

Gower

New Developments

2019



South Wales Climbing Wiki

<https://swcw.org.uk/wiki/>

Introduction

In 2018 and in preparation for the 2018 **BMC Gower Festival**, we published a short guide to the new routes post **RockFax (2016)**.

This shorter guide is for routes on Gower climbed in 2018-2019; i.e., since last year's publication.

Most new routes this year have been climbed around the **Three Sisters** area to create an area now packed with good sports climbing in stunning locations.

Latest information for these crags (and others on Gower and South East Wales) can be found on the **South Wales Climbing Wiki**. We have added some QR codes to enable you to access easily the relevant wiki pages.

It's worth noting that all of the crags listed here are situated amongst existing and already developed crags. Information on these crags can be found in recent guidebooks or the **South Wales Climbing Wiki**.

This publication is not an exhaustive list of new developments. There has also been some new routing around Southgate including some at **Golden Wall**, **Watch House Slab** and **Bosco's Wall**. These developments are not included here but might be worth checking out.

Note on Loose Rock

This is Gower and these are new routes!

Considerable effort is made to clean routes before they are equipped. Climbing on loose rock is a risk that can be managed only by competent climbers.

If you do not have the skills to climb safely - that is, the skills necessary to assess and manage the risks posed by any climb - then **DO NOT CLIMB**.



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Published by the **South Wales Climbing Wiki** 2019

Finding Gower Crags

The location of crags listed here has been recorded on each topo page. A map has also been drawn to assist you.

For all other crags on Gower see each Wiki page or:

https://swcw.org.uk/wiki/Crag_Locations



Each wiki page should also give you directions.



Access Notes

Pilton Green Access

Access from the free parking at Pilton Green. Free. Park on the grass at the edge of the track leading leading to the farm. (GR SS 446 871 or 51.561586, -4.242797). Cross the road and take the public footpath (signposted), through the 'kissing-gate' to the left of the white house, to reach a the top of dry valley after about 20 minutes and numerous gates. (1.34km). At the landward end of the valley is a kissing-gate.

Go through the gate and then almost immediately go through a green-painted steel gate on your right and then go up the steep path.

At the top, head west along the wide grassy path until you reach another gate/wall. Go through the gate/wall and follow the path 380m as it winds through patches of gorse. Go down a short section between high hawthorn bushes to another gate. (8 minutes and 800m from steel gate)

Go through the gate and then cross the top of the dry valley and follow the path up and round to the left until you come across a large abandoned steel roller. From here, head to the sea and down the steep grass. Third Sister is on your right. (Approximately 2.3 kilometres from Pilton Green).

Pitton Farm Access

This 'walk-in' is much much quicker than from Pilton Green but involves the payment of a £3.00 parking fee.

Turn left (south) off the B4247 at Pitton to Pitton Farm (SS 427877 or 51.565848, -4.270856),,

Turn left when coming out of the car park and follow the road passing some houses and farm buildings and then becomes a track. At this point, the main track appears to veer off to the right. You should take the left fork.

Follow the track uphill and pass through two gates. Follow the track further until you come to another gate. Go through the gate and either follow the sign-posted footpath directions or strike out diagonally rightwards across the field to reach yet another gate.



Pass through this gate to head down towards the sea to reach another gate on the Wales Coast Path after about 50 metres. This is the top end of Rams Grove. 1 km. (15 mins from parking).

To reach *Saddam's Wall*, pass through the gate at the top of the valley and descend a short way down towards the sea for about 35 metres where a short path leads of to the left across a patch of scree, over a short step and round to the quarry.

To find *Sister 2.5* and *Third Sister*, pass through the gate and then head down towards the sea and then strike left at the bottom of the grove and follow a series of narrow paths eastward. After a short while, and after passing the First and Second Sisters, you will see the crag above you on your left. **Third Sister Lower** is found a short way further on.

Many thanks to those who have spent considerable time, expense and effort equipping these new routes.

Please consider donating to help cover the costs of the equipping these new routes.

