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## **Moor Hill Quarry, Newry Options Appraisal**

**24<sup>th</sup> July 2020**



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## 1 Introduction

This is the Options Appraisal for the development of rock climbing at Moor Hill Quarry, Newry, Co. Down, and should be read in conjunction with the associated Outline Business Case. Both documents have been prepared by Mountaineering Ireland as part of a submission to Newry, Mourne and Down District Council, owners of the quarry.

Mountaineering Ireland exists to represent and support hillwalking and climbing on the island of Ireland. Mountaineering Ireland is recognised by both Sport Northern Ireland and Sport Ireland as the governing body for all aspects of mountaineering. We currently have over 14,000 members across the island which includes 191 clubs and over 1,700 individual members. Mountaineering Ireland is governed by a voluntary board of 12 directors and has offices in Dublin and at Tollymore National Outdoor Centre near Newcastle. Mountaineering Ireland is also responsible for setting and maintaining the standards of personal proficiency, leader and instructor training through the Mountain Training Board of Ireland, part of the UK and Ireland Mountain Training network.

Mountaineering Ireland's technical officers and volunteer representatives hold the highest levels of mountaineering qualifications and have a wide breadth of knowledge of the development and management of climbing venues.

Rock climbing takes place throughout Ireland – on outdoor natural crags and sea cliffs, on former quarries, and on a wide variety of indoor climbing walls. There are three main 'disciplines' within the sport

- 'Bouldering', on either natural rock or artificial walls, usually up to 5m in height, where climbers move unroped and the focus is on the technicality of the moves.
- 'Sport' climbing where the rock or the indoor wall is fitted with fixed safety protection points, so the focus can be on the technical difficulty of the climbing
- 'Traditional' or 'Trad' climbing where the leader places protective devices into cracks in the rock to act as safety 'belays' or anchors in the event of a fall. In trad climbing there is a greater focus on adventure and self reliance as core elements of the activity.

In reality, most climbers practice all three disciplines and a venue that can offer all is very attractive. The Newry Mourne and Down area is one such venue, from the high crags of the Mourne for trad climbing and bouldering, Altnadue Quarry for sport climbing, and Hotrock wall for indoor climbing and bouldering. However, most of the outdoor crags in the Mourne are in a high mountain environment, subject to challenging weather, and this has always limited the sport's development.

## **2 The significance of Moor Hill Quarry for the development of the sport of rock climbing**

In late 2015, three very experienced climbers, Calvin Torrans, Clare Sheridan and Ian Rea, investigated Moor Hill Quarry and were immediately struck by the extent and the quality of the rock faces and the potential the site had for rock climbing.

Northern Ireland has an extensive array of mountain crags and sea cliffs upon which rock climbing takes place, not least in the Mourne. Weather permitting, Mourne rock climbing is renowned across Ireland, the UK and further afield for its technical quality, adventurous nature and dramatic settings.

What the Mourne, and indeed the rest of Northern Ireland, lacks however, are rock climbing venues which are not subject to mountain weather conditions, are easily accessible, south facing and sheltered. Moor Hill Quarry provides all of these qualities.

Altnadue Quarry, between Kilcoo and Castlewellan, is a small privately-owned quarry which has been leased by Sport NI and made available for rock climbing since the early 1980s. In 2017-2018 facilities at Altnadue were significantly upgraded and anchors and fixed equipment were placed to facilitate sport climbing. Usage of Altnadue since its re-opening has shown the growing appetite for outdoor climbing, with over 16,000 climbing visits in the last year.

Moor Hill Quarry offers a much higher quality and more varied climbing experience than Altnadue as it is significantly larger with longer climbs. The granite is amenable to climbing and facilitates the placing of protection which makes it an ideal venue for recreational climbing, instructed groups and teaching lead climbing.

To date around 50 different climbing routes have been developed at the full range of grades, offering progressive skills development – See the Interim Guidebook in Appendix E. Moor Hill is not a duplication of the proven popular facility at Altnadue, but a significant new training and recreation ground for individuals, instructed groups and active recreational tourists. It is an ideal venue for the new UK and Ireland Mountain Training Board Rock Skills training scheme launched in April 2019 and already creating demand for instructors to run training courses at appropriate venues.

In terms of comparison sites, Dalkey Quarry outside Dublin (a disused granite quarry owned by Dun Laoghaire Rathdown Council) is the best example. The quarry sits within Killiney Hill Park and rock climbing has successfully co-existed with other amenity activities since the 1950s. Dalkey Quarry is the busiest outdoor climbing venue on the island of Ireland. No additional works have been carried out to enable climbing to take place and the quarry and the surroundings continue to be used by the local community, without any safety incidents or liability issues ending up with the Council.

Another relevant example in Ireland is the development of Ballykeefe Quarry on Co. Kilkenny, owned by Kilkenny County Council but developed by a local community group for a range of activities including rock climbing. See <http://ballykeeffeamphitheatre.com/about/>

The development of a number of indoor climbing walls over the last 10 years has fuelled interest in rock climbing. Climbing standards are increasing and there is need for accessible outdoor climbing venues to allow newer entrants to the sport to develop the skills of traditional leader-placed protection rock climbing. Over the past few years we have seen new rock climbing clubs emerge around indoor climbing walls – in NI at Hotrock, Belfast, Derry, Enniskillen, Ganaway and Gilford, most of them with a training and coaching programme for young climbers. All of these clubs, and others from the Dublin area, would use Moor Hill as a 'stepping stone' from indoors to outdoors and on to the high crags. Current annual usage of



climbing walls in Ireland is estimated at circa 250,000, the majority of which is in the Dublin and Belfast areas. At this stage we would estimate that Altnadue and Moor Hill would be likely to see usage figures of around 25,000 visits per year.

The relatively short and steep nature of the climbing routes in Moor Hill Quarry are perfect for a 'close to the road' climbing venue. Climbers can enjoy a whole day climbing, may visit for an hour during lunch or a few hours after work. The quarry face is well featured and has the potential to offer up to 100 different climbs of all difficulties from beginner to Ireland's hardest, but most of the routes are likely to be in the popular middle to lower grade band. The development of the sport of rock climbing, from indoor walls to high crags and mountains, needs exactly what Moor Hill can offer.

Rock climbing at locations like Moor Hill tends to create a friendly and sociable atmosphere amongst users, and, as the very nature of climbing demands an understanding of the cliff environment, climbers have rarely been found wanting when it comes to environmental and personal responsibility. Our training schemes include environmental awareness and, by the club nature of the activities they promote active citizenship, sustainability and volunteerism.

We believe the development of Moor Hill Quarry aligns with many of the Council's Strategic Priorities and the Community Plan approved in 2017, and it has the potential to contribute towards the vision in the Newry, Mourne and Down Tourism Strategy 2017-2021.

There are, of course many climbing venues in former quarries in and around urban areas throughout Great Britain, some (like Wilton Quarry near Bolton) managed by the British Mountaineering Council but also by a wide range of bodies including Councils (e.g. Millstone Quarry, Sheffield), the National Trust (e.g. Lawrencefield near Sheffield), environmental charities, and even private companies such as the Llanberis Slate Quarries where the BMC have an access agreement. Rock climbing can quietly co-exist with many other activities including bird watching, walking, cycling and environmental protection.



*Photographs: Climbing at Moorhill Quarry*

### **3 Access to Moor Hill Quarry**

Mountaineering Ireland initially contacted NMDDC representatives in March 2016 to explore opportunities for formalising access arrangements for rock climbing in part of Moor Hill Quarry. On 12th August 2016 Mountaineering Ireland representatives Vincent Mc Alinden and Helen Lawless had constructive discussions with NMDC staff Mark Mohan (Tourism Manager), Patrick Green (Council Solicitor) and Briege Magill (Administrative Manager Estates), along with Peter O'Hagan (Newry Airsoft). Climbing has carried on in the quarry on an informal and low-key way since then but has not been publicised by Mountaineering Ireland as no formal access agreement is in place.

A site inspection was carried out by NMDDC in November 2017 and recommendations were passed on to the estates management and legal units. In February 2018 Mountaineering Ireland wrote to NMDDC highlighting the potential of the quarry as a regional and national climbing venue.

In early 2019 Mountaineering Ireland sought a meeting with Council officials and following a meeting with Pat Power in April, we met with Michael Lipsett, Paul Tamati and Conor Mallon on 10<sup>th</sup> May. At this point it became known to us that NMDDC was going through a process to dispose of the quarry on the open market. At this meeting it was agreed that Mountaineering Ireland would submit an 'Expression of Interest' before 5<sup>th</sup> June 2019 and the Council officers would then ask the Councillors to delay the sale of the quarry. We understand that this was agreed with the Council and the disposal process is currently on hold.

Over the summer of 2019 a local Airsoft group, who have been using the quarry for some years, took control of access to the quarry by fitting locks to both main access gates. However, they have been in dialogue with individual climbers who have continued to use the quarry and they have facilitated access to date. We have also been researching the site's history (in particular the nature of the landfill in the quarry base) and carrying out research on possible management options that are in place in Britain in similar facilities.

Sport NI officers raised the matter with the Council in October 2019 on behalf of Mountaineering Ireland and offered to facilitate further discussions between the Council and Mountaineering Ireland. Following a meeting with Sport NI the Initial Draft of an Options Appraisal was submitted in November 2019 as the basis for discussion with the Council which took place in December 2019.

It was expected that further discussions would take place with Council officials in early 2020 but these did not proceed partly due to Covid 19 restrictions. In June 2020 Mountaineering Ireland were asked to submit their proposals including an Outline Business Case to the Council by 1<sup>st</sup> August 2020.





Access gates from south and eastern sides, now fitted with locks by the Airsoft group



Structures built by the Airsoft group extending into the quarry floor and over the landfill area, now mostly torn down





Recent picture showing demolished structures scattered over the quarry floor



#### **4 Our Vision for the future of rock climbing in Moor Hill Quarry**

We see the potential for Moor Hill to be developed as one of the best rock climbing sites in Ireland and a significant boost for a rapidly developing sport. It is the most exciting new site in Ireland and will be considered as an all-island facility. With climbing on artificial walls now an Olympic sport, there has been a consequent rise in participation in outdoor sport and traditional climbing and most people climb across the disciplines, with those introduced to climbing on indoor walls progressing on to outdoor climbing and developing a broad skill set. Moor Hill is the ideal venue for developing those transitional skills. Its location, on the main Belfast/Dublin axis, makes it very accessible to the two main population centres on the island and also an attractive venue for visitors from Britain or Europe. Publicity of the high quality rock climbing available at, for example, Fair Head and in the Mourne has significantly increased the number of climbing tourists coming to Ireland and the addition of Moor Hill will give rise to additional visitor stays in the region.

