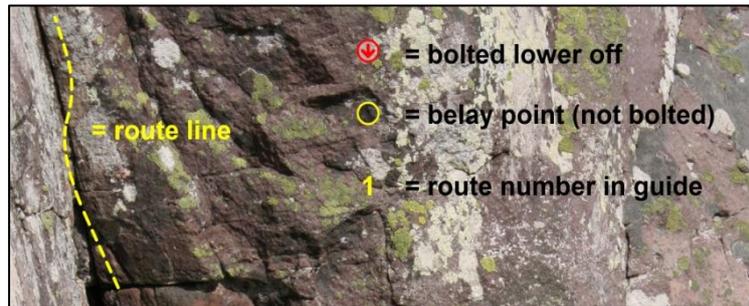


Gap of Dunloe Rock Climbing Guide

Richard Creagh, May 2011



Topo symbols.

Introduction

The Gap of Dunloe is located south west of Killarney, in County Kerry. It is an area of great importance to Cork and Kerry climbers as it offers many great routes at a good spread of grades, lengths and styles. The friction is generally excellent as is the quality of the rock and the setting is hard to beat. Despite all this it is a relatively quiet venue and as such, information on the climbing here is scarce.

This online guide is based on Richard Stack's mid-90s production and aims to alleviate the problem of a lack of route information until the long-awaited printed guide comes out.

However the information here is unlikely to be 100% accurate. I have not climbed all the routes, and even after asking friends to check for mistakes it is likely that there will be errors in here somewhere. If you see any feel free to contact me at richardcreagh@hotmail.com.

Neither is this guide intended to provide the most up to date route information. There are plenty of routes done in the Gap that only the first ascensionists and locals know about. Information on these routes will come about in time.

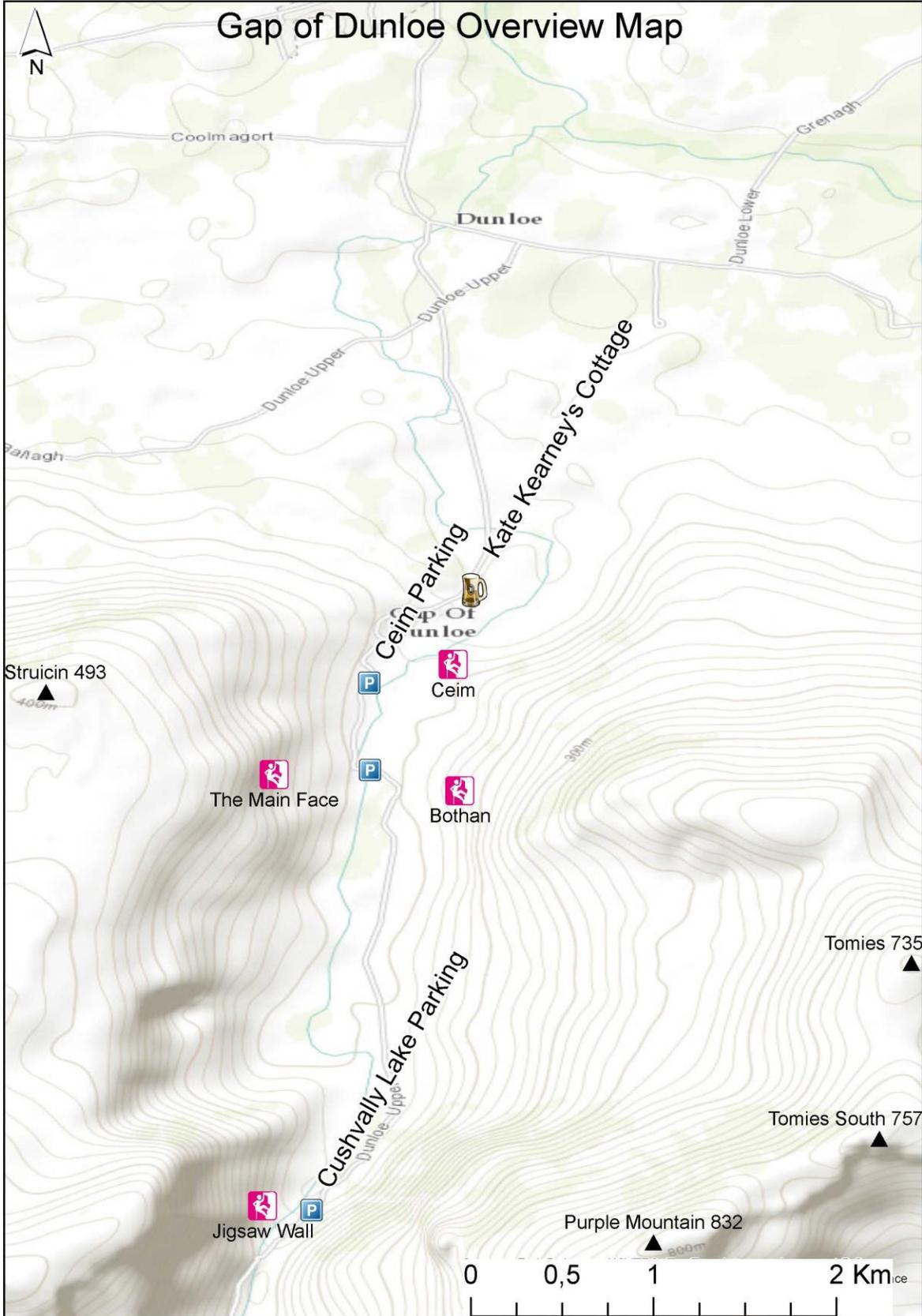
Getting There

From Killarney take the N72 west. Go through Fossa and after about 2.5km take the turn left signposted 'Gap of Dunloe.' Follow this road for about 4km before a left turn after a bend (easy to miss if travelling at speed) that brings you to the Gap.

Access and Conservation

The Gap of Dunloe is very popular with tourists. During the summer especially, jarveys take groups up and down the valley in their horse drawn carts. Because the road is so narrow traffic between oncoming cars and horses can become surprisingly congested. Please be courteous to the jarveys and consider parking at Kate Kearney's car park and walking from here (it only takes 10 minutes). A good relationship between climbers and locals is essential. Please do not litter in the Gap. Bring home whatever you bring with you, including fruit peels, climbing tape and cigarette butts.

Gap of Dunloe Overview Map



Grades

The standard British grading system is used in this guide. As with all routes everywhere, grades are subjective. What's given here may not be in line with your own thoughts of a particular route. Grades are just a rough guide to point you in the direction of what you'd like to do and at the end of the day they don't matter once fun was had and nobody got hurt!

Protection

Because of the horizontal nature of most of the crack systems in the Gap camming devices are extremely useful. A full rack of cams from the very small to the big hand crack sizes will not go to waste. A single set of wires should do for most routes. **DO NOT BOLT.**

New Routes

There is a book at Kate Kearney's where new ascents can be logged. For the more technically proficient this can be done on the routes database of www.climbing.ie. If cleaning a route be sensitive to local flora and fauna. If birds are nesting nearby do not climb in the area and avoid nests during the nesting season (February to July). Climbers are merely visitors to the area and as such have no right to disturb the locals, whether they're human or not.

Bouldering

There is plenty of good bouldering in the Gap and Black Valley, and no doubt plenty more classics to be established by those willing to walk a bit. See David Flanagan's excellent guidebook "Bouldering in Ireland" or his website www.theshortspan.com.

Safety/Accidents

Rock climbing can be dangerous. Please be careful. The author accepts no responsibility for any accidents suffered to any reader of this guide. In the event of an accident call 112 and ask for mountain rescue. Give the crag name and grid reference if possible. The nearest phone is at Kate Kearney's.

When To Go

The best times are spring and autumn. From June to September the midges come out so unless it's breezy bring a head net and some repellent and head for the more exposed spots!

Accommodation and Food

Camping can be had at the Dunloe Golf Course, which is a 3 minute drive from the Gap. Plenty of other options are available locally, Killarney being one of the biggest tourist towns in the country. Kate Kearney's Cottage is a charming pub very conveniently situated for some post-climbing food and drink. There are plenty of climbing pictures on the walls and music is played weekly.



East Side of Valley

There are only 2 recorded crags on the east side of the Gap: Céim and Bothán. These are described below.

Céim

A small but worthwhile crag on the east side of the valley in an attractive wooded setting. Plenty of interest for the HVS climber.

Directions

To get to Céim walk south along the road from Kate Kearney's. 200m past the Kerry Mountain Rescue sign a track to the left leads to a river crossing with stepping stones. Cross the river and walk along the grass road towards the wooded hill. Keep going past the derelict house and down a slope to a flat grassy area. The top of the cliff is here (oak and holly tree growing out of top of crag). Walk down to the right to find the crag. If it takes longer than 10 minutes you're probably lost. GR: 881884.

Conditions/Aspect

Céim is a good crag in bad weather as it is very sheltered and a lot of the rock is overhanging so it can be dry when everything else is wet. In summer it's midge heaven and best avoided unless it's quite breezy. East facing; gets early sun.



- 1. Cuff's Crap** **15m** **VS 4c**
M. Shea, P. Cuff. Summer 1985.
 Start under the overhanging corner on the left hand side of the crag. Climb through the overhang and finish up the corner.
- 2. The Black Stuff** **15m** **HVS 5a**
R. Stack, I. Counihan. 21/10/90.
 Start directly beneath a small overhang near the top of the crag. Climb straight up to the overhang which is turned via a small groove on the right. Sustained.
- 3. Moondance** **15m** **VS 4c**
D. Tagney, A. Forde. 12/10/94.
 Start 1m right of The Black Stuff under a small white-stained overhang. Climb straight up to the second big ledge. Move right and up slab to top.
 Variation (VS 4c): Instead of moving right continue up the left-facing corner.
- 4. Sean N6s** **15m** **HVS 5a**
M. Shea, C. Corrigan. Summer 1990.
 Start under a square block about 3m up. Climb over this and straight up to the ledge. Finish as for Miss Piggy.
- 5. The Great War** **15m** **HVS 5a**
R. Stack, G. Stack. 11/11/90.
 A nice little pitch. Start 1m left of the arête left of Miss Piggy. Climb to the overhang (good wire around corner on right) and straight to the ledge. Finish right of Miss Piggy.
- 6. Miss Piggy** **17m** **VS 4c**
R. Stack, Rob Stack July 1989. Re-climbed August 1991 after removal of large blocks.
 Climb the obvious corner (left of Titanic) to the ledge, then traverse left for 1.5m and climb the obvious corner crack to the top.
- 7. The Revolution Has Begun** **12m** **E1 5a/b**
D. O'Toole. 27/10/01.
 Boulder start off the horizontal crack of Titanic. Reach diagonally up left to a horizontal hold, then straight to top via good crimps. Protection is small aliens and red HB offset brassie, all good.
- 8. Titanic** **10m** **VS 4b**
M. Shea, P. Cuff. Summer 1985.
 The obvious crack on the right hand side of the crag. Steep and very enjoyable.
- 9. The Prodigal Son** **9m** **HVS 5a**
R. Stack, P. Costelloe. 15/09/91.
 Climb the thin line 1.5m right of Titanic.

Bothán

A good crag with fine views over the valley and beyond to the Reeks.

Directions

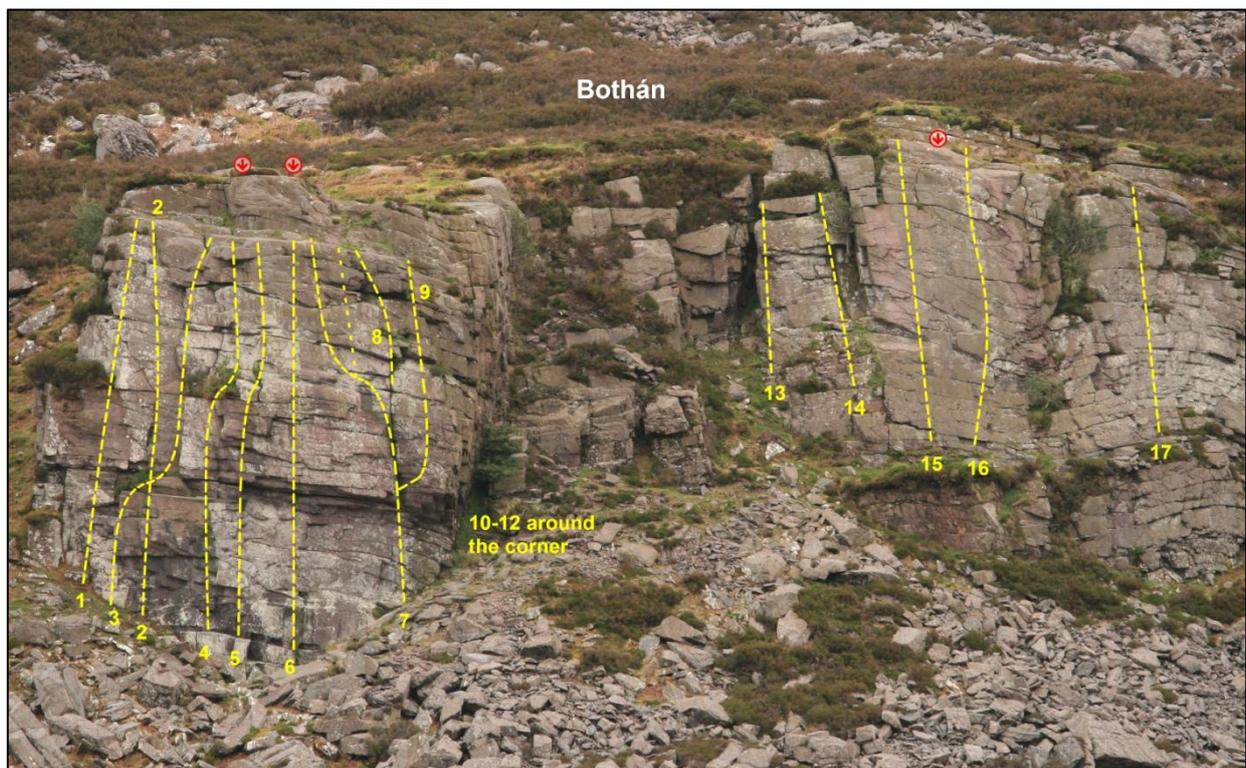
The crag is clearly visible from the bridge. To get there cross the stile immediately after the bridge and follow a track to the crag. The crag is split into two sections, left and right, with most of the routes on the left. GR: 883872.

