

Kessock Bridge Bouldering

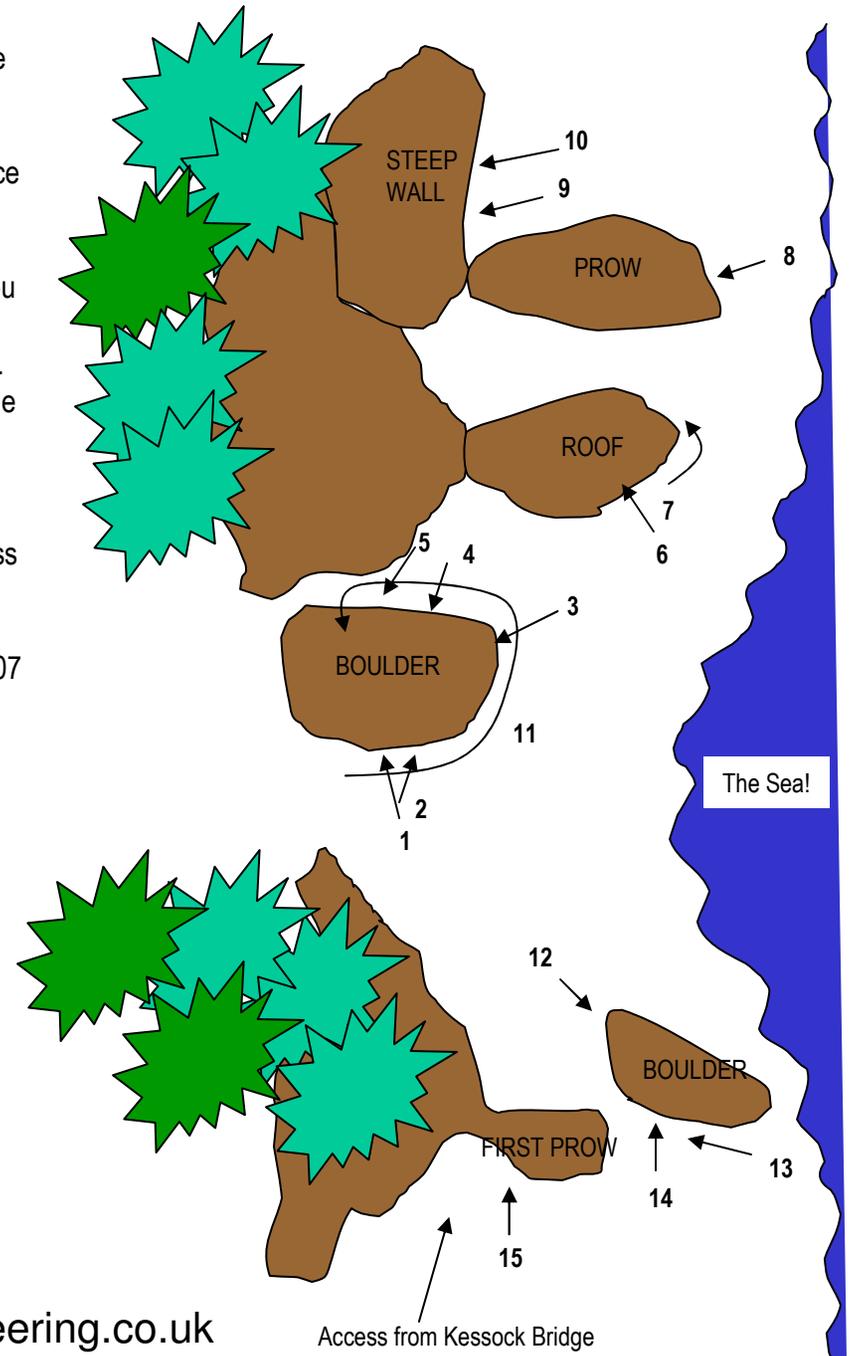
The boulders and mini crags on the foreshore between North Kessock and Kilmuir have undoubtedly been climbed on before. I have cleaned up a circuit of around a dozen problems which now gives an option for folk based in Inverness looking for a quick evening hit or those forced out of the hills by rain, midges or sore skin. The boulders face south and should dry quickly in any breeze.

