

# Cilsanws



A small area of natural outcrop and free-standing boulders within a hillside nature reserve (so be kind to the place). There is a handful of short but decent problems here around the lower grades and with good landings, although the rock can feel surprisingly greasy at times.



limestone - west facing - 2 minutes

**Approach:** Turn east off the A470 to follow the A465 a short distance before taking the 1st left into Grawen Lane (signposted Prince Charles Hospital). Follow this until it meets the A4054, turn right then immediately left (signed Parkwood Outdoors Centre) into Vaynor Road [bus stop]. Take the 1st left into Cloth Hall Lane (CF48 2NT) and continue up to Merthyr Tydfil Golf Club where parking is available.

From the Golf Club car park a small footpath beside the road entrance leads west into the nature reserve. Take this to arrive at the top of the hillside where a small outcrop is the first rock to be met.



A small outcrop at the top of the hillside is the first rock reached:

1. **Draconian** [6a, ss] The short and steep arête further left, from a lefthand sidepull and righthand crimp (*A.Mannion 31/1/12*).
  2. **Allis** [4, ss] The arête from a start off low crimps (*C.Ryder 3/4/99*).
  3. **Anchor** [4, ss] The wall just left of the corner (*L.Edwards 3/2/12*).
  4. **CZL** [6a, ss] The gently leaning and pointed arête (*C.Ryder 17/4/99*).
  5. **Squidgy palms** [3, ss] Bridge up the corner from a low start (*L.Edwards 2/2/12*).
  6. **The french connection** [5] The wall left of 4 (*C.Ryder 3/4/99*).
  7. **Just another cello** [5+, ss] Start from an obvious undercut (*C.Ryder 3/4/99*).
  8. **No fool** [5, ss] Starting from an undercut right of the arête (*C.Ryder 3/4/99*).
  9. **Beehive yourself** [3, ss] The front face is straightforward (*C.Ryder 3/4/99*).
  10. **Narcissistic interlude** [5, ss] The first face on the side of the outcrop, using both arêtes (*C.Ryder 3/4/99*).
- A path leading down from the outcrop enters some trees where there are some small boulders. **Warning! Beware of an active beehive on the path at the bottom of the hill (opposite the pointy boulder, below right).**
11. **Erratic** [4+] Tackle the undercut left arête of the perched block from a low start below it (*fa unknown*).

12 **Al's roof** [6b] A good problem from low holds underneath the jutting roof (*A.Mannion 2012*).

13. **Congergation** [5+, ss] The left arête (*J.Harris 13/1/12*).

14. **Correlations** [5+, ss] Starts from the obvious jug (*J.Harris 13/1/12*).

15. **Celsius** [5+, ss] A one move wonder from low holds (*D.Cover 14/4/12*).

16. **Citation** [5+, ss] The right arête (*J.Harris 13/1/12*).

17. **Transitions** [5+, ss] Head left from low holds under the roof to turn the lip onto the slabby face (*fa unknown*).

18. **Close quarters** [5, ss] The back arête of the lowest block from an obvious jug (*L.Edwards 13/1/12*). Can be linked into 19.

19. **Orme** [4+, ss] The right arête from low slots (*J.Harris 13/1/12*).

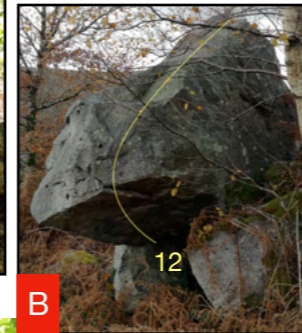
20. **Orme/Quarters link** [5, ss] Link 19 into 18 by traversing left along the obvious break (*J.Harris 13/1/12*).

21. **Veritas direct** [6a, ss] A straight up line from low holds left of the projecting sloper (*D.Cover 14/4/12*).

22. **The Penny Thief** [6a, ss] A good line which climbs straight from the large projecting sloper. Starting as for 20 is a harder variant at F6b (*J.Harris 14/2/12*).

23. [5, ss] The right arête of the front face (*J.Harris 13/1/12*).

24. link [5+, ss] Link 23 into 21 via a leftwards traverse across the front face (*J.Harris 13/1/12*).



**Beyond the outcrop:** Follow the path north for a minute along the top of the hillside to reach more boulders (**E-I**):

25. **What's in Alaska (right)?** [4, ss] Right side of the slab from a tricky sit start (*C.Ryder 3/4/99*).

26. **What's in Alaska (left)?** [4, ss] Left side of the slab (*C.Ryder 3/4/99*).

