



**Guernsey not-so-New  
Routes (2004)**

**Martin Crocker**

# Guernsey Not-so-New Routes

By Martin Crocker

*This work was prepared and written by the author as a personal record; anyone wishing to publish it need only ask me. Guernsey holds some wonderful climbing; the author has made his routes' log available for personal recreational climbing (and implicitly the making of copies for that purpose), entirely at the risk of the user.*

## First Ascensionists

MJC = Martin Crocker

MJC (with Soloist) = Martin Crocker leading back-rope solo with a Soloist device – all gear placed on lead as for a normal lead ascent

CH = Christian Harvey

HK = Haydar Koyupinar

AF = Alex Franklyn

Cover pic: Chris Harvey following, on the first ascent of *Renoir in Chalk* (E5)

## Martello Wall

### **Snivelling Twin of Snitter** 12m E3 6a (26.5.2001)

Climb to the bulging thin crack left of *Son of Snitter* and follow it to the top. The grade assumes you're *not* tall enough to walk leftwards along the underlying ramp and so avoid the crux!

FA: MJC (with Soloist)

## Port Soif

### **\*\*Salt 'n Wound** 9m E5 6b (24.4.2003)

The striking sharp arête of the crag: drive-in thrills for climbers and visitors alike! Protection is reliable and falling not entirely out of the question. Climb easily to the break at 4m.

Arrange good gear; then layback the right-hand side of the arête to a jug. A sloping mantel and a round of applause remain.

FA: MJC, CH

## Les Grandes Rocques

Immediately west of the fort is a narrow pebble-filled cove. It is overhung on its east side by a west-facing crag which supplies a brace of athletic micro/highball routes on superb rock.

Take some padding to mitigate the effects of cratering onto the 12" pebbles: beware, lilos puncture easily. All routes appear to have some gear; grades are for headpoint solos, but are probably similar for on-sight leads. Bouldering grades might be more appropriate for Guernsey Mountaineering Club outings!

At the left end of the wall, around a rib, is a slabby extension seamed with cracks.

### **Hill Climb** 10m VS 4c (?/22.4.2003)

Climb cracks above a red patch.

FA: MJC, done before?

**Two Churchills** 9m E1 5c/6a (22.4.2003)

Cup the first of two rounded bosses on the rib, and – using the crack on the left – step onto the second one. (6a if the bosses are connected directly – much better.) Exit right.

FA: MJC (solo)

**\*Lilo Island** 6m E4 6b (22.4.2003)

Very powerful. Right of the rib is a series of overhangs left of a groove. Gain a hanging flake and then a flat finishing ledge, somehow. Be prepared to jump from the lip.

FA: MJC (solo)

**Hissing in the Pebbles** 6m E3 6a (22.4.2003)

Don't be duped by its size or lowly grade; take a black flake and make problematic moves up to the groove.

FA: MJC (solo)

**\*Quarter Moon** 10m E3 5c (22.4.2003)

A fine testpiece, grit-like in temperament. Make strenuous moves to a leftward-sloping ramp in the highest part of the wall. Move up delicately past an undercut flake (the only gear *en route* if leading) and reach a jug high on the wall. Step left to finish.

FA: MJC (solo)

**Something to Prove** 6m E1 5b (22.4.2003)

The overhanging nose near the right-hand end, for show-offs.

FA: MJC (solo)

The ridge on the west side of the cove furnishes a variety of short walls and slabs. Some nice solos here including the cracks in the right side of the face of the triangular pinnacle (7m HVS 5a).

## La Guet

**\*\*Bored of Administration** 10m E6 6b (3.6.2004)

Dumbfounding moves in a cool position. Abseil into a semi-hanging stance on a sloping ledge under the right-hand end of the horizontal crack under the headwall. Traverse intricately left along the crack. A weird move gains a vertical crack; then a heinous sequence brings the lip, a short finishing slab, and success. (One *in-situ* Rock 2 a metre up the vertical crack and one peg a metre below the lip pre-placed and removed.)

FFA: MJC, CH

## Pleinmont Point

**Sucks You In** 18m E5 6a (2.6.2001)

The seaward arête of the main wall. Well-positioned above the broiling Atlantic; committing, and with a difficult-to-protect start. Start at the extreme left end of the sloping platform.

Pull out rightwards from a sloping niche, and then layback a twisting hairline crack to emerge on the easier-angled lower arête (of *Suspended Sentence*). Step right and climb direct, a metre right of the arête, to an exciting sloping mantel exit.

FA: MJC, CH

**\*Neck'n Neck** 25m E4 5c (2.11.97)

This is the slabby arête separating the walls of *Flamingo Groove* and *Dead Man's Finger*. Serious. Make balancy moves up the arête (knob-spike on the right) to better holds. Continue up the right-hand side of the arête with next-to-no gear to a sloping ledge under the final step; OK wires. Finish steeply 2m right of the arête.

FA: MJC, AF

**\*\*Heavy Petting** 30m E4 5c (16.4.2001)

Fine and absorbing, yet serious, climbing – at the top of the grade – up the centre of the slabby wall right of the *Neck'n Neck* arete. Start as for *Dead Man's Finger*. Pull up right onto the hanging slab. Make an intimidating crank up a steep wall to a flake and slight crack (awkward wire placements). Continue direct at first and then rightwards to a better, vertical crack. Follow the crack for 3m and bear leftwards onto steeper rock (good Rock 6). Climb flaky holds above, finishing up a bold yellow headwall.

FA: MJC, CH

**\*Alex's Concept** 30m E4 6a (2.11.97)

A very direct line left of centre of *Les Houligans* wall; start below the right end of the (invisible) hanging slab of *Dead Man's Finger* (as for the original start of *Les Houligans*). Climb up 2m left of a short crack to the right-hand end of a sloping ledge at 9m. Swing right onto a layback edge and extend 'forever' past a peg (hero-looped) to a flake. Continue direct and up over a bulge and finish easily.

FA: MJC, AF

**\*\*\*Les Houligans** 28m E6 6b (9.9.87/16.4.2001)

A chart-topping route on one of the finest pieces of rock on Guernsey. Sustained in the extreme, forearm burning, and with spaced gear to add to your problems. Start below the centre of the leaning grey face of the main wall.

