

THE BEST MOUNTAIN, CRAG, SEA CLIFF & SPORT CLIMBING IN SCOTLAND

SCOTTISH ROCK

VOLUME 2 NORTH

2ND EDITION

- 12 ISLE OF SKYE
- 13 APPLECROSS
- 14 TORRIDON
- 15 GAIRLOCH
- 16 COIGACH & ASSYNT
- 17 SUTHERLAND
- 18 CAITHNESS
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- 21 ORKNEY

Gary Latter

ABOUT SCOTTISH ROCK

If you have an ambition to do all the climbs in these two Scottish Rock guides I think you'd better schedule time off in your next life. This labour of Gary's has been of gargantuan proportions. Somewhere along the way he encountered a time warp and an initial target of 1,000 climbs over a period of two years stretched to 4,500 in over a decade. Those of you who use the guides will benefit by this dedication and the sheer choice offered; if you divide the retail price of these by the number of good routes you'll realise you've got a bargain.

Volume 1 covers a proliferation of Scottish crags up to the natural demarcation of the Great Glen. They are easier of access than most in **Volume 2** and present infinite variety. Inevitably, with the march of time, progress and technique the freeing of many aid routes has come to pass and also the somewhat tedious task of cleaning on abseil has resulted in some way-out excursions being revealed. Creag an Dubh-loch is a typical example.

I have been a long-time advocate of selected climbs and the use of photographs to illustrate both climbs and action. I'm glad that this principle has been used throughout these two volumes. It gives you a push to get up and do things. Obviously Gary has had considerable time to think about layout, area intros, etc; this has been achieved with commendable clarity and lack of waffle.

The Outer Hebrides receives due attention, such as the idyllic rock playground of the Barra isles; summer sun, surf and delectable Lewisian gneiss. Just a wee way north, in North Harris, some of the intimidating routes at Sron Ulladale have, like Prometheus of legend, been freed of rock attachments. Further north, beyond the magic of Skye, in the Northern Isles even more crags are revealed such as Berry Head and St John's Head. Here at this latitude in the simmer dim you can really rock around the clock! The list seems endless and if you succeed in doing half of them you'll be a much better climber and know a lot more about Scotland – have a good decade!

HAMISH MACINNES

UIAA PARTICIPATION STATEMENT

"Climbing and mountaineering are activities with a danger of personal injury or death. Participants in these activities should be aware of and accept these risks and be responsible for their own actions and involvement."

INTERNATIONAL GRADE COMPARISON CHART

UK ADJECTIVE	UK TECHNICAL	FRENCH	AMERICAN	AUSTRALIAN	UIAA*
Easy					I
Moderate		F1	5.1	4	II
Difficult		F2	5.2	6	
Very Difficult		F2+	5.3	8	III
		F3-	5.4		III+
					IV
Severe	4a	F3	5.5	10	IV+
HS	4b	F3+	5.6	12	V-
					V
VS	4c	F4	5.7	14	V+
			5.8		
				16	VI-
HVS	5a	F5	5.9	18	VI
		F5+	5.10a		
					VI+
E1	5b	F6a			
E2	5c	F6a+	5.10b	19	VII-
			5.10c	20	
		F6b	5.10d	21	VII
E3		F6b+	5.11a	22	VII+
		F6c	5.11b		
					VIII-
E4	6a	F6c+	5.11c	23	VIII
		F7a	5.11d	24	
E5		F7a+	5.12a	25	VIII+
	6b	F7b	5.12b	26	IX-
E6		F7b+	5.12c	27	IX
		F7c	5.12d	28	IX+
E7	6c	F7c+	5.13a	29	X-
		F8a	5.13b	30	X
E8		F8a+	5.13c	31	X+
		F8b	5.13d	32	
	7a	F8b+	5.14a	33	XI-
E9		F8c	5.14b	34	XI
E10		F8c+	5.14c	35	XI+
	7b	F9a	5.14d	36	
		F9a+	5.15a		

* Union Internationale des Associations d'Alpinisme

The UK trad grading system gives an adjective and a technical grade. The adjectival grade gives an idea of the overall difficulty, a measure of how sustained the climbing and of how well protected it is. The technical grade is the difficulty of the hardest move or short section on the climb.

OVERVIEW MAP



BENCHMARK GRADES

Below is a table of 'benchmark routes' typifying the classic route of any particular grade, with routes considered mild, standard and hard within that grade.

	MILD	STANDARD	HARD		MILD	STANDARD	HARD
M	Curved Ridge	Collié's Route	Afterthought Arête	E2	The Pillar	Steeple	Shibboleth & True Finish
	A'Chir Ridge	Dubhs Ridge	Pygmy Ridge		Torro	Club Crack	The Bat
	Broad Buttress	East Ridge, In Pin	Castle Ridge		Geriatrics	Plague of Blazes	Swastika
D	Tower Ridge	The Gutter	The Great Ridge	E3	Cougar	Temple of Doom	Quality Street
	North Buttress	Final Selection	Quiver Rib		Ruff Licks	Delayed Attack	Dream Ticket
		Clach Glas-Bla Bheinn			Crackattack	Titan's Wall	Edgehog
VD	North-East Buttress	Agag's Groove	Cioch Nose	E4	Freak-Out	Osiris	Cupid's Bow
	Observatory Ridge	Squareface	Savage Slit		Rat Race	Mother's Pride	The Banana Groove
	Tystie Slab	Sou'wester Slabs	Arrow Route		The Fuhrer	Sugar Cane Country	Voyage of the Beagle
S	Great Ridge Direct Start	January Jigsaw	Integrity	E5	Lady Charlotte	Thor	Cosmopolitan
	Cioch West	Archer Ridge Direct	Eagle Ridge		Rest and be Thankful	Ling Dynasty	Slartibartfast
	North Face Route	Punster's Crack	Ardenriekie Wall		The Risk Business	The Raven	Agrippa
VS	Butterknife	Spartan Slab	Whither Wether	E6	Edge of Extinction	Cannibal	Wild Country
	The Clean Sweep	The Long Climb	Djibangi		The Improbability Drive	The Bonxie	Kelpie
	Rainmaker	South Ridge Direct	The Chasm		Flodden	Major-domo	The Screaming Abdabs
HVS	Route Two	The Magic Crack	The Bullroar	E7	Buddha	Romantic Reality	The Realm of the Senses
	The Snake	Bludger's Revelation	Centurion		The Scoop	Aphrodite	Longhope Route
	Vulcan Wall	Storm	A Likely Story		Dalriada	Arcadia	Fascist Groove Thang
E1	Minus One Direct	The Big Top	Yo-Yo				
	Dragon	Unicorn	The Needle				
	Trophy Crack	Grey Panther	King Cobra				

VOLUME 1 SOUTH

- 01 ISLE OF ARRAN
- 02 THE ARROCHAR ALPS
- 03 ISLE OF MULL
- 04 GLEN COE & GLEN ETIVE
- 05 ARDGOUR
- 06 ARDNAMURCHAN
- 07 GLEN NEVIS
- 08 BEN NEVIS
- 09 CENTRAL HIGHLANDS
- 10 CAIRNGORMS
- 11 EASTER ROSS

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Pesda Press LTD

SCOTTISH ROCK

**VOLUME 2 NORTH
2ND EDITION**

Second Edition 2014

First published in Great Britain 2009 by Pesda Press

Tan y Coed Canol, Ceunant,

Caernarfon, Gwynedd

LL55 4RN

Wales

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ISBN 978-1-906095-46-8

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Maps by Bute Cartographics.

