

# Winspit

Winspit is a popular, easily accessible and generally sheltered crag. It is situated a short distance from the nearby village of Worth Matravers.

Winspit has 3 main areas of climbing activity. 2 quarried walls with some extensive and quite interesting bolted routes and a seawall which offers a number of short, yet worthwhile routes with many at the lower-end of the grade scale.

Its ease of accessibility, range of grades and also the sheltered nature of the crag make it an ideal venue, especially in changeable weather or indeed for some evening climbing, especially during the summer months.



## **Access**

Access to Winspit is simple. There is a sizeable National Trust car park (donation required unless NT member) in the village of Worth Matravers (be forewarned; however that it is often rather busy, especially during the summer months and weekends). Start at the village pond in Worth and follow the signposted footpath to Winspit. Once at the bottom of the path, the crags are easy to find, with the Main Quarry to the West, Quarrymans Wall on the East and the Eastern seawall also around to the East.

## **Restrictions**

Like many Swanage venues, there are many bird-nesting restrictions in operation. Winspit thankfully has only some near the Eastern Seawalls. Please consult the BMC Bird Restrictions Guide at [www.thebmc.co.uk](http://www.thebmc.co.uk)

## **Post-Climb Refreshments**

Rarely has a decision been so easy. Simply re-trace your steps up to Worth Matravers and drop in to the Square and Compass. Fantastic beer, cider and allegedly some soft-drinks too. On certain (very random but not infrequent occasions) live music too. Food-wise, this is a pub, not one of those poncy gastro pubs, so you'll have to make do with crisps or if very lucky pasties or sausage pie. All are heartily recommended :)

## The Main (West) Quarry

Bread Knife – F4 ★

Climbs the big corner right of Any Old Time.

Start on the right of the mound, climb the flake in the white wall then move into the corner. Five bolts to a "Monster Hook" lower off.

Iron Bar – F6a+

Right of Post-Coital Snooze is a cave, start at its left side.

Six bolts lead up and left to a "Monster Hook" lower off.

## Quarryman's Wall

Anne-Marie Paid My Fee – F4+

Left of Nine Years Absense is a corner.

Climb the cruxy corner, passing four bolts to reach a "Monster Hook" lower-off.

## Winspit East End (Eastern Sea Walls)

To the north-east of the cove the quarrying activity has left a large ledge below which is an extensive sea cliff. As the ledge narrows to the north-east the cliff gains in height, and character. The cliff is a secluded environment compared to the cove, has good finishes, and mostly sound (sometimes superb) rock. A friendly area offering a range of grades and amenities.

The lack of stars does not mean that the routes here are poor. It is just that the routes are short and, because of the rock structure, the difficulties are often short lived. Much of worth is to be found here however. The plenitude of easier routes, sound finishes, and simple access make the area particularly attractive for those new to the sport.

The routes as far as Christine have the added advantage of being "walk in" routes. Although it is possible to reach all the routes by traversing, those to the north-east of Christine are better reached by abseiling. Easy escape routes can be found from most areas.

## The Square-cut Bay

At the north-eastern side of the cove is a short stack, behind this an easy descent leads to a scramble eastwards to a square-cut bay with a trench-like rock pool at the back. This bay remains dry at all states of the tide, but not in rough seas. The bay contains five routes, which climb the obvious cracks. Each route is 8 metres long and dates from 27.3.87.

Who Needs Friends? - Severe

The left-hand corner, moving right at the roof into the continuation groove is Who Needs Friends?

Insectitude - Severe

Three meters right is the crack of Insectitude, finishing up the small crack on the left.

Praying Mantle – Hard Severe

The central crack is Praying Mantle, finishing awkwardly up the wall

#### Emmy's Roof – Very Severe

The crack 3 metres right again is Emmy's Roof, finishing over the small overhang at the top.

#### Dream Topping – Hard Severe

The right-hand corner of the bay is the thrutchy Dream Topping, moving left to the chimney.

#### Grit Your Teeth – Severe 4b (4.5.98)

A little to the north-east of the square-cut bay is a diamond-shaped boulder which gives the fun, slab start to Grit Your Teeth, pull steeply up the buttress above to finish.

