

Mount Alexandra

A ROCKCLIMBING GUIDE TO A CLIMBING AREA IN MITTAGONG



Steve Hawkshaw on Biafra 26, First Cave, Mount Alexandra. © Justin Jefferson

The Low Down

The climbing at Mount Alexandra offers a wide range of styles, varying from thought provoking slabs to pumpy rooves. It has some remarkable rock features. The easy (2 minute) access also helps to make it great climbing spot. Most of the routes here are sport routes but there are some routes that require gear. When required, natural protection is generally solid however small wires will rip more easily than in some other sandstone areas.

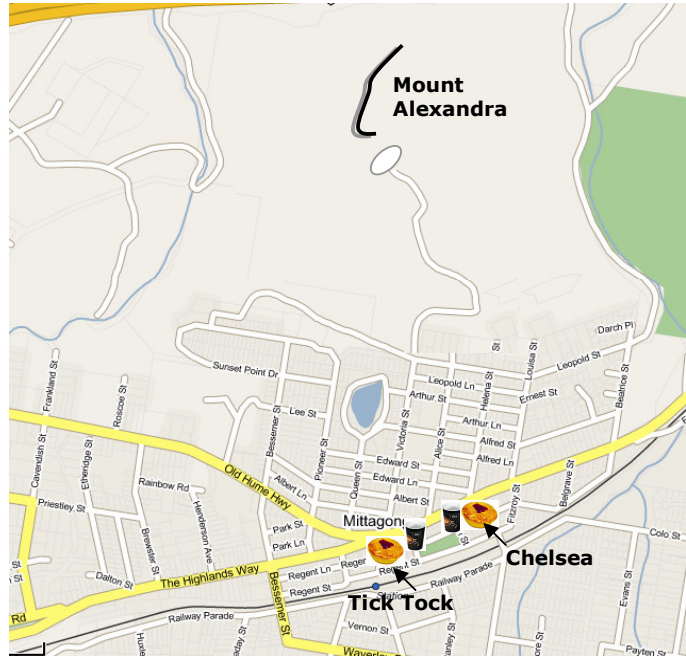
The Highlights of Mount A	
Los Hermanos de la Denitente	23
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Climate

Mount Alexandra is located in the southern highlands so is generally a bit cooler than Sydney. The crag faces generally North West though so can be hot in the sun. The good thing is the top cave gets hardly any sun so can be cool even if it's hot and also the climbs stay quite dry here so you can climb in the rain.

Access

Jason swears that Mount A is only 45 minutes (He's Dreaming) from Sydney and therefore is a to be considered for half days. The drive will obviously vary depending where you are in Sydney but it's an easy drive down the M5/hume hwy to Mittagong. It's probably slightly over an hour from the city in light traffic. Once in Mittagong stock up on caffeine and pastry and find your way to Victoria Street. Follow this to the end and continue up the steep road that ends at the dirt car park and locked gate. Walk past the gate, turn left and follow the track down veering right to the crag. From the car park to the first climb is a leisurely 2 minute walk.



Important Information

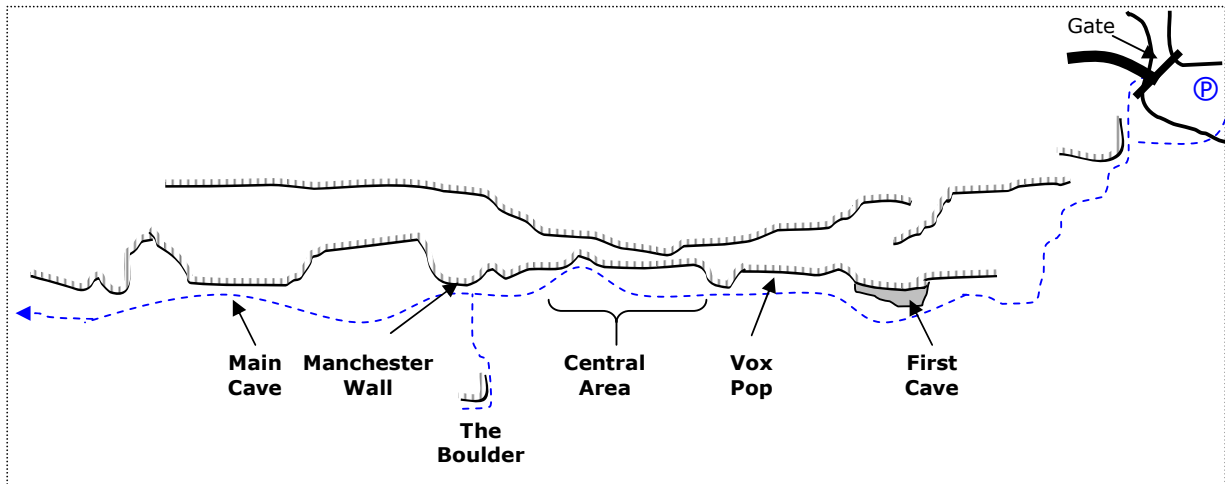
The Tick Tock café / bakery make good coffee and pies and are located on the main road just before you the main intersection. The only problem is the pies are \$3+. You can also get good pies and coffee from the Chelsea Bakery (cheaper) which is just before you reach the 1st set of traffic lights. You can park right out the front and then take the next right and head up the hill from here. There is good café next door that sell Vitoria coffee and does nice breakys, but these guys don't open that early.

