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NEW WINTER CLIMBS & COMMENTS TO SPRING 2016

TRAVERSE CRAG NY 250 064

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Band on the Run Direct Finish 70m V, 5 *

From the top of the steep chimney, climb the short wall above to arrive on the snowy ramp, belay at its top. Climb the obvious steep, open corner in the wall on the left on amazing torques and hooks to the top of the crag. The whole route was climbed in 3 pitches – the initial corner pitch, the Steep chimney pitch and the final open groove pitch. 70m V,5 and worth 1 star.

First ascent: (14/02/2016) Mark Thomas and Kate O'Donoghue

FLAT CRAGS NY 249 064

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1984, Flat Crag. IX/9 ***

1 26m 9 Climb the overhanging crack through the footless bulge (crux) to below a capping roof. Move right with some awkward moves around in to the groove, great climbing leads to the belay at some stacked blocks. A brilliant technical and strenuous pitch with generally good hooks needing an inventive approach.

2 20m 4 Climb the groove behind the blocks being careful not to trust the blocks too much (!) and finish up snowy ramps to the top. If you don't like the look of the blocks there would be some other Pitch 2 options left and right of the belay...

First ascent: (16/12/2012) Description from Paddy Cave's Website.

Considerable doubt has been expressed by some present on the day that conditions warranted an attempt at a winter ascent of this summer rock climb.

BOWFELL NORTH BUTTRESS, NY 246 066

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Into The Groove (Riboletto Groove Direct) 100m V, 6 *

1, III Start at the bottom of Cambridge Crag Climb and climb it for a few metres before climbing diagonally right and up to the base of an obvious corner with a double corner crack at its top. Belay on the left.

2, IV,5 – Climb the corner, stepping right at its top and up the snowy bay behind. Belay on the right.

3, V,6 – Riboletto Groove, to the top of the crag.

First ascent: (01/02/2015) Mark Thomas and Richie Mockler

The Matrix 100m VI 6 **

1, IV,4 – Start 4m right of Cambridge Crag Climb, at the base of an obvious tongue of white turf coming down from a groove higher up, to the left of the upper 'Gendarme'. Climb the turf to belay on the left at the base of the groove.

2, 30m, VI,6 – Step right and up into the hanging groove above, with a white wall on its left flank. A steep pull out of a niche and up the narrow groove above, gear is very difficult to find and place. Climb up to blocks above on the left of the 'Gendarme'.

3, IV,5 – Climb the continuation turfy corner above and finish up the final moves of 'No Way Out'

First ascent: (02/02/2015) Mark Thomas and Kate O'Donoghue

Super Storm 50m IV

Climb the turfy corner on the left of the buttress that lies to the right of 'The Flying Gimp Trick'. Start 10m right of this route in a corner below a steep headwall above. Climb the corner to a good snowy ledge below the top headwall (possible belay). Climb the crack above.

Variation finish – It is possible to step left here around the corner and finish steeply to the top, same grade.

First ascent: (04/02/2014) Mark Thomas and Kate O'Donoghue

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BOWFELL BUTTRESS

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Ultraviolet Junglist 110m VII, 8***

A good natural winter line, which roughly follows the line of the summer HVS *Silent Witness* for its first two pitches then climbs an independent groove above. Start about 5m left of *Bowfell Buttress* below and left of the obvious chimney fault line about 10m up the crag.

- 1: 20m (5) Climb up and slightly right to the base of the chimney which leads to a block belay at it's top.
- 2: 25m (8) Move left from the belay and then up and left up a turfy groove to some in-situ tat. Move up and step left into a left facing corner below a small roof. Move right around the arête and out of the corner and pull through the roof with difficulty. Belay below the obvious groove above.
- 3: 20m (7) Enter the groove above with difficulty and climb it to it's top.
- 4: 45m (3) A turfy romp remains.