#### Christine – Severe (11.10.87)

The zawn beyond can be crossed by going higher behind the diamond-shaped boulder, stepping across the void and descending to the ledge by a quarrymen's thread. Christine climbs the buttress here.

#### Exit Route – Difficult (21.7.01)

Climbs the groove above by starting on the seaward face of the boulder to the right, then stepping left across black rock to the groove.

### The Stone Beach

About 60 metres north-east of the stack a large, smooth, sea-level ledge (the Stone Beach) can be seen from above. A crevasse in the cliff-top is an obvious landmark. A boulder in the crevasse, or a thread in boulders 10 metres to the north-east, at the base of a grassy mound, provide belays to abseil to the Stone Beach below. If the normally dry Stone Beach is washed by waves a higher ledge, invisible from above, gives access to all the routes hereabouts.

An interesting area specialising in roof cracks of most shapes and sizes, all only a couple of metres from the ledge.

#### Intervention 8 metres Severe (8.10.99)

Start just before the beginning of the Stone Beach. Climb the scooped grey wall then meander up the upper wall. The more direct variant is 4b.

#### Alternative Education 10 metres Very Severe 4c (21.7.01)

To the left of the Stone Beach, and the higher ledge, is a deep corner capped by a roof with a short corner above. Climb to the roof, move right and finish steeply up the corner.

#### Forswunken 8 metres E1 6a + (7.11.99)

Exciting and with atmosphere out of all proportion to its height. Start at the left end of the higher ledge, below a bottomless groove protected by an overhang. Surmount the overhang and climb the groove to its capping roof; step left and up to finish.

#### One Move Wonder 8 metres Hard Very Severe 5b (1991)

The name aptly describes most of the climbs hereabouts. Start 5 metres right of the left end of the higher ledge, at the first obvious crack. Cross the roof using the crack then finish easily.

#### Can't Touch This 8 metres Hard Severe 4b (7.7.90)

Three metres right of One Move Wonder is a steep, short groove; the easy wall above completes the route.

Bo-Bo 8 metres Very Severe 5a (4.11.99)

The strip roof that forms such a feature at the Stone Beach is interrupted by a rectangular recess 2 metres right of Can't Touch This. Climb into the recess and undercling leftwards to climb the left-hand crack and thence to the top.

Co-Co 8 metres Hard Very Severe 5a † (7.11.99)

The right hand version of Bo-Bo out of the recess.

The hanging groove right of the recess is unclimbed (as yet!). The wide hanging crack right again gives

Tentacles 8 metres E1 5b † (27.8.01)

Probably a grade easier for the smaller, bendier climber. Take some large Hexes or cams. Pull round the hanging crack to easier ground, then climb steeply up the large crack above.

Ceri's Route 8 metres Hard Severe 5a (6.7.90)

Start at the thin crack just before strip roof peters out (about 3 metres north-east of the end of Stone Beach). Make a difficult move over the roof and climb more easily to the top.

Sandstorm 8 metres Severe 4a (21.7.01)

Start a metre right of Ceri's Route. Climb the wall direct, finishing up the shallow scoop on the right. Care is required with some looseness and dustiness.

Beginner's Luck 8 metres Very Difficult (18.4.99)

Start as for Sandstorm. Climb the slabby wall rightwards to a platform, follow the right side of the blunt rib to the top.

To the right of the Stone Beach a short traverse, or an often wet rock hop, leads to a narrow ledge; a leaning block forms a rectangular ledge 2 metres lower. The next two routes start from these ledges.

Uncertain Smile 9 metres Hard Very Severe 5b (6.7.90)

Nice moves over the roof, but untrustworthy holds and scant protection temper the pleasure. Start 5 metres right of Ceri's Route on the lower ledge. Move up to the roof, pull over and climb the wall above using the crack.

Sunday Joint 9 metres Hard Severe 4b (9.7.90)

Deceptively steep. Start from the lower ledge. Above the right-hand end of the ledge is a steep flake crack; climb this to a small ledge, step left and climb the wall above.

Further right again is a deep recess under a large roof. The right-hand corner gives the line of Cosmic Swing, which can be reached by traversing from the Stone Beach, or, more easily, from the smaller sea level ledge described below.

