

Morfa Bychan is tucked away in a tranquil cove and adjacent to a nice beach. It has some superb rock and climbing and makes a worthwhile venue within easy reach of the Pembrokeshire crags, or when combined with a visit to the nearby Telpyn Point or Pendine. The cliff is limestone and very steep in its central section. This initially appears quite intimidating but on closer inspection it all feels quite friendly. Morfa Bychan has a good grade mix - in the centre are harder routes whilst on its right-hand side the cliff is less steep.

Approach

Also see map on page 47

From the roundabout on the A40 at St Clears, take the A477 to Tenby. After 8 miles turn left signed to Amroth. From the seafront at Amroth, follow the road east towards Pendine, for around 4 miles. Turn right opposite some standing stones (only a footpath sign). The turning is 100m before the Green Bridge pub. Go down a rough unmade road which leads past a caravan park on the left to a very tranquil cove in 1.5 miles. The crag is easily seen from here.

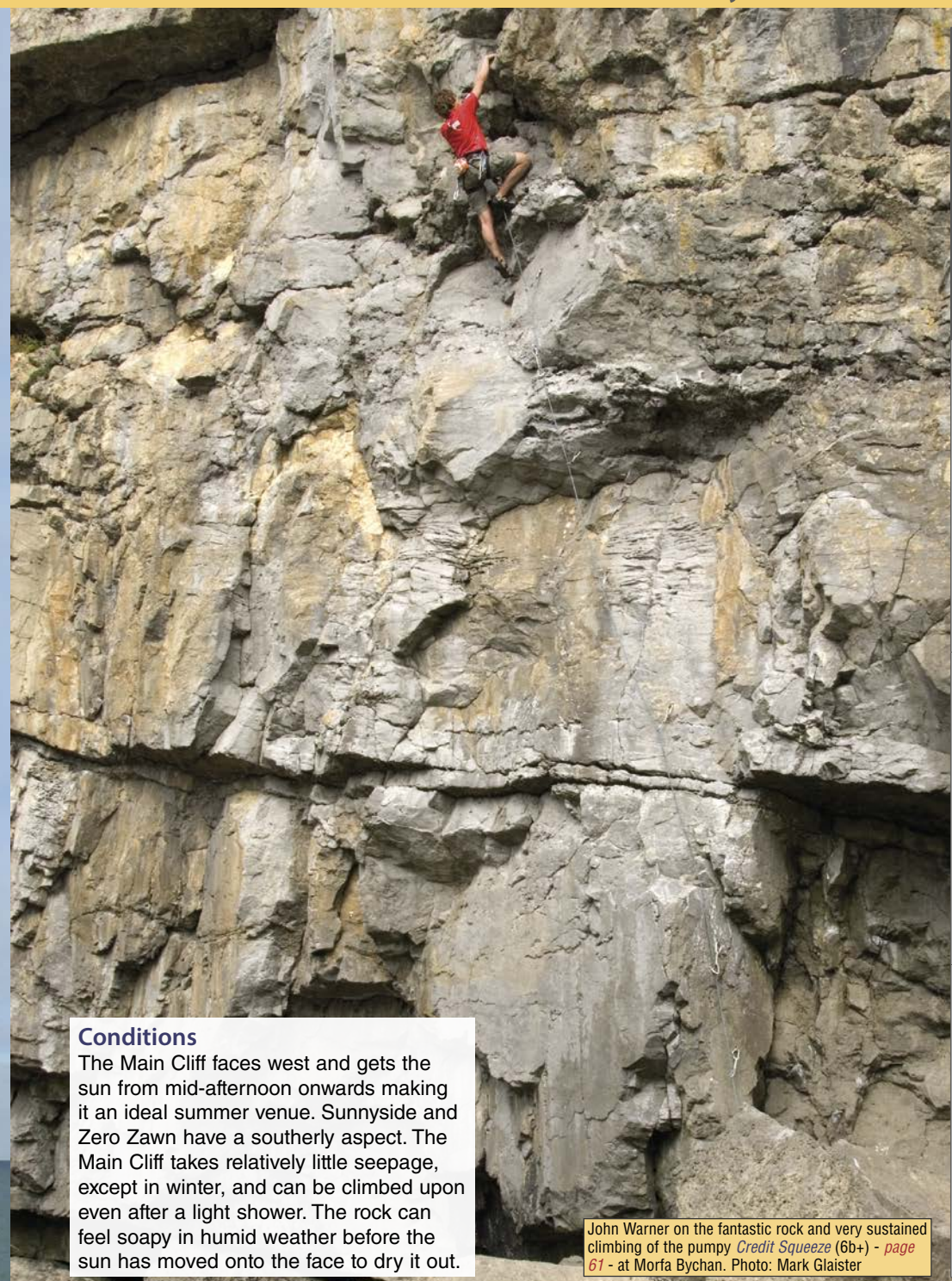


Tides

The crag is tidal. The right-hand side of the Main Cliff can only be accessed for 4 hours on either side of low tide. It is possible to climb on the left-hand side when the tide is in (although access and escape is cut-off). Due to the steep vegetated slopes above the cliff, an abseil approach is not recommended. Sunnyside is accessible for 2 to 3 hours on either side of low tide and Zero Zawn for 1.5 to 2 hours on either side of low tide.

Morfa Bychan Main Cliff

Pendine p.68
Just around headland



Conditions

The Main Cliff faces west and gets the sun from mid-afternoon onwards making it an ideal summer venue. Sunnyside and Zero Zawn have a southerly aspect. The Main Cliff takes relatively little seepage, except in winter, and can be climbed upon even after a light shower. The rock can feel soapy in humid weather before the sun has moved onto the face to dry it out.

