

Dorset

Mark Glaister
Pete Oxley

A guidebook to the sport
and traditional climbing on
Portland, Lulworth and Swanage

Text and topos by Mark Glaister and Pete Oxley
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Cover: JJ on *Cocteau Phenomena* (7b+) - *p.97* - on
Blacknor Central. Photo: Jon Butters

This page: Elliot Strowger on *Cake Walk* (6a+) - *p.81* -
on Blacknor North. Photo: Charlotte Bull

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Coastguard South - see page 218



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Debbie Roberts on *Shit Happens, Actually* (6a) - p.88 - at Blacknor Central. Photo: Mark Glaister

Welcome to the fifth edition of the Dorset Rockfax, one of the largest UK climbing guidebooks ever compiled. Now let me take you back to 1984, when the cliffs were unimaginably quiet and the walls between the cracks silently hummed awaiting a golden age. It was a typically warm day down the Boulder Ruckle; I climbed with friends until the sun fell. Then I stayed on into a smugglers night to meet others at the Durlston Castle Inn. A paradigm shift was about to unfold as I finally got to meet the Portsmouth Crew led by the powerful figure of Nick Buckley. It felt like sitting down with Led Zeppelin, and Nick was just as charismatic as Robert Plant with long hair, bandana and flares. They defined the bountiful vacuum of the Dorset scene at the turn of the eighties with their heroic new lines up to E3 following the great crack systems. The walls hummed louder.

As night settled in, Gordon Jenkin from Bristol was chief whip and he introduced me. I listened intensely as tales of the day unfolded. Summoning up some courage I piped up to ask, 'Are there any big lines left?' Faces were etched in the snug light as Nick stated that Finale Groove arete could go. Lights flickered and new winds gusted outside, Gordon stopped the conversation dead when he said Pete had just climbed it today. Faces turned toward me. Like in a Victorian séance the psychic baton slowly moved across the table. *Boatpusher's Arete* at E5 6a was a pivotal point for me. It launched a bold new style of climb away from the cracks in tandem with similar new routes from Martin Crocker and Crispin Waddy around the same time. The golden age had begun, and an onslaught of modern climbs followed.

Fast forward to today and the conceptual baton of discovery has passed through many hands, each devoting their lives through a deep love for the area. I believe this love will be instilled in you dear reader, as you peruse this guide. You will discover that Dorset is one of the best and most varied climbing spots in Britain with every imaginable style only a short walk away. All grades up to 8c and E8 are catered for, with a wealth of easier climbs. There are now thousands of routes to choose from with a refined balance of trad, sport, DWS and bouldering on offer. All I can ask is that we are responsible in the way we act and behave, to treasure its ambiance for all the future souls who may want to hold and share the baton.

Pete Oxley, June 2021 ... Stay Golden!



Pete Oxley on *Prison Sex* (7c+) - p.216 - at Coastguard North. Photo: Oxley Collection

Hannah Whaley on *Stay Golden* (7b) - p.181 - at the Sweet Smell of Success Area, Wallsend North, Portland. The arc of cliff in the background is Wallsend Cove, home to 250+ routes and featuring some of Portland's best, longest and hardest lines. Photo: Sam Parsons

Rock climbing in Dorset encompasses both traditional and sport disciplines with thousands of routes across the grade spectrum, the majority located close to the sea. Dorset's climbing is on limestone of various types and in general is well bolted on the sport climbs and offers good protection possibilities on the trad lines (if you are strong enough to hang on to place it!). Although multi-pitch climbs are part of what Dorset has to offer, it is the single-pitch sport routes along the Jurassic Coast linking the seaside town of Swanage to the Isle of Portland that receive the greatest amount of attention. Most of the climbing venues are easily approached from the London area and the M4 corridor, while the major motorways coming from the north make weekend visits a viable option. The location of the cliffs on England's south coast means that climbing is a year-round possibility and the best conditions are often to be found in the spring and autumn.



Guidebook Footnote

The inclusion of a climbing area in this guidebook does not mean that you have a right of access or the right to climb upon it. The descriptions of routes within this guide are recorded for historical reasons only and no reliance should be placed on the accuracy of the description. The grades set in this guide are a fair assessment of the difficulty of the climbs. Climbers who attempt a route of a particular standard should use their own judgment as to whether they are proficient enough to tackle that route. This book is not a substitute for experience and proper judgment. The authors, publisher and distributors of this book do not recognise any liability for injury or damage caused to, or by, climbers, third parties, or property arising from such persons seeking reliance on this guidebook as an assurance for their own safety.

The Book

This is the fifth Rockfax guidebook in 27 years to document the climbing in Dorset. The sport climbing at Portland and Swanage has been extended hugely in recent years. Portland in particular has seen lots of new climbs and whole new crags developed and appearing for the first time in this book. The trad climbing at Swanage has also seen a continued rise in popularity and, as a result, more routes have been covered this time. A new addition in this book is on Portland where virtually all of the trad routes have been documented for historical reasons. As an added bonus for trad climbers looking for something different, there is a final chapter documenting the astounding *Skeleton Ridge* at The Needles on the Isle of Wight.

Hand in hand with the increase in routes is the continued innovation in documenting and presenting the information on the climbs. The most notable changes result from the use of aerial imagery which has produced clearer and more user-friendly photo topos. It has also allowed the inclusion of overviews that make the approaches to the cliffs easier to follow and gives a fine impression of them in their wider environment. More detailed maps along with QR codes make getting to the parking and crag easier, while the availability of the whole book on Rockfax Digital expands your options for accessing the route descriptions while you are at the cliffs. One thing not covered in this book is the vast amount of bouldering in Dorset which now has its own **Dorset Bouldering** guide available from rockfax.com.

The long wall of quarried rock at Dancing Ledge is one of the most reliable destinations in the UK for delivering good year-round climbing conditions. The choice of well bolted mid-grade sport routes is large and in the summer months the pull of some more adventurous outings and a swim are only a stroll away. Here Mark Glaister is at the top of the flared corner of *Daylight Robbery* (6c) - [p.441](#) - at Dancing Ledge. Photo: Bridget Glaister



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Every guidebook relies heavily on the work of previous authors. We are very grateful for the huge effort carried out over the years by all those who have worked on previous guidebooks. The key books are listed below.

Dorset (Rockfax 2021)

Mark Glaister, Pete Oxley

Dorset Bouldering (Rockfax 2015)

Ben Stokes

Swanage (Climbers' Club 2014)

Steve Taylor, Ben Stokes, Jim Kimber

Dorset (Rockfax 2012)

Mark Glaister, Pete Oxley

Portland (Climbers' Club 2008)

Steve Taylor, Ben Stokes, Jim Kimber

Deep Water (Rockfax 2007)

Mike Robertson

Dorset (Rockfax 2005)

Mark Glaister, Pete Oxley

Dorset (Rockfax 2000)

Pete Oxley

Into the Blue (Climbers' Club 1996)

Jonathan Cook, Mike Robertson,
Steve Taylor and Damian Cook

Swanage and Portland (Climbers' Club 1995)

Nigel Coe

Dorset (Rockfax 1994)

Pete Oxley

Swanage (Climbers' Club 1986)

Gordon Jenkin

Dorset (Climbers' Club 1977)

