

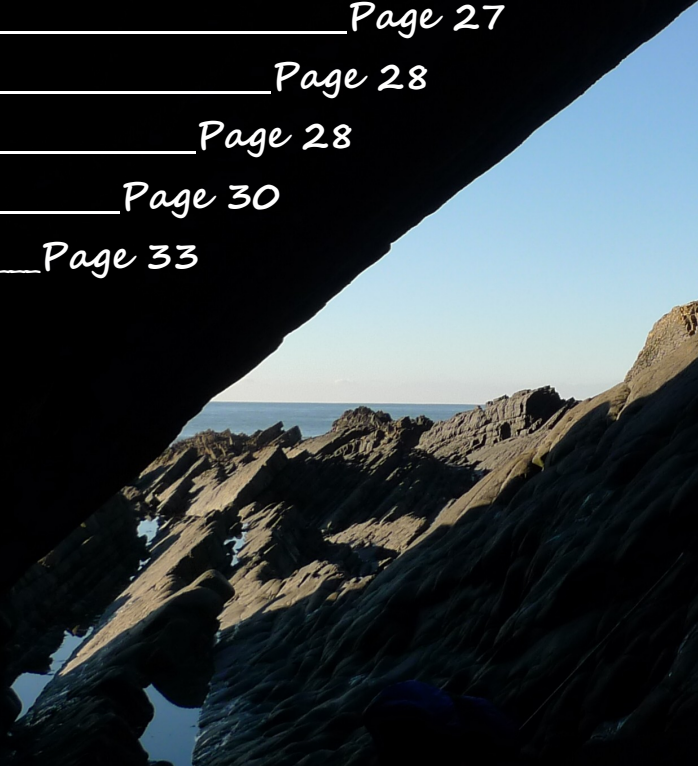
*Southern
Culm
Bouldering*



By Dave Westlake

Southern Culm Bouldering

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Other guides to the area are also available:

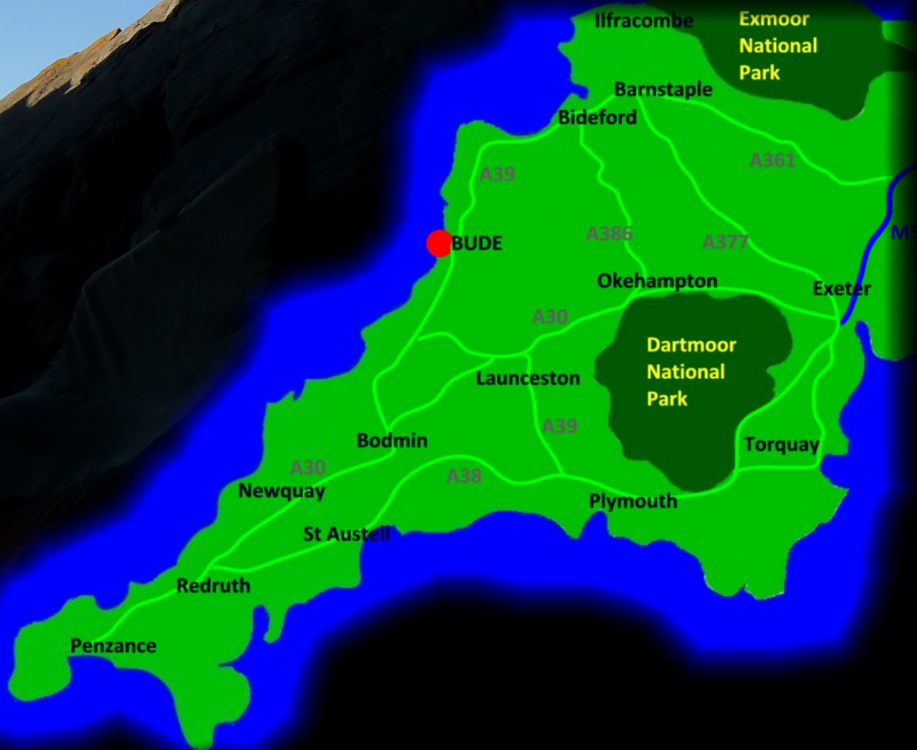
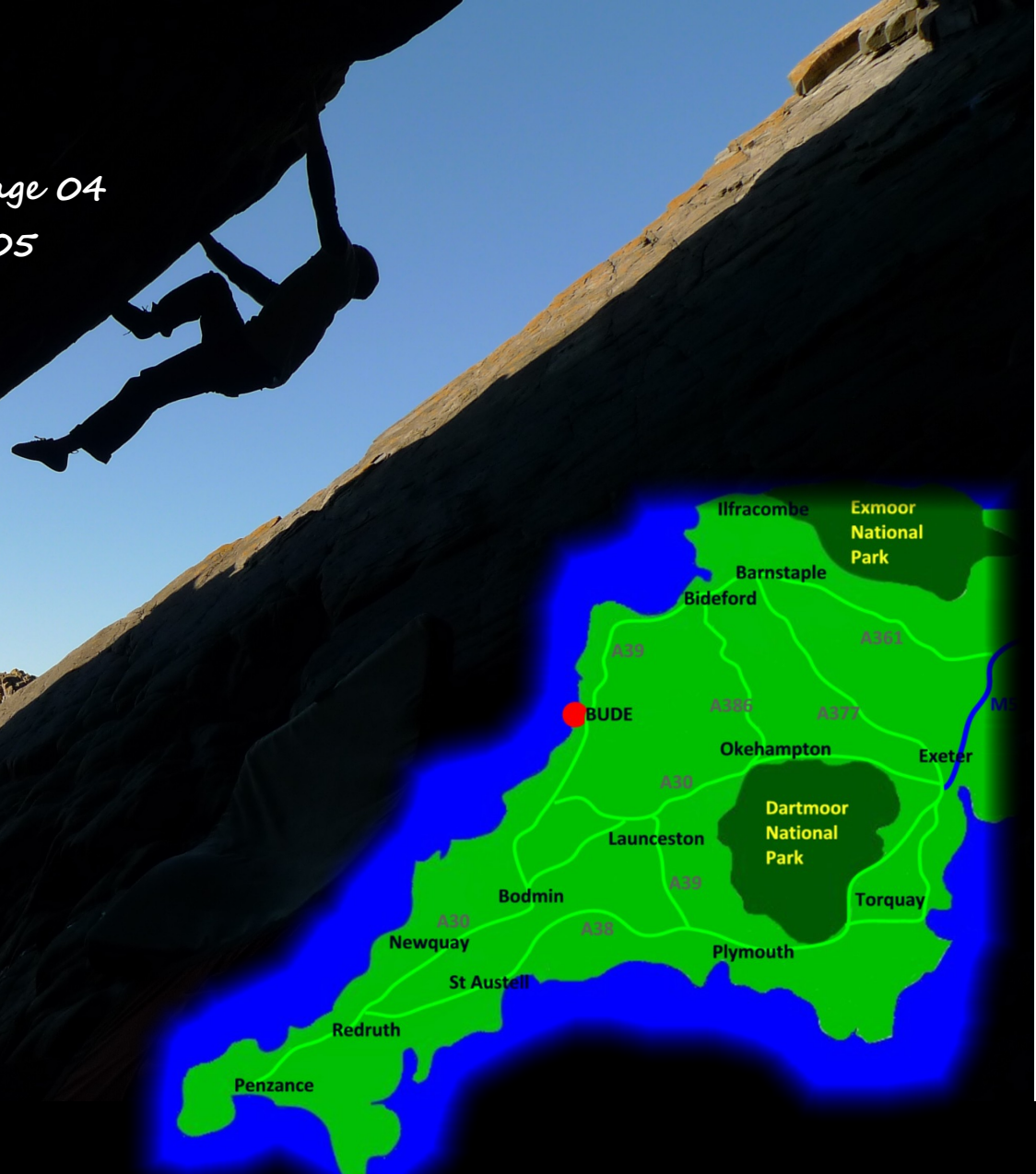
Grimes, N. (2011) *Boulder Britain*, Ape Index;

Hope, D. and Wilkinson, B. (2000) *North Devon and Cornwall*, Climbers Club

Colour coded problem numbering indicates grade ranges: <6A; 6A-6C+; 7A-7C+; 8A and above in black.

Many thanks to the following people, all of whom helped in some way:

Tom Newberry, Jake Surman, Mike Adams, Mikey Cleverdon, Chris Barr, Chris Arthur, Tony Simpson, Mike Adams, Nick Cox, Dave Henderson at www.javu.co.uk, The Barn Climbing Wall, Rick Legge at Beyond Hope, Greg Chapman at www.rockrun.com, Tom Bunn at rustypeg.co.uk and Laura Shafer



Sun, Sea and Culm Sandstone

You couldn't ask for a more dramatic coastal setting as a backdrop for bouldering; the cliffs here are like the showcase of some maniacal architect, with wild shapes, folds and features that seem to give gravity the brush off. Combined with the excellent rock, obligatory close shave when the tide comes in, and an après climb ice cream you can be certain a session on the North Cornwall coast will be one to remember.

Bouldering was included, albeit lightly and with a focus on the easier vertical problems at Northcott, in the North Devon and Cornwall guide by the Climbers' Club (2000). The short resume featured was written by Simon Young, who has been the main force in developing the harder problems of the coast. For the early part of the last decade his Barn climbing wall, then based in Bude, provided a focal point for the local scene. Simon wrote two excellent articles for ontheedge magazine, documenting the emerging venues. With the attention of visitors these encouraged, and an increasing number of keen local activists, bouldering on the coast steadily came of age.

