

The huge rampart of Craig Arthur looms impressively over the upper end of the Eglwyseg Valley. At around 40m it is by far the tallest of all the cliffs along the escarpment. The quality and length of the routes - both trad and sport - makes it a crag of national importance, with a number being multi-pitch offerings, adding a welcome dimension to the area that is otherwise dominated by shorter single-pitch climbs. The crag is mostly vertical but frequently crossed by horizontal bands of overhangs, especially in its upper reaches, making for some very exciting finishes. The rock is mainly composed of good-quality weathered white and grey sheets, seamed with some strong crack and flake lines. Some of the less frequented lines still have loose sections and can be a little vegetated. The crag's location is both spectacular and beautiful with expansive views above a base clear of vegetation. Its scree slope shelves away steeply making the exposure felt from the first moves on most routes. Many of the routes, both trad and sport, rely on fixed protection from pegs, threads and bolts although a full rack and double ropes are also required for the trad lines. A clip-stick may be useful as a number of the initial bolts on the sport climbs are fairly high.

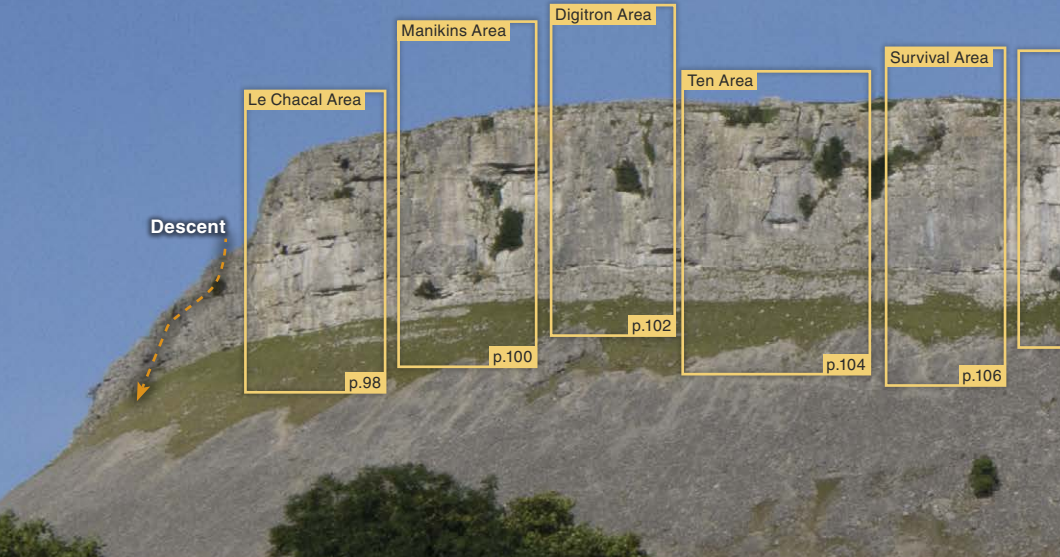
Access

A restriction because of nesting peregrine falcons and ravens is in place on Rubberbandman and Sunnyside Areas between 15th February and 15th July (inclusive). This restriction is variable and may be applied to other sections of the crag. It may also be lifted early - see UKC or BMC RAD. The banned sections are delimited by markers at the crag base - see photo on page 28.

Conditions

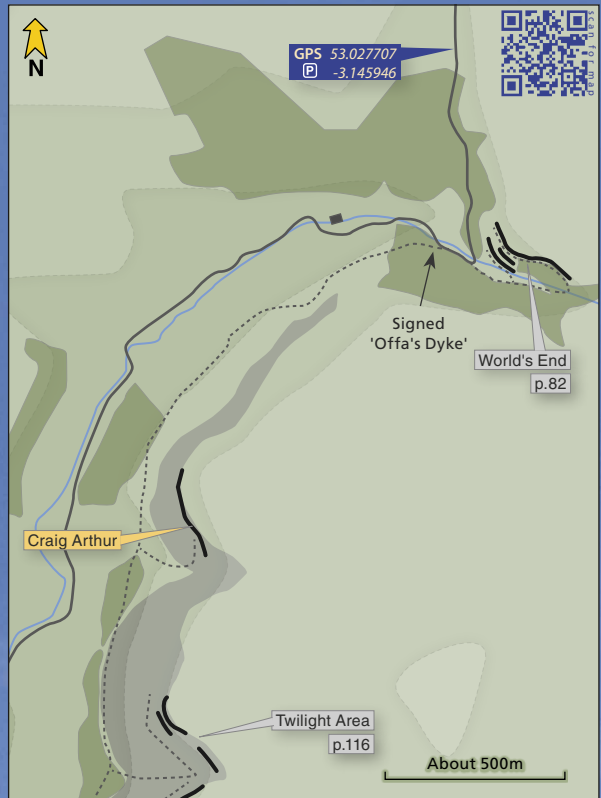
High, exposed and west-facing, Craig Arthur can be very hot in the summer and bitterly cold in windy conditions, but on calm days it is superb. The tree under the Nemesis Wall provides shade and some shelter from rain but not the wind. The rock dries very quickly after rain but one or two small spots suffer seepage for longer periods.

Mod to S / 4+	-	-	-	-
HS-HVS / 5-6a+	6	2	-	-
E1-E3 / 6b-7a	21	20	6	3
E4 / 7a+ and up	2	13	14	13





**Approach** See map on page 81  
 From Llangollen, follow the road to the junction at 1.8 miles and continue up the narrow valley road for 2.9 miles, passing under many of the Eglwyseg crags, until the road bends rightward and starts to climb. Continue up the road until a ford on a sharp bend is crossed, 400m further on just as the road exits the woods on the roadside. Walk back down the road to the ford and continue for 30m until the Offa's Dyke footpath on the left can be taken. Follow the path for 1.2km, until the stark profile of Craig Arthur is visible high on the left skyline. An old path leads diagonally up the steep scree slope to the base of the crag at the Le Chacal Area. For environmental reasons (the preservation of the scree slope), please walk a further 300m along the path and approach the base of the crag up a shallow grass gully.



Nemesis Wall

p.108

Rubberbandman Area

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Sunnyside Area

p.114


Descent



### Le Chacal Area

The far left section of cliff is profiled starkly against the skyline as you approach. This section of cliff has a mix of sport and trad climbs that are both steep and exposed. In recent times a number of the older semi-sport lines have been fully bolted and equipped with lower-offs.

**Approach** - This is the far left section of the cliff.

 **Access** - The 'no climbing restriction due to nesting birds' may include this buttress - see page 96.



An old route **Arthur's Pillar, VS 4b** followed some extremely loose ground and a potentially lethal detached flake.

