

Fairbourne / 'Friog Corner'

Bouldering

The stretch of coastline from *Friog Corner* to the bouldering & sport-climbing of *Llwyngwryl North* has masses of rock to explore. The great selling-point of Fairbourne bouldering is its quick & convenient access to a lot of reasonable moderate-grade climbing.

It might be argued that climbing at Fairbourne is best left to 'personal exploration' - indeed, that is one of its attractions, and this has indeed been the case for decades. Being a tidal venue, some of the rock is admittedly lost to algae, or crustacean. The rock can be snappy in places, although not as bad as first appearances might suggest.

Whilst the climbing may be classed 'esoteric' rather than 'classic', its full potential is maybe only now being recognised. Routes are included to guide people towards the better areas, especially if only with an hour or two to spare.

At the time of writing, there is plenty of free parking by the beach huts near the railway bridge. Please park considerately, especially if on a busy day.

The railway bridge gives some slopey but dusty traversing on a wet day. Some flowstone holds and shot-hole pockets add interest!

The climbing is described from left to right as approached from the parking. Numbered plaques mark different bays, presumably placed by the railway company. This peculiarity makes finding the problems a cinch!

Checking the tide table is obviously strongly recommended before a visit, especially if visiting the middle section of cliff. A lot of rock can be dry when the sea is lapping around the headland around area 25 (access or escape is better from the Llwyngwryl end in this respect). Choosing a low-low tide and visiting in the afternoon or evening maximises the amount of dry rock to climb on.

The end of the numbered sections mark the transition to the climbing of Llwyngwryl North.



Paul about to commit on Fairbourne's classic leaning mantle.

The long, slabby man-made wall gives some pleasant soloing. It has even been led at two-thirds height in a party of three as an evening exercise!

A conglomerate mass splits the face at about half-way. It is more solid than first appearances and gives the first problem:



ConglomerATE 6a S. Hobbs 16/9/20

Sit-down start under the right hand side. The ladder of old pebble-holes, to a strenuous top-out. Good toe-locks in the crack. The rock sweats, so good conditions are preferable.

Area 34

A distinctively dark brown man-made wall at the start of the area gives:

***One thing man did well* 6** S. Hobbs

Traverse the wall on tiny finger holds.



*Trace a line of tiny holds that work on ***One thing man did well***.*

Area 33

The traverse of:

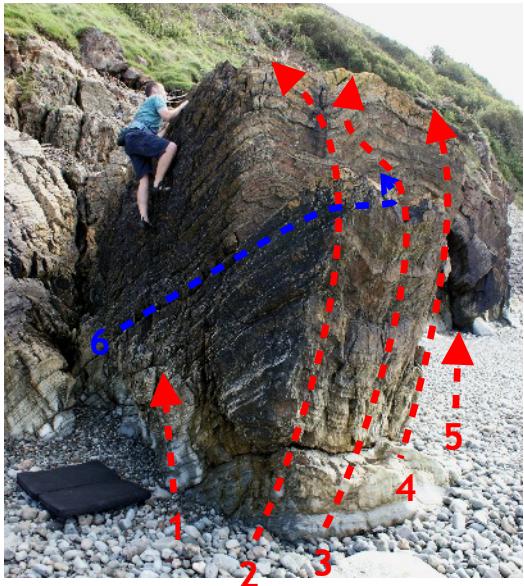
***Sash-window dash* 5+** S. Hobbs 16/9/20

Traverse easily towards the unusual scoop feature. Climb this using the undercut finger-crack with interest, followed by strenuous climbing on large handholds. Finish up the hanging slab to the right of the number board to easier ground.