Climb to the top of a too short-lived flake-crack. From a good finger-pocket, move right and up with great difficulty to a finger-jug (Camp angle 1 in brown stain at 7m: removed). Reach up and swing right onto a square handhold. Climb direct and then diagonally left; then move up to an overhang. Swing right and pull over the bulge to a welcome finishing jug. Easy climbing remains.

FA: B Woodley, J Richardson (who came in from *Dead Man's Finger* above the crux, and utilised a pre-placed Rock 3 at 15m.)

As described: MJC, CH

**An Outbreak of CommonSense** 12m E5 6a (16.4.2001)

The short but steep and pumpy arete near the right-hand end of the main face. Care is required with the rock. Climb a flaky groove in the arête before pulling up and left onto footholds on the arête (cam in undercut). Swing right and power up the right-hand side of the arête (hidden, good small-wire placement) to pull out on jugs.

FA: MJC, CH



## THE SPHINX

### \*\*A1 Christian 18m E4 6a (?/17.4.2001)

Now free, and rather good. Start below the crack left-of-centre in the west wall. Pull into a pod and then follow the strenuous crack with a long reach from an undercut to a jug. Finish up the easier crack. Take care to get the best gear (Friend 2.5. useful abovetop of pod).  
FFA: MJC (with Soloist)

### \*Vain in Pink 18m E5 6a (17.4.2001)

In the centre of the west wall is a bulging rib with a twisting pink vein. A committing lead though a half-decent (but hidden) small wire at 5m helps). Start below a rightward-slanting crack (immediately left of *Three Out of Four*). Swing up left onto the rib and lock (or slap) for an obvious protruding pink hold on the left. Stretch for a jug in the break and arrange (mediocre) gear. Gain a hanging flake above the bulge and then foot-traverse the leftward-rising break to easier ground.

FA: MJC (with Soloist, after top-rope practice)

## Gaul Wall

### \*Gaulstone 21m E4 6a (18.4.2001)

The bare face right of *Gluteus Maximus*; an excellent, direct, pitch, though the best protection may be tricky to find on sight. Start as for *Jude the Obscure*.

Follow *J t O* for 4m. Take a line of handholds slightly left and step up to a thin slanting break. Now link spaced fingerholds in the wall above, past a hard move to a small overhang (hand-placed knife-blade under overhang).

FA: MJC (with Soloist; after top-rope practice) *Very serious with Soloist given the need for double ropes.*

## Excalibur Buttress

### \*\*Take the Stone 25m E5 6b (29.5.2004)

Stunning. High in the grade. Start as for *Salai*. Climb the short corner for 3m, move right beneath an overhang and reach a flake. Above is a leftward-slanting crack in an overhanging wall. With wires and the occasional hold in the crack, fight up the wall – giving it all that you’ve got – until you can plonk yourself on a line of small ledges beneath the upper slab. Follow a shallow scoop in the slab to an overhang. One tricky move and the easy final slab is underfoot.

FA: MJC, CH

### \*\*Sword in the Stone 24m E5 6a/b (19.4.2001)

An obvious challenge: the centre of the shield left of *Excalibur*. Some very hard moves low down lead to much easier, though run-out, climbing above. Start below the shallow groove in the centre of the shield.

Climb the groove to where it ends beneath impending rock. Intricate moves right and up (Camp 1 angle: removed) gain a good sidehold under a roof. A powerful stretch up right reaches a jug, and then better holds are followed to a ledge (‘sword’ runner and wires). Take the upper slab to the top via positive holds in a black streak.

FA: MJC, CH

**Incensed** 25m E5+ 6b (29.5.2004)

Very hard and bouldery, and there's a nervy finish too. Start 5m left of *Excalibur* beneath a vertical crack. Clip a peg (removed) in the crack; then take a line of holds starting 2m right to gain a side-hold at the top of the crack. Overpower the sustained groove (3 pegs, removed), before a long reach up to the right gains a series of improving holds leading up onto the left wall of *Excalibur*. Climb up and leftwards to the right end of the narrow ledge under the final slab. Swing up and right and take a blunt rib to easier ground.

FA; MJC, CH *An off day? Achieved after much faffing trying to find a start and then dogging higher up as the route got greasier and greasier.....*

**Pull Harder Still!** 25m E3 5c (7.4.2002)

A pitch of mounting interest is extracted from the rib left of *Excalibur*. Protection is reasonable if a little spaced. Climb the corner of *Excalibur* for 7m. Follow a ramp for feet diagonally leftwards onto the exposed rib. Trend slightly leftwards up the rib to incuts; small wires and rock-spike for a thin tape. Make some long reaches up a blunt yellow rib to the finishing holds of *Excalibur*.

FA: MJC (with Soloist)

**\*\*Prospector** 27m E5 6b (19.4.2001)

A forceful lead up the huge overhanging wall right of *Excalibur*. Surprisingly, jugs abound, and (with the pegs pre-placed) the protection is fine. Start 5m right of the corner, beneath a cutaway. Move onto the left rib of the cutaway. Immediately swing right and pull past the apex of the cutaway (pre-placed Rock I in apex: removed) to jugs and a rest. Climb easily to a good nut slot (Rock 5); move up and swing left to the point where the wall rears up dramatically. Make a few hard moves, before improving holds lead to a ledge. Exit easily up the gully on the left. (Three peg runners were pre-placed in the upper leaning section and removed.)

FA: MJC, CH

**Gull Zawn****Corridors of Power; Direct Finish**

The logical finish up the top arête, which improves the route. Not too taxing, but run out.

FA: MJC (with Soloist)

**Path of Righteousness** 30m E5 6a (2.6.2004)

Effectively a direct start to *Trail of Deception*: technical and bold. Climb the thin rightward-slanting ramp, using the arête on the right towards its top (stainless steel peg). Join *ToD* at the right-hand end of the break.

FA: MJC, CH

**\*\*Nightshift** 40m E5 6a (23.10.96)

The magnificent right-angled arête in the east wall towards the back of the zawn. Routine sport tactics are required to get started: take a 1.5m clip-stick and make sure it's a wooden one, since you'll need to touch wood before you weight the thread (even assuming you've renewed it)! From the uppermost boulder 'grip-stick' the thread and – heart in mouth – step into the sling. Move up to the thread and place bomber wires....*phew*. Make a hard move to a pocket up right (Rock 6); undercut left onto the arête (peg, and hand-placed 0.5" angle) and make a tricky sequence to a narrow groove. Take the groove to a slot; junction with the sacred ground of *Space Invader*. Bear left to the arête and turn the bulge on its left (peg) to finish on finger-jugs. Exit right.

