

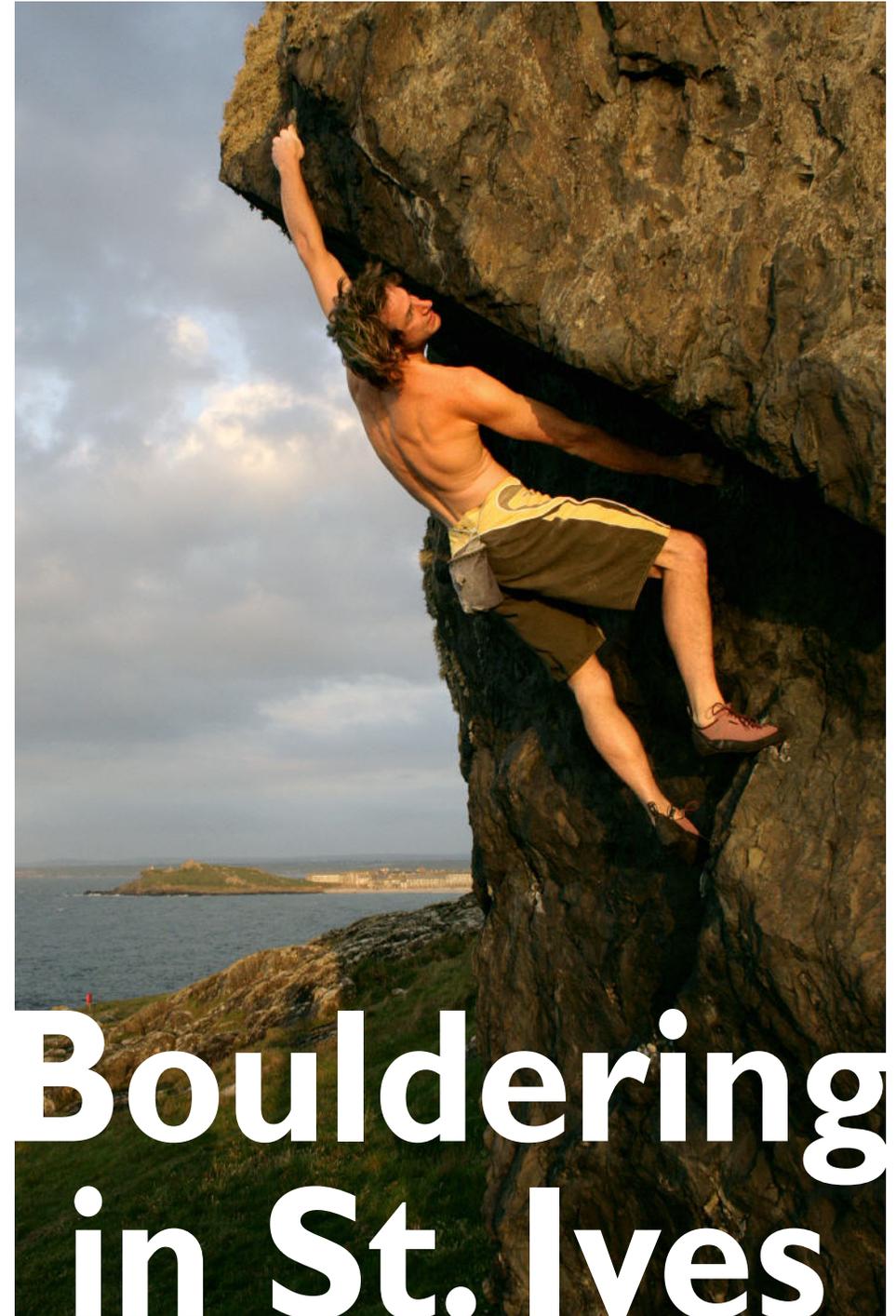


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the website dedicated to rock climbing in the South West

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Hand and sloper, Clodgy Point, St. Ives.

Photo: Andy Hughes/www.andyhughes.net.

# Bouldering in St. Ives

by **Barnaby Carver**

All maps, diagrams, design and typesetting by Barnaby Carver  
Photographs by Sam Bennetts, Barnaby Carver, Tobi Carver ([www.ueimages.com](http://www.ueimages.com)),  
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## Disclaimer

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The grades used are subjective and can only ever be a vague guide to a problem's difficulty, also holds can break vastly altering the character and difficulty of these problems. The inclusion of a problem does not necessarily mean you will find it or that it is in the same state as described. Users of this guide must rely on their own judgment and are recommended to insure against injury to person, property and third party risk, they must also appreciate that ultimately the decision to climb (or not) is their own.

The inclusion of an area or problem in this guide is no guarantee of access or that you have any right to be there.

Finally remember that bouldering, climbing and mountaineering are activities with a danger of personal injury or death. Participants in these activities should be aware of and accept these risks and be responsible for their own actions and involvement.

Front cover:

Barney Carver on *The Camel's Nose*, V2 5c, on The Camel's Head Boulder, Clodgy Point, St. Ives. Photographer: Tobi Carver/UE Images.

Back cover:

Sunset over Clodgy Point, St. Ives. Photographer: Barnaby Carver.

The large boulder to the west is know as Australia. It is overhanging on all sides and is home to a good number of harder problems.

150. □ **V1 5c.** Sit start and climb the leaning arête.
151. □ **4c.** (Sit start □ **V2 6a.**) The bulging slab immediately left of the arête (the sit start from below is disproportionately hard).
152. □ **★ 4b.** (Sit start □ **V2 6a.**) Step up into a groove and climb over a large, downward pointing flake.
- 153A. □ **★ V5 6b.** A burly problem. Sit start matching a bulbous undercut directly below 152. Pull your arse off the floor and reach the lip then move up left to finish up the steep prow.
- 153B. □ **★ V4 6b.** The same problem as 153A just with a nicer sit start holding the lip.
- 153C. □ **★ V0- 5a.** The step prow from a standing start is a nice problem in its own right.
154. □ **4c.** (Sit start □ **V0- 5a.**) The lay-back crack.
- 155A. □ **★ Uluru V5 6b.** Sit start a metre left of the lay-back crack on low crimps and climb direct on crimps and slopers to finish up a short grove.
- 155B. □ **★ Salad Fingers V8 6c.** Sit start as for 155A *Uluru* and climb this to the slopers but instead of reaching for the groove climb powerfully left on more slopers to the finishing jug of *Boomerang* (155C). The left-hand starting crimp on this problem is the right-hand start hold of...
- 155C. □ **★★★ Boomerang V7 6c.** An area classic and one of Clodgy's most tried problems. From a sit start on nasty crimps reach left to a side-pull then slap over the lip on slopers to top-out on a finishing jug. A number of variations (with names like *Boom* and *Merang*) have been done by eliminating specific holds but they only really detract from the original problem.
156. □ **V1 5c.** From a sit start on a large flat hold pull up to make an awkward rockover at the lip.
- 157A. □ **★ Walkabout V3 6a/b.** Sit start matching a square hold, drop down to good edges and move around along the lip of the boulder then make a long reach to the finish of 155C *Boomerang*.
- 157B. □ **★★ Work in Progress V8 6c.** 8 metres. Sit start as for 157A *Walkabout* and move around right to a pocket. Continue at a low-level, below the boulder's lip, rightwards onto the prow (153C) and finish up this.
158. □ **4b.** (Sit start □ **5a.**) The rough yellow wall.



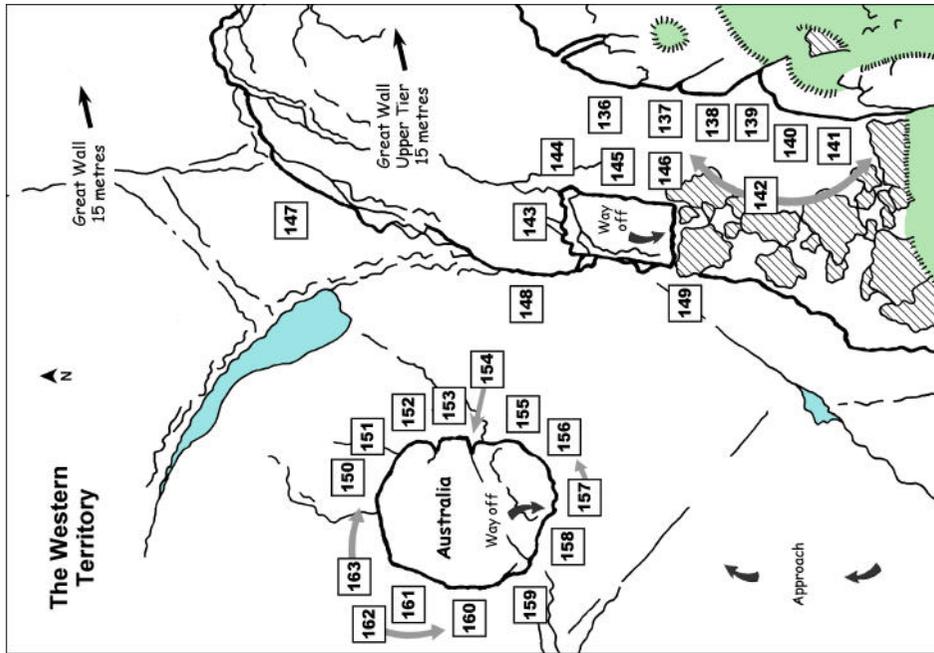
Andy Whall on *Northern Track*, V5 6b (problem 162A), a lip traverse on the Australia Boulder at Clodgy Point.

Photo: Barnaby Carver.

159. □ **V0- 5a.** (Sit start □ **V0 5b.**) The overhanging crack.
160. □ **★ Victoria V5 6b.** From a sit start on tiny undercuts climb the overhanging wall direct, using holds on the left side of the crack (158), to a tricky top-out. Do not use the right side of the crack or holds further right.
161. □ **★ V2 6a.** Sit start on two good crimps and make a long reach to top-out.
- 162A. □ **★★ Northern Track V5 6b.** 7 metres. Sit start up 161 then hand-traverse the lip rightwards, move down and around to finish up the rough yellow wall of 158. Alternatively starting from a sit start on the left arête is about the same grade.
- 162B. □ **★★ Andy's Link-Up V6/7 6b.** 10 metres. Climb *Northern Track* (162A) and link it low across the yellow wall to finish via problem 157A *Walkabout*.
- 162C. □ **★ Circumnavigation V9 6c.** 20 metres. The logical conclusion to the evolution of traverses on the bloc being a full anticlockwise traverse of the Australia Boulder. Sit start as for 161 and follow *Northern Track* (162B) linking it low across the yellow wall into *Work in Progress* (157B). Take in all the hard traversing on this and continue rightward into the groove of problem 152 where a move up gains the lip and welcome hands off rest. Shake out then drop down along the lip to reverse problem 163 *Stainless Steel* before toping out up problem 161, the starting point. Anyone for laps?
163. □ **★ Stainless Steel V5 6b.** 4 metres. Sit start on the right arête of the low north face of the boulder and traverse the slopy lip leftwards to finish up the left arête.

## The Western Territory

This final area, towards the western end of the rock platform at Clodgy Point, offers the largest concentration of hard bouldering.



- 136. □ 4b. The middle of the left most section of wall.
- 137. □ 3a-. (Sit start □ 4a.) The Crack.
- 138A. □ 5a. (Sit start □ ★ V0- 5b/c.) The wall immediately right of the arête only. Good.
- 138B. □ 4b. (Sit start □ 4c.) The arête direct using everything.
- 139. □ 3a. (Sit start □ 4a.) The deep V-groove.
- 140. □ 4c. (Sit start □ V0- 5b.) Layback the slight arête on its right side.
- 141. □ 4c. (Sit start □ V0 5c.) The middle of the right most section of wall.
- 142. □ ★ The Warm Up V0+ 5b. 10 metres. A two-way traverse of the whole wall. Start matching a good flat hold on the right, traverse left, match the far left arête then go back. Great for doing laps.
- 143. □ ★ V0+ 5b (Sit start □ ★ VI 5c.) The centre of the north face of this boulder.
- 144. □ 3c. (Sit start □ 4b.) The arête on its left side.
- 145. □ 4c. (Sit start □ 5a.) The middle of the slab.
- 146. □ 3a-. The south-east arête.

The next intermittent wall doesn't offer much worthwhile bouldering. These are the best three problems...

- 147. □ ★ The Yellow Slab 3a-. The centre of the slab on perfect rock. Other problems exist here at the same grade.

- 148. □ 4b X. The centre of the wall on good holds.
- 149. □ 4b. The blunt arête climbed direct.



Annie Anderson climbing one of the better traverses at Clodgy Point – The Warm Up, V0+ 5b, is technical and interesting.

Photo: Barnaby Carver.

# Bouldering in St. Ives

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## Introduction

BOULDERING has, in one way or another, always been a part of climbing. Climbers have always spent their time between routes, or the last hours of a day out, traversing the base of the crag or playing on the nearby boulders. It is only in more recent years, with the production of portable crash pads and increasingly people being introduced to climbing through indoor walls, that bouldering has become regarded as more a sport in its own right.

The fact that climbers have always been bouldering, but just keeping these activities to themselves, is very true in Cornwall where locals have been notoriously reticent about what has been done. The word-of-mouth way of sharing information on problems and areas, favoured in the past, can be a source of frustration to those newer to the sport and to visitors who don't know the area well but are keen to find out about places to boulder in Cornwall.

The purpose of this guide is to help satisfy this demand for information and to ensure that credit for the development of the bouldering in St. Ives is given to those most responsible for it.

## How To Use This Guide

The guide is divided up into three parts – Part I: The Island, Part II: Man's Head and Part III: Clodgy Point. These are the three separate and distinctive bouldering areas of St. Ives, listed from east to west. At the beginning of each section is a diagram showing a bird's eye view of the boulders, this diagram is then divided up into further diagrams showing individual boulders or areas. The diagrams of the individual areas are not necessarily drawn to scale. Numbers on these diagrams show the position of the problems and correspond to the numbered description in the text. Use a compass to help orientate these diagrams.

A length in metres is given for traverses, this is the length of rock covered by the problem from one end to the other, therefore a two-way traverse is twice the length marked. The diagrams are in order from east to west with problems generally described from east to west or left to right as looking at a wall. On boulders the problems are generally described running clockwise.

Many problems have sit starts; this means the problem starts from a sitting position on the ground. Some problems are pointless without sit starts (e.g. *Bam-Bam* and *Boomerang*), so where this is the case the style of start is mentioned in the text and the grade given is for the problem done as described. Some are usually done starting from a standing position but can also be done from a sit start. In this case the grade given first is for the normal problem, a second grade given in brackets is for climbing the whole problem from a sitting start. If there is no mention of a sit start, either in the text or in brackets as a second grade, then the grade given is for the problem starting from a standing position although this does not necessarily mean that the problem has never been climbed from a sit start.

## Grades

Despite some disagreement, the method of grading in this guide has been chosen to help keep west Cornwall inline with grades used on nearby Dartmoor. Most grades reflect the consensus opinion and have been given as an honest attempt to indicate the difficulty of the problems.