#### 1 Kitten's Paws . . . . . 6c+

A bizarre route touching the right-hand side of the detached flake and making hard moves from its top.

FA. Gary Gibson 4.6.2011

#### 2 Monkey's Claws . . . . . E3 5c

A poor route taking in some nasty ground.

1) 5b, 24m. Move right to the large groove. Climb up to its top (peg) and pull over the overhang to a belay

2) 5c, 12m. Move right and up until below a bulging wall, then left on to the blank wall and a good hold. Finish up the crack.

FA. Stuart Cathcart, John Dee 8.10.1980





## 6c+

FA. Gary Gibson 12.4.1993

**E3 5c**

FA. Stuart Cathcart. Gerald Swindley 2.10.1977

**E3 5c**

FA. Stuart Gathcart. Dave Whitlow 14.6.1981

**E2 5b**

FA, Stuart Cathcart, Paul Stott 13.10.1980

## 7a

FA. Gary Gibson 3.7.2011

6c+

FA. Paul Stott. Dave Greenald 6.1988

## 7h+

FA. Gary Gibson 20.7.1991

## 7b

FA. Gary Gibson, Phil Gibson 8.6.1991

**E2 5b**

FA. Stuart Cathcart. Mike Hughes 29.6.1980







## Manikins of Horror Area

The left side of this area provides a few superbly sustained and enjoyable pitches but the rock needs care in places. To the right is a tall white wall and some large overhangs that have a handful of harder lines. A yew tree at the base of the wall is just left of the start of *Manikins of Horror*. The area is to the left of a large tree 10m up the cliff under large overhangs.

**Access** - There no climbing restriction due to nesting birds may include this buttress - see page 96



Descent

Three Dimensions - p.99

- 1 **Sugar Sweet** .....    6c+  
A difficult lower bulge with fine upper section. The lower bulge is hollow.  
FA. Gary Gibson, Hazel Gibson 4.6.2011
- 2 **Mon Miel** .....    6c  
A short route with a difficult bulge.  
FA. Gary Gibson 30.7.2011
- 3 **A Bitter Pill** .....    6b+  
A pleasant pitch straight through a small mid-height bulge.  
FA. Gary Gibson, Mark Elwell 3.7.2011
- 4 **A Cunning Plan** .....    6b+  
The direct line through the lower bulge and up the left-hand edge of the slabby face gives a reasonable pitch.  
FA. Gary Gibson 1.9.2010







# 5 The Marsh Flower . . . . . 7a

Climb the blank wall, moving right and then up and back left (very close to *Stratagem*). Continue with interest to a break and finish more easily via a crack just right.

FA. Gary Gibson 12.4.1993

# 6 Legacy . . . . . E1 5b

1) 5b, 18m. Climb to a peg in a corner, on a slab. Move left and down to a ledge. Continue traversing over loose rock to a tree belay.

2) 5a, 18m. Move to the right side of the bay and climb to the top via the easiest line on loose ground. A dangerous route.

FA. Stuart Cathcart, Gerald Swindley 28.8.1976

# 7 Stratagem . . . . . E2 5b

A reasonable climb although the rock is a little loose in places. Follow *Legacy* to the peg on the slab and continue to a bulge (peg). Climb up steeply leftwards to a break with difficulty and then move right and up (peg) to a tree. Finish up the crack.

FA. Stuart Cathcart, Gerald Swindley 28.8.1976

# 8 Manikins of Horror . . . . . E3 5c

One of the best pitches on the crag featuring sustained and technical climbing with generally excellent protection. Begin 4m right of the ground-level tree. Move up to a break and go left to a little corner with a peg above. From the peg move delicately left around the shallow rib to a slab beneath a slim crack. Follow the lovely crack past pegs to a horizontal break. Move left to a tree and climb the crack above to finish. *Photo on page 37.*

FA. Stuart Cathcart, Gerald Swindley 29.5.1976

# 9 Masquerade . . . . . 7b+

A fine direct line up the left-hand side of the buttress with a very technical move at half-height and sustained climbing above. The first bolt is high up - above where the line leaves *Manikins of Horror* - and needs some gear or a long clip-stick.

FA. Gary Gibson 1.9.2010

# 10 Swlabr Link . . . . . E3 6a

This excellent route has unfortunately suffered a rockfall at the end of the traverse and now has some dangerous loose blocks and unstable rock on it.

1) 6a, 25m. Follow *Masquerade* to a thin horizontal break at mid height and traverse this right to easier ground (loose blocks). Move up to a good ledge by a tree.

2) 5b, 14m. Move left and climb the excellent exposed crack as for pitch 2 of *Swlabr*.

FA. Stuart Cathcart, Nick Slaney 4.6.1981

# 11 Dance of the Puppets . . . . . 7b

A good sport route up the slender buttress. Climb directly up the grey nose then make a long stretch to gain the traverse line of *Swlabr Link*. Make some thin moves to a rounded break and then gain better holds in a scoop. Pull up and climb leftwards into a second scoop. A final hard move rightwards gains good flake-holds that lead to the lower-off.

FA. John Codling, John Moulding 5.5.1984

# 12 Hand in Glove . . . . . 7a

Straight up the right-hand side of the wall with a technical lower bulge and sustained climbing above, keeping just left of *Swlabr*. Move left and up to the belay.

FA. Gary Gibson 4.6.2011

# 13 Swlabr . . . . . HVS 5b

A great top crack but the lower section is unpleasant.

1) 4b, 17m. Take the easiest line up the vegetated ground to a belay on a good ledge and tree. A poor pitch.

2) 5b, 14m. Move left and climb the excellent, exposed crack.

FA. Bob Dearman, Martin Pedlar 1969



Eliminator - p.102





## Digitron Area

An attractive vertical wall of compact grey rock that has three great climbs on it. *Digitron* is one of the UK's better E2s and should not be missed

**Access** - The 'no climbing restriction due to nesting birds' may include this buttress - see page 96.

### 1 Rubs and Tugs. . . . . 7c

A hard sport route through the left-hand side of the big roof.

1) 4b, 17m. Move up and then left to a belay above the tree. Care needed with the rock but the climbing is easy.

2) 7c, 16m. Follow the line of bolts leading across left through the roof to a lower-off.

FA. Marc Rooms 2003

### 2 Eliminator. . . . . E4 6b

An exceptionally positioned top pitch on some great rock.

1) - , 17m. Move up and then left to a belay above the tree. Care needed with the rock but the climbing is easy.

2) 6b, 16m. The double roof stack above guards entry to the headwall. Climb to the roof and crank through it onto the headwall (two pegs). The rounded scoop of lovely rock is taken past a bulge to the top (thread and peg).

