



Dave Linnett and Richard Nicholson  
LINNETT COLLECTION

**Bantham Hand**

SX 660 433

This prominent landmark provides a delightful mini-expedition in beautiful surroundings. The beach walk-in is particularly recommended.

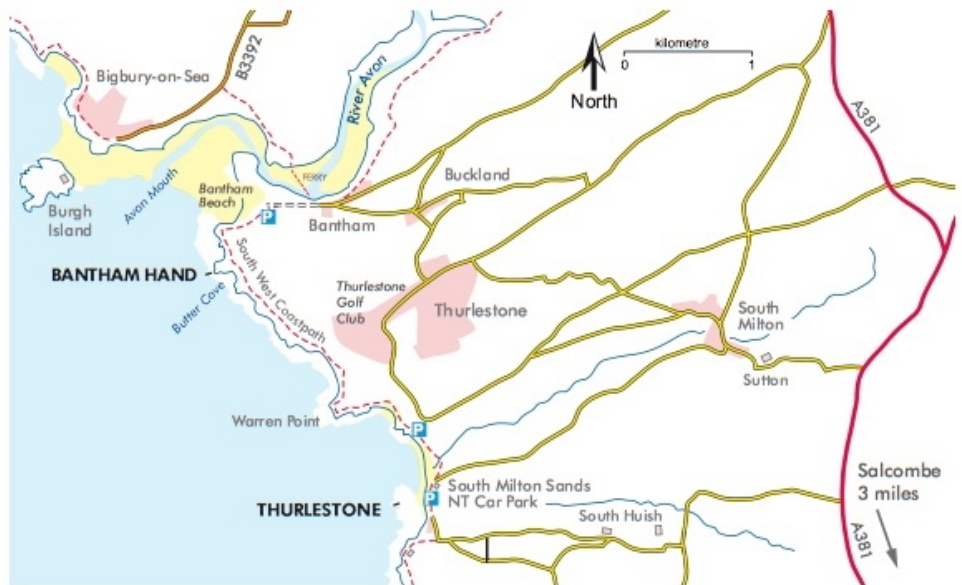
**Aspect and conditions:** North-west. (Lady Luck faces south east). Exposed to swell.

**Approach time:** 15 minutes.

**Tidal considerations:** A low to mid tide is required for dry access. Some elect to swim out and jump off from half height at high tide.

**Restrictions:** None.

**Approach:** Bantham is signposted from the roundabout 3 miles south of Aveton Gifford on the A379 Plymouth to Kingsbridge Road. Park in the dunes car park for a reasonable fee (free in winter) and enjoy a delightful boulder-hop around the point to your objective. A more direct approach from the mainland cliff top is possible but less enjoyable.



**1 Lady Luck 11m E1 4c #**

Loose and poorly-protected. Start at the base of the landward arête. Pinch and layback up the quartz band, then continue up and left to the summit with little in the way of effective protection.

FA M Pinkerton, P Birchell 12.8.94 (Aka Wedding Band)

**★ 2 Antipodeans Afoot 11m HS 4a**

Start at the landward arête and make a rising traverse into a depression, then finish up the left wall.

FA N Sunderland, N White 5.91

**★ 3 Bantham Hand 10m VS 4b**

Strangely endearing for a dimb consisting of semi-detached flakes glued on with seagull poo. Start from a ledge on the seaward edge of the pinnace. Trend leftwards to the base of a depression in the middle of the face, before finishing up right.

FA J Fowler, S Nicholls, C Gibson 1974

**3a: 10m HVS 5a**

A more direct line has been climbed at a higher standard.

**Descent:** Whilst tradition dictates you descend by simultaneous abseil, a conventional abseil from rotting tat is possible (beware sun-bleached tape). Alternatively... down-solo and jump if the tide permits, but pick your landing carefully.

A final alternative utilised by one hapless party was a night time helicopter rescue. For various reasons this cannot be recommended, including missing last orders at the 14th century Sloop Inn at Bantham.



