



Root Route (D) Jack Bradbrook MARK DAVIES

Hollow Rock Buttress

From just below and right of the tunnel entrance, (i.e. its upper, northern, end) a better ledge than the one above runs out rightwards to some trees at the toe of the ridge: *Snoozin' Suzie* and *A Right Carry On* start here. The subsequent routes start at ground-level either side of the tunnel exit and finish on the ridge.

The Hollow Rock Area

The first routes, however, pull directly over the tunnel entrance and take the cracks above to finish at awkward belays on the upper ledge, whence it is possible to traverse off left with care to the twin-trunk tree.

12 Lego Pensioner 9m E1 5c (6.5.84)
Start in the centre of the handrail above the tunnel. Ape up leftwards to reach the left-hand, slanting crack. Finish easily.

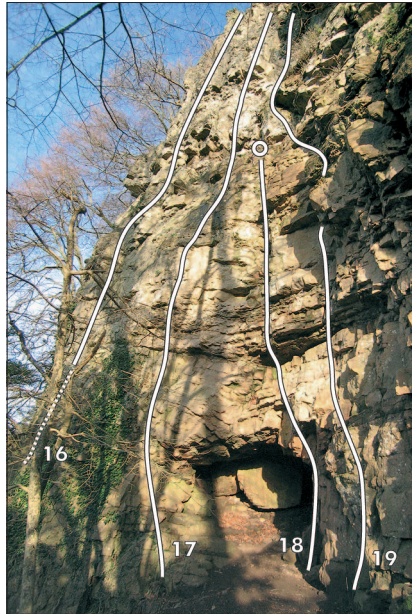
13 Meccano Kid 9m E1 5c (6.6.81)
Start as for *Lego Pensioner*, but yard up rightwards to gain the right-hand crack (beware of a loose hold at its base). Finish with assistance from pockets on the left.
Variation: **Magic** (E2 5c 6.95) makes the first couple of moves of *Meccano Kid*, but continues straight up over the bulge, keeping clear of the routes either side.

★ **14 Snoozin' Suzie 40m VD** (1.1.75)
★ A mini mountaineering experience, hugely popular and with great positions and views. Start on the lower ledge at the toe of the ridge.

1 30m Climb the slab just left of the arête past a small overhang. Step left to a ledge on its top, and go diagonally left to reach a prominent crack, which is climbed to a tree (belay possible). Climb the groove above, taking care with the rock, to tree and huge block belays on the ridge. Walk along the ridge to the base of a short tottering arête. From here, either abseil or scramble down with assistance from tree roots, or:
2 10m Carefully climb the arête. Tree belays well back.

★ **15 A Right Carry On 30m HS 4b** (27.8.84)

A worthwhile and adventurous variation on *Snoozin' Suzie*, centred on the arête just to the right. Climb as for that route to the ledge on top of the first overhang. Move right below the prominent overhanging blocks, and pull over these. Then climb straight up the arête, passing just right of *Snoozin' Suzie*'s tree (give yourself a VS tick if you resist the temptation to stand on it), and continue in the same line to the top in a fine position.



16 Jewel in the Crown

34m E2 5a (13.9.87)

Very sparsely protected, and vegetation is becoming troublesome. Start at ground level 3 metres left of the tunnel exit, or at the extreme right-hand end of the *Snoozin' Suzie* starting ledge. Climb up to a short corner at 8 metres; climb it (crux), and pull up left at its top. Continue more easily past some large blocks that look poised for a dive into the river but turn out to seem quite solidly attached. A fine rightward-slanting crack (with good protection at last) finishes just to the left of the small pinnacle at the *Snoozin' Suzie* belay.

17 Too Loose for the Shrieking Goose

30m E3 5c (15.8.88)

Potentially very serious as the crux moves depend on a tied-off peg in a hollow flake. Start at the left-hand side of the tunnel exit, below the peg. Climb up to a crumbly break and place as many cams as you can. Clip the peg and make a couple of hard moves to reach better rock and protection. Continue easily, avoiding loose rock to the

left, to reach a series of ledges. Step across left to a smaller ledge and climb the steep wall on good holds to the top.

18 Heroes 13m E2 5b (12.10.09)

Start just right of the tunnel exit. Climb to the break and clip a peg just above. Pull over the overhang and continue steeply past a small cave to two *in-situ* nuts.

★ 19 Biblin Wall 30m HVS 5b (1971)

This route has seen better days though, with care, it is viable at the grade. There is a fair amount of debris on the ledges, and some vegetation has to be cleared as you go. Start at the right-hand side of the tunnel exit, and climb up to the roof via a short groove, which is the crux. Move right around the roof and up to ledges below a dangerous-looking groove containing a dead oak. Wade leftwards along the highest ledge to a black, right-facing corner. Climb the corner for 3 metres and then move out onto its left arête. Climb this to a finish up broken rock.

The Terrace

The wall to the right of Hollow Rock Buttress is split by a mid-height terrace. The lower tier is of poor quality and now largely covered in ivy, and only one route, *Phizzog*, has a viable lower pitch. In complete contrast, the steep upper wall has some excellent lines on good, clean rock and a sunny aspect on winter afternoons.

