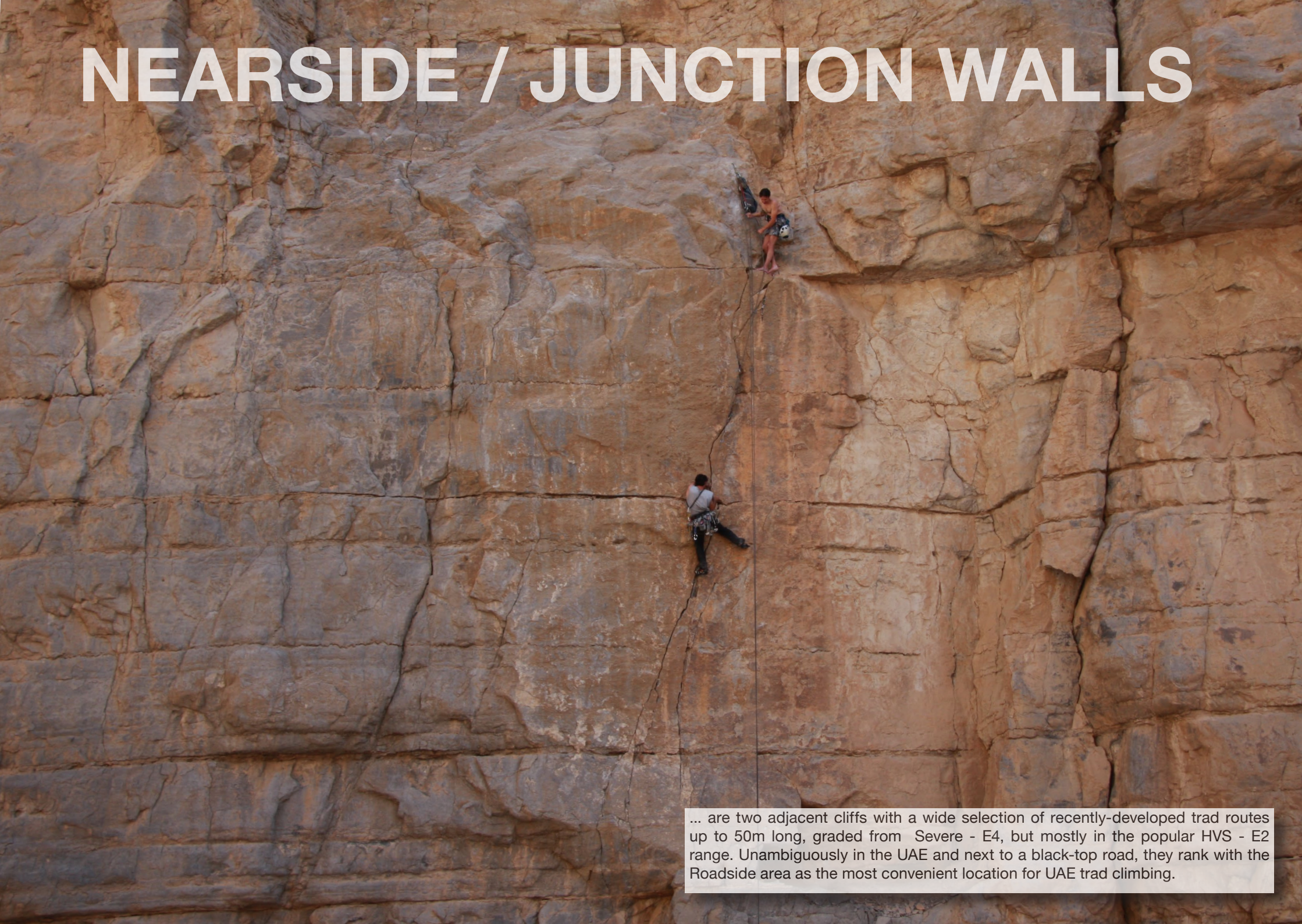
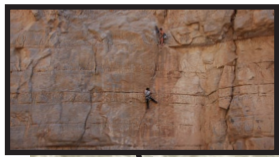


NEAR SIDE / JUNCTION WALLS

A large, vertical rock face made of reddish-brown sandstone with prominent horizontal and vertical cracks. Two climbers are visible: one higher up on the right side and another lower down on the left side, both secured by ropes. The climber higher up is wearing a dark shirt and shorts, while the lower climber is wearing a light-colored shirt and dark pants.

