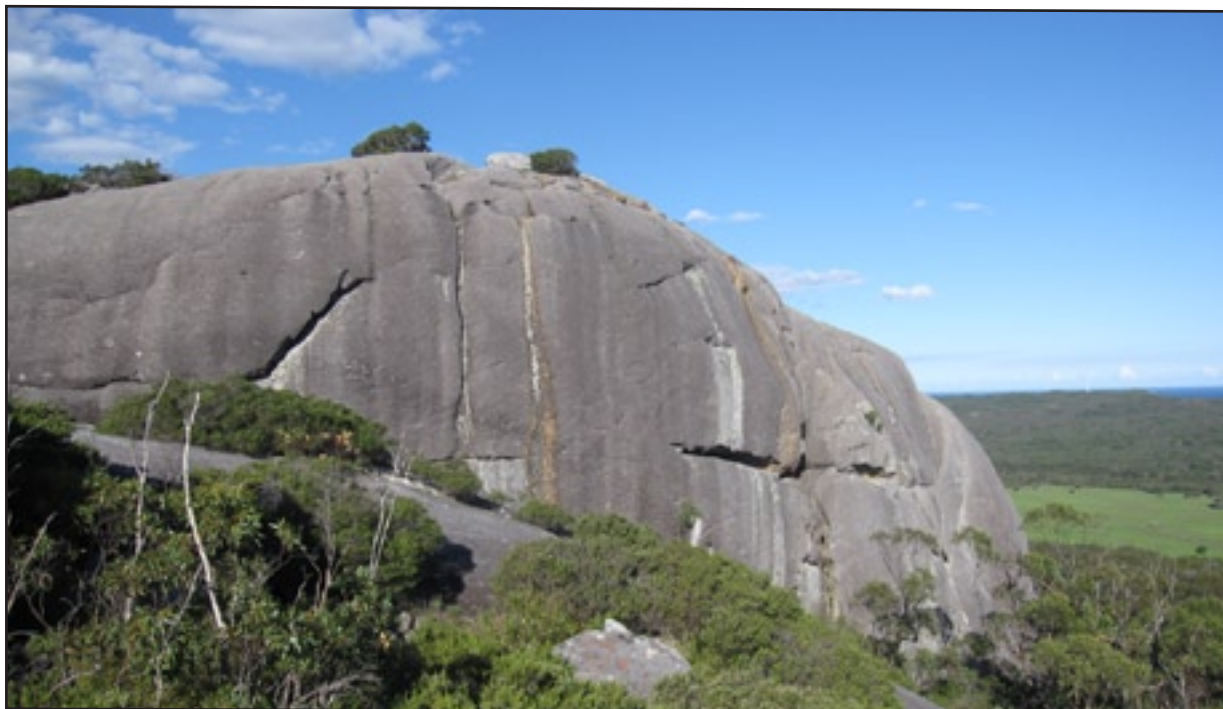


# Rock Climbs at Monkey Rock, Denmark, Western Australia

By Paul Collis  
Second Edition, September 2016



## Important Notice – Read This First

Rock climbing is an activity that can be extremely hazardous and result in injury or death to climbers or those around them. There is no risk-free role in climbing or being near climbers. This book is not an instruction book for rock climbing and should be used only by competent and experienced climbers.

This is a rough and ready guidebook. It is intended only to indicate approximate locations and grades for most of the routes established in the area. Some of the information is unverified and has been obtained second or third hand from sources which may or may not be accurate. No distinction may be made in the text regarding the source or reliability of information, or what has been updated from one edition to the next and what not. Bolt positions and quantities on topos are indicative only and may not be accurate in quantity or location. The information may contain technical or topographical errors.

The information in this guidebook may not be up to date. The presence and reliability of fixed equipment, stability of rock, and access arrangements etc. vary with time. Opinion on the grading and safety of routes and anchors varies.

Where this book describes a climbing route or area, or apparent access conditions, the information is given without any warranty as to whether there actually is a right of access to that land or that climbing is permitted there.

Rely only on your own judgment and experience when deciding whether to attempt a climb. If you are not a competent and experienced all-round climber you should seek guidance from a qualified instructor or guide.

The author accepts no liability whatsoever arising from the use of this guide. Your use of this guide indicates your acceptance of full responsibility and liability for yourself and to those who may be affected by your actions. If you are not prepared to accept this responsibility, don't use this guide to go climbing. Stay home and do something safe instead.

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# Introduction

Monkey Rock is a large granite outcrop located just west of Denmark and within a couple of miles of the south coast of Western Australia. The top of the rock has great views south west towards lights beach. It is easily accessed and is frequently visited by hikers for the views and because it is a distinctive landmark on the Bibbulman Track.

The rock is up to 45 metres high and composed of good quality coarse granite with plenty of nice holds and features in a great environment. The first lines were established here in a short period of activity from 1989 to 1991. Given the limited opportunities for natural protection they were generally quite bold undertakings. Since then a couple more routes are known to have been added, but the place appears to undeservedly have been a bit of a climbing backwater. This is probably due to the boldness of the early lines being off-putting, that it is a long drive from the major populations of climbers, and that it has been overshadowed by the great climbing available nearby at West Cape Howe and Mount Frankland.

As noted in the 1998 South Coast Rock climbing guide, there is a lot of potential at Monkey Rock for great quality bolt protected climbs at all grades. This is particularly the case in the lower to mid grades. Some of this potential has been tapped recently with the addition of a bunch of new bolt protected routes equipped in the modern style (i.e. big fat bolts spaced close enough for the leader to enjoy). There are still plenty more new lines to do though.

With the addition of the recent routes Monkey Rock is a well worthwhile venue, particularly if you have spent a wild day scared out of your wits at WCH and need a low stress environment to recover at. Monkey Rock has about fifteen established routes, most of which are bolted.

