

Coastal Climbing Sites in England

British Mountaineering Council

A register of coastal climbing sites in England

January 2006

Coastal Climbing Sites Summary & Contents Page

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*includes estimates of existing recorded or recordable main boulder-problems

Coastal Climbing Sites in England

Interpretive Notes

1. Sites are described and map-referenced anti-clockwise around England's shores, commencing at Portishead in the Bristol Channel.
2. Map references and cliff-size estimates are indicative.
3. Numbers of climbs have been counted from latest climbing guidebooks and adjusted for known new developments and main recorded or recordable boulder-problems.
4. Open Access land is described based upon Countryside Agency delineation.
5. Rights-of-Way ('RoW(s)') are as indicated on Ordnance Survey 1:25000 maps.
6. Access restrictions, agreements and 'issues' are derived from climbing guidebooks, BMC databases, and other creditable sources, and are subject to change.
7. A 'site' is generally a cliff or an area with multiple cliffs that has an established cultural and/or physical identity of its own (cliffs so grouped would tend to share some key characteristics e.g. access, ownership etc.). Therefore the term 'site' embraces a large range of climbing locations, from minor and rarely visited ones with a few climbs to major British climbing areas with hundreds of climbs. Quite often, for climbing recording purposes, cliffs are arbitrarily sectionalised and named.
8. Sites are grouped according to county/unitary authority location. Where multiple sites occupy a coast of distinctive character (to the extent that the coast has acquired its own climbing identity e.g. The Culm Coast) a shadow categorisation is applied. In addition, in relation to West Cornwall, District Council Groupings are used.
9. 'Coastal outcrops' are cliffs set on the coast but the bases of which are higher than sea-level to the extent that the sea-state would not normally preclude access. The presumption is that all other crags commence at or around sea-level or from the foreshore, unless stated to the contrary.
10. An attempt has been made to rate the potential for new climbs at or adjacent to the site. The rating is only a guide since potential is more highly influenced by factors other than the crude amount of unclimbed rock available (eg rock quality, conservation interests, climbing trends).
11. A 'boulder-problem' is normally one or several physical climbing moves on a low cliff not requiring the use of ropes (and 'bouldering' should be construed accordingly).
12. 'Deep-water soloing' is climbing solo (without ropes) directly above the sea, utilising the sea as a safety-net to negate any risk of serious injury in the event of a fall.
13. 'Sport climbing' is climbing using fixed bolts that act as a safeguard.
14. 'Coasteering' is the traversing of sea-cliffs between low and high tide levels. It can involve a range of techniques: scrambling along foreshores, technical climbing, rope manoeuvres and even swimming.
15. Main environmental designations have been identified from English Nature's website, but their relationship to climbing sites is not definitive. SSSI = Site of Special Scientific Interest; L/NNR = Local/National Nature Reserve; SAC = Special Area of Conservation. Their identification doesn't imply the existence of, or the need for, specific climbing-related restrictions (inherently most coastal cliffs are SSSIs).
16. Currently available physical access/approach arrangements and car-parking provision were presumed to be adequate, unless creditable evidence suggested the contrary.

Sea-Cliff Climbing Sites in North Somerset

- **Miscellaneous**

Redcliffe Bay, Portishead to Ladye Point, Clevedon

OS Ref: 440760-408732

Dimensions: Four and a half km of fairly continuous low cliffs.

Height: 3-12m.

A spread of well-separated bouldering locations (approx: 100 problems), together with one lead-climbing location at Charlcombe Bay (Charlcombe Cornice: 10 climbs).

Rock: Sandstones, breccias.

Access: Not Open Access land. The approaches to the cliffs are direct from the coast path (RoW), which closely follows the entire cliff-top.

Car parking: At either end; road-side in Redcliffe Bay, car-park at Ladye Bay. Also, there are lay-bys on the coast road with RoWs from them to Charlcombe Bay.

Restrictions: None specific, though the safe condition of the coast path is an issue for the local authority. The foreshore is part of the Severn Estuary SSSI.

Potential: Moderate for boulder-problems on existing and undeveloped cliffs and boulders, and for more climbs at Charlcombe Bay.

Value Assessment: Primarily a local bouldering site, but with sport climbs and potential for routes in the 8th grade not offered anywhere else in the West Country.

Ladye Bay, Clevedon

OS Ref: 408731-408728

Dimensions: Height: 3-12m.

Two sport climbing crags in 150m, and various boulders and short walls.

The crags hold 20 routes apiece and there are approx. 50 boulder-problems.

Rock: Sandstones, breccias.

Access: Not Open Access land. A RoW leads from the coast path to the beach between the two cliffs. Ladye Point is reached by a separate 'fisherman's track' off the coast path.

Car Parking: Spacious car-park in Bay Road immediately above and south-west of the bay, 150/250m from the cliffs.

Restrictions: None specific, though North Somerset Council has erected notices relating the risk of rockfall to the public. The foreshore is part of the Severn Estuary SSSI.

Potential: Limited.

Value Assessment: This is an important bouldering site for local climbers. The sport climbs see less attention because of groundwater drainage problems on the cliff.

High Cliff and Clevedon Pier, Clevedon

OS Ref: 403722-402719

Dimensions: Two separate 50m long crags within 300m of each other.

There are no climbs on either cliff.

Height: 9 and 12m respectively.

Rock: Sandstone.

Access: Not Open Access land. The approach is along the foreshore from the sea front south of the pier. Steps leading to the foreshore immediately north of the pier commence in private land (dilapidated hotel subject to development proposals).

Car Parking: Road-side on the sea front and elsewhere in Clevedon.

Restrictions: None specific. It is conceivable that climbing would attract attention of users and managers of the pier. There is no access to or egress from the right-hand cliff's top; the rear boundaries of private dwellings above approximate with the cliff edge (ownership-of-cliff issue?). The foreshore is part of the Severn Estuary SSSI.

Potential: High - scope for 20 routes.

Value Assessment: Potentially of local interest only.

Poet's Walk (Church Hill and Wain's Hill); Clevedon

OS Ref: 396712-389706

Dimensions: A km of cliff, with the section of main interest at the SW end (392708-389706).

Height: 15m.

The SW crag hosts 50 climbs, and there is a traverse of the whole cliff.

Rock: Limestone.

Access: Not Open Access land. From cliff-top RoW (Poet's Walk) a short scramble down gains the foreshore. The top of the cliff is too loose to exit.

Car Parking: Road-side in the lee of Church Hill and elsewhere in Clevedon.

Restrictions: None specific. LNNR, though there is very limited plant-life on the part of the cliff suitable for climbing and the climbs do not go as far as the cliff-top. The foreshore is part of the Severn Estuary SSSI.

Potential: Limited.

Value Assessment: Unpublicised at present, North Somerset's truest sea cliff is only ever likely to be of minimal local interest.

Middle Hope and Sand Point

OS Ref: 339665-318659

Dimensions: Crags with climbs or boulder-problems are located discontinuously along the 2km section of this headland (the 1km eastward continuation s to St Thomas's Head has no potential).

Height: 3m-12m.

There are around 20 climbs and numerous boulder problems at OS Ref 336663, and around 60 climbs and many boulder problems in the Swallow Cliff area (324661), the two areas of most importance.

Rock: Limestone.

Access: The cliffs lie on the edge of Open Access land. Walk/scramble down to the foreshore.

Car Parking: Large National Trust car-parks in Sand Bay and at Woodspring Priory.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI and the foreshore is part of the Severn Estuary SSSI. A MoD torpedo testing centre at St Thomas's Head does not conflict with climbing.

Potential: Limited.

Value Assessment: A low-key climbing area, significant mostly for its scrambling and bouldering – enhanced by an unspoiled setting.

Toll Road Crags', Worlebury Hill, Weston-super-Mare

OS Ref: 323630-311627

Dimensions: Over 1km of fairly continuous low sea cliffs.

Height: 3m – 10m.

There are in the region of 100 short climbs and boulder-problems.

Rock: Limestone.

Access: Not Open Access land. The approaches are direct from the North Somerset Council-owned road that follows the cliff-top (via 'fishermen's tracks'), or along (<1.5km) the foreshore from Sand Bay in the east.

Car Parking: Small lay-bys along the coast (toll) road; total capacity is limited but proportionate. Alternatively, there is a large car-park at Sand Bay.

Restrictions: None specific. The foreshore is part of the Severn Estuary SSSI.

Potential: Limited - mainly bouldering.

Value Assessment: Probably the West Country's finest bouldering site; the absence of a specialist guidebook has suppressed visitor levels.

Sea-Cliff Climbing Sites in Somerset

- **Miscellaneous**
- **The Exmoor Coast**

Brean Down

OS Ref: 279593-295587

Dimensions: Two km of cliffs line the southern slope of the headland of Brean Down; Axe Quarry (50mx50m) is located at the Down's eastern end.

Height: 10m-40m.

There are 50 climbs on The Fort Craggs (279593-282590), 100 climbs on The Beach Cliffs (293587-296587), and 20 climbs spread along the minor intervening cliffs. Axe Quarry (303588) holds a further 5 climbs. In addition there are many boulder-problems at various locations along the cliffs.

Rock: Limestone.

Access: The cliffs lie on the edge of, or within, Open Access land. For the Fort Craggs and Axe Quarry, the approach is via the top of the Down; for the Central Craggs and Beach Cliffs along the foreshore.

Car Parking: Large privately owned car-park attached to the café at the head of the 'Brean Down road', and a charge may be levied.

Restrictions: Climbers informally advised to avoid archaeologically important (and fenced-off) southern sand slopes. SSSI. Caution advised during the summer when the beach can be busy with holiday-makers. There are plans to develop the 19th Century fort adjacent to The Fort Cliffs – possible implications unknown.

Potential: Limited - mainly bouldering.

Value Assessment: Regionally this is an important site. High-quality sport climbs, testing bouldering and a clutch of reasonably historic climbs ensure its popularity.

The Exmoor Coast (Somerset and North Devon)

Preamble: From Minehead in the east to Combe Martin in the west the Old Red Sandstone (sandstones and shales) that makes up the bulk of Exmoor forms a line of big sea cliffs, reportedly the highest in England. Serious, inaccessible and mysterious they offer climbers an area, which, when taken as a whole, still holds abundant promise of exploration and adventure. Existing key sections and sites are highlighted, and - from a climbing perspective - considering there is no definitive guidebook at present, the entire stretch should be considered as one of great future interest, if not popularity. Large parts of Exmoor, including most of the cliffs, are covered by SSSI and SAC designations.

Hurlstone Point (including Minehead Bluff), Nr Porlock

OS Refs: Hurlstone Point: 904492-899492; Minehead Bluff: 915493

Dimensions: Hurlstone Point is a complex headland comprising many variously oriented cliff faces. The cliffs extend from the discrete coastal outcrop of Coney Combe in the east, (that rises from the 100m contour) round the point itself to a diminishing crag above the beach of Porlock Bay: all in all one km of cliff-line. Minehead Bluff is an isolated sea-cliff 1.5km east, and there are small subsidiary crags and boulders on or overhanging the foreshore to its east (940486-930491) and its west (915493-911492).

Height: 10-50m.

There are approx. 100 climbs and many boulder-problems at Hurlstone Point, and 10 climbs and 50 boulder-problems at or adjacent to Minehead Bluff.

Rock: Sandstone.

Access: Apart from the eastern foreshore boulders, the cliffs lie on the edge of, or within, Open Access land. From Bossington, the South West Coast Path leads to the Open Access land. For the Hurlstone Point cliffs, paths and scrambles gain Porlock Bay beach and the foreshore. The cliff in Coney Combe is at the level of, and within 100m of, the coast path beyond the Point. For Minehead Bluff, either a steep descent is made down the 'fisherman's track' onto Selworthy Sands, or (if parking on North Hill) an informed descent via Henners Combe is possible. Theoretically a much better approach to Minehead Bluff would be from parking at OS Ref: 926482, but there is no RoW across farmland.

Car Parking: Large car-park at Bossington. There is also a large car-park on top of North Hill, which serves the alternative approach to Minehead Bluff.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI, and SAC.

Potential: Limited.

Value Assessment: These are by far the most accessible sea cliffs on the Exmoor coast, and they are particularly valuable for Bridgwater/Taunton-based climbers. A good set of slab climbs in the lower grades is represented, and the bouldering is excellent.

The Ivy Stone, Nr Porlock

OS Ref: 840487-838487

Dimensions: The Ivy Stone and the annexed slab immediately east constitute a 200m length of cliff. Also, there are well-separated subsidiary sites along the coast between Cullbone Rocks in the east (844487) and the Yellow Stone in the west (819492).

Height: 3m-45m.

There are 25 climbs at the Ivy Stone, 5 climbs at the Yellow Stone and in the region of 50 boulder-problems in total at the other sites.

Rock: Sandstone.

Access: Not Open Access land. The usual approach as far as the Ivy Stone is from Worthy, Porlock. The South West Coast Path is followed for 200/300m before dropping down (no RoW) to a 1.5-2km walk along the foreshore. An alternative is to follow the South West Coast Path through Culbone before dropping down through woodland (no RoW) to the top of the Ivy Stone. The Yellow Stone is approached from the west via the footpath down Wheatham Combe.

Car Parking: For the Ivy Stone approach there is a small but adequate car-park at the toll (private road) at Worthy. For Yellow Stone there is ample parking on the A39.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI, SAC.

Potential: Limited- mainly bouldering.

Value Assessment: This is a charming and tranquil site that would strike a chord with many climbers. The slab climbs of the Ivy Stone are of mainstream appeal, but a trying approach would limit popularity.

Sea-Cliff Climbing Sites in Devon - North

- **The Exmoor Coast (cont)**
- **Baggy Point**
- **The Culm Coast**

The Exmoor Coast (cont)

Sir Robert's Chair to The Amphitheatre, Countisbury Cove

OS Ref: 782499-773502

Dimensions: A km stretch with two important cliffs either end: Sir Robert's Chair (an 80m-long cliff with a stack in front) in the east and The Amphitheatre (a 200m jumble of low cliffs and buttresses) in the west.

Height: 60m at Sir Robert's Chair; generally 10-20m at The Amphitheatre (with sets of elevated slabs rising to 50m).

There are 20 climbs at Sir Robert's Chair and 50 in or adjacent to The Amphitheatre.

Rock: Sandstone.

Access: The cliffs lie outside the strip of Open Access land above them. From the A39, a RoW leads to the Open Access land and the South West Coast Path. Then, for Sir Robert's Chair, a scramble through woods (no RoW) gains an abseil descent to the cliff-base. An alternative for The Amphitheatre is a complicated, expert approach down to Countisbury Cove via the South West Coast Path and then Chubbill Wood (no RoW).

Car Parking: A lay-by with very limited capacity adjacent Dogsworthy Farm on the A39; there are alternatives on the A39 necessitating a longer walk-in.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI, SAC.

Potential: Limited at the named cliffs; moderate along this section generally.

Value Assessment: Sir Robert's Chair is potentially an important site, with excellent quality slab climbs and sandstone reminiscent of Baggy Point. The Amphitheatre's climbs take geologically compelling features.

Foreland Point, Lynmouth

OS Ref: 758508-751509

Dimensions: A km of cliffs; they are minor and intermittent east of Foreland Point (in the west end of Countisbury Cove) and major and continuous from the Point westwards. There are three stacks (foreshore pinnacles) in front of the western cliffs, which provide two-thirds of the climbs.

Height: 8-15m to the east of the Point and up to 100m to the west.

There are 10 climbs east of the Point and 20 at or west of the Point.

Rock: Sandstone.

Access and Car Parking: The cliffs lie on the edge of Open Access land. During the 1990's, when the climbs were made, unofficial parking was obtained at the Foreland Point lighthouse (unmanned) which was reached via The National Trust-owned road from the A39. There is space for 4 cars only. This left, respectively, a 100/50m walk to the foreshore for the eastern crags or to the cliff-top of the western crags (abseil descent). A legitimate alternative, avoiding unofficial use of The National Trust road, is to park off the A39 at the spacious car park at Barna Barrow and cross Open Access land. The disadvantage with the latter (2km walk) is the ferrying of the large amount of kit (multiple ropes) required for the western crags.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI, SAC

Potential: High - for long and serious adventure climbs on the western cliffs and high-calibre bouldering.

Value Assessment: Rising to 302m at Butter Hill, The Foreland is topographically a major and impressive headland, which provides very atmospheric and serious climbs on its sea cliffs in a remote, tidal and committing situation.

Lynton to Wringcliff Bay

OS Ref: 713501-703497

Dimensions: Over 1km of continuous high cliffs.

Up to 100m; but mostly 50-80m.

There are 30 climbs on the sea cliffs, including a coastering-style traverse (the only recorded climbing here east of long. 710). To their south is the Valley of Rocks, which hosts a number of (effectively) inland and some coastal outcrops.

Rock: Slates and shales.

Access: The cliffs lie on the edge of Open Access land. Climbs in the Yellow Stone area are accessed by scrambling/abseil descents. Sea cliffs to its west are accessed from the foreshore via Wringcliff Bay (public access and path). Intrinsically the large and highly tidal cliffs east of Yellow Stone are technically difficult to access.

Car Parking: Large National Trust car-parks in Valley of Rocks.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI, SAC, and a renowned geological landmark. There are Kittywake colonies on one or two of the cliffs east of Yellow Stone, which (in practical terms alone) would rule out climbing during the nesting season.

Potential: Very high.

Value Assessment: The fine climbs on the Yellow Stone, a dramatic landscape, and major unclimbed cliffs make this a very valuable site - albeit one with very serious characteristics - that is never likely to become popular.

Wringcliffe Bay to Crock Point (Lee Abbey Grounds), Lee Abbey, Nr Lynton

OS Ref: 700497-687494

Dimensions: Three-quarters of a km of cliffs between Wringcliffe Bay and Lee Bay have been grouped with the isolated headland cliff at Crock Point on the opposite (west) side of Lee Bay since they all lie within the privately owned grounds of Lee Abbey.

Height: 25m at Crock Point to 100m elsewhere.

There is one recorded climb between Lee Bay and Wringcliff Bay (on the finest of the cliffs above the western end of Wringcliff Bay at 699497) and 10 climbs on Crock Point.

Rock: Sandstone, slate and shales.

Access: Not Open Access land. For the Wringcliff Bay climb, access is from that bay. For the various (undeveloped) cliffs eastwards to Lee Bay, access is also from Wringcliff Bay or from Lee Bay itself, via the foreshore. For Crock Point, approach is across fields from the private (toll) road between Valley of Rocks and Woody Bay. There is no RoW to the cliff-tops, which limits alternative access to the cliff-top (if it were needed) and, moreover, egress from the cliff-top (which would be needed).

Car Parking: For Wringcliffe Bay, at large National Trust car parks in Valley of Rocks. For Lee Bay and Crock Point, from private (pay) parks behind the bay.

Restrictions and Management Agreements: An informal arrangement required climbers wanting to climb at Crock Point to telephone Lee Abbey in advance. Crock Point has not been climbed on since 1998, and before that only very rarely, so the status of this agreement is unknown. SSSI, SAC.

Potential: Rock quality permitting, there appears to be significant scope for exploration and climbing on the Wringcliff Bay-Lee Bay headland. There is also an easy-of-access 15m cliff on the east side of Lee Bay.

Value Assessment: This is a rugged and rocky coast holding the promise of exploration for future climbers. Crock Point is of mainstream interest.

Wringapeak (Woody Bay) to Heddon's Mouth

OS Ref: 672496-655498

Dimensions: Two km of fairly continuous crags and sea cliffs set at the base of a precipitous hill-side below the South West Coast Path (at 230m level). Height: 30-50m for the individual buttresses, but <100m for the parent cliff. There are 40 climbs mostly concentrated in 'The Three Bluffs' (669495-667495) and Heddon's Mouth (656498-656497) areas. Moreover, this coast hosts the substantial section of the historic Exmoor Coast Traverse.
Rock: Slate and shales.

Access: The cliffs west of (and not including) 'The Three Bluffs' lie on the edge of Open Access land. Except for Heddon's Mouth, approach is by scrambling down from the South West Coast Path (at 150m level) to the cliff-top (then climbing or abseil descent). There is no RoW to Wringapeak (for the Exmoor Coast Traverse). For Heddon's Mouth, approach the foreshore on RoW along the River Heddon. There is no practical on-foot access direct to the foreshore at any other point.

Car Parking: There are car-parks in Woody Bay, and, for Heddon's Mouth, a large National Trust car-park adjacent The Hunter's Inn.

Restrictions: None specific. However, several specific cliff-faces in The Three Bluffs area become monopolised by Kittywake colonies, which (in practical terms alone) rules out climbing. SSSI, SAC.

Potential: Very high - for future climbing exploration of a highly adventurous and/or logistically challenging character.

Value Assessment: Probably the spiritual home of Exmoor coastal climbing, this area contains its most historic and regularly entertained climb (its traverse) as well as fine accessible bouldering in the west and the anticipation of discovery overall. The remainder of the climbing is highly serious and of minority appeal.

Heddon's Mouth to Yes Tor (Nr Little Hangman)

OS Ref: 655497-589483)

Dimensions: Seven km of precipitous and rocky hill-side and cliffs rising up to 250m at Great Hangman (the highest sea cliffs in England), with three sites of special climbing interest.

Height: Mixed routes on cliffs 100-250m high; technical climbing sites are 25-70m high. In total there are about 25 full-height mixed routes/scrambles scattered along this stretch, and 20 'technical' climbs at Ramsey Beach (646493), North Cleave Gut (636496), and Yes Tor combined. The foreshore scramble is part of The Exmoor Coast Traverse.

Rock: Sandstone.

Access: The cliffs lie on the edge of Open Access land that forms a coastal strip between foreshore and (generally) the South West Coast Path. From various points along the South West Coast Path, the approach is by walking/scrambling down to the cliff-top or foreshore. There is no RoW direct from Trentishoe Lane to the coast path east of 635480 where the road meets Open Access land.

Car Parking: Large car-parks on Open Access land along Trentishoe Lane, and as for Heddon's Mouth. For Yes Tor: car parking as for Little Hangman.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI, SAC.

Potential: Very high - for coastal scrambles, mixed climbs, and technical rock climbs.

Value Assessment: A wild coast with towering cliffs, 'guts', 'hanging' waterfalls, spectacular sightseeing and coasteering. Though not always suited to technical climbing, it holds potential for big, mixed climbs as well as adventurous scrambles and traverses. Overall, though, it is serious and of minority appeal.

Little Hangman, Combe Martin

OS Ref: 483587-478583

Dimensions: A km of unbroken cliffs circle Little Hangman Point (218m) as far as the northern end of Wild Pear Beach.

Height: 15m-80m.

There are 80 climbs spread out along the cliffs.

Rock: Sandstone and shales.

Access: The cliffs lie on the edge of Open Access land that forms a coastal strip between foreshore and (generally) the South West Coast Path as far westwards as Combe Martin. From the South West Coast Path (out of Combe Martin) for 95% of the climbs: the approach is a walk and scramble down the open hillside from Little Hangman to the relevant cliff-top (then mostly abseil descents); for the remainder (overlooking Wild Pear Beach): along the foreshore from the beach itself. The path to Wild Pear Beach is oft-affected by erosion and at those times officially closed (but safely negotiated by the sure-footed).

Car Parking: There is a large car-park on the sea front at Combe Martin. Road-side parking can be easily found in Combe Martin, which shortens the approach in combination with the use of the RoW commencing OS Ref: 472583.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI, SAC.

Potential: High.

Value Assessment: One of the Exmoor Coast's most important cliffs, with a good selection of high-quality and serious climbs, and lots of potential. Overall, though, because of its relative inaccessibility, it is not of wide appeal.

Baggy Point, Croyde

OS Ref: 422410-421404

Dimensions: Half a km of slabs, walls, and promontories wrapped around Baggy Point. Height: 30m-90m.

There are 140 climbs, with the highest densities situated on the slabs of Long Rock and The Promontory.

Rock: Sandstone.

Access: The cliffs lie on the edge of Open Access land. From Croyde Bay the South West Coast Path leads to the Open Access land and the cliff top (1.5km); then the approaches are by scrambling/climbing/abseiling down to the cliff-base.

Car Parking: National Trust car-park on the northern side of Croyde Bay. In summer the Bay is busy with holiday-makers and surfers, though there are alternative car-parks in Croyde.

Restrictions: There is Variable Restriction (VR) in relation to nesting sea-birds that is applicable to the majority of routes (i.e. between Scratling Zawn and Pink Void): 15 March – 31 July. Any easements to the restriction (in the event of birds not nesting) are indicated by notices positioned at the cliff top. SSSI.

Potential: Moderate: as new climbs established in 2005 show, there is still potential on the more adventurous parts of the headland.

Value Assessment: This is one of Britain's most welcoming, long-established and popular sea-cliff climbing sites. Its climbs date back to the late-19th Century, and given its south-facing aspect, gentle angle and solid rock, a continuing appeal to the mainstream of climbing tastes is guaranteed.

The Culm Coast (North Devon and Cornwall)

Preamble: Like the Exmoor Coast, the separate and distinctive geology of this part of the South West peninsula defines and delineates the character of its coast, its cliffs and its climbing. However, unlike those of the Exmoor coast, its crags are relatively easy of access, with many being developed several decades ago. However, given some climbers preparedness to challenge rock previously thought to be too loose (and with more obvious alternatives exhausted), it is an area that still holds great potential across its sometimes inhospitable Culm Measures (interbedded sandstone and shale) cliffs. About two-thirds of the coastal cliff-top strip is Open Access land, but there are many important climbing sites without Open Access land above them, and many climbs are located on foreshore stacks. The majority of the coast is designated as SSSIs, a geological SSSI, and SACs.

Sloo Slabs, Peppercombe, Nr Bideford

OS Ref: 372241-375241

Dimensions: Two adjoining slabs in several hundred metres of cliff.

Height: 30m.

There are 5 climbs.

Rock: Culm.

Access: Not Open Access land. From the A39, a RoW through Peppercombe leads to the foreshore.

Car Parking: Road-side at Horns Cross/Northway on the A39.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI, SAC.

Potential: Limited by rock quality.

Value Assessment: The cliff is little-known late-nineties discovery of minor interest.

Blackchurch, Mouth Mill, Nr Clovelly (and Windbury Head)

OS Ref: 300266-298267 (288267-291267)

Dimensions: A 200m-long Main Cliff, fronted by the foreshore stack of Blackchurch Rock; Height: Main Cliff: 70m; Blackchurch Rock: 30m; Windbury Head: 70m. There are 25 climbs on The Main Cliff, 9 on Blackchurch Rock; 1 on Windbury Head.

Rock: Culm.

Access: Approach either from Brownsham Farm along a RoW to Mouth Mill, or from Clovelly along the South West Coast Path. The cliffs are gained along the foreshore. Windbury Head lies on the edge of Open Access land.

Car Parking: Car-parks at both departure points: Brownsham Farm (The National Trust) and Clovelly - busy in peak periods.

Restrictions: None specific. The Main Cliff is part of the Clovelly Court estate. SSSI, SAC.

Potential: Limited on the Main Cliff; Windbury Head holds only one climb.

Value Assessment: The first Culm crag to be fully developed, which is regularly visited. Considering also the solid, more amenable slab climbs of Blackchurch Rock, it is an important and classical site.

Exmansworthy area, Nr Hartland Point

OS Ref: 279270-267277

Dimensions: Exmansworthy Cliff (278271-276273) is 250m long.

Height: 40m-60m.

Exmansworthy holds 25 climbs; there is an isolated cliff to its east (279270) with 1 climb, and Chapman Rock (a foreshore stack: 267277) to its west has 2 climbs.

Rock: Culm.

Access: Apart from Chapman Rock, the cliffs lie on the edge of Open Access land that forms a coastal strip between foreshore and (generally) the South West Coast Path. From Exmansworthy, a path (not indicated as RoW) runs north to join the Open Access land east of the cliff. A scramble and multiple abseils lead to the foreshore and cliff-base.

Car Parking: National Trust car-park at Exmansworthy.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI, SAC.

Potential: Moderate, including scope to re-establish existing climbs in disrepair.

Value Assessment: During the eighties this was a high-profile crag; however land-slips have left much of it in a poor condition. Some fine climbs have escaped being damaged, and recently some routes have been restored. Chapman Rock is described as a 'collector's item' in The Climbers' Club guidebook.

Cow and Calf (Hartland Point) to Damehole Point

OS Ref: 227272-223263

Dimensions: There are four principal cliffs along this section; two of them (Cow and Calf and Smoothlands) are especially important. Cow and Calf (227272) is a narrow vertically bedded promontory extending 60m laterally, Upright Cliff (227268) is about 100m long, 'Great Slab' of Smoothlands (226266) is 100m long, and Damehole Point (223263) supports a south-facing slab 150m long. Between them (and to the north of Cow and Calf), there is a variety of smaller, developed or part-developed cliffs.

Height: 25m-35m on average, but up to 60m at Smoothlands.

There are 20 climbs on Cow and Calf, 8 climbs on Upright Cliff, 8 climbs on Smoothlands Great Slab, 19 climbs on Damehole Point. Elsewhere, there is a scattering of climbs.

Rock: Culm.

Access: The cliffs lie on the edge of Open Access land that forms a coastal strip between foreshore and (generally) the South West Coast Path. RoWs from Blagdon Farm gain the Open Access land. Walks or scrambles gain the cliff-bases and foreshore. Damehole Point is often approached from the south (as for Dyer's Lookout), via the coast path.

Car Parking: Plentiful parking in two private car-parks at Blagdon Farm. For the southern approach to Damehole Point, car parking is as for Dyer's Lookout.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI.

Potential: Moderate, but mostly on peripheral and intervening crags.

Value Assessment: Cow and Calf and Smoothlands are exceptionally interesting sites due to their concentrations of fine climbs and geological form, and are regularly visited.

Dyer's Lookout, Nr Hartland Quay

OS Ref: 226259-225258 and OS Ref: 224256-224253

Dimensions: Two hundred metres long, including wings to either side of the sheer main wall. The foreshore stack (the 'Blisterin' Barnacle' Slab') at 224256 is 25m long.

Height: The main wall is 55m high, and the foreshore stack 25m high.

There are 15 climbs on the main wall and 13 on the stack. There are a number of other climbs scattered southwards up to and including 2 on the foreshore stack of Bear Rock (224253) and 7 on its near-neighbour.

Rock: Culm.

Access: No Open Access land at the cliff-tops: the strip of Open Access land terminates immediately north (approx. lat: 259). Approach is from Hartland Quay along the South West Coast Path to the cliff-top; then a path leads down to the foreshore.

Car Parking: Large car-parks off the private (toll) road at Hartland Quay. For Dyer's Lookout, an unofficial alternative used by the public generally, is to drive to Blackpool Mill behind the cliff-top along an unmade road (RoW).

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI, SAC.

Potential: Limited, though major challenges remain and there is room for exploration.

Value Assessment: One of the Culm coast's most impressive cliffs, with several climbs to match – and the main wall still has to be climbed direct from beach level. The foreshore stack is an excellent cliff, accessible to most climbers.

Warren Beach Cliff, Hartland Quay

OS Ref: 225253-225249

Dimensions: The main cliff, under the ruined tower, is approximately 300m long.

Height: 100m.

There are 2 climbs on the main cliff; 4 on a 10m crag just to its north, and there is some unrecorded climbing on the shorter cliffs west of the public house at Hartland Quay (222248).

Rock: Culm.

Access: Not Open Access land. The approach is along the foreshore direct from Hartland Quay.

Car Parking: As for Dyer's Lookout.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI, SAC.

Potential: Moderate for 'mountaineering-style' climbs of a similarly extreme ilk.

Value Assessment: A high-adventure cliff with potential for a shale-specialist minority.

Screda Point, Nr Hartland Quay

OS Ref: 223245-221245

Dimensions: One hundred and fifty metres of slabs and stacks on an E-W promontory.

Height: 25m.

There are 35 climbs here. Also, there are 3 climbs on St Catherine's Tor (224241).

Rock: Culm.

Access: Not Open Access land. The approach is along the foreshore from Hartland Quay, or via the South West Coast Path to the cliff-top (abseil descent).

Car Parking: As for Dyer's Lookout.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI, SAC.

Potential: Limited.

Value Assessment: This is amongst the most convenient and amenable of Culm crags, and has an established good reputation and popularity.

Speke's Mill Mouth - Brownspear Point, Nr Hartland Quay

OS Ref: 225236-224235

Dimensions: Three hundred metres of unbroken cliff from the waterfall at Speke's Mill Mouth round to the south-facing slabs of Brownspear Point.

Height: 20m-60m.

There are 35 climbs spread fairly evenly along the cliffs.

Rock: Culm.

Access: All the cliffs south of the waterfall lie on the edge of Open Access land that forms a coastal strip between foreshore and (generally) the South West Coast Path. The approach is from Hartland Quay along the South West Coast Path to the cliff tops. A path leads down to the foreshore adjacent to the waterfall; the south-facing Brownspear Point climbs are reached by a scramble from the cliff top to their west.

Car Parking: as for Dyer's Lookout. It is possible to drive to the cliff-top along an un-made road (RoW) from Lymebridge.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI, SAC.

Potential: Limited.

Value Assessment: The 'waterfall cliff' is a unique and high-calibre cliff, and there is a range of interesting routes of most grades on Brownspear Point.

Hole Rock, Nr Milford

OS Ref: 222226

Dimensions: A compact crag on the north side of a promontory south of Longpeak.
Height: 20m.
There are 5 climbs.
Rock: Culm.

Access: The cliffs lie on the edge of Open Access land that forms a coastal strip between foreshore and (generally) the South West Coast Path. From Milford/Elmscott, RoWs lead to the Open Access land; then a scramble gains the foreshore.

Car Parking: Road-side in or near Milford/Elmscott.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI, SAC.

Potential: Moderate.

Value Assessment: A modest but pleasant, small crag, that will attract occasional visits.

Sandhole Point to Nabor Point, South Hole

OS Ref: 218208-214199

Dimensions: A km coast incorporating five different crags or faces in two main locations.
Height: <20m.
There are 5 climbs at Sandhole Point and 12 climbs at Nabor Point (most of which are on the central - of three - promontories).
Rock: Culm.

Access: The cliffs lie on the edge of Open Access land that forms a coastal strip between foreshore and (generally) the South West Coast Path and meets the public highway at the approach point. A scrambling descent leads to the foreshore.

Car Parking: Road-side, along the minor coast road through South Hole.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI, SAC.

Potential: Moderate.

Value Assessment: A wild and infrequently visited landscape imbues character and enhances the climbing at this site.

Knap Head: Knap's Longpeak to Foxhold Slabs

OS Ref: 211188–211186

Dimensions: Two hundred metres of cliffs with two main sets of slabs (Knap's Longpeak, Foxhold Slabs).

Height: 25m-55m.

There are 10 climbs on each set of slabs.

Rock: Culm.

Access: The cliffs lie on the edge of Open Access land that forms a coastal strip between foreshore and (generally) the South West Coast Path. The approach is along the foreshore from Welcombe Mouth.

Car Parking: Spacious car-park at Welcome Mouth at the end of an unmade road (RoW).

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI, SAC.

Potential: Moderate on Knap's Longpeak.

Value Assessment: Foxhold Slabs offers agreeable and relatively light-hearted climbing.

Sea-Cliff Climbing Sites in Cornwall

- **The Culm Coast (cont)**
- **The Atlantic Coast**
- **Penwith North-West Coast**
- **Penwith South-West Coast**
- **Penwith South-East Coast**
- **Kerrier South Coast**
- **South East Cornwall**

The Culm Coast (cont.)

Marsland Cliff, Nr Welcombe

OS Ref: 207170-203172

Dimensions: South-facing slabs along a 200m promontory with the stack of Gull Rock at its seaward end and an isolated narrow pillar (Baywatch Wall) at 207170 next to Litter Mouth Waterfall.

Height: 12m-25m.

There are 43 climbs, 12 of these on Gull Stack and 2 on Baywatch Wall.

Rock: Culm.

Access: The cliffs lie on the edge of Open Access land that forms a coastal strip between foreshore and (generally) the South West Coast Path. The approach (1km) is along the foreshore from Welcombe Mouth. Baywatch Wall can be approached by abseil.

Car Parking: As for Knap Hill.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI, SAC.

Potential: Limited, but moderate in Baywatch Wall area.

Value Assessment: This is a superb, welcoming site and justifiably popular.

Cornakey Cliff, Nr Morwenstowe

OS Ref: 203165-204164

Dimensions: A 150m long cliff at the northern end of Yeol Mouth.

Height: up to 130m.

There are 15 climbs (and also one rarely achievable winter ice climb up the waterfall of Yeol Mouth: 202162).

Rock: Culm.

Access: The cliffs lie on the edge of Open Access land that forms a coastal strip between foreshore and (generally) the South West Coast Path. From Morwenstowe, RoWs gain the Open Access land. A scrambling descent north of the cliff leads to the foreshore.

Car Parking: National Trust car-park in Morwenstowe.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI, SAC.

Potential: Moderate on the main slabs.

Value Assessment: One of the more traditional of the Culm cliffs, with one of its oldest (1959) and most sought-after climbs, Wrecker's Slab.

Westcott Wattle, Nr Morwenstowe

OS Ref: 201162-199159

Dimensions: Several hundred metres of slabs south of Yeol Mouth.

Height: <110m.

There are 6 climbs.

Rock: Culm.

Access: Access as for Cornakey Cliff, but with a scrambling descent via the coombe south of Yeol Mouth to the foreshore.

Car Parking: As for Cornakey Cliff.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI, SAC.

Potential: High, but arguably of low-quality.

Value Assessment: An esoteric cliff with adventurous outings that will attract few visits.

Henna Cliff, Nr Morwenstowe

OS Ref: 200159-198156

Dimensions: Three hundred metres of sea cliffs, including its southern limit: Morwenna Slabs.

Height: 150m. (Morwenna Slabs: 20m).

There is 1 climb on Henna Cliff, 3 on Morwenna Slabs.

Rock: Culm.

Access: The cliffs lie on the edge of Open Access land that forms a coastal strip between foreshore and (generally) the South West Coast Path. From Morwenstowe Church, a RoW gains the Open Access land. A scrambling descent leads to the foreshore.

Car Parking: As for Cornakey Cliff.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI, SAC.

Potential: Moderate, but limited by rock quality.

Value Assessment: 'Breakaway', the sole climb on Culm's highest and most serious cliff, is one of the most revered in the South West, and a goal for a few hardy climbers only.

Vicarage Cliff and Luckey Hole, Nr Morwenstowe

OS Ref: 197152-198151

Dimensions: An aggregate 300m of cliff; mostly on a south-facing slab on an E-W promontory

Height: Mainly 25m-30m, but <70m for the landward slabs.

There are 35 climbs, the majority of which occupy the promontory slab.

Rock: Culm

Access: The cliffs lie on the edge of Open Access land that forms a coastal strip between foreshore and (generally) the South West Coast Path, terminating at The Tidna stream. From Morwenstowe, RoWs gain the Open Access land. A scrambling descent leads to the foreshore next to the promontory. An alternative is along the foreshore from Higher Sharpnose Point.

Car Parking: As for Cornakey Cliff.

Restrictions: None specific. SAC.

Potential: Moderate.

