

## Extract: The Number Crunch

‘Getting old is like climbing a mountain; you get a little out of breath, but the view is much better.’ (Ingrid Bergman). Indeed it is, as age draws perspective and flickers new light on the past; and curiosity alone has for the first time lured me into adding up, crag by crag, all the new climbs, new boulder problems, and first free ascents I’ve made since I first tied onto a rope in 1970.

Exploring British cliffs took on a life of its own. I wonder what value it all has – but that’s a different debate. It certainly knackered me (and kept me alive).

<b>Crag</b>	<b>New Routes</b> (seconding others’ leads)	<b>New Deep Water Solos</b>	<b>First Deep Water Solo ascents (existing)</b>	<b>New Boulder Problems</b>	<b>First Aid Elims</b>	<b>New Variations</b>
<b>Bristol and North Somerset Area</b>						
<b>Avon Gorge</b>						
Unknown Area	10 (3)					2
Sea Walls	50 (7)			9	1	3
New Quarry	10 (7)					4
Main Wall	26 (1)				3	9
Main Area	26			3		2
Amphitheatre	44 (3)					4
Suspension Bridge Buttress	13					2
Leigh Woods	131 (15)			28		10
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>308 (36)</b>			<b>40</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>A&amp;C Interior Minor Crags</b>						
Frome Valley	15			9		
Trym Valley	34 (1)				1	3
Bourton Combe	9			11		
Brockley Combe	23					5
Goblin Combe	47 (1)			6		4
Portishead Q	16 (3)					
Cadbury Hill	3			11		
Conygar Q	7			1		
North Quarry	2 (1)					
Sandford Quarry	9					
Rock of Ages	2					

Split Rock	11					1
Uphill Quarry	25 (2)					
Wood Lane Quarry	2					
Horrington Hill Quarry	8					
Dinder Wood	25					
Croscombe Valley	23			1		
Puddingstone Cliff	8 (est)			10		
Binegar Quarry	1					
Ashwick Grove	7			3 (est)		
Fairy Cave Quarry	9 (2)					
Leigh Quarry	4					
Mells	4 (1)					1
Holcombe Quarries	10 (1)					
Windsor Hill Quarry	2					
Black Rocks Quarry	23 (4)					3
Town Quarry	2					
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>331 (16)</b>			<b>52</b>		<b>17</b>
<b>Cheddar Gorge</b>						
East of Shoot Gully	85 (12)				1	7
Pinnacle Bay and Castle Rocks	99 (6)			3		4
HBB, Sunset Buttress & Great Rock	84 (7)				3	4

Amph' & High Rock, Wind Rock	41 (3)			8		1
Acid Rock to Boy Racers Wall	58 (3)			18	2	3
Lion Rock, Remnant, Pride Evans, Easter Island	35 (4)			3		3
The Tiers, Danemark, & small outcrops	62 (6)			7	1	4
The Quarry	24 (5)			1		
Roadside Crag	19 (8)			1		
<b>Sub-totals</b>	<b>507 (54)</b>			<b>41</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>North Somerset Coast</b>						
<b>Crag</b>	<b>New Routes (seconding others' leads)</b>	<b>New Deep Water Solos</b>	<b>First Deep Water Solo ascents (existing)</b>	<b>New Boulder Problems</b>	<b>First Aid Elims</b>	<b>New Variations</b>
Brean Down & Axe	172 (10)		10	40		7
Toll Road	62			68		
Sand point	67 (2)	1		36		
Poets' Walk	26 (1)	5	7			
High Cliff	33 (1)					1
Ladye Bay/Backhill Sands	48 (2)			62		
Portishead Coast	23	1		56		
Culver Cliff	27					4
<b>Sub-totals</b>	<b>458 (16)</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>262</b>		<b>12</b>
<b>A&amp;C Totals</b>	<b>1604 (122)</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>395</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>91</b>
<b>Total new A&amp;C routes, deep water solos, boulder-problems, aid eliminations, &amp; variations = 2108. (2108 doesn't include new routes seconded)</b>						
<b>South Devon @ 30.5.2023</b>						
Permian Coast				30		
Babbacombe to Petit Tor Point	1	20				
Black Head to Long Quarry Point	28	13	3	1		2
London Bridge to Hopes Nose	20	35	7	4	1	3
Sharkham Point to Cradle Rock	17	13	2			
Old Redoubt to Coastguard Cliff	12	28	4	1		
Berry Head north		10	5			

