Clwyd Limestone

Mark Glaister

Lee Proctor

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Cover: Julian Heath on the immaculate vertical face climbing of *Traction Trauma* ($6c_{+}$) - *page* 171 - at Dinbren, Clwyd's most popular venue for high-standard sport climbing. Photo: Keith Sharples

This page: Mark Glaister setting off up the final exposed groove of *Delta Force* (6c+) - *page 104* - at the magnificently situated Craig Arthur. Photo: Phil Black



In a back street in Liverpool a small wall was created in 1998 by a passion to prove to the world that climbing walls can be fun and inspiring places to climb and train. Awesome Walls Climbing Centres aim to provide frequent well set routes and boulder problems in a clean and friendly atmosphere!

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Mark Pretty on the Devil's Gorge classic Grand Canyon (7b+) - page 55. The Devil's Gorge is an impressive gash in the hillside with its 25m overhanging east wall with a set of tough sport climbs on it. Once dry it provides an option for a rainy day and plenty of shade. Photo: Tim Glasby 3

Gorge

Devil's G

Maeshafn

Hole Quarry

Pot

Minera Quarry

World's End

Craig Arthur

Area

Pinfold

Monk's Buttress

Dinbren

Outcrop

The long moorland covered spine of the Clwydian hills runs down the Welsh side of the northern borders of Wales and England and is dotted with picturesque villages and beautiful isolated valleys. Lurking toward the southern end of the range is the Eglwyseg valley - a spectacular layered escarpment of limestone that provides the centrepiece of climbing in the region and this guidebook.

The Eglwyseg valley is set high above the tourist trap of Llangollen and its magnificent frontage can only be fleetingly glimpsed from the main A5 road that rushes people on toward Snowdonia. However, for those that make the surprisingly short diversion up into the valley a revelation of fine limestone crags and climbing awaits. The line of natural cliffs has four main sections that begin in the narrowing head of the valley at World's End and conclude at the unbroken strip of Dinbren. Both traditional and sport climbs are numerous in the valley with the easily-accessed Dinbren now firmly established on the destination list of must-visit sport crags. Its concentration of high quality and well equipped lines and wonderful outlook are guaranteed to maintain the crag's popularity, and even though new routes have been steadily added over the last decade there is still some space left for more. Moving up the valley is the long Pinfold escarpment, and the towering rampart of Craig Arthur. These tend to be quieter but are both excellent destinations plastered with superb sport and trad climbs. Finally, just as the valley pinches and opens out onto the moors, is World's End - an enduring traditional venue that still attracts those after some good amenable trad routes.

As the Eglwyseg valley fans out opposite the hilltop ruin of Castell Dinas the escarpment has been quarried in the distant past. The string of quarried faces have now been fully developed into a very popular sport climbing area known collectively as Trevor Area. The plethora of routes and stunning outlook are just two of many reasons to visit.

To the north of Eglwyseg Valley are several limestone quarries. Some are quaint trad spots such as Pot Hole and Maeshafn quarries. For the harder climber, the narrow defile of Devil's Gorge, once dried out, has some good stamina sport routes.

Pontesford

Introduction Clwyd Limestone

South of the Clwyd are three outlying crags very different in character. Llanymynech Quarry is a vast abandoned working that has been developed to give a major sport climbing destination - its huge walls span the grades from 6a to 7b attracting ever more interest as news of its quality of climbing and sheltered aspect have spread. The final two outliers are long-established easier non-limestone trad cliffs that have not appeared in a guidebook for well over two decades. Both Pandy Outcrop and Pontesford Rocks have delightful climbing in some of the finest locations in the Welsh and Shropshire hills.

This Clwyd Limestone Rockfax covers virtually all of the sport and trad climbing available in the area. The book builds on the previous Clwyd Limestone Rockfax with many more routes, bigger topos and more crags. The book covers a wide grade span in both the trad and sport styles - it will have something to entice the vast majority of climbers of all abilities.

Mark Glaister, November 2015



Devil's Gorge Ruthin Area

World's End Minera Quarry Pot Hole Quarry Maeshafn

Craig Arthur

Clwyd Limestone Introduction

6

South of the Clwydian range and very sheltered from poor weather coming from the west is the massive quarry of Llanymynech. The quarry is a nature reserve and has a number of huge walls that provide plenty of excellent sport and trad climbs. Given reasonable weather many of the best climbs can be climbed year round. Here a climber is just about to make a rightward traverse to finish the fine *Black Wall* (E1 5b) - *page 246*.

Coverage

This edition of the Clwyd Limestone Rockfax guide covers a similar area to the previous Rockfax book published in 2005. New additions include Pandy Outcrop and Pontesford Rocks which, although formed of igneous rock, are geographically not too distant and have not been featured in any guidebook for well over two decades.

Even in the relatively short 10 year period since the last edition, guidebook production has moved on apace with larger photo topos, cutting-edge action photography, GPS navigation and QR codes now standard. Our fundamental aim hasn't changed though and that is that you should never have to turn more than a few pages to first get to the crag, then get to the buttress and finally locate the start of your chosen route. All route descriptions are on the same page as their topo and listed from left-to-right. There are many other features to help choose suitable routes and crags depending on specific weather conditions or your ability level. You can select a crag from the crag tables on page 38. Each topo also has crag symbols for a quick glance check - see key on page 9.

This book is also the first Rockfax to be brought out at the same time as the Rockfax App version - see page 8 for more information.

The Rockfax App brings together all the Rockfax climbing information with UKC Logbooks and presents it in a user-friendly package for use on Apple iOS devices (Android version to follow in 2016).

The heart of the App is the Rockfax crag and route information which is downloaded by way of paid in-App purchases for individual crags, or bundles of crags, in 'Areas' which correspond roughly to printed guidebooks. You can purchase each crag individually, or the whole book.



