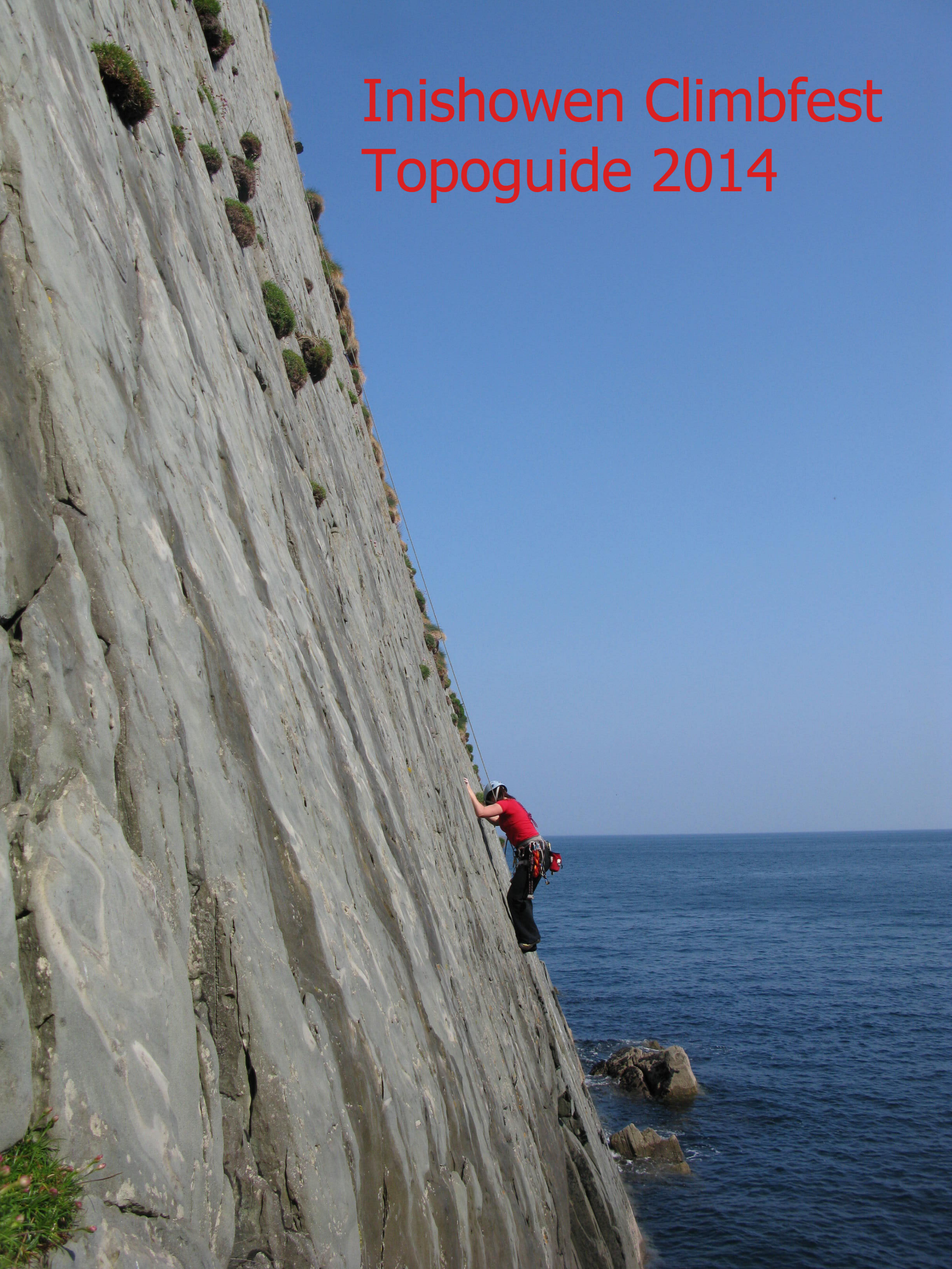


# Inishowen Climbfest Topoguide 2014





## Introduction

Welcome to the 10th Climbfest. Appropriately, Ireland's first climbing festival is back in Inishowen, having begun its life as the 'Culdaff Climbfest', before going 'On Tour', to its other two venues, Glencolmcille and Cruit Island.