FA: MJC, CH *Climbed in spooky, dwindling light – all that remained after the bar at which Christian worked closed. An aerial attack of foam from a big swell heightened the atmosphere further.)*

**\*\*Outer Space** 25m E4 6a (30.10.97)

Powerful climbing up the headwall right of *Black Hole*. Climb the outside of *Black Hole*'s chimney (gear in right-hand crack); and extrude into a niche at 10m. Swing right into the right-branching crack, follow it for 3m; then use pockets on the right to reach the left end of a slanting line of finger-jugs at a bulge. Pull direct through the bulge (vital Friend 1.5 in pocket); and finish with long reaches up a groove.

FA: MJC (with Soloist – very gripping)

**\*\*The Gneiss Girls** 28m E6 6b (1.11.97)

A profoundly exacting route that takes an intricate line up the bare wall left of *Gneiss Gorilla*: total commitment obligatory. Follow a line of blind pockets (RPs) in the black wall, and move slightly right to good wire placements in a pocketed crack. Bear leftwards to twin finger pockets under the grey wall (5/8ths angle in left hand pocket – removed): bold. Make a very hard move onto the lip of a small overhang, so gaining fingerholds (stacked angle placement slightly left – removed). Step right to a seam and climb up to finish up the bulge and headwall of *Outer Space*.

FA: MJC, unseeded

**Gneiss Gorilla: Direct Start** E4 5c Gain the large hold from the groove below; Friend 1.5 protects.

FA: MJC (with Soloist)

## Cave Wall

The following two routes climb the steep face above the cave.

**\*Lady Suicide** 25m E4 5c (27.10.97)

A route of escalating endeavour tempered by a serious start (embarking up *Infidel* would make it more amenable). Start 2.5 m right of *Infidel*. Pull into a short right-facing corner and move right and up a small groove onto the face. Pass a peg and gain a pocket above (Friend 2). Traverse right to good fingerholds in a crack-line, and go up the better protected groove to a large ledge. Finish up a corner.

FA: MJC (with Soloist)

**\*\*\*Fifth Dementia** 25m E5 6a (27.10.97)

Superb: varied and sustained climbing in an exhilarating position. Belay in the left end of the cave just left of a hanging angular rib in its roof. Stretch for a jug on the lip of the roof (peg) and launch diagonally right above the rib (*in-situ* thread) to a vague break (vital Friend 1.5/2 in flared pocket to the left). Make hard moves into a thin crack on the right and follow it to a sloping ledge. Get onto the sloper using an undercut flake out right; then saunter up the pocketed arête above. Finish up *Lady Suicide*'s corner – she won't mind.

FA: MJC (with Soloist)

## Mole Wall

**\*\*Molotov** 28m E6 6b (22.10.96)

A brave assault on an intimidating wall. Strenuous and sustained but – after a committing start – reasonably protected. Start in the centre of the wall at the only line of weakness: a short thin flake crack. Make fingery moves from the flake into a scoop (peg). Reach a slight groove up to the left and follow this, rising rightwards to a superb flake – and a shakeout. Stretch for a pocket (Friend 2/2.5) and continue up an undercut crack to finger-slots and a rest on a small angular ledge. Traverse 2m left along a break and gain a second break above. Hand traverse 2m left to pockets, move up (just right of the arête) and finish diagonally rightwards. FA: MJC, CH. *The ascent was made in all-out sea damp; we couldn't believe that the route would go (and went) in those conditions. In the dry it could prove easier than E6 therefore. Pat Littlejohn had tried it a few years earlier, but took a nasty fall from the initial wall – which brought to a close that particular climbing holiday. My records state that I placed a knife-blade a few feet above the boulders to preclude a similar occurrence, especially likely in those conditions.*

## La Congrelle

### OUTER WALLS

**\*In High Seas** 20m E4 6a (27.4.2003)

A fine route which zig-zags up the impending wall above *The Stinker*. Start at the base of the black corner on the left (*Hot Toddy*). Climb diagonally right along a crack and then move up and right to a flake under a short groove (*The Stinker* is at foot level). Climb the groove and swing left to a line of flakes – bold. Bear rightwards on good spaced holds and then make powerful moves up and right over a bulge (small cams), using a finger-jam in a block to acquire a niche. Finish up the short wall overhead.

FA: MJC (with Soloist) *An epic ascent: gale force winds picked up that day and a benign sea turned ferocious. As I started off breakers began glancing off the sidewall; I got hit repeatedly, but more worryingly so did my trailing rope. Fortunately I was able to complete the route before I and the rest of my paraphernalia were swallowed by the ocean.*

### WEST WALL

The next four routes start from the sloping ledge near the mouth of the zawn; abseil in and belay at its right-hand (northern) end.

**Claystorm** 15m E1 5b (29.10.97)

Follow the overhanging crack above the right end of the ledge, and the groove on the right. FA: MJC (with Soloist)

**\*Dead Slappy** 15m E5 6b (29.10.97)

The overhanging arête: slappy and committing. Take the left side of the arête on good holds initially and with good gear in a thin crack. Continue dynamically – using slopers on the arête – and finish on its right side.

FA: MJC (with Soloist – *scary!*)



**\*\*Born a Believer** 15m E5 6a (1.11.97)

A brilliant face climb with reasonable gear. From the right-hand end of the sloping ledge go up an overhanging black scoop right of the arête to a roof. Stretch for a flake and large hold above (peg); and work tenaciously up the fingery face 3m right of the arête to easier ground (vital RP3 en route). Scramble out.

FA: MJC

**\*The Christian** 20m E6 6b (1.11.97)

Distressingly under-protected though not that hard for the grade. Follow *Born...* to its small roof; and swing right to a semi-rest on a rib. From this point a seam diagonals right onto the wall: make desperate moves across this to a jug (peg, but it's heinous to clip, *according to my notes*). Press on direct (small wire in flake out left) to pockets and sound cam (Friend 2/2.5) placements. Finish direct to easier ground. Scramble out.