Emulating the growing movement across the UK and beyond during the mid to late 2000's, culm bouldering continued its growth in popularity and moved further into the mainstream. By the twilight of the decade all of the original hard problems had been repeated and some notable new ones added by locals and visiting hot-shots.

So, here we are in 2013. In less than ten years from being the niche pursuit of a small fledged activity that now draws the best

Information about all but the few more mini guide is designed to open the necessarily selective; many beaches for and to small your

The that lems, and often one of the cluded are best worth travelling for those in the around however of exploration.

Whether you are looking of stunning easier problems, hope you find it a useful comments can be brought

years Culm bouldering has gone handful of locals, to a fully boulderers from far and wide.

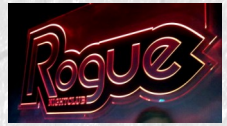
popular hard problems is scarce, so this area up to locals and visitors alike. It is people have been bouldering on these rugged years, and it is almost impossible to identify record all the problems that exist. I've aimed include the best of what the area around the town of Bude has to offer; the rest is left for own exploration.

disparate nature of the bouldering hereabouts means several venues featured only boast a couple of probarduous approaches. While Northcott is undoubtedly best crags in the region, some of the other spots in-described as "locals' venues". These are not a long distance for but are handy nonetheless area. There are some isolated gems dotted and again these are prizes for an active sense

to identify the area test pieces, find the multitude or simply get motivated to do some extra training, I companion. Any name changes, mistakes or general to my attention via djcwestlake@gmail.com.

Approach and amenities

The bouldering areas are all located around the small town of Bude (See map on page 2). From the North, leave the M5 at Junction 27 (Barnstaple, North Devon) and take the A361 past Barnstaple and on to the A39 past Bideford and Hartland point. Bude is just over the Cornish border and about 40 mins from Barnstaple. The A39 is easy to pick up from the South via various decent A roads.



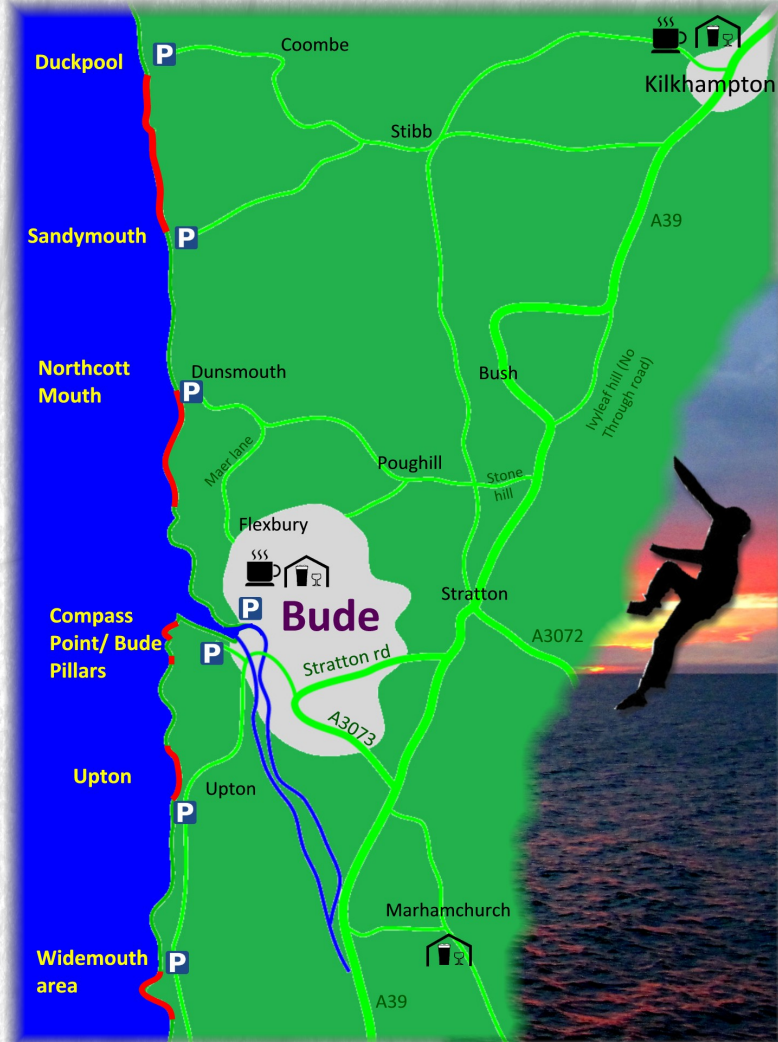
There are several car parks in Bude itself, and a Morrisons Supermarket just after the turning from the A39. Although small, Bude town centre boasts an array of pasty shops, more pasty shops, several pubs and cafe's, and a few restaurants. There is even a small nightclub named "Rogue" - an essential tick for visitors, and it even sells pasties!

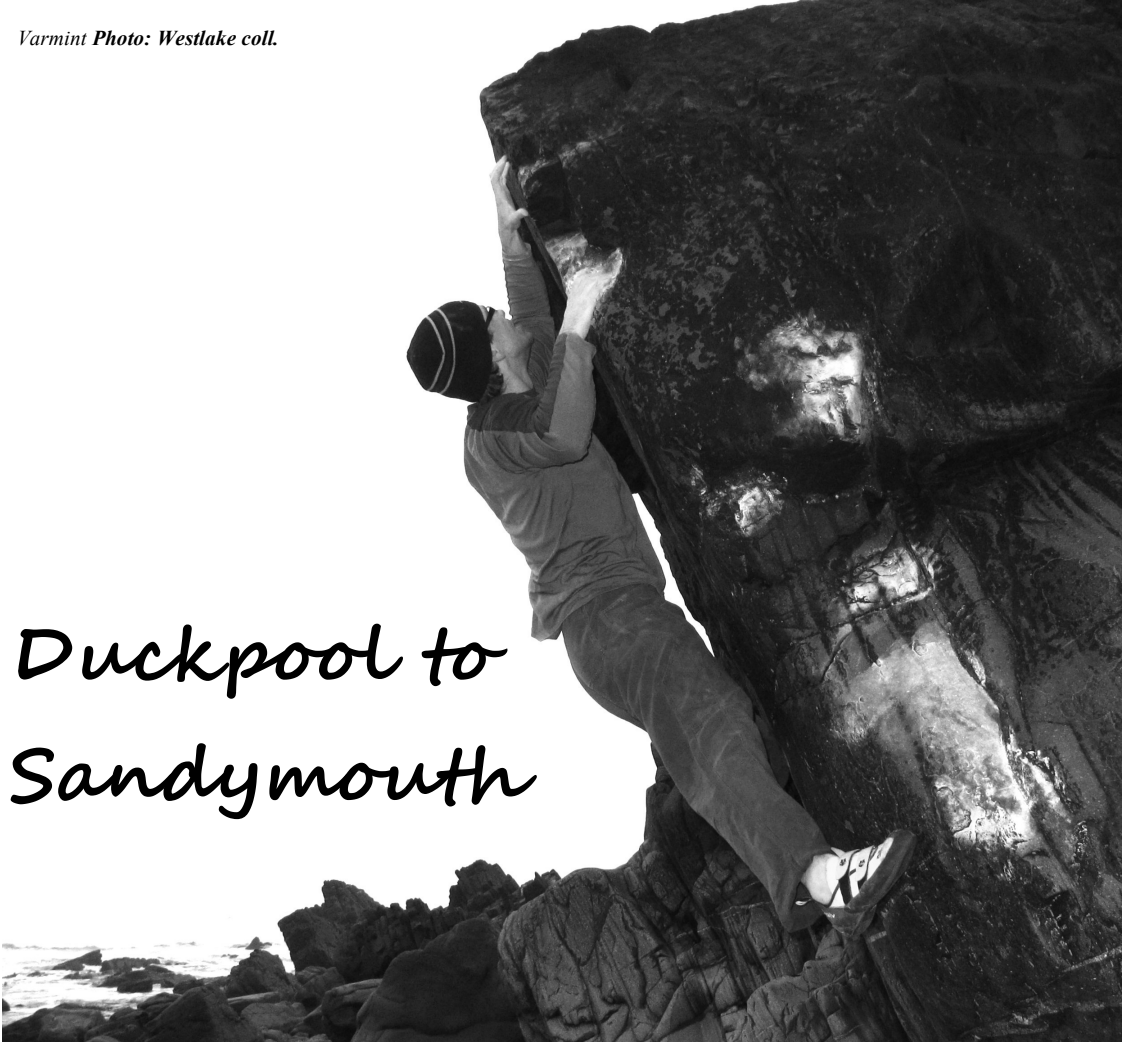
Conditions

Conditions on the coast are notoriously fickle and boulderers must contend with a multitude of factors. Most areas are accessible for between 2-3 hours either side of low tide (which means you can comfortably have a 6 hour session if you time it correctly). However, in big swell the sea can be pushed in sooner than expected and large waves can render the rock wet or damp for long periods. The beach levels also vary, and this means that grades can often be meaningless. Some problems/boulders have been known to get buried completely, or even shunted across the beach!

Don't let any of this put you off, though. Armed with a towel, plenty of chalk and flexible plans, it is normally possible to have a full session all year round.