Value Assessment: An important cliff with high-quality climbing in a fine setting.

Higher Sharpnose Point to Hippa Rock, Nr Morwenstowe

OS Ref: 195148-198137

Dimensions: A km of fairly continuous cliffs embracing four distinct climbing locations. Height: <90m at Higher Sharpnose Point, 45m at Oldwalls Point, and 25m elsewhere. There are 5 recorded climbs at Higher Sharpnose Point, 10 routes at 'Moped Zawn' (198240), 5 routes at Oldwalls Point (198140), and 11 at Hippa Rock.
Rock: Culm.

Access: Not Open Access land. The approach is via the South West Coast Path reached by RoWs from Morwenstowe (for Higher Sharpnose Point) and from Stanbury (for the three remaining sites). Scrambles from respective points along the path lead to the cliff-bases or to the cliff-tops and abseil descents.

Car Parking: For Higher Sharpnose Point, as for Cornakey Cliff. For the three remaining sites, there is an adequate car-park west of Stanbury Farm.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI, SAC.

Potential: Moderate.

Value Assessment: Several outstanding climbs on Oldwalls Point, and a good cliff in the form of Hippa Rock, make this a valuable 'second league' Culm climbing area.

Lower Sharpnose Point, Nr Morwenstowe

OS Ref: 195128-195127

Dimensions: Only 100m North-South, yet a series of seaward projecting strata (that provide the back-to-back climbing faces) present an aggregate length of approx. 300m. Height: 25m-40m.
There are over 80 climbs, densely concentrated on the faces of three 'fin'-forming individual or small groups of strata. One of Culm's most highly developed cliffs.
Rock: Culm.

Access: The cliffs lie on the edge of Open Access land that forms a coastal strip between foreshore and (generally) the South West Coast Path. The approach to the Open Access land is via a track (no RoW) around the CSOC radar station. A scrambling or abseil descent leads to the foreshore.

Car Parking: Limited parking on the Morwenstowe - Combe road. Alternatively, car-parks at Stanbury or Combe and the South West Coast Path gained respectively.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI, SAC.

Potential: Very limited.

Value Assessment: This is the Culm Coast's premier crag; one of the finest, most unusual small sea cliffs in Britain.

Steeple Point to Sandy Mouth, Coombe

OS Ref: 198117-201101

Dimensions: Climbs have been established on six separate sections of the cliff-line along this 1.5km stretch, between Steeple Point and Sandy Mouth, on crags at: 198117 (Steeple Point), 201114, 201112, 202105 and 202104 (both Stowe Cliffs), and 201101 (The Flame).

Height: mostly 25m, 30m on The Flame (a pinnacle immediately north of Sandy Mouth). There are 11 climbs in total, 4 of these are on The Flame.

Rock: Culm.

Access: The cliffs lie on the edge of Open Access land that forms a coastal strip between foreshore and (generally) the South West Coast Path and terminates at Sandy Mouth. Approach is along the foreshore from either Duckpool or Sandy Mouth.

Car Parking: National Trust car-parks in Duckpool and Sandy Mouth.

Restrictions: None specific. SAC.

Potential: Moderate.

Value Assessment: A quiet and sparsely climbed-on coast.

Menachurch Point, Nr Bude

OS Ref: 202090-200088 (and Dunsmouth Cliff: 202092)

Dimensions: One hundred metres of slabs and cave-overhangs on the northern side of the Point.

Height: 15m-30m.

There are 17 climbs on Menachurch Point, 3 on 'The Prom' (202090), and 2 on Dunsmouth Cliff.

Rock: Culm.

Access: Not Open Access land. From Northcott Mouth, the approach is via the South West Coast Path, and then a descent to the north of the point leads to the cliff-base.

Car Parking: Spacious car-park at Northcott Mouth.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI, SAC.

Potential: High for high-standard climbs.

Value Assessment: An interesting and varied cliff with some unusual and futuristic climbing, currently the subject of technical debate amongst the region's climbers.

Maer Cliff to Wrangle Point, Nr Bude

OS Ref: 202083-201073

Dimensions: Primarily 1km of continuous cliffs, buttresses and foreshore stacks, concentrated at Maer Cliff (202083-201075).

Height: 10m-40m; 60m at Wrangle Point.

There are approaching 60 climbs and many boulder-problems around Maer Cliff, and 16 climbs on cliffs behind Wrangle Point (201075-201073).

Rock: Culm.

Access: Not Open Access land; owned by The National Trust. The approach is along the foreshore from Northcott Mouth to the northern set of cliffs, and via a 'fisherman's track' leading down from the South West Coast Path at the cliff top (at 201079) to the southern cliffs. Wrangle Point cliff can be approached along the beach from Bude.

Car Parking: As for Menachurch Point.

Restrictions: None specific. Some reported incompatibility between commercial group use of 'The Black Wall' and individual climbers. SSSI, SAC.

Potential: High.

Value Assessment: One of the Culm Coast's most important climbing sites, hosting many fine routes, an up-and-coming bouldering venue, and potential for the future.

Compass Point, Bude

OS Ref: 200064-200061

Dimensions: Two hundred metres of south-facing slabs along the E-W promontory of Compass Point, and an isolated crag 300m south (Bude Pillars: 200061).

Height: 40m.

There are 41 climbs on the well-developed Compass Point and 11 on the Bude Pillars.

Rock: Culm.

Access: Not Open Access land. The approach is via the South West Coast Path from Bude to a 'fisherman's track' leading to the foreshore south of the Point.

Car Parking: Plentiful parking in Bude (busy in peak holiday periods).

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI.

Potential: Limited, including on smaller peripheral crags.

Value Assessment: This is a traditional Culm crag with easy access but serious climbing, though it is not as popular as it once was.

Efford Beacon, Bude

OS Ref: 199059-201057

Dimensions: One hundred metre-long cliff, part of a more extensive cliff-line.

Height: 80m.

There are 2 climbs.

Rock: Culm.

Access: Not Open Access land. Access as for Compass Point (the Lynstone approach is equally convenient).

Car Parking: As for Compass Point/Lynstone.

Restrictions: None specific.

Potential: Moderate, in the same vein, but limited by rock quality.

Value Assessment: A high-adventure, big and serious Culm cliff, with corresponding minimal general appeal.

Lynstone, Nr Bude

OS Ref: 200054-200053

Dimensions: One hundred metres of cliff-face either side of an upright Culm sandstone stratum projecting into the foreshore.

Height: 15m.

There are 15 climbs.

Rock: Culm.

Access: Not Open Access land. The approach is via the South West Coast Path which follows the cliff top from Upton; and then a 'fisherman's track' leads down to the foreshore south of Efford Beacon.

Car Parking: Sufficient pull-ins on the coast road at Upton.

Restrictions: None specific.

Potential: Moderate; and nearby smaller crags appear undeveloped.

Value Assessment: This is a fine, if modest and little-known, cliff that will attract occasional visits.

Upton Slabs to Higher Longbeak, Upton

OS Ref: 200052-197038

Dimensions: At Upton Slabs, principally a 50m slab along an E-W promontory.

Height: 40m.

There are 12 climbs on the main slab (200052), 2 on the foreshore stacks at 200048, 5 on the 'Arrowhead Pinnacle' and adjacent stacks (at approx. 200040), and 2 in the Higher Longbeak area.

Rock: Culm.

Access: Not Open Access land. The approach is from the foreshore, which is reached direct from the coast road at Upton down open hillside.

Car Parking: Sufficient pull-ins on the coast road at Upton.

Restrictions: None specific.

Potential: Limited on the main slabs, but moderate on lesser crags along this stretch.

Value Assessment: Upton Slabs is very impressively situated, with a classic easier climb; and the Arrowhead provides a compulsive summit to attain.

The Atlantic Coast' (Widemouth Bay to Hell's Mouth, Cornwall)

Preamble: The Atlantic Coast comprises 90km of wild and spectacular coast-line, occupied by large and complex cliffs of metamorphic and igneous rocks. Though a minority of the cliffs are long-established climbing sites, there will be as many again that have yet to be climbed upon, seriously developed, or even discovered. Together with the Exmoor and Culm Coasts, it will help serve climbers' instinct for sea-cliff exploration and discovery in the south-west. Many of the climbing sites lie on the edge of Open Access land defined in narrow discontinuous coastal strips between foreshore and generally the line of the South West Coast Path. Some key sites are not Open Access land. Much of the coast or the land behind it is designated as SSSIs and SACs, and a geological coastal SSSI runs north from Boscastle to Widemouth.

Thorn's Beach Slabs, Cleave Cliff, Crackington Haven

OS Ref: 152978-151978

Dimensions: One hundred metres of slabs set in a scrubby cliff-side.
Height: 60m.
There is 1 climb.
Rock: Culm.

Access: The cliffs lie on the edge of a coastal strip of Open Access land that extends to St Gennys and Crackington Haven. The approach to the cliff-base is along the foreshore after a scramble down the cliff-side.

Car Parking: Limited road-side in St Genny's; car-park in Crackington Haven.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI, SAC.

Potential: Moderate.

Value Assessment: An away-from-it-all place and likely only to be rarely visited.

Great Barton Strand, Crackington Haven

OS Ref: 142973-141974

Dimensions: A discrete slab below a steep grassy cliff-side.
Height: 25m.
There are 2 climbs.
Rock: Culm

Access: The cliff lies on the edge of a coastal strip of Open Access land that extends to St Gennys and Crackington Haven. A scramble-down leads to the cliff-base.

Car Parking: as for Thorn's Beach Slabs.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI, SAC.

Potential: Moderate.

Value Assessment: as for Thorn's Beach Slabs.

Beach Cliff, Crackington Haven

OS Ref: 139972

Dimensions: An extensive 'shale cliff'.

Height: 100m.

There is only 1 climb here.

Rock: Culm.

Access: The approach is along the beach from Crackington Haven. The climb exits onto Open Access land.

Car Parking: Car-park in Crackington Haven.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI, SAC.

Potential: High, but limited by rock quality.

Value Assessment: One of the coast's highest, serious shale cliffs: of marginal appeal.

Crackington Haven Coaststeering Traverses

Eastwards from Crackington Haven (OS Ref: 142968) to Millook (OS Ref: 184001).

Westwards from Crackington Haven (OS Ref: 142968) around Cambeak to Little Strand (OS Ref: 131960).

There are also 3 climbs in Millook Haven.

Access and egress: Open Access land throughout, and various public highways.

Car Parking: As for the specified climbing sites.

Buckator ('Bukator Cliff'), Nr Boscastle

OS Ref: 119933-118935

Dimensions: Several hundred metres long.

Height: 150m.

Three climbs take the full height of the cliff.

Rock: Culm.

Access: The cliff lies on the edge of a coastal strip of Open Access land. From Beeny, a RoW gains the Open Access land. The approach to the cliff-base is by a scramble to its south.

Car Parking: Road-side in or near Beeny.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI, SAC.

Potential: High, but limited by rock quality.

Value Assessment: The scale of the cliff is a challenge to a small minority of climbers attracted to large, loose and committing shale sea cliffs: rarely climbed.

Beeny Cliff, Nr Boscastle

OS Ref: 109930-108920

Dimensions: A km-long cliff.

Height: 100m.

There is 1 climb.

Rock: Culm.

Access: The cliff lies on the edge of a coastal strip of Open Access land. A RoW from the B3263 gains the Open Access land.

Car Parking: Pull-ins on the B3263.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI, SAC.

Potential: High - in the image of the existing climb - but limited by rock quality.

Value Assessment: As for Buckator, but even more esoteric.

Long Island, Nr Boscastle

OS Ref: 073906

Dimensions: Approx. 200m of cliffs on the island.

Height: 120m.

There are 2 climbs on the island's seaward face.

Rock: Culm.

Access: Not Open Access land. The approach to the foreshore is via a scramble down from mainland Open Access land; and then a 100m swim/boat-trip gains the island.

Car Parking: Road-side in Trevalga.

Restrictions: None specific.

Potential: High, but limited by rock quality and logistics.

Value Assessment: A remote and problematic site, likely only to be very rarely climbed.

Trewethet Cliff, Nr Boscastle

OS Ref: 073900-073898

Dimensions: Approx. 100m long.

Height: 45m.

There are 5 climbs.

Rock: Culm.

Access: The cliff lies on the edge of a coastal strip of Open Access land that extends up Rocky Valley to the B3263.

Car Parking: Large lay-by on the B3263.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI, SAC.

Potential: Moderate.

Value Assessment: The cliffs are friendlier than their neighbours, though still of minority interest.

Rocky Valley Cliffs, Nr Tintagel

OS Ref: 072898-070895

Dimensions: Localised cliff on the headland 072898, and 100m slabs in the zawn at 071897-017895.

Height: 25m, and 60m respectively.

There are 2 climbs at each location.

Rock: Culm.

Access: The cliffs lie on the edge of a coastal strip of Open Access land that extends up Rocky Valley to the B3263.

Car Parking: As for Trewethet Cliff.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI, SAC.

Potential: Limited.

Value Assessment: A relatively minor cliff.

Bossiney Haven, Nr Tintagel

OS Ref: 065895-065897

Dimensions: Two hundred metres of cliff.

Height: 35m.

There are 5 climbs on two separate buttresses.

Rock: Culm/schist.

Access: The cliffs lie on the edge of a coastal strip of Open Access land. A RoW from Bossiney gains the Open Access land. The approaches to the climbs are by means of abseil descents.

Car Parking: Car-park at Bossiney.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI, SAC.

Potential: Moderate.

Value Assessment: An interesting crag which is 'off the beaten track' yet fairly accessible.

Lye Rock, Nr Tintagel

OS Ref: 065899-064898

Dimensions: Two hundred metres of cliff on the south and west faces of Lye Rock.

Height: 100m.

There are 4 routes on the south face.

Rock: Culm shale.

Access: Lye Rock is Open Access land. A scramble and abseil descent leads to the foreshore. Lye Rock becomes an island at high tide.

Car Parking: As for Bossiney Haven.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI, SAC.

Potential: High.

Value Assessment: Despite having few climbs (and few visits), this is an important and unusual cliff that hosts one of the classic shale-cliff climbs of North Cornwall.

Willapark, Nr Tintagel

OS Ref: 061897-062896

Dimensions: Several hundred metres long.

Height: 80m.

There are 3 climbs.

Rock: Culm/shale.

Access: The cliff lies on the edge of a coastal strip of Open Access land. A scrambling descent leads to the cliff-base.

Car Parking: As for Bossiney Haven.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI, SAC.

Potential: Assumed to be high, subject to rock quality considerations.

Value Assessment: One of many highly adventurous and serious cliffs on this coastline with a reputation for loose rock: not frequented.

Tintagel Head, Tintagel

OS Ref: 048893-049889

Dimensions: Four hundred metres of cliffs wrapped around the north-west-south faces of The Island.

Height: 70m.

There are 26 routes, all but three of which are concentrated on the main cliff: 048892-048891.

Rock: Schist/shale.

Access, Access Agreement, and Restrictions: Not Open Access land. The Island is owned by English Heritage and is part of a King Arthur-themed tourist attraction. Access to climb is strictly controlled. Application for permission is made in writing to English Heritage and is granted free on site upon completion and handing-in of a signed disclaimer. Technically, climbing is only permitted during opening hours and climbers are requested to 'sign out'. This causes a material problem, and occasionally difficulties with the management, as it is intrinsically impossible to time climbing routes of this stature to a deadline. SSSI, SAC.

Car Parking: Large car parks in Tintagel.

Potential: Moderate, notably on the smaller crags.

Value Assessment: One of the finest sea cliffs in Britain, it hosts some compelling sea-cliff classics, and is regularly climbed.

Dunderhole Point, Tintagel

OS Ref: 051889-046881

Dimensions: A promontory (047882-046881) near the south end of a 1km line of cliffs stretching from Tintagel Head.

Height: 50m.

There are 2 climbs.

Rock: Schist/shale.

Access: The cliff lies on the edge of a coastal strip of Open Access land. From Tintagel/Treven, RoWs gain the Open Access land. An abseil descent leads to the cliff-base.

Car Parking: As for Tintagel Head/road-side Treven area.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI.

Potential: High.

Value Assessment: A relatively minor site, with potential in the north.

Trebarwith Strand to Backways Cove, Nr Tintagel

OS Ref: 047862-044859

Dimensions: Coastal quarries at 051873-051869. A half a km of sea cliffs culminating in Backways Cove at their southern end.

Height: 50m.

There is a coastal traverse; 1 climb on a pinnacle in the quarries (051870), while the remaining 10 climbs are located in Backways Cove.

Rock: Schist, shale, slate; part-quarried in Backways Cove.

Access: The quarries (owned by The National Trust) are not on Open Access land. The remaining cliffs lie on the edge of a coastal strip of Open Access land. Approach to the quarries/Open Access land is via The South West Coast Path/RoW from Trebarwith Strand, respectively.

Car Parking: Car-park in Tebarwith Strand.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI.

Potential: Moderate.

Value Assessment: Though not mainstream there is a compelling traverse and a cluster of excellent quality climbs here.

Lobber Point, Port Isaac

OS Ref: 994812

Dimensions: A small slab.

Height: 20m.

There is 1 climb.

Rock: Pillow lava.

Access: Not Open Access land. Approach from Port Isaac via the South West Coast Path, and then by means of a cliff-top RoW.

Car Parking: Car-parks in Port Isaac.

Restrictions: None specific.

Potential: Low.

Value Assessment: One of many lesser cliffs in the area, it is unlikely to attract many visits.

Scarnor Point, Nr Port Isacc.

OS Ref: 978512

Dimensions: One hundred metres long.

Height: 25m.

There are 3 climbs.

Rock: Pillow lava.

Access: Not Open Access land. The approach is from Port Quinn/Port Isaac via the South West Coast Path; then a short descent leads down open cliff-side to the climbs.

Car Parking: Car-parks in Port Quinn and Port Isaac.

Restrictions: None specific.

Potential: Moderate.

Value Assessment: As for Lobber Point.

Kellan Head, Port Quinn

OS Ref: 970812-968808

Dimensions: Four hundred metres of slabs and walls, continuous in the north.

Height: 15m-50m.

There are 32 climbs, densely concentrated around: 969811.

Rock: Pillow lava.

Access: The cliffs lie on the edge of a coastal strip of Open Access land that extends to Port Quinn.

Car Parking: National Trust car-park in Port Quinn.

Restrictions: None specific.

Potential: Limited.

Value Assessment: A fine, attractive cliff with excellent-quality climbs; often visited.

Doyden Point

OS Ref: 967807-967805

Dimensions: A 100m-long cliff.

Height: 45m.

There are 12 climbs.

Rock: Pillow lava.

Access: Not Open Access land, though National Trust-owned. The approach is from Port Quinn via a RoW; then across open hillside to the cliff-top and an abseil descent.

Car Parking: As for Kellan Head.

Restrictions: None specific.

Potential: Limited.

Value Assessment: A useful small cliff with atmospheric routes that belie its size.

Pentire (North Cliff to Pentire Point), Nr Polzeath

OS Ref: 932809–923804

Dimensions: A km coast containing at least 12 discrete main sea cliffs or coastal outcrops.

Height: 15m – 70m (The Great Wall).

There are 100 climbs with principal concentrations on The Great Wall (931808), Pentire Black Zawn (929808), and The Shield Cliffs (928807).

Rock: Pillow lava.

Access: The cliffs lie variously on the edge of, or within, a coastal strip of Open Access land. A RoW from Pentire Farm gains the Open Access land. Walk/scramble/abseil-down approaches to cliff-bases.

Car Parking: National Trust car-parks at Pentire Farm.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI.

Potential: High.

Value Assessment: The Pentire headland is one of the most important sea-cliff climbing sites in Britain; the climbs on Great Wall are famously world-class.

Pepper Hole and Butter Hole, Nr Padstow

OS Ref: 907782-905774

Dimensions: A km coast with 7 main climbing cliffs.

Height: 30m-55m.

There are 26 climbs (1 in Pepper Hole, 908781); the majority are on continuous cliffs on the north side of the bay of Butter Hole.

Rock: Schist/shale.

Access: Not Open Access land. A path (not indicated as a RoW) leads from Lellizick Farm to the South West Coast Path which runs along the cliff-tops; then a scramble/abseil gains the cliff-bases.

Car Parking: Road-side at Lellizick Farm.

Restrictions: None specific.

Potential: Moderate.

Value Assessment: A site that is 'somewhere different' for most climbers.

Gunver Head (Merope Islands), Nr Trevone

OS Ref: 894770-894772

Dimensions: Two of three foreshore stacks/islands.

The larger stack has 1 climb, the stack with a tower on top 2 climbs.

Height: 45m.

Rock: Schist/shale.

Access: Not Open Access land. A path (not indicated as a RoW) is followed to the South West Coast Path; then a scramble leads to the foreshore.

Car Parking: Road-side lay-by on the minor road to Lellizick Farm.

Restrictions: None specific.

Potential: Moderate, subject to rock quality considerations.

Value Assessment: The adventure and novelty value of climbing sea stack summits is tempered by their seriousness.

Marble Cliff and 'Round Hole Point', Trevone

OS Ref: 892764-889763

Dimensions: Three hundred metres of intermittent cliffs.

Height: 25m.

Less than 10 (some unrecorded) climbs.

Rock: Limestone, schist, shale.

Access: The cliff lies on the edge of a coastal strip of Open Access land. From Trevone the South West Coast Path gains the Open Access land; then a scramble leads to the cliff bases.

Car Parking: Car-park in Trevone.

Restrictions: None specific.

Potential: Limited.

Value Assessment: These are highly esoteric cliffs.

Park Head to Beryl's Point, North of Newquay

OS Ref: 841708-842669

Dimensions: Three localised cliffs (Park Head: 841708; Trenance Cliff: 846679; and Beryl's Point: 842669) along this 4km stretch (which is most notable for the foreshore stacks of Bedruthan Steps).

Height: 40m-70m.

Each has between 1-3 climbs.

Rock: Schist/shale.

Access: Park Head and Trenance Cliff lie on the edges of coastal strips of Open Access land. Beryl's Point is not Open Access land. The approaches are from the South West Coast Path and (in the case of the Trenance sites) the Mawgan Porth beach and foreshore.

Car Parking: For Park Head: at National Trust car-park at Bedruthan Steps; otherwise car-parks in Trenance.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI.

Potential: Variable, but of limited appeal.

Value Assessment: As for Marble Cliff etc.

Penhale Point to Ligger Point, Nr Newquay

OS Ref: 756592-757581

Dimensions: A km of discontinuous cliffs line headlands and zawns between the two Points.

Height: 15m-80m.

There are 20 routes.

Rock: Schist/shale.

Access, Access Agreement, and Car Parking: The cliffs lie on the edge of a coastal strip of Ministry of Defence-owned Open Access land. An access agreement allows climbing on all sites at all times. The cliffs must be accessed via the South West Coast Path, which is gained after parking in a National Trust car-park at Holywell. SSSI.

Potential: Moderate.

Value Assessment: Not frequently visited, but worth visiting.

Cligga Head, Nr Perranporth

OS Ref: 743538-738533

Dimensions: Three hundred metres of crags around the headland. Separate outlying crags on the headland opposite Shag Rock (746541) to the east, The Miners Cliff (743538) also to the east, and Green Wall (738533) to the south.

Height: 30m.

There are 30 routes at Cligga Head and a handful of recorded climbs and possibilities at 'Shag Crag' and The Miners' Cliff respectively.

Rock: Mostly granite, but some Killas slate.

Access: The cliffs lie on the edge of Open Access land, which extends eastwards as far as the B3285. Scrambles or abseils gain the cliff-bases.

Car Parking: Road-side nearby/B3285.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI.

Potential: Limited.

Value Assessment: More amenable and popular than most other crags of North Cornwall.

Carn Gowla, St Agnes (to Chapel Porth)

OS Ref: 708518-697496

Dimensions: Four km of continuous cliffs (that continue beyond Chapel Porth).

Height: <100m (at Bawden Cliff).

There are 145 climbs, mostly located in the relatively well-developed section between: 705516-698507.

Rock: Schist, quartzite.

Access: The cliffs lie on the edge of Open Access land. Abseils gain the cliff-base.

Car Parking: Large car-parking areas on unmade roads 200-300m behind the cliff-top (Open Access land).

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI; the southern section of this coast – beyond the main climbing area – is part of the Godrevy Head to St Agnes SAC.

Potential: Very high.

Value Assessment: This is a key south-west sea-cliff climbing area, with a good number of challenging and important climbs. There is considerable room for exploration and pioneering in and around existing climbs and on whole undeveloped cliffs. Nonetheless, it is a serious area, and visitor numbers are not high as they could be.

The Wave, Basset's Cove, Nr Camborne

OS Ref: 637442

Dimensions: A low overhanging wall with boulder-problems above a beach.

Access: The cliffs lie on the edge of a coastal strip of Open Access land. A scramble leads to the beach.

Car Parking: Car-park above Basset's Cove.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI.

Potential: High - for bouldering.

Value Assessment: Locally considered as 'futuristic', in terms of technically difficult boulder-problems, and of corresponding significance.

Hell's Mouth to Fishing Cove, and Godrevy Point, NW of Camborne

OS Ref: 604430-596429, and 580432

Dimensions: Half km cliffs between the two coves, and small cliffs at the separate Godrevy Point.

Height: 30m.

There are 2 climbs at Hell's Mouth, and a coasteering traverse between the two coves. Numerous boulder-problems at Godrevy Point.

Rock: Schist, slate.

Access: The cliffs lie on the edge of a coastal strip of Open Access land. The approach is by scrambling to and along the foreshore.

Car Parking: For Hell's Mouth, a car-park nearby; for Godrevy Point, car-parks at Godrevy and Godrevy Farm.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI.

Potential: Moderate.

Value Assessment: Hell's Mouth is obscure and likely only to be very rarely visited, whereas Godrevy Point offers West Cornwall's top bouldering site.

Penwith's North-West Coast, Cornwall

Preamble: Established over 100 years ago, this is traditionally Britain's most significant coastal climbing and 'holiday-climbing' area, overtaken by Pembrokeshire only in recent years. For 40km, from Wicca Pillar in the north to Sennen in the south, sea-cliffs and outcrops line the coast interrupted only by the occasional cove, fishing village or beach. Consequently, given the attractions of a favourable climate, fine granite, and the superb cliffs summarised here, this area is one of Britain's most highly developed sea-cliff climbing areas, albeit still with potential for further exploration. Most of the coastline comprises SSSIs. High-profile coverage of conservation issues has encouraged adherence to specific agreements and good practice by climbers. The number of rarely visited climbing sites far outweighs the few popular ones. Generally the Killas slate cliffs are less attractive climbing propositions than the granite ones. All the climbing sites lie on the edge of a coastal strip of Open Access land that runs almost continuously between Clodgy Point and Land's End.

Clodgy Point, Nr St Ives

OS Ref: 507414

Dimensions: A series of low, small cliffs with many boulder-problems.
Rock: Greenstone.

Access: The cliff lies on the edge of a coastal strip of Open Access land. The approach to the Open Access land is via the South West Coast Path from St Ives.

Car Parking: Road-side in St Ives.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI.

Potential: Limited.

Value Assessment: The cliffs are an important site for bouldering.

Wicca Pillar, Nr Zennor

OS Ref: 464400

Dimensions: A narrow pillar, with multiple faces.
Height: 20m.
There are 10 climbs on the Pillar and 2 adjacent.
Rock: Granite.

Access: The cliff lies on the edge of a coastal strip of Open Access land. From Zennor and Treveal, RoWs lead to the Open Access land (and the South West Coast Path). A scramble descent gains the cliff-base.

Car Parking: Car-park at Zennor; (or road-side on the B3306 for the Treveal approach.).

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI.

Potential: Very limited.

Value Assessment: Most routes date from the turn of the 20th century; this is a modest, yet well-established site.

Zennor Cliff, Zennor

OS Ref: 450396-447392

Dimensions: A 400m stretch with cliffs between Rainbow Zawn in the north and the Horse's Back in the south, including one well above the sea.

Height: Generally 25m but <100m.

There are over 25 climbs in total.

Rock: Greenstone/Killas slate.

Access: The cliff lies on the edge of a coastal strip of Open Access land. A RoW from Zennor gains the Open Access land (and the South West Coast Path). Scramble-down/abseil approaches leads to the cliff-bases.

Car Parking: Car-park at Zennor.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI.

Potential: Limited.

Value Assessment: At this site there is a selection of good-quality climbs of wide appeal, some quite historic.

Carnelloe and Boswednack Cliff, Zennor

OS Ref: 442390-439384

Dimensions: Two sea cliffs occupy their parent headlands: Carnelloe, and Boswednack Cliff.

Height: 50m and 20m.

There are 5 and 25 climbs respectively, and noted scrambling opportunities.

Rock: Greenstone.

Access: The cliff lies on the edge of a coastal strip of Open Access land. The Open Access land extends to the B3306, but the Zennor approach is viable too (via the South West Coast Path). Scrambles lead to the cliff-base.

Car Parking: Road-side on the B3306 or car-park in Zennor.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI.

Potential: Limited.

Value Assessment: A secluded and quiet site, Boswednack's climbs span 90years.

The Gurnard's Head to Robin's Rocks, Treen

OS Ref: 432388-425380

Dimensions: A km of major greenstone cliffs line a series of headlands and zawns, embracing 10 main climbing cliffs: The Gurnard's Head (432388); Right Angle Cliff (432386); Kittywake Zawn (432385); Pedn Kei Zawn, Island, and West (Treen Cliff) (431385-432384); Zawn Duel (430383); Carn Gloose (429383); Wenven Cove (428380); and Robin's Rocks (425380).

Height: 25m-50m.

There are over 100 climbs across the 10 main cliffs.

Rock: Greenstone.

Access: The cliffs lie on the edge of a coastal strip of Open Access land. A RoW leads from Treen to the Open Access land (and the South West Coast Path). Various paths or ways lead to the cliff tops; the climbs are reached by scrambles or abseils. An alternative approach to Robin's Rocks is as for Windy Zawn.

Car Parking: Small car-park and limited road-side parking in Treen.

Restrictions: SSSI with vulnerable plant-life; climbers are advised to operate with care. In addition, Kittywake Zawn is a registered site of ornithological importance, and climbers are recommended to avoid this site during the nesting season. Wenven Cove is also subject to an advisory restriction during the nesting season.

Potential: Moderate.

Value Assessment: Containing West Penwith's most important greenstone cliffs, the area is a very significant climbing one, with a number of sought-after 'classics' especially on Right Angle Cliff, Carn Gloose, and Robin's Rocks. The other cliffs are more serious and much less frequented.

Windy Zawn, Porthmeor

OS Ref: 425377

Dimensions: A 50m-cliff in a small zawn on the east side of Porthmeor Cove.

Height: 25m.

There are 12 routes.

Rock: Granite (mainly) and Killas slate.

Access: The cliff lies on the edge of a coastal strip of Open Access land. From the B3306, a RoW gains the Open Access land (and the South West Coast Path). An abseil descent leads to the cliff-base.

Car Parking: Road-side on the B3306.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI.

Potential: Very limited.

Value Assessment: A peaceful place; interesting geology enhances the climbing.

Bosigran Area: Halldrine Cove to Great Zawn, Bosigran

OS Ref: 418372-415366

Dimensions: A half a km of coast, with sea cliffs, and coastal outcrops well above the sea, either side of Porthmoina Cove: Halldrine Cove (418372); Bosigran Seaward and Main Cliffs (416368); Bosigran Ridge (415367); The Great Zawn (415366), and Horseman's Zawn (414367). Taken together, Bosigran Seaward and Main Faces are 300m long.

Height: 50m.

There are almost 200 climbs here, densely concentrated at Bosigran.

Rock: Granite.

Access: The cliffs lie on the edge of, or within, a coastal strip of Open Access land, which extends at one point to the B3306 and the parking area. From the B3306 a track (not indicated as RoW) gains the Open Access land directly. Various approach paths and scrambles or abseil descents lead to the cliff-bases.

Car Parking: The National Trust car-park or at the privately owned (The Climber's Club) The Count House – accommodation for Club members.

Restrictions and Management Agreements: The Bosigran area is an SSSI with vulnerable plant-life and a potential home for nesting birds. Climbers are advised to operate with care. Porthmoina Island is an especially sensitive site, and there is an agreement between the BMC and owner The National Trust that there should be no climbing on it.

Potential: Very limited.

Value Assessment: The spiritual home of sea-cliff climbing in Britain, the historic Bosigran Area remains the focus of Cornish climbing and, given the range, quality and reputation of its climbs, a great and enduring attraction for all climbers.

Rosemergy Cove to Rosemergy Towers, Rosemergy

OS Ref: 414366-413362

Dimensions: Three hundred metres of fairly continuous sea cliffs and coastal outcrops extending south-westwards from the Bosigran area; there are three main areas along this section: Rosemergy Cove (414366); Rosemergy Ridge (414366) - which hosts four main cliffs; and Rosemergy Towers (413362).

Height: 30m.

There are 60 climbs evenly spread along this climbing area.

Rock: Granite.

Access: The cliff lies on the edge of a coastal strip of Open Access land, gained as for Bosigran. For Rosemergy Cove: then along the foreshore from The Great Zawn. For Rosemergy Ridge: scramble/abseil descents to the cliff-base. For Rosemergy Towers: across Open Access land direct from B3306.

Car Parking: As for Bosigran, or in a car-park south of Rosemergy.

Restrictions: As for The Bosigran Area; no formal restrictions, but an SSSI. Climbers are advised that the area is unspoiled and demands a commensurate level of care.

Potential: Limited.

Value Assessment: Climbs here span a century of exploration, but it is a quiet and valued area free of the peak-time crowds of Bosigran.

Whirl Pool Buttress to Trevowhan Cliff, Trevowhan

OS Ref: 410362-407361

Dimensions: Half a kilometre of coast with fairly continuous sea cliffs assembled into three climbing areas: Whirl Pool Buttress (410362); Great Moor Zawn (409361); and Trevowhan Cliff (405361), which comprises six main cliffs: New Cove, Trevowhan Zawn, Trevowhan Head, Carn Fran-kas, Rabman Zawn, and Rabbit Carn.

Height: 60m, though generally 25m-30m at Trevowhan.

At the respective sites, there are 10, 1, 16 climbs.

Rock: Granite.

Access: The cliff lies on the edge of a coastal strip of Open Access land, which encroaches upon the B3306 for half a km. Various scramble-down/abseil entries lead to the climbs.

Car Parking: Car-park on B3306 south of Rosemergy.

Restrictions: As for Rosemergy Cove.

Potential: Moderate though limited by physical conditions.

Value Assessment: Any potential mainstream appeal is tempered by difficult climbing conditions and access; hence an unpopular area (the single 1976 climb in Great Moor Zawn is unrepeated).

Carn Clough, Morvah

OS Ref: 390359-390358

Dimensions: One hundred metres of rocks, a sea-cliff, and a coastal outcrop.

Height: 20m-40m.

There are 8 climbs.

Rock: Granite.

Access: The cliffs lie on the edge of a coastal strip of Open Access land. A RoW from Lower Chypraze gains the Open Access land (and the South West Coast Path).

Car Parking: Car parking area controlled by Lower Chypraze Farm.

Restrictions: As for Rosemergy Cove.

Potential: Very limited.

Value Assessment: A minor cliff, though the adjacent beach up-rates its appeal as a climbing venue.

Pendeen Watch to Rip Tide Wall, Pendeen

OS Ref: 378359-379358

Dimensions: One hundred metres of cliffs on the south side of the Pendeen Watch headland.

Height: 30m.

There are 35 climbs.

Rock: Killas slate.

Access: The cliff lies on the edge of a coastal strip of Open Access land, which encroaches upon the Pendeen Watch lighthouse access road. Scrambles or abseils lead to the cliff-bases.

Car Parking: Car-park at Pendeen Watch.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI.

Potential: Moderate.

Value Assessment: Useful and very accessible, but not popular.

Trewellard, Nr Boscaswell

OS Ref: 371349-368347

Dimensions: Three hundred metres of cliff-/zawn-faces.

Height: 30m.

There are 55 climbs.

Rock: Killas slate.

Access: The cliff lies on the edge of a coastal strip of Open Access land. From Trewellard, a RoW gains the Open Access land (and the South West Coast Path). The cliff-bases are reached by scrambles.

Car Parking: Road-side, in Levant Road.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI.

Potential: Limited.

Value Assessment: The cliff holds a selection of good climbs of local significance.

Carn Vellan, Botallack

OS Ref: 363342-364341

Dimensions: A 100m-cliff in a compact area, with a small western wing.

Height: 20m-50m.

There are 30 climbs.

Rock: Killas slate.

Access: As for Trewellard.

Car Parking: As for Trewellard.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI , with vulnerable plant-life; climbers are advised to operate with care.

Potential: Moderate, though limited by technical/ethical climbing considerations.

Value Assessment: Carn Vellan is the most impressive of Killas slate cliffs; well-known, though a bias towards very hard climbing suppresses its wider appeal.

Botallack Head Zawn to Crowns Mine Cliff, Botallack

OS Ref: 362338-362336

Dimensions: Three sites in a 300m stretch of coast, comprising various sea cliffs and above-sea-level faces: Botallack Head Zawn (362338); Freedom Zawn (362336); and Crowns Mine Cliff (362336).

Height: 35m.

There are over 30 climbs, Freedom Zawn holding the greatest number.

Rock: Killas slate.

Access: The cliff lies on the edge of a coastal strip of Open Access land. A RoW from Botallack gains the Open Access land (and the South West Coast Path). Scrambles lead to the cliff-bases.

Car Parking: Car-park and road-side in Botallack,

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI: advice as for Carn Vellan.

Potential: Moderate.

Value Assessment: A little-known sites for connoisseurs.

Kenidjack Cliffs, St Just

OS Ref: 356328-354324

Dimensions: Three hundred metres of cliffs (354326-355324) on the southern flank of Kenidjack Castle, with one outlier (Evening Slabs: 356328) to the north. The main site encompasses four main cliffs: South Zawn, Seadreams Cliff, Grooved Face, and Main Face.

Height: 20m-45m.

Forty climbs at the main site (and 4 climbs on Evening Slabs).

Rock: Killas slate.

Access: The cliff lies on the edge of a coastal strip of Open Access land, which extends landward to join public highways at Boscean and Nancherrow.

Car Parking: Sufficient pull-ins on the unmade road from Nancherrow,

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI.

Potential: Limited.

Value Assessment: The Killas slate climbing-site in most demand: the routes of the Main Face are extremely popular.

Carn Goose, St Just

OS Ref: 352313

Dimensions: One hundred metres of small sea cliffs under Carn Goose summit.
Height: 20m.
There are 7 climbs.
Rock: Granite.

Access: The cliff lies on the edge of a coastal strip of Open Access land, which encroaches upon the Carn Goose Road. Scramble-down/abseil descents (or a walk along the foreshore from the north) gain the cliff-base.

Car Parking: Car-parks at Porth Nanven and Priest's Cove; road-side on Carn Goose Road.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI.

Potential: Limited.

Value Assessment: This is one of Penwith's more obscure climbing cliffs.

Porth Nanven, St Just

OS Ref: 356306-355304

Dimensions: One hundred metres of low cliffs and small outcrops.
Height: mainly 10m; & 25m.
There are 15 climbs and some bouldering.
Rock: Granite.

