

**21 Western Hero 43m E2**

Harder variations on *Zig Zag*. Start at the prominent spike at the right-hand end of the terrace

1 22m 5c Climb the jumble of blocks for 5 metres to a ledge. Move out right to the base of a steep ramp and follow the ramp to a large overlap. Traverse left to the sloping ledge on *Zig Zag*.

2 21m 5a Follow *Zig Zag* up and left for 2 metres; then step up and right to the steep hand-traverse line and follow it to easier ground.

FA J Moran, N Donnelly, S Massey 20.6.78

Lower Raven Wall

Lower Raven Wall is the short tier either side of the step-down in the path beneath the base of the Main Face. This section of cliff has been walked past more times than it has been climbed upon; but this is a good place for a warm-up or a quick route to finish the day.

The wall just left of *Raven Wall Optional Start* gives good climbing – about E1, and the wall further left again can be climbed at various points.

22 Raven Wall Optional Start 12m VS 5a

Start 20 metres left of the step-down in the main path, beneath a distinctive jutting block. Climb cracks in the wall below and right of the block, move left into a scoop, and finish direct.

Left of the black corner, several lines can be climbed at grades from VS upwards.

23 Zig Zag Optional Start A 12m VS 4c

Climb the black corner that lies 15 metres left of the step-down in the path.

24 Zig Zag Optional Start B 12m VS 4b

Just right of the black corner is a steep crack. Climb this on excellent holds.

25 Dominator Optional Start 22m E1

1 12m 5b Six metres left of the step-down in the main path is a gravestone slab leaning against a black-faced corner. Step up from the top of the slab and follow cracks to finish on the grassy terrace by an overhanging boulder.

2 10m 5a From the top of the prominent spike at the base of a huge pile of blocks, step up onto the sharp-edged block above and make a thin move up left to gain a lichen-covered slab. Climb cracks in the slab to belay in the niche at the top of the jumbled blocks below the groove of *Patience*.

FA J Ford, D Hannigan 10.6.90; pitch 1 only; pitch 2 was climbed by D Hannigan S on 20.5.90.

26 Western Hero Optional Start 9m E2 5c

From the left-hand end of the grassy tongue above the step-down in the path, climb the thin crack that runs up the smooth wall to finish a few metres right of the overhanging boulder.

FA J Ford 1990

Central Main Face Area

This is the central section of Bosigran Main Face. It is bounded on its left by the break of *Zig Zag* and on its right by a gully (just right of *Andrew*). At its centre is the distinctive Coal Face, the polished black slab that sits beneath the great central overhangs and is strikingly visible from the approach path to the cliff.

Approach To reach the start of *Autumn Flakes* and the other routes on this section, follow the main path to where it drops down through boulders and rocky steps below the base of the Coal Face. Continue for about 50 metres to where the path again drops down a distinctive rock step. Just before the step-down, an obvious flake (the *Cave Flake*) leans against the base of the cliff. To its right, a prominent reddish-coloured rake begins its left-leaning track up the cliff. This is the rake of *Nameless*.

Descent is possible at either side, by either Sea Gully or one of the Landward Cliff descents.

★ 27 Autumn Flakes 53m HS

A classic outing where careful route-finding is important, particularly on the crux traverse of pitch 3. Start to the right of the step-down in the path at a slanting crack.

1 6m 4a Climb the crack to belay beside a large flake that leans against the cliff.

2 20m 4a Climb up the flake and the short wall above before trending up and rightwards via cracks and ledges to a chunky red and black vein that rises from right to left. Belay on a small ledge.

It is important not to go too high on this line, otherwise the belay below the final pitches of *Nameless* is reached with little chance of retreating.

3 27m 4b Climb for a metre or so until level with a scooped bay, across to the left from which an obvious rising faultline leads up and left. Gain the bay by delicate moves left and follow the rising faultline until an easy break leads directly to the top.

Variation Start 6m 4a Climb the small overhang 4 metres right of pitch 1.

FA R Goodier, P Henry 3.9.55

28 Broadstairs 52m E2

Strenuous and intriguing. Start just above the rock step in the terrace path and to the right of a slanting crack (*Autumn Flakes*).

1 12m 5b Gain a small ledge up on the right and continue over a grassy ledge to climb the short wall above.

2 24m 5b On the left is a groove, which curves leftwards as it rises. Move left and climb this groove, then move right beneath the distinctive roof. Make hard moves over the roof and reach an obvious rake rising leftwards (final pitch of *Autumn Flakes*). Continue up the slab above the rake to reach an exposed bay and belay beneath twin cracks (final belay of *Nameless*).

Bosigran

3 16m 4c Follow the cracks to a small ledge. Climb the crack in the right wall of the corner, pulling through a bulge to easier ground.

1a 12m 4b Start a few metres left of *Autumn Flakes*. Climb into a scoop, then left into a groove, which leads to the grassy ledge. Go right, and up a short wall to the belay.

FA J Deacon, S R Jarvis **AI** (aid) 12.7.59; climbed free by P R Littlejohn, S M P Jones, F E R Cannings in 5.71.

Parody (D E Hope, R Jervis **AI** 30.7.94) is a similar grade to *Broadstairs*. Climb pitch 2 of *Broadstairs* for 5 metres before moving right into a smooth groove, which leads to the distinctive roof of *Broadstairs*. Continue up this.

29 Lil' Devil 50m E3

A direct eliminate with some good moves.

1 30m 5c Climb the narrow black ramp of *Paragon* to the good ledge. Climb the slab just left of the corner, move left, and take a short crack to meet *Autumn Flakes* at a ledge. Climb boldly up the orange wall above, keeping left of *Autumn Flakes*. Belay on a flat quartz ledge.