Printed and bound in Poland, www.lfbookservices.co.uk

Gary Latter

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📷 Karin Magog on the steep Cross-Eyed up the edge of The Leaning Block, Rubha Coigeach, Reiff, Coigach & Assynt with the Assynt hills presenting a stunning backdrop.

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SCOTTISH ROCK

The area covered by this book, the Highlands and Islands, lies entirely to the north of the Highland Boundary Fault. With its mountain landscapes, deep glens, lochs, rivers and hundreds of islands, it represents one of the most extensive and least populated semi-natural areas remaining in Western Europe. Scotland can also lay claim to the only true areas of 'wilderness' remaining in Britain, with vast tracts of uninhabited areas in the far North West, and the similarly wild and unspoilt high arctic plateaux of the Cairngorm massif. Often, by choosing your venue carefully, it is possible not just to avoid queues but to have whole mountains to yourself.

Within this incredibly varied setting can be found stunning examples of every sub-sport that rock climbing has evolved. In UK terms, we have the longest mountain routes (such as *The Long Climb* on Ben Nevis); the biggest sea cliffs (St John's Head, Hoy), which also

harbour the only multi-day big wall route in the country – the 23 pitch *Longhope Route*; the steepest cliff (Sron Ulladale, Harris). But size isn't everything. In contrast, a myriad of miniature sport routes have appeared in recent years, together with a resurgence of interest in outcrop climbing in general. There has also been the opening up of some wonderfully situated bouldering venues, together with exquisite deep-water soloing on a few esoteric locations.

This book is intended as a celebration of the wealth and variety of great climbing that Scotland has to offer. The selection of routes should have something for everyone, from the athlete to the aesthete. Climbing in Scotland is about more than the rock alone; there is the magnificent and awe-inspiring scenery, the sense of history, the wide open spaces, the clean fresh air and the possibility of solitude.

USING THE GUIDE

All the areas covered are described as approaching from the south, where the majority of visitors originate. Similarly, the routes are also laid out in the order they are encountered from the approach. Each area has an introduction outlining the style of climbing, together with detailed up-to-date information on **Accommodation** and **Amenities** – in short everything the visitor requires to familiarise themselves with an area. Each cliff or crag is described in summary, together with specific **Access**, **Approach** and **Descent** details clearly laid out. In addition, maps and photo-diagrams illustrate further. Routes are given an overall technical grade alongside the adjectival grade, with the individual pitch grades incorporated within the description. The abbreviations **FA** and **FFA** refer to the first ascent and first free ascent respectively. **PA** refers to the number of points of aid used on the first ascent. There are very few routes containing aid in this book, though in some instances the use of a couple of points of aid may give a more

consistent route, and an alternative grade is offered. On a few harder routes, usually unrepeatable, rest points were used and this is mentioned in the hope of encouraging subsequent free ascents. **PR** and **PB** refer to peg runner and belay respectively; **F** and **R** to friends and rocks; **BB** and **LO** refer to bolt belays and lower-offs on the sport crags. **TIC** stands for Tourist Information Centre; **ATM** for Automated Teller Machine.

You should have the relevant Ordnance Survey 1:50,000 map and, particularly for the remoter mountain crags, knowledge of how to use a map and compass is assumed. The middle of the Cairngorms or the top of Ben Nevis is not the place to attempt to learn to navigate. The Grid Reference and Altitude refers to the base of the cliff or crag. The approach times quoted are intended as a general guide (racing greyhounds and ramblers/tortoises can make their own adaptations accordingly), along the lines of Naismith's Rule (4.5km per hour and one minute for every 10m of ascent).

I have attempted to consult as many active climbers in Scotland as possible to get a broad range of opinions and a consensus on grades and quality, but the final selection of routes is a personal one. For instance, not all the routes are on immaculate rock, with some of the older routes in the traditional character-building mode. Jim Bell's famous adage, "*Any fool can climb good rock. It takes craft and cunning to get up vegetatious schist or granite.*" may be worth bearing in mind.

ACCOMMODATION

Information on a range of budget accommodation is included for each area, from camp sites and youth hostels to private bunkhouses. There are also a number of well-situated mountaineering club huts in all the main mountain areas. These are available for booking by members of the MC of S, the BMC and affiliated clubs. In addition, Tourist Information Centres (**TICs**) are detailed at the start of each main area. These are a good source of information on bed and breakfast, guest house and hotel accommodation. Each area tourist board publishes a **Local Accommodation and Visitor Guide** annually, and these are available free of charge by calling or writing to the respective offices.

EATING OUT

One important point worth bearing in mind, (especially for those used to continental and transatlantic hospitality) is that the majority of Scotland still lurks in the dark ages when it comes to the service industry. Most pubs only serve food over a short period at lunchtime; often 12–2pm, and more importantly, the majority of pubs and hotels stop serving food at 9pm, some at 8pm even! I've had the misfortune to turn up at a restaurant/pub in Skye (in July, the height of the tourist season) to be informed "*We're not serving food: the chef's on his lunch*" – unbelievable. Establishments that are particularly good and worth seeking out are highlighted within the introductory section of each relevant chapter.

ACCESS

The **Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003** gives statutory access rights to most land and inland water. These rights exist only if exercised responsibly by respecting the privacy, safety and livelihoods of others and by looking after the environment. The Scottish Outdoor Access Code provides detailed guidance on the responsibilities of those exercising access rights and those managing land and water.

- **Take responsibility** for your own actions and act safely.
- **Respect people's** privacy.
- **Assist land** managers to work safely and effectively.
- **Care for** the environment and take any litter home.
- **Keep all** dogs under proper control.
- **Take extra** care if organising an event or running a business.

WILD CAMPING

In the rural areas it is often possible to camp at the side of the road. If in doubt, ask permission locally from farmers and crofters. Remember, lighting fires is illegal (not to mention unnecessary) and remove all litter. It should almost always be possible to camp in the hills, except perhaps in some areas during the stalking season.

CARAVANS

Those wishing to bring caravans please don't – go to the Lakes, the Borders or some other rolling hills well away from the Highlands and Islands. Even better, stay at home and play tiddlywinks or golf, or take up macramé or embroidery or some other suitably sedate pastime. Alternatively, travel under the cover of darkness, preferably at 3am on a Sunday morning.

BIRDS

Some of the sea cliffs are affected by nesting seabirds and should be avoided during the nesting season of April – July inclusive. Almost all birds, their nests and eggs are protected. The proliferation of guano on such cliffs makes it in the climber's interest to choose another venue. In particular, some popular routes, such as the *Old Man of Stoer* and *Hoy*, have the occasional fulmar nest

on ledges, and it is definitely in the climber's interest to avoid close encounters, as they have the nasty habit of vomiting semi-digested fish oil onto uninvited visitors. It should still, however, be possible to climb these routes during the nesting season. In the unlikely event of coming across birds of prey (especially peregrine falcons, golden or white tailed sea eagles – all Schedule 1 birds) choose another route or cliff. It is an offence, under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, to disturb any Schedule 1 bird, with fines of up to £5,000 and possible imprisonment. Their continued existence is surely more important than another tick in the guidebook? Information on current restrictions is available from the Mountaineering Council of Scotland (☎ 01738 638227; www.mcofs.org.uk).

