

SECTION 2

EPISKOPI

Piastre and Exhibition Buttresses

Introduction

Happy valley is the sporting centre for the Western Sovereign Based Area and these two easily accessible buttresses are idea for teaching climbing on single pitch climbs if accommodated nearby. There are also a couple of excellent routes to lead and some great bouldering.

Description/ Access

Piastre (Grid 838367 lies above the athletics track in Happy Valley. Park at the eastern end of the athletics track and take the obvious path up the hill. You will need a MoD ID card to enter the valley. Continue to the rear of the buttress and walk down either side; however, the clockwise walk-down is less steep than the anti-clockwise one, if a little longer.

Exhibition (Grid 839374) lies above the Paphos road overlooking the Polo pitch, park at the bottom of the hill by the bridge. Walk back up the hill for 100m and take one of the paths leading directly to the crag. Of the two Piastre has the better rock, though the other has the better routes for novices. Once at the top continue to the back of the buttress for an easy (if thorny) walk-down.

NB: North of the Polo pitch, up "second valley", other buttresses can be seen – these provide interesting bouldering but soon exhausted. At least two routes also exist on the rather friable Lemmings sea cliff, an inverted Y shaped crack on the western side ("Snap, Crackle and Pop" MVS Steve Bostock (Oct 93) though two old pegs at the top suggest previous traffic) and "Windswept and Interesting" (a traverse across Snap onto the southern face and up (Kim Garvey May 93).

History

The majority of routes recorded are from Archie Jefferies' guide and were therefore put up in the late 1960's. Little has been added since then (though there is certainly scope for some outrageous climbing through the roofs of both crags). Piastre still bears the scars of the "whack and dangle" ethic that pervaded then. As at Jamiesons, these peg routes have now been freed. Test pieces? – Try "Make it to Midnight (E2 5c) and Orang Outang (VS) at Piastre and Perineal Overstretch (HVS 5a) at Exhibition.

Conclusion

Not the best offer on the island but well worth a visit if you are living close. Good for keeping your hand in until you can get further a field; perfect for Wednesday sports' afternoon and evening bouldering.

EXHIBITION BUTTRESS



1. **PINNACLE ROUTE** 14m V/Diff

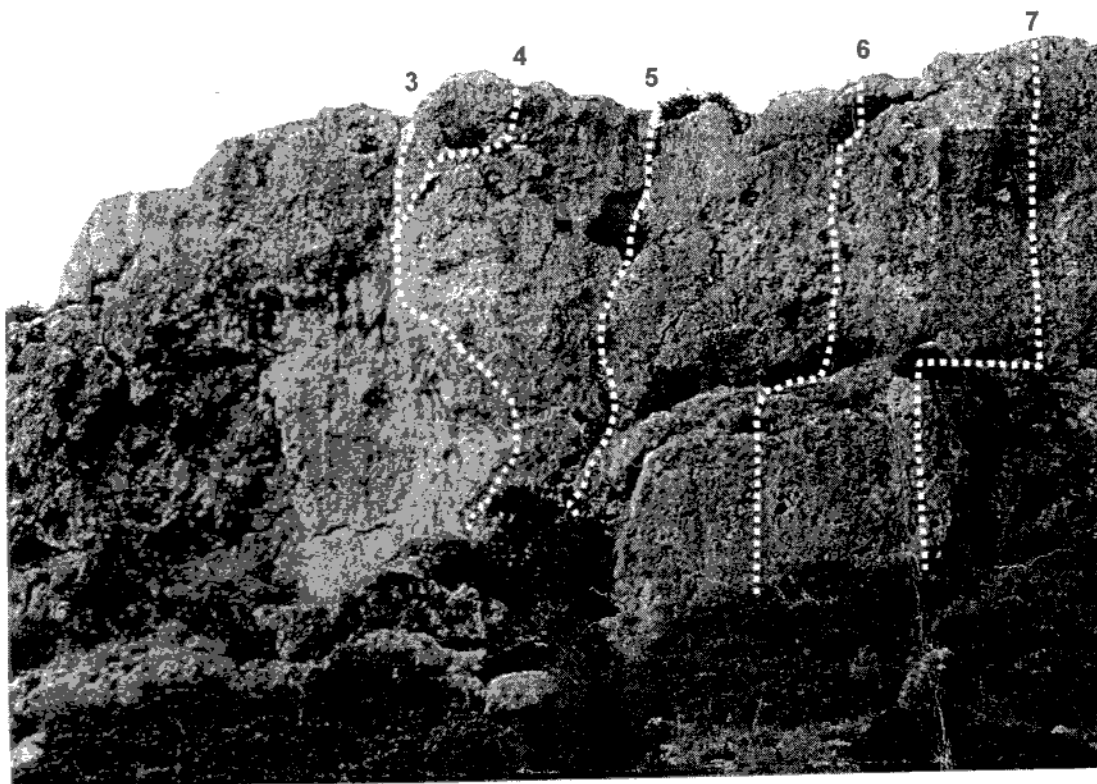
Quite a reasonable little route, start at the bottom of the obvious pinnacle on the left of the crag and move up the pinnacle to the top. From the top step across to the wall and move up and right to a small scoop going over the bulge to the top.

2. **PERINEAL OVERSTRETCH**** 15m HVS 5a Steve Bostock Feb 93

The best outing on the crag, start on the right side of the cave at a ramp, below a steepening corner. Climb this on huge buckets (but sparse protection) until below the overhanging bulge where wide bridging (crux) allows a



bomber nut to be placed in the crack on the right. Make a difficult move right onto the face and finish straight up the crack.