2 20m 5a Follow the crack in the shallow corner above until it ends at a ledge. The original finish moved left to climb a thin, widening crack, but this is overgrown, so step right and finish up the corner of *Nameless*.

FA B Carver, M J Frith, L Pavey 22.11.98; pitch 2 climbed by B Carver, L Pavey on 14.3.99.

★ 30 Paragon 60m HVS

Nicely named, the best of its grade at Bosigran. An excellent climb: exposed, technical, and sustained. Start 3 metres left of the Cave Flake.

1 18m 5a Climb a narrow black ramp to a good ledge. Make hard moves out right and then up left into a groove. Continue up a black corner to belay on the broken rake on the right.

2 20m 4c An airy pitch. Traverse right for 8 metres until below a black crystal-filled hole 6 metres above. Move up to it and pull through the overhang on a surprising jug. An exposed traverse left along flakes leads to an awkward move up into an open bay with a hanging crack at its right-hand end. Belay at the left end of the bay below thin cracks, as for *Nameless*.

3 10m 5a Move back right and climb the hanging crack to a large open bay.

4 12m 5a Take the corner at the back of the niche. Tricky.

FA P H Biven, H T H Peck 24.5.56

31 Paradise 60m E1

Pleasant rather than heavenly, with a strenuous and exposed top pitch. Start just left of the Cave Flake.

1 18m 4b Climb the wall and continue up the black corners to belay on the rake.

2 24m 4c Move right for 3 metres and climb a black, pock-marked slab rising leftwards. Step left at the top of the slab and climb steeply into a large

open bay. Belay at the left end of the bay below thin cracks, as for *Nameless*.

3 18m 5c Right of the cracks is a shallow groove below an overhang. Climb the groove, take the thin lip of the overhang, and continue up cracks and grooves.

FA P H Biven, H T H Peck 3.4.67. Originally the line went to the top belay of *Nameless* and finished just right of that climb. The finish described was climbed with a point of aid by P Rigg, D Carr, M Ryan on 4.10.73. Climbed free by P R Littlejohn, H Clarke 12.7.8.

★ 32 Nameless 57m VS

Pleasant climbing on a good line. The top pitch can be treacherously difficult when wet. Start at the base of the reddish-coloured rake that rises up the face from just right of the Cave Flake.

1 23m Follow the rake to where it steepens.

2 16m 4b Continue in the same line, on good holds, to a small flat ledge where the angle eases slightly (this is the stance of *Autumn Flakes*). Climb right, then left and up, into a large open bay. Belay at the left-hand end of the bay beneath thin cracks.

3 18m 4c Follow the cracks to a small ledge. Continue up the steep corner with difficulty.

FA D Kemp, N E Morin 2.5.53: a further key breach in defences first scouted by Kirkus in 1938.

☆☆ 33 The Radjel 56m E3 †

Start at the right-hand side of the Cave Flake.

1 40m 6a Climb direct to the arête that forms the left edge of the large bay of *Beowulf*, and follow the arête to a ledge below a shallow left-curving groove. Ascend this with difficulty to a horizontal break. Step right onto a ledge and make tricky moves up and left onto the arête of the slab. Continue up this to the large bay of *Paragon*.

2 16m 5c Step left as for pitch 3 of *Beowulf*, climb the slab on the right to steep cracks and a roof. Pull though on the left and climb a short wall to the top.

FA G Everitt, R Everitt 23.7.11

★ 34 Beowulf 61m E2

A good, stylish climb, on excellent rock. Start right of the Cave Flake at the base of the reddish-coloured rake of *Nameless*.