John Warner on the fantastic rock and very sustained climbing of the pumpie *Credit Squeeze* (6b+) - page 61 - at Morfa Bychan. Photo: Mark Glaister

Main Cliff

A good, well-equipped cliff in a lovely cove. It has a selection of steep and sustained routes in the 6th and 7th grades. The rock is good on the whole, although some sections on the steeper lines are a little fragile.

Approach - From the parking, walk along the pebble and sand beach to the rocky platform at the base of the cliff.

Tides - The base of the crag is tidal and can only be accessed for 4 hours on either side of low water.

Conditions - The rock can feel soapy in humid weather or before the sun has moved onto the face. The cliff does offer the possibility of climbing in showery weather, although it is exposed to westerly gales.

1 Dish the Dirt 6c

A fingery and powerful lower bulge is followed by much easier pleasant moves above.

FA. Gary Gibson, Roy Thomas 28.6.2008

2 Less is More 7a+

A complicated sequence through the lower bulge precedes another tricky sequence via the short arete higher up.

FA. Gary Gibson 15.8.2008



3 More than Enough 7a

A very fine stamina exercise.

FA. Gary Gibson 29.6.2008

4 More More More 7a

Very overhanging with a tough central section.

FA. Gary Gibson, Roy Thomas 24.5.2009

5 Moreland 7a+

Brilliant stamina climbing via a mid-height hanging corner. Low in the grade.

FA. Gary Gibson 24.5.2009

6 Burn After Reading 6c+

Fine climbing from bottom to top with an amenable finale.

FA. Gary Gibson, Roy Thomas 7.6.2008

7 Morfa, Morfa, Morfa 7a

At present the pillar under the top roof is dangerously loose. A tough and draining sequence through the lower bulge. The upper overlap has a good rest just before it.

FA. Gary Gibson 8.6.2008

8 Listing Badly 7a

A demanding start leads to an easier middle section and difficult finale through the capping overlap.

FA. Gary Gibson 7.6.2008

9 Wreckage 7a+

A very complex start, easier middle and then an even more difficult finish requiring a big wingspan.

