



Pen Llŷn

New Climbs Supplement

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Title page photo: Dan Mc Manus attempting the second ascent of his route
The Apprentice (E7) DAN MCMANUS col



The Climbers' Club

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Introduction

This supplement is designed to work alongside the Lleyrn guidebook published by The Climbers' Club in 2002. (The name Pen Llŷn is here used instead of Lleyrn as it is now the normal spelling on all OS maps. However, the views expressed on the spelling in the 2002 guide are still valid!) The supplement is intended to be used with the main guidebook, which provides details of OS references (except where superseded by those given herein), approaches, nesting restrictions, and the whereabouts of existing climbs. The supplement contains new routes as well as amendments to the main guide where information was found to be inaccurate or incomplete. As relatively few climbers visit Pen Llŷn, many routes (even those in the main guidebook) are unrepeatable or untested, and this situation is exacerbated by the fact that the cliffs erode and rockfalls occur somewhat more frequently than at most other sea cliff climbing areas. If you discover inaccuracies or if you wish to record new routes, please let us know via the CC website: www.climbers-club.co.uk.

Details of the nesting restrictions are given for all relevant crags with new routes. Climbs that are subject to the restrictions are indicated by **R** on the title line; please refer to the crag introduction for the dates for which the restriction applies.

Tidal information for nine locations on the peninsula can be found on the Admiralty Easytide website: <http://easytide.ukho.gov.uk/Easytide/EasyTide> (free for the current day and the next six days).

With the attention of many local climbers focused on Gogarth in recent years, pioneering on Pen Llŷn has been a bit of a lonely road. Steve Sustad and I plugged away and had lots of fun and adventures, but the outstanding route of this period has to be Dan McManus's on-sight ascent of *The Apprentice* at Porth Ceiriad, one of the most compelling hard lines in North Wales. Steve Haston also made a couple of very impressive contributions on Craig Dorys, and it's great to see new devotees like Jack Geldard make their mark. Another development that may prove significant for future climbing on Pen Llŷn is the discovery of several easier climbs.

In response to requests, mention has been made of the style of first ascents when known. This information may or may not prove useful to future guidebook writers:

AL	alternate leads
VL	varied leads
S	solo
OS	on sight
HP	headpoint

Areas and routes are described anti-clockwise around the coast (left to right when facing the cliffs) except where indicated, as in the definitive guidebook. Some descriptions (e.g. that of the first route) are vague in the extreme – this is a bit of a tradition on the Llŷn! The usual warnings about the hazards of loose rock and sea cliffs apply, particularly on any route with an MXS or XS grade. Enjoy!

Amendments to crag or route descriptions and information in the 2002 guide are printed on beige panels. In the photodiagram keys, new routes described in this supplement are printed in white type; routes described only in the 2002 guide are printed in black.

North Coast

Gurn Ddu

Mystified **R**

Start below the obvious bay in the middle of the right-hand of the Gurn Ddu quarries.

8.3.02 R Kay, E Williams

Nesting restriction
1 April to 31 July.

Trwyn y Tal Shale City

Salad Dodger Direct 45m E5 5c

The obvious slabby corner right of *Ugly*. A boulder-problem start on the left (crux) gains the corner. Climb this to a particularly fine top-out. Very loose and dangerous. The first ascent comment 'Really good route – should become popular' is humour most dark.

1.1.04 W Perrin, M Perrier

Craig Ddu

Porg's Delight 37m E1 5b

Climbs the rib avoided by *Mo's Nightmare*. Belay on the right as for *Just the Ticket*.

Traverse left and climb to the overhangs guarding the rib. Steep moves gain the shelf on the edge above a jammed block. Follow the crest above to a notch, after which easier ground leads to belays in the heather.

31.5.08 S Sustad, Ms R Abram, P Littlejohn **OS**

Wall of Plenty 34m E1 5a

Enjoyable climbing up the open face right of *Just The Ticket*. Belay as for that route, at a small ash tree about level with the top of the fin, below a grey rib. Gain the rib from the left and climb it to a ledge (as for *Just The Ticket*). Move right and climb straight up the wall via some shallow scoops to the top. Spike belay in the heather slope.

1.5.08 P Littlejohn, Ms R Abram, S Sustad **OS**

Craig y Llam

The area is now an SSSI, and access to *Fantan B* by driving down the track is not permitted. Park at the top near a farm.

Nesting restrictions apply
from 1 February to 31 July.

Fantan B Alternative Finish 30m 5a **R**

Adds excitement and more good climbing. Halfway up pitch 6, rather than finishing up the easy arête, traverse right into the centre of the wall and finish directly via a little groove.

27.11.07 P Littlejohn, D Williams **OS**

Carreg Lefain

Coprolalia upgraded to E2 5c.

Aberdaron Area

Porth Iago

The Godless Lowlife XS

From the car park, walk to the right along cliff-tops to the second gate. Just left of this is a hole in the ground, through which the route comes out. Either abseil down the hole or traverse into it at low tide. Damp and dank.

8.10.01 M Crook, T Loxton

Handbag Zawn

The right side of this small zawn, looking in from the sea, is a black slab. Approach by abseil.

Nesting restriction
1 April to 31 July.

Clutch 18m D/VD **R**

A direct line up the slab starting towards its left side.

12.12.00 L Griffin, R Greenall

The climbs are described
from right to left.

Grab 18m VD **R**

A line based on a groove to the right.

12.12.00 L Griffin, R Greenall

On the left side of the zawn, more or less opposite *Clutch*, is a prominent left-facing right-angled corner containing a large crack.

Gladrags 12m HS **R**

Climb the corner direct with an awkward layback move low down, where the crack is wide.

13.9.08 L Griffin

To the left a short crack leads to the crest of the ridge forming the left side (looking in) of the zawn.

Satchel 15m MS **R**

Climb the thin crack rather awkwardly to the ridge and then the right edge of the steep but easy wall above.

12.12.00 L Griffin, R Greenall

Sarff 23m D **R**

The ridge forming the left edge of the zawn. Start at sea level (reaching this point is as hard as doing the climb). Finish up the centre of the short wall left of *Satchel*.

13.9.08 L Griffin

Left of *Sarff* and starting from a good ledge is an off-vertical black wall, 9 to 11 metres high. It is massively featured and could be climbed almost anywhere. However, there are three obvious cracklines. **Tote** (11m D **R**) is the left-hand and longest crack, which slants to the right, and is the longest. **Hobo** (9m D **R**) is the central crack. **Mini** (9m D **R**) is the right-hand crack. All 13.9.08 L Griffin

Trwyn Maen Melyn Area

About 100 metres north of St Mary's Well is a small water-filled zawn (even at low tide) with two large yellow blocks in the corner. The following climb is on the north wall of the zawn and is approached by scrambling down the opposite side of the headland from Trwyn Maen Melyn.