Churston	11	5				
Chudleigh	1					
<b>S Devon totals</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>South Devon total new routes, new deep water solos, new boulder-problems, new aid eliminations, &amp; new variations = 242 (242 doesn't include new routes seconded)</b>						
<b>Dartmoor</b>						
Bovey Woods				26		
Tors	12			55*		
<b>Dartmoor totals</b>	<b>16</b>			<b>81</b>		
<b>Dartmoor total new routes and new boulder-problems = 97</b>						
<b>Exmoor Coast</b>						
Minehead to Hurlstone Point	58	3		38*		
Ivystone area	40 (3)	1		23		
Sir Robert's Chair to Foreland Point	42					
Foreland Point	74 (1)			46		1
Lynton to Crock Point	34 (1)	2				2
Martinhoe Sea-cliffs	6					
Heddon's Mouth to Great Hangman	27	2		10		
Little Hangman	82 (3)	2	1			1
<b>Exmoor Coast Totals</b>	<b>363 (8)</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>117</b>		<b>4</b>
<b>Exmoor Coast total new routes, new deep water solos, new boulder-problems, and new variations = 494</b>						
<b>Other Devon and Cornwall</b>						
Baggy Point and Cove Quarry	7					
Culm Coast	39 (1)					
North Atlantic Coast	27 (6)					
West Penwith and Vellan Head	6					
South East Cornwall	5	1				
<b>Other Devon and Cornwall totals</b>	<b>84 (7)</b>	<b>1</b>				
<b>Other Cornwall total new routes and new deep water solos = 85 (85 doesn't include new routes seconded)</b>						
<b>Lundy</b>	<b>1</b>					

<b>Dorset &amp; Isle of Wight</b>						
Swanage	61 (2)	12	1		1	
Portland	62	22	6			
Isle of Wight	17			1		
<b>Dorset &amp; Isle of Wight total</b>	<b>140 (2)</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	
<b>Dorset &amp; Isle of Wight total new routes, new deep water solos, new boulder-problems, and new aid eliminations = 176 (176 doesn't include new routes seconded)</b>						
<b>South West and running total = 3224 ( or 2598, minus the 626 boulder-problems)</b>						
<b>The Channel Islands</b>						
Jersey	3					
Guernsey	97 (1)	5				3
<b>Channel Islands totals</b>	<b>100 (1)</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>			<b>3</b>
<b>The Channel Islands total new routes, new deep water solos, and new variations = 108 (108 doesn't include new route seconded)</b>						
<b>Kent and Sussex Sandstone</b>						
Stone Farm Rocks	3		2 (FSA)			
Under Rockes	2					
<b>Kent and Sussex Sandstone totals</b>	<b>5</b>		<b>2</b>			
<b>Crag</b>	<b>New Routes (seconding others' leads)</b>	<b>New Deep Water Solos</b>	<b>First Deep Water Solo ascents (existing)</b>	<b>New Boulder Problems</b>	<b>First Aid Elims</b>	<b>New Variations</b>
<b>Wye Valley/Glouc area</b>						
Cotswolds	11					
Wintour's Leap	29 (14)					9
Shorn Cliff	8 (1)					
Tintern Quarry	2 (3)					3
Wyndcliff	2					2
Wyndcliff Quarry	6					
Ban-y-Gor	24 (8)					
Bailey's Quarry	2					
Doward crags	13					
Symond's Yat	3			1		
<b>Sub-totals</b>	<b>90 (26)</b>			<b>1</b>		<b>14</b>
<b>Forest of Dean quarries</b>						
Bixslade	5					
Spion Kop	7 (7)					

Hang Hill	3					
Staple Edge	2					
Shakemantle	4 (4)					
<b>Sub-totals</b>	<b>21 (11)</b>					
<b>Forest of Dean outcrops</b>						
Highmeadow Woods	54			18		1
Wyastone	30			3		
Huntsham	141			10		1
Coppet Hill	75			13		4
Chase Wood	45			12		1
Penyard Park	23					1
Knacker's Hole	20					2
The Rocks, Hope Mansell	27					
Deep Dean	3			5		
East Dean Edge	22			4		1
<b>Sub-totals</b>	<b>440</b>			<b>65</b>		<b>11</b>
<b>Glouc Totals</b>	<b>551 (37)</b>			<b>66</b>		<b>25</b>
<b>Gloucestershire total new routes, new boulder-problems, and new variations = 642 (642 doesn't include new routes seconded)</b>						
<b>South West &amp; Southern England and running total = 3814 ( or 3120, minus the 694 boulder-problems)</b>						
<b>Meirionnydd</b>						
<b>Yr Aran</b>						
Craig Cywarch	34				3	
Aran Benllyn & Gist Ddu	5					
<b>Y Berwynion</b>						
Craig y Mwn	17					
Craig Rhiwarth	15 (1)					
<b>Arrenig Fawr</b>						
Simdde Ddu	16					
Bryn y Dyfrgi crags	19 (1)					1
Daear Fawr to Craig y Hyrddod	17					
<b>Bala Area</b>	9					
<b>Y Moelwynion</b>	11					
<b>Moors North-East of Ffestiniog</b>	5 (1)					
<b>Lledr Valley</b>	1					
<b>Cadair Idris</b>						
Waun Bistyll	2					
Craig Cau	60 (1)					
Cyfrwy	9					