FA. Gary Gibson 6.6.2008

10 She's Slipping Away 7a

A butch lower overhang complements a complex finale. A good taster for the harder routes. *Photo on page 46.*

FA. Gary Gibson, Roy Thomas 6.6.2008

11 Credit Squeeze 6b+

A gem of a route with excellent moves that are deceptively pumpy. The initial corner is sometimes damp. *Photo on page 59.*

FA. Roy Thomas, Gary Gibson 8.6.2008

12 The Pinch is On 7a+

Direct up the leaning headwall above the start of *Credit Squeeze* with a hard finale.

FA. Gary Gibson 24.5.2009

13 Selling Short 6b+

A fine sister route to *Credit Squeeze* that breaks right after its initial corner. *Photo on page 62.*

FA. Roy Thomas, Gary Gibson 7.6.2008

14 Tidal Rush 6c+

Superb varied moves through the overhang and up the technical wall above.

FA. Gary Gibson 8.6.2008

15 Asset Manager 6c

One of the best on the crag up the smooth looking wall. Start direct up the pushy initial wall. *Photo on page 30 and 62.*

FA. Roy Thomas, Gary Gibson 6.6.2008

16 Heading South 5c

The shallow groove system with enjoyable climbing throughout.

FA. Roy Thomas, Gary Gibson 6.6.2008

17 Insider Dealer 6b+

A hard sequence on the upper wall after easier preliminaries.

FA. Roy Thomas, Gary Gibson 28.6.2008

18 Bull Market 6a

Take the prominent break. Hardest at the top.

FA. Roy Thomas, Gary Gibson 28.6.2008

19 Crash and Dash 5b

A short exercise on the small wall above the ledge.

FA. Roy Thomas, Gary Gibson 29.6.2008

20 Pump and Dump 6a+

A hard sequence right from the start.

FA. Roy Thomas, Gary Gibson 29.6.2008

21 Toxic Assets 4a

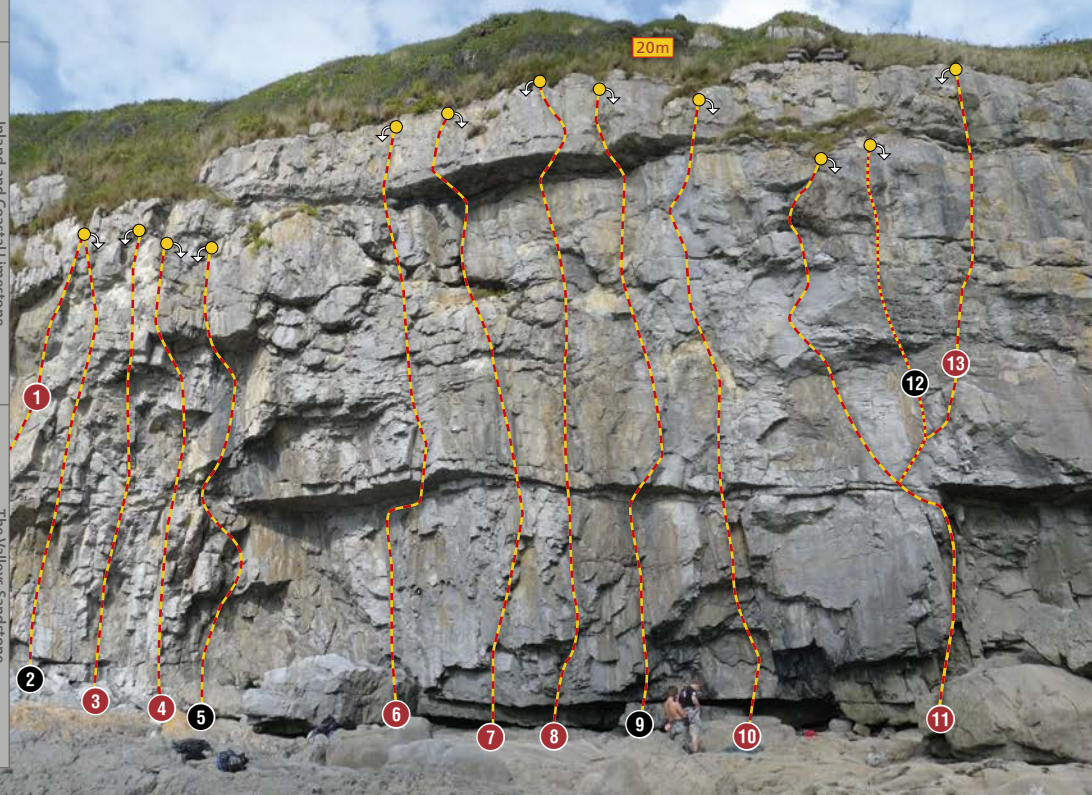
The short wall.