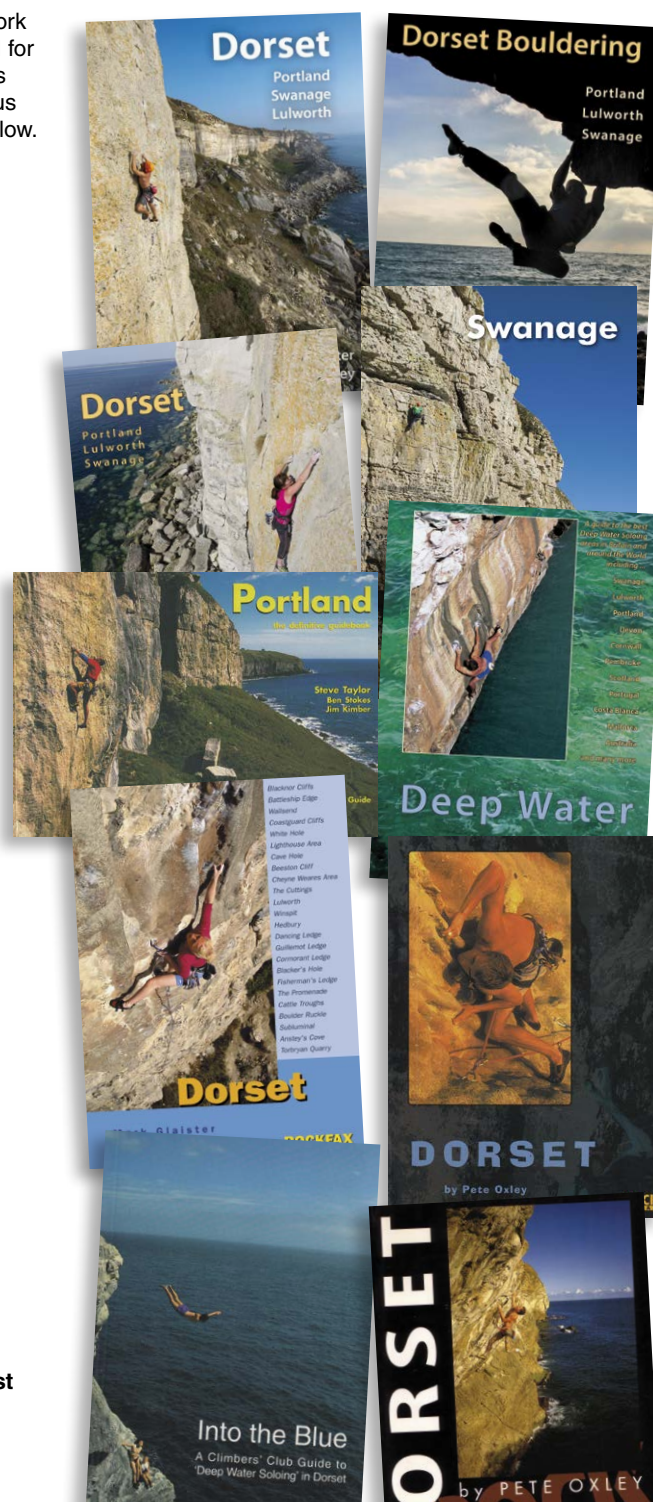
R.J.Crewe

Dorset Climbs (Climbers' Club 1969)

R.C.White

Limestone Climbs on the Dorset Coast (Climbers' Club 1961)

B.Annette

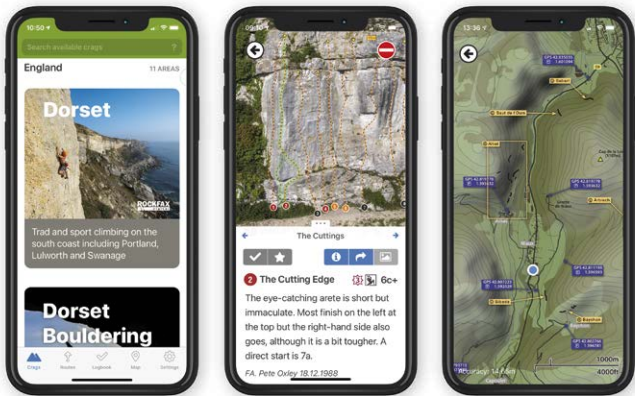


Rob Kennard on the 2nd pitch of *Skeleton Ridge* (HVS) - p.594 - at The Needles on the Isle of Wight. One of the UK's most recognisable coastal features. The ascent of the landward ridge is an adventurous and serious expedition requiring extensive pre-planning and good fortune with weather and tides. Photo: Marti Hallett

Rockfax Digital brings together 30 current Rockfax print publications with UKC Logbooks, adds some digital-only content and presents it in a user-friendly package for use on mobile devices.

The heart of Rockfax Digital is the crag and route information covering 'areas' which correspond roughly to the printed guidebooks. The main data is sold by subscription so that you purchase access to everything for a period of time, from a month to a year. Once you are subscribed, you will have access to Rockfax Digital for the duration. You can download the main data and store it on your device so you don't need any signal to be able to read the descriptions and see the topos and maps. There is plenty of free content available without subscription, enabling you to get a really good impression of what Rockfax Digital is like without shelling out any money.

Rockfax Digital is available as an app which is free to download and incredibly useful in its own right. It contains a detailed crag map linked to the UKClimbing crags database with basic information and route lists for around 21,000 crags worldwide. The map also displays all the 4,000+ listings from the UKClimbing Directory of climbing walls, outdoor shops, climbing clubs, outdoor-specific accommodation and instructors and guides, amongst others.



How to Subscribe

Go to rockfax.digital to find links to download the app and create an account. You can then test the app and use the free content or set up a subscription for full access. Scan the QR code to the right for more information.



Scan to find out more

UKC Logbooks

A popular method of logging your climbing is to use the [UKClimbing.com](https://ukclimbing.com) logbooks system. This database has more than half a million routes on nearly 21,000 crags. So far, just over 48,000 users have recorded more than 7.7 million ascents! To set up your own logbook just register at [UKClimbing.com](https://ukclimbing.com) and click on the logbook tab. You will be able to record every ascent you make, when you did it, what style you climbed it in and who you did it with. Each entry has a place for your own notes. You can also add your vote to the grade/star system which is used by guidebook writers to get opinions on grades and quality of routes. The logbook can be private, public or restricted to your own climbing partners only. Rockfax Digital can be linked to your [UKClimbing.com](https://ukclimbing.com) user account and logbook so that you can record your activity while at the crag. To do this you will need a 3G/4G/5G data connection. You can also look at the UKC logbooks to see if anyone has climbed your chosen route recently to check on conditions.



Route Symbols	
	A good route which is well worth the effort.
	A very good route, one of the best on the crag.
	A brilliant route, one of the best in the area.
	Technical climbing requiring good balance and technique, or complex and tricky moves.
	Powerful climbing; roofs, steep rock, low lock-offs or long moves off small holds.
	Sustained climbing; either lots of hard moves or steep rock giving pumpy climbing.
	Fingery climbing with significant small holds on the hard sections.
	Fluttery climbing with fall potential or a scary run-out.
	A long reach is helpful, or even essential, for one or more of the moves.
	Some loose rock may be encountered.
	The route can be climbed as a deep water solo.
	A trad route at a crag where the majority of routes are bolted sport routes.
	A route which shouldn't be climbed in its described state. Bad/missing bolts or access problems.
Crag Symbols	
	Angle of the approach walk to the crag with the approximate approach time.
	Approximate time that the crag is in the sun (when it is shining).
	An abseil approach is required - take an abseil rope.
	Some or all the routes can only be accessed during certain tides - see buttness notes for details.
	The crag can offer shelter from the wind. Can be a suntrap - good in winter, bad when hot.
	The crag suffers from seepage. It may well be wet and unclimbable after prolonged periods of rain.
	The crag is steep and may offer some dry rock to climb when it is raining.
	The buttness has some multi-pitch routes.
	Some or all of the routes are affected by a restriction due to nesting birds - see buttness notes for details.
	Some or all of the routes are affected by a restriction other than nesting birds - see buttness notes for details.
	Deserted - Currently under-used and usually quiet. Fewer good routes or remote and smaller areas.
	Quiet - Less popular sections on major crags, or good buttnesses with awkward approaches.
	Busy - Places you will seldom be alone, especially at weekends. Good routes and easy access.
	Crowded - The most popular sections of the most popular crags which are always busy.