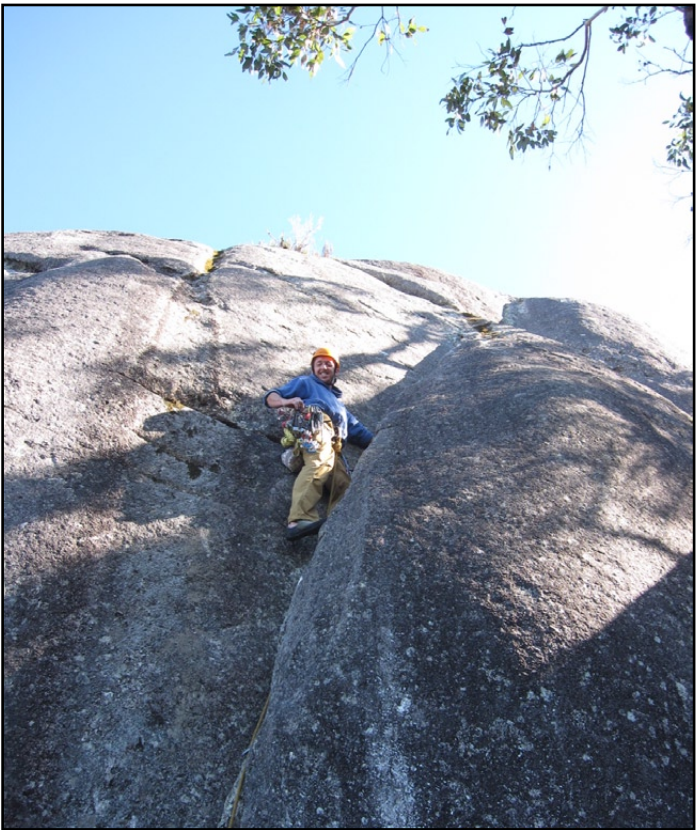
This mini-guide has been put together after only a few of trips to Monkey Rock, and unfortunately with the benefit of only limited local knowledge. The recent new routes were put up by people who have not climbed much in Australia recently so the grading could be a bit out. If you have any information about any of the routes for which details are stated as not known, or comment on grades or other details in this guide, please send them to: paulcollis@hotmail.com. References in this guide to the 1998 guide are to the South Coast Rock Guide, April 1998 Edition authored by Shane Richardson and published by Stone Productions, ISBN 0-646-35309-8. The efforts of that guide in recording route details are appreciated.

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## Photos

Cover picture: the summit and west face of Monkey Rock  
Right: Scott Ishman on The Naked Ape