SEASONAL RESTRICTIONS

The grouse shooting season is from 12 August (the 'glorious' twelfth) – 10 December and deer from 1 July – 20 October for stags and 21 October – 15 February for hinds. There are few crags or cliffs included where access problems have been encountered in the past. A caring, responsible attitude towards parking, litter, conservation and a polite approach to landowners should ensure that the present situation continues. If any difficulties are encountered, contact the Access and Conservation Officer of the Mountaineering Council for Scotland (☎ 01738 638227; www.mcofs.org.uk). No commercial stalking takes place on National Trust for Scotland properties (such as Glen Coe and Torridon), ensuring access at all times.

DIRECTIONS

All directions (left and right) are given for climbers facing the crag, except in descent. Any ambiguous descriptions also include a compass point, but if you don't know your left from your right, chances are you won't have a clue where the North Pole lies.

CONSERVATION

Try to adopt a minimum impact approach at all times, leaving the place as you would like to find it. Approaches to some of the cliffs can be greatly aided by the use of bicycles. Their use should be restricted to solid paths

such as private and forest roads or rights of way, not soft paths and open hillsides where considerable erosion can occur. Where there is a substantial time-saving advantage, such information is included in the approach information. Where repeated abseils from trees is the norm (such as on Creag Dhubh), slings and karabiners or maillons have been left in place, and their use is encouraged to prevent ringing of the bark, leading to the eventual demise of the trees. Always park with consideration for others, and avoid damage to fences and walls. And of course, as the country code stresses, avoid 'interfering' with animals (Aberdonians and Rick Campbell take note!). Do not leave any litter, including food scraps, finger tape, chalk wrappers and cigarette ends and remove any left by others. Bury or burn toilet paper. Scratching arrows or names at the base of routes can clearly be viewed in a modern light as nothing short of vandalism. Established markings are mentioned to aid identification, and it is hoped no further additions will be thought necessary. Many of the areas covered are within National Scenic Areas (NSA), National Nature Reserves (NNR) and Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), controlling development and ensuring the retention and preservation of the natural environment.

ETHICS

The vast majority of routes included are in the traditional or adventure mould, where there is little or no protection in situ. The following policy statement on bolts has been drawn up by the Mountaineering Council of Scotland, after consultation with all interested parties.

"The MC of S acknowledge that there is a place for bolts in the future development of Scottish climbing. However, to ensure that the highly regarded ethos of, and future development of, traditional climbing (involving the use of leader-placed and second-removed protection) is not threatened, it is felt that the use of bolts should be limited to the production of sport climbs. There should be no retrospective bolting of established climbs for protection or belays, and there should be no minimalist bolting.

"The production of sport climbs with bolts is acceptable on natural rock only when all the following conditions have been satisfied:

- 1 *On low-lying cliffs, provided that such development is not against the wishes of the landowner. Bolts are inappropriate on mountain cliffs and sea cliffs.*
- 2 *On routes where natural protection is absent or is inadequate for the repeated falls that such routes necessitate.*
- 3 *Where the rock is steep and provides climbs of a high order of difficulty, at the forefront of developments of the day.*
- 4 *Where there is no historical or anti-bolt ethic.*

"Concerning quarried rock, it is felt that any future development should only be constrained by points 2 and 4 above. Finally, it is felt that bolts should be located to ensure minimum visual impact and should be placed according to current best practices. It is intended that these principles are not seen as simply restrictive rules, but as a guide to promote the positive development of Scottish climbing, where sport climbing, rather than a substitute for traditional climbing, grows alongside it."

STYLE, PEGS & IN SITU PROTECTION

"Ethics change the experience for others, style only changes your own personal experience."

The use of chalk is no longer a burning issue.

Nevertheless, its use should be kept to a minimum, hopefully only on extremes. Chalk has been spotted on descent routes (I kid you not) and on VDiffs, such as *Agag's Groove*, which must be an ultimate low point. Hold improvement is unacceptable on natural rock. If you can't climb a piece of rock with the holds available, leave it unclimbed rather than resort to the hammer and chisel. The use of hammered nuts should be discouraged, as their rapid deterioration soon blocks the placement possibilities for subsequent ascensionists.

Whilst the style a route is climbed in is a personal one, I feel obliged to make a few comments. The use of 'rest points' (i.e. aid) and prior top-roping should be reserved

for routes that are pushing new frontiers. It is true to say that such tactics percolate downwards. Try to give the rock a fighting chance, and approach the route on its own terms, in accordance with local practices. The majority of active pioneers in Scotland have attempted to push standards, and many very audacious leads have been achieved on-sight or ground up.

QUALITY ASSESSMENT

I had originally intended to adopt the Farquhar rating system, with its two extremes of PS and FB, but as hopefully there are no 'pure sh~@t' routes herein (unless included for historical interest, or to aid in crag descriptions) and masses of '#µ©k*~g brilliant' routes, I have decided to opt for the conventional star rating system, with three star routes being of truly outstanding quality. As the climbing in Scotland is clearly superior to anything south of the border, a few exceptional routes have the honour of four stars. These are absolute 'must do's' that would rate amongst the best anywhere on the planet, such is their undeniable brilliance. On a few isolated routes, a wire brush symbol denotes that the route may require prior cleaning in its present state, and the stars assume the route is in a clean state. These are routes which were originally climbed following cleaning on abseil, but at the time of writing have not had much repeat traffic, and may require a quick abseil with a wire brush prior to an ascent.

CLIMATE

"They'll all be doing them when the sun comes out."

— Don Whillans.

The Highlands and Islands are dominated by the prevailing southwesterly winds, bringing moist and usually mild air from the Atlantic. In addition, many of the Atlantic depressions pass close to or over Scotland. *"It always rains up there"* is a commonly held myth. It is easy at first sight to confuse a map of annual rainfall with that of a relief map, for the two are closely linked. The wettest belt extends from the Cowal peninsula (south and west of Arrochar) in a broad band as far as the hills just south of Torridon. In the mountains an

annual precipitation of between 200–300cm and more is the norm, these dreich figures dropping markedly to 150–200cm on the coastal fringe. Within this broad belt there is much variation. As an example, at Dundonnell at the head of Little Loch Broom the annual rainfall is 180cm; 10km south it is 250cm, and 10km further north in Ullapool the average is 120cm.

The coastal promontories, especially in the north, and the Outer Hebrides receive only 100–150cm. Similarly, low ground around the Cairngorms and the eastern edge of the Central Highlands (such as Craig a Barns and The Pass of Ballater) benefit from the rain shadow effect of the hills further west (70–90cm). The higher ground in the Cairngorms receive around half the precipitation than the hills just in from the main Atlantic seaboard, with an average of 225cm recorded on Cairn Gorm summit. Lying in the centre of the country, their climate is more continental, with warmer summers than on the coasts. Many districts in the north and east have, on average over the four summer months from May–August, a total rainfall of less than 25cm, comparing favourably with the drier parts of England. Throughout the country the driest and sunniest period is from mid-May to the end of June, the next driest from mid-September to mid-October.

In the Outer Hebrides gales are recorded on over 40 days of the year, and in the Northern Isles this figure is even greater, though most of these occur in the winter. Prolonged spells of strong wind are uncommon between May and August. Especially in the Western Isles and along the west coast, May is the sunniest month, closely followed by June. April is sunnier than the popular holiday months of July and August. The temperatures on the west coast and the islands are generally a couple of degrees cooler than inland, with the Northern Isles a couple of degrees cooler again. Finally, in midsummer there is no complete darkness in the north of Scotland, with Shetland receiving about 4 hours more daylight (including twilight) than London.