★ **118 Dream On Direct 16m E5 6b**

Start up *Dream On*, but stay on the right-hand side of the arête, lurch over the roof and join *Dripdry* at its second thread.  
FA A Perry 5.6.10

**118a: Dream On 13m E1 5c/6a**

The original quit early into *Logic*, the exact height (before the days of mats) being determined by fear (or how much beer you had drunk).  
FA P Littlejohn (solo) 1971

**119 Dripdry Traverse f6a**

Traverse using finger pockets and cracks for hands and 'glass' for feet.

★ **120 Dripdry 26m E4 6b**

★ Has been climbed in one magnificent E5 pitch, though traditionally it is done in two. The first is a brutal struggle and can be well-protected even though cams struggle for grip in the polished crack.

**1 13m 6b** Climb the crack to the overhang and thread runner (2013). Lunge up right, then move leftwards to a second thread. Further testing moves lead to a ledge.

**2 13m 6b** Trend rightwards to the base of a white groove. Climb to a peg and large cam then make hard steep moves to a tied-off peg (checked 2016). Climb more easily up leftwards past an unnecessary peg to the top.

P1 FA (aid) F Cannings, D Rainford 21.12.63. FFA P Littlejohn 1982.  
P2 FA (aid) B Houseley, B Neely 3.63. FFA D Cape 4.3.85.

**121 Phoenix on Fire 13m E4 6b**

A boulder problem start leads left to an overhang and a poor peg runner and cam. Tough moves through the overhang lead past another peg (sound 2015) and a desperate fumble at the lip. Finish leftwards.

FA R Warke 23.4.84

**121a: Drip Dry Indirect 14m E4/5 6b**

Climb *Phoenix on Fire* into *Dripdry*. Worthwhile and possibly pumpier than the original.

FA D Henderson, M McManus 13.7.09



Bruce Watson 122 Chudleigh Overhang HVS  
JAMES CLAPHAM



★ **122 Chudleigh Overhang 14m HVS 4c**

A determined approach pays dividends on this polished rite of passage. Take very big gear and make sure to seat it well, since the main challenge is rounding the lip before all your gear falls out. The old second pitch has fallen into a state of terminal disrepair and cannot be recommended.

Climb the corner to the roof where powerful laybacking and nifty footwork gains the slab above. Head up leftwards to an *in situ* belay. Abseil off or climb *Gagool* pitch 2.

FA T Paley (1 pt) 1960. FFA P Biven, J Braven 1961.  
P2 F Cannings, J Taylor, A Thompson 12.6.65

★ **123 Big Bird 21m E5 6b**

Boulder up the arête, then make a boldish move from a slanting borehole-strike to gain a good shelf and peg. Climb direct above, via a slim groove, to gain a poor peg (large cam to left). Traverse right along a break until beneath an overhanging niche. Climb this to a peg (old maillon) then launch left to a big flattie (second peg). Exit steeply above to belay on a vegetated ledge and reasonable abseil station (checked 2015) or continue up *Seventh Seal*.

FA N White, D Gandy, J Gandy 2.11.88

**123a: Big Bird Arête f6a**

Boulder the arête's right side to the higher ledge.

★ **124 Big Bird Direct 18m E4 6a**

Often dusty but worthwhile and even stays dry in light rain. From the poor second peg continue direct passing 2 more pegs (tat replaced 2008).  
FA J Gandy 1993

★ **125 Seventh Seal 13m E5 6b/c**

Perfect rock and great exposure on the head-wall. Climb something to the *Big Bird* belay and traverse 3 metres left to a flake and poor wires. Layback up this until a desperate move up leftwards gains poor holds and a ring peg. Unrelenting dimbing slightly rightwards leads to a finish at the left side of a large block.

