

# Ponty Common

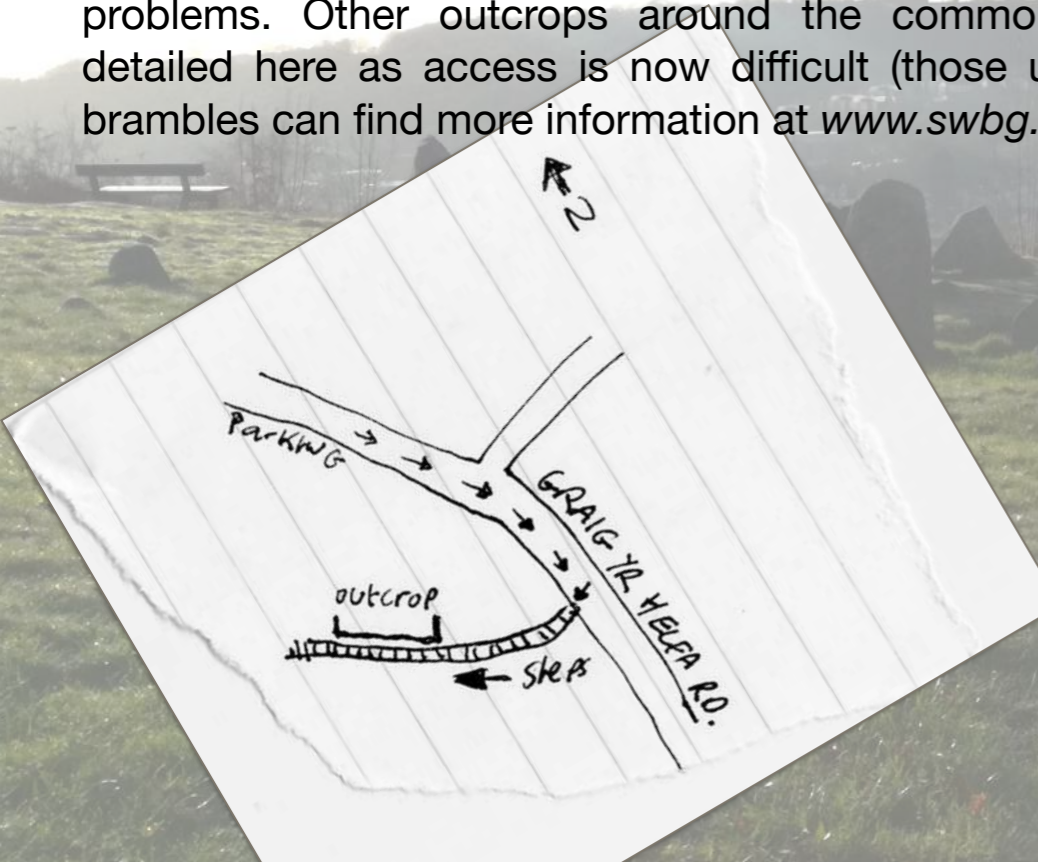


sandstone - south east facing - 3 minutes



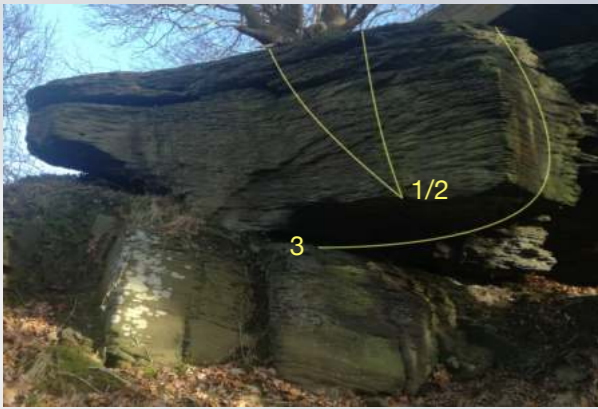
Alex Mannion makes a *Common mistake*

A scattering of outcrops on common land above Pontypridd including a single low boulder (locals are happy to provide beta if you can't get on top). Yet the area is of interest mainly for an undercut outcrop located beside some steps just outside the common where there are several very good roof problems. Other outcrops around the common are not detailed here as access is now difficult (those unafraid of brambles can find more information at [www.swbg.co.uk](http://www.swbg.co.uk)).