FA: MJC, CH

In the centre of the west face is an angular groove cutting into the right-hand side of the low-level roofs. The next three routes start below the groove. Access is 3 hours around low spring tide inclusive; an optional stance at 6m will cater for any more prolonged battle (until those breakers come roaring in as they do here!). The three routes share a serious common finishing-pitch (15m, 4b) up non-descript ground.

**\*\*Eels on Wheels** 28m E5 6a (26.10.96)

A superb and improbable pitch that slants left across the headwall above the roofs. Adequate protection, but expect to get pumped placing it. Follow the groove and pull round a bulge to a resting niche. Move left and up to an undercut flake. Now climb diagonally leftwards up the crisp headwall (peg) past a pocket and with aid of a vague ramp higher up (vital Friend 0.5). Finish easily on the right to nut belays.

FA: MJC, CH

**\*Eel Bred** 28m E5 6a/b (26.10.96)

An incipient line of weakness in the centre of the wall. Unrelentingly strenuous, and trying to protect – nice. Follow the initial groove and step out right to the optional stance at 6m. Above is a left-facing overhanging black groove: climb it athletically; then follow layaways above to a semi-resting position. Take the thin crack in the headwall blindly and haul over the lip to the exit and nut belays of *Eels on Wheels*.

FA: MJC, CH

**\*Hugo's Here** 45m E4 6a (26.4.2003)

One of the more amenable routes up the wall that offers a logical and gentler finish to *Eel Bred*. From the top of *Eel Bred's* groove, step right onto the face. Reach a thin crack, which evolves into a flake and groove. After, exit left onto easy ground; climb diagonally left for 3m; then finish up a slab with a crack.

FA: MJC, CH

**\*Victor** 28m E6 6a (30.5.2004)

Eliminate, but with some great climbing. Climb *Eels on Wheels* to the optional stance at 6m. From the right-hand end of the ledge, climb a short black rib and swing right (Friend 1.5, peg). Powerful moves through the (greasy!) bulge past two pegs gain a rest on the face above. Place a few wires in the crack on the left; then climb up to a thin hanging crack in a rib. Finger-traverse the crack up to the right (wires: hard to spot, hard to place); and then crank to a flake at the top of the rib (peg). Pull up and swing left to the belay of *Eels on Wheels* etc. or carry on to the top as for *Hugo's Here*.

FA: MJC, CH

**\*\*\*Toiler on the Sea** 45m E4 5c (1.11.97)

Stupendous! A varied classic that weaves up the highest part of the west face in its centre. One of the best routes on Guernsey. Start 6m left of the big round boulder. Climb up and right over smooth rock to jugs and then up to a roof. Traverse left for 3m and pull over left of a projecting ledge. Move up the flake on the right to a thin horizontal break. Traverse left for 4m (high Rock 5), and step up to a flake-line. Follow the flake rightwards until it steepens dramatically and some bold and rather spectacular moves must be made over the lip. Belay on nuts (not that good: best back them up with a pre-paced rope). Scramble out right.

FA: MJC, CH

**\*\*\*King Conger** 35m E6 6b (26.10.96)

A tremendous climb taking a fairly direct line up the landward end of the big and black west wall. Sustained with the hardest moves away from gear – yikes! Start at lowish tide below an obvious vertical crack which commences at 9m. From the huge boulder on the right make a low wet traverse to a good ledge; optional stance. Move up over a bulge and vanquish the crack – which will always feel slippery – to jugs above (wire out left). Clip the peg overhead; then veer left and right above it on a handrail, rocking up to boldly better holds. Go straight up the rib past rock-spike runners; then exit left under a slanting roof to easier ground. Scramble to the grass slopes and stake belays.

FA: MJC, unseeded

**\*Gales from the Crypt** 45m E5 (7.4.2002)

A varied line with engaging challenges up the right-hand end of the West Wall. Start atop the huge boulder.

1 22m. 6a. Climb up rightwards to a leftward-rising flake – first gear. Step left and pull up to rounded flake holds. Locate a vital Rock 5 placement in a pocket under the hanging groove on the left, then power up the groove to a niche under a roof of noteworthy proportions; peg and nut belays.

2 23m. 6a. Udge up to a crack in the roof. Jam the crack rightwards and shout, scream, and shriek awkwardly out. Follow flakes onto a ramp and continue up a narrowing groove, stepping left to exit near its close.

FA: MJC, CH (*in a 32mph easterly gale*)

The next batch occupies the low-level wall right of the chasm at the landward end of the West Wall. Descent is from a rope pre-placed on two stakes at the top of the cliff. (Second pitches look possible but you'd still be faced with rubble to exit.)

**\*MP4** 15m E2 5c (21.4.2003)

A climb of character up the narrow right-facing corner, which fulsome protection. After an awkward move onto the black ramp, climb the corner to flakes at the top. Traverse right to a ledge.

FA: CH, MJC

**MP3** 15m E5 6a (21.4.2003)

Not hard for the grade, though the protection needs some working out. Start at a rock pool by a wide slot at head height. Make a bold move past the slot to decent holds. Move up and slightly left onto a rattling flake at a bulge. Force the hairline crack and then take more amenable twin cracks to the ledge.

FA: MJC, CH

**\*Les Miserables** 15m E4 5c (21.4.2003)

Technical and satisfying climbing up the right arête. Climb the low arête direct to a break – bold. Using holds on the left at first, move up onto the slabby arête; then span right for a slanting jug. Make a hard move up and right onto a small slab; and gain the common ledge.

FA: MJC, CH

## Mont Herault

### MAIN AREA

**\*Solocide** 25m E5 6a (31.10.07)

Some difficult and committing climbing up cracks and grooves left of the central overhanging black corner. Move up to parallel cracks in the bulge left of the corner, making hard moves to pull round to a rest on *Health Hazard*. Bear right into a blind grey groove with an undercut flake. Vanquish the groove using a handrail above a roof and finish up a short groove on the right.

FA: MJC (with Soloist) *Almost came a cropper when I ripped a hold off 5m above my last gear: both hands came off with the hold, but I managed to regain my balance somehow.*

**\*\*\*Every Witch Way** 25m E4 6a (31.10.97)

A high standard classic up the overhanging black corner in the centre of the west-facing wall. Strenuous, but well protected. Climb easily into the corner. Take a leaning crack in its right wall and grab a jug. Establish yourself in the corner and follow it to the top. Now you'll see that you're overhanging the start by 8m!