To celebrate this anniversary, Colmcille Climbers decided to produce a topoguide to the peninsula of Inishowen, using both existing topos from the on line guide, and some new ones for areas still under development. It is fairly comprehensive, but not exhaustive.



Colmcille Climbing Club are members of Mountaineering Ireland, (the national governing, and representative body for hillwalkers, mountaineers and climbers in the 32 counties of Ireland) and members carry the appropriate third party liability insurance cover.

Although based in Derry, the club has members all over the north and west of Ireland, including active groups based in Belfast and Sligo. Active, but not elitist, climbing is the core activity, but members also hillwalk, mountain bike, sea kayak, and run to keep fit, and the club has had several expeditions to the greater ranges.

We welcome associate membership, ie those who are members of another MI club, but who might wish to extend their experience towards the vertical, and we have a number of existing activists who are also members of North West Mountaineering Club, Blaney Ramblers, IMC, and even Tralee MC.

Pete Smith, our president, set up the Colmcille Website, which has the interactive Donegal Guidebook on line, with the unique feature that allows you to comment on any route you have climbed regarding quality, grade etc.

We hope you enjoy the Climbfest, respect local property and leave the area as you would wish to find it. Most landowners are tolerant of our activities, and we would like to keep it that way!

Climbing is a hazardous activity, with danger of serious injury or death. Participants should be aware of, and accept these risks, and be responsible for their own actions and involvement.

## History of Rock Climbing in Inishowen

Inishowen has a longer history of climbing than any other part of Donegal, and probably most other parts of Ireland, with the earliest recorded route being done on Malin Head in 1939 by a party from An Oige, an arete now called "The Cutting Edge".

In the early days of North West Mountaineering club, members were interested in climbing, and their log from the mid fifties records rock climbing , also at Malin Head, but were not specific as to the area, or routes climbed. Sadly, those surviving members are unable to recall any details either, but it is also known that in the sixties, Teddy Hawkins and **Bert Slader climbed on Binion Hill with a group from Tollymore.**

In the mid 1970s, members of NWMC, Freezie Lee and Alan Tees, climbed on Barnanmore, learning the ropes, as it were, and Alan and Richard Smith developing Port a Doris in 1979, but the establishment of a new Club Feargortha MC, based in Derry, (and on the working class model of Creag Dhu), really put the peninsula on the map as a rock climbing venue.

The fine gritstone crag at Dunmore Head, Culdaff was cleaned, revealing a number of very fine routes, and John Cunningham's discovery of Dungloon,( by Kinnagoe Bay), yielding more classics, including Forked Lightning, Golden Salamander, and Austin's Window. In the west of the peninsula, Port na Sionnach was developed, with its longer slabby routes, still mostly ignored due to an only partly deserved reputation for loose rock! Foremost in this club were Joe Rotherham, Brian McDermott and Paddy Grant, but the demise of this group was almost as dramatic as its appearance, after Brian departed for Fort William, and Paddy took up a job in Omagh.

The routes were now, however established, and climbing continued, mainly at Dunmore and Kinnegoe Bay/Dungloon, fuelled by the new climbing wall in Derry, and a upping of standards headed by the Dunlop brothers, Niall Grimes and Al Millar. Donie O'Sullivan was also based in Derry, so the north west of Ireland was at the very cutting edge of climbing in Ireland in this period.

The coastal crags to the west of Bunagee harbour were developed by the fledgling Colmcille Climbing Club in the early nineties, Dunowen, Pinnacle Bay, Brasil Rock, and Galavoir Point, giving critical mass with Dunmore Head, for the establishment of the "Culdaff Climbfest" the first of its type in Ireland in 2004.

