

Haldrine Cove

This is a small crag, almost totally overshadowed by the proximity of its big brother Bosigran. It has certain charms that Bosigran does not have, however: it is much quieter, even in midsummer, and being shorter in stature all of its climbs can be lead in a single pitch. All of the routes climbed to date are in the lower grades, well protected and with little route-finding difficulty. This makes the crag an excellent choice for new or inexperienced leaders who do not wish to be swamped by the scale and popularity of Bosigran.

Approach from the coastal path running east from Bosigran. As you pass above the cove beyond the Seaward Cliff, Haldrine comes into view. Ignore the first path that appears to run down into the cove, and continue until you can see the top of the crag, with a rocky outcrop further up the hillside (the direct line up the nose of this buttress is **JVH**, 10m Diff, FA M Garland 20/5/10). Take the next path running down towards the crag, and descend to a broad grassy ledge on the western side of the cliff. An easy scramble leads you down to the belay of Nursery Corner. The lower descent route indicated, leading to the very start of Geological Groove and TLWRA, shouldn't be used near high tide (especially with rough seas); in these conditions both routes can still be accessed from the higher descent route. Both variations on the descent have a tricky step (just before Geological Groove for the lower, just after TLWRA for the higher) over which novices may be protected.



Climbs 1 to 4 begin from the upper traverse.

1. Nursery Corner 25m Moderate

Climb the broken corner to a flat section where it rejoins the descent ramp and carry on up the corner to the top. FA M Garland 22.6.09

2. Too Much Taurine 25m HVD

The first slab you reach is sandy coloured with an arcing right to left crack. Climb this to a ledge and a second slab below a roof. Trend right under the roof to meet the corner, and surmount the overhanging block via a small black patch on the side of the block. FA T Murray and J Hodge 20.5.10

3. Forget me not 25m VDiff

Climb the shallow corner to a shelf, and follow the corner up and left of the hanging block. Not overly well protected. FA M Garland 22.6.09

4. The Misadventures of Robert Green 25m Diff

Immediately to the right of Geological Groove is a pinky-orange slab. Climb the centre of this direct to the ledge. Proceed more easily up the left-hand wall on good holds, passing to the left of the overhang to finish. FA S Collier and M Bedington 12.6.2010

The next two routes properly begin from the lower traverse, but can both be accessed from the higher traverse.



Tom Murray on the first ascent of Too Much Taurine

5. Geological Groove ★ 30m Difficult

Start at a black-coated slab down and left of the broad belay ledge. Climb the slab to a groove that leads to a small overhang, which is passed by a move out to the left. FA Cliff Assault Wing 1955

Left of the start of Geological Groove is an upward-angled v-groove which leads onto a long ledge from where the next three climbs begin.

6. The Love Wagon Rides Again ★ 28m Severe

Belay from the top of the v-groove, directly below a large hanging flake. Make a couple of delicate moves rightwards, passing a triangular niche. Climb straight up to the flake via a ledge and a bulge. Surmounting the flake itself proves to be the crux; this can be avoided on the left at VDiff. FA J Wakeham and C Atkinson 15.8.2003

7. Barnaclet 33m Difficult

From the left side of the ledge, below the two large overhangs, make easy moves up and rightwards, passing the right-hand overhang on its right side. FA unknown 10.4.1986

8. Slow-worm 30m Very Difficult

A pleasant meander. Start as for Barnaclet. Move up to the right-hand overhang. Pass this on its left side via an exposed but well-protected step. Pass the left-hand overhang on its right side. FA J Wakeham and C Atkinson 17.8.2003

The belay for climbs around the black slab is at the top of an easy chimney rising from the previous belay ledge.

9. Dolphin Song 25m Severe

Climb the broken wall to a small roof. Pass this on the right and step straight back left to follow up the exposed buttress to the top. FA M Garland 22.6.09

10. Shrimpet 25m Very Difficult

Follow the line of grooves and cracks in the wall to the right of the tall black slab, passing the left-hand overhang on its left side. Steep in the upper section. FA unknown 10.4.1986

11. Inverted V-Groove 25m Difficult

The deep grooves immediately right of the tall slab. Can be slightly grubby... FA Cliff Assault Wing 1955

12. Black Slab 25m ★ VS 4a

Climb the slab directly; blinkers required. Unfortunately, though the climbing is superb, the gear peters out halfway up just as the moves become harder. FA M Mellor and J Wakeham 20.8.2004

13. Limpet Slab ★ 28m Very Difficult

Start on the black slab, moving quickly to the airy arête on the left (loose in places). Move back right at the top. Some looseness but excellent exposure. FA M Hardy and R G Pettigrew 28.7.1956

From the belay ledge of Barnaclet, follow a descending foot traverse leftwards from the bottom of the chimney. Belay below the broad overhang just to the left of Limpet Slab where the traverse opens into a deep gash.

14. Osteopath Wall ★ 30m Very Difficult

Traverse leftwards along the gash to a criss-crossed wall. Climb this to a groove and move immediately right onto an arête. Climb this and the slab above. FA J Wakeham and C Atkinson 16.8.2003

15. Drop Out 30m Hard Severe 4b

Traverse leftwards under an overhang starting from the bottom of Limpet Slab. Continue horizontally until able to step down onto an airy ledge under a second slight overhang. The route finishes up and left of this face. Can be done in 2 pitches to minimise rope drag on the end section. Good gear apart from on the final traverse section.

NB the exact line for this route is, as yet, unconfirmed and the topo is a guess.

FA T Gilbert and T Floyd 15.09.03

16. Crabwise 30m Difficult

An attempt to make best use of the remaining rock. Start as for Osteopath Wall, continuing to more leftwards below the criss-crossed wall and below a large overhanging sheet of rock. Continue to traverse using either of two foot-ledges (the higher of the two is easier). Reach the arête at the far left of the crag and belay. FA J Wakeham and C Atkinson 16.8.2003



Clare Atkinson on the first ascent of *The Love Wagon Rides Again*

It seems unlikely that there is much further development to be done at Halldrine other than variations on the existing climbs, though harder routes may yet tackle the larger overhangs direct or even the large hanging walls on the left of the tower. If you do set any new routes please let me know at JamieWakeham@hotmail.com