

# Porth Ty Mawr Bouldering

## Description

This attractive venue offers something pretty unique for the Lleyb boulderer – beautiful orangey quartzite! The friction is proper boss and rock quality is generally excellent, particularly on the wave-washed more tidal boulders, a smattering of veins add to the attractiveness of the rock here. The problems range from lowballs with ok landings to highballs with awful landings and a bit of everything else in between. The problems recorded here were climbed mainly by Liverpool based climbers Owen McShane and Simon Huthwaite. With support from Sam Thompson, Rich Hession and Mark Dicken. After first discerning the opportunities the venue might offer in early 2015, it took an aligning of tides, weather and a sans-pads visit by Owen in 2015 to finally get a team together. The team have been visiting where possible over the last few months. There are a several real gems including the stunning Shipwreck Prow - a must do problem!



*Owen McShane on the outstanding Shipwreck Prow*

The venue is well known for being the site of numerous ship wrecks the most famous of which, The Stuart in 1901, has become the stuff of legend for the cargo of New Zealand bound Whisky that washed ashore!

## Approach



Approaching from Nefyn, turn right off the B4417 towards Llangwnadl. After a crossroads, take the next left signed for Porth Oer and Porth Iago. Parking is 600 metres up this road in an obvious layby. From here, walk on down the road until you reach the sign for Porth Ty Mawr at which point turn right.

Follow this road past a farmhouse until you reach a gate. Go through this and bear right across a field heading for a conspicuous white tipped post and another gate. Go through this past the horses and on to another white tipped post. Locate and head for another white tipped post across a field at which point you should see a dry valley ahead stick to the right of this along an obvious path until some steps are reached on the left. Head down these steps, across the bridge by which time you should begin to see boulders on the beach below. Follow the path and your nose to the first of the boulders. This pleasant approach takes about 25 minutes.

## Tides

Most of the described problems are climbable with a normal mid-range low tide. And most problems on Penderyn, Rusty Hull and Tir a Mor blocks are climbable at any state of tide bar a spring high. There is one block that is only exposed on the lowest of tides that we have not touched yet. See picture at the end of the topo.

**Penderyn Boulder** - a number of good warm ups and one harder traverse on immaculate rock, make this an ideal place to start your day.



On the back left corner of this boulder is a blocky groove, this climbs at about font 5 but is also the descent.

1. *Short Arete 4+* - sit start on obvious jug, move up to a nice sidepull with the left and top out.
2. *Short Groove 5* - sit start on obvious jug and tic tac up crimps to a straight-forward top out
3. *5+* - Starting in the same place as problem 2 traverse right on good holds to finish up the vague arête
4. *Felynfoel 6a* - Starting on the end of the obvious ramp at a good hold, go straight up on good holds
5. *Idris Y draig Coch 6b* - starting on the obvious blocky hold a tough move leads to a choice of poor holds, slap up to jugs and a straight-forward top out \*
6. *Penderyn 7a* - A classy traverse on excellent rock! Starting on a good undercut for the right and a slopey crimp for the left. Slap up and traverse through crimps and slots to join and finish up *Felynfoel* \*\*
7. *3+* - obvious slab line
8. *6a* - sit start the arete / prow feature and topout tenuously up the groove.



### ***Rusty Hull Boulder***

The small boulder to the left of the Penderyn block is home to a number of short but entertaining sit starts from 3-5+ and one excellent eliminate.

1. *Rusty Hull 6a+* - start sitting with your back to the Penderyn block on an obvious couple of crimps make moves up to a slopy sidepull with the left before making a tricky move to good holds just below the top.