... are two adjacent cliffs with a wide selection of recently-developed trad routes up to 50m long, graded from Severe - E4, but mostly in the popular HVS - E2 range. Unambiguously in the UAE and next to a black-top road, they rank with the Roadside area as the most convenient location for UAE trad climbing.





Overview

The routes are well cleaned and mostly well-protected offering some interesting and enjoyable climbing. A comprehensive rack is required. Double ropes are best for most routes.

The cliffs are predominantly west facing. They enjoy full shade until around 12.30 even during the summer months, then again during late afternoon.


Approach



Start from the Wadi Bih turn, signposted W. Al Baih at the time of writing in 2010,  (UTM 402750E 2851200N) where the plain meets the mountains. The print guidebook describes how to reach this point from the Emirates Road to the south.

Turn on to the Wadi Bih road and follow it up the twisting wadi basin, passing a dam. After 8.0km the wadi opens out into a broad plain where there is a distinct left turn . You may see a sign like this one:



This is the start of the road that will eventually lead to the planned Jebel Al Jais mountain-top resort. (If you encounter the UAE border post before finding this turn, you have driven too far.)

Take the turn and follow the road northwards across the plain then into the more defined Wadi Shahah . At the time of writing (2010) the road is almost entirely black-top but is blocked with one or two short gravel bypass sections.

About 8km from the turn the large Dickinadozer cliff  (see page 59 in the print guidebook) is visible to the right (east). The Nearside/ Junction area  is another 4 km further up the road on the right side. The cliffs should be easily recognisable from the topo photos.

Nearside is the first cliff encountered; Junction is about a hundred metres beyond.

Park carefully on the edge of the road adjacent to the cliffs, avoiding blocking construction traffic.

Nearside far left



1 Little Pee Dee 25m HVS

A leftwards slanting crack is followed to an overhanging and undercut crack to the top.

The bolted line just left of Tim's Tipple is not thought to have been climbed in its current state. It may have suffered loss of holds since its original equipping.

2 Tim's Tipple ★★ 25m E1

A crack line with an obvious block overhang at mid height. Best split into two pitches above the overhang.

Similarly the bolt anchors just right of the stance on Tim's Tipple do not mark a known route.

The **descent** from all the Nearside routes is off to the left (north) and down a ramp with an easy scramble back into the wadi bottom.

Nearside left



1 Wild Goat 30m HVS

Climb the left-hand crack for 10 metres and then move left up over a bulge to a ledge and belay. Climb the left-hand crack from the ledge and up into the open corner above.

2 Sunshade 30m VS

Climb the chimney to the same stance as the previous climb. Continue up the crack on the right to the top.

3 Pete's Corner ★★ 30m VS

An obvious corner which is undercut at the base of the right wall. Climb the corner crack for 8 metres, traverse right for 4 metres, pull over a bulge and follow the crack above to the top.

4 Feathered Friends ★★ 35m HVS

A left facing corner. The crack follows a crack line tending leftwards under overhangs. There is a stance just above mid height.

Nearside centre left



1 Tradistan Incursion ★★★ 40m E4

Climb easily up to a short slab below the obvious overhanging finger crack. Climb this with increasing difficulty to a committing mantleshelf finish onto a small ledge. Either abseil from the chain (recommended) or traverse left carefully to finish up the corner.

The chain a few metres below the final corner of Tradistan Incursion is not part of any established route.

2 Spring Clean ★★ 35m HVS

The next crack to the right. Climb it direct with a stance just below the large overhang on the right. Traverse off to the left along a narrow ledge.