Mynydd Penarfynydd

Rumblin' Tumblin' 30m D

1 15m Traverse into the zawn at the high tide mark and belay in a recess of reddish-coloured rocks.

2 15m Climb the slab above.
20.8.02 D Lear, N Beaumont

Parwyd and Pen y Cil

At the time of writing, there was a sign up saying 'No unauthorized vehicles' at the car parking area. It is not known whether this applies to the parking or to driving further up the track.

Revised description from the car parking area: continue along the track, going through a gate, for about 500 metres to a stile (do not go over the obvious stile over the wall on the left after 50 metres or so). Cross this, and turn left along the coast path. Follow the coast path, through another gate, to a second stile, after which the path leads onto the top of the Pen y Cil headland. Parwyd lies down to the right. For Pen y Cil, descend to the grassy platform overlooking the southern tip of the headland.

Mynydd Penarfynydd (Rhiw Area)

The following directions supersede the approach directions for Bytilith given in the 2002 guidebook. Mynydd Penarfynydd is the massive headland bounding Hell's Mouth to the west. It is owned by the National Trust. Drive to the NT farm at Penarfynydd (OS Ref 219 267); if anyone is there, ask permission to park; otherwise just park so as not to cause any obstruction.

Bytilith

OS Ref 224 263

For Bytilith head left (east) along the path behind the farmyard. Cross a stile, and then descend the slope to a small cove and point (marked 'cave' on the map). It is possible to climb down the end of the point and traverse to the boulders exposed below the cliff at low tide, but easier to abseil. The dominant feature of the crag is an overhanging prow rising above a broken ramp (which gives a way up the cliff at HS).

Nesting restriction
1 April to 31 July.

The rock is metamorphosed sandstone, sometimes snappy but quite hard and strong in the main.

Pearl Fisher 37m E5 6a R

A sensational line up the crest of the impending buttress. At low tide, start from the boulders; at high tide, abseil down and belay at the base of the ramp. From the start of the buttress proper, move up right for a short way and then traverse left across a steep orange wall to large holds. Gain the shallow cracks on the left, and climb steeply past a hollow block (light touch) to a welcome resting ledge. Launch around the arête to another hollow block; then climb the tricky final arête to a massive nest and easier ground. Belay block (long tape) higher up.

12.11.03 P Littlejohn, S Sustad OS

Mynydd Penarfynydd

Rugged Rocks and The Syncline

OS Ref 217 257

From the NT farm turn right (south-west) along the path behind the farmyard until the path reaches the coast and rounds the tip of the headland. The first crags, Rugged Rocks, are huge jumbled slabs of rough weathered sandstone. It is possible to scramble to the base of the main mass from either side, and there are no nesting restrictions. Beyond Rugged Rocks is the Syncline, a steeply-dipping band of lighter-coloured rock with several big overhangs. It is only slightly tidal at its lowest end. Descend cautiously on a slight rib of grass and rock and traverse to the base of the cliff (where there are nesting restrictions).

Rugged Rocks

Rascals 42m E1

The biggest cliff of Rugged Rocks is in two slabby tiers. Start below the obvious crack in the lower tier.

1 24m 5b Follow the crack then move right and up to a large ledge.

2 18m 5a Move right and take the best line on the upper slab (thin cracks).

4.04 P Littlejohn, S Sustad AL OS

Choughed 21m E2 5c

Take the slanting crack in the right-hand buttress, breaking right then left to finish.

4.03 S Sustad, P Littlejohn OS

The Syncline

The left side of the cliff offers some short pitches. The obvious zigzag crack goes at E1 5b, the pod to its left is E3 6a, and the thin crack in the square face on the far left is E1 5b (all S Sustad, P Littlejohn 4.03).

Nesting restriction
1 April to 31 July.

Last Chance Saloon 18m E3 6a R

An exciting first excursion onto the main part of the cliff. Start beneath the wall left of all the overhangs. Climb to the base of a shallow groove near the edge of the main face. Traverse right to gain a thin crack at an orange patch, and follow the rightward-trending weakness to the top.

24.3.04 P Littlejohn, S Sustad OS (climbed after failing on just about every other line on the crag!)

Cilan Area

The cliffs on the west side of Cilan Head extend for over a mile and it is very difficult to identify individual crags from above. To help GPS users, 10-figure OS references (prefix ENG SH) have been given for all approaches/abseil points to each cliff. Crags to the north of Zawn One are most quickly reached from the parking spot near the farm of Pen y Mynedd. Crags from Zawn One to the tip of the point are best accessed from Cilan Uchaf (as for Craig Dorys).

For negotiating the steep grass slopes above the cliffs it is advisable to wear substantial approach shoes with a good sole (rather than worn trainers).

Trwyn y Ffosle

OS Ref 28629 25301

Generally a low-angled and stratified cliff but the rock is sound; there are good belays all along the cliff-top and no scary slopes above the climbs. Amazingly for Cilan, a good area for beginners! On the tip of the headland is an easy descent to sea level; then traversing southwards (away from Hell's Mouth) takes one beneath many climbable lines, many of which have been done. As it swings into a shallow zawn/corner the cliff gets more impressive and consists of a barrier of overhangs above a big ramp dipping down rightwards to the sea. There are numerous ways to gain the ramp from V Diff to VS (12m).

Nesting restriction
1 April to 31 July.

Serial Rambler 21m VS 4c R

At the left end of the big blank roof above the ramp a disjointed groove breaks through. Start 6 metres left of this at another weakness. Climb a shallow groove to a horizontal break, move right, and finish up a series of more pronounced grooves to the top.

19.12.04 P Littlejohn S OS

Hurdler 27m E1 5b R

Approach as for *Serial Rambler*, and start at the obvious entry 5 metres right of that route. Climb straight up some shallow grooves to the break, move left to a crack, and follow this back rightwards to another groove leading to the top. (You can climb straight up from the break at E3 5c.)

29.1.05 P Littlejohn, J Bruton OS

Trwyn Melyn

OS Ref 28608 24910

Scramble easily down the broad tip of the headland to sea level and traverse easily southwards until smoother rocks are reached. Above is a steep band split by a short, right-facing corner giving pitch 1 of *No Parrots (Wild Goose)*. Above this a huge ramp descends from the cliff-top; in big seas/high tide it is easy to access the upper (main) part of the crag by descending the ramp and belaying near its base.

Nesting restriction
1 April to 31 July.

The Water Boys 42m VS R

A good route with fine positions, but you do have to hunt for protection on pitch 2. Start as for *No Parrots (Wild Goose)*.

1 18m 4b Move left up a ramp to an obvious groove. Climb this, and then traverse up right to belay on the big ramp.

2 24m 4c Above is an open bay below a large overhang. Gain this from the left, move right beneath the roof, and then climb the wall above via some good cracks to reach easier ground.

13.1.05 P Littlejohn, J Bruton OS (climbed in the wet – not recommended at Cilan!).

No Parrots (Wild Goose) 58m HVS R

(new description)

A very good route, once located!

