

# GSY TRAD

## New Routes Pamphlet

(begrudgingly...) assembled by James Burton

## [INSIDE FRONT COVER]

**On the front:** Same as the GSY TRAD reprint – George Thompson on Floating Rib a.k.a. The Pink Panther at The Main Wall (La Corbiere to Le Bigard; Page 206 of GSY TRAD). *Photo by James Burton.*

**Below:** Sound advice





## **DISCLAIMER**

Whilst every effort has been made to ensure the information within this pamphlet is accurate, the nature of climbing on sea cliffs can give under-graded, poorly protected routes on loose rock with approaches/final descents sometimes being complicated and exposed (and that's just these new routes...). When interpreting the information in this pamphlet, you are expected to use your judgement and common sense as an experienced climber – the topos within this pamphlet are no substitute for reading the route descriptions (which aren't much better...) etc. The author and any other persons involved in the production of this pamphlet accept no liability or responsibility whatsoever for any injury or damage caused to climbers, third parties or property by you relying on the information in this pamphlet.

Thomas Falla left us way too soon earlier this year.  
This pamphlet is dedicated to, and in loving memory of him.



## INTRODUCTION

The completion of GSY TRAD (quite possibly the best guide to traditional climbing on the island of Guernsey to date) in early 2018, spurred a level of new routing during the remainder of 2018 which came close to the levels recorded between 1996-1997 and 2001-2004 and absolutely nowhere near the levels of new routing recorded in the 1980s.

This pamphlet has high hopes of being a comprehensive record of the new routes climbed on Guernsey since GSY TRAD went to print and providing the climber wishing to repeat these new routes with the route descriptions and topos that are now expected in a post GSY TRAD world.

So, without further ado, here are the new routes climbed since GSY TRAD went to print (and one from 1908 that got missed).

## NOTES

1. The following are not considered new routes and accordingly are not welcome in this pamphlet for ethical (and other) reasons;
  - i. Bullshit eliminates.
  - ii. Bumbling out of the top of a harder existing route onto an easier existing route and laying claim to a new “complete and utter bumbly” finish to the harder existing route.
2. Unless it's a brand spanking new crag with brand spanking new routes on it, information on how to get to a crag, where to park, final approaches and descents aren't in this pamphlet. In their place is a reference to the relevant page number in GSY TRAD:

**18B01 Dog & Lion Rocks (page 307)**

3. Text in *italics* is taken from GSY TRAD and is here to assist in the location of a new route.
4. If you think you've bagged a new route and it isn't this pamphlet please write to “Why isn't my new route in the GSY TRAD – New Routes Pamphlet?” c/o The Guernsey Mountaineering Club.

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## 0203 Martello Wall (page 10)

*The small quarried crag 30 yards to the west has a few routes, mostly poor. The following routes may provide some amusement;*



**Micro Bullshit** | VD | [ ] in the Topo

The corner(s) underneath the left hand end of the small granite capping wall

First Ascent; Barny Hamon, seconded by Luke Laine, 16<sup>th</sup> April 2018

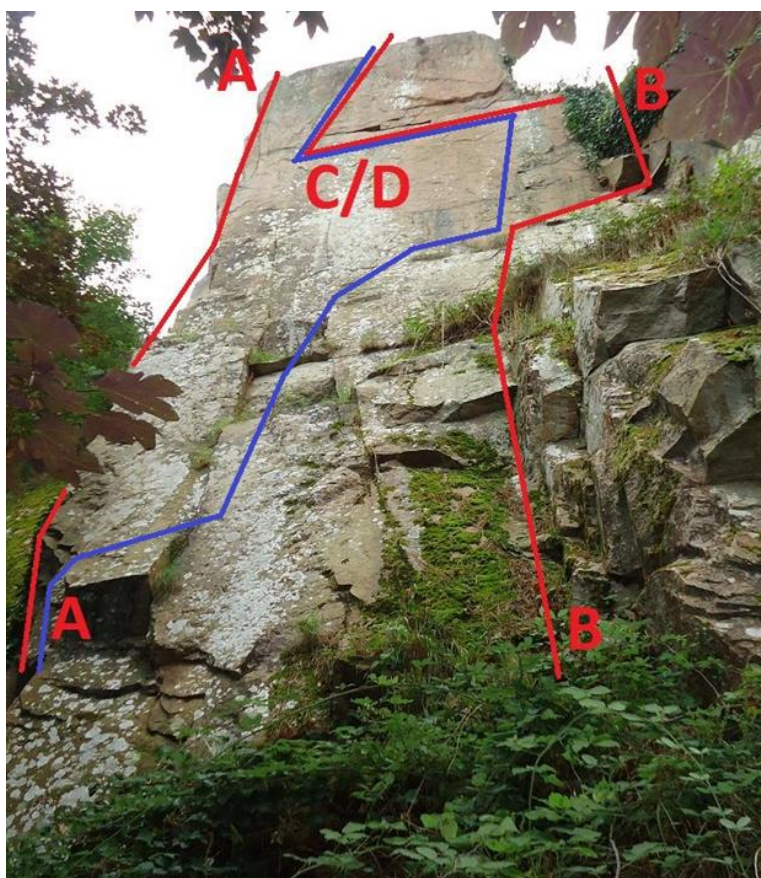
**The Flying Squirrel** | VS 4c | [ ] in the Topo