Details of first ascents can be found on the South Wales Climbing Wiki at:

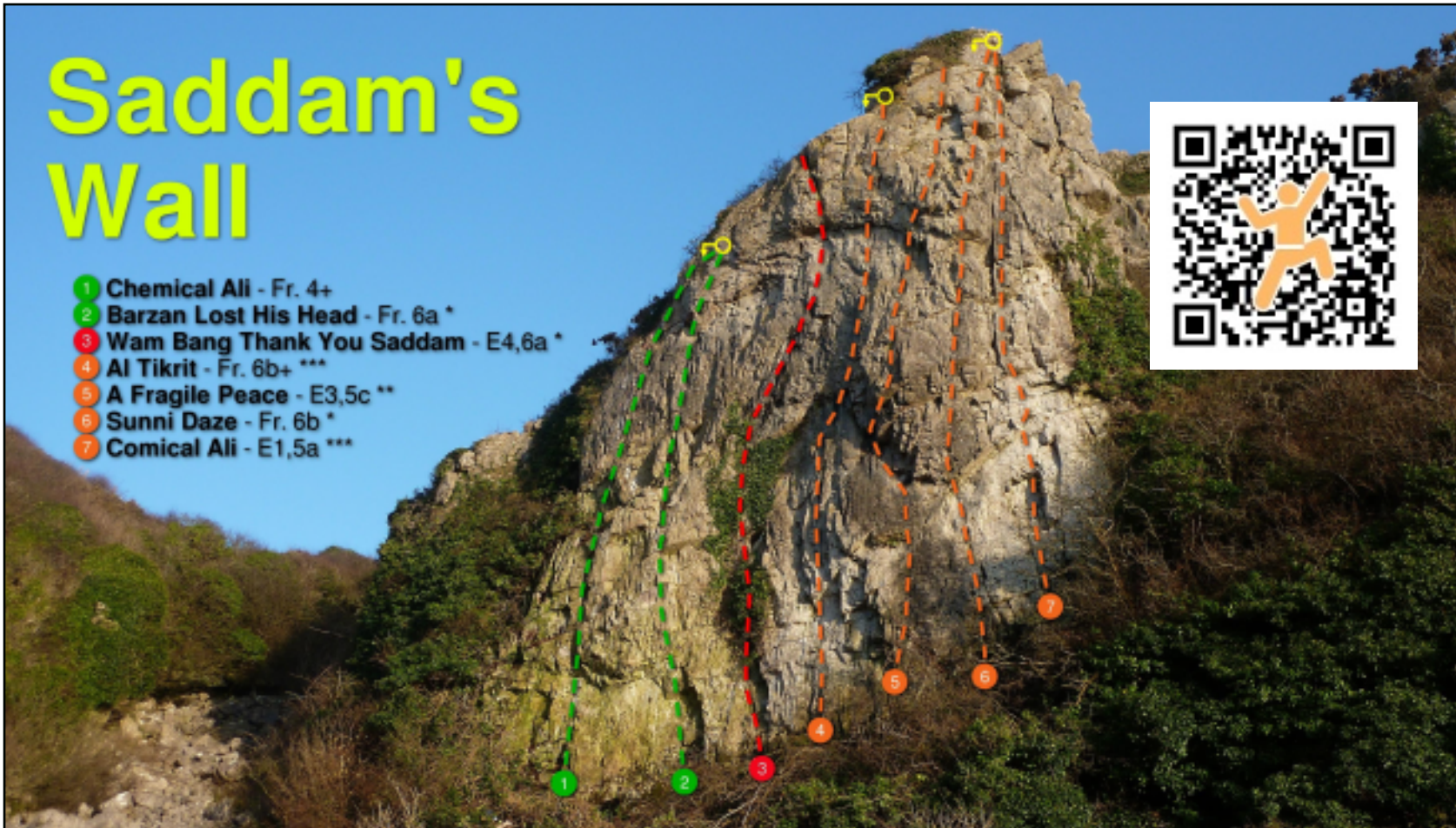
<https://swcw.org.uk/wiki/>

See also Gary Gibson's website at:

<http://sportsclimbs.co.uk/>

Saddam's Wall

- 1 Chemical Ali - Fr. 4+
- 2 Barzan Lost His Head - Fr. 6a *
- 3 Wam Bang Thank You Saddam - E4,6a *
- 4 Al Tikrit - Fr. 6b+ ***
- 5 A Fragile Peace - E3,5c **
- 6 Sunni Daze - Fr. 6b *
- 7 Comical Ali - E1,5a ***



5. A Fragile Peace - E3,5c **
Brilliant on almost perfect rock. Start below a short crack on the right-hand side of the crag. Go up the crag to a shallow bulge. Stride left over a smooth slab and then pull over a small overhang after a projecting foothold. Climb the waterworn face above to the top bulge and yard up on jugs out right to the exit. 20m.