Conditions/Aspect

It can be quite exposed to wind, which is good if the midgets are out but bad if it's cold. The crag dries quickly after rain and seepage isn't a problem on most routes. West facing; a good spot for evening sunshine.

Descent

There are chains at the top for anchors/abseiling off. Otherwise walk down the left (as you face the crag) side.



1. The Ego Has Landed

15m

VS 4c

A. Forde, I. Counihan. 15/09/90.

Arete above a large ledge on the extreme left of the buttress. Protection is sparse.

2. First Come First Served **15m** **VS 4b**

T. Long, D. Mulcahy. 06/04/95.

Climb the line between The Ego Has Landed and Agent Orange. Climb directly up to the crackline and continue straight up to the top.

3. Agent Orange **15m** **HS 4b**

I. Counihan, A. Forde. 15/09/90.

Start in a short left facing corner. Climb this then move right and climb the corner and flake moving slightly right to top out.

4. Private Investigations **20m** **VS 4c**

C. Moriarty, M. Shea. August 1986.

Climb up left of the overhang to gain a ledge. From the ledge step right and climb up to another ledge. Veer left at the blank face and climb over a small overhang near the top.

5. Ljubljana **20m** **E1 5c**

R. Stack, B. Forde. 03/08/91.

A great line, a soft touch for the grade. Climb the face to a large ledge, climb over the obvious protruding spike and then over the overhang to another ledge with a block. Move slightly right and climb the blunt arête to the top.

6. Disco Legs **20m** **E3 5c**

P. Hoy. 04/09/99.

Start 3m right of Ljubljana and take a straight line to the top. Alternatively, finish up the crack of Raven to the top (easier). Sustained and strenuous but protection is good.

7. Raven **20m** **VS 4b**

C. Moriarty, K. Tarrant. 1985.

This climb is on the right hand side of the buttress. Climb through the obvious breach in the overhang until a good ledge on the left at half height. Traverse left until the vertical crack and take a straight line up this to the top. A great route.

Variation (HVS 5a): Traverse half way across and climb over the small overhang.

8. Bugler **20m** **VS 4b**

C. Moriarty, A. Devlin. 1985.

Start as for Raven but continue straight to the top.

9. Fiach Dubh **15m** **VS 4c**

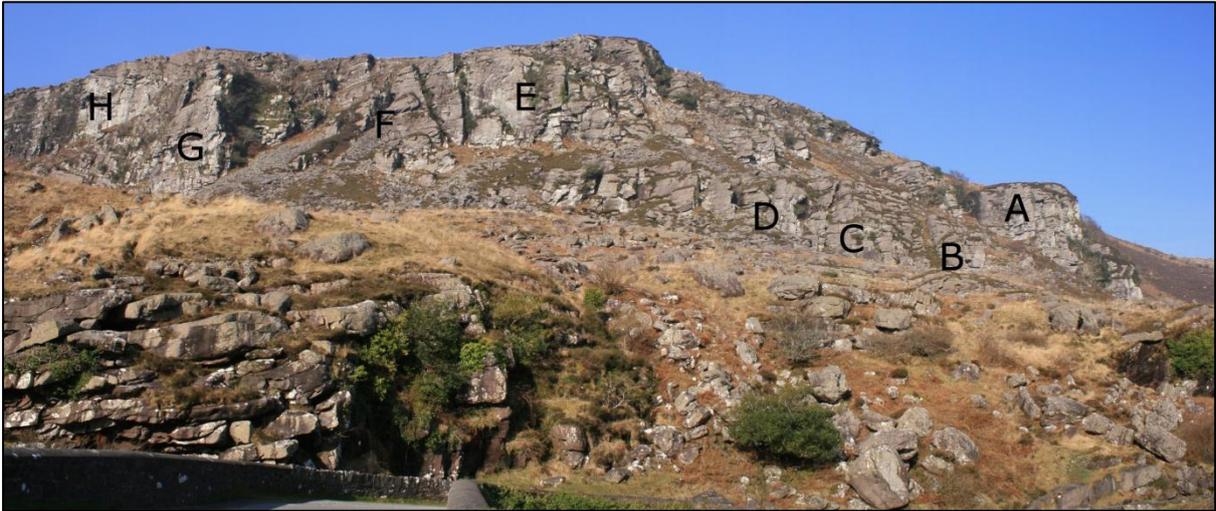
R. Creagh, D. Dineen. 02/05/10.

Start as for Raven. Standing on the first ledge arrange gear in the crack, then step out right onto the face gaining good holds. Go straight to the top from here, keeping left of a small bush and going past a short slab and through the overhang at 3/4 height. Beware of a hollow block after the step right.

- 10. Respect** **15m** **E1 5a/b**
B. O'Dwyer, E. Lawless. 21/4/00.
 Start just to the right of the arête to the right of Bugler. A poorly protected dynamic move over the bulge (long reach helps). Tend leftwards along the obvious line to the top.
- 11. Adrian's Route** **12m** **VS 4c**
A. Devlin (Solo). 1985.
 This route is on the far right of the buttress 3-4m around the corner from Bugler. Climb the faint overhanging corner, move right and climb straight to the top. The most difficult moves are at the start where the protection is poorest.
- 12. Back Or Brain** **6m** **VS 4b**
I. Counihan, R. Stack. 14/04/91.
 Start 2-3m to the right of Adrian's Route. Start on a small ledge right of a large holly tree. Climb the obvious line veering slightly right towards the top.
- 13. Akimbo** **7m** **HS 4b/c**
J. Behal, C. Cudden 13/09/95.
 Climb the arête left of The Hobbit. Poor protection at the start.
- 14. The Hobbit** **6m** **HS 4b**
R. Stack, B. Forde. 03/08/91.
 Climb the slightly overhanging crack left of the obvious corner (which contains a tree).
- 15. Baldy** **10m** **VS 4c**
M. Shea, B. Galvin. Summer 1990.
 Climb the edge of the face to the left of Spider. Protection is poor.
- 16. Spider** **10m** **Severe**
C. Moriarty. 1985.
 Climb up the blank face on the left side of the buttress. This climb weaves back and forth. Protection is poor.
- 17. P.O.S.** **8m** **V. Diff**
R. Stack, P. Cudden. Jan 1989.
 Start about 5m to the right of Spider and climb the obvious line to the top.

West Side of Valley

The main bulk of the climbing is on the north west side of the valley (gets the sun in the first half of the day). Parking can be had at Brennan's Leap or at the bridge. Two paths run up to the west side of the valley. The first is near Brennan's Leap. The second is further up the road, about 20m before the bridge (view from bridge below). Both are vague tracks, more easily followed in winter when the ferns are low.



A: Carraig Ceannan

B: Cub Crag

C: H Buttress

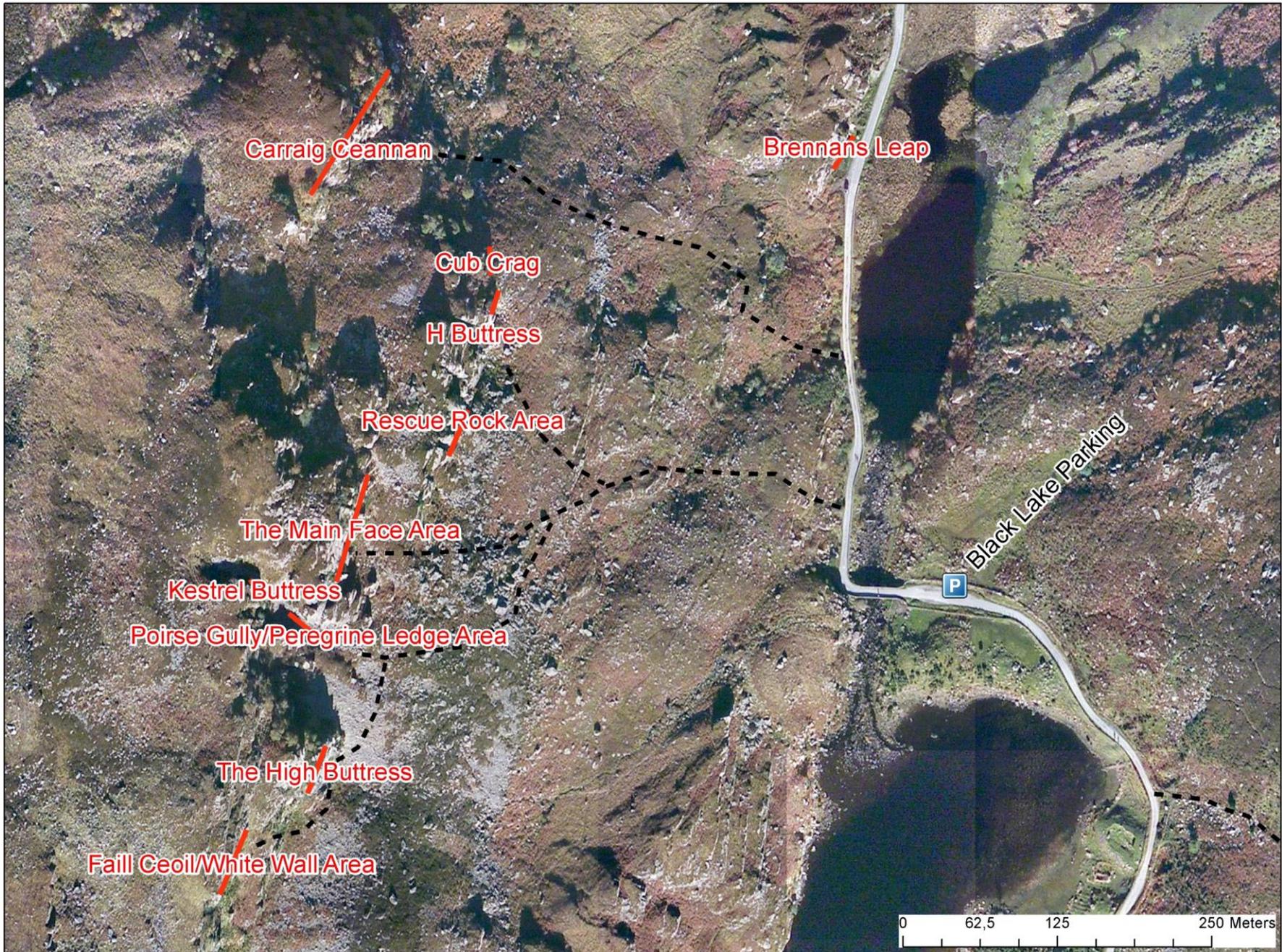
D: Rescue Rock Area

E: The Main Face Area

F: Póirse Gully/Peregrine Ledge Area

G: The High Buttress

H: Faill Ceoil/White Wall Area



Brennan's Leap

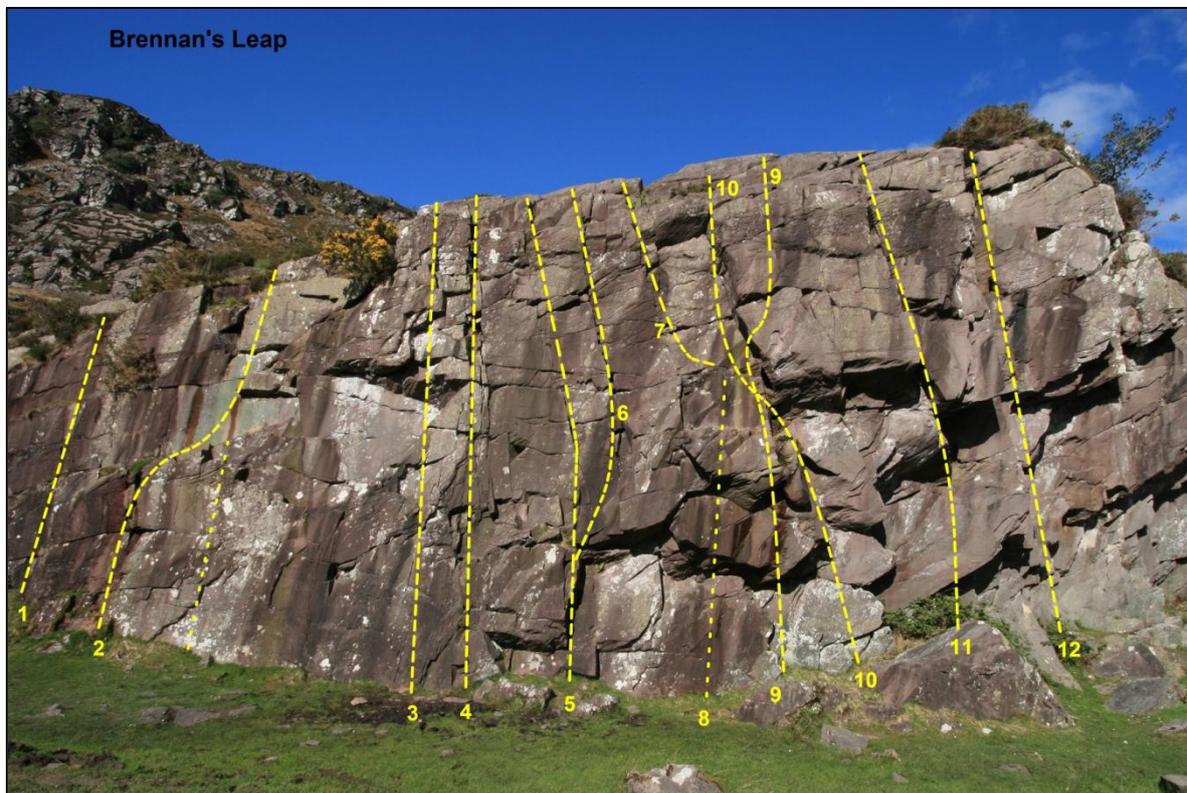
The first port of call for 90% of Gap virgins. A popular and very accessible crag.