## 0303 Le Guet (page 21)

\*\*\*| **Still Bored of Administration**  
| E6 6b | 30 metres | [ ] in the Topo

The logical ground level start to Bored of Administration. Climb the left-hand arête until the quarried channel can be gained, climb this until its end. Traverse right and then make technical and bold moves which bring you to the right-hand side of the horizontal break (start of Bored of Administration). Make a delicate traverse left until the vertical crack where a technical sequence guards the upper final slab. First Ascent; Steve Le Feuvre (headpoint, all gear placed on lead and no pitons used), 18<sup>th</sup> April 2018.





## 0305 Fort Hommet (page 26)

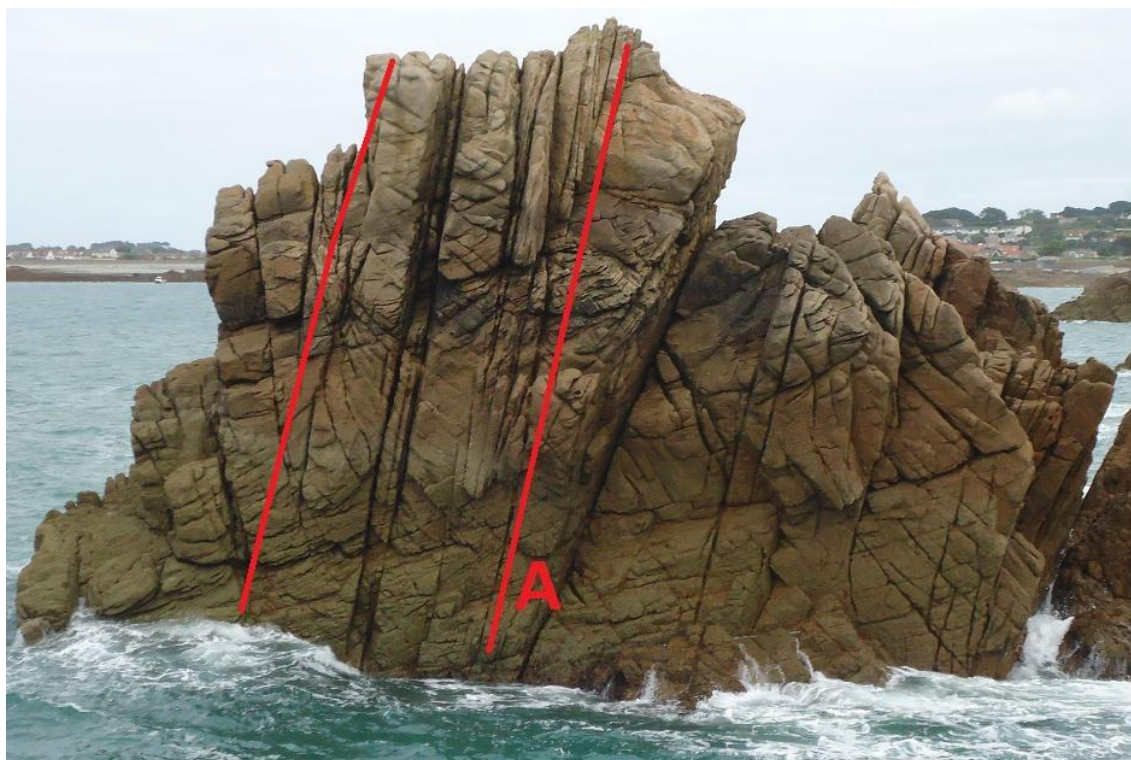
*The next routes are on the stacks just west of the Fairy Caves.*

**Three Men in a Boat** | D | 20 feet | **A** in the Topo

**One Foot in the Wave** | S 4a | 8 metres | [ ] in the Topo

Climb 4 feet left of the obvious chimney onto the ramp, finish up the righthand face of the block.

