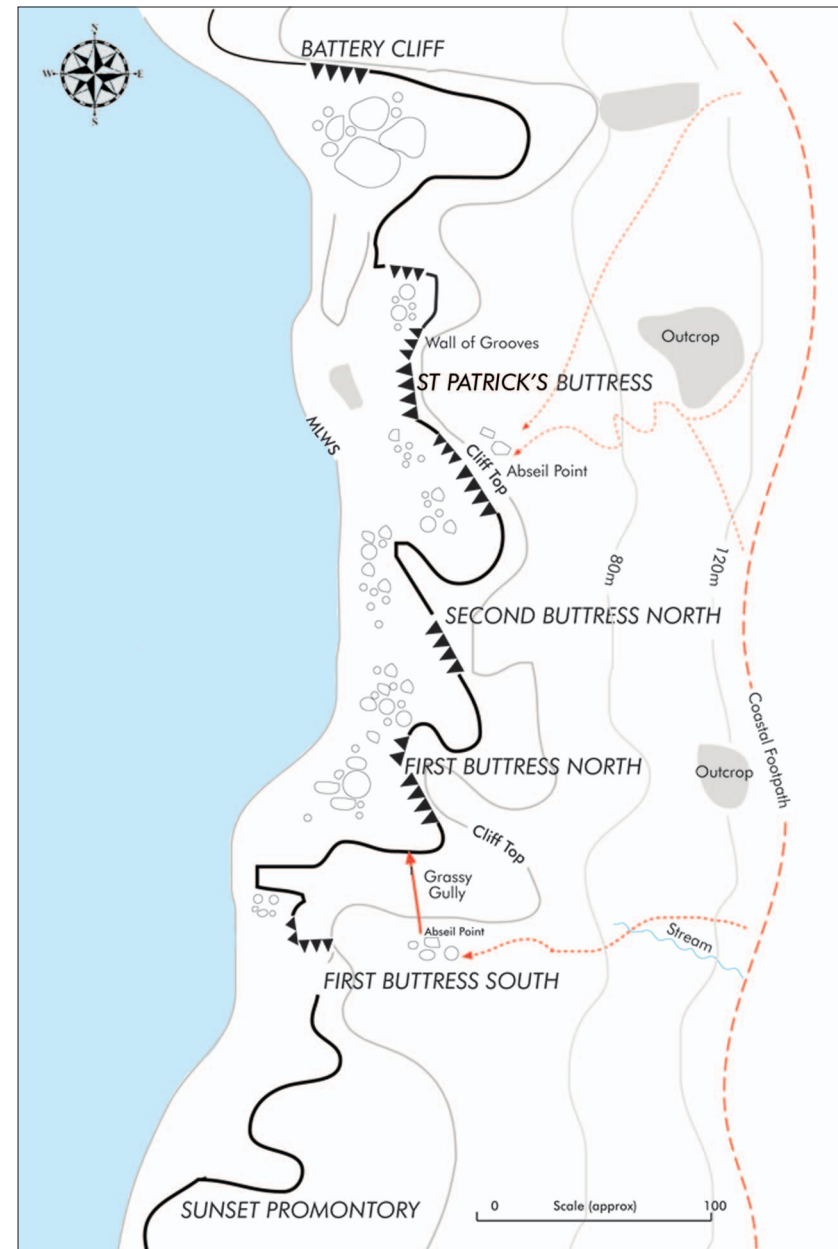
Climbers' Club

Landing Craft Bay

This large bay remains a popular destination for climbers, which is not surprising considering the wealth of quality climbing available throughout the grade range. Throw in its close proximity to the island's accommodation and the ease of access to the majority of the cliffs, and the reasons for its popularity becomes obvious; you may even encounter that rare Lundy experience, a queue! First Buttress South and North in particular have some brilliant crack climbs, while the open classics on St Patrick's Buttress are nicely complemented by the overhanging horrors on the Wall of Grooves.

Landing Craft Bay is an islanders' name, the result of a landing craft being wrecked on the rocks below.

