

Fairhead New Climbs 2014 – 2025

Kissin' Cussin E6 (6b)

B Beck. 18/8/2021

Just left of December, no details.

Love Bite 35m E1 (5b)**

M Guzik, J Boyd 24/09/2024

Abseil as for The Vital Spark. The route starts at the very left edge of the pedestal.

A well-protected line but high in the grade, it follows nice featured rock and cracks that offer moments of difficulty between good rests and give a little break from the typical Fairhead jam.

The Vital Spark 45m E2 (5c)**

I Rea, K O'Hara 31/05/2013

Abseil down from the big boulder to the top of the pedestal to the right of Hurricane (facing the crag). The line is an obvious series of cleaned flakes and cracks.

Cake Walk* 54m E3/4 (5a, 5c)

C Torrains, C Sheridan, (alt. Leads). 6/09/2015

This route takes the crack in the left-facing corner left of the first pitch of Toby Jug and then traverses left to finish up the fine wall left of Serem.

1) 5a. Climb the crack – wide in places but with lots of good edges – and finish up on the flake/pinnacle. Step right to belay below the overhang of Toby Jug.

2) 5c. Step back left and down. From a small flat handhold on the left wall launch up and left to reach a good small jug. Continue swiftly left to the wide crack (gear) of Serem. Climb up left for a few metres before moving left to the big ledge. Finish up the finger crack above.

Njold's Saga* 95m E2 (4c, 5c, 5a)

This route has changed – the vegetated 2nd pitch was 5b but is now a clean 5c offwidth.

The next 5 routes take the grooves that run up to the Njold's Saga belay ledge. Fixed ab point.

Njold's Saga Direct 45m E3 (6a)**

C Sheridan C Torrains 29/05/16

Takes the clean groove just right of the jungly section at the start of Njold's Saga. Crux at 1/3 height, continue up to where the crack widens to a chimney and move right and up to the belay ledge.

Thor 45m E3 (5c)**

C Torrains C Sheridan 8/05/16

The next groove to the right.

Liv* 43m E3 (6a)**

C Sheridan, C Torrains. 13/05/16

The next groove, passing the small overhang on the left. Sustained, very small gear.

Baldur 82m E3 (5c, 5c)**

C Sheridan, C Torrains. 6/05/16

1) 43m (5c) This is the groove that runs directly up to the big corner. Belay on the big ledge.

2) 39m (5c) Climb the offwidth corner (2nd pitch of Njold's Saga, now cleaned) to the ledge and finish more easily up the short groove above.

Odin 44m E3 (5c/6a)**

C Torrants, C Sheridan. 5/05/16

This groove is around the rib that forms the lowest point of the cliff bounding the Greyman's Path on this (east) side. Climb the groove up to the thin crack that leads up left onto the blocky ledges and wide crack at the top of the Baldur groove.

Lost Highway* 42m E4/5 (6a/b 1pa, 1rp)**

C Torrants, C Sheridan. 25/05/17

FFA C McGovern 2/06/17

From the Njold's Saga belay move left and climb the thin crack (1 point of aid) to the horizontal crack and traverse left and around the arete into the big groove (awkward). Climb the groove, sustained, crux about half way up where a good no.7 wire on the left was used as a rest point. Continue up the crack on the right.

Polaris* 45m E6 (6b)**

C Mc Govern, B Ren 17/05/2018

An excellent long pitch with varied climbing. Start as for Lost Highway until below a cracked wall above the traverse. Make hard moves up this, passing a small overhang, to reach a resting ledge. Keep following the crack to a big overhang which is passed on the left. Finish easily up the long finger crack to the top.

Rathlin Red* 45m E4 (5c)

C McGovern. 27/06/19

A good route with great exposure. From the belay at the top of the 5 grooves traverse right for a few metres to below a groove. Make bold moves up to a stance below the groove. Climb the groove passing 2 more ledges and exit onto the slab on the right. Finish up this to belay on top of the Grey Man.

Scarecrow. Kevin Kilroy has climbed 2 separate lines as alternatives to the second pitch at 5b, 5c E2/3. See climbing.ie for details.

