

# The Wafer. Northcott Mouth

The wafer (page 181 North Devon and Cornwall Guide) wasn't that impervious to the onslaught of storms and gravity. It fell down, leaving good pocketed rock and "less" of the usual dodgy rock. Good belays as the fin fell northwards and filled the void behind with big blocks. The routes left of "The suicidal optimist" are seemingly unaffected and still have that certain Culm feeling. The line of "Dutch departure" is also the line at which the fin snapped!

To the left there is no some bouldery style routes in the 5b/5c grade with some harder eliminates.



**1 Departed along the Dutch** 25 feet 5a/b

The thin crack and pocketed slab left of "Optimistically pessimistic". The start of Dutch departure, eases very quickly.

*Soloed Moss 29/10/07*

**2 The perpetual Pessimist** 30 feet VS 5a

The first of two thin pocketed seams, leads to the top. Smooth to start protection comes from small wires/ cams.

**3 The optimistic pessimist** 30 feet HVS 4c

The right-hand seam.

*Soloed Moss 29/10/07*

**4 Miss placed optimism** 35 feet HVS 5a

Left of The optimistic pessimist is a large oval pocket. Climb direct to the pocket. Peg on the left small cam on the right. Then follow thin cracks to the top over crunchy rock.

*Mossee, Hannah 15/10/07*

**5 Skull and crossbones** 40 feet HVS 5a

I haven't done this looks very crunchy and loose at the top.

**6 The eternal optimist** 65 feet E2 5b

Good just a bit shorter. Good climbing linking the two pockets left of "skull and cross bones". Climb direct to the first pocket (good gear), move slightly right, up, then back left (medium wires). Then climb to the top past a peg.

**7 The suicidal optimist** 90 feet E3 5c

It's all in the name good climbing but loose. There is a large unstable block at the top (should come off soon it's like the culms version of a serac). High up to the right of skull and crossbones is a large pocket above a vague line of weakness. Climb slightly left past two hand placed pegs (removed) to reach the pocket. Move left and finish past another peg (also removed).

**8 Turbid legacy** 90 feet E2 5c

Sustained climbing, up the right-hand side of the wall. Start at a vertical crack 20 feet right of skull and cross bones cave. Take a direct line above to the top, no gear for the last 20 feet otherwise protected by:- medium to small wires and cams at three quarters.

**Probing phobia** 100 feet E3 5b

Bold and sparsely protected climbing. Start as for Turbid legacy climb to a peg at 15 feet then move right on small holds. Move steeply right past another peg at 30 feet, to enter a shallow groove, reddish orange groove at fifty feet. Step left on to the head wall small spike and wire "protect" progress to the top stepping left onto the head wall.