Immediately north of Sunset Promontory lies a large boulder-strewn bay bounded to its north by a small headland containing Flying Buttress and the Battery. The first three buttresses described are named in relation to the usual way down. At the southern end of the bay there is first a blocky ridge with First Buttress South directly below. To its north is a broad open gully that provides the descent hereabouts. This is overlooked to its north by First Buttress North which in turn has a large gully and grassy flank to its north. On the edge of this is a large orange scar, the remnants of Second Buttress North, and then another gully before the south-facing St Patrick's Buttress. This swings round to the north to present a formidable overhanging wall, the Wall of Grooves, with a black south-facing slab to its north. The cliff is terminated by a huge disintegrating gully. On the ridge overlooking the gully, and marking the northern extremity of the bay, is the Battery.



Landing Craft Bay

Approach For all the cliffs in the southern half of the bay; locate a shallow valley at plateau level, which sometimes has a small stream running down it. This is just off the coastal path and some 300 metres north of the Old Light. Descend the valley and continue down a broad grassy spur to reach an area of large blocks approximately 70 metres above sea level. A 70-metre abseil from good block belays leads down a steep grassy slope on the northern side of the spur into the broad, open gully beneath First Buttress North. It is also possible to scramble down this approach with extreme caution.

The upper reaches of the north side of the descent gully have recently (2006) suffered a large rockfall, and a lot of unstable rock remains.

First Buttress South

OS Ref 1298 4458

An attractive slim buttress of golden brown granite situated immediately south of the descent gully. The buttress presents a slender protruding face with the fine groove of *Formula One* in its right flank; to the right is a long vegetated corner with a big slab on its right-hand side. Easily accessible, non tidal, and quick drying, it is consequently very popular.

Approach From the foot of the descent gully, traverse south, climbing over a small rock ridge, to reach the large boulders beneath the buttress.

Gulf Stream 49m HVS 4c (9.4.77)

This underrated climb takes the easy-angled brown slab to the right of the large vegetated corner and gives some nice but poorly protected climbing low down. Start 6 metres right of the corner. Climb up over broken rock for 7 metres and proceed delicately up the slab on small rugosities to a ledge. Continue up and rightwards (belay possible) onto the slab above. Climb a crack and move left to finish.

★ **Hot Rod** 41m VS (11.4.77)

A good, honest crack climb. High on the left wall of the large corner is a prominent straight crack often climbed in mistake by lost leaders/drivers on *The Indy 500*! Start beneath the corner.

