

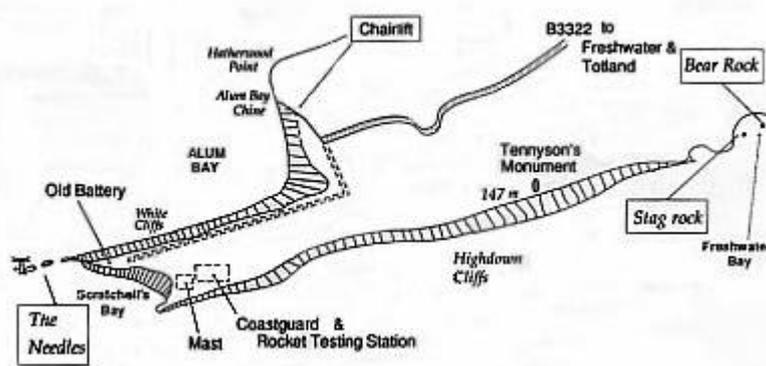


ENGLAND

Stacks in England are found in the southern chalk coastal areas in the Isle Of Wight and the Dorset Old Harry group, in the south Devon sandstone coast, at Ladram Bay for example, the north Devon coast at Blackchurch and in Greenstone regions of Cornwall. There are no Cornish granite stacks of interest to climbers. All these areas have been fairly well explored. Indeed some stack climbs have already fallen down. E.g., one in Freshwater Bay on the Isle Of Wight.

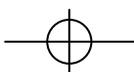
ISLE OF WIGHT

A band of chalk runs east-west across the island from Culver Cliff to the Needles. At its western end there are three stacks forming The Needles. The rock runs east along the coast forming the fine line of cliffs between The Needles and Freshwater Bay. The cliffs have been breached at Freshwater Bay and have left two stacks behind. (There used to be three but the middle one fell down in 1992).



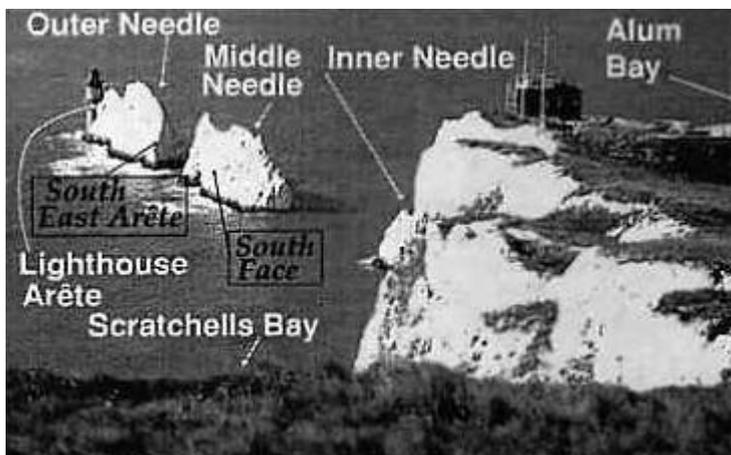
THE NEEDLES

For those in search of an excellent aquatic experience The Needles will provide all that they are looking for. A boat would seem to be necessary and anybody contemplating a swim would be well advised to spend time watching the tidal stream ripping through the gaps between The Needles.





Stack Rock



Inner Needle

MR: Sheet 196 293848

This pinnacle can be reached without a boat but only at absolute low tide. And, of course, this guarantees that your return will involve partial or total immersion unless you have set up a tyrolean.

Detailed access: The inner needle is accessible thus: walk to the western extremity of the beach at Scratchell's Bay then continue (dead low tide necessary) to an exposed promontory that stops just short of the pinnacle. Make an awkward step across a gap on to the south face and traverse for 30 feet to a ledge situated 25 feet above sea-level.

The Crisp HVS 5a

1. 5a. This starts from the landward side of the needle and climbs the crack passing a dubious block. When the crack ends trend left to reach the crest 15 feet to the left of the highest point. The top is easily gained to the right.

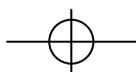
First ascent: Mick Fowler, Lorraine Smythe 4 Nov 1992.

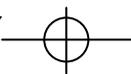
The seaward end is climbable at a moderate grade but the swim to and from it has been deemed extreme.

Middle Needle

MR: Sheet 196 291847

Detailed access: Take a boat. Swimming is out the question due to distance and very strong currents. There might be/should be scope on the north and east faces as well.





West Face 80 feet Severe

The West face is climbed.

First ascent: Unknown.

South Face 80 feet Severe

This has frequently been lowered onto during RAF training sessions but appears not to have been climbed previously. Start just left of the centre of the south face in a shallow bay with a left-trending line leaving its left-hand side. Climb steeply up left and continue in the same line before moving right to a steep concluding 10 feet and the summit ridge. Traverse the ridge to the top. Descend by down climbing, abseil or continue the ascent by RAF helicopter!

