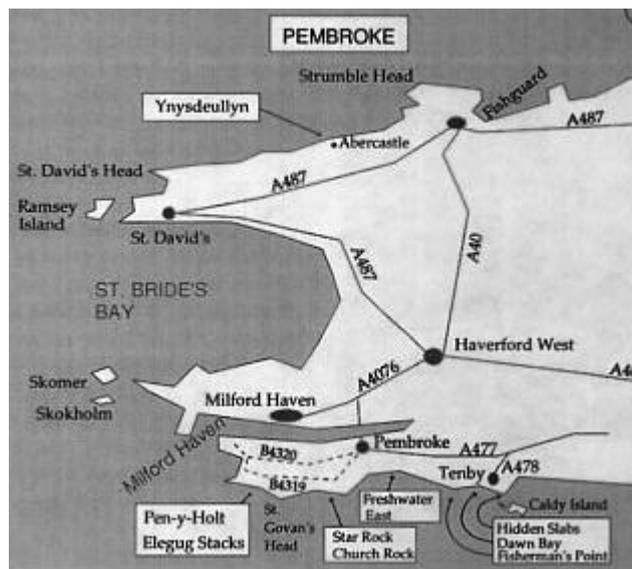




WALES

Wales is not well endowed with stacks. The ones in Range West are OK with the Elegug stacks being great fun. Apart from these and Needle Rock the principality can be more or less dismissed. It is, perhaps, surprising that the limestone coast of Pembroke has not produced more stacks. The geologists may have an answer, however the ones I have asked look pretty blank. It is as if stacks exist on the boundaries of geology and physical geography with neither discipline casting more than a cursory glance at them.

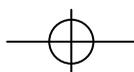
Pembroke



The big event in Pembroke is the Elegug stacks. However, there are a string of minor stacks before we get to them starting as we do at the south east part of Pembroke and then moving clockwise around the coast. There is also a substantial E2 on Needle Rock just east of Fishguard.

Proud Giltar Area

The following stacks are along the stretch of coast between Lydstep and Tenby.





Stack Rock

Hidden Slabs Stack

MR: Sheet 158 123984 (approx.)

In the Giltar Slabs area we find Hidden Slabs halfway between Giltar Point and the boundary fence of the Penally Army Firing Range. There is a pyramidal sea stack some 30 yards west of the slabs.

Detailed access: Unknown.

First ascent: Not listed as at 1985. Perhaps unclimbed.

Dawn Bay Stack

MR: Sheet 158 120983 (approx.)

This zawn lies west of Hidden Slabs and is divided in two by a ledge. One part of the bay contains another pyramidal sea stack.

Detailed access: Unknown.

First ascent: Not recorded.

Fisherman's Point Stacks

MR: Sheet 158 108984 (approx.)

There are two small stacks in the sea in line with this point. The A4139 skirts the southern edge of the Penally Army camp. After passing through Penally and going past the camp entrance it passes under a railway bridge.

About three quarters of a mile before this bridge a track goes south from the A4139 and passes under the railway line and then goes to the coast. At the coast turn right and walk west to reach Fisherman's Point. On the shore by the coastal path near the point is an old stone lime kiln which is useful as a landmark.

Detailed access: A boat or a swim I suspect.

First ascents: Not listed.

Freshwater East Pinnacle

MR: Sheet 158 024981

Between Stackpole Quay and Lydstep the Pembroke guide mentions "an isolated pinnacle at Freshwater East". The rock is sandstone as a change from the usual south Pembroke limestone.

Freshwater East Pinnacle 40 feet Diff

Climb the seaward ridge.

First ascent: Not known.

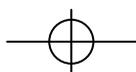
Freshwater East Pinnacle North Face 40 feet VS

Climb the north side.

First ascent: Not known.

Church Rock

MR: Sheet 158 024980 (aprox.)





There is a stack with a clean cut shape 500 yards offshore
Detailed access: Via boat.

South Ridge 80 feet Severe

Climb the south ridge.

First ascent: Not recorded.

The traverse around the base of the stack is V.Diff

Broad Haven

This is the bay into which Bosherton fish ponds drain.

Star Rock

MR: Sheet 158978937

This is a pinnacle on the foreshore which is accessible at low tide.

Detailed access: Go to Bosherton on the B4319 and then a minor road. Take a track to Broad Haven. Star Rock is on the south edge of this bay.

Detailed access: Walk across at low tide.

South Face 100 feet Diff

A mediocre climb.

First ascent: Unknown.

Star Rock Slab 100 feet Severe

An entertaining route.