First ascent: (17/01/2015) Peter Graham, Ben Silvestre (AL)

DOW CRAG

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F Gully 170m II

Climb the shallow snow gully running up the right side of F Buttress to finish just right of the summit of Dow crag. Variation finish; traverse out left at mid-height to finish up the rocky ridge of F buttress.

First ascent: (27/02/2010) J Daly solo

STEEL EDGE

Page: 101 NY 294 005

Easy Gullies 50m II

Wetherlam – Steel Edge (NY294 002) alt 550m

The east facing broken summit crag immediately south of Steel Edge contains three easy gully lines (50-60m). The left end of the crag is bounded by a straightforward snow gully (I) with a small cornice, the central gully (II) requires some more tricky moves up rock walls for the first 30m to enter the slanting gully while the right-hand gully has a slight chockstone at one-third height (I). BD solo 28/12/09

First ascent: (28/12/2009) Brian Davison

SCAFELL CRAG

Scafell Shamrock

Lost in Time Like Smoke on the Wind 160m III+*

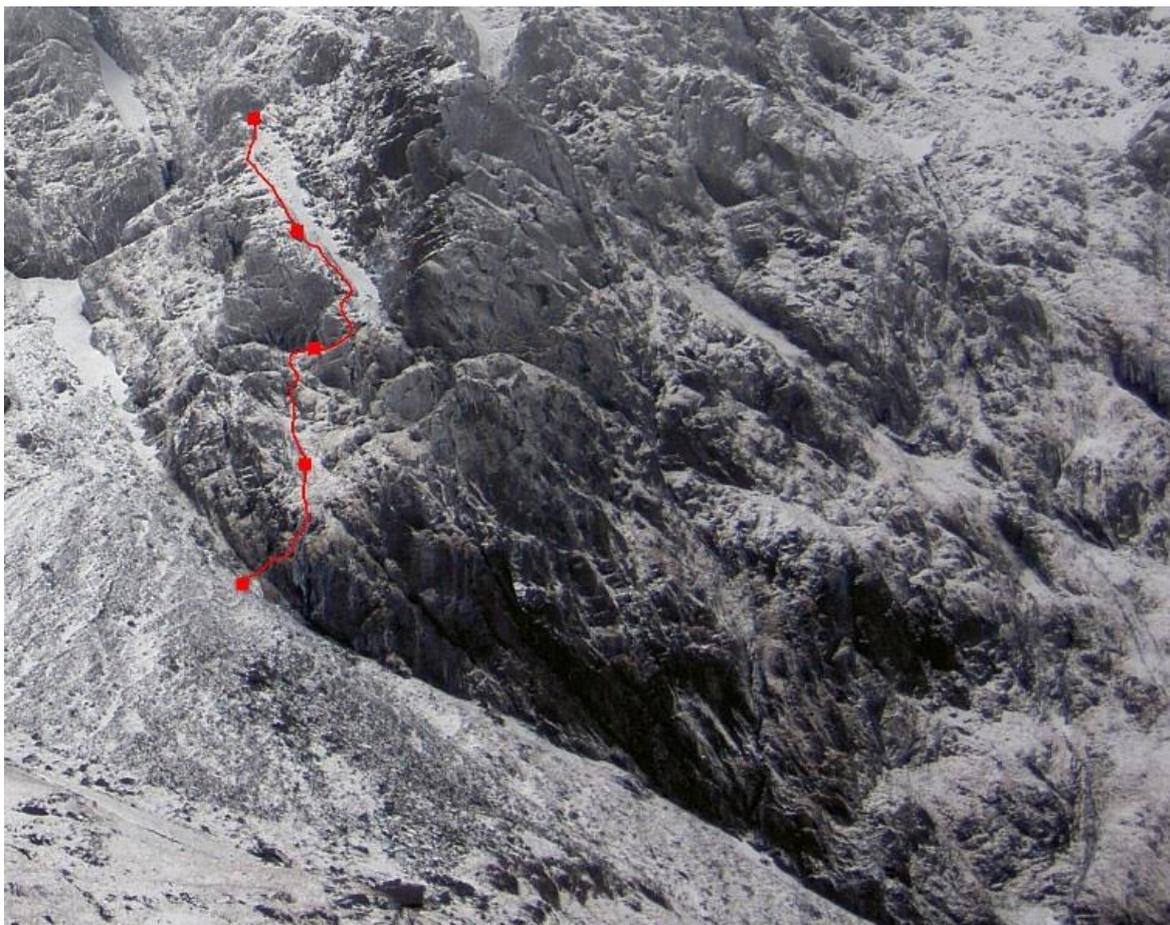
The route starts to the left of 'Shamrock Icefall'.