6. Sunni Daze - Fr. 6b *
The R side of the pillar direct above the short crack pulling over a series of short roofs to finish right as for *Comical Ali*.

7. Comical Ali - E1,5a ***
The crack line on the far right of the crag, very small wires on the low crux.

Sport Grade Spread	
<=6a+	2
6b - 6c+	2
7a - 7b	0
>=7b+	0

To reach Saddam's Wall, pass through the gate at the top of the valley on the Wales Coast Path and descend 35 metres down towards the sea where a short path leads off to the left across a patch of scree, and then over a short step and round to the quarry.

1. Chemical Ali - Fr 4+
The left edge of the wall moving right to shared belay of Barzan....15m.

2. Barzan Lost His Head - Fr. 6a *
The stripped crack and wall left of the overgrown groove.

3. Wam Bang Thank You Saddam - E4,6a *
Start in the centre of the crag, climb an ivy invaded groove on big jugs to a hole at 12m (recleaning needed). Move up and right to a bulge and pocket. Step up and extend for finger jugs slightly out left. Step right, reach a crack above the top bulge and cut loose for the top. 15m.

4. Al Tikrit - Fr. 6b+ ***
Start R of the overgrown groove continue to staple L.O.

OSGB 36: SS 430 867

WGS 84: 51.557763, -4.264955

Routes in an old quarry some of which are on beautiful water-worn limestone.

Sister 2.5 Upper

OSGB 36: SS 430 864
WGS 84: 51.554842, -4.264604
 Recent addition to **Sister 2.5**.
 Easy routes, but watch out for loose rock.
 Higher and to the left of **Sister**.

- 1 SBTd Direct - S
- 2 Seeing Beyond the Drill - S
- 3 Pot Boiler - Fr. 4
- 4 Hot off the Press - Fr. 5
- 5 Page Turner - Fr. 5
- 6 Final Draft - Fr. 5
- 7 Bodice Ripper - Fr. 5
- 8 Schmills and Boon - Fr. 6b

Grade Spread	
<=6a+	7
6b - 6c+	1
7a - 7b	0
>=7b+	0



- 1. **Seeing Beyond the Drill - S**
- 2. **Seeing Beyond the Drill Direct - S**
- 3. **Pot Boiler - Fr. 4**
Left hand route, belay just below a short roof.

- 4. **Hot off the press - Fr. 5**
Just right, double staple belay
- 5. **Page Turner - Fr. 5**
Shared belay.

- 6. **Final Draft - Fr. 5**
Jug city, shared belay up L.
- 7. **Bodice Ripper - Fr. 5**
Start from the left side of the low curved roof, belay below the ivy choked groove.

10. **Harriet Harman & the Lehman Sisters** - Fr. 6c+

First bolt is a long way up on suspect rock, and the hanger is missing.

12. **Uprising** - Fr. 7a **

Sustained with a tricky bulge around half-height. Good.

13. **Water** - Fr. 6c+ ***

Crux move at the bulge. Sustained and excellent.

14. **Arab Spring** - Fr. 7a **

Fingery, blind crux. Good.

15. **Power Vacuum** - Fr. 6c *

Intricate climbing below the bulge, then a hard pull onto the upper face.

16. **Gafsa** - Fr. 6c *

Technical climbing to the bulge. Easier above.

17. **Mubarak** - Fr. 6b *

Technical and then easing.

18. **Gaddafi Groove** - Fr. 6a

Pleasant.

19. **Starting Block** - Fr. 5+

The left hand line of bolts on the short wall.