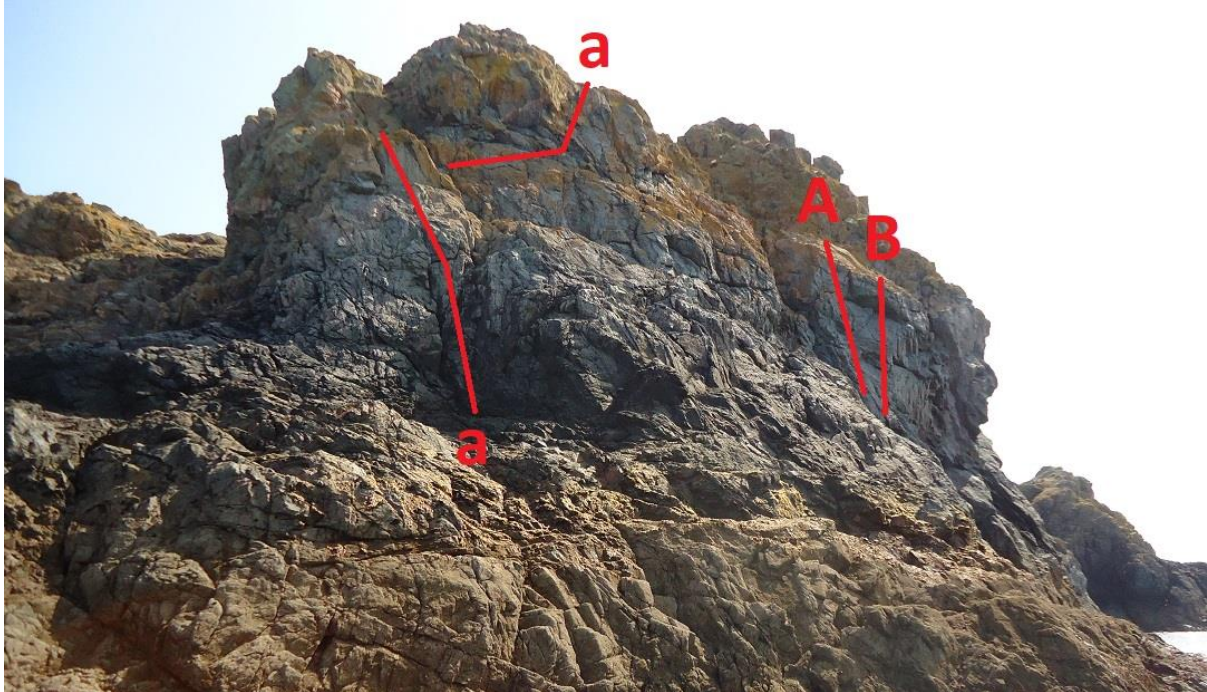
*First Ascent; Thomas Falla and Barny Hamon, 19<sup>th</sup> May 2018.*



## 0403 Main Wall (page 36)

The below is an updated topo for Main Wall.

Remember someone saying they had climbed couple of new routes or perhaps alternative first pitches for Saracen, no route information was supplied though so nothing goes in here for the moment.



## 0406 Atlantic Wall (page 45)

**Greg** | S | 5 metres | **[ ]** in the Topo

Between Forty-First Street and Ground Hog Day is a short slab. Climb this direct.

*First Ascent; Barry Hamon, seconded by Thomas Falla, 27<sup>th</sup> August 2018.*

*To the right are several easy ascents/descents. A large boulder is jammed near the top of the gully. Three short routes are here;*

**Ground Hog Day** | VS 5a | 25 feet | **BB** in the Topo

**Time Bandits** | VS 5a | 25 feet | **CC** in the Topo

**Tardis** | HS 4b | 25 feet | **DD** in the Topo



**Bye Guys** | HS 4a | 10 metres | **[ ]** in the Topo

6 feet to the right of Tardis is an obvious shallow overhanging corner. Climb through this corner and the small bulge above and onto the right hand face above. Follow the crack up the centre of the right hand face to the top of the slab, then over a small ledge to finish.

*First Ascent; Luke Laine, seconded by James Burton, 27<sup>th</sup> August 2018.*



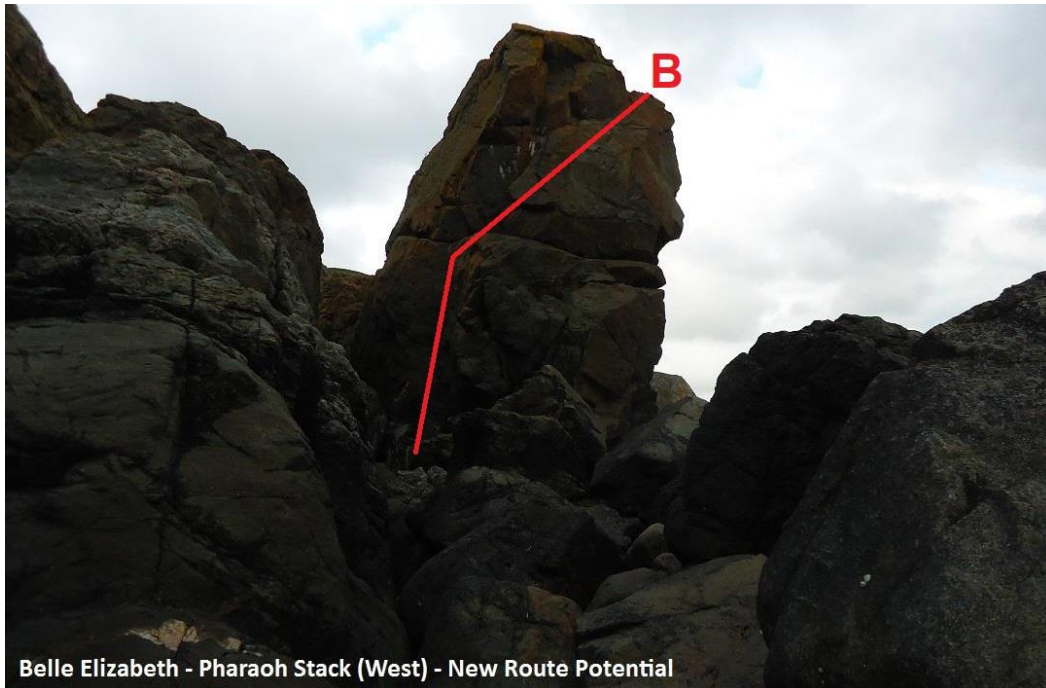
## 0902 Pharaoh Stack (page 148)

This route is on the western end of Pharaoh Stack.