Reading This Guide

The following symbols have been used to provide visual route information.

- ① Route number- corresponding number on topo indicates the location of the route
- ☺☺☺ Indicative Quality of Route
- ☺ Number of Bolts on route (excluding lower off)
- ⑤ U, Ring or Carrot Bolt
- ⚡ Trad Gear Required
- ↓ Route has standard Lower Off
- ↑ Route Tops Out

Area Overview



Acknowledgments

Guides are always a collaborative effort. Thanks to those who have helped out and provided information and photos directly and indirectly including, Original text from Sun, Surf and Sand climbing guide, Jason Lammers, Gavin Murray, Simon Vaughan, Andrew Addison, Justin Jefferson, Cameron Breeze and Ken McKeon.

First Cave

A good looking cave with nice orange rock. There is also some good bouldering along the base. The first two routes are just to the right of the cave. The cave features some of the classic routes at Mount Alex and has some great scoopy rock.

① Snuffs Enuff 15m 20

⑤ B ↓ ☹ ☹

The first route you come to. Simon's finest moment! Tricky start then nice moves thru bulge without using the cave. Then a walk to the anchors.

Simon Vaughan, L. Robinson 2001

② Dancing with Deborah 12m 23

⑤ B ↓

This route was named after a climbers girlfriend. The climber was subsequently placed 'under the thumb' and his climbing was no longer.

Start: 2m left of SE Looks OK, but everyone says its crap. Get on it, and judge for yourself. Up flake and left past fixed hangers. **Hard to clean, to avoid an epic get someone to 2nd you.**

Mark Pauluffchenko

③ Death of a New Car Salesman 12m 20

④ B ↓

Start: Behind Tree. A nice looking line up a desperate Layback move to a glued on hold, a bit tricky to clip the 2nd bolt. Up past 5 RBs to U anchor lower off. Stiff at 20 (could be 21), but guess who bolted it?

Mark Woodard 1997

④ Progress Comes to Shitsville 12m 22

⑤ B ↓ ☹ ☹

Hard at the grade, but nevertheless another fantastic offering by Mr Woodward. Left of DoaNCS, below crack. Up to crack (crux) then up and right to jug. Out roof on jugs to glory. 3 RBs (2nd is hard to clip), clip double RB anchor on lip then continue up and right to lower off as for DoaNCS. Sustained!

Mark Woodard 1998

⑤ Electric Gut Stick Gobblers 12m 24

④ B ↓ ☹

Graham Hill originally Graded it 22 and defied all who thought it was 24 to stand at the bottom of a Joshua Tree 5.10c and still call it 24. Start left of PCTs, below round feature. Up into closed corner and up. Move left and out to double RB on LHdID.

Graeme Hill 29.03.1998

⑥ Party Hat 15m 24

⑤ B ↓

Start up EGSG past 3 bolts. Then push directly up and slightly right and blast thru the roof. Watch out for the tree near the top.

Andy Addison 2006

⑦ Los Hermanos de la Denitente 12m 23

④ B ↓ ☹ ☹ ☹

The Crag Classic !! Solid and sustained wall climbing on great scooped rock and interesting features. Stand up on tree stump, and power all the way thru to roof. Shake out here and show off with a French blow - punch the roof and into the cave, then move up right wards to clip the anchors.

