

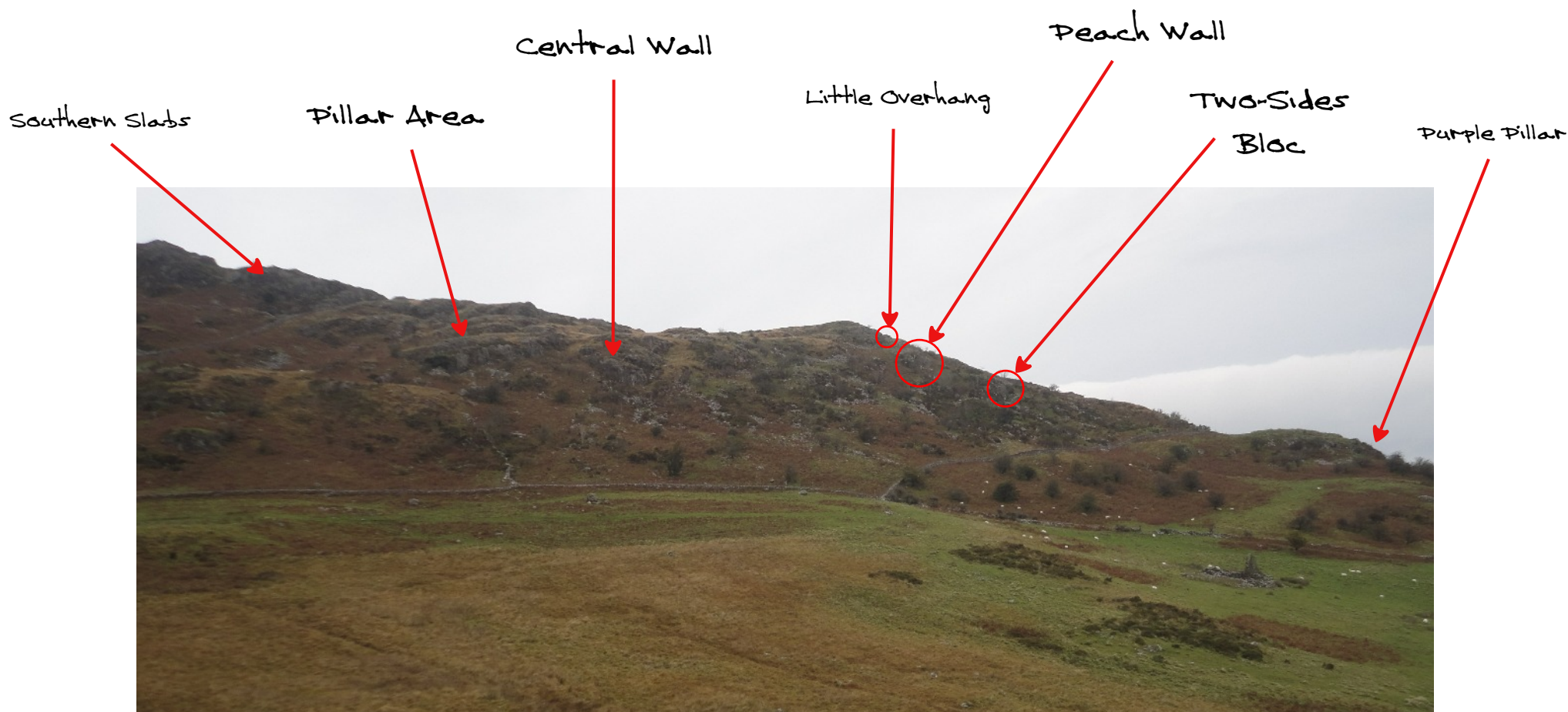
# Gau Graig

O.S. Ref: SH 7514

The North-East spur of Cadair Idris has a lot of rock, which tends to lure the exploratory boulderer further and further up the hill. The upper half of the ridge has not been developed.

Rock quality is generally good, and characterised by having plenty of large juggy holds.

Park in the large parking layby at the head of the *Tal y Llyn* pass. Walk north along the road. Short permissive path at old quarry if required. Concrete hardstanding for one or two cars cuts the walk-in time by five minutes, but is risky to leave (spotter on bend recommended!). Take the right of way on the left to contour the hillside easily on both grassy & soggy track to reach the far north-easterly spur of Cadair Idris. 40 minutes from the carpark. 35 from the quarry.