First ascent: Unknown.

NoName Stack VS 4a

There was an unclimbed stack at Broadhaven. It's located in one of the small tidal coves below the National Trust carpark and is about the same height as the rest of Pembroke (150ft?) N.b this isn't the stack which lies at the west end of the main Broadhaven beach.

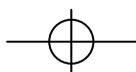
Climb the landward spur. Descend by simultaneous abseil.

First ascent: Dave Scott-Maxwell, Kath Pyke, Helen Ward, Matt Ward, Andrew Donson July 1996.

St. Govan's Head

MR: Sheet 158 969929

There is a large square stack here which furnishes the descent chimney for this famous section of cliff. The stack doesn't feel stack-like. You can walk onto the top of it as it is that close to the cliff top. It is mentioned here for completeness. However, the climbs on it are not described here and can be located in the Pembroke Guidebook.





Stack Rock

Flimston Bay

MR: Sheet 158 933944

There are two stacks in the west side of Flimston Bay which is a mile eastwards of Elegug Stacks. So park there and walk east along the coastal path.

Detailed access: Not known.

Flimston Stack 1

This is the large stack and there is a route on it.

Flakaway 50 feet H. Severe 4a/b

Climb the seaward face on the right hand side.

First ascent: Details not found.

Flimston Stack 2 E1 4c/5a

Reported to be pretty crumbly. Solo up and then solo down or rope up and ab down.

Possible First ascent: Andy Donson, solo, May '91 (Email: Amdonson@Entente.UHColorado.edu)

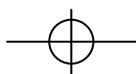
Elegug Stacks



MR: Sheet 158 927944

Click on either stack to get route information.

At the boundary between Range West and Range East the Elegug stacks are to be found. These are the least remote you could imagine as they are within five minutes





of a car park. However, getting to them can be fun, and you will probably gather an audience. These limestone pillars get their name from the Welsh word *heligog* meaning guillemot. The stacks are bird sanctuaries and colonies of guillemots, razorbills, kittiwakes and fulmars nest on them.

Detailed access: Access is restricted from March 1st to August 15th because of nesting birds. Go to the Stack Rocks car park south of Flimston. Walk to the clifftop path and head east. Very soon the stacks come into view. You can reach the bottom of each one for an hour at low tide. In detail you abseil into the bay using a concrete post as an abseil anchor. Walk or swim to the stack of choice and set up a tyrolean.

Retreat: After climbing a stack, abseiling from the top, crossing the tyrolean and retrieving the rope you now have to get back up the abseil rope using prussik loops or ascendeur devices. Just the thing for the end of a long day, particularly with a rucksack full of gear.

Elegug Tower 150 feet VS

The larger stack. The start is below a rib on the landward side.

1. 70 feet. Ascend for a few feet then traverse up and left, return to the right on dirty rock to gain a shoulder. This leads to a belay at the bottom of a crack.
2. 80 feet. Go up the crack to the top. Poor anchors enable a two stage abseil to the bottom.

First ascent: October 1970.

Elegug Spire 120 feet VS

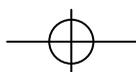
The smaller stack. A shorter, harder and better climb than its neighbour. Begin underneath the west face.

1. 60 feet. Go up steep rock to a half-way traverse line and go right along this to a chimney and belay.
2. 60 feet. Ascend the chimney to the top of the stack. Descent is by abseil from poor anchors. Alternatively a simultaneous abseil technique can be used.

First ascent: October 1970.

Range West

This is a comparatively newly-opened up area along the southern edge of the Castlemartin firing range. The ground is littered with shell fragments and the occasional tank or armoured car blasted into tortured rusty shapes by years of functioning as a target. This coast is very strange because there is absolutely no litter - apart from the shattered shell and mortar warheads. Unlike the dreadful and





Stack Rock

ubiquitous Kleenex tissues, drink cans and cigarette butts these add to the attractions of the place. Please keep it in this other-worldly state by carting your litter out.

The BMC, courtesy of Bill Wright and his successor, has helped to arrange access by parties of climbers. The party members must have attended a Range West briefing which happen two or three times a year. These briefings say, in essence, stick to the coastal path and don't touch the warheads as they could explode.

Pen-y-Holt Stacks



MR: Sheet 158 896953

You drive to the car park at the western end of Range East, as for the Elegug Stacks, and then walk west a couple of miles or so along the coastal path to the area known as Cabin Door. The stacks are obvious offshore.