FA. John Moulding, F.Stevenson 5.9.1983

### 3 Pi . . . . . 8a

Craig Arthur's hardest route and one of its most impressive lines. Start at the first stance of *Eliminator*.

FA. Rob Mirfin 9.2005

### 4 California Highway Patrol

#### . . . . . 7c

A fine technical pitch on good rock after an unsavoury start. Climb up easy but very loose ground to the base of the bulge, thread and pegs. Pull through the bulge with difficulty and embark on a brilliant sequence up the wall with a final testing move to reach a pocket and then the lower-off.

FA. Pete Chadwick 2.7.2005. A route with a chequered history, originally equipped and chipped several years ago, hence the route name - 'CHiPs'.

### 5 Tito . . . . . E2 5b

This sustained route follows the left-hand side of the superb grey sheet of rock. Start as for the first pitch of *Eliminator*. Move up, as for *Eliminator*, then break right on a subtle line across slabby grey rock (peg) to a bulge. Climb up and then back right, with more difficulty, to an overhang and thread (possible stance). Pull up left through the overhang, via a crack, to reach a small tree. Easier ground leads to a large rounded scoop (loose). Follow this to finish.

FA. Stuart Cathcart, Tom Curtis 3.5.1980

### 6 About Time . . . . . 7b

A line that bisects *Tito* via some low technical moves and an easy central section before stepping right and climbing a shallow scoop in the headwall to a very taxing finale on small holds. Superb climbing but frustrating at the top. High first bolt.

FA. Gary Gibson 28.5.2009

### 7 Pour Lulubelle. . . . . E3 5c

A filler-in but a good one. Climb the difficult smooth wall - peg and bolt - to the main overlap. Above this take the superbly-positioned blunt rib via cracks and edges.

FA. Gary Gibson 30.7.2011

Descent



Dance of the Puppets - p.101





## 8 Digitron Top 7 L50 E2 5c

An immaculate pitch and one of the best of its grade in the area with technically varied and absorbing climbing. The difficulty gently escalates culminating in a challenging finale. Climb easily to a peg then make a tricky move up and right to good holds by a small sapling. Continue up a slight groove following cracks to a second peg. Move left and step up to a good resting ledge beneath an overhang. Undercut rightwards beneath the overhang then pull around the slight arete to reach another good rest beside a small niche. Pull up and leftwards on small holds to reach bigger holds beneath a peg. Above the peg is a good jug and reaching it is hard. Once gained, pull up slightly leftwards - still difficult - to a small sapling, then finish easily to the right.

FA. Stuart Cathcart, Gerald Swindley 11.6.1973

## 9 Heaven or Hell E5 6b

Immaculate and extremely sustained climbing that is also fairly run out. Start below a yellow lichen-covered bulge at 8m. Make some committing moves up and then left along a slim ramp to a bolt, and make a long reach to a good hold at the base of a small groove. Move up onto the good hold and pull left to the arete. Climb the arete on its right-hand side, with some trepidation, to meet *Digitron* at a horizontal break. Step right (peg) and make hard moves up a flake to a bolt. Finish by moving leftwards into *Digitron*.

FA. Gary Gibson 1.6.1991







# 1 Beta Beware . . . . . 6c+

A short and intense affair through a series of difficult overlaps to an easier wall and tree belay. Loose.

FA. Gary Gibson 19.6.2011

# 2 Omegod . . . . . 6c+

Gain the prominent and worrying flake from below and exit it rightwards over a small overlap onto the wall above. The superb blunt rib above leads to the belay.

FA. Gary Gibson 3.6.2009

# 3 Alpha Track Etch . . . . . 7b

An impressive intricate line that has some hard moves. Start beneath the centre of the low offset roofs - the high first bolt usually needs to be stick-clipped. Pull up through the weakness to a slab. Undercut leftwards then make a very hard move to reach better holds. Continue up the wall to a break then move right along this before tackling the steep powerful capping bulge to easier ground and the lower-off.

FA. Martin Crocker 2.6.1990. FA. (Direct as described) Lee Proctor 2.7.2005. The route originally moved right along the undercut flake.

# 4 Delta Force . . . . . 6c+

The right arete of the face gives an interesting face climb with sustained but reasonable climbing to an intricate and fingery finale on the exposed final bulge. *Photo on page 1.*

FA. Gary Gibson 3.6.2009

# 5 Badge . . . . . E2 5c

A good airy upper half is preceded by a serious lower section. Start up broken ground and then move up to an overlap at the horizontal break. Pull through the overlap (poor peg), and push on carefully up the awkward wall to gain another peg. Easier moves gain the base of a scoop and much better rock and protection. Climb up the left wall of the scoop and exit with care.

FA. Stuart Cathcart, Tom Curtis 6.4.1975

# 6 Keeping Secrets . . . . . E5 6c

Start below a small bush in the break above broken ground. Climb through the bulge, just right of the bush, to a peg, and somehow reach a jug above. Go left to a flake and take this to a break. Easier climbing leads to another larger horizontal break. Move up the V-groove and exit left up the wall to finish at the shrub-lined crag edge.

FA. Gary Gibson 2.9.1991

## Ten Area

The stacked roofs at the top of this area are taken by the excellent sport route *Ten*. The other lines on this section see little traffic. Most of the routes start up easy-angled broken ground. The large roof of *Ten* is high up on the crag around 100m left of the tree at the base of the Nemesis Wall.

**Access** - The 'no climbing restriction due to nesting birds' may include this buttress - see page 96.



Heaven or Hell  
- p.103

1

2

3

4

5

6

40m





**7 Walls Have Ears** . . . **7b+**

Climb a faint flake and bulge to a good ledge. The finish through the hanging scoop gives a hard sequence with a reachy clip.

FA. Gary Gibson 12.4.1993

**8 Scary Fairy** . . . . . **E3 6a**

A meandering line with some good sections of hard and exposed climbing. Move up to the left-hand side of the oval niche of *Ten*. Difficult climbing leads to a steep flake-line, which is followed to easier ground. Traverse leftwards past a cave (possible belay) to the base of a V-groove. Move up the groove and exit left up the wall to finish at the shrub-lined crag edge.

FA. Stuart Cathcart, Paul Stott, Frank Bennett 20.7.1980

**9 Ten** . . . . . **7b+**

A stunning 'out there' sport route that starts in an oval niche. Scramble up to a ledge beneath the niche. Boulder out of the niche with difficulty to gain a brief reprise on the wall above. Move up to the roof and blast through this before any remaining power wanes. High in the grade.

FA. Gary Gibson 20.7.1991

**10 Suite XV1** . . . . . **7a+**

A steady lower wall gains an excellent and problematic bulge.