# Two-Sides Bloc

A bloc of contrasts with a steep & powerful south face, complimented by delicate slab climbing on the right.



## **1 When Vertical Leans 5** S. Hobbs 27/11/20

The least-steep line on the left face is still strenuous. Pull up into the short corner on the left & finish carefully.

A sit-down start goes at **6b+** (S. Hobbs 13/10/21)

## **2 A Tick in the Leg is worth Two in your Book 6a** S. Hobbs 23/6/21

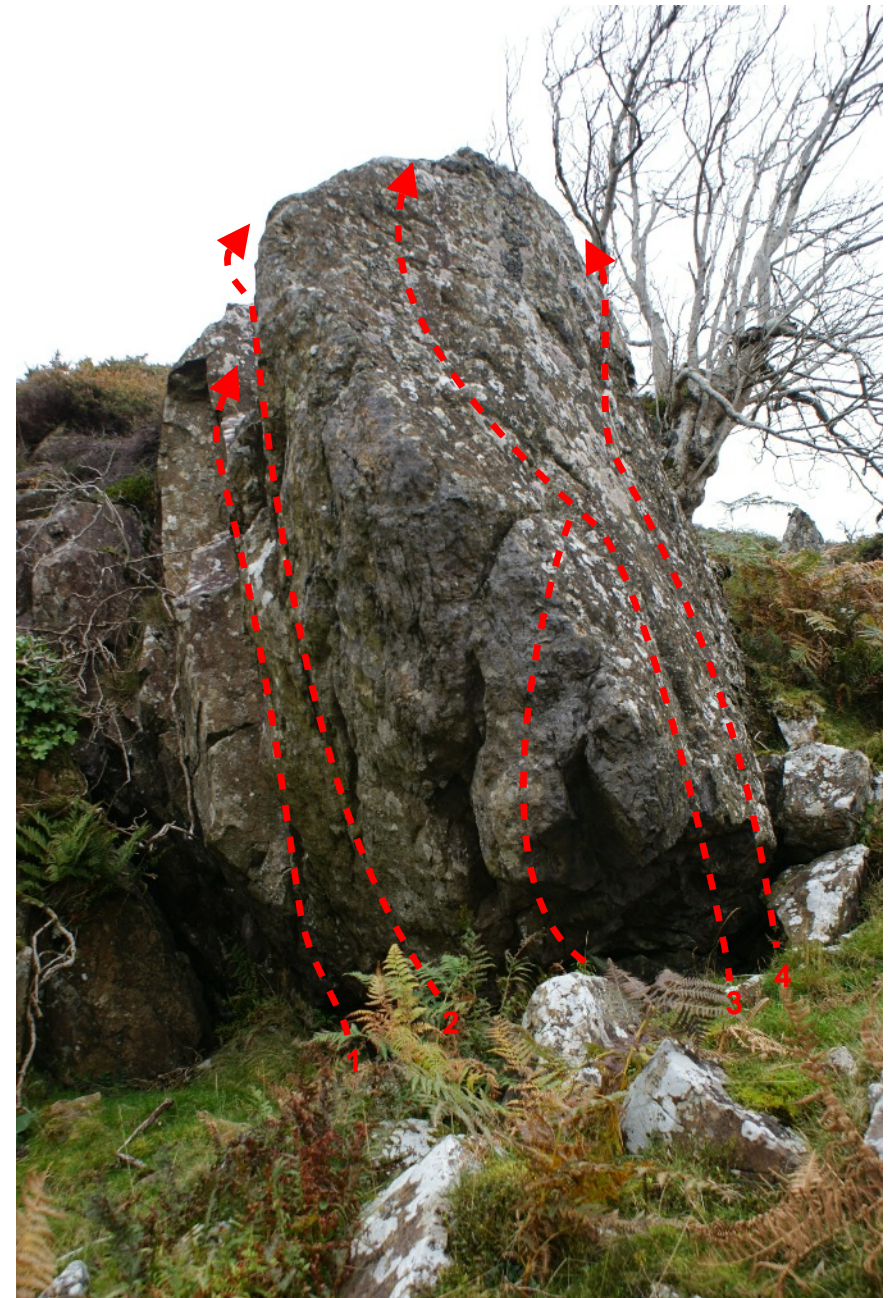
Reach up to good holds from undercuts. Finish strenuously with 'glorified smears' for feet...

