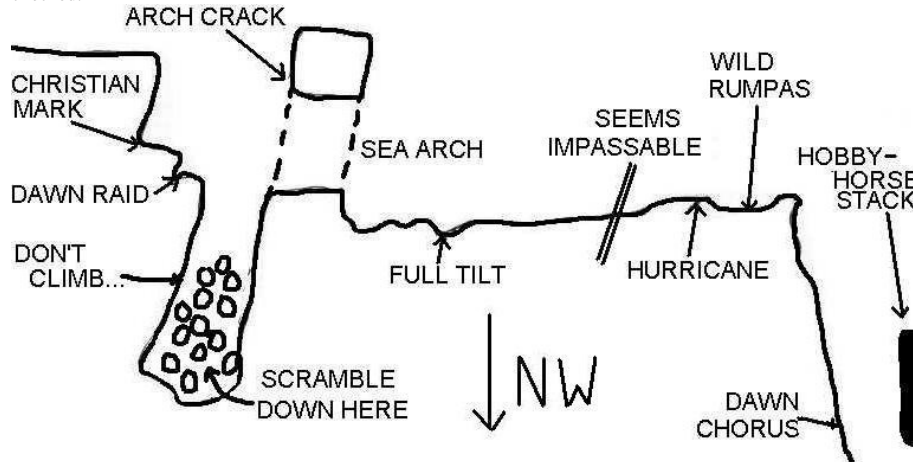


Compiled by: Nigel and Helen Barry.

## IRON AGE FORT

Just east of Hobbyhorse Bay is a well preserved "Iron Age" fort on a promontory. From the yellow flowerpot on the road an easy walk of 30m leads to the top of the scramble descent. There are no stakes, all belays must use rock anchors.

Note these descriptions have been compiled from historical records and many routes will not have been climbed since 1991, in fact only two routes are known to have been repeated in 1991. The map below comes from the 1991 visits, apart from a brief reconnaissance visit in the winter of 2012 none of this information has been checked.



### Hobbyhorse Bay Wall [PR]

Faces Northwest: Low Tide – Note these next three routes are now inaccessible.

#### Dawn Chorus 24m E1 5b [PR] †

Approximately 24 metres east of the stack descent is a large cave, above a high tide ledge system, in the slabby walls. Start 6 metres right of the cave. Climb the most obvious crack to where it becomes a narrow chimney at 8 metres. Climb the steeper crack above and finish carefully rightwards.

At the right hand end of these walls, in the eastern limit of the bay, is a large south facing cave.

#### Wild Rumpus 30m E2/3 [PR] †

This climb features wild swings through the cave on huge handholds with excellent rock and protection. Approach from Hobbyhorse Bay beach via a wave cut platform.

1.21m 5b/c Climb a damp groove on the right wall to the roof. Traverse rightwards to a blatantly obvious break in the roof, gain holds on the lip, cut loose to a speedy heelhook and so reach a cave a few metres higher.  
2.9m 5a Huge holds allow the bulging wall on the right to be overcome.

#### Hurricane 36m E2 5b [PR] †

The wall right of the cave. Move easily up rightwards to a small ledge on the arête and go up to a horizontal break below a small roof. Move left for 1½ metres and follow cracks, trending slightly right, to a ledge (optional belay). Finish up the crack to the top.

### Full Tilt Wall

Faces Southeast: Non-Tidal Platform?

These next routes need to be approached through the arch of Arch Zawn.

▣ **Ironic E4 6a †** 1991

Wall just left of *Iron Fist* with technical blank section above half height.

▣ **Iron Fist E1 5b †** 1991

Prominent flake crack just past edge of platform.

▣ **Ironman E5 6b †** 1991

Thin crack in middle of overhanging wall, climbed in the central part on its left.

Past a rotten looking corner ...

**Full Tilt 24m E1 5b †** 10.11.91

Traverse in from the east (in all but the highest/roughest of seas) until under the second of two corners. A better and trickier route than it looks. Climb the corner for 5 metres to shelf, then pull rightwards to a second shelf. Go rightwards to gain a short hanging crack (crux) and finish up this.

▣ **Wrought Iron E4 5c †** 1991

Overhanging crack to rightwards leaning-overhanging groove.