Cold temperatures are preferable, since much of the climbing relies on the subtleties of friction, although conditions in summer are often fine in the shade—and drier. A breeze is always welcome as this keeps the temperature down and dries the rock. South facing climbs tend to stay cleaner.





Duckpool to Sandymouth

This stretch of coastline is like Northcott's lesser known brother. It lies only a mile or so further North but seems to get a lot less traffic, despite some great problems. An ideal venue for the 5— low 7 grade boulderer, the pick of the action has to be Slab woman (5A), Jammed Pebble (6B), Campus Mentis (7A), After the Gold Rush (7A+) and of course the classic Varmint (7A).

Depending on which end you are heading for, take signposts for Stibb off the A39 and follow more signs to either Sandymouth (Southern end) or Duckpool (Northern end) car parks. If you are in need of a pre session coffee or après climb pizza, 'The Pizza Ape' in nearby Kilkhampton is a fine choice. There is also a decent chip shop, two pubs and a Chinese, all on the main road of the small village.

Duckpool End

1 Campus Mentis 7A

The first problem of note approaching from Duckpool resembles a campus board. From a sit start, power between the slopy 'rungs' past a hole to an exit slightly right at the top. Hard for the grade and very good.

2 Leaning wall and arête 5A

The leaning wall and arête just in front of campus mentis is fun from sitting.

The next feature is a steep wall, the seaward end of which contains a couple of good problems...

3 Feeding the Ducks 5B

From the same starting position as the previous problem, rock out direct on the heel until a big jug comes into reach.

4 After the Gold Rush 7A

An good problem. From sitting just right of the clean cut arête small holds and a high right heel facilitate a big cross through move with your right hand to a sloper near the arête. Gain a hold halfway up the arête—match this, pop for the slopy lip and hang in there on the top out.

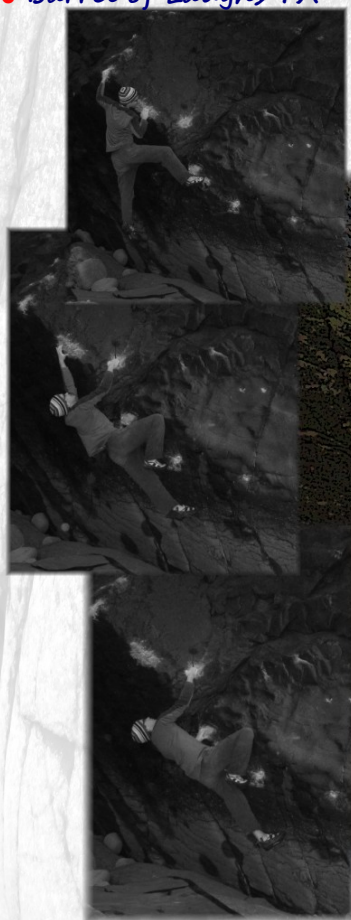
5 Jammed Pebble 6B

Sit start at an undercut, pull through to gain slopers above and a tricky top out. The pebble that gave this problem its name appears to no longer be in residence!

6 Barrel of Laughs 7A

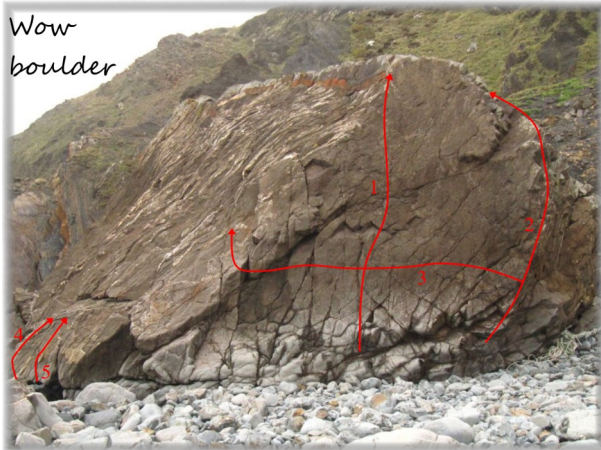
The bulge is climbed using sidepulls and heel hooks.

Other problems are also possible in the vicinity, including some nice slabs and an obvious pillar that can be climbed face on at around 4B



After the Gold rush Photo: Westlake coll.

Wow
boulder



Wow Boulder

Next up is the wonderful 'Wow' boulder. This is a large block that has some excellent problems on the steep slab, along with a couple of short-lived low balls on the low roof at the left.

1 Slab Woman 5A

Takes a fairly central line up the steep slab, the rock is good but deteriorates near the top.

2 Arete Man 5B

Sit start on slopers and climb the arête. Another good line up a strong feature

3 Traverse Baby 6B+

Start as for Arete Man but traverse leftwards until it is possible to rock over onto the easy slab.

4 Roof Dog 5C

Sit start in the recess, and use slopy pinches to make it to the ledge. The rock quality and lovely pinches make up for its shortcomings!

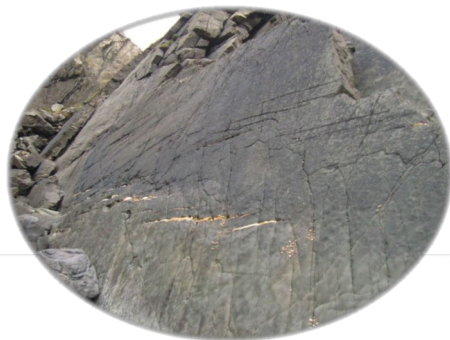
Just right, another one move wonder (5 on topo left) is possible using a crack for right hand and the poor right hand hold on Roof Dog for your left—about 5B

At the far end of the next mini-bay is an easy angled slab of compact culm (see oval image, inset). This is home to several slab problems in the 4-6 grades, and there is scope for endless eliminates. Good training for the trad routes nearby!



5 *Varmint 7A*

Just round the corner is Fontainebleau ... or rather an unmissable font like arête. Easy to imagine being in the forest, this is climbed from sitting and involves delicate moves on slopers followed by a slap for the flat top! One of the finest.



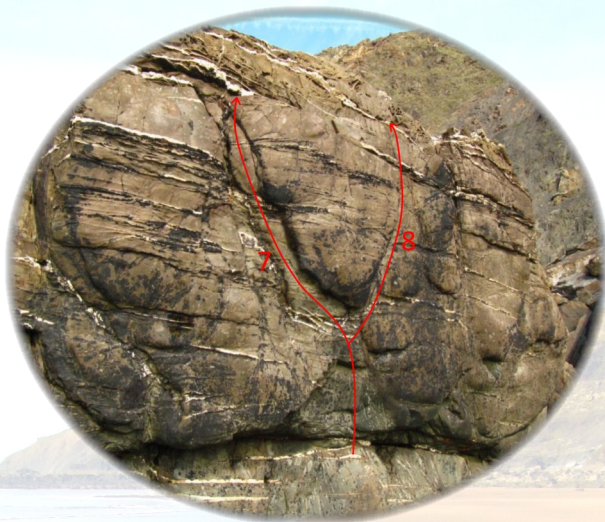
6 *Call Yourself a Local? 6C+*

The low bulge just right climbs better than it looks. Sit start with an edge for left hand and weird pinch for your right. Compression between heel hooks is the order of the day. Powerful.



Sandymouth End

Beyond Varmint nature has cut more problems, Nearby is a steep, South facing wall that has two lines that slightly resemble the unconquerables at Stanga. Other lines have been climbed but the following two are the best...



7 Left Unclumable 5+

A high outing up the left hand layback

8 Right Unculmable 5+

The better of the two problems.

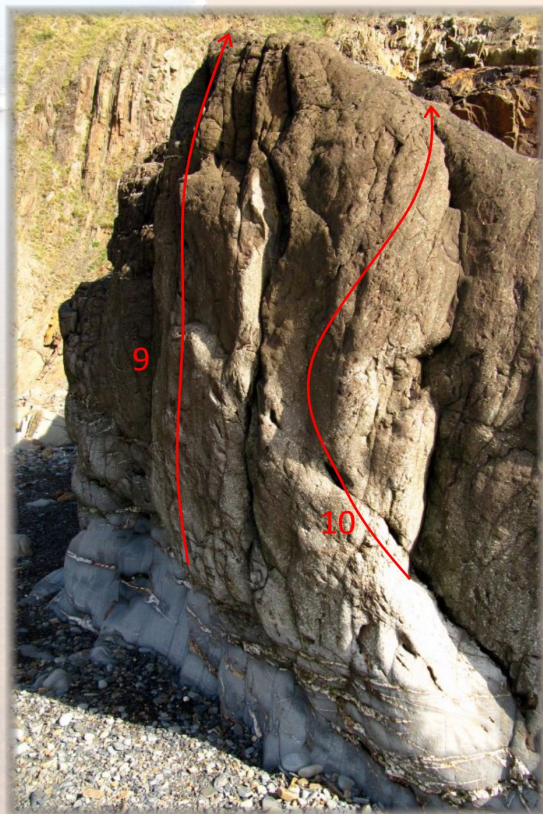
South of here the possibilities for bouldering diminish, save for a few minor problems dotted around. About 50m from the previous problems is a smart compact buttress containing two nice amenable sit starts, suitable for beginners.

9 Flat hold sitter 4+

A tricky move to gain the first flattly then powerful moves on more flat holds to top out.

10 Pocket problem 5A



Starting low on the obvious pockets make a big move left into the crack then back right to a slot and the top out.