Only *Phizzog* is described here in full; the remaining lines are described as starting on the terrace, which will have to be gained from *Phizzog* or (taking great care) by abseiling in from the ridge. Good nut belays exist in the crack of *The Navy* and on *Phizzog*.

The routes all finish on the level section of the ridge between the two pitches of *Snoozin' Suzie*. Reach the top by climbing the latter, or make a short descent via tree roots to the base of Green Slab.

20 High Jack 15m E1 5b

Start beneath the recessed overhang near the left-hand end of the terrace. Move up



to the overhang and then awkwardly out right into an exposed position. Climb the crack above.

21 Take Fewer Puffs

15m E2 5c (13.1.91)

Good moves over the overhang just left of *The Navy*. Pull over the overhang on the left of the belay on excellent holds to reach a peg above. Using layaways, gain a jug above the peg and finish rightwards up the arête.

22 The Navy 15m E1 5b (1969-72)

A gritstone-style route taking the overhanging crack that slices through the roof above the terrace. Take care passing the blocks in the bank at the top.

23 Crunch 15m E4 6a (25.11.08)

Start a metre left of the projecting block of *Absent Friends*. Make hard moves up to incut fingerholds and a good nut placement. Pull up to a large flat hold and swing left to jugs (peg above). Make a

long move up to a pocket, which brings easy ground within reach.

The next two routes start 3 metres right of the crack of *The Navy*, where a rattling cairn of blocks masquerades as a ledge and a large square block protrudes alarmingly from the lip of the overhang above the terrace. There is a poor thread belay, best backed up by nuts in *Phizzog* 3 metres to the right.

24 Looking through Gary Gibson's Eyes 15m E2 5c (1981)

Gain the block as for *Absent Friends*; then make a hard move up and climb the leaning wall slightly leftwards to the top.

25 Absent Friends 18m E2 5b (3.5.80)

Unusual and entertaining. Step up onto the wobbly ledge and move up to reach a large projecting block. Straddle the block and reach holds on the wall on the right. Make a couple of moves up this wall to reach easy ground and a tree belay, or continue to the top.

Symonds Yat

The following two routes may both be climbed as single pitches from the ground.

★ **26 Phizzog** 24m HVS (7.74)

Start on the cliff-base path, just past the sharp left bend. A solitary area of ivy-free rock leads up over ledges to a short groove through an overhang. This is directly below the upper groove, identified as the one with a small tree in it.

1 9m 4b Climb up over easy ledges to the overhang. Pull over using holds above and right, and continue to the terrace. Nut belay in the crack just to the right.

2 15m 5a A great pitch. Climb the crack to reach the overhang. Using a large hold on the lip, pull up left into the groove and climb it to the tree. Move leftwards around the tree and then go straight up.

★ **27 Diamond Groove** 18m VS 4c (1972)

From the *Phizzog* belay at the right-hand end of the terrace, traverse 2 metres right on good footholds, which are normally buried under the rampant ivy. Climb over the overhang above and on up the groove until it closes in an inverted V. Make delicate moves up and across the wall on the right to a crack, which leads to easier ground and a large tree at the top.

Variations

Rough Diamond HVS 5a

After surmounting the initial overhang, move up left and climb the subsidiary groove formed by the arête of the main groove and a short pillar. The initial overhang may have been climbed more directly, but ivy complicates the launching moves.

Direct Finish E1 5b

From where the groove closes in the inverted V, some steep fingery and bridging moves lead to a gradual easing.

The Russian Sector

After rising below the Terrace, the path from the tunnel reaches the main cliff below a classic-looking groove – *The Russian*; and splitting the next wall to the right is the superb crackline of *Red Rose Speedway*. The first four routes finish on the level section of the ridge, below the last

pitch of *Snoozin' Suzie*, while *Mockingbird* and *Red Rose Speedway* reach its very top.

★ **28 The Beak** 24m E2 5b (1972)

Steep climbing on good holds in an exposed situation. Unfortunately, there is some loose rock near the start. Start at the foot of *The Russian*. Climb diagonally left to a ledge and step left to the base of a broken crack. Move carefully up to better rock and follow the crack past an ancient and twisted peg to reach better holds above and a resting place. Continue more easily to finish at a tree belay just left of *The Russian*.

★ **29 Scooby Doo** 24m HVS 5a (1972)

The attractive slim groove in the left arête of *The Russian* is worthwhile despite its lack of independence. The traditional start via *The Beak* involves some alarmingly loose-looking rock, and is deprecated in favour of *The Russian*. Follow *The Russian* until it is possible to move out left onto good footholds where the groove starts to form itself. Climb the groove to a small tree and a ledge on its left atop the arête. Finish up *The Russian*.

