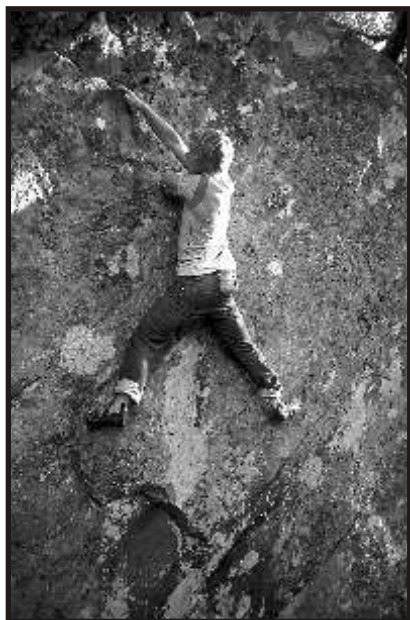


bethesda circuit: BRAICHMELYN BOULDER

A cartoon perfect vision, this remarkable piece of rock is the very nirvana that all dedicated crimpers dream of. A sheer face, cast with an array of delightfully small holds, looms above a fine grassy landing. The peaceful ambience of the surrounding sparsely wooded glade adds to the overwhelming feeling of tranquillity, a welcome distraction when your tips are screaming from the harsh rip of the crimps. If only this place had slopers, I don't think I'd climb anywhere else.

Access: From the kinked Mynydd Llandegai crossroads at the Capel Curig end of Bethesda turn up towards Gerlan. After 300 metres park sensibly (probably best close to the bridge over the river where the road widens) and turn back down Nant Graen (a small road leading off the main road). Follow the narrow road until it ends (100 metres), then walk down the right side of the house (as suggested by the Footpath sign) and around the back of the house. Walk up the vague path through the woodland, bearing right towards the boulder (which is slightly hidden) after about 100 metres.



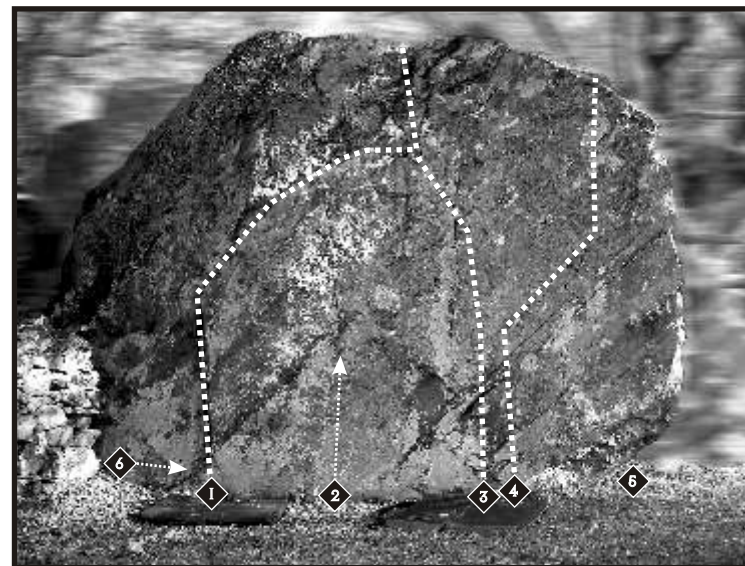
Gavin Foster, Central Wall V5. Photo/Footer: Simon Pantin

cylchdaith bethesda: CLOGFAEN BRAICHMELYN

Perffeithrwydd llwyr: carreg anhygoel un freuddwyd wynfyd pob crychwr cadarn. Wyneb serth, gyda wasgariad amrywiol o afaelion bychan pert, yn sefyll uwch ddisgynfa glaswelltlog dda. Mae awyrgylch fawel y llanerch o amgylch yn cryfhau'r synnwyr o heddwch: difyrwch pleserus pan mae blaenau eich bysedd yn sgrechian ar ôl rhwyg bras y crychion. Ili fyddwn yn meddwl mynd i ddringo yn unman arall pe bai yna wyrafaelion ar gael yma.

Mynediad: o groesffordd Mynydd Llandegai, allan at Gapel Curig o Bethesda, trowch i Fyny at Gerlan. Ar ôl 300 metr parciwch yn gall (yn agos i'r bont dros yr afon ble mae'r ffordd yn llefach sy'n debygol o fod orau) trowch yn ôl i lawr Nant Graen (lôn bychan yn ymestyn i ffwrdd o'r briffordd). Dilynwch y lôn gul nes iddi orffen (100 metr), wedyn cerddwch i lawr ochr dde y ty (fel a welir ar yr arwydd llwybr troed) ac o gwmpas cefn y ty. Cerddwch i Fyny'r llwybr drwy'r goedwig, a thueddwch i'r dde at y clogfaen (sydd braidd yn ngudd) ar ôl 100 metr.

(NB. Hefyd yn cael ei alw "Super Boulder")



bethesda circuit: BRAICHMELYN BOULDER

- 1. The Ramp V2 ****** The attractive feature proves to be hardest near the start, although the finish is a little unnerving on first acquaintance. A harder left hand finish is possible.
- 2. The Crack/Klimov V6 *** The thin crack is more a visual feature than a true line. The thin intense wall (Klimov) just to the right gives better climbing, albeit at a slightly harder grade.
- 3. Central Wall V5 ****** Straight up at first from the thin flake hold, bearing left to the sanctuary of The Ramp. A classic, technical test piece. A slightly harder direct finish is possible.
- 4. Spring Juice V7 **** Thin moves lead up the wall left of the arête from the start of CW.
- 5. Braichmelyn Arete V1/V6 **** The arête (taken on its left side) gives exquisite technical moves to a prominent jug. Continue with the aid of a branch to the top. The sit down start is an outstanding and powerful V6. (NB. It is possible to climb the arete on the right at V0)
- 6. The Traverse V8 **** Sustained desperation all the way, left to right, from the start of The Ramp into Braichmelyn Arete. A harder variant finish (V8) links into SJ.

cylchdaith bethesda: CLOGFAEN BRAICHMELYN

- 1. The Ramp V2 ****** Y nodwedd atyniadol sy'n profi'n galed ar y dechrau, tra bod y diwedd braidd yn anesmwythol y tro cyntaf. Posibl dilyn gorffeniad chwith caletach.
- 2. The Crack/Klimov V6 *** Mae'r hollt tenau yn fwy o nodwedd gweledig na llinell cywir. Mae'r wal tenau ychydig (Klimov) i'r dde yn rhoi dringo gwell, ond o radd caletach braidd.
- 3. Central Wall V5 ****** Yn syth i Fyny i ddechrau o'r gafael caen tenau, a siglo i'r chwith at ddiogelwch The Ramp. Prawf technegol clasurol. Posibl diweddu yn syth ond yn galefach.
- 4. Spring Juice V7 **** Symudiadau tenau i Fyny'r wal i'r chwith o'r crib o ddechrau CW.
- 5. Braichmelyn Arete V1/V6 **** Mae'r crib (ar ei ochr chwith) yn rhoi symudiadau technegol cain at y crafanc amlwg. Ewch gyda chymorth cangen at y brig. Mae'r dechreuad o'r eistedd yn V6 neilltuoel a phwerus. (NB. Mae'n bosibl dringo'r crib ar y dde V0)
- 6. The Traverse V8 **** Cynaledig llechwith yr holl ffordd, chwith i'r dde, o ddechrau The Ramp i mewn i Braichmelyn Arete. Mae diwedd caletach (V8) yn cysylltu SJ.