

# HIGHLAND OUTCROPS SOUTH

## CORRECTIONS AND COMMENTS – May 2017

### p37 **Lover's Leap:**

*Tiff Off* was by John Mackenzie and Barry Clarke on 8 Nov 1975.

### p48 **Creag na h-Eighe:**

Iain Thow climbed an extra line right of *The Real Thingummy* at VD, nice finish, pretty certain to have been done before.

*Jugs* is worth a star for the airiness.

### p57 **Speirean Ruadh:**

*Mortal Coil* is very necky for VS 5a. The only gear is behind loose flakes and the crux moves are above them! VS leaders will have a real shock.

### p61 **Weem Rock:**

(Gary Latter opinions)

*Back to Basics* is good, but 2\*, not 3. The lower-off of *The Real Mackay* is 4m left of the top. *On the Tick List* is 20m, not 25 and possibly worth a \* if being generous - quite dirty; *Blinded by the Night* has three small ash trees growing out of it – very overgrown, not worth a \*.

### pp61-62 **Aerial Crag:**

(Gary Latter opinions)

*Pawn Channel* is worthwhile and worth a \*. Some loose blocks were removed from the crack.

*Static in the Air* is 5c, not 6a and worth \* or 2 at most, certainly not 3.

*Strong Signal* worth E1 5b and *Cracking Good Reception* HVS 5a. A sling and maillon was left on a tree high on the left, and a steel screwgate on the large single bolt just short of the top of *Cracking Good Reception*. Note: this bolt was placed to support the aerial that once occupied the base – nothing to do with sport climbers!

### p62 **Aerial Crag:**

Alastair Robertson thinks the *Left-Hand Start* is the true start of *Static in the Air* and it was climbed ahead of the line described for the route.

### p74 **Creag na h-Iolaire:**

Martin & John McKenna thought *Get a Grip* and *The Strangler* E2 6a and E2 5c (not E1 6a and E1 5c). *Get a Grip* has 17 agreements on UKC that it is harder than E1 and none against.

p74 *Power Pinch* was climbed by the McKennas direct without traversing into *The Branch* and just climbing the wall on crimps with some small gear.

p75 The photo is not *Premier* but the much harder *Junior's Jinx* (E1 5c).

**p84 Glen Lednock, South Buttress:**

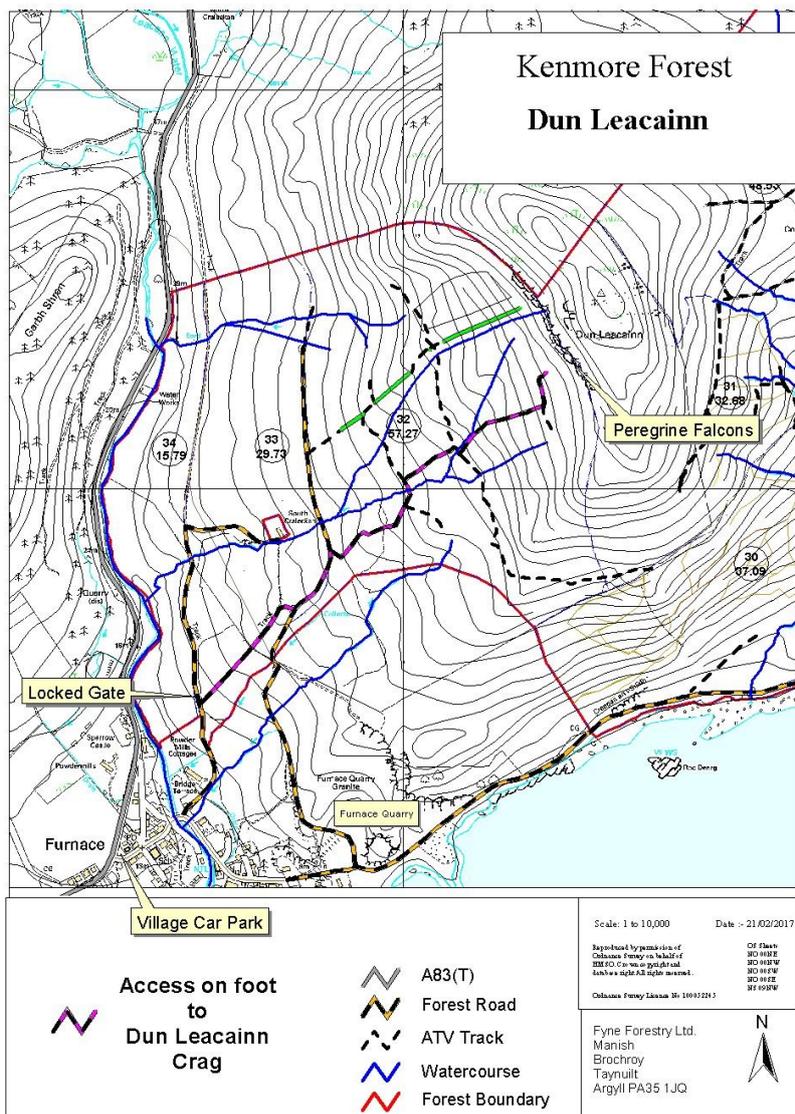
*Central Groove E4 6a \**. The old pegs have been replaced fairly recently. An abseil sling and maillon round a large tree at the top, (also common to *Carcase Wall*). A peregrine nested here in 2015 and 2016.