The main data on the App is downloaded and stored on your device so you don't need any signal to be able to read the descriptions and see the topos and maps. There is a free sample crag for each area and some of these are quite extensive enabling you to get a really good impression of what the App is like, without shelling out any money.

The Rockfax App itself is a free download and incredibly useful in its own right. It contains a detailed crag map linked to the UKClimbing crags database (currently with basic information and routes lists for around 20.000 crags worldwide). The map also displays all the 4,000+ listings from the UKClimbing Directory of climbing walls, outdoor shops, climbing clubs, outdoorspecific accommodation and instructors and guides amongst others.

To find the App, search for 'Rockfax App' in Google or on the appropriate store. The current Rockfax books



with App versions are shown on the inside back cover flap.

UKC Logbooks

An incredibly popular method of logging your climbing is to use the **UKClimbing.com** logbooks system. This database lists more than 338,000 routes, over 19,800 crags and, so far, more than 28,000 users have recorded over 4.2 million ascents! To set up your own logbook all you need to do is register at **UKClimbing.com** and click on the logbook tab. Once set up you will be able to record every ascent you make, when you did it, what style you climbed it in and who you did it with. Each entry has a place for your own notes. You can also add your vote to the grade/star system linked to a database on the Rockfax site used by the guidebook writers. The logbook can be private, public or restricted to your own climbing partners only.

The Rockfax App can be linked to your **UKClimbing.com** user account and logbook so that you can record your activity while at the crag and look at photos, comments and votes on the routes. To do this you will need a 3G/4G data connection. You can also look at the UKC logbooks to see if anyone has climbed your chosen route recently to check on conditions.

8

Pandy Outcrop Llanymynech

Route Symbols ① A good route which is well worth the effort. [2] A very good route, one of the best on the crag. ③ A brilliant route, one of the best in the Clwyd area. Top 7 A significant route which is one of the best of its type and grade in the book. Technical climbing requiring good balance and **Š** technique, or complex and tricky moves. Powerful climbing: roofs, steep rock, low lock-6 offs or long moves off small holds. Sustained climbing; either lots of hard moves or steep rock giving pumpy climbing. Fingery climbing with significant small holds on 7 the hard sections. Fluttery climbing with big fall potential and scary R P run-outs. A long reach is helpful, or even essential, for one or more of the moves. 8 Some loose rock may be encountered. **Crag Symbols** 14 mir

Angle of the approach walk to the crag with approximate time.



Approximate time that the crag is in the direct sun (when it is shining).



The crag is exposed to bad weather and will catch the wind if it is blowing.



The crag can offer shelter from cold winds and it may be a good suntrap in colder weather.



The crag suffers from seepage. It may well be wet and unclimbable in winter and early spring.



The crag is steep and may well offer some dry rock to climb when it is raining.



Some or all of the routes have a restriction due to nesting birds. Details in the crag information.



Some or all of the routes are affected by an access problem. Details in the crag information.

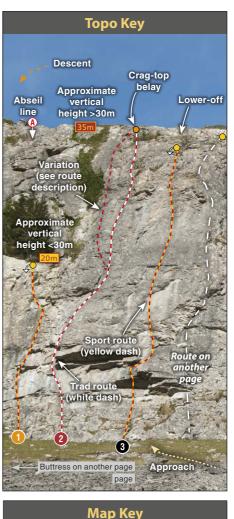
Deserted - Currently under-used and usually quiet. Fewer good routes or remote and smaller areas.

Quiet - Less popular sections on major crags, or good buttresses with awkward approaches.



Busy - Places you will seldom be alone, especially at weekends. Good routes and easy access.

Crowded - The most popular sections of the most popular crags which are always busy.





Ruthin Area

Devil's Gorge

Maeshafn

Pot Hole Quarry

Minera Quarry

Id's End

Wor

Craig Arthur

Twilight Area

Pinfold

Monk's Buttress

Dinbren

Trevor Area

Pandy Outcrop

Llanvmvnech

Key Previous Guidebooks and Route Information

The climbing on the limestone crags of Clwvd and its outlying neighbours has been documented since the 1970s. We are very grateful to all those who have worked on previous guidebooks. The key books are listed below.

Clwvd Limestone Stuart Cathcart (Cicerone Press 1983)

West Midlands Rock Doug Kerr (Cicerone Press 1988)

Clwvd Rock Gary Dickinson (Cicerone Press 1993)

Clwyd Limestone Lee Proctor, Mark Glaister (Rockfax 2005)

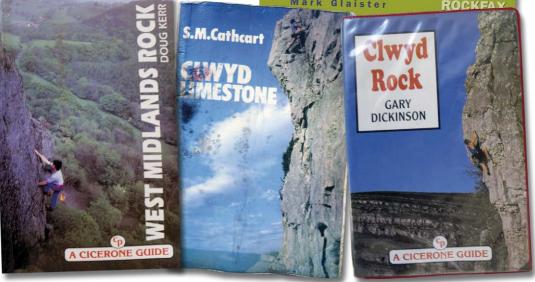
Non Rockfax/UKC Website route information: sportsclimbs.co.uk - Topos and new route developments on Gary Gibson's web site.



World's End Craig Arthur Twilight Area Pinfold Area Monk's Buttress Dinbren Trevor Area Pot Hole Quarry Maeshafn Quarry Devil's Gorge Ruthin Escarpment Llanymynech Ouarry NY YC MESTONE

Proctor Glaister

ROCKEA



Guidebook Footnote

The inclusion of a climbing area in this guidebook does not mean that you have a right of access or the right to climb upon it. The descriptions of routes within this guide are recorded for historical reasons only and no reliance should be placed on the accuracy of the description. The grades set in this guide are a fair assessment of the difficulty of the climbs. Climbers who attempt a route of a particular standard should use their own judgment as to whether they are proficient enough to tackle that route. This book is not a substitute for experience and proper judgment. The authors, publisher and distributors of this book do not recognise any liability for injury or damage caused to, or by, climbers, third parties, or property arising from such persons seeking reliance on this guidebook as an assurance for their own safety.