1 18m 4c Move up and climb the right-facing corner; and then bear right to belay on the big ramp.

2 40m 5a From the right-hand end of the ramp, climb boldly up the compact wall to good holds and runners below the overhang. Traverse right into a groove and follow this trending slightly rightwards to reach belays (medium cams) in a wide crack on the cliff-top.

The Real Macaw 72m E3 R

A fine but committing route on good rock, taking the less pronounced groove 8 metres right of pitch 2 of *No Parrots*. Start as for *No Parrots*. (If pitch 1 is wet, the arête of the *No Parrots* corner looks a better option.)

1 21m 5c Step up and traverse right below the overhangs around a rib into a smooth, right-facing corner, which leads to the lowest point of the big ramp.

2 21m 5b Follow the gently descending traverse-line for 11 metres. Climb up rightwards and then back left to gain the groove. Move up to a good stance after 3 metres. A serious pitch.

3 30m 5b Follow the groove and its continuation to a ledge with block belays. Walk off left. 19.2.05 P Littlejohn, J Bruton OS

Cannon Zawn

OS Ref 28629 24809

The second zawn to the north of Trywn Carreg y Tir is named after the impressive sea cave at the back, which booms like a cannon in the swell. A pleasant cliff, having a lot of good quality, frictional sandstone. It gets sun in the afternoon.

Nesting restriction
1 April to 31 July.

Approach Descend the second small headland to the north of Trwyn Carreg y Tir and traverse southwards into the zawn (possible at low to mid tide). The first good feature is an obvious, slabby groove. Three metres beyond its base is a projecting ledge above high tide level – belay here for the next two routes.

Longshot 67m VS R

A fine outing for a competent party; not too steep and mostly on good rough sandstone. Take a full rack of gear.

1 30m 4c Move up and follow cracks, which trend right to the right-hand end of a long roof. Climb quartz cracks above; then move right and follow some grooves to a large sloping ledge.

2 37m 4b Traverse up right across a bubbly wall; then follow a line trending rightwards past a huge block, finally reaching the grass slope. Belays well back to the left.

27.3.05 P Littlejohn, T Hughes, J Littlejohn OS

Boomtown 85m E2 R

Good climbing and rock solid. Start as for *Longshot* on the projecting ledge.

1 37m 5b Traverse right for 9 metres rising very slightly, and then climb diagonally right towards a downward-pointing overhang. Pass this and continue in the same line to reach a ramp, which is descended to belay nearly at the sea cave.

2 27m 5b Go back up the ramp for 10 metres and climb past the bulge just right of a perched block. Trend rightwards to some bulging overhangs and pull through these in the same line to belay in a break just below the apparent top.

3 21m 4a Climb a short groove; then climb leftwards up the steep slope to reach various rock belays.

31.3.05 P Littlejohn, N Ledger OS

Cilan Area

Trywn Carreg y Tir

OS Ref 28553 24516

This is the prominent headland which encloses the bay of Chinatown to the north (Chinatown is now defined as the main back wall of the bay, above the two sea caves). The following routes are on the south face of Trywn Carreg y Tir, which extends from the point to the entrance of the northern sea cave. The cliff looks uninspiring at first but offers worthwhile climbs, which are less serious, more easily accessed than most others at Cilan, and are possible at most states of the tide. Being south-facing and in a sheltered bay it is a good winter venue.

Nesting restrictions apply from 1 February to 31 July.

The Notch 30m VD R

From the bottom of the slabby descent rib (beside the chimney of *Spike's Route*), traverse towards Hell's Mouth for 30 metres until below an obvious break in the large roof. Climb straight up through the break and the groove and slabs above.

19.12.04 P Littlejohn S OS

Side-tracked 54m E2 R

Good climbing on solid rock all the way, and accessible at high tide. It takes a rising rightward traverse from *Spike's Route* to exit at the corner of *Storm in a Teacup*. Two lines break out of *Spike's Route*: the lower is an easy-looking ramp that leads to unprotected ground; the upper is a crackline leading to an obvious niche.

1 24m 5b Move up to the start of the crack and gain a spiky ledge; then swing down and follow the crackline to the niche.

2 30m 5b Move right and follow a horizontal crack across bulging rock to better holds. Step down, and continue traversing, past a blind corner, finally reaching the corner of *Storm in a Teacup*, which is taken to exit.

9.1.09 P Littlejohn, S Sustad OS

Storm in a Teacup 24m VS 4c R

Pleasant climbing on excellent sandstone. From the chimney of *Spike's Route* traverse right for 30 to 40 metres until below a distinctive corner-line, and belay below it. Climb steeply past a big spike to reach the corner, which is followed to the obvious leftward exit.

13.11.04 P Littlejohn, J Bruton OS

Sidestep 30m E1 R

Roughly midway between the corner of *Storm in a Teacup* and the sea cave that terminates the crag is an obvious stepped weakness heading up rightwards. (This is about 30 metres before the start of *Blue China*.) Belay below this.

1 24m 5b Follow the break to join *Blue China* at its stance. Climb the bulge above as for *Blue China*, and then break right over an overhang and up to a belay ledge.

2 6m Easy ground to the top.

9.1.09 S Sustad, P Littlejohn OS

Blue China 36m E1 R

Descend the slabby rib (as for *Spike's Route*) and traverse into the zawn (low to mid tide) until just before the big sea cave in the back (north) corner. Above is an obvious leftward-slanting ramp.

1 24m 4c Gain the ramp, and climb it to a decent runner at 15 metres. Continue to a stance below overhangs.

2 12m 5a Follow the ramp to another ledge (old abseil gear), and continue steeply in the same line to the top.

13.11.04 P Littlejohn J Bruton OS

Cilan Area

Trwyn y Fulfran

OS Ref 28647 24302

Used for Chinatown southern approach, and Paitsh northern approach.

Nesting restrictions apply from 1 February to 31 July.

Sundown 30m VS R

A handy little route, non tidal and on good rock. Climbs the little cliff above the first zawn immediately south of the tip of the point. Start at the obvious groove.

1 15m Climb the groove till it steepens; move right along the shelf and up to the sloping ramp. Move left to good belays above the initial groove.

2 15m 4b Follow the obvious stepped weakness rightwards. Belay where the rock ends, and scramble to the cliff-top.

20.12.07 P Littlejohn, D Williams AL OS

Paitsh

Approach to the next route is possible for about three hours around low tide. Descend the ridge of Trwyn y Fulfran to slabs at sea level. At dead low tide boulder-hop across the first inlet, or pass it by climbing to the obvious ramp (as for *Sundown*) above the inlet and descending it to a small zawn (HS). A 'needle's eye' and a traverse across slippery slabs leads to the boulder-filled cove below the awesome northern sector of Paitsh.

Nesting restrictions apply from 1 February to 31 July.