3. **FESHIE** 16m Severe Archie Jeffrey, Dave Wilson 28 Jan 68

Start at the narrow grey ramp at the right of the cave; move up, bearing left up and over the lip of the cave until the slightly overhanging crack is reached and from here climb the crack to the top.

4. **ONE FOR THE ROAD** 17m HVD Slim Hemmings, Fred Brown

Start as for Feshie on the right of the large cave, climb directly up on the left of the crack to the ledge with a large block on it; from here take an awkward step right and pull up onto the top (last move is the crux).

5. **CENTRAL CRACK** 17m Diff

Start to the left of the small grey wall at the front of the crag. Scramble up to a large central ledge then move left into the main crack. Follow this crack to the top. NB: Snakes have been seen in the crack during summer.

6. **CENTRAL WALL** 17m V/Diff

Begin up the centre of the small wall sticking out on the front of the crag. A couple of nice moves brings one to a large ledge, from here climb the wall above (to the left of the broken corner) below a small bush. An awkward move to the top follows.

7. **GYNACK*** 18m VS Archie Jefferies 28 Jan 68

Begin by climbing the small wall on the right of the large ledge and then move right and climb the wall above, to the right of where a large block has broken off the top. The bulge in the middle is the crux and is quite delicate and hard to protect.

8. **NIG** 12m Severe

Start 5m to the right of the small wall. Scramble to start then follow small crack on the corner to a ledge, then up the little wall to the top.

9. **NOG** 12m V/Diff

Start about 7m to the right of Nig, climb up on the right of the scoop and continue up easy wall to the top.

PIASTRE BUTTRESS



NORTH EAST WALL

1. **LITTLE 'UN** 7m V/Diff FJ Brown

Start in the scoop on the left of the end wall (NE Face) awkward start then up and right to the beginning of a ramp. From here follow the crack leading left and up to the top.

2. **FRED'S VARIANT** 7m V/Diff FJ Brown/ D Hughes

Start on the wall to the right of Little 'un. Pull up on good holds until ramp is gained. From here exit is by awkward layback move on the right.

3. **BULGING WALL** 8m Hard Severe Hemmings/ F Brown Jun 67

Start at the undercut bulge halfway between Fred's Variant and Geeko (Make it to Midnight). A strenuous pull up on positive holds to start followed by an awkward

move onto the ramp. A thread runner can be engaged on the right. From here climb across right and up to a small ledge on the corner and then to top.

4. **LURCH *** 9m VS 5a Steve Bostock Nov 93 (solo)
A direct start to Bulging Wall, 2m left of Make it to Midnight. Start at what appears to be a chipped "E" at waist height. Go straight up to a lip (powerful) to join Bulging Wall, then up and right to the peg on Make it to Midnight.

5. **MAKE IT TO MIDNIGHT ***** 9m E2 5c FFA: Steve Bostock Oct 93
A steep and strenuous route with little protection after half way—a real test piece. Start below an obvious thin crack at two deep finger pockets. Go straight up until the crack peters out into a bulge. Using holds on the right of this and sharp pockets on the front reach directly up for more generous holds. Clip the peg and continue up to the top. Take a couple of deep breaths and enjoy the view! (This was originally Geeko HS/A1 aided by Stanton/ Rickard Jun 67).

NORTH FACE

6. **ORANG OUTANG DIRECT **** 12m Hard Severe Archie Jeffery 20 Nov 67

Start about 3m around the corner to the right from Geeko at a bulge on the lip of a large cave. Climb 2½ metres onto smooth rock beneath bulge. From here a very delicate and strenuous layback with left hand fingertips in the crack on the left enables one to reach over bulge with the right arm. From here pull up to a small cave (the peg mentioned in previous guides is no longer there). Exit the cave onto a vertical wall on the left. From here reach high to some good handholds and climb to the top (exposed). A good route with a hard start.

7. **ORANG OUTANG **** 16m VS Archie Jeffery 20 Nov 67
Start on the right wall of bulge mentioned in the Direct. Pull up on downward pointing lip (awkward) and from this position reach high with left arm to gain small hold. Hang on this and bring right arm up too (crux). Pull up and over and into the cave. Exit by the wall described in the Direct.

WEST FACE These routes start beyond the big caves.

8. **FAITHFUL** 17m VS Archie Jeffery 5 Jun 68
Start the same as 'Faith' to first ledge. From here traverse left to small bush on the corner. Then go directly up and bear left until scoop is reached (crux). Now climb small thin crack to top (small fig sapling now makes this hard to protect).

9. **FAITH *** 12m Severe Pete Mill
Start at an obvious undercut corner, with good holds at head height. Difficult footless pull up onto the top of the bulge and onto a small ledge. From here go straight up crack/ groove to the top. Not easy as many will testify.

10. **HOPE** 10m Severe A Knight, Pete Mill
Start 3m to the left of Charity. Another undercut start. Strenuous pull up on a large 'keyhole' jug in a small slab to good ledge, then directly up on small holds to top.

(Previous descriptions mention a peg, this no longer exists and protection is now thin).

11. **CHARITY** 10m Diff Pete
Mill, A Radly

Start in easy angled crack on far right of the buttress. Up left or right of the arête until the wall on the left is reached. Mantle shelf over this to the top. A broken route hardly worth the effort, unless to descend it.