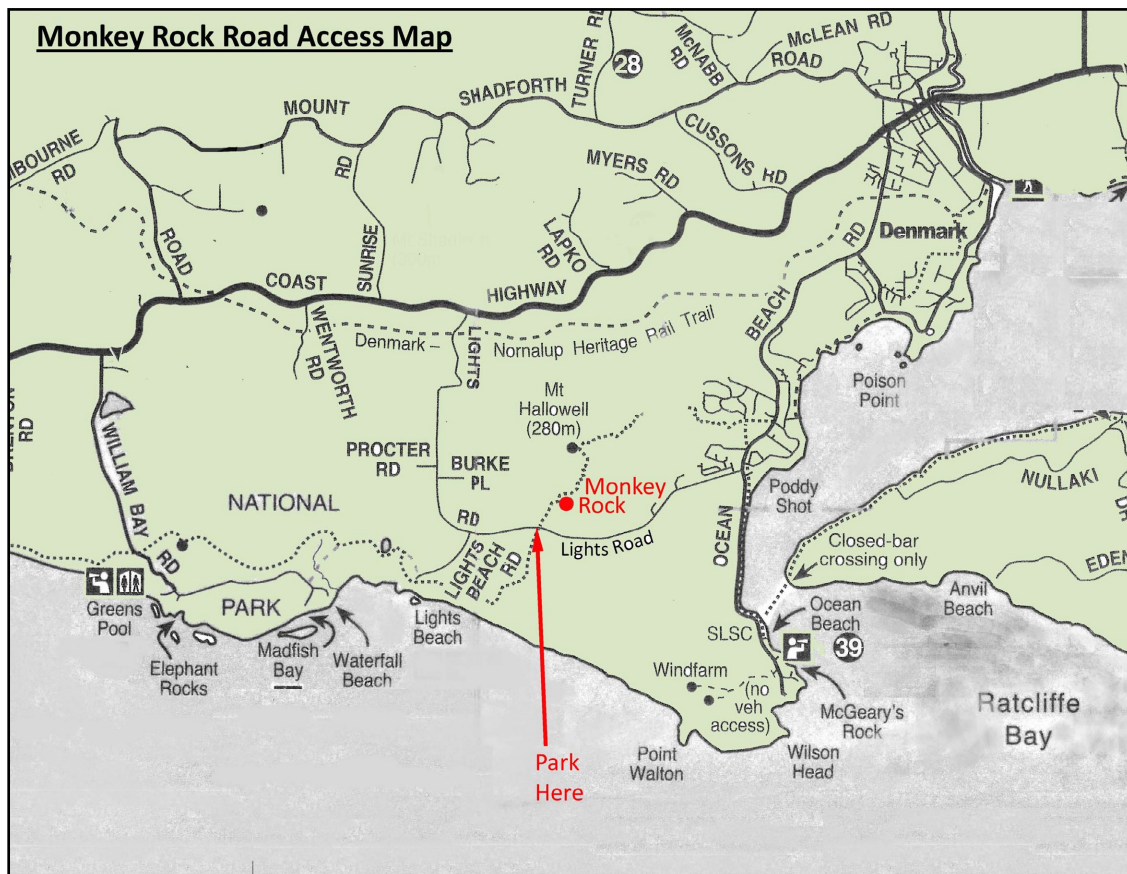


# Approach

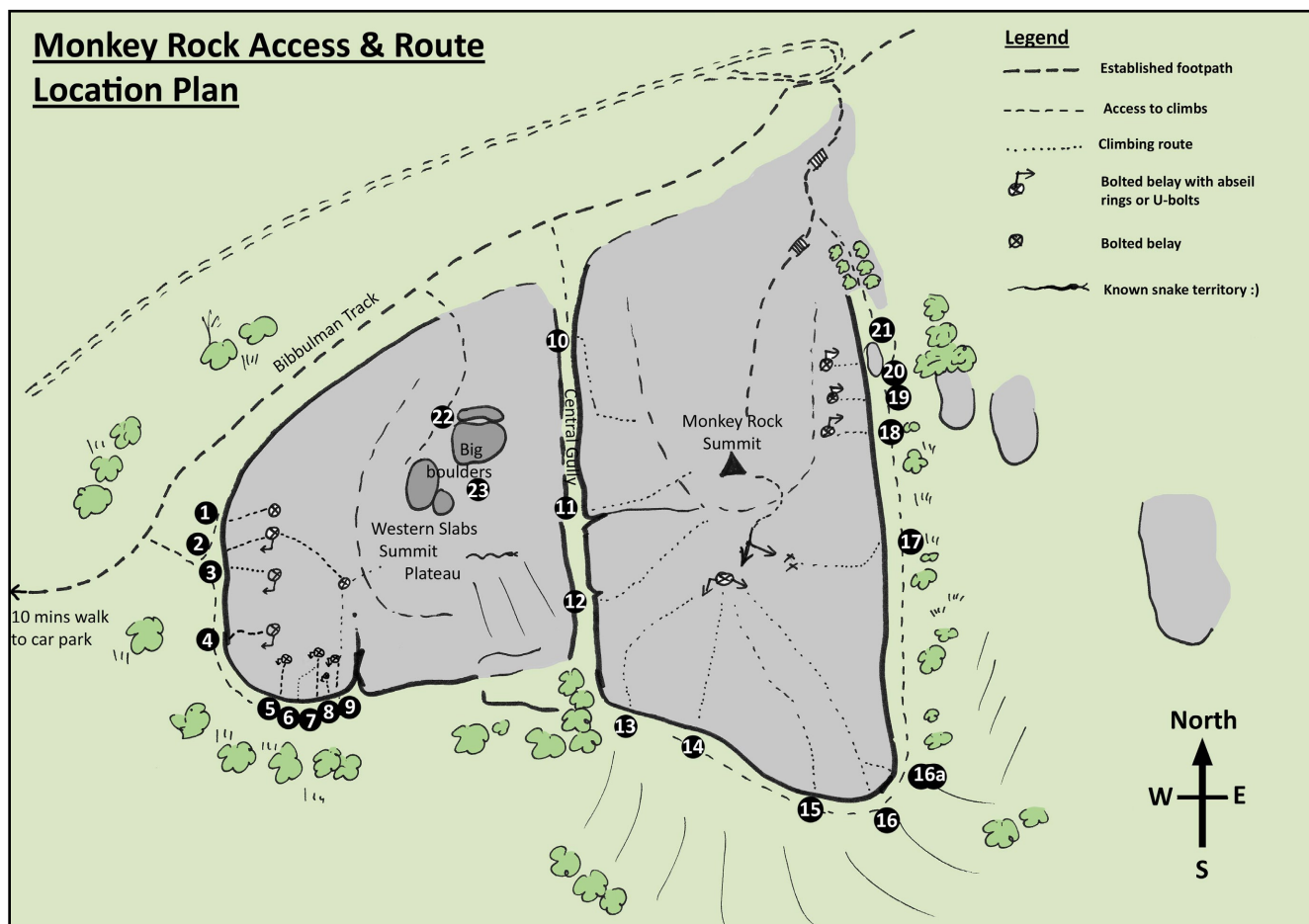
Park at the Monkey Rock car park on the north side of Lights Beach Road, where the Bibbulman track crosses the road. Follow the Bibbulman track northwards from the car park, gently up hill through the trees. After about ten minutes the western slabs of Monkey Rock are reached. The routes Marcel and Funky Monkey will be on the face directly ahead. For routes on the western and south faces of the Western slabs, take a faint trail rightwards off the main path here. For routes on the north face of the western slabs and the main peak of Monkey Rock, continue up the Bibbulman track to the upper approaches.



# Local Area Road Map



# Monkey Rock Access Map



# Western Slab

The Western Slab is the first climbing area reached when approaching Monkey Rock up the Bibbulman Track from Lights Road. As the Bibbulman Track turns left to skirt up around the slabs, go slightly right and ahead on a faint path to reach the base of the climbs. If you like to be on display then this is the place for you. There will be no shortage of hikers oohing and aahing and saying "Oh look, abseilers".

## 1. Marcel, Grade 10, Sport, 26m ☺

This route is a great introduction to leading. Glue in U-bolts protect. Start below two obvious opposing diagonal cracks that bisect each other about 4m above the ground to form a large "X". Climb directly to the second bolt, take the crack on the left for a move or two, then move out on to the right face and up to a double bolt belay on a good ledge. Descend using the rappel station 2m to the right at the top of Funky Monkey, or top out up the second pitch of Funky Monkey.

*FA Scott Ishman, Paul Collis, 19th April 2015.*

## 2. Funky Monkey, Grade 13, Sport, 27m, ☺

Start a few metres right and below of Marcel, below a faint crescent flake/crack at 5m. Climb rightwards up to the flake, make a tricky move up to a pocket on the left and then on up the features and slabs above. Glue in U-bolts protect.

*FA Paul Collis, Scott Ishman, 19th April 2015*

## 3. Derek's Line, Grade 11, Trad, 26m, ☺

Start a few metres right of Funky Monkey at a short blank slab below a deep vertical groove line. Climb the slab which can be tricky if wet and then move to the right wall of the groove. Climb up a pillar to breaks then step left to the crack as it begins to turn to the right. Climb the crack to reach a double U-bolt belay. The gear is mostly good but is a bit sparse and at about one third height.

*FA Scott Ishman, Paul Collis 30th May 2016? Led previously?*

*Known to have been top-roped by Derek et al.*

## 4. Ancestral Vices, Grade 15, Sport, 26m, ☺

Start eight metres right of Funky Monkey just left of a wide rightwards leaning block filled groove/crack. Climb up leftwards across a blankish wall (crux) to reach a short diagonal crack. Move up right and then onwards up the pockets and over a diagonal break to reach a double U-bolt belay. Glue in U-bolts protect.

*FA Paul Collis, Scott Ishman, 30th May 2016*



**Photo:** Hannah Collis on Marcel.

# Western Slab, South Face

To get to the south face walk rightwards for about 60m around the base of the cliff. The most obvious identifying feature of this face is the large gully/chimney in the upper section of the cliff. The routes described below are to the left of this gully and are nicely secluded from the Bibbulman Track.

## 5. King of the Swingers, Grade 17/18?, Sport, 12m, ☺

Begin about six metres left of King Louie below a leftwards curving flake. Climb up, step left and use your skill and cunning to figure out a way to climb gracefully above the undercut flake and onwards to success. Alternatively, fall off ineptly whilst figuring it out as the first ascent party did (the first ascent was definitely not a clean one). Glue-in U bolts protect.