Access: The cliff lies on the edge of a coastal strip of Open Access land, encompassing Porth Nanven (and the car-park). The approach is along the coast path or foreshore.

Car Parking: Car-park at Porth Nanven.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI.

Potential: Moderate - for bouldering.

Value Assessment: The site is of local interest.

Aire Point, Nr St Just

OS Ref: 358288-362278

Dimensions: Three cliffs: one sea cliff (Varicose Zawn) and coastal outcrop at Aire Point and one low sea cliff (John Wayne Memorial Crag) 200m south of Aire Point; together with numerous low cliffs and foreshore boulders.

Height: 15m.

There are 40 climbs, and over 50 recorded boulder-problems.

Rock: Granite.

Access: Apart from the foreshore boulders, the cliffs lie on the edge of, or within, a coastal strip of Open Access land. A RoW from Trgiffian gains the Open Access land (and the South West Coast Path). The approach is along the coast path or foreshore.

Car Parking: Car-park above Gwynver Beach.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI.

Potential: High - for bouldering.

Value Assessment: This is a quiet alternative to Sennen, and an important location for bouldering.

Sennen: Pedn-mên-du

OS Ref: 348263-347258

Dimensions: Five hundred metres of continuous cliffs.

Height: 25m.

There are over 150 climbs; most densely concentrated on the main cliffs between 348263-347261.

Rock: Granite.

Access: The cliff lies on the edge of a coastal strip of Open Access land. From Sennen, RoWs gain the Open Access land (and the South West Coast Path). Scramble descents lead to the cliff-base.

Car Parking: Very limited. A car-park in Sennen quickly fills up in summer. Parking at Land's End is an option.

Restrictions: None specific.

Potential: Very limited.

Value Assessment: Sennen is an extremely well-developed and important site, having its roots in Royal Marine training in the 1940s. It is very popular with climbers, including for commercial instruction.

Penwith's South-West Coast, Cornwall

Lands End to Hella Point (Gwennap Head) Coast

OS Ref: 344254-371214

Introduction and value assessment: Fine granite cliffs wrap tightly and complexly around the coves, zawns and promontories that make this coastline so rugged and rich with high-quality climbs and climbing history. Access is universally from the South West Coast Path - which runs very close to all the cliff-tops, between car parks at either end. Ownership and tourism aside, the many sites and sub-sites along this section are physically and environmentally very closely related, sharing much in common. Their grouping, as follows, does not imply that component cliffs lack merit. It is one of England's exceptional coastlines, an accolade that is shared by its climbing.

Access and Car Parking: All cliffs lie on the edge of a coastal strip of Open Access land, which embraces the South West Coast Path and the principal car-parks at either end. The large car-park in the north, at Land's End, is private, but fees are waived for climbers. Signing-in is sometimes required. The car park at Portgwarra, in the south, is very busy in the summer holiday period. A RoW from Polgigga meets the Open Access land approximately halfway along this coast, though parking possibilities are limited on the B3315. For all cliffs, various short walks across open ground and scramble-down/abseil options gain the climbs.

Potential: Though highly developed, there remains moderate scope for new climbs.

Land's End Headland (Trevescan Cliff to Knight's Buttress)

OS Ref: 344254-243247

Dimensions: Eight hundred metres of cliffs take in the following main areas: Trevescan Cliff, Dr Syntax's Head, Cormorant Promontory, World's End Promontory, Abseil Point Area (Deception Zawn), Dingo Area, Longships Zawn, Penwith Buttress, Urinal Zawn, Hotel Buttress Area, Bull Ring Zawn (Crystal Walls), and Knight's Buttress.
Height: 20m-70m (many routes @ 30m).
There are 175 climbs.
Rock: Granite.

Restrictions: Some of the cliffs or parts of them are self-evidently important bird-nesting grounds; while there are no formal restrictions climbers are advised to avoid them in the nesting season (and specifically Trevescan Cliff and the islands of The Armed Knight and Enys Dodnan). SSSI, with vulnerable plant-life (specifically in relation to Trevescan Cliff); climbers are advised to operate with care.

Pordenack Point Area (Sloose Zawn to Pordenack Point)

OS Ref: 346243-348241

Dimensions: A 150m length of sea cliffs and coastal outcrops on the south side of Pordenack Point.

Height: 20m-30m.

There are over 80 climbs. (Sloose Zawn is a lesser, isolated cliff on the north side).

Rock: Granite.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI, with vulnerable plant-life; climbers are advised to operate with care.

Carn Boel Area (Carn Sperm to Carn Boel)

OS Ref: 348239-350238

Dimensions: Two neighbouring headlands with variously oriented faces: approx. 300m of cliff overall.

Height: 20m-45m.

There are 30 climbs and some bouldering.

Rock: Granite.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI, with vulnerable plant-life; climbers are advised to operate with care.

Carn Lês Boel Area (Carn Lês Boel Promontory to Bosistow Zawn)

OS Ref: 357235-358232

Dimensions: An aggregate 200m of sea cliffs located around the headland, the larger and more important (Mild and Bitter Buttress, Bosistow Wall, and Paradise Wall) on its south side.

Height: 25m-45m.

There are 50 climbs.

Rock: Granite.

Restrictions: SSSI with vulnerable plant-life; climbers are advised to operate with care. Paradise Wall is a site for nesting birds and climbers are advised to avoid this cliff (and Bosistow Island) during the nesting season.

Pendower Coves

OS Ref: 359231-361230

Dimensions: Three discrete buttresses occupy Pendower Coves: Pandour Buttress (359231) and Halfway Buttress (360231) in the west, and Moon Buttress (361230) in their centre.

Height: 45m.

There are 25 routes altogether, of relatively less merit.

Rock: Granite (featuring a degree of kaolinisation).

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI, with vulnerable plant-life; climbers are advised to operate with care.

Zawn Kellys Area (Franks Zawn to Zawn Kellys)

OS Ref: 360227-360226

Dimensions: Two immediately adjacent cliffs, with Zawn Kellys being around 100m in extent.

Height: 40m.

There are 23 climbs.

Rock: Granite.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI, with vulnerable plant-life; climbers are advised to operate with care.

Carn Barra

OS Ref: 358226-360224

Dimensions: A 300m long cliff.

Height: 20m.

There are over 100 climbs.

Rock: Granite.

Restrictions: SSSI, with vulnerable plant-life; climbers are advised to operate with care, and, specifically to avoid the upper tiers.

Dutchman's Zawn and Folly Cove

OS Ref: 361224 and 362224

Dimensions: Two sets of cliffs in neighbouring inlets.

Height: 50m.

There are 21 climbs, of relatively lesser merit compared to nearby cliffs.

Rock: Granite (featuring a degree of kaolinisation).

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI, with vulnerable plant-life; climbers are advised to operate with care.

Fox Promontory

OS Ref: 362223-361223

Dimensions: One hundred and fifty metres of cliff mostly on the north side of the promontory.

Height: 25m.

There are 40 climbs.

Rock: Granite.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI, with vulnerable plant-life; climbers are advised to operate with care.

Black Carn South to Porth Loe Cove

OS Ref: 361223-365220

Dimensions: Five hundred metres of buttresses, blocks, and broken and craggy low faces.

Height: 15m-45m.

Together with unrecorded scrambling and bouldering, there are 40 climbs on four main areas; Black Carn South (361223); Pellitras Point (362221); Porth Loe Buttress (363221); and Porth Loe Cove: Towers of Deception (365220).

Rock: Granite.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI, with vulnerable plant-life; climbers are advised to operate with care.

Carn Guthenbras to Chair Ladder

OS Ref: 363218-366215

Dimensions: Five hundred metres of continuous, high cliffs.

Height: 50m.

There are 160 climbs.

Rock: Granite.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI, with vulnerable plant-life; climbers are advised to operate with care and to avoid disturbing any nesting birds.

Polostoc Point to Hella Point

OS Ref: 368214-371214

Dimensions: Four hundred metres of cliffs, zawn faces, ridges, buttresses and blocks, with the following five main cliffs: Polostoc Point; Yawn Zawn; The Galactic Boulder; Porthgwarra Buttress (370214); and Hella Wall (Hella Point).

Height: 8m-40m.

There are 40 climbs.

Rock: Granite.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI, with vulnerable plant-life; climbers are advised to operate with care.

Penwith's South-East Coast

Vessacks West to Vessacks Point

OS Ref: 377217-379217

Dimensions: Three localised cliffs in 200m round the Vessacks Point headland: Vessacks West, Vessacks Point and Wassocks Wall.

Height: 20m.

There are 15 climbs.

Rock: Granite.

Access: The cliffs lie on the edge of a coastal strip of Open Access land. From Portgwarra/St Levan's, the South West Coast Path/RoW gains the Open Access land. Scrambles lead to the cliff-bases.

Car Parking: Car-parks at Portgwarra/St Levan.

Restrictions: None specific.

Potential: Limited.

Value Assessment: This is a quiet area that receives few visits.

Pedn-mên-an-mere

OS Ref: 384217-385218

Dimensions: A complex of sea-cliff faces, coastal outcrops and a zawn-face occupy the 300m-long south-west and east sides of the headland.

Height: 15m.

There are 60 climbs spread across three main cliffs: Levan's Wall, Carrack's Cliff, and Radio Zawn.

Rock: Granite.

Access: The cliffs lie on the edge of, or within, a coastal strip of Open Access land. From St Levan, a RoW gains the Open Access land (and the South West Coast Path). Scrambles/abseil descents lead to the cliff-bases.

Car Parking: As for Vessacks.

Restrictions: None specific.

Potential: Limited.

Value Assessment: There is a good selection of climbs in a pleasant place and consequently it is quite popular.

Portcurno Bay to Pednvounder

OS Ref: 388223-395223

Dimensions: Intermittent crags and faces pepper this 1km coastal cliff-line, which is interrupted by two beaches. There are 4 main areas: Porthcurno (386233); Green Bay (388223); Penvounder-Upper West Buttress (393224); and Penvounder Beach Area (394224-396222).

Height: 10m-50m.

There are 30 climbs and many unrecorded pitches and boulder-problems.

Rock: Granite.

Access: Apart from Porthcurno, the cliffs lie on the edge of a coastal strip of Open Access land. For the two western areas, approach from Porthcurno via the beach and foreshore. From Treen, a RoW gains the Open Access land (and the South West Coast Path). Scrambles lead to the cliff-bases.

Car Parking: Car-park in Porthcurno, which is very busy in the summer holiday period; and a small car-park at Treen.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI.

Potential: Limited.

Value Assessment: The cliffs offer light-hearted climbing and bouldering, beach-side.

Logan Rock (Treen Castle)

OS Ref: 397222-398220

Dimensions: Three hundred metres of short cliffs, blocks, and coastal outcrops on the west and east sides of Logan Rock headland, Treen Castle.

Height: 8m-20m.

There are over 30 recorded climbs, and as many unrecorded.

Rock: Granite.

Access: The cliffs lie on the edge of, or within, a coastal strip of Open Access land. From Treen, RoWs gain the Open Access land.

Car Parking: Small car-park at Treen.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI.

Potential: Limited.

Value Assessment: This is a magnificent headland, at a distance from the climbing mainstream.

Cribba Head (and Penberth Cove)

OS Ref: 401223-403223 (405227)

Dimensions: There are three main coastal outcrops or blocks within 300m of each other on the most southerly part of the headland: West Buttress, East Buttress, and Cropper Buttress; and some minor sea cliffs. Penberth is an isolated cliff to the east.

Height: 12m-25m.

There are 45 climbs (14 at Penberth), and many problems and climbs unrecorded.

Rock: Granite.

Access: Apart from Penberth, the cliffs lie on the edge of, or within, a coastal strip of Open Access land. From Treen and Penberth, RoWs gain the Open Access land.

Car Parking: Small car-park at Treen. Road-side parking in Penberth is very limited.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI.

Potential: Limited.

Value Assessment: The cliffs host some infamous test-pieces in a fine setting, though primarily they are of local interest.

Portguarnon Cove to St Loy Cliff (Trevedran Cliff/Merthen Point)

OS Ref: 409229-418228

Dimensions: A km of coast with 4 well-separated areas: the sea-cliff of Porthguarnon West (409229); the 100m-long sea cliff of Porthguarnon East (412229); the sea cliff and associated rocks of Coffin Cove (414228); and the coastal outcrops of St Loy Cliff (416228-418227).

Height: 10m-45m.

There are 7, 38, 10, and 45 climbs on the cliffs respectively. There is a variety of unrecorded lesser climbs and boulder-problems in or around these areas.

Rock: Granite.

Access: Not Open Access land. From the B3315, a RoW leads past Treverven Farm to the South West Coast Path which runs close to the cliff-tops. Then walk-/scramble-downs over open ground gain the cliff-bases (and an abseil in the case of Porthguarnon East).

Car Parking: Specific parking provision is lacking. Parking on the B3315 is extremely limited. Parking at Penberth is possible but limited too.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI, with vulnerable plant-life; climbers are advised to operate with care.

Potential: Limited.

Value Assessment: This is a fine and tranquil site; St Loy's climbs enjoy regular visits.

Boscawen Point to Tater-du

OS Ref: 431229-440231

Dimensions: There are three main sites along this coastline: Boscawen Point (431229); Tegiffian Union Star Cove –'Chough Zawn'- and Tregiffian Cove (434231-436232); and Tater-du (438231-440231).

Height: 15m; 20m; 40m.

There are 19, 31, 40 climbs in respective areas.

Rock: Boscawen and Tregiffian: Granite; Tater-du: Greenstone.

Access: Not Open Access land. There is no RoW direct from the B3115. Access is via the South West Coast Path from Lamorna Cove, which runs close to the cliff-tops (National Trust land in the case of Tater-du). A lower-level RoW runs closer still to the tops of Boscawen and Tregiffian. Various scrambles lead to the cliff-bases.

Car Parking: Car-park at Lamorna Cove.

Restrictions: None specific. Tater-du is an SSSI with vulnerable plant-life; climbers are advised to operate with care. Protected birds breed in the area, and climbers are requested to avoid the nesting season.

Potential: Limited.

Value Assessment: The area contains but an important greenstone cliff with a solid climbing history, as well as some little-known granite crags.

Lamorna Cove

OS Ref: 450239

Dimensions: Several quarries either side of the car-park.

Height: 40m.

There is one climb in the western quarry.

Rock: Granite (quarried).

Access: The western quarry is not Open Access land. It lies above the South West Coast Path.

Car Parking: Car-park adjacent.

Restrictions: None specific in the western quarry. Cornish Wildlife Trust advises no climbing in eastern quarry.

Potential: Unknown.

Value Assessment: Of relatively limited climbing worth.

Kerrier's South Coast, Cornwall

Cudden Point, nr Perranuthnoe

OS Ref: 550280-554277

Dimensions: Two main cliffs on a rocky headland.

Height: 20m.

There are 10 climbs.

Rock: Granite.

Access: The cliffs lie on the edge of Open Access land. The South West Coast Path/RoW gain the Open Access land from Perranuthnoe/Prussia Cove respectively.

Car Parking: Car-parks in Perranuthnoe and Prussia Cove.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI.

Potential: Unknown.

Value Assessment: The climbs are very recent and do not feature in any guidebook.

Basher's Harbour to Rinsey Cove

OS Ref: 587273-592269

Dimensions: Half a km continuous cliff-line around Rinsey Head including 250m at Basher's Harbour.

Height: 30m.

There are 60 climbs on four cliffs: Basher's Harbour, Rinsey Head, Rinsey Zawn, and Rinsey Cove. Most are on Basher's Harbour.

Rock: Granite.

Access: The cliffs lie on the edge of a coastal strip of Open Access land, which extends to the eastern end of Praa Sands. For Basher's Harbour's climbs, the approach is via the beach and foreshore, or a scramble/abseil descent.

Car Parking: Car-parks at Praa Sands, and a National Trust car-park at Rinsey Farm.

Restrictions: The cliffs are privately owned. The owner permits climbing on Basher's Harbour, but asks that climbing does not occur on Rinsey Head and Rinsey Zawn (which border their residential property).

Potential: Moderate but access-restricted.

Value Assessment: Basher's Harbour contains some impressive climbs, though serious characteristics including tidal constraints limit the attention they receive.

Trewavas

OS Ref: 595266-603266

Dimensions: A km stretch hosting a series of sea-cliffs around Trewavas Head and the coastal outcrops of Trewavas Main Cliff.

Height: 20m.

There are over 100 climbs, the majority on the Main Cliff.

Rock: Granite.

Access: The cliffs lie variously on the edge of, or within, a coastal strip of Open Access land. From Rinsey Farm, a RoW gains the Open Access land (and the South West Coast Path). Walks/scrambles lead to the cliff-bases.

Car Parking: National Trust car-park at Rinsey Farm.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI. The Main Cliff is privately owned; erosion due to group-use can be an issue.

Potential: Limited on the Main Cliff.

Value Assessment: The Main Cliff is a long-established climbing area, increasingly attracting visits.

Kerrier South Coast, Cornwall (cont)

The Lizard area, Cornwall (Predannack Head to Bass Point)

Preamble

The disparate geology of The Lizard confers a unique character to its cliffs and - from a climbing point of view – is far removed in style and less established than the Penwith granite cliffs. While there are several sites that attract visiting climbers, extensive cliff-lines remain unexplored or rarely climbed upon. Much of the area lies within the Lizard National Nature (Spotlight) Reserve and the coast is covered by SSSIs. It is an SAC and, in the Kynance Cove location, a geological SSSI. Its international importance for flora and geology has been actively promoted to climbers. There are few specific site restrictions but good-practice advice applies throughout. Much of the rock is not ideally suited to climbing, which together with the cliffs' seriousness, will in any event limit further major expansion of climbing here. With the exception of the coast east of Lighthouse Cliff (up to and beyond Bass Point), the sites lie on the edge of Open Access land.

Predannack Head

OS Ref: 660165-666158

Dimensions: There is a series of cliffs along this 1km stretch, grouped into two areas: Pen-Crifton, in the north, and Predannack Head South (661163-666158), in the south. Height: 25m.

There are 20 climbs spread out on 9 cliffs.

Rock: Amphibolite.

Access: The cliffs lie on the edge of a coastal strip of Open Access land. From Lower Predannack Head, a RoW gains the Open Access land (and the South West Coast Path). Walk/scramble/abseil-downs lead to the cliff-bases.

Car Parking: National Trust car-park at Lower Predannack Farm.

Restrictions: SSSI, NNR, SAC. Climbing is not allowed in the part of the NNR running north as far as Mullion Cove. (Area delimited by signage.)

Potential: Moderate.

Value Assessment: A site fit for careful exploration, and likely only to receive rare visits.

Vellan Head to Soap Rock

OS Ref: 667149-675144

Dimensions: A km of cliffs or rocky slopes most cohesive at the main cliff: Hidden Buttress; approx. 671147-672146; Chameleon Slabs (673146); and Serpent's Buttress (675144).

Height: 60m.

Three-quarters of the area's 20 routes are situated on Vellan Head; a coasteering-style traverse runs from end-to-end.

Rock: Amphibolite, and Serpentine (Serpent's Buttress).

Access: As for Predannack Head; and then scrambles to the cliff-bases.

Car Parking: As for Predannack Head.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI, NNR, SAC.

Potential: Moderate.

Value Assessment: There are a small number of significant climbs on Hidden Buttress; the remainder is of esoteric appeal.

Soap Rock to Kynance Cove

OS Ref: 675145-685134

Dimensions: A 2km coast with a continuous cliff-line; the few climbs are located on: Pigeon Ogo (673142), The Horse (672139), and in Kynance Cove (685134).

Height: 30m-80m.

There are 5 climbs, 3 of which are on The Horse.

Rock: Serpentine and Mica-Schist.

Access: As for Predannack Head. Alternatively, from Lizard, RoWs gain the Open Access land (and the South West Coast Path).

Car Parking: As for Predannack Head, or in car-park/road-side in Lizard.

Abseil/scramble descents lead to the cliff-bases.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI, NNR, SAC.

Potential: Moderate, but limited by rock quality.

Value Assessment: An impressive sea-cliff landscape, but climbing is constrained by unsuitable rock.

Lizard Point to Bumble Rock

OS Ref: 694118-707115

Dimensions: One and a half km of coast with three main climbing sites: Coastguard Cliff (694118-694117); Lighthouse Cliff (705115-706115); and the island of Bumble Rock (707115).

Height: 10m-45m (Coastguard Cliff).

There are 30 climbs here, most of which are on Coastguard Cliff.

Rock: Mica-Schist and Amphibolite.

Access: Coastguard Cliff lies on the edge of a coastal strip of Open Access land. The remainder are not Open Access land. From Lizard, RoWs gain the Open Access land (and the South West Coast Path). Scrambling descents lead to the foreshore and cliff-bases.

Car Parking: Car-Parks in Lizard and at Lizard Lighthouse.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI, NNR, SAC.

Potential: Moderate.

Value Assessment: Coastguard Cliff is an amenable and accessible cliff.

Pen Olver to Bass Point

OS Ref: 708119-717122

Dimensions: A km of coast dominated by the two series of headland crags of Pen Olver (711118-713117) and Bass Point (715118-717122).

Height: 10m-40m (Bass Point).

There are 87 climbs concentrated on the main cliffs of Pen Olver and Bass Point; otherwise dispersed on 5 other cliffs.

Rock: Amphibolite.

Access: Not Open Access land. Approach via the South West Coast Path (reached by RoWs from Lizard), that runs along the cliff-tops; and then scrambling descents lead to the foreshore and cliff-bases.

Car Parking: Car-parks in Lizard and at Lizard Lighthouse.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI, SAC.

Potential: Moderate.

Value Assessment: Given the fine quality of its climbs, Bass Point, in particular, is a stop-off point for many visiting climbers.

Carn Barrow

OS Ref: 720139

Dimensions: There are 3 climbs on a 20m-high cliff.

Access: From Cadgwith, a RoW leads to the South West Coast Path. A scramble and abseil from the coast path gains the cliff-base.

Car Parking: Car-parks in Cadgwith.

Restrictions: None specific. SAC.

Potential: Unknown.

Value Assessment: Only very recently 'discovered' by climbers, the cliff does not feature in any guidebook.

Black Head (and The Grove), Nr Coverack

OS Ref: 779162 (792193)

Dimensions: A 100m-long cliff at the tip of Black Head, and a small coastal outcrop well above the sea at The Grove north of Coverack

Height: 45m (and 8m)

There are 16 climbs at Black Head, 3 at The Grove.

Rock: Black Head: Peridotite

Access: Black Head lies on the edge of a coastal strip of Open Access land. From Coverack and Trewillis, RoWs gain the Open Access land (and the South West Coast Path). A scramble descent gains the cliff-base. For The Grove (not Open Access land), the South West Coast Path leads from Coverack to short walk inland (no RoW indicated).

Car Parking: Car-park at Coverack; (and possible road-side at Coverack and Trewillis for Black Head)

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI, SAC.

Potential: Limited

Value Assessment: Black Head is an unusual outlying crag which is not visited frequently. The Grove is a very recent climbing 'find' and does not feature in any guidebook.

South East Cornwall

Preamble

Though, on the face of it, this extensive coastline has many cliffs, the generally friable rock (mainly Devonian schist, shale, slate, mudstone) does not lend itself to climbing, especially that of a technical nature. The interest in this coast from a climbing point of view is therefore minimal, with most climbers unaware that there are any climbs here at all. Like other coasts of an 'alternative geology', its sparsely climbed cliffs will serve to satisfy a small minority's fascination with climbing exploration.

Nare Head

OS Ref: 923373-925380

Dimensions: Three cliffs in a km eastwards from Nare Head: the extensive Rosen Cliff, the 'Dark Entries Zawn', and the 'Moonshadow Cliff'.

Height: 25m-45m (The Rosen Cliff: 90m.)

There are 5 climbs, and some scrambles on Nare Head

Rock: Schist/shale

Access: Not Open Access land. From Kiberick Cove, a RoW leads to the South West Coast Path. Scrambles/abseils lead to the cliff-bases.

Car Parking: Car-park above Kiberick Cove

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI, SAC.

Dodman Point

OS Ref: 000393-005393

Dimensions: Several hundred metres of cliff around the headland on two levels (the higher well above the sea)

Height: 45m.

There are 12 routes

Rock: Schist

Access: Not Open Access land; National Trust-owned. From Penare, a RoW leads to the South West Coast Path on the cliff-top. A scrambling descent gains the cliff-bases.

Car Parking: Car-park in Penare.

Restrictions: None specific. Part of the Fal & Helford SAC.

Gamas Point and Black Head, Nr St Austell

OS Ref: 023473-026473 and 038479-041479

Dimensions: Currently there are only two very confined areas of interest amongst larger cliffs

There is a route apiece; but Gamas Point does not feature in any guidebook.

Height: 40m

Rock: Schist/shale

Access: Not Open Access land. For Black Head, a RoW from Trenarren leads to the South West Coast Path, or the South West Coast Path is followed from Pentewan. For Gamas Point, the approach is along the foreshore from Pentewan beach.

Car Parking: Road-side/car-park in Trenarren/Pentewan respectively.

Restrictions: None specific

Blackbottle Rocks, Lantic Bay, Pencarrow Head, Nr Fowey

OS Ref: 130504-152503

Dimensions: Intermittent small cliffs between Polruan and Pencarrow Head host some scrambling and bouldering, and one site contains 8 recently established climbs (Lantic Bay: 147508); Pencarrow Head has 6 climbs and some deep-water soloing.

Height: 25m

Rock: Devonian slate

Access: Only Pencarrow Head (including land above the Lantic Bay crag) is Open Access land. A RoW from the car-park leads to the Open Access land; then scrambles down the cliff-side gain the climbs. Craggs to the west of Lantic Bay are approached via the foreshore or by scrambling from the South West Coast Path on the cliff-top.

Car Parking: Car-park at Pencarrow Head.

Restrictions: None Specific. Gribbin Head – Polperro Heritage Coast. SSSI, SAC.

Polperro area: Polruan to Talland Bay

There is very limited climbing on the next three sites due to unsuitable rock. Only scrambles dating back to 1920 have been recorded. The cliffs lie in the Gribbin Head – Polperro Heritage Coast, form parts of SSSIs, and the Chapel Cliff lies in a SAC.

Not Open Access land; though National Trust-owned. Access is via the South West Coast Path, and the approaches along the foreshore.

Chapel Cliff, Nr Polperro

OS Ref: 200503-210507

Smugglers' Cove

OS Ref: 216508

Talland Bay west headland

OS Ref: 222510

Downderry

OS Ref: 327539-332538

Dimensions: One hundred metres of low cliffs above a beach, and a stack (Long Rock)

Height: 4m

There are > 20 boulder-problems, and 8 routes on Long Rock or its mainland cliff

Rock: Slate

Access: Not Open Access land. A RoW from the B3247 leads to the foreshore and beach.

Car Parking: Road-side (B3247)

Restrictions: None specific

Value Assessment: The cliffs are locally highly rated for bouldering; South East Cornwall's most frequented coastal climbing site.

Rame Head

OS Ref: 417487

Dimensions: A loose cliff on the west side of the headland.

Height: 45m.

There are reportedly 6 routes; they are unrecorded, and it is likely they have never been re-climbed.

Rock: Shale.

Access: Not Open Access land. The cliff-top is served by the South West Coast Path.

Car Parking: Car-parks adjacent Rame.

Restrictions: Rame Head Heritage Coast; part of the headland is an SAC.

Sea-Cliff Climbing Sites in Plymouth

The Hoe, Plymouth

OS Ref: 478538-481537

Dimensions: One hundred metres of low sea-cliffs, under Madeira Road, Plymouth.

Height: 6m.

<20 boulder-problems and named routes, including traverses.

Rock: Limestone.

Access: From public highways and RoWs.

Car Parking: Road-side in Hoe Road.

Restrictions: None specific. South Devon Heritage Coast.

Potential: Very limited.

Value Assessment: Low sea-cliffs augment a local urban training area.

Sea-Cliff Climbing Sites in Devon – South

- **Miscellaneous**
- **Berry Head area**
- **Torquay Sea Cliffs and Coastal Quarries**

Bigbury Bay

OS Ref: 662442

Dimensions: A10m pinnacle set in the foreshore, with 2 climbs.
Rock: mixed Devonian, slates, sandstones, mudstones.

Access: Not Open Access land. The approach is via the South West Coast Path and the foreshore.

Car Parking: Car-park at Bantham.

Restrictions: None specific. South Devon Heritage Coast.

Potential: Very limited.

Value Assessment: The pinnacle is an out-of-the-way rock-climbing curiosity.

Outer Hope to Salcombe South Sands

OS Ref: 729367-730376

Dimensions: A 10km coast with 5 minor climbing locations: Thurlstone Rock (674414); Hope Cove slab (674406); Bolt Tail (667397); Steeple Cove (705367); and Sharp Tor (729367).

Height: 25m-40m (Hope Cove slab).

There are 13 routes on the cliffs in total.

Rock: mixed Devonian, slates, sandstones, mudstones.

Access: Thurlstone Rock and Hope Cove are not Open Access land. The remainder lie on the edge of coastal strips of Open Access land. Sharp Tor is a coastal outcrop lying within the Open Access land. Apart from Sharp Tor, all sea-cliffs/stacks are reached via the South West Coast Path/Open Access land and along the foreshore. RoWs link car-parking areas with Open Access land/South West Coast Path, as applicable.

Car Parking: For Thurlstone Rock to Bolt Tail: car-parks (and road-side) in Outer Hope. For Steeple Cove: car-park in Lower Soar. For Sharp Tor: car-parks in South Sands/Sharpitor.

Restrictions: None specific. South Devon Heritage Coast. The coastal strip from Bolt Tail eastwards is an SSSI.

Potential: High for exploration, but limited by rock quality.

Value Assessment: The cliffs offer rather eccentric climbing far removed from any main site.

Gammon Head to Prawle Point, Nr East Prawle

OS Ref: 766355-773351

Dimensions: A km coast embracing a cliff on each headland and one in the intervening Elender Cove (767357).

Height: 20m.

There are 20 climbs, 13 of which are on Prawle Point.

Rock: mixed Devonian, slates, sandstones, mudstones.

Access: The cliffs lie on the edge of a coastal strip of Open Access land, which extends to the public highway on Prawle Point. Walk/scramble descents gain the cliff-bases.

Car Parking: Car-park at Prawle Point.

Restrictions: None specific. South Devon Heritage Coast. SSSI, SAC.

Potential: Moderate.

Value Assessment: Prawle Point is an interesting headland, but the coast is a climbing backwater.

Pilchard Cove, Strete

OS Ref: 843465-844466

Dimensions: A 50m slab.

Height: 35m.

There is 1 climb.

Rock: mixed Devonian, slates, sandstones, mudstones.

Access: Not Open Access land. The approach is via Slapton Sands beach and foreshore; there is no direct RoW from Strete.

Car Parking: Car-park near northern end of Slapton Sands.

Restrictions: None specific. South Devon Heritage Coast.

Potential: Moderate, but limited by rock quality.

Value Assessment: A one-route cliff, possibly permanently so.

Sharkham Point, Nr Brixham

OS Ref: 937546

Dimensions: A small sea cliff and several foreshore pinnacles.

Height: 30m.

There are 2 climbs and some scrambles.

Rock: mixed Devonian, slates, sandstones, mudstones.

Access: Not Open Access land. The approach is via the South West Coast Path that runs along the cliff top to the Point.

Car Parking: Car-park on the headland.

Restrictions: None specific. South Devon Heritage Coast. Part of Berry Head to Sharkham Point SSSI and a LNR

Potential: Limited due to rock quality

Value Assessment: The headland is of very minor climbing interest

Berry Head area, Brixham

OS Ref: 934555-933567

Introduction and Value Assessment: Limestone sea-cliffs and sea-cliff quarries line the coast of the south and north sides of the Berry Head peninsula almost continuously for 3km. Rising up to 80m at one of Britain's most renowned sea-cliffs, The Old Redoubt, they present some very well-developed sites, and a home for the country's original and most famous coasteering routes. More recently they have established themselves favourably on the deep-water soloing circuit, especially the Rainbow Bridge walls. Although there is scope for new climbing discoveries on the Old Redoubt, potential overall is limited.

Access: Not Open Access land. The approaches use the South West Coast Path that runs close to most cliff-tops; and then walk-/scramble-downs over open hill-side and/or abseils gain the cliff-bases. For the most part there is no foreshore: the cliffs mostly fall directly into the sea.

Car Parking: All sites are served by a spacious car park at Berry Head Country Park; though – for Durl Head westwards – road-side parking in Brixham is convenient.

Restrictions: The area comprises the Berry Head National Nature Reserve (and the South Hams SAC), and a few of its cliffs, notably The Old Redoubt, are important sites for nesting sea-birds. On the affected cliffs, therefore, climbing is prohibited March 15-July 31 (unless signage – on the less important nesting sites - indicates otherwise). All crags fall within the Berry Head to Sharkham Point SSSI. There is some vulnerable plant-life; climbers are advised to operate with care.

The following are Berry Head's main sites, each, on the whole, comprising multiple, named cliffs.

St Mary's Bay to Durl Head, Berry Head area

OS Ref: 934555-940557

All 43 cliff-top bound climbs are situated on the tip of Durl Head or on Durl Rock. A traverse connects Durl Head with St Mary's Bay. The cliffs are 20m-30m high.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI, NNR, SAC.

Cradle Rock Buttress, Berry Head area

OS Ref: 940557-943560

There are 15 climbs on the main sea cliff and higher-level cliff (939558-940559); and two traverses encompass the whole 0.5km cliff-line. The cliffs rise to 40m.

Restrictions: None specific on Cradle Rock Buttress; bird-nesting restriction for the northern traverse. SSSI, NNR, SAC.

The Old Redoubt, Berry Head area

OS Ref: 943660-943563

There are 60 climbs on the southern half (Great Cave and Bismark Wall), which rises to 80m, and 20 climbs on the northern half (Rainbow Bridge area), which is 25m high. Two traverses take in the whole cliff between them. There are a handful of climbs on the small island of Cod Rock which is reached by boat.

Restrictions: Bird-nesting restriction. SSSI, NNR, SAC.

Coastguard Cliffs, Berry Head area

OS Ref: 943563-947566

There are over 100 climbs on a variety of mostly un-quarried sea-cliffs, including four traverses, in 0.5km. Some cliffs are situated above quarried platforms set back from the sea.

Restrictions: Three cliffs are subject to the bird-nesting restriction. SSSI, NNR, SAC.

Berry Head North Coast Sea Cliffs and Quarry, Berry Head area

OS Ref: 947566-933567

There are 30 climbs, including two traverses, on regular low sea-cliffs, mostly between 947566-945567; and 26 climbs on Berry Head Quarry that is 500m long, 45m high, and situated well back from the sea. A quarry at 937567 (Ash Hole) containing 10 climbs is set back from the coast, and scarcely qualifies as a coastal cliff.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI, NNR, SAC.

Freshwater Quarry, Brixham

OS Ref: 923567

Dimensions: A 40m-high limestone quarry abutting the coast with 2 climbs and high potential.

Restrictions: Climbing is prohibited (part of the quarry floor is used as a public car-park and by businesses).

Churston, between Brixham and Broadsands

OS Ref: 919571-909572

Dimensions: A km coast pitted with quarries well above the sea and lined with intermittent low sea cliffs.

Height: 20m.

There are 36 climbs, mostly in the quarries.

Rock: Limestone.

Access: Not Open Access land. From Brixham, the approach is via the South West Coast Path that runs along the top of the quarries; and then feint paths (RoW not indicated) in wooded slopes lead down to and between the quarries.

Car Parking: Car-park/road-side parking at Churston Cove.

Restrictions: None specific.

Potential: Moderate.

Value Assessment: The cliffs are not often visited compared to most of Torbay's main sites, and occasionally they get overgrown.

Torquay Sea Cliffs and Coastal Quarries

Preamble

This is a major traditional British sea-cliff climbing area comprising a range of highly developed limestone sea-cliffs and coastal quarries along the coast east of Torquay. Its popularity is drawn from an amenable climate and easy access to complements of high-quality sport and adventure climbs, many of the latter dating back to the 1960's. Formerly, there were difficulties in how climbing was perceived by Torquay Borough Council; byelaws were passed in the 1970's controlling access to some cliffs where it was considered members of the public were at risk. For many years now, climbing has been allowed to proceed without regulation. The Torquay climbing sites are usually grouped into two main areas: Daddyhole, and Long Quarry Point (Hope's Nose, Black Head and Petit Tor Point are minor outlying sites). None of the climbing sites is on Open Access land.

Daddyhole area, Torquay Saddle Point to Meadfoot Quarry

OS Ref: 920631-928628

Dimensions: Sea cliffs and quarries in equal measure along 1km of coast between Torquay harbour and Triangle Point. The main cliffs are: Saddle Point (922628), 20m high and containing 4 climbs; London Bridge (923627), 20m high and containing 20 climbs; Telegraph Hole or 'Parson's Hole', 30m high and containing 30 climbs; Daddyhole cliffs (926627), 45m high on the Main Cliff and containing 55 climbs; and Meadfoot Quarry (928628), 30m high and containing 20 climbs. In addition there are 5 sea-level traverses that cumulatively run along this entire stretch. The quarries are set well back from the sea.

Rock: Limestone.

Access: Via the South West Coast Path from Daddyhole Plain that skirts the cliff-tops; and then paths and scrambles lead to the cliff-bases.

Car Parking: All cliffs are served by the large car-park on Daddyhole Plain.

Restrictions: None specific. However the western-most traverse passes the privately owned beach of Peaked Tor Cove, though the route is not done so frequently as to generate problems. SSSI.

Potential: Very limited at the more popular cliffs.

Value Assessment: see Torquay 'preamble'.

Hope's Nose to Black Head area, Torquay

OS Ref: 947634-944644

Dimensions: Hope's Nose is a small 10m-high crag. Black Head is a discrete 100m-long sea cliff between the two substantive climbing areas.

Height: Black Head: 20m.

There are 9 climbs on Hope's Nose crag and 20 on Black Head. The latter is passed on a coasteering-style traverse that links Anstey's Cove with Hope's Nose.

Rock: Limestone.

Access: Via the South West Coast Path; and then a scramble down wooded hillside and 'fisherman's tracks' lead to the cliff-bases.

Car Parking: Car-parks and road-side parking in Torquay.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI.

Potential: Limited at the cliff; moderate along the coast.

Value Assessment: These two cliffs provide a modest and quiet alternative site.

Long Quarry Point area, Torquay

Babbacombe Crags to Anstey's Cove

OS Ref: 933655-935650

Dimensions: From Anstey's Cove to Babbacombe Beach, sea cliffs and coastal quarries run continuously for 0.5km either side of Long Quarry Point. The main sites are: Anstey's Cove (935650), which contains 100 climbs on well-above-sea-level quarried cliffs generally 15-25m high; Sanctuary Wall (9376510), a 100m long and 30m high sea cliff containing 25 climbs; Long Quarry Point (937651), which contains over 80 climbs on the 200m long and 80m high quarried walls well back from the sea and low sea cliffs; and Babbacombe Crags (933654), which contains 30 climbs on various sea cliffs and above-sea-level crags that rise to 50m. In addition there are 2 sea-level traverses.

Rock: Limestone.