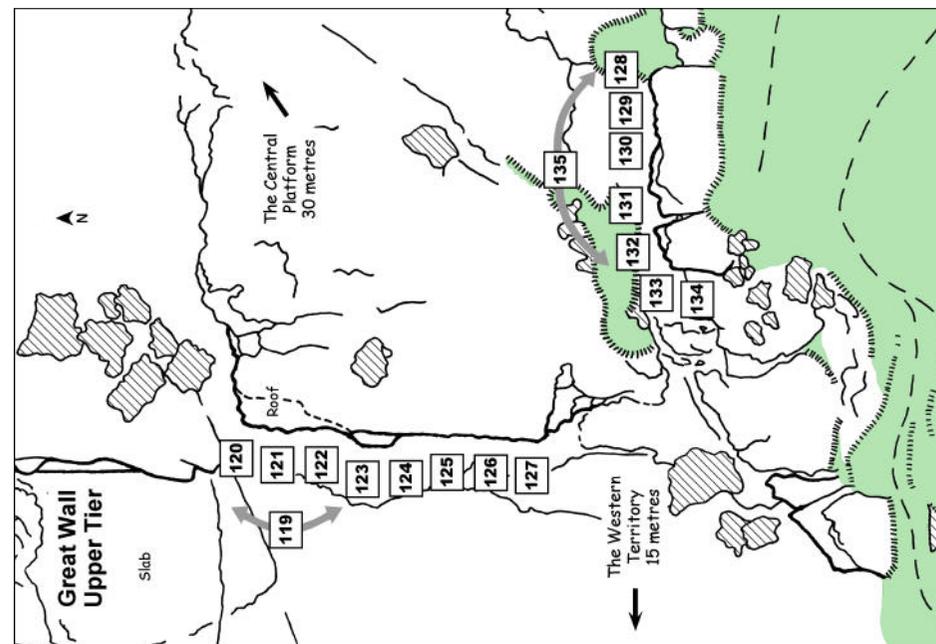
Two grading systems are used in this guide. Firstly one that should be familiar to all traditional climbers in Britain, the U.K. technical grade. This is used on routes or boulder problems to indicate the difficulty of the hardest individual move. It is a linear system that most commonly starts at 4a (a technical grade usually associated with Severe level climbing) and runs 4a, 4b, 4c, 5a, 5b, 5c and so on, right up to 6c, 7a, 7b (technical grades associated with the upper extreme grades e.g. E8, E9, E10). This system is very good to help divide the difficulty levels of easier problems right down to 3c, 3b, and 3a (Moderate to Difficult grade climbing) but above about 5c, 6a, 6b it becomes truncated. Another problem with this grading system is that it does not give an overall indication of the level of difficulty; for example a long traverse with numerous 6b moves will be far harder than a short problem with one 6b move.

The American V grade system, the second grading system used here, runs along side these U.K. technical grades. It is much more rigid in its divisions and gives a better overall indication of a problem's difficulty. It starts at V0, about 5b (H.V.S, E1) and runs V0, V1, V2... right up to V13, V14, the hardest problems climbed. This system cannot be used for grading easier, beginner level problems but has been further sub-divided into V0-, V0 and V0+ at its lowest end, these are still full grade divisions.

V grades were developed in Hueco Tanks, Texas by John 'Vermin' Sherman. They work in a similar way to the U.K. E grade, hence a short problem with one move of 6b may get V3 or V4 whereas a long traverse of many 6b moves would get V7. V grades also reflect how strenuous or sustained a problem is. This system

## Great Wall Upper Tier

When facing the Great Wall above and to the right can be seen a long, shorter wall with a large roof at its left-hand end, this is the Great Wall Upper Tier. All the problems on this wall are very pleasant.



- 119. □ **V0+ 5b.** 3/4 metres. A traverse, both ways, along the lip of the roof.
- 120. □ **V0+ 5b.** The left side of the roof and arête above.
- 121. □ **★ ★ V0 5a.** The centre of the roof is excellent.
- 122. □ **4c.** The narrower right side of the roof.
- 123. □ **4b.** Up the wall.
- 124. □ **4a.** The wall and short groove.
- 125. □ **4b.** The wall and short slab.
- 126. □ **★ 4b.** The wall and short slab via a vague crack.
- 127. □ **4c.** The right arête of the wall climbed on its left side.

Facing the upper tier, above and to the right again, another smaller wall with a prominent sloping ledge running along it can be seen. This has a number of sit start problems but is really only of interest because of the strenuous traverse of *The Shelf*, problem 135.

- 128. □ **V0- 5a.** Sit start. The right-hand side of the left arête.
- 129. □ **V0 5b.** Sit start up the wall just right of the arête.
- 130. □ **V0+ 5c.** Sit start on edges, reach for the slopy ledge and make an awkward move onto this.
- 131A. □ **V0 5b.** Sit start. Climb the light coloured vein staying left of the crack.
- 131B. □ **V0- 5a.** Sit start and climb the crack.
- 132A. □ **4b.** Mantle over the prow.

- 132B. □ **4b.** The groove just right of the prow.
- 133. □ **4b.** The right side of the arête.
- 134. □ **3b.** The slab right of the arête.
- 135A. □ **★ The Shelf V4 6a.** 7 metres. A left-to-right hand traverse along the sloping shelf. Start matching a hold on the left arête (128) and finish up the right arête (133).
- 135B. □ **★ The Shelf (Both Ways) V5 6a.** Doing *The Shelf* (135A) both ways after a good rest on the right arête scores a higher V-grade.

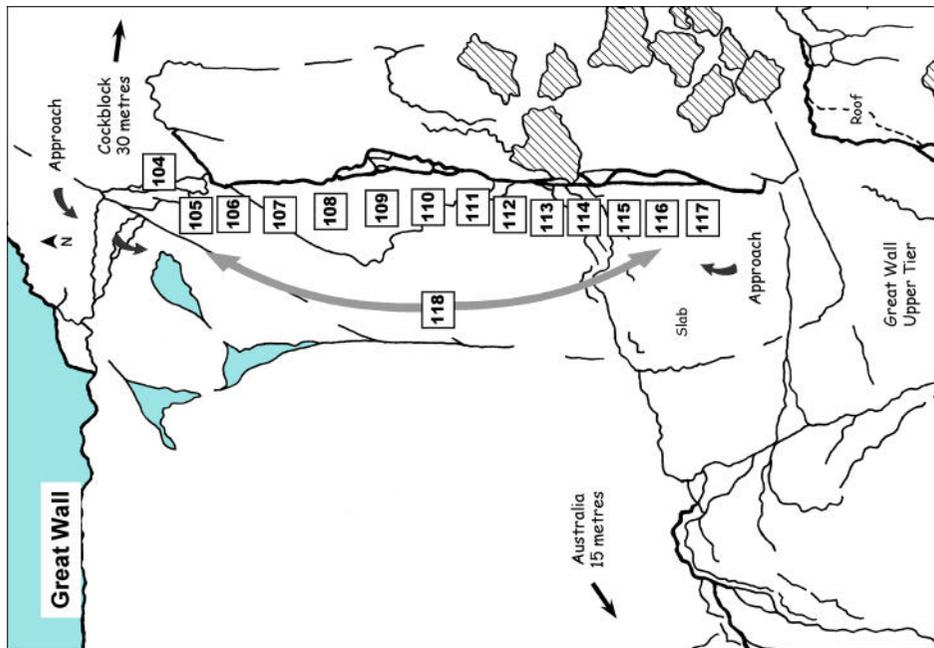


Barney Carver on *The Shelf* (135A), V4 6a, at Clodgy Point. The triple points of Hor Point, Pen Enys Point and Carn Naun Point can be seen in the background.

Photo: Andy Whall/B. Carver Collection.

## Great Wall

30 metres east of the Cockblock is the Great Wall. All the problems on this wall are very high and should not be taken lightly; any fall is likely to be extremely painful! Some problems have been affected by rockfall.



- 104.** □ **4b X.** Up on large flat holds just left of the arête.
- 105.** □ **V0-4c X.** The arête direct.
- 106.** □ **V2 5b/c X.** The right-hand side of the arête. High crux with a long-reach finish.
- 107.** □ **★ V0 5a.** The thin flake-line in the wall.
- 108.** □ **4b.** Up the wall and over the small overlap.
- 109.** □ **★ 3c.** The quartz groove.
- 110.** □ **4b.** Climb the wall through a quartz band.
- 111.** □ **4b.** The inside of the shallow corner/groove finishing direct.
- 112A.** □ **4c.** Lay-back the outside of the corner/groove (111) and finish off right at the top.
- 112B.** □ **★ V0 5a.** Start up 112A then traverse rightwards along the diagonal break to finish up problem 115.
- 113.** □ **★ V2 5c.** Climb directly up the wall two metres right of the flake (111).
- 114.** □ **V3 6a.** Start with a finger pocket for the left and right hand on a ledge. Rock-over up left and make a thin move to gain the break. Finish up the wall just left of a small roof. This used to start direct but a chunk of rock has broken from the base of the wall changing the nature of the problem.
- 115.** □ **4b.** Climb over the small roof.
- 116.** □ **4a.** The wall just right of the small roof.
- 117.** □ **4c.** Climb the far right-hand side of the wall.
- 118A.** □ **The Great Wall Traverse V0 5a.** 20 metres. A left-to-right traverse of the wall at about one third height starting on problem 105, the left arête, and finishing up problem 115 via the rising diagonal break of problem 112B.
- 118B.** □ **V0+ 5a.** The entire wall traversed both ways, there and back!



Barney Carver high up on problem 114, V3 6a, on Clodgy's Great Wall. This picture was taken before a rockfall changed the start.

Photo: Andy Whall/B. Carver Collection.

has been applied here by climbers who have travelled and bouldered in many areas of the United States and have direct experience of these grades in some of the places they were first used, therefore any V6 (for example) in St. Ives should be the same as any V6 in the U.S. or elsewhere.

In addition some problems have an 'X' rating, this is another introduction from American bouldering. X indicates that a problem is particularly highball or has a terrible landing. A fall from an X rated problem is most likely to result in hideous injury or death – possibly even both! Some problems without an X may still have quite bad landings or be high, so surviving a fall from these is not guaranteed. Individual judgment is still necessary – if you don't like the look of the landing don't do the problem!

An explanation of bouldering grades and a grade conversion table can be found online at [www.rockfax.com/publications/bgrades.html](http://www.rockfax.com/publications/bgrades.html).

### Star Ratings

As in most climbing guides stars have been used here to show the best problems. A problem with ★ being particularly good, ★★ excellent and ★★★ outstanding and one of the areas finest. Needless to say a problem with no stars is still likely to be highly enjoyable and further indications of a problem's quality are often given in the written description.

### Rock-Type

The coastal rock of the St. Ives area is colloquially known as 'Blue Elvan' or 'Greenstone'. Greenstone is a geologists' term for any dark coloured, slightly metamorphosed igneous rock and the rock here is very similar to the nearby greenstone crags of Zennor and Gurnard's Head. Igneous rocks on the minor cliffs and platforms of Man's Head and Clodgy Point exhibit pillow lavas that have been variably deformed and metamorphosed. This variety in the rock is reflected in the bouldering with positive holds, good edges and jugs being common as well as a fair few slopers. Greenstone is much easier on fingertips than the neighbouring granite; it is a hard rock but some holds can be fragile so take care.

### Environmental and Ethical Concerns

Most of Cornwall's bouldering venues are very picturesque and the beauty of these areas can easily be ruined by carelessness. Please do not litter, even cigarette butts and small bits of finger tape make a mess. The crags of St. Ives are never more than a few minutes walk from a public toilet so there is no need to defecate at the boulders.

Few of the problems in this guide were cleaned in anyway prior to them being done, mostly because it was not necessary. Please avoid cleaning existing problems and never use a wire brush as these cause unsightly scarring to the rock; a nylon bristled brush will easily be sufficient. Some of the problems are tidal so chalk-marks get washed off daily at high tide or by rain; however they can look unsightly and often build-up in dry spells so please try to wipe them off when you leave. If you find the need to use tick-marks then wipe these off. Never chip the rock and be sure to treat it with respect.

Various environmental and conservation designations (both statutory and non-statutory) apply to the crags in this guide. In particular climbers should be aware that both Clodgy Point and Man's Head fall within the boundaries of the Aire Point to Carrick Du Site of Special Scientific Interest (S.S.S.I.) which covers approximately 700 hectares of the north Penwith coastline. The minor cliffs and platforms between Man's Head and Clodgy Point have been highlighted in the site's designation for their geological interest.

Following guidelines on good practice by the British Mountaineering Council, the Countryside Code and the suggestions in this guide is important not least because anyone found guilty of damaging features by reason of which land is of special interest may be liable to a fine of up to £20,000. Although it should be pointed out that normal climbing activity is highly unlikely to have any adverse affect on the geology, flora or fauna here.

By using commonsense we can respect, protect and enjoy our countryside and maintain access to the crags. Finally, we boulder in areas because they are special to us, help keep them that way by leaving no trace and even picking up litter left by others.

### Access

The Island and much of Man's Head is owned and maintained by the local authority as public space. The grassy area just inland at Clodgy Point (Burthallan Cliff) has been designated as Access Land under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. Many of the boulders lie within this area and the government plans to extend access to coastal land under powers given by the act. At the time of writing no problems with public access to the crags included in this guide have occurred; however, inclusion of an area or problem is no guarantee of access or that you have any right to be there.

## A Brief History

The earliest recorded climb in west Cornwall was by distinguished Alpinist Sir Leslie Stephen who, in 1858, ascended a short chimney at Gurnard's Head, just along the coast from St. Ives. The exact location of his climb may never be conclusively established so whether the modern rock climber would call it a route, a boulder problem or merely a scramble is something of a moot point. However, in the Victorian era it would probably have been regarded as little more than an amusement. Stephen later took a lease on Talland House in St. Ives, where he and his family spent many summers.

The genesis of rock climbing and bouldering in Cornwall is firmly rooted in the Victorian/Edwardian era and indeed, the St. Ives area. In 1873 Professor John Westlake bought the house of Eagle's Nest at Zennor, a few miles from the town, his nephew, Arthur Westlake Andrews is regarded by many as 'the father of Cornish climbing'. A. W. Andrews and his sister Marion Elizabeth ('Elsie') Andrews, scrambled on the granite boulders surrounding the house during childhood holidays. These rocks would later provide test-pieces for visiting climbers.

A. W. Andrews was a member of the Pen-y-Pass group which included great mountaineers of the time such as George Leigh Mallory who went missing near the summit of Everest during the 1924 expedition. On visits to Cornwall Mallory had worked out three problems on a boulder called The Snuffbox, located in the garden of Eagle's Nest. A. D. M. (David) Cox also added a climb on this in 1926. Peter Biven commented, in his history to the Climbers' Club's 1968 guide to the area, that 'all aspiring climbers were given a baptism in the garden before being led off to the coast'.

By 1922 Andrews was living at Tregerthen, neighbouring Eagle's Nest which was by then owned by painter, politician and writer Will Arnold-Forster. Andrews still presided over the house and garden parties for visiting climbers. Sir Leslie Stephen's daughter, the author Virginia Woolf, describes Cornwall's early 'bouldering scene' in her diary entry of 30th March 1921: 'Visited Arnold-Forster's at Eagle's Nest... Endless varieties of nice elderly men to be seen there, come for the climbing...' One can almost hear the whoops of encouragement and shouts of 'Yeah!... Send it dude!' in between rounds of tea and cucumber sandwiches!

Andrews and Edward C. Pyatt wrote the first climbing guidebook to Cornwall, published by the Climbers' Club in 1950. In this he describes 'a tor on Zennor Hill with three short climbs, including a hand traverse on the north side.' This tor is easily identifiable from his descriptions and the climbs upon it are, by modern standards, boulder problems. Given that Andrews was in his eighties by the time this guide was produced it is highly likely that these Zennor Hill problems, along with many other climbs described in the guide, were first done decades earlier.

No written account of Stephen climbing at Clodgy Point, Man's Head or The Island has been found but Andrews knew the north Penwith coastline intimately, had visited Clodgy and describes Man's Head's zawns and coves well. He states in his appendices to the 1950 guide: 'From St. Ives to Carn Naun... there are a number of short climbs, the cliffs are not very attractive owing to the smoothness of the water-worn greenstone which has a glassy texture near the sea.' Clearly the climbing on St. Ives' coastal crags is of a similar vintage to that of Zennor's granite boulders.