FA N White, A Turner 12.5.87



Ken Palmer 21 Barrel Traverse F7c

### 19 Cyborg Crocker 14m S1 F6a

The hanging groove to the right leads to a steady wall. Some rock needs careful handling.  
FA M Robertson 30.8.05

### 20 The Holes 17m S2 F6a

See topo picture **page 240**. This upward escape from The Crystal Cave has some poor rock. From the right arête of the cave swing up right and climb past two holes. Traverse left for 5 metres to a right leaning groove.  
FA Unknown

### Woody's Project

The late and great Jonathon Woods made some progress with Mikey Robertson on a directish line up the wall from the Rainbow Bridge crux.

### Topo for routes 21-26 is on page 246

### ★ 21 Barrel Traverse 15m S0 F7c

★ A hard continuation of Rainbow Bridge after its crux. From the rest at the base of the groove move up right to a campus move on slopers. Continue right on pockets 'sans' footholds to join Look, Before You Leap.  
FA K Palmer (after top-roping) Autumn 1997

### ★ 22 Strawberry Seal 16m S0 F7b

★ Follow Barrel Traverse out onto the hanging pillar, then dimb direct up the face. A long move gives way to easier ground.  
FA J Docherty 12.8.11

The following routes are reached by abseil, boat or more commonly downclimbing Look, Before You Leap.

### ★ 23 Look, Before You Leap 11m S1 F6b

Most commonly used as a descent into The Cauldron, but it can be accessed by abseil or boat and done as an up route. Climb the left-hand back wall of the alcove to a steep wall taken on spaced pockets (crux).  
FA N White 9.91

### ★ 24 Disco Inferno 11m S1 F7b

Downclimb the previous route. Bridge seawards out of the alcove and use a downward pointing fang to stretch for bomber jams in a short crack. Take the crack, finger a blind pocket and stride left to larger holds and the break of Rainbow Bridge above. Move right to deep pockets and follow these to an exit gully.  
FA M J Crocker (after top roping) 12.9.98

### 25 Pitch 7 16m E1 5b (S2/3 F6a+)

The seventh pitch of Rainbow Bridge fell out of fashion when the route became a DWS. It is worthwhile as a lead but is S2/3 to solo. Scramble or abseil down the halfway point exit gully of Rainbow Bridge to make a belay.  
**1 5b** Traverse horizontally right across a line of pockets in the steep wall to an obvious stance above the constriction in the chimney.  
**2 5a** Either finish up the chimney turning the overhang on the right or descend the chimney and traverse right and up to gain the rightwards traverse line of Eight Ball below the top roof.  
FA A McFarlane, D Ball 10.73