1. 40m Take a rightwards rising traverse across turf ledges onto the ice formations. Follow these to a snow field and a belay.
2. 30m Head up the snowfield to an open icy groove follow this to a belay at the base of a steep buttress.
3. 30m Turn the buttress on the right and pull up onto an easy angled ramp.
4. 60m Finish up the easy ramp to a small col just above the bottom of Lords Rake.

First ascent: (26/01/2013) Donald Willey, David Willey almost certainly been climbed before

Photo-diagram on next page.

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Lost in Time Like Smoke on the Wind

PIKES CRAG

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Mare's Nest Ridge 180m III/IV*

some difficulties are avoidable. Start at the foot of Mare's Nest Gully.

1. 60m up Mare's Nest Gully to an easing on the left with a good spike belay
2. 30m. Climb the cracked corner right of the summer line, taking care with loose blocks at the top, to gain the ridge on the left.
3. 60m. Follow the ridge over or around a number of gendarmes. From the final gap climb up and right for 5m to a ledge below a left slanting groove.
- 4&5 60m. Follow the groove to the top of Pulpit Rock over several steep steps.

First ascent: (31/01/2015) Adrian Dye, Matt Griffin, almost certainly climbed before

SCOAT FELL CRAG

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The Faux Pas 60m V, 7 *

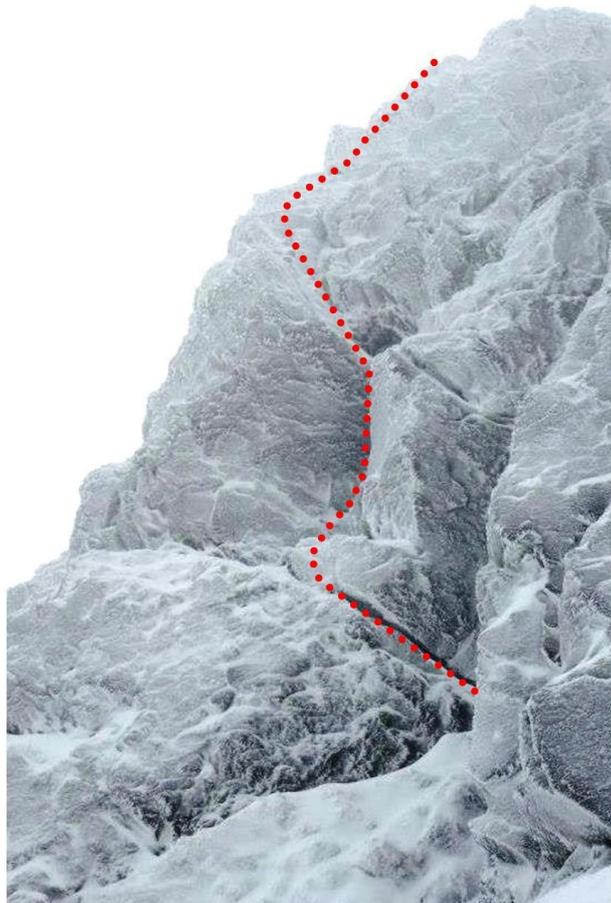
Winter conditions transform this character building summer VS into an excellent outing.