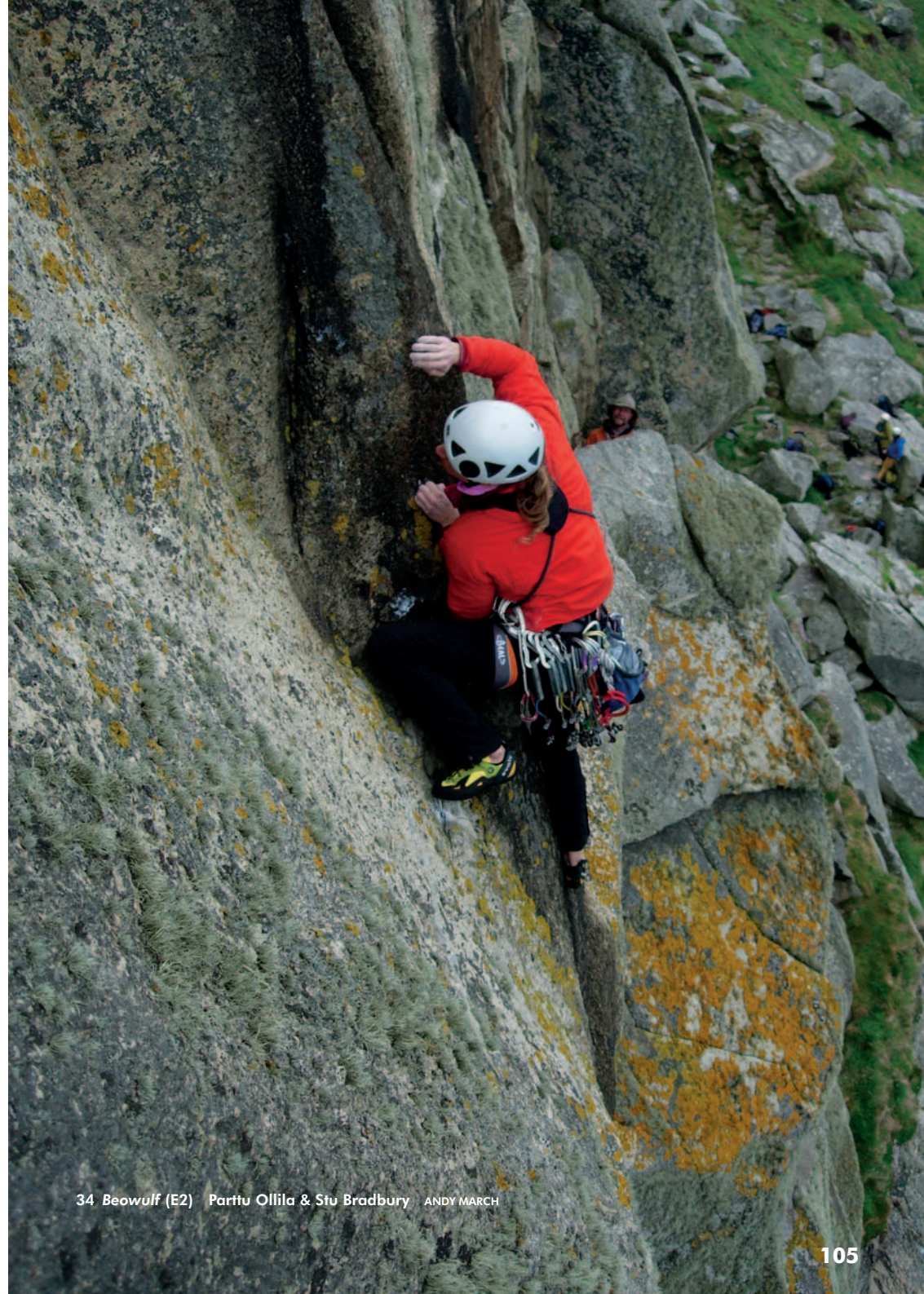
1 27m 5a Follow the rake for 6 metres and climb a thin black crack into a big bay. Move up and make an awkward traverse right to belay on top of a large block.

2 18m 5c Traverse left along the lip of the overhang and onto a small ledge. Move up and left into the groove, and climb it with increasing difficulty to gain a ledge on the right (*Suicide Wall* stance). Take the shallow groove from the left end of the ledge (hard) and reach a large bay.

3 16m 5c From the extreme left end of the bay, move left with difficulty to gain a slab, and follow flakes to an exit to the left of a small overhang.

FA P H Biven, H T H Peck (3 pts aid) 3.6.66. The first ascensionists used several bolts. 'Tired by the effort of drilling and harried by bad weather, the party used the last two bolts for aid on the first ascent'. Biven soon expressed regret about the bolting and *Beowulf* was climbed free by Phil Gordon shortly afterwards.

34 *Beowulf* (E2) Parttu Ollila & Stu Bradbury ANDY MARCH



★ **35 Wiley Coyote 55m E3**

Plenty of good independent climbing. The second pitch is well-protected, the others have some bold moves. Start as for *The Absolution*.

1 20m 5c Follow *The Absolution* for 3 metres until it is possible to hand traverse left past a blocky section. Climb a clean slab via thin moves to a ledge. Step left to a crack (on *Beowulf*) and up this to belay in the bay.

2 20m 6a Climb twin cracks in the left wall of the bay to the roof, exit left to a ledge, and continue leftwards up a flake crack to a small roof, which is cleared with difficulty. Climb the arête on the slab above to the large bay of *Paragon*.

3 15m 5c Move left as for *Beowulf* pitch 3. Step immediately right and climb the right arête of the slab via a short crack and layback flake to finish up a short step left of *Paragon*.

FA G Everitt, I Wilson **AL**, R Everitt 6.8.11

★ **36 The Absolution 54m E6**

A bold, independent line that slices through the traverse of *Suicide Wall* and finishes up a highly technical crux groove. Start 6 metres right of the Cave Flake where a short corner leads to a rake that slants up to the right.

1 24m 5c Gain the rake and climb it for 5 metres; then move left up a smooth ramp to grooves and bulges that lead to a huge flake/block at the right end of a bay (the *Beowulf* stance).

2 30m 6c Follow the line of flakes directly up the wall to the traverse-line of *Suicide Wall*. Step up to a horizontal crack; then go right and through a bulge. Move to the left edge of the slab and boldly climb to a rounded ledge beneath a black groove. Climb the overhanging groove slanting up to the left, with increasing difficulty, to a flat shelf. Swing left and finish easily.

Direct Finish 5c Climb the arête above the final groove.

FA P R Littlejohn, F Ramsey 14.4.87. Littlejohn's postscript with flourish to the notional '*Suicide Eliminate*' attempted by Peter Biven in the late 60s: 'He (Biven) did the groove left of *Phantom* as a first pitch, then tried the flakes leading up to the *Suicide* traverse but couldn't get protection so he eventually got a top rope from a leader on *Suicide*. Hopefully he would approve of the above conclusion to his efforts.' Pat Littlejohn, Count House Log Direct Finish by M Edwards, R Edwards 5.87

★ **37 The Phantom 59m E3**

Direct and demanding, forcing the main overhang at its left end. Take extra 5cm cams for the belay at the end of pitch 2. Start 6 metres right of the Cave Flake where a short corner leads to a rake that slants up to the right. The rake may also be gained by short but entertaining variations on the wall to the right.

1 27m 4c Gain the rake and climb it for 8 metres; then bear up left to a V-groove, which is climbed to a ledge. Climb the crack on the right to the distinctive Pedestal.