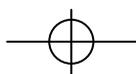
Detailed access: Abseil down the cliff just to the east of the smooth slabs facing Pen-y-Holt stack and the inner stack. The inner stack is easily reachable if it is not high tide. The outer stack is reachable only at low tide unless you have a boat.

Pen-Y-Holt Crack E1 5b

Climb the loose crack in the East Face.

First ascent: Jim Perrin, 'Blob' Wyvill, 1980.

Pen-y-Holt Inner Stack



The stack inshore of Pen-Y-Holt has a Blackchurch-like slab facing the shore and is reachable at low tide. There are a number of routes up it with names redolent of schoolboy humour. Descent seems to involve abseiling off a jammed fisherman's float.

Captain Pugwash 50 feet V.Diff

Climbs the rightmost slab with pleasant albeit unprotected climbing.

First ascent: 3 August 1991.

Master Bates 50 feet Diff

Go up the corner on the left side of the Captain Pugwash slab finding protection en route. Considering the names protection is essential.

First ascent: 3 August 1991.

Seaman Staines 50 feet Severe

Ascend the arete on the left of Master Bates.

First ascent: 3 August 1991.

Roger The Cabin Boy 50 feet VS

This climbs up the centre of the slab on the left taking the thin crack and crossing the overlap on the way to the top.

First ascent: Unknown.

Now we have to move from south to north Pembroke where the climbers are fewer and the coast is less level. This is not a limestone plateau like south Pembroke.

Trnyllwnog

MR: Sheet 157 868346

This stack with an unpronounceable name is in the west side of a bay to the west of the Pen Morfa headland. The Pembroke guide refers to a "low, broad, sea stack."

Detailed access: No information.

First ascent: Not listed as climbed in 1985.

Ynysdeullyn

MR: Sheet 157 845342

Drive south west on the A487 from Fishguard towards St. David's. After about 8 miles you pass Mathry and minor roads should now be signed on



Needle Rock from the west. The picture shows the boulder beach and the through cave. The abseil descent from the landward cliff is obscured. (Photo: Philip Clarke, Photographer, tel: 01437-720889.)



Stack Rock

the right to Abercastle. This village is on the coast at the head of an inlet. North west from Abercastle there is a headland with two islands offshore. Between these islands is a stack. Walk north west for about one and a half miles to the headland of Ynysdeullyn and look for the stack.

Detailed access: It can be approached at low tide.

North Arete 70 feet V.Diff.

As the name implies, climb the eponymous feature.

First ascent: Nat Allen, Derek Carnell, Les Peel, S Manning, 26 May 1973.

Laird's Cliff Pinnacle

90 feet

MR: Sheet 157 880376

The Pembroke guide mentions a nicely-shaped pinnacle on the foreshore. Note that this area has a climbing exclusion from Feb 1st to 31st July due to nesting sea birds.

Detailed access: No information.

First ascent: Not listed as climbed in 1985.

Next we take a trip around the coast to North Pembroke and come to Needle Rock Promontory which is 1 mile east of Fishguard lower town.

Needle Rock

MR: Sheet 157 975380

This is a dolerite stack with a hole through its base which stands 130 feet high. There is a route going up its landward face. Less steep possibilities may exist on the seaward face.

Access Restriction: Due to nesting birds no access is allowed between 1st Feb to 31st July.

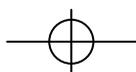
Detailed access: Abseil down the facing cliff. This is a 190 foot job with a changeover ledge at 150 feet. The last section overhangs to add interest and you land on boulders 2 hours either side of low tide. Cross the boulders to the stack.

Needless To Say 130 feet E2 5c

Start on the left arete (facing seawards) and climb up for twenty feet. Now traverse right onto the wall and up with difficulty to a ledge. A jamming crack now leads to a ramp which brings you back on to the left arete. Follow this to the top.

Descent is by abseil.

(If you need to climb back up the coastal cliff the easiest route appears to be Three Men In A Boat, 190 feet, VS. It starts about twenty feet to the right of the stack (facing the land) and takes easy rock to an obvious corner-chimney forming the left





side of a pedestal. Go up this and then climb up to a ledge and an obvious corner to the top.)

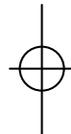
First ascent: Brian Davison, Richard Jones 31 Aug 1991.

There would seem to be scope on the east and west faces as well as the seaward face of Needle Rock. Getting to the seaward face would probably involve a swim across the through cave.