Previous Guidebooks Clwyd Limestone

Distance in the Arriver of State

Clare Reading perched on the headwall of the long and varied Top 50 sport pitch *These Foolish Things* (7a+) - *page* 114 - at the Sunnyside Area, Craig Arthur. Craig Arthur is a large and exposed wall of limestone, which has a mix of trad and sport routes up to 40m in length. Photo: Keith Sharples

- alto



Acknowledgements Clwyd Limestone

We would like to thank all those listed below who have helped in some way to put together this edition of Clwyd Limestone - Gary Gibson, Rob Watt, Gary Morgan, Allister McNeil - Wrekin MC, Karl Smith, Nick Dixon, Ryan McConnell, Luke Owens, Luke Clarke, Ed Booth, Patricia Novelli, Elfyn Jones, Rob Mirfin, Dave Rose, Phil Black, Alison Martindale, Stuart Cathcart, Ally Smith, Marti Hallett, Debbie Roberts, Paul Cox, Mr Guy Kennaway, Mr Thomas, Lucy Creamer, Craig Bailey, Steve Mattock, Ellie Morgan, John Stringfellow, Bridget Collier and Sarah Braithwaite.

A massive thank you to all those who have taken and been the subjects of the superb portfolio of shots that make such a huge contribution to the appeal of this guidebook - Mike Hutton, Tim Glasby, Keith Sharples, Sophie Baring, Phil Black, Paul Cox, John Stringfellow, Craig Bailey, Patricia Novelli, Dave Rose, Ryan McConnell, Rob Mirfin, John Warner.

It has as ever been a pleasure to work with Alan James and the Rockfax/UKC team on the production of this guidebook.

Mark Glaister and Lee Proctor, November 2015

Rockfax is very grateful to the following advertisers who have supported this guidebook:

Awesome Walls - Page 2 awesomewalls.co.uk

Berghaus - Inside front cover berghaus.com

DMM - Outside back cover dmmclimbing.com

High Sports - Inside back cover highsports.co.uk

Plas y Brenin - Page 23 pyb.co.uk

Plas Power - Page 25 plaspoweradventure.com

The Boardroom - Back cover flap theboardroomclimbing.com

Sue Hazel in the upper corner of the tricky trad pitch *Alison* (E1 5b) - *page* 171 - at Dinbren. Although the majority of visitors now tackle the sport climbs on this crag, there are many classic trad routes scattered all along the Clwyd crags that are worthy of attention. Photo: Patricia Novelli

Pot Hole Quarr

Minera Quarry

Craig

Twilight Area

Clwyd Limestone Logistics

Pontesford

Immaculate limestone is the big draw on the Left Wing of Dinbren, its long low wall providing a mix of powerful and fingery climbing. In this picture the subtle grooves and pockets of the classic *Climb High* (7a) - *page* 171 - are linked by Craig Bailey prior to unlocking the puzzling rockover that provides the route's memorable crux. Photo: Keith Sharples

Mountain Rescue

In the event of an accident requiring the assistance of Mountain Rescue:

Dial 112 and ask for 'POLICE - MOUNTAIN RESCUE'

This is very important since just asking for 'Police' will redirect you to a switchboard which could be a long way from your current location. This can cause delays in the rescue procedure as the authorities try and track down where the injured party is. Asking for 'Mountain Rescue' will immediately redirect you to people who know the area well.

Mobile Phones

All of the crags featured in this guide have mobile coverage although the quality of signal varies dependant upon provider.

Tourist Information Centres

If you are short of ideas about what to do on a wet day or need some accommodation, take a look at the Tourist Information Centres. They contain a lot more useful information than it is possible to include in these pages.

Llangollen - Y Chapel, Castle Street, Llangollen. Tel: 01978 860828 Mold - Earl Road, Mold. Tel: 01352 759331 Wrexham - Lambpit Street, Wrexham. Tel: 01978 292015 Shrewsbury - The Music Hall, The Square, Shrewsbury. Tel: 01743 258888 More information and other travel tips are at information-britain.co.uk

Temperature °C	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Average Max Temp (°C)	8	8	10	13	16	19	21	21	18	14	10	7
Average Min Temp (°C)	2	2	3	5	8	10	12	12	10	7	4	2
Approx. Rain Days/Month	18	14	17	11	11	10	10	11	11	16	15	18

When to Go

The best time to visit the higher crags in the Eglwyseg valley is from early spring to late autumn when the air temperature is warm and seepage will be less of an issue, but keep away if there is a wind blowing from the west. Cold stable weather in winter does allow for some pleasant days out of the wind and in the sun.

Maeshafn and Pot Hole Quarrries are year-round venues as long as the sun is out during the colder months. The Devil's Gorge has a climate of its own and even in summer can be out of condition in humid weather, although it is rainproof once the seepage has dried up.

Llanymynech is a great choice when gales are roaring from the west and can be excellent during the colder months as it takes little seepage and gets the sun early in the day.

The trad crags of Pandy Outcrop and Pontesford Rocks are usually out of condition in the winter months and are exposed to rain and wind, but once in condition, have little seepage.

Clwyd Limestone Logistics

Leon Bowen on one of the very popular sport routes on Dinbren's Right Wing *Trailer Trash* (6b) - *page 183.* Photo: Ryan McConnell

17

Ruthin Are

Devil's Gorge

Minera Quarry

World's End

Clwyd Limestone Logistics Getting Around and Maps

Getting Around

18

The starting points for approaches to the crags are all easily reached by car and the approach descriptions are written assuming you have access to a car.