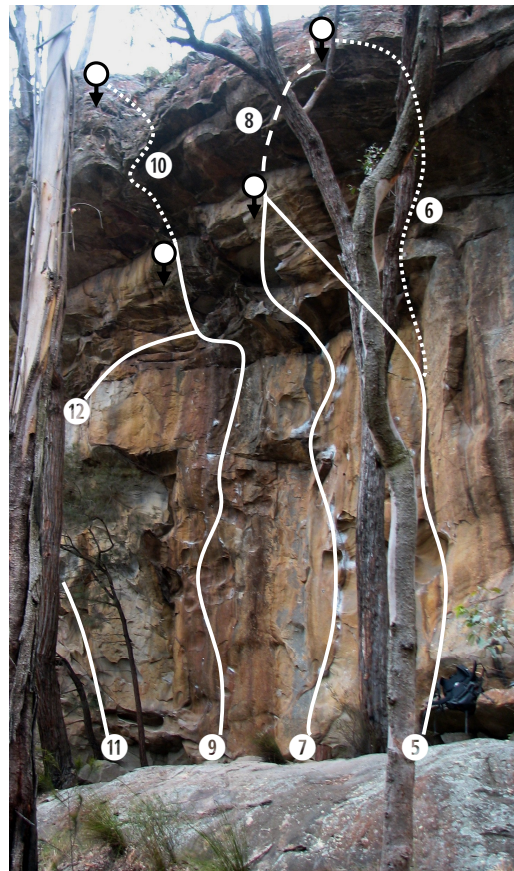
Garth Miller 1992

⑧ Los Hermanos Extention 15m 24

⑥ B ↓ ☹

Clip one of the double rings of LHdLD as a BR. Move up to crimp and big move R past another bolt to flake, the easier to jug and lower offs. Route is finished when your standing on the flake.

Graeme Hill 1998



Biafra Claims an Early Victim

Cameron Breeze on Biafra: 'The holes were actually already drilled by Garth before he moved up the Blue Mountains. After gaining his ok to finish what he started I placed the bolts, only to get a little too keen and beginning projecting the route prior to the glue drying (I was young, dumb and full of ...). As I batmanned past the first few moves on my first run up the wall I heard the terrifying sound of the first bolt pulling. Needless to say I decked in about 1.3 seconds only to land ass first on the pile of rope and get away uninjured.'

⑨ Biafra 12m 26

④ B ↓ ☹ ☹ ☹

Start: Next to trees near left edge of cave. Use your squiddy (or stick) to clip first RB, then bouldery, powerful moves to a good rest at 3rd RB. Hard moves to 4th RB then nice steep territory to double RB lower off. 5 RBs in total.

Cameron Breeze 1999

⑩ Top Hat 16m 26

⑥ B ↓ ☹

From the anchors on Biafra, keep on truckin' past 1 more RBs thru the roof to finish on big jugs and lower offs. Not any harder than the original finish but long and gives you a good pump. Easier to back jump to clean but try not to take and inverted backwards plummet off the cliff top in the process.

Andy Addison 2006

⑪ Galvanise 12m 20

⑤ B ↓ ☹

Up the nice orange face just left of Biafra to break and large letterbox jug. Crank through bulge to pseudo rest and continue up steep jugs to anchors. Has already become something of a trade route.

Jason Lammers, Stephen Hawkshaw 09.12.2006

⑫ Jello 16m 21

⑥ B ↓ ☹

Head up Galvanise for 4 bolts then traverse right past a bolt on golden rock with threads, pockets, and a couple of slopers to reach Biafra above its crux. Clip the last bolt on Biafra and pull the final move to clip its anchors. It's probably easier to get someone to clean it on second but can be back climbed for added value.

Stephen Hawkshaw 09.12.2006

⑬ The Nose in 4 Minutes 10m 22

③ B ↓ ☹

A goal for Caldwell to aim for? Clip 1st bolt then streno start, tending right past 2nd bolt, to blissful balancy moves past several more RB's to anchors. For full value get your drill and bolt the extension through the roof all that way to top of cliff.

Simon Vaughan, Gavin Murray 2004

⑭ Chook 15m 20

⑥ B ↓ ☹ ☹

New FH in 2000 replaced some only manky bolts. Now a fantastic excursion. Undercut start, then slab to sustained head wall on great rock. Save some juice for the top.

Unknown 2000

⑮ Chicken 15m 20

⑥ B ↓ ☹

A direct start for chook. Start up the face 2m left of chock past 5 RB's to join chook for the final head wall.