Directions

The first crag you meet along the road is Brennan's Leap. It's on the right as you drive in. If you miss it you should wonder whether climbing is really for you.

Conditions/Aspect

Be prepared for hordes of tourists and people telling you you could have just walked up around the left (as you face the crag) side (descent). Bolts for belay (well back). Seepage can be a problem on most routes after prolonged rain. A day of dry weather sorts this out. East facing. The left crag contains most of the routes. The right crag is smaller and scrappier.



Left Buttress

1. Nanuk

8m

VS 4b

Unknown.

Thin line on the left hand side of the crag. Climb to a ledge at half height and continue straight up to the top (right of some gorse).

2. Monkeys Uncle

10m

HS 4b

A. Forde, J. Van Soest. 1980.

Climb onto a small ledge above a black water streak on the left hand side of Brennan's Leap.

Climb more left, then rightwards and up onto a protruding block, then to the top.
Direct Start (VS 5b): Climb the route directly up to the top. *R. Stack, A. Forde. 19/09/91.*

3. Granuaile **10m** **E1 5b**

R. Stack, P. Costelloe. 17/09/91.

Climb a straight line starting 2m left of Cronin's Crack. Climb the small overhang (crux) and then continue on better holds to the top. Protection is poor above the crux.

4. Cronin's Crack **10m** **HS 4b**

D. Maguire, P. Cronin. 1967.

One of the first routes in the Gap and also one of the most popular. Climb the obvious line left of the centre of the crag. Be careful with gear behind blocks.

5. Fat Boys Don't Fall **10m** **E1 5c**

M. Shea, Rob. Stack. 1990.

Climb the thin left tending line between Cronin's Crack and Daffodils.

6. Daffodils **10m** **VS 4c**

A. Forde, C. Moriarty. 1984.

Start 2.5m right of Cronin's Crack, Climb the obvious prominent left tending crack line.

7. Right Hand Parallel **10m** **HVS 5a**

C. Moriarty. 1983.

Start as for Evening Falls, and climb the crack line to the left of it.

8. Unknown **10m** **E1 6a**

???

Start left of a block sticking out of the ground and climb straight up through an overlap using a sloping ledge. Finish up another route.

9. Rush Hour **10m** **HVS 5b**

R. Stack, C. Moriarty. 09/07/90.

Climb over a small overhang (left of large overhang) to gain a ledge, move out right onto the face above the overhang and climb to the top.

10. Evening Falls **10m** **VS 4c**

C. Moriarty, M. Sweeney. 1983.

Climb the left tending (steep) ramp under the overhang to a ledge. Finish up the corner.

11. Deadline **10m** **E3 6a**

R. Stack, D. Mulcahy, T. Long. 04/05/95.

Climb the overhang on the right hand side of the buttress. Climb to the slot in the overhang and then over the overhang. Continue more easily to the top. Protection is poor at the start.

12. Movies **10m** **HVS 4c**

C. Moriarty (Solo). 1983.

Climb the obvious corner to the right of the main overhang. Protection is poor.

Right Buttress

13. Yankee **7m** **Severe**

R. Stack, Rob Stack. Summer 1990.

This line is on the left of the buttress. Climb up via a ledge system, keeping a holly tree on your left.

14. Wet Visitations **7m** **HS 4b**

J. Behal, N. O'Leary. 23/06/97.

Start 2-3m left of Voodoo. Climb the rightwards tending ramp and then up the obvious crack.

15. Some Kind Of Voodoo **7m** **VS 4c**

P. Costelloe, R. Stack. 17/09/91.

This climb is situated in the centre of this buttress. Start under a small overhang (at 3m). Climb over the overhang (up and right) to a right tending ramp. Continue up the ramp to the top.

16. Darby O' Gill **9m** **HVS 5a**

R. Stack, A. Forde. 19/09/91.

Start 2m to the left of Sweet Surrender. Climb up under the overhang, move slightly right and over the overhang to gain a small ledge on the left hand side of the arête. Continue on the left of the arête to the top.

17. Sweet Surrender **9m** **E1 5c**

A. Forde, R. Stack. 19/09/94.

Climb the obvious thin line on the right hand side of the buttress. Climb over the bulge to the thin hand crack and continue up and right to the top.

Small crag at first lake, opposite Brennan's Leap

O' Donoghue's Dive **6m** **5c**

A. O'Donoghue (Solo). 12/08/03.

Access by swimming. Start at far right of main face on underwater ledge. Climb to horizontal cracks and follow to obvious indentation, then to top. Jump at any time.

Mordant's Madness **6m** **5a**

A. Mordant (Solo). 12/08/03.

Access by swimming. Start right of O'Donoghue's Dive but left of grass patches. Climb overhang.

Carraig Ceanann

Although there are not many routes at this crag the ones that are there are mostly of excellent quality.

Directions

To get here from the bridge walk back towards Kate Kearney's and after 200m go up the zig-zag path on the left (with the Kerry Mountain Rescue sign). After a few switchbacks the lower section of the crag is visible (very white rock). The upper section of the crag is above and left of this. GR: 875881.

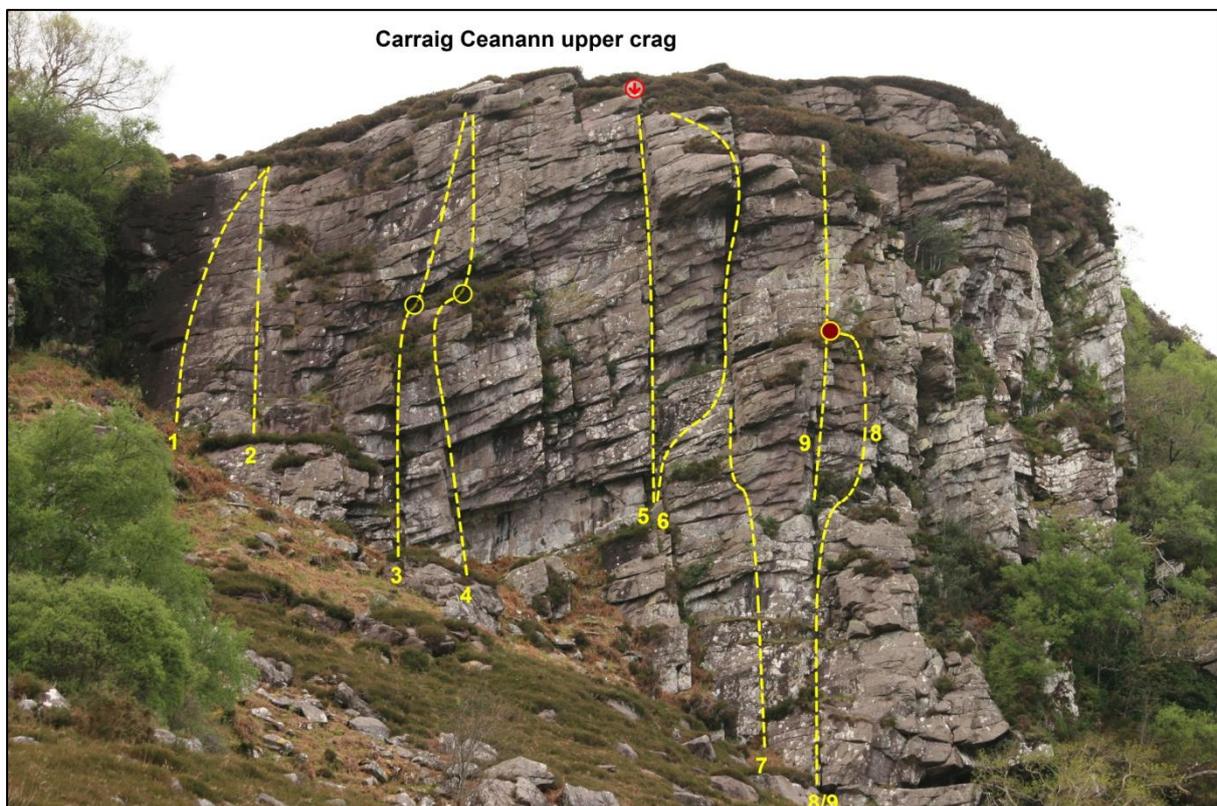
Conditions/Aspect

Molise can often be wet (but this only adds to the experience) but most of the other routes in the lower section stay mostly dry. The upper crag suffers from seepage after heavy rain but dries out after a day or two.

Descent

Lower off the tat above the routes in the lower section of the crag. Chains for lowering off the top of the right hand routes in the upper section. Walk down to the left (as you face the crag) for the rest of the lines.

Upper Crag



- 1. Erica** **10m** **V. Diff**
A. Forde, B. Forde. 22/4/90.
 Start 2m right of the mossy gully on the extreme left hand end of Carraig Ceannann, keeping a small clump of heather on your right hand side. Climb up to a right tending diagonal line, continue along this and exit on an easy right tending ramp at the top.
- 2. Easy Route** **10m** **Severe**
C. Moriarty (Solo). August 1986.
 This climb is to the right of Erica. Climb the blank face, following no definite line. Protection is poor.
- 3. Tar Wars** **20m** **E1 5c, 5c**
A. Forde, B. Forde. 28/04/90.
 The furthest left crack through the small roof left of Cuchulainn.
 1. (15m) Climb the crack through the roof (crux) and belay on the grass ledge.
 2. (10m) Climb the wall behind and slightly right of the first pitch to finish left of the large block on top.
- 4. Diving For Pearls** **25m** **E2 5c, 5c**
A. Forde, R. Stack. 15/09/90.
 1. (15m) Start at a narrow chimney 2m right of Tar Wars. Climb this past an upside down slot to another slot. Move up and left to gain the upper wall. Belay on the large ledge above.
 2. (10m) From the ledge gain a small corner above a rose bush, climb the upper wall on good holds to the left hand side of a large block on top.
- 5. Cuchulainn** **30m** **HVS 5a**
C. Moriarty, A. Forde. July 1984.
 This route follows the obvious line to the left of the main overhang. Climb straight up the obvious line to an awkward overhanging niche. Continue to the large ledge (small holly tree) and straight up the overhanging corner and on to the top on good holds.
- 6. Ferdia** **26m** **HVS 5a**
A. Forde, C. Moriarty. July 1984.
 From the start of Cuchulainn climb up and right into a corner. Climb this to the overhang before breaking out right to a large ledge. Continue up the narrow chimney to the roof before turning awkwardly right again, and up into the final niche. Escape out left and up to the top.
- 7. Ferdia Direct** **40m** **E2 5c**
M. Shea, B. Forde. September 1989.
 Instead of traversing from Cuchulainn to the start of Ferdia, start at the lowest point of the line. Climb the line to a small overhang (crux), Move slightly left to surmount this and then onto the original route.

8. Valhalla

30m

E1 5c

I. Counihan, A. Forde. 24/04/90.

The line immediately right of Ferdia.

1. Start at a crack over the cave, climb directly to the obvious corner (with a bush) to the right. Turn the overhang here by moving right, continue up and then left to regain the crack.
2. Climb the roof via the crack on the right hand side to complete the route.

9. Valhalla My Arse

30m

E1 5c

C. Moriarty, A. Young. June 1990.

Start as for Valhalla but continue straight up through the overhang, up along the corner and finally up through the top overhang.

Lower Crag



10. Gallarus Orifice

20m

E2 5b

A. Forde, J. Forde. 06/04/90.

Climb the left hand side of the back of the alcove 5m to the left of Moloise. Above the holly tree move up and right under a small roof. Traverse up and right to a small ledge. Belay here on a tree further back and to the right. Protection is poor initially.

11. Moloise **25m** **HVS 5b**

A. Forde (Solo). April 1986.

Climb the obvious off-width right-tending crack line.

12. Bash on Regardless **25m** **E2 5c**

A. Forde, A. Devlin. November 1985.

Climb the slight corner right of Moloise to the large block. Finish up the face by delicate moves. Holly tree belay. Abseil or walk off above and right.

13. Black Friday **20m** **E2 5b**

A. Forde, R. Stack. 13/04/90.

Protection is poor initially. Start a few metres right of Bash on Regardless. Climb up to a horizontal quartz vein (at 5m), traverse right to a horizontal finger crack and climb up to a small ledge at half height. Continue up and left to a large flake. Surmount this and move up to a large ledge, move further right to belay on a holly tree (same belay as April Showers).

14. April Showers **20m** **HVS 5a**

A. Forde, R. Stack. 13/04/90.

Climb the ramp on the right end of the buttress to gain an obvious diagonal crack (poor protection) and then a vertical crack up to the holly tree. Hanging belay. Abseil here.

15. April Showers Direct **20m** **E1 5b**

R. Stack, M Shea. 23/06/90.

Start in the corner to the left of April Showers, climb the corner to the overhang, move up and right and continue up April Showers. Poor protection at the start.

D Buttress

This is a small buttress above and left of Carraig Ceanann.

The Thief **10m** **HVS 5a**

R. Stack, P. Costelloe. 21/06/92.

This climb is around the corner from Sadhbóg. Climb up just left of the right hand edge, left of the gorse and onto a large ledge, mantle shelf onto a slab and up a very short corner to top.

Sadhbóg **10m** **VS 4c**

A. Forde, B. Forde. 22/04/90.

Climb a wide, narrowing crack to a triangular block and horizontal crack. Step left and follow a faint crack to the base of a large block. Traverse right under block and finish up its right hand side.

