

## Bowen's Parlour

An excellent new sports venue with a mix of grades. The upper crag is non-tidal and gives steep climbing on compact rock, like a miniature version of Foxhole. The lower crag is accessible for about 2 hours either side of low tide and dries quickly, providing steep climbing on generally good holds and perfect rock. The whole place is a sheltered suntrap in winter, with very little seepage, and in summer the sun moves across crags, so you can climb in sun or shade.

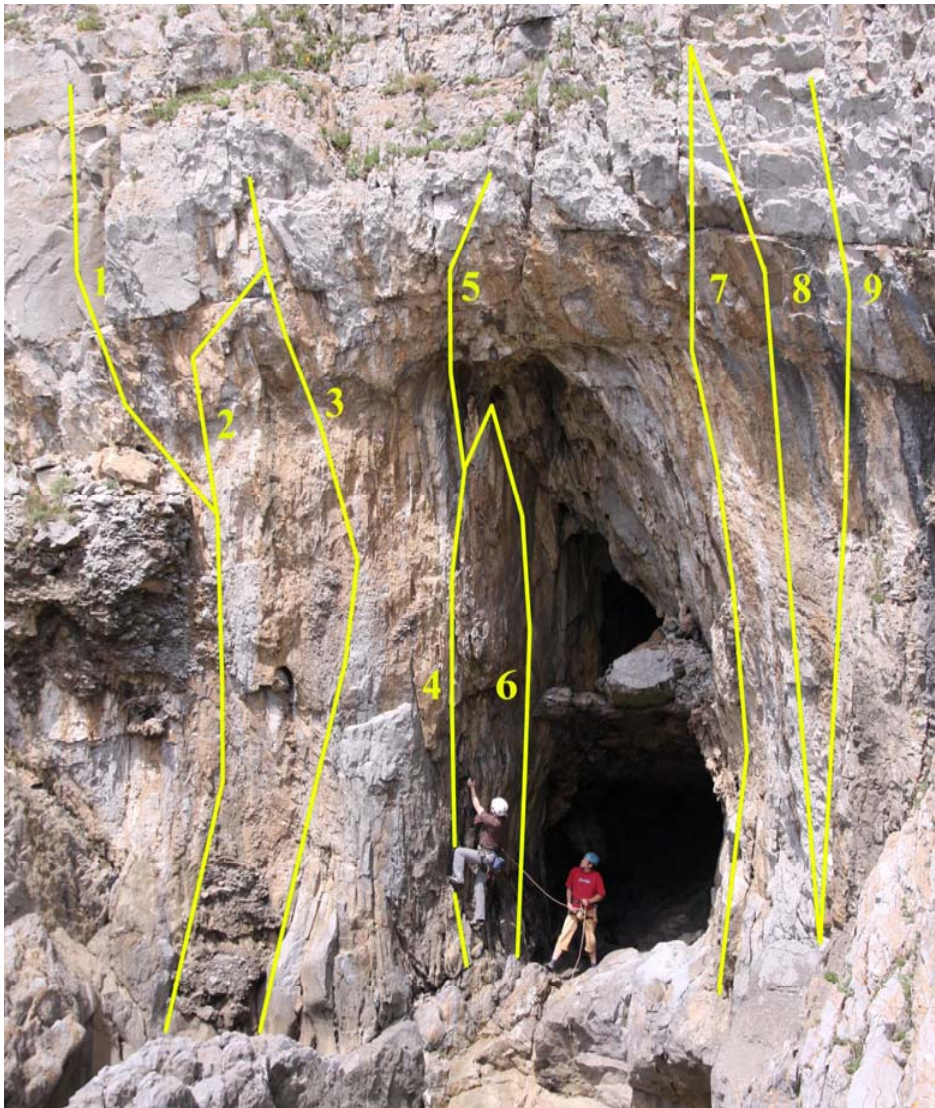
**Approach:** From the NT car park at Southgate walk east along the road as far as Bosco's Lane, then out to the headland with the wooden bench. Bear left, facing out to sea, and follow a vague track under a small outcrop then back round to the right past a gaping hole. The crag lies in the small embayment below you, and can be accessed down the steep slope to the west, though a safer approach is to walk a little further and down the next grassy slope, then work back to the crag.



'When I'm 64'



Bowen to the inevitable



**NB: All grades are approximate!**

### Upper crag

- 1 Rudaceous Ramble 6a+ The breccia is more solid than it looks and the corner much steeper than expected.
- 2 Breccial Motion 6b+\* Swings right to borrow the delightful last few moves of Parlour Games,
- 3 Parlour Games 7a+/7b\*\* Direct line with a powerful crux.
- 4 Spider 6b+/6c\* The arête gives fine climbing.
- 5 Parlour Francais 7c\* Start up either of the previous routes and break through the overhang.
- 6 Fly 6a+/6b\* Unusual climbing using flowstone features. Beware; if you step on the 'roof' it is very awkward to get back on the route!
- 7 When I'm 64 7a+\*\*\* The steepening diagonal is climbed on very positive holds to a wild finale off the 'house brick' hold. The name alludes to the age of the first ascensionist.
- 8 Aspidistra 6b Over the obvious small roof using a high undercut. Some dodgy rock. Hard for the short.
- 9 Maud 6b Very steep climbing but the holds are good. Some dodgy rock.





### **Lower Crag**

1 Bowen Arrow 6a\* The corner and flake starting from the slippery slope.

2 Reaction Series 6b/6b+\*\* Layback up the big corner and attack the overlaps.

3 Bowen to the Inevitable 6a+\*\*\* Great climbing up to and over the apex of the arch. Steeper than it looks.

4 Parlour Vous le Sport 6a+?\*\*\* Straight up the steep ground right of the arch. Some perplexing moves before the final overlap.

5 Feud For Thought 6b/6b+ ? \*\* Sustained climbing through the overlaps.

6 Gentlemen Prefer Bolts 6c\* Climbs the steep wall via the 'boss'. The start is reachy but the difficulties continue above.

### **Morning wall**

There are two lines on the East facing wall, starting from the slippery slope:

Left: Wisdom of Age\* 5/5+

Right: Sallies of Youth\* 5/5+



Parlour Games



Reaction Series



Breccial Motion

Photographs by Rhiannon McCarroll