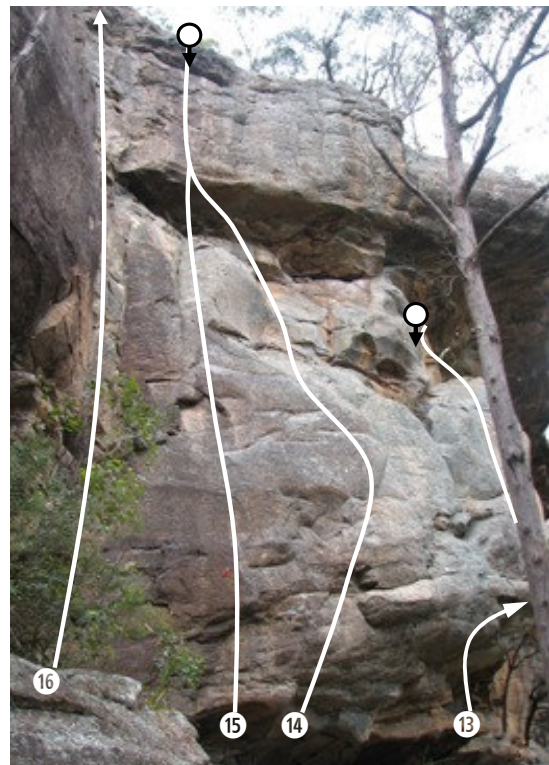
Simon Vaughan 16.12.2006

⑯ Corner From Hell 15m 16

🕸 ↑

Start: 15m left of C. Up obvious corner (dubious pro) to tree belay

David Duke (solo)



Area between the Cave and Vox Populi Wall

The following six climbs are scattered between the First Cave and the Vox Populi wall.

⑰ Project 12m ??

⑤ B ↓

Start: 2m left of corner from hell Up Thin face and through bulge.
Jason Lammers

⑱ Surprise 15m 20

④ B ↓ 😊

BigGav and Simon were "Surprise[d]" when they managed to find another route at this cliff, since then there are been at least 10 more routes added.
Start: 10m left of CFH, near tree. Up past 4 RBs to double RB lower off.
Gavin Murray, Simon Vaughan 2002

⑲ Mousetrap 15m 19

④ B ↓ 😊

Start: 2m left of S. Fine short wall to ledge. Beautiful balance moves to last bolt. 4 RBs to lower off on T.
Simon Vaughan, L. Robinson, Gavin Murray 2001

⑳ Trollberg 16m 22

⑤ B ↓

A weird crux section at 3rd bolt (can be avoided on L, don't!). Start at bulgy face with RB's 14m L of CFH. Up to double rings.
Mark Farrel, Cameron Breeze, Mark Pauluffchenko 1997

㉑ Trollberg McDougall 16m 19

⑤ B ↓ 😊

Same as Trollberg, but at 3rd bolt move to the left and use the crack, then up and back on the climb and continue to anchors.
Mark Farrel, Cameron Breeze, Mark Pawlutschenko 1997

㉒ Pinocchio's Nose 18m 18

④ B ⚠️ ↑ 😊

Not too bad, start: 2m left of T, below dirty corner crack. Up the crack (4 RBs plus natural gear) to tree belay. it's a bit run out at the top.
Mark Farrel, Cameron Breeze, Mark Pawlutschenko 1997

Vox Populi Wall

This wall has some more good moderate graded climbs and is slightly less than vertical. The rock here is remarkably different to the sandstone found in other places around Sydney and provides thoughtful climbing on solid featured rock.

㉓ The Red Room 16m 18

⑤ B ↓ 😊

Start: 2m left of PN. Haul onto wall, then edge up arête passing 4 RBs. Double RB lower off.
Mick Wever, Simon Vaughan, Gavin Murray 2001

㉔ Hugh Town 15m 19

⑤ B ↓ 😊

Start as for RR for two bolts then step left and continue up face and overlap to anchors.
Simon Vaughan 08-10-2006

㉕ Dorothy the Dinosaur 16m 17

⑤ B ↓ 😊

Start left of RR. Climb technical face past 5 RB's to anchors
Mark Farrel, Cameron Breeze, Mark Pawlutschenko 1997

㉖ Three and a Half Thousand 16m 20

④ B ↓ 😊 😊

A ripper of a climb, great slopey slab climbing, and just a tad runout to keep you on your toes. Up the wall past 3 RBs, thru small overlap and 1 more BR to anchors.
Mark Farrel, Cameron Breeze, Mark Pawlutschenko 1997