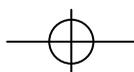
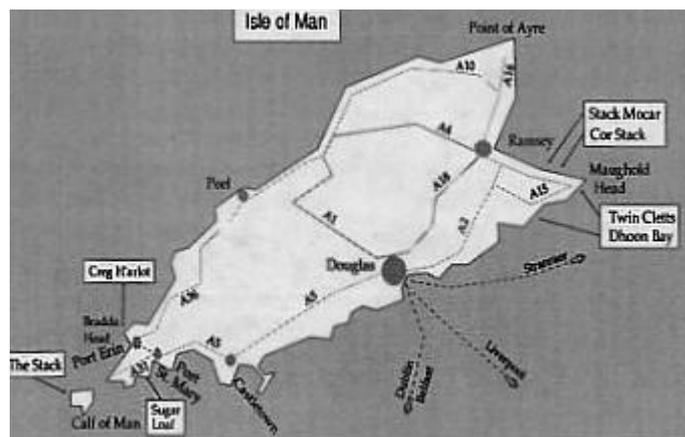
ANGLESEY

This island off North Wales has a large area of cliffs on its western side; Gogarth, the Upper Tier, Mousetrap Zawn, Red Walls Castell Helen and so forth. Between Mousetrap Zawn and the Upper Tier of Gogarth we find South Stack. North of Gogarth we find North Stack.

Although these are called a stacks they are, in fact, fairly large islands each with a substantial lighthouse on its summit. There is no climbing interest on South Stack but stacks (!) on North Stack. Refer to the Climber's Club Gogarth guide for information on these. There are some stacks on the other side of Castell Helen from South Stack. These are pretty inconsequential affairs and have been ignored by climbers.



Isle Of Man





Stack Rock

The north west of England is another relative stack desert. However, things look up with the Isle of Man. There are four stack areas here. The rock is mostly slate but seemingly unlike North Wales slate. The island can be reached by a ferry to Douglas from Liverpool, Stranraer or, for the well-off, by flying in to Castletown airport. There is lots of varied holiday accommodation on the island and the road system is pretty good. We'll start in the south at Port Erin and go round the island anti-clockwise.

Mountain Rescue: Coastguard stations are located at Port Erin, Port St. Mary and Ramsay.

Website: www.isle-of-man.com/sport/climbing.

Warning: It is not known here whether the terms left and right are to be viewed facing the rock or looking out to sea. (The source document is old and not well printed.)

Assume they're meant to be facing the rock, unless otherwise specified, and turn round if that doesn't seem practicable!

Bradda Head

There is a stumpy stack here with such an outrageous name that it could almost be a joke on someone's part.

Creg H'arlot

MR: Sheet 95 186706

Port Erin has Bradda Head to its north with Milner's Tower, an old folly, on its top with a drivable track running almost all the way to it from the Youth Hostel in Port Erin.

Follow a path from the car park to the cliff top where an old miner's track runs down a grassy gully, or rather zigzags down, to the beach and the stack.

Detailed access: Unknown.

First ascent: No details found but unlikely to be a virgin.

Calf of Man

The Calf Of Man is an island at the south west tip of the Isle Of Man. It is owned by the Manx National Trust and is a bird sanctuary. There is a stack off its western tip which is called - The Stack.

The Stack

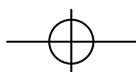
MR: Sheet 95 147656

Looks like a boat is needed. Check with the Manx National Trust over any access restrictions. On the western coast of the Calf Of Man is a group of three lighthouses.

A fingery island is offshore from these and the stack lies off the north west tip of this.

Detailed access: No further information.

First ascent: Unknown.





The Chasms

Here is the most notable stack on the island: the Sugarloaf. It is in a lovely area of coast south of Port St. Mary called The Chasms because of sea-eroded fissures reaching to the cliff top.

Sugarloaf 160 feet Hard V.Diff

MR: Sheet 95 194662

This is a twin-headed stack whose eastern half has rock of poor quality and a loose summit. Get to this stack by, first of all, taking a lane from Cregneish to the Wireless Telegraph station at Cronk-ny-Arrey. (This information comes from an old source so it might not be accurate any more.) There is a carpark at this W.T. station so drop the car off here and go down a path to the top of the cliffs.

Detailed access: Not known. One source suggests taking a boat from Port St. Mary and 'landing' at the right hand side of the edge of the seaward face. This is an interesting and exposed way up the seaward face of the stack to gain the western and higher summit.

1 40 feet. Simple climbing gains a shelf. Traverse this to its left hand end to a chimney and belay.

2. 60 feet. Go up the chimney to a subsidiary chimney to the right with a belay below a chockstone.

3. 50 feet. Ascend the corner above the chimney to the col between the two summits.