Wet Wet Wet **10m** **VS 4c**

A. Forde, B. Forde. 28/04/90.

Climb the obvious corner and crack line on the right hand end of the buttress.

Cub Crag

A short crag with some of the Gap's easiest routes as well as one of its hardest.

Directions

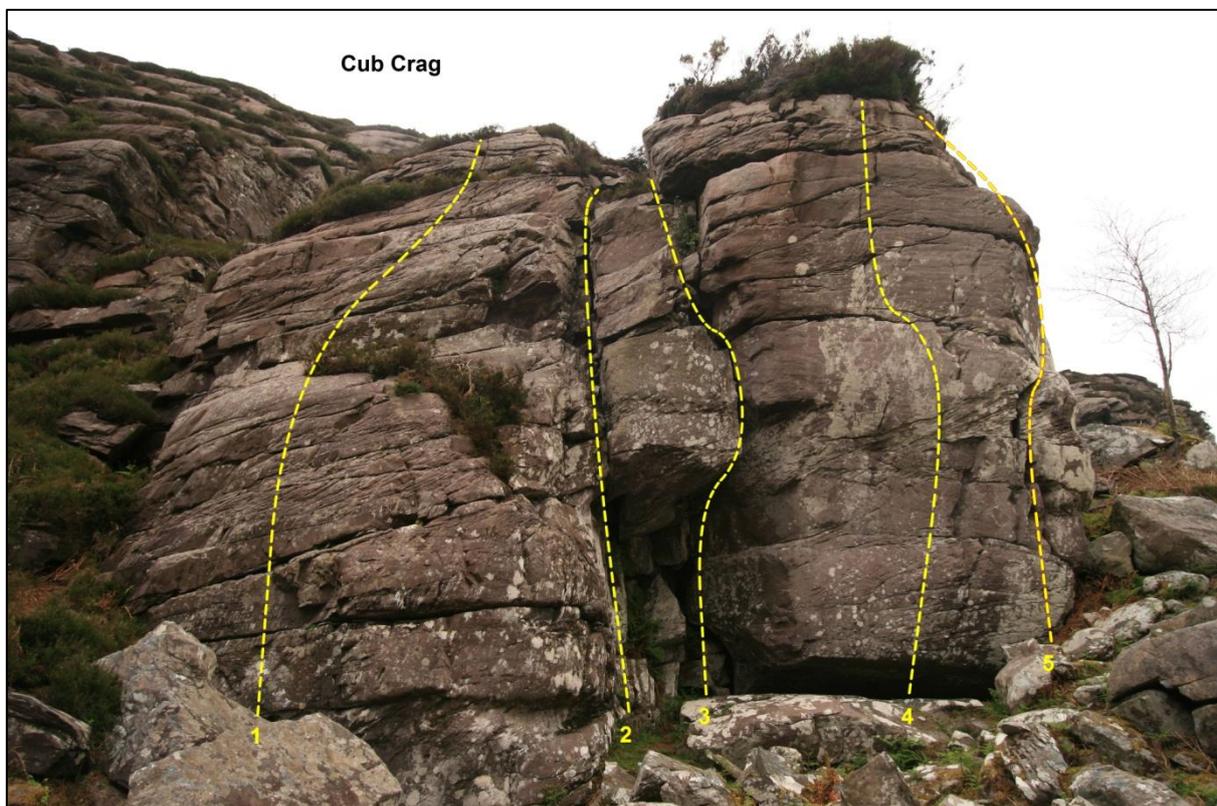
Take the path up the hill from Brennan's Leap. The crag is 300m up the hill on the right end of the Rescue Rock and H Buttress area (5 minutes).

Conditions/Aspect

Seepage is not a problem. East facing.

Descent

Scramble down and right (as you face the crag) around the back of the crag through the small cave system. Otherwise walk up higher and around the side.



1. Venture Slab

10m

Severe

R. Stack, Rob Stack. Jan 1989.

Take the line up the slab on the left side of the buttress, finishing rightwards near the top.

2. Cub Crack

9m

V. Diff

R. Stack, Rob. Stack. Jan 1989.

The left hand crack line in the middle of the crag.

3. Bats **9m** **E1 5c**

A. Forde, I. Counihan. April 1990.

Climb the obvious right hand overhanging crack.

4. Far Away Friends **10m** **E5 6b**

D. O' Sullivan, E. Kennedy. (Led on pre-placed gear after top-rope practice).

Climb the face between Bats and Gymnasty. Sustained hard climbing.

5. Gymnasty **10m** **E1 5c**

Forde, B. Forde. 22/04/90.

Climb the steep crack and step right and up onto a ledge then up and left to finish.

G Buttress

This is a small north facing crag, at the top of the gully just left of Cub Crag.

United Again **10m** **HVS 5b**

R. Stack, G. Stack. 07/10/90.

This route is on the left hand side of the crag. Climb the obvious line to the ledge and then up a finger crack to the top.

Downheavel **10m** **E2 5c**

A. Forde, R. Stack. 04/05/95.

Climb up the centre of the face veering slightly right towards the top, finishing on a small ledge.

H Buttress

The next crag south of Cub Crag has some easier but mostly scrappy routes. More traffic may alleviate the problem of hairy top-outs.

Directions

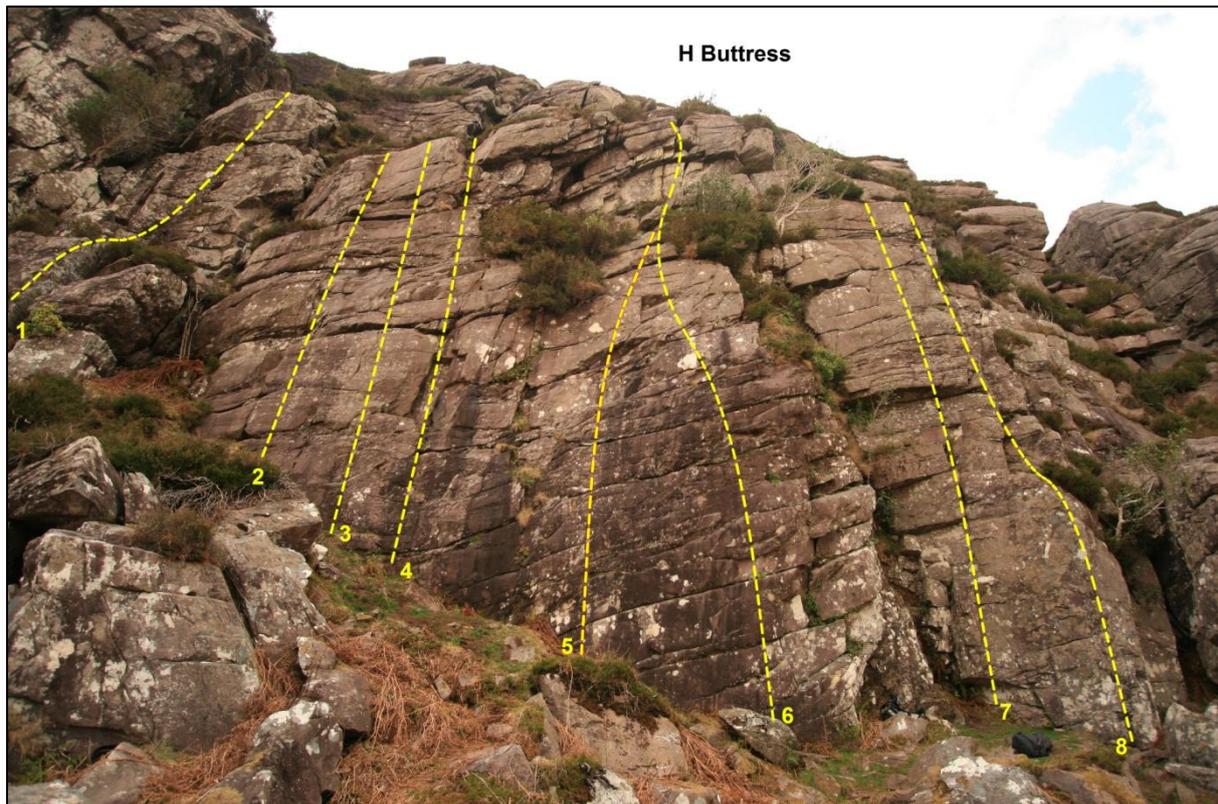
As for Cub Crag. From Cub Crag go left for 100m to reach the right end of the crag.

Conditions/Aspect

The Bould Dog and Me is often wet. East facing.

Descent

Walk right (as you face the crag) and down some awkward steps. Care is needed.



1. Mandela

18m

HS 4a

R. Stack, Rob Stack. 03/07/90.

This climb is situated on a small buttress, with a large block on top. Climb up left of a large crack and then straight up to the top.

2. Tom

8m

Severe

R. Stack, P. Cudden. July 1989.

This climb is on the left hand side of the wall. Climb the thin crack line.

- 3. Sunken Business** **9m** **HVS 5a**
M. Shea, R. Stack. 09/09/90.
 Climb straight up the face between Tom and Resonate.
- 4. Resonate** **10m** **HS 4b**
A. Forde, J. Forde. 03/05/90.
 Crack line 3m to the right of Tom. Climb to a square cut recess and over a bulge to a ledge.
- 5. Jerry** **13m** **VS 4c**
R. Stack, Rob Stack. July 1989.
 This climb is to the right of Resonate. Climb to the right of a vegetated line. Climb about 10m to gain a ledge, then go over a small overhang to the top. Protection is poor.
- 6. The Bould Dog And Me** **15m** **VS 4c**
I. Counihan, A. Forde. 02/05/90.
 Not a bad route. Climb the black wall 4m to the right of Jerry. Climb about 10m to a large ledge, then slightly right and over an obvious overhang to the top (as for Jerry).
- 7. Games Without Frontiers** **10m** **HS 4b**
R. Stack, G. Stack. 07/10/90.
 Climb up the middle of the face going over a small overhang at half height.
- 8. Three In A Bed** **10m** **Severe**
M. Shea, T. Murphy. Summer 1990.
 Climb the right hand side of the face exiting through a break in the heather at the top.

Rescue Rock

A popular area with some worthwhile shorter routes and two E grade classics.

Approach

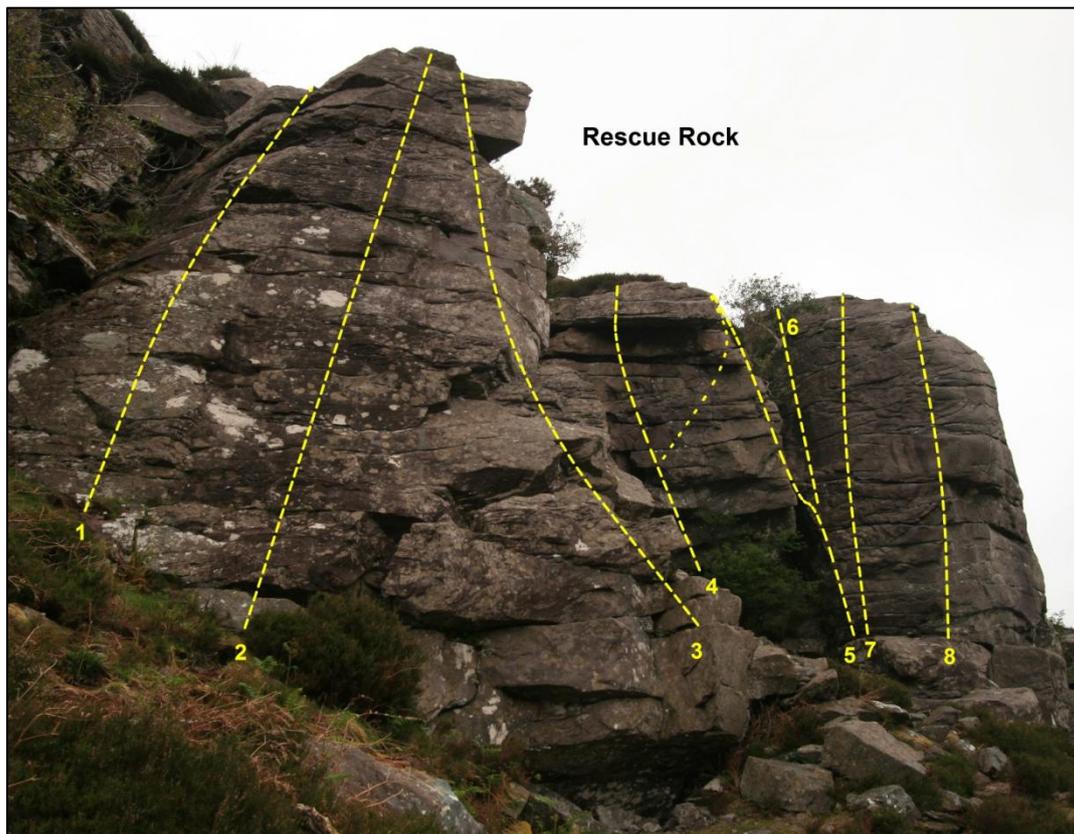
These are the crags at the left end of the line of lower buttresses. From the path near Brennan's Leap walk up to Cub Crag and keep walking left along the line of the crags. From the path near the bridge follow the track up past Elbow boulder and these are the first of the lower buttresses you meet.

Conditions/Aspect

Seepage not a problem. East facing.

Descent

Scramble down the gully between the left and middle buttress.



1. Skyline

10m

Severe

P. Curtis, P. Spillane. Summer 1994.

Climb the left hand side of the face.