Al Miller discovered the very well hidden walls at Warm Bay Point in 2003. For those who have never been before, It still requires a few grid references and a high level of guesswork to find your way down to these crags, which give a type/quality of climbing found in few other places.

Malin Head, ignored for so long, found a new admirer in Peter Cooper, who put a number of short routes in an area by Breasty Bay he named " Uncle Monty's Wine cellar". Others came to look, from Colmcille Climbers, preferring the long slabby adventure routes facing Skildren Mor, and development continued along the cliffs in both directions. Marty McGuigan landed on Skildren Mor, and returned later with Alan Tees to camp on top of the rock and put some excellent routes on its hidden north face. As access to the coast is currently denied on Ward's land, development has had to continue to the east, but it is hoped this situation will be resolved when the land, currently for sale, passes into new ownership.

## Using The Guide.

Inishowen is divided into 5 sections which can be downloaded and printed separately;

West Inishowen

Malin Head

Dunowen Area

Culdaff

East Inishowen.

## 10 of the Best of Inishowen

The lists below contain most of the best of routes in the peninsula in each grade. You won't agree with all of them of course!

### Extreme

Tales from the Abyss, Skildren Mor

10cc, Dunmore Head

Subduction Zone, Dunmore Head

Ruthless People, Finbarr Wall

Eviction Notice Served, Dunowen

Start of Something New, Dunowen

Rockstown Rumble, Warm Bay

Atlantic Ocean Wall, Dungloon

Red Duster, Dungloon

Austin's Window, Dungloon

### VS

Centipede Slabs, Sea area Malin

Grecian Gift, Dunmore Head

Machinegun Kelly, Warm Bay

Infinity and Beyond, The Cauldron

Razorbill, The Cauldron

Northern Exposure, The Cauldron

Washboard wall, Malin

Blondes, Dunowen

Bogged to the Oxters, Dunowen

Forked Lightning, Dungloon

### HVS

Cromarty Crack, Sea Area Malin