First ascent: Mick Fowler, Jon Lincoln, 21 May 1988.

Outer Needle

MR: Sheet 196 290847

There may be scope here for ascents of the other faces and aretes. The technical grades of the existing routes look amenable.

Detailed access: Take a boat.



The Outer Needle and lighthouse from the south.

Lighthouse Arete c80 feet Diff

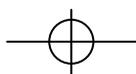
The arete above the lighthouse is climbed with in-situ Victorian steps and ironmongery.

First ascent: Lighthouse workers 19th century.

South East Arete c80 feet Severe

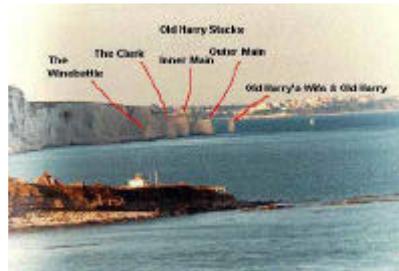
Start just west of the true south east arete and trend right up to the arete. Make an awkward move up a slab and eventually gain easier ground leading to the top.

First ascent: Mick Fowler, Jon Lincoln, ~ May 1988.





DORSET



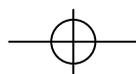
Old Harry stack group seen from Durlston Head.

The Isle of Wight chalk resurfaces here as it runs up into a ridge that goes west behind Swanage's well-known limestone sea cliffs. Where these, in turn, give out at Durdle Door the chalk meets the sea again. The chalk stacks though are located at the eastern end of this ridge.



Old Harry Group

In the region of Handfast Point between Swanage and Studland lie six "stacks", though some purists would argue that only three of these are true stacks. The headland of Handfast Point is approached via the coast path from either Swanage or Studland. From the Studland end the first stacks one comes across are the Old Harry group.





Picture of Old Harry. (David Barlow).



Old Harry's Wife.

Sensible access is by boat, however, either a long walk at low tide from Studland or an abseil from the cliff top will suffice.

Inner Main Stack

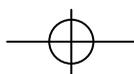
MR: Sheet 195 055825

More of a small island than a stack, easily approachable at most states of the tide.

Original Route 60 feet HVS 4a

Start from the right-hand side of the small bay out of sight from the headland. The route climbs 30 feet to a fault-line before moving horizontally left along it and up to the top via some large loose blocks. Descend using a retrievable ice-axe technique (!)

First ascent: Arnis Strapcans, Louise Heinemann, A Henderson, 1979.





Stack Rock

Team Teva 60 feet Severe

This route climbs the scoop in the middle of the north face.

First ascent: Duncan Homby and Dave Barlow, Sept 1992.

Outer Main Stack 70 feet Severe

MR: Sheet 195 056826

Like the inner stack this is quite large and equally loose. Two lines on this stack have been climbed.

The first, starting from a slight bay near the northern corner of the stack was done by Scott Titt and Dave Gumn and required an ice peg for protection on its way to the large and grassy top. It was looser than the second route climbed by Richard Crewe and Tim Tanswell. This follows the attractive slim ridge (that nearly connects with the Inner Main stack) starting from its outer edge. A stake was left in situ to facilitate an abseil descent.

First ascent: Scott Titt, D. Gumn, 1976 and Richard Crewe, Tim Tanswell, 1976.

Hidden by the Outer Main Stack lies Old Harry's Wife, more of a stub than a stack!

Old Harry's Wife 25 feet V.Diff

MR: Sheet 195 056826

The obvious short stubby thumb of rock alongside Old Harry. Traditionalists will perform a handstand on top.

Old Harry

MR: Sheet 195 056826

Obscured by the inner stacks lies the impressive Old Harry. Seemingly overhung on all sides and cut off by a deep channel of water, this stack remained inviolate till the adventurous Simon Ballantine took the matter in hand. Without a boat it is a very necky proposition requiring a sound understanding of tides and currents. Even with a boat access and return are very serious.

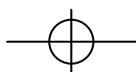
The Witch's Tit 75 feet V

This route takes the west face via a combination of free, ice and aid techniques. A tough proposition! Start at the right-hand side of the landward face. Climb up left to follow a very shallow depression directly to a loose finish. Belay using ice 5crews or lower off down the far side and place pegs. Simultaneous abseil descent.

First ascent. Simon. Ballantine, J. Henderson, May 1986.

Old Harry East Face 80 feet XS 5c

The second ascent went up the east face and was climbed in two pitches belaying on the obvious pillar where ascensionists are invited to carve their initials. Mick Fowler





has graded this route as “High Rocks 5c”! Say no more! (For people unfamiliar with south east sandstone climbing this means nearer 6a!)

1 40 feet 5a. Climb rightwards to skirt overhangs then come back left to a fault leading to an obvious belay ledge.

2 40 feet 5c/6a. Climb up the leaning wall on the right to a resting niche then go rightwards over bulges to a loose finish. Belay using ice 5crews or lower off down the far side and place pegs. Simultaneous abseil descent.