TIDAL INFORMATION

In general, the tide ebbs and flows twice daily. As a rough guide, the tide takes 6 hours to come in, spends a half an hour 'on the turn', then 6 hours to recede, before repeating the same process. Spring tides occur after a new and full moon, and have the greatest amplitude. Tide tables are published annually for specific areas and are available from yacht chandlers and in many newsagents, or from harbour offices.

WEATHER INFORMATION

Both quality Scottish daily newspapers, **The Herald** and **The Scotsman**, publish detailed forecasts, including synoptic charts, and a hillwalking forecast appears in **The Scotsman** on a Saturday. **Scotland on Sunday** also has a similarly detailed 36-hour forecast and a forecast for the coming week, including specific mountain, coastal and sailing conditions. There are a multitude of recorded weather forecasts, including Weathercall, providing a daily or 5-day outlook. Grampian & East Highlands ☎ 09014 722 074. West Highlands & Islands ☎ 09014 722 075. Caithness, Sutherland, Orkney & Shetland ☎ 09014 722 076. Calls cost 60p per minute. Scottish Television broadcast Scottish Weather forecasts at 1.30pm, 6.28pm and 9.28pm; Radio Scotland (810 AM; 92–95 FM) has detailed outdoor forecasts at 6.28am, 5.58pm and 11.55pm; there is a **Forecast for Outdoor Activities** with detailed conditions for climbers and hillwalkers at 6.58pm on weekday evenings, and at 7.00am and 6.25pm on a Saturday. Many of the better climbing shops in mountain areas display a 72-hour MetFax mountain weather forecast, as do Glenmore Lodge (☎ 01479 861256).

WEE BASTARDS

Little biting creatures, which the vast majority of tourist-orientated brochures and guidebooks fail to mention, can make a massive difference to one's stay in the Highlands and Islands. Of the thirty-four species of biting midge



For even more information, resources and a bibliography, visit www.scottishrock.co.uk

found in Scotland, only four or five species bite humans. By far the worst and most prevalent, accounting for more than 90 percent of all bites to humans is the female of the species *Culicoides impunctatus*, or the Highland Midge. This voracious creature first makes its appearance around the end of May and can persist until the end of September in a mild summer, with early June through to August being the worst periods. They are particularly active on still, cloudy or overcast days, especially twilight (which lasts throughout the night in Scotland in summer). Wind speeds above a slight breeze force them to seek shelter. Mosquitoes and blackfly are less of a problem, though the cleg (or horsefly) feeds mainly during warm bright days. Finally, sheep or deer ticks, small black or brown round-bodied members of the genus *arachnid* rest on vegetation, awaiting a host. The tick sinks its head into the victim's flesh, until it eventually swells up and drops off. Do not pull off, unless with tweezers, as this will leave behind the pincers or mouth-parts. Instead, apply alcohol or insect repellent. There is a multitude of insect repellent commercially available, most containing varying concentrations of diethyl toluamide (DEET). Older natural formulas, such as the very aromatic citronella oil (available from chemists), and those containing lemon eucalyptus oil, seem reasonably effective. The leaves of the bog myrtle, when crushed and rubbed into the skin also seem effective though not very long lasting, necessitating repeated application.

MOUNTAIN RESCUE

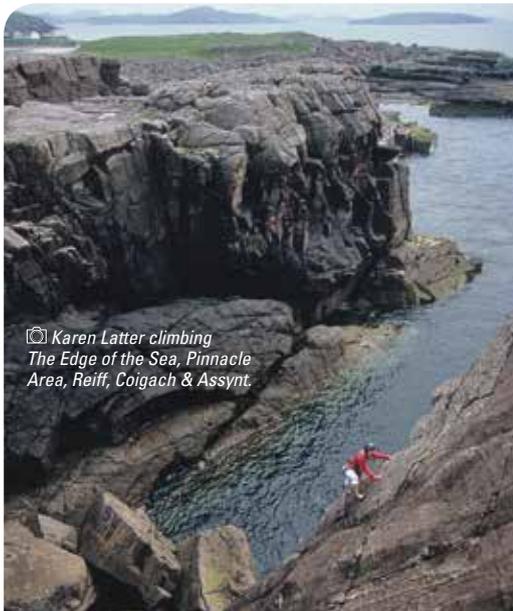
In the event of a serious accident requiring medical attention, contact the Emergency Services (999) and ask for Mountain Rescue, Coastguard or Police. Give concise information about the nature of the injuries, and the exact location, including a six-figure grid reference or the name of the route if possible. Try to leave someone with the victim, who should be made as comfortable as possible, if injuries allow. If unconscious, be sure to place in the recovery position, ensuring the airway is clear. In a few instances Mountain Rescue posts (containing a stretcher and basic rescue kit) are located in the hills, and are noted within the introductory text at the start of relevant cliffs.

GRADES

Routes are graded for on-sight ground up ascents, and the climber is assumed to be fully equipped with a wide range of protection devices. On some of the hardest routes skyhooks may be found useful. It goes without saying that people should make their own judgement regarding any in situ equipment encountered including fixed abseil points, all of which will rapidly deteriorate through exposure to the elements. I have tried to be as consistent as possible, though minor regional variations may occur. Any crucial runner information, especially relating to obscure gadgets or hidden or hard-to-place protection has been included where known. Where a route has only received an ascent after extensive top-rope practice this headpointed ascent has been highlighted within the first ascent details where known, in order to record such prior familiarisation.

DISCLAIMER

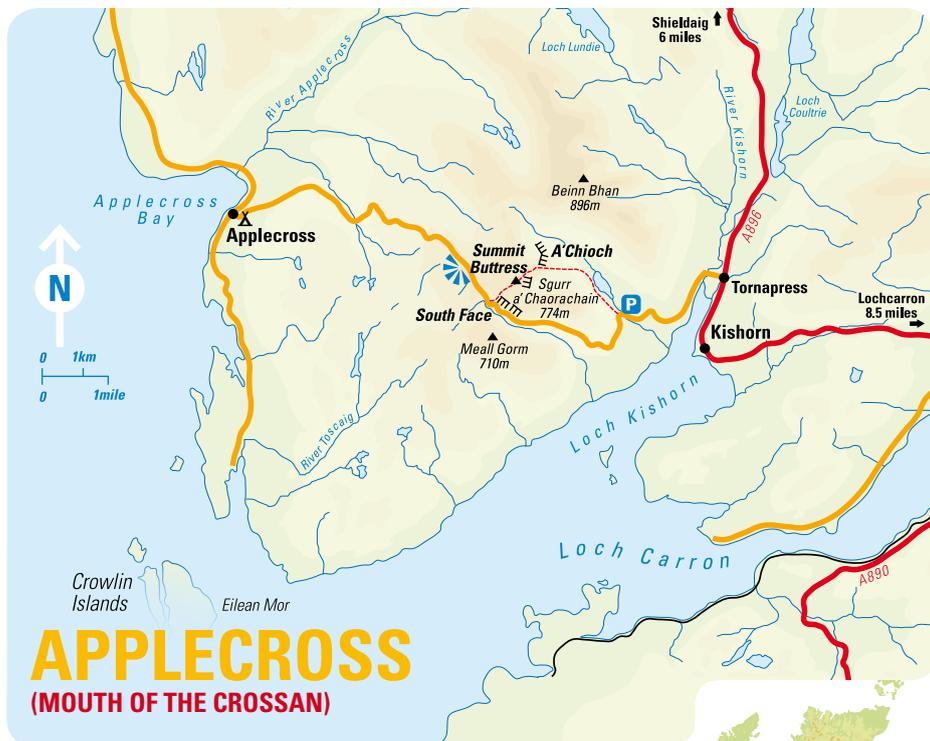
The author, publisher and distributors of this book do not recognise any liability for injury or damage caused to, or by, climbers, third parties, or property arising from such persons seeking reliance on this guidebook as an assurance for their own safety.



