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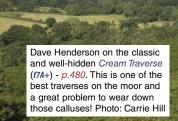
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Sam Blackwell on Paradise Found. Photo: Annie Martin.

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It's hard to think of anywhere with so much variety condensed into such a small area as Devon. Whether you fancy sunning yourself at the coast, exploring adventurous terrain, escaping to the solitude of Dartmoor, fossicking amongst the peaceful woodlands or squeezing juice out of limestone and shale oddities, the county caters for all tastes... even on the same day if you feel so inclined! Not only this, but the quality of bouldering and range of difficulty mean that everyone should be able to find something to climb. Throw in pasties, cream teas, country pubs and a relatively

moderate climate and the result is an incredibly well endowed county. Dartmoor is an excellent place to start as its well known moorland tors and sheltered woodlands contain a lifetime's worth of challenges in stunning locations. The infamous granite rock is excellent for 'toughening' the skin and the climbing a blend of technical crystal work and thuggish wrestling. Heading north to the coast, the Culm area, with its beautiful beaches and often steep wave-washed rock, is rightly famed for its high grade venues and boasts a contender for the hardest roof crack in the world. The Kraken f8B. Further down the coast you'll find Tintagel North where superb quality problems stand in a spectacular setting. To the east, the Exmoor coast is one of the country's most adventurous bouldering areas with esoteric climbing amidst dramatic landscapes. Lastly, we have the calmer south coast where its famed 'Mediterranean' climate makes it an inviting destination and a good option during damper weather. With venues spreading from Torbay westwards, it is home to a handful of areas with a decent array of problems and palm tree lined roads. As well as the clearly huge wealth of bouldering, the region manages to be both a backwater and still very well served with everything a local or visiting climber needs. While Devon is a busy holiday destination during the peak season, this means ample accommodation options can be found year round, making it a great choice for the climber on a family holiday. Numerous options exist for combining family activities, such as a day at the beach and possibly some surfing, with the essential bouldering fix. The gestation period for this book has been about 25 years - one doesn't want to rush these things - so with this you know you're getting a well seasoned product! My first idea for a printed guide came about in 1998 when I wrote up a small selection of new problems in a DIY South Devon supplement guide. A couple of years on and the idea morphed into javu. co.uk. This simple website served as the main hub for Devon bouldering information and was later joined by Dartmoor woodland and Exmoor Coast bouldering websites. Eventually, after a few more years thinking, I started working with Ben Stokes on this guide in 2017 and now here it finally is. I hope the bouldering contained within provides you with as many experiences and fond memories as it has for me. Dave Henderson, December 2023



Devon Bouldering Introduction Introduction Devon Bouldering

### **Problem Names and First Ascents**

Historically only the most significant and generally harder problems climbed in Devon were deemed worthy of recording and certainly it was only these that got named. Since those straightforward days, there has been a move to claim and name everything; this has included many problems previously climbed but not recorded. As a result all sorts of confusion has arisen, making the job of documenting problems somewhat complicated. We have done our best to try to sort through everything claimed and use original names where known. It's likely that the vast majority of reasonably graded problems were climbed a long time ago and left unrecorded.

In this book we haven't included first ascensionist names although occasionally key developers are mentioned in introductions. We may add first ascents to future editions so please feel free to add them to the listings on **UKClimbing.com**.

### **New Problems**

If you climb what you think is a new problem then please upload it to UKClimbing Logbooks where it can then be checked by a crag moderator to verify it. Please give as much information as you can including its position relative to existing problems. There is also a facility to add a photo-topo if you wish.

New problems are always best added by the first ascensionist since they are most knowledgeable. Even if the first ascensionist doesn't add the new problem, it is likely to be added by someone repeating it trying to keep their UKClimbing Logbook up to date. Problems not added to UKClimbing Logbooks may well take a lot longer to appear in any digital update or future printed book.

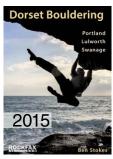
Minor variations and link-ups are fine for UKClimbing Logbooks but problems of this nature may only get a brief mention, or no mention at all, in future print and digital coverage.

# Sit-start or Stand-up?

Sit-starts are very popular often adding significant climbing to a problem making something trivial into a worthwhile challenge. At other times they can be slightly annoying and pointless additions to a problem that was good enough on its own in the first place.

In this book we have made an assessment on how to record a problem opting for the best and most popular option, with the alternative stand or sit version usually being given a grade in the description. Occasionally both stand and sit versions are recorded where both are popular and get climbed.







Dorset



### The Book

This book is a natural continuation to the bouldering coverage Rockfax has produced for Dorset and in the Peak District, and the trad and sport climbing coverage for Dorset and the whole West Country. It uses the same styles of overview photos and maps to help the reader locate and assess the bouldering available. It isn't a comprehensive guidebook but, if a boulder is included, then all the main problems on that boulder will be listed. Where there are a lot of minor eliminates, we have just stuck with the main lines.

Much more information on eliminates and variations can be found by searching UKClimbing.com -'CRAG NAME UKC' will usually find it.

### Rockfax Digital

Everything in this book also appears on Rockfax Digital - see p.10 for more information on Rockfax Digital. Over time more bouldering areas in Devon and Cornwall will be added to Rockfax Digital including some of the venues listed in this book as 'Minor Areas'.



# **Other Guides**

javu.co.uk - This was the first fairly comprehensive (at the time) bouldering guide to the area.

**Shaptor wiki -** This somewhat underground and now defunct website documented the development of the newly discovered woodland areas, predominantly Bovey Woods.

Dartmoor (James Clapham, Climbers' Club) -This book tidied up and put together all of the previously available information to produce the first printed, detailed guide to Dartmoor.

South Devon (Pete Saunders, Climbers' Club) - A meticulously detailed and researched guide mostly to the roped climbing in the area but also covering a range of bouldering.

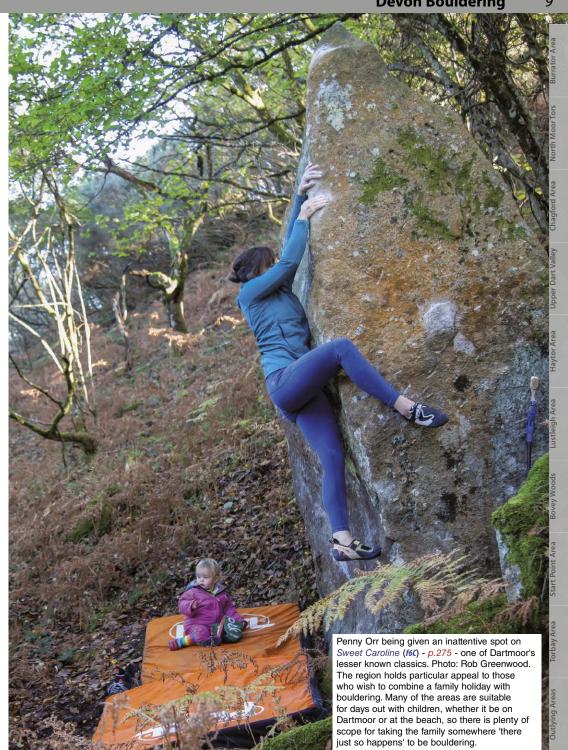
Boulder Britain (Niall Grimes, Ape Index) - This guide to the whole of Britain includes a selection of the best areas in Devon.