## **3 Two-Sides Arete 3** S. Hobbs 27/11/20

The left edge of the slabby face on amenable holds. An undercut sds on generous holds is a **5** (S. Hobbs 23/6/21)

## **4 Brush-in 6a** S. Hobbs 27/11/20

Delicately & carefully up the shallow groove in the middle of the slab.





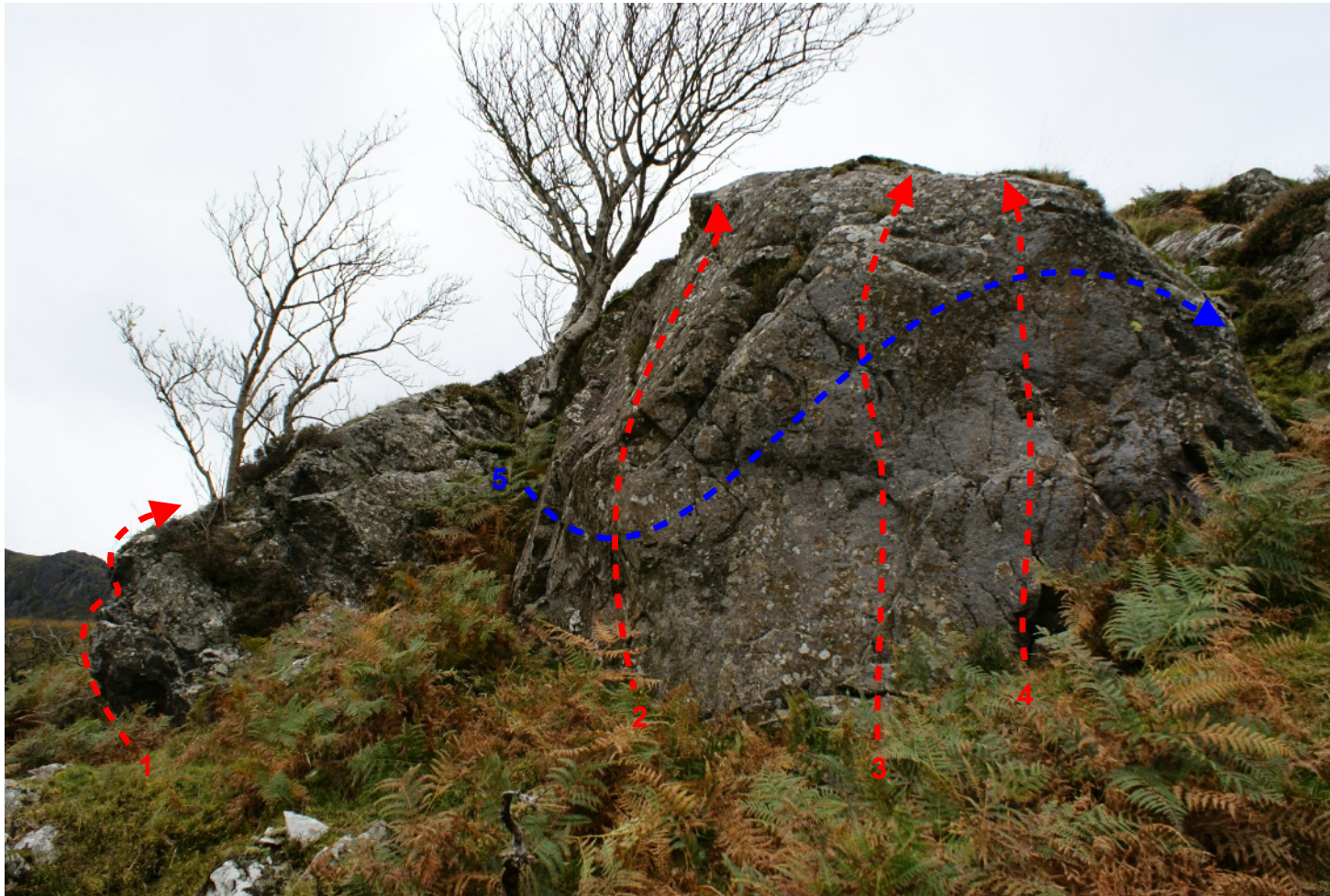


Paul Hobbs on *Two Sides Arete*.



# Peach Wall

A fine wall of good, clean rock, well endowed with large handholds. Sit-down starts add a bit of technicality to the lines.