*FA Scott Ishman, Paul Collis, 30th May 2016.*

## 6. Compulsion, Grade 12, Trad, 27m

Begin below a bush at the base of a left facing flake at 5m. Climb directly to the flake, up it, and then head slightly right to join King Louie and finish up that route. The line is a bit grubby and unless you have very small cams the gear is a bit sketchy (and even if you have them it's dubious in places).

*FA Scott Ishman, Paul Collis, 30th May 2016.*

## 7. King Louie, Grade 12, Sport, 27m, ☺

Begin at a blunt right to left rising rib 10m to the left of where a large gully splits the upper section of the cliff. Climb pleasantly up the line of glue in U-bolts to a lower off just below the sky line.

*FA Paul Collis, Scott Ishman, 19th April 2015.*

## 8. Jungle Fever, Grade 10?, Sport, 12m, ☺

Start at a leftward leaning corner three metres left of Chimpanology. The hardest move is the start. Climb the groove and then at about eight metres step out onto the right wall and move up the slab to a double U bolt belay on a comfortable ledge. Glue-in U bolts protect.

*FA Paul Collis, Mike Taylor, 23rd May 2016*

## 9. Chimpanology, Grade 14, Sport, 40m, ☺

Start below a short wall 5m left of where a large gully splits the upper section of the cliff. Climb to the first bolt at 4m, make a difficult move to pass it then continue up the slab above just left of the rib of the gully on the right. There is an option to lower off a double U-bolt belay at about 25m or to continue to a belay just below the summit plateau at 40m. If going to the top belay, descend by walking off the back. Expansion bolts with hangers protect the route.

*FA Paul Collis, May 2012*



## Monkey Rock, West Face

The West Face can be accessed by pushing through from the Bibbulman Track into the bushy gully that separates Western Slab from Monkey Rock main peak. Alternatively it can be accessed from the plateau at the top of Western Slab, which is probably the best approach to the routes lower down the gully. The plateau has warm sunny areas of slab broken up by a nice amount of vegetation and other cover, so it makes a great place to sneak around looking for snakes. Make plenty of noise if you're not so enthusiastic to find any. A bit of snake wrangling might even put you in a suitably bold mood to attempt one of the routes.

### 10. Le Mure, Grade 14, Trad., 15m. ☺

One of the first recorded routes at Monkey Rock. This traditionally (un)protected route looks pleasant but appears to have no gear on it at all. Reading the description of the 1998 guide the route takes the pleasant slab line shown on the topo in this guide. However, the 1998 guide topo showed the route climbing the crusty overhanging groove further right. Take your pick.....

The 1998 description reads "Start at the left hand side of the west face. From the bush 3m above a little gully, traverse right 5m, then up diagonally rightward for 10m. A nice exposed climb."

*FA A Roilo, solo, Jan. 1989*

### 11. Cheeta, Grade 15, Trad., 25m. ☺

This route looks to be full value for the grade with a steep pock-eted start and little protection. Start 20m to 30m right of Le Mure and 2m left of the chimney that bisects the west face. The 1998 description reads "Climb the slightly overhanging wall via the holes up to a good ledge. Chimney for 5m, then traverse left and out over slabs to finish." Belay on a combination of bushes and hikers.

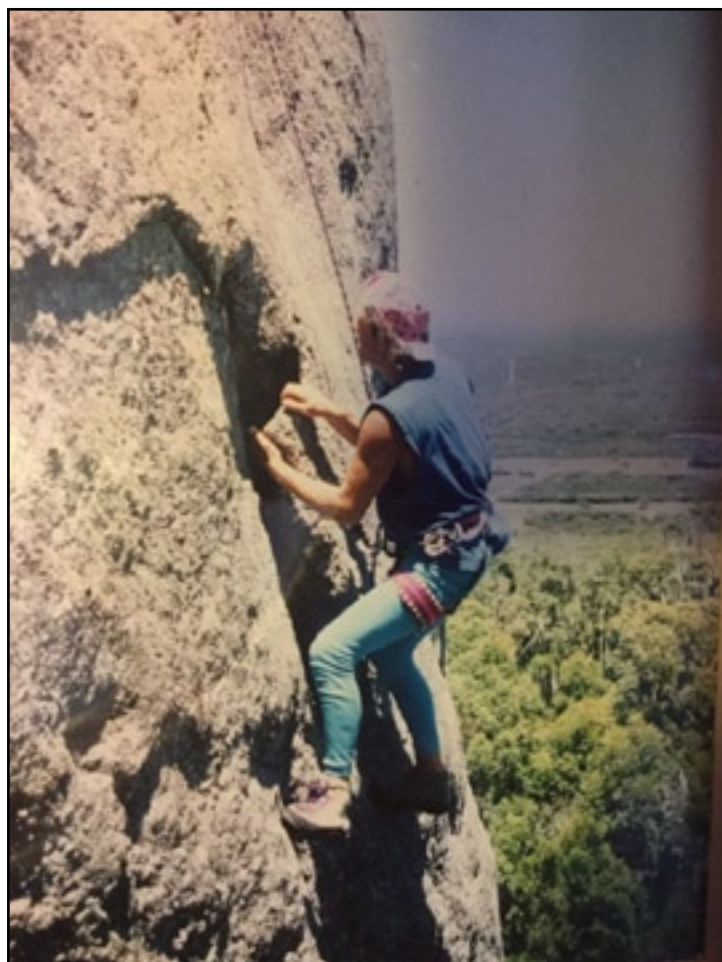
*FA A Roilo, R Mann, Jan 1989*

### 12. Tarzan in New York, Grade 19, Trad, 20m. ☺

The first half of this route appears protectable with large cams and other gear. It seems to start at a steep off-width right leaning crack. The 1998 description reads: "Start near the tree at the base of the gully. Climb half-way along the diagonal crack, then traverse right 3m onto the face. Up face for 5m, then move back left to finish straight up slab above."

*FA A Roilo, Jan 1990*

**Photo:** Steve Cooper parading some excellent 1980's fashion whilst in action on Shield Left Hand. The exact line of the route is not known/recorded in this guide but appears to be in on the west face of Monkey Rock in the region of Tarzan. This seems to be an example of one of the many good lines that have been top-roped but not led or recorded.