#### **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.



11

unclimbed

boulders

Scale ,

Rockfax Digital brings 31 current Rockfax print publications together with the UKC Logbooks, adds some digital-only content and presents it in a userfriendly package for use on mobile devices.



The heart of Rockfax Digital is the crag and route information covering 'areas' which roughly correspond to the printed guidebooks. The main data is sold by subscription so that you purchase access to everything for a period of time, from a month to a year. Once you are subscribed, you will have everything on Rockfax Digital for the duration. You can download the main data and store it 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 plenty of free content available without a subscription, enabling you to get a really good impression of what Rockfax Digital is like without shelling out any money.

Rockfax Digital is available as an app which is free to download and incredibly useful in its own right. It contains a detailed crag map linked to the UKClimbing crags database with basic information and route lists for crags worldwide. The map also displays all the 3,800+ listings from the **UKClimbing Directory of** climbing walls, outdoor shops, climbing clubs, outdoor-specific accommodation and instructors and guides, amongst others.







# How to Subscribe to Rockfax Digital

Go to rockfax.digital to find links to download the app and create an account. New users can subscribe and get 7 days free.



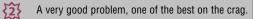
# **UKC Logbooks**

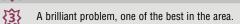
A popular method of logging your climbing is to use the **UKClimbing.com** logbooks system. This database has more than half a million routes on over 23,500 crags. So far, over 62,000 users have recorded more than 10 million ascents! To set up your own logbook, just register at **UKClimbing.com** and click on the logbook tab. 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 which is used by guidebook writers to get opinions on grades and quality of routes. The logbook can be private, public or restricted to your own climbing partners only.

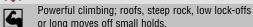
Rockfax Digital can be linked to your **UKClimbing.com** user account and logbook so that you can record your activity while at the crag. To do this you will need a 3G/4G/5G data connection. You can also look at the UKC logbooks to see if anyone has climbed your chosen route recently to check on conditions.

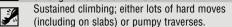
# **Route Symbols**











Fingery climbing with significant small holds on the hard sections.

A highball problem or one with a bad landing.

A long reach is helpful, or even essential, for one or more of the moves.

A dynamic move ('dyno') may be required.

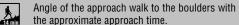
A sit-down start is required at this grade.

Graunchy climbing. Wide cracks or thrutchy 4 moves (not specifically for hand and fist cracks). Technical climbing requiring good balance and

technique, or complex and tricky moves. The problem has rounded or sloping holds.

Some loose holds or crusty rock may be encountered.

### **Craq Symbols**



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

The area is exposed and may be cold especially it the wind is blowing.

The area can offer shelter from the wind. Can be a suntrap - good in winter, bad when hot.

The boulder suffers from dampness or seepage and is slow to dry after the rain.

The rock can be green and dirty after prolonged rain and/or in the colder months.

The boulder may offer dry climbing in the rain.

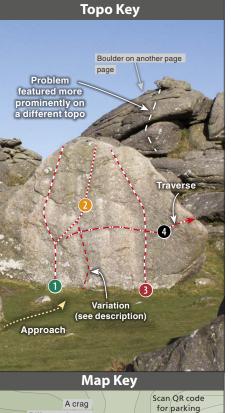
The area is tidal and a visit needs careful planning to avoid getting cut off at high tide.

Deserted - Currently under-used and usually quiet. Less good bouldering or remote and small areas.

Quiet - Less popular sections on major areas, or good boulders with awkward approaches.

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

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

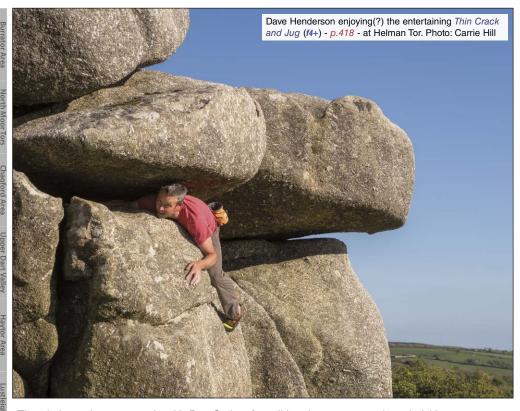




A houlder

page

Track



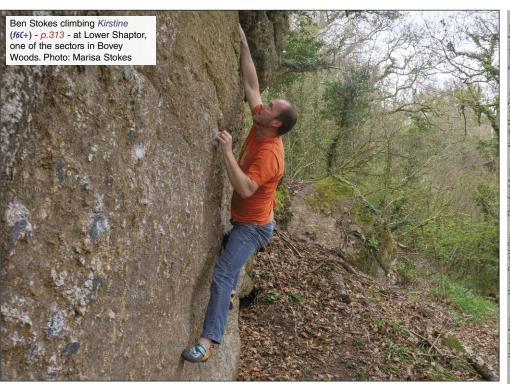
The obvious place to start is with Ben Stokes for editing, layout, research and picking up crags that I didn't manage to cover myself. More seminally, it was Ben who suggested we collaborate on this guide in the first place and without that I might not have ever started. Carrie Hill also deserves a huge thank you - she has given immense support with getting photos, checking text and patiently listening to me banging on over the years.

Mark MacManus, Gary Willis, Dale Turrell, Grant Edwards, James Strongman, Ryan Blackmore, Fred Stone, Alexis Perry, Tom Rainbow, Andy Haley, Mark Bullock, Mike Cleverdon, Dan Woolnough, Nick Baron, Tom Bunn, Tom Last, Ruby Petch and Kyle Whitehand have all been hugely helpful with a range of tasks - checking areas, supplying photos, developing problems and providing information for this guide.

As with all guides credit is due to those who have developed and/or recorded problems over the years. If fully comprehensive, the list would be excessively huge, however, a special thanks go to Pete Saunders, Nick White, Paul Twomey, Martin Crocker, Jason Maddick, Pete Bull, Sam Arkle, Martin Perry, Simon Young, Ken Palmer, Ben Rowe, Caedmon Mullin, Craig Williams, Mike Cleverdon, Walker Kearney, James Squire, Mike Adams (the northern one), Mike Adams (the other one), Tom Newberry, Dave Westlake, Edward Gow-Smith, Jez Holding, Bruce Kirby...et al. On a personal note I'd like to thank Mike Wickstead, Mark Reeves and Clark Alston for their crucial roles in me becoming a climber in the first place. And of course my parents for their support over the years.

Last of all, thanks to all the chaps/chapettes not mentioned who have helped along the way cheers beys!