Blackout* 95m E5 (5c, 5c, 6a)**

K McCoey, T Neill. 9/06.2018

See climbing.ie for details.

The Navy* 95m E2/3 (5c/6a)**

C Torrants, C Sheridan. 29/07/20

Takes the groove that lies directly below the top pitch of An Gobán Saor then follows the top corner to two thirds height before traversing right to finish up a steep crack.

1) 55m (5c). Climb the blocky start to reach the perfect hand crack. Follow this (sustained) to the wide groove – possible belay – and chimney that lead easily to the grassy ledge.

2) 40m (5c/6a) Climb the top pitch of An Gobán Saor to a little blocky ledge at two thirds height, step up and traverse right to the steep crack which is followed to the top.

The Milliner* 55m HVS/E1 (5a/b) (plus top pitch of An Gobán Saor).**

C Sheridan, C Torrants. 3/08/20

1) 55m (5a/b) The next groove to the right gives very pleasant groove and crack climbing.

Start at the sharp flakes below the low overhang. Pull up and left into the groove and climb this to reach the wide groove and chimney leading to the big grassy ledge.

2) Finish up An Gobán Saor 5b. [An Gobán Saor merits E2.]

The Thatcher* 55m E2/E3 (5c)** (plus top pitch of An Gobán Saor).

C Sheridan, C Torrans. 29/08/2020

Start a few metres right of The Milliner below the groove with two overhangs at half height. Climb the corner and move left around the small overhang. Continue up the groove (awkward) to reach the good jamming cracks which lead to the first big overhang. Pass this on the right and then move left around the second overhang to gain the wall and thin crack above (crux). Follow this to a horizontal crack and step left into the blocky groove of The Milliner. Climb this for 3 or 4 m before stepping back right to the thin crack which is followed to the big grassy ledge.

Finish up the top pitch of An Gobán Saor.

Horizon Tides 90m (5a, 5c, 6a, 5a)

K Azevedo, T Charnecki. 21/07/2022

Details in climbing.ie. This new route near The X-Men needs more cleaning.

Tristan to Blockbuster Area

[This is a recently developed and newly named area. It comes before The Terraces and before The Artful Dodger, which is no.196 in the MI guide and no.178 in climbing.ie.]

This section of the cliff is bounded by two huge prows. The one on the left is home to the top pitch of Tristan while the huge buttress on the far right forms the right-hand edge of the impressive Blockbuster headwall.

To the left of the start of The Artful Dodger a series of cracks and grooves runs for about 15 metres leftwards to a broken toppled pillar. The long routes here follow high-quality jamming cracks as first pitches and then have interesting varied climbing in their upper sections. There are also a few one-pitch options running up from the big mid-way ledge visible from the top. This ledge can be accessed by a 60m abseil.

Tristan 105m E3 (5c, 5c, 5b)**

C Sheridan, C Torrans, I Rea. 25/03/17

- 1) 42m (5c) Start just right of the broken toppled pillar below a low square-cut overhang. Climb around the overhang on the left to gain the crack (difficult). Follow the crack to the bottom of the broad ramp. Good belay.
 - 2) 38m (5c) Follow the left-trending ramp to the steep crack. Climb this (crux) to flat holds and a big brown jug where you move right to a groove. Follow this to a small roof, move left to the crack and continue up this to a belay in the groove. This point gives easy access to the top pitch of Iseult.
 - 3) 25m (5a) Climb up and left across the wall on a line of weakness and finish up the crack.
- A direct finish up the vegetated groove was climbed by Peter Owens at 4c.

Iseult* 99m E4 (5c, 5a, 6a)**

C Torrans, C Sheridan. 9/05/17

- 1) 42m (5c) As for Tristan.
- 2) 34m (5a) Step down and right to gain the crack and climb this – widens to a chimney – to reach the blocky stance overlooking the Tristan belay.
- 3) 23m (6a) Climb out right to gain the thin crack and follow this (crux, small wires) to reach the sloping ledge. The top wall provides some good technical climbing.

Uisce Faoi Thalamh* 109m E2 (5c, 5b, 4c)**

C Sheridan, C Torrans. 21/4/18

(Ish-ka-fwee-hol-uv)

The next crack to the right of Tristan.