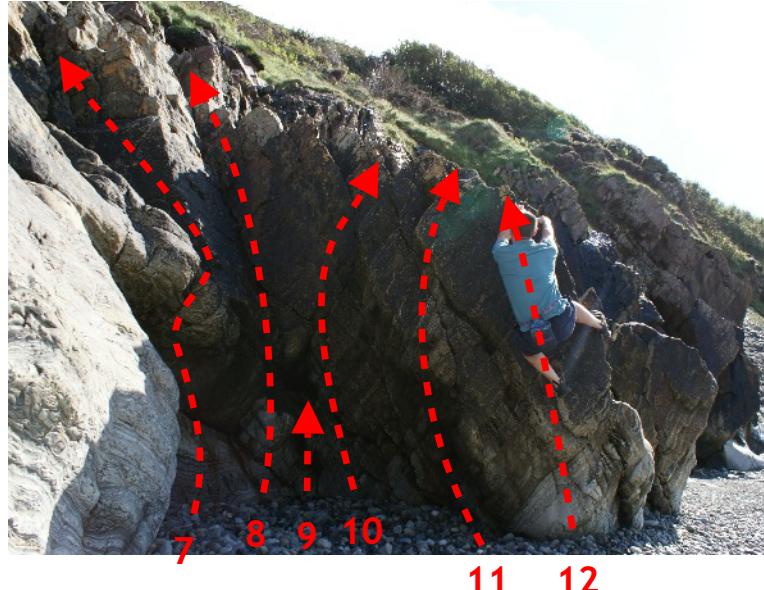


Area 33 - The Fairbourne Mantle

Past easy ground on the right is an alcove with a very close concentration of strong lines.



- 1 **Black Wall 4**
Pleasantly up the middle.
- 2 **Left to the sea 5** S. Hobbs
Up the left arete.
- 3 **The Fairbourne Mantle 5** Traditional
A classic grovel onto the ledge in the leaning wall on good holds. Committing if done alone over the normal bone-jarring landing.
- 4 **Ledge variant 5+** S. Hobbs
Direct up to the right hand side of the ledge is an interesting variant.
- 5 **Beginner's staircase 3**
Up generous flat holds just right
- 6 **The Missing link 6a** S. Hobbs
Traverse the interesting wall and then juggy lip to finish up one of the face climbs.



- 7 Follow the crackline over the little roof 5
- 8 *The corner crack 4*
- 9 *Straight up the narrow back wall 5*
- 10 The cracked groove on the right 4
- 11 Enter the small hanging groove next right 4
- 12 The small wall mostly using the right edge 4+

A taller man-made wall to the right gives easy soloing and is noticeable by its in-situ tat for use with local outdoor centre groups.

Area 30

No wasting any time finding this area!...



- 1 **Trigger happy 6a U/F**
Up the wall from the bolt-holes to a long bold reach for the top!
- 2 **Quick on the draw 4** S. Hobbs 8/20
The blocky rib next right on comforting holds.
- 3 The edgy wall opposite is rather snappy & its base suffers from seepage. **U/C**
- 4 **Groovy kind of love 5** S. Hobbs 8/20
Pull into the groove using layaway holds.
- 5 **Get into the groove 5+** S. Hobbs 8/20
Entering the smaller groove next right is a little more problematic.

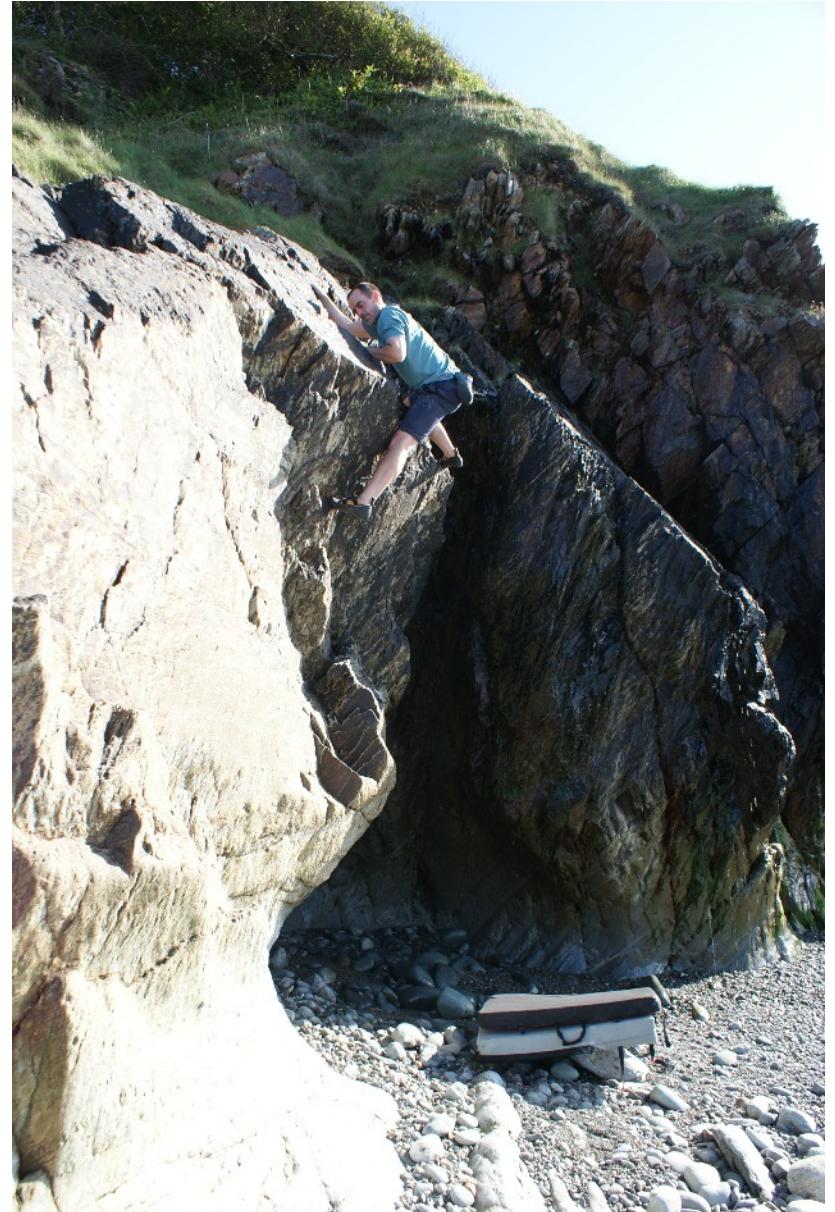
Around to the right is one of the more compact walls on the beach. Sadly, it lacks in strong, independent lines.