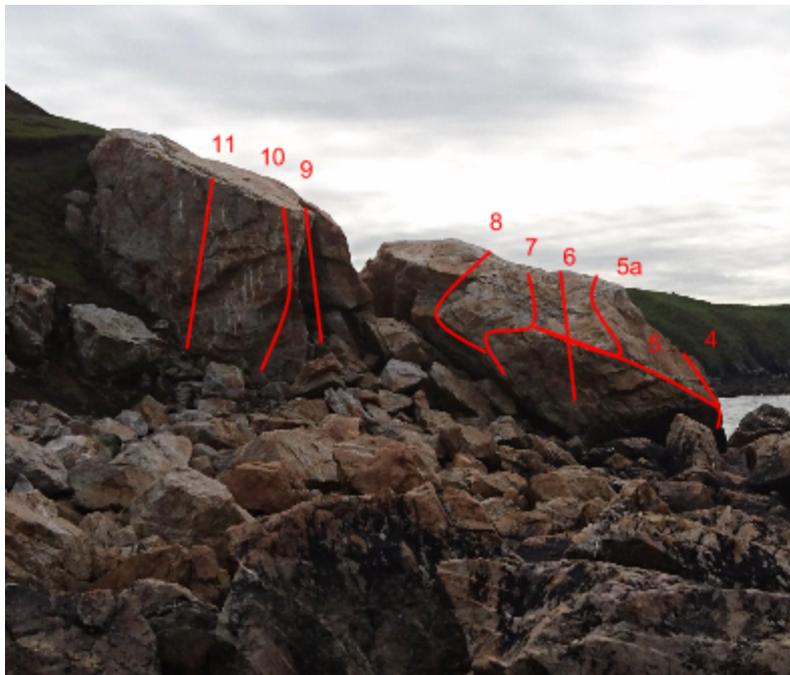
***Tir a Môr Boulder*** - a good range of challenges exist on the fantastic block.



1. *Tir a Môr 6c+/7a* - climb the classy arete above a worrying landing. Start sitting on the block with a sidepull for the left and a poor hold on the lip for the right. Top out at the apex of the boulder \*



2. 5 - climb the slab on the seaward face from sitting on the obvious blocky hold
3. 4+ - climb the slab from standing at the obvious shoulder \*



4. 6a+ - climb the arete from a hanging start on a sloper (RH) and a guppy (LH)
5. *Llongdrylliad* 6c+ - start as for the previous problem and traverse left to finish up *Bragdy Llyn* (or 5a finish earlier up the obvious flake at about 6b+)
6. *Bass Hunter* 6c+/7a - low start to the groove - proper sitter will be hard
7. *Bragdy Llyn* 6b+ - Starting on the obvious ramp and utilising a nice crimp for the left make a big move to the lip and top out directly
8. *Y Moose pyws* 7a - start as for *Bragdy Llyn* but follow the obvious line of holds leftwards to a hard finish on small holds.

Just left of these problems lie a fine wall of quartzite featuring the following two problems and an obvious project.

9. *The Cold Vein 6a+* - A technical groove utilising thumbs and precise footwork to gain a crux slopey mantel. Committing! \*

10. *Project Arete*

11. *Y Llong 6b+* - a sitting start leads to great moves on boss rock and a big reach for the top \*

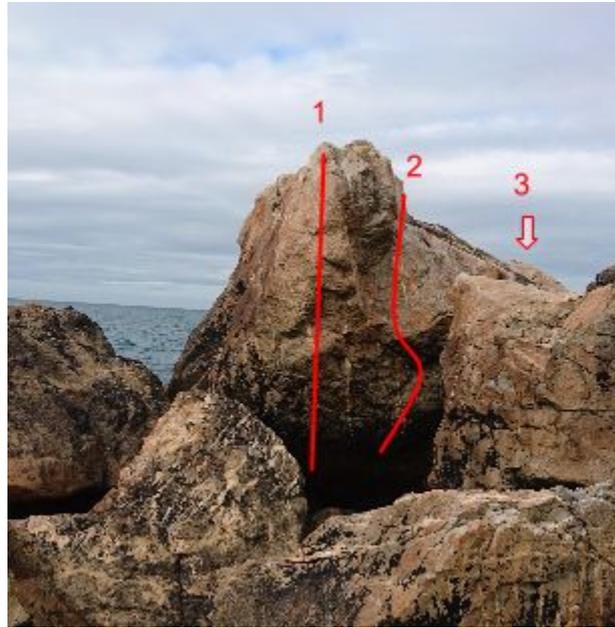
### **Whisky Block**



1. *Whisky 5* - On the front of the block is an obvious starting hold. Sit start here, undercut and either reach the top or use crimps to reach the top.
2. *S'nowt 6a* - Sit start on the block and use slopers and heels to reach the apex before topping out up the arete.



**Shipwreck Boulder** - the main attraction here sports some easier lines at the back of the block and three superb problems on the front. Care needs to be taken with the landings here, particularly under Shipwreck Prow.