First ascent: Mick Fowler, Chris Newcombe, Mark Lynden, Andy Meyers, 14 May 1987.

Towards Swanage lie the other two stacks both of which it would seem sensible to use a boat to approach though the Tusk has been approached by abseil from the cliff top and a short swim. The pinnacles are quite different in shape and form a magnificent and challenging pair with The Winebottle being a particularly fine specimen.

The Clerk

MR: Sheet 195 053823

This, the easterly pinnacle, gives :-

Press Gang Pinnacle 80 feet HVS 4c

Climb the easier angled side with interesting and delicate “mixed” climbing. Start on the left edge of the east face. Peg runners are used throughout. Ascend rightwards to a depression, step left out of it then climb directly on loose rock to the summit. Abseil from peg belays placed on the far side.

First ascent: Mick Fowler, Chris Newcombe, 22 Sep 1985.

The Wine Bottle

MR: Sheet 195 053823

The second stack is a most impressively shaped architectural structure and features the very well named Tusk plus another great route called The Plunge.

Detailed access: Access to this stack is dangerous as the tidal currents are strong. A boat is strongly recommended.

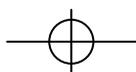
The Tusk 120 feet XS 5b

The narrow westerly pinnacle gives a memorable day out. Start beneath a groove on the west face.

1 40 feet 5b. Climb to overhangs at 15 feet and pull over and up a groove to the left-hand end of the prominent ledge.

2 80 feet 5b. Climb the left side of the mainland arete to ledges. Move 15 left to the centre of the face and go up a left-trending crack to the top. Abseil descent from peg belays placed on the far side.

First ascent: Mick Fowler, Andy Meyers, Sonja Vietoris, 9 May 1987.





Stack Rock

The Plunge 120 feet XS 5b

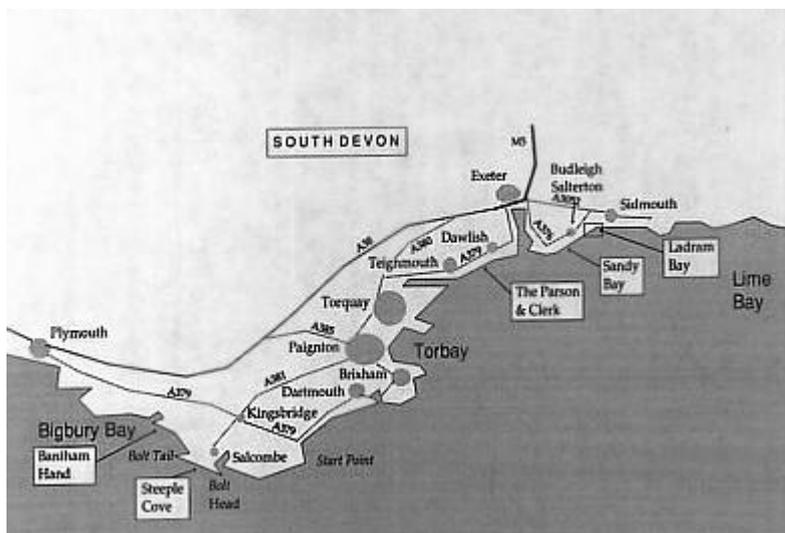
Climbs the groove on the seaward face migrating rightwards onto the arete to finish.

1. 100 feet. 5b. Surmount the initial overhangs either direct or by climbing the groove just to the right and stepping back left. Follow the groove for 30 feet until it is possible to traverse 10 feet right to a ledge. Continue more easily to a good stance on the arete.

2. 20 feet. 4c. Climb the arete to the top surmounting the overhang on the left.

First ascent: Mick Fowler, Duncan Tunstall, 16 July 1988.

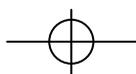
SOUTH DEVON

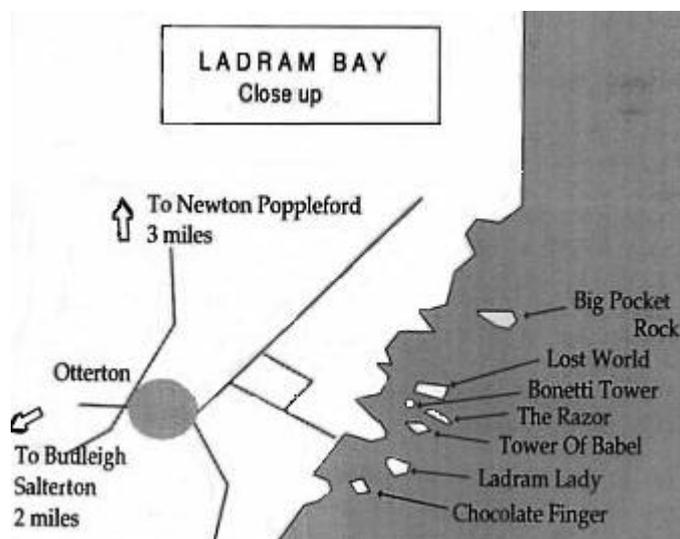


South Devon features a string of sandstone stacks dotted along its coast starting with Lladram Bay. This part of the county is a gently rolling plateau with the harsher landscape of Dartmoor to the north. Apart from the limestone of Tor Bay it is generally composed of sandstone.