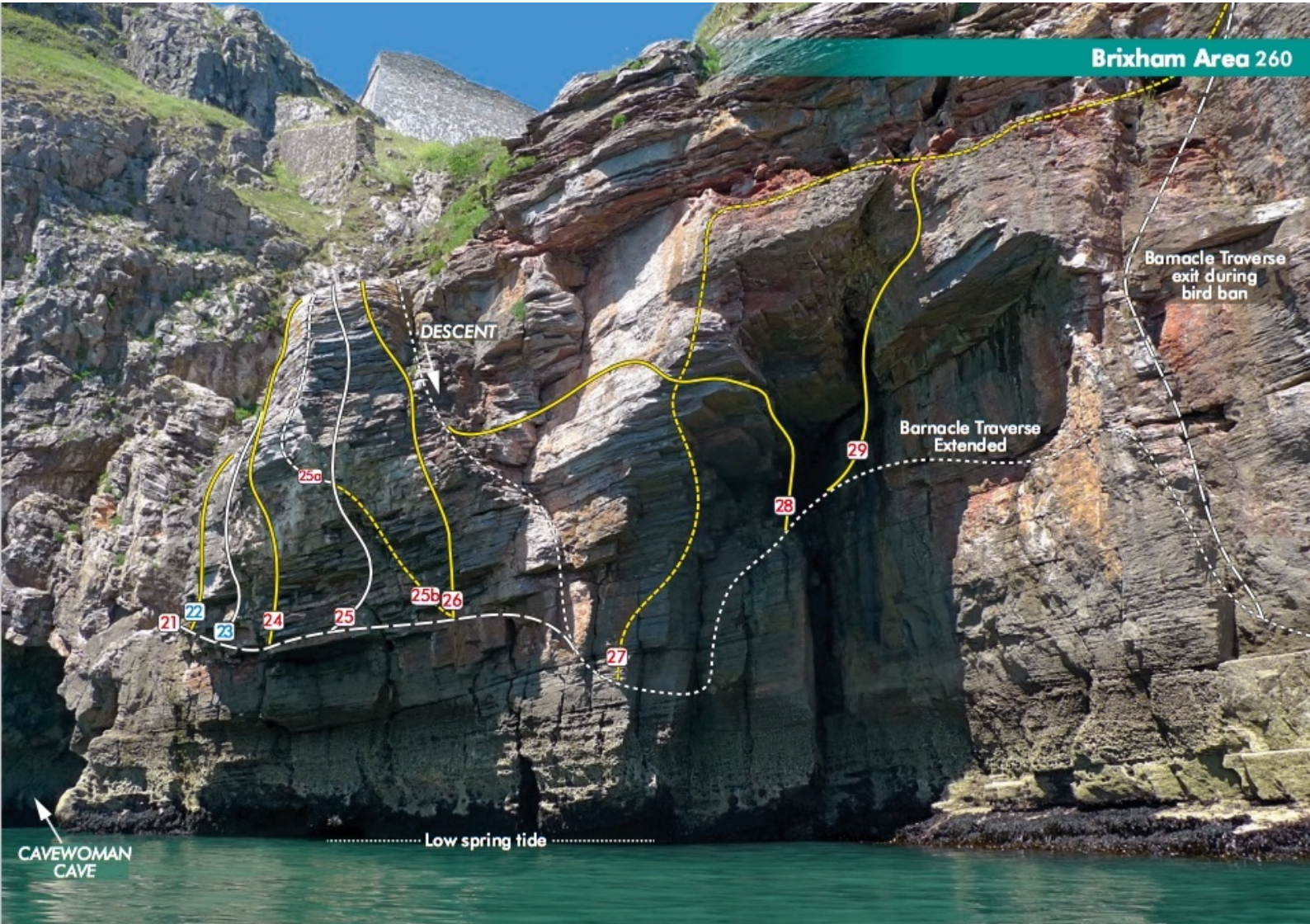
### ★ 26 Bronski Beat 11m S1 7b

★ Exit the cave of Look, Before You Leap by manoeuvring yourself under the downward pointing tooth. Gnarly flared hand jams lead to increasingly positive holds.  
FA K Palmer 18.8.10



MAIN: Ken Palmer 30 Soft Call F7c+  
INSET: Murray Dale 26 Bronski Beat F7b TOM RAINBOW





**White Rhino Tea Buttress DWS**

A superb and popular venue for steep jug pulling over deep water. It can be addictive as some locals will testify. The climbs feel easier when they are well-chalked and the humidity is low. In recent years the left-hand routes have been affected by waste water discharge from the café above. Thus far, this has proved to be more annoying than toxic.

★ **21 Barnacle Traverse Continuation**

★ **14m S0 F6c R**  
The name of the game these days is to stay above the barnacles. Very steep — best not to hang around. Better going left-to-right and possibly only F6b+ going right-to-left.  
FA P Biven, F Cannings (an expedition at or below the HWM and taking in Oz Wall) 5.4.68

★ **22 Edge of the Jungle 5m S0 F4/6a R**

The easier grade is for foot-traversing rightwards off the ledges and the harder one is for hand-traversing before going up.  
FA Unknown

★ **23 Humanize 7m S0 F6a+ R**

The crux is the 3 metre traverse in. Thereafter, huge stuck-on dinner plates lead up and right.  
FA M.J Crocker (on-sight solo) 13.9.98