3 Ooh Aah Cantona ★★★ 40m E1

Start up an east sandy crack to an overhang. Move left up and around the overhang and continue to a stance just above a large block. From the stance climb the right-hand crack up to an overhanging corner. From the top of the corner step right with difficulty. Follow the crack to the right and upwards and finish up the wall above tending leftwards.

4 Pimms in the Pool ★★★ 40m HVS

The climb starts under the left-hand end of a large overhang. Climb up the left of the overhang and continue up a thin crack to a ledge and belay. Continue delicately for 3m and move up rightwards across the wall past a loose looking flake. Continue up another thin crack line to a horizontal crack. Traverse left into a flake crack to the top.

Nearside central right



1 Candyman ★ 40m VS

An obvious crack line that finishes up a corner to the left of a large overhang at the top

2 Cocaine Blues ★★★ 40m E2

A direct line up through a series of bulges and overhangs, a fine challenging climb. Starts easily up a crack before moving rightwards to a block. Continue up the corner to a stance below a bulge. Follow the crack line to the top.

3 Happy Wanderer ★ 40m VS

Lightish marks on the rock indicate the start. Follow a shallow crack line up to a corner crack above. After 15m traverse around the right into another corner and stance. Climb this corner to an overhang. Step around to the right and pull over into the open groove above. Climb this and then more easily to the top.

Nearside around the block



1 Irish Tea Party 40m VS

A crack line 10m to the left of the very large block leaning against the wall. The climb starts up the left-hand side of a hanging block. Follow the crack for 10m and traverse left into another crack line and up to a ledge and stance. Climb up behind the stance to another ledge and wider crack, climb this and then up to the top tending first leftwards and then back to the right.

2 Neighbour of the Beast 40m VS

Climb a line of weakness behind the block to a stance on top of the block. Follow the easiest line on the wall above.

3 Project 40m

The magnificent groove line.

Nearside far right



No routes yet

Nearside first ascents

LITTLE PEE DEE	John Gregory, Dee McEnery May 2009
TIM'S TIPPLE	John Gregory, Tim Richards May 2009
WILD GOAT	John Gregory, Tim Richards June 2009
SUNSHADE	John Gregory, Celine Adriaenssens June 2009
PETE'S CORNER	Pete Aldwinkle, Guida Vershute 2007??
FEATHERED FRIENDS	Ian Gregory, John Gregory May 2009
TRADISTAN INCURSION	Toby Foord-Kelcey, Aiden Laffey September 2010
SPRINGCLEAN	Ian Gregory, John Gregory July 2009
OOH AAH CANTONA	Ian Gregory, Dee McEnery, John Gregory July 2009
PIMMS IN THE POOL	Ian Gregory, John Gregory August 2009
CANDYMAN	Ian Gregory, John Gregory June 2009
COCAINE BLUES	Ian Gregory, John Gregory September 2009
HAPPY WANDERER	John Gregory, Dee McEnery July 2009
IRISH TEAPARTY	Ian Gregory, John Gregory July 2009
NEIGHBOUR OF THE BEAST	Aiden Laffey, Tim Richards ? 2010

Junction far left



1 Christmas Crack 15m E2

Start from the very left-hand end of the wall in the side wadi. Climb the steep crack line to the left of an overhang. There is a narrow vertical pocket to the right of the crux section.

2 Mud Bath 20m VS

The next obvious crack line to the right, climbed direct.

3 High Diver 30m E1

A crack line 20m to the right. Straightforward climbing to a stance on the left, continue up the main crack line over a bulge with difficulty.

4 Penny Lane ★★★ 25m E1

A large detached block forms a chimney, immediately to the right is a corner crack. Climb this crack with some wide bridging in the middle section and a strenuous finish to a ledge near the top. Scramble easily to finish.

5 Spaghetti Junction ★ 30m HVS

An obvious open corner is climbed to a bulge which is passed to the right and up to a stance a few metres higher. Climb the cracks above the stance avoiding the wider crack on the left.

5 Chimney Crack 30m HVS

Climb the wide chimney to a stance on top of large blocks. From the stance climb the crack in the corner and up past an overhang about 6m from the top.

