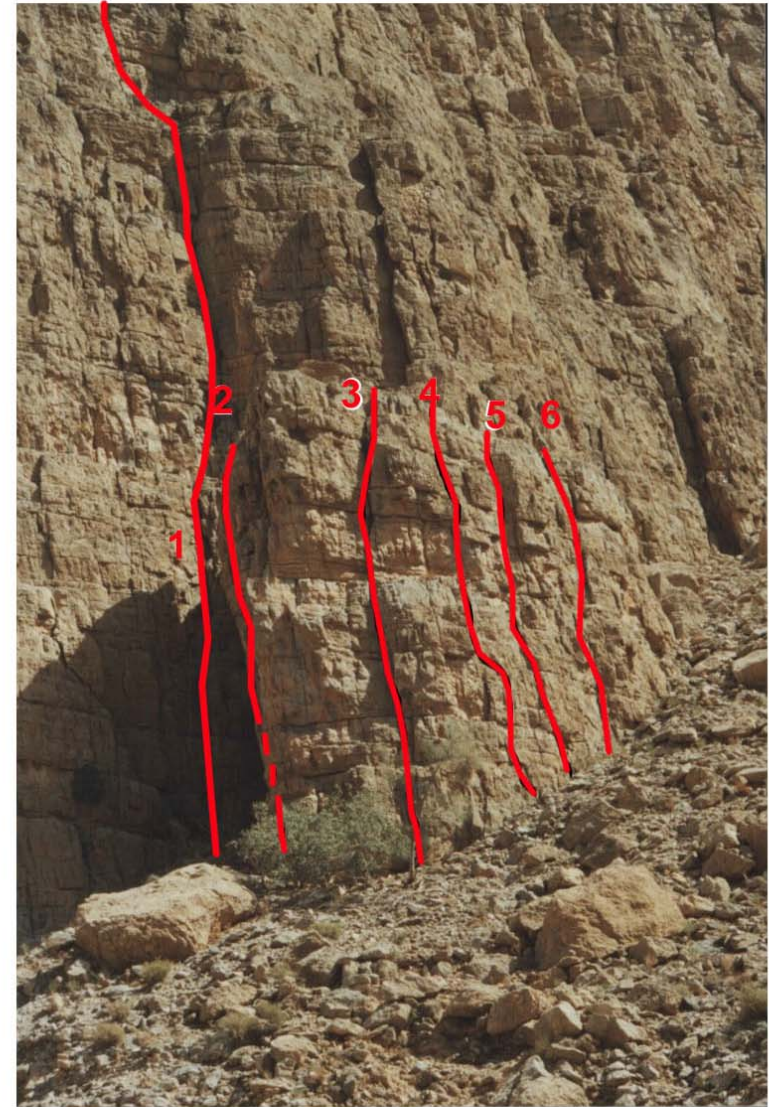


EIGHTEEN STITCHES BLOCK



EIGHTEEN STITCHES BLOCK

The semi - detached buttress lies just up the scree slope around to the right of 90 Metre Crag. It gets its name from the number of stitches one unfortunate needed after a loose block came away. There are five routes, two of which have been top roped and three led. All are the work of Gordon Rech and friends. Well worth a few hours climbing. Names of the climbs are from left to right Mission Impossible (Not Climbed), Organ Transplant E2, Bloody Mary HS, Emergency Room S, and I'm a looser Baby VDiff. There are belay bolts and chains, and the routes are suitable for top roping. – Some have been equipped as sports routes.

There are three routes round to the left of the Mission Impossible rib. Mission Impossible has been top roped.

1 Playboys
2 Mission Impossible

3 Organ Transplant
4 Bloody Mary

5 Emergency Room
6 I'm a Looser Baby

MIDSUMMER WALL

Located between 90 Metre Crag and Spice World, these buttresses are at a high level, directly above a bulldozed area (possible campsite). To the left is a steep face, in the centre is a deep chimney, and to the right of this is a more broken face. The deep chimney has yielded the following route.

SLEEPING BEAUTY 60m Sev.

T Richards , A.Stark 1999 July 2nd

- 1 35m Climb the deep chimney with difficulty in places to a good stance and belay.
- 2 25m The continuation is much easier. Belay just below the top.

There is no short descent from the top of this buttress, with alternatives being a long walk rightwards to the descent gully from the left end of 90 Metre Crag, or contour leftwards around the hillside above all of the Spice World crags, to descend beyond the left end of Lost Camp Buttress.

