



Crystal Slabs Area

Two hundred metres to the east of Crocksydram Point is an area of folded slabs which are most easily seen from the headland of Mewsford Point to the east. These fine clean slabs offer some excellent lower grade pitches with relatively easy access and nothing in the way of tidal considerations to be made. It must be emphasized that there still remains some loose rock at the top of the pitches and for this reason care should be taken by all, whether attempting to execute an exit or enjoying the boulder field below. It is also advisable to use cams on the lower cracks of this slab as on occasion it has been known for other runners to 'un-zip' when leaders have taken a fall; this has led to a number of serious accidents.

Wallbanger (E4)
Adam Mulholland ROB LISNEY



Follow the coastal path from Stack Rocks car park past the Cauldron until a modern cattle fence comes into view on the left of the track. Cut back to the cliff top path and follow it across to Crocksydam Point. Scramble down a steep path starting 20 metres left (east) of the high point of Crocksydam Point, to a ramp that leads under Levitation Wall to a non-tidal boulder field at the base of Crystal Slabs. Take extra precautions when wet. There is a large white central slab, 50 metres high at its apex and characterized by rightwards-leaning cracks and a steep central overlap that spans the full width of the cliff: this gives the hardest sections of the routes that cross it. The main slab is flanked on either side by subsidiary slabs.

Levitation Wall

OS Ref 9365 9429

Aspect	South facing
Approach time	25 minutes
Tidal considerations	Non tidal

This is the steep wall about 50 metres to the west of the main slab and is passed on the way to Crystal Slabs. The crack in the overhanging wall is taken by *Levitation*: this is just to the right of a wider, chimney-like crack taken by **Captain Cat and the Fish-Head**



Nibblers (17m VD Adsheed 26.7.86). **Horsefly** (17m VS 4c Barry 27.6.09) takes the biting crack in the recessed, flat, quartzite wall right of *Captain Cat*...

1 Pump Up the Volume 18m E3 5c

Head towards blocks up and left of the chimney crack left of *Levitation* and swing right onto the wall via a small spike. Make a long reach past curious undercuts on the lip of a bulge to good holds and finish straight up the headwall.

FA D Carroll, P Donnithorne 20.3.93

2 Levitation 20m HVS 5b

Start below a prominent spike of rock at 3 metres. Climb up past the spike and climb the thinner right-hand crack, with occasional holds in the left-hand crack, to a spectacular finish on jugs. Climb the vertical wall above to a recess with cracks up higher.

FA R East, L East 18.10.81

3 Packed Lunch 18m E1 5b

The overhanging corner and crack 2 metres right of *Levitation*.

FA P Donnithorne, D Carroll 20.3.93

At the right-hand end of the wall is a big corner leading to an overhanging cracked wall. There has been a rockfall in the left wall of the corner.

4 Overhead Cam 18m E1 5b †

Climb the corner for 6 metres and continue steeply leftwards onto a ramp leading to a ledge. Finish rightwards.

FA P Donnithorne, D Carroll 20.3.93

5 Crankshaft 18m E2 5b †

Follow *Overhead Cam* but continue for a metre or so to the next line on the left wall. A pumpy corner and undercuts lead to good flake holds and a finish at the top of that route.

FA D Carroll, P Donnithorne 20.3.93

The Crystal Block

OS Ref 9365 9428

Aspect	South facing
Approach time	25 minutes
Tidal considerations	Mid-tide boulders; low tide to get around the end of Crystal Facet

Directly below Levitation Wall is a square promontory with a narrow zawn on either side. This is The Crystal Block. Descend by abseil to a mid-tide boulder beach and ledges, or at low tide traverse under Crystal Facet Buttress to the same point.

The vertical crack 20 metres west of the block is **Storm in an A-Cup** (15m VS 4c Cave 12.4.08).

6 Freddie's Laces 15m HVS 5a †

From the foot of the buttress, climb up to the overhang and finish via a leftward-trending crack.

FA S Newman, J Newman 9.4.07

On the west face of the Crystal Block is a large slab, itself a useful escape route: **Crystal Block Slab** (15m VD 4b Barry 11.8.07) mantelshelves onto the slab with difficulty and trends rightwards towards the arête, finishing via some large flakes. It is also possible to climb straight up above the ledge at S 4b.