FA. Gary Gibson 20.12.2014

**11 Jungle Warfare** . . . . . **HVS 5a**

An appropriately-named expedition which follows rock and vegetation in about equal measures.

1) 5a, 20m. Climb up the centre of a slim buttress via a short flake and some vegetation to a large tree.

2) 5a, 15m. Climb up the tree and, from a jug, pull onto the rock. Traverse left past a block and ledge to finish up a yellow groove.

FA. Stuart Cathcart, Paul Stott 21.6.1980

**12 When I was a Viking.** . . . . . **6b**

An easy lower wall leads to fine climbing above the ledge.

FA. Gary Gibson 29.1.2011

**13 Ravenous** . . . . . **6b**

Amble up the easy lower wall to access a fine upper section via flakes and cracks.

FA. Gary Gibson 19.6.2011







# 1 Charlain ..... E1 5b

The attractive grey slab.

1) 5b, 20m. Start just right of a small tree/bush. Climb to a horizontal break (peg) and on rightwards to a hidden second peg. Continue trending right past some poor rock to another peg and a tree belay above.

2) 4b, 12m. Climb the corner past a tree or abseil off.

FA. Stuart Cathcart, Greg Griffith 18.5.1980

# 2 Charlotte's Web ..... 6a+

Spaced bolts and a peg protect. Climb the blunt rib to the left of the shallow groove.

FA. Gary Gibson 30.7.2011

# 3 Now and Then ..... E2 5c

A good route up the left-hand side of the grey wall.

1) 5c, 21m. Start below a small grey groove. Climb to, and up, the groove to its top (two pegs). Pull over a slim overlap and move up right, past a further peg, to easier ground and a tree belay.

2) 5a, 12m. Climb up right to a tree. Traverse along a break to finish up a crack.

FA. Stuart Cathcart, Paul Stott 21.6.1980

# 4 Crocodile Shoes ..... 6b+

A surprising find up the smooth-looking wall right of *Now and Then*. Good moves but a tight line.

FA. Gary Gibson 3.6.2009



Descent --->







### 5 Dead Man's Creek . . . 6c

A good pitch. Pull up and left to access the line of tiny corners. Follow these and the face above to the lower-off.

FA. Gary Gibson 5.5.1984

### 6 Punch and Judy . . . E5 6b

Fantastic technical climbing up the grey wall. Well protected with good wires and solid fixed protection. Pull powerfully around the lower bulge (bolt) to reach a thread. Move up and leftwards on tiny holds, passing a second bolt, and continue direct to a vague break and peg. Rock onto the break then tiptoe rightwards to a third bolt. Blind moves past this gain good holds and gear. Continue up easier ground to reach a shallow scoop and a final bolt, then move left above this with a long reach to the upper break (peg) and the lower-off.

FA. Gary Gibson 1.5.1984. FA. (Direct start and finish) Lee Proctor 12.9.2004, after the original start collapsed.

## Survival Area

A fine wall of clean and featureless rock save for the subtle crack-line of *Survival of the Fastest*. There is a good deal of fixed gear on the routes here.

**Access** - There no climbing restriction due to nesting birds may include this buttress - see page 96

### 7 Full Mental Jacket . . . E5 6c

A variation on *Punch and Judy* that is more technical but less sustained. Start up the first few moves of *Survival of the Fastest*, then move left to reach an undercut hold. A technical sequence (peg) leads to a line of horizontal pockets in the vague break and a hidden bolt. Rock precariously upwards to join *Punch and Judy* at its third bolt. Finish up this to the lower-off.

FA. John Moulding, John Codling 3.7.1988

### 8 Survival of the Fastest . . . E5 6a

An awesome pitch tackling the thin crack and flake-line bounding the left side of the Nemesis Wall. Extremely sustained and varied climbing throughout. One of the original protection pegs is no longer in place and the pitch is now more strenuous because it's difficult to arrange alternative nut protection. Pull up to the base of the line and follow the crack steeply to where it curves and fades. A thin traverse left past a bolt eventually gains easier ground. The right-slanting crack above is still tricky.

*Photo on page 31.*

FA. Stuart Cathcart 10.5.1978

### 9 Protect and Survive . . . E6 6b

A good way up this section of the crag. The route makes a diagonal link from the initial section of *Survival of the Fastest* to the difficult upper bulges of *Survival of the Fattest*.

FA. John Moulding 8.2004

### 10 Survival of the Fattest E5 6b

Climb up through low-level overlaps to a small corner. Continue up the wall and flakes above, on reasonable holds, to a bulge high on the wall. Difficult moves through this, and then left to break through the overlap above, gain a crack to finish.

FA. John Codling 1984

### 11 Revival of the Latest 7a+

A short desperate wall pitch with a hard lower section and a fingery and technical upper section.