For those travelling to the area on public transport a good number of the crags can be reached without too much walking. Maeshafn, Pot Hole Quarry and The Devil's Gorge are within easy walking distance of buses from Mold. The lower Eglwyseg Valley (Trevor Area and Dinbren) is walkable from Llangollen in about half an hour. Both Chester and Shrewsbury are serviced by fast train services but trains are less useful for penetrating the area more deeply. There are local trains to Buckley, Wrexham, Chirk and Gobowen. Llangollen can be reached by bus from Chester or Shrewsbury. Llanymynech and Pontesford Rocks can also be reached by bus from Shrewsbury.



Buses - The website **traveline.info** is an excellent place to get a quick idea of links and times of bus services. The tourist information centres are also useful for travel information. **Trains** - For timetable information go to **thetrainline.com**

Satellite Navigation

(P) -2.154509 All the parking spots are indicated with a precise GPS location. This is in the form of two decimal numbers as in the sample blue box. Different GPS devices accept these numbers in alternative formats.

QR codes (right) have also been included. You can scan the QR code using an app such as **Scan** (for iOS) or **Google Goggles** (for Android) and choose to open the result direct into the **Google Maps** navigation app on your phone.



Getting Around and Maps Clwyd Limestone Logistics



Clwyd Limestone Logistics Accommodation V WARDONAL I I I I VIN ANY BATZ AV

Camping and Hostels See map on page 18/19 for locations

There are a number of campsites and hostels within easy reach of the crags but those listed below are the best for reaching the crags from.

Wern Isaf Farm, Llangollen - wernisaf.co.uk

The best option for those without a car. It is only 1km from Llangollen and within walking distance of the Eglwyseg crags. Tel: 01978 860632

Station Campsite, Carrog - stationcampsite.com

A nice site 10km west of Llangollen. Tel: 01490 430237

Abbey Farm Caravan Park, Llangollen - abbeyfarmcaravans.co.uk

Large tent and caravan site just north of Llangollen and close to pubs that serve food. Can be very busy at weekends and Bank Holidays. Tel: 01978 861297

Gweryd Lakes Camping, Llanarmon-yn-lal - gwerydlakes.co.uk

Site midway between Maeshafn/Pot Hole Quarries and the main Eglwyseg valley cliffs. Tel: 01824 780230

Llangollen Hostel - Convenient for crags and evenings in town - Ilangollenhostel.co.uk Nantyr Outdoor Centre - Close to Pandy Outcrop. Good for groups - www.nantyr.co.uk

Not Camping

The Clwyd area is popular with tourists and accommodation plentiful. There are many bed and breakfasts in Llangollen, Mold, Ruthin and in the surrounding villages and farms. Contact local tourist information offices for more details - see page 16.





Phil Black on the there star *Extreme Ways* (7c) - *page 168* - at the Climb High Area, Dinbren. This route, along with many others, have been put up at Dinbren since the previous guidebook. Photo: Phil Black Collection

World's End

Craig Arthur

Twilight Area

Pinfold

Monk's Buttress

Dinbren

Trevor Area

Pandy Outcrop

Clwyd Limestone Logistics Pubs and Climbing Shops

Pubs

There are many pubs in the area covered by this book, but those listed below are some of the best for those seeking out a good après-climb drink and food.

The Sun - Trevor

On the A539 between Llangollen and Trevor. Popular with climbers and close to the Trevor Quarries and Dinbren.

The Corn Mill - Llangollen Lively riverside pub and restaurant in the centre of Llangollen.

Nag's Head - Pontesbury Nearest pub for Pontesford Rocks. On the main road to the east of Pontesbury.

The Oak - Glyn Ceiriog Community-owned pub in the village closest to Pandy Outcrop.

The Dolphin Inn - Llanymynech Good little spot in the village near to quarry. Druid Inn - Llanferres

Good pub that is very convenient for Pot Hole Quarry.

The Miners Arms - Maeshafn In the village close to Maeshafn Quarry.

We Three Loggerheads

Roadside pub in Loggerheads Country Park not far from Maeshafn Quarry, Pot Hole Quarry and Devil's Gorge.

Climbing Shop

High Sports 51/52, Wyle Cop, Shrewsbury. Tel: 01743 231649 highsports.co.uk



The Sun Inn at Trevor is a popular choice of climbers looking for a good aprèsclimb pint and food.

See advert inside back cover

IMPROVE YOUR CLIMBING WITH US

PETZL

Here at the National Mountain Sports Centre we have a course that's perfect to help you develop, whatever standard you climb at. From complete beginner to performance climber, our coaches will help you take the next step, and help you get more out of your climbing. For more details, visit our website.







Plas y Brenin The National Mountain Sports Centre Capel Curig Conwy LL24 OET Tel: 01690 720214 Email: info@pyb.co.uk



www.plus.google.com/+plasybrenin

www.facebook.com/plasybrenin



www.twitter.com/plasybrenin

Clwyd Limestone Logistics Climbing Walls and Cafes

Climbing Walls

For those times of year when climbing outside isn't possible, the following climbing walls are well worth considering.

More information at ukclimbing.com/walls/

Awesome Walls - Liverpool

St Albans Church, Athol Street, Liverpool, L5 9TN.