## **1 2+** S. Hobbs 27/11/20

The overhung prow down to the left is taken from a sit-down start on copious large flake holds.

## **2 4** S. Hobbs 27/11/20

Start just left of the lowest point of the wall from a sitter. Finish at the little nose of rock at the top.

## **3 5+** S. Hobbs 27/11/20

Sit down start to the distinct pinch hold for the right, then straight up.

## **4 5+** S. Hobbs 27/11/20

Sit down up the smooth-looking right-hand side of the wall. Surprisingly thin for feet in places.

## **5 5+** S. Hobbs 27/11/20

A pumpy traverse of the whole wall on good handholds throughout.



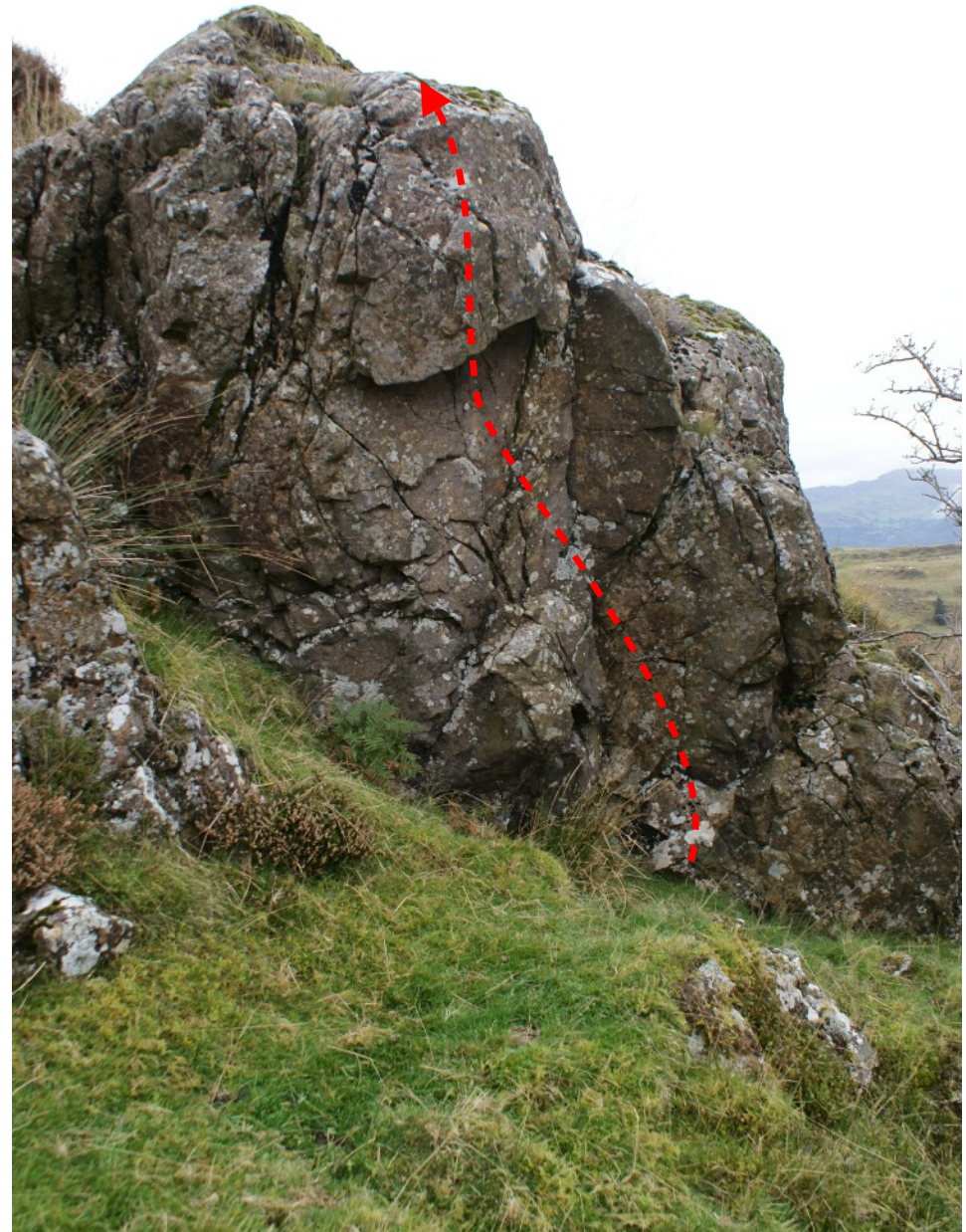


Paul Hobbs, Route Four on *Peach Wall*.