On its right hand side, bordering a shallow cave, is:

- 6 **Lone Ranger 4+** S. Hobbs 8/20
The tall line on good holds throughout, including the steep start.

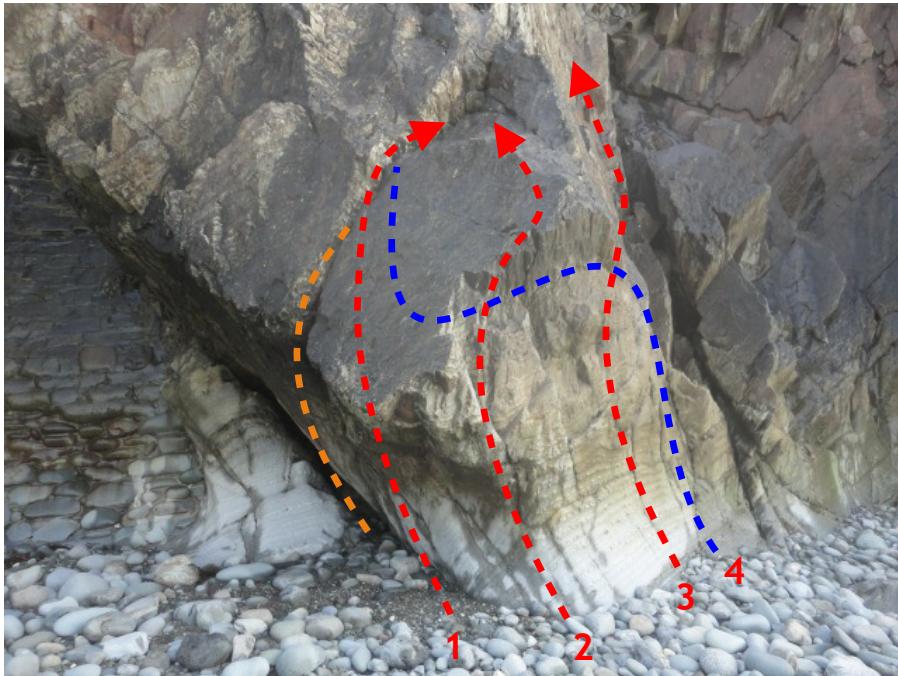
And on the right of the cave:

- 7 **As my boulder problem gently seeps U/C**
The steep crack looks an attractive line, despite the seepage around it!



No looking back on Lone Ranger.

Area 29 Beautiful People



This area gives a particularly high quality of problems on good rock.

1 **Bring in the Beautiful People** 5+ P. Hobbs 1/9/20

The rising crack line is reminiscent of Cae Du Crack. Climbed from standing, it really deserves a much harder extension from a low start down on the left.