Rock climbing, despite its dramatic nature, is a very safe sport, where the learning and exercising of personal safety techniques is at the heart of what we do and the core of all our training schemes. Those schemes, such as the new Rock Skills training scheme, need access to suitable training areas and Moor Hill offers a much more controlled environment than the traditional mountain crags. The Mountain Training Board of Ireland, the standard setting body for all climbing and mountaineering qualifications, has recently endorsed the development of Moor Hill to provide a significant new facility for the safe delivery of its training awards.

Tens of thousands of climbers throughout Britain and Ireland rock climb year-round with a very low accident rate and no history of litigation or blame. There are many statistical studies showing that climbing has a small fraction of accidents per 100,000 hours participation compared with most team sports and comparable with fishing and golf. Occupiers Liability legislation is drafted so that landowners are not liable for the risks people knowingly take on and in the very few legal cases that have been attempted, case law and court judgements make clear that the landowner is not responsible for people willingly taking on risks. Data from a range of studies in Britain and USA suggests that climbing has far less serious injury rates than other popular mainstream sports and there is no blame culture ethos.

The vast majority of cliffs and crags in Britain and Ireland are either privately owned by farmers or other landowners, or by Councils, central government bodies such as NI Water, or conservation bodies such as the National Trust. Traditionally, rock climbing takes place freely without any responsibility on the landowner. At the closest comparison site in Ireland, Dalkey Quarry, the landowner, Dun Laoghaire Rathdown Council, sees the frequent presence of climbers as a significant deterrent to anti-social behaviour.

Although climbing can take place with little or no infrastructure it is preferable that issues such as car parking, provision of toilets, environmental management (including hogweed control) and the safety of the site are all considered. Mountaineering Ireland has begun to explore the potential of capital funding for these works and we would welcome the opportunity to discuss this further with the Council and other stakeholders when the future management model is agreed.

In a small number of cases in Britain other models exist, involving the British Mountaineering Council taking on a licence, a lease or an outright purchase of a crag or quarry, usually where it is the only possible way to secure access. From studying a number of these models we have drawn up a comprehensive list of options to be considered for Moor Hill.

## **5 Options for the future of Moor Hill Quarry**

Having reviewed management models throughout Britain and Ireland we believe there are five main options.

- A Council place the quarry on the open market and dispose of it without any use conditions – effectively the ‘Do Nothing’ option
- B Council retain ownership, develop it for recreation and put in place active management of the site from Council resources
- C Council retain ownership and enter into one or more Community Access or licence agreements for the management of specific recreation activities with recreational user or environmental bodies, including Mountaineering Ireland
- D Council retain overall ownership but enter into one or more formal leases of all or parts of the site with recreational user or environmental bodies
- E Council retain overall ownership of the site but advertise a lease on the open market subject to a development brief which includes recreational development targets including the provision of climbing access

### **Appraisal**

#### **A The Status Quo or Do Nothing Option**

##### **Council place the quarry on the open market and dispose of it without any use conditions**

We recognise the right of the Council to proceed to sell the quarry on the open market without any conditions but we believe that if it did proceed with this it is failing in its duty to the community to promote recreation and develop tourism facilities, which in the long term would provide a significant economic benefit.

We are also of the opinion that it is unlikely that any body or person would buy the quarry and take on the responsibility for the environmental liabilities of the former, unlicensed, landfill. This is based on the information we have that there are no records of the nature and extent of that landfill material. We do not think there is any significant commercial or development potential on the site that would make it attractive to the private sector given the potential cost of these liabilities.

#### **B Council retain ownership, develop it for recreation and put in place active management of the site through its own resources**

The Newry Mourne and Down area includes some of the best rock climbing venues on the island of Ireland and already many visitors come from all over Ireland to walk and climb. The development of the sport climbing crag at Altnadue has boosted that draw and the opening up of Moor Hill would provide a complementary but quite different offering. Mountaineering Ireland believe that the availability of Moor Hill will significantly boost the number of climbers from throughout Ireland and GB who will come and stay in the Mourne area for a number of days, adding to the local economy. This is through the use of camp sites, glamping pods, self catering cottages and hotels, through spend in shops, bars and restaurants and also through hiring of local instructors and guides. Mountaineering Ireland believe that there is thus a strong case for the Council retaining ownership as it will bring a direct economic return to local businesses. We also believe that the quarry can make a contribution to the wider designation of the area as a

Geopark being promoted by the Council and it offers a publicly owned site where the storey of granite quarrying could be told as part of the area's rich geological resources and landscape.

If the Council are willing to progress this option we will gather the data to support a business case for this inward investment.

The second advantage of the Council retaining ownership and actively managing the site is in the co-ordination of users. The Airsoft group have been using the site for some time without any Council management control and, in our opinion, the Council are currently exposed to liability from potential hazards on the site given that it is known the Airsoft group are using the site without any access arrangements in place. From researching the position at Wilton Quarry in England we know it is feasible for climbers and a shooting club to share the same facility but there needs to be active management of the site. We also know from the long use of Dalkey Quarry that Dun Laoghaire Rathdown Council see climbing use as positive benefit in deterring anti-social behaviour.

The development costs are quite modest – climbing could continue to take place without any built development works but would be enhanced by provision of a gravel car park, a fresh water supply and basic toilets, all of which could be provided through a sports capital grant. Local people already use the quarry for dog walking and recreation and there is the potential for short trails through the site with easy access to the surrounding housing.

In summary we see the benefits of the Council retaining ownership to be the formalising of access to allow the quarry to be promoted, an access agreement which allows co-existence of a variety of users and the creation of a multi-aspect 'hub' for climbing in the region – from the indoor climbing wall at Tollymore, Altnadue Quarry, Moor Hill Quarry and the high mountain crags of the Mourne. We do not believe the capital or ongoing costs to the Council to be significant, given the potential gain from the opening up of the facility.

However, we accept that at this time, it will be difficult for the Council to commit to an additional call on staff time to actively manage the site and that support from potential users is an important factor.

### **C Council retain ownership and enter into one or more Community Access Agreements or Licence agreements for the management of specific recreation activities with recreational user bodies**

We recognise that the Council have already started a disposal process and see the quarry as only catering for a minority activity and one in which Council officers have no experience in managing. If the Council's concern is about taking on liability for the actual activities of climbing then Mountaineering Ireland is willing to consider entering into a Community Access Agreement or Licence agreement with the Council whereby we, as the NGB, take on the responsibility for promoting and managing the climbing activity on the site. We would set up a local liaison group (The Moor Hill Climbing Trust) and look in detail at how safety, good practice and climbing ethics are practiced by users, through signage, provision of top of cliff belays and appropriate fencing. The Council could be indemnified against claims from climbers using the quarry where accidents were caused by the climbing activity itself, through Mountaineering Ireland's existing Insurance arrangements.

Appendix D is a sample of the Licence used by the British Mountaineering Council on crags in England and Wales and it contains an indemnity for the owners against liability from claims by climbers.

We would propose a similar arrangement is put in place by the Council with the Airsoft group if they continue to want to use the quarry and that a protocol of shared use is agreed between Mountaineering Ireland and the Airsoft group, facilitated by the Council.

Mountaineering Ireland will undertake to raise the capital costs for development works at the Quarry to facilitate climbing and to cover the costs of subsequent annual maintenance costs for those works, through the establishment of a Moor Hill Climbing Trust. This contribution would be in lieu of anything other than a nominal amount for the Licence but has the advantage that it is a no cost option for the Council.

**D Council retain overall ownership but enter into one or more formal leases of all or parts of the site with recreational user or environmental bodies**

Whilst this might be an attractive option to the Council, we believe it will be difficult for to find a party to enter into a formal lease for the site where that would mean taking on responsibility for the current condition – unknown landfill composition, extensive Giant Hogweed and considerable waste materials from the destroyed Airsoft structures.

Local people have told us that the quarry floor is around 6-10m depth below the current quarry ground level and so there is a very significant amount of landfill materials of a seemingly unknown nature lying below the ground. Mountaineering Ireland could not, nor, we would suggest, anyone else would, take on this responsibility given the unknown nature of the landfill and the potential environmental issues that could arise in the future.

**E Council retain overall ownership of the site but advertise a lease on the open market subject to a development brief which includes recreational use and the provision of climbing access.**

We understand that the Council may come under some pressure to enter into a competitive process whereby they offer the site on the open market rather than negotiating a lease with existing users. Given the environmental issues and the current established uses, we would suggest that it would be reasonable to do this under a Development Brief whereby any potential Lessee is obliged to facilitate climbing access through a licence or sub-lease. That would allow the Council to be confident it had achieved market value for the quarry whilst at the same time acting responsibly to safeguard an important piece of recreation infrastructure. However, this would take Council resources to develop and the same environmental issues would remain and we think it unlikely that bidders would come forward.



## 6 The Proposal

Our preferred option is **Option B** - NMDDC retains ownership of the Quarry and permits public climbing activities, with Mountaineering Ireland advising the Council on the management of climbing activities and facilitating a local climbers/Council liaison group which could incorporate an element of volunteer maintenance work. The model for this arrangement is Dalkey Quarry where climbing has taken place for generations without any issues for the Council and significant benefits to the local community and wider society.

We do recognise, however, that Council resources may not be available to develop this option at the moment and so we have put together a proposal around **Option C** and have carried out an Outline Business Case (OBC) on that Option which should be read in conjunction with this document. The OBC follows the model used by Sport NI for projects up to £100k in value and so is part of a proposed application for funding for the Department of Communities Capital Sports Grant programme.

**Mountaineering Ireland will enter into a Community Access Agreement or Licence with NMDDC for the management and development of rock climbing activities at Moor Hill Quarry.**

**The key components of that agreement are proposed as**

### **Mountaineering Ireland will**

- Indemnify NMDDC against liability for rock climbing activities at Moor Hill through its existing Insurance arrangements
- Raise the capital costs in relation to the development of the site as set out below and in the attached Outline Business Case
- Set up the Moor Hill Climbers Trust to manage the site and raise costs of annual maintenance of the climbing related developments.
- Publicise and promote the climbing potential of Moor Hill and the Mourne area as a visitor destination.
- Organise training courses and events in the Quarry to promote good practice and engage with the local community, including young people's 'come and try it' events and skills development courses.
- Promote safe and good practice for all users.

### **We would ask the Council to commit to the following actions**

- Transfer responsibility for the quarry to the Active and Healthy Communities division of the Council
- Commission an environmental report on the landfill to identify any remedial work required
- Undertake an annual Giant Hogweed control programme, with volunteer support from trained climbers through the Moor Hill Climbers Trust
- Liaise with the local Airsoft groups to manage any future shooting activities in the quarry and agree an area of their operations which does not impact on climbing access
- Look at ways to enhance the site for informal recreation access for local people.