The steps cut down steep hillside with the undercut outcrop located beside them at about half height, near the edge of a deep quarry currently in use. Landings are generally ok here but some require care due to the stepped ground. Also - **be very careful not to dislodge anything that might roll down into the houses at the bottom of the hillside.**

**Approach** - Ponty Common is located in east Pontypridd (its war memorial monument visible from the A470). Common Road (CF37 4AE) borders the northern edge of the common. At the end of this turn right into Tygwyn Road, continue to Hospital Road (passing Pontypridd Cottage Hospital on left), through Craig-Yr-Helfa Road, to Rockingstone Terrace (CF37 4AW) where parking is possible. From here walk downhill/south for around 1-2 minutes along Graig-Yr-Helfa Road until reaching an entrance to stone steps on the right, down which the undercut outcrop is found. Walking here from Pontypridd railway station takes around 30 minutes.



1. **Timmy returns** [7a] Start as for 2 then traverse left using a pocket and crimps. Starting as for 3 is a slightly harder variant (*D.Cover* 24/5/17.)

2. **Timmy ten toes** [6b] Start from two crimps on the front and double toe hooks at the back. Starting as for 3 is a slightly harder variant (*D.Cover* 24/5/17).

3. **The block** [5, ss] From slopers on the low break escape from beneath the projecting roof using both rounded arêtes. A good line made harder (6b) without use of the foot-block (*L.Fyfe* 30/6/12).

4. **The prow** [4, ss] The prow right of *The block* provides some filler (*FA unknown*).

5. **Fyfe's ex project** [7c, ss] A hard line using small holds on the sidewall left of 6, starting from the obvious large low hold. Dieting may be required to fit in the gap (*L.Fyfe* 2014).

6. **Corridors of power** [6c, ss] Starting from a large hold head straight up using the arête and holds on the left wall. A good line if you can fit in the gap (*D.Cover* 8/7/14).

7. **Bail arête** [6c, ss] An equally good if more open alternative to *Corridors of power*, starting in the same place or just right. Climb the arête up the front face (*D.Cover* 3/9/16).

8. **Not too common** [7a+, ss] From the large hold beneath the left end of the roof gain edges on the lip then traverse right to finish as for 11. A very good problem (*L.Fyfe* 18/6/14).

9. **Fyfe's roof** [7b, ss] Starting from a big hold left of the crack head left to link into the previous problem (*L.Fyfe* 8/7/14).

10. **Tensity** [7b, ss] A good and hard eliminate line along the left of the twin cracks. Crack only (*D.Cover* 19/10/16).

11. **Common mistake** [7a+, ss] A unique and hard compression-style problem starting beneath and between the twin roof cracks. Climb through the roof and then up the front face without using the right foot block (*L.Fyfe* 18/6/14).

[#southsidetour](#)

12. **Common as muck** [6a, ss] Climb in to and then up the crack. Can be linked to the finish of 16 at the same grade (*A.Mannion* 8/7/14).

13. **A common misconception** [6a, ss] From a large flat hold traverse left across the lip and finish as for 11 (*R.Jacob* 18/6/14).

14. **Commonality** [5+, ss] Direct up the crack line (*FA unknown*).

15. **Step up** [5] Climb the face from a flat hold and an undercut, taking care when topping out (*L.Fyfe* 30/6/12).

16. **Lay back** [4] The crack can be climbed as a lay-back (*L.Collyer* 30/6/12).

17. **Slab direct** [4] The last/first bit of slabby wall is climbed to a tree (*L.Fyfe* 30/6/12).