Hornblower 120m MXS R

Climbs the great yellow spur that divides the two sectors of Paitsh. The easiest XS on Pen Llŷn but still a committing expedition in impressive surroundings. Start at the southern end of the boulder cove, beside the spur.

1 24m 4b Make a gently rising traverse on in-cut holds to the big sloping promontory at the base of the spur.

2 30m 4b Climb the buttress to a steeper band of more compact rock. Good belays at cracks on the left.

3 21m 4c Step up and climb diagonally right to stand on the obvious block. Move up then rightwards again to reach a big sloping slab. Single (good) nut belay.

4 30m 5a Wander rightwards to reach a short steep groove. Climb this and the compact slab on the right to ledges and high belays in a corner crack.

5 15m 4c Escape leftwards up the ramp – loose and thrifty. Rabbit hole belays up to the left.

22.1.07 P Littlejohn, S Sustad VL OS

Paitsh Southern Approach

(abseil stake) OS Ref 28867 24188

A 60-metre rope is needed to reach all the way to the tidal ledges (low to mid tide) but 50 metres is just adequate if you down-climb the slabby lower rocks (with care). If there is a swell it is nice to stay belayed to a longer abseil rope as waves can sweep the ledge.

Nighty Night 92m XS R

Starts up amenable ground right of *Controlled Explosions*, and then gets nasty. Start at the base of the abseil.

1 43m 5a Follow a left-trending weakness up various grooves and ledges until after a diversion on the right it leads to a large belay ledge left of an open bay.

2 49m 5a Serious. Move up right into a groove, climb it, and then traverse left to some corners formed by massive detached blocks. Above these, break left into a shallow gully. Climb this and the evil ground above to the top. Ingenuity needed to belay (and to make it this far).

28.1.06 P Littlejohn, J Bruton OS

Cilan Area

Snakey 97m E3 (if abseil rope used to exit, otherwise MXS) **R**

Winds adventurously up the wall to the right of the abseil – a fun outing.

1 43m 5a From the highest point of the ledge, ascend rightwards to reach the base of a prominent open corner. Climb this, move 8 metres right, and then climb to the big horizontal break. Traverse right, sometimes lower than the break, to a spacious ledge in a big bay formed by a groove with an overhanging right wall.

2 24m 5c Climb boldly through a bulge and then trend leftwards to a good horizontal crack beneath a band of overhangs. Traverse left along this for 8 metres to a small ledge and belays.

3 15m 5a Move left to the rib and climb to the next horizontal break. Traverse right for 9 metres to a stance.

4 15m 5b Pass the bulge via a slim groove, move left along the ledge, and then go up a shattered corner to a pedestal. Climb straight up with care to good finishing holds (MXS), or traverse left to reach the abseil rope and swarm up this to the top.

21.12.07 S Sustad, P Littlejohn **AL OS**

Black Bay

OS Ref 28867 24188

Abseil from spike and nut belays at a small rock outcrop. The *Bight* is the easiest 'escape route' from Black Bay.

Nesting restrictions apply from 1 February to 31 July.

The Bight 49m E2 **R**

Start beneath the low-relief buttress right of *Escapade*.

1 12m 4b Climb a groove in the crest to a luxury belay at the shallow cave.

2 37m 5b Trend easily leftwards to ledges, and then bear right up a line of shallow grooves and steep bands, finishing via a cracked corner.

19.12.05 S Sustad, P Littlejohn **AL OS**

Second Bite 46m E2 5b **R**

Right of the cave stance of *The Bight* is a prominent nose of rock. Scramble up to ledges below this. Climb the groove on the right side of the nose and continue to a band of ledges. Step left and climb through a steeper band before trending right until just below the belayless grass slope. Traverse 8 metres right to good ledges and belays.

19.12.05 S Sustad, P Littlejohn **OS**

Pared yr Henborth Area

The details for the approach to the crags from Through Cave Area round to Craig Dorys have changed. You still park at Cilan Uchaf, where there is now a box for a £2 parking fee. From here, don't take the walled track as in the 2002 guidebook, but follow the fisherman's path south-east through fields to join the new coast path above the eastern end of Craig Dorys. For the Main Cliff and all the southern Cilan crags, turn right (west) and follow the path out onto Cilan Head. Cilan Main and Zawn One are ten minutes westwards from here, while Vatican Zawn is approximately five minutes southwards. For newcomers, the crags in between are best identified from these cliffs or by GPS.

Zawn One (top of descent chimney)

OS Ref 28967 23975

Cilan Main Cliff

(abseil points) OS Ref 29092 23916

Identifying the Main Cliff Just north of Main Cliff (right facing seawards) is a huge sloping platform which can be reached by scrambling down from the cliff top (via a chimney/cleft 50 metres north of it). This prominent

Nesting restrictions apply from 1 February to 31 July.

Cilan Area

landmark is Zawn One. To the south of the platform, past a sea-filled channel, is the projecting spur which must be reached to access routes on the Main Cliff. Abseil 50 metres to the highest point of this big sloping spur from a cluster of natural anchors (at the most projecting point of the cliff edge, where there are a couple of small flat ledges). This is the top of the shallow buttress that divides the Main Cliff. Care is required here so as not to lose equipment (or yourself) over the edge while gearing up.

Pathos II 83m MXS **R**

A somewhat gripping excursion onto the big wall forming the left-hand section of the Main Cliff. Pitch 2 is the original; the old pitch 1 was destroyed by the great rockfall of 2000. Requires big cams and small wires. From the big sloping spur, move left for a few metres to a belay ledge.

1 37m 5b Move left and climb up to a more solid sandstone band. Follow this up and leftward to a shallow corner, and gain the ledges above. Traverse left along the gangway to some deeper cracks, where it is possible to belay with large cams.

2 46m 5a Continue along the shelf to an ancient peg. Climb up and left to another old peg. Finish straight up via a corner and short chimney.

12.12.05 P Littlejohn, S Sustad (pitch 1) **OS**

Central Pillar II 48m MXS **R**

The easiest way up Main Cliff after the rockfalls. A new pitch 1 is combined with a bit of the original *Central Pillar* and the finish of *Solid State*. Start from ledges beneath the buttress.

1 24m 5a Climb the initial rib to a ledge; then head up and right across the wall to shaly ledges. Climb a short shale groove to a shelf on the left, and continue on better rock to a line of shattered ledges leading leftwards for 8 metres to a stance at a poised block. Belays above.

2 24m 5b Climb past an old peg into a depression and follow this to an overhang. Traverse right to a small exposed ledge; move back left to another ledge, and then swing right into a crack leading to the top.

23.12.05 P Littlejohn, D McManus **OS**

Three Caves Area

OS Ref 29219 23801

The big block on the 'path' directly above the corner of *Double Glazing* is the most convenient abseil/gearing up point. A 50-metre abseil rope just reaches the base (low to half tide).

Zawn Two

OS Ref 29236 23744

The belays are on the slope above the arête – safer than the descent described in the 2002 guide. A 55-metre abseil rope is needed.