Phoenix, Skildren Mor

Bunratti Pillar, Dunowen

Shiny Cossacks, Dunmore Head

Fluid Inclusions, Dunmore Head

Master of Puppets, Dunmore Head

Flight of Fancy, Dunowen

No More Kenny, Warm Bay

Scabby Tails, Warm Bay

El Capitano, Dungloon

### HS

Gang of Four, Portnasionnach

Orange Blossom, Dunmore Head

Diversion, Dunmore Head

Peapod, Dunmore Head

The Hustler, Dunowen

Himalayan Dream, Dunowen

Ballyharry Boy, Dunowen

King Conger, Sea Area Malin

Forever Young, Skildren Mor

Black Guillermot, Skildren Mor

## Severe

Crayfish Crack, Sea area Malin

Laurentic, Sea Area Malin

Dawson's Diedre, Malin Cauldron

Galway Girl, Malin Laundry

Carbolic Crack, Malin Magdalen

Rhumdoodle, Dunowen

Black Perception, Dunmore Head

Mittelegi Blues, Warm Bay

Crack a Toa, Port a Doris

Salty Dog, Glengad Wall

## Diff/V Diff

Help the Aged, Sea Area Malin

Cutting Edge etc, Malin/ Cauldron

Sunningael, Malin/ Fitzgerald

Poor Claire, Malin/ Magdalen

Alhambra, Dunowen

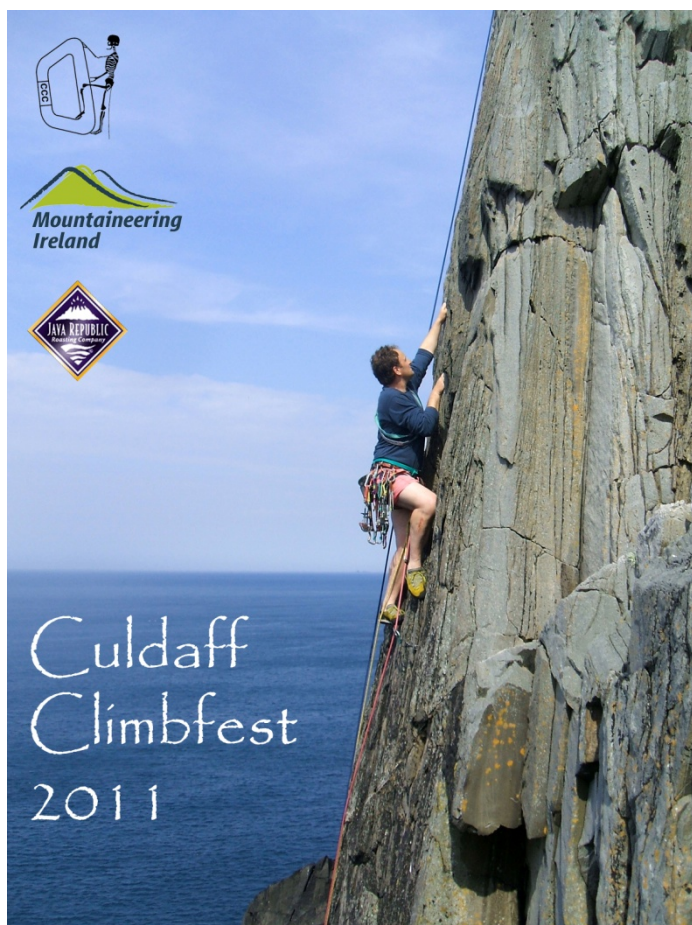
SRS Slab, Dunmore Head

Ace of Spades, Warm Bay

Pattoned, Dungloon

Absent Friends, Dunmore Head

Waiting for Cyril, Finbarr wall





# Inishowen West

Port na Sionnach

Leenan

Barnanmore

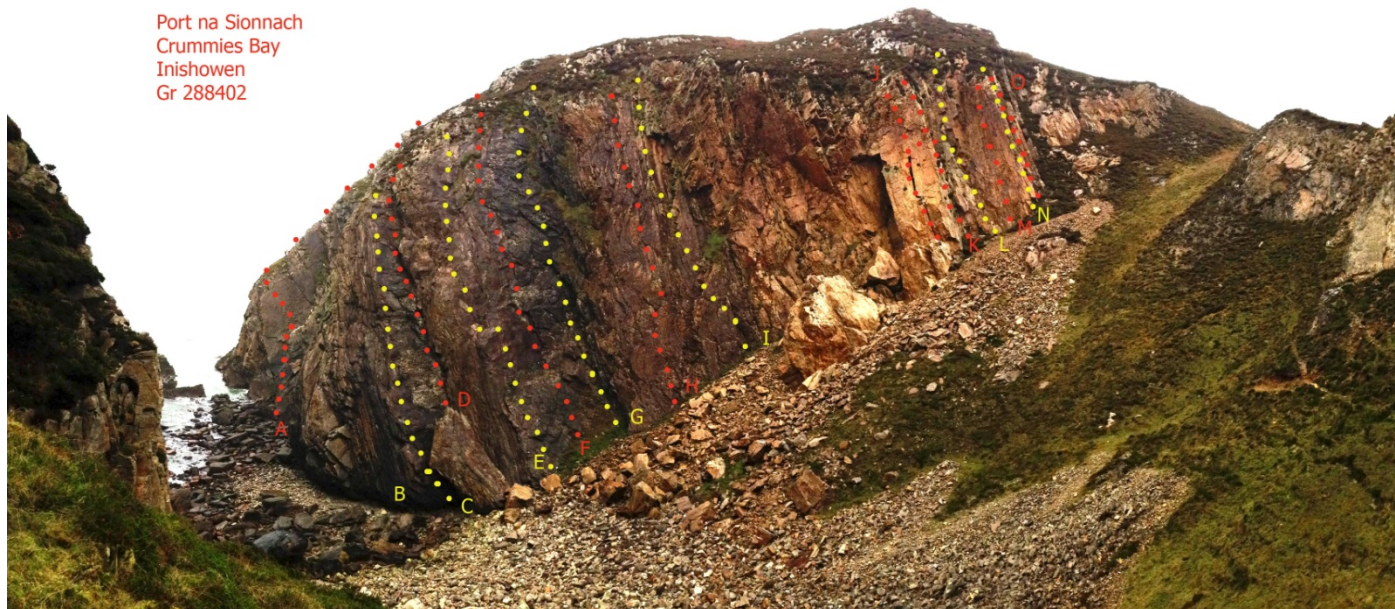




## Crummies Bay/Port Na Sionnach, Gr 289 402

An unusual crag of orange and grey rock on the northern side of a small inlet, immediately north of Crummies Bay. Despite having the longest routes in Inishowen, it is rarely climbed on due to the current health and safety paranoia regarding loose rock. There is loose rock there, but you can avoid it, or at least avoid pulling on it! If you like long slab routes, you will probably like this wild and 'remote feeling' venue. It isn't actually very remote, being only 15 minutes walk across the beach (or headland if the tide is in) from the beach car park at 294393. There is a shallow river to cross, and a lovely little wild campsite near the crag at 290 400