2 17m 5c From the left end of the Pedestal, climb direct and break through a small overhang by a

bold mantelshelf. Continue to the roof on diminishing holds and traverse left to a large belay ledge. Alternatively, after the mantelshelf, climb the steep slab rightwards to the main overhang, and traverse left to gain the ledge; both are serious pitches. Nut and cam belays.

3 15m 6a Swing back down right, pull strenuously through the overhang, and follow the crack above.

FA P H Biven, H T H Peck **AL** (aid) 28.8.56; climbed free by E Drummond and T Proctor on 19.4.73. A proposal by Drummond to rename *The Ghost* and *The Phantom* was rejected. It was felt by many that to do so would set a precedent for 'rewriting' history.

★ **38 Suicide Wall 64m E1**

Rightly famous for its splendidly exposed central traverse pitch, at the very heart of Bosigran. Not sustained, but a bold and slippery crux may leave you wondering why it isn't E2. Start as for *The Phantom*, 6 metres right of the Cave Flake where a short corner leads to a rake that slants up to the right.

1 24m Climb the rake easily bearing right to the base of the Coal Face. An alternative approach from the right is made by scrambling up a deep ragged break. This break curves up leftwards from above the point where the path rises through a narrow jumble of rocks (the *Bow Wall* approach).

2 14m 4b Move back left and climb the crack that runs diagonally leftwards up the Coal Face. Step across left and down onto *The Pedestal*.

3 16m 5c Move left and up a difficult groove before traversing left using good flake holds. Tricky moves lead up to a cam-eating, horizontal crack. Move left with difficulty to stand on a small ledge (formerly used as a belay; best to continue.) Climb the crack above the ledge (crux) to a large bay.

4 10m 4b Climb the right wall to a juggy flake and swing around right into a hanging pod. Pop out onto an easy slab above.

Variation 5b Take the wide crack directly into the pod. FA P H Biven, H T H Peck, B M Biven (2 pts aid) 8.8.55: 'Biven and Peck climbed three pitches of *Suicide Wall* in the late evening of the day before the first ascent, but were "ill-equipped, having neither slings nor pitons"; so the leader (Biven) reversed the traverse pitch to rope off the pedestal.' (CC Guides; Cornwall Volume I, 1968)

The next six routes start near a large ragged right-facing corner that curves up leftwards to the base of the Coal Face. The corner starts from just above the point where the path along the base of the cliff drops down through a narrow jumble of rocky steps.

★ **39 The Ghost 53m E3**

Breaches the main overhangs with exhilarating exposure: space walking for all the party. Low in the grade.

1 20m 4c From the base of the ragged corner, go slightly leftwards to a short, vegetated break slanting up left. Climb the left edge of the Coal Face to the distinctive Pedestal stance of *Suicide Wall*.

2 24m 5b Move back right and climb to the overhang. Step left and climb over a bulge with difficulty to a resting place beneath the roofs. Traverse right along the lip of the lower overhang



36 *The Absolution* (E6) Juráš Šelf DAVID HOPE



38 *Suicide Wall* (E1) Ekaterina Andreyova DAVID HOPE



to a break, which is climbed on large holds to a stance 5 metres up to the right.

3 9m Finish easily direct.

FA P H Biven, H T H Peck (aid) 26.8.56; climbed free by E Drummond, T Proctor on 20.4.73.

★ **40 Morgawr 50m E6**

★ Cornwall's very own sea monster, sighted many times over the years. This route climbs the obvious vein that crosses the main overhang directly above the Coal Face. Outrageous moves and positions. Start as for *The Ghost*.

1 18m 5b Climb straight up the middle of the Coal Face; then move left to a stance on the Pedestal.

2 32m 6b/c Move right and follow *Ghost* to the main overhang. Attack the vein direct and gain a poor knee-bar halfway across the roof, where it is possible to get a hand free to place a runner. Battle on to layback holds around the lip and make a final gripping rockover to stand in balance. The vein above gives a pleasant ramble to the top.

FA P R Littlejohn, T Ralphs, M Charlton 5.6.96

★ **41 Vulcan 57m E5**

Fierce and testing.

1 14m 5a Climb the wall right of the Coal Face to an obvious traverse-line, before moving left to gain an overhanging niche and belay.

2 18m 6b Climb to a higher traverse-line leading rightwards and follow it past a nose to a deep horizontal crack. Continue rightwards until below a thin crack which was previously climbed with aid; now free but ferocious. At the top of the crack, traverse right to a restricted stance above the lip of the overhang (*Bow Wall* stance).

3 25m 5b *Bow Wall* pitch 2.

FA M Jones, M Vallance (aid) 14.4.68. 'Martin went for the crux with a peg between his teeth and stabbed it in like a dagger.' (Toni Carver). Free-climbed by K Carrigan and A Lowe on 30.7.81.

42 New Medium 54m E4

Ghost-busting, with a tough section through the roofs.

1 14m 5a *Vulcan* pitch 1.

2 40m 6a Move left to a crack and skirt the roof on its left-hand side by a hard move to gain a slab on *The Ghost*. Follow the traverse-line to the right for a metre or two before climbing two overlaps to gain a flake/groove with difficulty. Finish up the groove.

FA R Fawcett, M Rhodes, S Foster 8.78

★ **43 The Marksman 59m E7** †

This exciting and exposed route climbs through the roof above and left of *Bow Wall*.

1 14m 5b Climb the wall just left of *Bow Wall* to reach a niche.

2 20m 6c Follow the thin line of weakness above and surmount the roof (peg just round the lip) to belay at the bottom of the wide crack.