In December 1943 the Commando Mountain Warfare Training Centre established a base in St. Ives. They practiced various methods of ascent on the nearby cliffs including climbing steep grass near Hor Point using short ice axes and a form of crampon technique. It is believed that long-standing obvious problems like *Double Overhang* at Man's Head and the easier ones on the Camel's Head boulder at Clodgy Point were first climbed by these commandos.

W. A. 'Toni' Carver, who grew up in St. Ives, recalls how as a boy he scrambled and soloed on his local cliffs during the late 1950s. After injuring his ankle in a fall from the crag above the Lifebelt Boulders on The Island in 1959, his parents persuaded him to seek instruction from Jim Smith a former commando who lived in the town. A number of ex-C.M.W.T.C. instructors remained in the area and they, along with other former servicemen such as St. Ives' Paul and Edward 'Eddie' Turner were the St. Ives detachment of the Royal Marine Forces Volunteer Reserve. The R.M.F.V.R. together with ex-instructors from the earlier units formed St. Ives Commando Club; this informal group climbed at Man's Head and gave annual charity fundraising demonstrations in the quarry throughout the 1960s.

There have been other talented climbers from St. Ives over the years including Mark Dawson, Andrew Trevorrow, Peter 'Piggy' Johnstone and Luke Pavey. How much bouldering they may have done in the area is unsure but it was with knowledge of previous activity that the modern development began.

By the mid 1990s Carver's youngest son Barnaby had returned to the crags of Clodgy and Man's Head where he'd climbed with his father and brother as a child. He began ascending and documenting the obvious lines. In September 1996 the renowned north Wales climber and 'image maker' John Redhead, in



Martyn Frith on *The Pebble Traverse*, V4 6a, problem 90 on The Central Platform at Clodgy Point.

Photo: Tobi Carver/UE Images.

The Pebble, although small in height has one of Clodgy's best traverses on it.

**90. □ ★★ The Pebble Traverse V4 6a.** 7 metres. A low, two-way traverse of the south face of The Pebble staying below the level of the boulder's lip. Start matching the obvious jutting hold on the left, traverse across to match a jug on the lip at the far right, then go back!

Several sit start problems can be done on this boulder, the best being...

**91. □ Bam-Bam V1 6a.** Sit start matching a low crimp and up.

The next boulder is small but provides some sit starts and easier slab problems that are fun for beginners or children the best of these are...

**92. □ 3a-** Up the grey slab. Can be done with a sit start or with your hands behind your back!

**93. □ V0+ 5c.** Sit start matching holds just below and right of the roof, move left using holds just above the lip (but below the ledge) and finish up the left side of the arête.

There is another similar problem on the neighbouring boulder...

**94. □ Bum Scraper V0- 5b.** Sit start matching the lower of two large, flat holds and move left to pull around onto the white slab.

The next problems are on the impressive Cockblock.

**95A. □ 3b.** (Sit start □ 3c.) The right-hand crack-line.

**95B. □ 3c.** The left-hand line.

**96. □ Barrel of Laughs V7/8 6c.** From a designated sit start with the right hand on a crimp/sidepull and left hand under the roof on undercuts, pull up and slap to a hold on the left arête. Finish up left.

**97. □ 3a-** The slab on big white holds. (The easy way down.)

**98A. □ 3b.** (Sit start □ 3b.) There are two diagonal faults on the wall, climb the right one.

**98B. □ 4a.** (Sit start □ 4a.) The left fault-line is the better of the two.

**99A. □ ★★ Bloodlust V6 6b.** Sit start on a small flake and climb the arête direct. The standing start is **99B □ V4 6a/b** but it is not the proper problem so is for weaklings only.

**99C. □ ★★ Bloodlust Original V8 6c.** A logical variation on the parent problem that is relatively independent and just as good. Sit start matching the flake and climb the right side of the arête on small crimps to join the *Bloodlust* finish at a small sloping edge on the arête.

**99D. □ ★★ Bloodlust Traverse V6 6b.** 6 metres. Sit start as for 99A *Bloodlust* but move left using an undercut before the small sloping edge on the arête. Continue left to the good yellow holds on problem 101 and from these gain the lip and traverse further left to top-out as for *J.R.A.* (102).

**100. □ ★ V0 5b.** (Sit start □ ★★ V5 6b.) The vein via a good undercut.

**101. □ 4c.** (Sit start □ ★★ V5 6b.) The thin crack climbed on its left.

**102. □ ★★ J.R.A. V2 5c.** (Sit start □ V2 5c.) The overhanging arête on good holds.

**103. □ 4b.** (Sit start □ 4c.) Climb onto the slab starting in the trench.

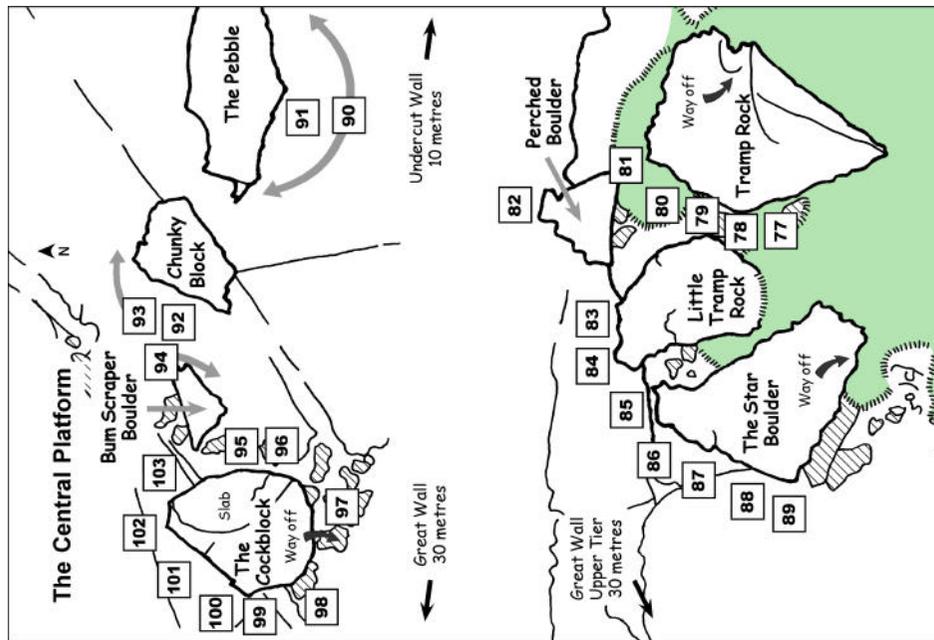


John Burgess and Andy Whall spotting John Fletcher on problem 99A, *Bloodlust*, V6 6b, at Clodgy Point.

Photo: Barnaby Carver.

## The Central Platform

This area of boulders offers a large amount of quality problems throughout the grades. The first boulder, Tramp Rock, is home to one of Clodgy's finest – *Tramp Wall*.



- 77A. □ 3b. The centre of the slab.
- 77B. □ 3b. Start at 77A but go leftwards up the slab.
- 78. □ 4c. The arête climbed on its left side.
- 79. □ V0- 5b. Start between the small rock and the boulder and climb the wall.



*Tramp Wall*, V4 6b, problem 80A at Clodgy Point. Climber Andy Whall.

Photo: Barnaby Carver.

- 80A. □ ★★ **Tramp Wall V4 6b.** Sit start on small edges and climb the gently overhanging wall. A number of eliminates have been done based on this problem, the hardest of which, although artificial is...
- 80B. □ **Lowlife V6 6c.** From a sit start on very low crimps climb the wall direct not using the left-hand pinch or arête footholds!
- 81. □ **V0 5a.** Sit start on the arête and climb its right side to top-out on problem 79.
- 82. □ **The Perched Boulder V0- 5a.** An awkward rock-over onto the beak of the boulder.
- 83. □ **4c.** Another tricky rock-over just left of the little arête on this boulder.
- 84. □ **4a.** The little arête direct.

The next problems are on two boulders which are perched over the edge of a metre high wall.

All of the problems on this next boulder are very pleasant.

- 85A. □ **4a.** The centre of the narrow face.
- 85B. □ ★ **4b.** The left side of the arête.
- 86. □ ★ **V0- 5a.** The right side of the arête.
- 87. □ ★ **3c.** (Sit start □ ★ **4c.**) The flake crack.
- 88. □ **4b.** The bulging wall.
- 89. □ **4c.** The arête direct. Don't step on the rock!

St. Ives printing his first book, *...and one for the crow...*, paid Clodgy a visit. He made a flash first ascent of the arête now known as *J.R.A.* (V2 5c) and then repeated a V5 6b sit start (to problem 100) just after Tobi Carver had made its first ascent.

Other notable visitors to Clodgy at this time include Devon-based climber Dave Henderson and St. Ives resident Andy Whall – taking a break from Godrevy to explore the potential of the boulders closer to home. Whall brought a fresh, modern approach resulting in the addition of many great problems such as *Tramp Wall*, V4 6b, and 2001's *Boomerang*, V7 6c – one of Clodgy's most popular test-pieces. By the late nineties other locals including Martyn Frith and Adrian Lingard were bouldering here regularly.

The 2001 Foot and Mouth outbreak caused the British countryside to be closed to public access but restrictions on Man's Head were lifted long before the neighbouring point. This sparked the development of hard bouldering in Minitower Cove where, in September 2002, B. Carver climbed and excellent power-stamina problem *The Minitower Traverse* (a.k.a. *Three Egyptians*), V7 6b, and Whall added *Snorkel*, V6 6b/c (summer 2003).

Further harder additions continued with Carver's 2003 problem *No Pain No Gain*, V6 6b, and the ironically named *Andy's Link-Up*, V6/7 6b (June 2004). Whall contributed *Bloodlust* and *No Pockets* (both V6 6b) as well as the fine *Bloodlust Original*, V8 6c, first climbed in early 2004. Later that year Carver added his first V8 to Clodgy – *Work In Progress*. In the first few months of 2006 Whall continued to squeeze all quality bouldering possible from St. Ives' rocks producing *Salad Fingers*, V8 6c and industriously finding *Barrel of Laughs*, V7/8 6c – a designated sit start.

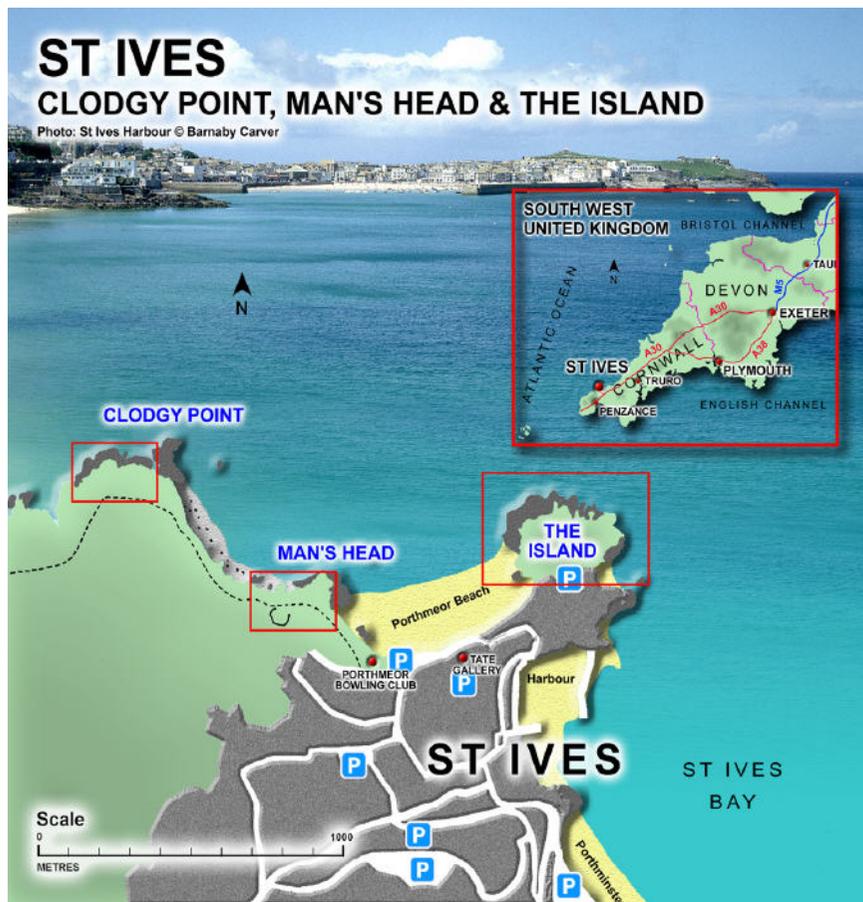
May 2007 saw Carver climb his long-standing project to give the highball problem of *The Groove*, V8 6c. Clodgy's Australia boulder had become home to many lip-traverses and link-ups; this was taken to its logical conclusion when he made a full anticlockwise traverse – *Circumnavigation*, V9 6c (July 2007). With that the work was complete.



Pre-bouldering days in St. Ives. Toni Carver (leading) and Peter Stanier on one of the many short problem climbs that exist at Man's Head. This picture was taken in June 1973, long before bouldering mats had been invented so people had to resort to long bits of string to safeguard their ascents.

Photo: © Sam Bennetts: *The St. Ives Times & Echo*.

# Map of the Area



## How To Get There

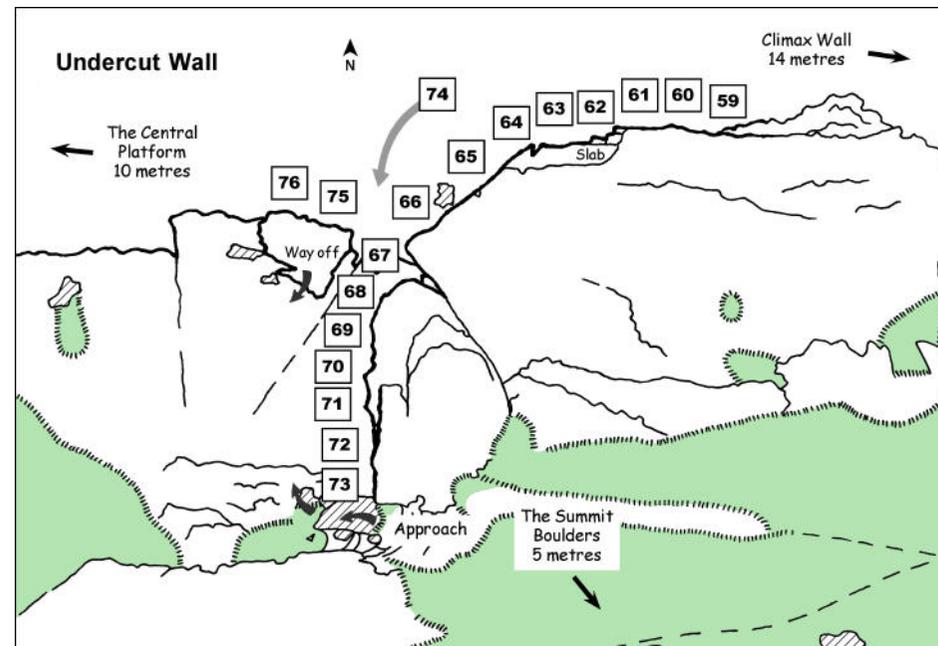
THE NEAREST place to park for Man's Head and Clodgy Point is the small car park at the western end of Porthmeor Beach. From the A30 heading west turn onto the A3074 at the St. Erth roundabout which is approximately six miles before Penzance. Follow this road through Lelant and Carbis Bay to St. Ives. Once in St. Ives continue following signs for the Town Centre, now just as you enter the town centre turn left up Gabriel Street following Through Traffic signs. Turn right at the first mini-roundabout up Bullan's Lane then at the top of this hill turn right again following signs for Porthmeor Beach. The car park lies at the bottom of Porthmeor Hill.