### **Development Works to facilitate climbing**

Rock climbing has been taking place at Moor Hill since 2015 on an informal basis without any investment in facilities or a formal access arrangement. The climbing development work has been done by volunteers with co-operation of the local shooting groups who have been using the quarry for many years, again, to our understanding without any formal access arrangements being in place. There have been no access disputes with local people and climbing has gone about in a quiet unobtrusive manner. Active climbers

have produced an on-line guidebook to the quarry, identifying the locations of the established routes and their grade of difficulty.

Mountaineering Ireland has not to date published any information about the quarry as it does for all established climbing areas including the Mourne, but representatives have been in discussion with Council officials since 2016 about establishing formal access. In 2019 we became aware that NMDDC had placed the quarry on a list of assets to be disposed of on the open market and sought further meetings with Council officers to make the case for the quarry to remain in public ownership and developed as a community asset.

Given the nature of the quarry and surrounding residential areas we do not see there is viable commercial development potential and believe the best future for the Council, local people and visitors is in its enhancement as a valuable community recreation asset.

The proposed investment has two strands – environmental works and recreation development works.

### **Environmental works**

The quarry has been subject to infill of the central area in the past and the nature of the fill material used is not known. We believe the Council have the responsibility to investigate the nature of that fill material and put in place remediation work such as capping if required. We believe the responsibility for this lies with the Council regardless of any development works to the quarry and is likely also to be at least investigated and a remediation report approved by NIEA before any successful sale.

There is extensive Giant Hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*) on the site. Giant Hogweed is regarded as an invasive species, is harmful to humans and is covered by the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (1985 Wildlife Order NI).

It is a difficult plant to eradicate but there should be an annual programme of cutting and control early in the growing season to prevent it flowering and seeding. As above, this should be done regardless of any recreational use of the site and its presence will be a significant factor mitigating against any open market sale.

The activities of the shooting clubs have left many ad-hoc structures around the site, many of which have been vandalised and spread around during the recent lockdown period when there were no organised activities. We understand that it is the intention of the groups to remove these but it is an extensive task. They are generally of inert materials so the issue is one of appearance rather than habitat harm.

As these Environmental works are required whatever the future use of the quarry, the associated costs are not included in this appraisal but they will need to be addressed by the Council.

### **Development works**

The proposed development of the quarry is illustrated in the plan in Appendix B.

Rock climbing as an activity requires minimal development works as climbers are largely self-sufficient as regards equipment. Access at the moment has largely been by visitors parking in the entrance bay to the gates at the top of the quarry on Moor Hill Road, on the eastern side of the site, whereas the Airsoft groups have largely been accessing through the entrance on the southern side. There is a further entrance through the Council Amenity site but this is currently closed off.

As use increases, there is a risk of congestion on Moor Hill Road which would cause difficulties for local residents and create a road safety issue so we are proposing that a gravel car parking area is developed at the site entrance. Access site lines are good and there is plenty of level space immediately inside the gates for around 20-25 car spaces, which is considered sufficient for expected use.

Access to the climbing area is either by a footpath down to the quarry floor or by roped abseil from the top of the quarry adjacent to the entrance.

Boulders will be placed to prevent vehicle traffic down the existing track to the quarry floor.

There will be a fixed abseil station established as shown on the drawing and minor path development works around the quarry lip to ensure sustainable use.

Provision of toilets is an area of consideration as there are no nearby public toilets and users tend to be on site for a number of hours. This was the subject of extensive debate at the Sport NI development of Altnadue Quarry near Castlewellan, with consideration given to the need versus the potential of vandalism, maintenance costs, health and environmental issues. In the end, it was decided to treat Altnadue as any other outdoor climbing site in the open mountains and not provide toilets, with the acceptance that responsible users would discreetly use a wooded area in an emergency and not leave paper waste. Moor Hill is, however, closer to local residents and provision of toilet facilities may be a sensible provision, either at the climber's car park or elsewhere on the site of the Airsoft or other uses are developed. This could take the form of simple 'Portaloo' type facilities with a regular emptying and cleaning regime, an independent 'composting' toilet designed for remote sites, used in forest parks etc, or, if demand increased a more permanent facility. The budget costs include for a single, self-sufficient composting toilet.

In general, the risks of an exposed quarry face are obvious and climbers are used to assessing and mitigating the risks of climbing, so it can be regarded as a safe activity with a well-established high degree of personal responsibility. If the site is generally open to public uses then placement of warning signs will be necessary, similar to those installed at Altnadue. Climbing has taken place here for over 30 years, with a significant increase following the 2017/8 development works, with no safety issues or incidents arising from an annual 16,000 climbing visits.

<b>Cost Breakdown</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Car park and entrance surfaces</b>	17,000
<b>Fences and Gates to Moor Hill Road</b>	9,000
<b>Boulders, bollards and Counter at car park edge</b>	3,000
<b>Foot path works around quarry</b>	5,000
<b>Abseil station</b>	1,000
<b>Composting Toilet</b>	3,000
<b>Signage</b>	2,000
<b>Landscaping works and tree planting around car park</b>	2,000
<b>Contingency, associated costs and fees @15%</b>	6,300
<b>Total Cost (ex VAT)</b>	48,300

In supporting the Council in the management of climbing, Mountaineering Ireland representatives will draw on their extensive climbing experience, as well as knowledge of international best practice, including the Visitor Safety Group (VSG) approach. The VSG Guiding Principles are increasingly becoming recognised across the UK and Ireland as providing best practice guidance in relation to visitor management in the outdoors, particularly in relation to matters to do with safety.

Moor Hill Quarry is an extremely valuable leisure resource for a rapidly expanding, but still minority, sport and Mountaineering Ireland does not want to see this opportunity lost. We are asking NMDDC to engage with Mountaineering Ireland and Sport NI with a view to achieving a shared community recreational use that is extremely important to the development of rock climbing.

Altnadue Quarry is equipped with a people counter and it showed that there were over 16,000 visits in its first year of operation. A qualitative survey showed that 20% of the users were from the NMDDC area, 35% were from the Republic of Ireland and that 24% of all users stayed overnight locally. Overall, 94%



rated the facility as good or excellent. Experience from numbers at indoor climbing walls shows that usage figures grow steadily over time and the current estimated annual figure of 250,000 continues to grow strongly.

We believe that Moor Hill is likely to generate at least as much usage as Altnadue and in fact the two facilities are more likely to lead to people staying overnight in the area, generating a significant amount of additional economic benefit for the Council area. We believe that a figure of 25,000 visits a year for both Altnadue and Moor Hill is achievable if Moor Hill is developed.

The recent survey at Altnadue also noted that 97% of those interviewed reported a positive impact on their mental and physical well-being, particularly important given the developing recognition as to how sport and recreation can contribute to the prevention of illness and medical intervention.

Mountaineering Ireland  
14<sup>th</sup> July 2020



## APPENDIX A

### The Mountaineering Ireland people involved

The people who have developed climbing at Moor Hill to date – Calvin Torrans, Clare Sheridan and Ian Rea, are highly experienced climbers, instructors and educationalists.

**Calvin Torrans** is an International Mountain Guide, a mountaineering instructor, and a former director of Outdoor Education for City of Dublin Vocational Education Committee.

He has been climbing for over 50 years, all over the world, and leader of mountaineering expeditions to the Andes and the Himalayas.

**Clare Sheridan** is the foremost Irish female rock climber of her generation and has climbed all over the world. A, now retired, primary school teacher she is a member of the Climbing Committee of Mountaineering Ireland.

Calvin Torrans and Clare Sheridan have been responsible for hundreds of new climbs on cliffs all over Ireland. They have filled many voluntary positions within Mountaineering Ireland over many decades and have edited numerous rock climbing guide books.

**Ian Rea**, from Dundrum, is also an International Mountain Guide and is a Senior Outdoor Education Instructor with SELB & the Education Authority, based at Shanaghmore OEC. He has 40 years rock climbing & mountaineering experience in both a personal and professional capacity all over the globe. Ian has established hundreds of new rock climbs mostly on the rock cliffs of the Mourne, Fair Head, & Donegal.

**Vincent Mc Alinden**. Killeel Co Down. Teacher, Environmental Educator. After 5 years post grad research in molecular biology Vincent taught in the Abbey Grammar before 19 years running the Field Study service for the SELB /Education Authority in Killowen Outdoor Centre until its closure in 2018. He has served 2 terms on the board of Mountaineering Ireland and 1 term on the board of Leave No Trace Ireland. Currently a member of Mountaineering Irelands Access and Conservation Committee. He has 30 years rock climbing and mountaineering experience all over the world.

**Helen Lawless** – Access & Conservation Officer, Mountaineering Ireland. Helen has worked with Mountaineering Ireland for 15 years, seeking to improve access for hillwalkers and climbers, through engagement with both statutory and private landowners, and through participation in national and local fora responsible for the development and management of outdoor recreation. Helen's role also involves initiatives to protect the mountain and crag environment, and to promote good practice amongst hillwalkers and climbers. Helen has over 30 years' experience of enjoying the mountains of Ireland as well as those further afield. She holds the International Mountain Leader Award.

**Damien O'Sullivan** – Climbing Officer, Mountaineering Ireland. Damien has been a staff member with Mountaineering Ireland for the past six years. Initially employed as a Talent Development Officer his role has transitioned to Climbing Officer. Damien has responsibility for all climbing related matters, from introducing people to the sport and developing their skills to the management of climbing competitions and high level athletes who compete at international climbing competitions. Damien is a very keen climber who has climbed extensively in Ireland, France, Spain and the USA.

**Geoff Thomas** – Board member of Mountaineering Ireland and Chair of the Climbing Committee of Mountaineering Ireland. His role is to co-ordinate information from active climbers and formulate strategic recommendations for consideration by the Board of Directors.

He has a first degree in Plant Ecology and has climbed extensively in the European Alps and also in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Africa and South America.

**Rónán Davison-Kernan**, from Downpatrick, is an engineer and president and a founding member of Belfast Climbing Club, and formerly president of QUB Mountaineering Club. He has more than 10 years' rock climbing and mountaineering experience in the Mourne, throughout Ireland and the UK, and farther afield. He has compiled a guidebook to the climbing at Moorhill.

He is a member of the Mourne Mountain Rescue Team and has a PhD in Electrical Engineering. **Ronan Davison-Kernan**

**Dawson Stelfox** – Board Member of Mountaineering Ireland and Chair of Outdoor Recreation, Northern Ireland Dawson Stelfox has been climbing, in all its forms, for over 40 years, and has been involved with Mountaineering Ireland for most of that time, currently serving on the Board of Directors and also Chair of the Mountain Training Board of Ireland, the standard setting body for all personal, leader and instructor training in climbing and mountaineering activities. Dawson has also been involved in Tollymore National Outdoor Centre for over 30 years and was the architect for its major redevelopment. He was involved in the development of Altnadue quarry for Sport NI, and through his role as Chair of ORNI, in the strategic development of many outdoor recreation sites throughout Northern Ireland.