Topo Key

Map Key

Map Icons
See p.23

Time flies! I can't believe it has been nearly a decade since I was last writing this section of the previous Dorset Rockfax. I don't think anyone could have predicted the continued interest in new routing or the damaging storms of 2014 and, of course, the huge impact of the pandemic. For me it has been a fascinating time in guidebook developments with the advent of aerial imagery and Rockfax Digital.

I would like to extend my thanks to all who I have shared a rope with on the Dorset coast, and to those who have helped with this and previous editions of the Rockfax guidebook and its forebears.

I myself, and all who use this guidebook, owe huge thanks to those climbers that have put up the routes as well as those that maintain the sport climbs and look after access and the environment. I would like to especially thank Marti Hallett for his huge and unwavering help with all components of the book and to Sam Parsons for his feedback and fine photos.

Thank you also to those who have supplied the multitude of fantastic action photos - Jon Butters (jonbutters.com), Charlotte Bull (charlottebullphotography.com), Sam Parsons (afterthesend.com), Marti Hallett, Neil Foster, Richard Pollard, Dan Weissmann, Mike Hutton (mikehuttonimages.com), Sandra Berlin, Rob Kennard, Gabriel Saccol, Ed Wong (cartooneddy.com), Sam Ferguson, Rob Greenwood, Martin Bagshaw, Penny Orr, Daimon Beail, Emma Harrington, Dave Pickford, Tim Skinner, Michael Porter, Mark Reeves and Ben Stokes. A vast amount of the information in this book has come from the UKC Route Database. I am very grateful to all those who have contributed - keep the feedback coming in.

The production of this guidebook has yet again been a mammoth task. Thanks to Alan James and Rebecca Ting for their skills and input in helping to produce this book - the fifth Dorset Rockfax in 27 years.

My final thanks goes to my wonderful wife Bridget who is not only a brilliant climbing companion but lets me go away for long periods on guidebook work with no complaints whatsoever.

Mark Glaister, June 2021

- Rockfax is grateful to the following for their support.
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awesomewalls.co.uk
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thebmc.co.uk/insurance
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chalkyfingers.co.uk
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thepennestate.co.uk
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headonout.co.uk
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 - Tom's Field** - Back cover flap
tomsfieldcamping.co.uk
 - The Bunker** - p.25
thebunkerportland.com

Martin Pran on *Weakest to the Wall* (7b) - p.172 - at The Unsung Area, Wallsend North, Portland. The Unsung Area has a wealth of shortish but fierce wall climbs set above a pleasant grassy base, and is atypical of much of what is available at the majority of the cliffs at Wallsend North. Photo: Ben Stokes

Portland West
Portland East
Lulworth
Swanage
Needles

North Wales Climbs
November 2013
R D M +

Clwyd Limestone
December 2015
R D M +

North Wales Slate
September 2018
R D M +

Snowdonia Mountain Walks and Scrambles
December 2020
R D

South Wales Sport Climbs
November 2016
R D

Pembroke
August 2009
R D M +

R Digital-only guides
Pembroke 2018
North Wales Winter 2016

Spain : El Chorro
December 2018
R D

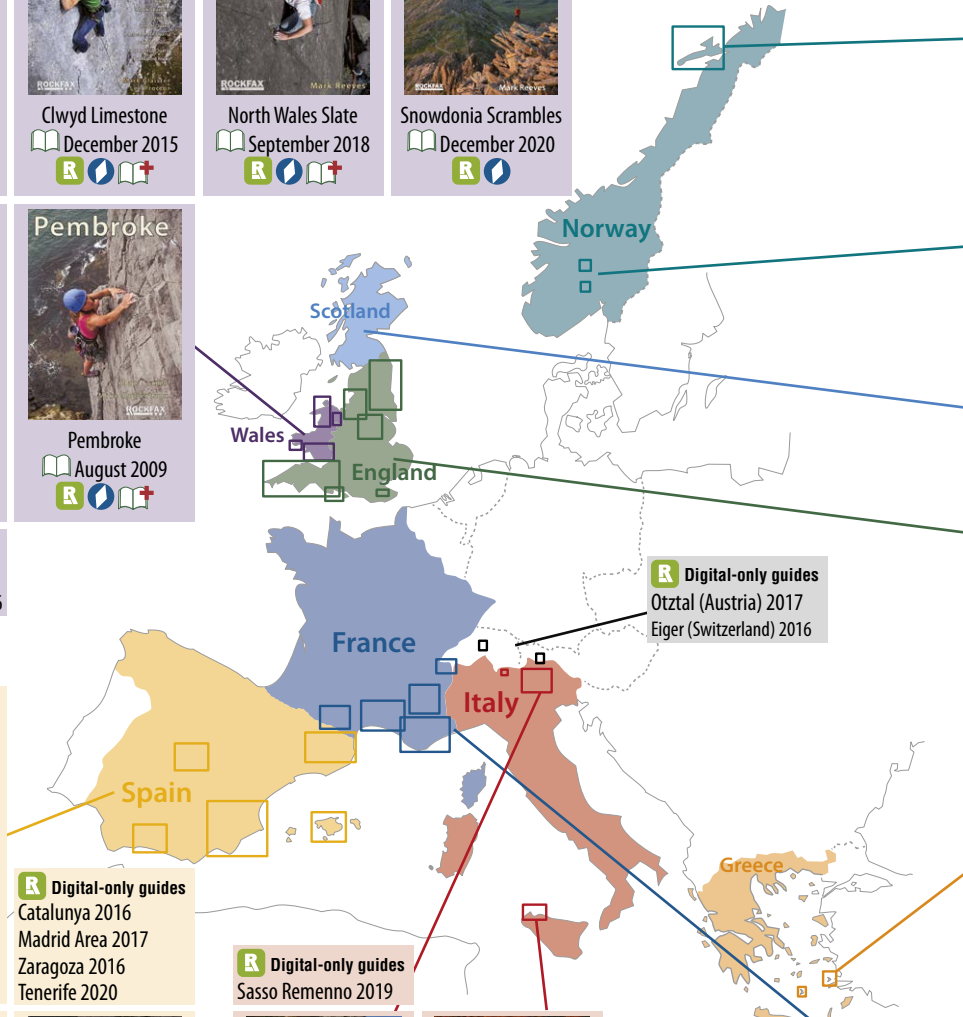
Spain : Costa Blanca
February 2013
R M +

Spain : Mallorca
April 2020
R D

The Dolomites
November 2019
R

Sicily
March 2021
R D

- Print version available
- R Digital version available
- D Digital maps geo-located
- + Digital has extra content



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R D

Northern England
February 2008
R D

Western Grit
April 2009
R D

Northern Limestone
January 2015
R M +

Eastern Grit
2022
R D M +

Peak Limestone
June 2020
R D M +

Peak Bouldering
May 2014
R D

West Country Climbs
July 2010
R

Southern Sandstone
September 2017
R D

Dorset
July 2021
R D

Dorset Bouldering
May 2014
R D M +

Deep Water
June 2007
R

Portland West
Portland East
Lulworth
Swanage
Needles

Dorset Logistics

Jess Carr committing to the crux sequence on the uber classic deep water solo *The Conger* (E2, S1) - *p.504* - at Fisherman's Ledge, Swanage. The Conger Cave and the nearby Funky Wall are loaded with a mass of brilliant deep water solo adventures - most above a few fathoms or so of water. Photo: Richard Pollard

Portland West
Portland East
Lulworth
Swanage
Needles

Emergencies

DIAL 112 and ask for the coastguard or other emergency services.