3 25m 5a Climb the wall left of the crack to the top.

FA M Edwards 1994

left:45 *Doorpost* (HS) Climber unknown SIMON CARDY



43 *The Marksman* (E7) James McHaffie SIMON CARDY



45 Doorpost (HS) Matthew Berriman BARNABY CARVER

route thinking it a new line and added the top pitch. They used several points of aid, but, discovering their faux pas, later reclimbed the route "cleanly". (Frank Cannings, *Hard Rock*)

★ **45 Doorpost 56m HS**
 ★ Another of the great classic lines on Bosigran. Elegant and exhilarating. The first pitch is often wet but is climbable with care; *Little Brown Jug* pitch 1 is an alternative. Start at a large ragged right-facing corner that curves up leftwards to the base of the Coal Face

1 18m 4a Scramble up the ragged right-facing corner for about 6 metres to where a thin flake juts out. A distinctive traverse-line curves out to the right. Follow the traverse-line using underclings until a few awkward moves lead up and back left to a stance.

2 12m 4b Climb the twin cracks above, first by the left and then the right to a large ledge.

3 26m 4a From the left side of the ledge, climb a thin crack, which gives out onto big chunky holds that lead pleasantly to the top.

Variation Start 5m HVS 5b Climb the thin crack 3 metres left of the first pitch of *Shaft* to the ledge.

FA B M Biven, H T H Peck, P H Biven 7.8.55
 'Architecturally impeccable and technically sublime – here is a quintessential granite climbing experience.' (Mike Banks, *Classic Rock*). The Direct Start, added by G Mason, O Hill, M Pollard, T Andrews on 24.10.65, has been incorporated into *Shaft* and *Permanent Waves*.

★ **46 Shaft 61m E3**
 An eliminate through *Bow Wall*. Only a couple of hard moves, but these are in a sensational position.

1 36m 6b About 4 metres right of the ragged right-facing corner that leads up to the Coal Face is a left-curving flake. Make a hard move onto a ledge at 5 metres. Climb the vegetated groove above, cross the traverse-line of *Doorpost*, and continue up a broken vein to meet *Bow Wall* below the headwall. Follow the steep crack above (as for *Bow Wall*); then break through the roof and the one above to gain a slab and a restricted stance.

2 25m 5a Climb the roof into a groove and thin crack and finish via a depression.

FA R Edwards, M Edwards 1983. *Shaft* incorporated the direct start to *Doorpost*.

★ **47 Permanent Waves 61m E4**
 A sketchy line based on the thin black crack on the right of the *Bow Wall* face. Start as for *Shaft*.

1 18m 6a Climb the short groove to a tricky move onto a sloping ledge (as for *Shaft*). Continue direct with difficulty up the thin crack between *Shaft* and *Thin Wall Special* to the traverse-line of *Doorpost*. Follow this to its first stance.

2 43m 5c Step left onto the wall and climb up to where a thin black crack rises up the face above. Climb the crack and arête (spaced protection) and finish direct.

FA P Rogers, R Fowler 26.9.86

★ **44 Bow Wall 51m E2**
 ★ Joe Brown – his mark. A marvellous, intimidating climb, strenuous then delicate, but well protected. Start at the top of a large ragged right-facing corner that curves up leftwards to the base of the Coal Face, reached by scrambling.

1 26m 5b Bear diagonally right up the impressive wall. Reach a spike, move up, and then more strenuously up the crack above onto a distinctive 'pancake'. Step up right onto a smooth, steep slab and edge right again before climbing through the lip above to a small stance.

2 25m 5b Traverse left along the lip of the overhang in a very exposed position to a bay. Follow the diagonal fault leading up and right and finish up a slab.

FA J Brown 7.57, pitch 1 only. The upper pitch: B M Biven, H T H Peck with some aid in 1958.

'Brown traversed right, after the crux pitch, to the belay stance on *Doorway*. His second, a young "apprentice" promptly fell off the hard moves and the pair, unable to communicate above the roar of the sea, sat for over an hour contemplating one of the finest views in Britain, until Brown soloed down *Doorway* and found his second stranded on a small ledge. "The lad nearly fell off when he saw me," said Brown, "so I went up again and lowered him down the face." The following year, Barrie Biven and Trevor Peck climbed the

★ **48 Thin Wall Special** 57m E1

Two good, contrasting pitches. The first can be wet, but it is reasonable for the grade when dry. Start 6 metres right of the large ragged right-facing corner that leads up to the Coal Face. A distinctive black seam rises leftwards up the face.

1 21m **5b** Climb the black seam to a niche and continue up the rounded crack (crux) to the traverse of *Doorpost* and follow this to the belay.

2 12m Climb to the large belay ledge below the big corner.

3 24m **5b** Climb the corner crack to the roof, which is taken on its right by sensational moves.

FA P H Biven, H T H Peck (1 pt aid) 26.5.56

Variations, which could be combined to form a good continuous route:

★ **49 The Chicken Run** 23m E2

1a **5b** Climb pitch 1 to the niche, then step right into a shallow scoop. Follow this moving right, with sparse protection, to easy ground. Step left to the belay of *Doorpost*.

50 The Boysen Variant 49m E1

2a 18m **4a** *Little Brown Jug* pitch 2.

3a 31m **5b** Climb the steep slanting crack above to a foot ledge at the base of a small black ramp. Traverse left below the overhang to a groove. Reach the lip of the overhang with difficulty and pull up onto a ledge. Traverse left to reach the normal route under the roof of pitch 3. Take the roof on its right.