The **descent** from all the Junction routes is leftwards along the top of the wall and then diagonally down to the right.

Junction left



1 The Sidings 40m VS

Climb a chimney crack for 15 metres to a ledge and stance on the right. Continue up over a bulge and follow the crack line to the top.

2 Sidings Direct 20m E3

The steep crack just to the right of the initial chimney.

3 No Speeding ★★ 40m E1

Climb the crack and after 10m move leftwards across to another crack line and stance. Continue up this crack line which becomes thinner and finish through the overhang near the top.

4 Leapfrog ★★ 40m HVS

The same start as the previous climb but climb straight to the ledge and a stance below a crack line slightly to the right. Climb this crack which becomes thinner and more difficult, good climbing all the way to the top.

5 Firebox ★ 40m E1

A crack line with an overhanging start. Climb the crack line to a stance at 15m and continue above with more difficulty. Move slightly right and then up the wall until it is possible to move leftwards and finish up the final section of the previous climb.

6 Great Western ★★★ 40m HVS

Start just right of an overhang. Climb the crack to a stance and continue in the same line direct to the top, excellent climbing.

7 Highwayman ★ 40m HVS

A very obvious crack line. Climb the crack all the way to the top. There is a good stance at around 20m, plenty of hand jamming practice!

8 Orient Express ★★★ 40m E1

Start some 8m to the right of the last climb. Move up into a left facing corner to a good stance. Move left for three metres into a shallow corner which leads up to a thin crack line to the top.

9 The Groin ★ 40m E1

The crack line just left of Armbar Lane. Climb a corner and then over a difficult bulge to a stance. Continue up the steep crack line behind the stance to an overhang. Climb around this to the left and move across the wall to follow another small crack which is followed passing to the left of a large overhang to the top.

Junction centre



1 Armbar Lane ★★ 40m E3

An obvious left facing corner. Climb the chimney to a stance. Continue up the off width crack above with some difficulty and follow this crack line all the way to the top.

2 Rolling Stock ★ 40m VS

Start 10m to the right of Armbar Lane up a shallow left facing corner. Climb the corner and continue up to the horizontal ledge and stance. Climb the left-hand crack behind the stance and follow this to the top.

3 Clapham 40m HVS

Start at another shallow left facing corner into a more obvious corner to a good stance. Climb the crack behind the stance for about 5m and then move left for 3m into another crack line. Climb this to ledge and move around to the right and easily to the top.

4 Easter Crack 30m HVS

An obvious slightly recessed twin crack line. Scramble up to the ledge at 15 metres. Climb the cracks above.

The next five climbs can all be started from the ledge at 15m apart from Boy Racer and Overhung Hangover which have the option of a first pitch.

Access to the ledge is by an easy climb/scramble up a short wall to the right of the large jammed block below Easter Crack. The ledge is generally easy but does require a bit of hands on work in a couple of places. For anyone not comfortable traversing the ledge the routes further along to the right can be accessed by any one of the first pitch alternatives.

Junction right



1 Boy Racer 40m VS

Climb the obvious left facing corner to the ledge and belay some 4m to the right under an overhang. Climb the short corner above, step left and up onto the next ledge and traverse left for 3m. Take the obvious line above following thin cracks. Climb the wall to the right of the overhang at the top.

2 Overhung Hangover 40m HVS

An easy first pitch leads to the ledge and belay below a wide overhanging crack. Climb up to the overhang which is awkward to access. Continue up steeply for a short distance and then move around to the left into a thin crack line which is followed to the top. Take small cams for the finishing moves.

3 Le Detour 25m HVS

The route starts on the ledge about 8m right of Overhung Hangover. Climb up to an overhang on pockets, then into a scoop. Traverse left along a ledge for about four metres and continue to move up leftwards to briefly join Overhung Hangover. Climb directly over an overhang above and move back rightwards to a loose looking block. Climb onto this and continue directly to the top.