1. *Shipwreck Prow 6a+/7a+* - The stupendous prow above the pit of doom is climbed from a standing position on two opposing sidepulls or from sitting on the boulder using a big undercut. Burly throws on sidepulls lead to monkey up a stick moves on stunning rock. Climbs as well as anything of its grade in North Wales \*\*\*
2. *Y Morlo 7b+* - Start sitting on an undercut, make hard moves to gain crimps under the groove, a crux slap into the groove should make the top a formality. Can be climbed from standing at about 6c \*
3. *Pottery Flake 6a+* - Sit start on the obvious flake, move right to the big shelf then use crimps or slopers to make the big move to the lip \*
4. *Seithenyn 5+* - Vague arete left of the gaping maw from standing
5. *Cochyn 6a* - sit start the central line just right of the gaping maw
6. *Brenin Enlli 4* - sit start the right hand line



## ***Other Block***

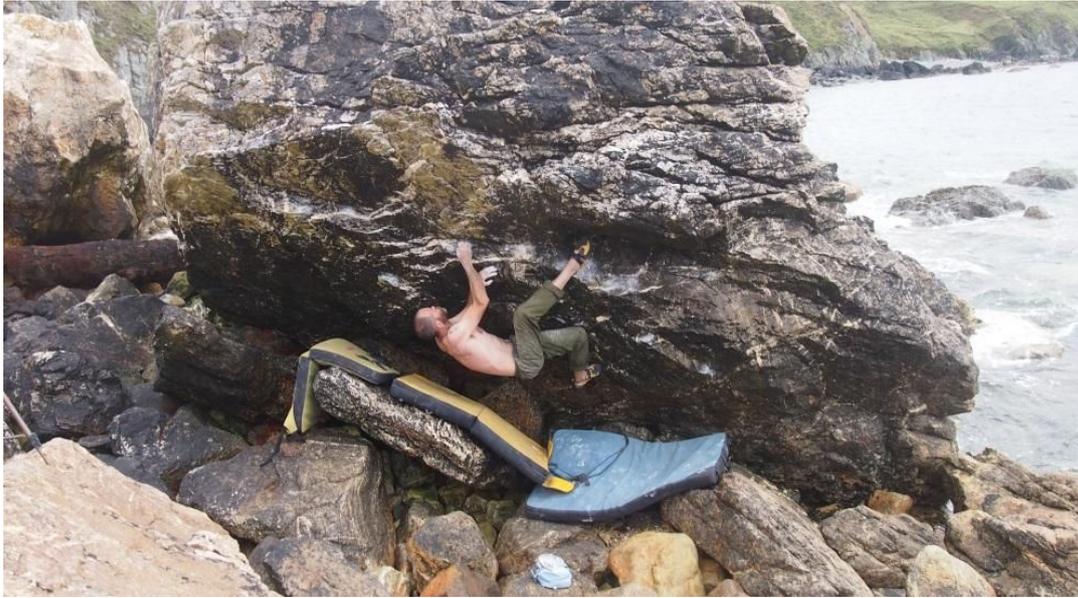
There is a conspicuous other block with a big groove / roof feature and a number of other lines. This needs a good low to dry out and is, as yet, untapped...



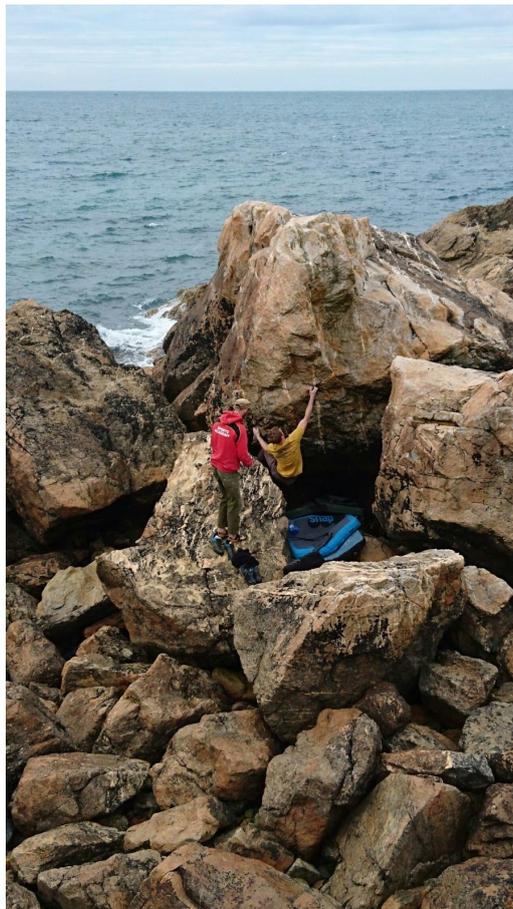
## **Some Photos**



Simon Huthwaite on the FA of Shipwreck Prow



Owen McShane on the FA of Penderyn



Rich Hession on the FA of the sit start to Shipwreck Prow



Rich Hession on YMorlo sit start