Port na Sionnach  
Crummies Bay  
Inishowen  
Gr 288402



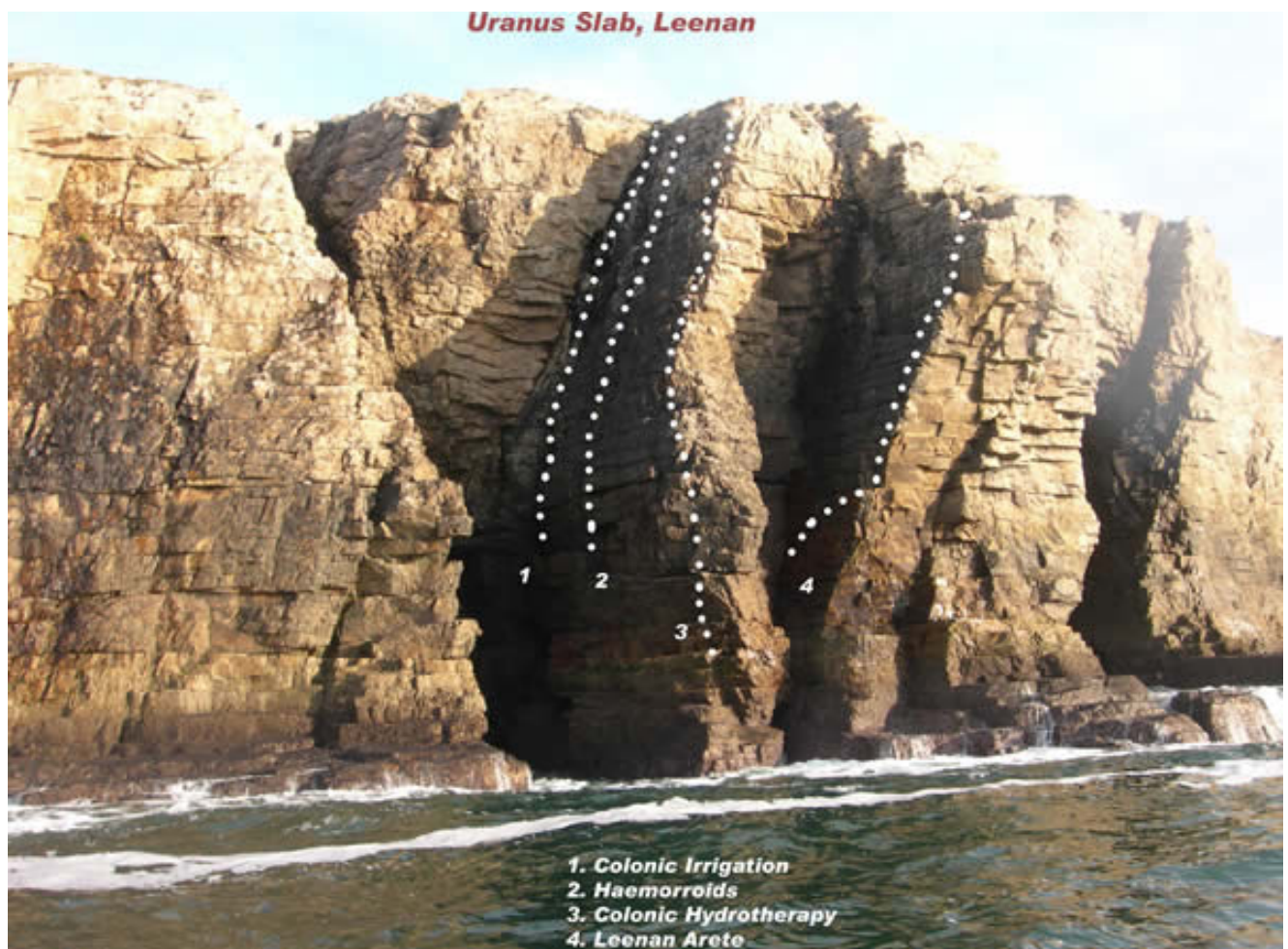
A. Two Thran Glypes, V.Diff, 50m.	Tees, Hartley 13
B.Twisted Speech, HS 4a, 50m.	I.&M. Rea 95
C.Rowdy Rascals, Sev, 50m.	Patton, McDermott 81
D.Crummies Crumble, V.Diff, 50m.	McDermott, Patton 81
E. Birthday Blues*, Sev. 50m.	McDermott, Patton 81
F. Picos Prelude, V.Diff. 50m.	McDermott, Patton 81
G. For Forsythe, V.Diff, 50m.	Patton, McDermott 81
H. Gang of Four** HS, 50m.	McDermott, Patton 81
I.Dylsgyl Daydream, V.Diff, 50m.	McDermott, Patton 81
J. Columba's Hitman/ Hitman Direct, VS 4b*/c, 20m.	Grant, McDermott, Colhoun 81
K. White Riot, VS 4b, 20m (The arete).	I & M Rea 95
L. Groovy Grandad, Sev, 20m (Crack) .	Patton, Smith 81
M. Tooth Fairy, HS, 20m (pinnacle).	Tees, Gallagher 94
N. Strawman, VS 4b, 20m (Thin Crack).	I. & M Rea 95
O. Alpine, VS 4b, 18m (the Arete).	Tees, Gallagher 93
P. Vulpine*, HS, 18m (the diedre).	Tees, Gallagher 93

## Leenan Head

**Directions:** Access from Derry is over Mamore Gap to Leenan, turning right before the pier, and parking at the bridge over the moat, Gr 300444. Continue on foot through the ruined fort, and the crag is just South of the small sea stack "Leenan Needle". The routes are on the slabs forming the South side of two or three prominent corners. Abseil descent. Worth a visit if in the area, but not really worth travelling there to climb!

Gr. C296 465

- |                                |                  |
|--------------------------------|------------------|
| 1. Colonic Irrigation, Diff,   | Tees, Magowan 10 |
| 2. Haemorrhoids, Sev 4a.       | Tees, Magowan 10 |
| 3. Colonic Hydrotherapy, Diff. | Tees, Magowan 10 |
| 4. Leenan Arete, Diff.         | Tees, Magowan 10 |
- Leenan Needle, V. Diff 3c. I. Miller, Whelan 10