**The Pharaoh's Stack** | HS 4b | 12 metres | **B** in the Topos

Start at the seaward end of the gully that runs parallel to the cliff. The route: climb the short wall on poor holds to a small ledge, traverse around towards the seaward side of the stack, following a small rightward trending crack to the top. The topout is loose. Descend with care, a see-saw abseil is probably the safest and by far the most fun option.

First Ascent; Matt Skipper and Luke Laine, 16<sup>th</sup> June 2019.



## 1112 Tower Buttress (Stack) (a brand spanking new bit of Tower Buttress (page 183))

In front of Tower Buttress is a small stack. The small stack's seaward side consists of a trapezoid shaped face to the left and two huge scars to the right. There are four routes in and around the scars.

**Dear Ethics Committee** | HVS 4c | 8 metres | **L** in the Topo

In the centre of the lower half of the trapezoid shaped face is a diamond shaped feature; climb up to this, over it and then directly to the top of the face on delicate but solid crimps. Note, the top half of the route is best protected by a pre-placed sling and carabiner at the top.

*First Ascent; James Burton, seconded by Thomas Falla, 9<sup>th</sup> September 2018.*

**Surprisingly Awkward** | S 3c | 8 metres | **M** in the Topo

Facing the stack, the left hand of the two huge scars forms a corner with a triangular block at its base. Gain the corner from directly below the triangular block and follow it to the top.

*First Ascent; Thomas Falla, seconded by James Burton, 9<sup>th</sup> September 2018.*

**Surprisingly Stiff** | VS 4a | 8 metres | **N** in the Topo

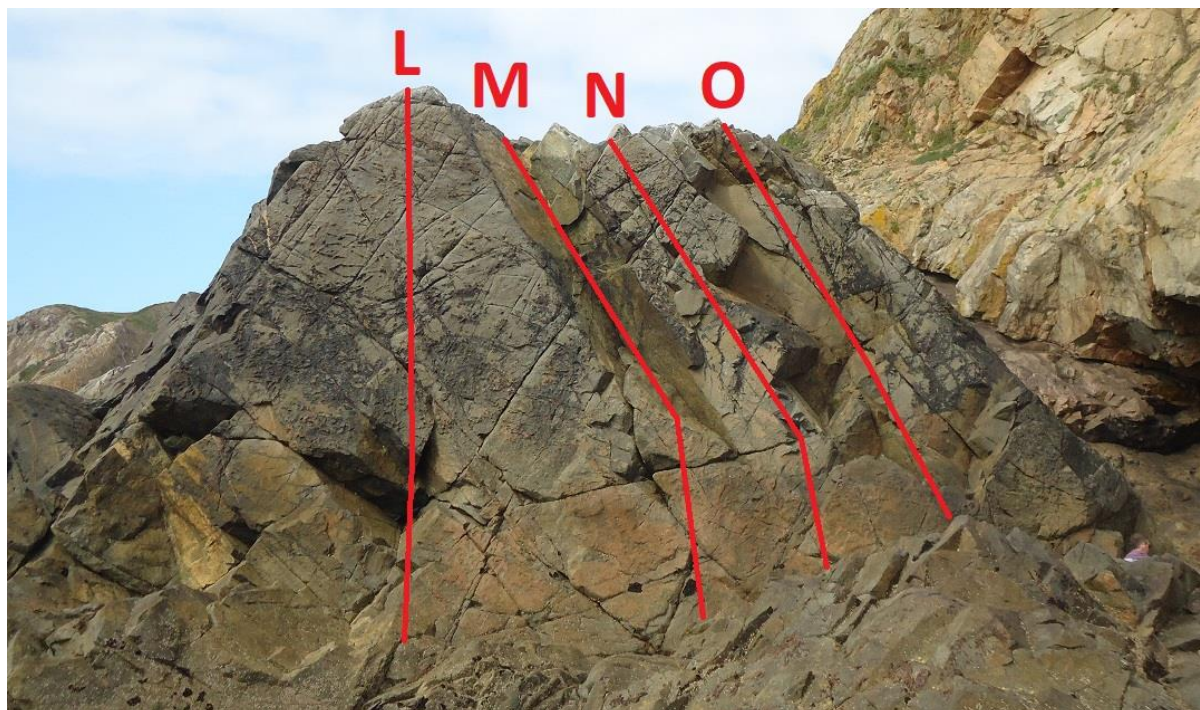
Climb the rib between the two huge scars.