## APPENDIX B

Outline sketch plan of how the site could be developed



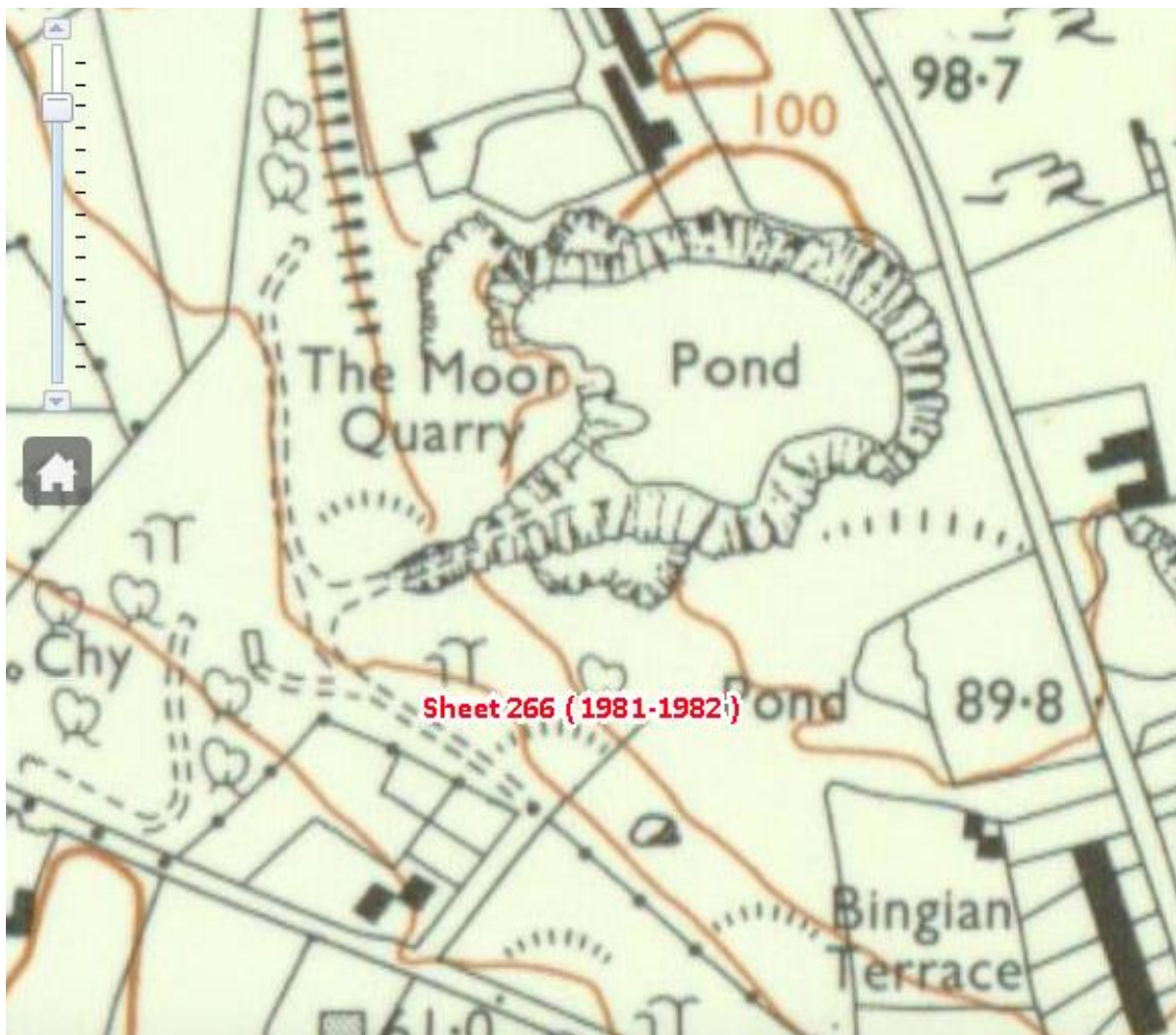
## APPENDIX C MAPS



1859



1902



1982

The maps show both how the quarry expanded during its working life and the large pond in the former quarry floor, now mainly filled in with landfill material.



## **APPENDIX D**

British Mountaineering Council Licence Agreement





**Dated**

**2010**

**DAVID JINKS**

**and**

**BMC Land Holdings Limited**

**Licence to Use**

**Land at Furness Quarry**

**Stoney Middleton**

**Derbyshire**

**Pricketts  
12 Hardwick Street  
Buxton  
Derbyshire  
SK17 6BN**

THIS AGREEMENT is made the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2010

BETWEEN:

- (1) The Owner: DAVID JINKS of Bagshaw House, Main Road, Eyam, Derbyshire, S32 5QW and
- (2) The Licensee: BMC Land Holdings Limited the registered office of which is at 177-179 Burton Road, West Didsbury, Manchester M20 2BB  
Company Registration no 2000720.

NOW IT IS AGREED as follows:

## **1. THE LICENCE**

- 1.1. The Owner gives the Licensee the right, from the date of this Agreement until it is determined in common with the Owner and all others authorised by the Owner so far as is not inconsistent with the rights given, to access and use the Property as described in the Schedule hereto for the activity of rock climbing for the benefit of members of British Mountaineering Council and the climbing community generally.
- 1.2. The authorised use shall include the erection of signs to warn of hazards and the installation of bolts and related fixed equipment on the quarry faces to safeguard and protect climbers.

## **2. LICENSEE'S UNDERTAKINGS**

The Licensee agrees and undertakes as set out in this clause 2.

### **2.1. Condition of property**

The Licensee must keep the Property clean and tidy and clear of rubbish and leave it in a clean and tidy condition at the end of the Licence Period.

### **2.2. Nuisance**

The Licensee must not use the Property in such a way as to cause any nuisance, damage, disturbance, annoyance, inconvenience or interference to the owners, occupiers or users of any adjoining or neighbouring property.

### **2.3. Owner's rights**

The Licensee must not in any way impede the Owner, or his servants or agents, in the exercise of his rights of possession and control of the Property and every part of the Property.

## **3. GENERAL**

### **3.1. Determination**

This Agreement can be terminated by written notice

3.1.1. by the Owner at any time if the Licensee is in breach of his undertakings,  
and

3.1.2. on not less than 28 days notice given by the Owner or the Licensee to the  
other party.

3.2. **Assignment prohibited**

The benefit of this licence is personal to the Licensee and not assignable.

3.3. **Warranty excluded**

The Owner gives no warranty that the Premises are legally or physically fit for the  
use authorised.

3.4. **Liability excluded**

The Owner is not to be liable for the death of, or injury to the Licensee or his  
employees and invitees, or for damage to any property of theirs, or for any losses,  
claims, demands, actions, proceedings, damages, costs or expenses or other liability  
incurred by them in the exercise or purported exercise of the rights granted.

## **THE SCHEDULE**

### **'The Property'**

'The Property' means the land shown edged red on the plan annexed to this agreement being  
part of Furness Quarry also known as Horseshoe Quarry, Stoney Middleton, Derbyshire.

The parties have signed this Licence on the date stated above.

Signed by the said  
DAVID JINKS

Signed by DAVID TURNBULL  
On behalf of BMC  
Land Holdings Limited



## **APPENDIX E**

Moor Hill Climbing Guidebook



# Moorhill Quarry Climbing Guide



Rónán Davison-Kernan  
June 2020



# 1 Introduction

Moorhill Quarry is situated on the south east side of Newry, in Co. Down, overlooking Carlingford Lough. It is an old quarry developed for trad climbing by Ian Rea, Calvin Torrens and Clare Sheridan in 2017 - 18. Previously used as a dump, do not be put off by the post-industrial wasteland ambience - the quarry hosts excellent climbing on angular, grippy granite, characterised by cracks, flat edges and generally excellent gear placements. Moorhill quarry is also used by Elite Guns Newry for airsoft (like paintball, but with pellets) and has **a bit of a Giant Hogweed Problem**, and so comes with a few caveats that help it stand out from other crags.

## 2 Approach and Access

Location: 54.161735, -6.315209

Moorhill Quarry is owned by Newry, Mourne & Down District Council. The Council currently has no agreement in place with any organisation for any type of recreation activity to take place in the quarry. Mountaineering Ireland is engaged with the Council exploring options to secure future access for climbing in Moorhill Quarry.

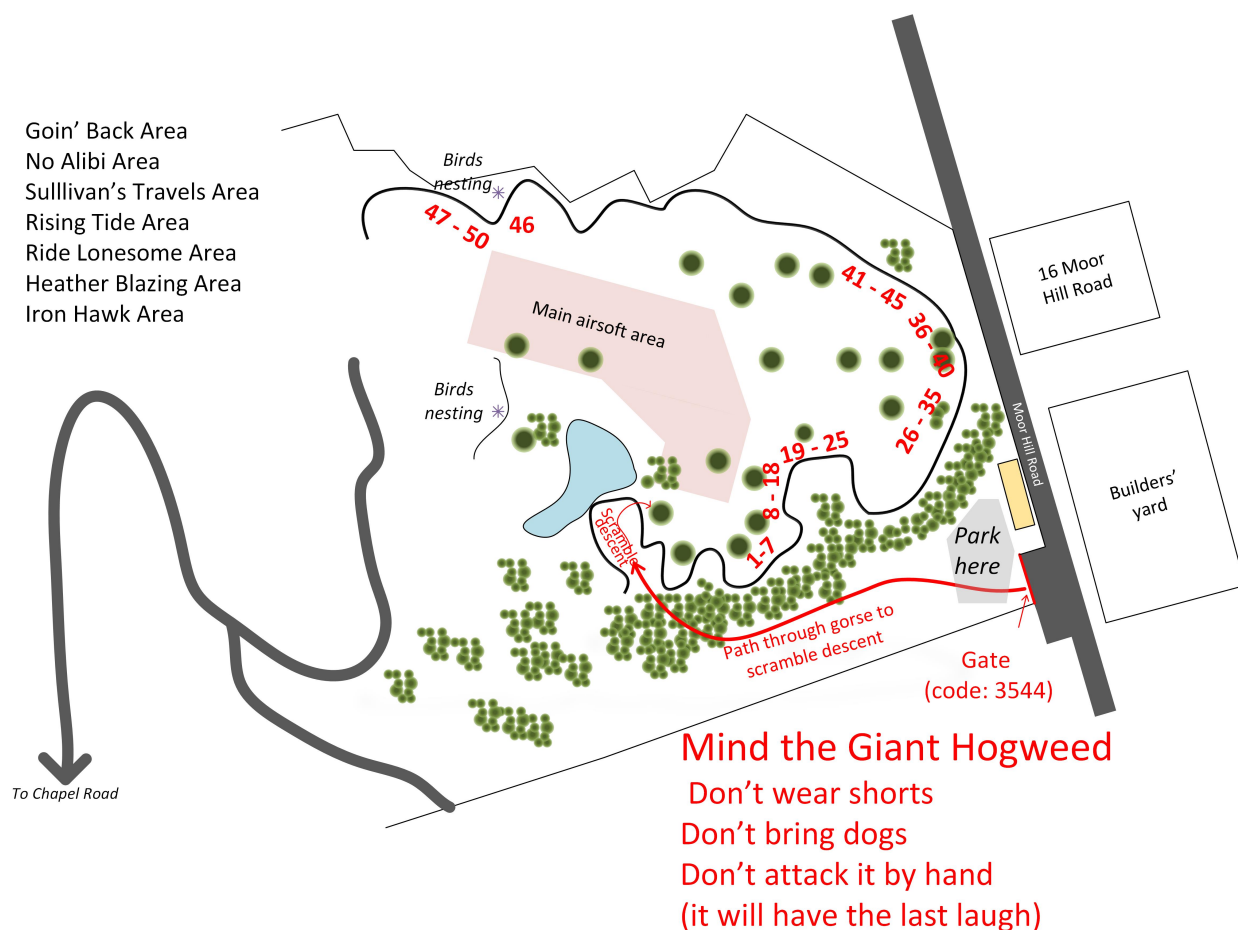
Take the road from Newry to Ballyholland. This is at the roundabout in Newry, either just before the Warrenpoint junction, coming from Belfast, or just after the Warrenpoint junction, coming from Dublin. Go up Courtney Hill/Ballyholland Road, turn right at Moorhill Rd. After about 500 m the houses on the right give way to fencing around the quarry. You will find a set of double gates, locked by a combination padlock. Open this - **the code is 3544**. You can then park just inside the gate, making sure to lock it behind you. You may also use the shelters in the yard here.