★ **24 Jose Sandeles 8m S0 F6c+ R**

★ More technical than *White Rhino Tea*. Traverse right until beneath a calcite tufa feature. Move up to this then make some tricky moves past it to gain less steep rock and a direct finish.  
FA D Henderson (on-sight solo) 4.9.99

★ **25 White Rhino Tea 9m S0 F6c/+ R**

★ One of Devon's classic deep water solos. It has deep water at any tide, big holds and is very steep. Climb the crack-line in the middle of the buttress until a long reach gains a protruding block. From here reach right to a calcite pocket and continue up right to big holds and an easier finish. The original tougher version accessed from the left (F6c+), but can be unpleasant when the café drainage is in full flow.

★ **Variation finish 25a: S0 F6c+ R**

★ From the protruding block reach up and left then finish direct. Pumpier than the original.  
FA D Henderson 1.8.98 Variation finish 8.99 (on-sight solo)

★ **Variation 25b: Crossing the Tea S0 F6c+ R**

A right-to-left diagonal starting from the base of the descent route  
FA J.Mitchellmore 24.12.12

★ **26 Watting yer Ouzel 10m S0 F6b+ R**

From the descent groove traverse left for 3 metres then climb direct up the overhanging wall to the right of the central weakness. Near the top move left to avoid easier ground.  
FA D Henderson 16.8.99

★ **27 Pink Roadster 13m S0 F6c R**

★ Another classic. Take the steep hanging arête all the way to the massive jug, then pull over on pink slopers to gain a slab. Traverse off rightwards to top out at the bad step on the approach path.  
FA M. Robertson 1.8.05