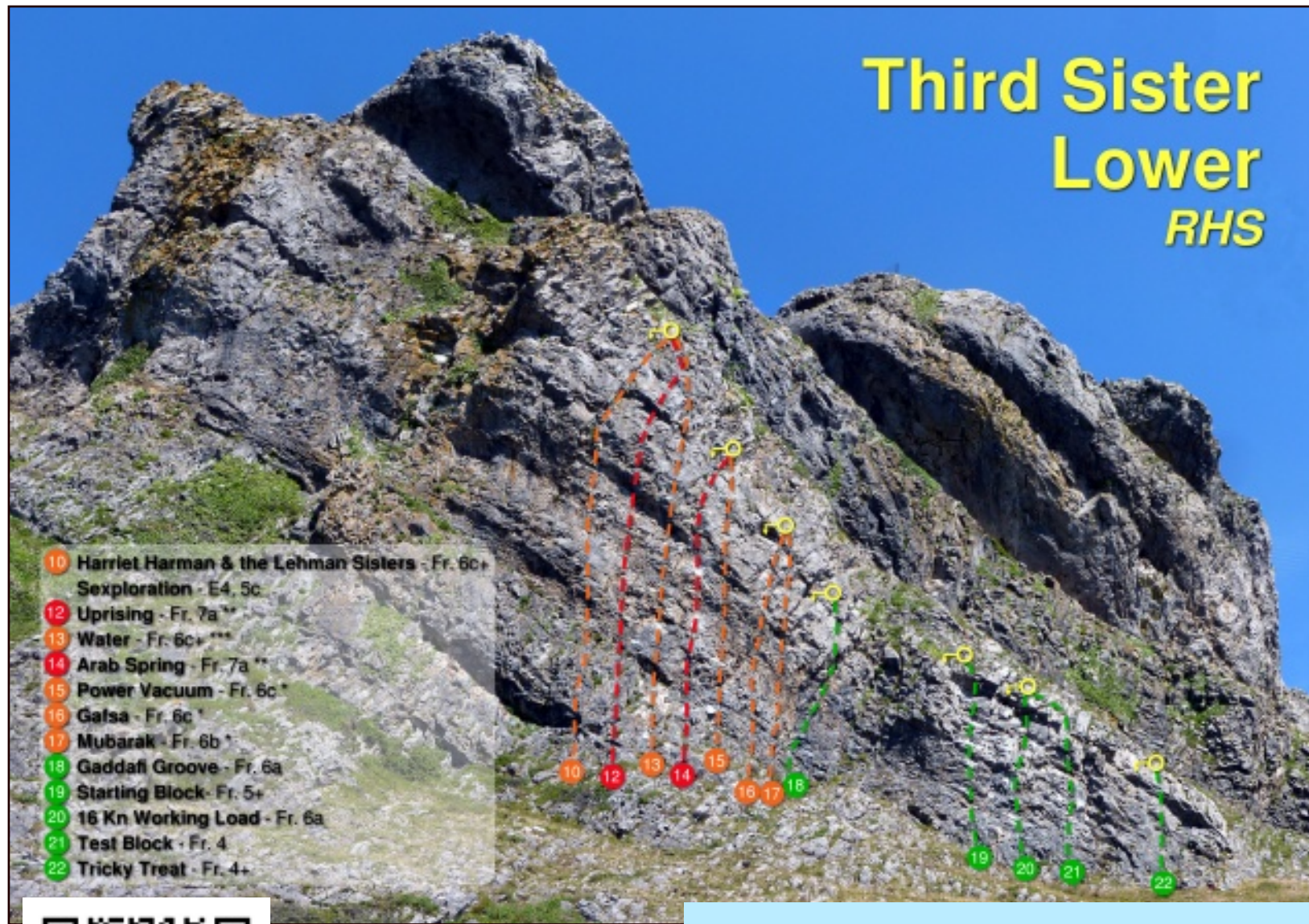
20. **16 Kn Working Load** - Fr. 6a

21. **Test Block** - Fr. 4

Shares belay on L with "16 Kn".

22. **Tricky Treat** - Fr. 4+

Last one, hangers.



- 10 Harriet Harman & the Lehman Sisters - Fr. 6c+
- 12 Uprising - Fr. 7a **
- 13 Water - Fr. 6c+ ***
- 14 Arab Spring - Fr. 7a **
- 15 Power Vacuum - Fr. 6c *
- 16 Gafsa - Fr. 6c *
- 17 Mubarak - Fr. 6b *
- 18 Gaddafi Groove - Fr. 6a
- 19 Starting Block - Fr. 5+
- 20 16 Kn Working Load - Fr. 6a
- 21 Test Block - Fr. 4
- 22 Tricky Treat - Fr. 4+



Grade Spread	
<=6a+	5
6b - 6c+	5
7a - 7b	2
>=7b+	0

OSGB 36: SS 431 863
WGS 84: 51.55401, -4.264048

Underneath **Third Sister Main**. Stunning views.