▣ **The Iron Edge E3 5c †** 1991

Climb wall rightwards to arete and up to ledge of *Anaemia*, then up blunt arete on left.

▣ **Anaemia E3 5c †** 1991

Overhanging crack to ledge in corner, then 3m right onto lip and up.

**Arch Traverse 33m E2 5b (†)** 19.8.90

Start 3 metres right of the arch. Climb a steep crack for about 8 metres, then traverse right to a corner. Move out rightwards above the lip of the arch for about 15 metres until it is possible to exit straight up.

### Arch Zawn West

**OS Ref 888 957**

Faces East: Tide Non-tidal to low tide

One hundred and forty metres further east on the end of the fort promontory another easy descent is possible into a zawn with a fine natural arch in it.

**Arch Crack 17m VS 4b †** 9.11.91

The east-facing crack in the outer leg of the arch.

**The Flake 24m E1 5b †** 19.8.90

Takes a flake-line on the east wall of the arch on its landward side. A steepening slab leads to the "flake". Continue in the same line to the top.

### Arch Zawn East

**OS Ref 888 957**

Faces West: Tide Non-tidal to low tide

**Yuletide 18m E1 5b †** 22.12.91

The wall 3 metres right of the corner at the back of the zawn, passing a bulge at half height, and a thin crack to finish.

**Belgian Tom's Hat Trick 22m VS 4b †** 22.12.91

Climb the obvious shattered crack 6 metres right of the corner at the back of the zawn, gained from the right.

**Don't climb till you see the whites of their eyes 23m VS ?? †** 10.11.91

Non-tidal, well protected and on excellent rock. Start 9 metres right of the obvious shattered crack (of *Belgian Tom's Hat Trick*)?. Climb the bulging wall via a crack to gain and follow the right-left ramp. From its top pull up the bulging wall on the right (crux) to the top.

## Pembroke Range West: Iron Age Fort Definitive Guide (V2.00/Mar 2012)

**Dawn Raid** 23m HVS ?? † 10.11.91

The wide corner 9 metres right of the *Don't climb till you see the whites of their eyes*.

**Overhanging Crack** 24m VS 4c † 19.8.90

Start in the chimney/cave. The obvious overhanging crack 3 metres left of *Crossbow* is climbed on good holds.

**Crossbow** 24m E1 5b † 22.12.91

Climb the arête left of *Crack of Dusk*. Start on a high tide ledge 5 metres right of the arête. Climb up leftwards to a ledge on the arête proper and continue up this to the top.

**Christian Mark** 23m VS ?? † 10.11.91

Start midway between the *Crossbow* and the obvious cave/corner system 6 metres further right. Go up the wall direct for 8 metres, then traverse horizontally rightwards and finish up the wide corner crack (possible common ground with *Crack of Dusk*).

**Crack of Dusk** 24m E1 5b (†) 9.11.91

The crackline opposite the outer leg of the arch gives a good route. Climb the steep groove and face crack above to a big ledge. Belay, then take an exit on the left.

## Fort First Ascent List

19 Aug 90	<b>Arch Traverse, The Flake</b> P Donnithorne, J Hornsby, M Paganuzzi
19 Aug 90	<b>Overhanging Crack</b> M Paganuzzi, P Donnithorne, J Hornsby
9 Nov 91	<b>Arch Crack</b> F.Ramsey, P.Littlejohn
9 Nov 91	<b>Crack of Dusk</b> P.Littlejohn, F.Ramsey
10 Nov 91	<b>Dawn Chorus, Hurricane</b> P.Donnithorne, E.Alsford
10 Nov 91	<b>Wild Rumpus, Full Tilt, Don't climb till you see the whites of their eyes, Dawn Raid, Christian Mark</b> M.Charlton, C.Dale
22 Dec 91	<b>Yuletide</b> P.Donnithorne, E.Alsford
22 Dec 91	<b>Belgian Tom's Hat Trick, Crossbow</b> E.Alsford, P.Donnithorne
1991	<b>Anaemia, Ironic, Iron Fist</b> J.Arran, A.Arran
1991	<b>Wrought Iron, Ironman</b> J.Arran
1991	<b>Iron Edge</b> A.Arran, J.Arran

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