SPICE WORLD

Spice World is 10.8 kilometres from the Army post. The main crag and boulders are just off the right-hand side of the track. Climbs have also been done on the two crags to the left of the road. The area contains the greatest concentration of hard routes in the whole of Wadi Bih. The main crag, which is north east facing only catches the sun early in the morning and even in summer enjoys a lot of shade. A fun spot with some very good traditional lines, a classic bolted line and some superb high standard bouldering. There are a number of distinct areas that are described in relation to the main concentration of boulders -- Spice Boulders.

To the far right of the boulders is a long undercut, broken buttress, **CARTOON STRIP**, which is a shady place even in midsummer.

Behind the Boulders, Right of the main face, is the detached pinnacle taken by **THE BLADE**.

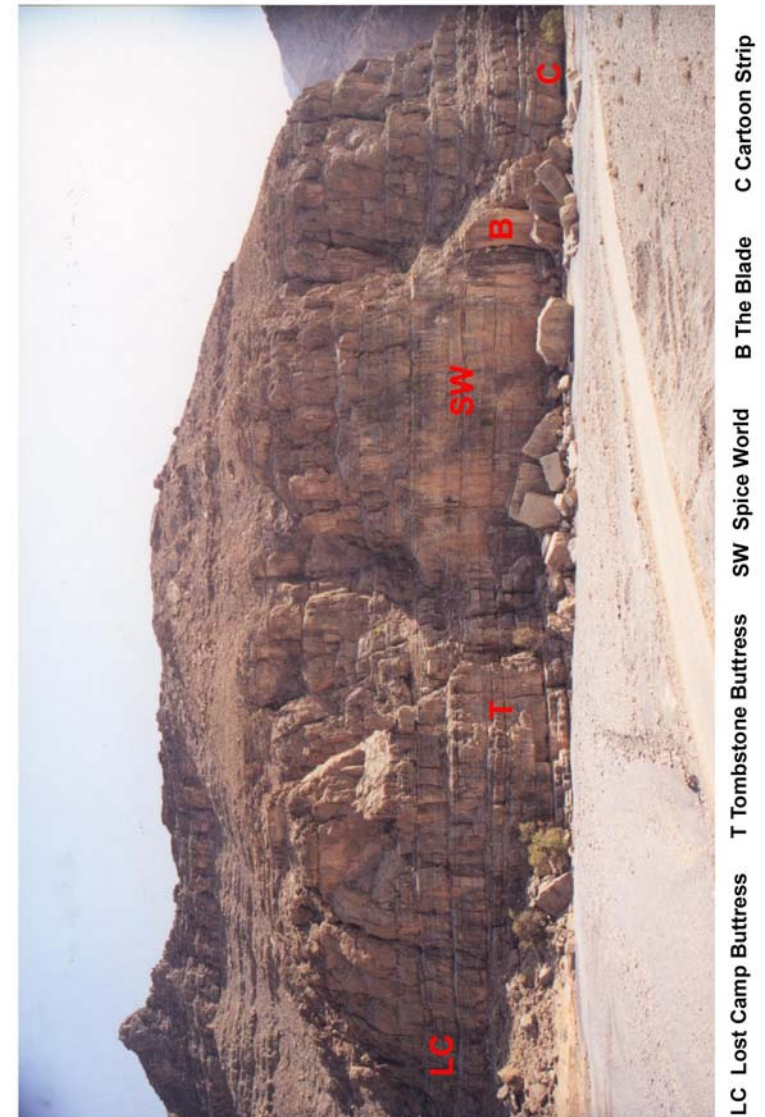
SPICE WORLD -- MAIN FACE is the smooth face directly behind the boulders, ending in a deep gully on its left hand side.

Beyond the gully, **TOMBSTONE BUTTRESS**, is identified by the large detached obelisk on its crest.

Left of Tombstone Buttress, the crag bends round the hillside, gradually becoming more broken. There once was an excellent camping spot on a level sandy area, but this has now been excavated for roadmaking material, and all that remains of the campsite is an ugly scar. Above this is **LOST CAMP BUTTRESS**

The various faces are described in order of approach up the wadi -- ie from right to left.

SPICE WORLD



CARTOON STRIP



1 Homer 2 You've Killed Kenny 3 Mickey Mouse 4 Tom and Jerry

Situated to the right of a descent gully leading to the upper crags is short wall with a long overhang at about 10 metres. Bolted belay anchors have now been placed above a number of the routes to enable top roping of some of the harder lines. The cartoon strip routes all attempt to break through the roof. There is however one pleasant easy pitch which avoids the overhangs. Easier pitches have also been climbed to the right of the bushes, but were felt unworthy of recording.