## Monkey Rock, South Face

The south face has a lot of quality rock and is generally steep in the lower half, with the angle easing off as height is gained. It is possible to push through the bush from Western Slab, South Face to access these climbs. Scrambling down from the main peak and abseiling from the belay station at the top of the face is also an option but there is too much drag to pull the ropes. The best approach is to scramble down the East Face approach and then around the toe of the buttress. The climbs are all good quality and start from an easy angled apron below the cliff proper.

### 13. Simian, Grade 18-20?, carrots/trad., 38m?, ☺ ☺ ?

No details of this route are known so the name and grade are assumed. An undercut start just left of Father and Son leads to good looking climbing, trending left first then up. The stainless steel carrot bolts look to be fairly closely spaced except for between bolts 3 & 4 where some medium/large cams might be used in pockets to the right. Thanks to some kind soul this route is blessed with a big fat double U-bolt belay which it shares with the next two routes. Scramble off to the top.

*FA Unknown*

### 14. Father and Son, Grade 18, Trad, 35m, ☺ ☺

Start in the middle of the south face below a water streak running down from pockets at 10m. A series of enjoyable gymnastic moves leads up through the pockets to the slab above. The crux is exiting the big pockets up and left. There is no worthwhile protection on this route but it makes for a great top-rope exercise off the double bolt belay at the top of the south face.

*FA K Bennet, J Bennet, June 1991.*

### 15. Shock the Monkey, Grade 18, Trad, 40m, ☺

Description as per the 1998 guide: "The slab on the right side of the south face. Climb the slabby face for 7m (crux) to a large crack. Follow the crack to its' end, place two good pieces of protection, then go for a long run-out (10m) to the large horizontal crack (belay)." Scramble off to the top.

*FA A Roilo, R Mann, Jan. 1990*

# Monkey Rock, East Face

The east face is mostly slabby at a consistent angle. Approach as if going from the Bibbulman Track to the top of Monkey Rock. After going up a short flight of wooden steps, and before climbing a second set, go left for a few metres then duck down and walk through a bushy tunnel, down through a narrow rock gap and so to the face.

## 16. Monkey Puzzle, Grade 15 or 16, Sport, 48m, ☺ ☺

This climb takes the blunt rib between the south and east faces. Start in a small scoop below the rib of the buttress, 4m down and left of a diagonal undercut flake. Climb up then rightward after the third bolt (crux), then onwards in a fine position to the glue in bolt belay at the top of the south face.

*FA Paul Collis, Scott Ishman, 27th April 2015.*

## 16a. Monkey Puzzle Direct, Grade 16 or 17, Sport, 48m, ☺

This direct start is a little harder but not quite as enjoyable as the regular start. Begin 4m to the right of the regular start below a series of intermittent shallow pockets. Joins the main route at the fifth bolt.

*FA Paul Collis, Scott Ishman, 27th April 2015*

## 17. Ape Index, Grade 18/20? Sport? ☺ ☺ ?

In its' upper two thirds this climb takes a fine tenuous line up the slab via a series of technical friction moves. It appears to approach via a diagonal traverse in from the right. Glued in machine bolts protect from the end of the traverse upwards (hangers required).

*FA Unknown*

## 18. Cheeky Monkey, Grade 16, Sport, 27m, ☺ ☺

Start about 20m down the gully below a clean slab leading up to an arete at 10m height. A pleasant and varied route. Climb the slab (crux), then the arete and wall above to finish. The belay is a double U-bolt belay placed previously by unknown benevolent persons. The route is protected by expansion bolts with hangers.

*FA Paul Collis, Scott Ishman 18th April 2015*

## 19. Monkey Business, Grade 18, Sport, 22m, ☺

Start about 17m down the gully at a good handhold at the base of a diagonal leftwards rising ramp. Step up onto the handhold then move right and upwards through a series of sustained and thoughtful moves on small holds. A blind groping reach right leads to a diagonal break. The headwall above may make you think a little too. Expansion bolts with hangers protect. The belay is a double bolt belay with rap rings.

*FA Paul Collis, Scott Ishman 26th April 2015*

## 20. The Naked Ape, Grade 13, Trad, 20m, ☺

Begin just down from the top of the gully at a left hand flake crack which opens up to about fist size at 4m height. Climb into the flake with the crux at 4m (a size 3.5 Friend is a bonus here). Proceed up the flake with some smaller protection being found here and there. At the top of the flake place a couple of good big hexes or cams prior to the final short wall. Finish at a double U-bolt belay placed previously by the aforementioned benevolent souls.

*FA Unknown.*

## 21. The Measure of a Man, Grade 13, Trad, 20m, ☺

Begin just down from the top of the gully at a large right hand flake crack/chimney. If you have very large cams and a penchant for Yosemite style classic chimneys, climb up inside the off-width. If you have no large cams but bags of confidence, layback boldly up the outside of the flake until rewarded by respite and gear. Move up and then left to join The Naked Ape to finish.