Straight ahead from the gates you should find a path through the vegetation. It won't take much effort to find a tunnel in the gorse, which gives easy access and simple scrambling down an easy angled buttress.

It is also possible to abseil to the base of most routes as the quarrymen thoughtfully left behind some massive concrete stanchions to belay from.

### Routes:

- 1 - 7** Goin' Back Area
- 8 - 18** No Alibi Area
- 19 - 25** Sullivan's Travels Area
- 26 - 35** Rising Tide Area
- 36 - 40** Ride Lonesome Area
- 41 - 45** Heather Blazing Area
- 46 - 50** Iron Hawk Area





### 3 Giant Hogweed

Giant Hogweed is an invasive species of plant and is abundant in the Quarry. It has large, distinctive leaves, a big head of white flowers and hollow woody stems which you will see lying around. Its sap is toxic to humans and causes something called phytophotodermatitis - it reduces your skin's ability to protect itself from sunlight and will cause severe burns. It is most prevalent in the summer and dies off in the winter.

Try and avoid direct contact with the hogweed. Don't panic if you brush against the leaves, it's the sap that is toxic.

**You should not attempt to pull out Giant Hogweed without gloves.** It's also a good idea not to wear shorts in the quarry - not just because of the Hogweed, but there's plenty of gorse, nettles, and stuff lying around.

**Giant hogweed is also toxic to dogs. Do not bring dogs into the quarry.**

**If any area of your skin is exposed to the sap, wash it immediately and keep it covered up for at least 48 hours. If it gets in your eyes, go straight to Daisy Hill hospital.**



*Giant Hogweed (from Wikipedia)*

Other similar plants, Wild Carrot (also known as Queen Anne's Lace) and Wild Parsnip, can be confused with Giant Hogweed as they look similar but are a lot smaller (approx 50 cm tall with leaves no more than 20 cm). Both are common on verges and near water and are indigenous to Ireland. Wild Carrot (small with fern-like leaves) is also common in the quarry but is completely harmless.

### 4 Airsoft

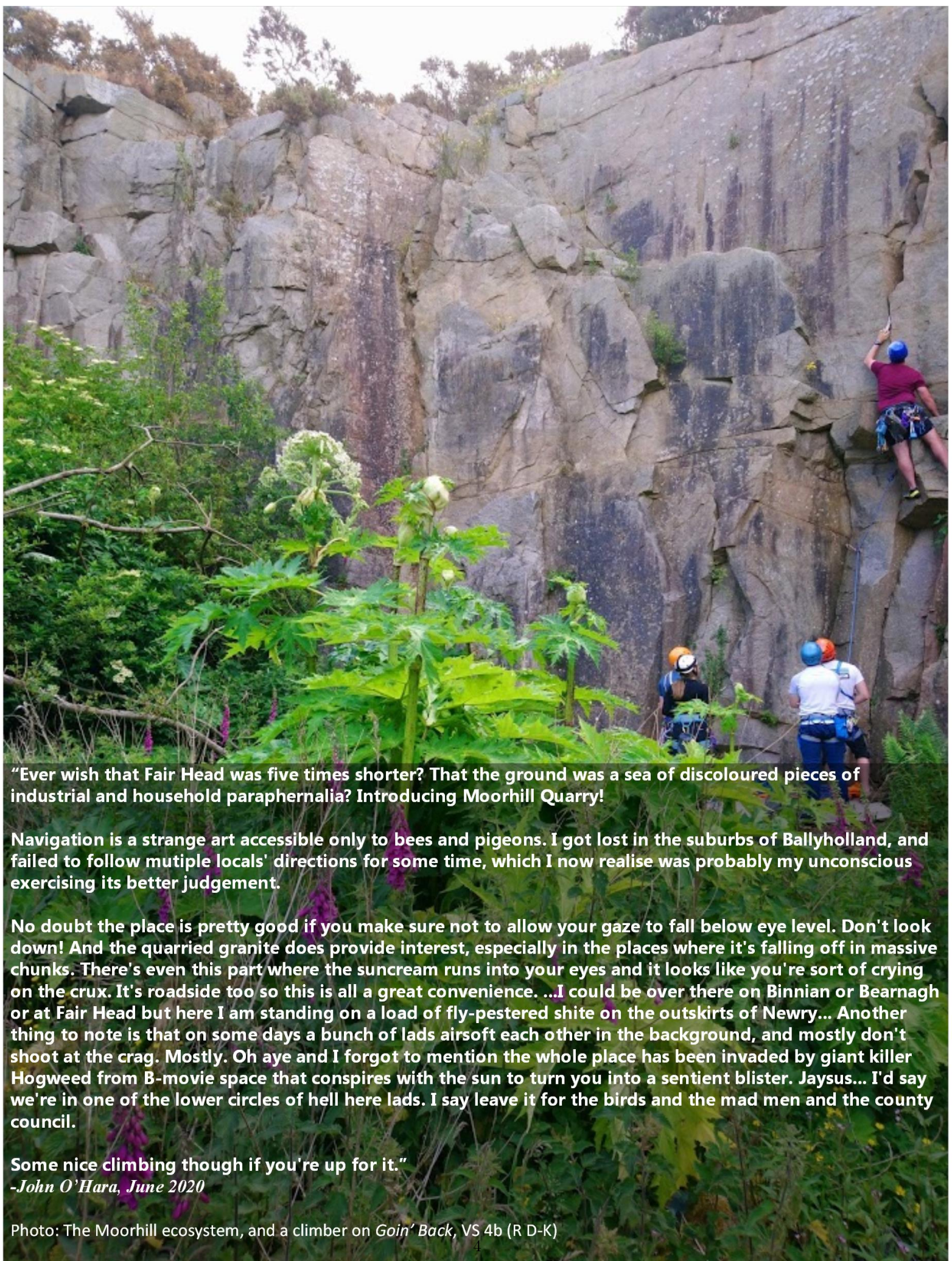
An Airsoft company operates in this quarry. Advertised airsoft times are 9am - 5pm, Saturday & Sunday from June 2019.

Peter, the owner of the airsoft company, has fenced off the easy pedestrian access routes from both the gate listed above (access via using code 3544) and the vehicle entrance at the bottom of the quarry. The operator states that climbing on most of the walls would be outside the danger zone due to the short range of the air guns used, and climbers are welcome. If airsoft is taking place when you visit, keep to the crags and away from the main airsoft area. It may be wise to abseil in rather than walk down to the routes. They are using low pressure guns that are out of range of the rock faces and have consciously erected their shooting area away from the rock. Routes 46 - 50 (Iron Hawk area) are probably out of bounds when airsoft is taking place but the rest should be grand. All a lot more civilised than previous uses of the quarry!

**Even if the hogweed is not in season, do not bring dogs into the quarry when airsoft is taking place.**

Peter has been doing good work combatting the Hogweed with weedkiller. **If you see him, or any of his staff thank them.** The company's facebook page is [facebook.com/NewrySWAT](https://facebook.com/NewrySWAT)





"Ever wish that Fair Head was five times shorter? That the ground was a sea of discoloured pieces of industrial and household paraphernalia? Introducing Moorhill Quarry!

Navigation is a strange art accessible only to bees and pigeons. I got lost in the suburbs of Ballyholland, and failed to follow mutiple locals' directions for some time, which I now realise was probably my unconscious exercising its better judgement.

No doubt the place is pretty good if you make sure not to allow your gaze to fall below eye level. Don't look down! And the quarried granite does provide interest, especially in the places where it's falling off in massive chunks. There's even this part where the suncream runs into your eyes and it looks like you're sort of crying on the crux. It's roadside too so this is all a great convenience. ...I could be over there on Binnian or Bearnagh or at Fair Head but here I am standing on a load of fly-pestered shite on the outskirts of Newry... Another thing to note is that on some days a bunch of lads airsoft each other in the background, and mostly don't shoot at the crag. Mostly. Oh aye and I forgot to mention the whole place has been invaded by giant killer Hogweed from B-movie space that conspires with the sun to turn you into a sentient blister. Jaysus... I'd say we're in one of the lower circles of hell here lads. I say leave it for the birds and the mad men and the county council.

Some nice climbing though if you're up for it."

-John O'Hara, June 2020

Photo: The Moorhill ecosystem, and a climber on *Goin' Back*, VS 4b (R D-K)



## Climbing

All climbing here is traditional. The routes are less than 20 m so a single 60 m rope doubled and used as half ropes will do well. Anchors are mostly excellent, with concrete stanchions left over from the quarrying days at the top of many routes.

Abseiling in and setting up top ropes is wee buns. Gear is generally good, particularly cams/tricams. There are plenty of boreholes (some of which go the full length of the crag) which take a big cam (grey DMM #6/Camalot #4/Friend #4)) or possibly a big hex. All grades are provisional -we can only hope that with enough feedback over time some consensus can emerge. Any stars awarded are purely subjective and are of course relative only to the climbing in the quarry - a 3\* here is not the same as at Fair Head or Ailladie!