From **Third Sister (Main)** descend and cross the fence and scramble westwards for 30 metres along a vague, narrow and fairly exposed path.

Third Sister Lower



- 1 Ramp It Up - Fr. 5
- 2 Teenage Rampage - Fr. 6a
- 3 Groovy Baby - Fr.5
- 4 Ballroom Blitz - Fr.5+
- 5 Blockbuster - 6b+
- 6 Lovely Ugly Climb - Fr. 5
- 7 Amblimance - Fr. 5

Sport Grade Spread	
<=6a+	8
6b - 6c+	1
7a - 7b	0
>=7b+	0

- 8 Two Nans And A Grandpa - Fr. 6a+ *
- 9 Peruvian Marching Powder - Fr. 5

1. **Ramp It Up** - Fr. 5
Above the narrow path coming from *Sister* 2.5, an obvious narrow ramp.
2. **Teenage Rampage** - Fr. 6a
Direct over bulge, joins previous.
3. **Groovy Baby** - Fr.5
Groove L of rib.
4. **Ballroom Blitz** - Fr. 5+
L side rib.
5. **Blockbuster** - Fr. 6c *
R side of rib.
6. **Ugly Lovely Climb** - Fr.5
Obvious chimney/ crackright of rib.
7. **Amblimance** - Fr. 5
The wall to right sharing previous belay.
8. **Two Nans And A Grandpa** - Fr. 6a+ *
The excellent pocketed wall.
9. **Peruvian Marching Powder** - Fr. 5
Last route on the wall moving left to shared belay.

OSGB 36: SS 431 863

WGS 84: 51.55401, -4.264048

Underneath **Third Sister Main** and in a beautiful location.

From **Third Sister (Main)** descend and cross the fence and then scramble westwards for 30 metres along a vague, narrow and fairly exposed path.



- 1 Foam Under Sister - Fr. 5
- 2 Prim - Fr. 6a
- 3 The Haworth lassies - Fr. 6a+
- 4 Las Mariposas - Fr. 6b
- 5 Weird and Wayward - Fr. 6b+
- 6 Thankless Child - 6b+
- 7 Serpent's Tooth - Fr. 6b

- 8 The Daughters of Lear - Fr. 6c
- 9 The Underling - 7a+
- 10 The Underling's Undercling - Fr. 6b+
- 11 Pleiades - Fr. 5
- 12 Touching the Rusty Ring - Fr. 6b

- 1. **Foam Under Sister** - Fr. 5
Pleasant slabby face.
- 2. **Prim** - Fr. 6a
Pleasant technical climbing up the steep slab.
- 3. **The Haworth Lassies** - Fr. 6a+
Technical slab and wall climbing.
- 4. **Las Mariposas** - Fr. 6b *
Gain the corner, hop onto the arete and tackle the leaning wall.
- 5. **Weird and Wayward** - Fr. 6b+*
Unlikely territory for the grade.
- 6. **Thankless Child** - Fr. 6b+ *
Hard moves to turn the overhang.

- 7. **Serpent's Tooth** - Fr. 6b **
Nice moves on steep ground.
- 8. **The Daughters of Lear** - Fr. 6c **
A direct line through the longest and steepest section of overhangs. Technical rather than strenuous.
- 9. **The Underling** - 7a+
Steep and then slab.
- 10. **The Underling's Undercling** - Fr. 6b+
Powerful sequence through the bulge.
- 11. **Pleiades** - Fr. 5
Pleasant climbing up the slab, beware of loose blocks in the corner.
- 12. **Touching the Rusty Ring** - Fr. 6b
Keeping to the right of the slabby wall gives the grade.

Sport Grade Spread	
<=6a+	4
6b – 6c+	7
7a – 7b	1
>=7b+	0



OSGB 36: SS 431 863
WGS 84: 51.554165, -4.264382

Gower's latest find! Secluded, sunny and quite steep!

From **Third Sister Lower (LHS)**, descend the steep grassy slope and then descend right (west) down an easy ramp.