The stacks in this area tend to be less serious, partly because they are nowhere near so remote than the Scottish ones to the north or the chalky horrors of Dorset.

LADRAM BAY





MR: Sheet 192 105857

The stack centre of south Devon. It is akin to a polar glacier spawning icebergs. Like Blackchurch Rock these sandstone stacks are accessible at low tide but cut off at high tide. So they are not that serious, apart from the Bonetti Tower at E2 and The Parson at E3. They are situated offshore near the village of Otterton.

The first ascent details show famous names such as Peter Biven and Keith Darbyshire. Descents are generally by simultaneous abseil. Running from north to south (or east to west!) we have:

Big Picket Rock

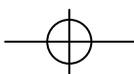
This is the most eastern of the stacks and is about half a mile east of Ladram. The setting is marvellous as there are 500 feet high cliffs on the coast with this pinnacle set in front of them.

Detailed access: At low tide you can walk across the shore to the stack however your return will probably involve a paddle or worse.

Big Picket 140 feet HVS **

Scramble up to a ledge and belay below a cave and chimney in the west face. You may need pegs and a pen.

1. 60 feet. Go up leftwards using ledges then move rightwards to a cave.
2. 30 feet. 4c. Ascend from the cave, then go right to a steep wall with peg protection and featuring cut holds (somebody bottled out). Move round the arete to a ledge which goes right to a stance.





Stack Rock

3. 50 feet. 4a. Go leftwards to reach ledges leading via a corner to the summit, passing an in-situ angle iron on the way. There is a visitors' book at the top hidden in plastic bags.

Descent is by simultaneous abseil.

First ascent: Peter Biven, Keith Darbyshire, I. Fowler, November 1971.

Lost World 60 feet Hard Severe

Moving west we reach a stack called Lost World. There is a nose on the south side. Start on its south.

1. 30 feet. Go up a steep wall, moving left at its top past a very old 6" nail and reach a large shelf.

2. 30 feet. A corner crack leads to slopes which lead, in turn, to the summit vegetation.

First ascent: Peter Biven, J. Fowler, A. Ohyskievich, November 1971.

Bonetti Tower 80 feet E2

Close to Lost World is the Bonetti Tower, 80 feet of fun.

1. 40 feet. Go up a slab on the seaward face and belay below a corner.

3. 40 feet. The corner - which used to be aided.

First ascent: Keith Darbyshire, A Onyskievich, Peter Biven, November 1971.

The Razor 90 feet Hard Severe

1. 20 feet. Go up a short wall by the arete on the seaward side.

2. 40 feet. Move left, perhaps on your abdomen, and ascend a wall to big ledges.

3. 30 feet. The corner leads to an earthy slope which leads to the top. It is advisable to abseil from the ledges at the base of this pitch.

First ascent: J. Fowler, A Onyskievich, 1971.

Tower Of Babel 50 feet Severe

As is usual now start at the bottom of the seaward side.

1. 30 feet. Go up a steep wall, nail for aid (!) and move left onto a big ledge and belay.

2. 20 feet. Take the corner to the top.

First ascent: J. Fowler, Keith Darbyshire, Peter Biven, 1971.

Ladram Lady 60 feet V.Diff

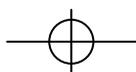
It could be a good idea to approach by boat and step onto the seaward face.

1. 60 feet. Climb a wall for 15 feet to a ledge. Now go left until you can scramble up mud slopes to the top.

First ascent: J. Fowler, 1968. (Presumably he reversed it!)

Chocolate Finger 80 feet VS

The climb begins on the south side near a nose.





1. 50 feet. Go up via ledges to a large ledge about 50 feet up.
2. 30 feet. Go up the wall to the top.

First ascent: Peter Biven, I. Fowler, 19~.

Sandy Bay

MR: Sheet 192 036798

This is fun as it is, in fact, an arch with an adjacent stack and a chimney between them. You traverse from Sandy Bay to these stacks on the west side of Straight Point. Note the simultaneous abseil descent and stay away unless you are both experienced abseilers.

Kamin Number 5 50 feet V.Diff

50 feet. Climb the chimney between the two stacks sumitting on either of the two. Now for the fun bit number 2. The descent is by simultaneous abseil from the higher summit going over the natural arch. Outrageous! You can talk to each other on the way down.

First ascent: Keith Darbyshire, J. Fowler, 1972.

The Parson And The Clerk

MR: Sheet 192960747

A cliff runs from Dawlish to Teignmouth and the large stack of The Parson is by this cliff. The Clerk is a little way offshore and requires a boat or confidence in your swimming. The Parson is at the end of a headland and needs a little expedition to get to it.