Multi Storey Wall (good set of abseil anchors)

OS Ref 29268 23630

Acapulco Zawn (abseil point to shelf)

OS Ref 29292 23555

Trwyn Cilan Zawn (abseil point)

OS Ref 29303 23515

Crystal Zawn

OS Ref 29329 23487

Vatican Zawn (abseil stake)

OS Ref 29404 23541

Cilan Area

Craig Dorys

Grandad's Challenge 24m HXS

Big fall potential. At the left end of the overhang of *Tonight at Noon* is an overhanging seam. Very dodgy gear to start (a sling on a poor block). Short but spectacular climbing, grossly overhanging, very impressive. Small cam and one wire.

1.7.05 S Haston, L H Gouallt (style of ascent not known)

Melody 41m HXS

On Stigmata Buttress. Between *The Gross Clinic* and *Rust Never Sleeps*, starting up the latter. Climb the pinnacle (clip the peg and back it up with *Friend 2s*). About 5 metres straight above is a poor peg, and further above another one. Back this one up with tiny tri-cams; then sprint up the decomposing wall faster than it falls down. Sanctuary appears in the shape of a groove (*Friend 1*). Climb the groove, put some cams in, and climb the solid 20-metre wall (possibly 6c if short). Good gear, great position, good luck.

1.7.05 S Haston, L H Gouallt (cleaned by abseil)

Rockin' in the Free World 37m E5 6a

Takes the very steep territory between *Rust Never Sleeps* and *Cripple Creek*. Wild climbing with excellent free-fall potential from the upper groove. Climb the groove directly above the start of *Cripple Creek* to a small roof; then swing left and climb the steep wall to a resting ledge. Follow the open groove above to some breaks, continue direct, and then swing right to a horn and a solid exit.

4.05 P Littlejohn, D McManus (the upper part cleaned by persons unknown)

Doris Day: currently there is only one peg in place and the climb is now a lot more serious.

Three Dandy Scuttlers upgraded to E4.

Corned Dog 46m E3 6a (new description)

Climb the first desperate moves of *Little Ug*, move up and then go left along the first horizontal break to the first vertical seam. Climb for 8 metres; then move left and ascend the steepening slab to some ledges. Climb the headwall above to the top.

Faltering Hand upgraded to E1. The technical difficulty of the start can vary tremendously as it is dependent on the state of the pebbles.

Noble Savage: the rock is more solid than it appears. The stake belay can be backed up by lassoing the earth promontory behind it.



1 Flying Buttress MXS
2 Craic of the Irish E5

Pared Mawr

Billed in the main guidebook as having the worst rock on Pen Llŷyn, this crag actually has quite a lot going for it. It's sheltered, gets loads of sun, has quick access, is non tidal, and has a lovely outlook and lots of really striking lines. It also hosts possibly the finest ivy plant of any cliff in England and Wales!

Flying Buttress 27m MXS 5b

Reasonably good climbing and positions. At the far left of the crag is a smooth open wall bounded on the right by a repulsive corner and on the left by a shallow buttress. Start beneath the buttress. Climb the initial wall to the obvious corner crack, and climb this to a ledge below a second 'layback' crack. Follow this for 5 metres, and then climb diagonally left across the face, selecting holds with care, to finish on the arête. Fifty-metre ropes reach the fence.

1.4.06 P Littlejohn, J Bruton OS (So called because much of the buttress flew away during the first ascent.)

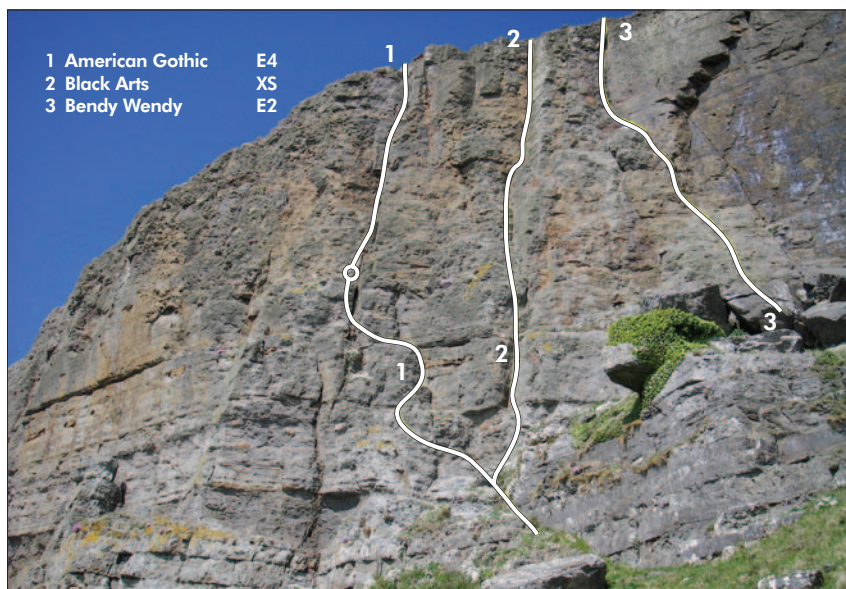
Craic of the Irish 37m E5

An impressive line. Start as for *Flying Buttress*.

1 14m Climb for 8 metres to the top of a pillar, and then move down right behind an oak tree to belay at a clean-cut corner.

2 23m 6a Climb the corner to a ledge, and follow the right-trending crack with increasing excitement to a ledge and final steep wall. Fence belay.

14.6.06 P Littlejohn, S Sustad (cleaned by abseil)



The middle section of the cliff is rather broken and scrappy but has potential. The following routes are on the extensive right-hand section of the crag, and to identify climbs it will be helpful to locate the huge perched flake of *Shifty* (which is described in relation to the route *Sapphic Fragment* in the main guide).

American Gothic 33m E4

A dodgy start leads to good, well-protected climbing on the second pitch. Takes a groove-line in the shallow buttress 35 metres left of *Shifty*. Start left of a pile of huge boulders.

1 18m 5b Scramble up the grass rake and place gear before stepping left onto the buttress and climbing to a short crack. Move right to a ledge, and then go up and left to a wide crack, which leads to a fine belay ledge.

2 15m 5c Climb straight up the groove and crack to the top.