It is also possible, once in St. Ives town centre, to continue to the harbour then follow the one-way system around the harbour and take the route signposted for Outbound Traffic. This then brings you around next to Porthmeor Beach, past the St. Ives Tate Gallery to the car park. The centre of St. Ives gets very busy and is best avoided in the summer months, the car park at Porthmeor is small and fills up easily so it may be best to park in one of the other larger car parks in town and walk to this point.

Man's Head and Clodgy Point can now be seen to the north-west along the Coast Path. The Island is to the east and can be approached from this car park by walking along the beach; however the nearest car park is on The Island itself. To find The Island car park drive into St. Ives town centre and past the harbour, now continue up Fish Street following parking signs for Island and Porthgidden Beach. At the top of Fish Street turn right then left up Island Road, the car park is at the end of this.

# Undercut Wall

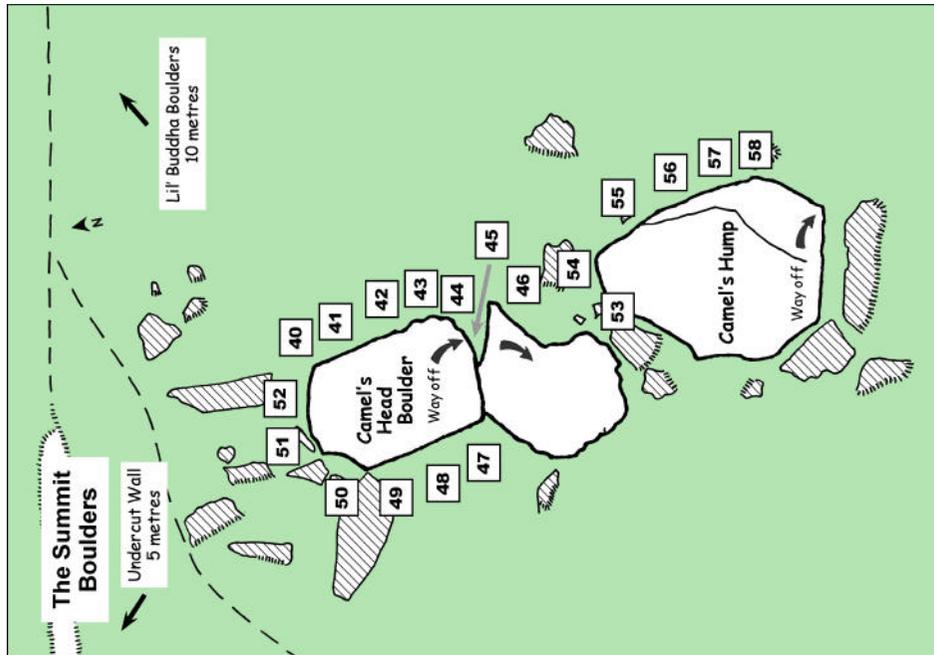
Just seaward (to the north) of The Summit Boulders a footpath leads down onto the rock platform. The Undercut Wall is on the right.



- 59. □ 3a. The thin seam on the left side of a bulging area of rock.
  - 60. □ 4a. The black streak in the centre of the bulging rock.
  - 61. □ 4a. The right side of the bulging rock.
  - 62. □ 3a-. The easy groove.
  - 63A. □ ★ 4b. The centre of the slab.
  - 63B. □ 4b. The right side of the slab.
  - 64. □ 4c. (Sit start □ V0- 5a.) The undercut groove in the arête.
  - 65. □ ★ ★ Butterfly Wall V3 6a. (Sit start □ ★ ★ V4 6a.) Climb the centre of the wall on edges starting using a sharp pocket for the right hand.
  - 66. □ ★ Tortoiseshell V2 5c. (Sit start □ ★ ★ V2/3 5c.) The seam on the right-hand side of the face starting from below and right. (Sit start as for 65 but move right to a break and make a long reach to the second break to join the seam.)
  - 67. □ ★ V0+ 5b X. The V-groove provides a scary grovel – a classic of its kind!
  - 68. □ ★ ★ The Prow V4 6a X. Climb the undercut prow direct. Good but very dangerous.
- On the wall to the right a small flake provides the focus for a number of good eliminates...
- 69A. □ V4 6b. Climb directly up to the flake using only side-pull handholds and finish up the good quartz holds.
  - 69B. □ V3 6a. Climb directly up over the flake using everything apart from the sloping finger hold in the small groove to the right.
  - 69C. □ V2 5c. The flake gained from the finger holds in the small groove below and right. Finish up the good quartz holds.
  - 70. □ V0 5b. The small groove.
  - 71. □ 4c. The wall just right of the small groove.
  - 72. □ 4a. Climb the thin seam and upper wall.
  - 73. □ 4b. The right-hand side of the wall.
  - 74A. □ ★ Undercut Wall Traverse V3/4 6a. 9 metres. From the sit start of problem 64 move up and traverse right across the Undercut Wall (hands on the wall, feet below overhang) and continue along the horizontal veins to finish up the groove of problem 70.
  - 74B. □ ★ V2/3 5c. 12 metres. An easier variation of 74A Undercut Wall Traverse stays below the overhang to take in the moves on the sit start of Tortoiseshell (66) and continues further to finish up problem 73.
- The small boulder perched over a drop has two problems on its north side.
- 75. □ V0- 5a. Up and over the left side of the face.
  - 76. □ V0- 5a. Up and over the right side.

## The Summit Boulders

These boulders sit on the grassy headland above most of the other bouldering. They are clearly visible when approaching from St. Ives and vaguely resemble a camel.



- 40.  **V0+ 5b.** The arête direct finishing left of the roof.
  - 41.  **★ 4c.** The right-hand side of the face.
  - 42.  **★ 4b.** The shallow, pocketed groove.
  - 43.  **4b.** The right side of the arête.
  - 44.  **4c.** The left side of the arête.
  - 45.  **3a-.** The chimney.
  - 46.  **3a-.** The left side of the small arête.
  - 47.  **3b.** The right side of the wall.
  - 48.  **4a.** The centre of the wall.
  - 49.  **4a.** The wall and short groove.
  - 50.  **★★ Camel Arête V0+ 5b.** (Sit start  **V0+ 5b/c.**) The overhanging wall and right side of the arête.
  - 51.  **V2 5c.** Through the right side of the overlap finishing up the left side of the arête.
  - 52.  **★ The Camel's Nose V2 5c.** The centre of the wall and overlap at its widest point.
- The next problems are on the larger, rounder boulder, the Camel's Hump...
- 53.  **3a-.** Climb rightwards up the slab.
  - 54.  **3a.** Climb the slab up twin seams.
  - 55.  **4b.** The right-hand side of the slab.
  - 56.  **★ 4b.** The slab and centre of the small overlap.

- 57.  **4b.** The slab and small overlap just left of 56.
- 58.  **3a-.** Right to left up the easy groove.



Mark Ashton-Smith on the starting moves of problem 50, *Camel Arête*, V0+ 5b, one of the better boulder problems at Cloddy Point.

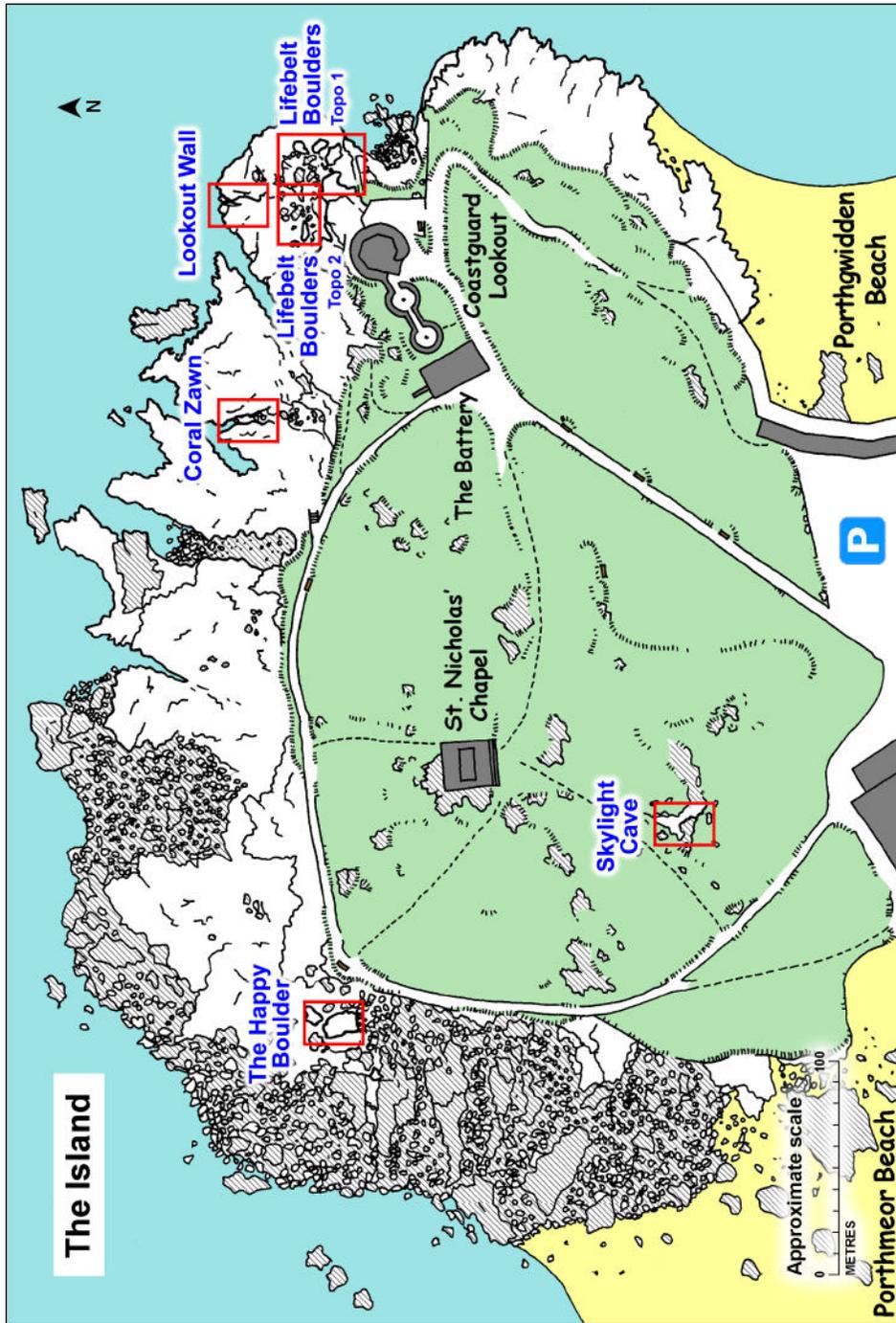
Photo: Barnaby Carver.

# Part I: The Island (St. Ives Head)



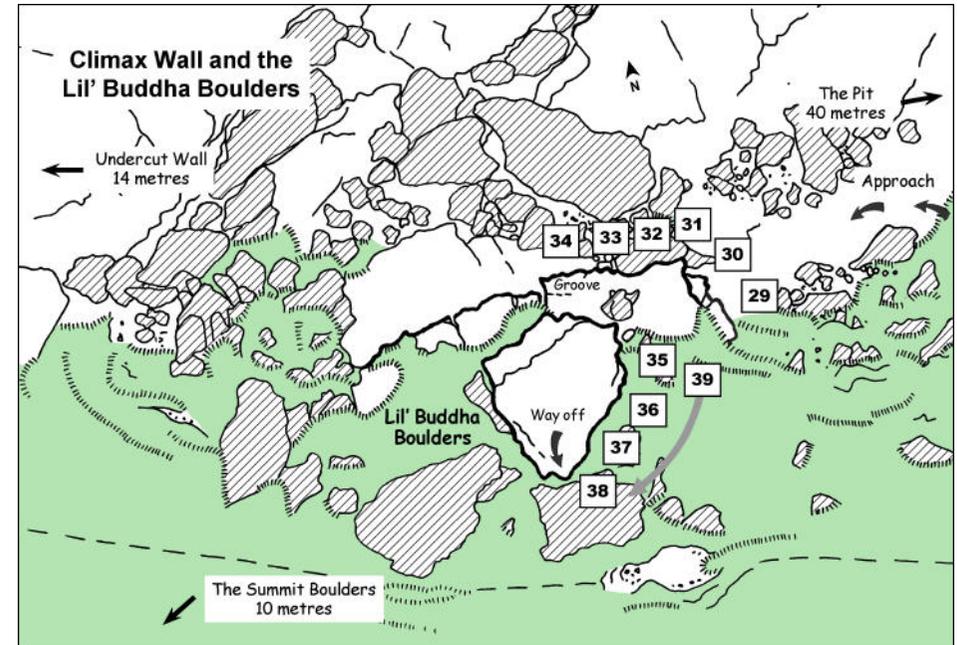
Photo: Barnaby Carver.

## The Island Area Map



## Climax Wall and the Lil' Buddha Boulders

These next problems are found about 40 metres east of The Pit on an undercut wall, this is Climax Wall. Above Climax Wall are the small boulders know as the Lil' Buddha Boulders.



- 29.  4a. The small groove.
- 30.  4b. The groove left of the arête.
- 31.  V0 5b. The arête direct gives a nice problem.
- 32.  V3 6a. The wall immediately right not using the arête for hands or feet.
- 33A.  ★ Climax Wall V0- 4c X. The vague groove via long reaches on big holds.
- 33B.  V0+ 5b X. Start up 33A Climax Wall but move right and climb the bulging rock above.
- 34.  ★★ The Groove V8 6c X. One of Clodgy's most serious and best highball problems takes the undercut overhanging groove in its entirety. A hard start leads to a technical and tenuous sequence of bridging moves up the groove which is exited leftwards at its top. The arête on the right is used but not the chossy hanging blocks further right.
- 35.  4a. Sit start on the right edge of the face.
- 36.  4a. Sit start and climb the face just right of centre.
- 37.  4a. Sit start up the centre of the face.
- 38A.  4b. Sit start and climb up over the right side of the prow.
- 38B.  3c. From the sit start of 38A move left and climb the short corner.
- 39A.  4b. 4 metres. Sit start as for 35, traverse left along the face to the top-out of 38A.
- 39B.  4b. 4 metres. Start as before but traverse left along the lip of the boulder to top-out at 38A.

The group of boulders above Climax Wall are named the Lil' Buddha Boulders after a small statue that was once glued to the largest one – only Buddha's toes remain! They offer some small easy problems, the best ones being on the east side of the largest boulder...

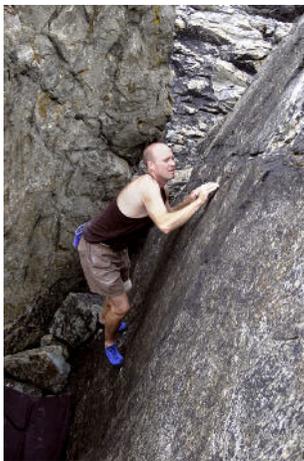
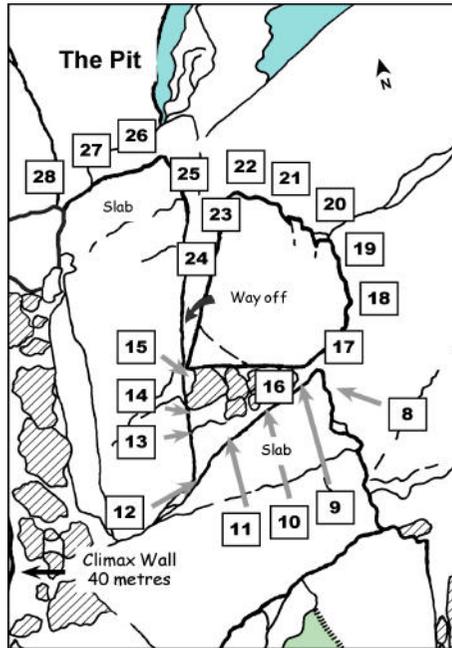


Barney Carver on *The Groove*, V8 6c X (problem 34). Photo: Tobi Carver/UE Image.