FA: MJC (with Soloist)

### SUBSIDIARY GULLY

The following routes are located on the east-facing headwall of the gully; non tidal.

**\*Busting Out All Over** 18m E3 6a (4.6.2004)

A direct line up the golden face on the left; intimidating yet well protected. Climb leftwards over a grey bulge to a flake at 6m Work up the black-stained face and gain a break. Make steep moves diagonally right to a pocket (Friend 2); one more steep move and it's all over!

FA: MJC (with Soloist)

**\*\*Fanfare** 18m E5 6a (4.6.04)

The line of the wall. Technically not hard for the grade, but the lower wall is bold. Start 3m left of the ramp. Take a blind leftward-slanting flake, and scoop; then move up a shallow depression (blind small RP placement) to a large pocket. From the break above, pursue the line of weakness in the yellow headwall.

FA: MJC (with Soloist)

**Come Back Bruce** 18m E1 5b (4.6.2004)

Safe, after a committing start. Two metres left of the ramp, gain a series of undercut flakes. A good pocket above enables a crack to be reached, which is followed by an easy finishing corner.

FA: MJC (with Soloist)

**\*Guernsey's Atomic Finger Flake** 15m E4 6a (4.6.2004)

A fun pitch with good gear. Bridge up the ramp a few moves, swing left into a crack and layback over a hanging undercut flake above. Finish up the corner of the previous route.

FA: MJC (with Soloist)

**Faced with Curious Islanders** 15m E3 5c (4.6.2004)

The corner at the right-hand end of the sloping terrace. Take the corner – rather gravelly – with athletic moves to exit. An easy crack but with some poor rock leads to the top.

FA: MJC (with Soloist)

**Detritus Zawn**

The next three routes take the undercut white wall left of the corner of *Paradise Lost*. The first two finish at a good spike (possible abseil point) beneath an unstable dolerite sill. From here it is also straightforward to traverse right into the exit of *Paradise Lost*.

All three share a common start beneath the right end of the roof.

**\*Boulder to Kurdistan** 12m E4 6b (31.5.2001)

Very gymnastic. Climb a leftward-slanting crack to the roof. Reach over to layback holds and (with protection just above) swing wildly rightwards on slopers to better holds in the crack on the left. Follow the easier crack leftwards and then rightwards to the spike.

FA: MJC, HK

**\*Hangoverless** 12m E4 6a (31.5.2001)

The right-hand crack: sustained and safe. Climb the leftward-slanting crack to the roof and layback over to a resting place. Climb the crack to a problematic exit onto a slab. Spike on the left; *Paradise Lost* on the right.

FA: MJC, HK

**\*Guernsey Gosh** 21m E5 6a (31.5.2001)

Possibly the best of the trio with inventive moves in a nice position. Climb the leftward-slanting crack to the roof. With protection just above, traverse right along the roof to gain the arête overlooking *Paradise Lost*. Climb the arête on its left side, past a slanting crack, to easier ground. Step right to the exit of *PL*.

FA: MJC, HK

**\*\*Absolutely Floorless** 24m E5 6a (2.6.2001)

A high-stress lead up the fine east wall left of the chockstone in the *Snack Attack* zawn. Very sustained, and needing careful, cool climbing. Climb the left rib of a short groove left of the chockstone to a peg runner and good pocket. Stride right across the top of the groove to an intermittent slanting crack. Follow the crack for 3m (good wire), then stretch left from a bulge for hidden pockets and a welcome 'stopper' nut. Move up to a resting place. Steep climbing in line with an incipient crack (RPs) leads on positive holds to a better crack and the top.

FA: MJC, CH, HK

## La Corbiere

### RED CRAG

The following route replaces *White Wall* and *Cemented Relations*, which have mostly fallen down.

**Cement Failure** 18m E2 5c (3.4.2002)

Start below the overhung corner scoop 10m up. Gain a small slanting edge at 2m, moving up onto a grey-streaked slab. Climb up and precariously enter the smooth-walled scoop above. Surmount the overhand on good holds and continue up easy, loose ground to the top.

FA: MJC (with Soloist)

### SUNSET BAY

**Rat out of Hell** 15m E4 6b (30.5.2001)

Fingernail face climbing up the vertical hairline crack right of the drainpipe. Protection is surprisingly amenable though care is required to prevent it lifting when you fall off the crux! Start easily; then take the crack using tiny, way-sharp holds to get established at the left-hand side of the overlap. An easier crack now leads direct to the belay niche.

FA: MJC (top-roped first), HK

### CORBIERE SLAB

**\*Retire to Guernsey** 15m E1 5b (5.4.2002)

The elegant wall and rib right of *Vandal*; low in the grade. From the pebble beach climb up and take flakes rightwards and gain the arête with a tricky move. The arête leads easily to the top of the descent ramp.

FA: MJC (solo)

### MAIN CRAG

**\*Mortally Wounded** 45m E3 5b (2001)

A long and tiring lead – ever more so if you don't guard against rope drag. Take a big rack. Start from a ledge in the left wall of the gully at the right-hand end of the crag. Pull up onto the left end of a slab and follow it under overhangs to its right-hand end. Gain the base of the crack right of the overhangs, which leads steeply up the gully wall to a break. Trend rightwards on pockets and then the left-hand side of the arête to the top.

FA: MJC, HK in mistake for Martello Wall – '*seemed a bit hard for E1*'



## CORBIERE STACK

**\*\*Corbomight** 18m E6 6b (6.4.2002)

Thin technical face climbing on the immaculate pink wall left of the seaward arête. Despite two good wire-slots, big-fall potential is high. Climb centrally or from the right to meet a left-trending line of finger-jugs at 6m. Move up to good finger-holds (and the first wire slot) in the centre of the wall. Bear right and make a super-hard move (bodyweight – at best – tied-off Camp 1 knifeblade [removed] protects) to better holds on the right. Some final gnarly manoeuvres lead to a swing left above a small overhang to exit.