㉗ Vox Populi 16m 18

③ B ⚠️ ↓ 😊 😊

Fabulous wall and small roof, the best 18 in the area. Start 5m L of TaHT below and left of FH. Up past 3 FH's and #1 cam or wires in flaring crack to U anchor. The 2nd FH has been replaced with a RB, and now climb past U bolt to 2 RB Lower offs shared with Silver Fox.
Garth Miller, Dave Duke 1992

⑳ Silver Fox 16m 20

⑤ B ↓

Start 4m left of VP. Named after the local legend of the mount. Up slab with some nice balancy moves. Move right and cross VP and straight up over rooflet. 5RB to DRB Lower off.
Jason Lammers 2006



㉑ Vox Populi Lite 16m 22

② B ⚙️ ↓

Trad Economics on this one. As for VP. Up Vox Populi to move left at ledge at bottom of crack and up thin looking wall to gain lower off ring on Vox Populi finish. Protect using good preplaced cams in break above the thin wall with long slings and pro. As for Vox Populi up to and including the crack.

Gavin Murray, Simon Vaughan 2002

㉒ Michael in Shorts 16m 16

① B ⚙️ ↑

Start: 3m left of VP, below corner. Up the corner then over the overlap (BR) to tree belay.
Craig Martin 1996

㉓ Michael in Vox 16m 18

② B ⚙️ ↓

For an excellent pump and slightly more convenient version of Michael in Shorts traverse R at break above BR to join VP

Craig Martin 1996

㉔ Digit Dave 15m 12

⚙️ ↑

Up corner to step L and up second vague corner.
David and Simon Duke 1990

Central Area

This is the large area past the arête on the left of Vox Populi Wall. It has some nice longer routes with mixed protection. Some of the bolts on these routes may be suspect?

③③ Open to Public Scrutiny 20m 14



Start: Below right hand slab.

Ramble up slabs, clipping BRs as necessary. Used to have 4 BRs, but one may have fallen out recently.

Garth Miller, Jay Williams 04/07/1992

③④ B 15m 15



Start: At vegetated corner 2m left of OtPS.

Deduct a star if you avoid the 2nd pitch.

P1. 12m (14/15) Avoid vegetation in initial corner, then head up the lovely corner above. At top, either step left (14) to belay as for QDS, continue straight up past BR (15), or move right to tree (14).

P2. 6m (15) The tricky thin yellow corner crack/flake 5m right of P1. Natural belay.

P1. Craig Sloss 1991. P2. David Duke (solo) 1990

③⑤ Piccolo Luna 8m 20 (UPPER CLIFF)



Start: 3m right of P2 of B. This route is located on the top tier of the cliffs. It can be accessed by walking along the top of the cliff or toping out one of the other routes near by. Up nice compact wall past 2 RBs to DRB lower off. Note: A 60m rope will get you back to ground level off the anchors.

Simon Vaughan 20/01/2004

③⑥ Quart de Seicle 15m 19



Start: 3m left of B. Up the easy slab (1 BRs) to overhang (FH). Pull through overhang then move right (crux) to FH. Up (FH) to double RB lower off. Be careful through the crux - you could hit the ledge below if you fall.

Garth Miller 08/08/1992

③⑦ Deception 15m 19



Start: As for QDS. Up QDS until past the overhang. Move left and up past another FH to top (BB).

Garth Miller 28/11/1992

③⑧ Deception Variant 15m 20



Start: As for D. Continue traversing left from the FH on D (runout - apparently there was a bolt here once).

Garth Miller

③⑨ C 15m 17



Start: As for QDS. Up slab as for QDS then move left to steep yellow corner. Up the corner (3 BRs and small wires) to tree belay.

Tim Cartwright 1991

④⑩ C Piker's Variant 15m 15



Start: As for C. At stance halfway up corner, move left around arête and up the easy wall to rejoin C.

Peter Monks 11/1997

④① In the Inn of the Sixth Happiness 20m 13



Start: As for QDS. Up to first BR on QDS, then move diagonally up and left and over bulges past BRs. Continue up (BRs) to tree belay. Rather runout.

Garth Miller, Jay Williams 27/12/1991

④② Snooze and You Lose 20m 14



Start: 5m left of ItIoTSH. Up the seam.

