

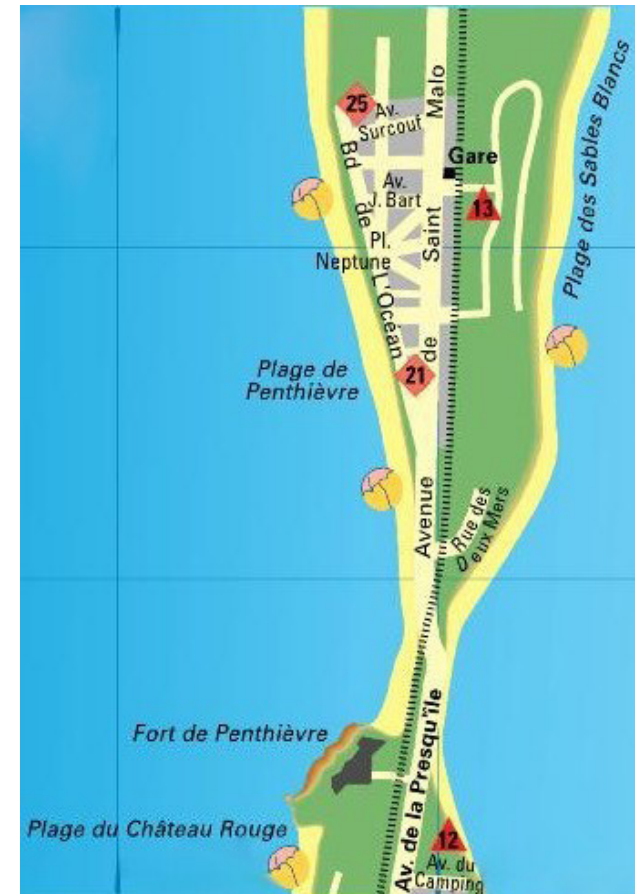
Bouldering in Brittany : Quiberon (download 1)

Fort de Penthievre

Approach: via the Plouharnel to Quiberon road. Fort de Penthievre is an obvious landmark which is currently used by the French military. The cliff beneath the fort can be easily approached in a few minutes from Plage de Penthievre. The rocks are used regularly by fishermen and, despite the military presence above, there are apparently no problems of access. There is an ideal sandy beach for the family nearby, Plage des Sables Blancs, on the eastern coast just a short distance to the north. This beach has car parking and toilet facilities close at hand. The Left Hand Crag can be reached in about a 15 minute walk from this beach. Plage de Penthievre is, unfortunately, far from ideal for family use.

Conditions: low tide is required. Climbers should also note that the Cote Sauvage experiences both strong winds and currents. The Left Hand Crag is particularly affected by the tides, it also faces west and only receives sunshine in the afternoons. Ideal conditions for the Left Hand Crag are therefore experienced at low tide from mid to late afternoon. However, the Right Hand Crag faces south and would appear to be less affected by the tides.

Rock: a compact type of granite which is generally very sound and reliable on the problems/routes described. The initial few feet of several of the problems/routes on the Left Hand Crag can be affected by the tides with the smooth sea washed rock remaining damp and/or covered in slippery green seaweed.



Fort de Penthievre : Approach Map

Left Hand Crag

This slabby left hand section of the cliff is seamed with numerous grooves and is crowned rather spectacularly by the granite walls of the fort above. This is a friendly and accommodating crag, the climbing is very much of the "go anywhere" variety and is therefore ideal for the solo climber. The routes finish on a system of ledges beneath the fort and a relatively easy descent can be made in a number of places. The routes on this section are in the region of 15 metres in length, although the last few metres of the routes described are generally very easy. The photo topo only shows several of the more obvious lines and there are plenty of other possibilities.

English adjectival/technical grades are provided; any feedback would be welcome, particularly suggestions regarding V or B grades and details of other problems.

1 Grooved Arete D *

The most enjoyable line hereabouts.

2 Left Groove S 4a

An awkward entry to the groove.