27. **Will you please be quiet, please** [5, ss] A low but good problem up the pointed bottom arête of the boulder behind the bench (*C.Ryder 3/4/99*).

28. **They're not your husband** [5] Traverse left across the slab without using your hands (*C.Ryder 3/4/99*).

29. **Savage Bee** [4, ss] The left arête of the large cube shaped boulder (**F**) further down the hillside (*C.Ryder 3/4/99*).

30. **Traverse** [4+] A left to right traverse around the boulder, without using the top (*C.Ryder 3/4/99*).

31. **A small, good thing** [5, ss] The left face of the cubic boulder between the arêtes (*C.Ryder 3/4/99*).

32. **Stung into action** [5+, ss] The classic central arête with a tricky sit start is perhaps the best problem here (*C.Ryder 3/4/99*, ss *A.Mannion 2012*).  
**#southsidetour**

33. **Flash friction** [5, ss] The right face of the cubic boulder (*C.Ryder 3/4/99*).

34. **Petite** [4, ss] Below 'the cube' is a small boulder (**G**) with a pocketed face. Start low on the left arête (*fa unknown*).

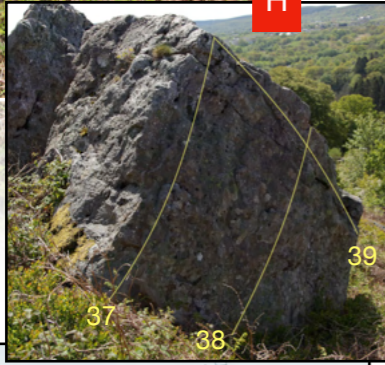


Chas Ryder is Stung into action



35. **List 99** [5, ss] At the far left of the nature reserve is a split boulder (H). Traverse the rising lip starting from the low left arête (C.Ryder 3/4/99).

H



36. **You are here** [5, ss] A pleasant line up the pocketed pointy arête which can be made slightly harder by finishing leftwards up the face (C.Ryder 3/4/99).

37. **Mad dog** [5, ss] Left arête of the split boulder (C.Ryder 3/4/99).

38. **Slapper** [6c, ss] From small edges to the sloping lip and final rock over (L.Fyfe 2012).



39. **Abodes of the guilty** [5+, ss] Traverse the rising lip from a low start on the right arête (C.Ryder 3/4/99).

A few more problems are found on the hillside further north. Leave the nature reserve, keeping the boulder-field on the left and the golf course to the right. Continue (5 minutes) until reaching a metal gate where an obvious 'prow' boulder [I] can be seen on the left.

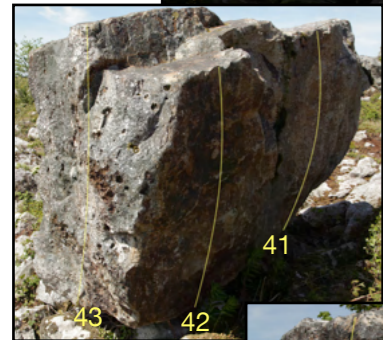
40. **Huggy Bear** - 6c, ss. A good compression problem up the rounded prow (A.Mannion 22/5/12).

41. **One inch pinch** - 5+, ss. Left of 29, start with a left-hand crimp/right-hand pinch to the top (L.Fyfe 23/5/12).

42. **Starsky** [5+, ss] Further left again, with the back arête for left-hand/right-hand sidepull to the top (A.Mannion 22/5/12).

43. **And** [5, ss] The face at the other end of the boulder (A.Mannion 22/5/12).

44. **Hutch** [5+, ss] Beside the small tree is a low start (A.Mannion 22/5/12).



Continue further (another 5 minutes) through a boulder field of disappointingly small rocks until reaching some trees for the last few problems (J).

45. **Sheffield A to Z** [4] Traverse the front face without using the top (C.Ryder 22/5/99).

46. **Fit to fly** [4, ss] The left arête (C.Ryder 22/5/99).

47. **Sequential** [5, ss] Central left side of the face (C.Ryder 22/5/99).

48. **Declining** [5, ss] Central right side of the face (C.Ryder 22/5/99).

49. **The legible graffiti of age** [5, ss] The right arête is quite good (C.Ryder 22/5/99).

50. **All things recede** [6a, ss] The left overhang of the slightly higher boulder [K] (C.Ryder 22/5/99).

51. **I see the earth** [6a, ss] The right overhang (C.Ryder 22/5/99).

Some more problems have been developed in a pit area around 20 minutes walk east across the golf course from K.



J

K