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The following pitches are on the seaward face and start from some tidal ledges:

7 Crystal Block Arête 15m VD

Take the left arête on spiky holds to finish just left of a big jammed block.

FA D Carroll S 20.3.93

8 Plane Polars 17m HS 4b

The vague crackline right of *Crystal Block Arête*, passing left of a small nose to finish right of the jammed block.

FA D Carroll S 20.3.93

9 Hornblende Buttress 17m HVS 5a

Follow the crest of the buttress left of the recess with delicate moves to finish where the crack disappears.

FA D Carroll S 20.3.93

10 Resection 15m VD

The right-hand, open corner: climb the twin cracks to the large ledge before moving right to finish up the corner.

FA N Barry S 11.8.07

11 Powder Finger 15m HVS 5a

Climb the left-hand side of the right arête of the wall. Surprisingly well protected.

FA P Donnithorne, D Carroll 20.3.93

The following routes are on the east side of The Crystal Block i.e. the west wall of the zawn, between The Crystal Block and Crystal Facet Buttress.

★ 12 Midas Shadow 17m E1 5b

Start 2 metres from the left-hand side of the wall; climb diagonally right (thread) and finish via the obvious crackline.

FA P Donnithorne, D Carroll 20.3.93

★ 13 Line of Cleavage 15m E1 5b

Starting from a big boulder in the trench, climb slightly rightwards, then up and left to reach a pair of spikes. Finish via the crack above.

FA D Carroll, P Donnithorne 20.3.93

14 All That Glitters 15m E3 6a

From the start of *Line of Cleavage*, climb straight up via a difficult rockover to a thin crack on the right.

FA D Viggers, D Carroll 27.3.93

15 Isn't Gold 15m E2 5c

Good climbing. Trend rightwards and up from the start of *Line of Cleavage* to a blunt spike. Gain the right-hand crackline on the face and follow this to a move right to finish.

FA D Carroll, D Viggers 27.3.93

Crystal Facet Buttress

OS Ref 9366 9423

Aspect	South facing
Approach time	25 minutes
Tidal considerations	Mid tide

Crystal Facet Buttress



On the east side of the zawn is a slabby wall forming part of a narrow promontory.

16 Crystal Facet 15m S 4b

The diagonal crackline.

FA D Carroll S 20.3.93

17 Crystal Facet Arête 15m HVS 5b

The seaward arête of the narrow promontory. Make difficult moves up the left side of the overhanging seaward end (or around to the left at 4c). Step right to an easy crackline. Scramble to the top.

FA D Carroll S 20.3.93

18 Another Facet 14m VS 4b

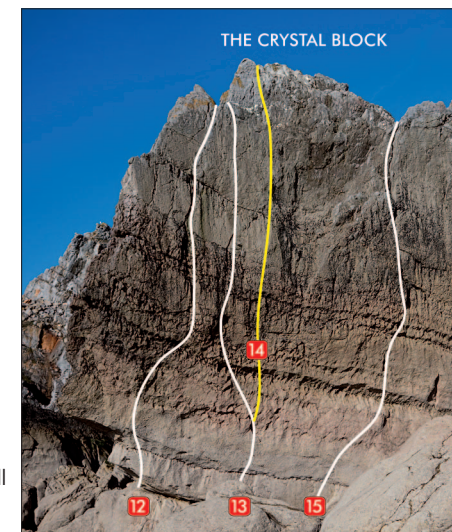
This route is situated on the east face of the narrow promontory. Start below a smooth boulder at the high-tide line. Traverse left on painful holds to easier ground and go up a ramp to some blocky flakes. Steep moves leftwards gain good holds to finish. At lower tides a less painful start may be made from the next boulder to the left.

FA D Carroll S 7.4.02

19 A Different Facet 12m HVS 5a

From the start of *Another Facet*, a hard move leftwards with feet at the level of two flakes leads to a spiky crack. Finish via the crack and corner.

FA D Carroll S 7.4.02



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20 Not a Facet 10m D

The fine slabby jamming crack on the seaward side of the large boulder 20 metres to the right. Shame it's not longer.