There are various short walls between here and Sandymouth car park, some have worthwhile problems and there is scope for eliminates. The area has been hit by a number of recent rock falls and landslides so some of the original stuff may no longer exist. Other stuff probably will though so go exploring and see what you can find. Do heed the advice shown on the sign though...

Sandymouth

-  Beware of strong undercurrents
-  Beware of tides
-  Beware of large breaking waves
-  Beware of unstable cliff face

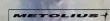
-  Do not sunbathe
-  Do not swim

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Northcott Mouth

A photograph of a person with curly hair, wearing a green t-shirt, light blue shorts, and climbing shoes, climbing a dark, craggy rock face. The climber is positioned in the lower-middle part of the frame, facing left. The rock face is composed of large, dark, angular blocks. At the base of the rock, there are several mats: a blue one on the left, a grey one in the center, and an orange one with the 'dels' logo on the right. The background shows a sandy beach and some rocks under a bright sky.

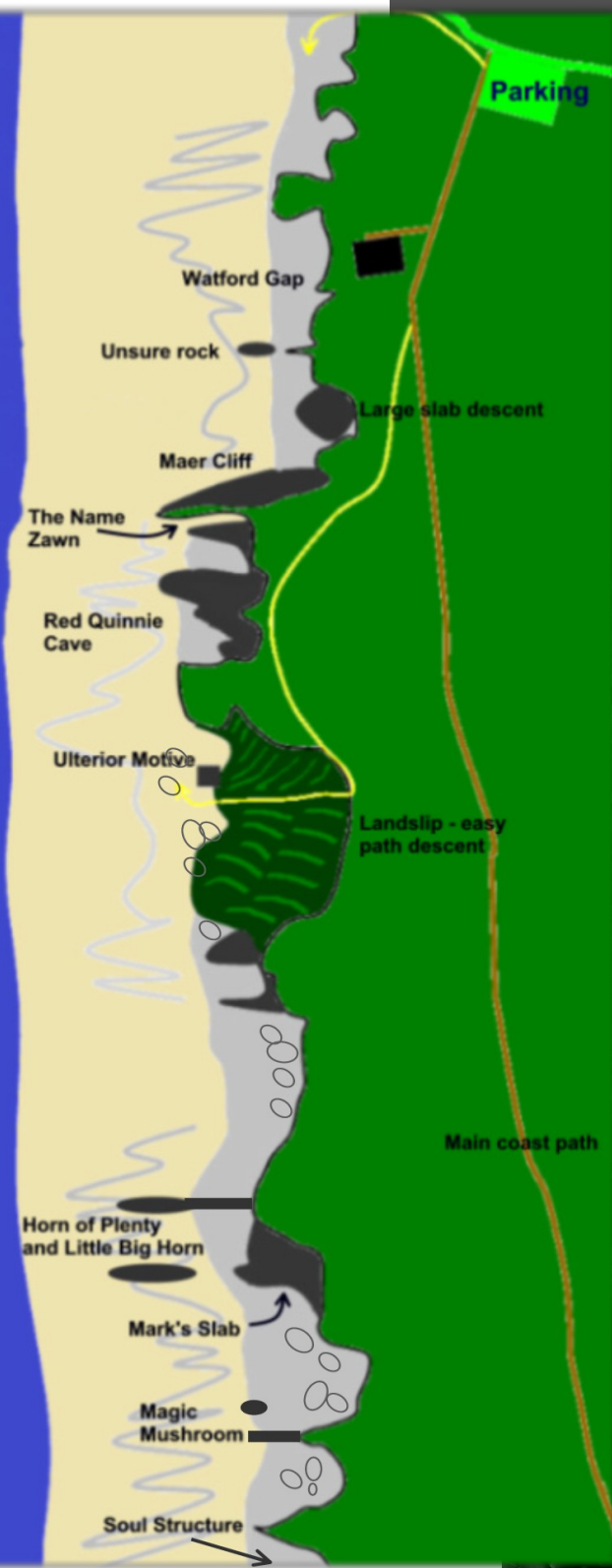
Northcott mouth is one of the best crags on the culm coast for harder problems and has unsurprisingly become one of the most popular. There are many classic font 7's here, from The Pinch (7A) to Captain Crush (7C+). Some of the original problems remain the most sought after; the 'big three' being J-Lo (7B+), Red Quinnie (7C) and Ulterior Motive (7B+). These are all Simon Young additions, but more recently other hard lines have been climbed by the likes of Dave Henderson and Mike Adams. Further down the beach towards Bude lies a fine collection of easier problems, which render the crag suitable for all.

Approach

Park at the National Trust car park at Northcott mouth, just North of Bude. Then walk South either onto the beach (for Watford Gap area) or along the coast path until an easy path leads down some unstable ground (the scene of an earthquake!) to the beach where *Ultrior Motiva* is found. Refer to map left for further details.



M. Cleverdon on Ultrior Motiva Photo: Chris Barr

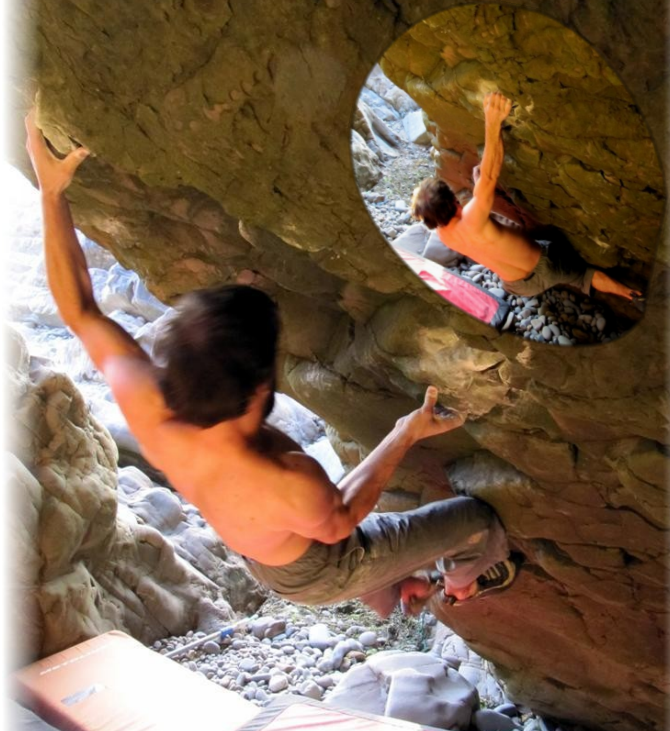


Watford Gap Area

This area of rock, with a distinct 'gap' lies near Unshore rock, just North of Maer Cliff. Approach by walking onto the beach and turning left. J-Lo climbs the steep wall in a cave beneath a big slab, about 15 metres before the gap itself

As well as the stand out lines described 'the gap' is also a great warm up area, offering potential for problems in the 4 to 6 grade bracket. The lines on the landward side south of the gap for example, are good (see topo). There is also a 6A/B traverse inside the cave that is fun when dry.

Other worthwhile problems are also possible and left for your own exploration.



1 J-Lo 7B+

Brutal power pulling in the cave. This excellent problem is unusual and succumbs to more than one sequence, all aiming for an obvious jug on the lip. Sit start on pinches.



2 Watford Gap Arete 6B+

The arête on the landward side of the gap is a challenge from sitting.

The North face of Unshore rock also offers potential for the boulderer, again with plenty in the low 6 grade range. The rock deteriorates in the upper half, so drop off at a sensible height.





Maer Cliff

The bottom of The Black Wall is home to a seldom climbed high tide sea level traverse.

This may interest the adventurous boulderer, or more likely someone who took a wrong turn on the way to Lulworth and ended up here by mistake! This mid 1990's relic is called Sundance (UK 6a/b), and has probably only been done by the first ascensionist, Nick Hancock.

The Name Zawn

The narrow zawn containing two bold E6's doubles up as a good bouldering venue. Problems additional to those listed are possible at a variety of grades on the slab opposite the steep wall.

1 Ben's Traverse 7A+

The right to left traverse is excellent, and as a special bonus it can be linked into the up problems by the super keen. Also possible left to right at a similar grade.

2 Unnamed 6C

Described in the climbers' club guide as an E3 6b, this makes for a scary highball.

3 Nameless arête 6C

The laser cut arête feature opposite problem 2 is superb. High and committing, a good test of faith in your foot placements.

4 The Name Doesn't Matter start 7A+

The start to the classic E6 is no pushover, and requires

power and precision in equal measure. Both the left (7a+) and right (7b) versions climb via a diagonal slot and finish on an obvious large flat hold up and right.

5 Hendo's Wall 7C

Unsurprisingly, this tricky number from Dartmoor crimper Dave Henderson revolves around the ability to bone down on micro edges. Hard and unrepeated.

6 Bodysnatchers start 6C+

The start to the other E6 also makes for an excellent powerful problem on pinches. Finish matched in the good slot left of the first peg.

7/8 Far Right Problems 6C

Two fun short problems gain the shelf.—powerful!



M. Adams on Bodysnatchers Photo Westlake Coll

Slab and arete

Just South of the Name Zawn is a North facing slab, that is home to three good easier problems

1 Left Arete 5

Balancy and technical

2 Centre Slab 5

Climb the centre on poor holds—feels quite high.

3 Crack 4

A pleasant introduction to crack climbing

The Pinch

Further South again is an obvious classic on a steep band of rock that is immediately attractive due to the slopy holds situated around the change of angle.