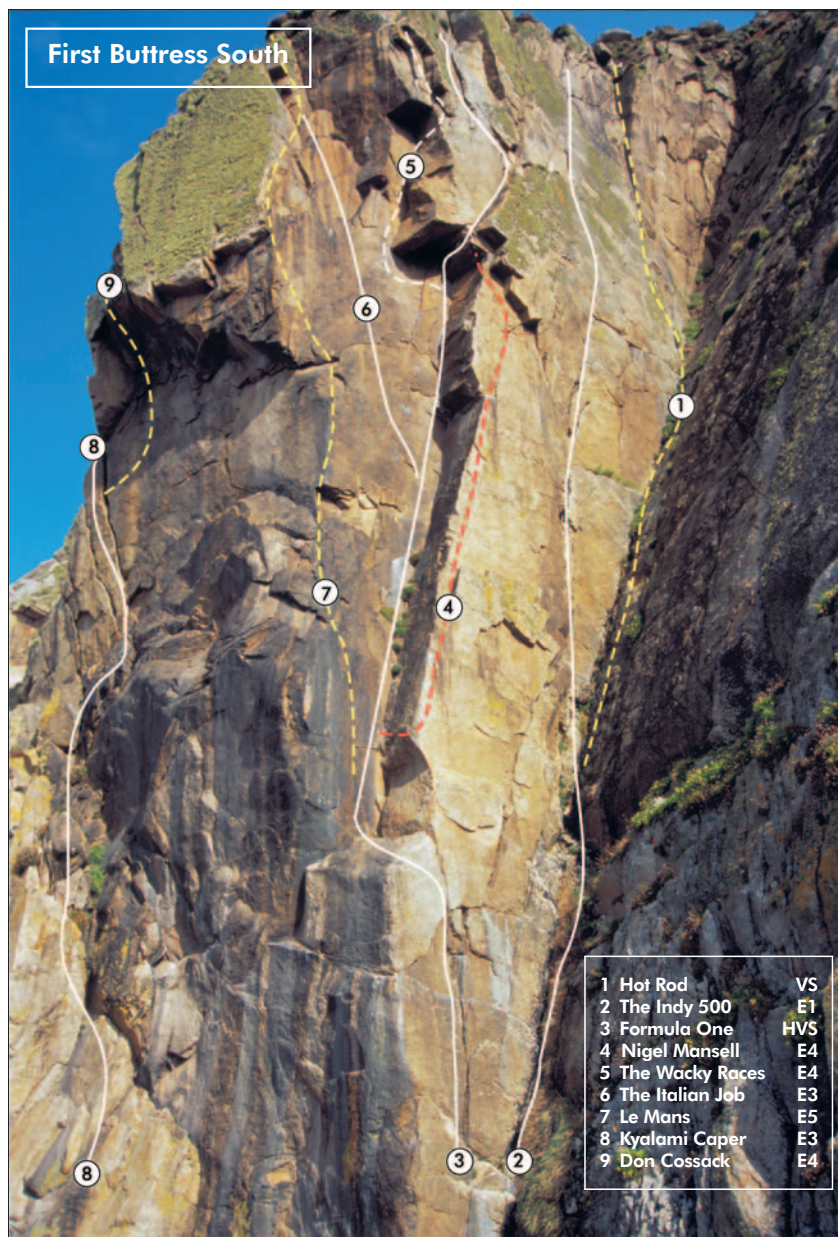
- 1 24m 4c Climb the white slab right of the main corner, and move left into the corner after 14 metres. Continue to a belay below the straight crack.
- 2 17m 4c Good jams lead directly up the steep hand-crack.

★ **The Indy 500** 41m E1 5b (22.7.84)

★ Vintage crack climbing. The clean, slanting crackline in the left wall of the large corner provides a sustained pitch with exemplary protection. The start is tricky, but keep something in the tank for a tiring finish. Start beneath the large corner. Climb the corner for 14 metres to reach the base of the vertical crackline in the left wall (belay possible). Climb the crack for 7 metres and, where it veers right, step left into a thinner vertical crack. Follow this, steeply at first but with good face holds, to a ledge. Continue up the rightward-slanting continuation crack, using face holds on the right, to the final headwall. This is taken direct on good holds and proves a fitting finale.

Nigel Mansell 40m E4 6a (27.7.87)

A bold but very contrived eliminate that struggles to keep out of *Formula One*. Follow *Formula One* to the ledge at the foot of the groove. Step around the right arête and layback up this to another ledge. Continue on the right-hand side of the arête, via a ledge, to a point where the difficulty eases. Move left and finish up the layback flake of *Formula One*.





The Indy 500 (E1)
Alex Gastra ANDREW MORRIS

First Butress North

★ **Formula One** 40m HVS 5a (6.9.72)

★ Pole position. The slim brown groove in the arête succumbs to a variety of techniques to give a tremendous pitch, perhaps the finest at its grade on the island. Start at a crack beneath the right-hand edge of the slender face. Climb the crack to a ledge at the foot of the groove and bridge up it, past a small overlap, to a much larger overlap 5 metres above. Pull round to the right and climb a rightward-slanting crack to reach the base of a fine flake on the left. Layback the flake to a grandstand finish.

★ **The Wacky Races** 40m E4 5c † (21.6.89)

Dastardly. A bold and airy direct finish to *Formula One*. Follow *Formula One* to just below the large overlap. Move left around the overlap, go up a groove, and trend rightwards to rejoin *Formula One* briefly. Step up and leftwards into a bottomless corner and follow this before exiting out left onto the wall and a ledge. Finish carefully.

★ **The Italian Job** 40m E3 5c (24.7.84)

A wandering line that attempts to climb the narrow wall left of *Formula One*. Follow *Formula One* to the small overlap. Swing left and up to a notch on the arête, stand up in a thin break, and trend rightwards up the face using a thin crack (peg) to rejoin *Formula One* at the large overlap. Traverse left across the face to the arête and finish boldly up a shallow groove.

