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Neol Drummau

An easily accessible abandoned roadside quarry amongst oak trees with close proximity to the more classic bouldering of **Neath Abbey** (p). This surprisingly peaceful place has a variety of mixed quality highballs & micro-routes (up to 9m height), some of which are very good, and has some potential for further development. Top-outs have a tendency to leaf up quite quickly here so some attention from a soft-bristle brush may be required before your ascent.

sandstone - east facing - 5 minutes



Approach: park in the lay-by outside Drumau Park or in the cul-de-sac itself and then walk west/uphill along Drummau Road (SA10 6NW). *Slot Wall* is soon reached in the trees on the right (5 mins). The quarry's main entrance is a few minutes walk further along the road on the right. Do not park road-side by the quarry as this will block Drummau Road for larger vehicles.

Sgiwen/Skewen train station in Neath is 15 minutes walk from Drummau Road.



Turn left as you enter the quarry's main entrance to find the first walls.

1. **Ugy ugy ugy roy roy roy** [4+, ss] A small and pathetic arête left of the quarry entrance (O.Keynes 28/2/18).

2. **One of Tim's problems** [4] Broken crack line on the sidewall right of the small arête (T.Elliot 28/2/18).

3. **Boulderers don't jam** [6a] The obvious undercut crack through a roof (O.Keynes 28/2/18).

4. **The dreaded lurgi** [HVS 5a] A traditional route. Enter the corner after a tricky start on the right then step right for an exposed finale up the headwall. A direct start up the initial groove is inconsistently harder but offers a standalone problem (M.Davies & O.Keynes 27/8/17).

5. **A bouquet of barbed wire** [E2 5b] Another route, sharing the same starts as the last one. From the corner traverse right beneath the prow to climb up its front (M.Davis 14/1/18).

6. **Under suspicion** [5] Start in the corner then move up rightward beneath a vertical crack. Feels high (O.Keynes 24/3/17)

7. **Quarry tramps** [4+] Climb through the bulge via an obvious crack (O.Keynes 24/3/17).

8. **Fly tipped** [5+] Climb through the bulge just left of the arête from a lefthand undercut (O.Keynes 24/3/17).



Further right/east are the ruins of a small brick workhouse with an exquisite slab beside it.

9. **Hoystyle hiphop** [7a+, ss] The small undercut wall just before the ruin is a hard problem featuring sharp fingertip-slicing holds. Start low on the lip (O.Keynes/G.Percival 2017).

10. **Hoy!** [4] The shortest section on the left of the slab beside the ruin has a bad landing (O.Keynes 2/3/17).

11. **No dumping** [4+] The slab right of 10 finishes beside a small tree and also has a bad landing (O.Keynes 24/2/17).

12. **Blast off!** [5+] A fantastic highball problem up the main section of slab immediately beside the ruin, starting from a 'plinth' (O.Keynes 2/3/17).

13. **Blast as bold** [6b+] A very good link, from the start of 12 to the finish of 14.

14. **Bold as love** [6b+] The undercut arête is a classic highball (O.Keynes 24/3/17). #southsidetour

15. **Glyn** [6b] Another excellent highball up the wall right of the arête (keeping out of the corner), with a spicy finish (O.Keynes 10/3/17).

16. **Xaxis** [6a] A gorgeous traverse needing either roving-mat entourage or cool equanimity. Make the first move of *Glynn* then swing left onto *Bold as Love*, continuing to tiptoe left along foot-edges across *Blast Off* all the way to *Hoy* (M.Crocker 6/2/20).

Continue east along the crag to reach a higher (10m) wall and a trio of micro-routes on rock that doesn't look great.



17. **Jenga wall** [E3 5c] The middle of the wall has some good protection (G.Percival 7/6/17).

18. **Spokey/hollow** [HS 4b] Direct up the wall underneath the large tree, finishing rightwards (M.Davies 30/8/17).

19. **Rock mover** [VS 4c] A dirty climb up the right side of the wall. Not particularly recommended (G.Percival 7/6/17)



Further east again is another vertical wall. There is potential for more climbing here although the left side had been buried beneath cuttings thrown down from above at last visit.

19. **Root finder** [6a] A good highball up the vertical wall direct to an obvious large tree root (O.Keynes 18/9/17).

20. **Ivy ivy** [5+] Just right of the root following positive holds through a shallow scooped feature. Trend left at the top to reach the root (O.Keynes 18/9/17).

Just past this wall is an obvious aesthetic square-cut roof.



21. **Rooftown vol.2** [5/e2 5b)] Start underneath the roof but escape leftwards, missing out its better challenges (O.Keynes 26/8/17).

22. **Rooftown direct** [6a/e3 5c] A harder variant through the roof. Start as for *Rooftown(s)* but head straight up through the roof (O.Keynes 26/8/17).

23. **Rooftown** [5+/e2 5b) The original is a great highball with a good landing. Start underneath the roof then trend right through this to reach a juggy rail. Now traverse back left to the undercut arête and finish in an exciting position (O.Keynes 26/5/17).

24. **Steve 4 Lyn** [5/hvs 5b) The undercut crack right of *Rooftown*, Climb into, and then out from, the niche. Feels high but the landing is good (O.Keynes 6/9/17).

29. **Whatever** [VS 4c] The right side of *Ivy league wall* has big holds and a good cam slot. Finish by traversing left into the top of the original (M.Davies & R.Stanfield 18/9/17).