2. Free at Last

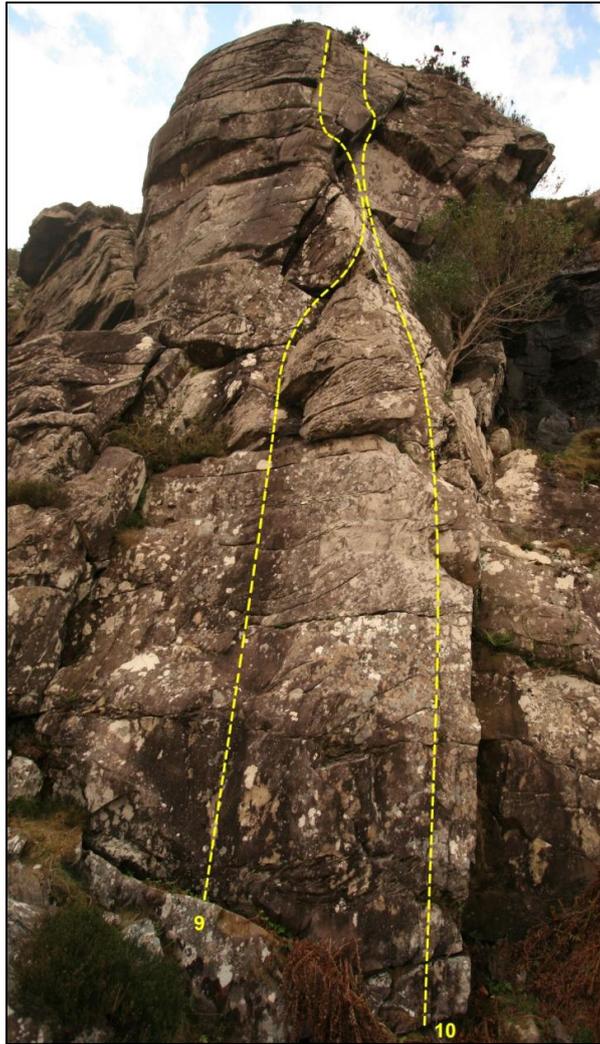
10m

HVS 5a

M. Shea, R. Stack. 09/09/90.

Climb the centre of the face. Protection is poor at the crux.

- | | | |
|--|------------|---------------|
| 3. Umbongo | 10m | Severe |
| <i>Unknown</i> | | |
| Climb the arête on the right hand side of the crag. | | |
| 4. The Crazy Horseman | 9m | E3 6a |
| <i>W. Rock. 2000.</i> | | |
| Up the middle of the buttress. Escaping right is possible before the overhang at around E1. | | |
| 5. Flier and Hatter | 12m | HS 4b |
| <i>A. Forde (solo). Jan 2005.</i> | | |
| Bridge up the chimney left of Siren to gain an indistinct arete on the left. Follow this to top. Alternatively, start up Rescue Rock and after 5m make a step across the void onto the middle buttress (Severe). | | |
| 6. Siren | 10m | HS 4b |
| <i>R. Stack, C. Cudden. 01/04/95.</i> | | |
| This route is on the left hand side of the right buttress. Climb to a shallow groove near the top, climb through this using a quartz hold on the right. | | |
| 7. Rescue Rock | 10m | Severe |
| <i>D. Maguire, P. Cronin. 1967.</i> | | |
| Climb straight up from the large ledge and veer slightly right towards the top. | | |
| 8. Quartz Movement | 10m | VS 4c |
| <i>R. Stack, T. Long. 04/05/95.</i> | | |
| Climb the right hand edge of the face, resisting the temptation to escape left. | | |



9. Mother Of Prague

20m

E1 5b

I. Counihan, M. Barry. July 1990.

Climb the left side of the slab up to the block. Move up and right into the groove. Arrange gear near the top of the groove and then step left onto the outer face. Climb straight up to a finger crack and the top.

10. Willie Wonka

20m

E2 6a

R. Stack, P. Costelloe. 27/12/89.

Climb the right hand side of the slab to a ledge (large block). Continue up and into a right tending groove. Climb the overhang (crux) and continue straight up to the top.

The next route is on a small crag directly above Rescue Rock.

Micro

15m

E2 5c

A. Forde. April 2005.

Climb overhanging arête immediately left of main corner to good hold and continue steeply to large ledge at 6m. Continue up arête on right to top.

J Buttress

This buttress is behind and to the right of the Main Face.

Great Slave

40m

E1 5b

A. Forde, J. Forde. 03/05/90.

1. (25m) Start 8m left of Oozum Croozum. Climb up and left under a small set of overhangs and past a square wedged block, then climb up and right (crux). Belay at the base of the next wall. Protection is poor on this pitch.

2. (15m) Move up to gain a quartz vein and traverse right along the wall under a small roof. Exit past this roof and belay on a large sloping ledge.

Oozum Croozum

20m

E2/3 5c/6a

A. Forde, I. Counihan. 02/05/90.

Start directly below the arete. Climb to the corner in the arete. Below the top, traverse right onto the right face and then up to a ledge. Climb the face above (poorly protected) to a large block to finish. Descend to the left.

Apparition

20m

E2 5c

D. Tangney, A. Forde. April 1995.

Start just right of Oozum Croozum. Climb ramp to overhanging groove. Surmount this (crux) and straight up wall above keeping well right of grass ledge. Climb short steep wall with overhanging block. Exit on right side of overhang.

The Main Face

A tall section of cliffs with some of the finest long routes in the Gap.

Approach

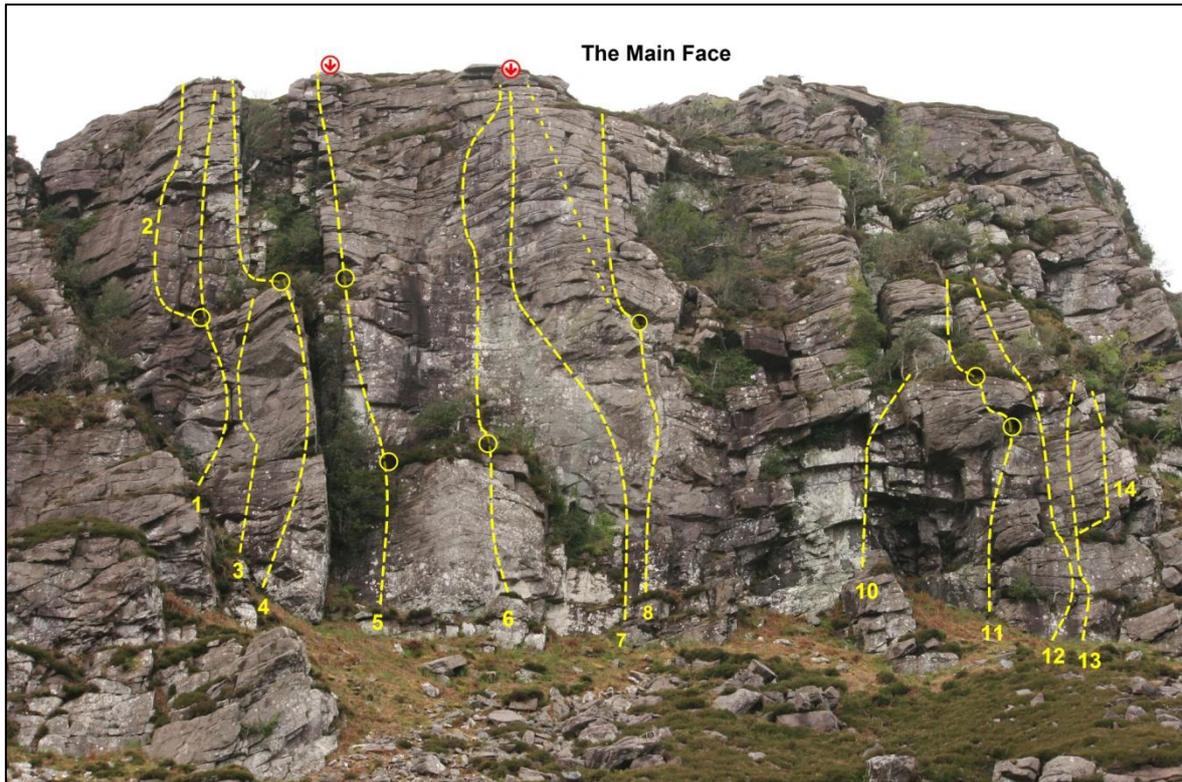
From the Brennan's Leap path walk up towards Rescue Rock and keep going south until you reach the crag. From the bridge path head up along the track pretty much straight up to the crag.

Conditions/Aspect

The black water streak of Out of My Reach is often wet but dries fairly quickly in dry weather. East facing.

Descent

Chains for lower off the main crag. Tree abseils for the other areas. Two 50m ropes required. Be wary of other climbers coming up the routes you're throwing your ropes down.



1. Carraigs

40m

E1 5c

P. Pritchard, A. Forde. 07/04/90.

1. (15m) Start immediately left of P'U, climb the face left of a tree to gain a good hand crack, above this ascend a short corner to a ledge, belay here.
2. (25m) At the left end of the ledge climb the face to a break in the roof, continue to the top of the face above.

2. Four Yellow

40m

E2 5c

A. Forde, C. Cudden. 17/08/97.

1. (15m) As for Carraigs
2. (25m) Traverse left from belay tree for 5m to stand on a very narrow ledge. Climb up to a break with large boulders. Move left and climb overhang. Continue straight over breaks in middle of face to top.

3. As Good as it Gets

25m

E3 5c

D. Tangney. June 2005.

Start 3m up and left of P'U on a flat stone. Climb steeply up for 8m (bold) to gain protection. Veer slightly left in direction of first bolt. Clip this and climb crack (crux) up to second bolt. Mantle up under overhang. Climb over hang on right side of bolt to finish.

4. P'U

30m

E2 5b

P. Pritchard, A. Forde. 07/04/90.

A striking feature and great route. Start on the left face, move up and right to gain a large ledge at half height, continue onto the right wall but move immediately onto the arete and continue on the arete to a belay ledge. Protection is not good. Abseil off.

Second Pitch: Traverse left approx. 4m from the belay tree. Climb directly up on poor quality rock and past a very large hanging block on the right. Continue up the arete and wall on the left to the top. Belay off large block on top. *A. Forde, D. Tangney. August 2005.*

5. Rufus Is A Tit Man

50m E2 5b, 6a, 5a

A. Forde [1,2], R. Stack [3]. 14/04/95.

1. (10m) Start 3m right of the P'U arete, climb the shallow scoop to a sloping ledge and then climb a short corner to a large ledge. Poor protection.
2. (20m) Climb the crack line on the left side of the ledge to a holly tree.
3. (20m) Start just left of the holly tree and climb over a small overhang. Climb up over large blocks and move slightly right. Climb up and left (past a triangular incut) through the overhang to the top.

6. Out Of My Reach

45m HVS 4c, 5a

C. Moriarty, R. Gabbett. 1985.

A popular route on the left hand side of the face to the right of the black water stain.

1. (10m) Go straight up to a large ledge which contains a large tree.
2. (35m) From the ledge climb up the right side of the black water stain, directly behind the tree (small cams). At the top of the water stain move left and climb straight up. The route follows a series of sloping ledges and up into a groove. Climb through and straight up to belay under block overhang.

7. The Overlap

45m E3 6a

A. Forde, C. Moriarty. 23/04/90.

Start 20m to the right of the start of Out of my Reach. Climb vertically to gain the bottom of the overlap, continue up and left to a block at 15m and move up through the overhang via an obvious groove and then to the top on easier ground. Belay after (or before) the crux if rope drag becomes an issue.

8. Demasiado

40m E1 5b, 5a

A. Forde, I. Counihan. 01/05/90.

A terrific route, best done as one pitch.

1. (25m) Start under a white wall with two vertical cracks (at 10m) immediately right of The Overlap. Climb directly up to the base of the white wall and step right to a small ledge. Move up via two vertical cracks to a sloping ramp. Move right to a small ledge and then up and left to a small belay ledge, beneath the overhang.
2. (15m) From the belay ledge move left and then up to a large ledge on the left. Continue up to a right tending corner. Above this move up the face to a square-cut hole and up and right to finish. Belay slightly right.

Variation on 2nd pitch (4c): Move left from the belay ledge and climb the right side of the upper face to the top. *I. Counihan, A. Forde. 01/05/90.*

9. Los Potatos **40m** **E2 6a, 5b**

A. Forde, D. Tangney. April 1995.

1. (20m) Climb shallow corner right of Demasiado (bold crux) and straight up to belay stance at 20m.
2. (20m) Move right and up to top 20m.

10. Vive La Legion **30m** **E1 5c**

I. Counihan, D. Stuttar. 04/04/95.

This route is on the white lichen-covered wall left of The Will of Zog. Start on the big block. Climb up the arete to the first small overhang. Climb the hand crack and continue up to the black roof. Move out right (crux) to gain a small ledge and traverse to a holly tree. Belay here.

11. The Will Of Zog **35m** **HVS 5b, 5a, 5a**

I. Counihan [1,3], A. Forde [2]. 12/04/90.

This route takes a weak crack system to an obvious corner under a roof about 40m right of Out of My Reach and immediately right of a set of roofs.

1. (12m) Start under the left hand end of a large block. Climb the off width crack to the top of the block. Climb the thin crack line to the corner under the overhang. Belay here.
2. (6m) Traverse left under the overhang to gain the face and continue up to a ledge. Many parties abseil from here.
3. (17m) From the right hand end of the ledge climb up and left of the chimney. Climb this for 5m and regain the right arete.

12. Vivaldi **30m** **VS 4c**

A. Forde, I. Counihan. 12/04/90.

The crack line immediately right of The Will of Zog. Climb a small ramp and the crackline above to a ledge. Continue on the same line above to a short corner. Climb this and step left and up to gain a ledge, (the route can finish here with an abseil from the holly tree). From the ledge climb an easy left tending crack and then a short face with a good flake. Belay on trees above. To descend, go uphill under a large chockstone and right to the descent gully.