## *Little Overhang* 5+ P. Hobbs 23/6/21

A small overhang tucked away at the top-right corner of the hillside is worthwhile & should not be underestimated. Done from sitting. Spotter recommended.





# Central Wall

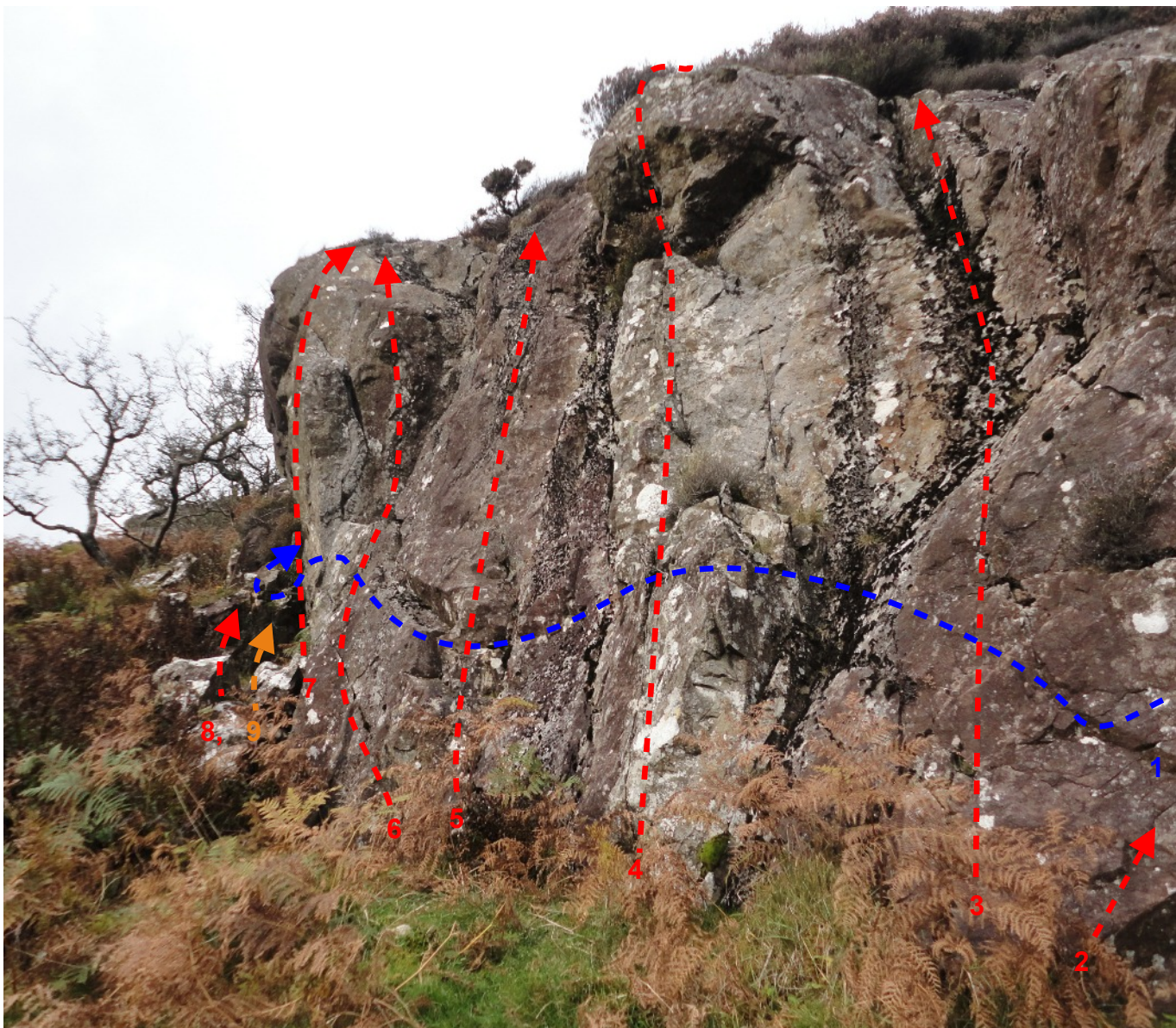
Appearing the most scrappy of the Gau Graig venues, it would be easy to overlook Central Wall. However, if dry, it gives deceptively good climbing on lovely rock.