Access: Via the South West Coast Path, that runs along the cliff tops, and then: a RoW to Anstey's Cove and 'fishermen's paths' to Long Quarry Point and Babbacombe Crags.

Car Parking: Car-Parks and road-side in Babbacombe Road near to Long Quarry Point.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI.

Potential: Very limited on the more popular crags; moderate elsewhere.

Value Assessment: See Torquay 'preamble'.

Petit Tor Point, Torquay

OS Ref: 927663

Dimensions: A 50m-long sea cliff.

Height: 40m.

There are 2 climbs.

Rock: Limestone.

Access: From Babbacombe, a RoW leads to Oddicombe Beach.

Car Parking: Car-parks in Babbacombe.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI.

Potential: Moderate.

Value Assessment: A little-known and rarely visited site, dislocated from the main areas.

The Parson and The Clerk, Teignemouth

OS Ref: 961747

Dimensions: Two sandstone stacks with a route apiece. 40m and 20m high respectively.

Access: Very problematic. For The Parson: there is no RoW direct from the A379 to the cliff. In the past accessing the cliff has required walking along a main railway line to reach an abseil point to the foreshore and cliff-base (with egress across land with no RoW). It *may* be possible to approach along the foreshore from the south, via the South West Coast Path where it swings inland. Access to The Clerk is by boat.

Car Parking: Road-side in Holcombe.

Restrictions: Access apart, none specific.

Value Assessment: The Parson is an infamous sea-stack climb attracting very few suitors.

Sea-Cliff Climbing Sites of Devon - East

- **Miscellaneous**

Marine Drive (Orcombe), Exmouth to Sandy Bay

OS Ref: 019798- 040795

Dimensions: Two sites in 2km, with intervening low cliffs and boulders.

Height: 3m-15m.

There is extensive bouldering at Marine Drive and a handful of climbs at Sandy Bay.

Rock: Sandstone.

Access: Not Open Access land, though National Trust-owned in the former case.

Approach via the public highway/South West Coast Path, and gain respective beaches and foreshores. A RoW runs through the Sandy Bay holiday park to the coast path.

Car Parking: Car-park and road-side in Marine Drive and Sandy Bay respectively.

Restrictions: None specific. Exe Estuary SSSI and LNR in relation to western section.

It is understood that the Sandy Bay cliffs host sea-bird colonies (Kittywakes); no restrictions are in place because the site is very rarely climbed on. Here also there are rifle ranges indicated on the cliff-top above the climbs (no RoW).

Potential: Moderate at Sandy Bay but limited by rock quality.

Value Assessment: The cliffs are of local interest only.

Ladram Bay, Otterton

OS Ref: 098852-106863

Dimensions: Over a km of sea cliffs with foreshore stacks.

Height: <200m for the sea cliffs; <40m for the stacks.

There are 10 climbs, all but one of these take the stacks.

Rock: Sandstone.

Access: Not Open Access land. Approach via the foreshore from beaches reached by RoW (an abseil approach from the South West Coast Path prolongs the period of access).

Car Parking: Car-park at Ladram Bay.

Restrictions: None specific. East Devon Heritage Coast. SSSI with fine geological formations: good climbing practice implied (ice-climbing techniques are inappropriate on the stacks).

Potential: High, but limited by rock quality.

Value Assessment: For climbers, this is an intriguing coast with compelling sea-stack summits – masked by an unreliable rock medium.

Beer Head, Beer

OS Ref: 210881-229888

Dimensions: Three km of high mudstone and silty limestone cliffs with a sea-level coastering-style traverse and one climb up its tallest part (120m).

Access: Not Open Access land, though the western part is National Trust-owned land. The approach is along the foreshore from Branscombe or Beer.

Car Parking: Car-Parks in both villages.

Restrictions: None specific. East Devon Heritage Coast. SSSI and SAC, the cliffs form part of an environmentally sensitive area. Climbers are advised to avoid the bird-nesting season; good climbing conduct implied.

Potential: High for ice-climbing style ascents, but therein limited.

Value Assessment: A sideline climbing style and a weak rock medium means the cliffs hold minimal general appeal and are likely to be visited only very rarely.

Sea-Cliff Climbing Sites in Dorset

- **Isle of Portland**
- **Lulworth area**
- **Swanage area: South**
- **Swanage area: North**

Isle of Portland

OS Ref: 685729-704722

Introduction

The Isle of Portland is rimmed by 10km of near-continuous Jurassic limestone cliffs on its west and south-east coasts. On its west side, 4km of cliff of interest to the climber runs more-or-less unbroken from OS Ref: 681720 north of Weston (where it occupies the 50-80m contour, well above the sea) before dipping slowly down to sea level in Wallsend Cove and onto Portland Bill at the southern tip of the Isle. A line of low sea cliffs continue round the south east coast for 2.5km, become intermittent for the next kilometre, and then fizzle out into boulders before (north of Church Ope) becoming overhung by a line of quarried bluffs occupying, approx, the 60-90m contour, well above the sea for the final kilometre to (approx) OS Ref: 702717.

There are 1000 climbs (including main boulder problems) on Portland, all relatively recently established compared to most British crags. The Isle has grown quickly into one of Britain's premier sport-climbing sites, now having an unparalleled range of amenable and easy-to-reach bolt-protected climbs in a fine setting. It is also one of Britain's best places for deep-water soloing, which has a tiny-minority following. Increasing popularity has brought with it a few very-low-profile concerns and tensions especially in relation to the importance environmentally of the Isle and the wishes of its residents and other land users. At Portland, the record of climbers taking precautionary and responsive action to deal with these, in collaboration with the authorities, is however a very good one.

The cliff-line encompasses a large number of more-or-less arbitrarily sectionalised and named cliffs, normally 20-30m high, which have been intensively developed except where climbing is not permitted. Given their situation on an island of singular geographical and geological character, they share many characteristics and constraints. These are summarised here, and expounded further as necessary against individual cliff summaries.

Access: The Portland Coast Path runs along the top of virtually the whole cliff-line, being deflected inland only in two instances: around the MoD property immediately north-west of Portland Bill, and by a quarried area at Freshwater Bay on the east coast. A narrow strip of Open Access land on the west coast cliff-top, and corresponding with the path, is identified from latitude 709 southwards to Portland Bill where it embraces an open grassy area stretching across the southern tip of the island but only as far northwards on the east coast to latitude 687. On the east coast Open Access land recommences at latitude 702 and encapsulates the coastal hill-side from cliff-top to sea-shore up to and beyond the northern limit of permitted climbing. Various RoWs leave Portland's main roads to intersect the coast path at convenient locations. Except where abseiling is the only option (generally only a small proportion of sea-washed crags in the south), access from the coast path to the cliff-bases is by short walk-/scramble-down coastal hillside at guidebook-identified points, and then, where applicable, by walking along the foreshore.

Car Parking: Car-parks at Portland Bill (serving cliffs between Wallsend North on the west coast to Cave Hole on the east coast), Cheyne Wears (serving Cave Hole-The Lost Valley on the east coast), and Church Ope (serving The Cuttings area on the east coast). For the west coast cliffs north of Wallsend Cove, road-side parking is plentiful (but subject to advice to avoid competing with residents in Weston and Southwell). Plentiful road-side parking is available in south Easton, for The Cuttings area.

Restrictions and Management Arrangements

Portland's coast is part of the Isle of Portland to Studland Cliffs SAC and makes up the Isle of Portland SSSI. It hosts vulnerable and unique plant-life and is a site for nesting sea birds and birds of prey. Its geological formations are renowned. The centre of the island is highly populated, and some residential areas lie within a few hundred metres of the cliff-tops. In summer the population is swelled by visitors, though on a day-trip basis - given the absence of holiday accommodation on the island. The MoD occupies a 0.4 x 0.2km area of land abutting the cliff-top (south of Coastguard South). Restrictions, agreements, and codes of conduct established between climbers and land-owners, conservation bodies and local authorities (via a liaison group) respond to the aforementioned factors. Specifically the responses are:

- Bird-nesting restrictions: there are 3 sanctuary zones where climbing is not permitted at any time and Peregrine nesting-site determined. Variable Restrictions (VR) (normally on sections of Wallsend South and Cheyne Cliff that exclude climbers 1 Feb – 31 July/1 Sept respectively).
- Advice not to disturb cliff-top flora and to avoid altogether some cliffs for this reason and to use publicised means and points of access.
- Advice as to acceptable places to park (the provision of dedicated climbers' parking is under consideration by the District Council).
- Prohibition of wild camping.
- Keeping under review any user-induced erosion and the practicality of its management.

Potential: Limited. New climbs are still being established but they are mainly of an infill nature.

Isle of Portland Cliff summaries

WEST COAST

West Weare and West Cliff

OS Ref: 685729-682722

Sanctuary Zone: No climbing.

Blacknor: Far North, North, Central, South, and Far South (and Fallen Slab area)

OS Ref: 681720-680709

The cliff-line is 40m-50m above sea level; The Fallen Slab area comprises various boulders and collapsed sections now at sea level. A path, occasionally obstructed by landslips under Blacknor Central, runs under the cliff with walk-down access to it (from the coast path) from either end and a separate scrambling-in point part-way along South.

Access Issues: Parking limitations.

Battleship: Edge, Back Cliff, and Block

OS Ref: 680708-679705

The cliff-line is 40m above sea level; Battleship Block is an immediately adjacent slipped piece of the main cliff. A path runs southwards under the cliff from the main walk-down access point from the coast path. This is the Isle's most popular area.

Access Issues: Parking limitations, erosion management.

Wallsend Cove: North, Central, South

OS Ref: 679702-677694

As it increases in height, and dips southwards, the cliff-line drops to sea-level half way along this stretch. The approach is via scrambles at either end from the coast path and the foreshore is traversed to reach the climbs.

Access Issues: VR

Coastguard: North, South

OS Ref: 677694-675688

Continuous sea cliffs are approached by a scramble-down descent (as for Wallsend Cove southern entry), from Open Access land. The foreshore is traversed to reach the climbs.

Access Issues: Bird-nesting restriction at extreme southern end. Sanctuary Zone (no access) runs 67536885-67506865 (under MoD property). Road-side parking oversubscribed peak time, but car-park available.

White Hole Area

OS Ref: 675686-675684

Much of the cliff is sea-washed at all times. From Open Access land to the south, the approach is by scrambling along the cliff-top outside the MoD fence-line; then by abseil. Used also as a deep-water soloing location. Pulpit Rock at Portland Bill is of very minor climbing significance.

Access Issues: A Sanctuary Zone lies to the north. The approach to White Hole is difficult, and climbers can be mistaken for (less welcome) 'cliff-jumpers', including by the MoD (who erected a subsidiary fence to keep 'jumpers' out).

EAST COAST

Lighthouse Area Cliffs, Cave Hole Area, and Beeston Cliffs

OS Ref: 679685-690697

Low, fairly continuous sea cliffs, often with tidal wave-cut platform giving access between routes. The cliff-bases are approached by scrambling/abseil approaches from coast path (Open Access land as far north as latitude 687). These are the Isle's main deep-water soloing cliffs.

Access Issues: A local problem did arise on Sector Pom Pom during the summer holiday period as this cliff lies below privately controlled beach huts. Though a historic problem, climbers are advised to visit outside summer.

Cheyne Wears Area: Neddyfields Main Cliff and Wall, Godnore Far North, Godnore Main Cliff, Cheyne Cliff, Dungecroft Quarry, and The Lost Valley

OS Ref: 690697-695707

Three near-sea-level cliffs, interrupted by boulder slopes, and three low quarried crags set well above the sea. All are accessed from the B3154/coast path: direct for Neddyfields Wall; with short scrambles down for the Godnore and Cheyne cliffs; and across Open Access land to Dungecroft and The Lost Valley.

Access Issues: VR on Cheyne Cliff. There is vulnerable plant-life at some cliff-tops: physical arrangements mean that these areas are avoided by the climbs or, specifically in relation to Pipe Cliff (Neddyfields), climbing has been discontinued.

The Cuttings Area: The New Cuttings and The Cuttings

OS Ref: 698713-702717

Two quarried cliffs (old railway cuttings) set at the top of the coastal slope and 250m from the sea's edge. The area between the cliff-top (route of coast path) and coastal edge is Open Access land (and contains boulder-problems). A path runs along the old railway line under the cliff. Three RoWs lead from Easton/Church Ope car-park to the Open Access land.

Access Issues: None specific.

The Lulworth area

OS Ref: 805802-830796

Introduction: There are 4 groups of limestone cliffs used for climbing along the 2.5km coast between Durdle Door and the western limit of the West Lulworth MoD range. With the exception of the Dungy Head coastal hillside outcrops, they are sea-cliffs. Between them they host 300 climbs, most of which are bolt-protected or deep-water solos. Owing to their geology, many of the climbs have a unique character and an outstanding quality, especially at Durdle Door and Stair Hole. The climbs' high technical difficulty limits excessive popularity. This area forms part of the Purbeck Heritage Coast, the Isle of Portland to Studland Cliffs SAC and the South Dorset Coast SSSI; it is also internationally renowned for its exceptional geology and physical geography. During summer it becomes flooded with visitors and holiday-makers.

Access and Restrictions:

Main Cliffs: Climbing was formerly prohibited by the owners, and notices to that effect are still in place, post-CroWAct 2000. However the crags now lie on the edge of, or within, Open Access land which runs along the coast from Ringstead Bay (well to the west of the climbing area) to the MoD range in the east. Climbing developed here only extremely cautiously reflecting difficulties with access and the area's conservation and sightseeing status. In recent years it is not known to have given rise to any conflict or incident.

Lulworth Firing Ranges: The MoD prohibits climbing on the cliffs within its ranges i.e.: OS Ref: 830796-843797 (most of the coast between Lulworth Cove and Mupe Bay), and 868795-894791 (Wowbarrow Tout – Gad Cliff). Prior to clarification of this ban, climbs were established in both areas. The traverses in the western section are potentially of classic status, but pass under The Fossil Forest – an important geological site. Additionally, bird-nesting restrictions would apply on Gad Cliff (no climbs here). Whereas climbing is banned, access is permitted to walkers but only on prescribed routes (including the affected section of the South West Coast Path) and at prescribed times.

Car Parking: Large car-park at Lulworth Cove, bordering Open Access land.

Potential: The main limestone cliffs are well developed, but high theoretical potential for discovery exists on MoD-limited sections. The chalk cliffs here are considered unsuitable by most climbers and, given possible public safety implications, are unclimbed.

Lulworth Area Cliff Summaries

Butter Rock, Batt's Head

OS Ref: 796803

The only recorded chalk climb in this area, but on an 8m foreshore stack.

Durdle Door

OS Ref: 805802-807802

Most climbs are on the seaward side of the western end of the famous limestone arch.

Dungy Head: Dungy Head outcrops and Church Rock

OS Ref: 816799-819798

A 15m-high tier 40m above sea level, and a boulder (Church Rock) at sea level.

Stair Hole Bastion to Arthur's Mount

OS Ref: 822798-825797

Most climbs are based on the 20m-high seaward faces of the Stair Hole arches, and they represent one of Britain's pre-eminent deep-water soloing cliffs.

Lulworth East: The Amphitheatre Roofs

OS Ref: 827797-830796

The climbs are dispersed along 300m of 20m-high cliff, as far as the MoD perimeter.

Swanage area: South

OS Ref: 958758-031769

Introduction: The 8km coast between St Aldhems Head and Tilly Whim Caves represents one of Britain's most important traditional sea-cliff climbing areas. Limestone sea cliffs run near-continuously between the two points, punctuated by occasional coastal quarries, both cliff-types proving suitable for climbing. With 1050 climbs, and a choice of high-quality adventure and (now) sport climbs, the cliffs are extremely popular, particularly those best and longest developed along the coast's eastern half.

Access: The majority of the cliffs lie on the edge of Open Access land, which extends in a generally 300m-400m wide strip along the coast from Seacombe (981765) to Tilly Whim Caves (thus embracing the great majority of the climbs). The South West Coast Path runs along the entire cliff-top, very close to the cliff edge for the most part. Various more-or-less parallel N-S Rights of Way (14) gain the coast path/Access land at regular intervals along the coast. Most of the quarries can be entered on foot; whereas virtually all other climbs require abseil approaches (and then a traverse along the narrow foreshore, where present, as appropriate and necessary).

Car Parking: Car-parks at: Renscombe Farm/road-side at St Aldhem's Chapel (serving: St Aldhem's Head); Worth Matravers (serving Winspit and Seacombe); Langton Matravers (serving Seacombe- Fisherman's Ledge), together with road-side in Langton Matravers as needed in peak periods; and Durlston Country Park (serving Fisherman's Ledge-Tilly Whim). Additional capacity is provided in association with use of the four camp-sites - all have RoWs leading from them to the coast.

Restrictions: The cliffs form part of the Purbeck Heritage Coast, the Isle of Portland to Studland Cliffs SAC, and an SSSI. They are noted for their bird-life, ecology and geology. Climbing is not permitted at any time between Tilly Whim Caves and Durlston Head at any time, for ecological and ornithological reasons. Permanent bird-nesting restrictions (PR), that disallow climbing 1 March - 31 July, are in operation on 10 sections of the cliff-line (signage at cliff tops). The cliffs form part of the South Dorset Coast SSSI.

Potential: Limited and of an infill nature, on the best-developed cliffs in the eastern half. Moderate-high on the least-well developed un-quarried cliffs in the western half.

Swanage Area North Cliff Summaries

St Aldhem's Head Area: St Aldhem's Head, Buttery Corner, Slippery Ledge OS Ref: 958758-975758

Dimensions: There are about 70 climbs at the three dispersed locations on this relatively neglected 2km coast. The St Aldhem's Head and Buttery Corner cliffs are not sea-washed; the former are set well above sea level (occupying approx 50-100m contours). From the coast path, scrambles or abseils lead to cliff-bases. Height: 40m at St Aldhem's otherwise 15m.

Restrictions: PR for parts of all cliffs. SSSI, SAC.

Winspit: Winspit Quarry and Eastern Sea Walls OS Ref: 976760-981765

Dimensions: This coastal quarry, which contains most of the climbs, is set well apart from the sea and is 200m in extent. Its selection of 40 sport climbs attracts regular visits. A RoW from Worth Matravers leads to the quarry perimeter and the coast path along its top, but there is no RoW within the quarry. To the east low cliffs at sea level link with Seacombe (only the western section holds climbs), and access is by abseil.

Restrictions: PR on part of the Eastern Sea Walls. Winspit Quarry is privately owned, and there are notices stating that climbing is not allowed. However, this prohibition is not actively enforced. As at January 2006 this property was advertised for sale. SSSI, SAC.

Seacombe-Dancing Ledge Area: Seacombe Quarry and Sea-Cliffs, Hedbury Quarry and Sea Cliffs, Smokey Hole, Topmast Quarry (sea cliffs), and Dancing Ledge OS Ref: 981765-998769

Dimensions: Coastal quarries (set back from the sea) overlie sea cliffs on a 1.5km section of the coast. The quarries, generally 10-15m high provide dense developments of sport climbs (100 approx); elsewhere the climbs are more sparse and the cliffs higher (<30m). The cliffs form part of, or underlie, Open Access land. Dancing Ledge is especially popular with climbers.

Restrictions: PR on Hedbury Big Cove, Smokey Hole, and Topmast Quarry. SSSI, SAC.

Guillemot Ledge-Tilly Whim Section: Guillemot Ledge, Cormorant Ledge, Blacker's Hole (and Quarry), Conner Cove, Fisherman's Ledge, The Promenade, Flake Ledge, The Jumble, Cattle Troughs, Amphitheatre Ledge, Boulder Ruckle, Subluminal, Black Zawn, Traverse of the Gods Area, and Tilly Whim West. OS Ref: 998769-031769

Dimensions: These 3km of uninterrupted cliffs form the substantive and most historic section of the Swanage climbing cliffs, with a climb every few metres. Excepting one dry location (Blacker's Hole Quarry), they all rise from the sea, or a wave-cut platform, or a narrow tidal foreshore, and all are overlain by Open Access land. At Blacker's Hole, Fisherman's Ledge, and The Promenade it is possible to walk/scramble/climb in; most other climbs require abseil approaches. The cliffs are 25m-45m high. Supplementing the mainstream traditional climbing, the overhangs of The Promenade have been given over to bolt-protected climbing. Conner's Cove is Britain's most celebrated deep-water soloing venue, and Subluminal is used for group instruction.

Restrictions: PR on parts of: Guillemot Ledge, Cormorant Ledge, Blacker's Hole, Boulder Ruckle, The Traverse of the Gods area and to the whole of Tilly Whim West. An all-year round restriction applies to the cliffs to the east (Sanctuary Zone). SSSI, SAC.

Swanage area: North

Ballard Point to Handfast Point, and Old Harry Rocks

OS Ref: 048812-055825

Dimensions: A 1.5km coasteering traverse links the two headlands; otherwise all the (11) climbs take the chalk stacks of The Pinnacles and Old Harry Rocks.
Height: 35m/25m respectively.

Access: The land above the mainland cliff is Open Access land. From Studland South Beach, the approach is by walking along the foreshore and wading, or by boat.

Car Parking: Large car-parks at Studland.

Restrictions: None specific. Studland Cliffs SSSI, and 'Isle of Portland to Studland Cliffs SAC'.

Potential: Moderate, but limited by perceptions attached to climbing chalk.

Value Assessment: The stacks, which are important landmarks, are not attempted that often.

Sea-Cliff Climbing Sites of Sussex

- **The South Downs Sea Cliffs: Brighton to Beachy Head**
- **Hastings**

The South Downs Sea Cliffs: Brighton to Beachy Head

Introduction

Chalk cliffs line major parts of the coast between Brighton and Beachy Head, where the South Downs meet the English Channel, and are amongst the most striking and sheer in England. In the Brighton area they are underlain by a public thoroughfare, and are unsuitable for climbing, but at Saltdean, and towards the west along an unbroken and sheer 10km stretch terminating in Beachy Head, they present significant existing and future climbing challenges.

Chalk is one of the least strong climbing media, and while the ice-climbing-style routes have lured some devotees, the cliffs as a whole are not of general appeal or popularity. Most of the climbs were established in the last 25 years, though, some truly historic ascents on Beachy Head date back to the 19th Century. Additionally the especially steep areas (at Saltdean) have attracted more sport-oriented climbers in recent years. It cannot be claimed, however, that the climbs are of mainstream appeal.

General Access Restrictions: The western half is designated the Sussex Heritage Coast, is environmentally an important area, and features the well-known landmarks of Seven Sisters and Beachy Head. All the cliffs lie within SSSIs. Occasionally, bird-nesting restrictions apply. There is a requirement to notify the Coastguard before and after climbing, to avoid the mounting of unnecessary rescue operations.

South Downs Sea-Cliff Summaries

Saltdean to Telscombe Cliffs

OS Ref: 385017-410009

Dimensions: A km of sea cliffs with two main areas - the eastern-most is the sport-ice-climbing cave ('The Power Dome').

Height: 50m.

There are around 30 climbs (ice-climbing style).

Rock: Chalk.

Access: Choice of RoW to the foreshore at east end (from leisure centre) and centrally (from Badger's Watch Pub); and then along the foreshore to the climbs. There is Open Access land covering a small part of the cliff-top, and the coast path (RoW) runs along the entire cliff-top.

Car Parking: Car-parks and road-side in Saltdean.

Restrictions: Occasional peregrine bird-nesting restriction. There is an agreement that the Coastguard and Police should be notified of the intention to climb. SSSI; climbers are advised to operate with care and avoid disturbing any cliff flora.

Seaford Head to Seven Sisters

OS Ref: 490980-549965

Dimensions: Six km of chalk cliffs from Seaford to Birling Gap, with two existing climbing sites having only a route apiece: Seaford Head (519973) and the most westerly of the Seven Sisters. The cliff-line is interrupted by the bay of Cuckmere Haven.

Height: 90m.

Rock: Chalk.

Access: Seaford Head is not Open Access land. The Seven Sisters cliffs are Open Access land. The coast path (RoW) runs along the cliff-top throughout (between Cuckmere Haven to Beachy Head, it is The South Downs Way). From car-parking locations, RoWs lead to the coast path and then on to the foreshore.

Car Parking: Car-parks in Seaford, South Hill, Crow Link, Birling Gap and Cuckmere Haven.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI, LNR (Seaford Head).

Beachy Head

OS Ref: 565958-586954

Dimensions: The climbs are concentrated in a 400m stretch around the headland (582952-586952).

Height: 130m.

There are over 10 climbs (traditional style).

Rock: Chalk.

Access: Open Access land overlies the cliffs. Approach the foreshore by scrambling down cliff-line to the east of the climbs (initially a RoW).

Car Parking: Large car-park at Beachy Head.

Restrictions: Peregrine bird-nesting restriction (1 Feb-30 June) may apply. SSSI. Advisory code for climbers includes notification to Coastguard of intention to climb.

Hastings

OS Ref: 837100-852105

Dimensions: One and a half of sea cliffs.

Height: 65m.

There are 10 climbs (ice-climbing style).

Rock: Interbedded sandstone and clay.

Access: Not Open Access land. The approach is via the foreshore from either end. Coast path (Saxon Shore Way) follows the cliff top.

Car Parking: Car-parks in Hastings and Fairlight.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI, SAC.

Potential: Theoretically high, but the substrate is unwelcoming mudstone and clay.

Value Assessment: One of England's most unconventional climbing sites, a function of individuals' eccentric sense of exploration: queues are unlikely.

Sea-Cliff Climbing Sites in Kent

- **The North Downs Sea Cliffs: Dover to Kingsdown**
- **Miscellaneous**

The North Downs Sea Cliffs: Dover to Kingsdown

OS Ref: 340422-380470

Introduction: England's most famous cliffs rise from where the North Downs meet the English Channel. The 'white cliffs of Dover' extend north-eastwards from Dover to Kingsdown, interrupted only by St Margaret's Bay in their 10km length. Chalk is one of the least strong climbing media, but the adoption of ice-climbing techniques has rendered the otherwise un-climbable cliffs a distinctive challenge for mountaineers. Like their South Downs counterparts, they offer very impressive climbs and much potential for the future, subject to a currently very sensitive access situation.

Dimensions: There are 50 climbs, and the cliffs rise to 100m. The cliffs continue west of the harbour, but there is only one climb.

Access: Along the foreshore from Dover/St Margaret's at Cliffe – with the latter the best way for most climbs. The beach east of Dover is not so readily accessible, and relies upon a fixed ladder for the final descent.

Egress: There is no RoW from the exits of the first batch of climbs south of St Margaret's at Cliffe – informal paths joining the RoW are followed. All other climbs exit onto the 'Saxon Shore and White Cliff Country Trail' (contained in a narrow but, in the southern half discontinuous, strip of Open Access land).

General Access Restrictions: The coast is designated the South Foreland Heritage Coast. The cliffs are an iconic natural feature and make up the Dover to Kingsdown Cliffs SSSI and SAC. There are rare plants and the chalk presents an international stratigraphic reference section. The official position of The National Trust, who own most of the cliffs, is that climbing is prohibited. The use of the approach from Dover has sometimes met with official responses. An agreement to notify the Coastguard before and after any climbing, to avoid the mounting of unnecessary rescue operations, stands.

Margate

OS Ref: 347708

This is an obscure and minor 15m-high chalk sea cliff between Birchington and Westgate that provides a few climbs. Access is along the beach.

Sea-Cliff Climbing Sites in the East Riding Of Yorkshire

- **Miscellaneous**

Bempton Cliffs: Flamborough Head to Speeton

OS Ref: 161750-233691

Dimensions: Ten km of cliffs, really only interrupted by the coves of South and North Landing and Flamborough.

Height: 100m.

There are 4 climbs (none feature in guidebooks).

Rock: Chalk.

Access: The approach is via the foreshore and/or boat (much of the cliff-line falls direct into the sea). The coast path (RoW) follows the cliff-top.

Car Parking: Car-parks in Flamborough, North Landing and Speeton.

Restrictions: The Bempton cliffs section is an RSPB reserve, which has the largest concentration of breeding sea-birds on the English mainland. Restrictions are implied. The few climbs here were conceived well outside the bird-nesting season. The cliffs lie within the Flamborough Head SSSI, SAC and Flamborough Head Outer Headland LNR.

Potential: High, but severely limited by rock quality, access, and conservation considerations.

Value Assessment: Not an established climbing area; ascents have been very rare (4 climbs across 30 years), and any future activity would be rarer still.

Filey Brigg, Filey, Nr Scarborough

OS Ref: 130816-125817

Dimensions: Four main climbing sections along several hundred metres of the north side of the headland.

Height: 15m.

There are 63 climbs.

Rock: Limestone and mudstone/sandstone.

Access: Not Open Access land. The approach is via the coast path (The Cleveland Way) from Filey; and then by a fixed ladder descent or a scramble around the headland.

Car Parking: Car-park in Filey.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI.

Potential: Moderate, and with some potential further west (rock-quality limited).

Value Assessment: There are very few sea-cliff climbing sites in NE England; this is the most important.

Sea-Cliff Climbing Sites in County Durham

- **Miscellaneous**

Blackhall Rocks

OS Ref: 473388-471391

Dimensions: A small part of the 0.5km of low sea cliffs is of climbing merit.

Height: 7m.

Numerous unrecorded boulder-problems and a few sport routes.

Rock: Magnesian limestone (and boulder clay).

Access: The cliffs lie on the edge of a narrow coastal strip of Open Access land.

Various RoWs gain the Open Access land. The approach between different sections is along the foreshore.

Car Parking: Road-side on minor public highway at the cliff-top.

Restrictions: None specific. Durham Heritage Coast; Durham Coast SAC and Durham Coast (Spotlight) NNR boundary immediately south.

Potential: Extensive possibilities on the coastline – bouldering only.

Value Assessment: This cliff is a local bouldering site, the value of which is subject to its weak and unstable rock.

Sea-cliff Climbing Sites in South Tyneside

- **Miscellaneous**

The Cove, Marsden

OS Ref: 395659

Dimensions: One hundred metres of low cliffs.

Height: 6m.

There are in the region of 50 boulder-problems.

Rock: Limestone.

Access: Not Open Access land, though National Trust-owned. There are RoWs to and along cliff-top.

Car Parking: Car-park at Marsden Bay; also road-side.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI.

Potential: Moderate – for bouldering.

Value Assessment: A local bouldering site, the best on this stretch of coastline.

Sea-Cliff Climbing Sites in Northumberland

- **Miscellaneous**

Crag Point, Seaton Sluice, Nr Tynemouth

OS Ref: 343763

Dimensions: A small sea cliff.
There are 20 climbs.
Rock: Sandstone.

Access: Not Open Access land. Coast path (RoW) from Hartley.

Car Parking: Car-park in Hartley.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI.

Potential: Limited.

Value Assessment: A neglected and very loose crag maligned by local climbers.

Rumbling Kern

OS Ref: 263173

Dimensions: A small sea cliff.
Height: 7m.
There are >20 boulder-problems/short climbs.
Rock: Sandstone.

Access: Not Open Access land. From Howick, a RoW leads to the coast path; the approach is along the foreshore.

Car Parking: Road-side in Howick; spacious car park at Howdiemont Sands next to coast path.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI.

Potential: Very limited.

Value Assessment: An important and attractive crag, of value especially in winter.

Cullernose Point, Craster

OS Ref: 259186-261188

Dimensions: Two hundred metres long.
Height: 20m.
There are 25 climbs.
Rock: Dolerite.

Access: Not Open Access land. From the Howick to Craster road (or Craster) the coast path (RoW) leads to the cliff-top; then the approach is along the foreshore.

Car Parking: Road-side (as above), or car-park in Craster.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI. A nesting site for sea-birds; their presence and occasional restrictions prevent climbing April-August.

Potential: Limited.

Value Assessment: A respectable sea-cliff, though nesting birds and a serious reputation depress climbers' interest.

Sea-Cliff Climbing Sites in Cumbria

- **St Bees Head**

St Bees Head, Nr Whitehaven

OS Ref: 941149-950120

Dimensions: This 3km stretch of coast embraces the main sea cliffs and foreshore boulders north of St Bees Head (940141) and the adjacent specific bouldering sites at Fleswick Bay (945133) and South Head (950120). The boulders are sited on wave-cut platforms in front of the cliffs.

Height: 2m-20m.

There are 70 climbs, and approx. 100 boulder-problems.

Rock: Sandstone.

Access: Not Open Access land. The approach is via the coast path (RoW), which runs along the cliff-top, reached by RoWs from Tarnflatt Wall (and Sandwith or St Bees); and then by a choice of scrambles to the cliff-base - subject to restrictions.

Car Parking: Car-park at Tarnflatt Hall (also at St Bees).

Restrictions: Part of the designated St Bees Heritage Coast, the site is an SSSI. Controlled by the RSPB, it is an extremely important site for sea-bird colonies. Restrictions (1 Feb-31 July) applies to most areas including the boulders south of Apiary Wall and to South Head, and to some access routes.

Potential: Moderate – including bouldering.

Value Assessment: In addition to being an alternative to Lakeland crags, this is a very valuable cliff in its own right, and reportedly one of the finest bouldering sites in Britain.

Sea-Cliff Climbing Sites in Lancashire

- **Miscellaneous**

Jack Scout Crag, Nr Silverdale

OS Ref: 458737-459735

Dimensions: Approx. 100m long.

Height: 20m.

There are over 40 climbs.

Rock: Limestone.

Access: Not Open Access land (though adjoining land to the south is). The approach to the cliff is by means of a signed permissive path across National Trust land direct from the car parking location (no RoW).

Car Parking: Limited road-side in minor road.

Restrictions: SSSI. The site is ecologically sensitive as it holds rare flora; an agreed access code specifies measures to be taken to prevent disturbance to it.

Potential: Limited.

Value Assessment: This is Lancashire's only sea cliff, and it is a good alternative to better-known crags.

Sea-cliff climbing sites on England's principal islands

- **Lundy**
- **The Isles of Scilly**
- **Isle of Wight**

Lundy

Introduction

Lundy is possibly England's most special place to climb: a unique and treasured site, culturally and environmentally, and one which hosts an exceptional collection of climbs of great quality on mostly pristine granite. With strict controls over numbers of visitors who may stay on the island at any one time, and bird-nesting restrictions that in effect limit climbing between August-January, climbing remains low-key and commensurate with the island's unspoiled character.

There are approx. 1000 climbs on Lundy spread over more than 100 cliffs or individually distinctive areas. No attempt is made here to categorise them, because –in essence – Lundy is one discrete climbing site. From a climbing perspective, any differences lie in those between its west and east coast. Between North West Point and Great Shutter Rock its west coast (OS Ref: 131482-133433) is laden with sea cliffs (and climbs), including such notable features as the 100m deep blowhole of The Devil's Limekiln, the 30m stack of The Devil's Chimney and the 120m high slab of The Devil's Slide. Contrastingly cliffs (and climbs) on the east coast are much more sporadic and really only extend from the inland pinnacle of The Constable to Halfway Buttress (OS Ref: 133480-138459), between them accounting for a small minority of the climbs on Lundy.

Climbing on Lundy has taken place for more than 100 years. From the 1960's to the 1990's, Lundy has been one of England's key sites for discovery and pioneering. Such 'development' has progressed responsibly and at rate determined by limitations of access. From a new climbs' point of view, Lundy's potential is now quite limited, and its role has diverged into one of provide a late summer's/autumn climbing trip with an unforgettable feel.

Access and Restrictions

Lundy is managed by The Landmark Trust on behalf of The National Trust, and hosts a small working population including a warden. It is England's only Marine Nature Reserve, an SAC, and most of it designated SSSI. It is ecologically, environmentally, and ornithologically a precious and vulnerable site. Access to Lundy is by boat or helicopter from mainland England. The number that can stay on the island, including climbers, is restricted, and overnight stays have to be booked in advance. Within published constraints, the cliff-tops are gained on foot and the climbs variously by walking, scrambling or abseiling.

Lundy has extremely important seabird populations. The majority of the cliffs are subject to bird nesting restrictions, and these can vary year to year. Details of them are published yearly and made available to visitors. Additionally, good practice is expected while climbing in order not to disturb or damage vulnerable plant-life.

The Isles of Scilly

Preamble: Overall the low-lying granite islands have relatively limited capacity for climbing, as they do not match the scale and calibre of mainland granite cliffs. Climbing has been recorded since the nineteen forties, but dedicated climbing visits are uncommon. Perhaps the main potential and worth lies in bouldering on the many low outcrops and sea-cliffs widespread across the Isles.

Restrictions: The Isles are protected by environmental designations: there are many SSSIs, and the whole is covered by the Isles of Scilly Complex SAC and Special Protection Area. They are an important site for sea-bird colonies, as well as migratory birds. Consequently many of the small islands/rocks are closed 15 April-20 August. The Isles also host vulnerable and rare plant-life.

St Mary's

Dimensions: The Isles' two main areas of sea-cliffs are situated on the largest island's south coast: Peninnis Head (OS Ref: 911092) and Giant's Castle (OS Ref: 925100). Between them they hold 25 climbs up to 25m high, with many more short problems.

Access: Via the coast path from Hugh Town.

St Martin's, Bryher, and St Agnes

Low sea-cliffs and outcrops on some of the rockier headlands provide largely undocumented short climbs and boulder-problems. The Horse and Shipman's Head on Bryher are most significant.

Isle of Wight

OS Ref: 303852-302846

Preamble: Climbing interest is focused on the western tip of the island (294849), adjacent to and including The Needles. The landscape, and purity of the features climbed, makes this an extraordinary site, but one which (for reasons associated with the dubious medium of chalk and this not being a mainland site) does not hold mainstream appeal or any significant popularity.

Dimensions: Approx 1km of chalk cliffs rise to 80m. There are 20 climbs between Alum Bay and Freshwater Bay including a (restricted) 6km coasteering-style traverse between the two. Each of The Needles has one or more climbs, Scratchell's Bay has 7, and two stacks in Freshwater Bay (Stag Rock and Bear Rock: approx. 349855) have a route apiece.

Access and Access Agreement: The cliffs are owned by The National Trust and the approach route, together with climbing generally, is controlled. The specified approach is via a locked gate in a safety fence to an abseil entry point into Scratchell's Bay, which gives access to most climbs. Prior notification (and an after-call) is required. A separate abseil approach, not subject to this control gains climbs in the Sun Corner part of the Bay. Some of the land above the cliffs is Open Access land, including a separate parcel above part of Scratchell's Bay. There are RoWs from Alum Bay; and the coast path (The Tennyson Trail) follows the Highdown Cliffs-top. The two outermost Needles are approached by boat. The Freshwater Bay climbs are unrestricted, and access is across the foreshore/by boat.

Car Parking: Car-parks in Alum Bay/Freshwater Bay.

Restrictions: The site forms part of the Tennyson Heritage Coast, is a major national landmark and is an SSSI. Ecologically and ornithologically it is a very sensitive site and access (including the main approach) is rigorously regulated. With the exception of the traverse, an all-year-round nesting-season restriction prohibits climbing on the Highdown Cliffs (east of Sun Corner); part of Sun Corner is restricted 1 March-31 July. Prior notification to the Coastguard is required.

Potential: Limited by restrictions.