FA of *The Boysen Variant* 5.6.60

45 *Doorpost* Oliver Halford SIMON CARDY

★ **51 Toad Wall Special** 56m E4

Hard but well protected. Start 8 metres right of the Coal Face, below a thin ragged crack (just right of *Thin Wall Special*).

1 36m **6a** Climb the crack and move right to gain a shallow rightward-leaning groove. Climb this until forced onto the right wall, which is then climbed on tines to a horizontal break. Move back left and up to a large belay ledge.

2 20m **6a** Climb the pillar above to below a square recess in the large roof. Pull up into this, exit left to an exposed position and then make a difficult series of moves up the arête. Continue direct to take the thin zigzag crack diagonally leftwards and finish as for the last few moves of *Thin Wall Special* at the end of the roof.

FA S Lewis 30.12.82. Pitch 2 by S Lewis, C Mellor 2.1.83, although they approached the zigzag crack from the corner of *Doorway*.

About 25 metres right of the Coal Face there is a rise in the path beside a distinctive sentry box. Right again is a smooth black slab rising leftwards in a V-groove. Take bearings from these features for the following routes.

★ **52 Little Brown Jug** 64m VS

A marvellous and absorbing line; quite tough for its grade and with an elegant crux pitch. Start 5 metres left of the sentry box, at the left end of a tapering grassy ledge.

1 22m **4b** From the left end of the ledge, follow a line of flakes rising leftwards to reach a shallow groove leading direct to ledges. Belay here or step left to the *Doorpost* belay.





52 Little Brown Jug (VS) Ged Desforges SIMON CARDY

2 18m 4a Follow the line of holds up across the slab on the right to a good ledge on top of jumbled blocks.

3 24m 5a Climb the steep slanting crack above to a foot-ledge at the base of a small black ramp. Gain a rounded black bulge on the left by a difficult step, followed by delicate moves, up and right, to gain a good flake. Continue up and right into a trough and climb the steep crack directly above to finish.

Variation Start 8m HVS 5a From below and left of the starting ledge, take the small overhang by its right side, and make a thin move up to join the rest of the pitch.

FA P H Biven, B M Biven AL 21.8.55

53 Feast of Fear 36m E6 6b

Bold and bare. Start 5 metres left of the sentry box, just right of the start of *Little Brown Jug*. Climb the wall to a ledge with a good small thread on the left. Move back right and devise a way up to a small ledge from where thin moves lead to a handhold on the left and a direct finish. (Walk off right or finish via *Little Brown Jug's* top pitch.)

FA M Edwards, R Greaves 26.8.85

54 Thick Wall Special 55m E4

A challenging and intense first pitch.

1 30m 5c Start 3 metres left of the sentry box and climb the wall to a small overlap at 9 metres (poor gear). Make difficult moves up left to gain a thin, leftward-slanting crack and continue more easily to belay amidst a jumble of blocks (belay of *Little Brown Jug*).

2 25m 4c Pull onto the flying arête on the right and follow it until level with a deep trough slanting up leftwards (*Ledge Climb*). Climb the arête and crack above, or, not so good, step left up the trough and climb to a horizontal crack. Move back right and finish direct.

FA P Livesey, A Evans, J Lawrence 4.76

55 Visions of Johanna 54m E1

Stylish and satisfying but with committing first moves. Start below the broken edge of the wall just left of the sentry box.

1 20m 5b Move up for 3 metres and make harder moves, protected only by tiny wires, up to a small overhang, before moving right and up to climb the wall above to a good stance.

2 10m Continue easily to a ledge amidst a jumble of blocks (belay of *Little Brown Jug*).

3 24m 5a Climb the steep slanting crack above to a footledge at the base of a small black ramp. Gain a rounded black bulge on the left by a difficult step (as for *Little Brown Jug*). Move left for a metre or so; then climb a bulge and a neat slab to make surprisingly reasonable moves up a cramped V-chimney.

FA M Springett, F E R Cannings, P H Biven 13.4.68 pitch 1 only; the top pitch had been climbed by J Taylor, P Badcock on 10.3.68.

56 Doorway 59m S

A delightful line focusing on one of the great natural features of Bosigran, the big corner capped by a roof near the top of the cliff. The final pitch can be serious when wet. Start about 3 metres left of the long black slab in the V-groove.

1 20m 4a Climb a thin ramp to a ledge. Climb through a steep break and continue pleasantly to a ledge.

2 12m Walk left to belay in a sloping recess beneath the large corner.

3 27m 4a Climb the corner to below the roof. Traverse left and finish easily direct. Careful ropework required.

Variation

1a 20m HVS 5a This is a tough old problem. Start in the sentry box. Climb to the roof, make hard moves out and right, and move up to the ledge on the parent pitch. Climb through the steep break and continue to the belay.

FA J Cortlandt-Simpson, W J Hutchinson 1949; the Direct Start was added by J M Edwards, N E Morin, N Albion in 5.53.

Another significant achievement by Jim Simpson through territory still 'well-grassed'. Creaky rock on the final traverse caused a judicious retreat initially.





64 Andrew (VD) Climber unknown SIMON CARDY

57 Clob 49m VD

Start at the foot of the long black slab in the V-groove.

1 26m Climb the black slab and groove to a ledge and go direct over turf ledges to finish right of a jutting blade of rock and a steep chimney (Ledge Climb pitch 2 belay). Step right to a good ledge at the foot of the *Anvil Chorus* corner.

2 23m Climb the wide ragged crack above the left end of the stance. Trend left at 8 metres to join the last few metres of the *Ledge Climb* chimney and so to a good ledge. Climb a short black-veined wall on the right to finish up an easy-angled chimney.