Tel: 0151 2982422 awesomewalls.co.uk

See advert on page 2



The Boardroom

Rectors Lane Ind. Est., Pentre, Queensferry, CH5 2DH. Tel: 01244 537476



theboardroomclimbing.com See advert on back cover flap

Wrexham Climbing Centre Plas Power Road, Southsea, (near Wrexham), LL11 5SZ. Tel: 01978 754747 plaspoweradventure.com See advert opposite



SIDE

North West Face St Anns Church, Warrington. northwestface.com

Shropshire Climbing Centre Newport, Shropshire. newportrock.com

Oswestry Climbing Centre Maesbury Road, Oswestry. oswestryclimbingcentre.co.uk

Cafes

Trevor and Eglwyseg Valley

Prospect Garden Tea Rooms is excellent. It is signed from the road that runs below Trevor Quarry.

Devil's Gorge, Maeshafn, Pot Hole Quarry Loggerheads Park Cafe. Nice seating outside.

Llanymynech - Village Pantry Cafe.

Pontesford Rocks Cafe in shop in nearby village of Pontesbury.

Llangollen Has lots of cafes. The Dee Side Cafe next to the bridge over the river is good.

Devil's Gorge

Maeshafn

Pot Hole Quarry

Minera Quarry

World's End

Craig Arthur

Wrexham climbing centre @ Plas Power Adventure

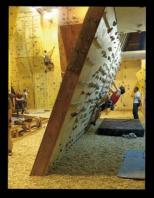








plas power adventure











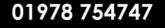


The closest thing to rock and closest to the rock 20 mins from Llangollen Much more than just a wall



plaspoweradventure.com





Plas Power road Southsea Nr Wrexham II115sz



Clwyd Limestone Climbing

The extensive upper tier of Dinbren is Clwyd's major destination for those looking for hard sport climbs in the 6th, 7th and 8th grades. The rock and equipping are excellent and the outlook magnificent. In this image Jordan Buys tackles the super steep start of *Out of Body Experience* (7c+) - *page* 174 - at The Bandits Area, Dinbren - one of many new lines established at the crag since the previous Rockfax was published in 2005. Photo: Mike Hutton

Dinbren

Ruthin Area

Devil's Gorge

Hole Quarry

End

Clwyd Limestone Climbing Access

Access

As with most climbing areas in the UK there have always been access issues on the various crags covered in this edition of Clwyd Limestone. Nesting birds, flora, historical sites, land ownership, gardening and dogs have all been causes for disagreements in the past. Despite this, and thanks to the great work of the BMC and its volunteers, most of the crags in this book currently have good access arrangements.

There are some restrictions at certain times of year so please keep a look out for the red symbols. The restrictions are usually because of nesting birds and the dates generally range from the beginning of February to the end of July.



Bird restriction marker. Climbing only to be undertaken between the green arrows when restriction is in place.

Where a bird restriction applies to a section of the crag rather than the whole crag markers at the base of the crag like the one shown above are usually in place and climbing should only take place between the green arrows. Birds do nest in previously unrestricted areas and the absence of an agreed restriction does not mean that there are no nesting birds. Check UKC or BMC RAD if you are unsure. If you see agitated birds (lots of screeching and taking off and landing in the same spot, as well as aggressive flying in circles) then it is best to avoid that area even if there is no agreed restriction and report to the BMC.

Other crags have very precise parking and approach requirements. You will need to seek permission before you visit Maeshafn Quarry.

Individual crag access is covered in the respective chapters. Please read this information carefully and take great care not to infringe these necessary restrictions. If in any doubt contact the BMC (Tel: 0161 445 6111), or check the access section of the BMC website - thebmc.co.uk/modules/RAD/

Area

Minera Quarry

World's End



The BMC Access & Conservation Trust funds projects to protect your cliffs and mountains

ACT helps to fund:

Climb it, Walk it,

- Practical crag and footpath restoration
- Mountain recreation and conservation research
- Sustainable transport and rural initiatives
- Campaigns for your countryside rights
- Crag and mountain information and guidance



能

supported 2 projects to help repair paths in the Lake District mountains.



GThe Three Peaks Partnership website:

a collaborative project to promote responsible behaviour on 3 Peaks challenge events www.threepeakspartnership.co.uk

ACT is the charitable trust of the British Mountaineering Council (BMC). ACT relies on your donations to turn climbing and walking conservation projects into reality.

You can donate online at www.thebmc.co.uk/donate-to-act or call 0161 445 6111 Or fundraise for us at JustGivingr www.justgiving.com

ACT is a charitable trust (1089516), established by the British Mountaineering Council.

Clwyd Limestone Climbing Gear and Bolting



Bolting

The work of maintaining the bolts has been carried out by many people and has been a huge task. If you come across any routes that need re-equipping then please submit your comments to the databases on - rockfax.com or sportsclimbs.co.uk

Gary Gibson Bolt Fund

Gary Gibson is by far the most prolific bolter in the Clwyd area. Many of the routes on crags like Llanymynech, Trevor and Independence Quarry plus the Eglwyseg crags owe their existence to the bolting efforts of Gary. If you enjoy the sport climbing in the area then please consider making a donation to this effort. You can find the links to the PayPal page via UKBoltFund.org. Proceeds from some of the sales of this guidebook will go towards the Gary Gibson Bolt Fund.

Mark Glaister climbing *Subterranean Sidewalk* (6c+) - *page 249* - at Llanymynech Quarry, one of many routes featured in this book climbed and equipped by Gary Gibson. Photo: John Warner

UKBoltFund.org Support local bolting volunteers

30

Gear and Bolting Clwyd Limestone Climbing



31

Craig Arthur

Monk's Buttress

Pontesford

Clwyd Limestone Climbing Grades

The routes in this book are given one of two different grades depending on whether they are a trad route or a sport route. The table to the right roughly compares the sport and trad grade with two other international grading systems. On trad routes the majority of the gear is carried by the lead climber and is hand-placed.

A sport route is defined as one where all the major protection comes from gear fixed in the rock (bolts).