Garth Miller (solo) 27/12/1991

④③ Parents in Pain 20m 15

② B ⚙️ ⬆️ 😊

Start: 2m left of SaYL. Up and over bulge (small wires - hard to protect) to prominent arête. Move easily up arête (FHs and BR) to natural belay. Garth Miller, Jay Williams 01/09/1991

④④ Parents in Pain Pussy Variant 20m 13

B ⚙️ ⬆️

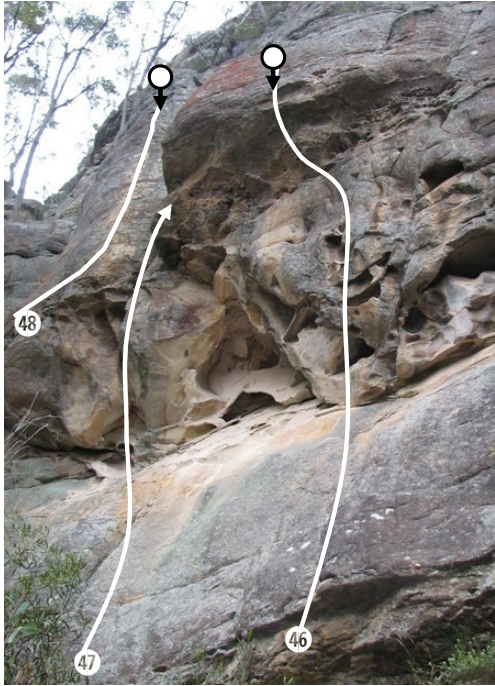
Start: As for PiP. At bulging overhang, move right and up then rejoin PiP.

④⑤ D 20m 10

⚙️ ⬆️

Start: 2m left of PiP below large corner. Up the corner. David Duke (solo) 12/03/1990

There's been a large bee hive below the overhang in the following section for quite some time. Take care if you're climbing here!



④⑥ Pre Pimple Pop 15m 19

⑤ B ⬇️ 😊 😊 😊

A fantastic overhang, one of the most popular routes in the Southern Highlands. Start 7m L of PIP under obvious imposing overhang. Up onto slab via L or R (BR) then through overhang to pull lip (crux) lower off U anchor or continue powering through juggy choss! 5 BR's including U Anchor. Garth Miller, Tim Cartwright, Craig Sloss 04-07-1991

④⑦ Judas Escariot 10m 20

③ B ⬇️ 😊

Start 2m L of PPP. Named after Tim Cartwright went under Craig Sloss's nose and stole his project! Not as intimidating as it looks and you don't have to place wires whilst hanging from crimps! Up onto slab (hard) then through overhang (2BR's) into corner crack, up and L to chains. Tim Cartwright 06-07-1991

④⑧ Mango Tango 15m 23

④ B ⬇️ 😊 😊

Start in small corner L of JE. Absolutely brilliant top moves once you've bumped over the bulge. 4 new RB to Lower Offs. Garth Miller 07-07-1991

Manchester United Wall

This wall is located left of the obvious corner and features some great climbing. The routes on the left end offer classic climbing that is solid at the grade.

④⑨ Project Drill Attack 15m 23

④ B ↓ ☹️

The name of this route was derived from an incident that occurred during the bolting. As Mark Farrell was drilling a ring bolt notch the drill slipped and he got attacked by the drill. It ripped his t-shirt up and gave him some nice scrapes and scratches in the process. It was quite scary for about 10 seconds, an hour later it was the just friggin funny

Start: 15m L of MT at RB. Up to the L to power through overhang and tricky mantle to easy ground. Good buying at 23

Mark Farrel, Cameron Breeze, Mark Pauluffchenko 1997

⑤⑩ Manchester United 15m 20

⑤ B ↓ 😊 😊

1m left of PDA. Boulder start to first RB then up past 3RBs to mantle through to another RB to DRB lower off shared with DA.

⑤① Unknown Name 15m 25

⑤ B ↓

Start about 3m left of MU. Up steep start to hard moves over bulge and up thin face. Has been climbed but reputedly isn't very good.

Mark Farrel



⑤② The Big Day Out 15m 24

⑤ B ↓ 😊 😊

Stick clip first FH. Up wall and clip 2nd, nice rest here b4 a very large reach move to 3rd FH. Continue up head wall past more FH's to chains in cave. 5 FH's.