3 Right Groove S 4b

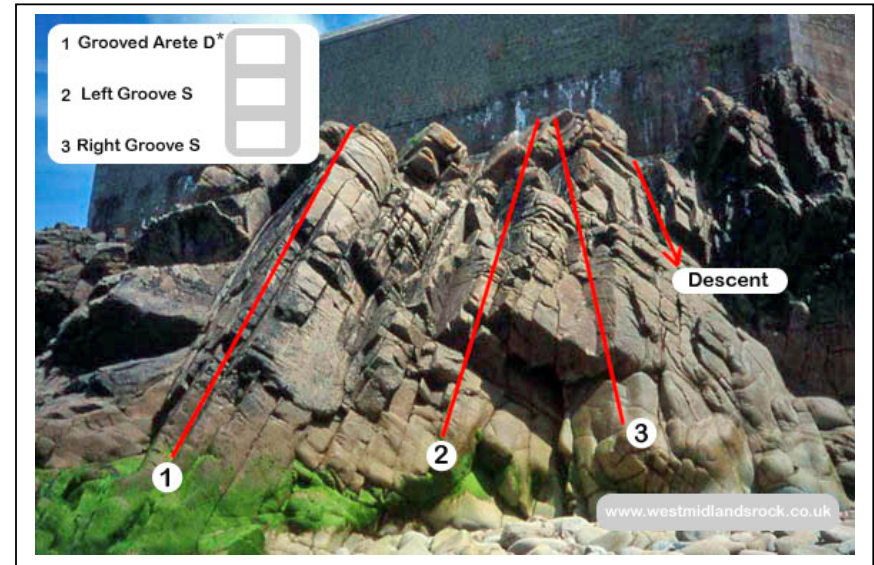
A rather awkward entry to the groove, use of holds on the right may help.

This section of cliff is terminated on the right by a deep and dark zawn which extends inwards to the wall of the fort.

Just to the left of the entrance to the zawn is a narrow wall:

4 Wall 4c(ish)

Gain the sloping ledge and climb the narrow wall keeping as close to the right arete as you dare. Artificial but pleasant enough.



The steep **Left Wall** (when dry) provides two atmospheric routes above the narrow and sandy bed of the zawn. Full details of these routes are recorded for posterity:

5 Wet Afternoon E1 6a * 12 metres

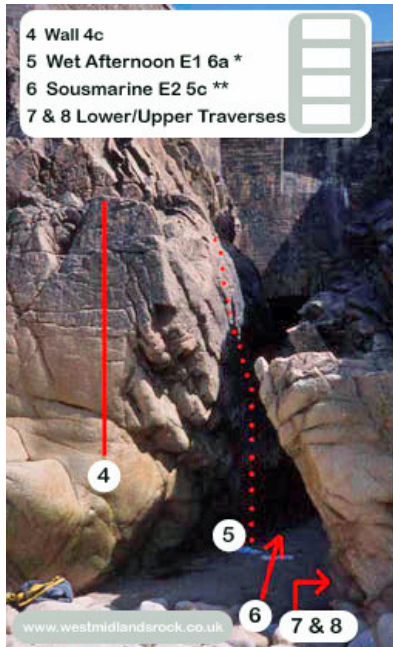
The thin undercut crack has a difficult and fingery start. From the tiny niche move up and leftwards to finish up the wall above on positive holds. A direct finish from the niche may be possible but the rock looks rather fragile.

First ascent: Doug Kerr solo (onsight) 4th June 2003

6 Sousmarine E2 5c ** 12 metres

Start 2 metres to the right of Wet Afternoon below a triangular hole. Make a dynamic move/jump to gain the hole and reach good holds above. Climb to the bulge and move steeply rightwards. An awkward rock over and long stretch leads to better holds. Two rusty (military?) anchors mark the finish. The start will be very hard for the short.