Cosmic Swing 9 metres Very Severe 4c (9.7.90)

Climb the slab and crack in the right hand corner to the large roof. Make the 'cosmic swing' rightwards to the arête and finish up the wall above.

To the north-east of the Stone Beach is a smaller sea-level ledge. Reach the ledge by traversing; or by abseiling diagonally eastwards from a rectangular block by a sheltered nook some 25 metres on from the crevasse.

East of Eden 9 metres E2 5c † (9.7.90)

High in the grade. From the smaller sea level ledge climb easily up to the right-hand side of the jutting block beneath the roof. Climb onto the wall above using small, positive, holds and finish direct.

Cup Final Day 9 metres E1 5b † (7.7.90)

Start 2 metres right of East of Eden. High in the grade. Climb up to the roof crack and gain the final slab on poor jams.

Mark's Route 9 metres Severe 4a (7.7.90)

Start at the right-hand end of the smaller sea level ledge. Climb the corner to a ledge atop the jutting block.

## Barney Area

Forty metres north-east of the rectangular block (130 metres from the stack) is an obvious south-west facing corner, (the line of Barney). Just beyond is a row of excellent belay blocks. The abseil to seaward takes you down Ten, to a large flat boulder that is dry at all states of the tide. The sea-washed ledges to the south-west are dry at low tide (longer at Springs), and give access to some pleasant, lower-grade, routes.

Cephalopod ★ 12 metres Hard Very Severe 5a † (27.8.01)

At the far south-west of the sea-washed ledges is a corner with a ledge at 2 metres and a cleft above. The ledge can also be reached by a short traverse from Mark's Route or, at high tide, by abseil from a thread belay under a flat boulder, 25 metres back from the cliff edge. Climb the corner with some difficulty, then move out and up into the cleft with some more difficulty. Go easily to the top.

The next two routes start from the sea-washed ledges and are best reached from the abseil down Ten.

Nani 12 metres Very Difficult (27.8.01)

A pleasant route. To the right of Cephalopod is a black chimney with a crackline to the top above it; climb these features. A nut belay can be found between two blocks protruding from the rubble slope behind, and a thread half way up the slope at the south-west end of the mound.

The sea-washed ledges are separated by a gap, simply crossed by boulder-hopping.

First 12 metres Severe (27.8.01)

Well worth doing. At the gap in the ledges is a calcite filled crackline, follow this to easy ground; then climb steeply, but on good holds, up the left-hand crack above. Belay as for Nani.

Immaculate Arête 12 metres XS 5c † (26.12.01)

The fine arête between First and Corner, Traverse, and Crack is climbed as a solo, finishing up Corner, Traverse, and Crack.

Corner, Traverse, and Crack ★ 12 metres Severe (5.8.01)

Enjoyable, with good protection and sound rock. The main feature of the sea-washed ledge nearer Barney is a large, overhang capped, north-east-facing, corner. Friction into the corner, climb to the roof, traverse left to the ledge and climb the crack and wall to the top. Belay as for Nani.

Barney ★ 12 metres Hard Severe 4c (5.8.01)

A climb with fine protection and an intriguing start. After a wet winter a spring flows from the lower part of the route rendering it unclimbable. Start from the pointed boulder beneath the south-west-facing corner. Enter the chimney and swing left onto the slab with some difficulty. Climb the corner above.

The Magus 12 metres Hard Very Severe 5a (25.8.01)

Seepage at the start does not affect the grade. The route is awkward to protect on the crux and needs some push. To the right of Barney is a hanging corner with a dank cleft beneath it. Climb the back of the cleft to the roof and traverse out right and round onto the face. Move up to gain the corner above, passing a good rest on the way. Exit the corner on the right and finish easily.

Ten 10 metres Severe 4a (5.8.01)

Often soloed. From the flat boulder (the abseil landing) climb the unprotected short wall on superb rock. Now go easily up and then directly, or leftwards, to gain the top.

Saturday Stroll 12 metres Very Difficult (5.8.01)

To the right of Ten is a short corner formed by the boulder under "99". Climb the corner (awkward) and pull left onto the ledge. Climb the groove immediately above.