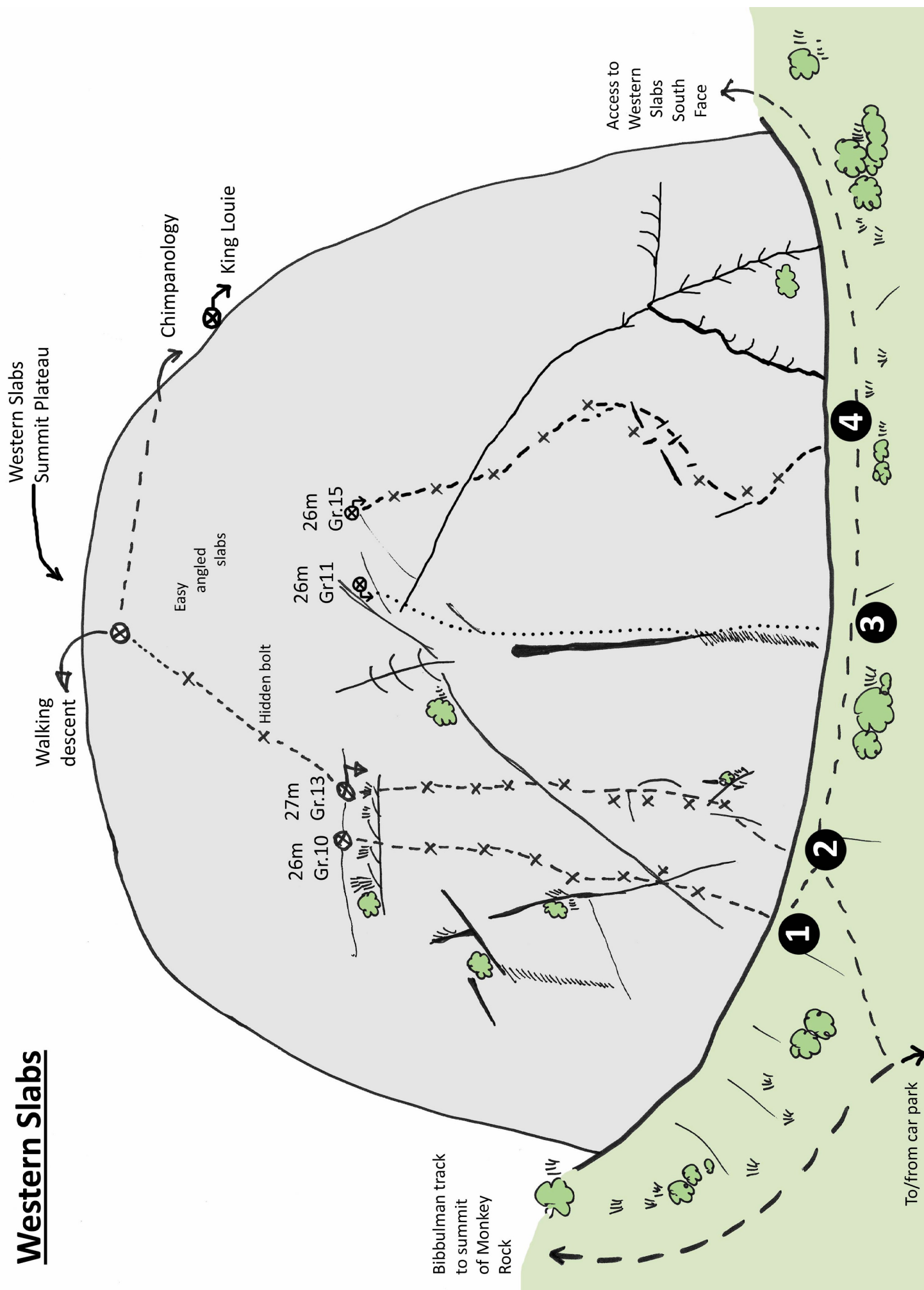
*FA Unknown.*



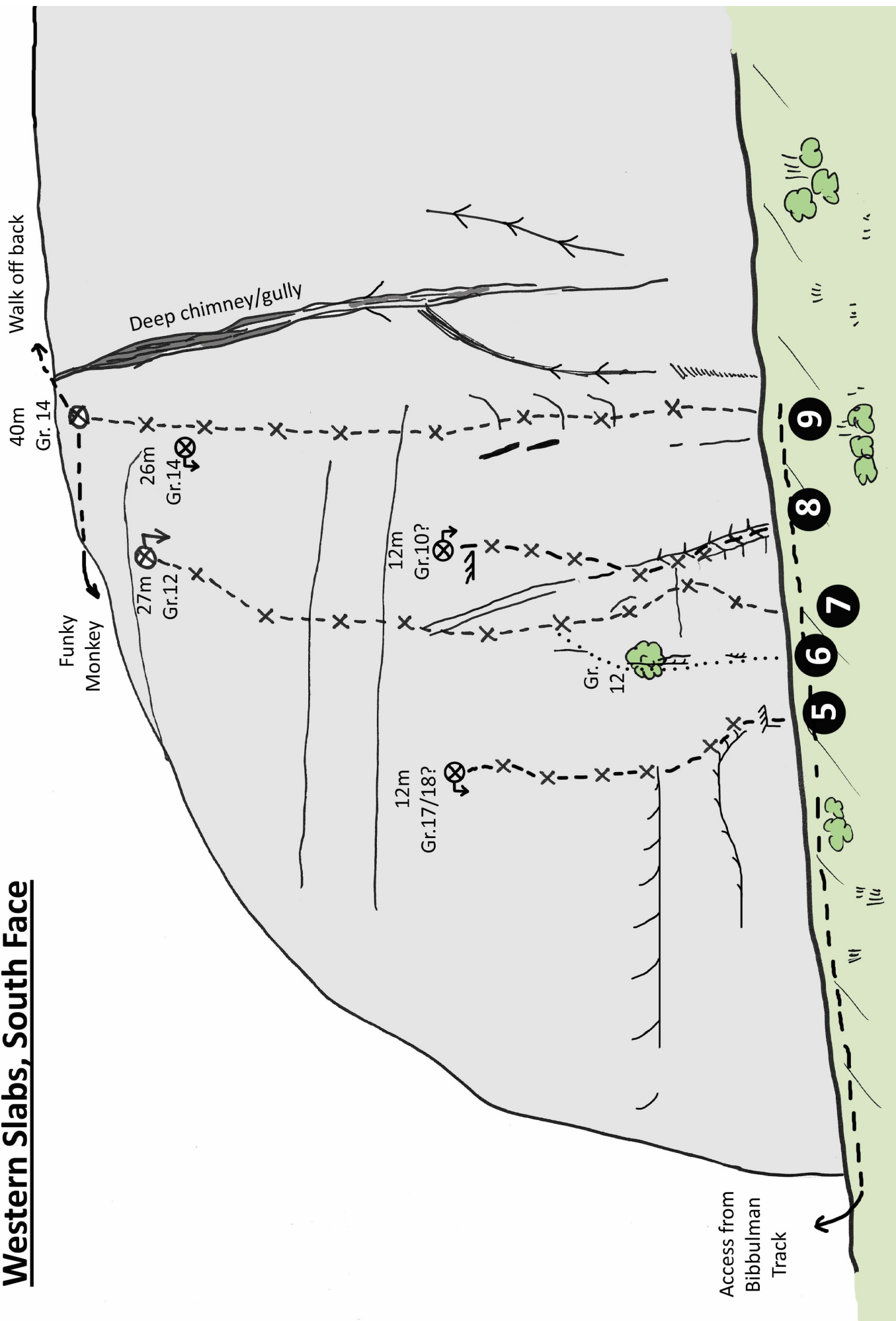
**Photo:** Ishino Mizue on Marcel.