★ **Le Mans** 38m E5 6b (27.7.87)

★ The direct ascent of the arête of the butress gives a nicely exposed and technical pitch with good protection where needed. Start as for *Formula One*. Follow a crack to a ledge at the foot of a groove and proceed up a thin crack in the left wall to a good flake. Step right and climb the right-hand side of the arête to the obvious notch. A technical sequence leads up and left onto the arête. Continue with difficulty (peg) to reach the slim groove and finish of *The Italian Job*.

Kyalami Caper 39m E3 (31.7.84)

Interesting and varied climbing linking a series of cracks and grooves in the front face of the butress. Start beneath broken rock 9 metres left of *Formula One*.

1 12m Climb up slabs and cracks to a belay on a ledge below prominent twin cracks.

2 27m 5c Climb the cracks and pull out left onto a ledge below an overhanging finger-flake. Go up the flake to a jug, standing on which provides the crux, and continue up the slabby, overlapped groove to its top. Scramble up the ridge to block belays.

Variation

Don Cossack E4 🌿 †

2a 25m 6a A very committing piece of climbing. Start up the twin cracks of *Kyalami Caper*, but pull out diagonally rightwards into the centre of the vegetated face. Find the holds and move up into a slim groove, which leads to an unstable finish.

On the south-facing wall of the small ridge crossed on the approach to First Butress South is an overhang and short crack, **Quickdraw HB** (10m VS 4c 6.4.88).

First Butress North

OS Ref 1292 4462

This is the clean butress overlooking the north side of the descent gully. Its southern facet presents a white crystalline face with a prominent arête to its left. The butress dries quickly after rain, and is easily accessible and non tidal.

Approach The butress lies at the foot of the descent gully. High up on the right-hand side of the butress is a clean arête, prominent when viewed from the top of the descent route. It can be approached via the unstable terrain below but perhaps more wisely by abseil from good block belays high on the slope above.

First Buttress North

1 Scabble	HVS
2 Naughty but Nice	E3
3 Ice	E3
4 I Scream	E6
5 Road Runner	VS - E3
6 Wile E Coyote	E3
7 Centaur	HVS



First Buttress North

Al's Arête 25m E1 5b (1.8.01)

The arête gives a rather scruffy pitch with some bold but worthwhile climbing. Start on a good ledge at the foot of the arête. Climb easily up to a large overlap and pull over with difficulty to an easing in angle. Continue up the arête on good but well-spaced holds.

Spider Blood Pump 26m E4 6b † (1.8.01)

A fierce, technical pitch climbing the thin crackline in the wall left of Al's Arête. Start just left of the arête, beneath a corner. Go easily up the corner to a ledge below a thin, leftward-slanting crack. Steep finger-jamming leads to an impasse where the crack closes. Difficult moves gain the wider continuation crack, which is followed to block belays.

At the foot of the descent gully are some large boulders beneath a clean white face.

Scabble 52m HVS (2.4.72)

An interesting route that wanders up the right-hand side of the buttress and manages to find some worthwhile climbing. Start below the right-hand side of the white face.

1 21m 4c Trend rightwards over easy slabs and ramps to a streaked wall. Avoid this on the right in favour of a slight groove leading to a ledge and belay.

2 11m 4c Stride down and left to a corner and follow this to a peg and nut belay in the back of a large recess.

3 20m 5b Climb the groove above and step right into a second groove. Traverse right with difficulty along a break to a small ledge, and then go up and slightly left to a recess. Traverse right and finish up grassy slabs left of a long vegetated corner.

Variation

2a 24m HVS 5b Move right to a crack and follow it to a ledge. Go over this onto a sloping shelf beneath a small chimney and then layback up to good holds above. Finish more easily.

The following four routes are often climbed as far as an *in-situ* peg and nut belay in the large recess at half height. This was replaced in 2005 but, like all *in-situ* gear, should be approached with caution.