1. 30m (6/7) Climb the turf filled chimney to join *Easy Gully* and follow this for 10m until an obvious large diagonal crack in the left sidewall is reached (belay possible). Open your can of tricks and traverse boldly left along wide crux crack until sanctuary is reached under an obvious corner. Chockstone belay.
2. 30m (4/5) Climb the fine corner / chimney to a ledge, before tackling the short groove / slab on the left to the arête. Continue easily to the top.

First ascent: (08/12/2012) Simon Litchfield, Andrew Suttie and Karl Wood

Photo-diagram on next page

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The Faux Pas

GABLE CRAG

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Timnian 70m V, 4

Climbs the thinly iced slabs to the left of Summertime Blues

- 1.20m 3 Start left of Summertime Blues, follow snow and ice to belay on the ledge
2. 50m 4 Climb the thinly iced slab, poorly protected

First ascent: (16/02/2014) Tim Millen and Ian Armstrong

GREEN GABLE CRAG

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Un-named route next to Fie 30m VI, 7

This route is on the slab taken by the summer S Fie. Start by climbing the corner on the right, then the cracks right of Fie, it then crosses Fie and climbs the corner. A great pitch.

First ascent: (13/02/2013) Paddy Cave & another

Fallen Comrades 35m V*

Excellent mixed climbing with reasonable protection taking the turfey crack to the left of the summer route *Timshell*. Start 3 m right of *Epsilon Chimney* at a right facing corner. Climb the corner on good hooks to a grass ledge, gain the prominent rightward slanting turfey crack/groove and follow it to a niche. Step right onto the crux slab and delicately mantelshelf onto a flat hold before using turf blobs to re-join the crack/groove which leads past a small pinnacle to a turf belay ledge above.

First ascent: (17/01/2015) Adrian Dye, Matt Griffin

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GREAT END

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Ultraviolet Exorcist 110m VI, 7 **

A line of grooves just right of *Left Hand Groove* finishing up a steep thin ice smear. Start a few metres to the right of Left Hand Groove below an off-width crack.

1: 30m (7) Climb the off-width, which is steep to start and continue more easily up and left to belay as for *Left Hand Groove*.

2: 30m (6) Climb the groove just to the right of *Left Hand Groove* and continue up the thin ice smear above.

3: 70m A turfy romp to the top.

Rick Graham climbed the first pitch direct (solo) in 1995 via the hanging chandelier, which was well formed at the time.

First ascent: (18/01/2015) Ben Silvestre, Peter Graham (AL)



Altim Groove 50m IV

About 70m from the top of Central Gully Right Hand on its left (true right) wall there is a right facing open corner groove running steeply up to the right. Climb this and its right wall, steep at first, on ice and mixed ground to a superb belay.

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Thirlmere

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Launchy Gill: ACCESS NOTE

The gill is an SSSI and there may be restrictions. It can be climbed when it is well frozen. During January 2010 a United Utilities sign appeared at the gill stating "No Climbing". Here is the United Utilities position: The sign is not permanent and there will not be a permanent sign put up. It will be removed in the near future or may have already gone by now. It was only a laminated paper sign. The general position is that scrambling, climbing, gill scrambling is not permitted in Launchy Gill. This is long standing and is intended to protect the SSSI interest. If Launchy Gill is totally frozen (and or banked out with deep snow) then UU are happy to accept winter climbing as the damage to the SSSI at these times is minimal. The route needs to be complete as if just one part is in, then climbers will scramble out of the gill when the ice stops and damage the SSSI interest. Getting out at the very top is therefore an essential part of route condition. If there is any uncertainty, UU may put up signs to indicate that conditions are not suitable for winter climbing. UU would rather be in the position where climbers made their own judgement about when climbing was suitable or not. However a few weeks back there were two minibuses and queues of climbers when the route was clearly thawing. It was this that pushed UU into putting up a sign.

BROWN COVE CRAGS

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Left Branch II (Comment): Having been up the route labelled Central Gully and looked carefully for the 'Left Branch', I've come to the conclusion that this route doesn't actually exist! Central has no real left fork as far as I could see, although it is easy to get onto the buttress route 'Stepped Ridge' at many points.