Mynydd Moel	6					
Gau Craig	7					
Craig y Llam	2					
Cwm-pen-llydan	5					
Rhobell Fawr	4					
<b>Dysinni Valley</b>	3					
<b>Y Rhinogau</b>						
<b>Crags of the Northern Rhinogs</b>	73					1
<b>Crags North of Roman Steps</b>	63					
<b>Crags of Rhinog Fawr</b>	61 (2)					
<b>Crags of Southern Rhinogs</b>	43					
<b>Crags of Western Valleys &amp; Outliers</b>						
Cwm Nantcol	52 (3)					
Cwm Arto	45 (1)					
Outliers	15					
<b>Meirionnydd totals</b>	599 (10)					2
<b>Meirionnydd total new routes, and new variations = 602 (602 doesn't include new routes seconded)</b>						
<b>Craig Bengam Bach</b>	1					
Running total = 4417						
<b>Central Wales</b>						
Pumlumon	6			1		1
Craig Fawr	1					
<b>Central Wales totals</b>	7			1		1
<b>West Midlands</b>						
Nesscliffe	17 (1)					
Grinshill	2					
Carreg y Byg	1					
Stiperstones	1					
<b>West Midlands totals</b>	21 (1)					
<b>Pembroke North</b>						
Pwllldawnau	7					
Abermawr	7	2				
Craig Llong	6					

St David's Head	1					
Porth y Ffynon	1					
St Non's Bay	1					
Pen y Cyfrwy	7					
Inland Outcrops	2			8		
<b>Sub-totals</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>2</b>		<b>8</b>		
<b>Pembroke Range East</b>						
Mosaic Wall	1					
Mewsford Point	2 (1)					
Box Zawn	4					
Bosherston Head	1					
Huntsman's Leap	5					
<b>Sub-totals</b>	<b>13 (1)</b>					
<b>Pembroke Stackpole &amp; Lydstep</b>						
Mowing Word	1					
Stackpole	12					
Forbidden Head	4					
<b>Sub-totals</b>	<b>17</b>					
<b>Pembrokeshire totals</b>	<b>62 (1)</b>	2		8		
<b>Pembrokeshire total new routes, new deep water solos, new boulder-problems, and new variations = 72 (72 doesn't include new routes seconded)</b>						
<b>Crag</b>	<b>New Routes (seconding others' leads)</b>	<b>New Deep Water Solos</b>	<b>First Deep Water Solo ascents (existing)</b>	<b>New Boulder Problems</b>	<b>First Aid Elims</b>	<b>New Variations</b>
<b>Gower</b>						
Blue Pool	2	7	2			
Rhossili	14	5	11			
Fall Bay to Mewslade	35 (4)					1
Thurba Head to Port Eynon	69					
Three Tors to Hunts Bay	18	2				
Pennard to Pwll Du	30					
<b>Gower totals</b>	<b>168 (4)</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>13</b>			<b>1</b>
<b>Box Bay</b>	<b>5</b>					
<b>Ogmore</b>	<b>53 (2)</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>12</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Witches Point</b>	<b>10 (1)</b>	<b>1</b>				



<b>South East Wales inc Brecon Beacons National Park</b>						
<b>Interior Limestone</b>						
Wenvoe	defunct					
Taff's Well	15 (2)					
Gilwern	7					
<b>Llangattock Escarpment</b>						
Southern outliers	15			2		
Main cliffs	43					
Chwar Pant y Rhiw (north)	43			2		
Craig y Castell	22			5		
<b>Llangattock Esc. sub-totals</b>	<b>123</b>			<b>9</b>		
Minor crags south of Llangynidr	24			25		
Trefil area quarries & Bryniau Gleision	21			24		
Baltic Quarry & Tyle'r-bont	39 (2)			5		
Twynau Gwynion	24			19		
Taf Fechan	5 (2)					
Morlais	28			5		1
Darren Fach	29					1
Cadair Fawr minor quarries	7			7		
Carnau Gwynion	5			10		
Craig-y-Nos	3					
Dinas Rock	5 (2)				2	
A4069 Limestone Quarries	26			6		
<b>Interior Limestone totals</b>	<b>361 (8)</b>			<b>110</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Pennant Sandstone crags and quarries</b>						
Abbey Buttress	1				2	
Abercynon	3					
Bargoed	1					
Blaenllechau	3					
Cefnpennar	2					
Cilfynydd	6					
Crag Craig Fawr	1					
Craig y Pal Glais	3					