FA. Roy Thomas 2008

22 Green Shoots of Recovery 5a

The final route, on the arete.

FA. Roy Thomas 2008



John Warner on the steep mid section of *Selling Short* (6b+) - *page 61* - and Jean Marc Agnonistidis on *Asset Manager* (6c) at Morfa Bychan. Photo: Mark Glaister



Sunnyside

An isolated bay with some smart little sport pitches on good rock. Careful timing of the approach and exit with regard to the tides is needed to get the best from a visit.

Approach and Tides - The cliff can be gained at very low tide along the beach from the base of the Main Cliff but, in order to get plenty of climbing time in, the best access is via the higher approach. From the seaward end of the Main Cliff, scramble up cracks, ledges and walls to the top of the cliff and walk around to abseil bolts above the cliff edge. To exit, climb up the easy *Get Out Claws* and reverse the scramble back to the Main Cliff.

Conditions - It faces roughly south and gets plenty of sun but can be greasy in humid weather.

1 Squeeze that Lemon. 5c

Climb the pillar via the vague arete.
FA. Roy Thomas, Goi Ashmore 12.5.2016

2 The Golden String 5c

Start up the enclosed deep crack then head directly up the pillar.
FA. Roy Thomas, Goi Ashmore 26.7.2014



3 Noah's Arse 5b

Climb the wall to a steepening, then step right to a shared lower-off with *Knee Jerk*.
FA. Roy Thomas, Eugene Travers-Jones 24.8.2014

4 Knee Jerk 6a

Contains some amusing moves to pass the overlap
FA. Roy Thomas 27.7.2014

5 Lucas Numbers 6c

An awkward start gains a groove and roof. The line goes directly up to the first bolt, via a slot to a hand rail. Starting up the groove to the left is far easier and doesn't qualify for a tick.
FA. Goi Ashmore 31.5.2014

6 Bonacci's Sequence 7b

The overhanging right wall of the arete of *Lucas Numbers*. Technical with a huge lurch to finish.
FA. Goi Ashmore 27.7.2014

7 Mistaking Cassini's Identity 7a+

The groove between *Bonacci's Sequence* and *All For Nothing*. Oddball climbing that involves a powerful lock off on a sloper.
FA. Goi Ashmore 29.9.2014

8 All For Nothing 6a+

Start at the base of the ramp and climb the red wall and overlap.
FA. Roy Thomas, Eugene Travers-Jones 5.7.2014

9 Get Out Claws 2c

The staircase right of *All For Nothing*.
FA. Roy Thomas 28.7.2014

10 Zero Inclination 6a+

The faint rib and groove is quite tricky.
FA. Roy Thomas, Goi Ashmore 6.7.2014

11 Recurring Nightmare 5a

Left of *A Question Of Rabbits* a short stapled wall leads to the ledge of the following routes and a shared ring lower-off.
FA. Roy Thomas, Goi Ashmore 6.2014

12 A Question of Rabbits 6b+

The short wall. Start left of the arete and move into the centre of the face before heading upto the ledge.
FA. Roy Thomas 27.7.2014

13 My Slice of Pie 6a

The arete, big ledge and high groove.
FA. Roy Thomas, Goi Ashmore 6.2014

14 Sad Little Nutter HVS 5b

The thin crack in the left side of the pillar.
FA. Roy Thomas, Goi Ashmore 6.2014