Coastal Climbing Sites in England

British Mountaineering Council

A register of coastal climbing sites in England

January 2006

Coastal Climbing Sites Summary & Contents Page

County & Area	No. Sites	No. Main Cliffs	No. Climbs*	Principal Guidebook	Page
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Cornwall: Penwith's West Coast	19	62	925*	West Cornwall	46
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*includes estimates of existing recorded or recordable main boulder-problems

Coastal Climbing Sites in England

Interpretive Notes

1. Sites are described and map-referenced anti-clockwise around England's shores, commencing at Portishead in the Bristol Channel.
2. Map references and cliff-size estimates are indicative.
3. Numbers of climbs have been counted from latest climbing guidebooks and adjusted for known new developments and main recorded or recordable boulder-problems.
4. Open Access land is described based upon Countryside Agency delineation.
5. Rights-of-Way ('RoW(s)') are as indicated on Ordnance Survey 1:25000 maps.
6. Access restrictions, agreements and 'issues' are derived from climbing guidebooks, BMC databases, and other creditable sources, and are subject to change.
7. A 'site' is generally a cliff or an area with multiple cliffs that has an established cultural and/or physical identity of its own (cliffs so grouped would tend to share some key characteristics e.g. access, ownership etc.). Therefore the term 'site' embraces a large range of climbing locations, from minor and rarely visited ones with a few climbs to major British climbing areas with hundreds of climbs. Quite often, for climbing recording purposes, cliffs are arbitrarily sectionalised and named.
8. Sites are grouped according to county/unitary authority location. Where multiple sites occupy a coast of distinctive character (to the extent that the coast has acquired its own climbing identity e.g. The Culm Coast) a shadow categorisation is applied. In addition, in relation to West Cornwall, District Council Groupings are used.
9. 'Coastal outcrops' are cliffs set on the coast but the bases of which are higher than sea-level to the extent that the sea-state would not normally preclude access. The presumption is that all other crags commence at or around sea-level or from the foreshore, unless stated to the contrary.
10. An attempt has been made to rate the potential for new climbs at or adjacent to the site. The rating is only a guide since potential is more highly influenced by factors other than the crude amount of unclimbed rock available (eg rock quality, conservation interests, climbing trends).
11. A 'boulder-problem' is normally one or several physical climbing moves on a low cliff not requiring the use of ropes (and 'bouldering' should be construed accordingly).
12. 'Deep-water soloing' is climbing solo (without ropes) directly above the sea, utilising the sea as a safety-net to negate any risk of serious injury in the event of a fall.
13. 'Sport climbing' is climbing using fixed bolts that act as a safeguard.
14. 'Coasteering' is the traversing of sea-cliffs between low and high tide levels. It can involve a range of techniques: scrambling along foreshores, technical climbing, rope manoeuvres and even swimming.
15. Main environmental designations have been identified from English Nature's website, but their relationship to climbing sites is not definitive. SSSI = Site of Special Scientific Interest; L/NNR = Local/National Nature Reserve; SAC = Special Area of Conservation. Their identification doesn't imply the existence of, or the need for, specific climbing-related restrictions (inherently most coastal cliffs are SSSIs).
16. Currently available physical access/approach arrangements and car-parking provision were presumed to be adequate, unless creditable evidence suggested the contrary.

Sea-Cliff Climbing Sites in North Somerset

- **Miscellaneous**

Redcliffe Bay, Portishead to Ladye Point, Clevedon

OS Ref: 440760-408732

Dimensions: Four and a half km of fairly continuous low cliffs.

Height: 3-12m.

A spread of well-separated bouldering locations (approx: 100 problems), together with one lead-climbing location at Charlcombe Bay (Charlcombe Cornice: 10 climbs).

Rock: Sandstones, breccias.

Access: Not Open Access land. The approaches to the cliffs are direct from the coast path (RoW), which closely follows the entire cliff-top.

Car parking: At either end; road-side in Redcliffe Bay, car-park at Ladye Bay. Also, there are lay-bys on the coast road with RoWs from them to Charlcombe Bay.

Restrictions: None specific, though the safe condition of the coast path is an issue for the local authority. The foreshore is part of the Severn Estuary SSSI.

Potential: Moderate for boulder-problems on existing and undeveloped cliffs and boulders, and for more climbs at Charlcombe Bay.

Value Assessment: Primarily a local bouldering site, but with sport climbs and potential for routes in the 8th grade not offered anywhere else in the West Country.

Ladye Bay, Clevedon

OS Ref: 408731-408728

Dimensions: Height: 3-12m.

Two sport climbing crags in 150m, and various boulders and short walls.

The crags hold 20 routes apiece and there are approx. 50 boulder-problems.

Rock: Sandstones, breccias.

Access: Not Open Access land. A RoW leads from the coast path to the beach between the two cliffs. Ladye Point is reached by a separate 'fisherman's track' off the coast path.

Car Parking: Spacious car-park in Bay Road immediately above and south-west of the bay, 150/250m from the cliffs.

Restrictions: None specific, though North Somerset Council has erected notices relating the risk of rockfall to the public. The foreshore is part of the Severn Estuary SSSI.

Potential: Limited.

Value Assessment: This is an important bouldering site for local climbers. The sport climbs see less attention because of groundwater drainage problems on the cliff.

High Cliff and Clevedon Pier, Clevedon

OS Ref: 403722-402719

Dimensions: Two separate 50m long crags within 300m of each other.

There are no climbs on either cliff.

Height: 9 and 12m respectively.

Rock: Sandstone.

Access: Not Open Access land. The approach is along the foreshore from the sea front south of the pier. Steps leading to the foreshore immediately north of the pier commence in private land (dilapidated hotel subject to development proposals).

Car Parking: Road-side on the sea front and elsewhere in Clevedon.

Restrictions: None specific. It is conceivable that climbing would attract attention of users and managers of the pier. There is no access to or egress from the right-hand cliff's top; the rear boundaries of private dwellings above approximate with the cliff edge (ownership-of-cliff issue?). The foreshore is part of the Severn Estuary SSSI.

Potential: High - scope for 20 routes.

Value Assessment: Potentially of local interest only.

Poet's Walk (Church Hill and Wain's Hill); Clevedon

OS Ref: 396712-389706

Dimensions: A km of cliff, with the section of main interest at the SW end (392708-389706).

Height: 15m.

The SW crag hosts 50 climbs, and there is a traverse of the whole cliff.

Rock: Limestone.

Access: Not Open Access land. From cliff-top RoW (Poet's Walk) a short scramble down gains the foreshore. The top of the cliff is too loose to exit.

Car Parking: Road-side in the lee of Church Hill and elsewhere in Clevedon.

Restrictions: None specific. LNNR, though there is very limited plant-life on the part of the cliff suitable for climbing and the climbs do not go as far as the cliff-top. The foreshore is part of the Severn Estuary SSSI.

Potential: Limited.

Value Assessment: Unpublicised at present, North Somerset's truest sea cliff is only ever likely to be of minimal local interest.

Middle Hope and Sand Point

OS Ref: 339665-318659

Dimensions: Crags with climbs or boulder-problems are located discontinuously along the 2km section of this headland (the 1km eastward continuation s to St Thomas's Head has no potential).

Height: 3m-12m.

There are around 20 climbs and numerous boulder problems at OS Ref 336663, and around 60 climbs and many boulder problems in the Swallow Cliff area (324661), the two areas of most importance.

Rock: Limestone.

Access: The cliffs lie on the edge of Open Access land. Walk/scramble down to the foreshore.

Car Parking: Large National Trust car-parks in Sand Bay and at Woodspring Priory.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI and the foreshore is part of the Severn Estuary SSSI. A MoD torpedo testing centre at St Thomas's Head does not conflict with climbing.

Potential: Limited.

Value Assessment: A low-key climbing area, significant mostly for its scrambling and bouldering – enhanced by an unspoiled setting.

Toll Road Crags', Worlebury Hill, Weston-super-Mare

OS Ref: 323630-311627

Dimensions: Over 1km of fairly continuous low sea cliffs.

Height: 3m – 10m.

There are in the region of 100 short climbs and boulder-problems.

Rock: Limestone.

Access: Not Open Access land. The approaches are direct from the North Somerset Council-owned road that follows the cliff-top (via 'fishermen's tracks'), or along (<1.5km) the foreshore from Sand Bay in the east.

Car Parking: Small lay-bys along the coast (toll) road; total capacity is limited but proportionate. Alternatively, there is a large car-park at Sand Bay.

Restrictions: None specific. The foreshore is part of the Severn Estuary SSSI.

Potential: Limited - mainly bouldering.

Value Assessment: Probably the West Country's finest bouldering site; the absence of a specialist guidebook has suppressed visitor levels.

Sea-Cliff Climbing Sites in Somerset

- **Miscellaneous**
- **The Exmoor Coast**

Brean Down

OS Ref: 279593-295587

Dimensions: Two km of cliffs line the southern slope of the headland of Brean Down; Axe Quarry (50mx50m) is located at the Down's eastern end.

Height: 10m-40m.

There are 50 climbs on The Fort Craggs (279593-282590), 100 climbs on The Beach Cliffs (293587-296587), and 20 climbs spread along the minor intervening cliffs. Axe Quarry (303588) holds a further 5 climbs. In addition there are many boulder-problems at various locations along the cliffs.

Rock: Limestone.

Access: The cliffs lie on the edge of, or within, Open Access land. For the Fort Craggs and Axe Quarry, the approach is via the top of the Down; for the Central Craggs and Beach Cliffs along the foreshore.

Car Parking: Large privately owned car-park attached to the café at the head of the 'Brean Down road', and a charge may be levied.

Restrictions: Climbers informally advised to avoid archaeologically important (and fenced-off) southern sand slopes. SSSI. Caution advised during the summer when the beach can be busy with holiday-makers. There are plans to develop the 19th Century fort adjacent to The Fort Cliffs – possible implications unknown.

Potential: Limited - mainly bouldering.

Value Assessment: Regionally this is an important site. High-quality sport climbs, testing bouldering and a clutch of reasonably historic climbs ensure its popularity.

The Exmoor Coast (Somerset and North Devon)

Preamble: From Minehead in the east to Combe Martin in the west the Old Red Sandstone (sandstones and shales) that makes up the bulk of Exmoor forms a line of big sea cliffs, reportedly the highest in England. Serious, inaccessible and mysterious they offer climbers an area, which, when taken as a whole, still holds abundant promise of exploration and adventure. Existing key sections and sites are highlighted, and - from a climbing perspective - considering there is no definitive guidebook at present, the entire stretch should be considered as one of great future interest, if not popularity. Large parts of Exmoor, including most of the cliffs, are covered by SSSI and SAC designations.

Hurlstone Point (including Minehead Bluff), Nr Porlock

OS Refs: Hurlstone Point: 904492-899492; Minehead Bluff: 915493

Dimensions: Hurlstone Point is a complex headland comprising many variously oriented cliff faces. The cliffs extend from the discrete coastal outcrop of Coney Combe in the east, (that rises from the 100m contour) round the point itself to a diminishing crag above the beach of Porlock Bay: all in all one km of cliff-line. Minehead Bluff is an isolated sea-cliff 1.5km east, and there are small subsidiary crags and boulders on or overhanging the foreshore to its east (940486-930491) and its west (915493-911492).

Height: 10-50m.

There are approx. 100 climbs and many boulder-problems at Hurlstone Point, and 10 climbs and 50 boulder-problems at or adjacent to Minehead Bluff.

Rock: Sandstone.

Access: Apart from the eastern foreshore boulders, the cliffs lie on the edge of, or within, Open Access land. From Bossington, the South West Coast Path leads to the Open Access land. For the Hurlstone Point cliffs, paths and scrambles gain Porlock Bay beach and the foreshore. The cliff in Coney Combe is at the level of, and within 100m of, the coast path beyond the Point. For Minehead Bluff, either a steep descent is made down the 'fisherman's track' onto Selworthy Sands, or (if parking on North Hill) an informed descent via Henners Combe is possible. Theoretically a much better approach to Minehead Bluff would be from parking at OS Ref: 926482, but there is no RoW across farmland.

Car Parking: Large car-park at Bossington. There is also a large car-park on top of North Hill, which serves the alternative approach to Minehead Bluff.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI, and SAC.

Potential: Limited.

Value Assessment: These are by far the most accessible sea cliffs on the Exmoor coast, and they are particularly valuable for Bridgwater/Taunton-based climbers. A good set of slab climbs in the lower grades is represented, and the bouldering is excellent.

The Ivy Stone, Nr Porlock

OS Ref: 840487-838487

Dimensions: The Ivy Stone and the annexed slab immediately east constitute a 200m length of cliff. Also, there are well-separated subsidiary sites along the coast between Cullbone Rocks in the east (844487) and the Yellow Stone in the west (819492).

Height: 3m-45m.

There are 25 climbs at the Ivy Stone, 5 climbs at the Yellow Stone and in the region of 50 boulder-problems in total at the other sites.

Rock: Sandstone.

Access: Not Open Access land. The usual approach as far as the Ivy Stone is from Worthy, Porlock. The South West Coast Path is followed for 200/300m before dropping down (no RoW) to a 1.5-2km walk along the foreshore. An alternative is to follow the South West Coast Path through Culbone before dropping down through woodland (no RoW) to the top of the Ivy Stone. The Yellow Stone is approached from the west via the footpath down Wheatham Combe.

Car Parking: For the Ivy Stone approach there is a small but adequate car-park at the toll (private road) at Worthy. For Yellow Stone there is ample parking on the A39.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI, SAC.

Potential: Limited- mainly bouldering.

Value Assessment: This is a charming and tranquil site that would strike a chord with many climbers. The slab climbs of the Ivy Stone are of mainstream appeal, but a trying approach would limit popularity.

Sea-Cliff Climbing Sites in Devon - North

- **The Exmoor Coast (cont)**
- **Baggy Point**
- **The Culm Coast**

The Exmoor Coast (cont)

Sir Robert's Chair to The Amphitheatre, Countisbury Cove

OS Ref: 782499-773502

Dimensions: A km stretch with two important cliffs either end: Sir Robert's Chair (an 80m-long cliff with a stack in front) in the east and The Amphitheatre (a 200m jumble of low cliffs and buttresses) in the west.

Height: 60m at Sir Robert's Chair; generally 10-20m at The Amphitheatre (with sets of elevated slabs rising to 50m).

There are 20 climbs at Sir Robert's Chair and 50 in or adjacent to The Amphitheatre.

Rock: Sandstone.

Access: The cliffs lie outside the strip of Open Access land above them. From the A39, a RoW leads to the Open Access land and the South West Coast Path. Then, for Sir Robert's Chair, a scramble through woods (no RoW) gains an abseil descent to the cliff-base. An alternative for The Amphitheatre is a complicated, expert approach down to Countisbury Cove via the South West Coast Path and then Chubbill Wood (no RoW).

Car Parking: A lay-by with very limited capacity adjacent Dogsworthy Farm on the A39; there are alternatives on the A39 necessitating a longer walk-in.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI, SAC.

Potential: Limited at the named cliffs; moderate along this section generally.

Value Assessment: Sir Robert's Chair is potentially an important site, with excellent quality slab climbs and sandstone reminiscent of Baggy Point. The Amphitheatre's climbs take geologically compelling features.

Foreland Point, Lynmouth

OS Ref: 758508-751509

Dimensions: A km of cliffs; they are minor and intermittent east of Foreland Point (in the west end of Countisbury Cove) and major and continuous from the Point westwards. There are three stacks (foreshore pinnacles) in front of the western cliffs, which provide two-thirds of the climbs.

Height: 8-15m to the east of the Point and up to 100m to the west.

There are 10 climbs east of the Point and 20 at or west of the Point.

Rock: Sandstone.

Access and Car Parking: The cliffs lie on the edge of Open Access land. During the 1990's, when the climbs were made, unofficial parking was obtained at the Foreland Point lighthouse (unmanned) which was reached via The National Trust-owned road from the A39. There is space for 4 cars only. This left, respectively, a 100/50m walk to the foreshore for the eastern crags or to the cliff-top of the western crags (abseil descent). A legitimate alternative, avoiding unofficial use of The National Trust road, is to park off the A39 at the spacious car park at Barna Barrow and cross Open Access land. The disadvantage with the latter (2km walk) is the ferrying of the large amount of kit (multiple ropes) required for the western crags.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI, SAC

Potential: High - for long and serious adventure climbs on the western cliffs and high-calibre bouldering.

Value Assessment: Rising to 302m at Butter Hill, The Foreland is topographically a major and impressive headland, which provides very atmospheric and serious climbs on its sea cliffs in a remote, tidal and committing situation.

Lynton to Wringcliff Bay

OS Ref: 713501-703497

Dimensions: Over 1km of continuous high cliffs.

Up to 100m; but mostly 50-80m.

There are 30 climbs on the sea cliffs, including a coastering-style traverse (the only recorded climbing here east of long. 710). To their south is the Valley of Rocks, which hosts a number of (effectively) inland and some coastal outcrops.

Rock: Slates and shales.

Access: The cliffs lie on the edge of Open Access land. Climbs in the Yellow Stone area are accessed by scrambling/abseil descents. Sea cliffs to its west are accessed from the foreshore via Wringcliff Bay (public access and path). Intrinsically the large and highly tidal cliffs east of Yellow Stone are technically difficult to access.

Car Parking: Large National Trust car-parks in Valley of Rocks.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI, SAC, and a renowned geological landmark. There are Kittywake colonies on one or two of the cliffs east of Yellow Stone, which (in practical terms alone) would rule out climbing during the nesting season.

Potential: Very high.

Value Assessment: The fine climbs on the Yellow Stone, a dramatic landscape, and major unclimbed cliffs make this a very valuable site - albeit one with very serious characteristics - that is never likely to become popular.

Wringcliffe Bay to Crock Point (Lee Abbey Grounds), Lee Abbey, Nr Lynton

OS Ref: 700497-687494

Dimensions: Three-quarters of a km of cliffs between Wringcliffe Bay and Lee Bay have been grouped with the isolated headland cliff at Crock Point on the opposite (west) side of Lee Bay since they all lie within the privately owned grounds of Lee Abbey.

Height: 25m at Crock Point to 100m elsewhere.

There is one recorded climb between Lee Bay and Wringcliff Bay (on the finest of the cliffs above the western end of Wringcliff Bay at 699497) and 10 climbs on Crock Point.

Rock: Sandstone, slate and shales.

Access: Not Open Access land. For the Wringcliff Bay climb, access is from that bay. For the various (undeveloped) cliffs eastwards to Lee Bay, access is also from Wringcliff Bay or from Lee Bay itself, via the foreshore. For Crock Point, approach is across fields from the private (toll) road between Valley of Rocks and Woody Bay. There is no RoW to the cliff-tops, which limits alternative access to the cliff-top (if it were needed) and, moreover, egress from the cliff-top (which would be needed).

Car Parking: For Wringcliffe Bay, at large National Trust car parks in Valley of Rocks. For Lee Bay and Crock Point, from private (pay) parks behind the bay.

Restrictions and Management Agreements: An informal arrangement required climbers wanting to climb at Crock Point to telephone Lee Abbey in advance. Crock Point has not been climbed on since 1998, and before that only very rarely, so the status of this agreement is unknown. SSSI, SAC.

Potential: Rock quality permitting, there appears to be significant scope for exploration and climbing on the Wringcliff Bay-Lee Bay headland. There is also an easy-of-access 15m cliff on the east side of Lee Bay.

Value Assessment: This is a rugged and rocky coast holding the promise of exploration for future climbers. Crock Point is of mainstream interest.

Wringapeak (Woody Bay) to Heddon's Mouth

OS Ref: 672496-655498

Dimensions: Two km of fairly continuous crags and sea cliffs set at the base of a precipitous hill-side below the South West Coast Path (at 230m level). Height: 30-50m for the individual buttresses, but <100m for the parent cliff. There are 40 climbs mostly concentrated in 'The Three Bluffs' (669495-667495) and Heddon's Mouth (656498-656497) areas. Moreover, this coast hosts the substantial section of the historic Exmoor Coast Traverse.
Rock: Slate and shales.

Access: The cliffs west of (and not including) 'The Three Bluffs' lie on the edge of Open Access land. Except for Heddon's Mouth, approach is by scrambling down from the South West Coast Path (at 150m level) to the cliff-top (then climbing or abseil descent). There is no RoW to Wringapeak (for the Exmoor Coast Traverse). For Heddon's Mouth, approach the foreshore on RoW along the River Heddon. There is no practical on-foot access direct to the foreshore at any other point.

Car Parking: There are car-parks in Woody Bay, and, for Heddon's Mouth, a large National Trust car-park adjacent The Hunter's Inn.

Restrictions: None specific. However, several specific cliff-faces in The Three Bluffs area become monopolised by Kittywake colonies, which (in practical terms alone) rules out climbing. SSSI, SAC.

Potential: Very high - for future climbing exploration of a highly adventurous and/or logistically challenging character.

Value Assessment: Probably the spiritual home of Exmoor coastal climbing, this area contains its most historic and regularly entertained climb (its traverse) as well as fine accessible bouldering in the west and the anticipation of discovery overall. The remainder of the climbing is highly serious and of minority appeal.

Heddon's Mouth to Yes Tor (Nr Little Hangman)

OS Ref: 655497-589483)

Dimensions: Seven km of precipitous and rocky hill-side and cliffs rising up to 250m at Great Hangman (the highest sea cliffs in England), with three sites of special climbing interest.

Height: Mixed routes on cliffs 100-250m high; technical climbing sites are 25-70m high. In total there are about 25 full-height mixed routes/scrambles scattered along this stretch, and 20 'technical' climbs at Ramsey Beach (646493), North Cleave Gut (636496), and Yes Tor combined. The foreshore scramble is part of The Exmoor Coast Traverse.

Rock: Sandstone.

Access: The cliffs lie on the edge of Open Access land that forms a coastal strip between foreshore and (generally) the South West Coast Path. From various points along the South West Coast Path, the approach is by walking/scrambling down to the cliff-top or foreshore. There is no RoW direct from Trentishoe Lane to the coast path east of 635480 where the road meets Open Access land.

Car Parking: Large car-parks on Open Access land along Trentishoe Lane, and as for Heddon's Mouth. For Yes Tor: car parking as for Little Hangman.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI, SAC.

Potential: Very high - for coastal scrambles, mixed climbs, and technical rock climbs.

Value Assessment: A wild coast with towering cliffs, 'guts', 'hanging' waterfalls, spectacular sightseeing and coasteering. Though not always suited to technical climbing, it holds potential for big, mixed climbs as well as adventurous scrambles and traverses. Overall, though, it is serious and of minority appeal.

Little Hangman, Combe Martin

OS Ref: 483587-478583

Dimensions: A km of unbroken cliffs circle Little Hangman Point (218m) as far as the northern end of Wild Pear Beach.

Height: 15m-80m.

There are 80 climbs spread out along the cliffs.

Rock: Sandstone and shales.

Access: The cliffs lie on the edge of Open Access land that forms a coastal strip between foreshore and (generally) the South West Coast Path as far westwards as Combe Martin. From the South West Coast Path (out of Combe Martin) for 95% of the climbs: the approach is a walk and scramble down the open hillside from Little Hangman to the relevant cliff-top (then mostly abseil descents); for the remainder (overlooking Wild Pear Beach): along the foreshore from the beach itself. The path to Wild Pear Beach is oft-affected by erosion and at those times officially closed (but safely negotiated by the sure-footed).

Car Parking: There is a large car-park on the sea front at Combe Martin. Road-side parking can be easily found in Combe Martin, which shortens the approach in combination with the use of the RoW commencing OS Ref: 472583.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI, SAC.

Potential: High.

Value Assessment: One of the Exmoor Coast's most important cliffs, with a good selection of high-quality and serious climbs, and lots of potential. Overall, though, because of its relative inaccessibility, it is not of wide appeal.

Baggy Point, Croyde

OS Ref: 422410-421404

Dimensions: Half a km of slabs, walls, and promontories wrapped around Baggy Point. Height: 30m-90m.

There are 140 climbs, with the highest densities situated on the slabs of Long Rock and The Promontory.

Rock: Sandstone.

Access: The cliffs lie on the edge of Open Access land. From Croyde Bay the South West Coast Path leads to the Open Access land and the cliff top (1.5km); then the approaches are by scrambling/climbing/abseiling down to the cliff-base.

Car Parking: National Trust car-park on the northern side of Croyde Bay. In summer the Bay is busy with holiday-makers and surfers, though there are alternative car-parks in Croyde.

Restrictions: There is Variable Restriction (VR) in relation to nesting sea-birds that is applicable to the majority of routes (i.e. between Scratling Zawn and Pink Void): 15 March – 31 July. Any easements to the restriction (in the event of birds not nesting) are indicated by notices positioned at the cliff top. SSSI.

Potential: Moderate: as new climbs established in 2005 show, there is still potential on the more adventurous parts of the headland.

Value Assessment: This is one of Britain's most welcoming, long-established and popular sea-cliff climbing sites. Its climbs date back to the late-19th Century, and given its south-facing aspect, gentle angle and solid rock, a continuing appeal to the mainstream of climbing tastes is guaranteed.

The Culm Coast (North Devon and Cornwall)

Preamble: Like the Exmoor Coast, the separate and distinctive geology of this part of the South West peninsula defines and delineates the character of its coast, its cliffs and its climbing. However, unlike those of the Exmoor coast, its crags are relatively easy of access, with many being developed several decades ago. However, given some climbers preparedness to challenge rock previously thought to be too loose (and with more obvious alternatives exhausted), it is an area that still holds great potential across its sometimes inhospitable Culm Measures (interbedded sandstone and shale) cliffs. About two-thirds of the coastal cliff-top strip is Open Access land, but there are many important climbing sites without Open Access land above them, and many climbs are located on foreshore stacks. The majority of the coast is designated as SSSIs, a geological SSSI, and SACs.

Sloo Slabs, Peppercombe, Nr Bideford

OS Ref: 372241-375241

Dimensions: Two adjoining slabs in several hundred metres of cliff.

Height: 30m.

There are 5 climbs.

Rock: Culm.

Access: Not Open Access land. From the A39, a RoW through Peppercombe leads to the foreshore.

Car Parking: Road-side at Horns Cross/Northway on the A39.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI, SAC.

Potential: Limited by rock quality.

Value Assessment: The cliff is little-known late-nineties discovery of minor interest.

Blackchurch, Mouth Mill, Nr Clovelly (and Windbury Head)

OS Ref: 300266-298267 (288267-291267)

Dimensions: A 200m-long Main Cliff, fronted by the foreshore stack of Blackchurch Rock; Height: Main Cliff: 70m; Blackchurch Rock: 30m; Windbury Head: 70m. There are 25 climbs on The Main Cliff, 9 on Blackchurch Rock; 1 on Windbury Head.

Rock: Culm.

Access: Approach either from Brownsham Farm along a RoW to Mouth Mill, or from Clovelly along the South West Coast Path. The cliffs are gained along the foreshore. Windbury Head lies on the edge of Open Access land.

Car Parking: Car-parks at both departure points: Brownsham Farm (The National Trust) and Clovelly - busy in peak periods.

Restrictions: None specific. The Main Cliff is part of the Clovelly Court estate. SSSI, SAC.

Potential: Limited on the Main Cliff; Windbury Head holds only one climb.

Value Assessment: The first Culm crag to be fully developed, which is regularly visited. Considering also the solid, more amenable slab climbs of Blackchurch Rock, it is an important and classical site.

Exmansworthy area, Nr Hartland Point

OS Ref: 279270-267277

Dimensions: Exmansworthy Cliff (278271-276273) is 250m long.

Height: 40m-60m.

Exmansworthy holds 25 climbs; there is an isolated cliff to its east (279270) with 1 climb, and Chapman Rock (a foreshore stack: 267277) to its west has 2 climbs.

Rock: Culm.

Access: Apart from Chapman Rock, the cliffs lie on the edge of Open Access land that forms a coastal strip between foreshore and (generally) the South West Coast Path. From Exmansworthy, a path (not indicated as RoW) runs north to join the Open Access land east of the cliff. A scramble and multiple abseils lead to the foreshore and cliff-base.

Car Parking: National Trust car-park at Exmansworthy.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI, SAC.

Potential: Moderate, including scope to re-establish existing climbs in disrepair.

Value Assessment: During the eighties this was a high-profile crag; however land-slips have left much of it in a poor condition. Some fine climbs have escaped being damaged, and recently some routes have been restored. Chapman Rock is described as a 'collector's item' in The Climbers' Club guidebook.

Cow and Calf (Hartland Point) to Damehole Point

OS Ref: 227272-223263

Dimensions: There are four principal cliffs along this section; two of them (Cow and Calf and Smoothlands) are especially important. Cow and Calf (227272) is a narrow vertically bedded promontory extending 60m laterally, Upright Cliff (227268) is about 100m long, 'Great Slab' of Smoothlands (226266) is 100m long, and Damehole Point (223263) supports a south-facing slab 150m long. Between them (and to the north of Cow and Calf), there is a variety of smaller, developed or part-developed cliffs.

Height: 25m-35m on average, but up to 60m at Smoothlands.

There are 20 climbs on Cow and Calf, 8 climbs on Upright Cliff, 8 climbs on Smoothlands Great Slab, 19 climbs on Damehole Point. Elsewhere, there is a scattering of climbs.

Rock: Culm.

Access: The cliffs lie on the edge of Open Access land that forms a coastal strip between foreshore and (generally) the South West Coast Path. RoWs from Blagdon Farm gain the Open Access land. Walks or scrambles gain the cliff-bases and foreshore. Damehole Point is often approached from the south (as for Dyer's Lookout), via the coast path.

Car Parking: Plentiful parking in two private car-parks at Blagdon Farm. For the southern approach to Damehole Point, car parking is as for Dyer's Lookout.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI.

Potential: Moderate, but mostly on peripheral and intervening crags.

Value Assessment: Cow and Calf and Smoothlands are exceptionally interesting sites due to their concentrations of fine climbs and geological form, and are regularly visited.

Dyer's Lookout, Nr Hartland Quay

OS Ref: 226259-225258 and OS Ref: 224256-224253

Dimensions: Two hundred metres long, including wings to either side of the sheer main wall. The foreshore stack (the 'Blisterin' Barnacle' Slab') at 224256 is 25m long.

Height: The main wall is 55m high, and the foreshore stack 25m high.

There are 15 climbs on the main wall and 13 on the stack. There are a number of other climbs scattered southwards up to and including 2 on the foreshore stack of Bear Rock (224253) and 7 on its near-neighbour.

Rock: Culm.

Access: No Open Access land at the cliff-tops: the strip of Open Access land terminates immediately north (approx. lat: 259). Approach is from Hartland Quay along the South West Coast Path to the cliff-top; then a path leads down to the foreshore.

Car Parking: Large car-parks off the private (toll) road at Hartland Quay. For Dyer's Lookout, an unofficial alternative used by the public generally, is to drive to Blackpool Mill behind the cliff-top along an unmade road (RoW).

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI, SAC.

Potential: Limited, though major challenges remain and there is room for exploration.

Value Assessment: One of the Culm coast's most impressive cliffs, with several climbs to match – and the main wall still has to be climbed direct from beach level. The foreshore stack is an excellent cliff, accessible to most climbers.

Warren Beach Cliff, Hartland Quay

OS Ref: 225253-225249

Dimensions: The main cliff, under the ruined tower, is approximately 300m long.

Height: 100m.

There are 2 climbs on the main cliff; 4 on a 10m crag just to its north, and there is some unrecorded climbing on the shorter cliffs west of the public house at Hartland Quay (222248).

Rock: Culm.

Access: Not Open Access land. The approach is along the foreshore direct from Hartland Quay.

Car Parking: As for Dyer's Lookout.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI, SAC.

Potential: Moderate for 'mountaineering-style' climbs of a similarly extreme ilk.

Value Assessment: A high-adventure cliff with potential for a shale-specialist minority.

Screda Point, Nr Hartland Quay

OS Ref: 223245-221245

Dimensions: One hundred and fifty metres of slabs and stacks on an E-W promontory.

Height: 25m.

There are 35 climbs here. Also, there are 3 climbs on St Catherine's Tor (224241).

Rock: Culm.

Access: Not Open Access land. The approach is along the foreshore from Hartland Quay, or via the South West Coast Path to the cliff-top (abseil descent).

Car Parking: As for Dyer's Lookout.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI, SAC.

Potential: Limited.

Value Assessment: This is amongst the most convenient and amenable of Culm crags, and has an established good reputation and popularity.

Speke's Mill Mouth - Brownspear Point, Nr Hartland Quay

OS Ref: 225236-224235

Dimensions: Three hundred metres of unbroken cliff from the waterfall at Speke's Mill Mouth round to the south-facing slabs of Brownspear Point.

Height: 20m-60m.

There are 35 climbs spread fairly evenly along the cliffs.

Rock: Culm.

Access: All the cliffs south of the waterfall lie on the edge of Open Access land that forms a coastal strip between foreshore and (generally) the South West Coast Path. The approach is from Hartland Quay along the South West Coast Path to the cliff tops. A path leads down to the foreshore adjacent to the waterfall; the south-facing Brownspear Point climbs are reached by a scramble from the cliff top to their west.

Car Parking: as for Dyer's Lookout. It is possible to drive to the cliff-top along an un-made road (RoW) from Lymebridge.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI, SAC.

Potential: Limited.

Value Assessment: The 'waterfall cliff' is a unique and high-calibre cliff, and there is a range of interesting routes of most grades on Brownspear Point.

Hole Rock, Nr Milford

OS Ref: 222226

Dimensions: A compact crag on the north side of a promontory south of Longpeak.
Height: 20m.
There are 5 climbs.
Rock: Culm.

Access: The cliffs lie on the edge of Open Access land that forms a coastal strip between foreshore and (generally) the South West Coast Path. From Milford/Elmscott, RoWs lead to the Open Access land; then a scramble gains the foreshore.

Car Parking: Road-side in or near Milford/Elmscott.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI, SAC.

Potential: Moderate.

Value Assessment: A modest but pleasant, small crag, that will attract occasional visits.

Sandhole Point to Nabor Point, South Hole

OS Ref: 218208-214199

Dimensions: A km coast incorporating five different crags or faces in two main locations.
Height: <20m.
There are 5 climbs at Sandhole Point and 12 climbs at Nabor Point (most of which are on the central - of three - promontories).
Rock: Culm.

Access: The cliffs lie on the edge of Open Access land that forms a coastal strip between foreshore and (generally) the South West Coast Path and meets the public highway at the approach point. A scrambling descent leads to the foreshore.

Car Parking: Road-side, along the minor coast road through South Hole.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI, SAC.

Potential: Moderate.

Value Assessment: A wild and infrequently visited landscape imbues character and enhances the climbing at this site.

Knap Head: Knap's Longpeak to Foxhold Slabs

OS Ref: 211188–211186

Dimensions: Two hundred metres of cliffs with two main sets of slabs (Knap's Longpeak, Foxhold Slabs).

Height: 25m-55m.

There are 10 climbs on each set of slabs.

Rock: Culm.

Access: The cliffs lie on the edge of Open Access land that forms a coastal strip between foreshore and (generally) the South West Coast Path. The approach is along the foreshore from Welcombe Mouth.

Car Parking: Spacious car-park at Welcome Mouth at the end of an unmade road (RoW).

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI, SAC.

Potential: Moderate on Knap's Longpeak.

Value Assessment: Foxhold Slabs offers agreeable and relatively light-hearted climbing.

Sea-Cliff Climbing Sites in Cornwall

- **The Culm Coast (cont)**
- **The Atlantic Coast**
- **Penwith North-West Coast**
- **Penwith South-West Coast**
- **Penwith South-East Coast**
- **Kerrier South Coast**
- **South East Cornwall**

The Culm Coast (cont.)

Marsland Cliff, Nr Welcombe

OS Ref: 207170-203172

Dimensions: South-facing slabs along a 200m promontory with the stack of Gull Rock at its seaward end and an isolated narrow pillar (Baywatch Wall) at 207170 next to Litter Mouth Waterfall.

Height: 12m-25m.

There are 43 climbs, 12 of these on Gull Stack and 2 on Baywatch Wall.

Rock: Culm.

Access: The cliffs lie on the edge of Open Access land that forms a coastal strip between foreshore and (generally) the South West Coast Path. The approach (1km) is along the foreshore from Welcombe Mouth. Baywatch Wall can be approached by abseil.

Car Parking: As for Knap Hill.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI, SAC.

Potential: Limited, but moderate in Baywatch Wall area.

Value Assessment: This is a superb, welcoming site and justifiably popular.

Cornakey Cliff, Nr Morwenstowe

OS Ref: 203165-204164

Dimensions: A 150m long cliff at the northern end of Yeol Mouth.

Height: up to 130m.

There are 15 climbs (and also one rarely achievable winter ice climb up the waterfall of Yeol Mouth: 202162).

Rock: Culm.

Access: The cliffs lie on the edge of Open Access land that forms a coastal strip between foreshore and (generally) the South West Coast Path. From Morwenstowe, RoWs gain the Open Access land. A scrambling descent north of the cliff leads to the foreshore.

Car Parking: National Trust car-park in Morwenstowe.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI, SAC.

Potential: Moderate on the main slabs.

Value Assessment: One of the more traditional of the Culm cliffs, with one of its oldest (1959) and most sought-after climbs, Wrecker's Slab.

Westcott Wattle, Nr Morwenstowe

OS Ref: 201162-199159

Dimensions: Several hundred metres of slabs south of Yeol Mouth.

Height: <110m.

There are 6 climbs.

Rock: Culm.

Access: Access as for Cornakey Cliff, but with a scrambling descent via the coombe south of Yeol Mouth to the foreshore.

Car Parking: As for Cornakey Cliff.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI, SAC.

Potential: High, but arguably of low-quality.

Value Assessment: An esoteric cliff with adventurous outings that will attract few visits.

Henna Cliff, Nr Morwenstowe

OS Ref: 200159-198156

Dimensions: Three hundred metres of sea cliffs, including its southern limit: Morwenna Slabs.

Height: 150m. (Morwenna Slabs: 20m).

There is 1 climb on Henna Cliff, 3 on Morwenna Slabs.

Rock: Culm.

Access: The cliffs lie on the edge of Open Access land that forms a coastal strip between foreshore and (generally) the South West Coast Path. From Morwenstowe Church, a RoW gains the Open Access land. A scrambling descent leads to the foreshore.

Car Parking: As for Cornakey Cliff.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI, SAC.

Potential: Moderate, but limited by rock quality.

Value Assessment: 'Breakaway', the sole climb on Culm's highest and most serious cliff, is one of the most revered in the South West, and a goal for a few hardy climbers only.

Vicarage Cliff and Luckey Hole, Nr Morwenstowe

OS Ref: 197152-198151

Dimensions: An aggregate 300m of cliff; mostly on a south-facing slab on an E-W promontory

Height: Mainly 25m-30m, but <70m for the landward slabs.

There are 35 climbs, the majority of which occupy the promontory slab.

Rock: Culm

Access: The cliffs lie on the edge of Open Access land that forms a coastal strip between foreshore and (generally) the South West Coast Path, terminating at The Tidna stream. From Morwenstowe, RoWs gain the Open Access land. A scrambling descent leads to the foreshore next to the promontory. An alternative is along the foreshore from Higher Sharpnose Point.

Car Parking: As for Cornakey Cliff.