British Trad Grade

1) Adjectival grade (Diff, VDiff, Severe, Hard Severe (HS), Very Severe (VS), Hard Very Severe (HVS), E1, E2 ... to E10).

An overall picture of the route including how well protected it is, how sustained and a general indication of the level of difficulty of the whole route.

2) Technical grade (4a, 4b, 4c ... to 7b). The difficulty of the hardest single move, or short section.

Sport Grade

The sport grade is a measure of how hard it is going to be to get up a certain section of rock. It makes no attempt to tell you how hard the hardest move is, nor how scary a route is.

Colour Coding

The routes are all given a colour-coded dot corresponding to a grade band. The colour represents a level that a climber should be happy at, hence sport routes tend to be technically harder than the equivalent coloured trad routes because the climber doesn't need to worry about the protection.

Up to Severe / Up to 4c

Mostly these should be good for beginners and those wanting an easy life.

4 HS to HVS / 5a to 6a+

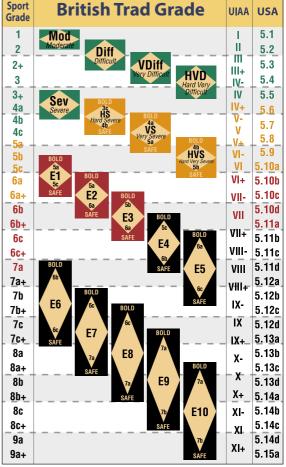
General ticking routes for those with more experience.

8 E1 to E3 / 6b to 7a

Routes for the experienced and keen climber. A grade band which includes many of the area's great classics.

4 E4 or 7a+ and above

The really hard stuff including some of the top sport routes in the country.



Pandy Outcrop Llanymynech

Pontesford





Ruthin Area

Devil's Gorge

Maeshafn

Pot Hole Quarry Minera Quarry

World's End

Craig Arthur

Twilight Area

Pinfold

Monk's Buttress

Dinbren

Trevor Area

Pandy Outcrop Llanymynech

Pontesford

Clwyd Limestone Climbing Sport Graded List

	1097 150	8 b + Leftism
	**	The Sound and the Fury Binary Finary El Zapatistas Insomnia
	**	Hades Counting Sheep No Kneed The Orgasmatron
	1007 **** **** **** *** ***	8 a El Rincon Pi Cerberus Canyonlands Elíte Syncopations Back-Bee Tubin Highway
いたのでは	**	7 c + The Final Solution Broken Flowers Statement of Ewes Out of Body Experience Train to Hell Born Slippy
	**	7 c Underworld When Saturday Comes Broken Dreams Dyperspace Flowers are for the Dead People Give Me The Eyes Little Weed
	** *** *** 1007 150 ** 1007 150	7 b + Ten Brainbox Generation of Swine Back in Black The Bandits Fine Feathered Fink Relentless Grand Canyon I Punched Judy First
	** *** *** *** ***	7 b Alpha Track Etch Broccoli and Ice-Cream The Butterfly Collector The Screaming Skull Sunnyside Up Mix Through the Grapevine Ice Planet Claire Dance of the Puppets Walking with Barrence Strawberry Tubin

		7 a +
168	**	
8 b		Fat Boys Fire
164	**	Killer Gorilla
174	1007	Nomad
175		Dreadlocks
170		
8 a +	*	Bananas and Coffee
55	1007 150	Bananas and Coffee Mussel Bound
169	*	Echoes
174	1001 150	Technicolour Yawn
175	150	These Foolish Things
	**	In Search of Someone Silly
175	++	7 a
102	**	Prickly Heat
55	** 🗔	CCR
55	**	Hickory Dickory Dock Jack the Smuggler Lobster on the Loose
164 237	**	Lobster on the Loose
175	**	Rapture of the Deep
175	***	Unbroken
	*	Hot Stuff
86	**	What's Goin' On
170	1607	Dead Man's Fingers
165	**	Dead Man's Fingers Long John Codling
174	1001	This Won't Hurt
165	1007 150	Long John Codling This Won't Hurt Atmospheres Climb High
55		Climb High
		6 - i
	***	6 c +
55	**	Subterranean Sidewalk Delta Force
170 170	*	Inaugural Goose Elesh
180	***	Inaugural Goose Flesh Traction Trauma Humpty Dumpty
169	**	Humpty Dumpty
152	**	I Sow Throp Shine
237	*	Jaspers
	**	Jaspers Stupid School Boyz Eddie Waring Lives On Crash Diet
	*	Eddie Waring Lives On
105	*	Crash Diet
139	*	Ship Dip Line of Fire Runner Bean The Deep Trabucco
139		Line of Fire
165	**	The Deep
174	*	Trabusso
167		Trabucco
105		6 c
55 170	*	Cold Turkey
170	150	Grid Iron
	Top 1	Traction Control
104	**	Traction Control Gemma's World Direct
55	**	A Night Torchlight Parade
49	**	Margin of Error Dead Man's Creek
238	*	Dead Man's Creek
115	*	Just Another Route Name Clevor Trevor
140	**	Clevor Trevor
181	**	Mud Slide Slim
138	**	Crab Stick This Way to Clitheroe
101	**	This Way to Clitheroe

6 b +	
* Rabble Rouser	
🐯 🔲 Curfew	
* C Green Bean	
* The Dinbren Sanction	
* Clematis	