## Barnanmore, or 'The King Mintiagh'

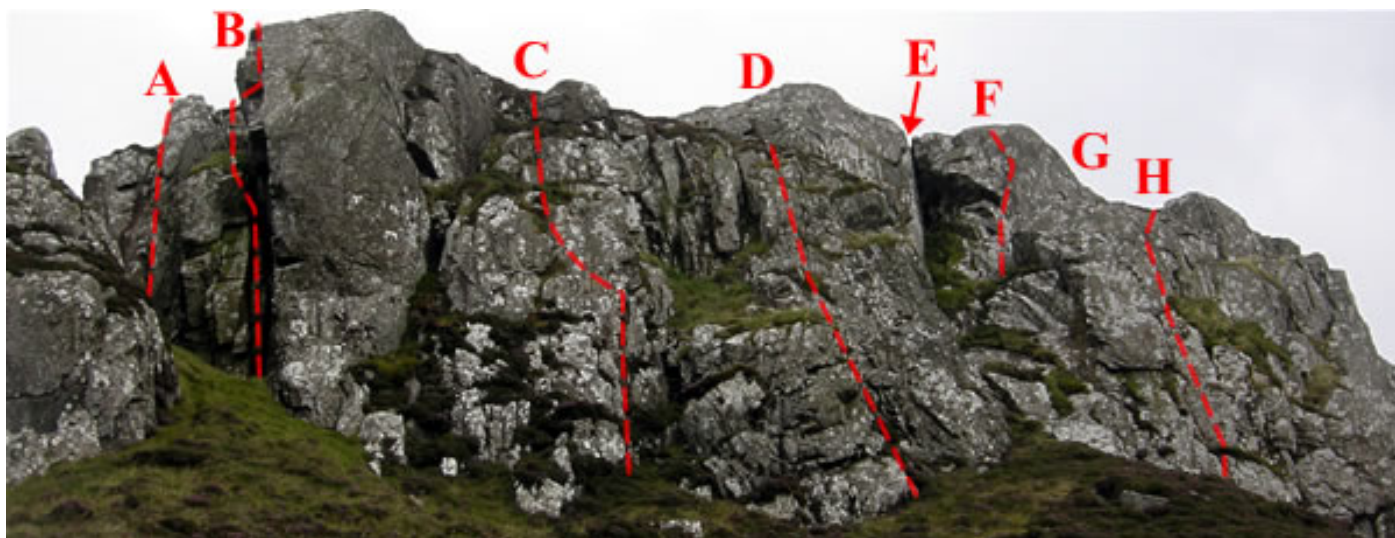
This is a pleasant little Dolerite Plug about 9.5 K East of Buncrana, on the northern footslopes of Slieve Snacht. The routes are mostly in the easier grades, and some care is needed with loose rock.

Follow the Buncrana/Carndonagh Mountain road until the "Plug" becomes visible on the road's southside. Limited parking available at a gateway opposite the crag, which is a 15-ish minute walk up the hill. There are a number of short routes on outlying outcrops, and at the back, not shown here, see Colmcille Climbers online guidebook.

**Map ref:** C393410

### Topo 1

<b>A.</b> Ballymoney Line. Sev, 4a, 8m.	Manson, Tees, 77
<b>B.</b> Jackdaw Chimney*. Sev 4a. 15m.	Tees, Lee, 76
<b>C.</b> Mayfly. Sev 4a, 20m.	Hamilton, Tees 77.
<b>D.</b> Crocodile Rock. Diff, 15m.	Reid, Tees 78
<b>E.</b> Sabre Cut. Sev, 6m.	NWMC 80
<b>F.</b> Sabre Rattler. HVS 5a, 7m.	Cooper, Tees 07
<b>G.</b> Aeolius*. VS 5b, 7m,	Cooper, Tees 07
<b>H.</b> Arctic Fox*. Sev, 4a, 15m.	Tees, Cooper 07