Pete Saunders 24 Jose Sandeles F6c+ BRIAN HANNON

★ **28 Whoomze got der Keys to me Beema**

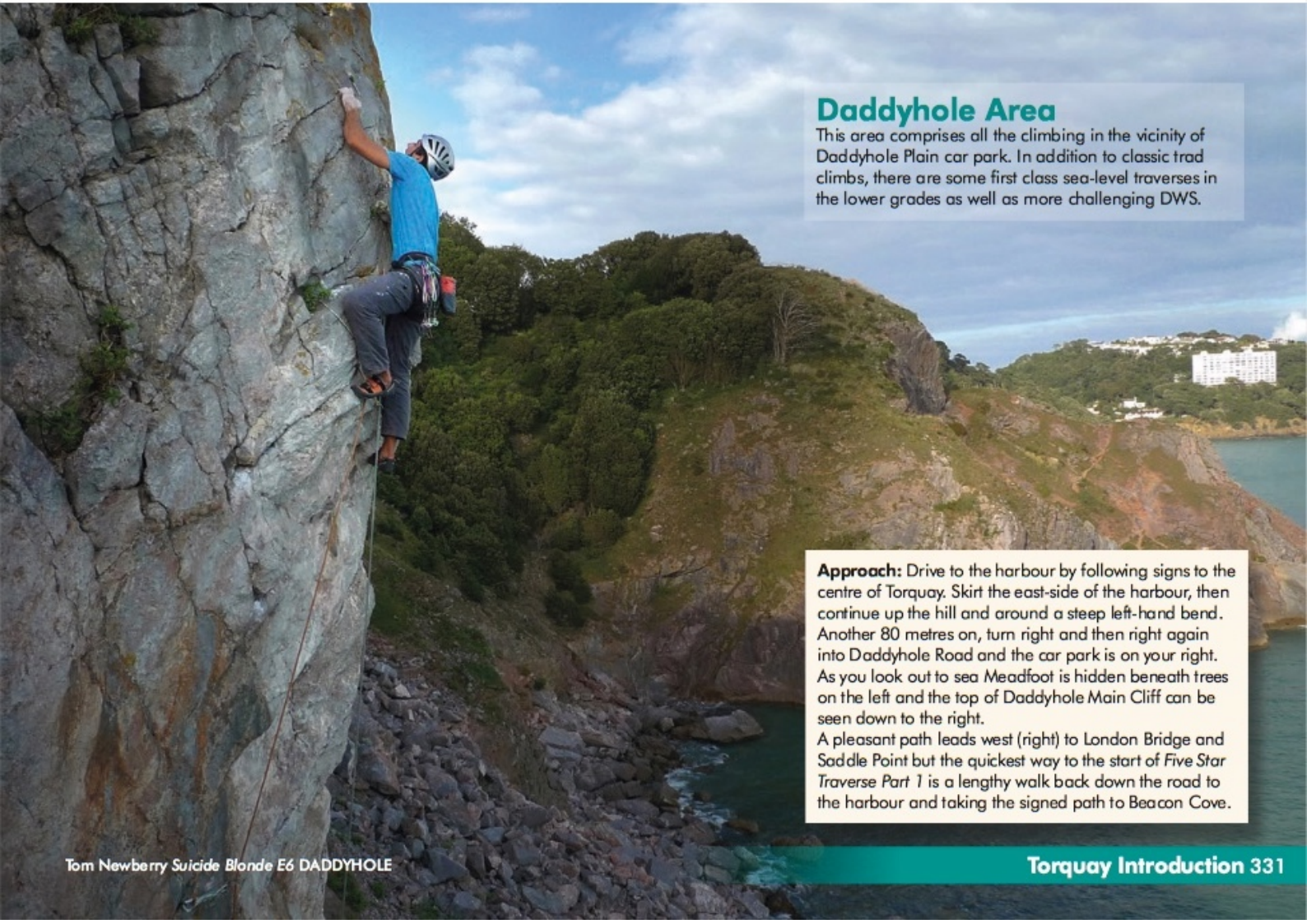
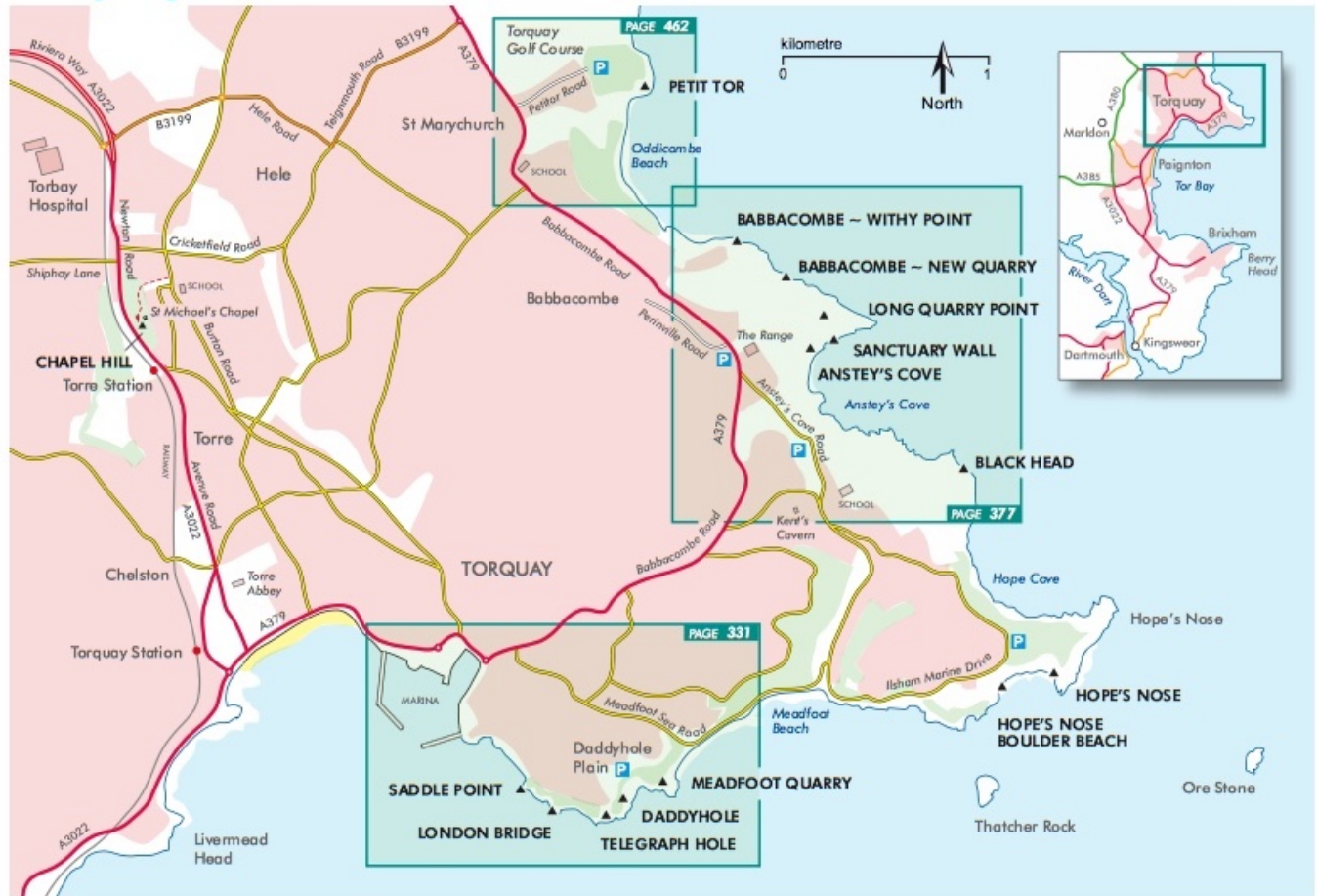
★ **10m S1 F6b+ R**

