

Porth Dinllaen Bouldering

July 2016

Description

This beautiful coastal area is famed for its golf course and of course, the Ty Coch inn on the beach. Once voted in the top ten of the world's best beach side pubs and bars. With views over towards Yr Eifl and Holyhead Mountain it is a stunning part of the world and just a giant's stride from the Ty Coch lies a well-known fishing spot and now a bouldering destination.



It is likely that some of these problems have been climbed before such is the obviousness of their positioning. However thanks to various visits over the last 10 years by Messrs Huthwaite and McShane and a visit with pads involving Sam Thompson in July 2016 there is now a worthwhile circuit of generally lower grade problems in a fantastic setting. Now I wouldn't travel that far for these problems but if you are holidaying in the region (and why wouldn't you?) then these problems are easily accessible and worth popping in for an hour or two.

Approach

The problems on the wave cut platform are non tidal but the middle and lower blocks will need a low tide. The rock on the platform blocks is sharp but solid, there was some debate about the quality of rock on the middle block but the lower block is very interesting indeed and has some unusual holds consisting of thin flakes and the odd weird pocket.

Parking is available either at the National Trust parking spot above Morfa Nefyn beach (pay and display) or at the Golf course £4 per car. Either approach is flat and pleasant although the approach from Morfa Nefyn avoids the risk of flying golf balls for the most part!



Tides

The upper blocks on the ledge are accessible 90% of the time but high seas and winds would soak the boulders in spray. Hoobie's High Heels block is broadly non tidal but the lower block definitely needs a low tide.

Caution

As ever with coastal venues, some of the rock is a bit suspect and we advise use of caution. Having said that, the upper boulders are generally very compact, with little loose rock. It is worth noting that the platform the upper boulders sit on can get swamped by big waves and as such, caution is urged at high tide.

The Climbing

Warm Up Wall

This sea facing wall provides some excellent warm ups, needs a traverse doing and sports a couple of tricky arêtes.



1. The clean left arête climbs on both sides from sitting at about 6a+ and font 5 from a stand.
2. Wall climb – 4+
3. Wall climb – 4
4. Wall climb – 4+
5. Nice arête from sitting, weird start – 6a
6. Slab – 3+
7. Crate Arete 6b – trickier than it looks from sitting.



Sam Thompson on Crate Arete

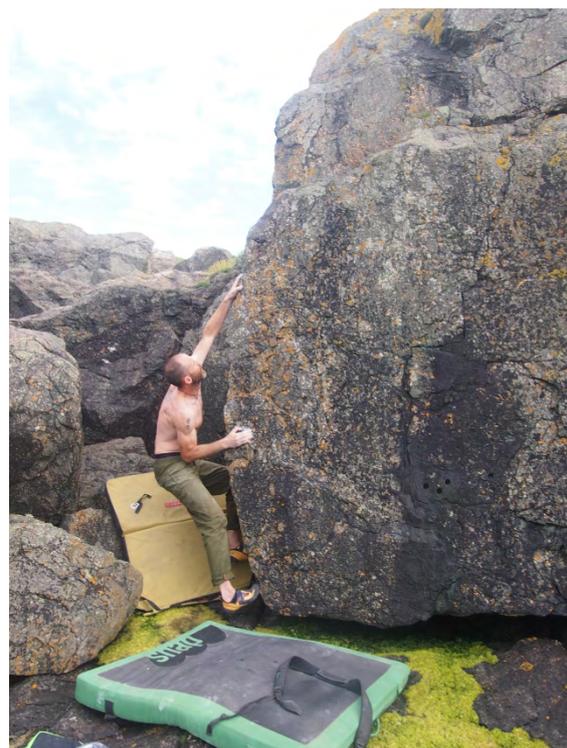
Nice Arete

Just below the warm wall (facing the sea) there is a pleasing steep arête and a couple of easy slabs.



1. Nice Arete – 5
2. Nice Slab – 3
3. Nice Slab – 3

Owen on the left arête of the warm up block



The Boulder

With three climbable faces, this block provides some excellent fingery problems. A degree of technique will be of benefit here.



1. Fatneck's Arete 6b+ – sit start this technical arête. Toes are of use...
2. Couple of variations here – Sit Start – 6b; Stand – 6a; Eliminates are available.
3. Owen's Arete 6a+/7a – this fine arête is relatively straightforward from standing but an altogether different animal from sitting!
4. Owen the Albatross – 6a+ (morpho - could also be graded 6ft4); can also be climbed with the left arête and utilising sharp pockets on the face at about 6b.



Owen McShane is The Albatross

Hoobie's High Heels

Rock quality is debatable here, although HHH is solid. There is an obvious project going up the face which none of us have been able to commit to.