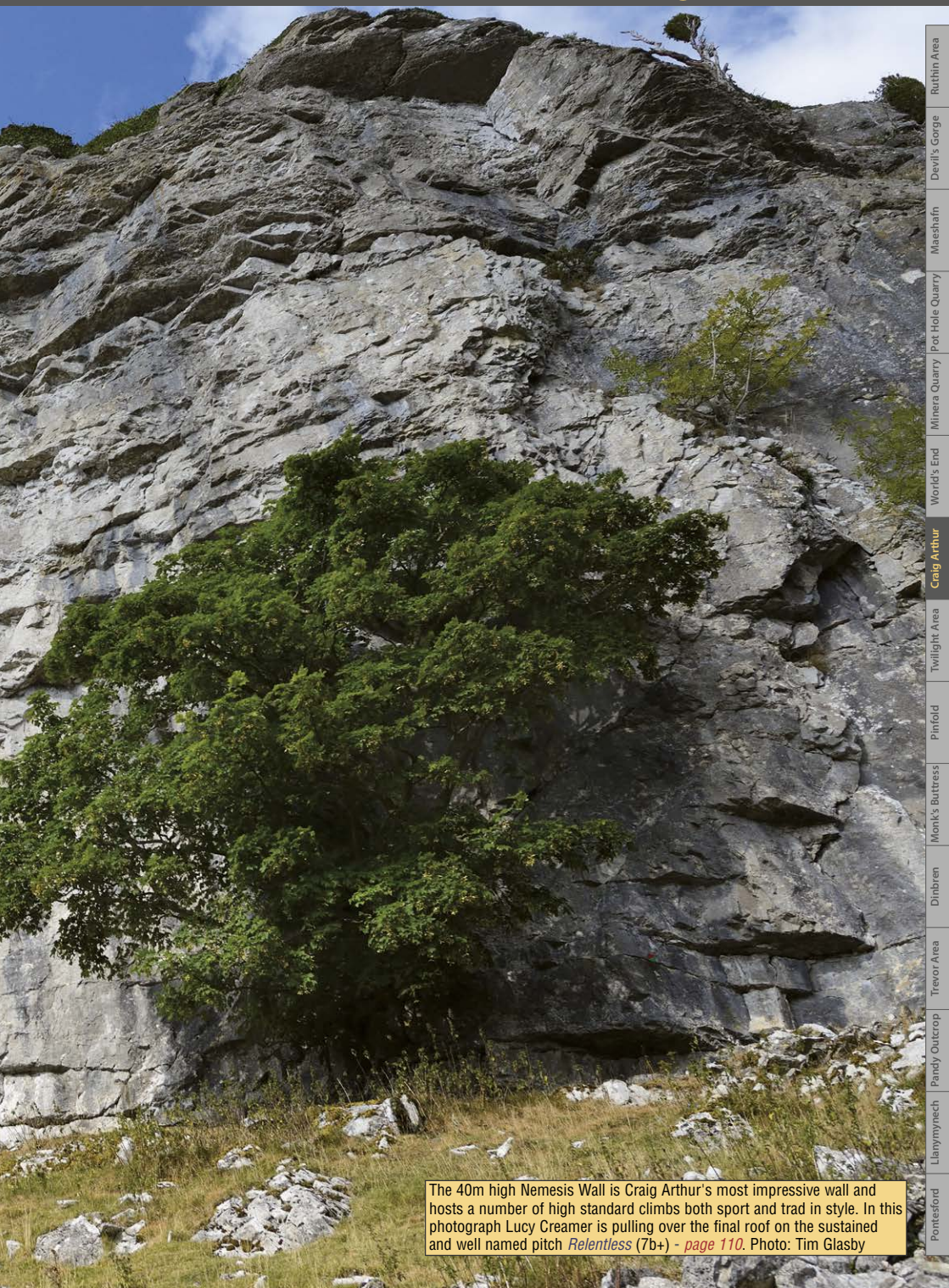
FA. Gary Gibson 25.6.2009

Shootin' Blanks - p.110









The 40m high Nemesis Wall is Craig Arthur's most impressive wall and hosts a number of high standard climbs both sport and trad in style. In this photograph Lucy Creamer is pulling over the final roof on the sustained and well named pitch *Relentless* (7b+) - [page 110](#). Photo: Tim Glasby

Ruthin Area

Devil's Gorge

Maeshafn

Minera Quarry  
Pot Hole Quarry

World's End

**Craig Arthur**

Twilight Area

Pinfold

Monk's Buttress

Dinbren

Trevor Area

Pandy Outcrop

Llanymynech

Ponteford





# 1 Friday the Thirteenth



E5 6a

An adventurous mission up the huge face.

1) 6a, 22m. Start by the smaller tree at the base of the wall.

Move up from either side of the tree to gain a small groove (peg low on left) before moving up left again to better holds. Above is a large, semi-detached jammed block at the right-hand end of a long narrow overhang. Take a rightwards line to the block and use it to access the wall above (peg). The belay is a little higher in the horizontal break.

2) 5c, 18m. Move right to the central groove and climb this to a capping roof. Pass the roof on the right and finish up the loose corner.

FA. Pat Littlejohn 13.4.1984

FA. (Direct start) John Moulding, John Codling 29.9.1987

# 2 Oblivion



E6 6b

A direct assault on the wall passing through *Friday the Thirteenth* and starting and finishing as for *Manic Mechanic*.

FA. Gary Gibson 11.8.2009

# 3 Manic Mechanic



E6 6b

A stunning, action-packed line involving a great deal of difficult climbing with a high crux. The streaked ramp is slow to dry and can be dirty. Start beneath the base of the ramp. Climb the wall past a bolt to the ramp. At the top of the ramp make blind moves up the steep wall, past two pegs, to reach the upper of two breaks. Move a little left then climb the fine pocketed wall rightwards, past a thread, to an intimidating perch beneath the roof. Traverse left (peg over lip - difficult to clip) and pull over the roof with difficulty, to a short wall and the top.

FA. John Moulding, John Codling (rests) 5.1984. FFA. Andy Pollitt 1984.

# 4 Relentless



7b+

A fine addition straight up the centre of the wall using a high hanging arete and with a super-exposed roof finale. Sustained despite two good rest spots. *Photo on page 108.*

FA. Gary Gibson 19.6.2011

# 5 Smokin' Gun



E6 6c

Brilliant and technically sustained climbing up the centre of the Nemesis Wall. Good but spaced protection throughout.

1) 6c, 21m. Pull up and traverse left to a ledge beneath a groove. Climb into the groove (bolt) and continue to a second bolt. Using some poor undercuts, make a difficult reach for some tiny crimps, then rock up to reach a good flake and wires. Continue to a poor peg, then move rightwards into a niche and a rest (bolt on right). Move left around the arete (bolt) and climb the technical wall above to the break and belay (old pegs backed up with good cams).

2) 6a, 18m. Gain the overhung niche above, then move right past a shallow corner onto and across the wall (pegs). Keep traversing until it is possible to break through the bulge past two final pegs.

FA. John Moulding 21.5.1988

# 6 Shootin' Blanks



E6 6c

The alternative direct finish to *Smokin' Gun* enables the centre of this superb wall to be climbed in one stunning pitch. Continue direct above the *Smokin' Gun* belay to reach the overhung niche. Pull around the overhang (bolt) then climb the technical wall, keeping to the right of the flakes in the finishing groove of *Friday the Thirteenth*.

FA. Lee Proctor 22.8.2004

# 7 Tres Hombres



E6 6b

A big adventure that should not be underestimated. Start just left of the tree below a ramp at 8m.

1) 6b, 23m. Climb the deceptively difficult wall (peg at the start of the ramp), and move up to the top of the ramp (bolt). A series of hard moves past a peg and bulge (sometimes wet) are rewarded with a bolt. Move left around the arete (bolt) then climb the tricky wall above to the break and belay (old pegs backed up with good cams).

2) 5c, 18m. Traverse left to the steep finishing groove of *Friday the Thirteenth*.

FA. John Moulding, Nick Jowett, Steve Boyden 5.1984

# 8 Mercury Rising



7b+

A super direct plum up the wall with a hard technical groove to start, a reachy move away from *Tres Hombres* and a tough finale. A good no-hands rest is available at half height.

FA. Gary Gibson 28.12.2012

# 9 Steppin' Razor



E5 6b

The first of two lines that begin at the large tree on the right-hand side of the face. The starts are concealed by the tree.

Monkey up the tree and stretch left to clip a peg. Move onto the wall and up, past a bolt, to cross the long horizontal overhang on its left. Continue to an old peg and climb the groove above to another overhang (peg). Move right through the overhang to a slab (peg) and finish up the wall past a final peg.