Cwmaman	3 (2)					
Cwmcarn	5					
Darren Cruglwyn	13			3		
Deri	1 (1)					
Deri Park	5					
Drummau Road	1					
Ferndale	3					
The Gap	9 (1)					
Llanbradach	14 (2)					
Llantrisant	1					
Llwynypia	5 (2)					
Mountain Ash	22 (2)			4	1	
New Tredegar	26			29		
Penallta	7					
Sirhowy	6					
Treherbert	9 (1)					
Troedyrhiw crags and quarries	24			3		1
Troedyrhiw: Mynydd-Cilfach- Yr-Encil	21					
Tyle-Y-Coch	1					
Viaduct Quarry	1					
<b>Pennant Sandstone Totals</b>	<b>197 (11)</b>			<b>39</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Twrch Sandstone Crag</b>						
<b>Ystradfellte area</b>						
Garreg Lywd				7		
Gwaun Cefnygarreg	25			15		
Point 345				21		
Maes y Gawnen				19		
<b>Sub-totals</b>	<b>25</b>			<b>62</b>		
<b>Penwyllt Area &amp; Cribarth</b>						
Carreg Lwyd				9		
Pen Y Foel	24			39		1
Cribarth	13			20		
<b>Sub-totals</b>	<b>37</b>			<b>68</b>		<b>1</b>
<b>Upland West of Glyntawe</b>						
Carreg a'r Gap	7			52		
Castell y Geifr	19			19		
Disgwifa	6			50		
Sinc y Giedd	5			33		
Crib Giedd				23		

Lle Unig				13		
<b>Sub-totals</b>	<b>37</b>			<b>190</b>		
<b>The Twrch Valley</b>						
Bwlch y Ddeuwynt				4		
Tyle Garw	34			90		
Twrchish Jumble				35		
<b>Sub-totals</b>	<b>34</b>			<b>129</b>		
<b>Twrch Sandstone Totals</b>	<b>133</b>			<b>449</b>		1
<b>Old Red Sandstone outcrops</b>						
Buckland Hill				5		
Hatterall Hill	11			16		
<b>Old Red Sandstone outcrops totals</b>	<b>11</b>			<b>21</b>		
<b>Gower &amp; SE Wales Totals</b>	<b>938 (26)</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>619</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Gower &amp; SE Wales total new routes, new deep water solos, new boulder-problems, aid eliminations, and new variations = 1599 (1599 doesn't include new routes seconded)</b>						
Scotland						
<b>Somewhere in Glencoe!</b>	1					
	<b>New Routes (seconding others' leads)</b>	<b>New Deep Water Solos</b>	<b>First Deep Water Solo ascents (existing)</b>	<b>New Boulder Problems</b>	<b>First Aid Elims</b>	<b>New Variations</b>
<b>TOTAL NEW ROUTES (@25.11.2023)</b>	4592 (215)	186	72	1319	19	141
Total new routes including new deep water solos	<b>4778</b>		-----			
Total new routes, new deep water solos, and boulder problems	6097					
<b>Total new routes, new deep water solos, boulder problems, first free ascents, and variations.</b>	6238					

## Notes

- 1 Routes are routes with a name and description in a guidebook or which would warrant such.
- 2 Boulder problems are boulder problems with a name and/or description in a guidebook or which would warrant such.
- 3 First deep water solo ascents of existing routes are not included in totals
- 4 Aid eliminations are first free ascents.
- 5 Variations are variations with a name and/or description in a guidebook or which would warrant such.
- 6 The list does not include routes that have fallen down – probably about 20.
- 7 ‘Seconding others routes’ stats are not included in the totals (and do not include separately leading them after the first ascent by the individual lead climber (generally sport routes)).
- 8 For several obvious but not fully developed venues e.g. Hurlstone Point, Mel Tor, Leighon Tor, Buckland Hill I estimated and applied a very restrained % that could be new.
- 9 Re Twrch sandstone bouldering: sadly pioneer Joe Squire misplaced his records, but – on the balance of probabilities – I have attempted to make sure I haven’t claimed his contribution e.g. at Pen y Foel, Tyle Garw.
- 10 Ethical changes i.e. first bolt or peg-free ascents not included.
- 11 New routes and boulder-problems in Europe not included.

Martin Crocker, 2023