4 The Pinch 7A

Probably the classic of the area, and **certainly** the **best of its grade** around. A sit start on the obvious

pinch, then make a **big move** to a

sloper with your left hand. More slopers

above **seal the deal**.



Railed Wall

Between the Pinch and the Black Cave area is a beautiful leaning wall adorned with some handy sloping rails that stretch from end to end. This is a great venue for traverses, link ups and eliminates and only the main lines are described here. In the back of the zawn lies another short wall that contains more problems.

1 Unnamed 5+

A sit start leads up the rails to a tricky move off a high sidepull, and a slap to the upper rail.

2 Railed 6C+

The central line from sitting is taxing and involves big campus style moves between the sloping rails

3 Unnamed 5+

Another sit start that involves a reach into a sloping diagonal break and a pop to a good hold.

4 Traverse 6B

The traverse is good in either direction but best and most logical from left to right.

At the back of the zawn is another steep wall that has campus style rungs etched into it. This provides a few worthwhile problems, all of which start from sitting...

5 Steep Crack 5+

The crack on the left leads to cool moves between the rails high up.

6 Middle Crack 4+

The central crack is a little easier, but not as good.

7 Jamming 6A+

The wide crack is perfect for a hand jam—use this to gain a high crimp and pop for the jug.

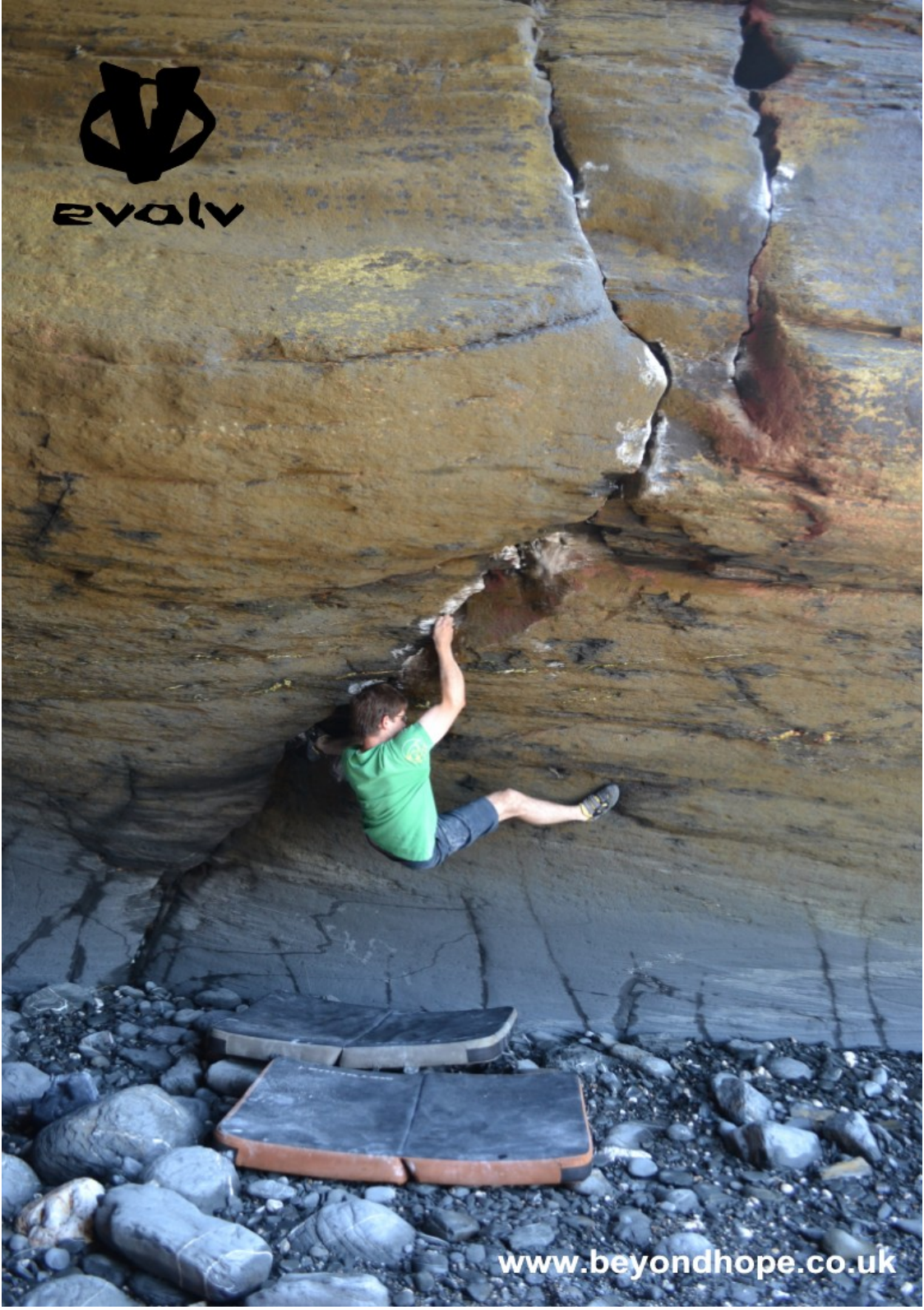
8 Writers' Guild 6B

A link that starts as for the steep crack and climbs into the middle crack via a tricky stretch rightwards.



T. Newberry on Hendo's Wall Photo: Westlake coll.



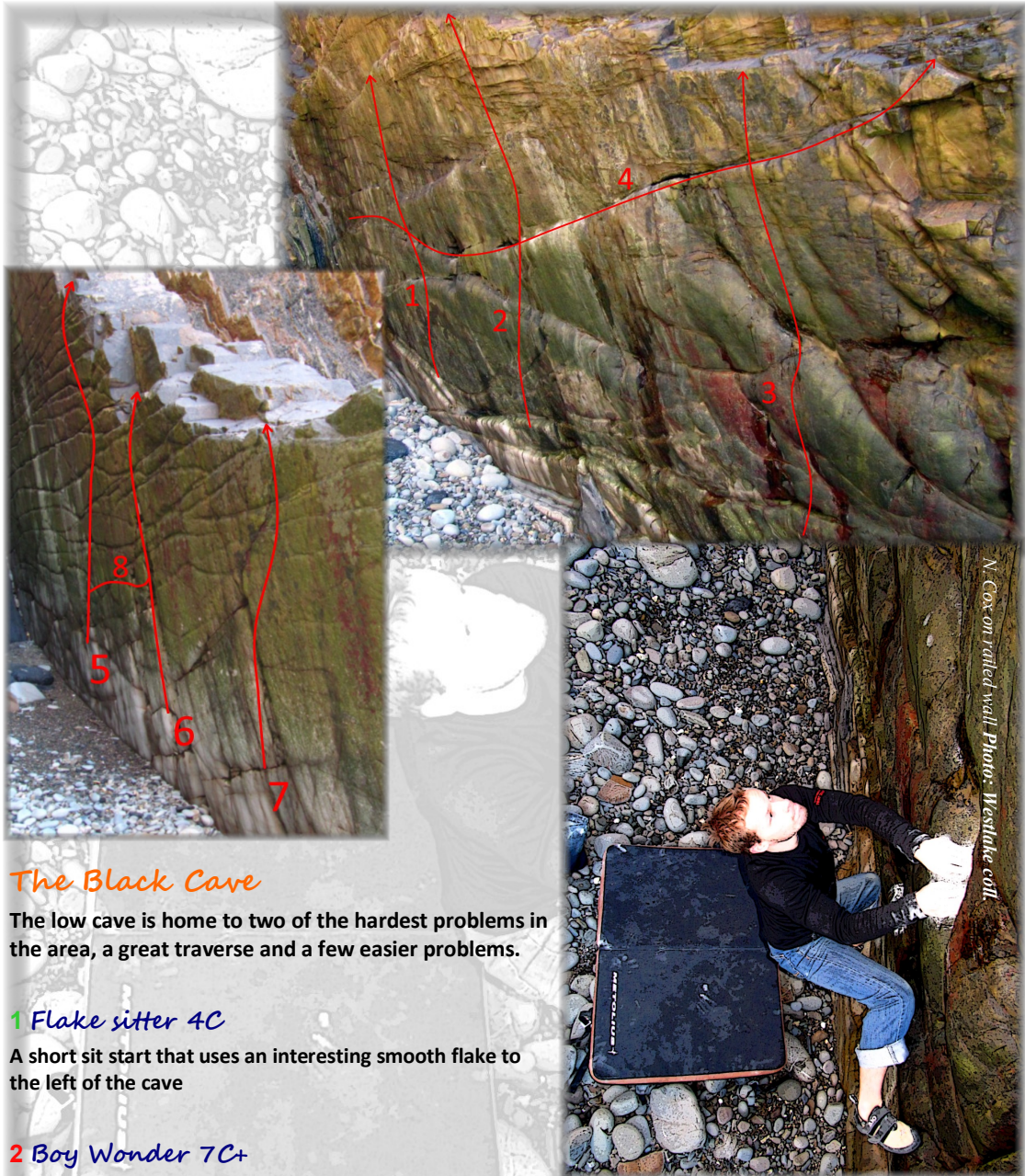


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N. Cox on railed wall Photo: Westlake coil

The Black Cave

The low cave is home to two of the hardest problems in the area, a great traverse and a few easier problems.

1 Flake sitter 4C

A short sit start that uses an interesting smooth flake to the left of the cave

2 Boy Wonder 7C+

The left most roof line via some unusual and technical moves. Due to some confusion, this was thought to be the next problem until recently. Another challenge that only succumbs to those with the subtle balance of power, technique and body tension. Linking this into the reverse traverse is worthwhile if you have done everything else!