📷 Karen Latter climbing
*The Edge of the Sea, Pinnacle
Area, Reiff, Coigach & Assynt.*

📷 Tony Whitehouse on the upper section of the classic
Sword of Gideon, South Face, Sgurr a' Chaorachain.
Photo Dave Simmonite.





"The road over the Bealach na Ba has cliff scenery giving it a close resemblance to an Alpine pass, and a seaward view across the Isle of Skye. The road descends to Applecross through woods of great beauty which, after the moonlike desolation of the stony plateau, make deep imprint on the mind." —W H Murray, *Highland Landscape*, National Trust for Scotland, 1962.

This is the large elevated 'fish-tail' shaped peninsula between Loch Kishorn and Loch Torridon, due east of the north end of Skye and Raasay. It is crossed by a steep winding road over the Bealach na Ba (Pass of the Cattle), the third highest road in Britain, (after Glen Shee and The Lecht) rising from sea level to 625m in less than 6 miles.

Accommodation: Bunkhouses: The Wee Bunkhouse, Shiel Bridge (☎ 01599 511275; www.kintailodgehotel.co.uk); Tigh Iseabeal, near Kyle (☎ 01599 588205); Cuchulainn's, Kyle of Lochalsh (☎ 01599 534492); Station Bunkhouse, Plockton (☎ 01599 544235; www.hostel-scotland.co.uk); Gerry's Hostel, Craig, by Achnashellach (☎ 01520 766232; www.hostel-scotland.co.uk). See also Skye and Torridon. **Campsites:** The Wee Campsite, Lochcarron (Apr–Oct, ☎ 01520 722898; www.lochcarron.org.uk); wild camping by the roadside or in corrie beneath A' Chioch; campsite at Applecross village (☎ 01520 744268; www.applecross.uk.com/campsite) or free camping with use of facilities adjacent to the



telephone box outside the Strathcarron Hotel (☎ 01520 722227; www.strathcarronhotel.co.uk). **Amenities:** Lochcarron has 2 supermarkets, cafes, petrol station and a bank with **ATM**; tea room in campsite in Applecross village. For good bar food, the Applecross Hotel (☎ 01520 744262; www.applecross.uk.com/inn) with splendid outlook comes highly recommended; the Lochcarron Hotel (☎ 01520 722226; www.lochcarronhotel.com) is also reasonable and does good early breakfasts, even for non-residents.

HISTORY

The first route to breach A'Chioch fell to Tom Patey and Chris Bonington with their ascent of the magnificent *Cioch Nose*, described in the journal as "its exuberant plenitude of excrescences turning a visual XS into a tactile Difficult." On the roadside South Face, Patey soloed *The Sword of Gideon* the following year, though RAF teams had reputedly climbed here prior to this ascent. Patey returned with Hamish MacInnes in the late sixties to add *Cioch Nose Direct Start*. Many routes appeared over the next few years, including *Cioch*

Corner from C.Dracup and R.Hobbs and *Cioch Corner Superdirect* from Ted Howard and Clive Rowland. In the early seventies local instructors and others added a number of routes to the buttresses on the South Face, including *Anduril*, *Bumblyone* and *Bumblytwo* from a number of instructors; *Gideon's Wrath* from Ken Crocket and Colin Stead; the *Direct Finish* to this along with the neighbouring *Lost Supper* from Terry Doe. More recently, locally-based Martin Moran added the hardest routes with the exposed *Airwaves* on Summit Buttress, and the short fine *Road Hog's Wall* facing down the bealach.

SGURR A' CHAORACHAIN

(PEAK OF THE SHEEP RUN)

The mountain overlooking the north side of the Bealach na Ba, containing a number of fine Torridonian sandstone buttresses, all of quite different character.



 1 – 1¼hr

A' CHIOCH (THE BREAST)

NG 797 427 Alt: 400 – 550m

Surprisingly, there is no cairn on the top.

Access: Turn west off the A896 Lochcarron – Kinlochewe road at Tornapress at the head of Loch Kishorn. Follow the road steeply up over the Bealach na Ba for 2.2 miles/3.5km to park next to a track on the right, about 200m beyond the stone bridge over the Russel Burn.

Approach: (A) Follow the good track to a small dam at the head of Loch Coire nan Arr then by a boggy path along the west shore before heading steeply north-west up the hillside, crossing the burn and up into the coire. Head out right for the lower tier (1 hour). To gain the **Middle Ledge** head diagonally up left to the right side of the large scree cone 100m left of **South Gully** to pick up a path leading right to the base of the routes. 1¼ hours.

(B) For those wishing to continue to the top of the mountain, drive to the top of the bealach to park on the left opposite a track on the right (6 miles/9.6km). Walk up the track to the radio mast. Descend the open grassy gully 150m east of the mast (NG 787 424) then contour left (east) beneath a number of broken buttresses for about 1km to cut up via a path leading onto **Middle Ledge**. (1 hour).

Descent: With care down **South Gully**, which delineates the left side of the buttress, leading back down to the left end of **Middle Ledge**. There are three short steep sections, the first bypassed by a short scramble on the right (facing down), the second by a detour on the left and the third by easy rocks on the right. Perhaps quicker to make short (c. 15m) abseils from in situ slings at all three obstacles.

THE LOWER TIER

1 Cioch Corner Superdirect * 165m HVS 5a

FA Ted Howard & Clive Rowland May 1970

“...when combined with Cioch Nose Direct this makes one of the longest and finest rock climbs in Britain.” – Clive Rowland, *Scottish Mountaineering Club Journal*, 1975
Takes the obvious line of grooves and cracks from the foot of the Cioch to the **Middle Ledge**.

1 **40m 5a** Climb the corner to a blank section, move right then up and back left to a corner and so to the stance.

2 **35m 5a** Continue up the corner.

3 **20m 4c** Climb the right wall to a good ledge.

4+5 **70m 4b** Now follow the obvious chimney crack on the left and the slab above to the Middle Ledge.

THE UPPER TIER

All routes are accessed from **Middle Ledge**, which runs out right across the face from the base of **South Gully**.

2 Parting ** 100m HS 4b

FA Arthur Ewing & Fred Harper July 1970

Start 6m left of the prominent roof.

1 **36m 4b** Climb the steep right-angled corner then traverse up and right across a terrace to the base of a diedre.

2 **28m 4a** Climb the left wall of the diedre to belay beneath overhangs.

3 **36m 4a** Bypass the overhangs by a steep wall on the left and continue up easier angled rock to a terrace. Scrambling remains.

3 Gritstone Grooves * 110m HVS 5a

FA R & Marjorie Allen (2 PA) 25 May 1969; FFA unknown

Start beneath the left-facing corner immediately left of the prominent roof.

1 **25m 5a** Climb the corner and the groove on the right to a grass terrace.

2 **20m 5a** Follow the main groove, easily at first then over a bulge to climb a steep corner-crack with a slab on its left.