FA. John Moulding, John Codling 24.4.1988

# 10 Marie Antoinette



E5 6b

From a ledge at the base of the tree, move up and then out right onto the arete and a high bolt. The arete is a tight line and leads past a peg and another bolt to a break beneath a bulge. Good climbing up the finger-crack above attains the final roof which provides a strenuous tussle via a groove and peg.

FA. John Codling, John Moulding 22.5.1988

*Survival of the Fastest - p.107*





## Nemesis Wall

Craig Arthur's most impressive wall has a selection of hard, intimidating and adventurous routes that rely on a lot of fixed gear, some of which is old on the less well-travelled lines. The massive white wall capped by overhangs has a large tree below it on the path.

**Access** - The 'no climbing restriction due to nesting birds' may include this buttress - see page 96.

### 11 The Big Plop . . . . . E3 6a

The hanging roof-capped corner high on the face.

**1) 5b, 18m.** Start right of a large tree. Climb to a tree and then leftwards past another to yet another tree and a ledge above. A steep wall (peg) gains a belay on a small ledge.

**2) 6a, 18m.** Enter and climb the corner, past pegs, with difficulty. At the roof, pull right to an arete and climb to the top more easily. Care needed with some of the rock.

FA. Stuart Cathcart, Tom Curtis (1pt) 14.5.1980

FFA. Paul Harrison, Steve Boyden 29.5.1985

### 12 Black and Blue . . . . . 7b

Excellent climbing and positions. Follow the bald-looking wall to the right of the *The Big Plop* leftwards via some fine technical moves. The impressive snout above leads to a hanging groove.

FA. Gary Gibson 29.1.2011

Descent - - - - -







## 1 Craig Arthur Girdle . . . . . E2 5c

Not on topo. A massive undertaking that visits many sections of the crag but also includes some poor rock and vegetation. Pitch 9 is the best.

- 1) 4b, 25m. Climb *Arthur's Pillar* to the top of the corner and then step right above an overhang to ledges. Move up and right to the belay at the top of *The Fall and Decline's* first pitch.
- 2) 4b, 25m. Traverse right and down to a horizontal break (peg). More traversing gains another peg at a niche. Leave the niche and continue to belay as for *A Touch of Glass* pitch 2.
- 3) 4a, 25m. Move across the bay and climb down to another line (peg). Traverse this to a small tree on *Stratagem* and belay.
- 4) 5c, 15m. Climb down for 5m to pegs before traversing across the wall to a tree belay at the top of *Swlabr Link* pitch 1.
- 5) 5b, 26m. Climb a long way right and pick up two horizontal breaks (peg). Go up past two pegs to small trees and then head out to the arete on *Digitron*. Beyond the rock blanks out (peg). Move right into the large yew tree and down to a belay.
- 6) 5b, 18m. Traverse right via a thin break to a small corner and climb across the slab on *Alpha Track Etch* (two pegs) to belay just before the upper section of *Badge*.
- 7) 5a, 25m. Climb past a peg and beyond the V-groove of *Scary Fairy*. Step down and across the wall below the stacked roofs of *Ten* (bolt). Thrash past one yew tree to another and belay.
- 8) 5a, 26m. Traverse along broken ground and down to an ash tree. Continue along more grassy rock to a ledge. Move down and traverse past fixed gear, round an arete, to a tree and belay on the left-hand side of the Nemesis Wall.
- 9) 5a, 25m. Step down after 3m, past a peg, and traverse to below the dominating upper corner of the wall. Move right to a small niche and then down to the main break. Follow this to and around the arete and a belay at the top of *The Big Plop* pitch 1.
- 10) 5a, 25m. Traverse past a bush to a ledge (peg). Gain another lower peg and continue on good holds to a large terrace. Finish up a shattered wall and groove.

FFA. Stuart Cathcart, Tom Curtis, Malcolm Cameron in 1979

FA. Bob Dearman, Dave Riley, Tom Hurley (aid) 1969

## 2 The Hoax . . . . . HVS 5a

Climb to the first tree on *The Big Plop*. Move up right past another large tree via a crack. Step right with care above the tree, near the end of the crack, to a terrace. Climb up to an old yew tree and finish right.

FA. Tom Curtis, Stuart Cathcart 14.5.1980

## 3 Tranche de Vie . . . . . 6a+

A direct line up the left-hand side of the face with a technical short wall above the bulge.

FA. Gary Gibson 1.9.2010

## 4 Voie de Bart . . . . . E4 6b

Climb up to, and then right, along a ramp line to pegs in the bulge above. Hard moves through the bulge lead to a lower-off.

FA. Steve Boyden, John Moulding 31.5.1985

## 5 Rubberbandman . . . . . 7b

Power moves through the overhang are the key.

FA. Gary Gibson 31.5.1991

## 6 Finger Press . . . . . 6c

A short bouldery line finishing over a bulge.

FA. Gary Gibson 1.9.2010

## 7 Thumbs Down . . . . . 6c+

A direct line via hard moves in shallow scoop. Start via flake.

FA. Gary Gibson, Steve Fowler 27.9.2009

## 8 Under My Thumb . . . . . 6c+

A neat wall pitch involving intricate face climbing.

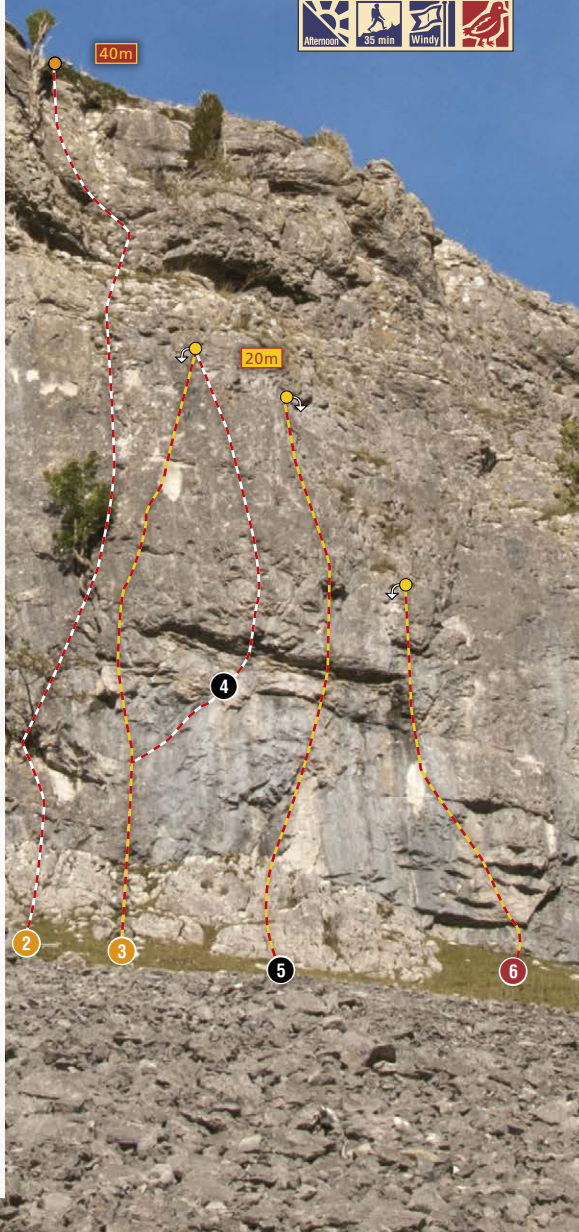
FA. Gary Gibson, Neville Barker 9.6.1991