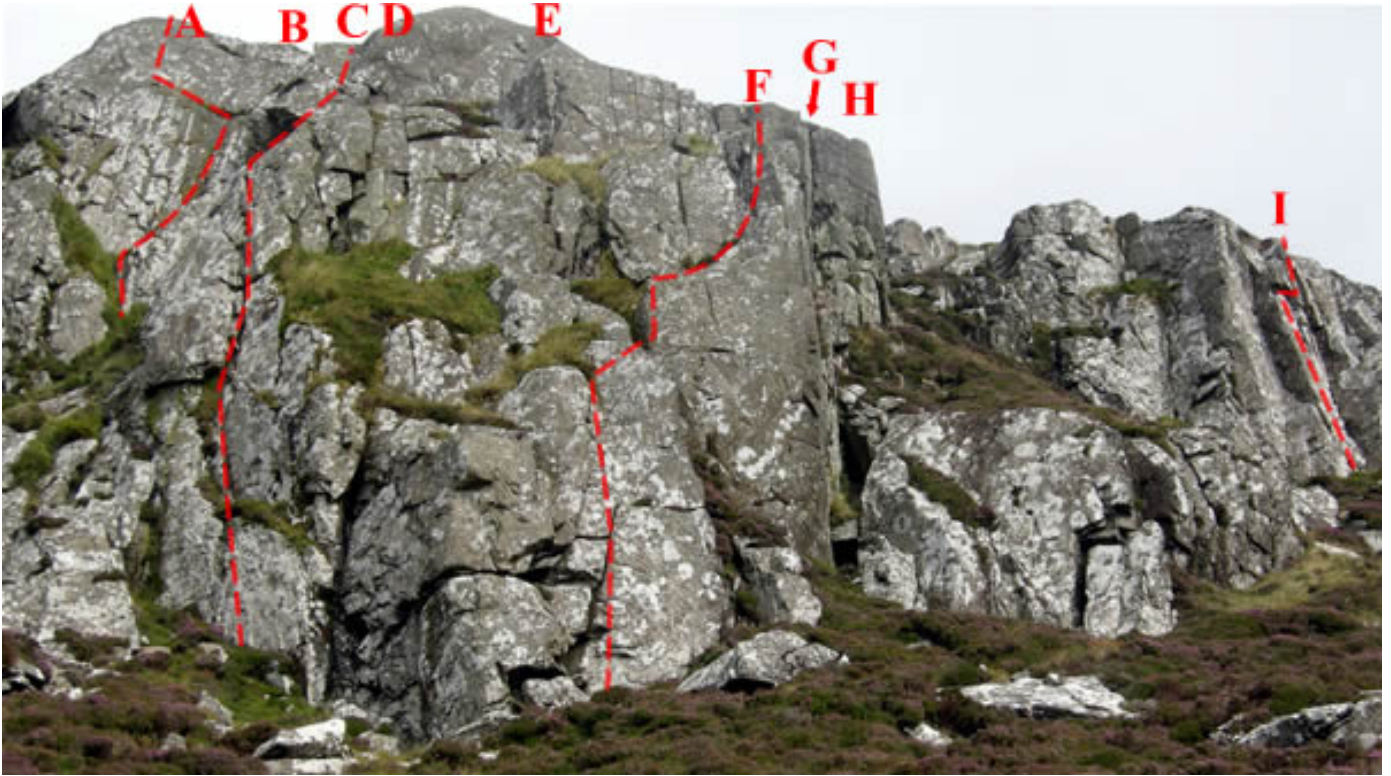


### Topo 2

<b>A.</b> Polar Pat. Sev 4a, 10m.	Tees, Cooper 07
<b>B.</b> Sabre Cut. Sev	
<b>C.</b> Arctic Fox. Sev 4a	
<b>D.</b> Sabre Rattler. HVS 5a	
<b>E.</b> Aeolius. VS 5b.	
<b>F.</b> King Minch*. V. Diff, 20m.	Tees, Reid, 78
<b>G.</b> Crazy Paving*. VS 4c, 12m.	McKenna, McCloskey 93
<b>H.</b> O'Dohertys Keep. V. Diff, 15m.	Hamilton, Tees 77
<b>I.</b> Choux. VS 5a, 9m.	Cooper 07



## Barnanmore Topo 2



Monkey Nuts, VS 4c, Cooper (at the back of the Mintiagh)