13. Icy Fingers **18m** **VS 4c**

R. Stack, D. Doolan. 03/01/90.

This route starts just right of The Will of Zog. Climb a small corner to the right of a small tree. Climb a crack to gain a ledge. Traverse left and climb 2m to gain another ledge. Climb straight in under an overhang and traverse out right to finish the route.

14. And It Stoned Me **18m** **HVS 5a/5b**

P. Costelloe, R. Morrison. 1992.

Start as for Icy Fingers to gain the ledge, move slightly right and climb straight up the face, using the right tending crack near the top.

Póirse Gully/Peregrine Ledge

The steep scree filled gully left of the Main Face is Póirse Gully, an area with plenty of good routes, especially in the E1 and above range.

Directions

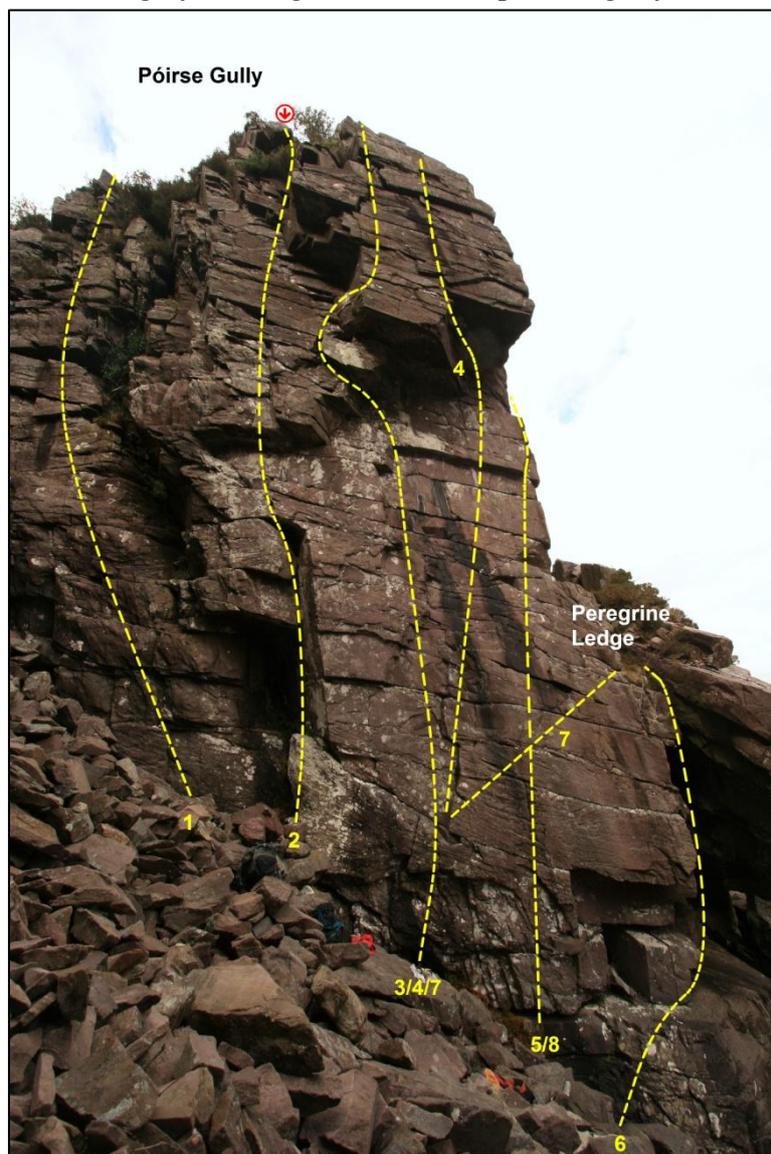
The gully is obviously situated between The Main Face and The High Buttress. Most of the routes are on the main south facing wall of the gully, starting high in the gully and below and from Peregrine Ledge. There are a few smaller crags in the gully too.

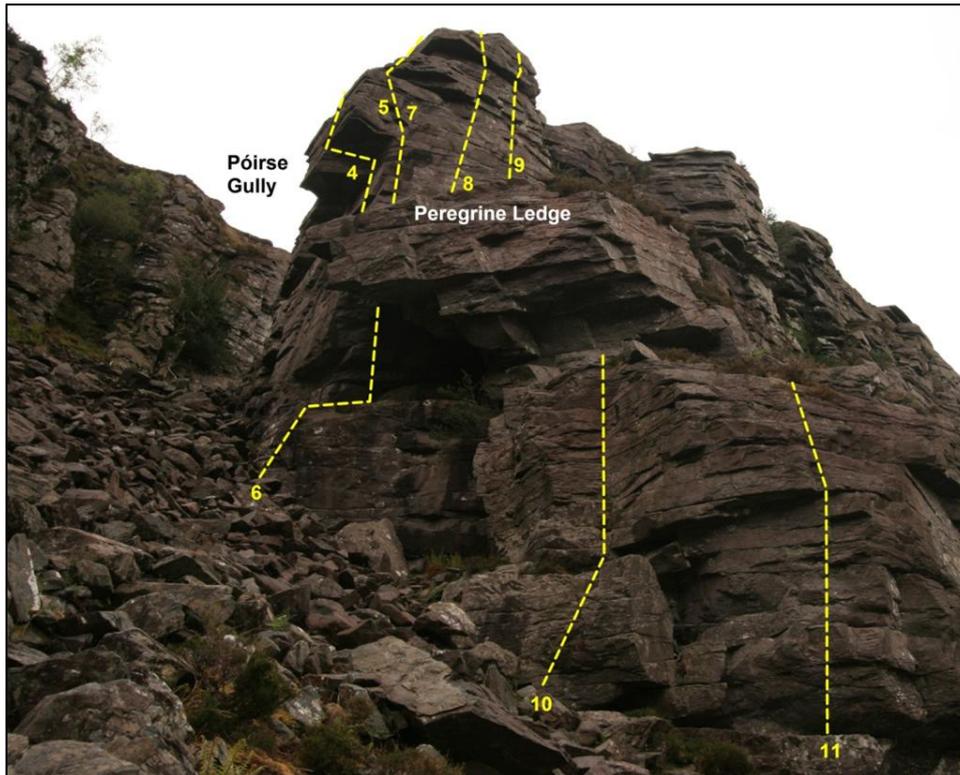
Conditions/Aspect

Seepage is not a big problem. Most routes are south facing, apart from Kestrel Buttress which faces east. Be careful with loose boulders in the gully.

Descent

Descend from the main crag by walking towards the top of the gully and back down around.





- 1. Get A Job** **20m** **VS 4c**
A. Forde, I. Counihan. 02/06/91.
 Start left of Life In Windy Weather. Climb the buttress between that route and a large crack to the left. Enter a left facing groove at half height and finish up easier ground, tending right.
- 2. Life In Windy Weather** **25m** **E1 5b**
A. Forde, N. Gregory. 30/04/90.
 Start at an alcove on the left of the north wall in the middle of Póirse Gully. Climb through the alcove and the overhang above it. Finish through the prominent corner above.
- 3. The Stoop** **30m** **E2 5c**
A. Forde, R. Stack. 07/05/95.
 A fantastic pitch! Start under the block in the overhang. Climb directly up to the right hand edge of the block wedged under the overhang. Traverse left under the block, to a good rest. Then move out right onto the face above the overhang and straight up to the top.
- 4. Air Time** **30m** **E4/5 6a/b**
S. Hennessey
 Start as for The Stoop but head for the higher right hand roof. Arrange gear before going left under the overhang (hard) and finish straight up the headwall above.
- 5. The Muppet Show** **30m** **E1 5b**
D. Tangney, A. Forde. April 1996.
 Start 2m right of The Stoop below a short faint crack. Climb directly up to ledge at 15m. Move right to join Echo Beach and follow this route to finish.

- 6. Peregrine** **12m** **VS 4c**
C. Moriarty I. Counihan. 1990.
 Start at the back of the cave. Climb to the top of the cave facing out, then traverse out and climb up to Peregrine Ledge. Continue up one of the other routes or descend off the ledge.
- 7. Echo Beach** **30m** **E1 4c, 5c**
A. Forde, J. Price. 1985.
 1. (10m) Start as for The Stoop. Climb diagonally up and right to gain Peregrine ledge.
 2. (20m) Climb the arete from the ledge, turning the overhang above on the left before finishing over two easy benches.
- 8. Sun Dogs** **30m** **E1 5b, 5c**
R. Stack [1], A. Forde [2]. 05/05/95.
 1. (10m) Climb the shallow steep groove just left of the obvious cave. Climb straight up to Peregrine Ledge. Belay here. Protection is poor on the first pitch.
 2. (20m) Start 2m right of the 2nd pitch of Echo Beach (where the overhang 2m above fades out). Climb from the ledge to a vertical crack and then to a breach in the first small overhang, move slightly left and then over the top overhang.
- 9. Thank You Ivan, Thank You Lord** **15m** **HVS 5b**
A. Forde, I. Counihan. 30/04/90.
 Start on Peregrine Ledge, from the large chock stone wedged between the face and the ledge. The route takes a direct vertical line to the top from this chock stone.
- 10. Short But Sweet** **8m** **HS 4b**
R. Creagh (Solo). 24/03/11.
 Climb the obvious shallow corner left of Red Dragon.
- 11. Red Dragon** **10m** **VS 4c**
R. Stack, P. Costelloe. 29/09/91.
 Start on the grassy ledge to the right and below Peregrine Ledge, right of the cave with the wedged blocks. Climb the right hand edge of the face to the top.
- 12. Douglas Turd** **7m** **Diff**
I. Counihan, A. Forde. 30/04/90.
 This route is on a small buttress between the forks of the upper Póirse gully. There is a small overhang in the centre of the buttress. Climb the left hand side of the buttress.
- 13. Lord Denning** **7m** **V. Diff**
A. Forde, I. Counihan. 30/04/90.
 Climb the short corner 2m right of Douglas Turd, right of the overhang.

Kestrel Buttress

This buttress is at the top of Póirse Gully and contains the following 4 excellent routes.



1. Púncánach 20m E1 5b

A. Forde, I. Counihan. March 1990.

Climb the prominent crackline on the left of the buttress.

2. Bundánach 20m E2 5c

S. Hennessey

Climb between Púncánach and Kestrel directly to the chains. Gear can be placed left of the line to protect the climbing before the first good break.

3. Kestrel 18m VS 4c

C. Moriarty, D. Mulcahy. 1985.

Climb the striking arete on the right hand side of the face.

4. Midges 15m VS 4c

C. Moriarty, R. Gabbett. 1985.

Around the arete to the right of Kestrel climb the north facing wall to the overhang before swinging around onto the arete to share the same finish as Kestrel.

Hubble

15m

VS 4c

I. Counihan, A. Forde. 30/04/90.

This route is on a small buttress left of Kestrel Buttress. Climb up the centre of the buttress and over the block at the top.

The High Buttress

A fine crag with many good multipitch routes, many of which can be combined to suit the party's ability. Burnt Ledge is the large ledge at the top of the buttress on which sits another small buttress (not visible in topo). Aspen Ledge also sits on top of The High Buttress.

Directions

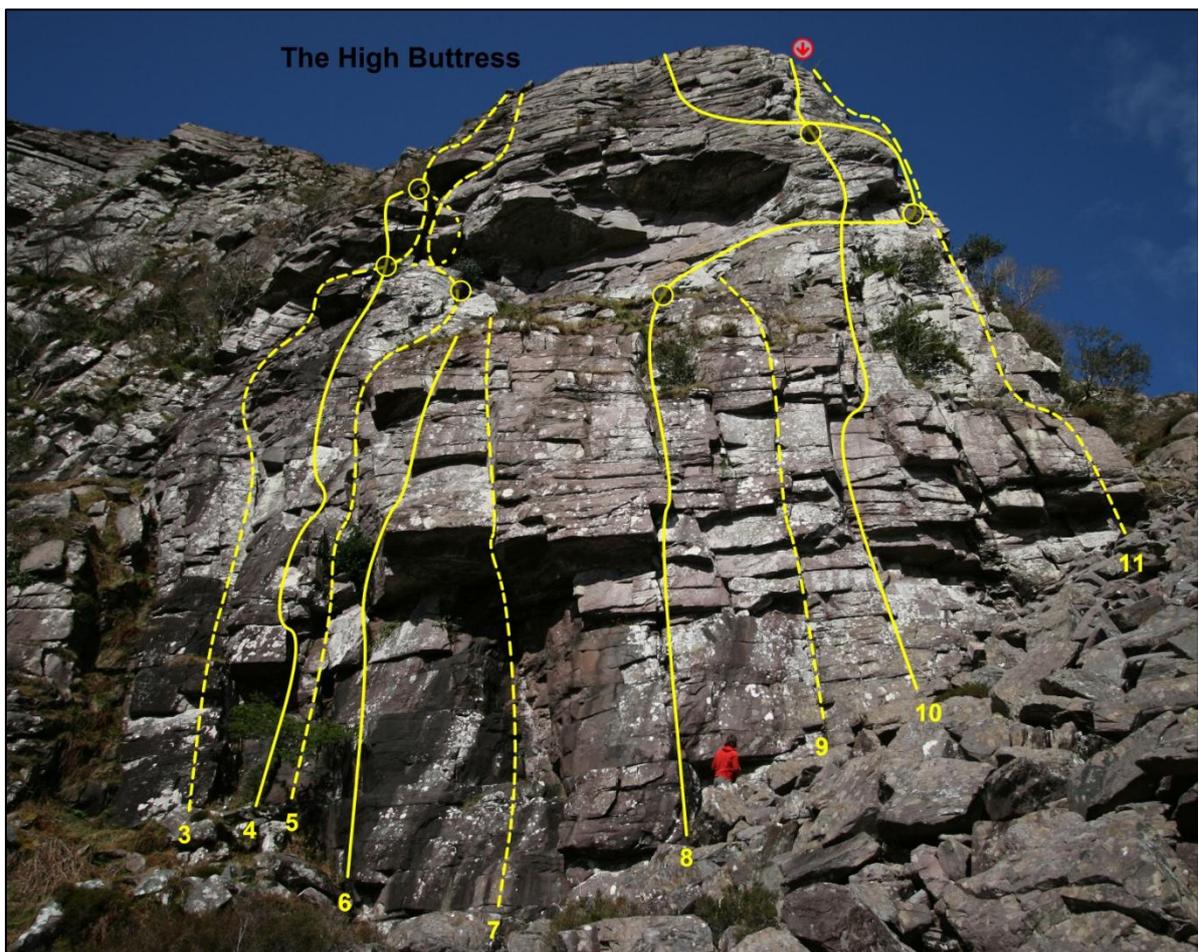
The obvious large crag left of Póirse Gully. Follow the path up and across the scree slopes to the base of the crag. The left of the crag is characterised by the left facing corner with a holly tree in the bottom (first pitch of Seventh Heaven) and the right by the square cut groove of Scairbhín.