Dave Henderson, December 2023



Firstly, Dave truly deserves the acknowledgement he receives for the work he has put into developing and documenting Devon Bouldering - his boulder problems and Javu website have been an inspiration to many (myself included) and will be a lasting legacy for decades to come. Dave has never been shy when it comes to singing the praises of Devon bouldering and I have learned over the last six years that this is with good reason. I have been introduced to some fantastic venues and have to admit some jealousy they are not in Dorset. My wife, Marisa, deserves a lot of thanks for her patience when accompanying me on fieldwork for another guidebook - though I suspect the availability of excellent cream teas in Devon helped to take the edge off any hardship!

In addition to Dave's roll-call, I personally would like to thank Alexis Perry, Grant Edwards, Ryan Blackmore and Andy Haley for their review and feedback. Rebecca Ting for proofing and Tim Hill for sorting the advertising. And of course Alan James, who was crazy enough to let me work on another Rockfax - thank you for your patience!

Finally, I must also thank Dave for introducing me to some Devon lingo. Geddon!

Ben Stokes, December 2023

We are grateful to the following for their support.

Awesome Walls - Inside front awesomewalls.co.uk

**Britsh Mountaineering Council**  Inside back cover thebmc.co.uk

Flashed - p.29 flashed.com

Mammut - Outside back cover mammut.ch

Petzl - Back cover flap petzl.com

Quay Climbing Centre - p.25 quayclimbingcentre.co.uk

Rock On - p.2 rockonclimbing.co.uk

Red Chili - p.33 redchiliclimbing.com

The Bunker - p.23

North Wales Climbs March 2023 R<sup>+</sup> October 2023

New edition

2024

South Wales Sport Climbs

November 2016

R \* May 2021

R Digital-only guides North Wales Winter 2016



December 2015 December 2015

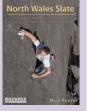
Pembroke

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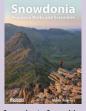
**B** April 2024



North Wales Slate September 2018 March 2023

Wales

England



Print version date

R Digital version date R Digital has extra content

Snowdonia Scrambles December 2020 December 2020

ltalv

Norway

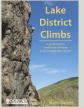


**Lofoten Climbs** May 2017 R May 2017



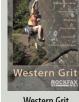


Highland Outcrops South 2019 Scottish Sport Climbs 2019 Scottish Winter Climbs 2019 Scottish Rock 2020 Highland Scrambles 2020 Available on the Rockfax App



Lake District Climbs November 2019 0ctober 2023





Western Grit April 2009 R June 2023



January 2015 **R** June 2023

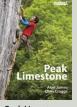


Eastern Grit May 2022 August 2022

Southern Sandstone

September 2017

May 2023



Peak Limestone June 2020 R October 2023

Dorset

**July 2021** 

R June 2023

Dorset



**Peak Bouldering** August 2023 R October 2023

**Dorset Bouldering** 

**Dorset Bouldering** 

May 2014

R<sup>†</sup> January 2020

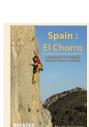


**West Country Climbs** December 2022 R<sup>‡</sup>April 2023

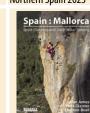
**Devon Bouldering** 

January 2024

January 2024



FI Chorro December 2018 R December 2018



Spain: Costa Blanca February 2013 March 2023



Spain: Mallorca April 2020 R April 2020



R Digital-only guides Catalunya 2016 Madrid Area 2017 Zaragoza 2016 Tenerife 2020 Northern Spain 2023



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France: Côte d'Azur February 2017 February 2017



Chamonix **July 2022** R July 2022



Slab (f5+) - p.292 - at the Nutcrackers. Photo: Greenwood collection

### Accommodation

Useful websites for different types of accommodation are:

### **UKClimbing.com/listings**

Youth Hostels - There are numerous Youth Hostels in the West Country, check out yha.org.uk

# **Not Camping**

Many other options for self-catered accommodation near to the climbing are available. Two increasingly popular options are Camping Barns/Bunkhouses and Backpacker Hostels. B&B's and holiday cottages are ubiquitous

### **Adventure Bude**

Belle Vue, Bude, adventure.uk.com Half-board accommodation in school holidays. Handy for the Culm Coast and Tintagel and run by local climber Mark MacManus.

# Camping 1

There are a vast number of camping options and the list below is only a pointer to what is available. The West Country is the UK's premier summer holiday destination and is extremely busy at peak times. The larger campsites are expensive and get booked well in advance. However, a drive out into the sticks, up onto the moors or along the remoter sections of coastal roads usually turns up a basic farm camping field or less well-known site that is often cheaper and less busy. It is also worth remembering that many family campsites do not allow large and/or single-sex groups.

### Dartmoor

Runnage Campsite (p.113)

Postbridge, Dartmoor. Tel: 01822 880222 **Huccaby Farm Camping** (p.113)

Hexworthy, Dartmoor. Tel: 01364 631533

# **Torbay Area**

Many campsites, search 'Torbay camping'.

### **Outlying Areas** Caffyn's Farm

Lynton, exmoorcoastholidays.co.uk

Sparkhayes Camping Site (p.482) Porlock, sparkhayes.co.uk

**Stoke Barton Campsite** (p.446) Stoke, Hartland. westcountry-camping.co.uk

### **Cherry Cottage Camping** 4 Valley Truckle, Camelford. cherrycottagecamping.co.uk

More on the following listings sites. UKClimbing.com/listings/accommodation/ coolcamping.co.uk campsites.co.uk

# Pubs 🛅

Here is a small selection of the West Country's best pubs that are close to the cliffs. Most have good beer and cider, some have great food, most have both. There are many more!

#### Dartmoor

The Rugglestone (p.134)

Great Dartmoor pub with a fine beer garden.

### Torbay

The Berry Head Hotel (p.382)

Great views across Torbay, close to The Old Redoubt.

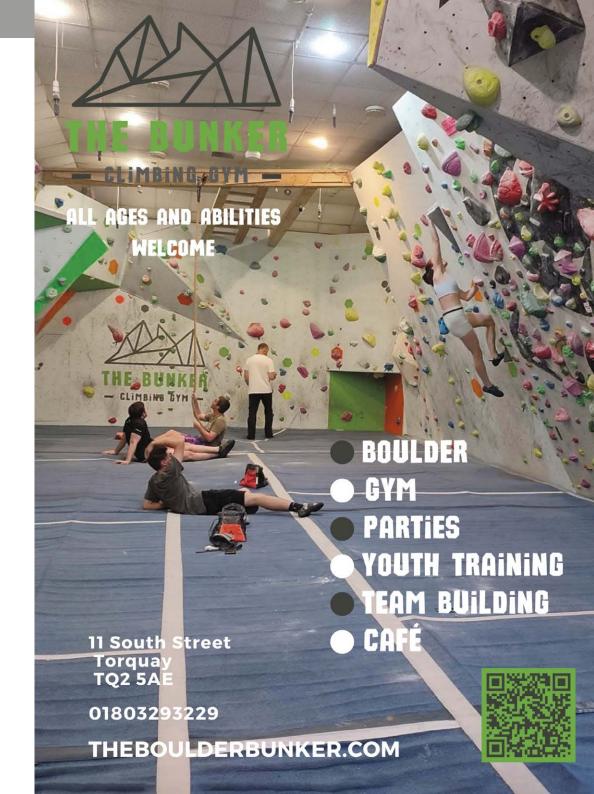
The Cary Arms (p.397)

Close to Anstey's Cove at Babbacombe Beach.