★ Superb aping along a wild traverse-line from the back of the cave. Three good flat holds in succession lead to a move up. Continue around the arête and rock up onto the slab and escape left. Chest-beating is good, but not obligatory.  
FA D Henderson 4.9.99 (on-sight solo)

★ **29 Hymenopteran Hippopotamus**

★ **(aka Pickled) 11m S1 F6c R**

Start at the back of the cave and move up onto the wall opposite *Whoomze*. Follow the bottomless chimney seawards until you can escape left (looking seawards) onto a wall.  
FA D Pickford 2003



**Daddyhole Area**  
 This area comprises all the climbing in the vicinity of Daddyhole Plain car park. In addition to classic trad climbs, there are some first class sea-level traverses in the lower grades as well as more challenging DWS.

**Approach:** Drive to the harbour by following signs to the centre of Torquay. Skirt the east-side of the harbour, then continue up the hill and around a steep left-hand bend. Another 80 metres on, turn right and then right again into Daddyhole Road and the car park is on your right. As you look out to sea Meadfoot is hidden beneath trees on the left and the top of Daddyhole Main Cliff can be seen down to the right. A pleasant path leads west (right) to London Bridge and Saddle Point but the quickest way to the start of *Five Star Traverse Part 1* is a lengthy walk back down the road to the harbour and taking the signed path to Beacon Cove.

Tom Newberry *Suicide Blonde E6 DADDYHOLE*



LEFT: Ken Palmer 109 Cocytus F6c+  
CENTRE: Luke Holmes 107 American Express F7a+  
RIGHT: Alice Fuller 109 Cocytus F6c+



#### ★116 Groove and Slab 27m E1 5b

A worthy companion to Acheron which is well-protected and sounder than it looks. The twin pegs (one new 2014) can be backed up with cams. Climb past them to gain the groove and follow this to a spike runner. Hand-traverse right to another spike runner on the arête. Climb the slab to gain a slanting crack which has a hard sequence at its end. Bear right to a bolt belay and lower-off.