Detailed access: Go along a lane running to the sea southwards of this headland. You come to a railway tunnel. It is 400 yards long. (Go back to the car and get the torch). Walk through the tunnel and abseil from an embankment to the beach. Now you can traverse to the bottom of The Parson, but it is not over yet. Climb the cliff on the landward side of it to a ledge with a spike. From here lassoe another spike on The Parson. This enables you to traverse out to the seaward face and start the climb which is a tough little number.

The Parson 140 feet E3

There is loose rock, not over generous protection, and a missing belay. This is a serious proposition.

1. 50 feet. Go up the seaward arete to ledges below a large overhang.
2. 50 feet. Go right to a mud slope, christened the Brown Spider, below a corner. Climb the corner to saddle where there is no belay. As soon as the second commences climbing it now becomes as dangerous as soloing.
3. 40 feet. The wall above brings you to the summit. Leap across to the mainland.

First ascent: Keith Darbyshire, Peter Biven, J. Fowler, S. Nicholls, 1971.



Stack Rock

The Clerk 60 feet Severe

Note the hole about 40 feet up the stack.

1. 40 feet. Go up the south west arete to a shoulder where the hole is to be found. Thread belay.
2. 20 feet. Go up the arete to the top.

First ascent: J. Fowler, 1974.

Steeple Cove

MR: Sheet 202 705637

The Steeple stack is near Salcombe between Bolt Head and Bolt Tail.

Detailed access: No further information.

The Steeple 80 feet Severe

The rock is loose and poor quality. Ascend a wall behind the boulder bridge and move right onto the seaward face and so to the top. Descent by abseil presumably.

First ascent: Keith Darbyshire, J. Fowler, Peter Biven, 1970.

Soar Mill Cove

MR: Sheet 202 705637

This stack is 325 yards south east from Soar Mill Cove. You can get down to the beach via a gully opposite the stack and then cross a boulder bridge to reach a platform on the stack's seaward face.

Erotica 75 feet Hard Severe

This is fairly serious for hard severe. Ascend a groove on the right to reach a niche at which point you go left and then climb straight up to the top. Simultaneous abseil descent which is not usually a feature of severe climbs. Do not attempt this unless you are an experienced abseiler.

First ascent: J. Fowler, S. Fowler, S. Bell, 16 January 1977.

Bigbury Bay

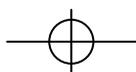
MR: Sheet 202 659434

A pinnacle is to be found between Thurlestone and Bantham on the east side of the estuary. You can get to it at mid to low tide.

Bantham Hand 30 feet VS

The north face provides a steep slab which is ascended via a depression in the middle of the face, reached from the right. Now go right to the ridge leading to the top.

First ascent: J. Fowler, S. Nicholls, C. Gibson, 1974.





North Devon

North Devon is a stack desert apart from one stack in a most unlikely location. The seaward face of this stack is a slab so it does not feel like a stack, more like a miniature version of a Baggly Point promontory further up the coast. It is composed of culm, a kind of metamorphic sandstone like slate but coarser grained. The bed of culm forming Blackchurch rock has been tilted so that the bedding plane is about 700. It is seamed with small cracks that are tailor made for RPs and small rocks.

Blackchurch Rock

MR: Sheet 190 299267

There are eight routes on the seaward face of this stack which is completely cut off at high tide. At low tide walk across the rocky foreshore to get to it. The main problem is getting to Blackchurch itself.

Detailed access: Park the car at Brownsham Farm (MR: 286259) and walk for a mile through woods to the coast by some old lime kilns at Mouth Mill. You can now get down to the base of the crag quite easily. Blackchurch is north facing and has an off-putting reputation which is very well deserved as the rock is loose and parts fall down fairly frequently. A climb's half life here can be five years or less. Blackchurch Rock is the antithesis of this. Glorious steep slab climbing with good protection. Definitely worth a cream tea afterwards.

Noir Et Blanc 85 feet HVS 5a

Start at the foot of the obvious corner and follow this until at the barnacle limit. Now go left to the arete and ascend this carefully to the top. You can scramble down the landward side of the stack from the top.

First ascent: Gary Gibson, Derek Beetlestone, 27 April 1980.

Rite Of Spring 80 feet VS 4c

This nice route takes the corner and groove line on the left of the stack.

First ascent: Pat Littlejohn, Peter Biven, A. Chadwick, J. Hammond, 8 February 1970.

Les Invalides 100 feet E2 5c

This climbs the main slab just to the right of the left arete.

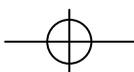
You begin below the arete but climb up to its right and reach a crack at 70 feet. Now go leftwards to a grassy gully and so to the top.

First ascent: Pete O'Sullivan, C. Woodhead, 22 July 1979.

Sacre Coeur 110 feet E2 5b ***

Pure delight with great rock and good small wire protection.