# Cafes 💆



It is impossible to provide a guide to all the cafes and tearooms in the West Country since this would make a guidebook as thick as this one! Suffice to say that a decent cafe or tearoom selling diet-busting cream teas or pasties is never more than a brief drive from most of the cliffs.



Climbing walls are an essential part of climbing and there are many in the West Country that can be useful if passing, or in bad weather and in the colder months.

The Bunker 11 South Street, Torquay, TQ2 5AE theboulderbunker.com Dedicated bouldering wall with three spaces, a training area and a cafe See p.23 and map p.380

**Quay Climbing Centre** Haven Rd, Exeter, EX2 8AX quayclimbingcentre.co.uk The South West's largest indoor climbing centre with something for everyone. Opposite

ChalkUp! - Nether Stowey Dyno Climbing Centre - Buckfastleigh Rock and Rapid - South Molton Rock Centre - Chudleigh The Barn Climbing Wall - Tavistock The Climbing Hangar - Exeter The Climbing Hangar - Plymouth

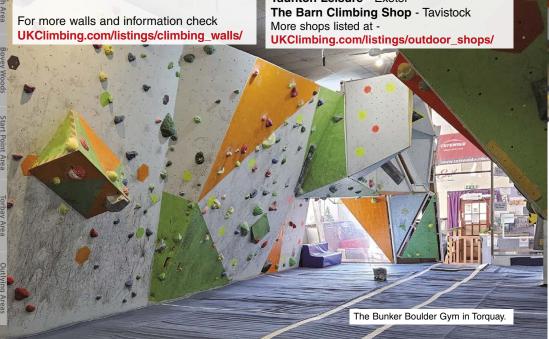
Climbing Shops 1

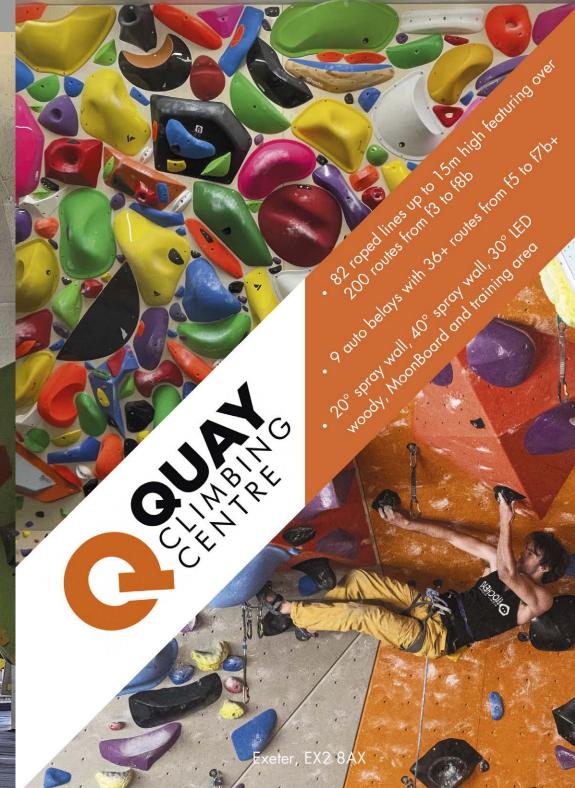
Specialist climbing shops are thin on the ground as you get deeper into the West Country. There are plenty on offer in Bristol, with some specialist retailers and good shops at walls. There are other retailers in the bigger towns and cities for climbing gear and smaller more conventional outdoor shops in the tourist areas for other outdoor gear. To be sure, it is sometimes best to prepare in advance by ordering online from a quality specialist.

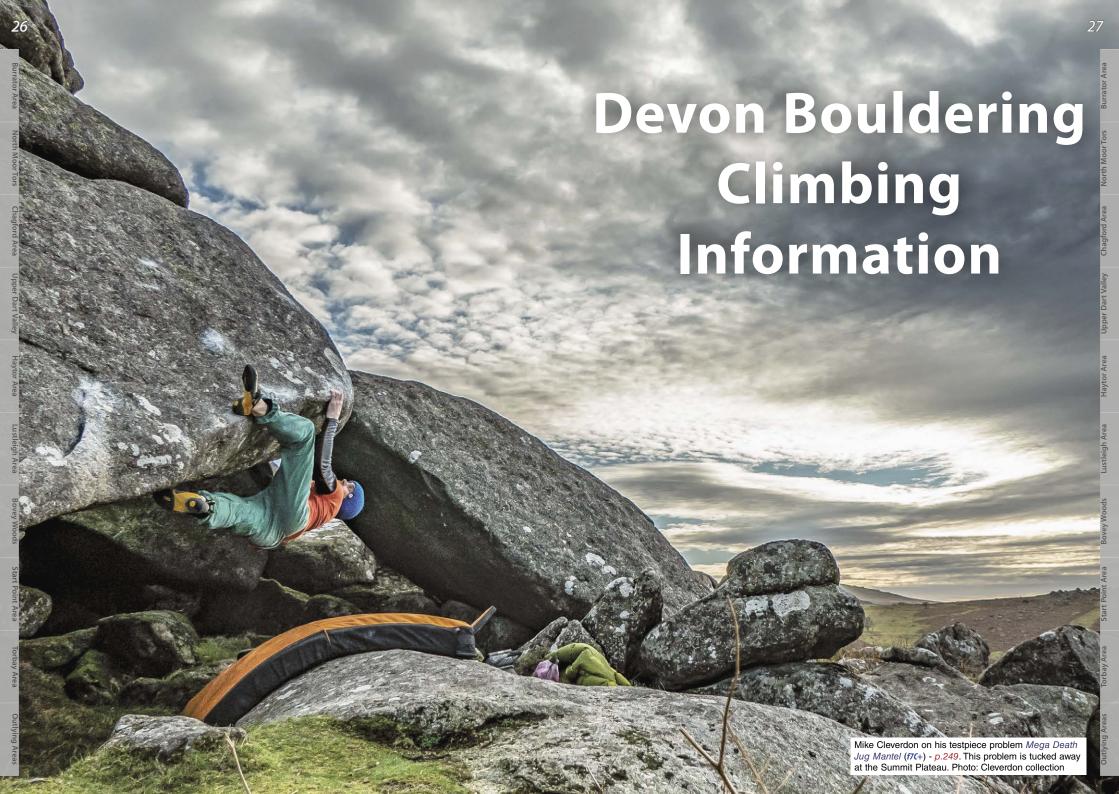
Rock On

Mile End, London. Tel: 0208 9815066 Craggy Island, Guildford, Tel: 01483 565635 rockonclimbing.co.uk Great shops at two popular climbing walls. Get your gear before you travel. See p.2

Cotswold Outdoor - Exeter Cotswold Outdoor - Plymouth Cotswold Outdoor - Truro Rock and Rapid - South Molton Snow and Rock - Exeter Taunton Leisure - Exeter The Barn Climbing Shop - Tavistock







### Access

Access to the crags covered in this guidebook is generally good and there are few problems at most crags. In the majority of cases all that is required to ensure continued freedom of access to the cliffs, and to maintain good relations with landowners and stewards, is a responsible approach and level of general behaviour.