4 French Connection 25m HVS

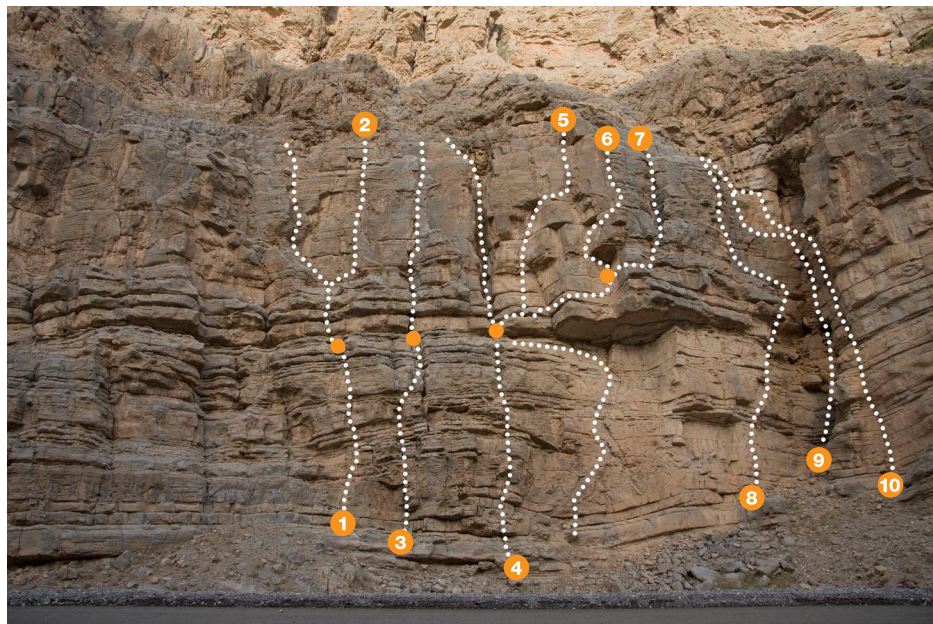
Starts some 10m to the right of Le Detour. Climb easily up a crack through horizontal ledges and continue in the same line to where it becomes steeper. After another 6m traverse to the right on poor footholds and continue up the next crack line moving right again towards the top.

Continue along the ledge for about 25m around a corner to the start of the next climb.

5 Rob's Dilemma 25m HVS

Climb through horizontal ledges to a ledge below a steep corner. Climb the corner, strenuous, and move left above to another ledge. Follow the two thin cracks and corner above to the top, delicate climbing on good rock with adequate protection.

Junction around the cave



- 1 Pavement Cracks Left** 40m Severe
Follow a crack to a ledge and belay. Climb the crack above taking the left-hand line where it forks.
- 2 Pavement Cracks Right** 40m VS
The right-hand option on the second pitch is harder.
- 3 Barefoot Lady** ★ 40m HVS
Start at the right-hand end of the ledge at the top of the scree slope. Climb a short corner and continue straight up to another corner, pull around to the right and up to the belay ledge (Severe). Continue straight above, initially easy, into a steeper crack line, good climbing, to the top.
- 4 Chimney Crack** ★ 40m VS
Start just to the right of a large boulder at the base of the crack. Climb easily to reach a steep crack with a bulge which is awkward to pass and continue to a belay on the ledge below an obvious deep chimney. Climb the chimney direct and exit at the top to the left.
- 5 A Band of Angels** ★★ 45m E2
Start at a dark coloured patch at the base of the wall. Climb up to a short corner and move up rightwards to a large flake. Climb around the flake and continue in

the same line and up slightly rightwards before moving back left under the large overhangs to the stance on Chimney Crack (VS). (It is possible to climb directly through the overhang about 4m before the stance in Chimney Crack but not easy, maybe E2). Climb Chimney Crack for couple of metres before traversing right along a horizontal crack. From the middle of the wall climb easily up to an awkward bulge in the crack above which is followed to a small overhang where it is possible to move across the wall to the right on small holds to another corner which is followed to the top.

The next two routes start from the Chimney Crack stance.