FA N Barry S 10.8.07

Crystal Slabs

OS Ref 9369 9430

Aspect	South facing
Approach time	25 minutes
Tidal considerations	Non tidal

21 Bloodstone 39m VS 4b

The narrow raised slab to the west of the main white slab, dominated on the left by a conglomerate wall. Start amid the large boulders at the base of the slab. Climb a crack and the slab until it is possible to move left into the corner crack. Follow this until some harder moves near poor rock on the left force the slab to be taken once again. Exit with caution on the right.

FA S Bartlett, A Clergyman 28.8.78

22 Sloose 30m HVS 4c

This is the main corner to the right of the raised narrow slab of *Bloodstone*, climbed direct.

FA T Thomas, B Gookey 10.4.82

The main slab is bounded on the left by a long grassy crackline which looks like a vertical moustache. This slab has a number of cracks which are the basis for almost all of the routes, although they were originally, rather confusingly, numbered from right to left!

23 The First Waltz 50m HVS 5a

Climb the white crystalline slab to the right of the 'moustache' and the first proper crackline on the slab. At the steepening, finish via the left-hand, thinner crack just to the right of the moustache.

FA D. Cook 7.4.80. Direct start P Donnithorne, P Shepard 21.3.08

24 Sixth Crack 50m VS 4c

The first main crack on the slab climbed direct has a more fragmented upper section.

FA T Daniells & party 6.4.80

★ 25 The Gadfly 50m VS 4c

Fine climbing but sustained at the grade. Start below the second main crack from the left. Climb the crack, moving left to reach the bulging overlap at 15 metres, and pull through it onto the wall above. Using a thin break, move leftwards into the crack to the left and finish directly up this.

FA K Wilson, J Curran 5.4.80

26 Crystal Powers 50m E1 5b

An eliminate between *Gadfly* and *Razzle Dazzle*, climbing the slab between the two, overcoming the bulge via a faint crack and attempting to avoid the adjacent routes above.

FA D Carroll, H Carroll, S Carroll 7.4.02

★ 27 Razzle Dazzle 45m VS 4c

The main central line of the slabs gives excellent climbing. Start at the third crack from the left. Climb the crack to the overlap and utilize a pair of thin cracks to gain access to



the wall above. Move leftwards along a thin, finger-traverse break into the next crack to the left and follow this to the top.

FA K Wilson, J Perrin 4.4.80

28 The Crucifix 50m VS 4c

Start in a niche to the right of *Razzle Dazzle* and climb the rightwards-slanting crack over the steepening. Continue up cracks and move up and left to finish.

FA P Carling, S Hennessey 17.4.81

★ 29 Michelangelo 50m VS 4c

The staggered right-hand crack gives another worthwhile pitch. Climb the crack 3 metres to the right of *The Crucifix* to reach the overlap and pull through it to gain the continuation of the crack. Follow this, trending slightly leftwards to the top.

FA J Perrin, K Wilson 4.4.80

30 Crystal Edge 50m HVS 5a

Climb the final crack on the slab, 5 metres left of the obvious curving chimney, to the bulge at the right-hand side of the face. Pull through this and continue in a direct line, keeping as close to the right-hand edge of the face as possible.

FA S Whimster, R Thomas 5.4.80

31 Highland Park 50m E1 5b

The chimney just left of the recessed slab to the right leads to a ledge. Follow the corner up to the centre of the overlap and pull over it to the steep finishing crack in the headwall.

FA P Donnithorne, J Chmeil, P Devine, J Hornsby 5.5.02

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The recessed slab to the right of the main white slabs gives **59th Street** (60m VS de Montjoye 21.10.73), a poor route climbed in three pitches, the second being 4b and the third 4a.

★ 32 Crystal Arête 45m HVS

The right arête of Crystal Slabs gives a good little route. Start by scrambling up to a belay 9 metres above the beginning of the arête.

- 1 39m 5a Climb the slab to a crack in the centre of the overlap, pull over this and continue more easily to a belay below a steep wall.
- 2 6m Climb the wall on the right to finish.

FA B Wyvil, D Cook 5.4.80

Mosaic Wall

OS Ref 9372 9432

Aspect	South facing
Approach time	25 minutes
Tidal considerations	Mid tide when approaching from Crystal Slabs; non tidal if approached by abseil

Right of Crystal Slabs and set slightly back is a vertical face seamed with cracks and punctured with recesses and small caves. It gives some excellent steep climbing on good rock. The wall is marked by a long grassy ramp at its left-hand side at the foot of which is a large pinnacle-cum-flake. To the right of this, the crack-seamed wall is bounded on the right by a cave system which is capped by a series of overlaps. This ends at a prominent pillar, to the right of which is another more overhanging pillar. This latter section is Thunder Wall.