### **General Behaviour**

Rock climbing has become ever more popular, increasing numbers of people want access to the cliffs and the pressures on the crag environment have never been greater.

Some general guidelines:

- Be polite to other countryside users
- Don't light fires or use barbecues
- Close gates after you go through them
- Park sensibly as described in this book
- Don't stray from the popular paths
- Don't disturb animals especially sea birds
- Use less chalk
- Don't use wire brushes
- Take your litter home
- Go before you go!

# Parking 📔



All the crags in this book have parking areas which are indicated with GPS coordinates and QR codes on the maps (see right - just scan with your phone). Please use these parking areas. If there is one thing above all others that annoys landowners, it is having their drive/field blocked by someone's car. In some cases, parking may involve you spending some money in one of the Pay and Display parking areas.

### Chalk

Overuse of chalk has impact on the rock and looks unsightly. The practice of using chalk tick marks to indicate moves is popular. If you do this then please brush the marks off after you have finished.

### **Erosion**

The popularity of climbing and bouldering has led to an increase in crag-base erosion especially around popular boulders. This can be limited by using bouldering mats and widening the number of areas you visit. Avoid dragging pads along the ground which contributes to erosion.

### Fire Risk

There is often an elevated risk of moorland fires in high summer; these always cause extensive damage to the peat moors and wildlife. You should never use disposable barbecues, make campfires or carelessly discard cigarettes and matches. PLEASE be extra careful when it is hot/dry/windy.

### **BMC RAD App**

Access arrangements can change and we recommend that, when unsure, you use the BMC Regional Access Database to check what the current situation is. You can check RAD here



**BMC RAD app** 

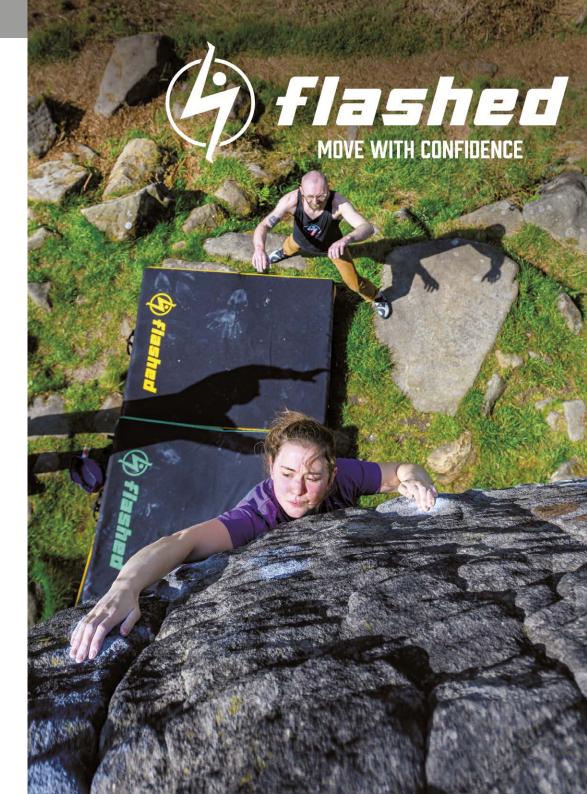
#### - thebmc.co.uk/modules/RAD/

or install the BMC RAD app from your iOS or Android app store. If you do encounter problems, contact the BMC Access and Conservation representative. They are always happy to discuss problems, and often their involvement at an early stage can defuse a situation before it escalates into a serious access dispute.

**British Mountaineering Council,** 177-179 Burton Road, Manchester, M20 2BB.

Tel: 0870 010 4878 Web: thebmc.co.uk

Fmail: office@thebmc.co.uk



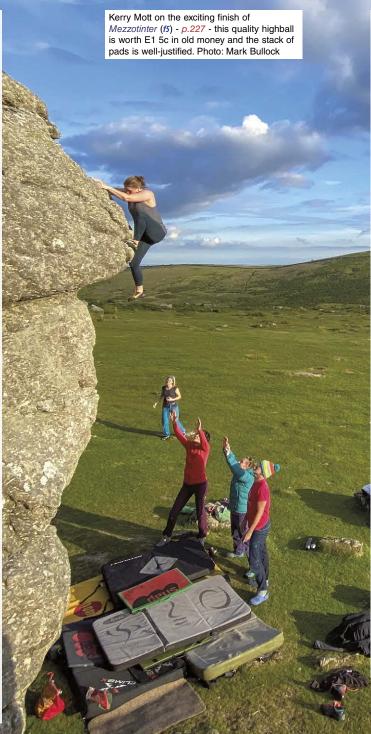
oint Area Torbay Area Outlying Area

Part of the enjoyment of bouldering comes from experiencing the same pleasure of moving over rock as climbing longer routes, but without the encumbrance of gear and the dangers associated with roped climbing. That's not to say that there are no dangers. Indeed, it often seems that climbers are more likely to receive minor injuries from bouldering than any other branch of the sport. Knowing how to moderate these dangers by landing safely, using mats correctly, how to spot properly and knowing your limits are the keys to staying safe.

# **Bouldering Mats**

Bouldering mats (or pads) have gone a long way towards making falling from boulder problems safer and have dramatically increased the popularity and difficulty levels achieved in the sport. They soften the impact, can be used to level uneven landings and protect from awkward blocks and other obstacles.

Bouldering mats are not a guarantee of safety - to start with you actually have to land on one. Even the biggest of mats is unlikely to cover all the possible landing sites and, the higher you climb, the wider the potential landing area becomes. If you are using multiple mats it is usually wiser to cover a wider area, paying attention to joining up the edges - landing on the edge of a mat is a recipe for an ankle injury. Try to keep the landing area flat and resist the temptation to put one more mat in the middle which might present a further edge. For highball problems, multiple pads 'stacked' on top of each other can be used but watch out for edges and keep the landing area flat.



# **Landing Safely**

When landing it is all about correct use of your legs. A thick bouldering mat may give five centimetres of compression to reduce the impact of landing - your legs give you ten times that, but only if you bend them. Aim to land with your legs slightly bent and squat down to absorb the force of the fall through your leg muscles.

If the idea of jumping off onto mats from a couple of metres up makes you nervous then it is a good idea to practise this by jumping off from gradually greater heights when attempting a particular problem. Being relaxed mentally will allow you to avoid tensing up physically and possibly injuring yourself when you fall.

# **Landing Zone**

An uneven or sloping landing zone can make even the shortest of problems dangerous. Creating a level base to place your pad will significantly decrease the likelihood of injury. This can be done by using other smaller mats, or rucksacks or nearby small blocks. A common awkward landing is where the edge slopes away under the crag. In these cases there is little you can do apart from engage good spotters.