## The Pit

Once through the wooden gate continue walking around to the right close to the sea. After about 100 metres or so the boulder in The Pit can be seen on the foreshore down to the right. This is just slightly east of the low rock reef of Clodgy Point itself. A wall and slab meet at an acute angle and an impressive boulder adjoining both of these forms The Pit. The Pit offers Clodgy's best slab problems and can be entered either from the east or by descending problem 12.

- 8.  4a. The quartz wall climbed at its highest point.
- 9.  3a. The right side of the slabby arête.
- 10A.  4b. Up the slab just left of centre.
- 10B.  4b. The diagonal crack starting at 10A and finishing at 11A.
- 10C.  V0 5b. Directly up the blankest, centre part of the slab, finishing on the same holds as 10A.
- 11A.  4b/c. Up the slab just right of centre.
- 11B.  V2 5c. Start up 11A but step right and climb the slab, don't step on the flake or in the groove (12).
- 12.  3a-. The V-groove (a good way down).
- 13.  V0- 4c. The thin seam up the wall.
- 14.  4b. Up the wall (don't use the corner).
- 15.  4b. Layback the corner to the top of the boulder.
- 16A.  ★ V1 5c. Climb directly up the right side of the face.
- 16B.  ★ V3 6a. A good variation. Start as for 16A but take the diagonal seam left to a bold reach finish.
- 17.  4b. (Sit start  4c.) The boulder's south-east arête direct.
- 18.  V0 5b. Sit start, the centre of the face.
- 19.  V0 5b. Sit start, the right side of the face.
- 20.  3c. (Sit start  4a.) Up the big holds starting at a short groove.
- 21.  4b. (Sit start  4c.) The centre of the wall.
- 22.  V1 5c. (Sit start  V1 5c.) The left-hand side of the arête.
- 23.  V0 5b. The right-hand side of the arête.
- 24.  3a-. The chimney/groove (an easy way down).
- 25.  V0- 5b. Sit start to gain the thin seam in the slab.
- 26.  4b. Sit start through the low roof and up.
- 27.  5a. Sit start through the right side of the low roof and up.
- 28.  4a. The crack.



Adrian Lingard on problem 10A, 4b, in The Pit at Clodgy Point.

Photo: Barnaby Carver.



Tobi Carver climbing problem 16A, V1 5c, in The Pit at Clodgy Point.

Photo: Barnaby Carver.

## The Island (St. Ives Head)

Explorer 102, O.S. Ref. 520 411

THE ISLAND is St. Ives' most prominent landmark; a craggy hill rising 33 metres above the town. It is only a short walk from the town centre, Porthmeor and Porthgwidden beaches so it's no surprise that it has long attracted both local and visiting climbers. However it is the poor relation of nearby Man's Head and Clodgy Point offering only a limited amount of bouldering, none of which is of a particularly hard grade. But climbers who want a quick break from the family on the beach, or don't want to walk too far from the town centre, can find some quality, amenable problems here. The Happy Boulder on the north-west side of The Island is the cream of the crop.

### Approach

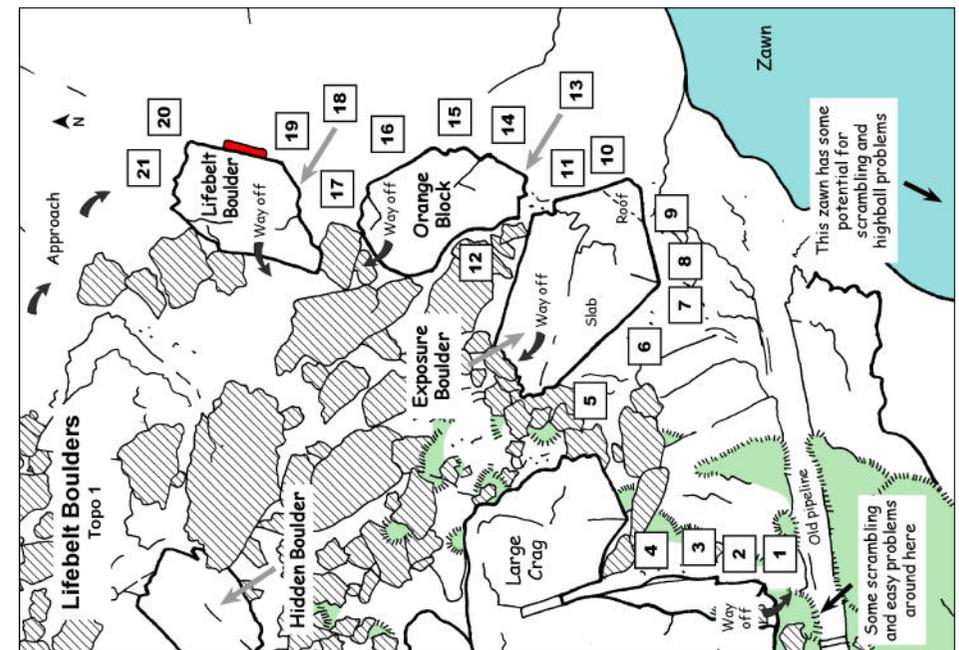
(Approximately 1 to 4 minutes.) From the car park a tarmacked path runs around The Island and all of the boulders can be reached off this.

### Problems & Tides

61 are listed but more have been climbed, there is also potential for longer scrambles. Many of the unlisted problems are isolated and of mediocre quality so only the better ones have been included. The Lifebelt Boulders and Skylight Cave are non-tidal. The Happy Boulder can be climbed on for about three hours either side of low tide in calm seas. Lookout Wall and Coral Zawn can only be accessed in very calm seas for an hour or two either side of low water.

### Lifebelt Boulders (Topo 1)

The first boulders are found below the Coastguard Lookout Station on the east side of The Island. From The Island car park walk north-east up the hill to the first building then continue down the hill along the path. At the bottom of the hill, on the northern side of The Island, take fishermen's paths to the right (east) which lead back round below the Coastguard Lookout Station. The first boulder reached is Yellowlow Rock which lies directly below an impressive roof on the large crag above. A few metres to the east again is a boulder with a lifebelt on it, this is the Lifebelt Boulder, there are also problems on the boulders and walls south of this. The large zawn just to the south has some potential for scrambling and bouldering but the landings are bad and the problems are also quite high.



The first four problems are on a wall at the base of the large crag beneath the lookout, they finish on a grassy ledge at four metres which is exited down to the left.

1.  4a. The arête on its right side.
2.  4b. The thin crack moving right at the top.
3.  4b. The wall just right of a small corner.
4.  VI 5c. Start just at the mouth of a chimney and climb the wall direct on poor holds.

The next problems are on the Exposure Boulder, they are a little scary due to the boulder's proximity to the cliff edge.

5.  4a. From near the top of the slab step up and traverse right to the arête.
6.  4a. From near the bottom of the slab step up and traverse right to the arête.
7.  ★ Exposure Slab 4a. Climb the centre of the diamond shaped slab from its base.
8.  4c X. Climb the rough wall to the arête.
9.  5a X. Climb the wall via dynamic moves on big, flat holds.
10.  Exposure VI 5c X. From a low start hanging a sloper move left on more slopers before rocking-over back right to finish. Scary!

11.  4b. Sit start from a block to a blocky finish.

The middle boulder has some good problems.

12.  3b. The slab.
13.  4b. The arête starting on its right side and finishing on its left.
14.  ★ Orange Slab V0+ 5b. Make a tricky step up and climb rightwards up the slab.
15.  V0- 5a. Climb the groove to the right side of the arête. The arête direct is the same grade.
16.  V0 5b. The centre of the face on small flakes.
17.  3a. The groove and arête.

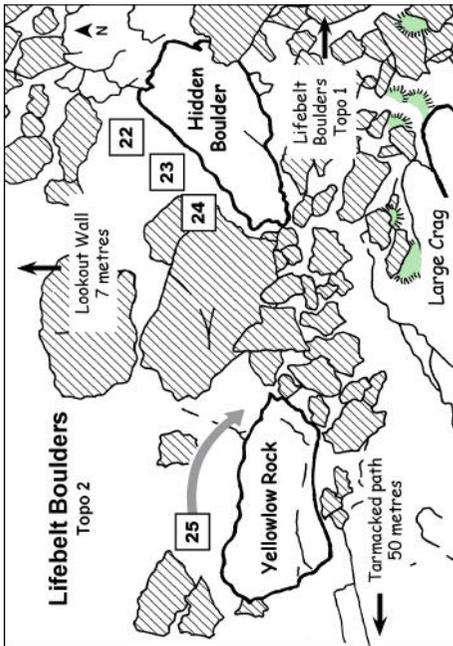
The next block, the Lifebelt Boulder, is easily identified by the lifebelt apparatus attached to its east side. The problems on this boulder do not go near this but please take great care not to damage the apparatus in anyway.

18.  3a. The easy wall.
19.  4c. The left arête climbed on its right side.
20.  V0- 5a. The right arête direct.
21.  V0- 5a. The wall using both arêtes.

## Lifebelt Boulders (Topo 2)

A few metres west of the Lifebelt Boulder can be found a smaller boulder tucked away amongst other rocks, this is the Hidden Boulder which has three similar sit start problems on its north-west face. They are all good.

22.  V2 6a. Sit start with right hand on a long grey hold and climb the left side of the face.
23.  V0- 5b. Sit start. Climb direct from the grey hold.
24.  V0- 5b. Sit start and climb direct from the flat black hold.



Just west again, beneath the prominent large overhang on the crag above, can be found Yellowlow Rock. This low boulder has one of The Island's best problems.

25.  ★ Yellowlow VI 5c. 3 metres. A low lip-traverse. Sit start with hands on the right side of a small yellow scoop, traverse left on slopers to top-out above a flat hold.

The crag above offers some scrambling and less worthwhile bouldering.



Martyn Frith on the lip traverse of Yellowlow VI 5c, problem 25 on The Island. Photo: Barnaby Carver.

# Clodgy Point

## Explorer 102, O.S. Ref. 507 414

THE BEST bouldering in St. Ives! The boulders and faces on the foreshore around Clodgy Point have become popular as a forcing ground for hard problems and are home to many of the area's test-pieces. Clodgy is a very accessible venue almost entirely unaffected by tides. There are top quality problems throughout the grades with everything from lowball traverses to highball scare-fests. *Boomerang* (V7) and *The Groove* (V8) are particularly notable.

### Approach

(Approximately 10 to 12 minutes.) From the car park at the western end of Porthmeor Beach follow the South-West Coast Path (as for the approach to Man's Head). After about a kilometre a wooden gate is reached and The Summit Boulders are seen on the grassy slopes ahead. From a distance these boulders resemble the head and hump of a camel. The majority of the bouldering can be found on the wave-cut platform immediately below The Summit Boulders.

### Problems & Tides

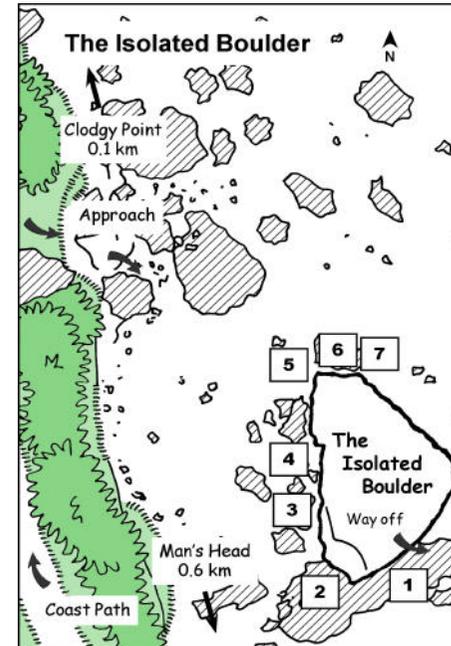
163 are listed with more variations described but further eliminates and variations have been left unlisted. In calm seas at neap tides it is possible to boulder anywhere at all states of the tide. The Isolated Boulder and The Pit are the only areas partly affected by high spring tides and swell can cause trouble accessing them as well as affecting Great Wall and The Western Territory. Very large westerly or north-westerly swell can occasionally cause problems with climbing at all the areas.

## The Isolated Boulder

(Explorer 102, O.S. Ref. 508 412)

This small boulder sits on the rocky shore next to the South-West Coast Path just before Clodgy Point. A few reasonable problems almost justify a visit. Approach along the coast path from St. Ives, about 100 metres from the gate at Clodgy, next to a small boulder on the path, it is possible to climb down on to the rocks.

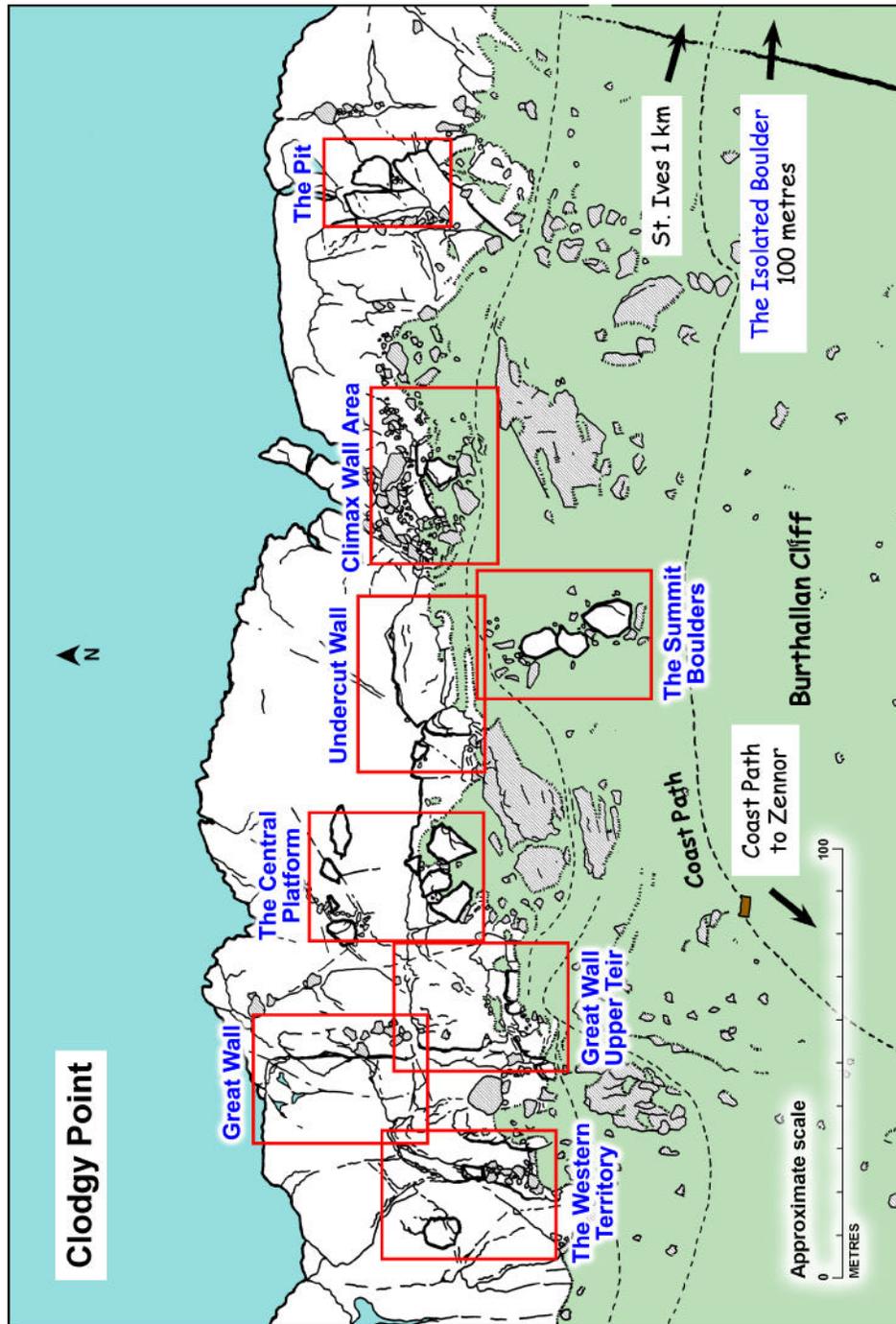
1.  VI 5c. Sit start then follow a diagonal seam left to finish up problem 2.
2.  4c. Sit start. Up the short overhanging wall.
3.  3a. (Sit start  3c.) The slab.
4.  3a-. (Sit start  3c.) Up big holds on the left side of the slab.
5.  4b. Sit start. The left side of the overhanging arete using holds on the arete.
6.  V0+ 5b. Sit start. Left to right diagonal up the overhanging face.
7.  VI 5b/c. From the same sit start as 6 go straight up.