- 1) 28m (5c) Climb the crack to a sloping ledge.
- 2) 26m (5b) Continue up the crack to the big broken ledges. Big block belay up on the left.
- 3) 55m (4c) Climb the groove (big cams) and follow the crack through the bulge to finish up the pleasant corner and slab.

Variation finish (5a). Climb the last pitch to three quarters height then move left and finish up the crack line.

Note: Pitch 3 with its striking groove and corner line, amenable grade and easy access via the 60m ab is proving popular as a single pitch climb.

Barabbas 50m E4 (6a)**

C Torrns, C Sheridan. 20/04/19

A fine line taking the steep slabby wall right of the top pitch of Uisce Faoi Thalamh. 60m ab to the big mid-way ledge visible from the top. Lots of small gear.

Start from the righthand end of the huge ledge and climb to where the wall steepens. Climb the bulge (crux) using the two thin cracks and a flat hold high on the left, with a few more hard moves leading to jugs. Continue more easily to the bottom of the groove where small gear can be arranged on the left. Launch out right on a small flat handhold to gain a flake crack up and around to the right. Gain the top of the flake and the upper slab. Climb this moving up and right to the big ledge and then on up to the headwall – delicate, small gear. Move left to finish up the easy cracks to the right of the big corner of Uisce Faoi Thalamh.

Fiach Dubh 54m E4 (6a)**

C Sheridan, C Torrns. 23/04/19

Good technical climbing with excellent friction. Small to medium gear. 60m ab to the big mid-way ledge visible from the top.

Start as for Barabbas at the righthand end of the ledge. Climb up a few metres and at the thin horizontal crack step right into a groove. Climb partway up the groove before moving right onto a good foothold. Positive holds lead up to the base of the deep groove. Climb this (crux, small wires) by using a good undercut high on the left along with a thin flake edge to access flat holds up on the left. Easier moves lead to a pedestal in the groove, move left and up to the cleaned ledge where The Artful Dodger comes in from the right. Continue up to a spike and move left onto a weakness which is followed up to the headwall. Move left and finish up an easy crack as for Barabbas.

Avarice 97m E4 (6a, 6a, 5c. 1rp)**

C Sheridan, C Torrns. 19/09/19

Start at the thin cracks roughly half way between Tristan and the buttress before The Artful Dodger, just left of Heart and Soul.

1) 47m (6a). Climb the lefthand crack/groove to the overhang – character-building climbing which necessitated an involuntary rest below the horizontal crack at the overhang. At the overhang step right into the righthand groove. Follow this until it becomes thin and move right onto a ledge, then up for a few moves and back left into the groove. Finish up a short slab and belay below the bulge. The belay is a bit sketchy – a spike on the right and a placement for a small grey BD cam above that plus a large nut and red BD cam on the left.

2) 25m (6a). Move up left and climb the crack in the bulge to the small ledge below the groove. Arrange gear – green BD cam under the small overlap on the right. Climb the groove (crux, small gear) and then continue more easily up the slab to belay at the big flake of Morphine and Chocolate.

3) 25m (5c). Finish up the Morphine and Chocolate groove/crack in the headwall.

Heart and Soul* 90m E4 (6a, 5c)**

C Torrns, C Sheridan. 16/05/19

This route gives some of the best crack climbing at Fairhead. It takes a sweeping line that finishes

up Morphine and Chocolate.

1) 50m (6a). Start at the clean groove with twin cracks about two thirds of the way between Tristan and the buttress just before The Artful Dodger. Climb the groove and crack to a flat ledge below the final finger crack. Jam and layback this (crux) to reach better holds and then climb a blocky rib up and rightwards to a ledge. A slabby wall and a thin crack lead to a big belay ledge.

2) 40m (5c). Follow the obvious line of cracks up to the big flakes and finish up Morphine and Chocolate.

The Big Big Movie* 91m E3 (5c, 5b, 5b)**

J Byrne, C Curran. 15/08/2020

A neighbouring route to Blockbuster, giving a trickier first pitch, a more consistent second pitch and sharing the excellent final pitch. Low in the grade.