20.4.06 P Littlejohn, S Sustad [OS](#) (Sustad was climbing in trainers and without a harness!)

Black Arts 34m XS 6a/b

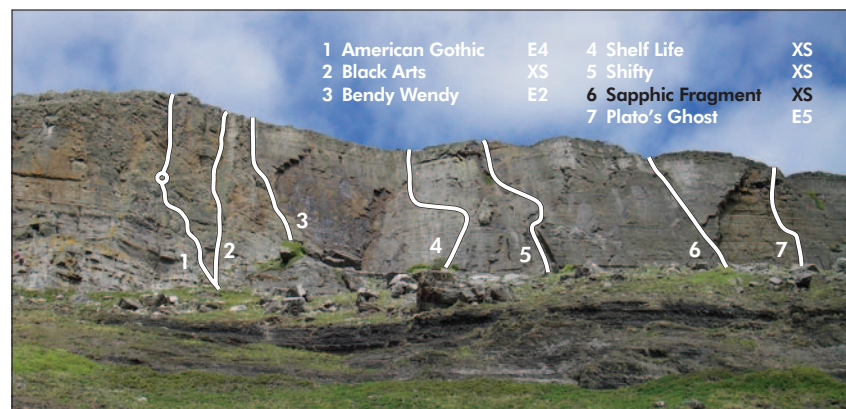
The striking groove right of *American Gothic* gives a testing pitch. Climb the grass ramp as for that climb to below the short groove forming the lower part of the line. Place high gear and pull into the groove from the right, and climb it to ledges – hard. Cracks lead to the main groove, where sustained bridging past a dubious flake gains holds on the right arête to finish.

8.6.06 P Littlejohn, S Sustad [OS](#)

Bendy Wendy 21m E2 5b

One of the more amenable routes on the cliff. Thirty metres left of the big flake of *Shifty* is a shallow bay above some large boulders. The route takes the left-trending weakness out of the bay. Climb a choked crack to a ledge, and continue to a larger ledge formed by a huge block. Climb the corner above to the top (steep).

4.5.06 S Sustad, P Littlejohn [OS](#)



Shelf Life 30m XS 6a

Very good climbing – despite the grade! A right-trending crack splits a gently overhanging wall 6 metres left of the big flake of *Shifty*. Follow the crack until relief arrives in the form of ledges at 15 metres. Traverse left along the long shelf (peg), and then follow the obvious groove to the top.

23.3.07 P Littlejohn, S Sustad (Cleaned by abseil after an on-sight attempt was stopped by perched flakes at the shelf.)

Shifty 24m XS 6a

A mini-epic starting 25 metres left of *Sapphic Fragment*, where a big flake crack doesn't quite reach the ground. Boulder to the crack, climb to the top of the flake; then step up and make a tricky mantel onto a narrow ledge running off left. Follow cracks in the open corner to an unstable finish.

10.12.05 P Littlejohn, J Bruton [OS](#)

Plato's Ghost 27m E5 6a

A fantastic route, in its own way. A pinnacle rises halfway up the cliff 20 metres left of the ramp of *The Bee's Knees*. Climb the wide crack on its left side to the summit of the pinnacle, step back down, and move left to a shallow groove, which leads boldly to reach better holds and gear at a crack that heads up rightwards. Follow this, pull over a bulge formed by detached but sound flakes, and then climb the wall above to exit slightly left. A 50-metre rope just reaches the fence posts.

8.6.07 P Littlejohn, S Sustad (Cleaned by abseil and attempted a year previously.)

The Bee's Knees 27m HVS 5a

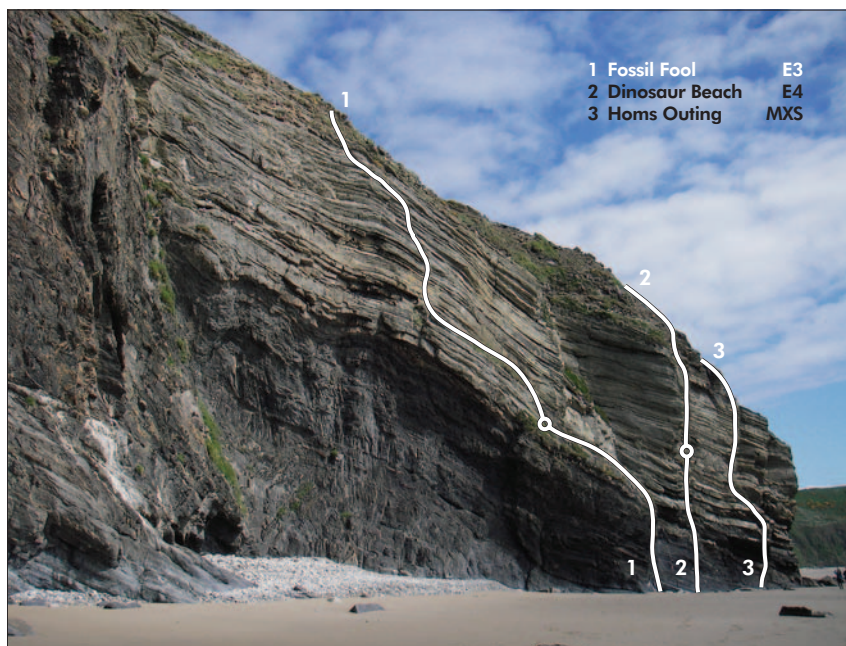
(new description)

A good pitch but unprotected in its lower third. To the left of the ivy patch and the prominent flake crack of *No Kettle So Black* is an obvious ramp rising from right to left. Start at a block below the ramp proper. Stand on the block, and climb the steep wall to ledges and a poor spike up to the right (extend with long sling). Traverse left to gain the main ramp-line and follow this to the top. A 50-metre rope just reaches fence posts.

Ivy League 30m E4/5 5c

The leftward-slanting crack line above and to the right of the great ivy patch – a safe but very strenuous pitch. Start easily, place a bunch of gear, and then blast up the crack, throwing in gear at intervals, to big holds in a niche. Step left and finish in a corner. Stake belay above.

14.6.06 S Sustad, P Littlejohn (cleaned by abseil)



- | | |
|------------------|-----|
| 1 Fossil Fool | E3 |
| 2 Dinosaur Beach | E4 |
| 3 Homs Outing | MXS |

Porth Ceiriad

Beach Crag West

Walk down the steps to the beach and turn right. Accessible from low to half tide. If cut off by tide, escape is possible up slopes below Pared Mawr.

Fossil Fool 61m E3

A good route taking the broad stratified face left of *Dinosaur Beach*. Take several large cams. Start at the obvious easy entry below the right-hand side of the face.

- 1 15m 4a Climb the little stepped corner, and walk up the glacis to belay at its top.
- 2 46m 5b Deal with a short wall, and then traverse the long grassy shelf to its far end (big cam). Pull up onto the wall, move right, and climb fairly directly, trending right a bit to finish. Ascend slopes to gorse/improvised stake belay where it flattens.

1.4.06 P Littlejohn, J Bruton [OS](#)

Dinosaur Beach upgraded to E4. Serious because of the top-out.



- | | |
|------------------|----|
| 1 Gatekeeper | E1 |
| 2 The Apprentice | E7 |
| 3 Gatecrasher | E1 |

Beach Crag East

The first of the crags running out towards Trwyn yr Wylfa, is reached by walking down the steps to the beach and turning left. Barely tidal.

The Apprentice 40m E7

Climbs the impressive leaning wall between *Gatekeeper* and *Gatecrasher*; definitely the 'top route' of Porth Ceiriad. Generally well-protected, but with some suspect blocks. Start at the lowest part of the wall, at the base of a crack.