3 Captain Crush 7C+

A left hand line through the roof close to Red Quinnie. Start as for Red Quinnie and veer left, exiting via the large, obvious sloper on the lip. A touch harder than Red Quinnie, this boils down to a hard cut loose that may be easier for taller climbers.

Red Quinnie 7C

One of the more publicised problems of the area, this has a reputation for being hard, technical and (unfortunately) often wet! From the low shelf at the back, quest out through the horizontal roof using undercuts, toe hooks and other fancy footwork. There are several different sequences, including feet first. An exquisite problem in good conditions!



M. Adams on Red Quinnie Photo: TonySimpson

3a Red Quinnie link 7C

This takes a trip rightwards after doing the hard climbing and adds some tricky moves that demand endurance.

4 Unnamed 6B

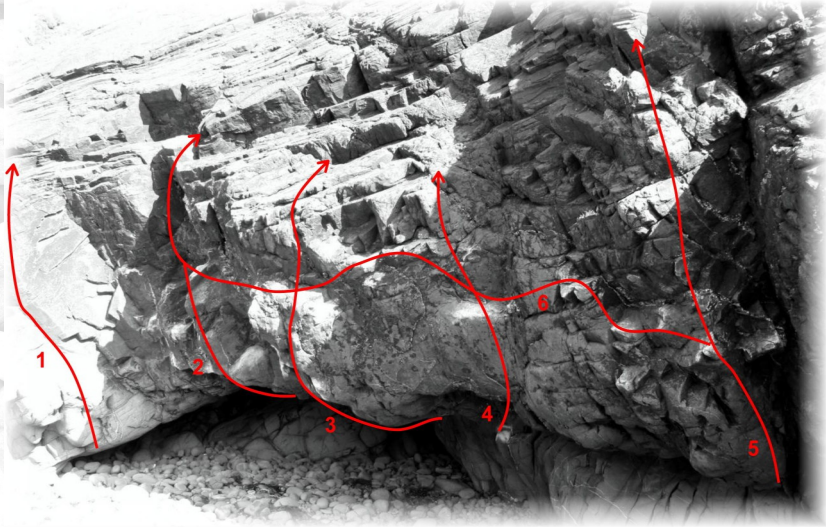
A good problem just right of red quinine, making a big move from the rear shelf to a nice sloper. Can be linked into the traverse.

5 Unnamed 5a

Nice arête problem on good holds

6 Red Quinnie Cave Traverse 7A+

A great line that takes in the whole cave feature, traversing from right to left along the lip. Keep your eyes peeled for the sneaky knee bar. Can be reversed at roughly the same grade.



Uterior Motive Block

At the bottom of the earthquake approach path lies an excellent boulder of quality compact rock.

1 Left Arete 5+

The left arête from a sit start.

2 Alternative Motive 7A+

A direct line from sitting that utilises the inverted triangular shaped slot. A tricky pull from sitting (undercut RH in low slot, LH on small patina crimp on wall) sets you up to poke 2 fingers into the slot. Finish direct or trend leftwards.

3 Uterior Motive 7B+

The main event, and an excellent test of crimp strength. Start with hands in the lowest slots and make taxing moves on increasingly small crimps until a slap for a good hold in the break is reached (see front cover image). The standing start, pulling on for the slap move, is also good and around 7A.

4 Right Arete 4+

The right arête from a sit start

5 Unnamed 6B

On the rear of the boulder is a short but fun warm up that uses a low edge in the centre, to pull on and spring for the top. Only one move, but a good one at the grade nonetheless.

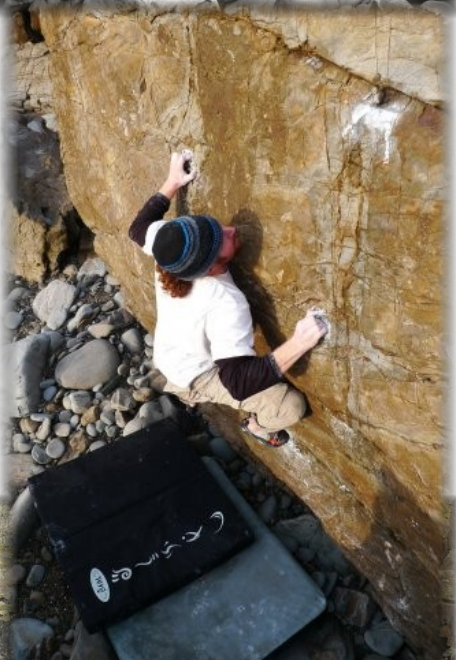
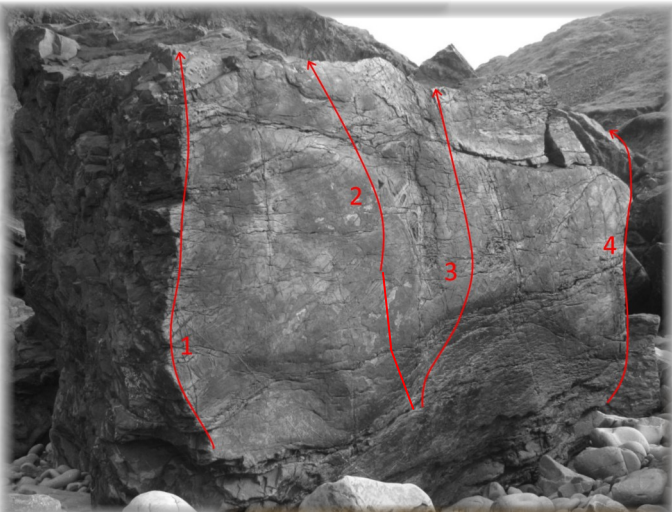
The shore below Uterior Motive features another large boulder with two good problems...

6 Unnamed 5+

The right to left traverse of the seaward face

7 Slopeless Nights 6C

On the back of the boulder is a small but good sit start problem (undercuts and smears) that features a powerful pull to a perfect sloper.



G. Edwards on Uterior Motive Photo: Chris Barr



Unnamed traverse Photo: Westlake coll



M. Adams highbiding Photo: Westlake col

Horn of Plenty

The South face of the Horn of Plenty is the bouldering equivalent of nearby premier trad crag of Lower Sharpnose Point. The left hand side offers some micro routes that mimic the sharpnose style, particularly in their upper reaches where the holds are generally large but a little sandy. Like the fins at sharpnose, the rock quality deteriorates towards the landward end.

There are obvious lines of weakness that can be followed, but climbing the wall practically anywhere is possible at font 4—5, or up to about English 5b. The problems/ routes generally have difficult starts on very good rock—slopers and slots—followed by jugs up high. Boulders may decide to reverse once the good holds are reached; if you do continue, do so with care as holds have been known to break.

The wall is also excellent for traversing, at various levels and in both directions. An important point

to note is that this is a cut off for the tide—so make sure you get round before the tide comes in.

Little Big Horn

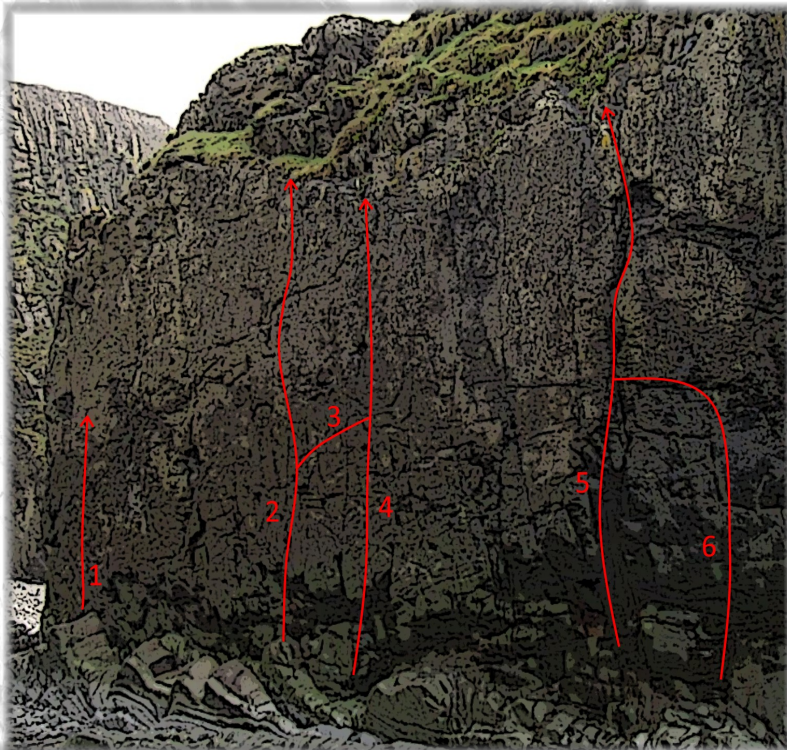
Covered in the North Devon and Cornwall (2000) CC guide, this is something of an 'old school' venue, featuring fingery climbing on compact rock.

There are two traverses (high; UK 5c and low; UK 6a) and several up problems.

Lines for the main up problems are shown on the topo above, others have also been climbed.

1 Unnamed 6A

A direct line on the left wall—finishing on jugs.



2 Unnamed 6B

Climb via the pedestal to a mantle finish.

3 Porthole LH start 6B

Start as for the previous problem but veer right into the obvious porthole and finish direct.