*First Ascent; James Burton, seconded by Thomas Falla, 9<sup>th</sup> September 2018*

**Tope Rope Tough Guy? Rather be a Lead Roper Lezzer** | VD | 8 metres | **O** in the Topo

Facing the stack, the right hand of the two huge scars forms a blocky chimney. Below the base of the blocky chimney are pink splotches in the rock. Start by the pink splotches and climb up to gain and follow the blocky chimney to the top.

*First Ascent; James Burton, seconded by Thomas Falla, 9<sup>th</sup> September 2018.*



## 1202 Crag X (page 189)

**Unknown Name** | VD/S | **A** in the Topo

**Where's Gemma?** | S | 15 metres | **[ ]** in the Topo

The main slab in the centre of the crag is bordered on its left hand side by a thin narrow slab. Gain and follow the thin narrow slab to the left hand side of the big roof. Traverse off left to avoid a top out through the gorse bush/grass above.

*First Ascent; James Burton, seconded by Thomas Falla, 12<sup>th</sup> May 2018.*

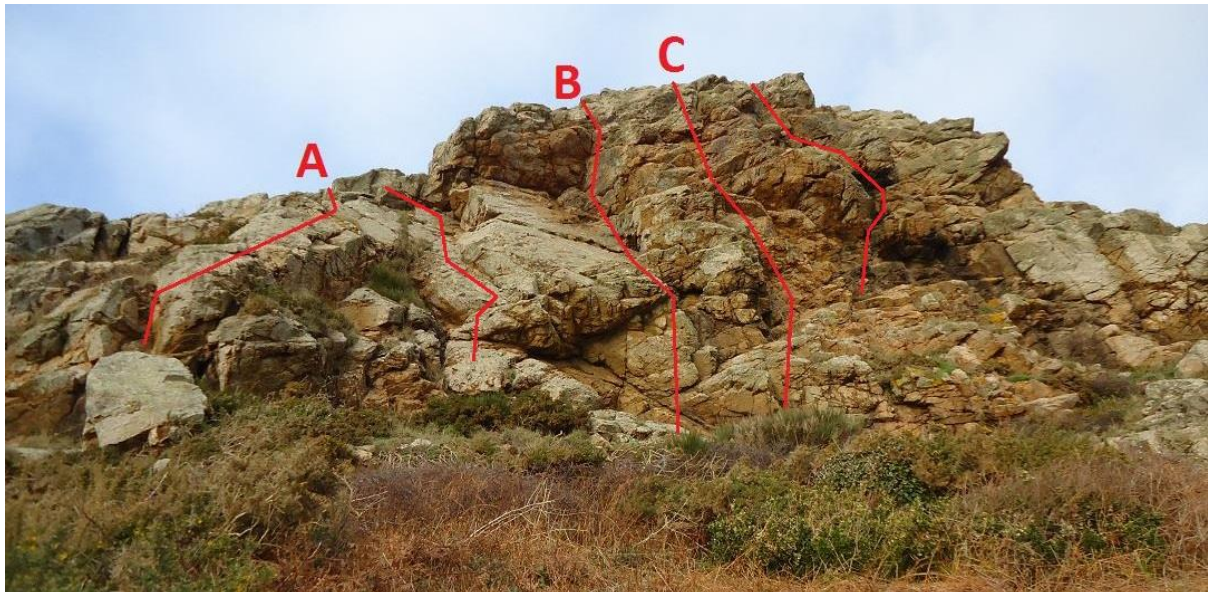
**Unknown Name** | HVS/E1 | **B** in the Topo

**Unknown Name** | ?? ?? | **C** in the Topo

**A Harrowing Experience** | VS 4c | 20 metres | **[ ]** in the Topo

Up and right of the blocky ridge is a large ledge. From this large ledge gain and follow the curved black stained groove rightward and then back leftward above the start of the route. Continue up the leftward trending slab to top out through a large notch in the skyline. Look out for fragile holds...

*First Ascent; Thomas Falla, seconded by James Burton, 12<sup>th</sup> May 2018.*



Note, it is highly suspected that this crag's name is a typo in the original notes from the late 1980s and given the terrible state of the rock, should have been crossed out of the original notes to indicate that whilst it may appear to be a crag, its actually a figment of your imagination.

**Crag**



## 1306 Waterfall Buttress (page 225)

**Guy Fawkes** | VS 4b | 70 feet | **E** in the Topos

**Budloe** | VS 4b | 70 feet | **F** in the Topos

**Damp Squib** | VD | **f** in the Topos

Start at the same place as Budloe and head up the left end of the slab to the grassy ledge, move left to go through the easy notch and climb the wall above.