The first two routes take the left-hand side of the wall above the long grassy ramp and to the left of a large open cave two thirds of the way up the wall. These are best gained by abseil down the wall just to the right of the upper chimney above the left-hand end of the grassy ramp. Belay on cams backed up by the abseil rope.

★ 33 Gannet Ripple 25m E3 5c †

Start at the foot of the chimney below a crack in the brown wall. Climb straight up the crack and wall above to reach some broken ledges. Continue slightly leftwards via a pocketed crack and from its close move right to another crack. Follow this past a break to finish just to the right of a pedestal.

FA D Donovan, J Marshall 26.8.08

★ 34 Stormy Petrel on a Stick 28m E3 5c †

The crack 2 metres right of the chimney and which starts at the left-hand edge of the grey-coloured rock. Climb the crack slightly rightwards and pull carefully up onto a ledge just left of the cave. Continue up the wall above (thread) to the top.

FA D Donovan, J Marshall 27.8.08

★ 35 Hole in the Wall 33m E1

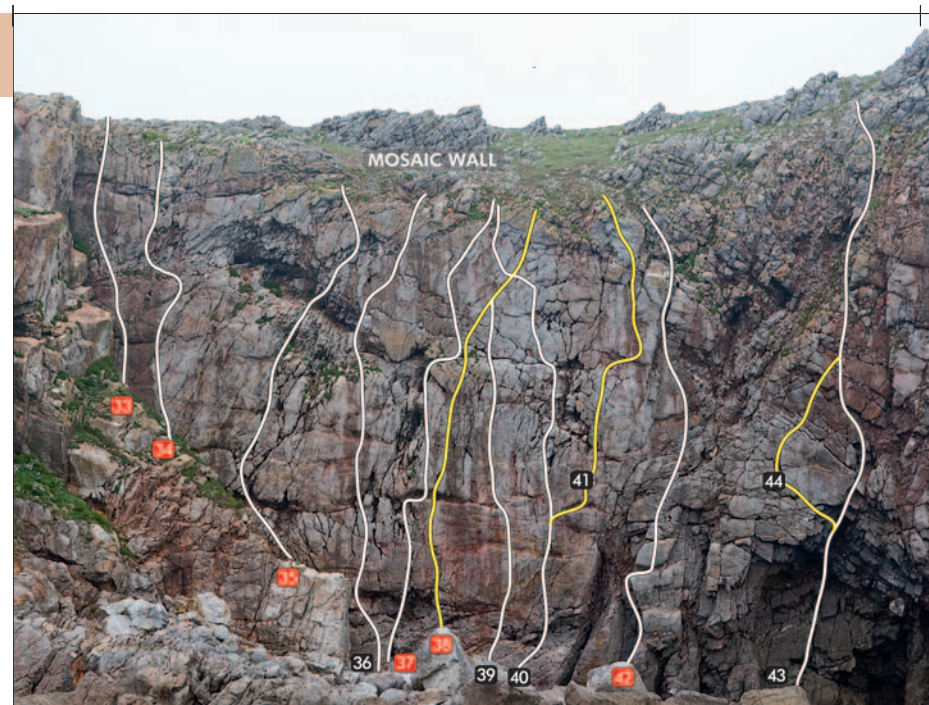
Takes a crack above the grassy ramp to reach the cave system above.

- 1 21m 4c Climb the crackline to the left of a rock scar to belay beneath the overhang.
- 2 12m 5a Step up right over the overhang and climb the wall above to a large niche. Swing left out of the top of the niche and make some steep moves to reach the top.

FA B Wyvil, D Cook [AL](#) 5.4.80

★ 36 Paint by Numbers 42m E4 †

A worthwhile first pitch. Start just right of the pinnacle-cum-flake.



- 1 24m 6a Climb leftwards to the roof and step left. Haul up on widely spaced slots and cracks to a ledge and take the wall (thread) to reach the belay of *Hole in the Wall*.
- 2 18m 5b Swing immediately right onto the slab and climb it with a steep, nasty finish just right of a niche.