Conditions/Aspect

Most routes dry fairly quickly after rain and seepage is minimal. Most routes face east so are in the shade later in the day.

Descent

There are chains for lowering off (double 50m ropes required) on the right (as you look at the crag) side of Burnt Ledge. Chains for lowering off the small buttress above Burnt Ledge.



1. L'orange **20m** **E2 5c/6a**

A. Forde, R. Stack. 18/09/90.

This route is on the extreme left of the buttress. At 15m there is a large detached block / flake below a prominent overhang. Climb directly up to the left hand side of the block and then continue up the crack to the roof. Surmount this and continue more easily to a holly tree belay. Abseil here.

2. Deoch Aimsir **25m** **E1/2 5c**

A. Forde, R. Stack. 17/09/90.

Start right of L'orange. Climb the right hand side of the block, then traverse right under the roof to a large ledge. Move up and left from the ledge (crux) to gain the face above the overhang, continue up to a holly tree, belay here. Abseil or continue up Jamaica Plain or Seventh Heaven.

3. Jamaica Plain **70m HVS 5a, 5a, 4b, 5a**

A. Forde, M. Shea. 1985.

1. (30m) Start 10m left of Seventh Heaven. Climb a corner system moving slightly left and then right, climb a corner to a large ledge below a prominent crack. Belay here.
 2. (7m) Climb the off width crack through the overhang and then move left to a large ledge with a holly tree. Belay here
 3. (20m) Climb the left side of the buttress to Burnt Ledge.
 4. (13m) Start on the left hand edge of the face, climb to an obvious corner / overhang with a large crack, climb about 1m right of the crack to the top (crux).
- Variation On 2nd Pitch (HVS/E1 5b): Instead of climbing the off-width crack, climb the thin line just to the right of it. Gain the sloping ledge and traverse left to finish as for original route. *A. Forde, R. Stack. 18/09/90.*

4. Inferno **35m** **E1 5b, 4c**

A. Forde [1], R. Stack [2]. 15/09/90.

Face and groove between Jamaica Plain and Seventh Heaven.

1. (25m) Climb straight up for about 5m, move out right, then up and left again (to round obvious hard move) and continue straight up to a large ledge.
2. (10m) From the ledge move up and left over an overhang on good holds. Continue up to a holly tree . Abseil or continue up the third pitch of Jamaica Plain.

5. Seventh Heaven **50m** **E1 4c, 5b**

G.Sexton [1], C. Moriarty [2]. 25/08/90.

At the left hand side of the buttress and left of the prominent overhang is a white thorn tree. This route takes the obvious corner above this with initial moves over large overhanging blocks. An excellent route!

1. (25m) Climb the corner directly then beyond a little to where it runs out Belay at an obvious cut holly tree under the large overhang.
2. (25m) Climb the off width crack (as for Jamaica Plain) to the roof, traverse right under the roof to a ledge. From the far end of the ledge, climb straight up to Burnt Ledge.

6. Fir Bolg **20m** **E2 5c/6a**

R. Stack, A. Forde. 18/09/90.

Start 3m right of Seventh Heaven, close to a white thorn bush. Gain a ledge and then a large block/ledge (this ledge is shared with Seventh Heaven). From the ledge make a long reach/jump up and right to gain a large ledge on the outer face. Climb up and right on the outer face to a groove. Continue on easier ground to the large ledge. From the ledge abseil or continue up another route.

7. The Bird **20m** **VS 4c/5a A0**

R. Stack, P. Costelloe. 29/09/90.

Climb to the large roof above a black corner (alcove). Aid climb out through the roof (This may have been freed in the not too distant past).

8. The Unforgettable Fire **73m HVS 4c, 5a, 5a, 4b**

A. Forde, M. Barry. 1985 [1]. C. Moriarty, M. Shea. February 1986 [2, 3, 4].

1. (20m) Climb the obvious centre crack over the overhang to a large grassy ledge.
2. (20m) From the ledge go back to the back wall and traverse right along the obvious rock ramp. Go around the corner and slightly down to gain a shallow steep groove with awkward moves to a large block ledge. Belay here.
3. (20m) Traverse along a ledge over the main roof. Mid way along, climb up the wall between two parallel cracks (bold to start). Climb to Burnt Ledge (sustained), emerging just right of a large boulder.
4. (13m) From Burnt Ledge climb directly up the wall through the obvious weakness in the overhang.

9. Gangster Of Love **20m** **E1 5b**

A. Forde, M Shea. 08/09/90.

Between The Unforgettable Fire and Scairibhín. Climb directly up to a finger crack at 15m. Ascend this and belay at the large ledge above. Be careful of a hollow block near the top, left of the crack.

10. Scairbhín **60m** **E1 5b, 5b**

C. Moriarty, M Shea. 08/09/90.

At the right hand side of the crag, 5m right of The Unforgettable Fire is an obvious open square cut groove, some 5/6m high. This is the start of Scairibhín, an excellent route.

1. (30m) Climb the crack line on the left of the groove to the end of the chimney. Move right and up, to a ledge beneath an overhanging bulge with an obvious weakness (some parties belay here before the crux moves). Climb up the groove onto obvious block ledge.
2. (22m) From this belay ledge climb directly up a shallow rounded groove. Continue up, emerging at the right hand corner of Burnt Ledge.
3. (13m) As for final pitch of The Unforgettable Fire.

Variation To Final Pitch (HS 4b): Climb the right hand side of the top buttress above Burnt Ledge. Climb up 4m and step right onto a large block, then more left onto the face to gain the central crackline. Finish up this crackline. *M. Shea, A. Forde. 08/09/90.*

11. Bimbi Limbo **45m** **HVS 5a**

A. Forde, R. Stack. 18/06/91.

This route takes the extreme right hand side of the buttress, staying right of Scairibhín at all times. Climb the right hand side of the buttress surmounting a small overhang at half height. This route finishes on Burnt Ledge. There are a lot of loose blocks on this climb.

12. J.C.B. **40m** **VS 4c**

D. Commins, M. Leen. 11/05/09.

This is the gully up and to the right of Bimbi Limbo, the one with a small tree stump buried in it. Move up and left onto the side wall and continue up, passing the overhanging block/ledge. From the ledge, stay right of the arete and continue straight up to Burnt Ledge.

Aspen Ledge

Directions

Aspen Ledge is reached from Burnt Ledge. From the left end of the ledge (as you face it) carefully traverse down and left (three bolts for protection if desired; advisable if wet) until at the bottom of a tall clean wall.

Descent

Chains for lowering off the top of Aspen Ledge. 50m ropes will reach the ground from the top of the crag but watch out for the trees.

The Groove **22m** **HVS 5a**

P. Sexton, G. Sexton. Aug 1990.

Climb the obvious crack line on the left hand side of the crag to a large ledge. From the ledge climb a short wall to the top (crux).

An Evening With Nimbus **22m** **E1 5b**

C. Moriarty, P. Sexton. Aug 1990.

From the ledge start on the highest of two boulders. Climb the very centre of the wall over the overhangs.

The Jagged Edge **22m** **E2 5b**

C. Moriarty, P. Sexton. Aug 1990.

Start at the very lowest point of the arete. Climb the arete to the large block ledge. Finish up the short wall to the top. Protection is poor.

Faill Ceoil/White Wall

An impressive section of cliff, dominated on its left hand side by the huge roof of The Sign. The White Wall is the lichen covered wall right of the corner where Meltdown and Kudos start.

Directions

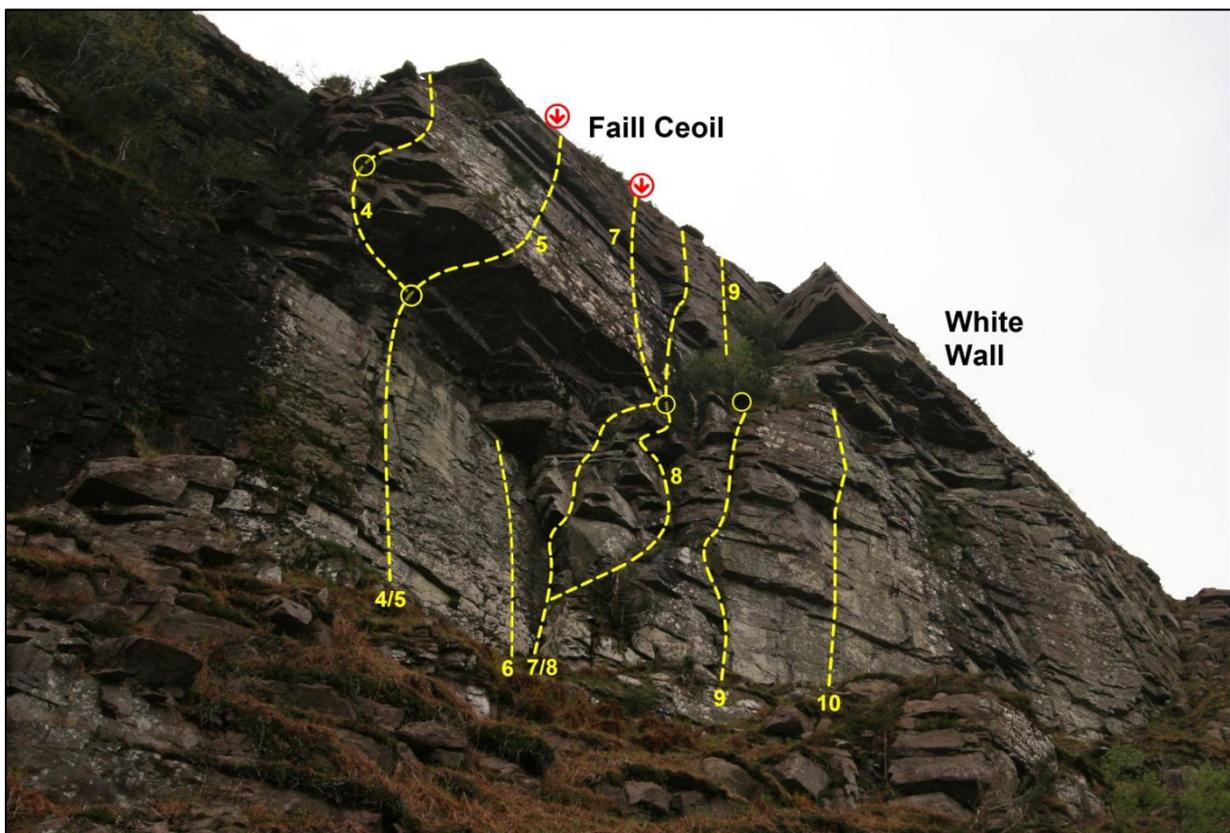
From The High Buttress continue south down the valley and scramble steeply up to the left side of the crag.

Conditions/Aspect

Seepage can be a problem on a lot of the routes here but as with most areas in the Gap, a day or two of dry weather sorts things out well enough.

Descent

There are 2 bolted belay stations above The Sign. It is also possible to walk right (as you face the crag) and down to the base of the crag, or down Póirse Gully.



1. Relics

10m

HS 4b

Rob. Stack, R+G Stack. 14/07/90.

Start 20m from the end of the left hand side of the crag. Climb the obvious crack to the large ledge. Belay here on an oak tree. Abseil from here.

2. Momentary Lapse Of Reason **10m** **HVS 5a**

R. Stack, Rob + G. Stack. 10/09/90.

Start 1.5m to the right of Relics. Climb straight up (right of large shallow scoop) and move slightly left near the top. Belay here on the oak tree. Abseil from here.

3. Gash **35m** **VS 4b**

R. Stack, J. Forde. 13/07/90.

Climb the black steps left of the main overhang (left of ivy), traverse right and up onto a large ledge. From here climb 10m to a large oak tree. Abseil or climb a small chimney on the right to the top.

4. Preacháin **45m** **E2 5b, 5c, 5c**

A. Forde, P. Falvey. 21/04/90.

1. (25m) Start under the left hand end of the main roof. Climb the vertical line towards the left hand end of the roof. 5m from the roof veer left and then traverse to belay on a large block. Protection is poor.

2. (10m) Move left and out from the belay to gain a ledge on the outer face. Climb up on easier ground and belay.

3. (10m) Traverse right from the belay under a small overhang. Gain a crack above the left centre of the overhang and climb above it. Finish easily through a shallow chimney above.

Variation To 1st Pitch (HVS 5a): Start as for Preacháin. Climb up 5m. Take a faint line heading diagonally left, then head straight up to the belay ledge. Protection is poor. *A. Forde, B. Forde. July 1994.*

5. The Sign **55m** **E5 6a (or E2 5b, A2, 5c)**

C. Moriarty, M Shea. 05/08/90.

1. (25m) As for the first pitch of Preacháin.

2. (10m) From the ledge climb up for a few moves and wildly campus (or aid traverse) out right and along the overlap line to a belay at the lip of the roof. There are pegs in place but some of these were rusty looking in 1994.