Jet Stream 40m VI, 6**

Climb the 1st pitch of 'Two Grooves' to arrive on the snowy bay beneath the top pitch of this route, belay on the right, below a square cut, short groove. Climb this to a snowy ledge, then the thin steep wall/crack above to a sloping turfey ledge, bold. Now attack the crack in the wall above on amazing hooks and torques to the top.

First ascent: (11/02/2014) Mark Thomas and Kate O'Donoghue

The In - Between 100m III *

Start at the bottom of 'Central Gully' on the left side, at a sloping left facing open groove/ramp, about 15m up from the start of 'Left Branch'

- 1 30m, Thread belay at the start, climb the ramp, then up the snow crest above, towards an obvious iced up corner, belay at the left of this.
- 2 30m, Climb the corner on awesome ice, and the snow above and into the next corner, mixed and tricky, with a hard move left over the jammed block. Follow the snow ramp to a headwall with a flake spike protruding out of it, belay in the crack beneath it.
- 3 60m - Climb over the headwall, left of the spike using a crack, then up and to the right of the obvious pillar above. Follow the right side of the ridge, overlooking Central Gully.
- 4 Follow the ridge to the top of the buttress.

The route was climbed under amazing icy conditions. I think if it was climbed in anything less, the grade would possibly be harder, moves of 4.

First ascent: (13/02/2014) Mark Thomas and Kate O'Donoghue

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Paparazzi 100m VI

Start on the right of the shield of slab to the right of 'Summer Step'

1 1V,4 Climb the ice corner hidden on the right of the shield and cuts back left, then up and over a dagger of rock to the ledge and follow the groove above on the right with a steep pull out right at it's top.

2, III A long pitch, climbing diagonally right to the obvious short step of ice, climb this, below and left of the last pitch of 'Two Grooves', to arrive at a block belay and comfortable stance to the left of 'Two Grooves'.

3 VI,7 'Short, Sharp, Shock!' - step down and right, and then climb back up the turfy crack to arrive at the arête on the left of the upper crag. Step left and climb the steep, overhanging crack, using the lower chock stone, then difficult, 'pumpy' hooks to the top of the crag. It's possible the lower pitches may have been climbed before, but no record has been made. Combining all three pitches makes an interesting way up the buttress.

First ascent: (10/02/2015) Mark Thomas and Kate O'Donoghue

HIGH CRAG, NETHERMOST PIKE

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Gully B Upper Left-hand Finish 100m II

Follow Gully B right fork until it is possible to traverse back left up an exposed turfy ramp which leads onto the upper part of AB Buttress and thence the top.

First ascent: (07/03/2016) C Wells

Gully A Groove Finish 110m III

Follow Gully A to a steepening where it is blocked ahead by steep rock. To the right is a steep turfy corner which is climbed to reach the upper part of AB Buttress and thence the top.

NB. It is likely this line has almost certainly been climbed before but not recorded.

First ascent: (28/02/2016) C Wells

COCK COVE CRAG

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Unclaimed Gully 70m I

On the Buttress to the right of the obvious snow gully right of Cock Cove Crag, there is a gully on its right side, with a short icy step at half height. Climb this gully to the top of the buttress.

First ascent: (07/02/2015) Kate O'Donoghue and Mark Thomas

ST SUNDAY CRAG

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Return of the Frosted Beard 150m IV, 5

A good winter line following a series of vegetated grooves up the buttress left of *East Chockstone Gully*. Starts at a vegetated shallow gully about 17 m left of *East Chockstone Gully* and 3m right of *Slab Route* (Summer Guide page 243-4)/*Slab Route Buttress* (Winter Guide p 325)

1 50m (5) Climb easily up the grassy gully to a steep cracked corner on the left side of the slabs. Make difficult thin moves up the corner (well protected) to gain the hanging turfy groove above.

2 40m (3) Make tricky moves above the belay to a short corner, climb this and then easy ground to a block belay at the bottom of a v shaped gully.