FA P Donnithorne, E Alsford 28.5.95

★ 37 Mural Landscape 45m E3

A good steep route. Start in the shattered niche 5 metres to the right of the pinnacle-cum-flake.

- 1 30m 5c Pull through the roof of the niche (three threads) and climb the cracks to the overhung ledge below a wide broken chimney. Step right and follow some cracks just left of *Rollerwall* until forced into the broken chimney near the top. Step back right and go up to a ledge and belay.
- 2 15m 5b Climb straight up (peg) finishing slightly rightwards.

FA P Donnithorne, C Ryan 17.4.93

★ 38 Rollerwall 42m E3

A fine example of steep, well-protected wall climbing. Start below the steep crack 5 metres right of the pinnacle-cum-flake.

- 1 24m 5c Climb up to an overhang and pull onto the impending wall above. Continue directly using various short cracks to a good stance in a depression.
- 2 18m 5b Climb the wall over the bulge and follow some cracks to an overhung ledge. Continue up the steep cracks leading rightwards to the recess and a large spike (junction with *Wallbanger*). Continue over the bulge above to the top.

FA S Lewis, G Lewis 11.5.80

★ 39 **Bristol Cream** 42m E6 6b

An audacious pitch tackling the leaning wall to the left of the prominent jagged cracks in the right-hand side of the face. Well protected but very strenuous, a real test of stamina. Starting 2 metres left of the short, slanting chimney, climb direct to the second of two irregular breaks. Step left, ease through the bulge on pockets, and make a draining reach up and to the left (peg) to gain a thin crack. Trend rightwards up the wall above using a sequence of blind pockets to gain another crack. Continue straight up the thin crack in the centre of the wall (thread) to finish as *Rollerwall* finishes. It is possible to gain the wall above the peg via moves along a diagonal crack branching right from *Rollerwall*: **Public Anemone** (42m E5 6b † Pritchard 4.94).

FA M Crocker, M Ward 25.5.87

★ 40 **Wallbanger** 42m E4

The original route of the wall and one well worth seeking out: fine, steep, and very well-protected climbing throughout, just bring some big muscles! Start at the same point as *Bristol Cream*.

1 24m 5c Climb up to an overhang and pull onto the impending wall above via the jagged crackline. Continue straight up, utilizing various short cracks, to a good stance in a depression.

2 18m 5c Climb easily to a ledge on the left and continue directly for 6 metres before moving left to a large spike in a recess. Move up and then diagonally leftwards across the steep wall to good finishing holds. Belay a little higher.

FA P Littlejohn, G Lewis 23.3.80

★ 41 **Out on the Tiles** 36m E4 6a †

Continuously interesting climbing on good rock throughout. Follow *Wallbanger* for 9 metres until it moves left: swing right along a shelf and take the wall right of the recess direct until a horizontal band of overlaps is reached. Step right and follow a prominent brown streak to an airy finish via a rock tower.

FA J Arran 5.5.02

★ 42 **Digital Tapestry** 45m E3 5c †

Start 6 metres right of *Wallbanger* at the right-hand end of two gangways leading up to a rubble-filled niche. Climb the right-hand gangway to a small ledge on the right. Now take a direct line (two threads) and then go up a wide crack to exit onto a large ledge 6 metres below the roof. Finish leftwards.

FA P Donnithorne, R Parker 27.3.93

★ 43 **Rude Route** 48m E6 †

A very impressive outing through the left-hand side of the huge cave to the right. Start below a hanging, bottomless chimney in the roof of the cave 15 metres to the right.

1 21m 6b Climb the wall to enter the bottomless chimney with difficulty and ascend this for 9 metres until it peters out. A difficult swing left out onto the front face of the buttress leads to better holds and a hanging belay.

2 27m 5b Climb the loose wall to an even looser rightwards-leaning ramp.

FA P Pritchard, N Craine 14.4.93

★ 44 **The Rude Roof** 51m E6 †

1a 24m 6b Follow *Rude Route* to the base of the chimney and then follow a line of holds out leftwards across the overhanging wall with difficulty. Follow a break around onto the front face of the buttress and continue up to the belay of *Rude Route*.