** C Gaza Strippers	241
** The Calch	78
* Smack the Juggler	241
* Where's the President's Brain	176
6 b	
* Crime Scene	210
* Checkpoint Charlie	206
	251
 Day of the Triffids Snakes in the Grass 	205
* Suspect Criminal	210
* Besist and Exist	176
* Resist and Exist * Lost Control	206
* The Fuddites	204
	71
* Quartz Wall * Impact Imminent	208
* Under Suspicion	210
* E Fudd Off	204
6 a +	
* Suspect Device	210
Borderline	206
* E Forever the Suspect	210
* Super Furry Frogs * The Great Escape	205
* The Great Escape	206
* Over the Wall	206
* Suspectus	210
6- C	
<mark>6 a</mark> * ── The Quartz Slab	79
 Long-legged Lizard Dogmatic 	205
	204
* Slow, Araf, Slow * No Reptiles * All Fudd Up	205
	205
* All Fudd Op	204 234
	234
5 c	
* 🔲 Bay Leaf	234
** Sqrech yr Hebog	200
** Sgrech yr Hebog * Cluedo	210
* Canal Canol	202
* Innocence	210
5 a	14,1
 Ogre in the Ogof Dai Laughing Disappearing Act 	200
* Dai Laughing	202
* Disappearing Act	210
* 🖂 K9	205
* Co-ed in the Coed	200
4 c	
* Cotch the Bigson (Trayor O)	207
* Easy Grooves	79
* Clue, So?	211
* Deputy Dog	205
* The Welsh Wizard	202
4 b	
* 🔲 Merlin Magic	201
	70
* The Open Grey Groove	79
* Hot Dog	205
* Sudden Impact	208

あるい あっている

Having overcome the hard lower bulges the climber is moving up the slightly less demanding upper section of *Hot Stuff* (7a) - *page 181* - at the Fire and Ice Area, Dinbren. Powerful undercut starts followed by technical and fingery upper walls are typical of many of the sport lines to be found at Dinbren. Photo: Keith Sharples

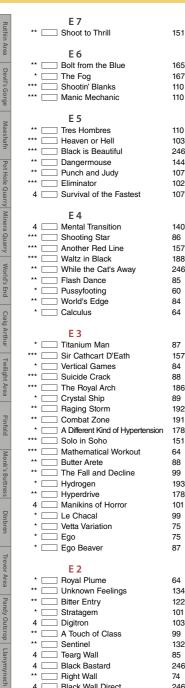
Clwyd Limestone Climbing Trad Graded List

* 🛄 Tito

* Sunday Driver * Un-Aided

** Running with the Wolf

4 A World of Harmony



* Stratagem

4 Digitron

** C Sentinel

4 C Tearg Wall

** 🔲 Right Wall

** 🛄 Go-a-Go-Go

Pontesford

4 Black Bastard

4 Black Wall Direct

** C Any Which Way

** D Vacances Verticales

** Windhover

** C A Touch of Class

E 1
* Charlain
Charlain The Minstrel
** Crystal
** Life *** Jibber ** Close to the Edge
*** 🔲 Jibber
** Close to the Edge
* Elving Block
The Corner Cornucopia Cornucopia Cornucopia Cornucopia Cornucopia
* Cornucopia
Cathcart's Got a Brand New Brodrie Ceba
* Colour Games
** Vetta
* Talking Legs
Fall Out
Alking Legs Alta Commander Dela Out Warp Commander Last Fandango Knotty Problem Marander
* 🔛 Last Fandango
* Knotty Problem
* Marander
Marander German for Art Historians Jocca
* 🛄 Jocca
HVS
Talking Fingers Intensity Fingers
** Intensity
* Big Splat
4 The Dog
tt Einer Feelinge
Finer Feelings
Vnim
*
4 The Dog * Marnie Finer Feelings * Insecure * Whim * The Bulger * Tosa Mitsuki Groove * Crypt Tick * Coltsfoot Crack * Major * Mitsuki Groove * Epitaph * The Silver Line * Yale * The Trick * Big Youth
* Mitsuki Groove
* Crypt Tick
* Coltsfoot Crack
** 🛄 Major
* Mitsuki Groove
* 🔲 Epitaph
* The Silver Line
* 🔄 Yale
* The Trick
* Big Youth
* Grizzly
VS
** 🗔 Toccata
* Depatration Factor
Penetration Factor Corold's Dilemma
Atlantic Iraveller
Chutney Atlantic Traveller Kinberg Constant Chutney
* Recession Blues * Ashgrove Prelims
 * Ashgrove Prelims
Asing the Fremin's Quill Cristallo Face Value The Watzmann Sunday Driver
* Cristallo
4 E Face Value
* The Watzmann
* Sunday Driver

Jrad	ed List	
60 102 187 106 64 246 87 158 158 86 64 64 90 171 84 74 192	COLIST Layback on Me E.C.V The Arete Dino Gold Phlash Wilkinson Sword Edge Blue Flash Blue Flash Blue Flash Skullion Skullion Finale Groove Sally in Pink Right Edge Ivy Groove Bly Phlash HS Wanderer	63 149 68 212 212 212 212 212 212 212 204 118 63 255 192 91 88 212 68
75 74 89 84 142 65 151 189 63 74 86		84 63 84 91 117 89 75 68 72 72 226 144 91
212 74 150 84 89 88 68 72		208 90 68 63 117 88
134 146 91 75 134 72 212 176 84	 4 Schmutzig * Babbling Arete * Ivy Crack * As Yew Like It * Thomas the Tank Engine * The Fat Controller H V D 	228 194 85 90 208 208
188 75 151		89 255 75 89
117 149 72 134 134 91 90 84 75 227 75 118 75	 Wall End Climb Sloth Stoats Chimney West Crack West Wall Hell Hole 	255 119 255 254 254 164

Trad Graded List Clwyd Limestone Climbing

ld's Craig Arthur Area ue Dinbi Leanne Callaghan embarking on the finely-positioned upper crack of *Manikins of Horror* (E3 5c) - *page 101* - at Craig Arthur. This is one of a trio of trad classics at Craig Arthur - the other two being *Digitron* (E2 5c) and *Survival of the Fastest* (E5 6a). Photo: Keith Sharples