HOMER 10m V Diff

A Stark solo 1999 June 26th

Right of the gully is a blunt rib. Climb this directly to a good ledge.

YOU'VE KILLED KENNY 10m E1 5b

T.Kay, J.Gregory, I.Gregory 1999 June 18th

Start 8 metres right of the descent gully. Climb a short wall to a hooded overhang, step right and pull up with difficulty into the scoop and continue straight up over the top bulge.

MICKEY MOUSE 10m E1 5b

J.Gregory, I.Gregory, T.Kay 1999 June 18th

The first obvious crack line that leans to the right. Climb the crack over an awkward bulge and then more easily to the ledge.

****TOM AND JERRY 15m E2 5c**

I.Gregory, T.Kay, J.Gregory 1999 Aug 14th

A crack line undercut at the start that runs up to a large overhang. A strenuous start on jams leads up to the overhang. Traverse right for 6 metres and then up to the ledge. A very good thought provoking route.

SNAKE EYES 15m HS

I.Gregory, N.Aboud, J.Gregory 1999 Jun 18th

The short chimney crack to the right of the detached block. Climb the crack with smooth walls to a ledge on the right.

FRENCH CONNECTION 20m HVS 5a

I.Gregory, D.McEnery, S.Davidson 20th August 1999

Just to the left of the right-hand descent gully is a corner with a thin crack line and smooth walls. Climb the corner and then continue more easily.

TOMBSTONE BUTTRESS

The buttress lies to the left of a deep gully, which provides a good means of descent.

TOMBSTONE 30m HVS 5a

I.Gregory, J.Gregory 1999 Aug 6th

Climb the obvious crack of Three Dead Souls for 5 metres, and move onto the left-hand wall. Climb diagonally up to the left and follow the crack line over bulges to the terrace. Interesting climbing.

THREE DEAD SOULS 30m E2 5c

I.Gregory, J.Gregory, D.McEnery 1999 Aug 4th

The main crack line that goes straight up to the terrace with an overhang at the top. The crux is the section below the overhang, very awkward.

GRAVEDIGGER 40m HVS 5a

J Gregory, D Mc Enery 1999 Oct 29th

Start from a ledge just right of Three Dead Souls. Climb the crack to the overhang, move right and pull round with difficulty. Continue up the wall, move slightly right and then back left to finish up a steep crack .

SKULDUGGERY 40m HVS 5a

J Gregory, D Mc Enery 2000 May 12th

Start from a ledge at an undercut crack on the right-hand end of the buttress. Climb the crack and up the wall to a break after 10 metres. Traverse 3 metres left into another crack line. Climb this and move up diagonally to the right to gain a crack which leads to the top.

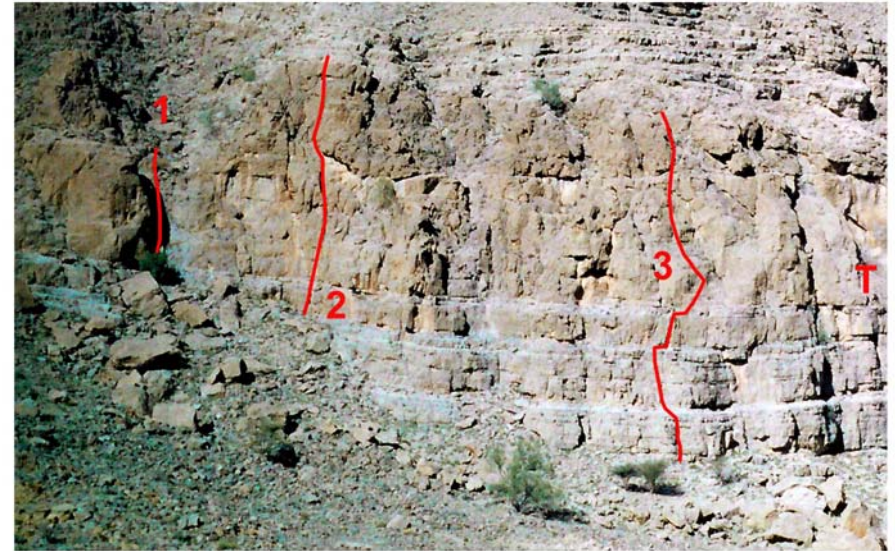
TOMBSTONE BUTTRESS



1 Tombstone 2 Three Dead Souls 3 Gravedigger 4 Skulduggery

To the left of Tombstone buttress, the crag curves round the hillside and becomes more broken. It faces east and due to its easier angle receives a lot of sun, particularly in summer. It lies above what used to be an excellent flat sandy campsite until the vandals of the road construction company ruined it with their bulldozers.