# **Spotting**

There is an art to spotting well that is only learned through experience. The objective of spotting is to reduce the risk of injury to the climber; however, the first rule is to make sure you don't get hurt yourself.

There is a point above which spotting is merely an act of encouragement, and that point is probably a lot lower than many people think. You might feel the emotional need for a spot on highball problems, but if you fall from a good few metres up, your spotters won't be able to do anything (and will probably scatter - if they've got any sense). The point at which a spot is no

longer effective depends on the relative size of the spotter and the climber. A general rule of thumb is that, if the climber is beyond reach, he/she is beyond spotting and it is more useful to adjust the positions of the mats than to try to spot. You may still be able to deflect them from blocks and obstacles. In terms of technique, it is important to note that you're not trying to catch the climber. The aims are to keep them upright so they can land on their feet as much as possible, and to direct them towards a soft landing and away from hazards like rocks and tree stumps. To do this you need to be able to react rapidly to the falling climber. Having your hands almost in contact with the climber is ideal - and if they need reassurance you can tap them with your fingers so they know you're there. Take care to keep your thumbs out of the way to avoid injuring them when fielding the climber. Where you place your hands on their body depends on the steepness of the problem. The steeper the problem the higher up the back you need to spot and on a horizontal roof problem you will want your hands level with their shoulders. On vertical or slabby problems, there's not much point in trying to grab the climber's sides - they will slide straight through. This leaves only one place to grab - the bottom.

It is a good idea to communicate whether you wish to be spotted before setting off rather than getting into a panic when high up and yelling for spotters. When you fall into the trusty arms of your spotter, do them a favour and keep your arms up. The instinct is to maintain balance and prepare for impact by lowering your arms and sticking our elbows out - elbowing your friend in the face is not a good way to repay them for caring for you. In situations where you want to prevent someone from running/ rolling off down a hill, consider using a spare bouldering mat as a sort of shield to stop them without causing you injury.

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Tides are a crucial consideration when climbing at the coastal venues in Devon (and Northcott and Tintagel in Cornwall) since the access to, or escape from, many of the venues, is affected by the state of the tide.

# **Important Considerations**

- 1) During the middle hours between low and high tide, the sea comes in MUCH faster and areas of flat rock and boulder beach can disappear rapidly so escape routes can be cut off. This means that you may have spent a few hours at the crag and not noticed much tide movement when suddenly there is water lapping around your ankles. This is significantly more pronounced during spring tides.
- 2) The smaller fall to low neap tides may give much less access than low spring tides to certain cliffs.
- 3) The lower level of high neap tides may allow access to certain routes which are cut off in high spring tides.
- 4) Persistent and strong onshore winds can prolong or even slightly raise high tide levels as can a high swell from some distant ocean storm

# **Tide Resources**

Rockfax Digital has tide charts for all the crags in this book for subscribers. There are lots of

other apps available for tides - search 'tide tables' in the appropriate app store. These

usually only forecast for three days ahead at most.

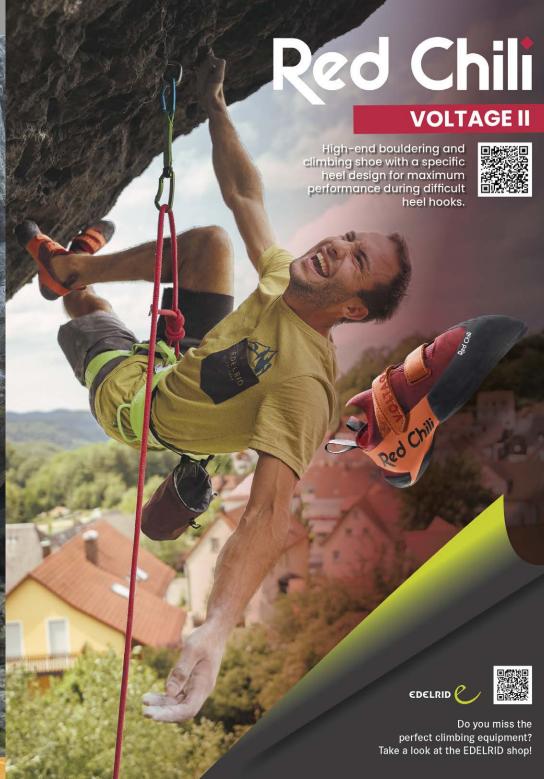
out more

The 'visible hands' of Adam Smith on AWOL Apprentice, Right-hand (f7C+) -

p.426 - at Tintagel. The rock platform below the boulders here is sometimes incredibly slippery and always hard - take a few pads! Photo: Louis Elliott

The web site ntslf.org/tides/ predictions has an easy-to-use tide forecaster to get tides up to 28 days ahead.





# **Bouldering Grades**

In this book the problems are graded using the well established Font Grade. This is written f6A, f6A+, f6B, f6B+, ... to f8C (with a capital letter to distinguish it from the similar looking sport route grade).

The Font system was established in the bouldering mecca Fontainebleau, is popular with the majority of boulderers and used by most climbing walls. Another system is the **V Grade**. This is popular in the USA and has been used in previous bouldering auidebooks.

Historically boulder problems have also been graded using the UK Technical Grade. This is familiar to traditional climbers since it is also a key part of the UK Traditional Grade.

These grade systems attempt to measure the overall difficulty of a problem and they don't take account of the danger level of a highball problem, or one with a bad landing. The similarity means that the grades can be converted from one system to the other as shown in the table to the right.

### **Route or Boulder Problem**

Very high boulder problems are occasionally given route grades with a highball bouldering grade mentioned in the description. Some of these are traditional routes which are now usually climbed with a bouldering approach, others are short routes that can be added onto a mid-grade or easy bouldering circuit.

For more on traditional grades, see rockfax.com/climbing-guides/grades/

### Colour Codes

The problems are given a colour-coded dot corresponding to a grade band. The colour represents a level that a climber should be happy at, hence boulder problems tend to be technically harder than the equivalent coloured routes because the length of the climbing tends to be shorter and the climber doesn't need to worry about the protection, although obviously some highball problems can be extremely serious.