Its left-hand side gives three very strong lines of *Technical Timmy*, *Gamechanger* and *Trick of the Light*.



Steve Hobbs on *Trick of the Light*.





### 1 **Well-in, Dowd!** 5+ D. Dowling 3/9/21

A traverse of Central Wall starts on large holds on the far right of the rock, passing easy slabby ground in the middle to a strenuous finish - blank for feet, creaking flake for hands - across the final wall on the left.

### 2 **Beginner's Climb** 2 S. Hobbs 3/9/21

The ridge bounding the right-hand side of the face, on generous holds, is the easiest line at *Gau Graig*.

### 3 **Dave's Dihedral** 4 S. Hobbs 3/9/21

If dry, the mossy groove to the left still gives steady, enjoyable climbing.

### 4 **Reckless Abandon** 5

Finishing holds held - S. Hobbs 11/9/21  
Full top-out - C. Ray 18/12/21

Best treated as a solo and with caution. Up the ladder of good holds to a very bold finish over the innocuous-looking small overhang. Pre-inspection of the top-out recommended.

### 5 **Saunter** 4 S. Hobbs 3/9/21

The steep slab gives nice climbing.

### 6 **Clutching at Straws** 4+ S. Hobbs 3/9/21

Up to a small ledge at the base of a mossy groove, then a committing step left up the bulging rib to an airy finish.

### 7 **Trick of the Light** 6a S. Hobbs 3/9/21

Quality climbing up the steep rib & wall from sitting on good holds throughout.

### 8 **Gamechanger** 6a S. Hobbs 3/9/21

Another strong line heading for the crack at the top, mostly on good layaway holds.

### 9 **Technical Timmy** (7a?)

This open **PROJECT** is the most imposing line at *Gau Graig*. Take the steep wall mostly on sidepulls to a perplexing section, and aim for the large rectangular hold just below the good top.



## Pillar Area

The large pillar of rock on the left is high, but fortunately has lots of big holds. It is best enjoyed with at least a spotter and a couple of mats.





Hidden away under vegetation to the left of the Pillar is a well-featured shorter wall. There is more enticing rock under ivy to the left. It is deceptively steep: it is not unusual to find yourself pumping out at the top after only half-a-dozen moves! A extensive animal home lies in the rocks close beneath.

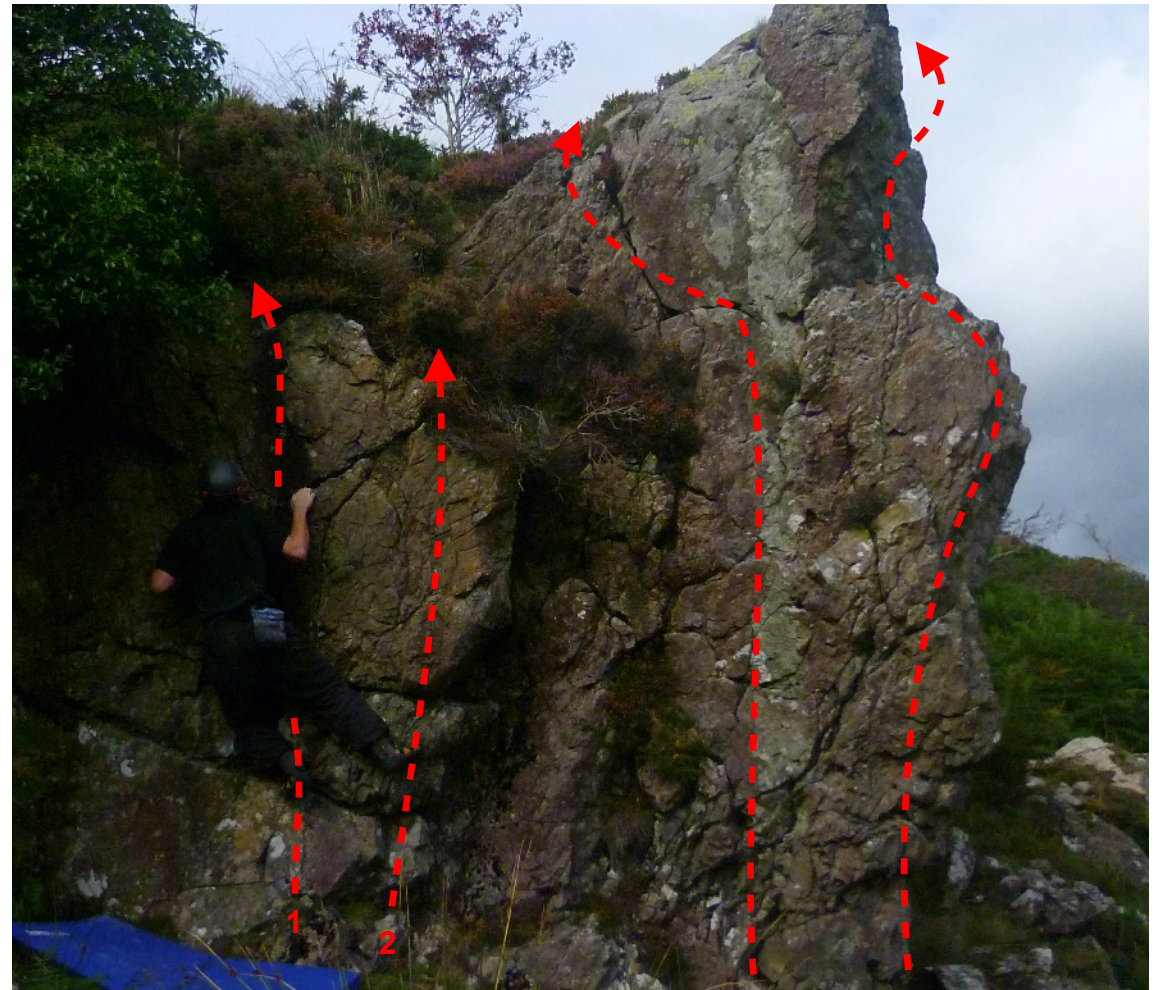
**1 *Stone, Sweet Stone* 6a** P. Hobbs, S. Hobbs 11/9/21