4. 10 feet. Find your way to the restricted space on the western summit.

Descent: Reverse the climb or abseil.

First ascent: Dr. A. W. Kelly 1933 Solo.

Dhoon Bay

This is an area of pleasant slabs in good coastal walking country. Right and left here mean facing the slab. The climbs are solo propositions for climbers of VS or greater standard.

Slab Of Dhoon

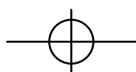
MR: Sheet 95 463864

This is somewhat akin to Blackchurch rock in that its seaward face is a triangular slab. Go up the main A15 road north towards Ramsey. There is supposed to be a large carpark by a lane which leads to the entrance to Dhoon Glen. Take the path into the wooded glen for Dhoon Bay. The stacks stands on a sandy beach. Descent - the way dhoon - is by abseil or dhoondown climbing.

Detailed access: Obvious.

Crack Of Dhoon 90 feet V.Diff

This climbs the left hand side of the slab. It is probably best to do it in one runout.





Stack Rock

1. 25 feet. Climb a crack for about ten feet and the slab above to a small stance at the base of a corner.
2. 55 feet. Go up the slab to the right of the corner and climb a bulge to the top.

First ascent: D. S. Byrne 1954.

High Dhoon 90 feet V.Diff

This starts up the right hand side of the slab but then transfers to the centre and goes straight up to join the Crack Of Dhoon.

1. 30 feet. Start in a corner on the right and climb a flake to a ledge. Belay possible here.
3. 60 feet. Traverse left to a crack which is climbed to a thin slab. Go up this and the quartz bulge to join the Crack Of Dhoon and so reach the top.

First ascent: G. Gartrell, 1970.

High Dhoon Direct 90 feet V.Diff

This provides the direct start to High Dhoon.

1. 90 feet. Start in the centre of the slab and climb the sharp flake to the crack after the traverse on High Dhoon. Now continue up High Dhoon to the top.

First ascent: G. Gartrell, 1970.

Maughold Head

MR: Sheet 95 496914

This is a much more impressive area on the easternmost part of the island to the south of Ramsey. Access is by taking the lane from Maughold Village. Go left by the church and continue along the lane to a car park by a lighthouse. Clett Ny-Foillan is directly out to sea and the Twin Cletts are to your right facing seawards.

A cliff top path takes you south west to a promontory just before Twin Cletts. Go down onto it and down a 'path' on its right-hand side to the bay in which the Twin Cletts are located.

Clett Ny-Foillan

This appears to require a boat or a swim. There are no details available about its height or nature.

Detailed access: Unknown.

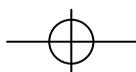
First ascent: Unknown.

Twin Cletts

These are two fine stacks very close together and accessible at medium to low tide. They are subdivided into the Big and Little Twin.

Little Twin 60 feet Hard V.Diff

Gain a ledge on its western side. Climb to a ledge on the seaward face. The climb proper starts in the gully between the two Cletts.





1. 60 feet. Ascend the gully face, going left to avoid an overhang, and left again to finish.

Descent: Abseil down the landward face.

First ascent: S.M Thomas, G. Gartrell, R.B. Evans, May 1972.

The Razor's Edge 50 feet VS

This goes up the slabby face of the smaller clett. Use a thin crack and get to the right arete and finish up this.

First ascent: Unknown.

Big Twin 80 feet Severe

Scramble from the gully between the two Cletts at low tide to the seaward face. scramble up to a large platform and belay.

1. 80 feet. Go up the bulging wall to a ledge. Climb the wall on the left via a flake crack and so attain the summit. Descent is by abseil.

First ascent: R. B. Evans, S. M. Thomas, G. Gartrell, May 1972.

Jubilee Climb 90 feet Severe

Climb the landward slabby face of the largest clett.

First ascent: Unknown.

Maughold Brooghs

Cor Stack

MR: Sheet 95 495923

This stack stands up from a foreshore uncovered at low tide with cliffs behind. The coastal area - Maughold Brooghs - is owned by the Manx National Trust and features a coastal path with steepening slopes between it and the cliff top. Walk north east along the coast from Maughold Head until you see the stack.

Detailed access: Descend the cliff somehow and explore.

First ascent: Unknown.

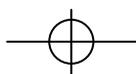
Stack Mocar

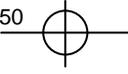
MR: Sheet 95 484927

A mile further west from Cor Stack. Gain it by continuing along the Maughold Brooghs coast path.

Detailed access: Descend the cliff and explore.

First ascent: Unknown.





Stack Rock