4 Porthole Direct 6A

A direct start to the porthole.

Mark's Slab

Just South, on the landward side is a tricky 6B+ traverse and twin cracks that are much easier (5B)



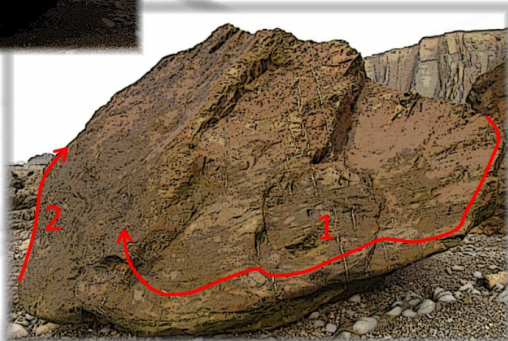
Magic Mushroom

1 Magic Mushroom 7C

A slopy traverse of the steep side of the boulder is unfortunately often buried. Those lucky enough to fluke a low beach are in for a treat.

2 Liberty Cap 6C+

The right arête of the seaward face involves a powerful and frustrating sit start followed by much easier moves to surmount the block.



Long Traverse

Just beyond Magic Mushroom lies a long spit of quality stone that is home to an excellent L-R traverse that can be around French 7c depending on the beach level.

There are also many amenable up problems.



M. Adams on Long traverse Photo: Westlake coll.

5 Crack 6A

The wide crack is the strongest feature but sometimes holds the moisture.

6 Crack RH start 6A+

A right hand start traverses the obvious break to join the crack.

Far South

Several large boulders strewn around offer more potential for good bouldering, particularly in the 4 and 5 grade range. Care is needed with some of the rock.

Round the corner from the traverse, in the same small bay, are the Sole/Soul Structure problems, described below.



M. Adams on Soul Structure Photo: Westlake

1 Soul Structure 6C

A good problem that uses a low undercut on the left to reach into the rail. Then go for the pinch above with confidence and reach back for better holds.

2 Sole Structure 6A+

The right hand line shares the same finish, but with less taxing moves to gain and move along the rail, this makes for an easier tick.

Compass Point



An area that is best viewed as a routes crag with a few boulder problems thrown in for good measure, Compass point is usefully situated right next to the beach at Bude. This means you can have a guilt-free potter around with a pad while the family is making sandcastles!

1 No holds barred 7B

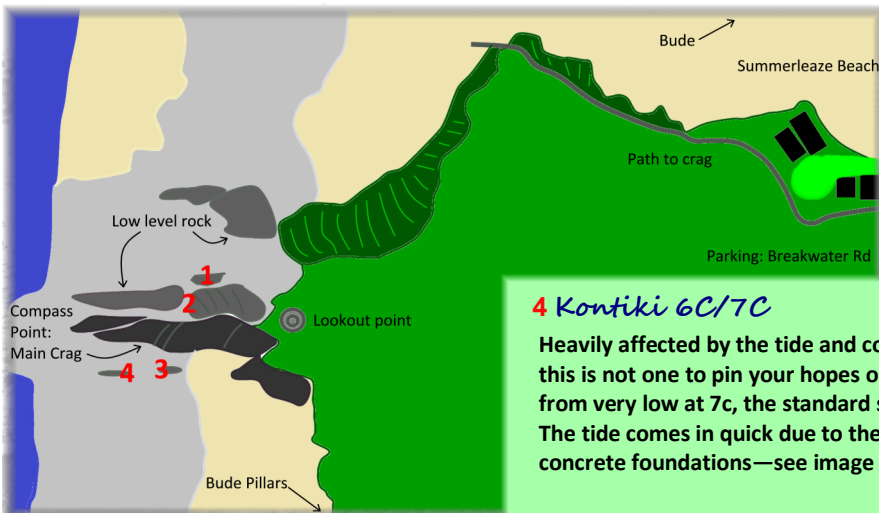
The steep buttress opposite Compass Arete is home to a powerful problem that fires straight through the middle. Other problems and variations are possible on this buttress, and a nice workout can be had by playing around on the steepness.

2 Compass Arete 6C-7A+

A good problem that lies near the back entrance to the narrow Zawn containing Goats (the route, not the animal!). It faces the sea and it just in the entrance to the tunnel that leads into the back of this zawn. Eliminates up to 7A+ have been devised.

3 Power Nap 5B

Further South, around the corner and beneath the brooding gaze of the main cliff is smart arête problem that starts from 2 undercuts. It is on the seaward end of a small rock spit.

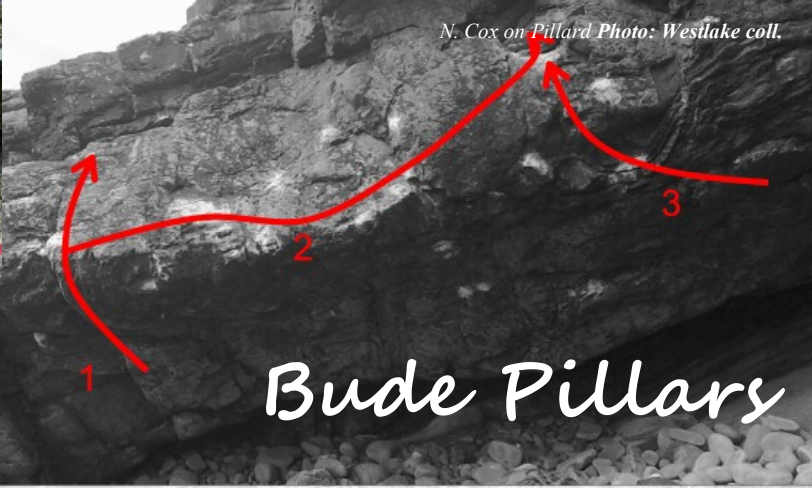


4 Kontiki 6C/7C

Heavily affected by the tide and covered in barnacles, this is not one to pin your hopes on. Originally done from very low at 7c, the standard sitter is much easier. The tide comes in quick due to the flat beach and its concrete foundations—see image above!

And finally, level with this but further out to sea is a rounded prow known as...





Bude Pillars

Just South of Compass Point is another mini-crag better known for its three outstanding traditional routes than its bouldering. There is good reason for this! The few problems described below are not worth a special visit, but may be useful to know about when you are in the vicinity and need a warm up before getting on Brainchild. The low slung barrel of rock opposite this route is where the action is...

1 Pillard 4+

A short lived sit start on the left of the buttress.

2 Pillars of Society 6B

Start up problem 1 then traverse the lip into the finishing jug of problem 3

3 Captain Kernow 6B+

Steep pulling from the right hand side with a slap into the obvious jug hold.

Upton

Just South of Bude lies a once proud bouldering crag that now only boasts a few problems following the tragic loss of the hardcore roof sector several years ago. The main event here is undoubtedly Wet Bootie, which has been likened to a diminutive version of the Fontainebleau classic, Karma. This features beach ball like slopers and is a whole lot of fun.

1 Wet Bootie 7B

This is on a small north facing spit of rock not far from Upton beach. From sitting, power through the bulge on very rounded slopers and onto good holds beyond. A crafty heel at the start may help short climbers.

Just right is a 7A, which features good climbing.

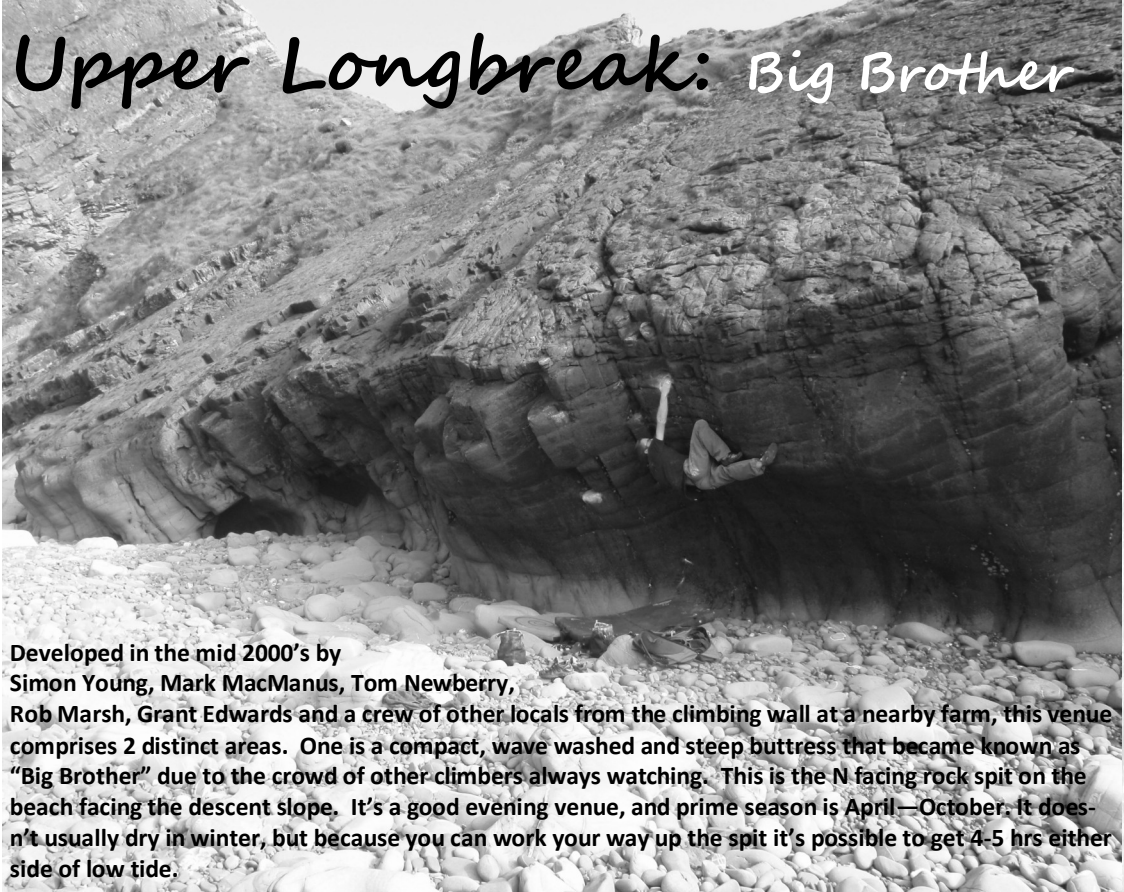
Upton Roof

Remember the line in the intro about the features giving gravity the brush off? Well, this isn't always the case, as this superb roof sector found to its cost in c2003 when a large section of the ground above collapsed into it. It remains filled with rubble to this day, and therefore climbing is no longer possible. There is a reward available for anyone who manages to remedy this situation, although a large scale operation involving construction equipment may be necessary...