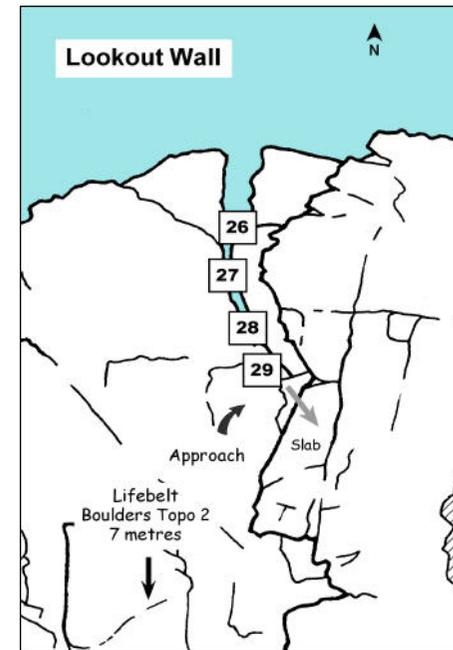
Martyn Frith on problem 6, V0+ 5b, on The Isolated Boulder.

Photo: Barnaby Carver.

## Clodgy Point Area Map



## Lookout Wall



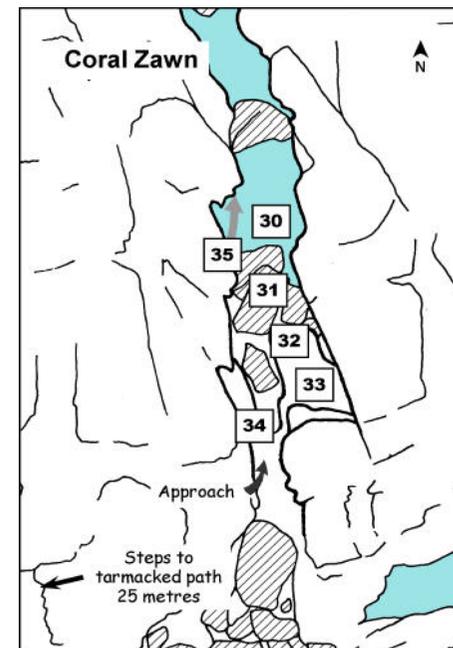
On a wall next to the sea south of the Lifebelt Boulders can be found a few problems. This wall is only safe to climb on in the calmest of seas.

- 26. □ 4b. Climb the hand-traverse line leftwards.
- 27. □ ★★ **Lookout Wall V0 5a.** Climb the centre of the steep wall on good jugs.
- 28. □ ★ 4b. Climb the right edge of the wall.
- 29A. □ 4a. Climb the ramp using the left crack line.
- 29B. □ V0 5a. The slippery ramp direct is harder than it looks.



Tobi Carver in a fine position on *Lookout Wall V0 5a*, problem 27 on The Island.  
Photo: Barnaby Carver.

## Coral Zawn



The next problems are in a zawn a short distance to the west of the Lifebelt Boulders. At the bottom of the hill are some steps between a lifebelt and a dog-turd bin, these lead down onto the rock platform that runs the length of the northern shore of The Island. 25 metres east of these steps is Coral Zawn, this has some good problems on wonderfully featured rock that can be quite friable. The landings here are also bad so take care.

- 30A. □ 4a X. Step into a groove and traverse down left to good holds and exit up.
- 30B. □ V0 5a/b X. Step into the groove and climb this to an awkward exit left. Be warned there are some dubious holds at the top of the groove.
- 31A. □ V0+ 5b X. The wall just right of the groove to join *Coral Crack* (31B) at a sloping break.
- 31B. □ ★★ **Coral Crack V0+ 5b X.** The crack.
- 32. □ ★★ **Coral Wall V2 5c.** The wall direct. Some brittle rock.
- 33. □ 4b X. The corner is tricky.
- 34. □ 4b X. The right side of the arête.
- 35. □ 4c X. From blocks traverse the west side of the zawn right to cross a corner and finish right of the capping roof.

All along the platform that runs the length of the north side of The Island can be found isolated problems on small rocks, walls, zawns and coves but they lack quality.

## The Happy Boulder

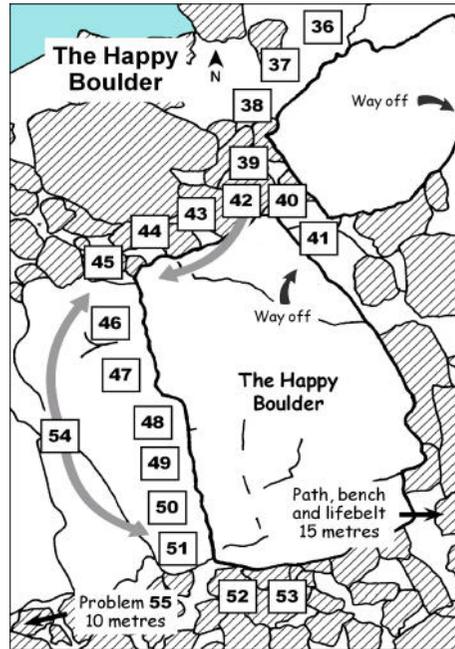
The next problems are found on the north-west point of The Island. At a lifebelt and bench on the tarmacked path, walk west across rocks for a few metres. The rough porous rock on the largest boulder resembles the volcanic rock of The Happy Boulders in Bishop, California. The Happy Boulder is the only area on The Island that's worth a visit in its own right. In 1938 a 3,700 ton steamer, the *Alba*, was wrecked just off the rocks here with the loss of five lives. At low spring tide just out to the west the boilers of this vessel can still be seen.

The first problems are on a smaller boulder; some of these have poor landings.

- 36. □ 4b. The left arête climbed on its right side.
- 37. □ VI 6a. From crimps campus to the top.
- 38. □ 5a. The right arête on its left side.
- 39A. □ ★ Tobi's Mantle V0- 5a. Pull up and mantle onto a shelf, finish direct.
- 39B. □ ★ Tobi's Original Mantle V0 5a. Mantle onto the self and traverse the boulder's lip to finish on the right arête (41).
- 40. □ VI 5c. Climb the wall just left of the arête after an initial hard step-up to start.
- 41. □ 4c. The right arête on its left side.

These next problems are all on the large Happy Boulder.

- 42. □ V0 5a. 5 metres. Sit start just right of an arête and make a rising traverse rightward to finish on the arête (45A).
- 43. □ V0- 5a. Start behind a rock, step up and slap to the top.
- 44A. □ V0- 5a. (Sit start □ V0 5b.) The thin seam.
- 44B. □ V0 5a. An alternative sit start can be made starting at 42 and traversing rightwards using the undercut seam to finish on 44A.
- 45A. □ V0 5a. The left side of the arête.
- 45B. □ ★ Happy Arête V0+ 5b. The right side of the arête.
- 46. □ ★ ★ Alba V2 5c. Directly up the wall.
- 47. □ ★ Happy Wall V0+ 5b. The wall just left of Happy Groove (48).
- 48. □ ★ Happy Groove V0- 5a. The central groove.
- 49. □ V0+ 5b. The wall between Happy Groove (48) and Happy Crack (50).
- 50. □ ★ Happy Crack V0+ 5a/b. The crack-line.
- 51. □ V0+ 5b. The wall just left of the arête.



- 52A. □ 4a. The right-hand side of the arête. Starting on the left and finishing on the right is 52B. □ V0- 5b.
- 53. □ 3a. Climb the diagonal crack-line.
- 54A. □ ★ VI 5b. 9 metres. A two-way traverse of the wall. Start at the left arête (45B), match the big flat hold on the right arête (52A) and go back.
- 54B. □ ★ VI 5b. 12 metres. The traverse can be extended by starting on the sit start of 44B and returning to finish on 43.

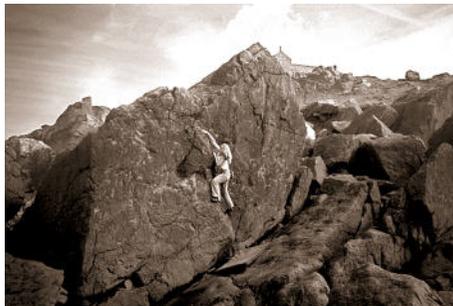
Other isolated problems can be found on the boulders and walls dotted around nearby. These have not been included on the topos but one of the better ones is *Green Pool*. This is approached by walking about ten metres in a south-westerly direction from problem 52A, a boulder is then found jammed in a long gully. *Green Pool* is on the west side of this boulder.

- 55. □ ★ Green Pool V2 6a. A powerful problem on wonderful holds. Sit start from pockets under the boulder and climb the steep wall. Don't step on the rock to the left.

## Part III: Clodgy Point



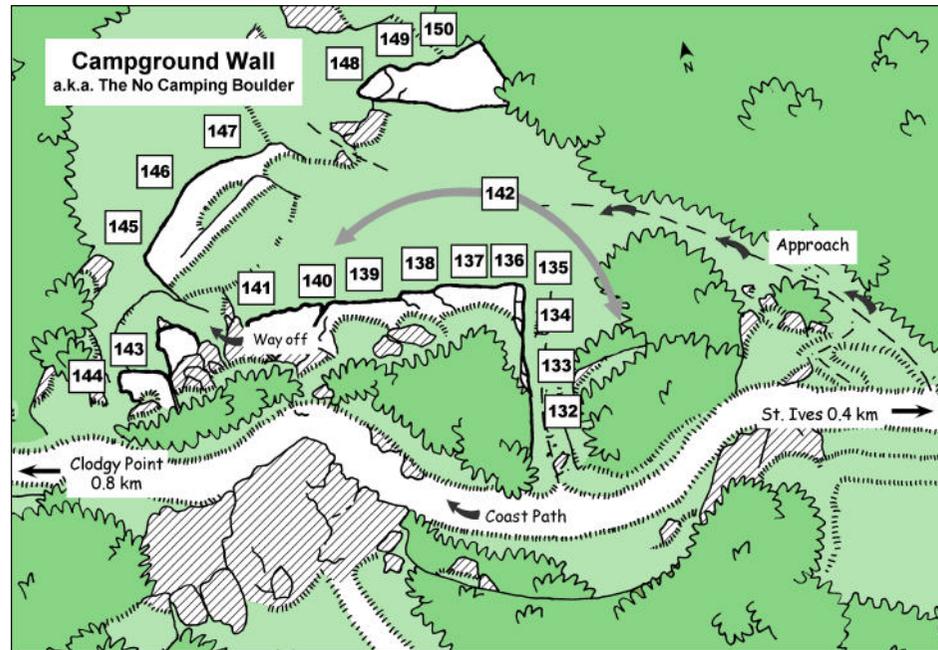
Photo: Barnaby Carver.



Helen Pardoe climbing *Happy Groove*, V0- 5a, problem 48 on The Island. Photo: Barnaby Carver.

## Campground Wall (a.k.a. The No Camping Boulder)

Back on dry land and continuing towards Clodgy Point a good steep wall can be found just down to the right, off the South-West Coast Path. This is Campground Wall – steep and covered in large jugs and pockets it is excellent for stamina workouts and has great potential for eliminates.



- 132. □ 4b. (Sit start □ 4b.) The line of holds towards the left side of the wall.
- 133. □ V0- 5a. (Sit start □ V0- 5a.) The blankish middle section of the wall.
- 134. □ 4a. (Sit start □ 4b.) The leftward rising rake.
- 135. □ V0+ 5b. (Sit start □ V0+ 5b.) The arête direct. Tricky top.
- 136. □ V0+ 5b. (Sit start □ V0+ 5b.) The line of holds on the right of the arête only.
- 137. □ ★★ Campground Wall VI 5b/c. (Sit start □ ★★ VI 5b/c.) The line of holds and thin seam about 1.5 metres right of the arête.
- 138. □ ★ V2 5c. In the centre of the wall is a large hole, from this climb directly to a flake and up.
- 139. □ ★★ No Pockets V6 6b. A fine example of the potential for harder eliminates that this wall has. Sit start on two good holds just left of a burn mark. Move up and left, climb the blank section of wall on three small crimps and a dimple to a diagonal crack, finish slightly rightwards. Don't use any pockets for hands or feet!

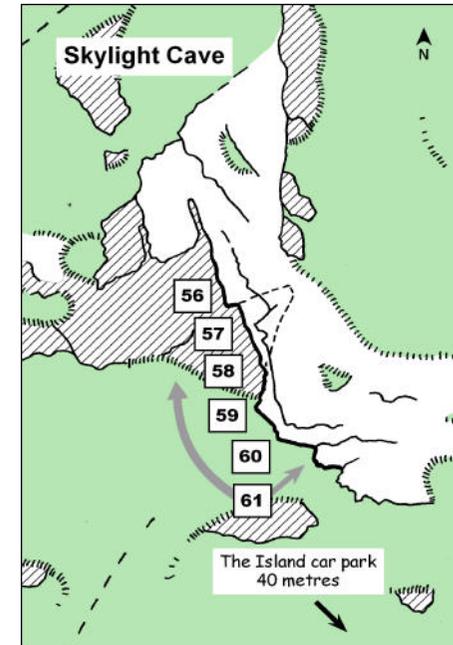
- 140. □ 4c. (Sit start □ 4c.) The crack.
  - 141. □ 4b/c. (Sit start □ 4c.) The rounded right arête climbed on it's left.
  - 142. □ ★★ Workout VI 5b. 10 metres. A two way traverse. Start matching a sloper on the right arête (problem 141) and traverse left to problem 132, match a hold then go back!
- The less impressive bits of rock hereabouts hold a few problem of varying quality.
- 143. □ 4a. The centre of the small wall.
  - 144. □ 4b. The arête direct.
  - 145. □ 3b. The right side of the slab.
  - 146. □ 3c. The centre of the slab.
  - 147. □ 3a. The left side of the slab.
- The small pinnacle holds three nice but similar problems.
- 148. □ ★★ 4b. The right arête of the seaward face of the pinnacle climbed on its left side.
  - 149. □ 5b. The centre of the pinnacle not using the arêtes.
  - 150. □ 4a. The left arête climbed on its right.