Poole Hospital A&E - Tel: 01202 665511 (24hr)

Dorchester Hospital A&E - Tel: 01305 255541 (24hr)

Weymouth Hospital (MIU) - Tel: 01305 760022 (NOT 24hr)

Portland Hospital (MIU) - Tel: 01305 820341 (NOT 24hr)

Swanage Hospital (MIU) - Tel: 01929 475009 (NOT 24hr)

Tourist Information Offices
For ideas on what to do on a rest day, accommodation advice, hiring a boat to look at some scary routes on Boulder Ruckle, or if you are just interested in local history, take a look at one of the Tourist Information Offices listed below. These offices offer much more useful and extensive information than it is possible to provide in these pages.

Tourist Information Dorchester - Charles Street, Dorchester. Tel: 01305 267992

Tourist Information Swanage - Shore Road, Swanage. Tel: 01929 766018

visit-dorset.com

When to Go
Portland and Swanage are both excellent year-round venues whilst Lulworth is best left for the period of late spring through to the onset of autumn. Summer is often too hot, although the coastal cliffs on the east and west coasts of Portland means you can always find some shade. Swanage and Lulworth offer relatively little shelter from the hot sun. Some of the best conditions are found in spring and autumn. Fine climbing days in winter are also not uncommon and can be pleasant in sheltered spots such as The Cuttings and Winspit.

Weather Averages	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Average Max Temp (°C)	8.4	8.3	10.0	12.5	15.4	17.9	20.3	20.4	18.3	15.0	11.5	9.3
Average Min Temp (°C)	3.5	3.1	4.3	6.6	8.1	10.3	12.5	13.3	11.6	9.3	6.2	4.5
Average Sun (hours/day)	2.0	2.8	3.9	6.2	7.2	7.1	7.6	7.0	5.4	3.8	2.7	1.8
Average Rain (mm/month)	76.6	64.3	62.9	47.6	46.6	47.0	35.6	52.2	66.4	77.4	84.5	90.9

Public Transport

Trains - Train services run to the closest stations to the cliffs - these are Weymouth (for Portland), Wareham (for Swanage), Wool (for Lulworth) and Lymington (for Isle of Wight). There is a station in Swanage but it is a local tourist steam railway.

thetrainline.com

Buses

Portland is serviced by bus routes that run close to all of the climbing areas via Easton, Weston and Southwell.

Swanage town has a regular service from Wareham. The eastern end of the Swanage cliffs (Subluminal and the Boulder Ruckle) is a 2km walk to Durlston Country Park from the centre of Swanage. For the western end of the Swanage cliffs, a bus service runs from Swanage to Langton Matravers (for Dancing Ledge) and Worth Matravers (for Winspit).

Lulworth has a regular bus service from either Wool or Wareham. Lulworth can also be reached by bus from Weymouth.

traveline.info

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Dorset Adventure Cafe Castletown, Portland, DT5 1BD
07444 248 511 portlandoutdoor.co.uk



Burning Skies, Blacknor Central, p.97. Photo: Sam Parsons, AfterTheSend

Portland Accommodation

Accommodation on the isle of Portland used to be tricky, but in recent years some excellent new possibilities have opened up for camping, static caravan and bunkhouse accommodation. These offer the possibility to stay on the Isle, walk to crags and the pub, bar or cafe in the evenings. There is an additional occasional campsite near Portland Bill that opens up during the busy season as well as more campsites back on the mainland around Weymouth.

Vans - Staying on Portland in vans away from campsites is a problem and should not be considered. If you do this you are likely to be moved on.

The Bunker
Victoria Square, Portland.
Tel: +44 (0)7846 401010
thebunkerportland.com
Bunk and breakfast accommodation
See page 25

Portland Outdoor Centre
Castletown, Portland.
Tel: +44 (0)1305 822255
portlandoutdoor.com
Bunkhouse and group accommodation
See page 39

Portland Bunkhouse
Portland Bill, Portland.
Tel: +44 (0)7776054720
portlandbunkhouse.com
Bunkhouse close to the crags
See page 2

Cove Park
Easton, Portland.
Tel: +44 (0)1305 820918
thepennestate.co.uk
Static caravans close to The Cuttings
See page 9

Sweethill Farm Camping
Southwell, Portland.
Tel: +44 (0)77926 89591
sweethillfarm.co.uk
Camping within walking distance of crags
See page 31

Portland Climbing Wall

A great development is that Portland now has its own bouldering wall so you can keep on climbing even in bad weather.

The Hangout
Unit 2, Southwell Business Park, Portland.
Tel: +44 (0)7869 596758
thehangoutclimbing.co.uk
Bouldering wall with shop and gear hire
See page 51

Portland Food

Supermarkets - There is a Lidl on the causeway, a Tesco in Easton and smaller Co-ops in Weston, Easton and Fortuneswell.

Take-aways - Plenty of take-aways can be found on the main streets of Fortuneswell, Weston and Easton.

Portland Pubs

The isle has a number of pubs although these are not all as climber-friendly as you might wish for. The best are listed below.

The Cove House Inn - The seafront in Chiswell. A great place to sit outside as the sun sets over Chesil Beach.

The George - On the outskirts of Easton. A good traditional pub that often has live music.

The Heights Hotel - Above Fortuneswell. A great view out over Chesil Beach.

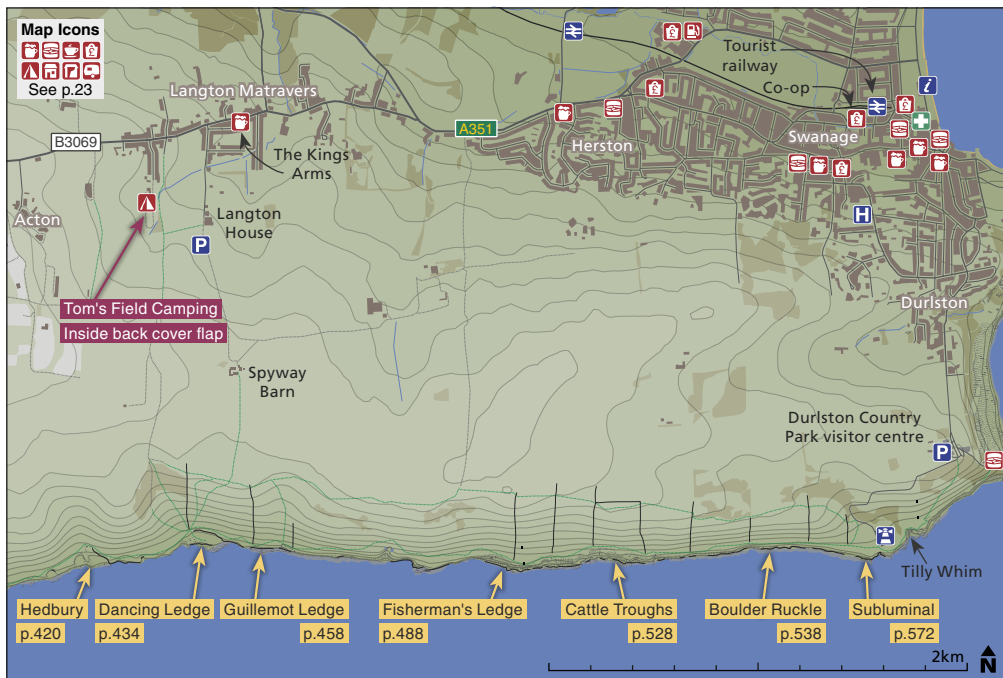
The Pulpit Inn - Beautifully situated on Portland Bill.

Portland Cafes

There are cafes in Easton and at Portland Bill. Worth a look for climbers is the Dorset Adventure Cafe in Castletown.

Dorset Adventure Cafe
Castletown, Portland.
Tel: +44 (0)7444 248511
portlandoutdoor.com
Cafe with impressive breakfast
See page 21





Swanage Accommodation

There are many camping and caravan sites in and around Swanage. Several of the popular ones are listed below.