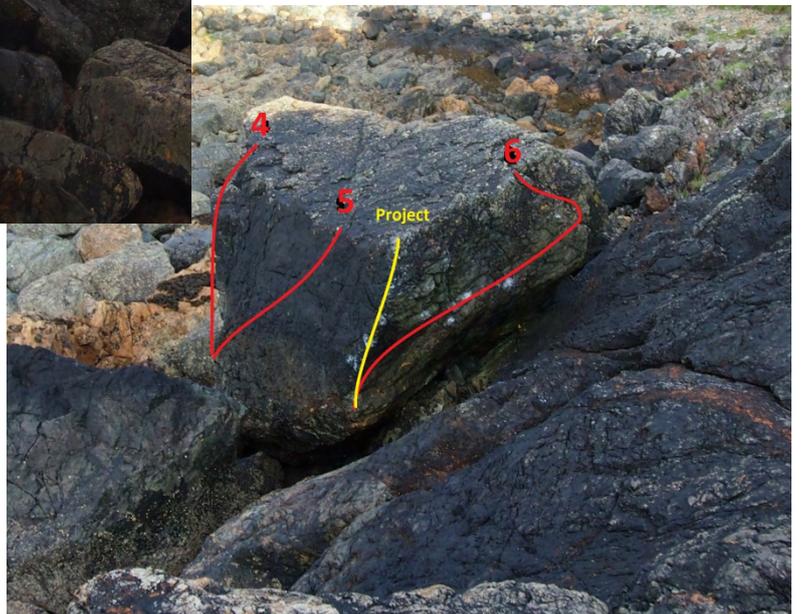


1. Hoobie's High Heels 7a – starting in the pit, a combination of clamping, guppying and fear should see a successful attempt!
2. Scary Arete 5+ - rock looks worse than it is!

Project- good jugs and an obvious rockover foothold point the way.

Lower Block

One steep power problem, a number of good high(ish) problems with dubious landings and a good looking project. Very interesting and oft hidden holds make this a fascinating block to climb on.



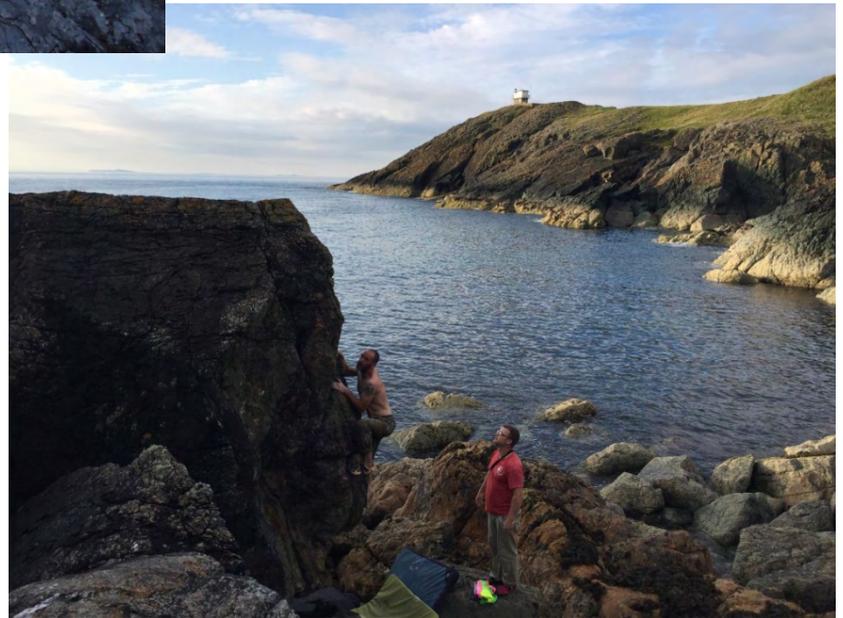
1. Arete 5+ - Sit start the arête and top out with a little trepidation.
2. Groove 5+ - stand up into the groove and cop out left with some trepidation (direct finish a project)
3. Classy Arete 6a – sit start the arête and check out that unusual pinch on the way to finishing with considerable trepidation! *

4. Super Groove 6a – Stand start into the groove. Fantastic hidden holds lead to a scary reach around the bulge *
5. Scary Stairway 3+ - big holds but do you trust them?
6. Sospan Bach 6c+ - start on the arête and try not to think about the landing as you burl your way through a series of flattys and slots to a big finishing move. Can be done from an obvious sitting position halfway through the traverse at about 6b+

Project arête – starting as for Sospan Bach (or even lower). Landing requires thought...



Owen McShane on Sospan Bach



Simon Huthwaite on Super Groove



OwenMcShane on Classy Arete