There is a line of thin cracks on the left side of the slab with a slot right of them at the 20 foot level. Ascend to the slot and then traverse left to the cracks. Follow these





Stack Rock

upwards moving right near the top to another crack line when the first cracks fade away.

First ascent: Pat Littlejohn, H. Clarke, 20 May 1974.

Dance On A Volcano 100 feet E3 5c

A tougher proposition than Sacre Coeur.

Climb to the slot again but now go up and right to a smallish ledge. Go rightwards for a 15 feet before striking out for the top with bold climbing to a crack.

First ascent: C. Nicholson, B. Wilkinson, 11 October 1982.

Jamaican Dub 100 feet E3 6a **

More of the same with good small wire protection and involving climbing.

Begin to the right of Sacre Coeur and go up to some flakes. Move right to a crack and go over a bulge using a good fingerhold. A line of cracks goes leftwards for 25 feet after which you can move right to a better crack which joins the top of Notre Dame.

First ascent: Pete O'Sullivan, P. Bingham, I. Thompson, 11 July 1981.

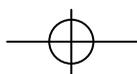
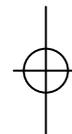
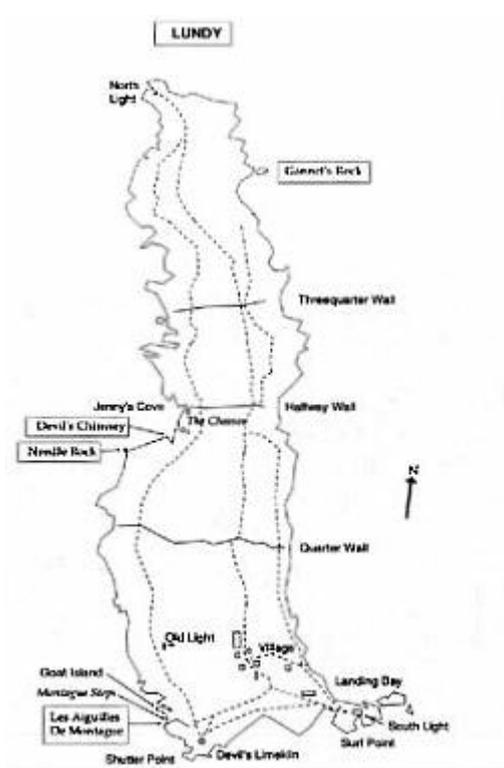
Rant 150 feet E3 6a *

Wow! A girdle going from right to left across the slab. Best do it when nobody is climbing the other routes! Commence below the right arete and climb boldly up to the arete and up it until, at the 40 foot level, you are at the same height as a small bulge. Go left and cross it at a thin crack which is on Jamaican Dub. Traverse left on small (very) holds to reach Sacre Coeur at a slot. Go to the left arete, cross into Rite Of Spring and go up this to the top.

First ascent: Pete O'Sullivan, N Crowhurst, 12 July 1987.

Notre Dame 130 feet VS 4b *

This follows the right arete of the slab. Begin by a line of weakness right of the arete. Climb up and follow the arete to a good ledge 15 feet below the top. Continue up the line of the arete which is harder and better than the alternative crack to the left.





First ascent: Keith Darbyshire, D. Garner, 1974.

Lundy

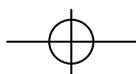


Lundy is situated in the Bristol Channel and is about three miles long by three quarters of a mile wide and largely composed of granite. It features one public radio telephone, its own stamps, no roads, one shop, one restaurant and pub, no cinemas, amusement arcades, buses, cars, police stations, televisions, radios and most other things we take for granted.

The island is owned by the National Trust, leased and administered by the Landmark Trust and features peace, birds, peace, great diving, peace and miles of great granite cliffs on its west side with three star routes everywhere. It also features four stacks but don't confine your climbing to these.

Lundy has its own boat, the MV Oldenburg, which can take up to 250 passengers to Lundy from either Bideford or Ilfracombe. Day trips are possible but you only get to stay on the island for 4-6 hours. You can hire your own vessel - ask at Ilfracombe harbour - and get slightly longer, tides and weather permitting.

The best choices involve more cash. One is to stay on the island either camping - cheap - or staying in a Landmark cottage - more expensive. Alternatively take a helicopter trip at c£400 return for up to five people. There are bird restrictions which mean climbing starts before April 1st or after July 31st. Contact the Lundy agent - Emma Parkes, tel: 01237 431831, or the Landmark Trust - Shottesbrook,





Stack Rock

Maidenhead, SL6 3SW, tel: 0162 882 5925 - for details of transport to and accommodation on the island.

The stacks will be covered by going around the island anti-clockwise starting in the north east. Note: Right and left are used assuming you are facing out to sea.

