



Petit Tor

New Deep Water Solos

Martin Crocker

Petit Tor Point: some more deep water solos

Petit Tor Point has seen some deep water solo action in 2020. Not all the following will be new (I can correct and reissue the topo as necessary).

PETIT ZAWN

****Out of My Pocket** 7m S1 F6a/6a+

An exhilarating variant. I thought it the best route of the wall. Gain the scoop twixt guidebook routes 5 and 6. Starting from a high layaway for right hand, climb the left edge of the scoop to gain beautiful finger-holds in the black rock; then reach high left (crux) to a long slanting edge. Finish direct.

***Audience with the Earl of Wooster** 10m S2 F6b

An exciting mini-adventure on a strong line. The rock in the top section is better than it looks, but – nonetheless – it would be safest to avoid going airborne. Follow the traverse and make its first hard move right on the north wall. Stretch up left for a large trembling thread. Use holds up right to gain a handrail up left. Swing right onto a sloping ledge. Take the corner to the top, steadily.
FA Martin Crocker (on-sight solo) 22.7.2020

The next two are situated on the north wall of the zawn.

Neckton 8m S1 F5+

Big holds, but be gentle with them. Scramble down below the obvious niche and traverse left 2m until beneath a scooped roof (*Petit Zawn Traverse* ends here). Test your holds before you pull strenuously over the left-hand side of the roof, and finish much more easily.
FA Andy Pemberton (on-sight solo) 10.9.2018

Au Petit Bonheur 6m S0 F6a

A useful little number, no doubt climbed before. At mid-tide traverse left from the mouth of the zawn for 2m and gain large holds in a plant-centric niche above with difficulty. Pull over the bulge and finish direct.
FA? Martin Crocker (on-sight solo) 30.8.2020

QUARRY FLOOR WALLS

Plankton 6m S2 F5+

Lip-traverse the left side of the cave from south to north. Best reserved for high spring tides since the water is pretty shallow.
FA Andy Pemberton (on-sight solo) 10.9.2018

Planet Shiraz 6m S1/2 F6a

Sounds a great place to live. An obvious line. Take the fault/groove left of *Proper Job*, trending left at the top on big holds. Keep a very wary eye on the reef to your left i.e. if you must fall, do so strictly to your right.
FA Martin Crocker (on-sight solo, though it's easy to look over the top) 29.7.2020. Done before?

DEADLINE FACE

The following routes are numbered according to the topo pic. For substantive information on the existing routes please visit the 2018 South Devon guidebook by Pete Saunders and friends, published by The Climbers' Club.

The *Cracked Arête* area routes are best accessed around mid-tide (at most high tides the sloping barnacle shelf from which the routes start becomes wave-washed or submerged making starting with dry feet nigh on impossible). There is a quick swim-out onto a stepped platform immediately to the south.

Access options: (1) *Shufflebum Traverse* (a pain in the baptising ass, repeatedly, and it's hard to get the sea conditions right), (2) reverse *Cracked Arête* or *Lock up Your Deep Waters*, or (3) from cams on *Cunard Line* (belay of *Neckline*) abseil down the black corner of *Intimate Dark Contortions* placing a few pieces to keep you from dunking in the sea (an inadvertently jammed wire deep in the corner-crack will help in the interim).

Routes 5 to 9 start at the black corner left of *Cracked Arête*.

5 **The Youknowwhat 9m S1 F6b+

The S1 is for the starting move, but once in the air you'll be gurning safely above deep water. Swing up left from the shelf onto a white handrail, and heelhook out into space. At the end of the hand-ledge make a few steep pulls to regain the slab and *Cunard Line*.

FA Martin Crocker (on-sight solo; not really as I first managed to lean in from a rope and brush some big clumps of pigeon shit off the edge of the rail) 8.8.2020

6 **Missing Brittany Ferries 9m S1 F6c+

A brilliant link-up; the best route on this wall. Swing up left onto handrail of *The Youknowwhat*. Find a slot for left hand in the roof above and pull long and hard for a jug at the base of a black scoop. Swing right on a jug-line; then rock up left into the black scoop so joining the end of *White Star Line*.

FA Martin Crocker (on-sight solo) 30.8.2020

7 The Quarantiners 7m S1 F6b

Start 3m left of the black corner (of *IDC*), and ape up the huge jug-line that rises rightwards into the corner. Safe only once you get clear of the sloping shelf.

FA Martin Crocker (on-sight solo) 30.8.2020

8 Intimate Dark Contortions 6m S2 F6b

Do as the name tells you in the impending corner left of *Cracked Arête*. Short, but the crux is poised perilously above the ankle-snapping rock shelf, so don't de-contort too early.

FA Martin Crocker (on-sight solo) 29.7.2020

9 *Freddie the Frog Floats Again** 6m S1 F6b+

Blissful holds and positions on the underside of the prow left of *Cracked Arête*. From the foot of the *IDC* corner, swing out right onto a mega-jug. Reach up right and then gain the centre of the sloping edge of the large ledge above. Swing right to a jug on the apex and hop over. A future off-grid classic?

FA Martin Crocker (on-sight solo) 29.7.2020

10 **Cracked Arête**11 Lock up Your Deep Waters** 9m S1 F4+

Good for acclimatizing. Step right from the foot of the corner and take a short thin crack onto a rounded ledge. Continue easily, move right, and take a broad rib onto *Cunard Line*. (The section above the ledge is shared with *Desired Lines*?)
FA Martin Crocker (on-sight solo) 8.8.2020

Be careful with the water depths under the next two routes; local reports and the guidebook pic of *Desired Lines* (page 467) suggest the sea is not as deep as it looks from above. (Problem is the approach traverse will be underwater at anything higher than mid-tide.)