3 30m (3) Climb the v shaped gully to a block belay up and left, just below a prominent corner.

4 30m (5) Make difficult thin moves up the corner and continue up the groove.

Easy ground to the top

First ascent: (17/01/2016) Adrian Dye, Huw Davies, Kris Mclean

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The Snow Badger Strikes Back 170m IV 6 *

The route takes the prominent turfy groove system on the left hand side of Slab Buttress.

1 50m (6) Climb the left hand groove over a couple of bulges to a ledge and then climb slightly rightwards up to a prominent spike.

2 60m From here climb leftwards over turfy ledges to below the left hand groove in the tier above.

3 30m (5) Climb the turfy groove, exiting steeply right at the very top to an excellent belay on a block (common belay with Slab Route and Continuation).

4 30m (5) Climb the groove directly behind the block to easier ground.

First ascent: (14/02/2016) A Dye and M Griffin

HUTAPLE CRAG

Page: 338 Alt: 640m GR: NY 367 120 Direction: NORTH WEST

East Hutaple Groove (Comment): climbed this route in January this year (2013). It is an excellent climb and possibly worth 3 stars when the top groove is iced/covered in neve. It would then give 3 top quality pitches. In January the top groove was not iced and was avoided by climbing the mixed ground on the right.

HEIRLOOM CRAG

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The Will 50m VI 6 **

Really good climbing up a fine direct line

1. Take the same approach up the centre of the lower tier as *Heirloom/Heiress*.

2. 6. The main pitch starts directly below the large overhang to the left of *Heirloom*. Climb directly to this and step right into cracks in the left wall of the main corner (joining the summer line of *Relative Ease*). Follow the crack to a ledge on the left, then up the offwidth in the corner on the left to a crevasse. Finish up the left-facing corner of *Heiress*. It looked quite possible to continue up cracks from the ledge rather than the offwidth. This would join *Heiress* slightly sooner, but the off-width was more appealing!

First ascent: (17/01/2015) Andy Brown (main pitch), Julian Cox (approach pitch)

DROPPING CRAG, WHITE MAIDEN

480m

SD258 955

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The easiest approach is to park in the car park beyond the fell gate on the Walna Scar Road above Coniston. Follow the Walna Scar Road Westwards; 300m beyond the bridge leave the track by a large boulder and contour the fellside south westerly to the crag (50 minutes).

There are two icefalls on the right side of the crag. Route conditions can be viewed from a layby on the A5084 half a kilometre south east of Torver.

Ice Maiden 25m IV/V, 5

Climb the right hand of two short steep adjacent ice pillars then an easy slope to block belays.

First ascent: (13/03/2013) J Daly, R Purdy, K Bruce

Maid of Honour 25m V

Climb the left hand of the two steep ice pillars found on the right side of the crag. An easy slope leads to block belays.

First ascent: (29/03/2013) J Daly, N Harvey, R Purdy.

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STEP GILL	465m	NY 219170	NW
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Several short icefalls form at the top of Step Gill which cuts into the Northern slopes of Hindscarth (but is not named on the 1:50,000 OS Map). The routes are short and not hard; but if you happen to be in the area they are easily accessible from the upper Newlands Valley by a direct ascent of the stream draining the Gill. Alternatively the upper part of the Gill can be gained from the footpath up Hindscarth from Low Snab (NY228 185). A bike will shorten significantly the approach from the Upper Newlands Valley. At the time of these ascents, three icefalls were in condition; two were worth doing.

Ben and Gemmies 30m III

This is the first icefall encountered in the left branch of the gill. Easy Grade II ice and turf lead to a short vertical section, which is easily avoided.

First ascent: (06/04/2013) Ben Anderson and Gemma Ford

Third and Thirty 20m III*

The second icefall encountered in the left branch of the gill. Continuous and good Grade II/III ice with a nice narrow section.

First ascent: (06/04/2013) Gemma Ford and Ben Anderson