FA: MJC (after top-roping some moves), CH

## THE STAKES

**\*Hall of Worriers Direct** 24m E5 6a (29.5.2001)

The original is re-climbed (after rockfall) and finished direct; consistent like this and bold throughout. Start at the left-hand end of the half-height ledge. Climb strenuously up a rightward-slanting flake (two peg runners) to flakes on the right. Move up and make a long reach for flat holds which enable a worrying edge into a triangular scoop – very run-out. Step right and reach an undercut flake in the black wall above with difficulty. From good holds in a break (peg runner), finish up a short corner.

FA: MJC, HK (*Original will have been E4 5c*)

**Fingerburn** 21m E5 6b (29.5.2001)

Fingery and intense climbing low down. The small-wire protection is adequate (but only if you can hang around to get it in!). Start from the centre of the half-height ledge.

Crank slightly rightwards up a rib until a very fierce move gains a small jug a long way above. Continue straight up before swinging right onto a ramp. Climb the ramp and slab (junction with *HoW* (original)), and finish up a hanging groove with care.

FA: MJC, HK

## Le Gouffre

**Hit the Bottle** 18m E2 5c (23.4.2003)

Climb the unlikely sloping overhang left of *Cave Route*; good holds after a tricky start. From the large recess above, either swing right to finish up *Cave Route* or step left into *The Throback*.

FA: MJC (with Soloist)

**Gurn Fetchingly** 18m E3 5c (23.4.2003)

A committing eliminate up the thin crack in the right wall of *Cave Route*. Climb the right wall of the groove via a weak spike (thin tape) and sketchy crack. At the break above, step right to finish up the rib of *Fool's Mate*.

FA: MJC (with Soloist)

**HeartRace** 25m E5 6a (23.4.2003)

An intriguing climb that needs careful handling. Start as for *Arms Race*. Climb rightwards for 3m and fix gear in a shallow groove just right of *AR*. Stretch up right into a niche and hang a hollow-feeling jug (hard gear). Make a difficult move into the niche; then step right into the left-facing corner of *True Grit*. Reach good holds above and right of the corner to finish.

FA: MJC (with Soloist)

In the sea-filled rift in front of the waterfall resides a deepwater solo gem (which could be led). It takes the obvious leftward-diagonal crack in the west-facing wall opposite Waterfall Buttress.

**\*\*Gift Wrapped in Le Gouffre** 10m E3 5c (23.4.2003)

Superb: best taken on a high neap in the afternoon sun. Reverse down an easy groove to a juggy ledge at or near HWM (Diff). Swing left round a rib onto a smooth face. Bear left to the diagonal crack and follow that another above to a glorious finishing-hold.

FA: MJC (solo)

Red Slab

**\*\*Sport Climbing Dinosaur** 28m E2 5b (4.4.2002)

A steep, airy and enjoyable route up the prominent arête left of Red Slab. Start as for *Talking to Dinosaurs* (low spring tide; otherwise belay at a vertical 'Friend 3 crack' 3m below its wide sentry box). From the vertical crack break out diagonally left into a bottomless corner under the arête. Climb the corner, swing left and follow the arête directly to the top.

FA: MJC, CH

## Pointe de la Moye

### SEA LEVEL WALL

Potentially a suitable, if spooky, deep water soloing environment. The best way down is by reversing a Hard Severe 4a (*The Way In*) which is the rightward-trending line up the slab starting as for *On a Wing and a Prayer*. This was on-sight-reverse-soloed by MJC on 1.4.2002, thinking it must have been done before.

**Spacewalk: Alone in Space Variation** 18m E3 6a (4.4.2002)

A solo loop left of the original. Traverse left along thin flakes, from the *Spacewalk* start, and make hard moves up a thin flake-line to a jug at its top. Swing right to rejoin *Spacewalk* before its move left onto a ledge.

FA: MJC (on-sight solo)

(*Spacewalk* is a good deep water solo at E3 5b)

**\*Deltoid Quadrant** 15m E5 6a (4.4.2002)

A daunting solo up the leaning rib between the slab and *Black Mamba* wall (i.e. right of *Spacewalk*). Take *The Way In* to an obvious narrow jutting ledge above the highest part of the main ledge under the wall. Traverse left on good finger-flakes which run out and force a hard move into a scoop. Make a long move up to reach the right end of a leftward-rising finger-rail. Follow this to its end whereupon a trying lock secures the top of the rib.

FA: MJC (solo; section above the scoop top-roped first)

**Rite of Spring** 10m E1 6a (4.4.2002)

Hard and a little blind, but good water at any state of the tide. From the right-hand end of the ledge, swing up to the right on a slanting dolerite dyke. Make a long reach through a gap in the bulge above and pull onto a smooth slab on positive, though small, holds. Easier climbing leads to the top.

FA: MJC (solo)

**\*Voyager 60m E3 6a (4.4.2002)**

An exciting deep water solo traverse of Sea Wall – covering a lot of space! Best started just before or after high tide to optimise water depth in the channel between the offshore fin and the cliff. Scramble down the vertical black gully at the right-hand end of the cliff. Step down left onto the descending black dyke; then traverse the smooth slab leftwards before descending slightly to a narrow jutting ledge. Traverse left on good finger-flakes which run out and force a hard move into a scoop (as for *Deltoid Quadrant*). Move left onto *Spacewalk* and reach the right end of along descending ledge, which is followed to *Black Mamba*. Reverse *Black Mamba* for 4m. Reach over the bulge above the dyke to a jug-rail and swing left awkwardly. Traverse left and finish up a very slim little groove.

FA: MJC (solo)

**Animals Break Out 15m E3 6a (1.4.2002)**

The arête of the narrow overhanging pillar right of *Surya*. Committing but with a free fall. Climb the flake crack of *Zonda* to the point where it angles left. Launch right along a thin crack to a pocket in the overhanging wall. Ape up the left-hand side of arête to a finger-jug; then swing right and finish easily.

FA: MJC, CH

## Les Someilleuses

**\*\*\*Renoir in Chalk 60m E5 (26.4.2003)**

A magnificent route; one of the finest and longest on Guernsey – and a Channel Islands Classic! It takes the huge, red, west-facing wall of the amphitheatre via the dominating overhung groove. The section to pass the roof is far harder than anything else on the route: the use of two aid points here would leave a more amenable E4 – though still an adventurous one! Vital pegs are stainless steel; take some thin tapes for flake runners. Start 6m down the descent ramp.