LOST CAMP BUTTRESS



1 Armani 2 Wind Up 3 Down Wind T Tombstone Buttress

Lost Camp Buttress is easier angled continuation of Tombstone Buttress, which is separated from the Tombstone climbs by a prominent crack and chimney line. At the left hand end of the eastern flank is a prominent pillar, with a slab to its right.

ARMANI 20m V Diff

A Stark, solo 1999 Jun 26th

Follow the obvious line of flake cracks to the top.

Approx 30m right is an area of steeper rock, with an overhanging crack higher up. 10m to the right of this is a corner crack, with leftward curving groove above.

WIND UP 60m Sev (Hard)

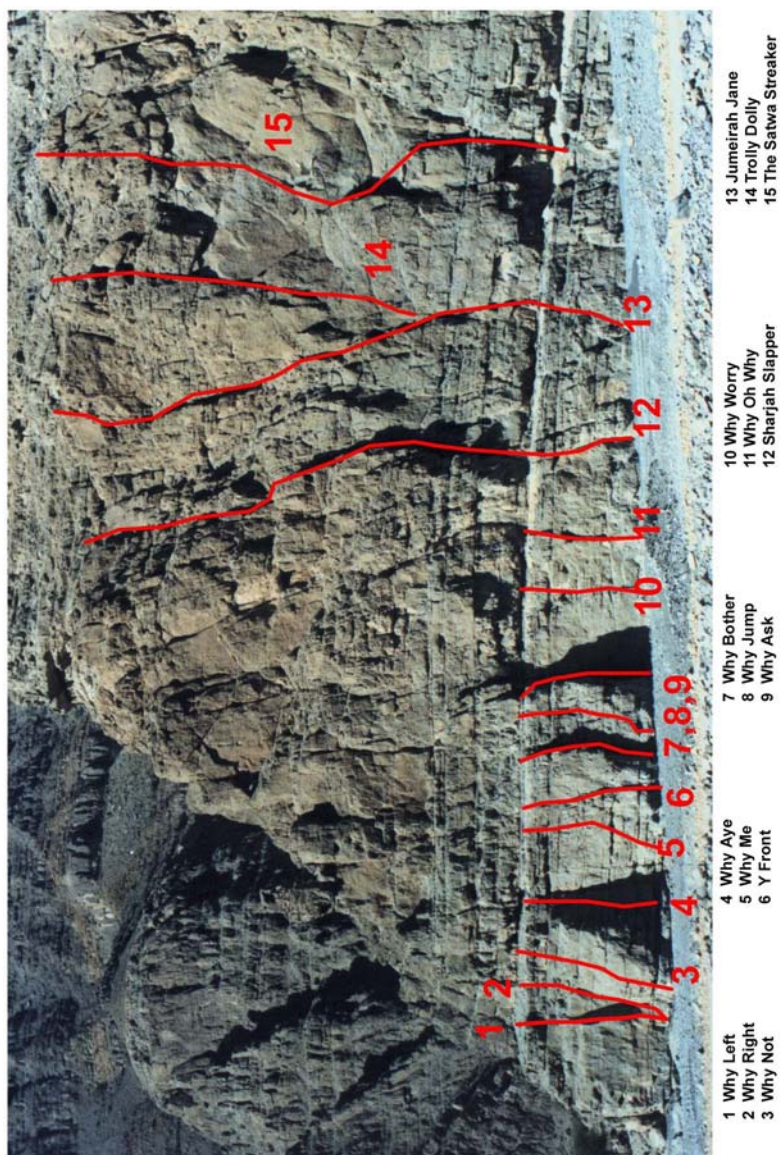
A Stark, D Coustick 1998 Apr 6th

A good route, on generally sound rock.

1 40m 4b Climb the corner in the lower tier to a ledge (no belay). Climb the crack and sloping open corner to the roof. Step left to a good stance and belay.

2 20m 4a Move up left to gain a deep chimney line. Climb directly up the slabby right wall, avoiding the easy scrambling alternative, to a good stance and belay.

EVENING WALL - LEFT HAND



ALTERNATIVE SPICE

This small buttress lies opposite Spice World, behind a small group of disused dwellings. A number of routes have been climbed by JG & DMcE but not recorded.