Turkey Wing 10 metres Hard Severe 4b + (26.12.01)

The knife-edged arête between Saturday Stroll and Spring Hill is climbed on its left-hand side.

Spring Hill 12 metres Hard Very Severe 5a (25.8.01)

Start on the higher jammed boulder to the right of the abseil landing. An ungainly move using the right wall enables the left-hand groove to be entered. A dour struggle leads to the top. To belay use the blocks to your left, and a thread belay under the prominent boulder well back.

"99" 10 metres Hard Very Severe 5a (5.8.01)

Start as for Spring Hill but instead of moving left make a difficult move up to gain the hanging flake. Go boldly up to a good ledge and finish up the corner above. Belay as for Spring Hill.

Boxing Day Diet Plan 12 metres Very Severe 4c (26.12.01)

The arête right of "99". Start at the bottom of the slab below the jammed boulder. Step right over the sea and boldly climb the excellent arête (on its right) to a ledge. Pull over a bulge and follow the wall above moving leftwards to finish near "99". Belay as for Spring Hill.

## Nurses Corner

North-east again from the Barney area a path through a defile leads to a buttress penetrated by a cave. The rusting bolts mark the line of Flashheart. The path has two squarish blocks at its start and an obelisk of rock further in on the right. At the cliff edge here is a flat boulder, just to the north-east of this is a groove in the clifftop. Using the larger of the two squarish blocks as an anchor, abseil down the groove to a good ledge at a deep corner.

Hereabouts 12 metres Very Difficult (22.9.01)

To the left of the abseil landing is a tilted boulder. From the top of the boulder make a high step up to gain the ledge. Climb easily to the top, taking care with superficial looseness.

Gea 13 metres Very Severe 4c (4.9.01)

Climb the line up the black wall between the tilted boulder and the corner, At the roof move left to the crack, go up until a traverse right can be made to the ledge on the arête. Go straight up through the groove above.

Flying Phoebe 12 metres Very Difficult (4.9.01)

Step off the ledge to traverse to the ledge on the right arête, go easily up to the base of the steep groove. Climb the groove (as for Gea).

## The Echoes

Further towards Flashheart from the abseil block for Nurses Corner is an obelisk of rock.. A thread belay beneath the north-eastern side of the obelisk enables an abseil rope to be led through the saddle to seaward. Abseil down the obvious corner (Echo Corner) past the large half-height ledge to the large ledge below; from here Narcissus can be reached at high water. For Echo Corner and routes to the south-west abseil further to the tidal ledge.

To the left of Echo Corner is the deep, dark, Echo Chimney; left again is another chimney with a ledge at 2 metres. This chimney with its continuation groove above gives the line of Echo Groove.

Bread and Pickle 14 metres Very Severe 4c (22.9.01)

One metre to the left of the ledge of Echo Groove is a dog leg groove. Climb the groove and then onto the perched boulder. Go up to the left of the large, flat, semi-circular roof to a troublesome exit.

Echo Groove 13 metres Severe (15.9.01)

Climb to the ledge (possible belay) and go up the chimney to the ledge on the left. Now climb the groove above moving out right at the very top.

Echo Chimney ★★ 13 metres Very Difficult (15.9.01)

A fine pitch with 'mountain' atmosphere. The lower part is often damp, this does not affect the grade. Climb the deep, black, chimney to the ledge on the left. A short crack leads to an airy traverse out left to a sound exit.

Echo Corner 15 metres Severe (1.9.01)

The tidal ledge is bounded on the right by a steep corner cleft, this is climbed with some inelegance to the large ledge. Step right and climb the tapered corner, past some booming flakes, to the top.

Narcissus 15 metres Severe (1.9.01)

An enjoyable climb. Around the arête to the right of the abseil a low-level ledge can be reached. Scramble easily up the wall to a large ledge (or start here). Climb up trending left to a ledge at the arête. Go back right under the bulge to exit steeply up the obvious groove.

## Sleepy Hollow

As the quarried ledge narrows to a path the collapse of the roof of one of the workings has left a jumble of boulders. The nearest boulders to the path give a splendid thread belay. At the cliff edge is a shallow, square-edged, recess. Abseil here down the broken corner of Dingle Dell to boulders well above the sea.