Surprisingly steep climbing up the middle of the wall from a sds. Finish with both hands on top and jump down, unless you have the 'mountaineering-ability' to top-out.

**2 *Funwork* 5** S. Hobbs 18/12/21

A less-steep & much easier line up the rib on good holds throughout. From a crouch start. You may need two arm-fulls of heather if you want to top out...

To the right are the wall-climb of *Gentle Giant* and the steep arete of *Full Attention*.



Paul Hobbs on *Stone, Sweet Stone*.



Three small blocs below the Pillar give some short warm-up lines, which remain unrecorded. (D. Dowling 3/9/21)

### 3 *Gentle Giant* 2+ S. Hobbs 3/9/21

The high south-facing wall on plenty of large holds. Finish left at this grade.

### 4 *Full Attention* 4+ S. Hobbs 11/9/21

The arete is steep to the big ledge at three-quarters height. Fortunately the final little wall has good holds in the crack and at the top.

The rocky & slopy base further right can be tamed with careful padding.

### 5 *We Tried so Hard to Share* 5 P. Hobbs 11/9/21

Via the obvious crack at half-height, and finish as above.

### 6 *Premonition of Pain* (6c?)

**PROJECT.** The more technical line starting up the shallow groove to the right. It has a long reach off small edges to good holds at half-height, then another long reach over the blank wall to large holds on the top edge.

### 7 *Igneous Tufa?* 4+ S. Hobbs 11/9/21

Up on good holds to the juggy right facing ramp (the tufa!) at two-thirds height, then carefully up positive holds to the top.

Alternatively, head to the juggy ramp from the undercut corner on the right, with smears for feet at 5 P. Hobbs 11/9/21

### 8 *Mr Motivator* 6a S. Hobbs 3/9/21

Insecure moves up the right arete. The crack in the right wall is in.

### 9 *Lateral Flow Test* 6b+ S. Hobbs 18/12/21

A right-to-left traverse of the whole pillar area. Start at the right-hand side, right hand in the biggest pocket on the gully wall, right foot on the big foothold on the edge. Great technical moves on the north wall lead to juggy holds at the arete of *Full Attention*. Easy climbing across the wall of *Gentle Giant* and broken ground give a rest before finishing at the left-hand edge of the short wall for the full tick!