12 **Fifty Years of This 9m S1/2 F6c+

Immaculate climbing up a *La Crème* like groove (but, don't panic, this is a lot easier). Start 3m right of the corner, past a tricky move. Move up a ragged wall onto a hand-ledge at 4m. Above is a small angular nose: grope, grip and grapple with it to make a powerful stand-up, so gaining small edges in the groove. Sustained moves up the groove lead to the *Cunard Line* traverse.

FA Martin Crocker (solo after top-roping) 8.8.2020

13 *Stressed Eric 9/10m S2 F5+

An airy and atmospheric solo, but don't be tempted to stray right above a subsurface rock platform. Start 3m right of the corner, past a tricky move. Move up a ragged wall onto a hand-ledge at 4m. Swing 1.5m right along the ledge; then pull up onto a rib hosting a wide red vein. Confidently take good finger-ledges straight up the steepening rib onto *Cunard Line*.

FA Martin Crocker (on-sight solo) 8.8.2020

14 *White Star Line 8m F6a+S1

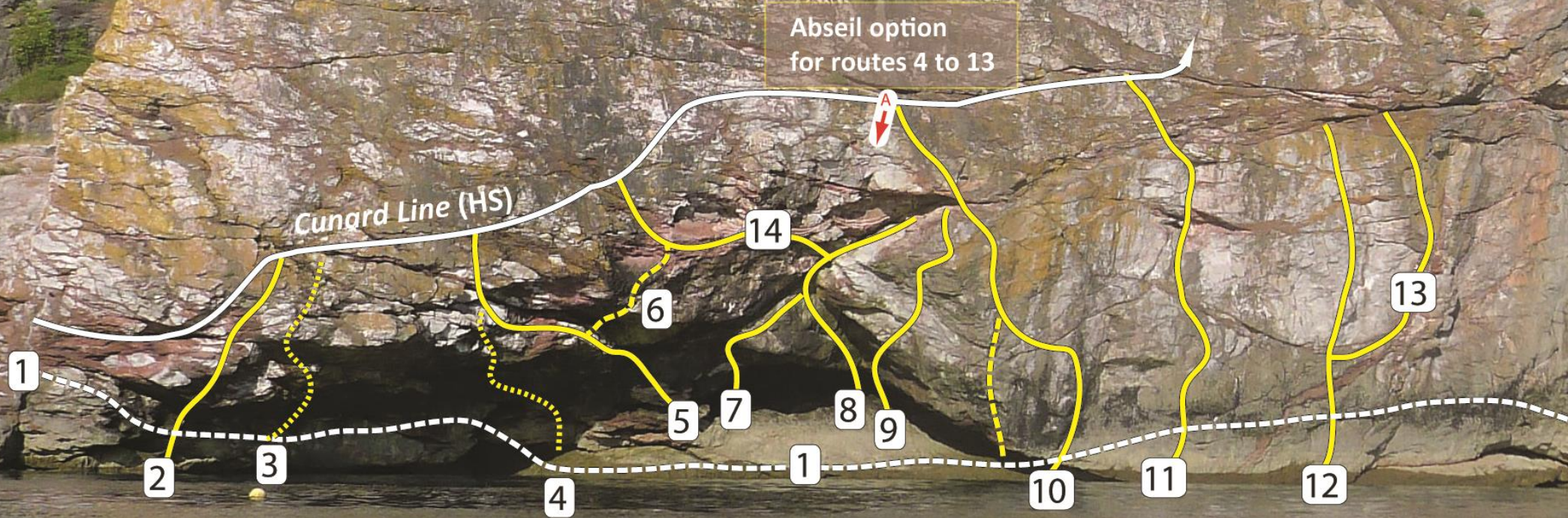
An airy, aerobic, easy-to-access excursion featuring great geology. From the sloping ledge atop *Cracked Arête*, launch left on crystal-lined pockets, hand-traverse a lovely big sloper; then rock up left onto the slabby face.

FA Andy Pemberton (on-sight solo) 7.7.2020

Cover: John McShea on *Proper Job* Pic: Simon Wooster

Deadline Face, Petit Tor Deep Water Soloing

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|--|---|
| 1 * <i>Shufflebum Traverse</i> S1 F6b+ | 8 <i>Intimate Dark Contortions</i> S2 F6b |
| 2 <i>My Inner Chimp</i> S0 F6b+ | 9 *** <i>Freddie the Frog Floats Again</i> S1 F6b+ |
| 3 Possible new line (untried) | 10 * <i>Cracked Arete (and Direct Start)</i> S0 F6a |
| 4 Possible new line (untried) | 11 <i>Lock up Your Deep Waters</i> S1 F4+ |
| 5 ** <i>The Youknowwhat</i> S1 F6b+ | 12 ** <i>Fifty Years of This</i> S1 F6c+ |
| 6 ** <i>Missing Brittany Ferries</i> S1 F6c+ | 13 * <i>Stressed Eric</i> S1/2 F5+ |
| 7 <i>The Quarantiners</i> S1 F6b | 14 * <i>White Star Line</i> S1 F6a+ |



Topo: Martin Crocker

Pic: Simon Wooster & Pete Saunders