Restrictions: None specific. SAC.

Potential: Moderate.

Value Assessment: An important cliff with high-quality climbing in a fine setting.

Higher Sharpnose Point to Hippa Rock, Nr Morwenstowe

OS Ref: 195148-198137

Dimensions: A km of fairly continuous cliffs embracing four distinct climbing locations. Height: <90m at Higher Sharpnose Point, 45m at Oldwalls Point, and 25m elsewhere. There are 5 recorded climbs at Higher Sharpnose Point, 10 routes at 'Moped Zawn' (198240), 5 routes at Oldwalls Point (198140), and 11 at Hippa Rock.
Rock: Culm.

Access: Not Open Access land. The approach is via the South West Coast Path reached by RoWs from Morwenstowe (for Higher Sharpnose Point) and from Stanbury (for the three remaining sites). Scrambles from respective points along the path lead to the cliff-bases or to the cliff-tops and abseil descents.

Car Parking: For Higher Sharpnose Point, as for Cornakey Cliff. For the three remaining sites, there is an adequate car-park west of Stanbury Farm.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI, SAC.

Potential: Moderate.

Value Assessment: Several outstanding climbs on Oldwalls Point, and a good cliff in the form of Hippa Rock, make this a valuable 'second league' Culm climbing area.

Lower Sharpnose Point, Nr Morwenstowe

OS Ref: 195128-195127

Dimensions: Only 100m North-South, yet a series of seaward projecting strata (that provide the back-to-back climbing faces) present an aggregate length of approx. 300m. Height: 25m-40m.
There are over 80 climbs, densely concentrated on the faces of three 'fin'-forming individual or small groups of strata. One of Culm's most highly developed cliffs.
Rock: Culm.

Access: The cliffs lie on the edge of Open Access land that forms a coastal strip between foreshore and (generally) the South West Coast Path. The approach to the Open Access land is via a track (no RoW) around the CSOC radar station. A scrambling or abseil descent leads to the foreshore.

Car Parking: Limited parking on the Morwenstowe - Combe road. Alternatively, car-parks at Stanbury or Combe and the South West Coast Path gained respectively.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI, SAC.

Potential: Very limited.

Value Assessment: This is the Culm Coast's premier crag; one of the finest, most unusual small sea cliffs in Britain.

Steeple Point to Sandy Mouth, Coombe

OS Ref: 198117-201101

Dimensions: Climbs have been established on six separate sections of the cliff-line along this 1.5km stretch, between Steeple Point and Sandy Mouth, on crags at: 198117 (Steeple Point), 201114, 201112, 202105 and 202104 (both Stowe Cliffs), and 201101 (The Flame).

Height: mostly 25m, 30m on The Flame (a pinnacle immediately north of Sandy Mouth). There are 11 climbs in total, 4 of these are on The Flame.

Rock: Culm.

Access: The cliffs lie on the edge of Open Access land that forms a coastal strip between foreshore and (generally) the South West Coast Path and terminates at Sandy Mouth. Approach is along the foreshore from either Duckpool or Sandy Mouth.

Car Parking: National Trust car-parks in Duckpool and Sandy Mouth.

Restrictions: None specific. SAC.

Potential: Moderate.

Value Assessment: A quiet and sparsely climbed-on coast.

Menachurch Point, Nr Bude

OS Ref: 202090-200088 (and Dunsmouth Cliff: 202092)

Dimensions: One hundred metres of slabs and cave-overhangs on the northern side of the Point.

Height: 15m-30m.

There are 17 climbs on Menachurch Point, 3 on 'The Prom' (202090), and 2 on Dunsmouth Cliff.

Rock: Culm.

Access: Not Open Access land. From Northcott Mouth, the approach is via the South West Coast Path, and then a descent to the north of the point leads to the cliff-base.

Car Parking: Spacious car-park at Northcott Mouth.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI, SAC.

Potential: High for high-standard climbs.

Value Assessment: An interesting and varied cliff with some unusual and futuristic climbing, currently the subject of technical debate amongst the region's climbers.

Maer Cliff to Wrangle Point, Nr Bude

OS Ref: 202083-201073

Dimensions: Primarily 1km of continuous cliffs, buttresses and foreshore stacks, concentrated at Maer Cliff (202083-201075).

Height: 10m-40m; 60m at Wrangle Point.

There are approaching 60 climbs and many boulder-problems around Maer Cliff, and 16 climbs on cliffs behind Wrangle Point (201075-201073).

Rock: Culm.

Access: Not Open Access land; owned by The National Trust. The approach is along the foreshore from Northcott Mouth to the northern set of cliffs, and via a 'fisherman's track' leading down from the South West Coast Path at the cliff top (at 201079) to the southern cliffs. Wrangle Point cliff can be approached along the beach from Bude.

Car Parking: As for Menachurch Point.

Restrictions: None specific. Some reported incompatibility between commercial group use of 'The Black Wall' and individual climbers. SSSI, SAC.

Potential: High.

Value Assessment: One of the Culm Coast's most important climbing sites, hosting many fine routes, an up-and-coming bouldering venue, and potential for the future.

Compass Point, Bude

OS Ref: 200064-200061

Dimensions: Two hundred metres of south-facing slabs along the E-W promontory of Compass Point, and an isolated crag 300m south (Bude Pillars: 200061).

Height: 40m.

There are 41 climbs on the well-developed Compass Point and 11 on the Bude Pillars.

Rock: Culm.

Access: Not Open Access land. The approach is via the South West Coast Path from Bude to a 'fisherman's track' leading to the foreshore south of the Point.

Car Parking: Plentiful parking in Bude (busy in peak holiday periods).

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI.

Potential: Limited, including on smaller peripheral crags.

Value Assessment: This is a traditional Culm crag with easy access but serious climbing, though it is not as popular as it once was.

Efford Beacon, Bude

OS Ref: 199059-201057

Dimensions: One hundred metre-long cliff, part of a more extensive cliff-line.

Height: 80m.

There are 2 climbs.

Rock: Culm.

Access: Not Open Access land. Access as for Compass Point (the Lynstone approach is equally convenient).

Car Parking: As for Compass Point/Lynstone.

Restrictions: None specific.

Potential: Moderate, in the same vein, but limited by rock quality.

Value Assessment: A high-adventure, big and serious Culm cliff, with corresponding minimal general appeal.

Lynstone, Nr Bude

OS Ref: 200054-200053

Dimensions: One hundred metres of cliff-face either side of an upright Culm sandstone stratum projecting into the foreshore.

Height: 15m.

There are 15 climbs.

Rock: Culm.

Access: Not Open Access land. The approach is via the South West Coast Path which follows the cliff top from Upton; and then a 'fisherman's track' leads down to the foreshore south of Efford Beacon.

Car Parking: Sufficient pull-ins on the coast road at Upton.

Restrictions: None specific.

Potential: Moderate; and nearby smaller crags appear undeveloped.

Value Assessment: This is a fine, if modest and little-known, cliff that will attract occasional visits.

Upton Slabs to Higher Longbeak, Upton

OS Ref: 200052-197038

Dimensions: At Upton Slabs, principally a 50m slab along an E-W promontory.

Height: 40m.

There are 12 climbs on the main slab (200052), 2 on the foreshore stacks at 200048, 5 on the 'Arrowhead Pinnacle' and adjacent stacks (at approx. 200040), and 2 in the Higher Longbeak area.

Rock: Culm.

Access: Not Open Access land. The approach is from the foreshore, which is reached direct from the coast road at Upton down open hillside.

Car Parking: Sufficient pull-ins on the coast road at Upton.

Restrictions: None specific.

Potential: Limited on the main slabs, but moderate on lesser crags along this stretch.

Value Assessment: Upton Slabs is very impressively situated, with a classic easier climb; and the Arrowhead provides a compulsive summit to attain.

The Atlantic Coast' (Widemouth Bay to Hell's Mouth, Cornwall)

Preamble: The Atlantic Coast comprises 90km of wild and spectacular coast-line, occupied by large and complex cliffs of metamorphic and igneous rocks. Though a minority of the cliffs are long-established climbing sites, there will be as many again that have yet to be climbed upon, seriously developed, or even discovered. Together with the Exmoor and Culm Coasts, it will help serve climbers' instinct for sea-cliff exploration and discovery in the south-west. Many of the climbing sites lie on the edge of Open Access land defined in narrow discontinuous coastal strips between foreshore and generally the line of the South West Coast Path. Some key sites are not Open Access land. Much of the coast or the land behind it is designated as SSSIs and SACs, and a geological coastal SSSI runs north from Boscastle to Widemouth.

Thorn's Beach Slabs, Cleave Cliff, Crackington Haven

OS Ref: 152978-151978

Dimensions: One hundred metres of slabs set in a scrubby cliff-side.
Height: 60m.
There is 1 climb.
Rock: Culm.

Access: The cliffs lie on the edge of a coastal strip of Open Access land that extends to St Gennys and Crackington Haven. The approach to the cliff-base is along the foreshore after a scramble down the cliff-side.

Car Parking: Limited road-side in St Genny's; car-park in Crackington Haven.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI, SAC.

Potential: Moderate.

Value Assessment: An away-from-it-all place and likely only to be rarely visited.

Great Barton Strand, Crackington Haven

OS Ref: 142973-141974

Dimensions: A discrete slab below a steep grassy cliff-side.
Height: 25m.
There are 2 climbs.
Rock: Culm

Access: The cliff lies on the edge of a coastal strip of Open Access land that extends to St Gennys and Crackington Haven. A scramble-down leads to the cliff-base.

Car Parking: as for Thorn's Beach Slabs.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI, SAC.

Potential: Moderate.

Value Assessment: as for Thorn's Beach Slabs.

Beach Cliff, Crackington Haven

OS Ref: 139972

Dimensions: An extensive 'shale cliff'.

Height: 100m.

There is only 1 climb here.

Rock: Culm.

Access: The approach is along the beach from Crackington Haven. The climb exits onto Open Access land.

Car Parking: Car-park in Crackington Haven.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI, SAC.

Potential: High, but limited by rock quality.

Value Assessment: One of the coast's highest, serious shale cliffs: of marginal appeal.

Crackington Haven Coaststeering Traverses

Eastwards from Crackington Haven (OS Ref: 142968) to Millook (OS Ref: 184001).

Westwards from Crackington Haven (OS Ref: 142968) around Cambeak to Little Strand (OS Ref: 131960).

There are also 3 climbs in Millook Haven.

Access and egress: Open Access land throughout, and various public highways.

Car Parking: As for the specified climbing sites.

Buckator ('Bukator Cliff'), Nr Boscastle

OS Ref: 119933-118935

Dimensions: Several hundred metres long.

Height: 150m.

Three climbs take the full height of the cliff.

Rock: Culm.

Access: The cliff lies on the edge of a coastal strip of Open Access land. From Beeny, a RoW gains the Open Access land. The approach to the cliff-base is by a scramble to its south.

Car Parking: Road-side in or near Beeny.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI, SAC.

Potential: High, but limited by rock quality.

Value Assessment: The scale of the cliff is a challenge to a small minority of climbers attracted to large, loose and committing shale sea cliffs: rarely climbed.

Beeny Cliff, Nr Boscastle

OS Ref: 109930-108920

Dimensions: A km-long cliff.

Height: 100m.

There is 1 climb.

Rock: Culm.

Access: The cliff lies on the edge of a coastal strip of Open Access land. A RoW from the B3263 gains the Open Access land.

Car Parking: Pull-ins on the B3263.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI, SAC.

Potential: High - in the image of the existing climb - but limited by rock quality.

Value Assessment: As for Buckator, but even more esoteric.

Long Island, Nr Boscastle

OS Ref: 073906

Dimensions: Approx. 200m of cliffs on the island.

Height: 120m.

There are 2 climbs on the island's seaward face.

Rock: Culm.

Access: Not Open Access land. The approach to the foreshore is via a scramble down from mainland Open Access land; and then a 100m swim/boat-trip gains the island.

Car Parking: Road-side in Trevalga.

Restrictions: None specific.

Potential: High, but limited by rock quality and logistics.

Value Assessment: A remote and problematic site, likely only to be very rarely climbed.

Trewethet Cliff, Nr Boscastle

OS Ref: 073900-073898

Dimensions: Approx. 100m long.

Height: 45m.

There are 5 climbs.

Rock: Culm.

Access: The cliff lies on the edge of a coastal strip of Open Access land that extends up Rocky Valley to the B3263.

Car Parking: Large lay-by on the B3263.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI, SAC.

Potential: Moderate.

Value Assessment: The cliffs are friendlier than their neighbours, though still of minority interest.

Rocky Valley Cliffs, Nr Tintagel

OS Ref: 072898-070895

Dimensions: Localised cliff on the headland 072898, and 100m slabs in the zawn at 071897-017895.

Height: 25m, and 60m respectively.

There are 2 climbs at each location.

Rock: Culm.

Access: The cliffs lie on the edge of a coastal strip of Open Access land that extends up Rocky Valley to the B3263.

Car Parking: As for Trewethet Cliff.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI, SAC.

Potential: Limited.

Value Assessment: A relatively minor cliff.

Bossiney Haven, Nr Tintagel

OS Ref: 065895-065897

Dimensions: Two hundred metres of cliff.

Height: 35m.

There are 5 climbs on two separate buttresses.

Rock: Culm/schist.

Access: The cliffs lie on the edge of a coastal strip of Open Access land. A RoW from Bossiney gains the Open Access land. The approaches to the climbs are by means of abseil descents.

Car Parking: Car-park at Bossiney.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI, SAC.

Potential: Moderate.

Value Assessment: An interesting crag which is 'off the beaten track' yet fairly accessible.

Lye Rock, Nr Tintagel

OS Ref: 065899-064898

Dimensions: Two hundred metres of cliff on the south and west faces of Lye Rock.

Height: 100m.

There are 4 routes on the south face.

Rock: Culm shale.

Access: Lye Rock is Open Access land. A scramble and abseil descent leads to the foreshore. Lye Rock becomes an island at high tide.

Car Parking: As for Bossiney Haven.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI, SAC.

Potential: High.

Value Assessment: Despite having few climbs (and few visits), this is an important and unusual cliff that hosts one of the classic shale-cliff climbs of North Cornwall.

Willapark, Nr Tintagel

OS Ref: 061897-062896

Dimensions: Several hundred metres long.

Height: 80m.

There are 3 climbs.

Rock: Culm/shale.

Access: The cliff lies on the edge of a coastal strip of Open Access land. A scrambling descent leads to the cliff-base.

Car Parking: As for Bossiney Haven.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI, SAC.

Potential: Assumed to be high, subject to rock quality considerations.

Value Assessment: One of many highly adventurous and serious cliffs on this coastline with a reputation for loose rock: not frequented.

Tintagel Head, Tintagel

OS Ref: 048893-049889

Dimensions: Four hundred metres of cliffs wrapped around the north-west-south faces of The Island.

Height: 70m.

There are 26 routes, all but three of which are concentrated on the main cliff: 048892-048891.

Rock: Schist/shale.

Access, Access Agreement, and Restrictions: Not Open Access land. The Island is owned by English Heritage and is part of a King Arthur-themed tourist attraction. Access to climb is strictly controlled. Application for permission is made in writing to English Heritage and is granted free on site upon completion and handing-in of a signed disclaimer. Technically, climbing is only permitted during opening hours and climbers are requested to 'sign out'. This causes a material problem, and occasionally difficulties with the management, as it is intrinsically impossible to time climbing routes of this stature to a deadline. SSSI, SAC.

Car Parking: Large car parks in Tintagel.

Potential: Moderate, notably on the smaller crags.

Value Assessment: One of the finest sea cliffs in Britain, it hosts some compelling sea-cliff classics, and is regularly climbed.

Dunderhole Point, Tintagel

OS Ref: 051889-046881

Dimensions: A promontory (047882-046881) near the south end of a 1km line of cliffs stretching from Tintagel Head.

Height: 50m.

There are 2 climbs.

Rock: Schist/shale.

Access: The cliff lies on the edge of a coastal strip of Open Access land. From Tintagel/Treven, RoWs gain the Open Access land. An abseil descent leads to the cliff-base.

Car Parking: As for Tintagel Head/road-side Treven area.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI.

Potential: High.

Value Assessment: A relatively minor site, with potential in the north.

Trebarwith Strand to Backways Cove, Nr Tintagel

OS Ref: 047862-044859

Dimensions: Coastal quarries at 051873-051869. A half a km of sea cliffs culminating in Backways Cove at their southern end.

Height: 50m.

There is a coastal traverse; 1 climb on a pinnacle in the quarries (051870), while the remaining 10 climbs are located in Backways Cove.

Rock: Schist, shale, slate; part-quarried in Backways Cove.

Access: The quarries (owned by The National Trust) are not on Open Access land. The remaining cliffs lie on the edge of a coastal strip of Open Access land. Approach to the quarries/Open Access land is via The South West Coast Path/RoW from Trebarwith Strand, respectively.

Car Parking: Car-park in Tebarwith Strand.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI.

Potential: Moderate.

Value Assessment: Though not mainstream there is a compelling traverse and a cluster of excellent quality climbs here.

Lobber Point, Port Isaac

OS Ref: 994812

Dimensions: A small slab.

Height: 20m.

There is 1 climb.

Rock: Pillow lava.

Access: Not Open Access land. Approach from Port Isaac via the South West Coast Path, and then by means of a cliff-top RoW.

Car Parking: Car-parks in Port Isaac.

Restrictions: None specific.

Potential: Low.

Value Assessment: One of many lesser cliffs in the area, it is unlikely to attract many visits.

Scarnor Point, Nr Port Isacc.

OS Ref: 978512

Dimensions: One hundred metres long.

Height: 25m.

There are 3 climbs.

Rock: Pillow lava.

Access: Not Open Access land. The approach is from Port Quinn/Port Isaac via the South West Coast Path; then a short descent leads down open cliff-side to the climbs.

Car Parking: Car-parks in Port Quinn and Port Isaac.

Restrictions: None specific.

Potential: Moderate.

Value Assessment: As for Lobber Point.

Kellan Head, Port Quinn

OS Ref: 970812-968808

Dimensions: Four hundred metres of slabs and walls, continuous in the north.

Height: 15m-50m.

There are 32 climbs, densely concentrated around: 969811.

Rock: Pillow lava.

Access: The cliffs lie on the edge of a coastal strip of Open Access land that extends to Port Quinn.

Car Parking: National Trust car-park in Port Quinn.

Restrictions: None specific.

Potential: Limited.

Value Assessment: A fine, attractive cliff with excellent-quality climbs; often visited.

Doyden Point

OS Ref: 967807-967805

Dimensions: A 100m-long cliff.

Height: 45m.

There are 12 climbs.

Rock: Pillow lava.

Access: Not Open Access land, though National Trust-owned. The approach is from Port Quinn via a RoW; then across open hillside to the cliff-top and an abseil descent.

Car Parking: As for Kellan Head.

Restrictions: None specific.

Potential: Limited.

Value Assessment: A useful small cliff with atmospheric routes that belie its size.

Pentire (North Cliff to Pentire Point), Nr Polzeath

OS Ref: 932809–923804

Dimensions: A km coast containing at least 12 discrete main sea cliffs or coastal outcrops.

Height: 15m – 70m (The Great Wall).

There are 100 climbs with principal concentrations on The Great Wall (931808), Pentire Black Zawn (929808), and The Shield Cliffs (928807).

Rock: Pillow lava.

Access: The cliffs lie variously on the edge of, or within, a coastal strip of Open Access land. A RoW from Pentire Farm gains the Open Access land. Walk/scramble/abseil-down approaches to cliff-bases.

Car Parking: National Trust car-parks at Pentire Farm.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI.

Potential: High.

Value Assessment: The Pentire headland is one of the most important sea-cliff climbing sites in Britain; the climbs on Great Wall are famously world-class.

Pepper Hole and Butter Hole, Nr Padstow

OS Ref: 907782-905774

Dimensions: A km coast with 7 main climbing cliffs.

Height: 30m-55m.

There are 26 climbs (1 in Pepper Hole, 908781); the majority are on continuous cliffs on the north side of the bay of Butter Hole.

Rock: Schist/shale.

Access: Not Open Access land. A path (not indicated as a RoW) leads from Lellizick Farm to the South West Coast Path which runs along the cliff-tops; then a scramble/abseil gains the cliff-bases.

Car Parking: Road-side at Lellizick Farm.

Restrictions: None specific.

Potential: Moderate.

Value Assessment: A site that is 'somewhere different' for most climbers.

Gunver Head (Merope Islands), Nr Trevone

OS Ref: 894770-894772

Dimensions: Two of three foreshore stacks/islands.

The larger stack has 1 climb, the stack with a tower on top 2 climbs.

Height: 45m.

Rock: Schist/shale.

Access: Not Open Access land. A path (not indicated as a RoW) is followed to the South West Coast Path; then a scramble leads to the foreshore.

Car Parking: Road-side lay-by on the minor road to Lellizick Farm.

Restrictions: None specific.

Potential: Moderate, subject to rock quality considerations.

Value Assessment: The adventure and novelty value of climbing sea stack summits is tempered by their seriousness.

Marble Cliff and 'Round Hole Point', Trevone

OS Ref: 892764-889763

Dimensions: Three hundred metres of intermittent cliffs.

Height: 25m.

Less than 10 (some unrecorded) climbs.

Rock: Limestone, schist, shale.

Access: The cliff lies on the edge of a coastal strip of Open Access land. From Trevone the South West Coast Path gains the Open Access land; then a scramble leads to the cliff bases.

Car Parking: Car-park in Trevone.

Restrictions: None specific.

Potential: Limited.

Value Assessment: These are highly esoteric cliffs.

Park Head to Beryl's Point, North of Newquay

OS Ref: 841708-842669

Dimensions: Three localised cliffs (Park Head: 841708; Trenance Cliff: 846679; and Beryl's Point: 842669) along this 4km stretch (which is most notable for the foreshore stacks of Bedruthan Steps).

Height: 40m-70m.

Each has between 1-3 climbs.

Rock: Schist/shale.

Access: Park Head and Trenance Cliff lie on the edges of coastal strips of Open Access land. Beryl's Point is not Open Access land. The approaches are from the South West Coast Path and (in the case of the Trenance sites) the Mawgan Porth beach and foreshore.

Car Parking: For Park Head: at National Trust car-park at Bedruthan Steps; otherwise car-parks in Trenance.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI.

Potential: Variable, but of limited appeal.

Value Assessment: As for Marble Cliff etc.

Penhale Point to Ligger Point, Nr Newquay

OS Ref: 756592-757581

Dimensions: A km of discontinuous cliffs line headlands and zawns between the two Points.

Height: 15m-80m.

There are 20 routes.

Rock: Schist/shale.

Access, Access Agreement, and Car Parking: The cliffs lie on the edge of a coastal strip of Ministry of Defence-owned Open Access land. An access agreement allows climbing on all sites at all times. The cliffs must be accessed via the South West Coast Path, which is gained after parking in a National Trust car-park at Holywell. SSSI.

Potential: Moderate.

Value Assessment: Not frequently visited, but worth visiting.

Cligga Head, Nr Perranporth

OS Ref: 743538-738533

Dimensions: Three hundred metres of crags around the headland. Separate outlying crags on the headland opposite Shag Rock (746541) to the east, The Miners Cliff (743538) also to the east, and Green Wall (738533) to the south.

Height: 30m.

There are 30 routes at Cligga Head and a handful of recorded climbs and possibilities at 'Shag Crag' and The Miners' Cliff respectively.

Rock: Mostly granite, but some Killas slate.

Access: The cliffs lie on the edge of Open Access land, which extends eastwards as far as the B3285. Scrambles or abseils gain the cliff-bases.

Car Parking: Road-side nearby/B3285.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI.

Potential: Limited.

Value Assessment: More amenable and popular than most other crags of North Cornwall.

Carn Gowla, St Agnes (to Chapel Porth)

OS Ref: 708518-697496

Dimensions: Four km of continuous cliffs (that continue beyond Chapel Porth).

Height: <100m (at Bawden Cliff).

There are 145 climbs, mostly located in the relatively well-developed section between: 705516-698507.

Rock: Schist, quartzite.

Access: The cliffs lie on the edge of Open Access land. Abseils gain the cliff-base.

Car Parking: Large car-parking areas on unmade roads 200-300m behind the cliff-top (Open Access land).

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI; the southern section of this coast – beyond the main climbing area – is part of the Godrevy Head to St Agnes SAC.

Potential: Very high.

Value Assessment: This is a key south-west sea-cliff climbing area, with a good number of challenging and important climbs. There is considerable room for exploration and pioneering in and around existing climbs and on whole undeveloped cliffs. Nonetheless, it is a serious area, and visitor numbers are not high as they could be.

The Wave, Basset's Cove, Nr Camborne

OS Ref: 637442

Dimensions: A low overhanging wall with boulder-problems above a beach.

Access: The cliffs lie on the edge of a coastal strip of Open Access land. A scramble leads to the beach.

Car Parking: Car-park above Basset's Cove.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI.

Potential: High - for bouldering.

Value Assessment: Locally considered as 'futuristic', in terms of technically difficult boulder-problems, and of corresponding significance.

Hell's Mouth to Fishing Cove, and Godrevy Point, NW of Camborne

OS Ref: 604430-596429, and 580432

Dimensions: Half km cliffs between the two coves, and small cliffs at the separate Godrevy Point.

Height: 30m.

There are 2 climbs at Hell's Mouth, and a coasteering traverse between the two coves. Numerous boulder-problems at Godrevy Point.

Rock: Schist, slate.

Access: The cliffs lie on the edge of a coastal strip of Open Access land. The approach is by scrambling to and along the foreshore.

Car Parking: For Hell's Mouth, a car-park nearby; for Godrevy Point, car-parks at Godrevy and Godrevy Farm.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI.

Potential: Moderate.

Value Assessment: Hell's Mouth is obscure and likely only to be very rarely visited, whereas Godrevy Point offers West Cornwall's top bouldering site.

Penwith's North-West Coast, Cornwall

Preamble: Established over 100 years ago, this is traditionally Britain's most significant coastal climbing and 'holiday-climbing' area, overtaken by Pembrokeshire only in recent years. For 40km, from Wicca Pillar in the north to Sennen in the south, sea-cliffs and outcrops line the coast interrupted only by the occasional cove, fishing village or beach. Consequently, given the attractions of a favourable climate, fine granite, and the superb cliffs summarised here, this area is one of Britain's most highly developed sea-cliff climbing areas, albeit still with potential for further exploration. Most of the coastline comprises SSSIs. High-profile coverage of conservation issues has encouraged adherence to specific agreements and good practice by climbers. The number of rarely visited climbing sites far outweighs the few popular ones. Generally the Killas slate cliffs are less attractive climbing propositions than the granite ones. All the climbing sites lie on the edge of a coastal strip of Open Access land that runs almost continuously between Clodgy Point and Land's End.

Clodgy Point, Nr St Ives

OS Ref: 507414

Dimensions: A series of low, small cliffs with many boulder-problems.
Rock: Greenstone.

Access: The cliff lies on the edge of a coastal strip of Open Access land. The approach to the Open Access land is via the South West Coast Path from St Ives.

Car Parking: Road-side in St Ives.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI.

Potential: Limited.

Value Assessment: The cliffs are an important site for bouldering.

Wicca Pillar, Nr Zennor

OS Ref: 464400

Dimensions: A narrow pillar, with multiple faces.
Height: 20m.
There are 10 climbs on the Pillar and 2 adjacent.
Rock: Granite.

Access: The cliff lies on the edge of a coastal strip of Open Access land. From Zennor and Treveal, RoWs lead to the Open Access land (and the South West Coast Path). A scramble descent gains the cliff-base.

Car Parking: Car-park at Zennor; (or road-side on the B3306 for the Treveal approach.).

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI.

Potential: Very limited.

Value Assessment: Most routes date from the turn of the 20th century; this is a modest, yet well-established site.

Zennor Cliff, Zennor

OS Ref: 450396-447392

Dimensions: A 400m stretch with cliffs between Rainbow Zawn in the north and the Horse's Back in the south, including one well above the sea.

Height: Generally 25m but <100m.

There are over 25 climbs in total.

Rock: Greenstone/Killas slate.

Access: The cliff lies on the edge of a coastal strip of Open Access land. A RoW from Zennor gains the Open Access land (and the South West Coast Path). Scramble-down/abseil approaches leads to the cliff-bases.

Car Parking: Car-park at Zennor.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI.

Potential: Limited.

Value Assessment: At this site there is a selection of good-quality climbs of wide appeal, some quite historic.

Carnelloe and Boswednack Cliff, Zennor

OS Ref: 442390-439384

Dimensions: Two sea cliffs occupy their parent headlands: Carnelloe, and Boswednack Cliff.

Height: 50m and 20m.

There are 5 and 25 climbs respectively, and noted scrambling opportunities.

Rock: Greenstone.

Access: The cliff lies on the edge of a coastal strip of Open Access land. The Open Access land extends to the B3306, but the Zennor approach is viable too (via the South West Coast Path). Scrambles lead to the cliff-base.

Car Parking: Road-side on the B3306 or car-park in Zennor.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI.

Potential: Limited.

Value Assessment: A secluded and quiet site, Boswednack's climbs span 90years.

The Gurnard's Head to Robin's Rocks, Treen

OS Ref: 432388-425380

Dimensions: A km of major greenstone cliffs line a series of headlands and zawns, embracing 10 main climbing cliffs: The Gurnard's Head (432388); Right Angle Cliff (432386); Kittywake Zawn (432385); Pedn Kei Zawn, Island, and West (Treen Cliff) (431385-432384); Zawn Duel (430383); Carn Gloose (429383); Wenven Cove (428380); and Robin's Rocks (425380).

Height: 25m-50m.

There are over 100 climbs across the 10 main cliffs.

Rock: Greenstone.

Access: The cliffs lie on the edge of a coastal strip of Open Access land. A RoW leads from Treen to the Open Access land (and the South West Coast Path). Various paths or ways lead to the cliff tops; the climbs are reached by scrambles or abseils. An alternative approach to Robin's Rocks is as for Windy Zawn.

Car Parking: Small car-park and limited road-side parking in Treen.

Restrictions: SSSI with vulnerable plant-life; climbers are advised to operate with care. In addition, Kittywake Zawn is a registered site of ornithological importance, and climbers are recommended to avoid this site during the nesting season. Wenven Cove is also subject to an advisory restriction during the nesting season.

Potential: Moderate.

Value Assessment: Containing West Penwith's most important greenstone cliffs, the area is a very significant climbing one, with a number of sought-after 'classics' especially on Right Angle Cliff, Carn Gloose, and Robin's Rocks. The other cliffs are more serious and much less frequented.

Windy Zawn, Porthmeor

OS Ref: 425377

Dimensions: A 50m-cliff in a small zawn on the east side of Porthmeor Cove.

Height: 25m.

There are 12 routes.

Rock: Granite (mainly) and Killas slate.

Access: The cliff lies on the edge of a coastal strip of Open Access land. From the B3306, a RoW gains the Open Access land (and the South West Coast Path). An abseil descent leads to the cliff-base.

Car Parking: Road-side on the B3306.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI.

Potential: Very limited.

Value Assessment: A peaceful place; interesting geology enhances the climbing.

Bosigran Area: Halldrine Cove to Great Zawn, Bosigran

OS Ref: 418372-415366

Dimensions: A half a km of coast, with sea cliffs, and coastal outcrops well above the sea, either side of Porthmoina Cove: Halldrine Cove (418372); Bosigran Seaward and Main Cliffs (416368); Bosigran Ridge (415367); The Great Zawn (415366), and Horseman's Zawn (414367). Taken together, Bosigran Seaward and Main Faces are 300m long.

Height: 50m.

There are almost 200 climbs here, densely concentrated at Bosigran.

Rock: Granite.

Access: The cliffs lie on the edge of, or within, a coastal strip of Open Access land, which extends at one point to the B3306 and the parking area. From the B3306 a track (not indicated as RoW) gains the Open Access land directly. Various approach paths and scrambles or abseil descents lead to the cliff-bases.

Car Parking: The National Trust car-park or at the privately owned (The Climber's Club) The Count House – accommodation for Club members.

Restrictions and Management Agreements: The Bosigran area is an SSSI with vulnerable plant-life and a potential home for nesting birds. Climbers are advised to operate with care. Porthmoina Island is an especially sensitive site, and there is an agreement between the BMC and owner The National Trust that there should be no climbing on it.

Potential: Very limited.

Value Assessment: The spiritual home of sea-cliff climbing in Britain, the historic Bosigran Area remains the focus of Cornish climbing and, given the range, quality and reputation of its climbs, a great and enduring attraction for all climbers.

Rosemergy Cove to Rosemergy Towers, Rosemergy

OS Ref: 414366-413362

Dimensions: Three hundred metres of fairly continuous sea cliffs and coastal outcrops extending south-westwards from the Bosigran area; there are three main areas along this section: Rosemergy Cove (414366); Rosemergy Ridge (414366) - which hosts four main cliffs; and Rosemergy Towers (413362).

Height: 30m.

There are 60 climbs evenly spread along this climbing area.

Rock: Granite.

Access: The cliff lies on the edge of a coastal strip of Open Access land, gained as for Bosigran. For Rosemergy Cove: then along the foreshore from The Great Zawn. For Rosemergy Ridge: scramble/abseil descents to the cliff-base. For Rosemergy Towers: across Open Access land direct from B3306.

Car Parking: As for Bosigran, or in a car-park south of Rosemergy.

Restrictions: As for The Bosigran Area; no formal restrictions, but an SSSI. Climbers are advised that the area is unspoiled and demands a commensurate level of care.

Potential: Limited.

Value Assessment: Climbs here span a century of exploration, but it is a quiet and valued area free of the peak-time crowds of Bosigran.

Whirl Pool Buttress to Trevowhan Cliff, Trevowhan

OS Ref: 410362-407361

Dimensions: Half a kilometre of coast with fairly continuous sea cliffs assembled into three climbing areas: Whirl Pool Buttress (410362); Great Moor Zawn (409361); and Trevowhan Cliff (405361), which comprises six main cliffs: New Cove, Trevowhan Zawn, Trevowhan Head, Carn Fran-kas, Rabman Zawn, and Rabbit Carn.

Height: 60m, though generally 25m-30m at Trevowhan.

At the respective sites, there are 10, 1, 16 climbs.

Rock: Granite.

Access: The cliff lies on the edge of a coastal strip of Open Access land, which encroaches upon the B3306 for half a km. Various scramble-down/abseil entries lead to the climbs.

Car Parking: Car-park on B3306 south of Rosemergy.

Restrictions: As for Rosemergy Cove.

Potential: Moderate though limited by physical conditions.

Value Assessment: Any potential mainstream appeal is tempered by difficult climbing conditions and access; hence an unpopular area (the single 1976 climb in Great Moor Zawn is unrepeated).

Carn Clough, Morvah

OS Ref: 390359-390358

Dimensions: One hundred metres of rocks, a sea-cliff, and a coastal outcrop.

Height: 20m-40m.

There are 8 climbs.

Rock: Granite.

Access: The cliffs lie on the edge of a coastal strip of Open Access land. A RoW from Lower Chypraze gains the Open Access land (and the South West Coast Path).

Car Parking: Car parking area controlled by Lower Chypraze Farm.

Restrictions: As for Rosemergy Cove.

Potential: Very limited.

Value Assessment: A minor cliff, though the adjacent beach up-rates its appeal as a climbing venue.

Pendeen Watch to Rip Tide Wall, Pendeen

OS Ref: 378359-379358

Dimensions: One hundred metres of cliffs on the south side of the Pendeen Watch headland.

Height: 30m.

There are 35 climbs.

Rock: Killas slate.

Access: The cliff lies on the edge of a coastal strip of Open Access land, which encroaches upon the Pendeen Watch lighthouse access road. Scrambles or abseils lead to the cliff-bases.

Car Parking: Car-park at Pendeen Watch.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI.

Potential: Moderate.

Value Assessment: Useful and very accessible, but not popular.

Trewellard, Nr Boscaswell

OS Ref: 371349-368347

Dimensions: Three hundred metres of cliff-/zawn-faces.

Height: 30m.

There are 55 climbs.

Rock: Killas slate.

Access: The cliff lies on the edge of a coastal strip of Open Access land. From Trewellard, a RoW gains the Open Access land (and the South West Coast Path). The cliff-bases are reached by scrambles.

Car Parking: Road-side, in Levant Road.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI.

Potential: Limited.

Value Assessment: The cliff holds a selection of good climbs of local significance.

Carn Vellan, Botallack

OS Ref: 363342-364341

Dimensions: A 100m-cliff in a compact area, with a small western wing.

Height: 20m-50m.

There are 30 climbs.

Rock: Killas slate.

Access: As for Trewellard.

Car Parking: As for Trewellard.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI , with vulnerable plant-life; climbers are advised to operate with care.

Potential: Moderate, though limited by technical/ethical climbing considerations.

Value Assessment: Carn Vellan is the most impressive of Killas slate cliffs; well-known, though a bias towards very hard climbing suppresses its wider appeal.

Botallack Head Zawn to Crowns Mine Cliff, Botallack

OS Ref: 362338-362336

Dimensions: Three sites in a 300m stretch of coast, comprising various sea cliffs and above-sea-level faces: Botallack Head Zawn (362338); Freedom Zawn (362336); and Crowns Mine Cliff (362336).

Height: 35m.

There are over 30 climbs, Freedom Zawn holding the greatest number.

Rock: Killas slate.

Access: The cliff lies on the edge of a coastal strip of Open Access land. A RoW from Botallack gains the Open Access land (and the South West Coast Path). Scrambles lead to the cliff-bases.

Car Parking: Car-park and road-side in Botallack,

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI: advice as for Carn Vellan.

Potential: Moderate.

Value Assessment: A little-known sites for connoisseurs.

Kenidjack Cliffs, St Just

OS Ref: 356328-354324

Dimensions: Three hundred metres of cliffs (354326-355324) on the southern flank of Kenidjack Castle, with one outlier (Evening Slabs: 356328) to the north. The main site encompasses four main cliffs: South Zawn, Seadreams Cliff, Grooved Face, and Main Face.

Height: 20m-45m.

Forty climbs at the main site (and 4 climbs on Evening Slabs).

Rock: Killas slate.

Access: The cliff lies on the edge of a coastal strip of Open Access land, which extends landward to join public highways at Boscean and Nancherrow.

Car Parking: Sufficient pull-ins on the unmade road from Nancherrow,

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI.

Potential: Limited.

Value Assessment: The Killas slate climbing-site in most demand: the routes of the Main Face are extremely popular.

Carn Goose, St Just

OS Ref: 352313

Dimensions: One hundred metres of small sea cliffs under Carn Goose summit.
Height: 20m.
There are 7 climbs.
Rock: Granite.

Access: The cliff lies on the edge of a coastal strip of Open Access land, which encroaches upon the Carn Goose Road. Scramble-down/abseil descents (or a walk along the foreshore from the north) gain the cliff-base.

Car Parking: Car-parks at Porth Nanven and Priest's Cove; road-side on Carn Goose Road.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI.

Potential: Limited.

Value Assessment: This is one of Penwith's more obscure climbing cliffs.

Porth Nanven, St Just

OS Ref: 356306-355304

Dimensions: One hundred metres of low cliffs and small outcrops.
Height: mainly 10m; & 25m.
There are 15 climbs and some bouldering.
Rock: Granite.