FA P Littlejohn, D Garner 4.76

#### ★117 Acheron 27m HVS 5a

A fine well-protected route with constantly interesting corner and slab climbing. Abseil from the bolt belay.

FA P Littlejohn, E Grindley, J Taylor 27.1.68

#### 118 Lethe 33m VS

There are several variations but all are fairly poor with some dubious rock. It is unlikely that you will have enough rope to get to the belay if you attempt it as a single pitch.

1 13m 4c Follow Acheron to the overhang, then move right to make a belay.

2 20m 4b Step left and enter an overhanging groove. Swing left at the capping roof and continue direct. Belay off a bush 20 metres up the slope.

FA E Grindley, J Fowler 23.6.68 Variation S Woolard 1981

**Variation 118a: 18m E1 5b** A direct finish up the loose groove and over the capping overhang (leftward escape possible).

**Variation 118b: P2 20m 4b** The next groove right, which contains a suspect block.

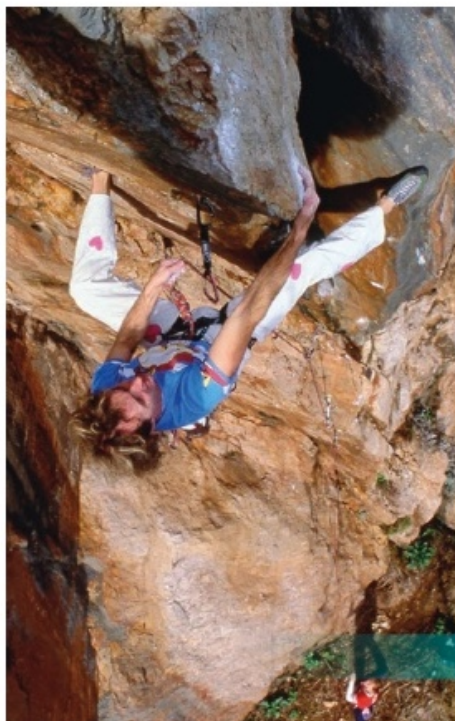
Ken Palmer 115 Boy George F7c+  
NICK HANCOCK

**Pre-inspection is advised for the next two routes.**

#### 119 Deadly Assassin 17m E3 6a

Start 2 metres right of Acheron and boulder up to a peg. Climb slightly leftwards to gain and pass an ancient thread and crucial wire before pulling onto the steep slab above. Continue up a short groove and belay immediately (nuts and cams). Finish as for *Lethe*.

FA J Gandy 1990



#### 120 Agent Orange 23m E3 6a

Move up to a peg at 4 metres, then traverse left across a constricted slab with a peg above. Hard moves past this lead to a good hold and poor wires. Continue traversing to join Acheron.

FA J Gandy, N White 6.12.88

#### 121 Gut Bucket 13m S 4a

The obvious chimney is much better than it looks. There is a little loose rock so the belayer should stand well in. Belay on the bush a long way up the grassy slope.

FA J Fowler, E Grindley 21.6.68

#### 122 Walking on Sunshine 20m VS 4b

This climbs the right side of a prominent arête located a quarter of the way along *The Long Traverse* (photo [page 387](#)). It probably requires a new stake for the belay. Traverse off right.

FA J Gandy, C Waite 11.12.88

#### ★123 The Long Traverse 110m S1 F3

A fun DWS excursion and access route linking **Anstey's Cove** to **Long Quarry Point**, with some damp-bottomed jug-hanging along the way (topos on [pages 387](#), [414](#) and [420](#)). At low to mid-tide traverse from the boulder beach with one strenuous move to the small promontory (The Sanctuary). The back wall of the zawn behind it gives the crux (a swim at high tide). Continue more easily beneath the mind-boggling steepness of **Sanctuary Wall** and skirt around the impressive quarry pinnacle (lowish tide required). Escape up boulders onto the floor of **Long Quarry Point**. To walk back to Anstey's Cove use the path at the far end of the quarry.

FA J Worsley 1962