## Grade Distribution

≤S	HS	VS	E4	HVS	E1	E2	E3
6	9	10	1	9	7	7	4



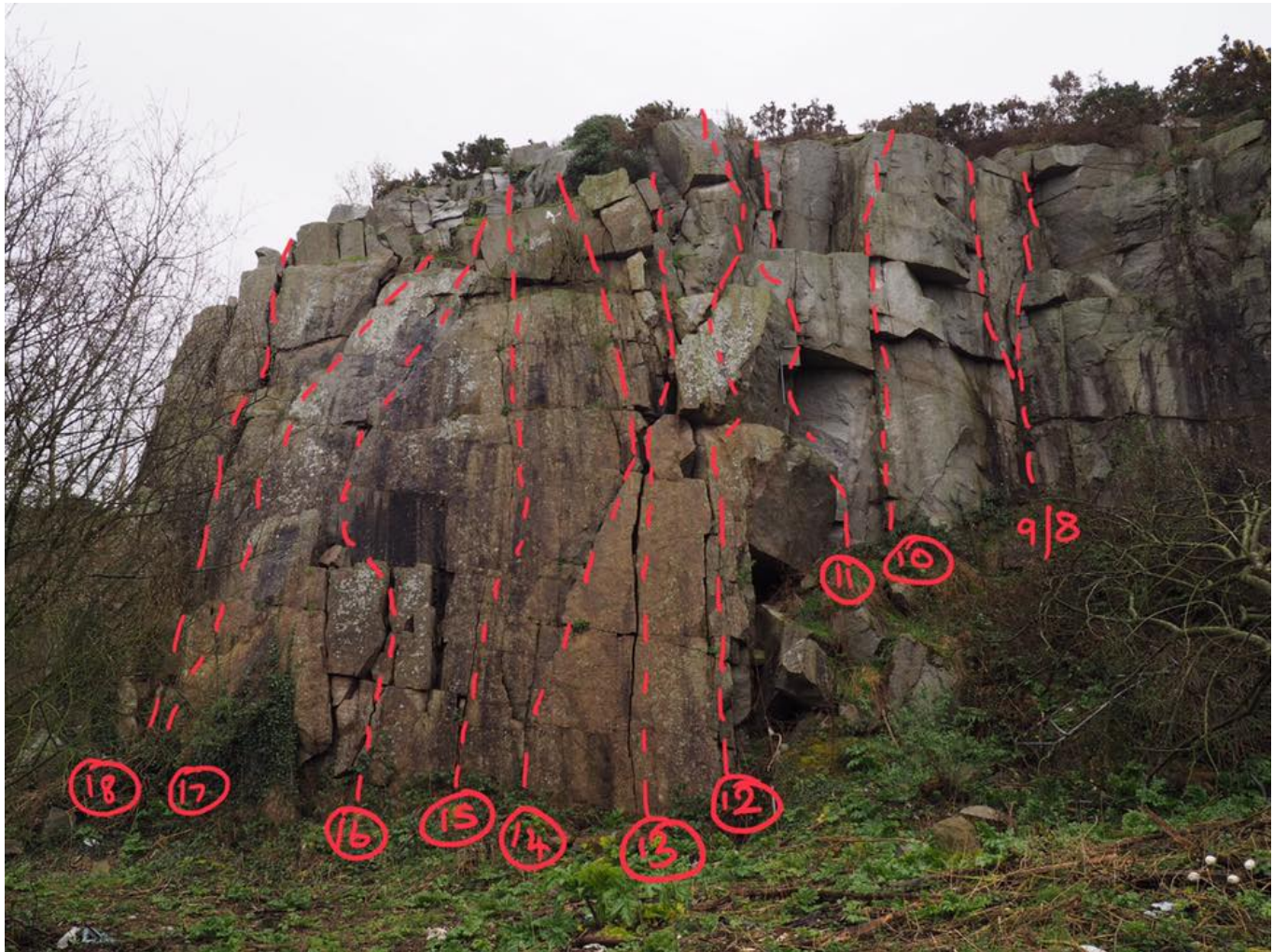
## 4.1 Goin' Back Area



1. **Winterwind** *HVS 5b*  
Hard move low down. Accessed via jungle.
2. **Seeing Things** *E1 5b*  
*C. Sheridan, C. Torrans*  
Arrange gear in the thin crack, step left onto the arête and had traverse left, then up.
3. **Strother Martin** *VS 4c*  
*I. Rea, C. Sheridan, C. Torrans*  
Looks easy, but a strange move at half-height.
4. **Goin' Back** \*\* *VS 4b*  
*I. Rea, C. Sheridan, C. Torrans*  
Very nice. Steep but very positive on lovely angular rock.
5. **The Thing in Itself** \*\* *E1 5c*  
*I. Rea, C. Sheridan, C. Torrans*  
A good route with a bouldery start. Take a big grey cam (DMM #6/Camalot #4/Friend #4). Thin finish. *Photo on front cover*
6. **Hound Dog** \* *HVS 5a*  
*C. Torrans, C. Sheridan, I. Rea*  
Layback up the initial flake, step right onto ledge then pull up onto ramp. Finish easily on the left.
7. **Jamaica** *MS 4a*  
*C. Sheridan, C. Torrans, I. Rea*  
Dirty, needs cleaned.



## 4.2 No Alibi Area



Some jungle-bashing likely necessary to access routes 8 - 11.

8. **Jackdaw HS 4b**  
*C. Torrans, C. Sheridan, I. Rea*
9. **Green Shoots VS 4c**  
*C. Sheridan, C. Torrans, I. Rea*
10. **Midget Gem HVS 5b**  
*I. Rea, C. Torrans, C. Sheridan*
11. **Blue VS 4c**  
*C. Sheridan, C. Torrans, I. Rea*
12. **Strange Harvest VS 4c**  
*I. Rea, C. Sheridan, C. Torrans*  
Climb crack on right of buttress, and go direct over block (slightly eliminate). Finish up arête.
13. **Bronntanas HS 4b**  
*C. Sheridan, C. Torrans, I. Rea*  
Direct up the crack. Aptly named.
14. **Stage Fright HS 4b**  
*C. Torrans, C. Sheridan, I. Rea*  
A bush, although previously chopped, has a tendency to resurrect.
15. **No Alibi \*\* E1 5c**  
*C. Torrans, C. Sheridan, I. Rea, V. McAlinden*  
Thin crux, but small gear abounds. A fine route.
16. **Jigsaw \* HVS 5b**  
*C. Sheridan, I. Rea, C. Torrans*  
A deceptive crux - not too difficult but an uncomfortable distance above your gear. Don the brown trousers and go. Easier but less safe than No Alibi. Succumbing to the temptation of the *Society Max* crack to the left at the crux lowers the grade.





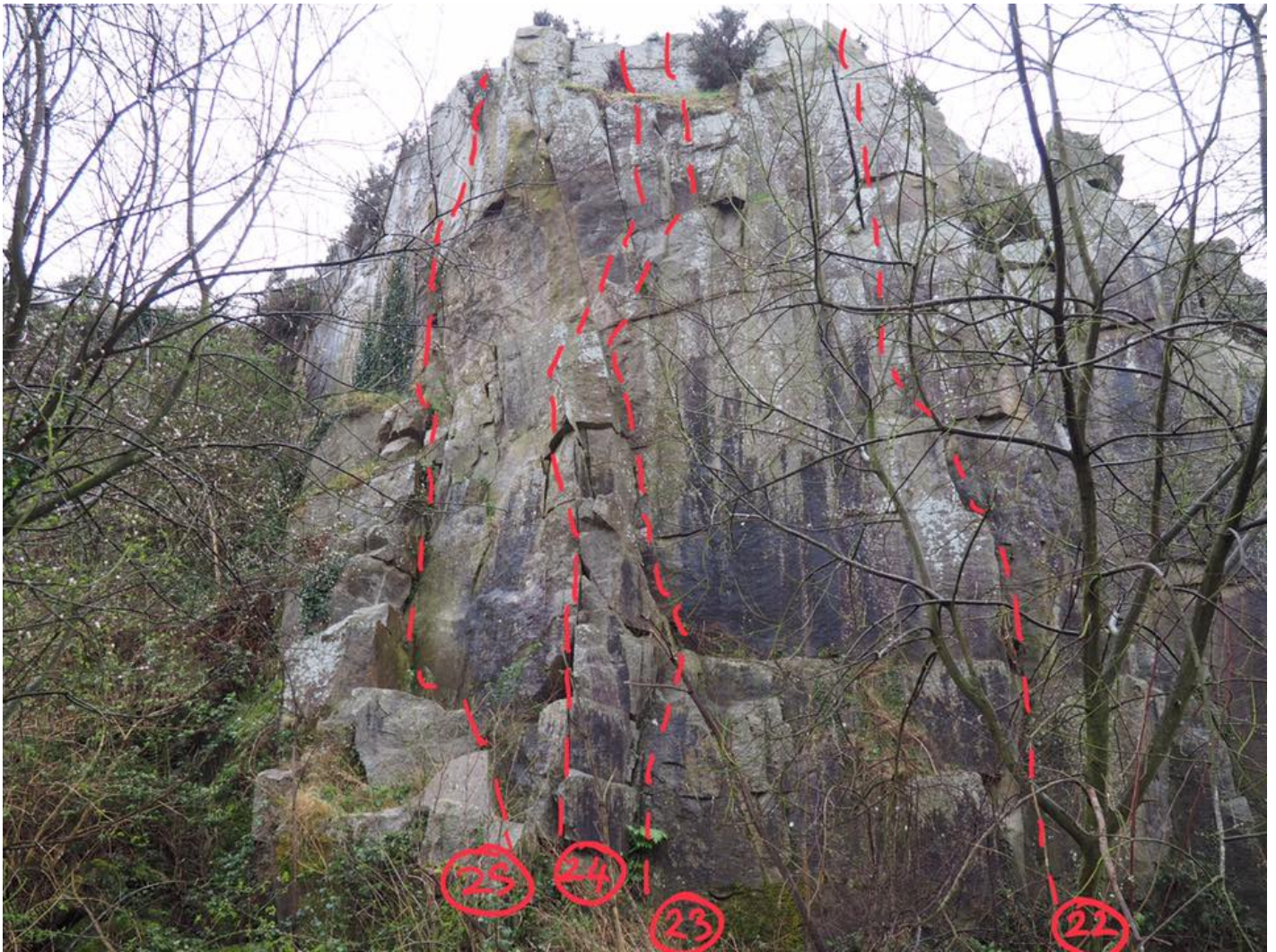


### 4.3 Sullivan's Travels Area



- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>17. <b>Society Max</b> <i>HS 4b</i><br/><i>I. Rea, C. Sheridan, C. Torrants</i></p> <p>18. <b>Shuffle</b> <i>S 4a</i><br/><i>C. Torrants, I. Rea, C. Sheridan</i></p> <p>19. <b>The Reapers</b> <i>HVS 4b</i><br/><i>I. Rea, C. Sheridan</i><br/>No gear until half-height.</p> <p>20. <b>Sullivan's Travels**</b> <i>E2 5c</i><br/><i>I. Rea, C. Torrants, C. Sheridan, V. McAlinden</i><br/>Fine open climbing, reachy at the top.</p> | <p>21. <b>The Triffids**</b> <i>S 4a</i><br/><i>I. Rea, . Sheridan, C. Torrants</i><br/>Nice corner climbing. Beware of potential for birds eggs in upper crack.</p> <p>22. <b>And The Sweetness Thereof**</b> <i>HS 4b</i><br/><i>I. Rea, C. Torran, C. Sheridan</i><br/>Slightly dirty but rather excellent.</p> |
|---|--|





23. **Randolph Scott\*** *HS 4b*

*I. Rea, C. Sheridan, C. Torrans*  
Nice airy finish.