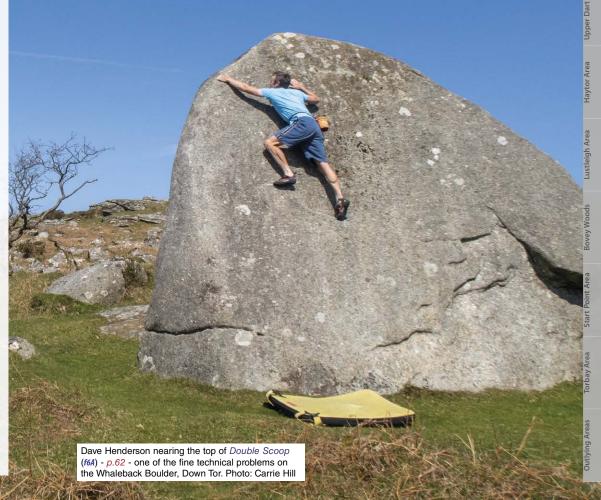
Во	ulderir	ng Gra	ide
Font	V Grade	UK Tecl	h Grade
f2 f3	VB		4a
f3+	V0-	4b	
f4	VO		4c
f4+	V0+		46
<i>f5</i>	V1	5a	
f5+	V2		5b
f6A	VZ	5c	
f6A+	V3		6a
f6B			Oa
f6B+	V4		
f6C	V5	6b	
f6C+			
f7A	V6		
f7A+	V7		
f7B	V8		6c
f7B+			
f7C	V9		
f7C+	V10		
f8A	V11	7a	
f8A+	V12		
f8B	W13		
18B+	V14		
18C	V15		

**Green Spots** Beginners - everything at grade f4 and under. Orange Spots Experienced - f4+ to f5+. General ticking routes. Red Spots Advanced - f6A to f6C+. The next level to push yourself on. Black Spots Expert - f7A to f7C+. Hard routes for dedicated climbers. White Spots Elite - f8A and above. The hardest problems for the world's best climbers.

# **Devon Grading**

Devon grading can be inconsistent and some of the older problems have a reputation for being tough. This is partly a legacy from the early days of javu.co.uk when problems that had been given English technical grades were subsequently translated into a V or Fontainebleau grade. The grades for many problems weren't generally established by a large consensus and were therefore subject to a lack of objectivity i.e. those that suited the grader might get grades that seem low, and vice versa. These idiosyncrasies were often amplified by a sandbagging ethic, particularly in the f6A/f6B range, and a fear of having one's problem downgraded.

Many of the grades in this guide have been revised in line with general opinion, often taken from **UKClimbing.com**, so hopefully they are now reasonably accurate. Having said that, newer or less frequently climbed problems will still be subject to the vagaries of opinion and there are a few sandbags left for historical value. So if you have a hard time on a problem just blame it on bad grading!



36		<b>Destination Planner</b>	Problems	up to f4	f4+ to f5+	f6A to f6C+	f7A to f7C+	f8A and up	Approach	Sun	Shelter	Dry in Rain	Seep -age	Green	Tidal	Summary	Page	
Bui		Burrator Boulders	40	3	20	12	4	J	5 min	Sun and shade	Sheltered		Seepage	Green		A popular little spot thanks to its user friendly short walk-in and range of problems. Shaded and also sheltered from the wind.	46	rea
rator A	0.177	Sheepstor	1	-	-	1	-	_	5 min	Lots of sun	Windy					A spectacular view although the bouldering is limited and largely undocumented. Very exposed.	55	rrator A
rea	1404	Roughtor Boulders	7	-	1	5	1	_	<b>1</b> 0 min	Atternson	Sheltered		Seepage	Green		A small selection of problems in a forest setting. Worth a look if you're in the area.	57	Bul
North	7 70 2	Down Tor	84	21	44	16	3	_	5-20 min	Lots of sun	Windy					An extensive area with lots of mostly easy-to-mid grade problems spread around. Excellent views but very exposed.	60	or Tors
Moor To		Combeshead Tor	101	17	37	32	15	_	20-30 min	Lots of sun	Windy					Outstanding - the quintessential Dartmoor crag provides high quality bouldering in a beautiful setting.	74	rth Mod
SIC IN ION III	North	Sourton Tor	3		_	2	1	_	15 min	Afternoon	Windy					Few problems documented but the motivated will find more, mostly at lower grades. Exposed with a lofty view towards Cornwall and awesome sunsets.	97	ž
Chagfo	Moor	Fur Tor	7	1	\$	\$	-		120 min	Lots of sun	Windy					As remote as it gets on Dartmoor. Some good problems but not that many Best viewed as a grand day out of enjoyable walking with bonus climbing.	99	rd Area
rd Area	Char	Gidleigh Woods	20	2	8	8	2	-	5 min	Not much sun	Sheltered		Seepage 4	Green		A selection of good problems in a forest setting. Sheltered but can be a bit green after prolonged rain.	104	Chagfo
Up	- form	Middle Tor	4	-	2	2	-	-	15 min	Not much sun	Windy		Seepage			Limited but a fun selection of steep problems. A good bet on a hot summer's day.	109	ley
per Dar	_	Bench Tor	7	_	1	1	4	ป	20 min	Sun and shade	Sheltered	Dry Unin the rain				A few steep problems and pumpy traversing. Sheltered, climbing is possible in the rain. The view from the top of the crag is stunning.	115	Dart Val
t Valley	200	Combestone Tor	21	9	11	1	-	_	Roadside Roadside		Windy					Roadside bouldering with a tremendous view of the Dart valley. Quite a limited number of problems. Exposed.	118	Upper
H	7	Mel Tor	22	10	7	5	-	-	<b>3.</b> 5-8 min	Afternoon	Windy					Limited bouldering with a tremendous view of the Dart valley. Exposed. Possibly a good bet on a summer's day.	122	e
aytor A	Valle	Leigh Tor	15	4	7	1	3	-	2 min	Sun and shade	Sheltered					A small number of problems on metamorphic rock. Sheltered.	126	ytor Are
Y ea	:	Ausewell Rocks	11	ป	2	8	-	_	<b>.</b> 5 min	Not much sun	Sheltered	Dry V in the rain				A handful of steep problems on metamorphic rock. Sheltered and climbing can be possible in the rain.	129	H
Lustl		Top Tor and Pil Tor	8	4	2	2	-	_	5-10 min	Afternson						Limited bouldering but an easy stop-off en route to Tunhill Rocks.	135	Area
eigh Ar		Tunhill Rocks	51	8	17	26	-	_	15 min	Afternoon	Windy					An excellent circuit of problems with the best being found on the Power Boulder. Relatively quiet with excellent views.	138	stleigh
ea		Bonehill Rocks	163	23	37	58	37	8	1-3 min	Afternoon	Windy		Seepage			The most popular bouldering on the moor. Roadside and with a vast array of classic problems. A popular family picnic spot.	147	3
Bovey		Bell Tor	42	14	12	15	1	_	5 min	Sun and shade	Windy					Usually quiet and with a few really good problems, notably <i>Beau Wall</i> , <i>f6B</i> and <i>Famous Grouse</i> , <i>f7A</i> . Only a short walk from Bonehill.	170	/oods
Woods		Honeybag Tor	78	11	47	16	4		20 min	Sun and shade	Windy					A really good spread of low-to-mid grade problems. Usually quiet, and a good option in the summer thanks to a range of north-facing problems.	178	Bovey W
S	Е	Hound Tor	164	48	52	43	19	2	5 min		Windy					Justifiably a locals' favourite and one of the best venues on the moor. Can get busy on a nice day.	192	a
tart Poi	240	Hayne Down	54	12	21	18	3	-	10 min		Windy					Relatively unpopular but easily combined with Hound Tor, it has a handful of decent problems.	214	int Are
nt Area	7 70	Easdon Rocks	17	1	7	5	4	_	10 min	Afternoon	Windy					A small batch of problems, the main event being the classic <i>Easdon Arete</i> , <i>f7A</i> +. Limited parking.	222	Start Po
7	,	Saddle Tor	51	6	11	13	15	6	5-15 min	Athermoon						Home to some of the best hard problems on the moor on the Bulging Wall and also <i>The Hidden Traverse</i> , <b>f6B</b> , a rare Dartmoor stamina problem.	226	
Torbay Area		Haytor Quarry	3		2	_	1		<b>.</b> 5 min		Sheltered					A tiny selection of good, novelty quarried granite problems. Sheltered and worth a look if passing or for the classic <i>Straight No Chaser</i> , <i>f7A+</i> .	233	ay Area
Area		Holwell Tor	46	9	14	11	9	3	20-25 min	Afternoon	Windy					A range of problems including some recent ones on a remote-feeling, quiet hillside. Can be a little gritty in places but has some real quality lines.	236	Torb
Outlyir		Smallacombe Rocks	122	26	50	35	11		20-25 min	Afternoon	Windy					A few classic circuits with great, varied bouldering and the outstanding highball <i>Commitment Issues</i> , 184. Relatively quiet.	248	eas
lying A		Black Hill Boulders	42	111	12	18	1	-	10-20 min	_						A small yet diverse crag with a good selection of interesting problems. Quite a few are north facing so can be cold.	268	ying Ar
reas		Becka Brook Boulders	7	-	1	4	1	1						Green		Esoteric but does contain a few good problems on good granite. The stunning <i>The Hardest Goodbye, f8B</i> + is one of the hardest on the moor.  s are sheltered/windy/dry in the rain/damp/green/tidal	275	Out