## Skylight Cave

On the south-west part of The Island a small cave can clearly be seen from the car park. It has a fine situation high above Porthmeor Beach and offers a few worthwhile problems and potential for harder eliminates. The area has been named after *Skylight One* – a huge temporary sculpture of 20 polished tin plate panels that local artist Roy Walker erected here in May 1997.

- 56. □ 3a. (Sit start □ 3a.) The arête at the left side of the cave.
- 57. □ 4c. Sit start at the mouth of the cave and climb up on good holds.

- 58. □ 5a. Sit start just right and pull into the groove, finish up this.
- 59. □ ★ V0 5b. Sit start and climb the centre of the steep prow.
- 60. □ ★ V0- 5a. Sit start just right and lay-back the arête to the finish of 59.
- 61. □ V0- 5a. 4 metres. Sit start quite far right and make a low traverse to finish on 57.



Martyn Frith enjoying some late evening bouldering on problem 59, V0 5b, Skylight Cave, The Island. Photo: Barnaby Carver.

In the back of the cove a small wall of rough rock provides some fine problems with strenuous sit starts.

- 112. □ **V0 5a.** (Sit start □ **V0 5a.**) The left side of the wall on good holds to the V-shaped notch.
- 113. □ **V0+ 5b.** (Sit start □ **V2 6a.**) Directly up the wall from a diagonal crack. (Sit start from below and to the right.)
- 114A. □ **V0 5a/b.** (Sit start □ **V0+ 5b.**) Left side of the arête using everything including footholds on the right.
- 114B. □ **V0+ 5b.** (Sit start □ **★ V1 5c.**) Left side of the arête not using the diagonal crack, the foot holds to the right are allowed.
- 115. □ **3c.** (Sit start □ **4c.**) The blocky groove.
- 116. □ **4c.** (Sit start □ **4c.**) The wall via seams to a tricky top.

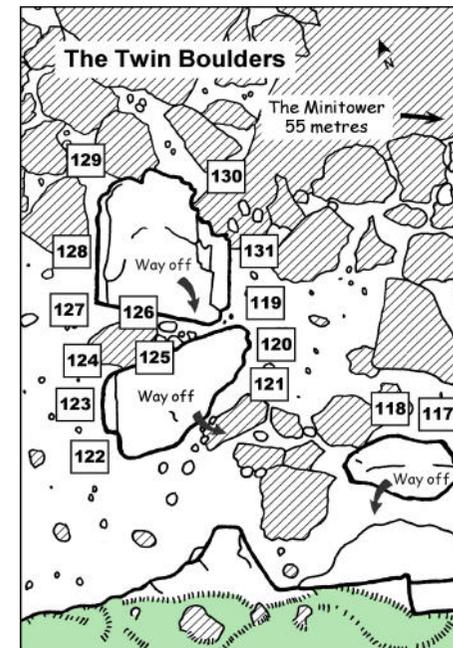


Barney Carver on the excellent power-stamina problem *The Minitower Traverse* (a.k.a *Three Egyptians*), V7 6b, problem 111 at Man's Head.

Photo: Tobi Carver.

## The Twin Boulders

Continue west along the rocky foreshore between Man's Head and Clodgy Point (know locally as 'Foxholes'). Two similar sized boulders sit next to each other, these are The Twin Boulders. A number of nice easy problems can be found along with two harder sit down problems. Crash pads are a good idea here as the landings are rocky and uneven.



There are two nice slab problems on a small boulder near the two larger Twin Boulders.

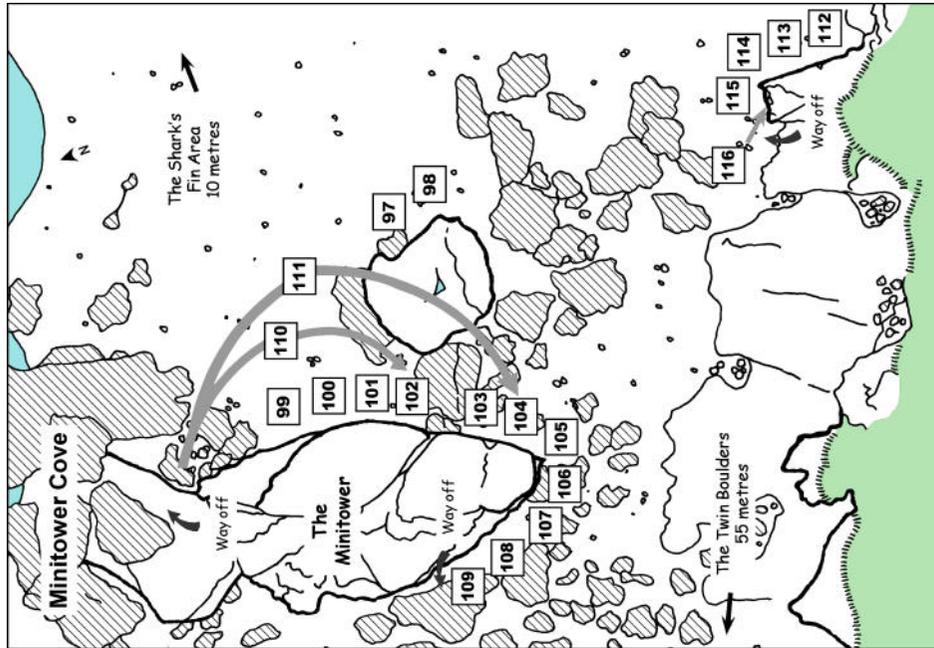
- 117. □ **4a.** The centre of the small slab.
- 118. □ **4a.** Start on 117, move right to climb the right side of the slab.

The next problems are all on The Twin Boulders.

- 119. □ **V2 6a.** Sit start. The right side of an overhanging arête on slopers and shallow pockets.
- 120. □ **V2 6a.** Sit start. The overhanging wall via slopy side-pulls.
- 121. □ **3a.** The diagonal crack up the slab.
- 122. □ **3a-.** The small groove.
- 123. □ **3a.** The undercut slab.
- 124. □ **3a-.** The arête. Pleasant.
- 125. □ **3a-.** The slab. Again pleasant.
- 126. □ **5a.** The face. Good.
- 127. □ **4b.** The arête.
- 128. □ **4c.** The face.
- 129. □ **3a.** The arête.
- 130. □ **4a.** The left side of the arête.
- 131. □ **3b.** Climb onto the ledge and up the face.

## Minitower Cove

This next cove offers some of the best and hardest problems at Man's Head.



97. □ **V0 5b.** High step from underclings and move up. Avoid the stone on the right.  
 98. □ **4b.** The arête climbed on its right side.

The next problems are on the impressive east-facing wall of The Minitower. They have been climbed when the sand is at its lowest and are graded here accordingly. Higher sand levels may make some of the sit starts easier.

99. □ **V3 5c/6a.** Up the wall and face above on crimps.  
 100A. □ **★ V3 6a.** Start on two small, sharp pinches and climb the wall and blunt arête above. When the sand is too low to reach the pinches the problem can be started at the same grade by moving across from the first moves of problem 101.  
 100B. □ **★★ No Pain, No Gain V6 6b.** Problem 100A climbed with a sit start from good holds directly below the sharp pinches.  
 101. □ **★★ V2 5c.** (Sit start □ **★★ V3 6a.**) From a good small undercut climb the centre of the wall to finish just right of the flake/crack. (Sit start from the good first holds of 100B *No Pain, No Gain*, move left to the undercut.)  
 102. □ **★ V0+ 5b.** (Sit start □ **V6 6c.**) Start just right of a boulder and climb the thin seam and flake/crack above. (The sit start is awkward and poor when the sand is low (the grade given here), it's much easier when the sand is higher.)

- 103A. □ **★★ V0- 4c X.** Climb over a bulge to the ledge and up the wall above on well spaced jugs.  
 103B. □ **4b.** As for 103A but finish on the ledge.

The following problems finish on the ledge.

104. □ **V0- 5a.** The wall just right of the arête.  
 105. □ **★ 4b.** (Sit start □ **★ 4b.**) The arête direct.  
 106. □ **★ 4b.** (Sit start □ **★ 4b.**) The narrow wall.  
 107. □ **3c.** (Sit start □ **4b.**) The blunt arête.  
 108. □ **4b.** (Sit start □ **4c.**) The blankest section of wall.  
 109. □ **4a.** (Sit start □ **4b.**) The wall from a large round pocket.

The east face of The Minitower is home to two excellent traverses.

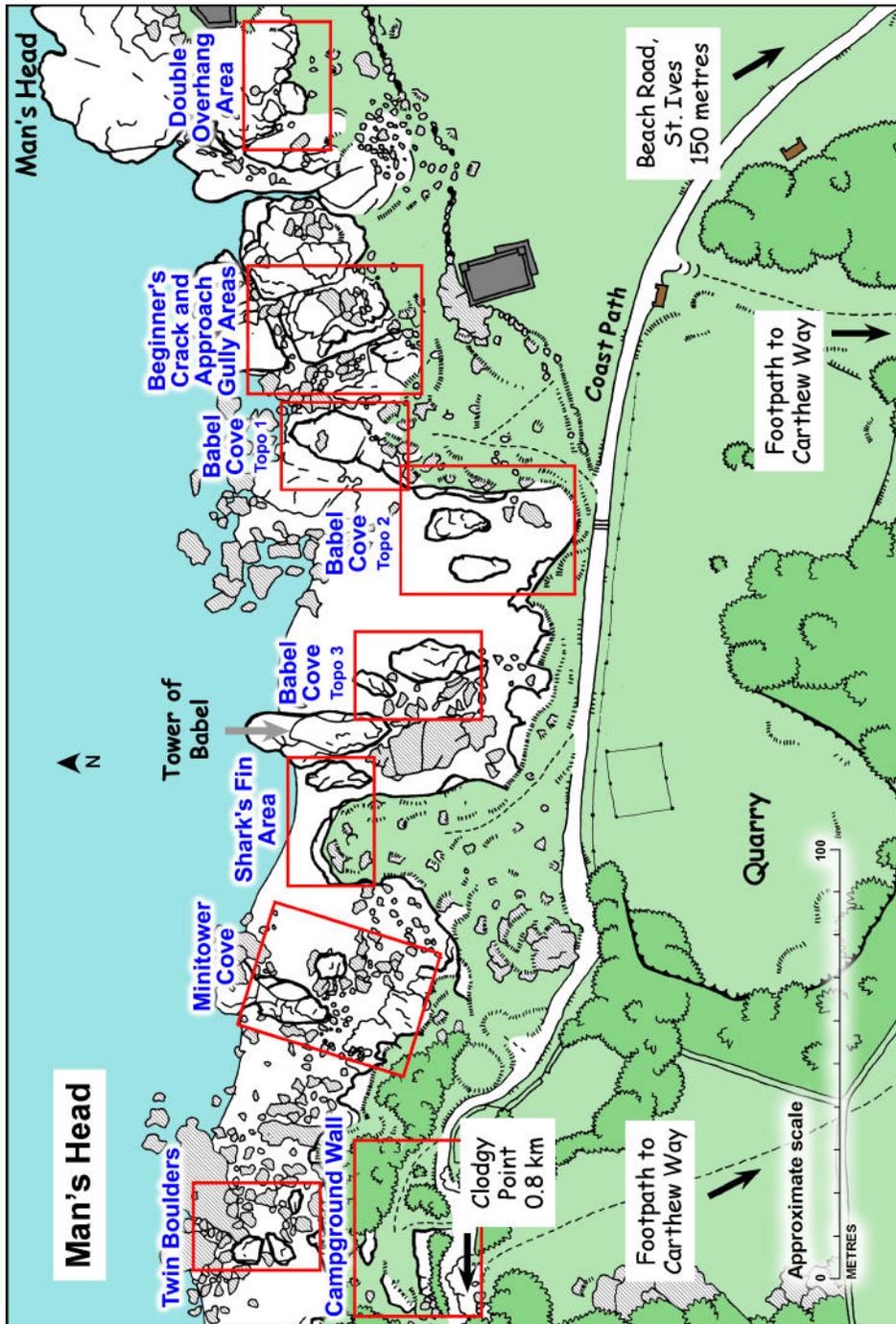
110. □ **★★ V0+ 5a.** 8 metres. Sit start at the far right side of the face and traverse up leftwards along the lip and break to finish up the flake/crack (problem 102).  
 111. □ **★★★ The Minitower Traverse (a.k.a. Three Egyptians) V7 6b.** 14 metres. An excellent right-to-left traverse of the wall below the level of the lip and break on small pockets and crimps. Start from a sit down matching a large sloper on the far right side of the wall. Traverse leftwards, move up at problem 102 to clear the boulder and continue to finish up the arête (problem 105).

## Part II: Man's Head (Carrick Du)



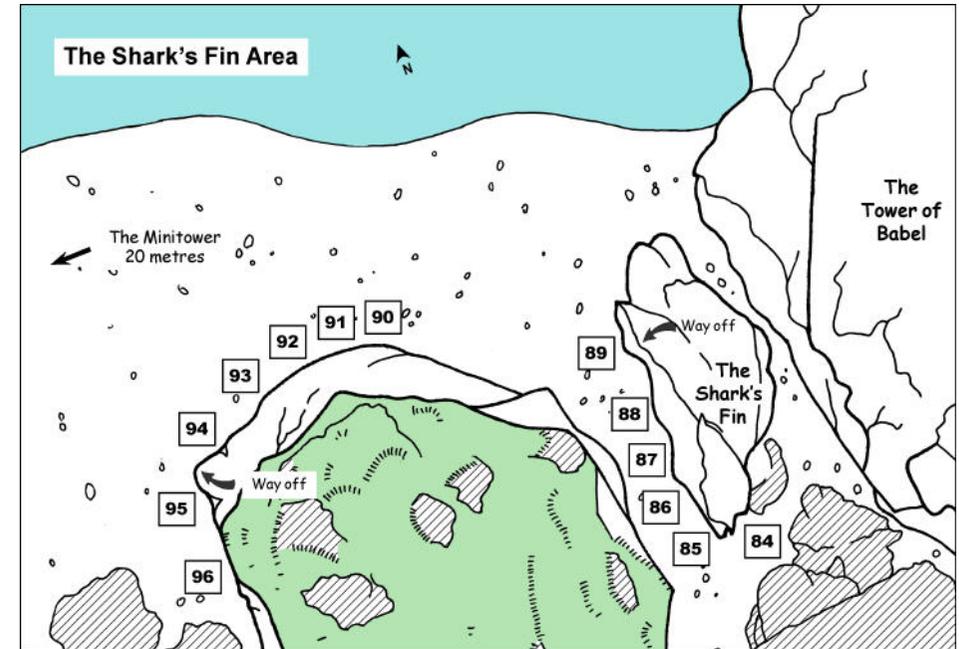
Photo: Barnaby Carver.

## Man's Head Area Map



## The Shark's Fin Area

Babel Cove is separated from the next small cove by a promontory that can be walked around at low tide. Between this promontory and the Tower of Babel is a stunning boulder – The Shark's Fin.



- 84. □ ★★ **The Shark's Fin V0+ 5b.** The arete on its right side. Classic!
- 85. □ **V1 5c.** The arete's left side.
- 86. □ ★ **V0- 5b.** The slab. Start with right hand in small scoop.
- 87. □ ★ **V0- 5b.** The slab just left again.
- 88. □ **4c.** The slab just right of the easy way down.
- 89. □ **3a-**. (Easy way down.) Climb easily up leftwards.