EVENING WALL

A little further up the wadi, beyond where the main water wash crosses the track, is a long low crag on the left hand side. Ideal for lazy hot summer afternoons (it only gets shade after 2 - 3 pm in midsummer). It has a number of routes suitable for novices and top roping. The wall is some 200 metres long and about 50m high. It is generally set at an easier angle than others in the area and has a number of horizontal ledges cutting across the face. Easy descent routes can be found at either end of the crag. The crag offers a number of routes in the easier grades on fairly good rock, and is suitable for less experienced climbers.

At the left hand end of the crag is a prominent ledge some 8 metres off the ground, which marks the finish of a number of short training routes. These shorter routes were all soloed by a variety of people, (Bill, Annie, Tony, John, Me, etc.) who never bothered to name or claim them, so I've taken the liberty of naming them, to give the kids on courses some encouragement. The level and fairly soft gravel at the base also makes them attractive for soloing, as there are few nasty penalty clauses. Excellent low level traversing problems exist.

6m right of the extreme left end of the crag a pair of cracks form a 'Y'

WHY LEFT 8m **V.Diff (Hard)** 1997

The left hand crack

WHY RIGHT 8m **V.Diff** 1997

The right hand crack

WHY NOT 8m **V Diff** 1997

The thin crack in the right wall

WHY AYE 8m **Mild Severe**

6m right is another corner crack.

WHY ME 8m **Severe**

The wall to the right of the corner

Y FRONT 8m **HVS**

The undercut start is very strenuous. Some technical moves follow.

WHY BOTHER 8m **V Diff**

The pleasant deep corner -- exit left

WHY JUMP 8m **Hard Severe**

The start is 5a but difficulties ease rapidly.

WHY ASK 8m **Severe**

The right angle corner. Exit left at the break below the bush.

WHY WORRY 7m **V Diff**

6m right of the corner.

WHY OH WHY 6m Diff

Right again.

Further right the lower tier loses height, and becomes less broken above the break ledge. The next route starts below a continuous crack and chimney system

SHRAJAH SLAPPER 40m Sev

A Stark, A Whittaker, A Pimm-Smith 1998 August

Start just right of the obvious corner and climb up to gain a broad ledge at 8m. Gain the crack system above and climb this with increasing difficulty until a move can be made right into a niche containing a large perched block (caution). Continue more easily up cracks and slabs to a good stance. Belay

Descent -- scramble upwards over easier ground, trending leftwards to the crest of the ridge. A fairly easy scramble down a gully leads to a straightforward exit.

JUMEIRAH JANE 45m Sev

B Wheeler (solo) 1998 August

About 6m right is another crack system, which though not difficult, contains a fair amount of dubious rock. Climb the crack system until a short vertical section leads to easier ground on the left. Continue up this to the top.

TROLLY DOLLY 50m Sev (Hard)

T Richards, A Pimm-Smith 1999

Climb the previous route, moving right to a diagonal flake crack leading to an overhang, which is climbed directly to the top. An excellent exposed pitch with good protection

The next route starts in a bay above a blunt pyramid of rock with a flake crack above. Scramble to the top of the pyramid.

*SATWA STREAKER 60m VS 4c,4c

2000 August T Richards, A Stark

An excellent first pitch, and a steep finish make this a very good route, which is only marred by some easy but suspect ground in the central section. Will improve with traffic.