Tom's Field Campsite

Langton Matravers, Swanage.

Tel: +44 (0)1929 427110

tomsfieldcamping.co.uk

Camping within walking distance of crags

See inside back cover flap

Swanage and Lulworth Food

Supermarkets - There is a large Co-op in Swanage centre by the train station. In Lulworth there is one local store.

Take-aways - Head for Swanage town centre where there is a good selection of take-aways and restaurants that cater for most tastes and budgets.

Swanage and Lulworth Cafes

Lulworth - Lulworth Cove has a very conveniently situated cafe, right in the middle of the carpark.

Swanage - Swanage town has lots of cafes in and around the road that leads to Durlston Country Park.

Swanage and Lulworth Pubs

The Castle Inn, West Lulworth - (p.371) A very nice thatched pub with good food.

In Swanage town there is a whole cluster of pubs near the pier.

The Square and Compass, Worth Matravers - (p.404) Great pub for Dancing Ledge or Winspit with a very 'olde world' atmosphere.

The Kings Arms, Langton Matravers - Well placed for camping and Dancing Ledge.

Good food and real ales.

Swanage Area Climbing Wall

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Dorset Climbing

Jon Butters high up on the technical and fingery shallow rib of *Pandemonium* (7c+) - [p.304](#) - at Cheyne Cliff on Portland's east coast. The right-hand side of Cheyne Cliff has a great set of long, slightly overhanging wall climbs in the upper 7s grade. One word of caution - check the bird restriction information for the crag before approaching these walls. Photo: Sam Parsons

Bird Nesting Restrictions

Portland - There are three permanent restrictions; a seasonal bird restriction at Cheyne Cliff and a permanent no climbing restriction in the Sanctuary Zones at the south end of Coastguard South and north of Blacknor Far North. Other restrictions are variable and in general only applied to the sections of cliff where the birds (often peregrines) have actually nested. The restrictions usually apply from 1st March until 30th June. The affected routes are identified by a sign fixed on the bolts at the edges of the restricted area. No routes are identified in the guidebook as having a variable restriction as the nesting sites change from time to time.

Bird restriction information tag attached to an abseil approach stake at Swanage.



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Parking

Only use the described parking places, which are clearly marked on all the approach maps. Please respect the local residents on Portland by parking with consideration, making no noise and not hanging around or get changed in front of the houses. It is likely that there may be changes in parking possibilities in the near future so please keep an eye on the rockfax.com news page for updates.

Camping

No wild camping is permitted anywhere at Swanage, Lulworth or on Portland. Use one of the many local campsites. Accommodation suggestions are on p.22 and p.24.

Vans (Overnighting)

Overnighting in vans on Portland (not just by climbers) has increased rapidly in recent times and become a problem. It is not considered appropriate and you shouldn't do it at any time. There are options to stay on Portland at official campsites - see p.22 for details.

Cliff Plants

Minimise damage to fragile flora by not gardening routes. Check local information before developing any new areas. It is almost certainly the case that undeveloped areas on Portland have been left for a reason. Do not abseil over clifftops on Portland as this is where much of the rare flora grows on the Isle.

The Brown-tail Moth

The brown-tail moth caterpillar makes its appearance in May and June and should not be touched as it causes a rash and blistering that is very itchy.

**Sanctuary Zones and MOD Areas**

Do not climb, or even enter, any of the sanctuary zones. Do not climb on any of the MOD property near Lulworth or on Portland.

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 (see map on page 57)

-  [sweet_hill_farm](https://www.instagram.com/sweet_hill_farm)
-  [nearlywildcampingportland](https://www.facebook.com/nearlywildcampingportland)
-  sweethillfarm.co.uk
-  077926 89591

Bolting

The bolting system predominantly used at the sport crags covered by this book is the U-bolt staple - see right. These are made from marine grade stainless steel held in with a special epoxy glue. They provide inexpensive, corrosion-resistant protection with a lifetime in excess of 25 years.

When using these staples:

- 1) Use high-strength karabiners with a breaking strain of 2300kg and above.
- 2) Carry a screwgate or sling to use on bolts which are close to edges or in uneven rock.
- 3) The staples can be lowered off directly or by abseil. When lowering, always thread both belay staples.
- 4) Never top rope or lower off a single staple.
- 5) PLEASE DO NOT TOP ROPE DIRECTLY THROUGH THE LOWER-OFF ANCHORS.
- 6) Always belay close to the rock face with the rope going straight up through the quickdraw clipped to the first bolt. Belaying a long way from the face puts a heavy outward loading on the bottom bolt which has caused problems with some bolts in the area. It is also a dangerous practice since both leader and belayer can get hurt in the event of a fall.
- 7) If any bolts look suspect, please make this known to others by reporting it.



The Dorset Bolt Fund

The DBF has been set up by a group of committed volunteer climbers, with a passion for the climbing in Dorset. These volunteers raise funds for the purchase of bolts and then do the hard work of using them to equip routes. The funds raised are solely used for replacing old bolts on existing routes, in accordance with the Dorset Bolt Agreement.

The kit list for bolting is a big one - high-powered drills, spare batteries and drill bits. Then there are the bolts themselves, plus resin and glue gun for glue-in bolts. Then there is all the other gear, like an abseil/safety rope. All this adds up to a fairly hefty price tag per route, especially as bolting can trash kit pretty quickly.

How can I help?

The main way you can help is by making a donation. The simple gesture of a £5 online donation each time you go climbing in Dorset can go a long way to providing the necessary funding. If you want to get more involved then there is always a need for volunteers to help with the hard work, but be aware bolting is a skilled, difficult and time-consuming activity. If you are an experienced climber, or have a background in rope access, you could be a real asset to the Dorset Bolt Fund.

For more information about the funding of bolting in Dorset and to donate to the DBF go to ukboltfund.org or to dorsetboltfund.co.uk



The Dorset Bolt Fund (DBF) crew hard at work re-equipping Battleship Edge. Photo: Sam Parsons



Sport Climbing Gear

A single rope of 60m is advised for sport climbs since there are several areas on the east and west coast of Portland with routes close to 30m. It is possible to climb on many other areas with a shorter rope, but please take special care and, no matter what length of rope you have, ALWAYS tie a knot in the end and stand close to the face when lowering off. For a number of the big routes at Blackers Hole, a longer rope is necessary. A rack of fourteen quickdraws is enough for any route on Portland, though some routes at Swanage require more, most notably at Blackers Hole. Certain sport routes require an abseil approach or are tidal - this is clearly indicated with the crag information and in route descriptions.

Trad Climbing Gear

Double 50m ropes are required for virtually all the trad climbs in this guidebook. In addition, a 50m abseil rope is essential for many of the crags at Swanage (*Skeleton Ridge* needs 100m). Often these abseils are free-hanging, so make sure a thick rope is used. Take a good selection of slings for belays and to help avoid rope drag. For your rack, take two sets of wires and some micro nuts, plus a selection of cams and some larger nuts. Include enough gear to belay securely at the base of the cliffs (in case of a freak wave).

Tides

The highest spring tides (new and full moon) have about a 2 to 2.5m range while neap tides (half moons) vary between 1 and 1.5m. Portland has a double tide, which is not really obvious to the eye but has the effect of prolonging the time the water level is high or low. The tides advance by about 45 minutes a day and there are two highs a day, 12-13 hours apart. The flood tide flows to the east and the ebb to the west. At Swanage (and also *Skeleton Ridge*) a knowledge of tides is essential for most of the cliffs, although only a few areas are actually cut off by high water. For virtually all areas it is worth keeping well away when the sea is moderately rough or worse.