15 Off at a Tangent. 6a+

The wall to the right of the thin crack. Joins the other routes after the ledge.
FA. Roy Thomas 6.2014

16 Smart Keas 6a

Left of the crack of *Daft Nutter*, take the sidewall then stick to the arete until tricky moves gain the ledge.
FA. Roy Thomas, Nik Goile, Gareth James 9.2014

17 Daft Nutter HVS 5b

The thin crack up the wall left of *You Sane Bolter* has good rock and a couple of hard moves.
FA. Roy Thomas 5.2013

18 You Sane Bolter. 6a+

The groove on the right-hand side of the central pillar leading to a pedestal and lower-off above the break. Interesting moves.
Photo on page 66.
FA. Roy Thomas, Goi Ashmore 6.2014

19 Bolus Feed 6b

The pillar on the left-hand side of the zawn.
FA. Roy Thomas, Goi Ashmore 6.2014

20 Nil By Mouth 6a+

A tricky start off of the ledge at the start of the zawn.
FA. Roy Thomas, Goi Ashmore 6.2014

Line of higher approach from Main Cliff



Mark Glaister enjoying perfect summer conditions at Morfa Bychan's Sunnyside area. The dark recess of Zero Zawn is to the right of the climber who is nearing the top of the entertaining *You Sane Bolter* (6a+) - [page 65](#). Photo: Glaister Collection



Zero Zawn

An impressive gash in the cliff that abuts the right-hand end of the Sunnyside crag. The routes take time to come into condition but once climbable are excellent.

Approach and Tides - As for the Sunnyside crag.

Conditions - Shady and needs a dry spell to come into condition. The bed of zawn has a pool in it.

1 Continued Nursing Care 6a+

A short hard section.

FA. Roy Thomas 31.5.2014

2 P.E.G Feed 5c

The groove has an awkward start.

FA. Roy Thomas, Goi Ashmore, Eugene Travers-Jones 6.7.2014

3 Labrynthitis 6a+

Deep inside the dark confines of the zawn. Usually wet.

FA. Roy Thomas, Goi Ashmore 8.2015

4 The Quest for the Origins of Place Holder Notation 6b+

The left-hand line on the right wall of the Zawn. Start as for *Turing's Sum* and take a rising traverse in.

FA. Roy Thomas 27.7.2014

5 Disraeli's Curl 7a

The vague groove towards the left of the wall, reached via the rising traverse from *Turing's Sum*.

FA. Goi Ashmore 6.6.2014

6 Disraeli's Curl Direct 7a

The awkward left-hand groove leading up into *Disraeli's Curl* is much harder than first appearances suggest. Very rarely dry - only seen dry to date on midwinter spring tides when the angle of the sun is low enough to dry it out.

FA. Goi Ashmore 21.2.2015

7 Kitchener's Nabla 7a+

The start is usually wet so either use the first bolt as an aid point, or gain the upper section from *Turing's Sum*.

FA. Goi Ashmore 5.7.2014

8 Turing's Sum 6c+

The bomb bay chimney and harder-than-expected continuation groove. The start is feasible in wet conditions which is why it is used to reach the upper sections of the routes to the left.

FA. Goi Ashmore 6.7.2014

9 Blank Dark Thirty 6b

The hanging set of grooves split by sloping shelves.

FA. Roy Thomas, Goi Ashmore 22.4.2015

10 Joys of a Tethered Goat 6b

Climb the pocketed rib left of the start of *Central Integrator*, and then head leftwards to gain and finish up *Blank Dark Thirty*.

FA. Roy Thomas, Goi Ashmore 22.5.2015

11 Central Integrator 6b

Start up a short corner to a ledge and then follow the groove.

FA. Roy Thomas, Rich Phillips 5.2014



12 Dismal Differentiator 6a+

The flake crack before heading left to a lower-off shared with *Central Integrator*.

FA. Roy Thomas Goi Ashmore 15.04.2014

13 Napier's Bones 6a

A short line up the pillar to the right of the zawn entrance.

FA. Roy Thomas, Eugene Travers-Jones 8.2.201