Naughty but Nice 27m E3 5c (22.9.85)

Surprisingly worthwhile climbing, taking the faint crack and corner in the right-hand side of the white face. Climb the thin crack, right of the main crack of Ice, to its end. Step right and move up through a notch onto the slab above. Continue up the corner to the *in-situ* belay in the recess. Climb Ice pitch 2 or abseil off.

★ Ice 42m E3 (13.8.80)

Cool climbing up the enticing thin crack in the centre of the white face. The first pitch is probably the most fallen-off on the island; fortunately, good small wire protection is plentiful. If the second pitch is omitted the overall grade is reduced to E2.

1 27m 6a Gain and climb the thin crack, with escalating difficulties, to a slab. Climb the left edge of this to the *in-situ* belay. A superb pitch, perhaps a technical grade easier for the tall.

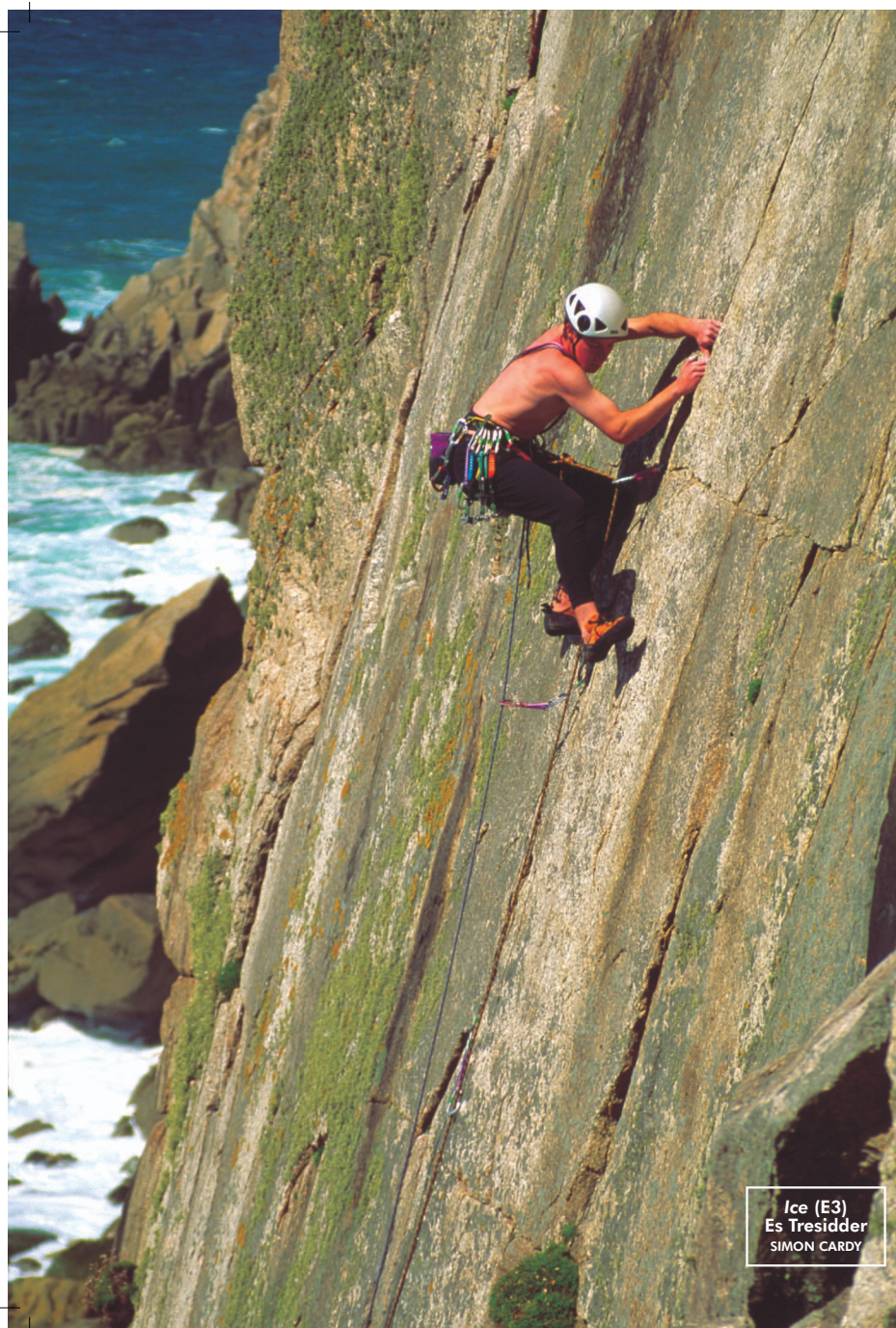
2 15m 5c Above and to the right lurks an overhanging groove, entry into which proves trying. Continue awkwardly before a step left gains the summit ridge.