★ **30 The Russian** 21m HVS 5a

A notorious, albeit classic, route which carries the sternest of health warnings. The climbing is at the upper limit of the grade and due care and attention are required with regard to both the rock and the protection, particularly in the first 8 metres. Climb up to the base of the groove. Continue bridging with increasing difficulty until things start to ease in the last few metres. Exit rightwards at the very top.

★ **31 White Orchid** 22m E5 6a † (1.5.09)

A bold eliminate with some lovely moves. Start just right of *The Russian* as for *Monsterific*, and follow that route to its poor peg. Now pursue a direct line to the bulge and make hard moves through it. A decisive reach up the clean wall above leads to a ledge. Climb easily slightly rightwards until it is possible to traverse left to the top of *The Russian*.

★ **32 Monsterific** 32m E2 5c (15.9.08)

An interesting and adventurous climb, which deserves to become popular. Start just right of *The Russian*. Climb over a





Scooby Doo (HVS)
Niki Morgan
MARK DAVIES



Monsterific (E2)
Ali Taylor
DAVID HOPE



bulge to a ledge. Move up to clip a poor peg; then traverse across right into a groove system. Climb up past a better peg to a ledge on the left. Climb the crack above to a vegetated ledge. Continue up the pocketed wall above and then the arête on the left to a sloping ledge. Finish up a short crack.

33 Christmas Carrolls

32m E2 5b (1.1.89)

Just left of *Mockingbird* is a short groove containing a rusty peg and capped by a small overhang. Climb the groove to the overhang, above which cracks lead to a junction with *Mockingbird*.

★ 34 Mockingbird 32m HVS 4c (6.76)

The obvious right-facing corner left of *Red Rose Speedway*. Start as for that route. Reach the ledge at 3 metres and move left to the foot of the corner. Follow the corner until an awkward move has to be made onto a narrow ledge at its top. Pull up and left to another ledge and climb the short steep wall above, slightly left at first, on

good pockets but with little protection, to a larger ledge. The broken groove behind leads to a finish just left of the huge detached boulder.

Variation

Newcastle Arms

The original but inferior version of this route (at the same grade). Move left out of the corner low down, and climb over more vegetated rock directly up to the ledge below the pocketed wall.

★ ★ 35 Red Rose Speedway

32m HVS 5a (7.72)

A contender for the best route at Symonds Yat, this excellent pitch takes the steep, slightly leftward-slanting crack in the red wall 6 metres right of *The Russian*. Sustained, technical, and well-protected climbing on good rock. Reach a ledge at 3 metres and climb the long crack to its top. Continue up more easily, passing just right of a small yew tree (and left of a dead one) to finish just right of the huge detached boulder.



Red Rose Speedway (HVS)
Niki Morgan
MARK DAVIES

Symonds Yat

★ 36 Don't Fear the Reaper

30m E4 6a (1983-84)

Good climbing on superb rock, but with minimal protection, and escapable in places. Start as for *Lord of the Dance*, but move up left to a good layaway at 6 metres. Traverse left under bulges to a resting place below an *in-situ* thread (there is a good nut placement hereabouts). Go over the bulge and up to another resting place below a second bulge, which is passed with difficulty to reach a small tree, where *Lord of the Dance* is joined to finish.

37 Lord of the Dance

30m HVS 5b (1969-72)

A vegetated and dangerous-looking route, which follows a succession of grooves in the arête left of *Offspring*. Start 2 metres left of *Offspring*, at a shallow groove in the arête. Climb the groove and surmount the alarming hanging block above. Follow stepped grooves up leftwards past a small tree to the large ledge where *Offspring* belays. On the right is the final easy groove of *Offspring*, and above is another groove containing a thin flake; climb this groove to finish.

38 Big Daddy 30m E5 6b (14.7.90)

The undercut arête immediately left of *Offspring* is hard, strenuous, and sparsely protected. Start in the groove beneath *Offspring*'s left-hand crack. Bridge up the groove to the roof (peg above; backup wire placement in *Lord of the Dance* just left). Now wrestle with the roof, using small pockets to get established on the arête. Place two vital small wires to the left while getting your breath back. Continue up the arête and make another committing move to reach good holds and a ledge. Continue easily to a larger ledge and finish up the groove above.

Black Tulip Wall

Starting a few metres right of *Red Rose Speedway*, this smooth vertical wall to the right has some of the longest, hardest, and most impressive routes at the Yat. It is worth noting that, while there are many small



pockets and finger jugs on the harder routes, protection can be quite hard to find.

The wall is delimited on its left by a rightward-facing corner which harbours twin cracks: this is *Offspring*. At the right-hand end of the wall is a left-facing corner taken by *Hole in the Wall*, which above makes a way diagonally left to a huge cave (the 'Hole') at 15 metres. Several of the routes meet in this, at a massive thread belay.

★ 39 Offspring 28m VS (1969-72)

The twin cracks in the rightward-facing corner hold no surprises, being strenuous and a little polished. Take plenty of large gear (cams useful).

1 20m 4c Climb the cracks to a small ledge and continue up the wider chimney-crack, past a chockstone, to a larger ledge and belay.

2 8m Finish up the easy groove on the right. Tree belays.