For sport climbing on Portland a knowledge of the tides is not essential unless visiting some of the cliffs on the east coast or Coastguard South. **The Portland deep water solos need the highest tides possible - spring tides of around 2m or greater.**

Tide tables can be bought in newsagents and post offices or looked up online. There are different tables for Swanage and Portland. Because of the very strong tidal races at Portland and Swanage swimming is not advised.

The Needles and *Skeleton Ridge* at the Isle of Wight. Not a place to venture unless you have a very low spring tide and a calm sea. Photo: Mark Glaister

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The Roped Climbing Safety Checklist

1) Wear a helmet - Beware of loose rock and unstable finishing slopes. A helmet is strongly recommended, particularly at Swanage.

2) Take care on the clifftop - Grass and mud can be lethally slippery when wet. This is also the case after long dry spells when the dry grass is frictionless.

3) Tie a knot in your rope - Take great care when lowering off and always have a knot tied in the end of the rope.

4) Take an abseil rope with you - Do not assume that you can abseil in on ropes you wish to use for climbing. Often the abseil rope forms an integral part of the clifftop belay.

5) Take prusik loops - At Swanage, prusik loops are essential since there is not always an easy escape route.

6) Watch your top-outs - Many of the Swanage routes finish on serious sections of unstable earth and grass slopes. Place solid gear on the last sections of good rock. Locate the top of the climb prior to descending and fix a rope down the finishing slope.

7) Be careful moving along the crag base - When above deep water, carry the rack and rope in a manner whereby they can be quickly jettisoned. If you are hit by a big wave with them on you will sink VERY quickly if you are washed out of your depth.

8) Drop your grade - Remember that Swanage, and the Boulder Ruckle in particular, is a big and serious cliff. It is highly recommended that you drop your leading grade by at least two notches when unfamiliar with the area. DON'T expect to instantly lead the equivalent trad grade as your best sport grade effort on a bolted route, especially if that bolted route was at a climbing wall!

9) Prepare to get hot - In summer many of the crags can be very hot so take lots of water, shades, a hat, and slap on the sunscreen.

Drew Mulcahy on/off Hall of Mirrors (7c) - p.349
- at The Cuttings, Portland. Photo: Sam Parsons



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77 Cecil Street, Birmingham, B19 3ST.
Tel: 0121 359 8709



In this book sport routes are given sport grades and traditionally protected routes are given 'trad' (or British) grades. Deep water solos may have a trad grade or a sport grade, depending on whether the route is a bolted route or not, but they will also have an S-grade (p.40). The grade table to the right attempts to compare the main grading systems.

Sport Grade

The sport grade is a measure of how hard it is going to be to get up a certain section of rock. It makes no attempt to tell you how hard the hardest move is, nor how scary a route is.

Trad Grade

Trad climbing is where protection is placed whilst climbing (nuts and cams etc.) and there are usually no bolts to clip. The trad grading system is divided into two parts;

The adjectival grade (Diff, VD, HVD, Severe (S), Hard Severe (HS), Very Severe (VS), Hard Very Severe (HVS), E1...E10). An overall picture of the route including how well protected it is, how sustained and a general indication of the level of difficulty of the whole route.

The technical grade (4a, 4b, 4c, 5a...7a). The difficulty of the hardest single move, or short section.

Sport Grade	British Trad Grade (for bold routes)				UIAA	USA
1	Mod Moderate				I	5.1
2		Diff Difficult			II	5.2
2+			VDiff Very Difficult			5.3
3a				HVD Hard Very Difficult	III- III	5.4
3b					III+	5.5
3c	Sev Severe				IV- IV	5.6
4a		HS Hard Severe	UK tech 4a VS Very Severe		IV+	5.7
4b			UK tech 4c			5.8
4c				4c HVS Hard Very Severe	V- V	5.9
5a		5a			V+	5.10a
5b					VI-	
5c	E1				VI	5.10b
6a		5b			VI+	
6a+	5c	E2	5c		VII-	5.10c
6b		6a			VII	5.10d
6b+			E3	6a	VII+	5.11a
6c				6a	VIII-	5.11b
6c+				E4		5.11c
7a				6b	VIII	5.11d
7a+					VIII+	5.12a
7b						5.12b
7b+	E6	6c			IX-	5.12c
7c					IX	5.12d
7c+					IX+	5.13a
8a					X-	5.13b
8a+					X	5.13c
8b					X+	5.13d
8b+						5.14a
8c					XI-	5.14b
8c+					XI	5.14c
9a					XI+	5.14d
9a+						5.15a
9b					XII-	5.15b
9b+					XII	5.15c

Colour Coding

The routes are all given a colour-coded dot corresponding to a grade band. The colour represents a level that a climber should be happy at, hence sport routes tend to be technically harder than the equivalent coloured trad routes because the climber doesn't need to worry about the protection.

- Green Spots** Beginners - everything at grade Severe/4c and under.
- Orange Spots** Experienced - HS to HVS / 5a to 6a+. General ticking routes.
- Red Spots** Advanced - E1 to E3 / 6b to 7a. The next level to push yourself on.
- Black Spots** Expert - E4 to E6 / 7a+ to 7c+. Hard routes for dedicated climbers.
- White Spots** Elite - E7 / 8a and above. The hardest routes for the world's best climbers.



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Deep Water Soloing

 Routes that have been classed as deep water solos are indicated by the splash down icon. These routes can be trad routes or sport routes, but some may also have only ever been done as deep water solos. Little gear is needed for the actual climbing, apart from a good supply of spare boots and chalk bags in case of a wetting. For some of the routes an abseil is necessary to reach sea level, for which you will need a harness and an abseil device; these should be left on the abseil rope when you set off on your solo so that you aren't weighed down in the water.

Deep Water Solo Grade

The routes are graded depending on whether they are also sport or trad routes. In addition, deep water solos are also given an S-grade at the start of the route description. This gives an indication of the seriousness of soloing the route under optimum conditions. Routes given a trad grade that have also been climbed as deep water solos have been given a sport grade next to the S-grade (the sport grade is commonly used in deep water soloing). An S-grade is **not** a green light to go ahead at any time for a deep water solo as many factors will alter the seriousness of a route such as the depth of water, height above water, sea state, strong currents, people in the sea below, swimming ability and water temperature.

S0 - Can be undertaken at most tide states with normally plenty of water under all parts of the route. Low crux sections and an easy exit from the water.

S1 - Need careful consideration of tides to ensure there is sufficient water under the route. Some climbing may not be above water. May have hard moves high up and/or some poor rock.

S2 - As for S1 but it may require high spring tides for sufficient water. Possible that water may be too shallow for a safe entry. High hard sections. For the very experienced only.

S3 - Shallow water solos which are never really safe.

The DWS Safety Checklist

- 1) Always check tides before starting. Remember a neap high tide may not actually be that high. Check which routes need high spring tides carefully.
- 2) Never go deep water soloing on your own in case you get into difficulties in the water.
- 3) Before starting, always check the fall zone for ledges, reefs, boulders or any other environmental dangers. Just because a route has been soloed, it doesn't mean that there is always deep water beneath every section of it.
- 4) Check for exits from the water should you need them.
- 5) Keep an eye out for weather changes; a sudden change in wind speed or direction can quickly create rough and dangerous conditions.
- 6) In spring and early summer the water is very cold and it will suck the life out of you in no time at all. Make provision for quickly getting dry and warm if necessary.



The showpiece of Portland's deep water soloing venues, Cave Hole, is blessed with some made-to-measure crags which are fashioned from squat walls and huge roofs that drop straight into the sea. Here Rhys Whitehouse begins the crimpfest *Aquamarina* (E4, S1) - *p.256* - on The Ixtlan Area at Cave Hole. Photo: Sam Parsons

Portland West
Portland East
Lulworth
Swanage
Needles

Portland West
Portland East
Lulworth
Swanage
Needles



For the last 20 years the routes in Dorset have been open for voting on stars and grades and these graded lists have been based on the many thousands of votes we have received. Although there may well be some anomalies, especially in the higher grades where the routes have seen fewer ascents, the general consensus for most routes is good. If you disagree with the list then please let us know by checking the route on the **UKClimbing.com** logbook pages and registering your vote.