I Scream 27m E6 6b (17.8.84)

Certainly not Ice Cream! An extremely difficult but very contrived pitch finding a line up the centre of the white sheet left of Ice. Protection is not overly abundant. Climb the crack of Ice for a few metres before stepping left to a flat block. A desperate thin crack leads to a good hold. Continue direct to the final thin break (poor small wires). Take a deep breath, check those wires again, and tackle the headwall to reach the *in-situ* belay in the recess. Abseil off.



Road Runner (VS to E3)
climber unknown BERNARD NEWMAN



Ice (E3)
Es Tresidder
SIMON CARDY

Second Buttress North

★ Road Runner 42m E3 (9.9.72)

★ The first pitch takes the superb snaking crack in the left-hand side of the white face and gives enjoyable climbing usually done in its own right at tough VS. The second pitch turns the overhangs above to their left. Start on a jumbled pile of boulders beneath the arête.

1 27m 4c Gain the crack and follow it on good holds and jams to the *in-situ* belay in the recess below the overhangs.

2 15m 6b Above in the left wall is a peg. Unlock the sequence to pass the peg (using it for aid, gives an overall grade of E1 5b) to gain a good hidden hold up and to the left. Swing out left above the void and follow the obvious flake to the summit ridge.

★ Wile E Coyote 40m E3 5c (25.7.84)

★ The arête of the buttress gives a disappointing climb for such a fine line. Climb the crack of *Road Runner* for 4 metres. Step down and traverse intricately left across a blade of rock to reach a crack. Climb the crack to its end and step right onto the arête, which is followed on its right-hand side to some cracks. From the top of these, strenuous moves lead up and left onto the easier flake-line of *Centaur*. Continue up *Centaur* onto the summit ridge.

To the left of the arête is a brown face divided by a series of overhangs and pierced by a chimney/groove-line.

★ Centaur 48m HVS (30.5.72)

★ A fine and varied route with a short, well-protected crux. Start beneath the west face of the buttress and scramble over easy ground to a belay where the angle steepens.

1 18m 4a Trend rightwards over slabby rock to nut belays at the foot of the chimney/groove-line.

2 30m 5b Struggle up the chimney to a roof and move right to a ledge. Continue up to the large overhang above and turn it on its right. Move around the arête to a small ledge (peg) and climb the groove above. Proceed easily up a ramp to where it steepens and make some tricky moves to gain a wide flake. Easier ground leads to the summit ridge and a belay.

★ A Wiggy Trip on Jugs 48m HVS (19.8.95)

★ An exciting and worthwhile alternative to the top pitch of *Centaur*.

1 18m 4a *Centaur* pitch 1.

2 30m 5b Follow the chimney of *Centaur* for 6 metres until it is possible to move left beneath an oval roof. Turn this on its left-hand side and step up into a niche. Swing left into the base of a leftward-trending crackline and follow this onto the summit ridge.

Second Buttress North

OS Ref 1292 4468

The buttress is easily identified by an enormous yellow scar and is bounded to the left by a stepped ramp-line with a smaller subsidiary buttress to its left. Only the routes at the left-hand end are tidal.

Approach The buttress can be reached by a time-consuming non-tidal boulder-hop from below First Buttress North.

The yellow scar is all that remains of the original Second Buttress North, which now resides amidst the jumbled blocks at the foot of the cliff. The prominent stepped ramp-line is climbed by the aptly named **Loose Living** (55m VS 4b 11.10.81). A peg belay is available at the second 'step' for any would-be swingers.