Access: The cliff lies on the edge of a coastal strip of Open Access land, encompassing Porth Nanven (and the car-park). The approach is along the coast path or foreshore.

Car Parking: Car-park at Porth Nanven.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI.

Potential: Moderate - for bouldering.

Value Assessment: The site is of local interest.

Aire Point, Nr St Just

OS Ref: 358288-362278

Dimensions: Three cliffs: one sea cliff (Varicose Zawn) and coastal outcrop at Aire Point and one low sea cliff (John Wayne Memorial Crag) 200m south of Aire Point; together with numerous low cliffs and foreshore boulders.

Height: 15m.

There are 40 climbs, and over 50 recorded boulder-problems.

Rock: Granite.

Access: Apart from the foreshore boulders, the cliffs lie on the edge of, or within, a coastal strip of Open Access land. A RoW from Trgiffian gains the Open Access land (and the South West Coast Path). The approach is along the coast path or foreshore.

Car Parking: Car-park above Gwynver Beach.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI.

Potential: High - for bouldering.

Value Assessment: This is a quiet alternative to Sennen, and an important location for bouldering.

Sennen: Pedn-mên-du

OS Ref: 348263-347258

Dimensions: Five hundred metres of continuous cliffs.

Height: 25m.

There are over 150 climbs; most densely concentrated on the main cliffs between 348263-347261.

Rock: Granite.

Access: The cliff lies on the edge of a coastal strip of Open Access land. From Sennen, RoWs gain the Open Access land (and the South West Coast Path). Scramble descents lead to the cliff-base.

Car Parking: Very limited. A car-park in Sennen quickly fills up in summer. Parking at Land's End is an option.

Restrictions: None specific.

Potential: Very limited.

Value Assessment: Sennen is an extremely well-developed and important site, having its roots in Royal Marine training in the 1940s. It is very popular with climbers, including for commercial instruction.

Penwith's South-West Coast, Cornwall

Lands End to Hella Point (Gwennap Head) Coast

OS Ref: 344254-371214

Introduction and value assessment: Fine granite cliffs wrap tightly and complexly around the coves, zawns and promontories that make this coastline so rugged and rich with high-quality climbs and climbing history. Access is universally from the South West Coast Path - which runs very close to all the cliff-tops, between car parks at either end. Ownership and tourism aside, the many sites and sub-sites along this section are physically and environmentally very closely related, sharing much in common. Their grouping, as follows, does not imply that component cliffs lack merit. It is one of England's exceptional coastlines, an accolade that is shared by its climbing.

Access and Car Parking: All cliffs lie on the edge of a coastal strip of Open Access land, which embraces the South West Coast Path and the principal car-parks at either end. The large car-park in the north, at Land's End, is private, but fees are waived for climbers. Signing-in is sometimes required. The car park at Portgwarra, in the south, is very busy in the summer holiday period. A RoW from Polgigga meets the Open Access land approximately halfway along this coast, though parking possibilities are limited on the B3315. For all cliffs, various short walks across open ground and scramble-down/abseil options gain the climbs.

Potential: Though highly developed, there remains moderate scope for new climbs.

Land's End Headland (Trevescan Cliff to Knight's Buttress)

OS Ref: 344254-243247

Dimensions: Eight hundred metres of cliffs take in the following main areas: Trevescan Cliff, Dr Syntax's Head, Cormorant Promontory, World's End Promontory, Abseil Point Area (Deception Zawn), Dingo Area, Longships Zawn, Penwith Buttress, Urinal Zawn, Hotel Buttress Area, Bull Ring Zawn (Crystal Walls), and Knight's Buttress.
Height: 20m-70m (many routes @ 30m).
There are 175 climbs.
Rock: Granite.

Restrictions: Some of the cliffs or parts of them are self-evidently important bird-nesting grounds; while there are no formal restrictions climbers are advised to avoid them in the nesting season (and specifically Trevescan Cliff and the islands of The Armed Knight and Enys Dodnan). SSSI, with vulnerable plant-life (specifically in relation to Trevescan Cliff); climbers are advised to operate with care.

Pordenack Point Area (Sloose Zawn to Pordenack Point)

OS Ref: 346243-348241

Dimensions: A 150m length of sea cliffs and coastal outcrops on the south side of Pordenack Point.

Height: 20m-30m.

There are over 80 climbs. (Sloose Zawn is a lesser, isolated cliff on the north side).

Rock: Granite.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI, with vulnerable plant-life; climbers are advised to operate with care.

Carn Boel Area (Carn Sperm to Carn Boel)

OS Ref: 348239-350238

Dimensions: Two neighbouring headlands with variously oriented faces: approx. 300m of cliff overall.

Height: 20m-45m.

There are 30 climbs and some bouldering.

Rock: Granite.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI, with vulnerable plant-life; climbers are advised to operate with care.

Carn Lês Boel Area (Carn Lês Boel Promontory to Bosistow Zawn)

OS Ref: 357235-358232

Dimensions: An aggregate 200m of sea cliffs located around the headland, the larger and more important (Mild and Bitter Buttress, Bosistow Wall, and Paradise Wall) on its south side.

Height: 25m-45m.

There are 50 climbs.

Rock: Granite.

Restrictions: SSSI with vulnerable plant-life; climbers are advised to operate with care. Paradise Wall is a site for nesting birds and climbers are advised to avoid this cliff (and Bosistow Island) during the nesting season.

Pendower Coves

OS Ref: 359231-361230

Dimensions: Three discrete buttresses occupy Pendower Coves: Pandour Buttress (359231) and Halfway Buttress (360231) in the west, and Moon Buttress (361230) in their centre.

Height: 45m.

There are 25 routes altogether, of relatively less merit.

Rock: Granite (featuring a degree of kaolinisation).

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI, with vulnerable plant-life; climbers are advised to operate with care.

Zawn Kellys Area (Franks Zawn to Zawn Kellys)

OS Ref: 360227-360226

Dimensions: Two immediately adjacent cliffs, with Zawn Kellys being around 100m in extent.

Height: 40m.

There are 23 climbs.

Rock: Granite.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI, with vulnerable plant-life; climbers are advised to operate with care.

Carn Barra

OS Ref: 358226-360224

Dimensions: A 300m long cliff.

Height: 20m.

There are over 100 climbs.

Rock: Granite.

Restrictions: SSSI, with vulnerable plant-life; climbers are advised to operate with care, and, specifically to avoid the upper tiers.

Dutchman's Zawn and Folly Cove

OS Ref: 361224 and 362224

Dimensions: Two sets of cliffs in neighbouring inlets.

Height: 50m.

There are 21 climbs, of relatively lesser merit compared to nearby cliffs.

Rock: Granite (featuring a degree of kaolinisation).

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI, with vulnerable plant-life; climbers are advised to operate with care.

Fox Promontory

OS Ref: 362223-361223

Dimensions: One hundred and fifty metres of cliff mostly on the north side of the promontory.

Height: 25m.

There are 40 climbs.

Rock: Granite.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI, with vulnerable plant-life; climbers are advised to operate with care.

Black Carn South to Porth Loe Cove

OS Ref: 361223-365220

Dimensions: Five hundred metres of buttresses, blocks, and broken and craggy low faces.

Height: 15m-45m.

Together with unrecorded scrambling and bouldering, there are 40 climbs on four main areas; Black Carn South (361223); Pellitras Point (362221); Porth Loe Buttress (363221); and Porth Loe Cove: Towers of Deception (365220).

Rock: Granite.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI, with vulnerable plant-life; climbers are advised to operate with care.

Carn Guthenbras to Chair Ladder

OS Ref: 363218-366215

Dimensions: Five hundred metres of continuous, high cliffs.

Height: 50m.

There are 160 climbs.

Rock: Granite.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI, with vulnerable plant-life; climbers are advised to operate with care and to avoid disturbing any nesting birds.

Polostoc Point to Hella Point

OS Ref: 368214-371214

Dimensions: Four hundred metres of cliffs, zawn faces, ridges, buttresses and blocks, with the following five main cliffs: Polostoc Point; Yawn Zawn; The Galactic Boulder; Porthgwarra Buttress (370214); and Hella Wall (Hella Point).

Height: 8m-40m.

There are 40 climbs.

Rock: Granite.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI, with vulnerable plant-life; climbers are advised to operate with care.

Penwith's South-East Coast

Vessacks West to Vessacks Point

OS Ref: 377217-379217

Dimensions: Three localised cliffs in 200m round the Vessacks Point headland: Vessacks West, Vessacks Point and Wassocks Wall.

Height: 20m.

There are 15 climbs.

Rock: Granite.

Access: The cliffs lie on the edge of a coastal strip of Open Access land. From Portgwarra/St Levan's, the South West Coast Path/RoW gains the Open Access land. Scrambles lead to the cliff-bases.

Car Parking: Car-parks at Portgwarra/St Levan.

Restrictions: None specific.

Potential: Limited.

Value Assessment: This is a quiet area that receives few visits.

Pedn-mên-an-mere

OS Ref: 384217-385218

Dimensions: A complex of sea-cliff faces, coastal outcrops and a zawn-face occupy the 300m-long south-west and east sides of the headland.

Height: 15m.

There are 60 climbs spread across three main cliffs: Levan's Wall, Carrack's Cliff, and Radio Zawn.

Rock: Granite.

Access: The cliffs lie on the edge of, or within, a coastal strip of Open Access land. From St Levan, a RoW gains the Open Access land (and the South West Coast Path). Scrambles/abseil descents lead to the cliff-bases.

Car Parking: As for Vessacks.

Restrictions: None specific.

Potential: Limited.

Value Assessment: There is a good selection of climbs in a pleasant place and consequently it is quite popular.

Portcurno Bay to Pednvounder

OS Ref: 388223-395223

Dimensions: Intermittent crags and faces pepper this 1km coastal cliff-line, which is interrupted by two beaches. There are 4 main areas: Porthcurno (386233); Green Bay (388223); Penvounder-Upper West Buttress (393224); and Penvounder Beach Area (394224-396222).

Height: 10m-50m.

There are 30 climbs and many unrecorded pitches and boulder-problems.

Rock: Granite.

Access: Apart from Porthcurno, the cliffs lie on the edge of a coastal strip of Open Access land. For the two western areas, approach from Porthcurno via the beach and foreshore. From Treen, a RoW gains the Open Access land (and the South West Coast Path). Scrambles lead to the cliff-bases.

Car Parking: Car-park in Porthcurno, which is very busy in the summer holiday period; and a small car-park at Treen.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI.

Potential: Limited.

Value Assessment: The cliffs offer light-hearted climbing and bouldering, beach-side.

Logan Rock (Treen Castle)

OS Ref: 397222-398220

Dimensions: Three hundred metres of short cliffs, blocks, and coastal outcrops on the west and east sides of Logan Rock headland, Treen Castle.

Height: 8m-20m.

There are over 30 recorded climbs, and as many unrecorded.

Rock: Granite.

Access: The cliffs lie on the edge of, or within, a coastal strip of Open Access land. From Treen, RoWs gain the Open Access land.

Car Parking: Small car-park at Treen.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI.

Potential: Limited.

Value Assessment: This is a magnificent headland, at a distance from the climbing mainstream.

Cribba Head (and Penberth Cove)

OS Ref: 401223-403223 (405227)

Dimensions: There are three main coastal outcrops or blocks within 300m of each other on the most southerly part of the headland: West Buttress, East Buttress, and Cropper Buttress; and some minor sea cliffs. Penberth is an isolated cliff to the east.

Height: 12m-25m.

There are 45 climbs (14 at Penberth), and many problems and climbs unrecorded.

Rock: Granite.

Access: Apart from Penberth, the cliffs lie on the edge of, or within, a coastal strip of Open Access land. From Treen and Penberth, RoWs gain the Open Access land.

Car Parking: Small car-park at Treen. Road-side parking in Penberth is very limited.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI.

Potential: Limited.

Value Assessment: The cliffs host some infamous test-pieces in a fine setting, though primarily they are of local interest.

Portguarnon Cove to St Loy Cliff (Trevedran Cliff/Merthen Point)

OS Ref: 409229-418228

Dimensions: A km of coast with 4 well-separated areas: the sea-cliff of Porthguarnon West (409229); the 100m-long sea cliff of Porthguarnon East (412229); the sea cliff and associated rocks of Coffin Cove (414228); and the coastal outcrops of St Loy Cliff (416228-418227).

Height: 10m-45m.

There are 7, 38, 10, and 45 climbs on the cliffs respectively. There is a variety of unrecorded lesser climbs and boulder-problems in or around these areas.

Rock: Granite.

Access: Not Open Access land. From the B3315, a RoW leads past Treverven Farm to the South West Coast Path which runs close to the cliff-tops. Then walk-/scramble-downs over open ground gain the cliff-bases (and an abseil in the case of Porthguarnon East).

Car Parking: Specific parking provision is lacking. Parking on the B3315 is extremely limited. Parking at Penberth is possible but limited too.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI, with vulnerable plant-life; climbers are advised to operate with care.

Potential: Limited.

Value Assessment: This is a fine and tranquil site; St Loy's climbs enjoy regular visits.

Boscawen Point to Tater-du

OS Ref: 431229-440231

Dimensions: There are three main sites along this coastline: Boscawen Point (431229); Tegiffian Union Star Cove –'Chough Zawn'- and Tregiffian Cove (434231-436232); and Tater-du (438231-440231).

Height: 15m; 20m; 40m.

There are 19, 31, 40 climbs in respective areas.

Rock: Boscawen and Tregiffian: Granite; Tater-du: Greenstone.

Access: Not Open Access land. There is no RoW direct from the B3115. Access is via the South West Coast Path from Lamorna Cove, which runs close to the cliff-tops (National Trust land in the case of Tater-du). A lower-level RoW runs closer still to the tops of Boscawen and Tregiffian. Various scrambles lead to the cliff-bases.

Car Parking: Car-park at Lamorna Cove.

Restrictions: None specific. Tater-du is an SSSI with vulnerable plant-life; climbers are advised to operate with care. Protected birds breed in the area, and climbers are requested to avoid the nesting season.

Potential: Limited.

Value Assessment: The area contains but an important greenstone cliff with a solid climbing history, as well as some little-known granite crags.

Lamorna Cove

OS Ref: 450239

Dimensions: Several quarries either side of the car-park.

Height: 40m.

There is one climb in the western quarry.

Rock: Granite (quarried).

Access: The western quarry is not Open Access land. It lies above the South West Coast Path.

Car Parking: Car-park adjacent.

Restrictions: None specific in the western quarry. Cornish Wildlife Trust advises no climbing in eastern quarry.

Potential: Unknown.

Value Assessment: Of relatively limited climbing worth.

Kerrier's South Coast, Cornwall

Cudden Point, nr Perranuthnoe

OS Ref: 550280-554277

Dimensions: Two main cliffs on a rocky headland.

Height: 20m.

There are 10 climbs.

Rock: Granite.

Access: The cliffs lie on the edge of Open Access land. The South West Coast Path/RoW gain the Open Access land from Perranuthnoe/Prussia Cove respectively.

Car Parking: Car-parks in Perranuthnoe and Prussia Cove.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI.

Potential: Unknown.

Value Assessment: The climbs are very recent and do not feature in any guidebook.

Basher's Harbour to Rinsey Cove

OS Ref: 587273-592269

Dimensions: Half a km continuous cliff-line around Rinsey Head including 250m at Basher's Harbour.

Height: 30m.

There are 60 climbs on four cliffs: Basher's Harbour, Rinsey Head, Rinsey Zawn, and Rinsey Cove. Most are on Basher's Harbour.

Rock: Granite.

Access: The cliffs lie on the edge of a coastal strip of Open Access land, which extends to the eastern end of Praa Sands. For Basher's Harbour's climbs, the approach is via the beach and foreshore, or a scramble/abseil descent.

Car Parking: Car-parks at Praa Sands, and a National Trust car-park at Rinsey Farm.

Restrictions: The cliffs are privately owned. The owner permits climbing on Basher's Harbour, but asks that climbing does not occur on Rinsey Head and Rinsey Zawn (which border their residential property).

Potential: Moderate but access-restricted.

Value Assessment: Basher's Harbour contains some impressive climbs, though serious characteristics including tidal constraints limit the attention they receive.

Trewavas

OS Ref: 595266-603266

Dimensions: A km stretch hosting a series of sea-cliffs around Trewavas Head and the coastal outcrops of Trewavas Main Cliff.

Height: 20m.

There are over 100 climbs, the majority on the Main Cliff.

Rock: Granite.

Access: The cliffs lie variously on the edge of, or within, a coastal strip of Open Access land. From Rinsey Farm, a RoW gains the Open Access land (and the South West Coast Path). Walks/scrambles lead to the cliff-bases.

Car Parking: National Trust car-park at Rinsey Farm.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI. The Main Cliff is privately owned; erosion due to group-use can be an issue.

Potential: Limited on the Main Cliff.

Value Assessment: The Main Cliff is a long-established climbing area, increasingly attracting visits.

Kerrier South Coast, Cornwall (cont)

The Lizard area, Cornwall (Predannack Head to Bass Point)

Preamble

The disparate geology of The Lizard confers a unique character to its cliffs and - from a climbing point of view – is far removed in style and less established than the Penwith granite cliffs. While there are several sites that attract visiting climbers, extensive cliff-lines remain unexplored or rarely climbed upon. Much of the area lies within the Lizard National Nature (Spotlight) Reserve and the coast is covered by SSSIs. It is an SAC and, in the Kynance Cove location, a geological SSSI. Its international importance for flora and geology has been actively promoted to climbers. There are few specific site restrictions but good-practice advice applies throughout. Much of the rock is not ideally suited to climbing, which together with the cliffs' seriousness, will in any event limit further major expansion of climbing here. With the exception of the coast east of Lighthouse Cliff (up to and beyond Bass Point), the sites lie on the edge of Open Access land.

Predannack Head

OS Ref: 660165-666158

Dimensions: There is a series of cliffs along this 1km stretch, grouped into two areas: Pen-Crifton, in the north, and Predannack Head South (661163-666158), in the south. Height: 25m.

There are 20 climbs spread out on 9 cliffs.

Rock: Amphibolite.

Access: The cliffs lie on the edge of a coastal strip of Open Access land. From Lower Predannack Head, a RoW gains the Open Access land (and the South West Coast Path). Walk/scramble/abseil-downs lead to the cliff-bases.

Car Parking: National Trust car-park at Lower Predannack Farm.

Restrictions: SSSI, NNR, SAC. Climbing is not allowed in the part of the NNR running north as far as Mullion Cove. (Area delimited by signage.)

Potential: Moderate.

Value Assessment: A site fit for careful exploration, and likely only to receive rare visits.

Vellan Head to Soap Rock

OS Ref: 667149-675144

Dimensions: A km of cliffs or rocky slopes most cohesive at the main cliff: Hidden Buttress; approx. 671147-672146; Chameleon Slabs (673146); and Serpent's Buttress (675144).

Height: 60m.

Three-quarters of the area's 20 routes are situated on Vellan Head; a coasteering-style traverse runs from end-to-end.

Rock: Amphibolite, and Serpentine (Serpent's Buttress).

Access: As for Predannack Head; and then scrambles to the cliff-bases.

Car Parking: As for Predannack Head.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI, NNR, SAC.

Potential: Moderate.

Value Assessment: There are a small number of significant climbs on Hidden Buttress; the remainder is of esoteric appeal.

Soap Rock to Kynance Cove

OS Ref: 675145-685134

Dimensions: A 2km coast with a continuous cliff-line; the few climbs are located on: Pigeon Ogo (673142), The Horse (672139), and in Kynance Cove (685134).

Height: 30m-80m.

There are 5 climbs, 3 of which are on The Horse.

Rock: Serpentine and Mica-Schist.

Access: As for Predannack Head. Alternatively, from Lizard, RoWs gain the Open Access land (and the South West Coast Path).

Car Parking: As for Predannack Head, or in car-park/road-side in Lizard. Abseil/scramble descents lead to the cliff-bases.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI, NNR, SAC.

Potential: Moderate, but limited by rock quality.

Value Assessment: An impressive sea-cliff landscape, but climbing is constrained by unsuitable rock.

Lizard Point to Bumble Rock

OS Ref: 694118-707115

Dimensions: One and a half km of coast with three main climbing sites: Coastguard Cliff (694118-694117); Lighthouse Cliff (705115-706115); and the island of Bumble Rock (707115).

Height: 10m-45m (Coastguard Cliff).

There are 30 climbs here, most of which are on Coastguard Cliff.

Rock: Mica-Schist and Amphibolite.

Access: Coastguard Cliff lies on the edge of a coastal strip of Open Access land. The remainder are not Open Access land. From Lizard, RoWs gain the Open Access land (and the South West Coast Path). Scrambling descents lead to the foreshore and cliff-bases.

Car Parking: Car-Parks in Lizard and at Lizard Lighthouse.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI, NNR, SAC.

Potential: Moderate.

Value Assessment: Coastguard Cliff is an amenable and accessible cliff.

Pen Olver to Bass Point

OS Ref: 708119-717122

Dimensions: A km of coast dominated by the two series of headland crags of Pen Olver (711118-713117) and Bass Point (715118-717122).

Height: 10m-40m (Bass Point).

There are 87 climbs concentrated on the main cliffs of Pen Olver and Bass Point; otherwise dispersed on 5 other cliffs.

Rock: Amphibolite.

Access: Not Open Access land. Approach via the South West Coast Path (reached by RoWs from Lizard), that runs along the cliff-tops; and then scrambling descents lead to the foreshore and cliff-bases.

Car Parking: Car-parks in Lizard and at Lizard Lighthouse.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI, SAC.

Potential: Moderate.

Value Assessment: Given the fine quality of its climbs, Bass Point, in particular, is a stop-off point for many visiting climbers.

Carn Barrow

OS Ref: 720139

Dimensions: There are 3 climbs on a 20m-high cliff.

Access: From Cadgwith, a RoW leads to the South West Coast Path. A scramble and abseil from the coast path gains the cliff-base.

Car Parking: Car-parks in Cadgwith.

Restrictions: None specific. SAC.

Potential: Unknown.

Value Assessment: Only very recently 'discovered' by climbers, the cliff does not feature in any guidebook.

Black Head (and The Grove), Nr Coverack

OS Ref: 779162 (792193)

Dimensions: A 100m-long cliff at the tip of Black Head, and a small coastal outcrop well above the sea at The Grove north of Coverack

Height: 45m (and 8m)

There are 16 climbs at Black Head, 3 at The Grove.

Rock: Black Head: Peridotite

Access: Black Head lies on the edge of a coastal strip of Open Access land. From Coverack and Trewillis, RoWs gain the Open Access land (and the South West Coast Path). A scramble descent gains the cliff-base. For The Grove (not Open Access land), the South West Coast Path leads from Coverack to short walk inland (no RoW indicated).

Car Parking: Car-park at Coverack; (and possible road-side at Coverack and Trewillis for Black Head)

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI, SAC.

Potential: Limited

Value Assessment: Black Head is an unusual outlying crag which is not visited frequently. The Grove is a very recent climbing 'find' and does not feature in any guidebook.

South East Cornwall

Preamble

Though, on the face of it, this extensive coastline has many cliffs, the generally friable rock (mainly Devonian schist, shale, slate, mudstone) does not lend itself to climbing, especially that of a technical nature. The interest in this coast from a climbing point of view is therefore minimal, with most climbers unaware that there are any climbs here at all. Like other coasts of an 'alternative geology', its sparsely climbed cliffs will serve to satisfy a small minority's fascination with climbing exploration.

Nare Head

OS Ref: 923373-925380

Dimensions: Three cliffs in a km eastwards from Nare Head: the extensive Rosen Cliff, the 'Dark Entries Zawn', and the 'Moonshadow Cliff'.

Height: 25m-45m (The Rosen Cliff: 90m.)

There are 5 climbs, and some scrambles on Nare Head

Rock: Schist/shale

Access: Not Open Access land. From Kiberick Cove, a RoW leads to the South West Coast Path. Scrambles/abseils lead to the cliff-bases.

Car Parking: Car-park above Kiberick Cove

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI, SAC.

Dodman Point

OS Ref: 000393-005393

Dimensions: Several hundred metres of cliff around the headland on two levels (the higher well above the sea)

Height: 45m.

There are 12 routes

Rock: Schist

Access: Not Open Access land; National Trust-owned. From Penare, a RoW leads to the South West Coast Path on the cliff-top. A scrambling descent gains the cliff-bases.

Car Parking: Car-park in Penare.

Restrictions: None specific. Part of the Fal & Helford SAC.

Gamas Point and Black Head, Nr St Austell

OS Ref: 023473-026473 and 038479-041479

Dimensions: Currently there are only two very confined areas of interest amongst larger cliffs

There is a route apiece; but Gamas Point does not feature in any guidebook.

Height: 40m

Rock: Schist/shale

Access: Not Open Access land. For Black Head, a RoW from Trenarren leads to the South West Coast Path, or the South West Coast Path is followed from Pentewan. For Gamas Point, the approach is along the foreshore from Pentewan beach.

Car Parking: Road-side/car-park in Trenarren/Pentewan respectively.

Restrictions: None specific

Blackbottle Rocks, Lantic Bay, Pencarrow Head, Nr Fowey

OS Ref: 130504-152503

Dimensions: Intermittent small cliffs between Polruan and Pencarrow Head host some scrambling and bouldering, and one site contains 8 recently established climbs (Lantic Bay: 147508); Pencarrow Head has 6 climbs and some deep-water soloing.

Height: 25m

Rock: Devonian slate

Access: Only Pencarrow Head (including land above the Lantic Bay crag) is Open Access land. A RoW from the car-park leads to the Open Access land; then scrambles down the cliff-side gain the climbs. Craggs to the west of Lantic Bay are approached via the foreshore or by scrambling from the South West Coast Path on the cliff-top.

Car Parking: Car-park at Pencarrow Head.

Restrictions: None Specific. Gribbin Head – Polperro Heritage Coast. SSSI, SAC.

Polperro area: Polruan to Talland Bay

There is very limited climbing on the next three sites due to unsuitable rock. Only scrambles dating back to 1920 have been recorded. The cliffs lie in the Gribbin Head – Polperro Heritage Coast, form parts of SSSIs, and the Chapel Cliff lies in a SAC.

Not Open Access land; though National Trust-owned. Access is via the South West Coast Path, and the approaches along the foreshore.

Chapel Cliff, Nr Polperro

OS Ref: 200503-210507

Smugglers' Cove

OS Ref: 216508

Talland Bay west headland

OS Ref: 222510

Downderry

OS Ref: 327539-332538

Dimensions: One hundred metres of low cliffs above a beach, and a stack (Long Rock)

Height: 4m

There are > 20 boulder-problems, and 8 routes on Long Rock or its mainland cliff

Rock: Slate

Access: Not Open Access land. A RoW from the B3247 leads to the foreshore and beach.

Car Parking: Road-side (B3247)

Restrictions: None specific

Value Assessment: The cliffs are locally highly rated for bouldering; South East Cornwall's most frequented coastal climbing site.

Rame Head

OS Ref: 417487

Dimensions: A loose cliff on the west side of the headland.

Height: 45m.

There are reportedly 6 routes; they are unrecorded, and it is likely they have never been re-climbed.

Rock: Shale.

Access: Not Open Access land. The cliff-top is served by the South West Coast Path.

Car Parking: Car-parks adjacent Rame.

Restrictions: Rame Head Heritage Coast; part of the headland is an SAC.

Sea-Cliff Climbing Sites in Plymouth

The Hoe, Plymouth

OS Ref: 478538-481537

Dimensions: One hundred metres of low sea-cliffs, under Madeira Road, Plymouth.

Height: 6m.

<20 boulder-problems and named routes, including traverses.

Rock: Limestone.

Access: From public highways and RoWs.

Car Parking: Road-side in Hoe Road.

Restrictions: None specific. South Devon Heritage Coast.

Potential: Very limited.

Value Assessment: Low sea-cliffs augment a local urban training area.

Sea-Cliff Climbing Sites in Devon – South

- **Miscellaneous**
- **Berry Head area**
- **Torquay Sea Cliffs and Coastal Quarries**

Bigbury Bay

OS Ref: 662442

Dimensions: A10m pinnacle set in the foreshore, with 2 climbs.
Rock: mixed Devonian, slates, sandstones, mudstones.

Access: Not Open Access land. The approach is via the South West Coast Path and the foreshore.

Car Parking: Car-park at Bantham.

Restrictions: None specific. South Devon Heritage Coast.

Potential: Very limited.

Value Assessment: The pinnacle is an out-of-the-way rock-climbing curiosity.

Outer Hope to Salcombe South Sands

OS Ref: 729367-730376

Dimensions: A 10km coast with 5 minor climbing locations: Thurlstone Rock (674414); Hope Cove slab (674406); Bolt Tail (667397); Steeple Cove (705367); and Sharp Tor (729367).

Height: 25m-40m (Hope Cove slab).

There are 13 routes on the cliffs in total.

Rock: mixed Devonian, slates, sandstones, mudstones.

Access: Thurlstone Rock and Hope Cove are not Open Access land. The remainder lie on the edge of coastal strips of Open Access land. Sharp Tor is a coastal outcrop lying within the Open Access land. Apart from Sharp Tor, all sea-cliffs/stacks are reached via the South West Coast Path/Open Access land and along the foreshore. RoWs link car-parking areas with Open Access land/South West Coast Path, as applicable.

Car Parking: For Thurlstone Rock to Bolt Tail: car-parks (and road-side) in Outer Hope. For Steeple Cove: car-park in Lower Soar. For Sharp Tor: car-parks in South Sands/Sharpitor.

Restrictions: None specific. South Devon Heritage Coast. The coastal strip from Bolt Tail eastwards is an SSSI.

Potential: High for exploration, but limited by rock quality.

Value Assessment: The cliffs offer rather eccentric climbing far removed from any main site.

Gammon Head to Prawle Point, Nr East Prawle

OS Ref: 766355-773351

Dimensions: A km coast embracing a cliff on each headland and one in the intervening Elender Cove (767357).

Height: 20m.

There are 20 climbs, 13 of which are on Prawle Point.

Rock: mixed Devonian, slates, sandstones, mudstones.

Access: The cliffs lie on the edge of a coastal strip of Open Access land, which extends to the public highway on Prawle Point. Walk/scramble descents gain the cliff-bases.

Car Parking: Car-park at Prawle Point.

Restrictions: None specific. South Devon Heritage Coast. SSSI, SAC.

Potential: Moderate.

Value Assessment: Prawle Point is an interesting headland, but the coast is a climbing backwater.

Pilchard Cove, Strete

OS Ref: 843465-844466

Dimensions: A 50m slab.

Height: 35m.

There is 1 climb.

Rock: mixed Devonian, slates, sandstones, mudstones.

Access: Not Open Access land. The approach is via Slapton Sands beach and foreshore; there is no direct RoW from Strete.

Car Parking: Car-park near northern end of Slapton Sands.

Restrictions: None specific. South Devon Heritage Coast.

Potential: Moderate, but limited by rock quality.

Value Assessment: A one-route cliff, possibly permanently so.

Sharkham Point, Nr Brixham

OS Ref: 937546

Dimensions: A small sea cliff and several foreshore pinnacles.

Height: 30m.

There are 2 climbs and some scrambles.

Rock: mixed Devonian, slates, sandstones, mudstones.

Access: Not Open Access land. The approach is via the South West Coast Path that runs along the cliff top to the Point.

Car Parking: Car-park on the headland.

Restrictions: None specific. South Devon Heritage Coast. Part of Berry Head to Sharkham Point SSSI and a LNR

Potential: Limited due to rock quality

Value Assessment: The headland is of very minor climbing interest

Berry Head area, Brixham

OS Ref: 934555-933567

Introduction and Value Assessment: Limestone sea-cliffs and sea-cliff quarries line the coast of the south and north sides of the Berry Head peninsula almost continuously for 3km. Rising up to 80m at one of Britain's most renowned sea-cliffs, The Old Redoubt, they present some very well-developed sites, and a home for the country's original and most famous coasteering routes. More recently they have established themselves favourably on the deep-water soloing circuit, especially the Rainbow Bridge walls. Although there is scope for new climbing discoveries on the Old Redoubt, potential overall is limited.

Access: Not Open Access land. The approaches use the South West Coast Path that runs close to most cliff-tops; and then walk-/scramble-downs over open hill-side and/or abseils gain the cliff-bases. For the most part there is no foreshore: the cliffs mostly fall directly into the sea.

Car Parking: All sites are served by a spacious car park at Berry Head Country Park; though – for Durl Head westwards – road-side parking in Brixham is convenient.

Restrictions: The area comprises the Berry Head National Nature Reserve (and the South Hams SAC), and a few of its cliffs, notably The Old Redoubt, are important sites for nesting sea-birds. On the affected cliffs, therefore, climbing is prohibited March 15-July 31 (unless signage – on the less important nesting sites - indicates otherwise). All crags fall within the Berry Head to Sharkham Point SSSI. There is some vulnerable plant-life; climbers are advised to operate with care.

The following are Berry Head's main sites, each, on the whole, comprising multiple, named cliffs.

St Mary's Bay to Durl Head, Berry Head area

OS Ref: 934555-940557

All 43 cliff-top bound climbs are situated on the tip of Durl Head or on Durl Rock. A traverse connects Durl Head with St Mary's Bay. The cliffs are 20m-30m high.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI, NNR, SAC.

Cradle Rock Buttress, Berry Head area

OS Ref: 940557-943560

There are 15 climbs on the main sea cliff and higher-level cliff (939558-940559); and two traverses encompass the whole 0.5km cliff-line. The cliffs rise to 40m.

Restrictions: None specific on Cradle Rock Buttress; bird-nesting restriction for the northern traverse. SSSI, NNR, SAC.

The Old Redoubt, Berry Head area

OS Ref: 943660-943563

There are 60 climbs on the southern half (Great Cave and Bismark Wall), which rises to 80m, and 20 climbs on the northern half (Rainbow Bridge area), which is 25m high. Two traverses take in the whole cliff between them. There are a handful of climbs on the small island of Cod Rock which is reached by boat.

Restrictions: Bird-nesting restriction. SSSI, NNR, SAC.

Coastguard Cliffs, Berry Head area

OS Ref: 943563-947566

There are over 100 climbs on a variety of mostly un-quarried sea-cliffs, including four traverses, in 0.5km. Some cliffs are situated above quarried platforms set back from the sea.

Restrictions: Three cliffs are subject to the bird-nesting restriction. SSSI, NNR, SAC.

Berry Head North Coast Sea Cliffs and Quarry, Berry Head area

OS Ref: 947566-933567

There are 30 climbs, including two traverses, on regular low sea-cliffs, mostly between 947566-945567; and 26 climbs on Berry Head Quarry that is 500m long, 45m high, and situated well back from the sea. A quarry at 937567 (Ash Hole) containing 10 climbs is set back from the coast, and scarcely qualifies as a coastal cliff.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI, NNR, SAC.

Freshwater Quarry, Brixham

OS Ref: 923567

Dimensions: A 40m-high limestone quarry abutting the coast with 2 climbs and high potential.

Restrictions: Climbing is prohibited (part of the quarry floor is used as a public car-park and by businesses).

Churston, between Brixham and Broadsands

OS Ref: 919571-909572

Dimensions: A km coast pitted with quarries well above the sea and lined with intermittent low sea cliffs.

Height: 20m.

There are 36 climbs, mostly in the quarries.

Rock: Limestone.

Access: Not Open Access land. From Brixham, the approach is via the South West Coast Path that runs along the top of the quarries; and then faint paths (RoW not indicated) in wooded slopes lead down to and between the quarries.

Car Parking: Car-park/road-side parking at Churston Cove.

Restrictions: None specific.

Potential: Moderate.

Value Assessment: The cliffs are not often visited compared to most of Torbay's main sites, and occasionally they get overgrown.

Torquay Sea Cliffs and Coastal Quarries

Preamble

This is a major traditional British sea-cliff climbing area comprising a range of highly developed limestone sea-cliffs and coastal quarries along the coast east of Torquay. Its popularity is drawn from an amenable climate and easy access to complements of high-quality sport and adventure climbs, many of the latter dating back to the 1960's. Formerly, there were difficulties in how climbing was perceived by Torquay Borough Council; byelaws were passed in the 1970's controlling access to some cliffs where it was considered members of the public were at risk. For many years now, climbing has been allowed to proceed without regulation. The Torquay climbing sites are usually grouped into two main areas: Daddyhole, and Long Quarry Point (Hope's Nose, Black Head and Petit Tor Point are minor outlying sites). None of the climbing sites is on Open Access land.

Daddyhole area, Torquay Saddle Point to Meadfoot Quarry

OS Ref: 920631-928628

Dimensions: Sea cliffs and quarries in equal measure along 1km of coast between Torquay harbour and Triangle Point. The main cliffs are: Saddle Point (922628), 20m high and containing 4 climbs; London Bridge (923627), 20m high and containing 20 climbs; Telegraph Hole or 'Parson's Hole', 30m high and containing 30 climbs; Daddyhole cliffs (926627), 45m high on the Main Cliff and containing 55 climbs; and Meadfoot Quarry (928628), 30m high and containing 20 climbs. In addition there are 5 sea-level traverses that cumulatively run along this entire stretch. The quarries are set well back from the sea.

Rock: Limestone.

Access: Via the South West Coast Path from Daddyhole Plain that skirts the cliff-tops; and then paths and scrambles lead to the cliff-bases.

Car Parking: All cliffs are served by the large car-park on Daddyhole Plain.

Restrictions: None specific. However the western-most traverse passes the privately owned beach of Peaked Tor Cove, though the route is not done so frequently as to generate problems. SSSI.

Potential: Very limited at the more popular cliffs.

Value Assessment: see Torquay 'preamble'.

Hope's Nose to Black Head area, Torquay

OS Ref: 947634-944644

Dimensions: Hope's Nose is a small 10m-high crag. Black Head is a discrete 100m-long sea cliff between the two substantive climbing areas.

Height: Black Head: 20m.

There are 9 climbs on Hope's Nose crag and 20 on Black Head. The latter is passed on a coasteering-style traverse that links Anstey's Cove with Hope's Nose.

Rock: Limestone.

Access: Via the South West Coast Path; and then a scramble down wooded hillside and 'fisherman's tracks' lead to the cliff-bases.

Car Parking: Car-parks and road-side parking in Torquay.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI.

Potential: Limited at the cliff; moderate along the coast.

Value Assessment: These two cliffs provide a modest and quiet alternative site.

Long Quarry Point area, Torquay

Babbacombe Crags to Anstey's Cove

OS Ref: 933655-935650

Dimensions: From Anstey's Cove to Babbacombe Beach, sea cliffs and coastal quarries run continuously for 0.5km either side of Long Quarry Point. The main sites are: Anstey's Cove (935650), which contains 100 climbs on well-above-sea-level quarried cliffs generally 15-25m high; Sanctuary Wall (9376510, a 100m long and 30m high sea cliff containing 25 climbs; Long Quarry Point (937651), which contains over 80 climbs on the 200m long and 80m high quarried walls well back from the sea and low sea cliffs; and Babbacombe Crags (933654), which contains 30 climbs on various sea cliffs and above-sea-level crags that rise to 50m. In addition there are 2 sea-level traverses.