FA C Fishwick, R Woodman 5.1.65

★ **58 Venusberg 55m VS**

Nicely technical and varied. Small wires are useful. Start at the V-groove as for *Clob*.

1 10m 4b Climb the black slab; then take a steep crack out on the right to an awkward grovel onto a ledge. Often wet, but still surmountable. Belay at a large pinnacle in a bay.

2 15m 4b Go directly left from the belay spike and climb the corner by some neat moves to a good ledge. An alternative is to chimney up behind the pinnacle and traverse left into the corner.

3 20m 4c Walk left along a narrow grass ledge until beneath the open corner of *Anvil Chorus* (belay recommended). The corner has a distinctive black vein on its left wall. Go up to the foot of the corner, traverse left to a small ledge, and climb the black vein. Step left at its top and climb a short wall to a ledge, before stepping awkwardly back right around a nose of rock to a niche.

4 10m 4b Follow the corner above to a roof, make a tricky move out left, and climb the black vein above.

FA P H Biven, C Fishwick 30.4.61

59 My Back Pages 25m HVS 5a

Start at for the V-groove as for *Clob*. Climb a shattered crack on the right to a ledge; then climb the arête left of *Anvil Chorus* first pitch. Climb the arête on the front face of the pinnacle. Step off the pinnacle and surmount the overhang above to gain a wide crack. Finish up a left leaning groove to a large belay ledge. *Anvil Chorus Direct Finish* provides a good second pitch.

FA S Cardy 31.5.14

★ **60 Anvil Chorus 58m VS**

Great name, great climb. There is ample protection throughout, so use it. High in the grade. Start a metre or so right of the black-sided V-groove of *Clob*, below a neat little face.

1 18m 4b Climb the crack in the face passing a small ledge at 6 metres to continue up the crack to a larger ledge.

2 15m 4b Move up easily to a small roof on the right at 6 metres and pass it boldly on the right. (Dozens of visiting V Diff leaders have climbed this under the impression that it was pitch 2 of *Andrew*, an experience that either ruined their holiday or rapidly advanced their standard.) Continue up to a large

belay ledge. From here, walk left along the narrow grass ledge and belay beneath the open corner.

3 17m 4c Go easily up to the corner, and climb it using your favourite technique for twin cracks. From the top of the cracks (belay possible) move right along the narrow ledge and make an interesting mantelshelf move up to a belay.

4 8m 4c Hard. Step up left to reach a horizontal crack and climb the thin crack above.

Variation

4a 9m HVS 5a Step up to the horizontal crack and follow it left into a corner. Move left into a steep wide crack which leads to the top.

FA P H Biven, H T H Peck, B M Biven 19.5.56

★ **61 Anvil Chorus Direct Finish**

A better finish, often overlooked.

3a 25m 5a Follow pitch 3 to the top of the corner, traverse right for 3 metres, and follow a crack, which slants up leftwards, to the overhang. Surmount the overhang by moving left, then stepping back right above it.

FA Traditional

62 Jolly Green Giant 21m E2 6a

A fierce line up the lichenous buttress right of pitch 3 of *Anvil Chorus*; high in the grade. Start from the top of the pinnacle at the base of the twin cracks of *Anvil Chorus* pitch 3. Move up right and into a niche. Climb to a small roof and take a thin crack on the left to the traverse-line of *Anvil Chorus* pitch 3, the *Direct Finish* of which is a good finale.

FA R Fawcett, M Rhodes, S Foster 8.78

★ **63 Ledge Climb 52m VD**

Classic climbing covering some impressive territory, especially the finish. Start just left of a narrow grey slab that slants up to the left (the start of *Andrew*), at a deep, ragged crackline with a chockstone at 6 metres.

1 9m Climb the crack (quite tricky) to a good ledge.

2 20m Make a rising traverse leftwards over broken ground and then climb a short slab and blocks to a good stance under an overhang.

3 14m Slither under the jutting blade of rock on the right, and move around to a chimney, which is climbed to a stance.

4 9m 'The Ledge'. This is the delightfully exposed trough rising leftwards. If this is too daunting, escape can be made up the short black-veined wall above the stance and then up the easy chimney. But, this avoids the best bit of the route.

FA A W Andrews, J B Farmer 1905

'Andrews rubber-roamed, goat-like, up ribs while Bretland-Farmer followed or preceded him with the sinuous slither and something of the look of a seal at the zoo...' (Geoffery Winthrop Young)

They traversed in at half height. Pitch 1 was added in 1922 by G H L Mallory, E Andrews, S Cox, W Cox

64 Andrew 58m VD

An enjoyable climb, although escapable between pitches; quite steep for the grade at the finish. Start at a narrow grey slab at the right-hand edge of the



60 Anvil Chorus (VS) Annie Anderson BARNABY CARVER

main face and just left of a narrow gully (Simon Gully).

1 15m Climb the slab and some chunky flakes above to reach the left end of a ledge that slopes gently down towards a grassy gully on the right.

2 15m Ignore the continuation groove that leads up to a small roof directly above. (This is pitch 2 of *Anvil Chorus*). Instead, walk right for 4 metres until almost in the gully, then climb a crack and then easier ground to a large platform. A corner, just left of the crack, is a harder alternative.

3 12m There is a ragged crack above and left of the stance. Reach this from the right, and climb to easier blocks leading to a stance below a steep corner.

4 16m Climb the steep left wall of the corner to reach excellent jugs for a pull over onto a ledge, and continue easily up to the right.