Portland Olympian Challenge

In September 2018, Pete Scott and Jon Butters established a 24-hour challenge for a pair of climbers to each lead a route at every sector on Portland in a day (based on the 14 sectors in the 2012 Rockfax guide). The challenge starts and finishes at the Olympic Rings by the Portland Heights Hotel and should be unsupported and all on foot. Based on the time taken and the difficulty of routes and stars, an overall score for the team is calculated. The original challenge was completed with routes of 7a and above in just under 14 hours, but the score has since been beaten by Sam Parsons and Jerome Cooper climbing routes averaging 6b in under 7 hours. Just doing the challenge itself is a big undertaking and a guaranteed great day out. Since this new guidebook splits up the East Coast crags further, there are now potentially 20 sectors to be included in a new and significantly harder 2021 version. Check the Facebook page for details - facebook.com/PortlandOlympian/



Chris Weedon on the difficult wall climbing of *Boilermaker* (7c) - p.90 - at Blacknor Central on Portland's west coast. Photo: Dan Weissmann

	Photos	Page
8c		
*** <input type="checkbox"/> Endeavour		480
8b+		
*** <input type="checkbox"/> Lifeorce		511
8b		
*** <input type="checkbox"/> Vespasian	213	212
*** <input type="checkbox"/> Alcatraz		212
*** <input type="checkbox"/> Palace of the Brine		511
8a+		
*** <input type="checkbox"/> Infinite Gravity	474	480
*** <input type="checkbox"/> Freaky Ralph		79
** <input type="checkbox"/> Event Horizon		526
*** <input type="checkbox"/> Fuel My Fire		530
*** <input type="checkbox"/> The Schwarzechild Radius	483	479
*** <input type="checkbox"/> Haka Peruperu	488	510
*** <input type="checkbox"/> Burn Hollywood Burn		383
8a		
*** <input type="checkbox"/> Fighting Torque		353
*** <input type="checkbox"/> Under Duress		353
*** <input type="checkbox"/> Monoculture		140
*** <input type="checkbox"/> Adrenochrome	367	383
** <input type="checkbox"/> To Hungary For Love		177
** <input type="checkbox"/> Traci Lords		522
** <input type="checkbox"/> Solid State Logic	401	519
** <input type="checkbox"/> Never Kneel to an Eternity		380
** <input type="checkbox"/> Balance of Power		242
*** <input type="checkbox"/> The Breathing Method		349
** <input type="checkbox"/> Dynamite		304
*** <input type="checkbox"/> Hell's Darker Chambers		448
*** <input type="checkbox"/> Magnetic Pull		195
** <input type="checkbox"/> The Mind Terrorist		344
** <input type="checkbox"/> Hurricane on a Millpond		349
7c+		
** <input type="checkbox"/> The Big Blue		250
** <input type="checkbox"/> Shock to the System		521
** <input type="checkbox"/> Souls of Mischief		417
** <input type="checkbox"/> The Ghost of Ian Curtis		443
*** <input type="checkbox"/> Eternal Spider		212
** <input type="checkbox"/> Legendary Shadows		449
*** <input type="checkbox"/> Forever Laughing		480
*** <input type="checkbox"/> Drunken Butterfly		511
** <input type="checkbox"/> Beautiful South		205
** <input type="checkbox"/> State of Play		519
** <input type="checkbox"/> Energy, the Faith, the Devotion		484
*** <input type="checkbox"/> King of the Swingers		263
** <input type="checkbox"/> Glycerine		211
*** <input type="checkbox"/> Zen Zero		263
** <input type="checkbox"/> Osaki Dolphin		263
** <input type="checkbox"/> Bar Room Brawl		212
*** <input type="checkbox"/> The Roof Predator		384
*** <input type="checkbox"/> Never Kneel to Skeletor		379
*** <input type="checkbox"/> Illusions	299	305
** <input type="checkbox"/> Prison Sex	5	216
** <input type="checkbox"/> Pandemonium	26	304
** <input type="checkbox"/> The Pizza Express		417
*** <input type="checkbox"/> Temple Redneck		510
** <input type="checkbox"/> Detonator		305

7c		
** <input type="checkbox"/> The Ringmaster		452
** <input type="checkbox"/> The Font of Knowledge		223
*** <input type="checkbox"/> Horny Beast		384
** <input type="checkbox"/> Stompin' with Bez		334
** <input type="checkbox"/> Hombre Solaire		195
*** <input type="checkbox"/> The Incredible Hulk	512	527
*** <input type="checkbox"/> Saskatchewan Uranium Miner		196
** <input type="checkbox"/> Fireblade		304
** <input type="checkbox"/> Atonement		517
** <input type="checkbox"/> Nuclear Fusion	233	223
** <input type="checkbox"/> Mark of the Beast	364	383
** <input type="checkbox"/> Trance Mission		152
** <input type="checkbox"/> Burning Arms		384
** <input type="checkbox"/> Disbelief Reinvented		417
** <input type="checkbox"/> Cinderella's Big Score		426
*** <input type="checkbox"/> Tennessee	225	226
** <input type="checkbox"/> Happy Feet		417
** <input type="checkbox"/> Sang Froid		181
*** <input type="checkbox"/> Screaming Skulls		226
** <input type="checkbox"/> A Storm in Heaven		390
** <input type="checkbox"/> Lord of Darkness		383
** <input type="checkbox"/> Poisoned Bamboo		304
** <input type="checkbox"/> Journey to Eternia		380
** <input type="checkbox"/> Meridian Line		211
** <input type="checkbox"/> The Beast of Lulworth		384
** <input type="checkbox"/> The 'Real' Cat of Cockles Cottage		79
** <input type="checkbox"/> Clockwork Orange		211
** <input type="checkbox"/> Mirrorball		391
** <input type="checkbox"/> Face the Truth		196
** <input type="checkbox"/> Fly the Friendly Skies		266
** <input type="checkbox"/> Il Pirata		389
*** <input type="checkbox"/> Seriously Slim Fast Motel		444
** <input type="checkbox"/> The Watchmaker's Hands		176
** <input type="checkbox"/> Rush		205
** <input type="checkbox"/> Slim Fast Motel	454	444
** <input type="checkbox"/> Elements of Abstraction		520
** <input type="checkbox"/> Beast Club		384
** <input type="checkbox"/> Plasma Stream		484
** <input type="checkbox"/> The Beast Goes East		384
** <input type="checkbox"/> New Dawn Fades		416
** <input type="checkbox"/> Mental Stealth Act		417
** <input type="checkbox"/> Popeye Doyle	77	78
*** <input type="checkbox"/> Total Seizure		519
** <input type="checkbox"/> Shining Heart		216
*** <input type="checkbox"/> Keyboard Wall	137	140
** <input type="checkbox"/> Crucifix Kiss		89
** <input type="checkbox"/> Boilermaker	opposite	90
*** <input type="checkbox"/> Hall of Mirrors	36	349
** <input type="checkbox"/> Paint a Black Picture		132
** <input type="checkbox"/> Nightmare Scenario	329	352
*** <input type="checkbox"/> Liquid Steel		526
*** <input type="checkbox"/> Lunacy Booth		417
** <input type="checkbox"/> Chick Power		415
** <input type="checkbox"/> Hong Kong Phooey		207
** <input type="checkbox"/> Running It In!		214
7b+		
** <input type="checkbox"/> Yesterday's Dreams		305
** <input type="checkbox"/> Carpe Diem		518
** <input type="checkbox"/> Tunnel Vision		207
** <input type="checkbox"/> The Stoning of St. Stephen		324
** <input type="checkbox"/> Monolith Monsters		391
** <input type="checkbox"/> Chasing Highs		348
** <input type="checkbox"/> Trent Reznor		197
** <input type="checkbox"/> Guardian Angel		224
** <input type="checkbox"/> Rave Mission		152
** <input type="checkbox"/> The Magnificent 7		172
** <input type="checkbox"/> It Can't be Denied Direct		427
*** <input type="checkbox"/> Infernal Din		348
** <input type="checkbox"/> Disbelief Suspended		417
** <input type="checkbox"/> The Sears Tower		348
** <input type="checkbox"/> A Shadow on Mankind		196
** <input type="checkbox"/> Brooklyn Bimbo		224
** <input type="checkbox"/> French Connection UK		78
** <input type="checkbox"/> Corinthian Spirit		97
** <input type="checkbox"/> Subyouth		333
** <input type="checkbox"/> Frenzied Detruncation		216
*** <input type="checkbox"/> Rise of the Robots		526
** <input type="checkbox"/> Zinc Oxide Mountain		152
*** <input type="checkbox"/> Sign of the Vulcan		341
** <input type="checkbox"/> Wave Graffiti		201
** <input type="checkbox"/> Zum Zeaux		195
** <input type="checkbox"/> Info Freako		151
*** <input type="checkbox"/> Road Rage	301	304
** <input type="checkbox"/> The Racing Line		152
** <input type="checkbox"/> Fat Chance Hotel		444
** <input type="checkbox"/> Wax Museum		211
*** <input type="checkbox"/> Waves Become Wings		518
** <input type="checkbox"/> The Pickford Files		196
** <input type="checkbox"/> Disintegration		195
** <input type="checkbox"/> My Dog's Got Fleas		180
** <input type="checkbox"/> Million Watt Marshalls		195
** <input type="checkbox"/> Mr. Natural		192
** <input type="checkbox"/> Headwall Emptiness		211
** <input type="checkbox"/> Slave State		199
** <input type="checkbox"/> Breakfast of Champions		176
** <input type="checkbox"/> Buried Violence		231
** <input type="checkbox"/> Seismic Shift		452
** <input type="checkbox"/> Lolita		177
** <input type="checkbox"/> Down to the Wire		232
*** <input type="checkbox"/> Red Medicine		231
** <input type="checkbox"/> Dawn of a New Age		232
** <input type="checkbox"/> Just Another Victim		517
** <input type="checkbox"/> Teenage Lust		177
** <input type="checkbox"/> Load it for Me Direct		521
** <input type="checkbox"/> Granny Lifts Car		390
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Sam Hamer finishing the fine wall climbing to be found on the popular deep water solo *Amazonia* (E3, S1) - *p.493* - on The Funky Wall, Fisherman's Ledge. The Funky Wall is famed for its superb deep water solos but it also has many trad lines. Photo: Mike Hutton