3 **20m 4b** Continue up the steep corner above.

4 **45m** – Continue more easily up the line of the groove.

4 Snothard ** 110m VS 4b

FA C.Dracup & R.Hobbs May 1969

The line of grooves starting 6m left of the second pitch of *Cioch Nose*.

- 1 **25m 4a** Start as for the *Cioch Nose* and climb up to the first terrace.
- 2 **20m 4b** Climb a groove until it is possible to step left onto a slab on the lip of a conspicuous overhang. Climb the slab and crack above to a ledge.
- 3 **25m 4b** Move left and climb a crack past three overhangs.
- 4 **40m** – Easy slabs and grooves lead to the top.

5 Cioch Nose ** 135m Very Difficult**

FA Tom Patey & Chris Bonington 12 August 1960

"The Diff. to end all Diffs... The party agreed that this route gave the best value for Difficult they have met in Scotland. It had appeared from almost any angle to be of sustained difficulty and great exposure." – Patey, *Scottish Mountaineering Club Journal*, 1961

Excellent exposed climbing, taking the cleanest and quickest drying area of rock on the cliff. An anatomical anomaly. There are two obvious starts, either side of a low overhang about 25m right of a prominent low roof directly above the path. Vandals have scratched CN on the rock at the base of both starts.

- 1a **30m Left Start:** Severe 4a Start in a recess just left of a large block. Move out rightwards and up a cracked groove (just right of grass ledges), going up a tricky (very well protected) groove to a terrace. Walk right 6m to belay at the base of a corner.
- 1b **30m Right Start:** Start about 10m further right, above a small step in the path and directly beneath the left end of a wide roof at 15m. Move up and climb a wide flake-crack then over ledges, continuing up a further groove on good holds to the terrace. Walk right 5m to belay at the base of the corner.
- 2 **20m** Climb the corner then break out right and follow easy rocks to a ledge on the very nose of the buttress; block belay and superb situation.
- 3 **15m** From 3m right of the block climb the steep frontal face on magnificent holds

trending diagonally left. A remarkable pitch.

- 4 **15m** Climb just to the left of the belay, passing to the left of an overhang then back to the right to a thread belay on a terrace.
- 5 **35m** Walk right 10m to large blocks then climb the obvious line directly above to belay on the next terrace.
- 6 **20m** Step left and climb grooves in the arête to belay further back.

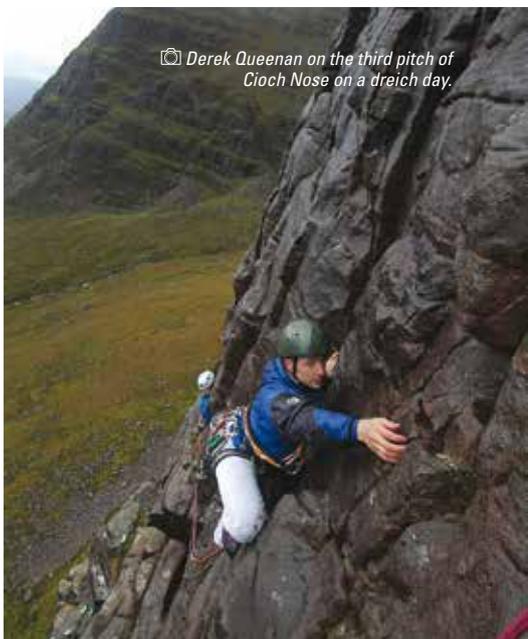
5a Cioch Nose Direct Start ** 50m HS 4b

FA Tom Patey & Hamish MacInnes 9 June 1968

"This direct line excludes the only substandard section on the original 1960 route and further enhances a remarkably fine climb." – Patey, *Scottish Mountaineering Club Journal*, 1970

Start round the corner 30m beyond the original start directly underneath the nose at a huge mossy diedre.

- 1 **40m 4b** Climb this for 6m then cross the left wall to reach an awkward 6m slot (crux). This gives access to the bold rib left of the huge diedre. *"The angle continues vertical but the holds are prolific and the climb henceforward is no more than Difficult."* Belay at first good ledge 20m above.



📷 Derek Queenan on the third pitch of *Cioch Nose* on a dreich day.

2 10m – Continue straight up fine exposed sandstone to join the original route below the third pitch.

5b Upper Continuation ★ 500m Very Difficult

The cliffs above the top of A' Chioch. Follow an obvious worn path round the left side of the first short clean but-tress (or climb direct) then at about Moderate for about 100m to a terrace below the main band of cliff near the top. Climb the open groove in the left arête (35m) to finish more easily (15m) up the final wall. Continue up the east-north-east ridge, over a further five 'Ciochs' with a couple of tricky scrambling descents, to the radio mast.

6 Cioch Corner ★

97m HVS 5a

FA C.Dracup & R.Hobbs 25 May 1969

The obvious dark corner round the edge from the *Cioch Nose*. Often damp and greasy on the initial pitch.

- 1 27m 5a** Climb the corner, stepping out right to a ledge at top. Climb a flaky groove to belay in a grassy recess.
- 2 20m 4c** Continue up the groove over a bulge then up the right wall to a ledge.
- 3 20m 4a** Above, the groove overhangs at first then leads on to a grassy bay.
- 4 30m** – Easier climbing to the top of the Cioch.



A fine sunny face directly above the road in the upper reaches of the bealach with a delightfully short approach for a 'mountain' crag. The face is split by gullies into six fairly distinct buttresses, numbered from left to right.

Access: Continue up the Bealach na Ba past the Russel Burn for a further 2.5 miles/4km to a parking spot on the right (north) side of the road just beyond the leftmost crag.

Approach: Head diagonally right up the hillside. 2 minutes to lower tier; 5 minutes to the main tier; less than 10 minutes to other crags.

Descent: From the top, pick up a path heading diagonally left (west) then down to just east of a small outcrop, cutting back round to the base.

1 The Sword of Gideon * 105m VS 4c***FA Tom Patey (solo) 11 October 1961*

Start in the centre of the lower tier.

- 1 **50m 4a** Climb a vague crack on the steep initial wall, stepping left and up. Continue by pleasant scrambling to belay just beneath a terrace. Walk right to the right end of the terrace.
- 2 **35m 4c** Climb the shallow groove near the right for 15m "until holds give out". Tread delicately across left (crux) to a good ledge in the centre of the face,

immediately beneath a prominent discontinuous crack (well seen from below). Climb the crack over a bulge on good holds and continue more easily up the crack to belay on a large ledge (the highest of three). Route 1a *Original Start* ascends the right arête just right of the normal start, traversing left to join the traverse. This reduces the overall grade to 4b with the traverse becoming the crux.

- 3 **20m 4b** Continue the logical line up the right side of the face to finish.

MAIN TIER**2 Gideon's Wrath ** 65m E1 5b***FA Ken Crockett & Colin Stead 21 August 1971*

Good steady climbing with a serious start. Start at a shallow left-slanting groove below an obvious triangular niche.

- 1 **15m 5b** Climb a thin crack to the niche and traverse left 3m to belay on a ledge beneath an overhang.
- 2 **20m 5b** Climb the overhang above and follow the obvious line, trending right to finish on good holds just right of the biggest bulge.
- 3 **30m** – Continue easily up short walls and corners above.

of 1a and climb easily to the right end of a ledge 3m up. Go up cracks (crux) until moves left lead to a small pod. Up this then up and left to clip an old PR beside a small triangular roof (there is another triangular roof below and left). Traverse right and up a crack to an easier finish.