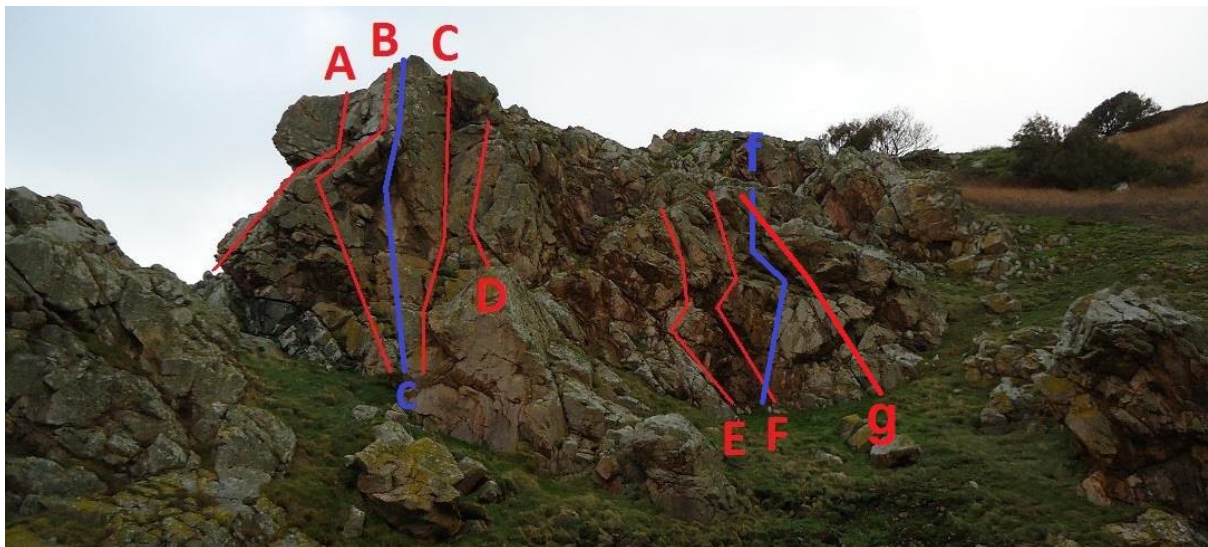
*First Ascent; David Richings and Steve Giles, 6<sup>th</sup> May 2018*

**Gunpowder** | VD | **g** in the Topos

Climb the crack in the centre of the slab to the grassy ledge. Climb the left edge of the block above and then the wall above.

*First Ascent; Steve Giles and David Richings, 6<sup>th</sup> May 2018*

*To the right the cliff becomes scrappy and worthless.*



## 18B01 Dog & Lion Rocks (page 307)

### Dog Rock (closest to land)

\*\*\* | **1908 Route** | VD | **D** in the Topos

Taken from Climbers Club Journal Vol. XI No. 41 September 1908; we climbed it from the big rock abutting against its base on the land side, and climbed up a shallow recess inclined a little to the left for 10 feet. We then crossed a bit of rock on our right into another and rather steeper recess, straight up which we climbed into the gap between the two top blocks. The higher of these is on the right, and is reached by standing on the edge of a sharp splinter of rock. The top of this is about eight feet above the gap, and is just large enough to comfortably stand upright upon. Note, the higher of the two top blocks has fallen off.

*First Ascent; F. H. Grenfell and Brother, 1908.*

**Remembrance Day** | S | **G** in the Topos

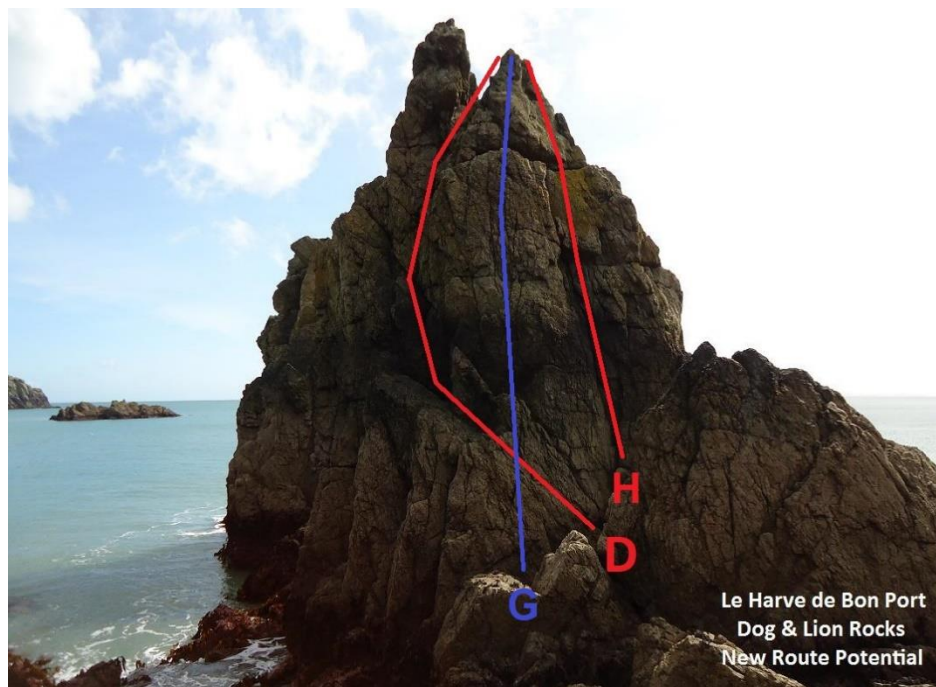
Directly up the face between 1908 Route and Brewdog

*First Ascent; Steve Dorrity and Steve Le Feuvre, 11<sup>th</sup> November 2018*

**Brewdog** | S | **H** in the Topos

In the centre of the landward face is a faint corner, take this until a small overhang at two thirds height. Climb this direct to gain a small slab with delicate moves which guard the western summit.