1 15m. 5c/6a. Climb to the top of a black corner. Traverse left along a break (small cams, peg), and step up onto ledges. Traverse left to the foot of the corner.

2 20m. 6b. Climb the corner to the roof; not too hard but needing concentration (hand-placed Camp 1 angle in small pocket under a flat hold 2m below roof; micro-cams in roof). Make a thin move left to the arête below twin pegs – hard to clip. Swing around on a bucket (peg), and make powerful moves up a slight groove in the left edge of the roof. Rock up onto a giant cornflake which provides a sensational stance (the stability of the flake is questionable: back it up with a Rock 5 and Friend 0 in the corner on the right).

3 10m. 5a. Climb the slab above the flake to a bulge (vital Rock 2 below overhang on the left), and continue direct to a large ledge.

4 15m. 5a. Climb a slight groove; then bear steeply rightwards on great holds through bulges, passing left of some stacked blocks. Finish up an easy wall to the col on the ridge.

FA: MJC, CH (led Pitch 3). *We got hit by a 1-hour deluge but just about managed to stay dry in the corner. There we drew an effigy of a climber that must have proved a curiosity for fishermen for some time to come. Eventually, brilliant blue skies returned.*

## Outer Portelet Pinnacle

The first three climbs are on the landward (north-facing) wall of the pinnacle.

### \***Snorkel to Hand** 12m E2 5c (28.5.2001)

Steep and very protectable; this is the square-cut arête on the left. Follow a thin crack to a rounded spike. Continue slightly rightwards up the crack in the arête, and exit up an easy groove.

FA: MJC, CH, HK

### **About to Drown** 12m E2 5c (28.5.2001)

Follow an obvious ramp rightwards for 6m. Make a hard move into a short hanging corner and finish with ease.

FA: MJC, CH, HK

### \***Three Men in a Moat** 15m E3 5c (28.5.2001)

A very good climb that homes in on the overhanging V-groove in the upper right-hand half of the wall. Climb a thin bulging crack (often wet), and then work around a slight bulge into the V-groove. Move up and right onto the rib of the groove; then swing left to exit at the top of the groove.

FA: MJC, CH, HK

The following five routes are located on the seaward half of the magnificent sheer and leaning west face of the pinnacle.

*Christian's route.....*

### \*\***Schlusselfelle** 23m E5 6b (27.5.2001)

A superb climb that reaches the obvious flake high left by some powerful climbing. There is adequate small-wire protection on the crux, but it may not be immediately apparent. Start below the centre of the face as for *Penal Servitude*.

Climb up via a small groove to a line of jugs at 7 metres. Hard moves diagonally left are followed by a launch (the '*Schlusselfelle*') for jugs. Reach the flake above and sprint for an easy exit.

FA: MJC, CH, HK

### \*\*\***Portuguese Man o' War** 23m E6 6b (28.5.2001)

An awesome central line, and a contender for the hardest route on the island. Start as for *PS*. Climb up via a small groove to a line of jugs at 7 metres. Step right and place good wires in a diagonal break just above. An out-of-control move up the face on the left leads to a sloper in a hopeless break (sound Camp 1 knifeblade 0.5 metres higher: removed). Use awkward holds on the left to gain a jug-rail (*in-situ* thread). Reach right to pockets in a grey streak; then climb straight up the trying crack and groove left of the arête (peg runner) to a pointed jug immediately beneath the top.

FA: MJC, CH, HK

**\*Mistress in a Port** 21m E5 6a (27.5.2001)

The impressive seaward arête of the face; bold to start.

Climb the left-hand side of the arête to a short angular groove; awkward gear. Make a very difficult move diagonally rightwards onto the arête, wire on the right. Climb the arête strenuously direct to large holds (junction with PS). Continue up the final, slabbier, section to the top, as for *PS*.

FA: MJC, CH

At the eastern end of the SE face (containing *Right Edge*) is a short, square-cut arête right of a slight boulder-filled inlet.

**Petit Derriere** 12m E2 5c (27.5.2001)

Effectively a solo above a crap landing. Delicate moves up the arête lead to a long reach for a finger-jug at 5m. Climb more easily and mantel onto a projecting ledge.

FA: MJC (solo)

**Jaonnet Bay**

*I mislaid the descriptions of the following four, or never wrote them up to begin with. Notes are from my article.*

**PHILOSOPHER'S STONE STACK****Lockheart** E5 6a (8.4.2002)

Line left of *Philosopher's Stone*.

FA: MJC

**Grifindor** E1 5b (8.4.2002)

The arête right of *Philosopher's Stone*.

FA: MJC

**Slyverin** E1 5b (8.4.2002)

The west-facing arête as a deep water solo.

MJC (solo)

**SMALLER STACK****\*Up to You** E3 6a (8.4.2002)

The perfect little groove; a deep water solo. Water depth OK if you get the timing right.

FA: MJC (solo)

*My diary suggests I also soloed a new E1 5c: I seem to recollect something right of Up to You (a traverse?).*

**EASTERN AREA****\*Take a Chance** 12m E4 6a (2.4.2002)

Sumptuous climbing on the pocketed golden wall right of the *Punch Drunk* arête. Start 4m up and right of the arête. Link the pockets – with one hard move – then, using a good pocket out left, reach a rightward-slanting crack (*Nadir's* variation finish). Follow the crack to the top.

FA: MJC (with Soloist)



**\*Le God** 10m E6 6b (2.4.2002)

An unprotected arête above a boulder-strewn landing; this is the curving arête right of the 'gruesome twins'. The grade assumes the absence of bouldering mats. A powerful opening move from an undercut is the toughest move on the route. Thereafter layaway moves up the left-hand side of the arête brings a juggy finger-rail at 7m to hand. Step right and finish more easily up the right-hand side of the arête.

FA: MJC (solo, after top-roping. No mats – or lilos!)

**\*Humoreske** 10m E3 6b (2.4.2002)

Obtuse and sketchy, with the ragged finger-pockets you have to hang providing extra fun. Start 2m right of *Le God*. Use a short clip stick to pre-place a Rock 5/6. Crank out the pockets right of the arête to a hand-ledge, and retire to lick wounds.