2 **Houdini** 6a P. Hobbs 1/9/20

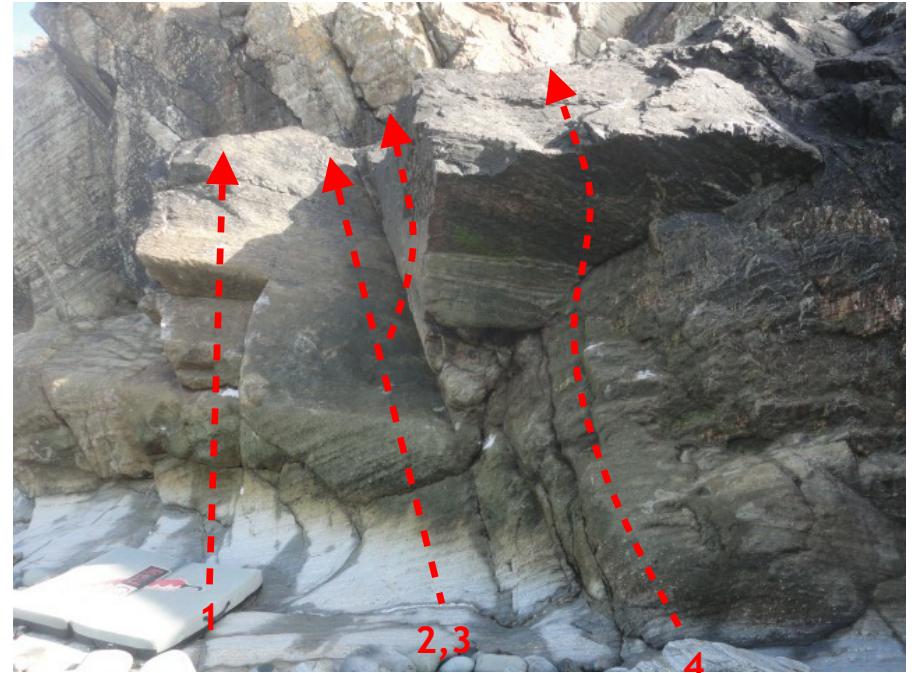
Absorbing contortions up the steep arete from the prominent jug and sloping foot rail. Traverse off right from the finishing ledge.

3 **Ray of Evening Sun** 5+ J. Ray 1/9/20

Up from reasonable face holds to the juggy ledge. Possible mantleshelf and thinly up the top wall.

4 **(Unnamed)** U/F

Traverse the line of face holds to the jug and across to join the *Beautiful* crack.



Area 25 Tusk

The left wall of the inlet has four strong intermediate lines in close proximity:

1 The stepped overlaps on the left 5. Harder if the good hold on the right wall is not used. S. Hobbs 14/9/20

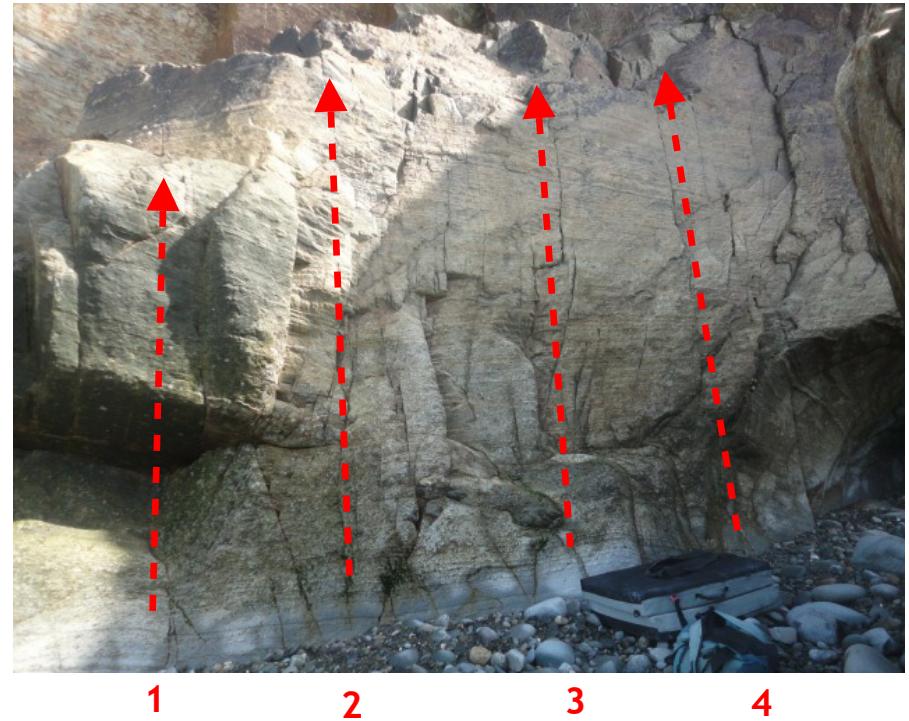
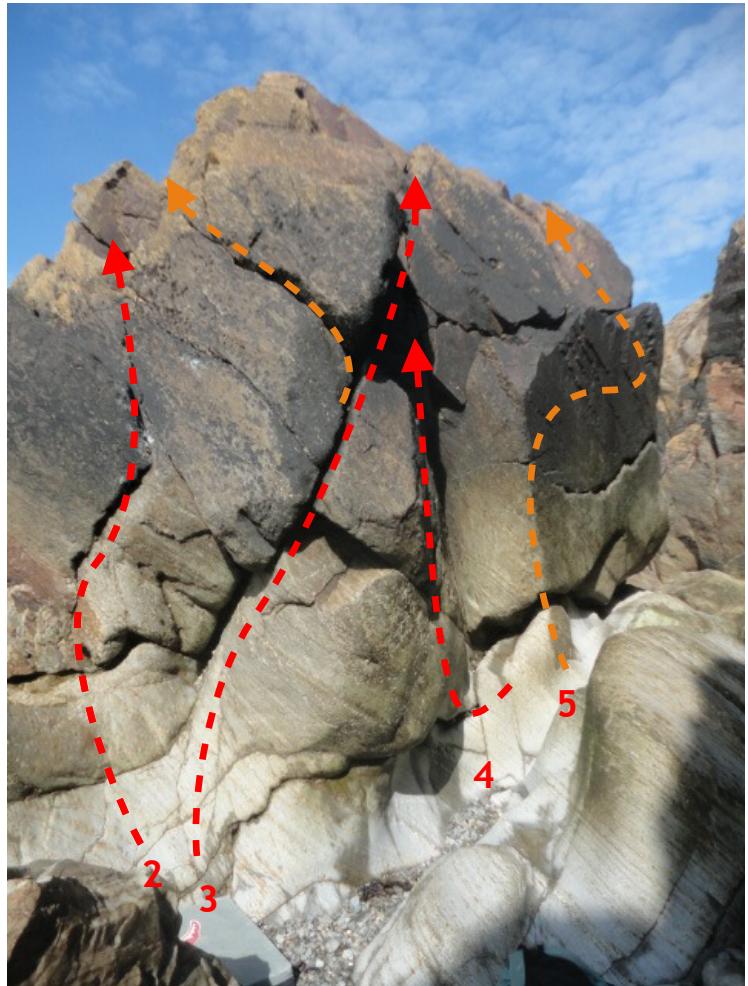
2 The smooth v-groove right 5+. S. Hobbs 14/9/20

3 Up via the crack in the vertical wall left of the overhang 4+. S. Hobbs 14/9/20

4 Over the overhang on good holds 4. S. Hobbs 14/9/20

5 **Tusk** 4 S. Hobbs

A short mantleshelf problem over the obvious feature bounding the right hand side of the bay.



The attractive vertical light-brown wall landward has:

- 1 Over the overhang, good for hands, thin for feet. **U/F**
- 2 The easiest line. **4** S. Hobbs 14/9/20
- 3 The thin crack is a lot harder. **U/F**
- 4 A strenuous pull on surprisingly generous handholds. **4+** S. Hobbs 16/9/20

The landward side of the massive boulder gives strong lines on clean rock.

- 1 The wall to the left, with feet on the brown ramp and hands on the less than positive top of the black wall. Committing. **U/C**
- 2 Enter the hanging groove that wants to spit you backwards! **U/F**
- 3 **Fists of Defiance 5** S. Hobbs 16/9/20
The perfect steep fist-jamming crack leads to a ledge & easier ground.
Variation: break left up the leftward crack. **U/C**
- 4 **Saddle-up! 5** P. Hobbs 16/9/20
The smooth groove has so-far only been climbed by stepping off the boulder to the obvious good hold, hence the name!
- 5 Any route that involves the bold traverse of the juggy lip & obvious foot-break would be an immediate area classic! **U/C**



The slab left of the through-hole is a break from the steepness, and has:

- 1 **Ocean Cruise 6a** P. Hobbs 16/9/20
Start at the left-hand corner and climb thinly to two-thirds height to step left to the arete and easier ground.
- 2 **Paucity 6b** S. Hobbs 16/9/20
Straight up the slab on any holds you can find!
- 3 **King Canute 5+** s. Hobbs 16/9/20
The thin crack to the right.