- 1 15m 6a Climb the crack easily to a small roof and peg. Strenuous moves over this and up the wall above lead to a large ledge at the bottom of the headwall, belay.
- 2 25m 6b Climb the crack and wall above the belay. This leads up rightwards to good holds leading left to jugs below a further crack going rightwards. A tricky move into this gains good protection. Follow the crack, which leads up and then right again to a point where a step up and left gains good holds and in a few moves the top. Pumpy. Belay in a lump of rock way back.

5.6.07 D McManus, M Hepburn-Scott (A really impressive on-sight first ascent. Pitch 1 was done during an attempt on the line in 2001 by P Littlejohn, T Penning.)

Cilan Area

Trwyn Yr Wylfa Area – Correct Order of Craggs from West to East

Some of the routes in the 2002 guidebook are on the wrong crags. The correct order of the crags (the cliff previously referred to as Trwyn Yr Wylfa is now described as two zawns), and the routes on them is as follows:

- 1 Keyhole Zawn. Routes as in the 2002 guide
- 2 Blind Eye Zawn. New – see below
- 3 Dog that Didn't Bark Zawn (Nesting restriction from 1 April to 31 July) *The Dog That Didn't Bark*, and *The Stone That Wouldn't Sink*
- 4 Harding Slot Zawn (on the tip of the blunt headland north-east of Trwyn yr Wylfa). *The Harding Slot*, *Stairway to Nefyn*, *Domestic Animal* and *Pulp Friction*
- 5 Pistyll Cim (east of Pistyll Cim waterfall is fishermen's way-down via a shallow ramp to the waterfall itself) *Short Fat Sarah*, *Strangers on the Shore*, *The Car That Wouldn't Start*, *The Fish That Couldn't Swim*, *Billy the Fish* (which may be the same as *The Fish That Couldn't Swim!*), and *Black Pete* (new)
- 6 Pen yr Ogof (marked as 'cave' on map). New – see below

Blind Eye Zawn

The next crag east of Keyhole Zawn looms above a little boulder cove. It is a sheltered suntrap, which is barely tidal, and it gets its name from a number of dark 'eyes' set into the rock of the upper part of the cliff. These are 'boulders' of sandstone which were compressed with the finer-grained shales. Approach by abseiling 30 metres down grassy slabs on the west side of the cliff (stake in place).

Cyclops 40m XS 5c

Not for the nervous. The central crack system of the zawn is just right of a solitary 'eye'. Start right of all the overhangs, below some grooves leading to the crack. Climb the grooves until you can break right, and climb the rib before moving back left to a sloping shelf below the crack. Follow the crack (steep). Poor belay just left on the cliff edge (a stake would be better). 18.6.05 P Littlejohn, J Bruton (cleaned on abseil by Bruton)

Kelly's Eye 41m MXS

A natural line up the centre of the cliff. A good outing but some rock requires 'a light touch'. Start below the slabby corner on the right-hand side of the cliff.

- 1 15m 5a Climb the corner for 5 metres, gain the ledge on the left, and move up left to another ledge. Follow a break up rightwards to belay below the big overhangs.
- 2 15m 5b Traverse left to the rib, pull past the bulge, and then follow the diagonal break rightwards to belay (with care) in the niche.
- 3 11m 5b Climb steeply up left to better holds on the final wall. Poor belay near edge or way back on the right.

7.4.05 S Sustad, P Littlejohn [AL](#) [OS](#)

Harding Slot Zawn

Nefyn Can Wait 21m E5 6a

Lots of excitement. Three metres right of *Domestic Animal* is a crack above a low-tide pool. Climb the crack, and then trend left onto a shelf and deep cracks just right of the final groove of *Domestic Animal*. Climb the overhanging wall to a hollow flake and a tricky rock-over onto the upper slab.

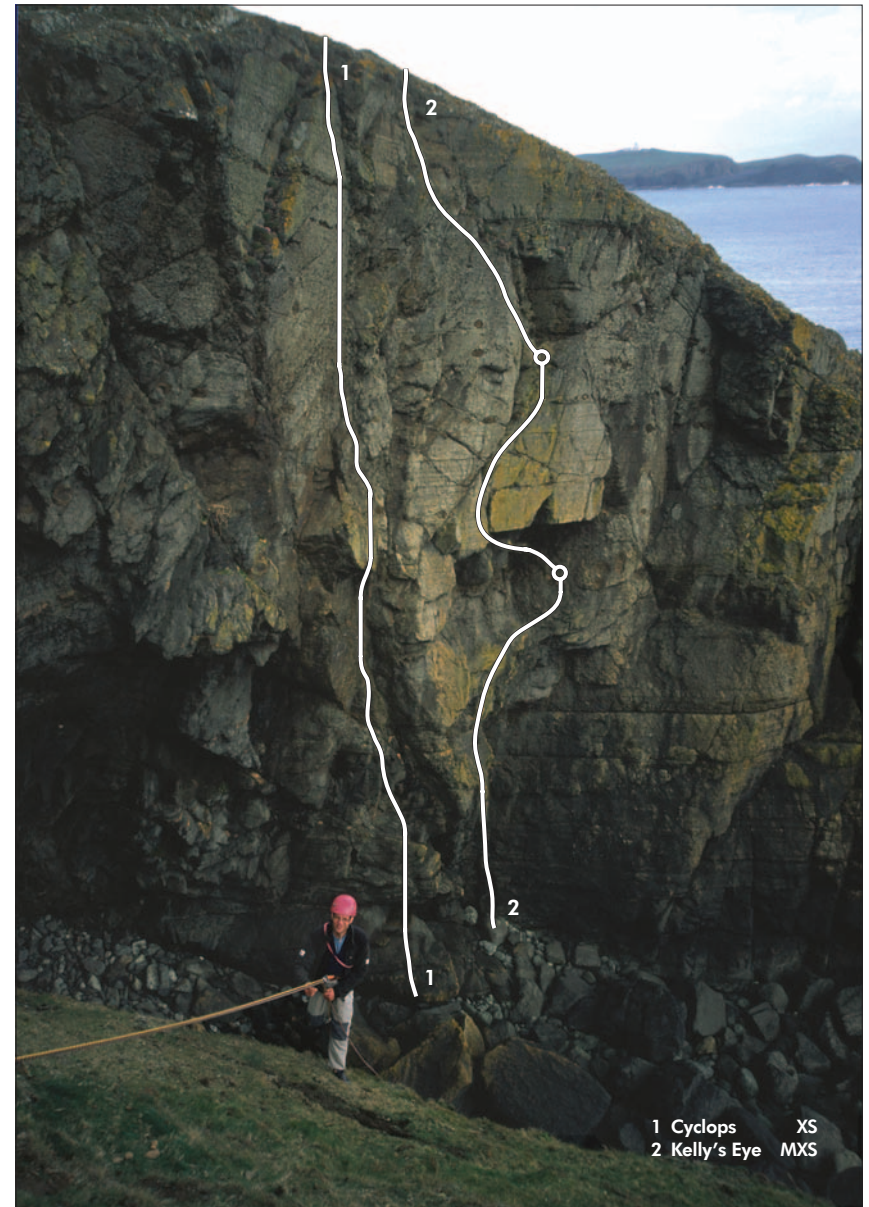
26.3.05 P Littlejohn, J Bruton [OS](#)

Forgotten Corner 18m E2 5c

The obvious corner left of the straight crack of *Pulp Friction* – well protected. Start from big blocks (non-tidal), climb the corner, and finish up the ramp on the right.