FA: MJC (with Soloist)

## Icart Point

### UPPER GOAT CRAG

**Nocturne** 20m E5 6a (1.6.2004)

A pumpy pitch up the hanging right-hand rib of the alcove under *Perseus's* ramp, left of the crack of *Alpheratz*. Take the rib (good small cam 0 and grapple up sloping holds (Rock 5 in crack under pink bulge), before bridging wildly left onto the apex of the alcove. Pull up and step left around the rib into *Perseus*. Climb the overhanging wall above, step onto a projecting block, and finish up a hanging groove.

FA: MJC (with Soloist)

**\*Alpheratz** 21m E4 5c (21.4.2001)

The obvious crack that rises leftwards out of the cave. Undercut boldly into the crack; then work strenuously leftwards (*in-situ* thread) and into a corner. Follow the corner more easily to join *Perseus* (at its 'constriction'). Move up and finish directly up a crack and slab.

FA: MJC, CH, HK

**\*\*Demon Star** 24m E4 5c (21.4.2001)

A superb climb, Gogarth-like, which is very sustained. It takes the line of weakness left above the cave and of the overhung corner. A large wart on a ramp that cuts across the top of the cave shows the way: hand traverse past the wart and pull into a thin groove on the left (weak *in-situ* thread). Resolutely attack the black wall above, climbing direct past a wobbly block to reach the left end of the overhang (which overhangs the corner on the right). Steep moves up a rib slightly left lead to a ledge and a sting-in-the-tail move on the headwall to the right.

FA: MJC, CH, HK

## LOWER GOAT CRAG

### **\*The Wild Web** 24m E5 6a (21.4.2001)

Sensational climbing on the arête above the back of the cave left of *Smaug*. The gear on the first wall is better than it looks. Climb a narrow corner left of *Smaug* (contrived, because it's easy for your right foot to land on the ledge on the right!). Pull over a bulge on pockets (crucial Friend 1.5), swing left and then gain a sloping shelf beneath the hanging arête. Move left for 2 metres and move up to fix protection right of a corner. Make mid-air swings rightwards across the apex of a rockfall gash and go for a large hold on the arête. Awkwardly step up and finish more easily.

FA: MJC, CH, HK

## KID ISLAND

The smooth wall right of *Wise Crack* now hosts two serious routes (they would be much safer as deep water solos).

### **Kid You Not** 12m E4 6a (20.4.2001)

Satisfyingly delicate, and the gear isn't so lacking. Start below the left-hand end of the wall. Pull up from a dyke onto a juggy ramp and follow it rightwards to a shallow groove right of an arête. Layback a flake in the groove and make thin moves over a bulge to better holds; the top ledge is just above.

FA: MJC (with Soloist, after top-rope practice)

### **\*Wait for a High** 12m E5 6a (20.4.2001)

Intricate and very committing with a few blind-to-place crucial microwires. Start below the centre of the wall. Climb to a good crack at 4 metres. Pull straight up a leaning wall to an awkward move onto a sloping shelf. Step left (microwire over bulge); reach a finger-jug (microwire up left) and rock up right with difficulty to an obvious sloping hand-ledge. Get onto this and, using good holds on the left, top out.

FA: MJC (with Soloist, after top-rope practice). *This was hideously serious on the Soloist and with a single rope, given the laterally spaced and marginal nature of the gear.*

### **Merrily, Merrily** 12m E2 5b (20.4.2001)

Start on top of the boulder right of *Ro-Ro*. Climb an easy compact wall to a ledge on *Ro-Ro*. Launch up the leftward-slanting crack in a steep black-stained wall and finish with exciting moves.

FA: MJC (with Soloist)

## Moulin Huet

### ORANGE WALL

One of the few Guernsey crags where your family can splash away safely while you climb – unsafely! Access is possible after half tide. The following three routes finish at the apex of the wall where there are good nut placements and a metal spike. Retreat can be made by abseil from the spike or – using it as a runner – by down-climbing the easy but loose ramp rightwards to the col above the tunnel. An aesthetic venue, but all routes respond best to a delicate touch!

**Future's not Orange** 18m E4 5c (1.6.2004)

Cautious handling is obligatory, though the gear is all there. Start 3m right of the cave. Climb the right arête of a broken crack to the left edge of the slab. A thin crack slants rightwards up the slab: follow it, using fingerholds to the left, and so join a vertical crack. Finish carefully on good, widely-spaced holds.

FA: MJC, unseconded

**Orange: Don't Peel** 18m E4 5c (1.6.2004)

The best route of the slab: micro-wires and RPs protect only just adequately. Start 8m left of the tunnel below a right-facing flake at 4m Climb up past the flake to a prominent vertical crackline. Take the crack, finishing carefully on good, widely-spaced holds.

FA: MJC, unseconded

**Once an Orange, Always an Orange** 18m E1 5a (1.6.2004)

Start 7m left of the tunnel. Follow a rightward-slanting crack to the left-hand end of the undercut flake (on *Christmas Cracker*). Pull over and take the vegetated crack to the common belay.

FA: MJC, unseconded

**RE-DESCRIBED: Christmas Cracker** 18m E1 5a

Takes the left-slanting crack 4m left of the tunnel. Climb the crack to a hanging flake; then either move right to the arête (poor belay) or, better, continue as for *Once an Orange...*

## Saints Bay East

### WHITE WALL

This is the steep wall left of The Rabbit's Ears.

**Roadkill** 20m HVS 4c (2.6.2004)

A rising traverse of the wall; start at the short corner near the left end of the crag. Go up the corner; then follow a rightward-rising crack to finish up a narrow diagonal ramp 2m left of the arête.

FA: MJC (with Soloist, on-sight)

**Playboy** 9m HS 4b (2.6.2004)

Climb the central and most prominent vertical crack past a hard start.

FA: MJC, Jonathan Crocker

### RABBIT'S EARS

On the short Rabbit's Ears Cliff itself are the following problems:

Left arête via pocket: E1 5a

Slab centre on surprising finger-flakes: VS 4c

Parallel cracks in the right-hand side of the slab: HVS 4c

Right arête: HVS 5a

FAs: MJC (solo) 2.6.2004



Top: Upper Goat Crag, Icart Point  
Bottom: Salt 'n Wound, Port Soif