To the right of a useful descent gully is a shorter arete:

### 10 *Broad Shoulders* 5+ S. Hobbs 3/9/21

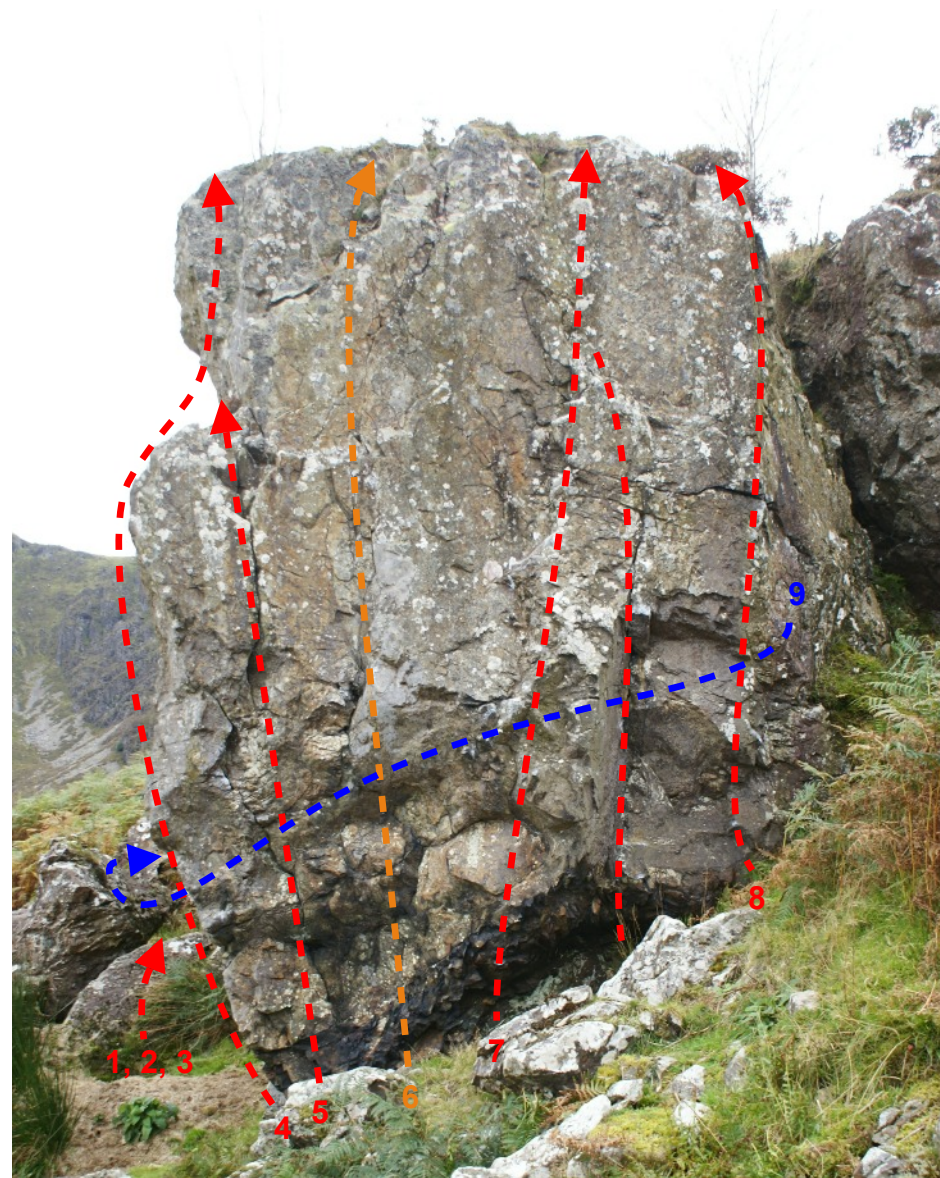
A few nice thin moves lead to big holds at the top.

Over on the right is:

### 11 *Bristly Ridge* 2+ S. Hobbs 3/9/21

Another tall line! Nice climbing straight up the wall to a plethora of juggy holds on the diagonal ridge, then a longer reach to the positive but spiky top-out.

The aesthetic curved wall high to the right has a potential line on its right-hand side. The rock needs a thorough clean, and the rock is unusually snappy.







## *Purple Pillar*

The first area of rock passed on the walk-in, the attractive pillar & steep adjoining wall lie below the area of access land and so are unclimbed.

Other walls

## *Southern Slabs*

These are high enough to enter soloing territory. The higher tier has some bouldering potential on its righthand side, but it needs a thorough clean.



This nose-shaped overhang is found above *Central Wall* and gives a considerably hard problem if taken directly.