1a The Sword of Gideon Direct Start ** 15m E1 5b*FA unknown 1960s?*

Good climbing, quite bold. Climb the thin groove leading directly to the prominent crack in the upper part of the normal route.

2a Direct Finish ** 35m E1 5b*FA Terry Doe & A.Brooks 19 June 1973*

Instead of traversing, continue up a thin crack to a triangular niche then trend right to join 3 at the small roof and PR. Finish as for that route.

5 The Kings of Midian * 35m HVS 5b*FA John Lyall & Andy Nisbet 15 June 1993*

Climbs the right edge of the wall. Start just right of 1 at the wall's right arête. Climb a parallel line to 1 then traverse right across a wall with twin cracks to gain a big ledge. Finish easier straight up the scooped wall above.

3 Lost Supper ** 35m E1 5b*FA Terry Doe & J.Duncan 25 May 1973*

Immediately right of 2 is a series of cracks in a grey patch of rock at 5m. Climb up through these and continue up to a small roof and old PR. Either pull directly through the roof to easier climbing, or traverse right from immediately beneath the roof to break up a tiny ramp at 5a.

6 Anduril * 98m VS 5a*FA Ben Beattie & J.Napoleoni 7 July 1970*

Good climbing following a line of cracks near the left side of **Number 2 Buttress**. Start just right of the gully separating the buttresses.

4 Sword Swallower * 35m E2 5c*FA John Lyall & Andy Nisbet 15 June 1993*

A fine direct line up the centre of the wall. Start 2m left

- 1 **15m 4a** Follow the left edge of clean slabs to a grass ledge.
- 2 **20m 5a** Climb a thin groove, going slightly rightwards up the wall on the right then over a short rock step and grass to the base of the next clean wall.

- 3 **10m 4c** Go up the left edge to a good hold then more easily to a terrace.
- 4 **18m 4c** Climb the crack leading to a terrace, continuing to a further terrace.
- 5 **35m 4b** Traverse right to a bay beneath a clean overhanging crack. Climb this then by a prominent deep corner to finish more easily.

7 Bumblytwo ****140m VS 4b***FA Ben Beattie, K.Hiles & E.Gautier June 1970*

Good sparsely protected climbing up the slender **Number 3 Buttress**.

- 1 **25m** – Ascend two walls to a spike on the left.
- 2 **20m 4b** Step delicately up onto a sloping ledge then traverse right to climb delicate unprotected ground to a ledge.
- 3 **25m** – Continue straight up, avoiding a steep wall by going left up a ramp to a ledge.
- 4 **25m 4a** Step up then traverse right to slabby ground

and up this to a crack. Climb the crack then move back left to the centre of the face leading to a large block.

- 5 **45m 4b** The steep wall (avoidable on the left by stepping across the gap to climb a groove – 4a). The best line continues further up and left, trending right across smooth pink rock to finish direct. Unprotected 4b, (possibly HVS).

8 Bumblyone ****130m Severe 4a***FA Tony Cardwell, Ben Beattie & C.Brooker 27 June 1970*

Good climbing up the slender **Number 4 Buttress**.

- 1 **45m 4a** Climb a ramp rightwards to a prominent flake-crack. A better 4b start climbs the steep wall off a block on the right to gain the flake-crack. Continue up the crack to a terrace then easier up the crest to a tree.
- 2 **30m 4a** Climb the corner to a ledge (possible belay) then the clean wall.
- 3 **55m** – Finish up the easier crest.

EAST FACE   25min

Close to the gullies just right of the main section of the crag is a steep clean wall split by a thin crack-line, clearly seen from the road below.

Approach: From the parking spot walk a few hundred metres down the road to a passing place then cut diagonally right then back left to traverse in across a terrace, cutting across a narrow gully just before the crag.

9 Roadhog's Wall *****20m E3 5c***FA Martin Moran 14 June 1996*

A contender for the accolade '*best pitch on the bealach*'. Well worth the 150m approach scramble. Enter the crack from the right and climb it direct to the top. Sustained and well protected.

SUMMIT BUTTRESS **RIGHT END WALL**

15min

NG 787 423 Alt: 690m

The section of cliff immediately to the side of the grass descent gully down to A' Chioch, at the far right end of the cliffs. The main tier is very steep and generally clean but requires several days to dry.

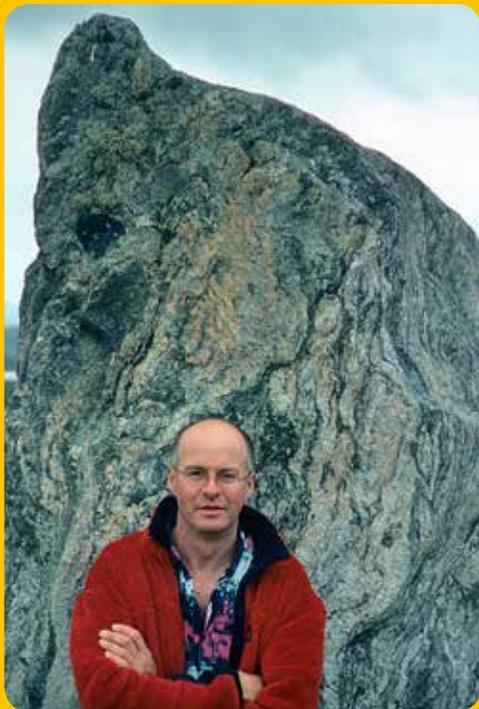
Approach: As for option (B) in the A' Chioch approach to partially descend the descent gully. Walk along a grass ledge at the base of a promontory with cubic block directly below the overhangs of the steepest section.

1 Airwaves ****50m E3 5c***FA Martin Moran & Andy Nisbet (on-sight) 31 May 1997*

Sustained adventurous climbing – the middle section is space walking. Start up a black right-facing crack which leads up to an obvious flake roof. Move left at its top and climb a shallow groove to a break at the main band of overhangs. Go up right under the roofs and make exciting moves out rightwards for 8m, finishing with a hard step right onto a small hidden turf ledge. Then go out right a little and straight up a corner, passing a final strenuous overhang. Good nut belays 5m further back.