**p88 Creag Bhioran:**

Matt Thompson thought the approach should be 40mins and Gary Latter 45mins (not 30mins). Gary Latter says: The majority of the routes are 18m (not 25m), with the rightmost two routes 14m. The belay is 9m back (not 15m). All the routes were thought to be vastly over-rated; there are certainly no 3 star routes on the crag – perhaps 2 if being very generous. The crag does not retain the sun until late afternoon – loses the sun at 2pm in mid June.

**p113 Dun Leacainn**

The local forest manager has included an approach path through the forestry replanted area. See map below. Parking should be at the Village Car Park adjacent to the Post Office / Shop, as the forest road access has to be kept clear for forest operations. A sign at the “Locked Gate” marks the start of the path to the crag. The path takes the same line to a short section of forest road, then goes in a more direct line to the crag. There are marker posts. Peregrines nest on the crag, so it is safer to visit after 30th June.



**p119 Creag nam Fitheach:**

(Alasdair Fulton) A little more warning of the amount of bushwhacking required to get to the routes wouldn't go amiss. Also, maybe worth mentioning a wire brush would be helpful. I know this is a standard for many climber's kit bag, but I was actually expecting this crag to be quite clean based on the UKC and guidebook description. Note: Andy Nisbet (not the author) did check some routes were clean but not the ones mentioned

p121 *America* cannot be \*\* in its current condition. The first third of the route is entirely made of moss and slime and it's only 6 or 7 m right of *Trundle Crack*, not 10m.

p121 *Crucifixion Crack* I think should be 6a, and \*\* but maybe \*\*\* if you're in a more adventurous spirit than we were?

p121 *Crystal Vision* is obscured by carapace of moss, at first I couldn't even envision how to get to the crack proper, then I brushed some of the quilt away and thought...hmmm, maybe next time after an abseil and 30mins brushing!

**p152 Creach Bheinn:**

The year of the FA of *Cruiser* should be 2014.

**GLEN NEVIS**

**p200 Sheep Fank Wall:**

(Gary Latter) Many of the routes are very dirty here.

*The Fuzz*, VS 4c – filthy, not worth a star.

*Gambit*, S – cleaned, though felt nearer to VD & 1 \* only.

*Enter and Remember*, E2 5b – unclimbable at present, definitely not worth 2 \*.

**p200/201**

The line of Mint Sauce on the topo is incorrect. Attached topo with the correct line for Mint Sauce shown in black.



**p202 Double Buttress:**

*Wall Games* should be marked further left on the topo.

**p204 Hangover Buttress:**

(Gary Latter) *As Time Goes By* was thought E4 6a \* and well protected.

**p209 Cavalry Crack Buttress:**

*Vampire Alternative Finish* starts right of the oak belay, down and left of the leftmost pine.

**p221 Road Buttress:**

(Gary Latter) *Sidewalk* is naturally clean line, worth a \*.

**p226 Styx Buttress:**

(Gary Latter) *Tobe Hooper* thought more like \* (not 3\*).

*Breakheart Pass* felt more like E2 5c \* (not E1 5b \*\*).

*Curse* was worth a \*.

*Fidelity* was worth 2\*. Starting further left directly beneath the holly reduces the grade to VS 4c.

*That Hollow Feeling* was thought 10m \*.