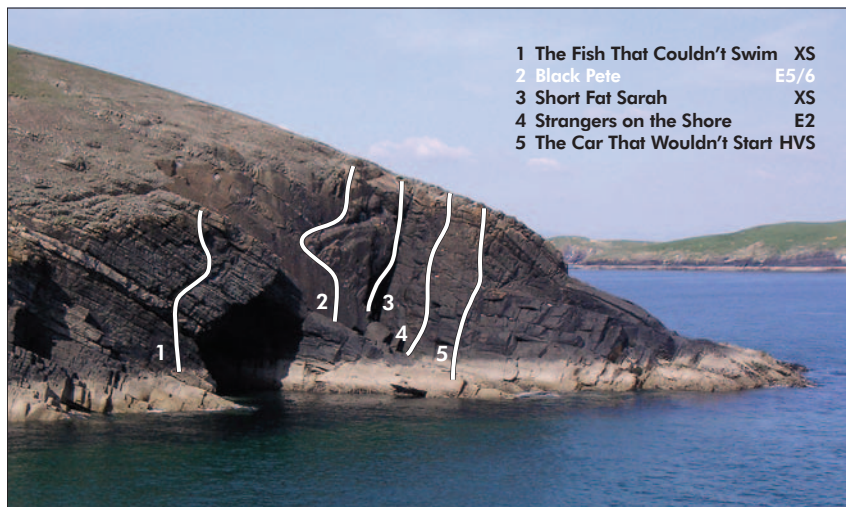
26.3.05 P Littlejohn, J Bruton [OS](#)

20



1 Cyclops XS
2 Kelly's Eye MXS

21



- 1 The Fish That Couldn't Swim XS
- 2 Black Pete E5/6
- 3 Short Fat Sarah XS
- 4 Strangers on the Shore E2
- 5 The Car That Wouldn't Start HVS

Pistyll Cim

Black Pete 27m E5/6 6a

The impressive black wall above the ramp. Excellent climbing but it's best not to test the gear. Start at the thin crack splitting the right side of the wall. Climb the crack and continue to a strange bar of rock giving a (dubious) natural thread. Traverse left to the start of the rightward-rising ramp and follow this for 5 metres before stepping up to some rounded grooves leading to the top. Multiple belays advisable.

10.5.05 P Littlejohn, D McManus (cleaned by abseil)

Pen yr Ogof

This is a new crag (shown as 'Cave' on the map) half a mile east of Pistyll Cim, opposite the beautiful island of St Tudwal's West.

Bridge over Troubled Water 30m E6 6a

Powerful climbing on solid rock in a great situation, one of the best single pitches on Pen Llyn. At mid to low tide, descend the point and traverse in to ledges beside the sea cave. The route takes the stepped groove trending leftwards above the cave. Follow the line, making strenuous moves between good holds, finally gaining a wide-bridge rest position at 21 metres above a shelf. Move leftwards below the final overhang and press on to good finishing holds. Spike belays above.

18.6.05 P Littlejohn, T Ralphs OS

Ty'n Tywyn Quarries

Quarry 2

Ring of Fire 27m E7 6b (F7b+)

Low in the grade in its current state. Takes the much-admired wall to the right of *Burning Bush*. Climb *Burning Bush* (passing a vertical peg on a ledge – looks good but can be pulled out by hand) until *Burning Bush* moves up and left to its final groove. Step down and right, following a horizontal break on good handholds but no footholds (good flexible cam protection), until directly beneath the first peg on the upper wall. Climb the wall direct, passing three pegs. (The pegs were OK and held bodyweight in 2008).

15.8.08 J Geldard HP (The pegs on the top wall were placed about ten years earlier by J Bertalot: 'Two of the pegs were very good, one was very shallow and poor; unfortunately I can't remember which was which!')

Quarry 3

Ferrous upgraded to (an adventurous) HVS.

Llanbedrog Beach (see the Addendum in the 2002 guide)

The Inch War 37m E5 6a

Now free. High in the grade and a long reach helps!

4.07 D McManus (seconded by P Littlejohn who had to use the same point of aid as on first ascent)

Best Left 24m E4 5c

To be avoided. Take pitch 1 of *Sea of Calm* but belay further left. Climb through the first band of overhangs; then go left to a big flake, and break left to the end of the rock. Exiting from here is a battle – it is best to abandon some gear and lower off (or give the whole thing a miss!).

8.07 P Littlejohn, S Sustad OS

Soma 42m E4

A direct line with steep and exposed climbing on solid rock.

1 15m 5a As for *Sea of Calm*.

2 27m 5c Move up left to an overhang split by a thin crack, and pull straight over to good holds. Continue direct and attack the main band of overhangs to reach a flat shelf on the lip. Stand on this, and then climb more easily to belays on an outcrop. From here, a rope-length trending rightwards gains the path back down to the beach.

15.6.07 P Littlejohn, S Sustad OS

Sea of Calm 42m E3

Builds up to some excellent climbing on the second pitch. Start 9 metres right of the big rock which stands off the base of the cliff.

1 15m 5a Climb slabby rock to a grass ledge on the left, and then trend right to belay below the line of overhangs.

2 27m 5c Move up, traverse right beneath smooth rock, and then step up and traverse back left to reach an obvious block. Climb up and rightwards to a projecting flake in the overhang, pull through, and go straight up the steep final wall. Belays back on an outcrop.

21.6.06 S Sustad, P Littlejohn AL OS

Craig Ddu, Black Rock Sands

OS Ref 523 375

The shale cliffs at Black Rock Sands have long been popular for bouldering and short pitches. The roof above the biggest cave gives an old aid route, and there is now a more substantial free climb, best attempted when the beach is relatively quiet.

The Black Rock Shuffle 24m E5 6a

The enticing traverse-line along the lip of the big cave is quite a pitch for such a small cliff. Take a full rack of medium cams including two no 3s. Climb to the left end of a ledge at 2 metres. Step down from its right-hand end, and then launch along the traverse-line and follow it till it naturally stops after 15 metres. Climb steeply to the rim of overhangs and traverse the hanging slab on the right to finish. A 50-metre rope just reaches belays by the fence.

8.6.04 P Littlejohn, S Monks [OS](#)

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