## 9 Cold Finger . . . . . E1 5a

- 1) 5a, 16m. Climb rightwards up the crozzly, off-vertical wall to a slim overlap. Traverse right to a terrace and tree belay.

- 2) 4b, 16m. Move left and climb a broken wall and groove.

FA. Stuart Cathcart, Greg Griffith 20.2.1978







# 10 Let's See Those Fingers . . . . 6c

Technical start and overlapping finale.

FA. Gary Gibson, Mark Elwell, 27.9.2009

# 11 Chopper Squad . . . . . E2 5b

A serious route up the wall, through the left side of a bulge, to the tree on the terrace. Use the lower-off to the right.

FA. Neville Barker, Gary Gibson 27.5.1991

# 12 All Fingers and Thumbs . . . . 6c

Easier lower wall and very tricky bulge.

FA. Gary Gibson, Alec Gibson 4.6.2011

# 13 Accidents Will Happen . . . . E1 5c

The right side of the bulge to the tree.

FA. Gary Gibson, Hugh Williams 25.7.1992

# 14 Octopus . . . . . HVS 4c

Climb the wall past a low peg to the tree on the terrace. The second pitch is now overgrown.

# 15 Thumb Print . . . . . 6a

A good little pitch straight up to the pillar.

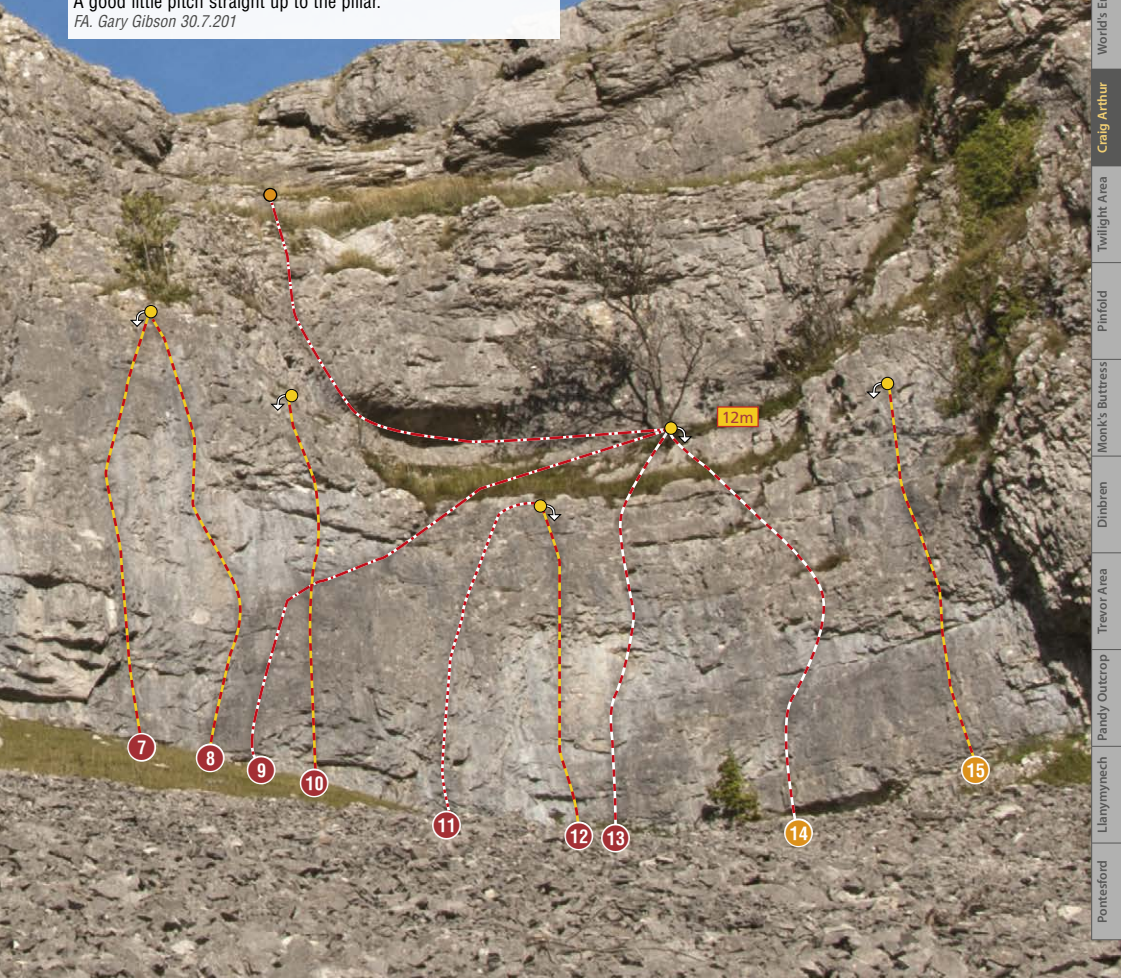
FA. Gary Gibson 30.7.201

## Rubberbandman Area

The cove between the much larger buttresses of the Nemesis Wall and the Sunnyside Buttress has a handful of useful sport pitches. The trad routes have either poor rock or poor gear, and some feature both. The area is just to the right of the large tree at the base of the Nemesis Wall.

**Access** - No climbing from 15th Feb to 15th July between markers because of nesting birds. This is a variable restriction - see page 96.

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## Sunnyside Area

The final section of Craig Arthur, just before the descent gully, is a roof-capped wall of good rock. The wall has a selection of harder sport pitches and a couple of good trad lines. The area is the first reached on the approach - at the far right-hand end of the cliff.

**Access** - No climbing from 15th Feb to 15th July between markers because of nesting birds. This is a variable restriction - see page 96.

### 1 Scrapyard Things . . . . . E1 5a

1) 5a, 20m. Climb the dodgy-looking flake-crack on the left-hand side of a detached pillar to its top. Proceed up the wall above (peg) to a belay below an overhang on the right.