Blunt prow as yet unclimbed.



Paul, wearing 'usual attire' on **Paucity 6b**.

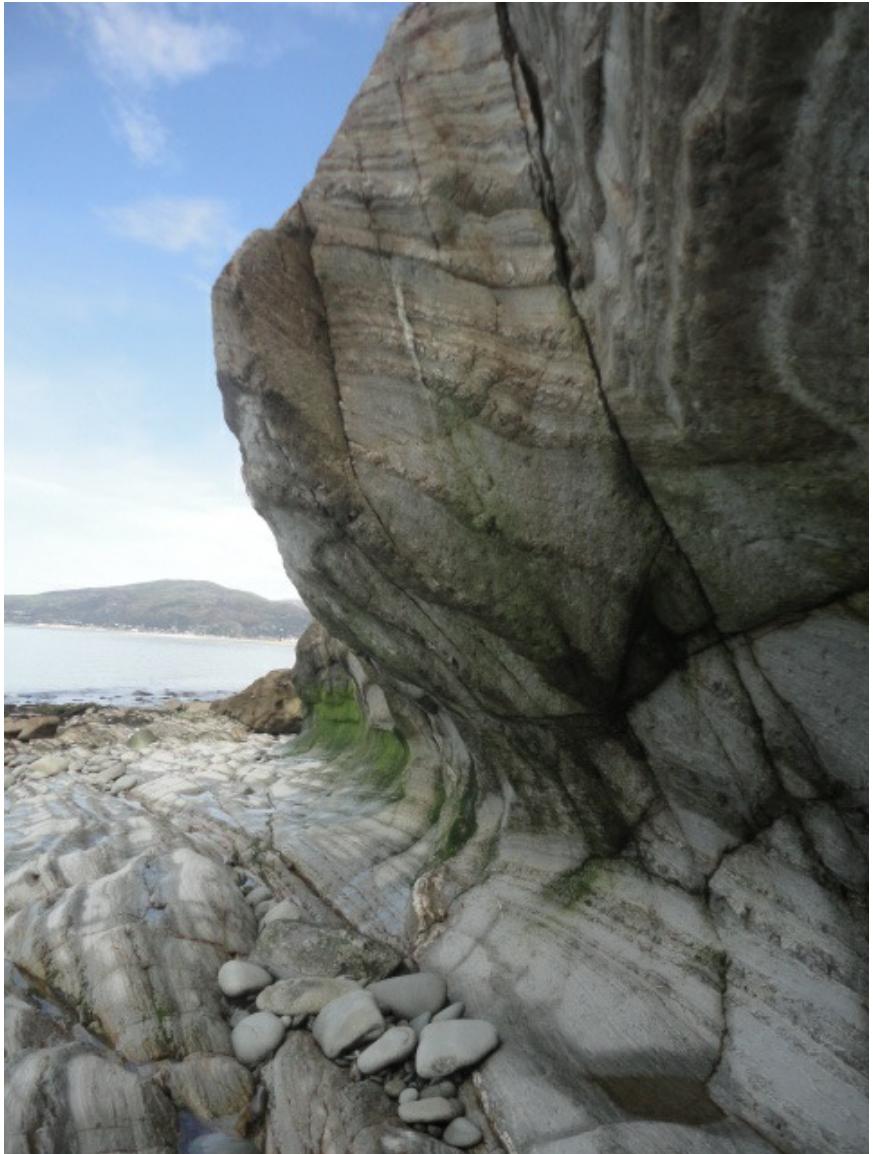


(Unclimbed area)



The high brown & grey wall is:

Oh Brother, where art Thou? 4 F.a. S. Hobbs, S.a. Paul Hobbs 16/9/20
Boldly, on big holds!



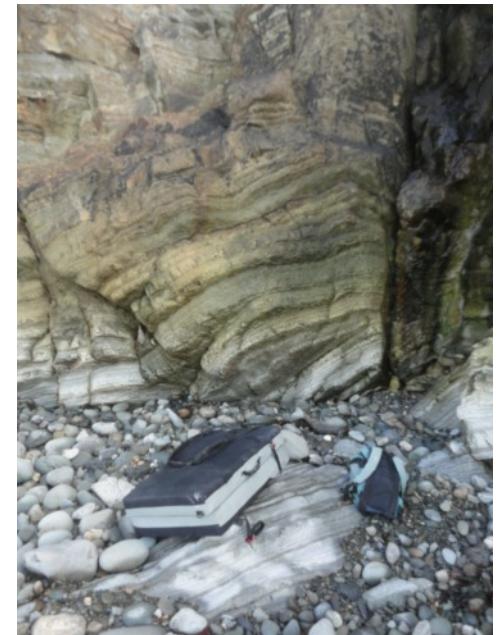
The steep smooth wall to the left of the cave has the potential for lines of a very high calibre!