38	3	<b>Destination Planner</b>	Problems	up to f4	f4+ to f5+	f6A to f6C+	f7A to f7C+	f8A and up	Approach	Sun	Shelter	Dry in Rain	Seep -age	Green	Tidal	Summary	Page
Burrat	Lu	stleigh Area	117	7	34	55	21		10 - 25 min	Sun and shade	Sheltered		Seepage	Green		A sublime area containing several varied sectors and numerous excellent problems. Sheltered and mostly fairly quick to dry.	<b>282</b> Lyuea
tor Area North Moor Tors		Shaptor	43	-	\$	28	12		20 - 25 min	Afternoon	Sheltered		Seepage 4	Green		A small number of problems but amongst them some woodland classics. The Long Wall can be green after prolonged rain, the other bits dry quicker.	304 Burrato
	Bovey Wo	Lower Shaptor	64	5	11	38	10		15 - 20 min	Sun and shade	Sheltered			Green		A little esoteric but home to a mixture of problems taking good features. Peaceful and particularly beautiful in the bluebell season.	313 Moor Tors
		Rock Copse	86	6	27	37	15	1	<b>5</b> - 10 min	Sun and shade	Sheltered	Dry Gin the rain		Green		Less than five minutes' walk to some excellent problems including the superb new hard ever-dry line of <i>The Big Roof</i> , <b>f88</b> .	324 Huon
Chagford	ods	Stonelands Waste	55	7	18	18	12	0	5 - 10 min	Not much sun	Sheltered			Green		A good concentration of quality problems and a fairly short and straightforward approach make this one of the more popular sectors in Bovey Woods.	337 July 337
Area U		Bearacleave	101	6	18	58	16	\$	5 - 20 min	Sun and shade	Sheltered			Green		The largest sector in Bovey Woods is home to more than its fair share of classic problems, including the sought after <i>Devon Sent</i> , f7C+. Navigation can be a challenge at first so be patient.	348 Chair
pper Dart∖	Start	Lannacombe Beach	14		2	8	4	_	10 min	Afternoon						Tidal, limited, often damp and off the beaten track, this venue does provide a batch of fantastic steep problems. If the stars align it's awesome.	371 Sart Valle
/alley	Point	Torcross Boulders	35	2	9	12	12		<b>1</b> 0 min	Sun and shade						A delightful family friendly(ish) beach containing plenty of decent problems. Sometimes falls foul to dampness and shifting beach levels. Tidal.	374
Haytor Area	Torbay A	Shoalstone Area	41	5	20	15	1		2 - 5 min	Not much sun			Seepage			Very accessible and right next to the bustling harbour at Brixham, this venue best caters for the low-to-mid grade climber, though doesn't see much attention. Worth a look if nearby. Tidal.	384 laytor Area
a Lu		Daddyhole Beach	11	_	-	7	4	-	5 - 10 min	Morning					Tidal	Only has a handful of tidal problems but quite good fun.	389
stleigh Are		Hope's Nose	44		4,	19	20	1	5 - 10 min	Afternoon						Home to some tough fingery limestone problems on the main crag and some wave-washed shaley stuff on the beach.	392 ansteligh Ar
a Bo	'ea	Anstey's Cove	70	6	24	21	18	ป	5 - 10 min	Morning	Sheltered	Dry Unin the rain				Mostly modern, steep bouldering with a few pumpy traverses and wall problems on the beach. The majority is non-tidal and some walls stay dry in the rain.	398
vey Woods		Chudleigh Rocks	20	-	\$	12	5	-	5 min	Not much sun	Sheltered	Dry Tin the rain				Devon's most polished crag is its original and best wet weather outdoor bouldering/training venue. Hundreds of eliminates and some pumpy circuits.	410 Bovey Wood
Start		Helman Tor	80	16	32	23	9	-	1 - 5 min	Morning	Windy					Exposed, quintessential Bodmin Moor bouldering with some challenging, rounded granite. A beautiful spot to watch the sun set.	415 Area
t Point Area Torbay Area Outlyi		Tintagel	44	4	8	15	13	4	15 min	Not much sun					Tidal	The best of the steep, new school venues on the north coast is home to many outstanding, hard testpieces. Conditions can be fickle.	426 Start Point
	Outlying	Northcott	78	2	26	33	17	П	5 - 15 min	Afternoon			Seepage			Relaxed, friendly beach bouldering when the sand levels are highnot so much at other times. A great range of problems and pretty family friendly. Tidal.	434 Area
	ng Areas	Hartland Quay	79	2	8	20	24	25	5 - 25 min	Sun and shade			Seepage		Tidal	Two of the best steep spots in the south west - the Ache Ball cave and Carnage Wall - as well as a host of other good features. World class crack climbers may wish to attempt <i>The Kraken</i> , 188others can just look!	448 Lorbay
		Lynmouth	134	9	20	58	477		5 - 15 min	Not much sun			Seepage			East Beach - a collection of boulders and damp caves provide excellent problems but only when conditions are good. West Beach - much faster drying than the East Beach and home to some great problems.	460 Areas
Outlying Areas		Hurlstone Point	20		\$	13	4		20 min	Afternoon		Dry Cin the rain	Scepage			Exmoor's most accessible and user-friendly crag. The selection of problems included is pretty much non-tidal and can even be climbed in light rain.	484 Outlying Areas
		Totals (full book)	2327	318	698	852	402	57	Fad	ed symb	ool mea	ns only	some c	of the ro	utes are	e sheltered/windy/dry in the rain/ suffer seepage/green	