**p234 Secretaries' Buttress:**

(Gary Latter) *Last Word* was thought E1 5a \* (not HVS 4c).

*Just Passing* felt more like E1 5b \* (not 5a).

*Vincent* is superb, surely worthy 4\* - best E3 in Glen Nevis?

**p237 Nameless Crag:**

*Diode* has had lots of traffic recently, many thinking 3\*.

**p245 Black's Buttress:**

(Gary Latter) *Centrepiece* – replaced missing peg with 2 pegs in same thin horizontal break.

*Desmo* felt like E2 5b \*.

**p270 What Wee Wall:**

(Gary Latter) *What Wee Ramp* thought worth a \*, lovely rock, and even some protection.

**p 204 Hangover Buttress:**

Gary Latter thought *As Time Goes By* to be E4 6a \*\*.

p233 The nameless climber on *Vincent* is actually Alastair Robertson.

**p242 High Crag, Upper Tier:**

*Slatehead Slab* – FA by Dave Cuthbertson, Gary Latter, 27 Oct 1985

*Direkt und Links* and *Undergrabbens* – FA of both by Dave Cuthbertson

**p248 Scimitar Buttress:**

*The Great Beast* and *The Young Pretender* are the same route. The latter was climbed 4 days earlier and its grade of E2 5b seems correct. The grade can be reduced to E1 5a by traversing in under the bulge from the left.

p249 The line on the topo for *Wanderlust* is not correct. After the bend, the line is lower “traverses left”. It crosses *Diagonal*, then goes up (or easier, can join *Diagonal*).

On the same topo, the route *Rip* is slightly further left and the route is at least E1 5b (not much protection).

**p266-268 Gorge Crag:**

*In the Groove* - ascent of first pitch was 1983, not 1984.

*All Our Yesterdays* – the first ascent of this was led by Gary Latter, not Dave Cuthbertson as stated.

*Mini Cooper* (Gary Latter) - both pitches are very overgrown; pitch 2 felt more like E1 5b in its current state, rather than HVS 5a.

**p270 What Wee Wall:**

(Gary Latter) All the routes here are clean, with the extremes on immaculate rock, certainly worth seeking out. The two original pegs that protected the upper section of *Carpe Diem* were removed by another party and the route has not been led since their removal. The only other protection available is at less than half-height.

p271 The climber's name on the photo should be spelt as Callum Johnson.

**p280 Spreadeagle Buttress:**

(Gary Latter) *Fool's Gold* is dirty, not worth a \* in its current state.

*Chairosкуро* – cleaned recently, had further ascent in 2016.

**p280 Spreadeagle Buttress:**

– Kevin Howett thinks there is a route missing that he did with Andy Nelson direct through *Veinity Fair* (but no record that I've seen, AN)

**p282 Blade Buttress:**

Abseil sling & maillon on a flake at the top left of the crag (30m abseil).

*Cruisability* was cleaned in 2013, climbed in 2016 and still clean. Worth 4\* perhaps?

**p287 Steall Hut Crag:**

*Lame Beaver* has recently been cleaned and climbed at least twice. Kevin Howett thinks the dismissal of the trad routes on Steall hut in this way is quite disrespectful. The text says “it seems unlikely nowadays that this will return to being a trad venue” – it is a mixed trad and sport venue like Upper Cave and Brin Rocks. The way this is couched in the guide kinda gives the impression that it would be OK to retro-bolt the trad routes there. I can't speak for Gary Latter or Mark McGowan who did the E6 and E7 there, but if anyone bolts my route *Lame Beaver* I'll de-bolt it and cut their fingers off! This crag should have been included in the outcrops guide as other similar crags were. It's too late now, but I hope that on the SMC website there is a good crag topo and full route descriptions of the trad routes and a clear note that they must remain trad and not be retro-bolted.

**p288 Kentallen Crag:**

FAs of *Creel*, *Open Corner*, *Cocktail*, *Prawn*, *Fall Out*, *Cop Out* were led by Davy Gunn and seconded by Bob Hamilton, except for *Barnacle* which was led by Bob.

**p289 Stac an Eich:**

FA of *Autan* was Davy & Fiona Gunn. *The Covenant* and *Appin Groove* were soloed by Davy Gunn.

p301 Matthew Thompson doesn't agree with some of the grades at the **Beinn Bheag Slab**. His opinions are on <http://www.ukclimbing.com/logbook/crag.php?id=21076>

**p309 Druim Fiaclach:**

Noel Williams found an easy and very direct way up to the crag with *Arisaig Arete* which used a small tunnel under the railway (unmarked on OS maps). The crag is at NM 7301 8480.