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THE Hangout CLIMBING GYM

Unit 2 Network Enterprise
Complex 1 South Way,
Southwell Business Park
Portland
DT5 2NJ



● Extensive shop - ropes, harnesses, quickdraws, belay devices, helmets, slings, chalk, chalk bags, clip-sticks, tape, crack gloves, T-shirts, hats

● Equipment hire for outdoors including bouldering pads, clip-sticks and rock shoes






































































 the_hangout_climbing_gym

 thehangoutclimbing

 Thehangoutclimbing@outlook.com

 07869596158

Faded symbol means that the symbol applies to only some of the routes

		Sport routes											Hard routes											Totals	
Portland West	Portland East	Lulworth	Swanage	Needles	Swanage													Portland West							
		Lulworth	135	1	5	15	35	3	2	24	24	23	3		 5 - 15 min	 Lots of sun			 Good rock	 Seaweed	 Tidal	A superb deep water soloing destination with many classic hard lines, the very best located at Stair Hole. There are also some trad lines and some easier sport routes on the minor cliffs.	366		
		Winspit	93	4	28	35	24			1	1				 25 min	 Abseil	 Sheltered					 Overhang	Quarried walls and bays with plenty of fine technical and strenuous sport routes. More sheltered from the wind than other Swanage crags. Easy access and a level base.	402	
		Hedbury	53	4	13	16	7			1	1	10	1		 30 min	 Abseil	 Sheltered		 Good rock	 Seaweed		 Overhang	Hedbury Quarry is a long sheltered quarried wall, with a collection of good sport lines and is a very nice spot to hang out. Hedbury Big Cove and Smokey Hole are a pair of big adventurous trad sea cliffs located just around the corner.	421	
		Dancing Ledge	132		21	45	41	1	16	7		1			 25 min	 Lots of sun	 Sheltered	 Dry 6 ft up the cliff		 Good rock			One of the most popular sections of cliff at Swanage. A sport climbing quarry and some steeper routes on the sea-level roofs. Non-tidal, and it has its own swimming pool cut into the rock.	434	
		Guillemot Ledge	45							14	17	14			 25 min	 Lots of sun			 Good rock	 Abseil			Two huge walls with several of the longest trad routes at Swanage. The top-outs are quarried and more reasonable than many of the other Swanage trad cliffs. Abseil approaches.	459	
		Cormorant Ledge	9						1	6	2				 25 min	 Lots of sun			 Good rock	 Abseil	 Tidal	 Overhang	A remote area that is often deserted. Some very good mid-grade trad lines on good rock and a reasonable quarried top-out. Multi-pitch with an abseil approach.	471	
		Blackers Hole	47			1	7	3		4	10	17	5		 45 min	 Lots of sun	 Sheltered		 Good rock	 Seaweed	 Tidal	 Overhang	A varied area with a huge and spectacular cave, home to the most impressive and toughest routes in Dorset. There is also a sport quarry and a trad wall with some good hard routes. Mostly non-tidal.	475	
		Fisherman's Ledge	109			1	2	3	3	7	46	46	1		 40 min	 Lots of sun			 Good rock	 Abseil	 Tidal		A varied area with a vast amount of top quality deep water soloing at the Funky Wall and Conger Cave. Also a magnificent cave, overhang-ridden wall and sheer face with both trad and sport options. Easy access but a bit of a walk.	489	
		The Promenade	98		1	20	48	3		9	7	8	2		 30 min	 Lots of sun		 Dry 6 ft up the cliff		 Good rock	 Abseil			The best hard sport climbing crag at Swanage with routes mostly in the higher grades. An easy abseil approach and access via a non-tidal ledge.	513
		Cattle Troughs	45					1	9	18	13	4			 25 min	 Lots of sun			 Good rock	 Abseil	 Tidal		Contrasting trad sections of sea cliff. The middle of the crag is a great beginners' area with more serious sections of the crag on either side. Most of the routes start from non-tidal ledges. Abseil approach.	528	
		Boulder Ruckle	144						2	43	57	41	1		 10 - 20 min	 Lots of sun			 Good rock	 Abseil	 Tidal	 Overhang	The most extensive section of Swanage has classic trad routes across the grades. It is a big and committing area with free-hanging abseil approaches and loose top-outs being the norm.	538	
		Subluminal	96						17	39	29	11			 10 min	 Lots of sun			 Good rock	 Abseil	 Tidal	 Overhang	A great cliff for a first taste of Swanage. Short routes above a large ledge, mostly at very reasonable grades. Quick access from the carpark. Also includes the far more serious Black Zawn.	573	
		The Needles	1							1					 20 min	 Lots of sun			 Good rock	 Abseil	 Tidal		An extremely serious expedition that tackles one of the UK's most recognisable coastal features. Good weather, lots of pre-planning and experience of dodgy rock needed.	592	
		Totals	1005	9	68	132	164	14	50	174	207	175	13	Faded symbol means that the symbol applies to only some of the routes											