24. **Old Guard** *VS 4c*

*I. Rea, C. Torrans, C. Sheridan*  
The idea was to go more direct, but when you get their it's pointlessly eliminate. A fine, exposed route nonetheless. The crux may be avoiding hogweed at the base.

25. **Curmudgeon** *VS 4c*

*I. Rea, C. Torrans, C. Sheridan*  
Easy blocky groove leads to short, sharp finish. Likely needs cleaned.



#### 4.4 Rising Tide Area



26. **Six and Six** *S 4a*

*C. Sheridan, C. Torrains, I. Rea*

27. **Munin** *S 4a*

*C. Torrains, C. Sheridan, I. Rea*

28. **Hugin** *VS 4c*

*C. Torrains, C. Sheridan, I. Rea*

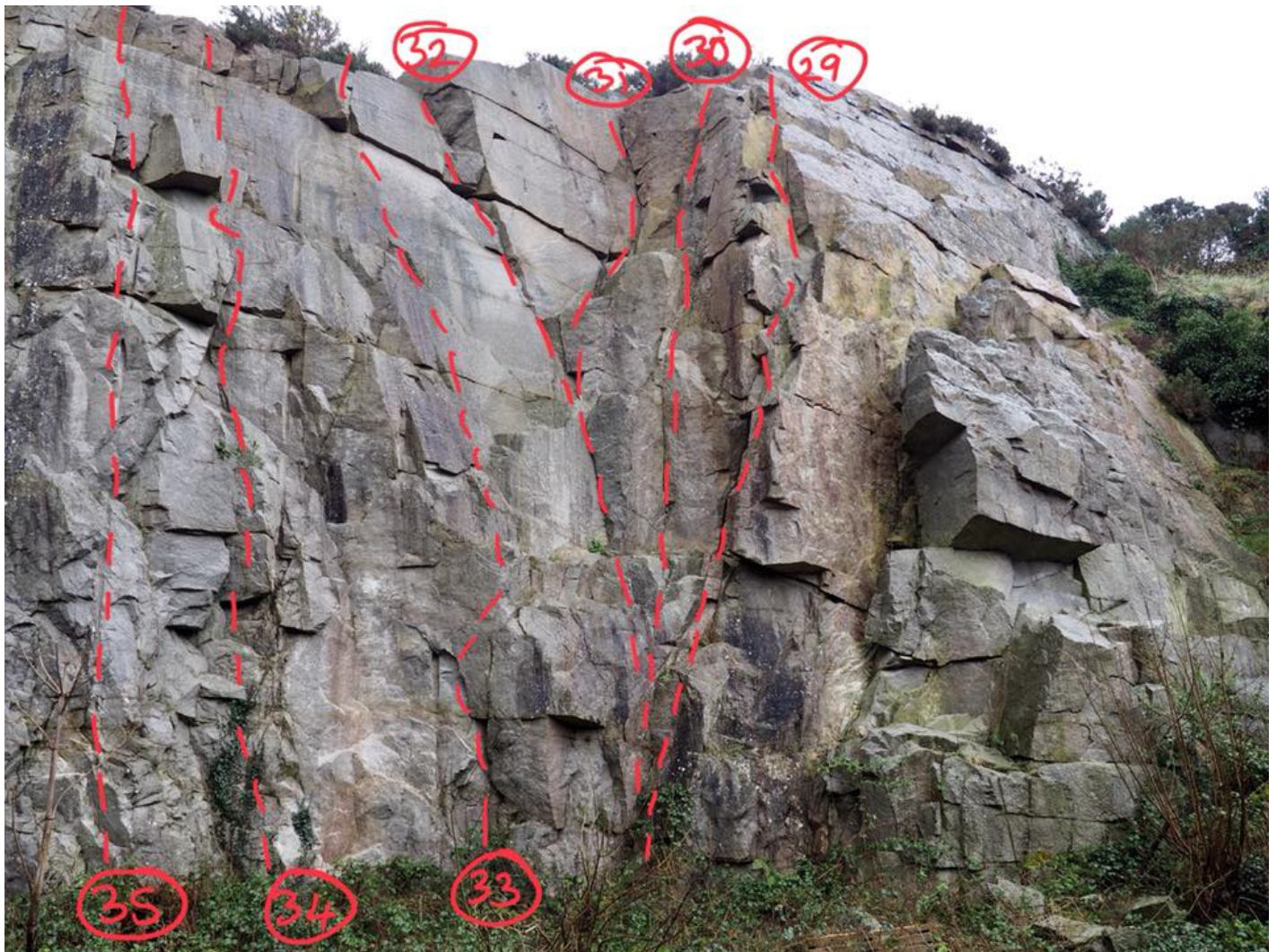
Up behind the big flake then straight up the airy wall just right of the arête. Some of the rock behind the flake may be suspect.

29. **Buster Scruggs\*\*** *HS 4b*

*i. Rea, C. Torrains, C. Sheridan*

Nice, defined, and airy.





30. **Feabhrán** VS 4c

*C. Torrains, C. Sheridan, I. Rea*

The marked finish in the photo may be wrong - if so, finish left. (No name supplied by first ascentionists - please let me know if there is one. Rónán)

31. **Jambalaya** HS 4b

*C. Torrains, C. Sheridan, I. Rea*

32. **Rising Tide\*\*\*** HVS 5a

*C. Sheridan, C. Torrains, I. Rea*

Great, airy finish. Look out for the crag-length borehole.

33. **Scarlet Elves\*\*\*** E2 5c

*C. Sheridan, I. Rea, C. Torrains*

Great wall climbing in upper part.

34. **One Step Up** HVS 5a

*C. Torrains, I. Rea, C. Sheridan*

35. **The Goodseed\*\*** HVS 5a

*I. Rea, C. Torrains, C. Sheridan*

Lovely. Take big grey cam and long sling for bore holes.



## 4.5 Ride Lonesome Area



36. **Fleur du Mal** *E2 5b/c*

*C. Sheridan, C. Torrans, I. Rea*

Hard technical moves with little protection. Small white tricam may be useful.

38. **Sideways** *HS 4a*

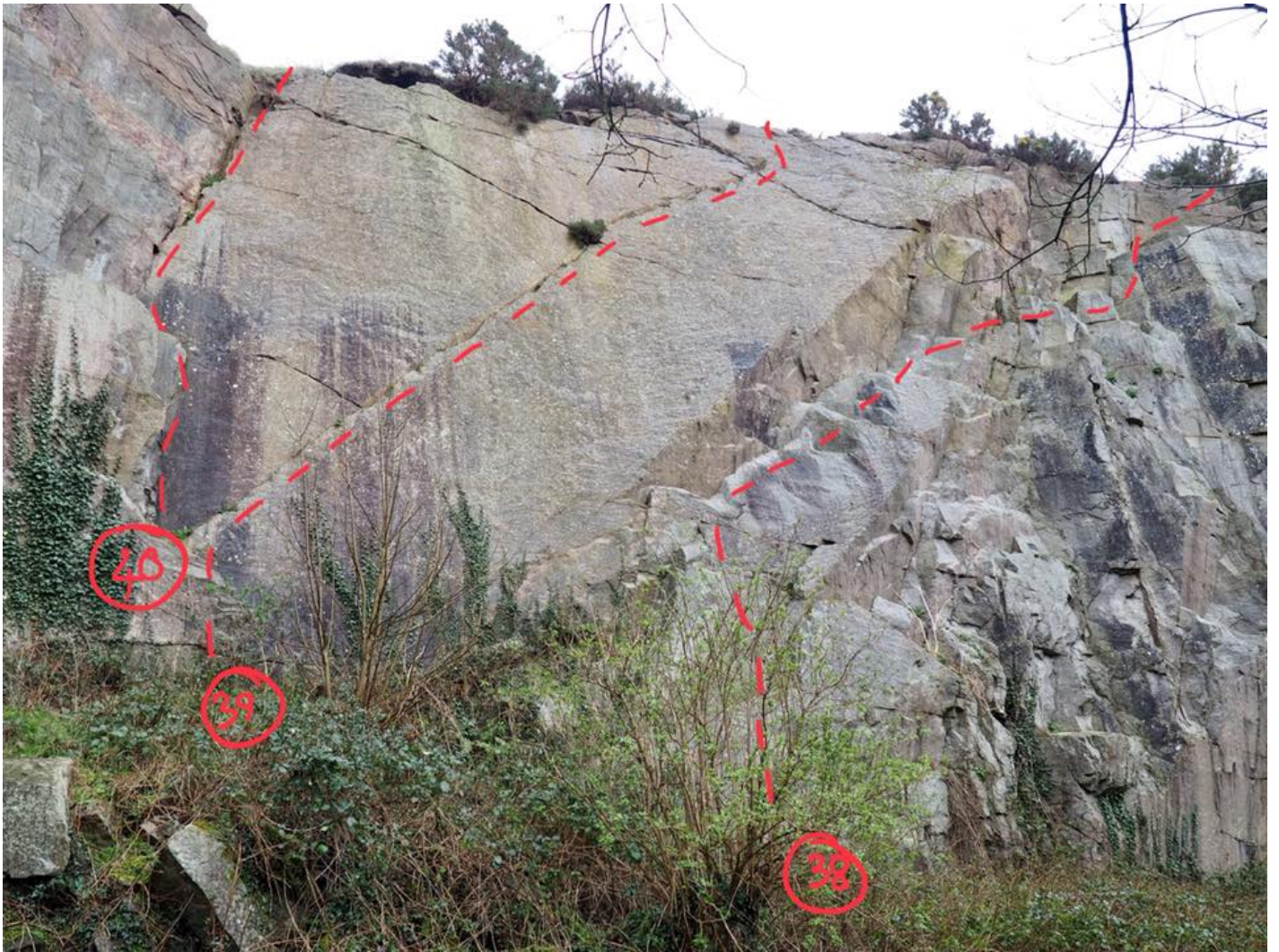
*I. Rea, P. Irwin, C. Sheridan, C. Torrans*

37. **Roughing It** *E1 5b*

*I. Rea, C. Sheridan, C. Torrans*

No gear until about halfway. This and the previous route look scittley but the rock is firm. Bush may need cut at the top.