- 6 Swing Low** ★ 50m VS
Start the next pitch as for A Band of Angels but continue horizontally into the corner and follow the horizontals into the next corner and belay. Climb up the corner and around to the left of the overhang above. Follow a short corner to the next smaller overhang which is avoided by traversing to the right to a good ledge. From here it is possible to climb straight up the smooth groove above (poorly protected and about HVS) or move more easily up and across rightwards into a crack to the top.

Junction first ascents

CHRISTMAS CRACK	Ian Gregory, John Gregory - December 2008
MUD BATH	John Gregory, Genny Boni - September 2008
HIGH DIVER	Ian Gregory, John Gregory - December 2008
PENNY LANE	Ian Gregory, John Gregory, Celine Adriaenssens - May 2010
SPAGETTI JUNCTION	Ian Gregory John Gregory - June 2008
CEMETERY JUNCTION	John Gregory, Celine Adriaenssens - October 2008
THE SIDINGS	John Gregory, Dee McEnery - May 2008
	Direct start Andrew Labonte, Shahan Contractor - January 2010
NO SPEEDING	Ian Gregory, John Gregory - June 2008
LEAPFROG	Ian Gregory, John Gregory - June 2008
FIREBOX	John Gregory, Dee McEnery - July 2008
GREAT WESTERN	John Gregory Dee McEnery - June 2008
HIGHWAYMAN	Ian Gregory, John Gregory - July 2008
ORIENT EXPRESS	Ian Gregory, John Gregory - September 2008
THE GROIN	Ian Gregory, John Gregory - January 2010
ARMBAR LANE	Andrew Labonte, Dee McEnery - June 2009
ROLLING STOCK	John Gregory, Celine Adiaenssens - August 2008
CLAPHAM	Ian Gregory, John Gregory - October 2008
EASTER CRACK	John Gregory, Dee McEnery - January 2010
BOY RACER	John Gregory, Dee McEnery - January 2010
OVERHUNG HANGOVER	John Gregory, Tim Richards - January 2010
LE DETOUR	John Gregory, Dee McEnery, Genny Boni - January 2010
FRENCH CONNECTION	John Gregory, Carla Hansen - February 2010
ROBIS DILEMA	John Gregory, Dee McEnery - April 2010
PAVEMENT CRACKS LEFT	John Gregory, Dee McEnery - May 2010
PAVEMENT CRACKS RIGHT	John Gregory, Dee McEnery - May 2010
BAREFOOT LADY	John Gregory, Dee McEnery - May 2010
CHIMNEY CRACK	Ian Gregory, John Gregory, Genny Boni - June 2010
A BAND OF ANGELS	Ian Gregory, John Gregory - July 2010
SWING LOW	John Gregory, Dee McEnery - September 2010
SWEET CHARIOT	John Gregory, Dee McEnery - September 2010
SURGICAL HANDS	Andrew Labonte, Dan Cieszynski - October 2010
ANGEL DUST	Ian Gregory, John Gregory, Dee McEnery - September 2010
JUCY LUCY	Ian Gregory, John Gregory, Dee McEnery - September 2010

- 7 Sweet Chariot** 50m VS
As for Swing Low for the first pitch or start from the belay at the end of the first pitch. Follow Swing Low to the stance above the overhangs. Climb 2m up the corner above the stance and hand and foot traverse to the right and up onto a ledge. Climb from the ledge up and around to the right and finish up an easy chimney.
- 8 Surgical Hands** ★ 35m E4
The obvious steep crack line leaning rightwards to the left of the cave. The crack leads to a ledge and belay after 25m. Go left along the ledge for about 6m to a crack line leading to the top.
- 9 Angel Dust** ★ 35m HVS
Climb the right wall of the cave entrance easily to an interesting overhanging fluted rock formation. Climb over this with difficulty, then continue to where it is possible to traverse about 8m leftwards to a ledge. Climb the short darker coloured wall to the above.
- 10 Juicy Lucy** ★★ 35m HVS
The obvious crack line to the right of the cave. Follow this and tend leftwards on easier ground above where it is possible to traverse left for 3m. Climb the first crack and traverse leftwards to the belay.