3	8	Destination Planner	Routes	up to 4c	5a to 6a+	6b to 7a	7a+ and up	Mod to S	HS to HVS	E1 to E3	E4 and up	
Ruthin Area		Denbigh Castle Quarry	11		sport i	4	s 2			S UTES	1	
rea Devil's Gorge	Area	Ruthin Escarpment	35	1	6	17	6		2	Ð		
	Mold Ar	Devil's Gorge	34			1	22		7	3	1	
Maeshafn Pot H	Ruthin and Mold	Maeshafn Quarry	60					\$	18	28	11	
Hole Quarry N	Rut	Pot Hole Quarry	39					B	23	13		
Pot Hole Quarry Minera Quarry World's End		Minera Quarry	10	2	4	3					1	
World's End		World's End	136				2	31	40	44	19	
Craig Arthur		Craig Arthur	100		4	24	23		4	25	20	
hur Twilight Area	Eglwyseg Valley	Twilight Area	108		5	11	5	23	36	25	2	
	Eglwyse	Pinfold	188		3	25	25	3	48	61	23	
Pinfold Mc		Monk's Buttress	55			-	1	3	15	23	13	
Monk's Buttress		Dinbren	200		-	35	52	10	35	46	22	
Dinbren	ea	Trevor Quarry	132	15	56	24		6	23	6	1	
Trevor Ar	evor Area	Independence Quarry	38		14	24						
Area Pandy C	Tre	Ruabon Quarry	2			1	1			-		
Pandy Outcrop Llanymynech	'eas	Pandy Outcrop	21					8	7	5	1	
	Outlying Areas	Llanymynech Quarry	113		39	45	14	3	2	4	5	
Pontesford	Out	Pontesford Rocks	26	1			□ y means n	13	7	5		

Approach	Sun	Shelt- ered	Dry in Rain	Restric- tions	Summary	Page
5 min	Not much sun	Sheltered			Hidden in dense woodland below Denbigh Castle, the crag offers a number of mid-grade sport routes. Conditions are variable and the face can get dirty.	42
10 - 20 min	Attempoor	Sheltered	Dry in the rain		A little-visited escarpment of excellent rock that has some intense short sport climbs. Butterfly Buttress has also been developed as a good bouldering venue. Sensitive access.	44
5 min	Not much sun	Sheltered	Dry in the rain		An impressive gash in the hillside that has a large overhanging face which offers excellent high grade stamina routes. Conditions are crucial and the base is often muddy.	52
5 - 6 min	Attempoor	Sheltered			A long, low line of vertical walls on a sheltered hillside. Good quality rock and plenty of low- to mid-grade trad routes. A great evening crag in a beautiful rural setting.	58
6 min	Atternoon	Sheltered			In a lovely setting, these quarried walls are cut by numerous cracks that give lots of low- to mid-grade trad lines. Easy access and a good pub close by add to its appeal.	70
5 - 10 min	Lots of sun	Sheltered			Only a minor venue but worth a look if in the area. The limited selection of sport routes are deceptive being more difficult than first appearances might suggest.	76
12 - 14 min	Atternoon				A series of tiered cliffs set in a stunning location at the end of the Eglwyseg Valley. Lots of testing trad routes throughout the grades on generally good limestone.	82
35 min	Atternoon	Windy			One of the region's biggest cliffs that has lots of mid- to high-grade sport lines as well as plenty of adventurous trad routes. Very exposed to the elements but dries quickly.	96
17 - 25 min	Attempoor	Windy			Rarely visited and a good place to avoid the crowds. The escarpment has a mix of sport and trad climbs mainly in the mid grades.	116
13 - 20 min	Lots of sun	Windy			The extensive line of cliff has something for all - sport, trad and multi-pitch. Some of the area's classic climbs are hereabouts. A good destination for teams of varying ability.	128
20 min	Atternoon	Windy			A little-visited and shady cliff. Lots of interesting pitches for the enthusiast and a handful of good harder lines and trad cracks worth travelling for. Some climbs will need cleaning.	154
7 - 10 min	Attempoor	Windy			One of the region's major mid- to high-grade sport climbing destinations. The long low escarpment is composed of high quality bulging limestone and also has good trad climbs.	160
2 - 13 min	Attempoor	Sheltered			Very popular venue that has a huge number of low- to mid -grade sport routes along its length. The quarry itself has a few trad climbs. It can be reached on foot from Llangollen.	198
10 min	From mid morning	Sheltered			Large quarry set below Trevor Quarry and offering a similar type of climbing at a slightly higher grade. The climbs are fairly new and the rock needs handling with care in places.	215
10 min	Not much sun	Sheltered	Dry in the rain		An extremely steep venue with just two routes. Of local interest only as good conditions are difficult to find but, once dry, climbing in the rain is possible. Not limestone.	221
25 min	Attempoor	Windy			Set deep in a remote and beautiful valley, the crag is a great place for low- to mid-grade trad climbing. Exposed to the elements so only visit in good weather. Not limestone.	224
5 - 10 min	To mid afternoon	Sheltered	Dry in the rain	Restrictions	A huge quarry with some massive (35m) single pitch sport climbs and number of fine trad pitches. A popular spot as conditions are often excellent and the climbing superb.	230
15 min	Morning				A charming venue set in a gorgeous landscape with great views. Low- to mid-grade trad climbing both single and multi- pitch. Not limestone.	252

Pontesford Llanymynech Pandy Outcrop Trevor Area Dinbren Monk's Buttress Pinfold Twilight Area Craig Arrhur World's End Minera Quarry Port Hole Quarry Maeshafin Devil's Gorge Ruthin Area

Faded symbol means that only some of the routes are: sheltered / dry in the rain / restricted