Gannet's Rock

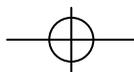
MR: Sheet 1 654756



From Landing Craft Bay a network of paths lead up the east coast, centre and west coast of the island. Since you can go virtually anywhere on the island don't be hesitant about cutting directly across moorland or fields. Beware the Deveil's Limekiln in the south west of the island. It is a great big blow hole shaped like a funnel and over 100 feet deep with climbs up the inside of it. It would be quite easy to slip into it and clock up air miles that you would never get the chance to spend.

Gannet's Rock is a large stack-cum-island on the north east coast of Lundy, out past Threequarter Wall. Make your way to the village. Follow the main path north past Quarter Wall, Halfway Wall and Threequarter Wall. After the track veers around the depression that runs east into the sea take paths eastwards until you see Gannet's Rock. Overlooking the rock is Gannet's Buttress, the approach to which is down a steep path on the north side of the buttress. this leads to a ledge splitting the buttress at half height. From here scramble down to its foot.

Detailed access: Now the fun begins. At low tide scramble down to sea-level boulders and hop across to Gannet's Rock. At





Gannet's Rock Crack 100 feet Hard Severe

Start by scrambling up to the grass ledge with a large boulder about a 100 feet above the shore.

1. 50 feet. Go up a broken groove to the left and reach a ledge leading round onto the north face. Climb this and then go back right to a belay ledge below the crack in the landward face.
2. 50 feet. Ascend the crack to the top.

Descent: Abseil or scramble down the south face and then round to the landward ledge.

First ascent: R. Evans, maybe, 1963.

Devil's Chimney

MR: Sheet 13 194570

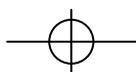
This is the name of a stack! It is located in the corner of a large bay called Jenny's Cove and features 300 feet high cliffs close behind it and a committing approach. This is a serious place as an ascent of the stack does not get you to the top of the cliff and you could get cut off. The shore is composed of large slippery boulders with no beach and a descent down a grassy pillar that is best achieved by abseil. It is recommended that you time your visit carefully to give you maximum climbing time without being cut off. You can generally get to the bottom of the stack about 1.5 hours either side of low tide.

Detailed access: Make your way up the west coast path from the Old Light - Lundy-speak for the fine though unused lighthouse situated on the west coast near the village. Cross the Quarter Wall and go almost all the way to the Cheeses, conspicuous rocks on the plateau edge above Jenny's Cove just before Halfway Wall. Identify the deep narrow Deep Zawn and the inlet south of that and walk west to the slope and down just south of this inlet. You meet a path which leads to a place on the edge of the cliff where the path cuts back east (right) and down to a small bay. On your right is a grassy rocky pillar down which the descent path goes. There are nut slots a plenty near by and a pinnacle so you can set up a good abseil.

Do not abseil straight down unless you a) have a 60 metre rope and, b) are confident about scrambling up the grassy pillar on the way back. The reason for this is that there is a holdless wall at the bottom of the 60 metre abseil. Otherwise abseil over and down the grassy pillar as far as you can and use the rope as a handrail on the way back. Now go boulder hopping to the stack. Note that the coastline here faces north so that the south side of the stack is the landward side and will probably be in the shade.

The Devil's Chimney 105 feet VS

Commence on the south face of the stack and scramble up a rib to a couple of steep cracks on the right of the south face.





Stack Rock

1. 35 feet. 4a. Go up the right-hand crack and then move left to a large ledge with lots of boulders.

2. 70 feet. 4c. There is a steep slab above with a thin crack in its middle. Climb this up to a small overhang which you go over and continue up the steep wall, above in fine position, going leftwards to the top. A variation finish - The Original Finish - climbs a steep groove made by a pinnacle at the left edge of the south face. Then continue up a looseish arete to the top. Not so nice.

Descend by abseil.

First ascent: R. Shaw, J. Logan, June 1961 with original finish. R.J. Tancred, R. S. Macnair, August 1969 as described.

White Riot 130 feet VS

This climbs the west face.

1. 60 feet. 4c. Ascend a small crack on the right of a large crack to an overhang. Avoid it on the right and go up cracks to the large ledge of Devil's Chimney.

2. 70 feet. 4c. Get onto the slab at the left end of the ledge and move left onto the face. Reach a flat-topped spike with difficulty and climb rightwards to ascend cracked blocks to the top.

There is a Left Hand Start variation which involves climbing the large crack until a swing right gains the arete. Ascend a cracked wall which brings you to a V-groove and ledges leading to the big ledge on the right. Descend by abseil.

First ascent: R. P. Hastings, M. Winstanley, 1 September 1979. Variation start by D. Roberts and J. Lord, 4 August 1981.

Eye Of The Needle 150 feet E2 **

A sensational route which goes right through the pinnacle to finish up a hanging slab. Exciting stuff. Start just to the left of The Devil's Chimney climb.

1. 90 feet. 5c. Go right through the chasm and gain a ledge on the right arete.

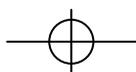
Ascend a thin crack to the right of the arete to where a hard move leftwards enables you to reach holds around the arete. Move up to ledges below a black slab.