TICKLIST – VOLUME 1 & VOLUME 2

Moderate	<input type="checkbox"/> Open Secret	138	E1	<input type="checkbox"/> Delayed Attack	Vol1	<input type="checkbox"/> Wall of Flame	121	<input type="checkbox"/> Mac Talla (7b)	195
<input type="checkbox"/> A'Chir Ridge	Vol1	<input type="checkbox"/> Pine Wall	Vol1	<input type="checkbox"/> Apparition	Vol1	<input type="checkbox"/> Desire Direct	238	<input type="checkbox"/> Walter Wall	Vol1
<input type="checkbox"/> Afterthought Arête	Vol1	<input type="checkbox"/> Shark Crack	293	<input type="checkbox"/> The Big Top	Vol1	<input type="checkbox"/> Diamond Cutter	Vol1	<input type="checkbox"/> Wave Dancing	362
<input type="checkbox"/> Castle Ridge	Vol1	<input type="checkbox"/> The Talisman	Vol1	<input type="checkbox"/> The Black Streak	217	<input type="checkbox"/> Diuru	43	<input type="checkbox"/> Wilderness	172
<input type="checkbox"/> Collie's Route	36	<input type="checkbox"/> Tidemark	Vol1	<input type="checkbox"/> Blue Crush	466	<input type="checkbox"/> Dream Ticket	133	<input type="checkbox"/> Old El Pasitos	149
<input type="checkbox"/> Curved Ridge	Vol1			<input type="checkbox"/> Dragon	171	<input type="checkbox"/> Edgehog	Vol1	<input type="checkbox"/> The Origin of Species	Vol1
<input type="checkbox"/> Dubhs Ridge	22	VS		<input type="checkbox"/> Grey Panther	57	<input type="checkbox"/> Endolphin Rush	400	<input type="checkbox"/> The Ancient Mariners	395
<input type="checkbox"/> East Ridge, In Pin	29	<input type="checkbox"/> Anthrax Flake	201	<input type="checkbox"/> Groovin' High	102	<input type="checkbox"/> Fulmar Squaw	421	<input type="checkbox"/> The Ascent of Man	Vol1
<input type="checkbox"/> Pygmy Ridge	Vol1	<input type="checkbox"/> Black Magic	251	<input type="checkbox"/> Hooper's Route	414	<input type="checkbox"/> Internationale	57	<input type="checkbox"/> Beri-Beri	453
		<input type="checkbox"/> Black Mamba	Vol1	<input type="checkbox"/> Jack the Ripper	224	<input type="checkbox"/> Kingpin	Vol1	<input type="checkbox"/> Big John	461
		<input type="checkbox"/> Blank	Vol1	<input type="checkbox"/> King Cobra	51	<input type="checkbox"/> Les Voyageurs	433	<input type="checkbox"/> Big Kenneth	437
		<input type="checkbox"/> The Chasm	Vol1	<input type="checkbox"/> The Klondyker	45	<input type="checkbox"/> Limpet Crack	365	<input type="checkbox"/> Burning Desire	220
		<input type="checkbox"/> The Clean Sweep	Vol1	<input type="checkbox"/> Land of the		<input type="checkbox"/> Monkey Man	287	<input type="checkbox"/> Cosmopolitan	Vol1
		<input type="checkbox"/> The Great Ridge	Vol1	<input type="checkbox"/> Damsation	306	<input type="checkbox"/> Nemesis	473	<input type="checkbox"/> Cruisability	Vol1
		<input type="checkbox"/> The Gutter	Vol1	<input type="checkbox"/> Mayday	429	<input type="checkbox"/> Neptune	366	<input type="checkbox"/> Crystal Vision	Vol1
		<input type="checkbox"/> North Buttress	Vol1	<input type="checkbox"/> Minus One Direct	Vol1	<input type="checkbox"/> The Otter's		<input type="checkbox"/> Dreamline	Vol1
		<input type="checkbox"/> Orii Oui	Vol1	<input type="checkbox"/> Moac Wall	361	<input type="checkbox"/> Breakfast Table	Vol1	<input type="checkbox"/> GMB	460
		<input type="checkbox"/> Quiver Rib	Vol1	<input type="checkbox"/> The Needle	Vol1	<input type="checkbox"/> Over the Hill	Vol1	<input type="checkbox"/> The Guga	395
		<input type="checkbox"/> Tower Ridge	Vol1	<input type="checkbox"/> Outspan	Vol1	<input type="checkbox"/> Pinch Superdirect	Vol1	<input type="checkbox"/> Hebridean Overtures	411
				<input type="checkbox"/> Hiccup	Vol1	<input type="checkbox"/> The Pause	Vol1	<input type="checkbox"/> In Profundum Lacu	394
				<input type="checkbox"/> Jabberwock	Vol1	<input type="checkbox"/> Portoon	Vol1	<input type="checkbox"/> Just a Little Tease	Vol1
				<input type="checkbox"/> Agag's Groove	Vol1	<input type="checkbox"/> Presumption	293	<input type="checkbox"/> Lady Charlotte	Vol1
				<input type="checkbox"/> Arrow Route	36	<input type="checkbox"/> The Sarclat Pimpernel	320	<input type="checkbox"/> Road Hogs Wall	93
				<input type="checkbox"/> Assault Slab	148	<input type="checkbox"/> Spring Squill	400	<input type="checkbox"/> Skydiver Direct	Vol1
				<input type="checkbox"/> Black Slab	Vol1	<input type="checkbox"/> The Swan	335	<input type="checkbox"/> Spock	44
				<input type="checkbox"/> Cioch Nose	90	<input type="checkbox"/> Unicorn	Vol1	<input type="checkbox"/> Stone of Destiny (F6c+)	Vol1
				<input type="checkbox"/> Crypt Route	Vol1	<input type="checkbox"/> West Flank Route	Vol1	<input type="checkbox"/> Sumo	102
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				<input type="checkbox"/> Observatory Ridge	Vol1	<input type="checkbox"/> Original Route, Stoer	267	<input type="checkbox"/> Titan's Wall	Vol1
				<input type="checkbox"/> Recess Route	Vol1	<input type="checkbox"/> Phantom Slab	Vol1	<input type="checkbox"/> The Torridonian	109
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						<input type="checkbox"/> Flamingo	296	<input type="checkbox"/> Jump So High Direct	Vol1
						<input type="checkbox"/> Isivig Direct	374	<input type="checkbox"/> Lady Jane	Vol1
						<input type="checkbox"/> January Jigsaw	Vol1	<input type="checkbox"/> The Long Reach	Vol1
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								<input type="checkbox"/> The Screaming Weem (F7a+)	Vol1
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								<input type="checkbox"/> The Ascent of Man	Vol1
								<input type="checkbox"/> Beri-Beri	453
								<input type="checkbox"/> Big John	461
								<input type="checkbox"/> Big Kenneth	437
								<input type="checkbox"/> Burning Desire	220
								<input type="checkbox"/> Cosmopolitan	Vol1
								<input type="checkbox"/> Cruisability	Vol1
								<input type="checkbox"/> Crystal Vision	Vol1
								<input type="checkbox"/> Dreamline	Vol1
								<input type="checkbox"/> GMB	460
								<input type="checkbox"/> The Guga	395
								<input type="checkbox"/> Hebridean Overtures	411
								<input type="checkbox"/> In Profundum Lacu	394
								<input type="checkbox"/> Just a Little Tease	Vol1
								<input type="checkbox"/> Lady Charlotte	Vol1
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								<input type="checkbox"/> The Raven	407
								<input type="checkbox"/> The Risk Business	Vol1
								<input type="checkbox"/> Rory Rum	



📷 Gary at Callianish standing stones, Lewis. Photo Carl Pulley.

THE AUTHOR

A native Scot, **Gary Latter** has climbed extensively throughout Scotland for over three decades, pioneering hundreds of new routes of every standard throughout the Highlands and Islands, including major new routes and early repeats in all the major climbing areas throughout the country. During the dozen or so years researching and compiling these guides, he has personally visited and climbed on almost all the crags and cliffs documented, amassing an extensive collection of photographs along the way.

His favourite places in Scotland are the islands and the north west – anywhere with the possibility of finding new unclimbed rock, secluded beaches, and hopefully some decent weather and nae midges! Amongst these, Mingulay, Pabbay and the small tidal island of Erraid, off Mull, are some of the most memorable venues.

He lives with his wife in rural Perthshire, running his own business, **Scottish Rock**, instructing and guiding rock climbing and scrambling throughout the Highlands and Islands.

📷 Cover photo – Niall McNaair making light work of the immaculate first pitch of Endoiphin Rush (E3 5c), Banded Wall, Pabbay.



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