39. **Ride Lonesome\*\*\*** E3 5c

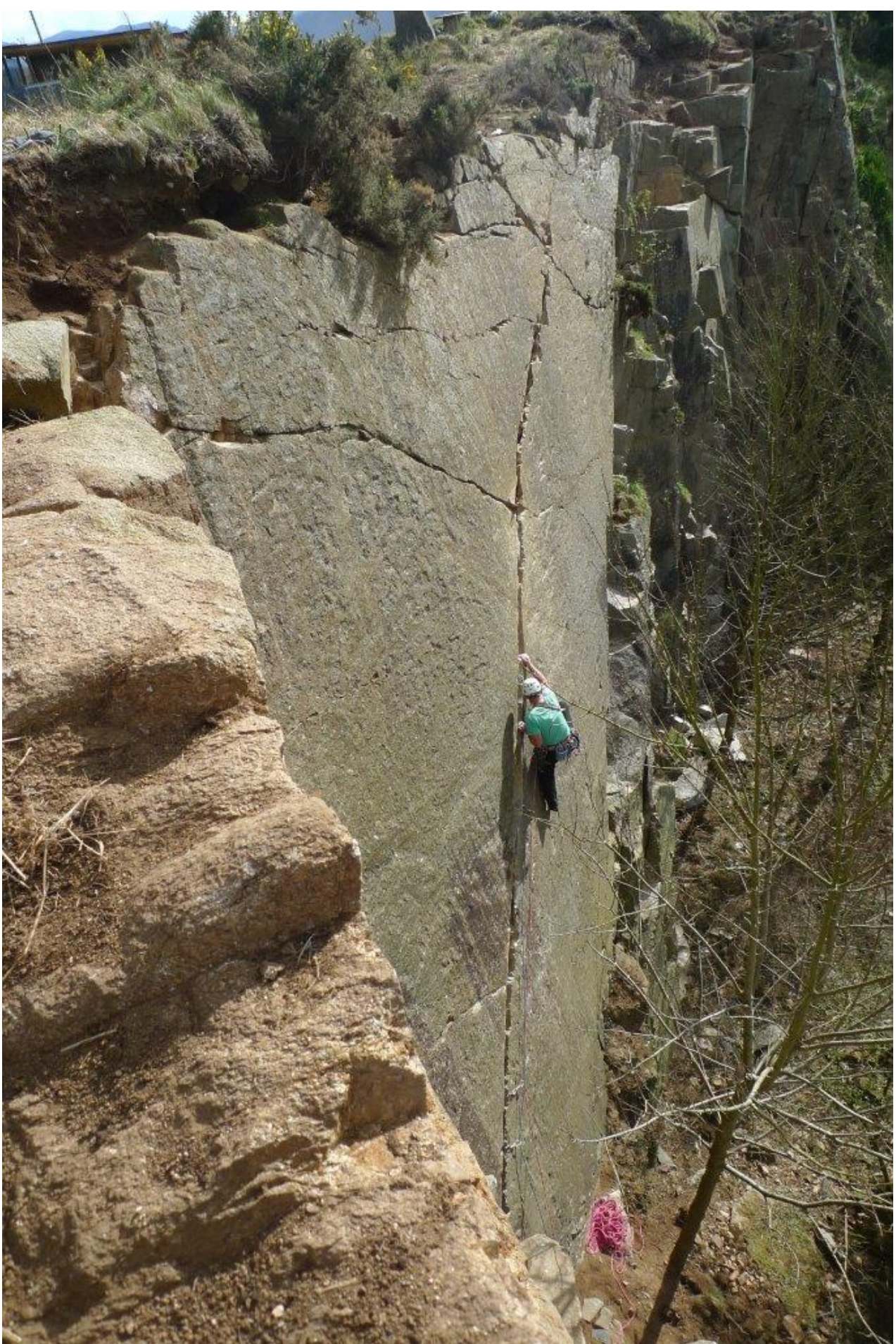
*I. Rea, C. Sheridan, C. Torrans*

Classic. The bush at half height, if there, needs sawn off.

40. **The Land of Spices** VS 4c

*C. Sheridan, I. Rea, C. Torrans*

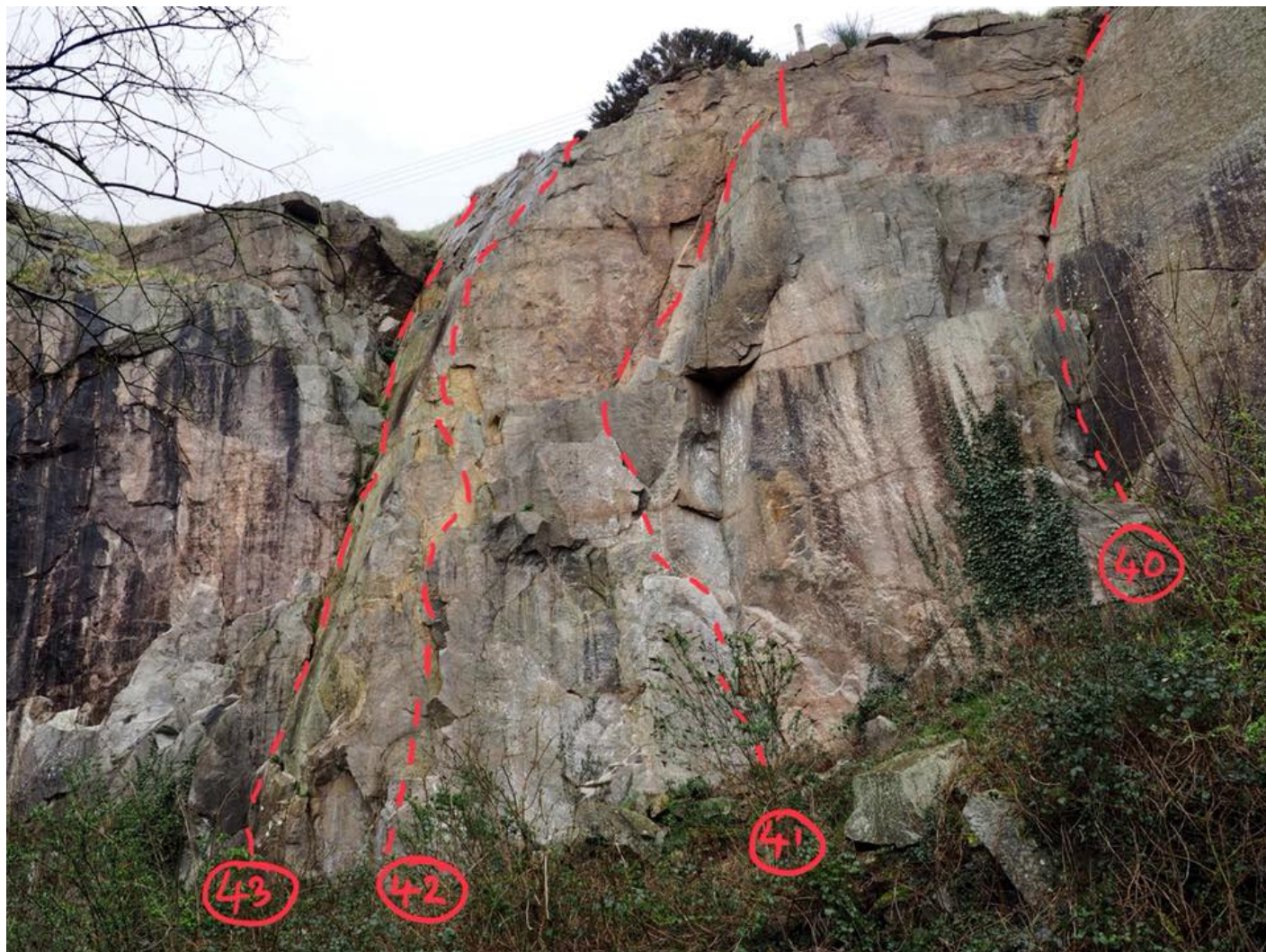




Ian Rea on the first ascent of *Ride Lonesome* E3 5c



## 4.6 Heather Blazing Area



41. **Georgia Peach** *E2 6a*

*C. Torrans, C. Sheridan, I. Rea*

Very hard unprotected move low down. Bouldering mat used on first ascent.

43. **The Hurler on the Ditch** *HVS 5a*

*C. Torrans, C. Sheridan, I. Rea*

May need a quick clean.

42. **Fields of Gold** *E1 5a*

Sparse gear, slightly funky rock, but good moves and positions.





44. **The Heather Blazing\*\*\* E2 5b**

*I. Rea, C. Torrants, C. Sheridan*

Off-hands wrestle. Great. Needs the sapling snapped, but this could be done en-route. Hand secateurs on a sling, je pense. This and the following route were graded E1 on first ascent, but John McDonald did the second ascent of 44, which Ian Rea followed, and his response was "Aye, it is!". Grades may change.

45. **Shelmalier\*\* E2 5b**

*C. Torrants, I. Rea, C. Sheridan*

Super moves left onto nice open face.

The area left of Shelmalier has many trees, making decent photos problematic. Here you will find;

**Flamingos Fly E1 5b**

*C. Torrants, C. Sheridan, I. Rea*

Blank stepped corner below the tree. A hard mantelshelf leads to easier climbing.

**No Cross No Crown E1 5b**

*C. Sheridan, C. Torrants, I. Rea*

The jamming crack up and left of previous route, finishing up the short wall left of tree.

The area left again is more broken. It would be worth a big group clean as it would give a bunch of moderate routes.

There is one existing route up a nice groove below the garden of the house which can be easily exited at the top to the right, this is:

**Celandine S 4a**

*C. Sheridan, C. Torrants, I. Rea*



## 4.7 Iron Hawk Area



### 46. Winchester\* E3 6a

*C. Torrans, C. Sheridan, I. Rea*

You can't keep a good man down. Technical and strenuous.





47. **Buckshot\*\* E3 5c**

*C. Torrans, J. McDonald, C. Sheridan, I. Rea*

Clean, defined moves but very strenuous. No. 9 'Rock' at horizontal break. Excellent.

49. **Colt 45\* E2/3 5b/c (?)**

*C. Sheridan, C. Torrans, J. McDonald, I. Rea*

Very deceptive, everything looks defined and obvious, but very pumpy. Personally, I [I. Rea] would choose the harder option!

48. **Iron Hawk\*\* E4 6a**

*C. Torrans, J. McDonald, C. Sheridan*

The hardest route in the quarry. Rather burly. No slackers. Wee bastard.

50. **Stick It To The Man E2 5b**

*J. McDonald, I. Rea, C. Torrans, C. Sheridan*

A cheeky step right onto a ledge low down enables this grade. I [Ian Rea] cleaned this, and tried to go straight up. Stepping right didn't enter my head. Cheating don't you know. Failure and head melt. Buster took the lead and stepped right. Ya bas.





Clare Sheridan on the first ascent of *Colt 45* (E2/3 5b/c)