2) 5a, 12m. Move through the overhang on its left (pegs) to a large ledge. Finish up a chimney on the right.

FA. Bob Dearman, Martin Pedlar 1969. FFA. Stuart Cathcart 1979

### 2 Uncrossed . . . . . 7a

Climb direct up a rib, passing a ledge, to the bulge.

FA. Gary Gibson 20.12.2014

### 3 Those Stumbling Words . . . . . 7a

A direct line through two overlaps. A bouldery start (avoidable on the left) leads through poor rock in the mid-section to a good finale.

FA. Gary Gibson, Hazel Gibson 25.6.2009

### 4 Double Crossbones . . . . . E3 5c

1) 5c, 12m. A good little pitch up excellent rock, past a peg in a horizontal break, to a fluttery shallow scoop.

2) 5a, 12m. The overhang and corner to a belay on the left.

3) 5a, 15m. Move back to the corner and go right to the exposed arete below an overhang (peg). Move through the overhang on the right and traverse right to finish up a broken crack.

FA. Stuart Cathcart, Tom Curtis 18.5.1980

### 5 Delaware Slide . . . . . E4 6a

A good and demanding pitch. Climb up good rock past a thread and move right up a little ramp to an overhang (peg). Pass the overhang on the right and stretch for a good hold above. At the next overhang (old bolt which needs a wire over the bolt head) pull up to a peg in a small corner, avoiding some unstable undercuts, and move left and up with difficulty (old bolts above). Finish up the broken crack.

FA. John Moulding, John Codling 11.4.1984

### 6 These Foolish Things . . . . . 7a+

A brilliant technical route with hard moves at the top, although there are also some tricky sections lower down. There is a lower-off and a 60m rope just makes it down. *Photo on page 11.*

FA. Gary Gibson, Phil Gibson 1.6.1991

### 7 Gates of the Golden Dawn E5 6b

A fabulous line up the front of the buttress finishing in a wild position through the capping roofs. Better if started up *These Foolish Things* with a traverse to the belay at the top of pitch 1.

1) 5b, 20m. From the upper ledge. Step left to the bottom of a very lichenous corner. Climb this, to an overlap and then climb the groove-line on the right to a stance - many pegs.

2) 6b, 15m. Move up past a small ledge to the capping roofs - old bolt - and make tough moves through these to a final layback and the top. Threads and a peg.

FA. Stuart Cathcart, Greg Griffith (1pt) 15.5.1980.

FFA. John Moulding, John Codling 6.5.1987

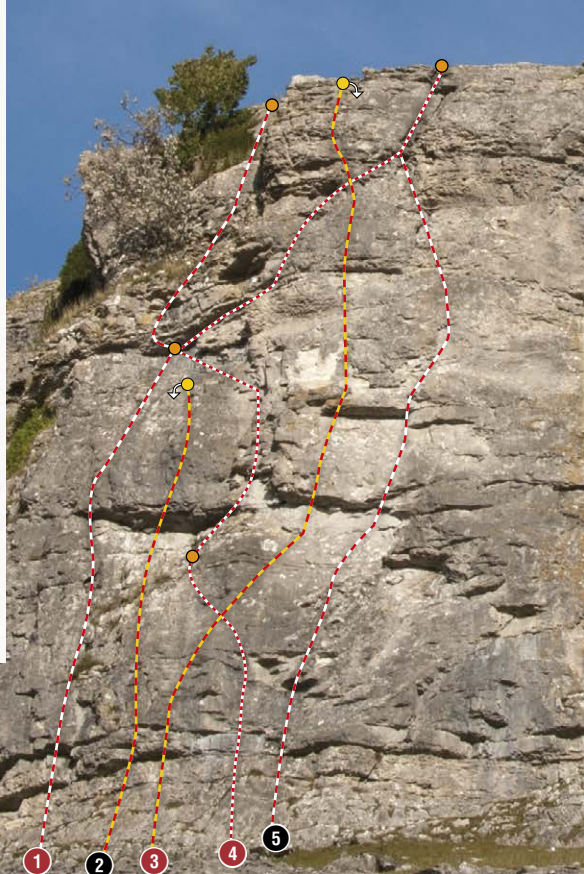
### 8 The Deadly Trap . . . . . E3 5c

An old line that is now rarely attempted.

1) 5b, 20m. Pitch 1 of *Gates of the Golden Dawn*.

2) 5c, 21m. Move up towards the roof (old bolt) then traverse right (thread) and down-climb a short groove to a small ledge. Traverse right to finish up a groove and wide crack on the right-hand side of the roofs.

FA. Stuart Cathcart, Nick Slaney 22.8.1977






**9 Sunnyside Up Mix** . . . **7b**

A stunning pitch up the left-hand side of the buttress. The start is hard, the wall above is technical but the finish is as good as it gets - brilliant upside down jug-pulling across the capping roof in a wild position. There is belay at the start.

FA. Gary Gibson 31.7.1992

**10 Black Poppies** . . . . **7b+**

The hardest route on the buttress has some difficult fingery climbing on the lower wall and the finish is a real stopper unless you can confidently finger jam up overhanging flared cracks! Very memorable. There is a bolt belay at the start.

FA. Gary Gibson 27.5.1991

**11 Chilean Moon** . . . . **7b**

A worthwhile route but not as good as its neighbours. Pulling through the lower bulge at the start is hard. Higher up there is some reasonable climbing but the finish feels a little eliminate in nature. Start at the *Black Poppies* belay.

FA. Gary Gibson 5.7.1992. The route was reclassified after the loss of a large flake at the start by Lee Proctor 6.8.2002

**12 Acapulco** . . . . . **7a+**

Climb directly up the right-hand side of the buttress via the left-hand side of a huge ledge. It shares its start with *Chills of Apprehension*.

FA. Gary Gibson 25.7.1993

**13 Chills of Apprehension** . . . . **E4 6a**

A good natural line up the right side of the buttress. Climb up the rightward-trending line through the bulge (pegs and a thread). Above this difficult section, move left beneath some overhangs and climb up via a wall and groove that lead to the wide crack on the right-hand side of the overhangs.

FA. Steve Boyden, John Moulding 31.5.1985

**14 Jam Spread** . . . . . **6b+**

The short difficult bulge, shallow groove and wall.

FA. Gary Gibson 1.9.2010

**15 Lemon Kerred** . . . . . **E3 6b**

A short semi-sport line to a lower-off on the tree.

FA. Gary Gibson, Doug Kerr 31.8.1991

**16 Freshly Dug** . . . . . **6a**

A pleasant face climb at far end of the wall.

FA. Gary Gibson, Hazel Gibson 25.6.2009



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