*Clean Sweep* 55m VS. Willie Anderson, Jim Paterson 1984 (corner only); Noel Williams & AN Other, 1984 (first complete ascent).

The slabby corner immediately left of *Arisaig Arete* is now rather vegetated again and would need re-cleaning.

1. 35m 4c Climb the obvious left-facing slabby corner to a small tree.
2. 20m 4b Traverse left until it is possible to break through the steep rocks above.

Noel Williams found this book, *The Guide to Arisaig and the Road to the Isles* by Joan M. Scudds, 1977. And an extract from p14, by Norman Tennant. The routes have yet to be identified.

**DRUIM FIACLACH**, NM 735 850, is an attractive looking little peak seen from the road alongside Loch-nan-Uamh. It is a fine viewpoint for the Rois Bheinn group south, Ben Nevis east, and the small Isles to the west. Eilean an Each, the islet north of Muck shows up particularly well. It may be approached either from the corner 800 yards east of the Prince's Cairn (Cuiladaroch) NM 726 843, where a track leads under the railway to the bealach (north of Glac Ruadh; or directly north from Glen Mama farm.

The rock is very sound on the open slabs and faces— on a dry, sunny day reminiscent of gabbro at its best. It is probably a basic rock that has been through several igneous stages, much folded with many quartz dykes.

The face is in three tiers. The lowest provides:

*Coxcomb* 60' VD. The first ten feet seem inordinately steep, but don't be lured to the right. Above, the overhanging steps are good incut holds, and on the final crest one may emulate Blondin! Seen from Glac Ruadh this ridge presents a cox-comb like form.

The middle tier is divided by a diagonal heather ledge, running from bottom left to top right. To the right hand edge is *Raven's Slab*, 150' S. The first pitch is a slab leading to the right hand edge with adequate (just) incut holds. Then follows a steep section up small quartzite knobs and side pressure holds to a 10' heather traverse right, to a cave. Exit left up a steep short chimney with heather cornice.

*Contorta* 200' HS

On the uppermost tier is the steep topmost slab seen so well from the road by the Prince's Cairn. It has a pronounced pinkish blush discernible from a distance. Close to, the strata are seen to twist like the grain in Birdseye Maple.

On the slab the holds are fine, and they become finer and finer, till one is finally greeted at the top by hawthorn and briar roses. A steep chimney leads to within 50' of the highest point. One should not be lured into the depths of the chimney where more savage thorns lie in wait for the timerous!

**p324 Binnein Shuas:**

Pitch 1 of *The Fortress* is 50m. The initial corner is harder climbed direct so the description is misleading.

**p361 Creag Dubh, Little Rock:**

Gary Latter thinks *Heather Wall* and *This One* are all E4, as originally graded, not E5. *Ling* 15m E4 6a \*\*. Gary Latter. 2016.

Between *This One* and *Un Petit Mort*, very well protected. *This One* should be further left on the topo. A sling and maillon placed on a thread 10m back from top gives a 25m abseil.

**p372 Great Wall topo:**

(Gary Latter) The abseil at the top of *Strapadicktaemi* is marked too far left. On a recent ascent, from the top of the crack, a short traverse left along a thin break, then climbing direct to the abseil thread gave a better finish at E1 5b, avoiding the finish on grass and traverse left to the same point.

**p392 Burnside Crag:**

Some of the routes were cleaned and climbed in April 2014 by Rory Brown and friends. The routes at the right side of the crag need more scrubbing.

**p392 Creag a' Mhuillin:**

Rory Brown and Emma cleaned and climbed some of the routes on 23 May 2016. *No Worries* and *Blissful Thinking* were thought to be good. *Jug Addict* is also climbable. *The Pinch Panther* (E4) is mostly cleaned but may need a bit more on the lower half as it looked very bold. The quarry mentioned in the approach was blasting, worth watching out for on the walk in!

**p405 Duntelchaig:**

John Mackenzie has led *The Percussion*, although the exact line he took is uncertain.

**pp 407 & 409 Duntelchaig:**

*Bent Peg* and *Razor Flake* (by both versions) were climbed on 1 Oct 1978.