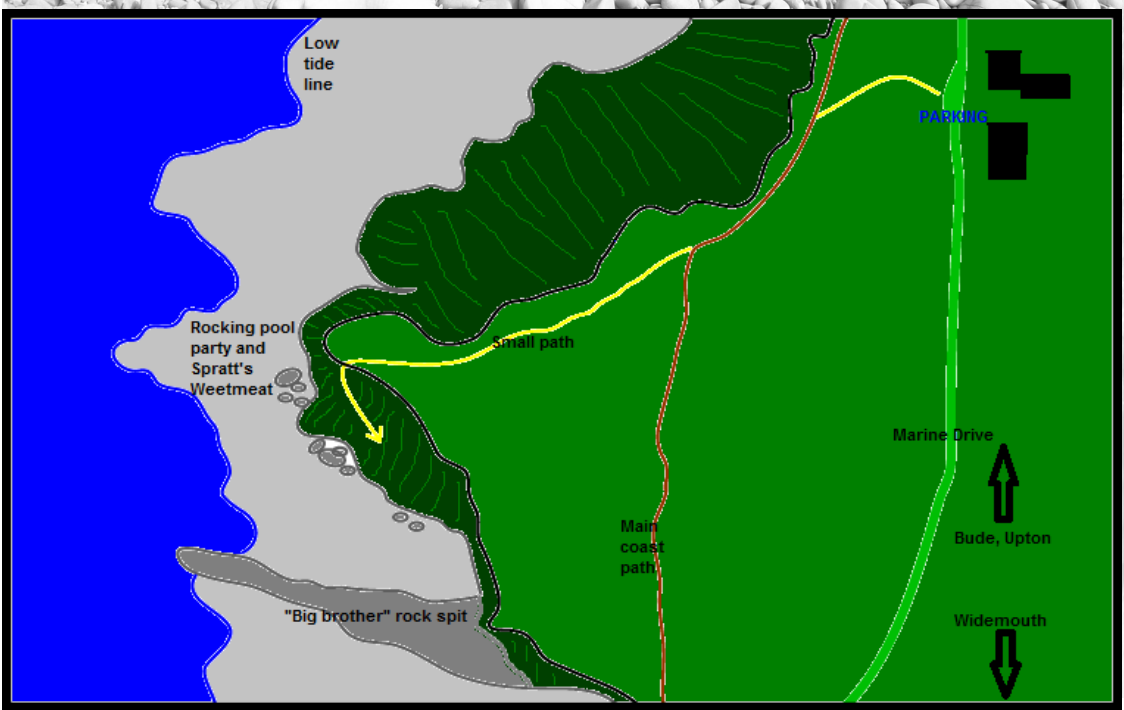


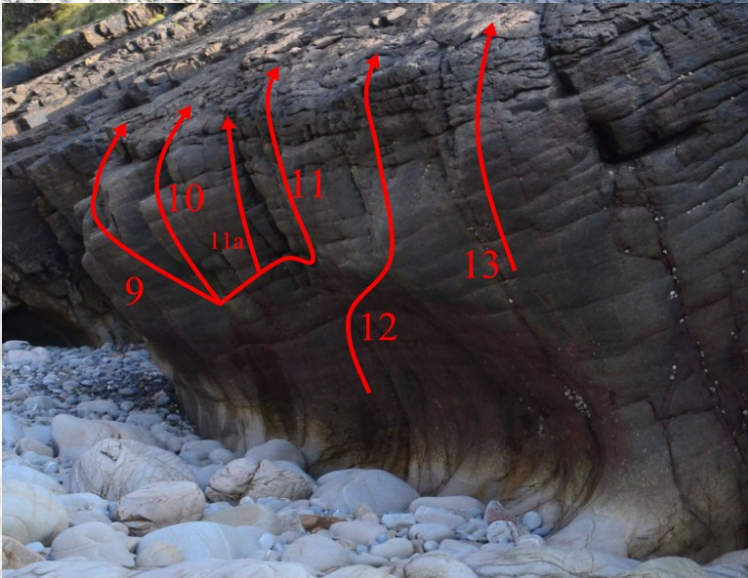
T. Simpson on Wet Bootie Photo: Simpson coll.

Upper Longbreak: Big Brother



Developed in the mid 2000's by Simon Young, Mark MacManus, Tom Newberry, Rob Marsh, Grant Edwards and a crew of other locals from the climbing wall at a nearby farm, this venue comprises 2 distinct areas. One is a compact, wave washed and steep buttress that became known as "Big Brother" due to the crowd of other climbers always watching. This is the N facing rock spit on the beach facing the descent slope. It's a good evening venue, and prime season is April—October. It doesn't usually dry in winter, but because you can work your way up the spit it's possible to get 4-5 hrs either side of low tide.





1 Can you see the sausages? 7A
 Traverse rightwards on slopers

2 Unnamed 6A+
 The sight groove

3 Unnamed 4+
 Easy groove

4 Grant's Roof 6C+
 Steep roof on good holds

5 Simon's Roof 6C
 The excellent roof problem just right.

6 The Crack 5+
 The obvious crack

7 The Wall 5
 Another reasonable proposition

8 Chin'ook 7A
 Less reasonable! A hard pull off two side pulls to the first ledge

9 Broken Voice 7A/+
 A dyno to a good hold, but watch the wild swing!

10 Science 7B
 Another, harder, dynamic challenge

11 Natural Born Killers 7B
 One of the best problems, takes a fingery and powerful line. 11a is its easier finish

12 *Young, Youth and Manhood 8A*

A grandiose sounding line up the steep wave. Powerful moves on bad pockets make this one of the hardest problems in the area. It was a project for several years until Tom Newberry made the only ascent to date in 2011.

13 *Aero 6B*

A jump start to the blank arete

* *Unnamed 6A+*

The wall right of the arête.

* *American Physico 6A*

An excellent problem right again (and not miss-spelt—the name refers to the first ascensionist's miss-pronunciation of the word 'psycho!!)



* *Out of the fire into the frying pan 6B*

Start in the cave and traverse left out to and up the wall.

Other areas and outlying problems

The Non-conformist (7C) is an isolated gem, hiding under a V Diff that is worth seeking out. It climbs the arch that forms the hole in 'Lucky hole' which is just behind Vicarage cliff near Morwenstow. The North Devon and Cornwall guide has details of how to get there, but be prepared for a bit of a mission!

Higher Longbeak AKA Mini Gordale

If you take the Big Brother approach and turn right around the headland you will find a nice highball/ short route sector known locally as 'Mini Gordale' but really called Higher Longbeak. Several short routes/ highball problems have been climbed here but the most notable are...

* *Spratt's Weetmeat 6B/E5*

First done as a headpoint and graded E5, a few pads can make this an attractive highball, although the landing is poor so be careful. Technical and balancy moves on good quality rock characterise this underrated gem.

* *Ickle Fissure 4+/VS 5a*

Another highball micro-route. At the far right hand end (looking in). Follow the corner crack to a high reach and a tricky rock over.

Back to proper bouldering, the other notable problem is a relatively recent addition from Tom Newberry...

* *Rocking Pool Party 7B*

Takes a steep line on the big boulder below Higher Longbeak. From a crouched start with hands on the lip, make a deceptively tricky sequence to top out. The line from sitting at the back of the roof is a fairly amenable project...

Millook

Just south of Bude Millook has limited bouldering but a number of striking highball micro routes that are worth checking out. As usual, javu.co.uk has all the info you need including a neat mini guide written by Richard Moss.

Strangles Beach

Just south of Crackington Haven the strangles beach is mostly an impressive collection of tottering choss, but a couple of good problems have been climbed there. On Stranger Tides (7C) is found in a cave at the southern end of the beach (see Evolv advert for photo) and takes an involved line through a steep crack, while Triple Gridder (6C) is a dynamic prow at the northern end of the bay.

*This guide supports the Devon Air Ambulance Trust.
If you have a good day out on the culm coast, and
you can afford to, please consider donating. They
help out when things go wrong on the coast and the
costs of keeping the service running are high. More
information on how to donate is available below.*

Thanks.

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