Garth Miller 08-07-1992

⑤③ Quickie Quimsil 12m 25

⑤ B ↓ 😊 😊 😊

The rock on this buttress is stunning. Start 3m L of TBDO (just around the arête). Superb technical climbing on rock reminiscent of the Grampians. Nearly every hold in the first 10m is a side pull. Traverse right to gain the corner then funk your way up this to good edges and thought provoking finish. Classy Climbing

Graham Hill 01-05-1997

⑤④ Suspended Animation 12m 24

③ B ↓ 😊 😊 😊

A fantastic route up a superb line. 3m L of TBDO. Stick dip first bolt, batman up to obvious black hole (←red circle), no higher, then up past another 2 bolts to chains. There is a direct start but it looks a lot harder (indicated as white dots on topo). The climbing is only short but rest assured its classic.

Garth Miller 21-06-1992

Will Watkins has a project that heads right from the start of QQ to the arête and up.

⑤⑤ Ramble Scramble 10m 5

🕸️ ↑

Start: At left end of wall. Up left slanting corner crack.

Nicki Munro, Anton Weller 14/11/2004

⑤⑥ I 10m 10

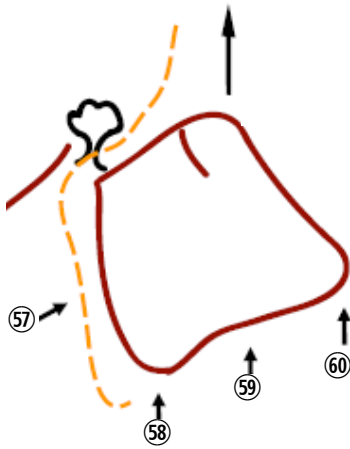
🕸️ ↑

Start: Below the crack left of RS. up the crack.

Craig Sloss

The Boulder

Located downhill from SA is a large boulder with the following three climbs on it. Climbs are described from left to right.



⑤7 I'd Rather be Gardening 10m 12



Start: At the left hand side of the boulder (facing uphill). Up the filthy wall with no pro. Absolutely worthless.

Uncle Tom Cobbly and all

⑤8 Posture Correction 9m 15



Start on the left arête and climb this past new bolts to the shared anchor. Up to new shared double bolt lower off with twisted shackles.

Ken McKeon 14.01.07

⑤9 J 7m 16



Up middle of the wall past 4 carrots to anchors as for PC.

⑥0 K 7m 16



Start: On the right hand side of the bottom wall of the boulder. The bolts on this route look like they could fall out at any moment. Up to new shared anchor with PC

The Main Cave Environs

The first 5 routes are located on the small buttress just before and above the cave proper. Most of the routes in the cave itself are variants of one another. There are 4 10m routes at the start of this section soloed by Craig Sloss between grade 8 and 18 but they have no pro so have been left out of the guide. Feel free to jump on them. It's hard to know exactly where all of these next routes go but some of them are quite good.

⑥1 El Captain Pants 10m 17



Start: 4m left and down from O, below prominent wall. Climb onto block and place gear out left (back it up). Follow the disappearing crack right to pocket then up pleasant wall (2 BRs) above.

Flint Duxfield, Georgie Williamson 14/03/1998

⑥2 Three Wise Monkeys 10m 22



Start: Just left of ECP at blunt arête. Up past 2 BRs and a FH.

Georgie Williamson, Flint Duxfield 14/03/1998

⑥3 White Limbo 20m 19



Fantastic jugging through a small section of the main roof. Start 3m Downhill from arête at traverse line. Traverse L past #1 SLCD placement to 2 BR's into small roof (BR) then up and left past 2 FH's to double rings. 5 BR's.

Garth Miller 1991

⑥4 What Would You Say If I Said To You That This Gun Was Loaded 20m 19



Nice slab to bumpy top section. Boulder easy start or get a small wire in flake, stand up, dip BR then up past balance and more balance to naturally protected top section.

G. Williamson. F. Duxfield

⑥5 Opiate 20m 22



A very nice climb! Start as for WWYSIISTYTTGWL(!) up to clip BR, one move up then traverse L to BR up into cave as for WL then fire straight up wall to chains.

G. Williamson. F. Duxfield 1998

⑥6 White Limbo Direct 20m 22



Start as for O. Up as for O to join WL at traverse line. Then as for WL.

G Williamson, F Duxfield

The Main Cave

The obvious massive cave with the high roof, 50m left of SA.