3. (25m) From the ledge climb the wall directly. A vertical crack tells the way through the overhang to the top.

6. Cranesbill **20m** **HS 4b**

A. Forde, R. Stack. 19/05/95.

Start 3m left of Meltdown. Climb an indistinct line to the left side of the triangular roof (Meltdown goes to the right side). Back climb the route or continue up Meltdown.

7. Meltdown **45m** **HVS 5a, 5b**

A. Forde, A. Devlin. April 1986.

A stunning route, with a wild first pitch and steep juggy crux on the second.

1. (23m) Climb the obvious corner on the right of the face, under the main roof. Climb the crack to a roof, traverse right and up to a small ledge, then climb up and right to a larger ledge with a small holly tree. Belay here.

2. (22m) Climb the obvious line to the break in the overhang, climb this and continue straight up to the top. Lots of cams are required for this climb.

8. Kudos **50m** **VS 4c, 4c**

A. Forde, I. Sheahan. 13/07/96.

Another brilliant route at an amenable grade.

1. (25m) Start as for Meltdown. After 3m move right to a large ledge. Traverse right along the top of the ramp to a vertical fist crack. Climb this and the corner above to under the overhang. Move left and up to a ledge and then right to under the upper overhang (awkward). Move up and left to the meltdown belay ledge (small to medium cams).

2. (25m) From the belay move right and up. Climb the middle of the wide black water streak following ledges and thin cracks and passing a small wedged block immediately to the left. After the wedged block gain the crack system on the right and follow this to under the overhang that crosses the whole face. Step right and the up and left to a good ledge. Follow a curving ramp on the right to a protruding block on the skyline.

9. Bosch **50m** **E1 5b, 4c**

A. Forde, R. Stack. 04/10/97.

1. (25m) Start 5 m right of a holly tree which is close to an arete approx. 3m right of the Meltdown corner. Climb a slightly left-trending crack line to approx. 8m. Step up and right to a corner/crack system which trends slightly right. Belay on a large ledge near some trees.

2. (25m) Climb an obvious corner, then a face avoiding an overhang on the left. From a ledge follow a faint crack line trending right to the top.

10. Name Unknown **40m** **E4 6a**

M. Reardon, E. Kennedy. Summer 2007.

About 5m right of Bosch there's a (unnecessary) bolt below a right facing corner. This route takes a line up this corner, past the bolt. Crux near the beginning, protected by small wire.

11. Surf 350 **25m** **VS 4c**

A. Forde, I. Counihan. 29/04/90.

Obvious right facing corner on the far right hand side of the wall. Climb the corner to the off width crack, continue up and left to finish at a break in the top of the crag.

12. Oh Mercy **25m** **E1 5b**

R. Stack, G. Stack. 14/07/90.

Start 1m right of Surf 350, climb the obvious line to a very small ledge with a small overhang 1m above, climb over the overhang and move slightly left and continue straight to the top.

Ash Valley

This large crag is situated directly behind Cushvally Lake and is rarely climbed on.

Directions

About 300m past the Colleen Bawn house there are some old ruins. Just before the ruins, on the right side of the road, a path leads down to a small foot bridge on the north side of the lake. Walk to the lake and then to the crag. GR: 872863.

Conditions/Aspect

A crag which suffers from seepage and is a bit dirty from lack of use. East facing.

1. The Rooster **30m** **HS 4b**

P. Curtis, P. Spillane. Summer 1994.

This route is on the left hand side of the buttress. Start in the obvious groove, climb to the ledge and proceed left (crux) and up.

2. Time Bandits **50m** **E2 5c**

D. Tangney, A. Forde.

1. (25m) Start at shallow corner 2m left of Coladh Sámh. Climb corner and move slightly right to small ledge. Move left and climb wall with square cut hole (crux) and continue up to holly tree belay.
2. (25m) Climb slightly left to within one meter of small overhang. Traverse right to good holds and straight up to wedged block. Climb this on left side (crux) to a good belay ledge.

3. Coladh Sámh **50m** **E1 5b, 5b, A1**

C. Moriarty, D. Murphy. 06/05/90.

1. (20m) Start at the left hand end of the arch, climb the corner and continue straight to the ledge (ash tree).
2. Climb straight up a thin crack, one aid point (small wire) to some green shaded rock above. Move slightly right and up to obvious overhanging corner left of the main overhang - hanging belay.
3. Climb the overhang (one aid point) and straight to the top.

4. A Spectacle For Swans **58m** **E2 5c**

C. Moriarty, M McGillicuddy. August 1986.

1. (50m) Under the highest point of the crag is a curved roof (arch), about 4m off the ground. This route climbs into the corner 6m right of this. Climb on good holds into the obvious corner and beyond to the small right angled roof (25m). Climb through this and up over a ledge system, to a belay stance under the final overhang, underneath an obvious 'v' in the sky line. Protection is poor on this pitch.
2. (8m) From the stance climb through the 'v'.

5. River Run

25m

E2 5c

A. Forde, D. Tangney. April 1998.

Start 25m right of A Spectacle for Swans. Climb black wall to obvious narrow chimney. Climb this (crux) straight up to holly tree belay. Abseil from tree.

Auger Lake Crag

There has been more recent development around the crags behind Auger Lake. Not much information is available on these crags yet apart from a few pictures floating around in cyberspace on climbing.ie. The grid reference is 874857. Go explore.

Overhang Crag

A small, steep crag west of the Turnpike Rocks.

Directions

Park 100m before or after the Turnpike Rocks. The crag is visible across the valley, about 250m away. GR: 874855.

Conditions/Aspect

One face faces south, the other east. No seepage.

Descent

Walk back and left (as you face the crag) for a few hundred metres before a safe descent can be made down to the level of the crag.



1. Minians Call 8m HVS 5b

D. Duggan, R. Creagh. 16/04/11.

Climb the obvious crack on the south face of the buttress. Short but steep.

2. Airy Fairy 8m VS 4c

R. Creagh, D. Duggan. 16/04/11.

Start as for Minians Call. Get gear in the horizontal break and traverse right to a stance on the arete. Climb this to the top.

Jigsaw Wall

A more recently developed crag with some of the hardest routes in the Gap. Most of the routes are short but quite steep and take aesthetic lines on excellent rock.

Directions

Park on the left just after the turnpike rocks. The crag is mostly hidden from view at the road and lies up on the right (west) side of the valley. It is reached by crossing the river and walking up and left (less than 10 minutes). GR: 873853.

Conditions/Aspect

The crag seeps a lot so wait a day or two after rain. North facing so bring plenty of layers.

Descent

Chains for lowering off most routes. Otherwise walk right (as you face the crag) and down.



1. Richard's Route

9m

Severe

R. Creagh (Solo). 25/03/11.

Scramble up to the base of a slab around the left corner of the crag. Climb the centre of the slab.

2. Pink Moon

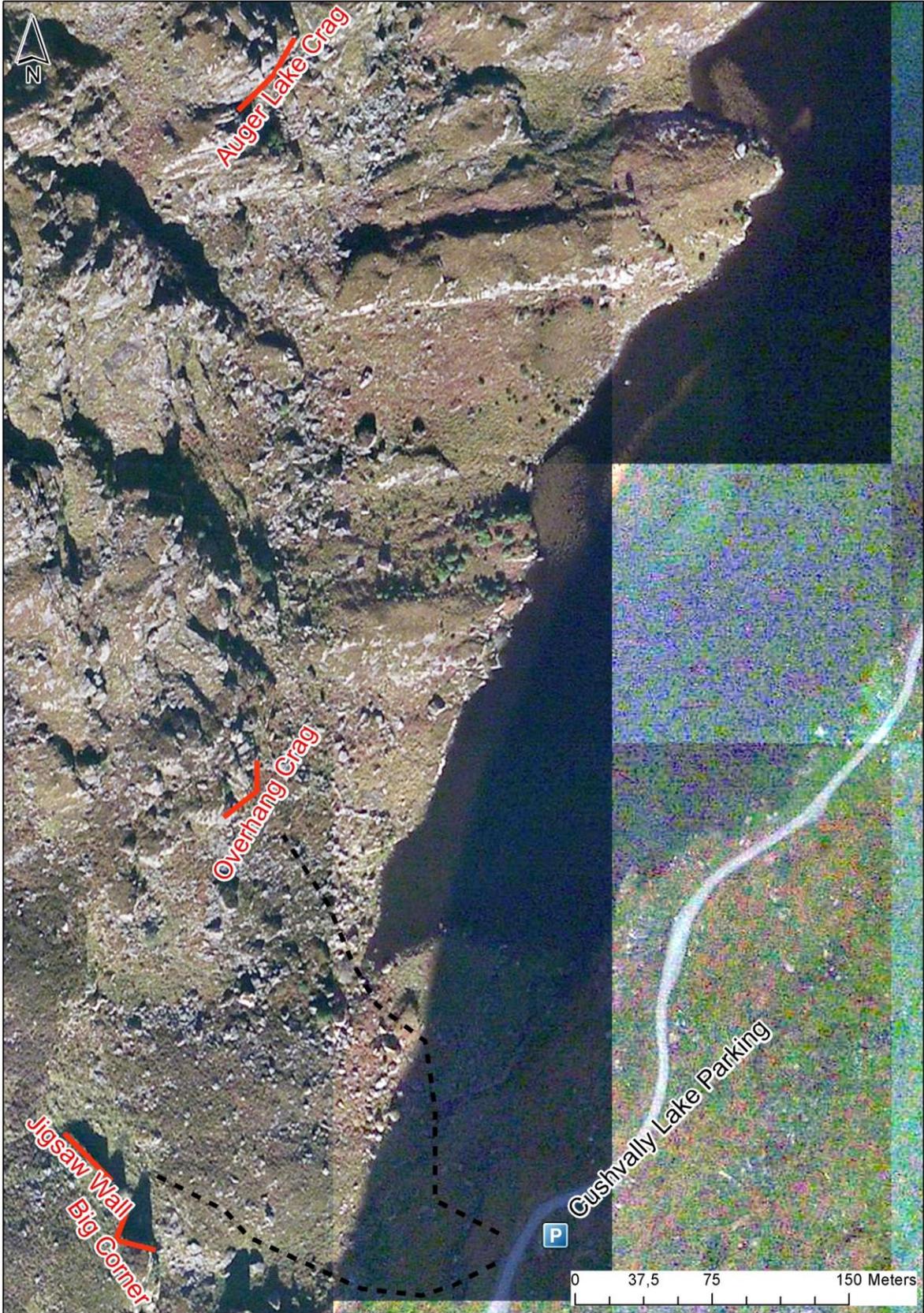
9m

HVS 5a

R. Creagh, D. Duggan, 16/04/11.

Climb the face left of the obvious wide crack.

- | | | |
|--|------------|--------------|
| 3. Name Unknown
??? | 9m | HS 4b |
| The obvious wide crack on the left of the crag. | | |
| 4. Name Unknown
??? | 10m | VS 5a |
| Start 2m right of a large crack. Climb the faint crack to a block, move left onto a large and finish up the corner. A long reach helps at the start. | | |
| 5. Name Unknown
??? | 10m | E4 6a |
| Start as for 4 and finish boldly up the blunt arete. | | |
| 6. Name Unknown
??? | 18m | E4 6a |
| Start as for 4 and continue rightwards across the crag along the crack systems, finishing up Mighty Mouse. A very pumpy route! | | |
| 7. Hawker
<i>S. Hennessey</i> | 12m | E2 5c |
| A brilliant line, taking the obvious splitter crack on the left of the crag. Hard to start. | | |
| 8. Wicked Wock
<i>S. Hennessey</i> | 12m | E3 6a |
| Another stunning route, taking the next splitter crack and finishing up left. | | |
| 9. Name Unknown
<i>K. Power</i> | 12m | E5 6a |
| Start up Wickety Wock but at the start of the traverse head straight up to the chains. | | |
| 10. Mighty Mouse
<i>S. Hennessey</i> | 10m | E1 5c |
| Climb the obvious fingers to hands crack on the right side of the crag. | | |



Further South...

There is more climbing further south, with a few routes worthy of note.

Black Dynamite

25m

E5 4b, 6b

D. Duggan [2], R. Creagh [1]. 16/04/11 (one wire pre-placed on first ascent).

Left of Richard's Route at Jigsaw Wall is a black corner under a large roof. The second pitch starts here. The first can be done independently. An onsight of the route would be quite bold.

1. (10m) Abseil in from the corner (or walk around to bottom), down the black, right-facing corner with a monster crack. Climb this (a solo without size 5 or above cams) back up to the original corner.

2. (15m) Start in the right hand of 2 corners and climb easily up to the roof (good wire in small crack on left side of roof). Pull out through the roof with a strenuous sequence and gradually fight your way up the blunt arete to a good hold above the lip. Finish easier.

Echinacea

25m

E3 5c

E. Kennedy, D. Duggan. 17/04/10.

This route takes a steep crackline south of Jigsaw Wall that is best seen from the grassy slope near Richard's Route (see photo on page 6). Unfortunately it is often wet.

Start in the corner left of the upper crack and follow it to the roof (Escape left possible at HS). From here move airily out right and follow the crack to the top left hand side of the cliff.

Glas Lough Crag

From the lay-by at the head of the Gap head up the track towards Purple Mountain. After about 15 minutes the crags appear on the right. The rock looks broken on most of these cliffs with few very obvious lines. There is a rowan tree near the river towards the north end of the crag. Head straight towards the wall from this tree.

Strange Creation

12m

HVS 5a

R. Creagh, D. Dineen, 22/05/10.

Near the wall there is a small arch created by 2 blocks. Just right of this a thin, broken, right-trending crack starts. Start here and follow the crack until you can gain the ramp. Go right up this for 2m and then straight up under a thin, closed crack further up. Exit right (loose).