FA G Smith, P Pritchard 4.94

Thunder Wall

OS Ref 9378 9429

Aspect	South facing
Approach time	30 minutes
Tidal considerations	Mid to low tide needed for access
Climbing restrictions	1 March to 1 August *

*On parts of the cliff; check leaflets, notice boards, and websites for details.

This is the great impending bastion to the right of Mosaic Wall. It appears to be very loose on first acquaintance but much of the loose material is well cemented together. The base of the cliff is sea washed around high tide. Approach as for Crystal Slabs and walk to the eastern end of the boulder beach at the foot of the wall.

★ 45 **Concrete Jungle** 66m E3

Tackles a system of cracks to the right of the rubble bands which bound Mosaic Wall on the right. The route finishes just right of a nose of rock at the top of the cliff and the last 5 metres are quite loose, justifying a short fixed rope. Start by climbing into the rubble-filled groove right of Mosaic Wall.

1 18m 5a Enter the groove on the left and cross it to a ramp with an obvious crack. Step right to climb an overlap on large holds and continue up the crack above to a small belay ledge on the left.

2 18m 5b Step up and traverse 5 metres to the right. Continue up to a small hole and follow the crack above to a very small stance 3 metres below a reddish band of overhangs.

3 30m 5a Follow a series of good holds to the overhangs and swing right before continuing directly to reach the upper part of the rubble ramp. Follow the ramp up to the right and make some exposed moves on loose rock to finish just right of the block.

FA G Lewis, C Curle 28.6.80

★ 46 **Thunderdome** 47m E4

Start beneath a chimney midway between the two large caves at the base of the wall. A superb but serious and sustained route. Just adequate protection.

1 15m 5a Climb the corner and traverse left into the overhanging chimney which is followed until an exit can be made onto a good ledge on the left.

2 32m 5c Go diagonally leftwards to ledges below the central depression on the crag and then take the left-hand side of the depression as it gradually steepens to below the final bulges. Move rightwards up an overhanging chimney and crackline to a steep layback move to finishing jugs in a wild position: take care with some of the rock on this pitch.

FA D Carroll, D Viggers 27.3.93

★ 47 **Thunderbolt** 57m XS

The major central line which cleaves the steep wall. Serious to start, steep and well protected above.

1 15m 5a *Thunderdome* pitch 1.

2 42m 5c Climb carefully up the groove above until a pull over a bulge leads to easier ground. Above, the crack steepens to a fine finish.

FA D Donovan, P Shepherd 10.10.09

★ 48 **Thunderbird** 59m E2

The central line of weakness on Thunder Wall gives straightforward climbing with a serious feel to it. The rock is much sounder than initial appearances might suggest, honest!

1 15m 5a *Thunderdome* pitch 1.

2 23m 5a Take the exposed groove leading diagonally rightwards and climb steeply through a break in the overhang. Move right to gain an obvious open groove bounded





on the right by brown rock and follow it to reach a small stance where the groove kinks to the right and the wall on the left becomes overhanging.

3 21m **4c** Continue up the groove to reach easier ground before the top.

FA C Heard, S Lewis 28.6.80

49 Line of Loosed Resistance 60m E4 †

This aptly-named route follows the rightwards curving lip of the enormous arch at the right-hand end of the cliff to a very exposed finale.

1 21m **5c** Follow the crack in the arête as it curves rightwards to a poor stance.

Thankfully, this pitch is not as loose as it looks.

2 39m **5c** Continue rightwards onto the brown wall and climb this rightwards in a good position to the top.

FA C Waddy, G Smith [AL](#) 1993

☆ **50 The Matrix 50m E2 †**

An exposed excursion above the cave right of *Thunderbird* on strange but sound rock. Start just right of the cave on a non-tidal ledge gained either by a traverse across the foot of the cave at low tide or directly by abseil.

1 20m **5a** Move up easily, then leftwards above the lip of the cave to belay in a white niche.

2 30m **5b** Swing left into another niche and gain a hanging slab. Big pulls (thread) lead up and right to easier ground and a leftwards finish.

FA P Donnithorne, E Alsford, N Doust 14.7.02

51 The Unborn Pioneer 50m E1 †

1 20m **5a** *The Matrix* pitch 1.

2 30m **5b** Steep climbing above pitch 1 of *The Matrix*.

FA N Doust, P Donnithorne 4.8.02