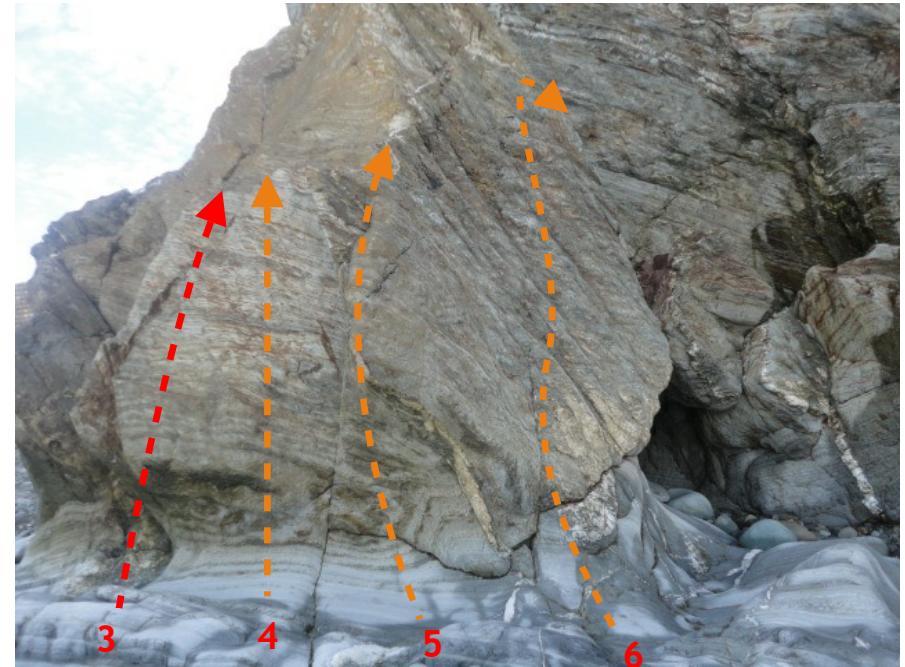
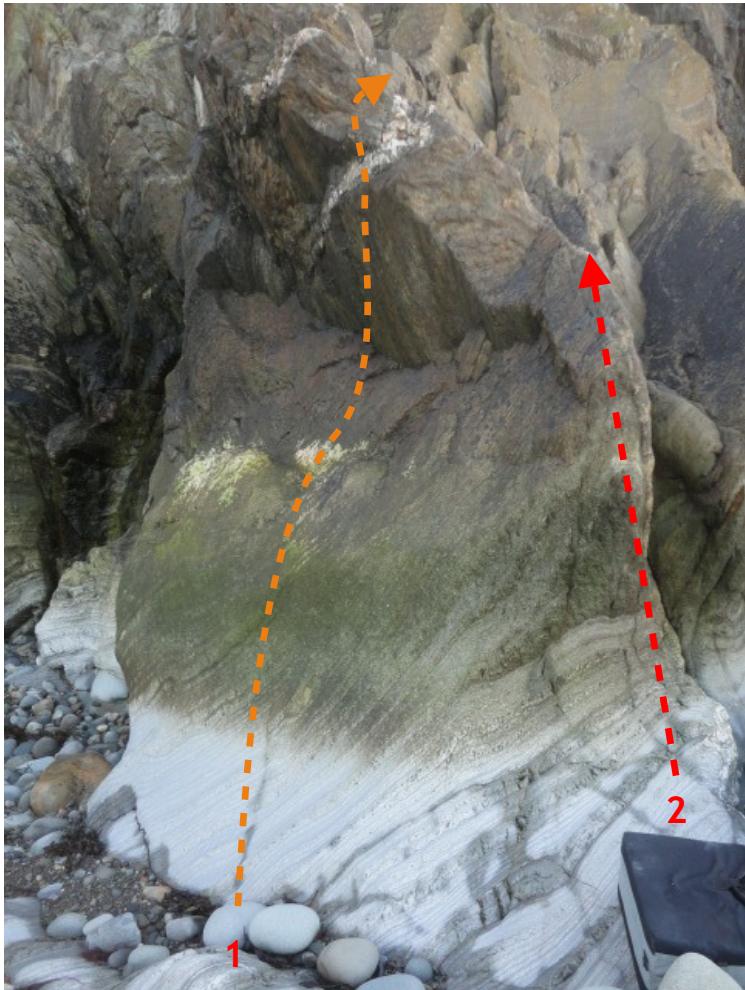
(Unclimbed strenuous bay-traverse)