1) 21m (5c). Immediately right of the first pitch of Blockbuster is another crack which quickly narrows to fingers. Climb this (sustained) passing holds on the left then briefly stepping right and fridge-hugging the next crack over, until a final few fingery moves gain flat holds and a wide foot ledge on the left. Belay here (large flake above).

2) 35m (5b). Climb up and onto the huge flakes. Step from the top of the tallest flake into a finger crack. Climb this for 10m until a tricky move leads to flat holds. Immediately traverse left across ledges until directly under the left-facing groove of Blockbuster. Climb up into this and exit the groove onto the belay ledge on the left.

3) 35m (5b). As for the final pitch of Blockbuster.

Soul Shaker 25m E6 (6c)**

C McGovern, J Mullins, M Flanagan. 27/8/2021

Good climbing with even better pendulum potential. Climb Fired Earth to the niche above the pegs (purple cam). Using a good sidepull and poor footholds float leftwards to gain a hidden flat jug (crux). Continue up the excellent well-protected thin crack above to the top. Watch out for the sting in the tail!

Superpod 50m E7 (6c)

J McCune, L Brophy. 7/6/2018

Exact location? A big 50m pitch with a very tricky section of climbing through an overhang, protected by some really fiddly gear. Above this felt like hard E5 to the top, passing two large pods.

Tech Duinn ** 45m E7 (6b)

R Cummings, A Moles (headpoint). 20/4/2018

A scrappy start gains the absorbing slab below Pigeons' Cove, don't be put off by the bones at the bottom! Left of the obvious vegetated offwidth is a short blunt arete with a round boulder at the bottom. Climb the arete boldly to reach easier ground then climb directly to the top of the pillar. From here weave your way up to a system of layback flakes (tiny cams). Follow these until they run out then make a difficult move to a good hold on the right and good undercuts above. Continue straight up to reach a flake on the left (poor RPs) then back right where a heart-stopping move leads to good holds between the two blocks. Follow the blocks carefully to an in-situ lower off, or bash your way through choss and spiky bushes (twice the fun) to finish up Tir na nOg.

Judgment Day* 105m E7 (6b, 6a)**

R Cummings, A Moles. 30/9/2017

See climbing.ie for details.

Resurrection 70m E8 (6b)**

A Marshall, S Gordon, L Quinn. 29/9/2018

The arete to the left of The Complete Scream, this was originally done in 1986 as a sport route by

John Codling and Gary Gibson. The bolts were removed shortly afterwards and a peg used to equip the route was removed before its first trad ascent.
See details of this ascent in climbing.ie.

Blind Pew Direct Finish 14m (5b)

C Sheridan, C Torrans. 15/09/24

Climb the second pitch to the base of the two grooves and then continue straight up the corner and groove instead of stepping right. A little more committing than the original finish.

Tangled Traverse E2 (5b, 5c)

K Stewart JZ Roberts 9/3/2025

This is a two pitch traverse of the Prow, from The Offence to Thunderhips. Details on climbing.ie.

Magic Hour 20m HVS (5a)**

M Guzik, C Whiteley. 7/05/2025

Follow the clear crack line directly to the right of The Offence. A shallow crack to start before the crack continues and pressure eases with height.

Calypso 21m HVS (5a)

C Torrans, C Sheridan. 10/10/23

This route straightens, extends and replaces **Residue**, an old HS that was loose and vegetated.

Make an awkward scramble up to the grassy ledge right of The Offence.

Climb the wide groove (no.4 cam) and chimney to reach the top of the pillar and then follow the crack up the short steep headwall.

Jungle Rock VS 39m?? Probably 23m and best avoided.

Grade Changes

Striapach *HVS (5a) to E1/2 (5b)*

Burn Up *HVS (5a) to E1 (5b)*

Creeper *E1 to E2*

The Thatcher *E2 (5b) to E2/3 (5c)*

An Gobán Saor *E1 to E2*

Hell's Kitchen *HVS to E1*

Aoife *E1 to E2*

The Doffer *E1 to E2*

Black Taxi *E1 to E2*

Mongrel Fox *E1 to E2*