First ascent: Doug Kerr solo (onsight) 5th June 2003



Right Hand Crag

This area lies beneath the south west corner of the fort. Approach at low tide along the slippery boulder beach and pass through a narrow square-cut channel to reach the crag; about 10 minutes from the Left Hand Crag. Alternatively an approach may be made from the south across Plage du Chateau Rouge. This beach contained crude oil deposits on my last visit so it would not be recommended for family use. Only the more obvious problems are described but the keen boulderer will find enough here to occupy a good hour or so. All are approximately 5 to 6 metres in length. The landings are superb (soft, sandy shingle) and consequently only technical grades are provided.

The back of the zawn contains a huge jammed boulder. If you decide to make a closer inspection of this watch out for boiling oil from the battlements above.

The overhanging **Right Wall** of the zawn may also offer some amusement, should it ever dry out, although the rock here is rather more broken above. Towards the entrance of the zawn the right wall provides two steep and short (left to right) traverses:

7 Lower Traverse 5a (ish)

Finish awkwardly around the slippery arete.

8 Upper Traverse 4b

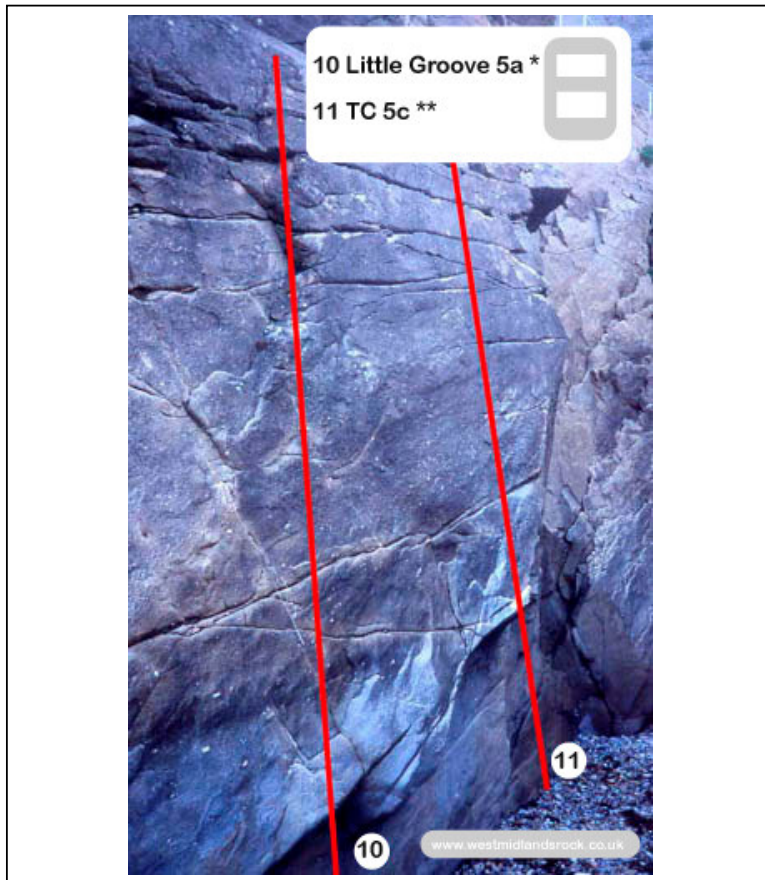
Slightly longer and steeper.



9 Pillar 4c

The centre of the vague pillar requires an honest approach which is rewarded with good climbing.

To the right is an excellent wall of immaculate granite:



10 Little Groove 5a *

The tiny hanging groove via a fingery wall. Finish on the platform.

11 TC 5c **

Gain a standing position on the large boss and crimp smartly up the wall above. Finish leftwards to the platform. The direct finish, up the pillar, looks straightforward but rather loose.

12 Traverse 5a

Start on the left and follow the holds rightwards to finish up Little Groove. Not quite as easy as it might look.

The rock continues rightwards into a narrow ravine to the edge of the fort but unfortunately the quality of the rock deteriorates at this point.

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