(Unclimbed prow)



(Unclimbed 'wave')



Area 10_Prow'd

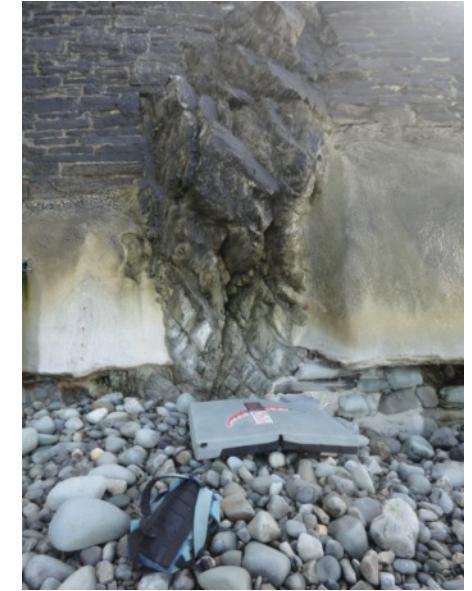
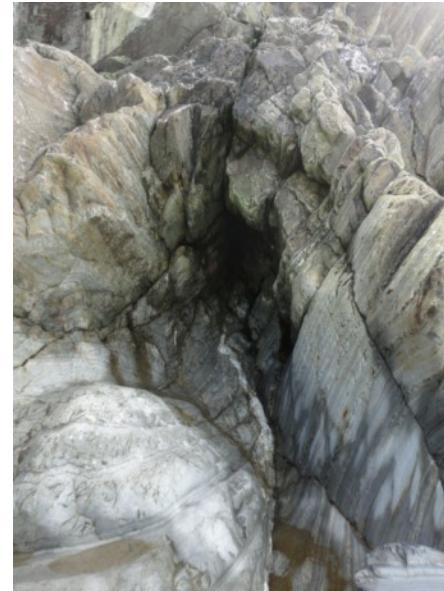
- 1 Rounded slab and over big overhang. **U/C**
- 2 **Prow'd 4+** S. Hobbs 14/9/20
The steep prow to the right on big holds.
- 3 **Don't cop-out, top-out! 4+** S. Hobbs 14/9/20
The positive left-hand edge of the vertical wall.
- 4 The hard rippled wall. **U/C**
- 5 The steep rib next right. **U/C**
- 6 Highball slab on slanty rock. Very hard - maybe 6c or 7. Escape right. **U/C**



Area 9

Paul's had Pizza! 6a S. Hobbs 16/9/20

Up through the steepness using good layaways in the crack. Finish at the embedded triangle of rock.

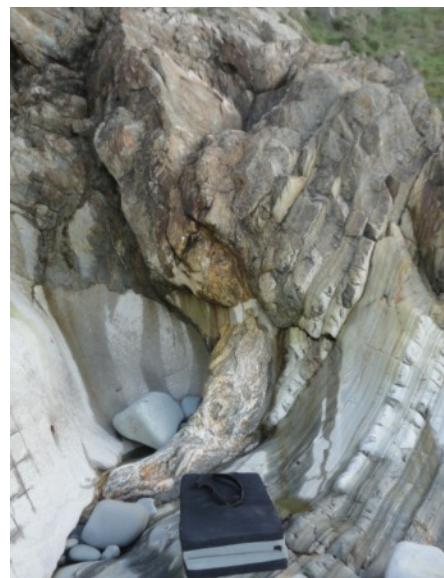


Steve Hobbs enjoying **Paul's had pizza...** 6a.

Area 8

(Unnamed) 4 S. Hobbs 14/9/20

Out of the small cave on good holds.



Area 6

Let the clean-up begin 6a S. Hobbs 16/9/20

This prow gives surprisingly engaging climbing.

Area 1

The end & the beginning 5 S. Hobbs 14/9/20

The centre of the easy-angled slab on small holds.