⑥7 Desperate Liaisons 15m 27

⑦B↓☹️

Start: below middle of roof. Stick clip first BR, then dyno and slab up to roof. Out the lovely roof to double RB lower off just over lip. 7 RBs in total.

Garth Miller 1992

⑥8 Ultine Demence 15m 27

⑧B↓☹️☹️

Start: 4m left of DL. Up to 3rd BR, then move right and up past 5 more BRs (stay right) to chain. The last bolt is hard to clip, and is safe to skip on the RP attempt.

Garth Miller 1993

⑥9 Controlled Hysteria 15m 25

⑦B↓☹️☹️

At 6th BR of UD, head left past BR to chain.

Garth Miller 01/09/1991

⑦0 Diagonal du Fou 15m 23

⑨B↓☹️☹️☹️

This climb has it all. Tenuous slabbing, technical face and a steep pump roof finish. Classic all the way. Up to 3rd BR on UD, then continue slightly left and over small roof (crux). Traverse left to lip then follow lip out right to the chain on CH. 9 BRs in total.

Garth Miller 06/06/1992

⑦1 The Cave Direct 15m 21

⑧B↓

Start: 3m left of UD.

Not entirely sure where this goes as description is vague but it seems like a rightward traversing linkup. Up to join DdF then continue past 3 BRs. Go straight past an RB and the FH on CH to finish at the chains on CH.

Geordie Williamson, Flint Duxfield

⑦2 Diagonal Hysteria 15m 25

⑧B↓

Start: As for TCD. Up TCD to 5th BR, then go straight ahead past an RB to join CH.

unknown

⑦3 Out on a Limb 10m 21

🕸️↓

Start: 10m left of TCD. Move right (natural pro) to sit down under roof. Out as for DdF.

Flint Duxfield 1997

⑦4 Fright of the Bumbly Bee 40m 12

🕸️↓

Start: As for OoaL. As for OoaL, but at roof continue with feet on lip (natural pro). Continue round to double RBs on WL. Rap.

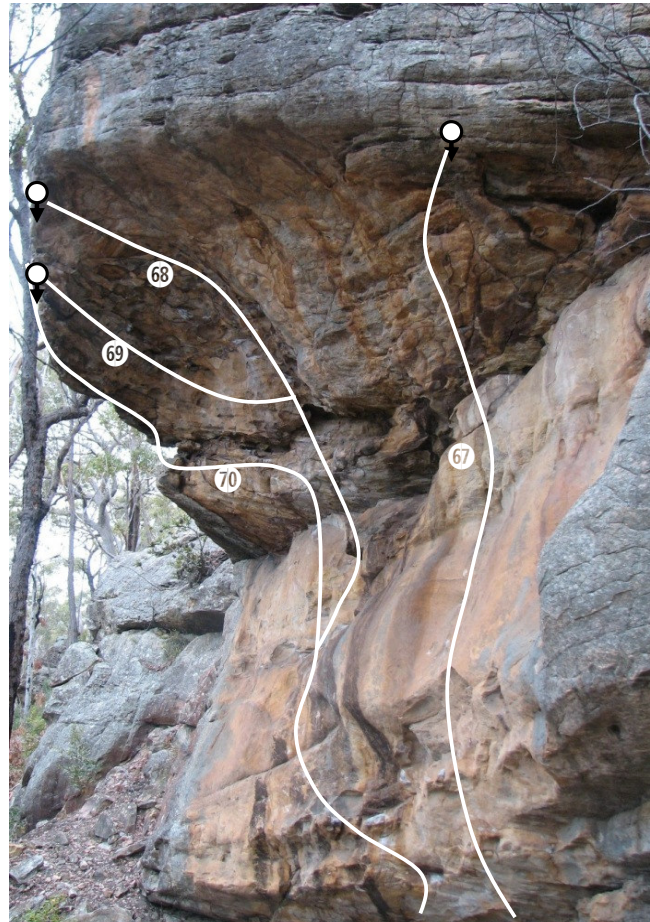
Flint Duxfield, Geordie Williamson 1996

⑦5 Empire of the Senseless 10m 17

🕸️↓

Start: As for OoaL. Straight up (U anchor at top of wall for top roping).

Garth Miller (solo)



20m left of the cave is a thin crack / seam. This is a V0 top rope problem called "Seamingly Sane". 30m past that is a collection of V3 - V5 boulder problems on a pocketed wall. There are 3 more routes located beyond this but they are all solos/top ropes. They are graded 17-19 and are located around the obvious 15m corner.