*First Ascent; Steve Le Feuvre and Steve Dorrity, 11<sup>th</sup> November 2018*



\* | **Cat Burglar** | HS | **E** in the Topos

Follow the right hand crack on the east (seaward) face of Dog Rock to the ledge at 20 metres. From the ledge follow the flake and crack feature to the summit. *First Ascent; Steve Le Feuvre and Martin Smith, 16<sup>th</sup> May 2018*



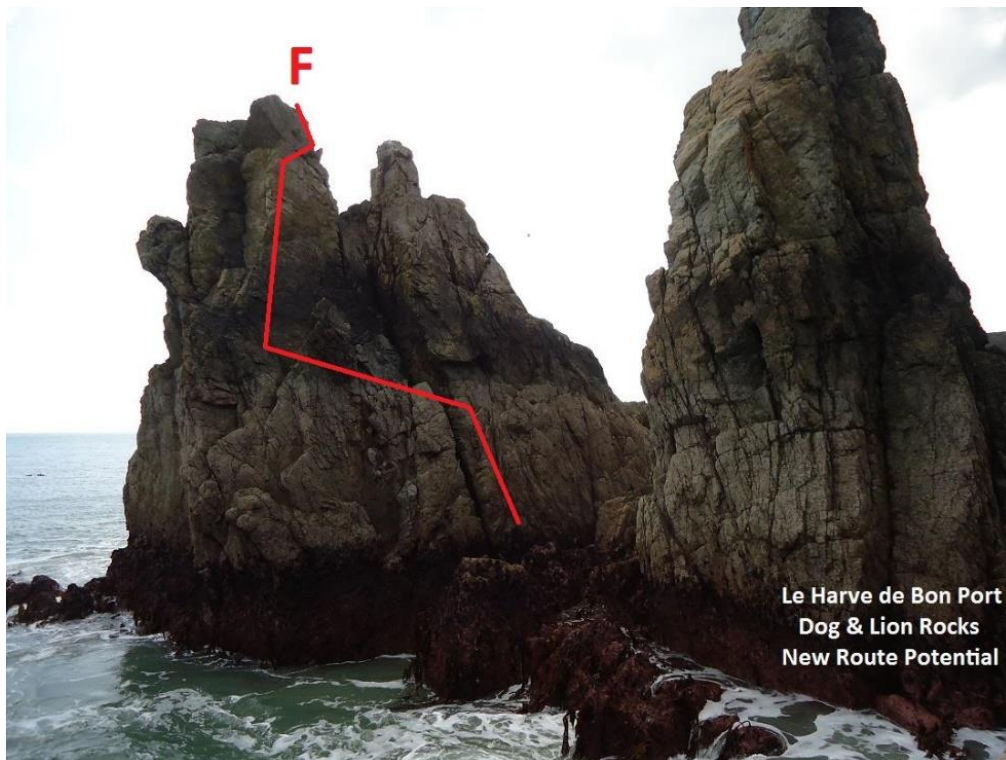
Copyright Steve Le Feuvre

**Lion Rock (furthest from land)**

\* | **The Third Cat gets the Cream** | HS | **F** in the Topos

From the centre of the landward side of Lion Rock, climb easy ground leftward until a large block at the bottom of an arete is reached. Climb the arete on its right hand side. Move right 5 feet onto the face and gain the top on positive holds.

*First Ascent; Steve Le Feuvre and Martin Smith, 16<sup>th</sup> May 2018.*
















Le Harve de Bon Port  
Dog & Lion Rocks  
New Route Potential

**18C01 Orange Wall (page 308)**

This crag is completely and utterly terrible, with the pages detailing its routes best torn out of your copy of GSY TRAD.



## 18C02 Mont Durand Gully (a brand spanking new crag)

						
	2	1	2			
						Deep Water Solo
						N

Below Le Mont Durand and more or less exactly between Moulin Huet and Petit Port, a stream cuts down the cliff to the sea. Approximately 50 metres to the east (left facing the sea) of where the stream makes sea level is a narrow gully; **Mont Durand Gully**. It can be accessed by a short scramble (or coasteer if the tide isn't quite low enough) from either of Moulin Huet or Petit Port. An alternative approach is to kayak in from Saints Harbour.