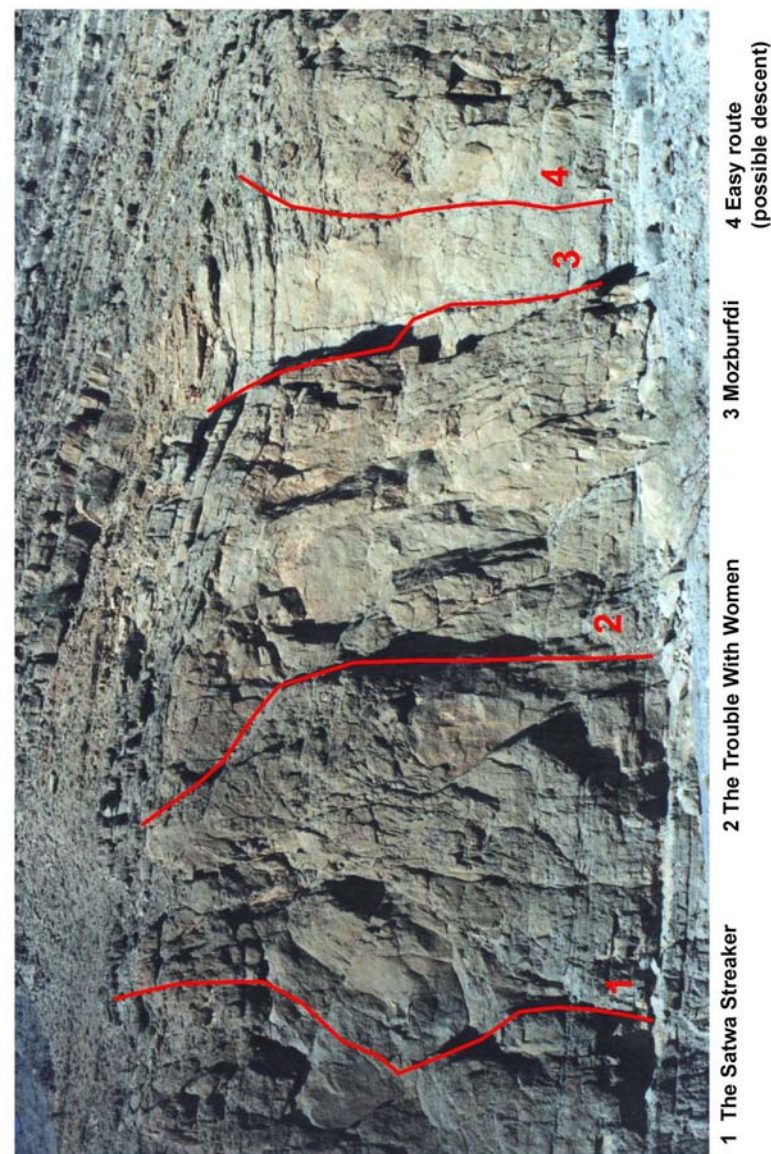
1 25m Climb the flake crack to gain a belay at the base of an easy angled slab.

2 35m Climb easily up the slab to the overhang, which is passed on the left. Continue up the easy angled slab to gain the base of a steep right trending crack, which is climbed to a good stance and belay.

Scramble up about 10 m to the hillside above, from where a long scramble across unstable goat paths leads to the descent at the far right hand end of the crag.

Right of centre are a number of boulders which mark the site of a fairly recent ancient rock fall. To the left of the boulders is an area of fairly clean smooth rock. A prominent vertical flake crack is visible.

EVENING WALL -- RIGHT HAND



***TROUBLE WITH WOMEN 60 m VS 5a**, -T Richards, A Stark, A Pimm-Smith 1998 June 26th
An excellent pitch at the top of its grade, the difficulties are sustained and strenuous, but well protected if you can hang on to fix the gear. The rock is excellent, but watch out for some debris in the upper chimney.

1 Starts at a blunt nose below the flake crack. Climb the blunt nose and move up to gain the flake crack. Climb this by a combination of laybacking, jamming and layaways until an awkward pull gives access to a deep v chimney. Up this carefully until just below the top a move can be made round the sharp edge on the left to gain a ledge on the front of the buttress. Continue easily to a good ledge and belays.

Descent by abseil . (2 good pegs above and right of the belay.)

2 Alternatively from the abseil pegs, climb up the diagonal ramp line to the left to below a crack. Move left to a slab and climb directly up this to the top of the crag. Descent -- follow goat paths to the left, to join the descent for the previous routes. The top of the ridge is difficult to locate from above.

Approximately 30 metres right is a slabby bay.

MOZBURFDI 60m Sev (mild)

B Wheeler, A Stark 1998 July 6th

A pleasant pitch with a definite crux. After a very easy start, it takes a pleasant corner crack at the upper left side of the slab. Protection and rock are generally good.

1 30m Start at a crack at the left hand side of the slab. Climb this and move easily up a wide groove to a stance and belay below the steep upper cracks.

2 30m From the belay move left and up to gain the corner crack. The middle section can either be climbed direct, or (slightly easier) step right and make a delicate move upwards to regain the crack. Move up avoiding a dubious flake on the slab, pull round into a deep V groove to a good stance and belay.

15 - 20 metres of scrambling is then required to reach the rubble slopes at the top of the crag. The direct finish up the crack in headwall above the first belay has not been attempted, as the finish appears to be very unstable.

At the right hand end of the slab is an easy chimney, which unfortunately leads to some unstable rock and an exit with the aid of a swaying tree. It might have been useful as a descent route if the top was not so dangerous to get to. If someone wants to try and make the top safe, they are welcome, but it hardly seems worth the effort.