FA P H Biven, H T H Peck, J Andrew 13.9.58

The bottomless groove in the wall above the left end of the ledge at the top of *Andrew* pitch 1 is **The Wasteland** (10m HVS 5b H Banner 8.57). So called because it connects 'nothing with nothing'; an entertaining problem all the same.

Bosigran

At the top of Simon Gully and just right of Andrew's final pitch are two short pitches above a slab with a black patch on its left side. Both pitches are tricky but diverting. **Como Crack** (10m S H Longley-Cook, N E Morin 30.9.48) takes the overhanging cracks just right of and above the left side of the slab. **Sloping Slab** (10m S A W Andrews, E Andrews 1922) climbs the crack on the right side of the slab before traversing left and up an open groove.

Girdle Traverses

There are two girdles of Bosigran Main Face, both of which are good long outings offering absorbing route finding at a reasonable standard. *Diamond Tiara* is above *String of Pearls*.

★ 65 Diamond Tiara 205m HVS

The route follows a line that keeps about 6 to 10 metres below the top of the cliff. It is easily escapable at a number of points although pitch 2 is a fine, committing piece of climbing. Start at the base of Sea Gully below the jagged black crack of *Sinistra*.

1 18m 4c *Sinistra* pitch 1: climb the crack and slab to a short corner at 12 metres. Hand-jams and high steps gain the edge of the upper slab and the grassy terrace above. Belay below the black corner on the right.

2 37m 5b Sustained and at the top end of the adjectival grade. Step down and right to the top of the *Kafoozalem* wall. Use undercuts to ascend to a small overhang, step down, and move across the corner of *Raven Wall* to the small pinnacle on the right rib. Climb diagonally rightwards to belay under an overhang about 6 metres from the top of the cliff.

3 18m Continue rightwards and drop down an easy break to a small ledge at the top of a groove slanting down to the left (*Zig Zag*).

4 18m 4a Descend the rake that drops down to the right (*Autumn Flakes*) to a small bay. Move up and right to belay at the foot of twin cracks (final pitch of *Nameless*). An alternative is to climb the grassy cracks leading up rightwards from the stance before moving right to descend the *Nameless* cracks for 6 metres to the stance (4c).

5 10m 5a Climb the short distinctive crack on the right to a comfortable ledge (pitch 3 of *Paragon*).

6 18m 5b Climb the cleft on the right (*Suicide Wall*) and move up the slab to the final short corner near the cliff-top (break for lunch?). Step down to the right and swing around a rib with difficulty to a spike belay just left of the final crack of *The Phantom*.

7 30m 4c Continue traversing rightwards to a spike. Follow the easiest line past another spike to belay under the roof at the top of the impressive corner of *Doorway*.

8 30m 5a Follow the obvious crack in the right wall to move around the rib. Continue up and rightwards to a trough below the steep final crack of *Little Brown Jug*.

9 18m 4c Descend the trough. Traverse rightwards, moving across the top of the twin cracks of *Anvil Chorus*, to make the tricky mantelshelf at the end of the traverse.

10 8m 4c *Anvil Chorus* pitch 4: step up left to reach a horizontal crack and climb the thin crack above.

FA P H Biven, J Deacon, H T H Peck. 21.5.56; originally climbed from right to left and begun by reversing the traverse of *Anvil Chorus*. The original line included a short aid traverse between *Paragon* and *Nameless*.

★ 66 String of Pearls 181m E1

★ A fine girdle tracing a cunning line from left to right across the face. There are some testing moves on the first pitches, which might be damp early in the day. Start at the foot of *Beaker Route* (page 97).

1 21m 5b Climb the layback crack to its top and hand-traverse to the right. Clear the bulge and continue rightwards to the ledge below the steep corner of *Raven Wall*.

2 21m 5b Traverse easily to reach a steep diagonal crack running up to the right. Follow this crack until it is possible to step across a slab (below the hanging groove of *Patience*) into a diagonal crack in the opposite wall. Climb this crack to a belay niche at the base of a deep rising groove on the right (*Zig Zag*).

3 26m 4b Climb the groove to a ledge at its top; then descend the rake leading down to the right (*Autumn Flakes*) to a small bay.

4 27m 5a Continue traversing and move down slightly to good holds just above a narrow, black, pock-marked slab (*Paradise*). Descend this, traverse right past the rib of *Paragon*, and go down onto a large sloping triangular ledge (*Beowulf*). Climb up a corner and hand-traverse rightwards to some blocks. Climb a corner to The Pedestal on *Suicide Wall*.

5 28m 4c Step around the rib onto the Coal Face and climb up to its top right-hand end. Traverse 3 metres right and descend an overhung niche to a ledge; then traverse a further 3 metres into a sentry box stance just left of *Bow Wall* (or continue traversing at the higher level then descend to the sentry box.)

6 16m 5a Move down slightly and make a sensational traverse along a horizontal crack to the twin cracks of *Doorpost*. Descend to the first belay of that route.

7 18m 4a (*Little Brown Jug* pitch 2.) Follow the line of holds up across the slab on the right to a good ledge in the midst of jumbled blocks.

8 24m 5a *Little Brown Jug* pitch 3 (page 114).

FA R Goodier, J Deacon AL 13.8.55

'Arrived back to Cornish sunshine from Chamonix rain.' Rawdon Goodier's passing comment secures Cornwall's reputation as a sub-tropical paradise in the good old days. Goodier and Deacon then did a brisk second ascent of *Suicide Wall* followed by the girdle, which was originally climbed from right to left. Either way, a significant piece of climbing by the military wing.



66 String of Pearls (E1) Ken Palmer PETE SAUNDERS