Western Slabs

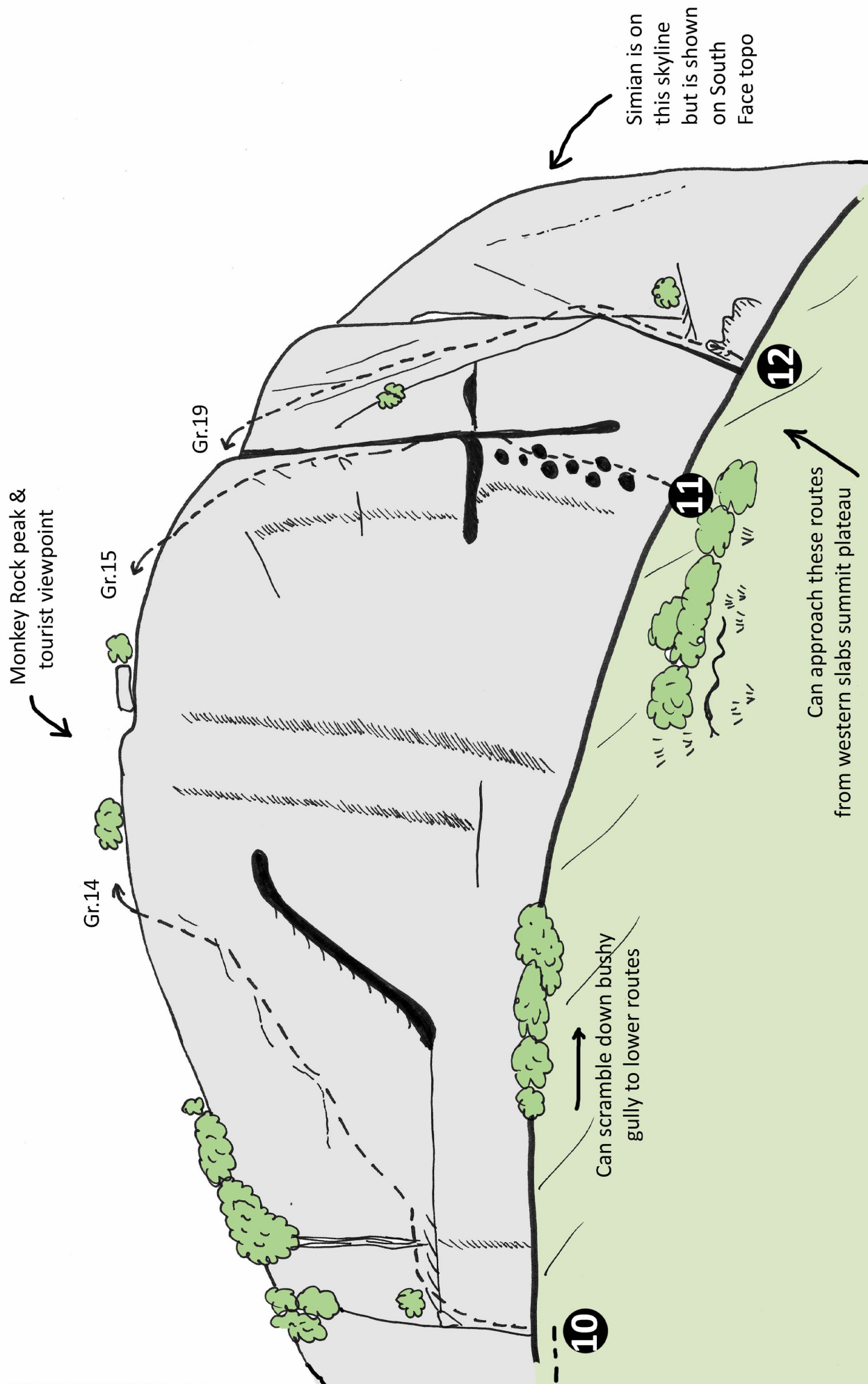


**Western Slabs, South Face**

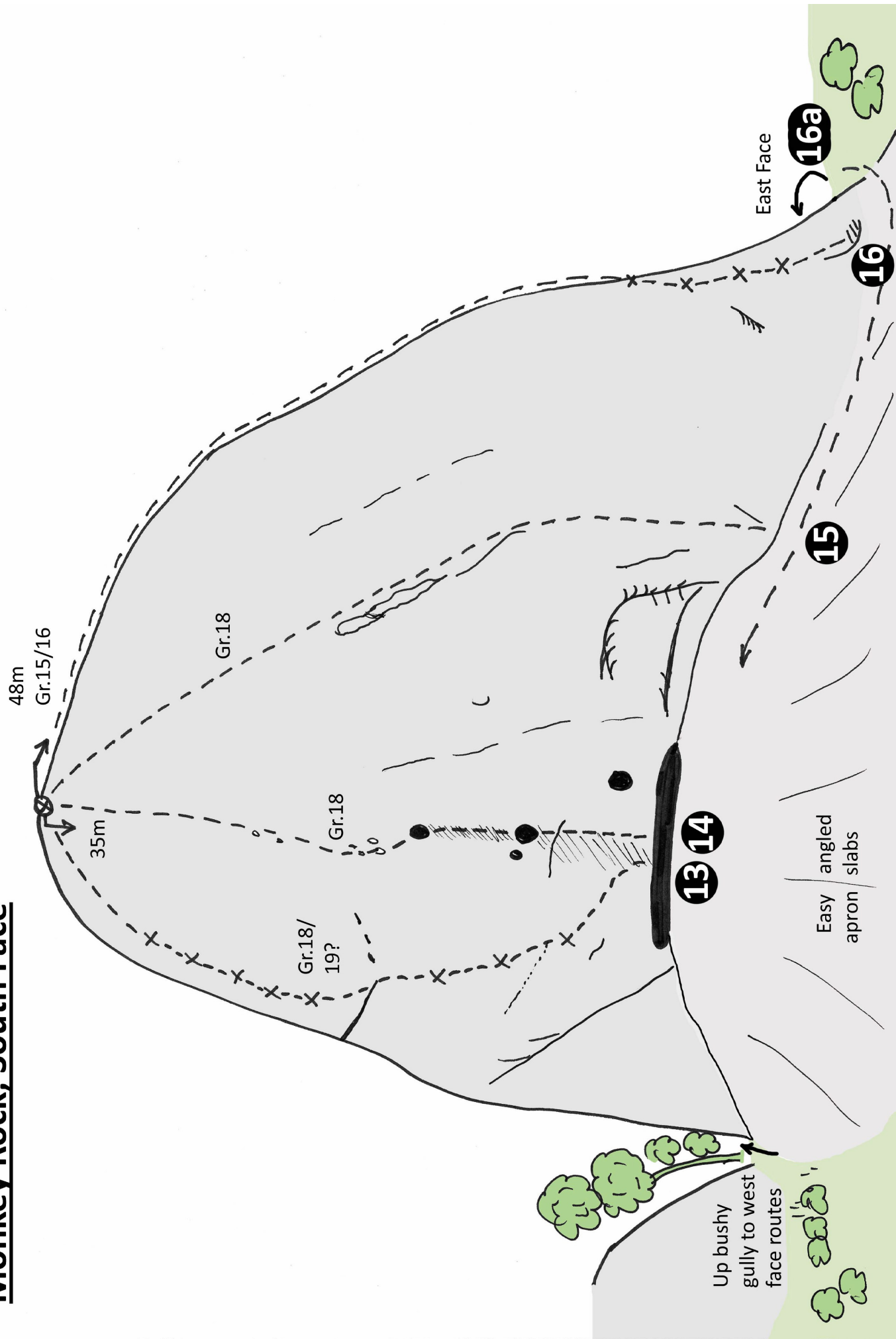




Monkey Rock, West Face

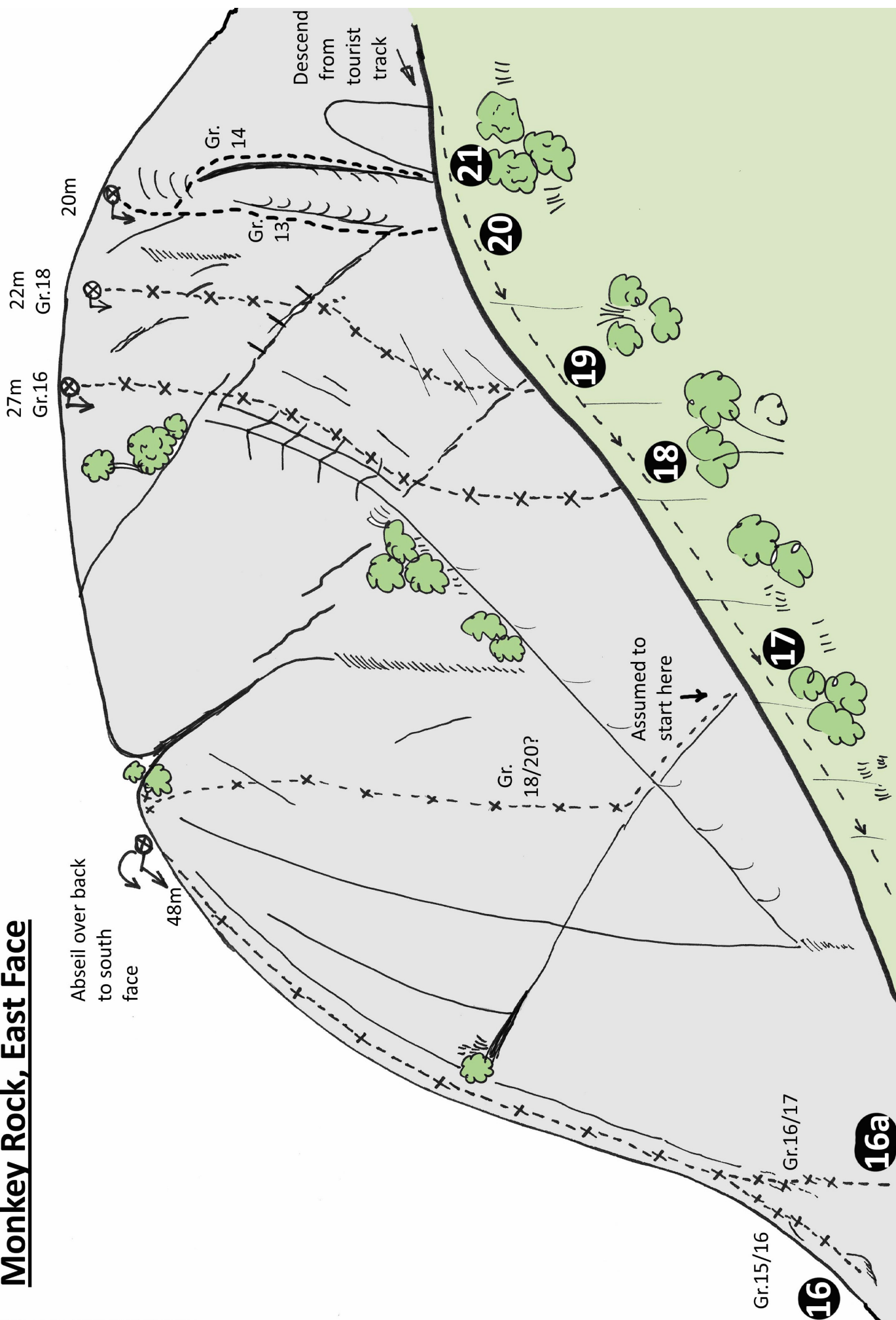


Monkey Rock, South Face





## Monkey Rock, East Face



## “Bouldering”

There are some very large boulders on the summit plateau of the western slabs which offer bouldering more akin to short routes. Explore the bouldering yourself and perhaps try the two short routes known to have been climbed.

**22. Permanent Wave, Grade??, Sport + balls, 10m,**

This climb begins in the wide cleft between the biggest boulder and its' crescent flake offspring. Climb the cleft until the outer edge dissapears then go directly up the main boulder face to the summit. Two or three carrots or glue-in machine bolts protect. Looks to be a tad bold even in its' current form. In its' original form this route is reported to have been climbed as a pure unprotected bridging route up the cleft. The steepening cleft and increasingly scary rattling fall down into it made it a bold and "never again" lead according to one ascensionist Steve Cooper.

FA Unknown.

**23. South Crack, Grade??, Trad, 10m,**

This climb takes the obvious compelling crack in the south face of the boulder. Looks enjoyable and protectable.

*FA Unknown.*