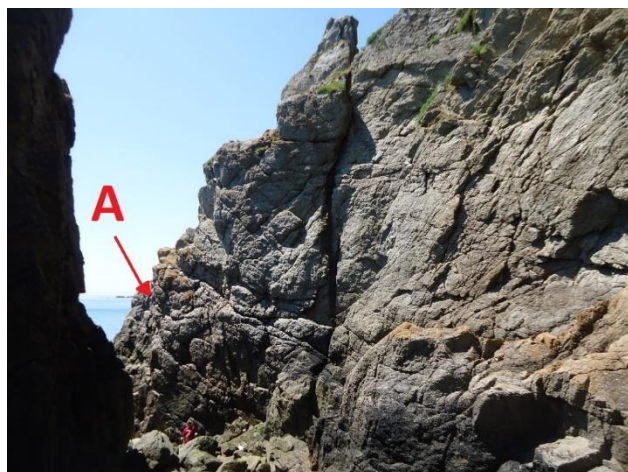
There are a few routes on each wall of the gully with scope for a range of new routes both in the gully and around the nearby arches. **Tidal Access**; The scramble (or coasteer if the tide isn't quite low enough) in from either of Moulin Huet or Petit Port is best tackled two hours either side of a low spring tide. Kayaking in will give an extra couple of hours of access.

The west (right facing the sea) wall of the gully has a distinctive vertical brown layer. From the base of the vertical brown layer is a diagonal weakness trending leftward to the top of the lower section of the wall. The first route (Will I be able to catch your head?) starts underneath the left hand end of the diagonal weakness.

**Will I be able to catch your head?** | S | 10 metres |  
**A** in the Topos

A shallow corner above a rounded arete leads to the top of the wall. An awkward exposed move on reasonable holds gains the top. *First Ascent; James Burton (Solo), 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2017.*

**Project** – the distinctive vertical brown layer.



The seaward end of the east (left facing the sea) wall is a slab split by a variety of diagonal cracks.



**Burton's Crack** | VD | 10 metres | **B** in the Topos

The obvious left to right rising crack; start up the small arete at the bottom left of the slab, into the left hand of the two parallel cracks and onwards to the top. *First Ascent; James Burton (Solo), 15<sup>th</sup> July 2018*

**Kim's Crack** | D | 10 metres | **C** in the Topos

Follow the right hand of the two parallel cracks to where the cracks converge. Continue up the left hand crack to finish. *First Ascent; Kim Torode, seconded by James Burton and David Richings, 15<sup>th</sup> July 2018.*

**Goldie's Crack** | D | 10 metres | **D** in the Topos

Take the right hand crack to the convergence. Continue up the right hand crack to finish. *First Ascent; David Richings, seconded by James Burton and Kim Torode, 15<sup>th</sup> July 2018*

**Hour Glass Rib** | S | 10 metres | **E** in the Topos

Climb up the hour glass shaped rib to the right of the cracked slab. From the top of the rib, head directly up the headwall to the top. *First Ascent; James Burton, seconded by David Richings, 15<sup>th</sup> July 2018.*



## 1908 Le Harve l'Elin d'Colin (Floating Slab) (page 326)



To the right of Floating Wall is a two section slab; **Floating Slab**. The following routes begin on the upper section of Floating Slab.

**An Armchair Classic..** | VD | 30 metres | [ ] in the Topos

That should have stayed that way! An adventure climb;

1. 15 metres. At the seaward end of the small gully formed by Floating Slab and the large triangular grey boulder that sits in the entrance of the tunnel under Floating Wall is a ledge at shoulder height. Gain this ledge from the aforementioned boulder and climb up and leftward to thin ledges below the centre of the large pockets. Climb up between the large pockets to gain the bird shit covered ledge. Move right around an arete and climb a short corner to gain a larger bird shit covered ledge above the previous ledge.
2. 15 metres. From the larger bird shit covered ledge, climb up and leftward up what's left of the solid rock to the grass slope above. Above the grass slope is a small "buttress" which provides a further splash of solid rock. From the top of the small "buttress", escape right. A "classic".

First Ascent; Pitch 1 – James Burton, seconded by Barney Hamon, Pitch 2 – Barney Hamon, seconded by James Burton, 14<sup>th</sup> July 2018.

**\*\* | Multi Pitch Funk – Pitch One** | S | 5 metres | [ ] in the Topos

**Project** – The deep corner between the upper and lower sections of Floating Slab.



**A Top Rope First Ascent?!** | E2 5c | 10 metres | [ ] in the Topos

From the bottom of the deep corner, follow the rightward trending crack up to the right hand side of the large niche. From the top of the niche, follow the continuation of the crack up and rightward to the top. First Ascent; Barney Hamon and James Burton – top rope only given lack of conclusive gear, 14<sup>th</sup> July 2018.

**Another Top Rope First Ascent?!** | HVS 4b | 10 metres | [ ] in the Topos

Start on some green boulders below a blocky pillar at half height. Move up to gain the blocky pillar. Up the blocky pillar and the slightly left to the corner which is followed to the head wall and the top. First Ascent; Barney Hamon and James Burton – top rope only given lack of conclusive gear, 14<sup>th</sup> July 2018.