Camberwick Green ★ 17 metres Very Severe 4c (14.4.02)

Excellent fun on the traverse; take care with your ropework. Ten metres left of the abseil, and Dingle Dell, is a large black cleft; to its right a similar feature is filled by large blocks, start here. On the right is a compact slab, above, under a strip roof, is another slab, formed by a huge flake. Climb the blocks to the ledge, go right across the easy (flake) slab to the end of the roof. Move up and then swing dramatically left to a good ledge. The unprotected groove is climbed to the top on good rock. Stake belay across the path.

Trumpton 14metres Very Severe 4c (27.6.04)

Similar in style to Goosebridge. Three metres right of Camberwick Green is a crack above the right end of the ledge above the sea. Climb the crack to the large ledge, step left and climb the bulge at a short corner. Stake belay across the path.

Goosebridge 14 metres Hard Severe 4a (5.5.02)

Four metres left of Dingle Dell is a crack. Start from the high, flat-topped boulder. Climb the crack and climb directly up the steep groove to finish. A large, flat rock is to hand to tie to.

Dingle Dell 14 metres Very Difficult (15.9.01)

The left-hand corner is climbed without difficulty past ledges to a ledge just below the top. The safest way from here is to climb the right-hand corner of the square recess using the short arête and the large block. The final moves can be avoided by moving right to Still Waters reducing the grade to Difficult.

Still Waters 14 metres Difficult (15.9.01)

The right-hand corner has a small corner 2 metres to its right. Superb holds in the small corner lead to a large ledge. Step right and go up on huge holds towards the arête on the left, just before the arête finish straight up excellent rock. Starting up the undercut arête to the right is good fun (4c) and has the best runner in the world!

The traverse rightwards from here crosses a cleft to an exposed section above deep water; the short section of weathered rock above gives a pleasant solo (4b) to a large ledge. Jump off or go left to descend Dingle Dell.

## The Hidden Arch

Twenty five metres beyond Sleepy Hollow is a south-west-facing wall, forming a corner. In the third quarry cave entrance past Sleepy Hollow are some large blocks; abseil from one of these, down the corner, to non-tidal boulders below. The wall is split by a crack with a niche at one-thirds height, the line of Face the Music.

Face the Music 15 metres Hard Very Severe 5a (22.9.01)

The move out of the niche makes the route a tough proposition for the grade. Start at the base of the crack, climb this to gain the niche. Climb the crack above the niche to the ledge. Move off the ledge, using the arête, to good finishing cracks.

### The Far East

Caution: it is not possible to escape from this area by traversing toward the cove and easier routes. A walk along the narrowing path leads to the final quarry cave. Abseil from the supporting pillar in an easterly direction (i.e. towards Anvil Point lighthouse) to allow a landing on a large flat boulder. The obvious feature of the area is the low and deep cave to the left of the abseil.

Lowestoft 16 metres Hard Severe 4b (26.8.02)

Good climbing low down and with good protection. Opposite the left end of the abseil landing boulder is a corner which turns into a double corner higher up. Step down from the boulder and go low to the foot of the corner. Climb the corner (without straying right) to the ledge. Immediately above is a block, Climb up to the right of the block and then left and up to a corner exit, just left of Angkor Wat.

Angkor Wat 16 metres Hard Very Severe 5a (11.8.02)

Adjacent to the flat boulder is a buttress with an overhang near its base. To the left end of the overhang is an obvious crackline. Step across the gap and gain the overhang, pull gymnastically up the crack (good runner) and thence to the ledge. Climb more easily to the top, moving right and then left.

Beyond Burma ★ 16 metres Very Severe 4b (26.8.02)

A fine find giving pleasurable climbing on excellent rock. From the abseil landing, traverse awkwardly right to a small niche below a crack/corner. Climb up on delightful rock to the large ledge on the left. Climb the slab above, past a pocket, to beneath the roof. Go left for a metre then pull over the bulge to good holds, climb perfect rock to top-out at the extreme end of the quarry.

Seasonal bird restrictions start east of Beyond Burma.