The problems make for an interesting circuit on conglomerate that is more solid than you might think, similar to the nearby Tom Riach block. That said keep an eye out for popping pebbles, as always a couple of mats and a spotter makes things nice and safe. It is a good idea to try and avoid standing on pebbles which are crucial handholds for the sit starts! A number of short powerful cellar style problems with a couple of exciting highballs thrown in for variety. The rock is skin friendly, most of the holds crimps on the top of smooth pebbles, some of which are huge! The boulders themselves are not tidal (except perhaps in very high tides), but the access around the first prow is cut off at high tide. Access is possible however soon after high tide by squeezing through the tunnel in the first prow.

Rich Betts 2007

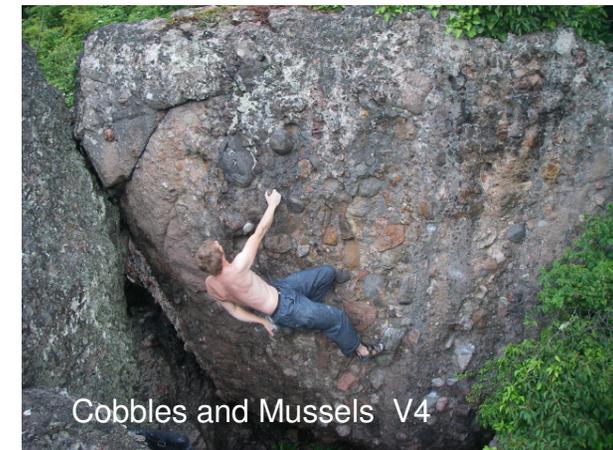
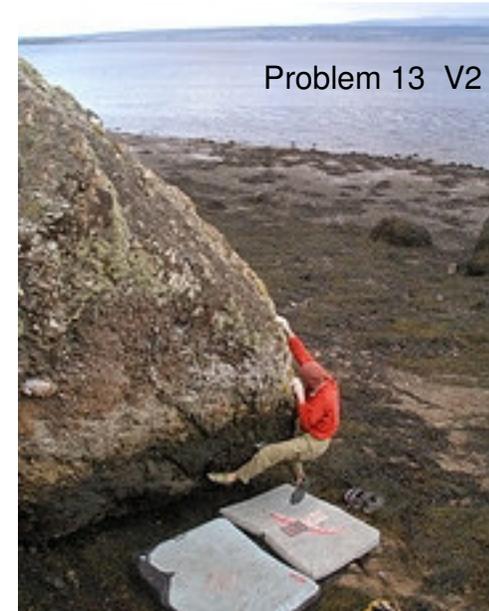


Eltons' Lip V4



The Problems

1. SS Straight Up V4
2. SS up rightwards into scoop V2
3. SS on blunt arete straight up to jug at lip (project)
4. SS Straight up V2
5. SS work up and rightwards to the jug, a good problem spoilt slightly by the proximity of the slab underneath V3
6. Hanging start on shelf and crimp in roof, pull out leftwards and up the slab on jugs V2
7. 'Eltons Lip' Same start follow the lip out round the corner and mantle over onto the slab V4
8. SS on the blocky shelf, up the wall finish slightly leftwards V1
9. 'Cobbles and Mussels' good enough to get a name!
Reachy stand up line on the impressive hidden steep wall
A hard start leads to jugs and a finish slightly leftwards V4
10. 'Pebble Logic' The right hand line again from a stand up start. The first move is a long reach to a good hold which used to contain a pebble! Finish as for the previous problem V4
11. Lip traverse of the entire boulder, start sitting on a boulder and follow the lip all the way round at the jug at the top of problem 5. Quite pumpy! V3
12. Start sitting on the shelf, climb the arete. V1
13. SS long reach up the arete, then move left across the wall using pockets and pebbles to get to the big pebble on problem 14 and finish up that. V2
14. SS climb up past the large pebble at waist height and top out. V0
15. SS on the sand, climb the wall to the right of the 'tunnel' and finish at holds on a shelf below the top. (I don't recommend topping out!) V1



Approach / Access

Park near the lifeboat station underneath the Kessock bridge and walk eastwards along the private road for about 5 minutes. DO NOT drive any further along the private road from the bridge. Break off across the beach as the road starts to go up hill and the rocks come into view. Cross a couple of small bays and around the first prow to the bouldering. A private residence is located above the rocks so it probably a good idea to keep a low profile.