2. 60 feet. 4c. Follow a crack on the left going up the slab past two overlaps to a block on the arete. Reach the top by climbing the arete taking care with the rock.

Descend by abseil.

First ascent: Steve Boyden, Paul Harrison, 1 August 1984.

Needle Rock





MR: Sheet 12 924557

This is situated in a much less forbidding place being out in the open but access is tricky. It is a short but delightful stack with good rock and half a dozen good little routes on it including two hard ones. Three routes on the stack group themselves into two classes - the 6a's and the rest. We will go clockwise starting with The Ordinary Route.

Detailed access: You reach Needle Rock by continuing down the slope past the turn-off point for Devil's Chimney then take steep slopes to the south and descend to boulders. These slopes are difficult and there are no obvious abseil anchors. (Take a large stake and make your own.) Cross a boulder bridge except, possibly at high tide, to reach the stack.

The Ordinary Route 65 feet Diff *

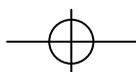
Start at the seaward end of a large ledge below the north face.

1. 40 feet. Climb up and right onto the west face and up and rightwards again to a big ledge.
2. 25 feet. Go back rightwards onto the face and then directly to the top. Descend by reversing the route or abseiling from a flake reached by going down steps on the north face to the north west arete.

First ascent: Admiral K. M. Lawder, E. C. Pyatt, June 1961.

The Obverse Route 80 feet Hard Severe

Start beneath the landward face.





Stack Rock

1. 80 feet. Climb up to a narrow rake which runs diagonally rightwards. Go up this using small holds to a ledge and then go up two walls and so to the top.
Descend as for The Ordinary Route.

First ascent: A. Swan, B. Martindale, May 1965.

Hammer House Of Horrors E6 6b t

This climbs the face just to the left of the south east arete. This stack is a surprising combination of exceptionally hard climbs and more amenable ones. Curious.

First ascent: Gary Gibson, ano, August 1993.

Sea Of Tranquillity 75 feet E4 6a **

Good granite on a south-facing wall with involving climbing and small wire protection that feels in short supply. Start on a big ledge below the centre of the south face.

1. 75 feet. 6a. Climb the narrow groove to its finish and move on to the wall above (Friend 3) and hard climbing up a thin crack which brings better holds and easier climbing on the left of the crack moving up the centre of the face to a big flake and the summit.

Descend as for The Ordinary Route.

First ascent: Unknown.

Sea Of Dreams 75 feet E3 6a *

This parallels Sea Of Tranquillity on the left and seems a more tranquil proposition at E3.

1. 75 feet. 6a. Climb twin cracks left of the centre of the face. Where they go off to the right you go straight up the face moving from break to break to a white fin on the arete and so to the top. Descend as for The Ordinary Route.

First ascent: Unknown.

Integrity 80 feet Severe **

This climbs the steep southern face which is festooned with holds.

1. 80 feet. Traverse left onto the west face from the start of Invincible and ascend a crack a few feet left of the arete for 30 feet. Now go right and so gain a sharp spur on the arete. Climb up and rightwards to the south face and up a large flake to the top.
Descend as for the Ordinary Route.

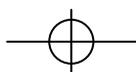
First ascent: D. W. Brown, F. Bingham, K. Gill, J. A. Gaskill, 29 March 1967.

Invincible 75 feet VS 4c *

This climbs the south west arete of Needle Rock.

1. 75 feet. 4c. Enjoy exposed climbing up the sharp clean arete to easier climbing near the top. Descend as for the Ordinary Route.

First ascent: Unknown.





Goat Island - Les Aiguilles du Montague

MR: Sheet 13 104370

There are three stacks here and the eastern two provide three climbs. They are south of Goat Island which is on the south west side of Lundy. From the village take the path to the Devil's Limekiln but skirt this to the north and so reach the west coast path. Ignore the path leading down to Montague Buttress but go down a promontory to the north which encloses a broad, rocky bay with cliffs set back from the shore between it and Montague Buttress.

Detailed access: scramble down to the shore and walk south along it to reach the stacks which are just north of Montague Steps - artificial steps laid down to enable salvage operations on HMS Montague, a brand new battleship which sailed straight into Lundy and ran aground in the early part of this century. Strenuous attempts were made to salvage equipment from the wreck before the winter gales broke her up. The cables from the cableway that was set up still dangle from the cliff top.

Flash Dance 80 feet VS 5a

Climb the central crack on the south west face of the easternmost stack.

First ascent: Unknown.

Flight Of The Valkyrie 60 feet VS 5a

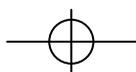
Climb the south west face of the middle stack which involves passing an overlap and taking a crack to the top.

First ascent: Unknown.

Gollum's Revenge 60 feet VS 4c

Climb a corner ten feet to the left of Flight Of The Valkyrie.

First ascent: Unknown.





Stack Rock