30. **Shrew killer** [6a] The centre of the wall beside the short arête has a long move at the top (G.Percival 26/5/17).

31. **Sorry for the shrews (lefthand)** [6a, ss] Sit-start the arête then take the finger-rail right into the original problem (G.Percival 26/5/17).

32. **Sorry for the shrews** [5, ss] The small wall around the corner is a good problem, with a low start on small holds (O.Keynes 26/5/17).

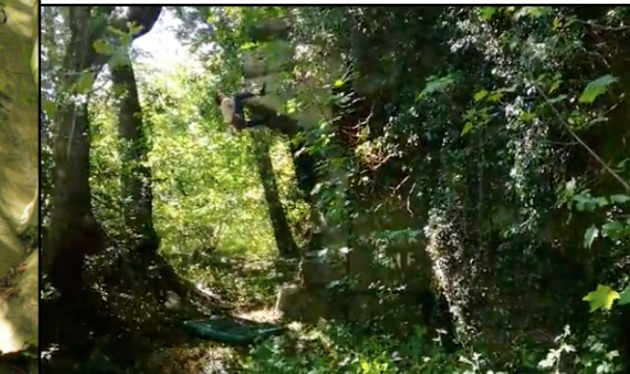
33. **E15** [5] Start low to climb the isolated pillar of rock (P.Derrett 13/8/17).

25. **It's not what we're used to** [Xs 4a] A horrible climb up the muddy gully (R.Stanfield & O.Keynes 18/9/17).

26. **Eye do voodoo** [S 4a] Groove left of the arête, with a chossy finish (M.Davies 30/8/17).

27. **Antifa arete** [f4/hvs 4c] Make big reaches on good holds up the unprotected [7m] square-cut arête. Lovely moves in a good position (M.Davies 30/8/17).

28. **Ivy league wall** [E1 5c] This interesting micro-route has a hard bouldery start up to the crack then a considerably easier finish (G.Percival 26/5/17).



Guy Percival hooking up the second ascent of *Rooftown*

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Continue east to reach an area dominated by the presence of a large and attractive slab of good rock.

34. **However you vote the government wins** [6a] Left side of the rounded arete, starting at its base then heading up and left via a slopy scoop (O.Keynes 7/6/17).

35. **Champagne campaign** [e1 5b] The highball right side of the blunted undercut arete beside the big slab is a good climb (O.Keynes 7/6/17).

36. **Policies of power** [e2 5c] The centre of the big slab is an intimidating and excellent highball/solo (O.Keynes 7/6/17).

37. **Nothing untoward** [vs 5a] Climb the gully on the right of the slab until reaching a break-line, then traverse this to finish up left as for *Policies of power* (M.Davies 30/8/17).

38. **Sunday bumbles** [3+, ss] The small juggy wall before *Dehydration scoop* (O.Keynes 13/8/17).

39. **Arêtes R Us** [3/diff, 7m] The easy angled arete is very pleasant (M.Davies 30/8/17).

40. **The Aa** [4] The rounded arete just left of *Dehydration scoop* (P.Derrett 13/8/17).

41. **Dehydration scoop** [e1 5c] Essentially an unprotected boulder problem through the scooped wall on a detached free-standing section of rock. An easy start quickly leads into a tricky finish (O.Keynes 18/6/17).



42. **Twilight arete** [6a] The high rounded arete right of the scoop is an excellent problem but with a high crux and bad landing (O.Keynes 18/8/17).

43. **The watering** [5+] The short wall right of *Twilight arete* has an obvious pocket and a bad landing (O.Keynes 18/6/17).

44. **Scrumpy jack crack** [vs 4c] The wide crack is well protected. Go right at the bulge (M.Davies 27/8/17).

45. **Scrumpy jack slab** [vs 4c] (M.Davies 27/8/17).

46. **One move wonderboy** [4+] The wall between the crack (on left) and right arete (O.Keynes 18/6/17).

47. **One hot day** [6a] The overhang left of the pod feature requires a dynamic approach (O.Keynes 18/6/17).

48. **No means no** [5+] The pod feature looks deceptively easy to conquer. A unique problem (M.Davies 27/8/17).

49. **To grigri or not to grigri** [5+] The overhang right of the pod feature from a low start (O.Keynes 18/6/17).

50. **San Peregrino** [4+] A dirty and broken crack-line rising rightwards from a low start (O.Keynes 18/6/17).

51. **Tim's climb one** [3] The wall at the top right of the earthy slope offers an easy way up (T.Elliot 18/6/17)

52. **Tim's climb two** [4] Starting at the very bottom of the wall beside the step climb up and leftwards to take in the full height of the wall (T.Elliot 18/6/17).

53. **I lava you** [6a+] The bulge right of *Tim's 2* (P.Derrett 13/8/17).

54. **Mysterious noises** [5] Slab and roof without using corner (O.Keynes 13/8/17).

The most easterly end of the quarry is boundaried by a very aesthetic vertical wall.

55. **Dick arete** [v diff] The arete left of *slot wall* (M.Davies 27/8/17).

56. **Crimp town** [e2 5b] The left side of the wall is hardest low down (G.Percival 26/5/17).

57. **Slot wall** [e3 6a] The wall via slots, starting below the small overhang. A wire at 1/2 height can protect this very good micro-route (G.Percival 26/5/17).



58. **Slot machine** [vs 4c] The obvious wide crack is another very good micro-route/solo (O.Keynes 26/8/17).