These next problems are on a smooth bulge of rock with a good ledge above, at the base of the promontory that separates Babel Cove from Minitower Cove. The sand height here can change more than most areas but these problems are possible at these grades in most conditions. If you thought rounded granite top-outs were desperate have a go at these bad boys! All are good fun.

- 90. □ **V0 5b.** At an undercut flake/crack reach or jump to good holds then go out right. Great fun!
- 91. □ **V0 5b.** Slightly easier. Reach/jump to a flat, small ledge at the lip and mantle.
- 92. □ **V0 5b.** The next mantle over, by a small twisty seam. Again awkward.
- 93A. □ **V1 5c.** From crimps lunge for the top.
- 93B. □ **V3 6a/b.** A problem sharing the right-hand hold of 94A and the lower left hold of 93A. Dyno up to the top.
- 94A. □ **V0 5b.** The diagonal crack.

- 94B. □ ★ **V4 6b.** Start as for 94A but dyno straight for the top.
- 95. □ ★ **Snorkel V6 6b/c.** A hit-or-miss (but mostly miss) lunge problem up the thin seam right of the arête. With a hand on the undercut, smear both feet on and lunge for the V-shaped notch. Possible at this grade at most sand heights but if it is very high the top can be reached from the ground.
- 96. □ **V2 5c.** Move up a thin crack to finish awkwardly left.



Andy Whall on Snorkel, V6 6b/c, problem 95 at Man's Head.  
Photo: Barnaby Carver.

- 48.  **V0+ 5c.** Up on small holds. Hard to start.
- 49.  **V0 5a/b.** Up via a vague groove.
- 50.  **4a.** Up the slab starting from pockets and finishing just left of the roof.
- 51.  **4c.** Up the slab through the centre of the roof.
- 52.  **4b X.** Up the slab and through the roof (crux).

The following problems start from the beach.

- 53.  **3c X.** Up a staggered groove, finish just right of the roof.

The next four problems finish on the ledge, climb off down to the left.

- 54.  **3c.** Up the wall.
- 55.  **4a.** Up the vague seam.
- 56.  **4a.** The left side of the arête.
- 57.  **4a.** The corner crack.
- 58.  **V0- 5a.** The face right of the corner on shaky holds to a grassy top-out.

The next problems on the boulders can be affected by changing pebble height.

- 59.  **4a.** Sit start. The south-east arête of the boulder.
- 60.  **4b.** Sit start to finish on larger holds.
- 61.  **4c.** Tricky sit start up a thin seam in the blank section.
- 62.  **4c.** Sit start at a blunt rib then up the left side of the arête.

- 63.  **4a.** 6 metres. Start from good holds about 1 metre from the ground and traverse left to finish up problem 59.

Easier novice problems can be climbed on the west side of this boulder. The next boulder is home to one good problem and although more sit start problems have been done here they are not always possible due to changes in sand and pebble height.

- 64.  **★ 4c.** 6 metres. Sit start and hand traverse the lip to finish up the boulder's southern arête.



Tobi Carver, with Matt Berriman spotting, on an un-named V2 5c problem (40B) at Man's Head. Photo: Barnaby Carver.

### Babel Cove (Topo 3)

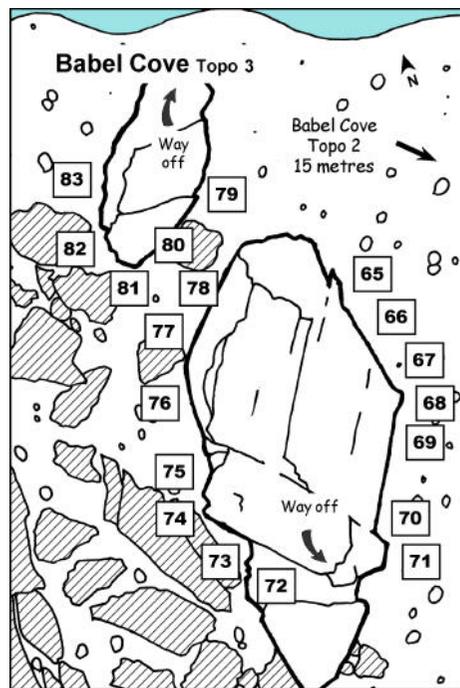
There are two boulders with problems in the western part of the cove.

- 65.  **5a.** Sit start. The right-hand crack.
- 66.  **4b.** Sit start. The centre crack.
- 67.  **4b.** Sit start on large holds and up.
- 68.  **5a/b.** Sit start. Direct up the arête.
- 69.  **4c.** Sit start. The right-to-left crack.
- 70.  **3b.** Sit start. The easy crack.
- 71.  **3c.** Sit start. The prow.
- 72.  **3c.** Up the wall from the orange scar.
- 73.  **4a.** A nice problem up the wall just left of the scar.
- 74.  **★ 4b.** Up the wall and through the small roof. Sustained fun.
- 75A.  **4a.** Rightwards along a crack to the finish of 72.
- 75B.  **3b.** Directly up from the start of 75A.
- 76.  **3c.** The lay-away flake.
- 77.  **5b.** A one move problem starting with right hand in a good slot.
- 78.  **4b.** One move problem up the wall from a good handhold.

These problems are on the smaller boulder...

- 79.  **4c.** Up the wall.
- 80.  **4b.** The wall just right of the prow.
- 81.  **4c.** The prow direct.
- 82.  **4b.** The groove just left of the prow.
- 83.  **4b.** The short barnacle covered groove.

The sea stack in this cove is known locally as the Tower of Babel, it is possible to climb this on all sides the easiest being the west. The Tower of Babel is not good for bouldering as it is caked in barnacles at its base.



## Man's Head (Carrick Du)

Explorer 102, O.S. Ref. 512 410

MAN'S HEAD, the area of cliffs at the western end of Porthmeor Beach, St. Ives, has long been a venue for scrambling, short problem climbs and even some limited deep water soloing. Although there is bouldering on the head itself the highest concentration of problems can be found in the small coves just to the west. There are many fine problems of V2 and below (U.K. technical grade 3a-5c), whilst the few classic V6-V7 problems (U.K. 6b-6c) make this a not-to-be-overlooked crag for the hard-core boulderer. Delightful on sunny summer's days and just a short distance from the centre of St. Ives and its beaches with climbing at all states of the tide, this area has much to offer.

### Approach

(Approximately 3 minutes.) From the car park at the western end of Porthmeor Beach join the South-West Coast Path and follow this west between Beach Road and Porthmeor Bowling Club for about 150 metres. The outcrops of the Double Overhang and Beginner's Crack Areas should now be obvious.

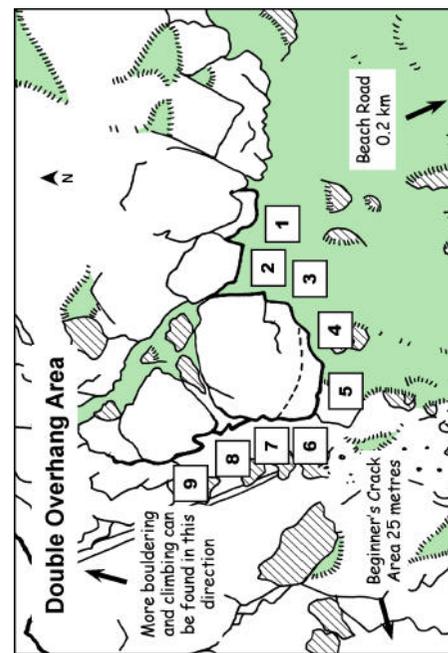
### Problems & Tides

150 are listed but more have been climbed, there is also plenty of potential for eliminates, sit down starts and longer scrambles or routes. The problems of the Double Overhang and Beginner's Crack areas and Campground Wall are well above sea level and can be climbed at all states of the tide. Babel Cove can be accessed for three hours either side of low water whilst the bottom of the Approach Gully to Babel Cove, Minitower Cove, and The Twin Boulders are more tidal. The Shark's Fin area needs to be visited half an hour to an hour either side of low water.

### Double Overhang Area

On arriving at Man's Head a granite built shelter is reached, Double Overhang Area is found approximately 30 metres north-east of this. *Double Overhang* is one of the Head's most visible and long-standing problems.

- 1.  **3a-.** The easy rib.
- 2.  **3a-.** The chimney finishing left of the boulder.
- 3.  **3b.** The arête.
- 4.  **★ Double Overhang V0 5a.** The right side of the double overhang.
- 5.  **★ V2 5c.** Through the largest overhang at its widest point.
- 6.  **V0+ 5b.** Up just left of the large overhang and the left side of the furry arête.
- 7.  **3c.** The large crack just right of the obvious fault.
- 8.  **3a-.** The obvious fault in middle of the wall.
- 9.  **4b.** Through the blocky roof on the left of the wall.

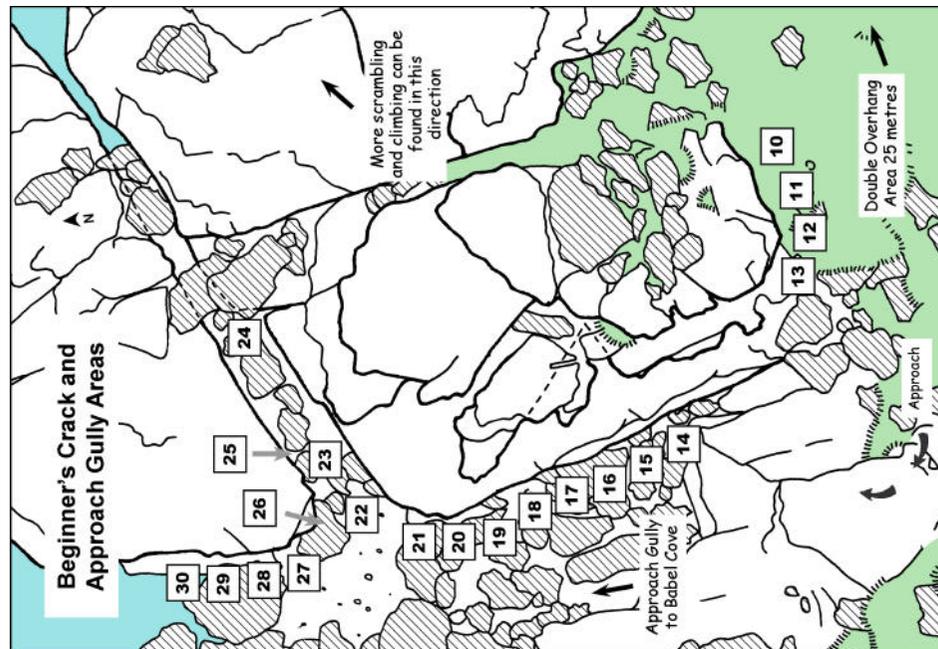


Helen Pardoe on the historical classic *Double Overhang*, V0 5a, problem 4 at Man's Head. Matt Berriman spotting.

Photo: Tobi Carver/UE Images.

## Beginner's Crack and Approach Gully Areas

A few metres due north of the granite shelter is the Beginner's Crack Area, when looking at this down to the left is a broad boulder-filled gully which leads down and around left into Babel Cove.



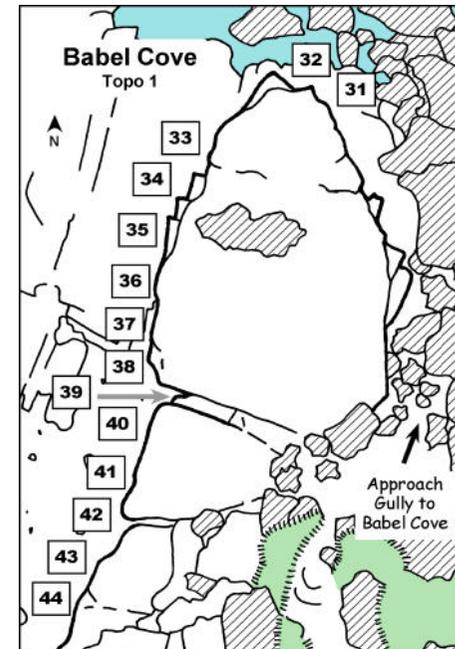
- 10. □ ★ 3a. The slab right of the crack.
  - 11. □ ★★ **Beginner's Crack 3b.** The crack!
  - 12. □ 3c. The slab left of the crack.
  - 13. □ 4a. The arête direct, steep to start.
- Problems have been done on the higher terraced walls of the Approach Gully to Babel Cove. Although easy, a fall from these would almost certainly be fatal. Because of this they are not recommended and haven't been included here. These next problems are on the right wall of the broad boulder filled approach gully that leads to Babel Cove. The problems are good but they have poor landings.
- 14. □ 3c. The wall right of a shallow groove.
  - 15. □ 3a. The shallow groove.
  - 16. □ 3b. The wall on big holds.
  - 17. □ 3c. The wall on large pockets.
  - 18. □ 3c. The vague crack-line.
  - 19. □ 4b. The wall just left on smaller pockets.
  - 20. □ **V0- 4c X.** The blunt arête.
  - 21. □ **V0+ 5a X.** Step left off boulders to finish around on the upper arête of problem 22.

- next three problems are on the higher right-hand wall. They are all highball and dangerous.
- 22. □ ★ **V2 5c X.** The right arête after a hard start, avoid stepping on the ledge at one third height.
  - 23. □ ★★ **V1 5b X.** Very serious! The wall just right of a vague seam finishing leftwards around a flake.
  - 24. □ **V0+ 5a X.** The large lay-back crack. Serious and a little loose.
- Now on the opposite wall...
- 25. □ **V0+ 5b X.** Directly up the wall starting 1 metre right of the arête. Very high-step start and reach finish.
  - 26. □ ★ 4b X. The arête direct.
  - 27. □ 4c X. Up the wall through bulges.
  - 28. □ **V0- 5a X.** The thin crack.
  - 29. □ 4c X. Nice. Directly up the wall behind the boulder via an undercut.
  - 30. □ ★ 4b. The diagonal crack. Safer than the other problems hereabouts.

At the bottom of the approach gully there is a narrow rock corridor on the right (facing out), these

## Babel Cove (Topo 1 & 2)

Looking down the gully an overhanging wall on the left has a few problems and it leads around into Babel Cove. The fine wall on the east side of the cove offers some of the best bouldering below V2 (U.K. 5c) to be found in the area.



- 31. □ **V1 5b/c X.** The arête starting on it's left side.
  - 32. □ **V1 5c X.** The groove on small pockets, one hard start move.
  - 33. □ 4a. The line of holds at the right side of the low roof.
  - 34. □ 4a. Up just left of the pale patch of rock.
  - 35. □ 3c. Up through the pale patch of rock.
  - 36. □ 3b. The thin crack.
- The following problems start from the sand.
- 37. □ 4b X. The wall just left of the arête.
  - 38. □ ★★ 4a. The arête direct.
  - 39. □ 3a. The large crack (a good descent).
  - 40A. □ 4b. The left side of the face finishing on the right side of the arête.
  - 40B. □ ★ **V2 5c.** The face just left of centre. High crux.
  - 41. □ ★ **V1 5c.** The face just right of centre, moving leftwards at the top.
  - 42A. □ 4a. The arête on the left side of the chimney.
  - 42B. □ 3a-. The chimney (a good easy way down).
  - 43. □ **V0+ 5b.** The left edge of the wall.
  - 44. □ **V1 5c.** The centre of the wall.
  - 45. □ ★ **V0 5b.** Up the wall via an undercut niche.
  - 46. □ ★ **V0- 5a.** The leftward rising crack.
- The next problems start from the ledge.
- 47. □ **V0- 5a.** Wall just right of the crack. Tricky start.