Rock: Limestone.

Access: Via the South West Coast Path, that runs along the cliff tops, and then: a RoW to Anstey's Cove and 'fishermen's paths' to Long Quarry Point and Babbacombe Crags.

Car Parking: Car-Parks and road-side in Babbacombe Road near to Long Quarry Point.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI.

Potential: Very limited on the more popular crags; moderate elsewhere.

Value Assessment: See Torquay 'preamble'.

Petit Tor Point, Torquay

OS Ref: 927663

Dimensions: A 50m-long sea cliff.

Height: 40m.

There are 2 climbs.

Rock: Limestone.

Access: From Babbacombe, a RoW leads to Oddicombe Beach.

Car Parking: Car-parks in Babbacombe.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI.

Potential: Moderate.

Value Assessment: A little-known and rarely visited site, dislocated from the main areas.

The Parson and The Clerk, Teignemouth

OS Ref: 961747

Dimensions: Two sandstone stacks with a route apiece. 40m and 20m high respectively.

Access: Very problematic. For The Parson: there is no RoW direct from the A379 to the cliff. In the past accessing the cliff has required walking along a main railway line to reach an abseil point to the foreshore and cliff-base (with egress across land with no RoW). It *may* be possible to approach along the foreshore from the south, via the South West Coast Path where it swings inland. Access to The Clerk is by boat.

Car Parking: Road-side in Holcombe.

Restrictions: Access apart, none specific.

Value Assessment: The Parson is an infamous sea-stack climb attracting very few suitors.

Sea-Cliff Climbing Sites of Devon - East

- **Miscellaneous**

Marine Drive (Orcombe), Exmouth to Sandy Bay

OS Ref: 019798- 040795

Dimensions: Two sites in 2km, with intervening low cliffs and boulders.

Height: 3m-15m.

There is extensive bouldering at Marine Drive and a handful of climbs at Sandy Bay.

Rock: Sandstone.

Access: Not Open Access land, though National Trust-owned in the former case.

Approach via the public highway/South West Coast Path, and gain respective beaches and foreshores. A RoW runs through the Sandy Bay holiday park to the coast path.

Car Parking: Car-park and road-side in Marine Drive and Sandy Bay respectively.

Restrictions: None specific. Exe Estuary SSSI and LNR in relation to western section.

It is understood that the Sandy Bay cliffs host sea-bird colonies (Kittywakes); no restrictions are in place because the site is very rarely climbed on. Here also there are rifle ranges indicated on the cliff-top above the climbs (no RoW).

Potential: Moderate at Sandy Bay but limited by rock quality.

Value Assessment: The cliffs are of local interest only.

Ladram Bay, Otterton

OS Ref: 098852-106863

Dimensions: Over a km of sea cliffs with foreshore stacks.

Height: <200m for the sea cliffs; <40m for the stacks.

There are 10 climbs, all but one of these take the stacks.

Rock: Sandstone.

Access: Not Open Access land. Approach via the foreshore from beaches reached by RoW (an abseil approach from the South West Coast Path prolongs the period of access).

Car Parking: Car-park at Ladram Bay.

Restrictions: None specific. East Devon Heritage Coast. SSSI with fine geological formations: good climbing practice implied (ice-climbing techniques are inappropriate on the stacks).

Potential: High, but limited by rock quality.

Value Assessment: For climbers, this is an intriguing coast with compelling sea-stack summits – masked by an unreliable rock medium.

Beer Head, Beer

OS Ref: 210881-229888

Dimensions: Three km of high mudstone and silty limestone cliffs with a sea-level coastering-style traverse and one climb up its tallest part (120m).

Access: Not Open Access land, though the western part is National Trust-owned land. The approach is along the foreshore from Branscombe or Beer.

Car Parking: Car-Parks in both villages.

Restrictions: None specific. East Devon Heritage Coast. SSSI and SAC, the cliffs form part of an environmentally sensitive area. Climbers are advised to avoid the bird-nesting season; good climbing conduct implied.

Potential: High for ice-climbing style ascents, but therein limited.

Value Assessment: A sideline climbing style and a weak rock medium means the cliffs hold minimal general appeal and are likely to be visited only very rarely.

Sea-Cliff Climbing Sites in Dorset

- **Isle of Portland**
- **Lulworth area**
- **Swanage area: South**
- **Swanage area: North**

Isle of Portland

OS Ref: 685729-704722

Introduction

The Isle of Portland is rimmed by 10km of near-continuous Jurassic limestone cliffs on its west and south-east coasts. On its west side, 4km of cliff of interest to the climber runs more-or-less unbroken from OS Ref: 681720 north of Weston (where it occupies the 50-80m contour, well above the sea) before dipping slowly down to sea level in Wallsend Cove and onto Portland Bill at the southern tip of the Isle. A line of low sea cliffs continue round the south east coast for 2.5km, become intermittent for the next kilometre, and then fizzle out into boulders before (north of Church Ope) becoming overhung by a line of quarried bluffs occupying, approx, the 60-90m contour, well above the sea for the final kilometre to (approx) OS Ref: 702717.

There are 1000 climbs (including main boulder problems) on Portland, all relatively recently established compared to most British crags. The Isle has grown quickly into one of Britain's premier sport-climbing sites, now having an unparalleled range of amenable and easy-to-reach bolt-protected climbs in a fine setting. It is also one of Britain's best places for deep-water soloing, which has a tiny-minority following. Increasing popularity has brought with it a few very-low-profile concerns and tensions especially in relation to the importance environmentally of the Isle and the wishes of its residents and other land users. At Portland, the record of climbers taking precautionary and responsive action to deal with these, in collaboration with the authorities, is however a very good one.

The cliff-line encompasses a large number of more-or-less arbitrarily sectionalised and named cliffs, normally 20-30m high, which have been intensively developed except where climbing is not permitted. Given their situation on an island of singular geographical and geological character, they share many characteristics and constraints. These are summarised here, and expounded further as necessary against individual cliff summaries.

Access: The Portland Coast Path runs along the top of virtually the whole cliff-line, being deflected inland only in two instances: around the MoD property immediately north-west of Portland Bill, and by a quarried area at Freshwater Bay on the east coast. A narrow strip of Open Access land on the west coast cliff-top, and corresponding with the path, is identified from latitude 709 southwards to Portland Bill where it embraces an open grassy area stretching across the southern tip of the island but only as far northwards on the east coast to latitude 687. On the east coast Open Access land recommences at latitude 702 and encapsulates the coastal hill-side from cliff-top to sea-shore up to and beyond the northern limit of permitted climbing. Various RoWs leave Portland's main roads to intersect the coast path at convenient locations. Except where abseiling is the only option (generally only a small proportion of sea-washed crags in the south), access from the coast path to the cliff-bases is by short walk-/scramble-down coastal hillside at guidebook-identified points, and then, where applicable, by walking along the foreshore.

Car Parking: Car-parks at Portland Bill (serving cliffs between Wallsend North on the west coast to Cave Hole on the east coast), Cheyne Wears (serving Cave Hole-The Lost Valley on the east coast), and Church Ope (serving The Cuttings area on the east coast). For the west coast cliffs north of Wallsend Cove, road-side parking is plentiful (but subject to advice to avoid competing with residents in Weston and Southwell). Plentiful road-side parking is available in south Easton, for The Cuttings area.

Restrictions and Management Arrangements

Portland's coast is part of the Isle of Portland to Studland Cliffs SAC and makes up the Isle of Portland SSSI. It hosts vulnerable and unique plant-life and is a site for nesting sea birds and birds of prey. Its geological formations are renowned. The centre of the island is highly populated, and some residential areas lie within a few hundred metres of the cliff-tops. In summer the population is swelled by visitors, though on a day-trip basis - given the absence of holiday accommodation on the island. The MoD occupies a 0.4 x 0.2km area of land abutting the cliff-top (south of Coastguard South). Restrictions, agreements, and codes of conduct established between climbers and land-owners, conservation bodies and local authorities (via a liaison group) respond to the aforementioned factors. Specifically the responses are:

- Bird-nesting restrictions: there are 3 sanctuary zones where climbing is not permitted at any time and Peregrine nesting-site determined. Variable Restrictions (VR) (normally on sections of Wallsend South and Cheyne Cliff that exclude climbers 1 Feb – 31 July/1 Sept respectively).
- Advice not to disturb cliff-top flora and to avoid altogether some cliffs for this reason and to use publicised means and points of access.
- Advice as to acceptable places to park (the provision of dedicated climbers' parking is under consideration by the District Council).
- Prohibition of wild camping.
- Keeping under review any user-induced erosion and the practicality of its management.

Potential: Limited. New climbs are still being established but they are mainly of an infill nature.

Isle of Portland Cliff summaries

WEST COAST

West Weare and West Cliff

OS Ref: 685729-682722

Sanctuary Zone: No climbing.

Blacknor: Far North, North, Central, South, and Far South (and Fallen Slab area)

OS Ref: 681720-680709

The cliff-line is 40m-50m above sea level; The Fallen Slab area comprises various boulders and collapsed sections now at sea level. A path, occasionally obstructed by landslips under Blacknor Central, runs under the cliff with walk-down access to it (from the coast path) from either end and a separate scrambling-in point part-way along South.

Access Issues: Parking limitations.

Battleship: Edge, Back Cliff, and Block

OS Ref: 680708-679705

The cliff-line is 40m above sea level; Battleship Block is an immediately adjacent slipped piece of the main cliff. A path runs southwards under the cliff from the main walk-down access point from the coast path. This is the Isle's most popular area.

Access Issues: Parking limitations, erosion management.

Wallsend Cove: North, Central, South

OS Ref: 679702-677694

As it increases in height, and dips southwards, the cliff-line drops to sea-level half way along this stretch. The approach is via scrambles at either end from the coast path and the foreshore is traversed to reach the climbs.

Access Issues: VR

Coastguard: North, South

OS Ref: 677694-675688

Continuous sea cliffs are approached by a scramble-down descent (as for Wallsend Cove southern entry), from Open Access land. The foreshore is traversed to reach the climbs.

Access Issues: Bird-nesting restriction at extreme southern end. Sanctuary Zone (no access) runs 67536885-67506865 (under MoD property). Road-side parking oversubscribed peak time, but car-park available.

White Hole Area

OS Ref: 675686-675684

Much of the cliff is sea-washed at all times. From Open Access land to the south, the approach is by scrambling along the cliff-top outside the MoD fence-line; then by abseil. Used also as a deep-water soloing location. Pulpit Rock at Portland Bill is of very minor climbing significance.

Access Issues: A Sanctuary Zone lies to the north. The approach to White Hole is difficult, and climbers can be mistaken for (less welcome) 'cliff-jumpers', including by the MoD (who erected a subsidiary fence to keep 'jumpers' out).

EAST COAST

Lighthouse Area Cliffs, Cave Hole Area, and Beeston Cliffs

OS Ref: 679685-690697

Low, fairly continuous sea cliffs, often with tidal wave-cut platform giving access between routes. The cliff-bases are approached by scrambling/abseil approaches from coast path (Open Access land as far north as latitude 687). These are the Isle's main deep-water soloing cliffs.

Access Issues: A local problem did arise on Sector Pom Pom during the summer holiday period as this cliff lies below privately controlled beach huts. Though a historic problem, climbers are advised to visit outside summer.

Cheyne Wears Area: Neddyfields Main Cliff and Wall, Godnore Far North, Godnore Main Cliff, Cheyne Cliff, Dungecroft Quarry, and The Lost Valley

OS Ref: 690697-695707

Three near-sea-level cliffs, interrupted by boulder slopes, and three low quarried crags set well above the sea. All are accessed from the B3154/coast path: direct for Neddyfields Wall; with short scrambles down for the Godnore and Cheyne cliffs; and across Open Access land to Dungecroft and The Lost Valley.

Access Issues: VR on Cheyne Cliff. There is vulnerable plant-life at some cliff-tops: physical arrangements mean that these areas are avoided by the climbs or, specifically in relation to Pipe Cliff (Neddyfields), climbing has been discontinued.

The Cuttings Area: The New Cuttings and The Cuttings

OS Ref: 698713-702717

Two quarried cliffs (old railway cuttings) set at the top of the coastal slope and 250m from the sea's edge. The area between the cliff-top (route of coast path) and coastal edge is Open Access land (and contains boulder-problems). A path runs along the old railway line under the cliff. Three RoWs lead from Easton/Church Ope car-park to the Open Access land.

Access Issues: None specific.

The Lulworth area

OS Ref: 805802-830796

Introduction: There are 4 groups of limestone cliffs used for climbing along the 2.5km coast between Durdle Door and the western limit of the West Lulworth MoD range. With the exception of the Dungy Head coastal hillside outcrops, they are sea-cliffs. Between them they host 300 climbs, most of which are bolt-protected or deep-water solos. Owing to their geology, many of the climbs have a unique character and an outstanding quality, especially at Durdle Door and Stair Hole. The climbs' high technical difficulty limits excessive popularity. This area forms part of the Purbeck Heritage Coast, the Isle of Portland to Studland Cliffs SAC and the South Dorset Coast SSSI; it is also internationally renowned for its exceptional geology and physical geography. During summer it becomes flooded with visitors and holiday-makers.

Access and Restrictions:

Main Cliffs: Climbing was formerly prohibited by the owners, and notices to that effect are still in place, post-CroWAct 2000. However the crags now lie on the edge of, or within, Open Access land which runs along the coast from Ringstead Bay (well to the west of the climbing area) to the MoD range in the east. Climbing developed here only extremely cautiously reflecting difficulties with access and the area's conservation and sightseeing status. In recent years it is not known to have given rise to any conflict or incident.

Lulworth Firing Ranges: The MoD prohibits climbing on the cliffs within its ranges i.e.: OS Ref: 830796-843797 (most of the coast between Lulworth Cove and Mupe Bay), and 868795-894791 (Wowbarrow Tout – Gad Cliff). Prior to clarification of this ban, climbs were established in both areas. The traverses in the western section are potentially of classic status, but pass under The Fossil Forest – an important geological site. Additionally, bird-nesting restrictions would apply on Gad Cliff (no climbs here). Whereas climbing is banned, access is permitted to walkers but only on prescribed routes (including the affected section of the South West Coast Path) and at prescribed times.

Car Parking: Large car-park at Lulworth Cove, bordering Open Access land.

Potential: The main limestone cliffs are well developed, but high theoretical potential for discovery exists on MoD-limited sections. The chalk cliffs here are considered unsuitable by most climbers and, given possible public safety implications, are unclimbed.

Lulworth Area Cliff Summaries

Butter Rock, Batt's Head

OS Ref: 796803

The only recorded chalk climb in this area, but on an 8m foreshore stack.

Durdle Door

OS Ref: 805802-807802

Most climbs are on the seaward side of the western end of the famous limestone arch.

Dungy Head: Dungy Head outcrops and Church Rock

OS Ref: 816799-819798

A 15m-high tier 40m above sea level, and a boulder (Church Rock) at sea level.

Stair Hole Bastion to Arthur's Mount

OS Ref: 822798-825797

Most climbs are based on the 20m-high seaward faces of the Stair Hole arches, and they represent one of Britain's pre-eminent deep-water soloing cliffs.

Lulworth East: The Amphitheatre Roofs

OS Ref: 827797-830796

The climbs are dispersed along 300m of 20m-high cliff, as far as the MoD perimeter.

Swanage area: South

OS Ref: 958758-031769

Introduction: The 8km coast between St Aldhems Head and Tilly Whim Caves represents one of Britain's most important traditional sea-cliff climbing areas. Limestone sea cliffs run near-continuously between the two points, punctuated by occasional coastal quarries, both cliff-types proving suitable for climbing. With 1050 climbs, and a choice of high-quality adventure and (now) sport climbs, the cliffs are extremely popular, particularly those best and longest developed along the coast's eastern half.

Access: The majority of the cliffs lie on the edge of Open Access land, which extends in a generally 300m-400m wide strip along the coast from Seacombe (981765) to Tilly Whim Caves (thus embracing the great majority of the climbs). The South West Coast Path runs along the entire cliff-top, very close to the cliff edge for the most part. Various more-or-less parallel N-S Rights of Way (14) gain the coast path/Access land at regular intervals along the coast. Most of the quarries can be entered on foot; whereas virtually all other climbs require abseil approaches (and then a traverse along the narrow foreshore, where present, as appropriate and necessary).

Car Parking: Car-parks at: Renscombe Farm/road-side at St Aldhem's Chapel (serving: St Aldhem's Head); Worth Matravers (serving Winspit and Seacombe); Langton Matravers (serving Seacombe- Fisherman's Ledge), together with road-side in Langton Matravers as needed in peak periods; and Durlston Country Park (serving Fisherman's Ledge-Tilly Whim). Additional capacity is provided in association with use of the four camp-sites - all have RoWs leading from them to the coast.

Restrictions: The cliffs form part of the Purbeck Heritage Coast, the Isle of Portland to Studland Cliffs SAC, and an SSSI. They are noted for their bird-life, ecology and geology. Climbing is not permitted at any time between Tilly Whim Caves and Durlston Head at any time, for ecological and ornithological reasons. Permanent bird-nesting restrictions (PR), that disallow climbing 1 March - 31 July, are in operation on 10 sections of the cliff-line (signage at cliff tops). The cliffs form part of the South Dorset Coast SSSI.

Potential: Limited and of an infill nature, on the best-developed cliffs in the eastern half. Moderate-high on the least-well developed un-quarried cliffs in the western half.

Swanage Area North Cliff Summaries

St Aldhem's Head Area: St Aldhem's Head, Buttery Corner, Slippery Ledge OS Ref: 958758-975758

Dimensions: There are about 70 climbs at the three dispersed locations on this relatively neglected 2km coast. The St Aldhem's Head and Buttery Corner cliffs are not sea-washed; the former are set well above sea level (occupying approx 50-100m contours). From the coast path, scrambles or abseils lead to cliff-bases. Height: 40m at St Aldhem's otherwise 15m.

Restrictions: PR for parts of all cliffs. SSSI, SAC.

Winspit: Winspit Quarry and Eastern Sea Walls OS Ref: 976760-981765

Dimensions: This coastal quarry, which contains most of the climbs, is set well apart from the sea and is 200m in extent. Its selection of 40 sport climbs attracts regular visits. A RoW from Worth Matravers leads to the quarry perimeter and the coast path along its top, but there is no RoW within the quarry. To the east low cliffs at sea level link with Seacombe (only the western section holds climbs), and access is by abseil.

Restrictions: PR on part of the Eastern Sea Walls. Winspit Quarry is privately owned, and there are notices stating that climbing is not allowed. However, this prohibition is not actively enforced. As at January 2006 this property was advertised for sale. SSSI, SAC.

Seacombe-Dancing Ledge Area: Seacombe Quarry and Sea-Cliffs, Hedbury Quarry and Sea Cliffs, Smokey Hole, Topmast Quarry (sea cliffs), and Dancing Ledge OS Ref: 981765-998769

Dimensions: Coastal quarries (set back from the sea) overlie sea cliffs on a 1.5km section of the coast. The quarries, generally 10-15m high provide dense developments of sport climbs (100 approx); elsewhere the climbs are more sparse and the cliffs higher (<30m). The cliffs form part of, or underlie, Open Access land. Dancing Ledge is especially popular with climbers.

Restrictions: PR on Hedbury Big Cove, Smokey Hole, and Topmast Quarry. SSSI, SAC.

Guillemot Ledge-Tilly Whim Section: Guillemot Ledge, Cormorant Ledge, Blacker's Hole (and Quarry), Conner Cove, Fisherman's Ledge, The Promenade, Flake Ledge, The Jumble, Cattle Troughs, Amphitheatre Ledge, Boulder Ruckle, Subluminal, Black Zawn, Traverse of the Gods Area, and Tilly Whim West. OS Ref: 998769-031769

Dimensions: These 3km of uninterrupted cliffs form the substantive and most historic section of the Swanage climbing cliffs, with a climb every few metres. Excepting one dry location (Blacker's Hole Quarry), they all rise from the sea, or a wave-cut platform, or a narrow tidal foreshore, and all are overlain by Open Access land. At Blacker's Hole, Fisherman's Ledge, and The Promenade it is possible to walk/scramble/climb in; most other climbs require abseil approaches. The cliffs are 25m-45m high. Supplementing the mainstream traditional climbing, the overhangs of The Promenade have been given over to bolt-protected climbing. Conner's Cove is Britain's most celebrated deep-water soloing venue, and Subluminal is used for group instruction.

Restrictions: PR on parts of: Guillemot Ledge, Cormorant Ledge, Blacker's Hole, Boulder Ruckle, The Traverse of the Gods area and to the whole of Tilly Whim West. An all-year round restriction applies to the cliffs to the east (Sanctuary Zone). SSSI, SAC.

Swanage area: North

Ballard Point to Handfast Point, and Old Harry Rocks

OS Ref: 048812-055825

Dimensions: A 1.5km coasteering traverse links the two headlands; otherwise all the (11) climbs take the chalk stacks of The Pinnacles and Old Harry Rocks.
Height: 35m/25m respectively.

Access: The land above the mainland cliff is Open Access land. From Studland South Beach, the approach is by walking along the foreshore and wading, or by boat.

Car Parking: Large car-parks at Studland.

Restrictions: None specific. Studland Cliffs SSSI, and 'Isle of Portland to Studland Cliffs SAC'.

Potential: Moderate, but limited by perceptions attached to climbing chalk.

Value Assessment: The stacks, which are important landmarks, are not attempted that often.

Sea-Cliff Climbing Sites of Sussex

- **The South Downs Sea Cliffs: Brighton to Beachy Head**
- **Hastings**

The South Downs Sea Cliffs: Brighton to Beachy Head

Introduction

Chalk cliffs line major parts of the coast between Brighton and Beachy Head, where the South Downs meet the English Channel, and are amongst the most striking and sheer in England. In the Brighton area they are underlain by a public thoroughfare, and are unsuitable for climbing, but at Saltdean, and towards the west along an unbroken and sheer 10km stretch terminating in Beachy Head, they present significant existing and future climbing challenges.

Chalk is one of the least strong climbing media, and while the ice-climbing-style routes have lured some devotees, the cliffs as a whole are not of general appeal or popularity. Most of the climbs were established in the last 25 years, though, some truly historic ascents on Beachy Head date back to the 19th Century. Additionally the especially steep areas (at Saltdean) have attracted more sport-oriented climbers in recent years. It cannot be claimed, however, that the climbs are of mainstream appeal.

General Access Restrictions: The western half is designated the Sussex Heritage Coast, is environmentally an important area, and features the well-known landmarks of Seven Sisters and Beachy Head. All the cliffs lie within SSSIs. Occasionally, bird-nesting restrictions apply. There is a requirement to notify the Coastguard before and after climbing, to avoid the mounting of unnecessary rescue operations.

South Downs Sea-Cliff Summaries

Saltdean to Telscombe Cliffs

OS Ref: 385017-410009

Dimensions: A km of sea cliffs with two main areas - the eastern-most is the sport-ice-climbing cave ('The Power Dome').

Height: 50m.

There are around 30 climbs (ice-climbing style).

Rock: Chalk.

Access: Choice of RoW to the foreshore at east end (from leisure centre) and centrally (from Badger's Watch Pub); and then along the foreshore to the climbs. There is Open Access land covering a small part of the cliff-top, and the coast path (RoW) runs along the entire cliff-top.

Car Parking: Car-parks and road-side in Saltdean.

Restrictions: Occasional peregrine bird-nesting restriction. There is an agreement that the Coastguard and Police should be notified of the intention to climb. SSSI; climbers are advised to operate with care and avoid disturbing any cliff flora.

Seaford Head to Seven Sisters

OS Ref: 490980-549965

Dimensions: Six km of chalk cliffs from Seaford to Birling Gap, with two existing climbing sites having only a route apiece: Seaford Head (519973) and the most westerly of the Seven Sisters. The cliff-line is interrupted by the bay of Cuckmere Haven.
Height: 90m.
Rock: Chalk.

Access: Seaford Head is not Open Access land. The Seven Sisters cliffs are Open Access land. The coast path (RoW) runs along the cliff-top throughout (between Cuckmere Haven to Beachy Head, it is The South Downs Way). From car-parking locations, RoWs lead to the coast path and then on to the foreshore.

Car Parking: Car-parks in Seaford, South Hill, Crow Link, Birling Gap and Cuckmere Haven.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI, LNR (Seaford Head).

Beachy Head

OS Ref: 565958-586954

Dimensions: The climbs are concentrated in a 400m stretch around the headland (582952-586952).
Height: 130m.
There are over 10 climbs (traditional style).
Rock: Chalk.

Access: Open Access land overlies the cliffs. Approach the foreshore by scrambling down cliff-line to the east of the climbs (initially a RoW).

Car Parking: Large car-park at Beachy Head.

Restrictions: Peregrine bird-nesting restriction (1 Feb-30 June) may apply. SSSI. Advisory code for climbers includes notification to Coastguard of intention to climb.

Hastings

OS Ref: 837100-852105

Dimensions: One and a half of sea cliffs.

Height: 65m.

There are 10 climbs (ice-climbing style).

Rock: Interbedded sandstone and clay.

Access: Not Open Access land. The approach is via the foreshore from either end. Coast path (Saxon Shore Way) follows the cliff top.

Car Parking: Car-parks in Hastings and Fairlight.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI, SAC.

Potential: Theoretically high, but the substrate is unwelcoming mudstone and clay.

Value Assessment: One of England's most unconventional climbing sites, a function of individuals' eccentric sense of exploration: queues are unlikely.

Sea-Cliff Climbing Sites in Kent

- **The North Downs Sea Cliffs: Dover to Kingsdown**
- **Miscellaneous**

The North Downs Sea Cliffs: Dover to Kingsdown

OS Ref: 340422-380470

Introduction: England's most famous cliffs rise from where the North Downs meet the English Channel. The 'white cliffs of Dover' extend north-eastwards from Dover to Kingsdown, interrupted only by St Margaret's Bay in their 10km length. Chalk is one of the least strong climbing media, but the adoption of ice-climbing techniques has rendered the otherwise un-climbable cliffs a distinctive challenge for mountaineers. Like their South Downs counterparts, they offer very impressive climbs and much potential for the future, subject to a currently very sensitive access situation.

Dimensions: There are 50 climbs, and the cliffs rise to 100m. The cliffs continue west of the harbour, but there is only one climb.

Access: Along the foreshore from Dover/St Margaret's at Cliffe – with the latter the best way for most climbs. The beach east of Dover is not so readily accessible, and relies upon a fixed ladder for the final descent.

Egress: There is no RoW from the exits of the first batch of climbs south of St Margaret's at Cliffe – informal paths joining the RoW are followed. All other climbs exit onto the 'Saxon Shore and White Cliff Country Trail' (contained in a narrow but, in the southern half discontinuous, strip of Open Access land).

General Access Restrictions: The coast is designated the South Foreland Heritage Coast. The cliffs are an iconic natural feature and make up the Dover to Kingsdown Cliffs SSSI and SAC. There are rare plants and the chalk presents an international stratigraphic reference section. The official position of The National Trust, who own most of the cliffs, is that climbing is prohibited. The use of the approach from Dover has sometimes met with official responses. An agreement to notify the Coastguard before and after any climbing, to avoid the mounting of unnecessary rescue operations, stands.

Margate

OS Ref: 347708

This is an obscure and minor 15m-high chalk sea cliff between Birchington and Westgate that provides a few climbs. Access is along the beach.

Sea-Cliff Climbing Sites in the East Riding Of Yorkshire

- **Miscellaneous**

Bempton Cliffs: Flamborough Head to Speeton

OS Ref: 161750-233691

Dimensions: Ten km of cliffs, really only interrupted by the coves of South and North Landing and Flamborough.

Height: 100m.

There are 4 climbs (none feature in guidebooks).

Rock: Chalk.

Access: The approach is via the foreshore and/or boat (much of the cliff-line falls direct into the sea). The coast path (RoW) follows the cliff-top.

Car Parking: Car-parks in Flamborough, North Landing and Speeton.

Restrictions: The Bempton cliffs section is an RSPB reserve, which has the largest concentration of breeding sea-birds on the English mainland. Restrictions are implied. The few climbs here were conceived well outside the bird-nesting season. The cliffs lie within the Flamborough Head SSSI, SAC and Flamborough Head Outer Headland LNR.

Potential: High, but severely limited by rock quality, access, and conservation considerations.

Value Assessment: Not an established climbing area; ascents have been very rare (4 climbs across 30 years), and any future activity would be rarer still.

Filey Brigg, Filey, Nr Scarborough

OS Ref: 130816-125817

Dimensions: Four main climbing sections along several hundred metres of the north side of the headland.

Height: 15m.

There are 63 climbs.

Rock: Limestone and mudstone/sandstone.

Access: Not Open Access land. The approach is via the coast path (The Cleveland Way) from Filey; and then by a fixed ladder descent or a scramble around the headland.

Car Parking: Car-park in Filey.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI.

Potential: Moderate, and with some potential further west (rock-quality limited).

Value Assessment: There are very few sea-cliff climbing sites in NE England; this is the most important.

Sea-Cliff Climbing Sites in County Durham

- **Miscellaneous**

Blackhall Rocks

OS Ref: 473388-471391

Dimensions: A small part of the 0.5km of low sea cliffs is of climbing merit.

Height: 7m.

Numerous unrecorded boulder-problems and a few sport routes.

Rock: Magnesian limestone (and boulder clay).

Access: The cliffs lie on the edge of a narrow coastal strip of Open Access land.

Various RoWs gain the Open Access land. The approach between different sections is along the foreshore.

Car Parking: Road-side on minor public highway at the cliff-top.

Restrictions: None specific. Durham Heritage Coast; Durham Coast SAC and Durham Coast (Spotlight) NNR boundary immediately south.

Potential: Extensive possibilities on the coastline – bouldering only.

Value Assessment: This cliff is a local bouldering site, the value of which is subject to its weak and unstable rock.

Sea-cliff Climbing Sites in South Tyneside

- **Miscellaneous**

The Cove, Marsden

OS Ref: 395659

Dimensions: One hundred metres of low cliffs.

Height: 6m.

There are in the region of 50 boulder-problems.

Rock: Limestone.

Access: Not Open Access land, though National Trust-owned. There are RoWs to and along cliff-top.

Car Parking: Car-park at Marsden Bay; also road-side.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI.

Potential: Moderate – for bouldering.

Value Assessment: A local bouldering site, the best on this stretch of coastline.

Sea-Cliff Climbing Sites in Northumberland

- **Miscellaneous**

Crag Point, Seaton Sluice, Nr Tynemouth

OS Ref: 343763

Dimensions: A small sea cliff.

There are 20 climbs.

Rock: Sandstone.

Access: Not Open Access land. Coast path (RoW) from Hartley.

Car Parking: Car-park in Hartley.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI.

Potential: Limited.

Value Assessment: A neglected and very loose crag maligned by local climbers.

Rumbling Kern

OS Ref: 263173

Dimensions: A small sea cliff.

Height: 7m.

There are >20 boulder-problems/short climbs.

Rock: Sandstone.

Access: Not Open Access land. From Howick, a RoW leads to the coast path; the approach is along the foreshore.

Car Parking: Road-side in Howick; spacious car park at Howdiemont Sands next to coast path.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI.

Potential: Very limited.

Value Assessment: An important and attractive crag, of value especially in winter.

Cullernose Point, Craster

OS Ref: 259186-261188

Dimensions: Two hundred metres long.

Height: 20m.

There are 25 climbs.

Rock: Dolerite.

Access: Not Open Access land. From the Howick to Craster road (or Craster) the coast path (RoW) leads to the cliff-top; then the approach is along the foreshore.

Car Parking: Road-side (as above), or car-park in Craster.

Restrictions: None specific. SSSI. A nesting site for sea-birds; their presence and occasional restrictions prevent climbing April-August.

Potential: Limited.

Value Assessment: A respectable sea-cliff, though nesting birds and a serious reputation depress climbers' interest.

Sea-Cliff Climbing Sites in Cumbria

- **St Bees Head**

St Bees Head, Nr Whitehaven

OS Ref: 941149-950120

Dimensions: This 3km stretch of coast embraces the main sea cliffs and foreshore boulders north of St Bees Head (940141) and the adjacent specific bouldering sites at Fleswick Bay (945133) and South Head (950120). The boulders are sited on wave-cut platforms in front of the cliffs.

Height: 2m-20m.

There are 70 climbs, and approx. 100 boulder-problems.

Rock: Sandstone.

Access: Not Open Access land. The approach is via the coast path (RoW), which runs along the cliff-top, reached by RoWs from Tarnflatt Wall (and Sandwith or St Bees); and then by a choice of scrambles to the cliff-base - subject to restrictions.

Car Parking: Car-park at Tarnflatt Hall (also at St Bees).

Restrictions: Part of the designated St Bees Heritage Coast, the site is an SSSI. Controlled by the RSPB, it is an extremely important site for sea-bird colonies. Restrictions (1 Feb-31 July) applies to most areas including the boulders south of Apiary Wall and to South Head, and to some access routes.

Potential: Moderate – including bouldering.

Value Assessment: In addition to being an alternative to Lakeland crags, this is a very valuable cliff in its own right, and reportedly one of the finest bouldering sites in Britain.

Sea-Cliff Climbing Sites in Lancashire

- **Miscellaneous**

Jack Scout Crag, Nr Silverdale

OS Ref: 458737-459735

Dimensions: Approx. 100m long.

Height: 20m.

There are over 40 climbs.

Rock: Limestone.

Access: Not Open Access land (though adjoining land to the south is). The approach to the cliff is by means of a signed permissive path across National Trust land direct from the car parking location (no RoW).

Car Parking: Limited road-side in minor road.

Restrictions: SSSI. The site is ecologically sensitive as it holds rare flora; an agreed access code specifies measures to be taken to prevent disturbance to it.

Potential: Limited.

Value Assessment: This is Lancashire's only sea cliff, and it is a good alternative to better-known crags.

Sea-cliff climbing sites on England's principal islands

- **Lundy**
- **The Isles of Scilly**
- **Isle of Wight**

Lundy

Introduction

Lundy is possibly England's most special place to climb: a unique and treasured site, culturally and environmentally, and one which hosts an exceptional collection of climbs of great quality on mostly pristine granite. With strict controls over numbers of visitors who may stay on the island at any one time, and bird-nesting restrictions that in effect limit climbing between August-January, climbing remains low-key and commensurate with the island's unspoiled character.

There are approx. 1000 climbs on Lundy spread over more than 100 cliffs or individually distinctive areas. No attempt is made here to categorise them, because –in essence – Lundy is one discrete climbing site. From a climbing perspective, any differences lie in those between its west and east coast. Between North West Point and Great Shutter Rock its west coast (OS Ref: 131482-133433) is laden with sea cliffs (and climbs), including such notable features as the 100m deep blowhole of The Devil's Limekiln, the 30m stack of The Devil's Chimney and the 120m high slab of The Devil's Slide. Contrastingly cliffs (and climbs) on the east coast are much more sporadic and really only extend from the inland pinnacle of The Constable to Halfway Buttress (OS Ref: 133480-138459), between them accounting for a small minority of the climbs on Lundy.

Climbing on Lundy has taken place for more than 100 years. From the 1960's to the 1990's, Lundy has been one of England's key sites for discovery and pioneering. Such 'development' has progressed responsibly and at rate determined by limitations of access. From a new climbs' point of view, Lundy's potential is now quite limited, and its role has diverged into one of provide a late summer's/autumn climbing trip with an unforgettable feel.

Access and Restrictions

Lundy is managed by The Landmark Trust on behalf of The National Trust, and hosts a small working population including a warden. It is England's only Marine Nature Reserve, an SAC, and most of it designated SSSI. It is ecologically, environmentally, and ornithologically a precious and vulnerable site. Access to Lundy is by boat or helicopter from mainland England. The number that can stay on the island, including climbers, is restricted, and overnight stays have to be booked in advance. Within published constraints, the cliff-tops are gained on foot and the climbs variously by walking, scrambling or abseiling.

Lundy has extremely important seabird populations. The majority of the cliffs are subject to bird nesting restrictions, and these can vary year to year. Details of them are published yearly and made available to visitors. Additionally, good practice is expected while climbing in order not to disturb or damage vulnerable plant-life.

The Isles of Scilly

Preamble: Overall the low-lying granite islands have relatively limited capacity for climbing, as they do not match the scale and calibre of mainland granite cliffs. Climbing has been recorded since the nineteen forties, but dedicated climbing visits are uncommon. Perhaps the main potential and worth lies in bouldering on the many low outcrops and sea-cliffs widespread across the Isles.

Restrictions: The Isles are protected by environmental designations: there are many SSSIs, and the whole is covered by the Isles of Scilly Complex SAC and Special Protection Area. They are an important site for sea-bird colonies, as well as migratory birds. Consequently many of the small islands/rocks are closed 15 April-20 August. The Isles also host vulnerable and rare plant-life.

St Mary's

Dimensions: The Isles' two main areas of sea-cliffs are situated on the largest island's south coast: Peninnis Head (OS Ref: 911092) and Giant's Castle (OS Ref: 925100). Between them they hold 25 climbs up to 25m high, with many more short problems.

Access: Via the coast path from Hugh Town.

St Martin's, Bryher, and St Agnes

Low sea-cliffs and outcrops on some of the rockier headlands provide largely undocumented short climbs and boulder-problems. The Horse and Shipman's Head on Bryher are most significant.

Isle of Wight

OS Ref: 303852-302846

Preamble: Climbing interest is focused on the western tip of the island (294849), adjacent to and including The Needles. The landscape, and purity of the features climbed, makes this an extraordinary site, but one which (for reasons associated with the dubious medium of chalk and this not being a mainland site) does not hold mainstream appeal or any significant popularity.

Dimensions: Approx 1km of chalk cliffs rise to 80m. There are 20 climbs between Alum Bay and Freshwater Bay including a (restricted) 6km coasteering-style traverse between the two. Each of The Needles has one or more climbs, Scratchell's Bay has 7, and two stacks in Freshwater Bay (Stag Rock and Bear Rock: approx. 349855) have a route apiece.

Access and Access Agreement: The cliffs are owned by The National Trust and the approach route, together with climbing generally, is controlled. The specified approach is via a locked gate in a safety fence to an abseil entry point into Scratchell's Bay, which gives access to most climbs. Prior notification (and an after-call) is required. A separate abseil approach, not subject to this control gains climbs in the Sun Corner part of the Bay. Some of the land above the cliffs is Open Access land, including a separate parcel above part of Scratchell's Bay. There are RoWs from Alum Bay; and the coast path (The Tennyson Trail) follows the Highdown Cliffs-top. The two outermost Needles are approached by boat. The Freshwater Bay climbs are unrestricted, and access is across the foreshore/by boat.

Car Parking: Car-parks in Alum Bay/Freshwater Bay.

Restrictions: The site forms part of the Tennyson Heritage Coast, is a major national landmark and is an SSSI. Ecologically and ornithologically it is a very sensitive site and access (including the main approach) is rigorously regulated. With the exception of the traverse, an all-year-round nesting-season restriction prohibits climbing on the Highdown Cliffs (east of Sun Corner); part of Sun Corner is restricted 1 March-31 July. Prior notification to the Coastguard is required.

Potential: Limited by restrictions.