



NSA

Climbing Guide

www.easterncaperockclimbing.co.za



LEGAL NOTE: All climbing is very dangerous & always at your own risk. Nobody is forcing you to climb. You choose to climb, so choose to go home before the risks become too high. Remember even small injuries can take 6 weeks to heal. No responsibility for inaccurate or incomplete information will be accepted by the scribe or any other body. The landowners accept no liability at all. Climbers take full responsibility for themselves at all times. Fixed protection will become unreliable, loose rock is common, solid rock becomes loose & RD writers make up most of the information, with a beer, at the computer. This RD is only a guide & is no substitute for experience, training, common sense & a touch of caution. So you are on your own...take care!

Eastern Cape Climbing Venues

Port Elizabeth	30 Coombs Gorge	37 EL urban crags & boulders	Toorberg	Swartberg
1 Lady's Slipper	Amatolas	38 Yellowsands & Inkwenkwe	44 Graff-Reinet	49 Towerkop
2 Van Stadens	31 Fort Fordyce	39 Lalapanzi	45 Compassberg	50 Oudtshoorn
3 PE urban crags & boulders	32 Hogsback	40 Morgan Bay	Transkei	51 Gamkaskloof Boulderin
4 Sleepy Hollow	33 Stutterheim	41 Bola	46 Hole in the Wall	
5 Elands River	Langkloof	Winterberg	47 Hill of Execution	
6 Kirkwood	19 Nguniland	42 Mary & Martha	48 Port St Johns	
7 Cape St Francis	20 Kouga Wildernes	43 Hangklip		
Groot Winterhoek	21 Uniondale Pass			
8 Tygerhoek	Garden Route			
9 Naga's Kloof	22 Titzikama			
10 Eagle Gorge	23 Groot Rivier			
11 Momentum Gorge	24 Plett Crags			
12 Pinnacle Gorge	East London			
13 Cockscomb	34 NSA			
14 Grootbos & Kleinbos	35 Windmill Hole			
15 Nivera	36 Buffalo River			
Baviaans				
16 Grips				
17 Kudu Kaya				
18 Waterkloof				
Grahamstown				
25 Alicedale				
26 Howieson's Poort				
27 Moodies				
28 Boulderling				
29 Thornkloof				

More route guides can be found on
www.easterncaperockclimbing.co.za

NOTE FROM THE SCRIBE: It took consistent effort, time, work & organization to get this guide ready for your pleasure...for free! Thus please respect that all the information & photographs are strictly **Copy Righted**. Nobody "has" a lawyer, normally a lawyer has us...by the short & curlies. But I do know this lawyer, he's a bit of a dick, but apparently he normally wins. Friends, let's not get to see how much of a dick he really is. You are more than welcome to print out, e-mail or link to a web page this guide in its unchanged format, with logos & all information intact.

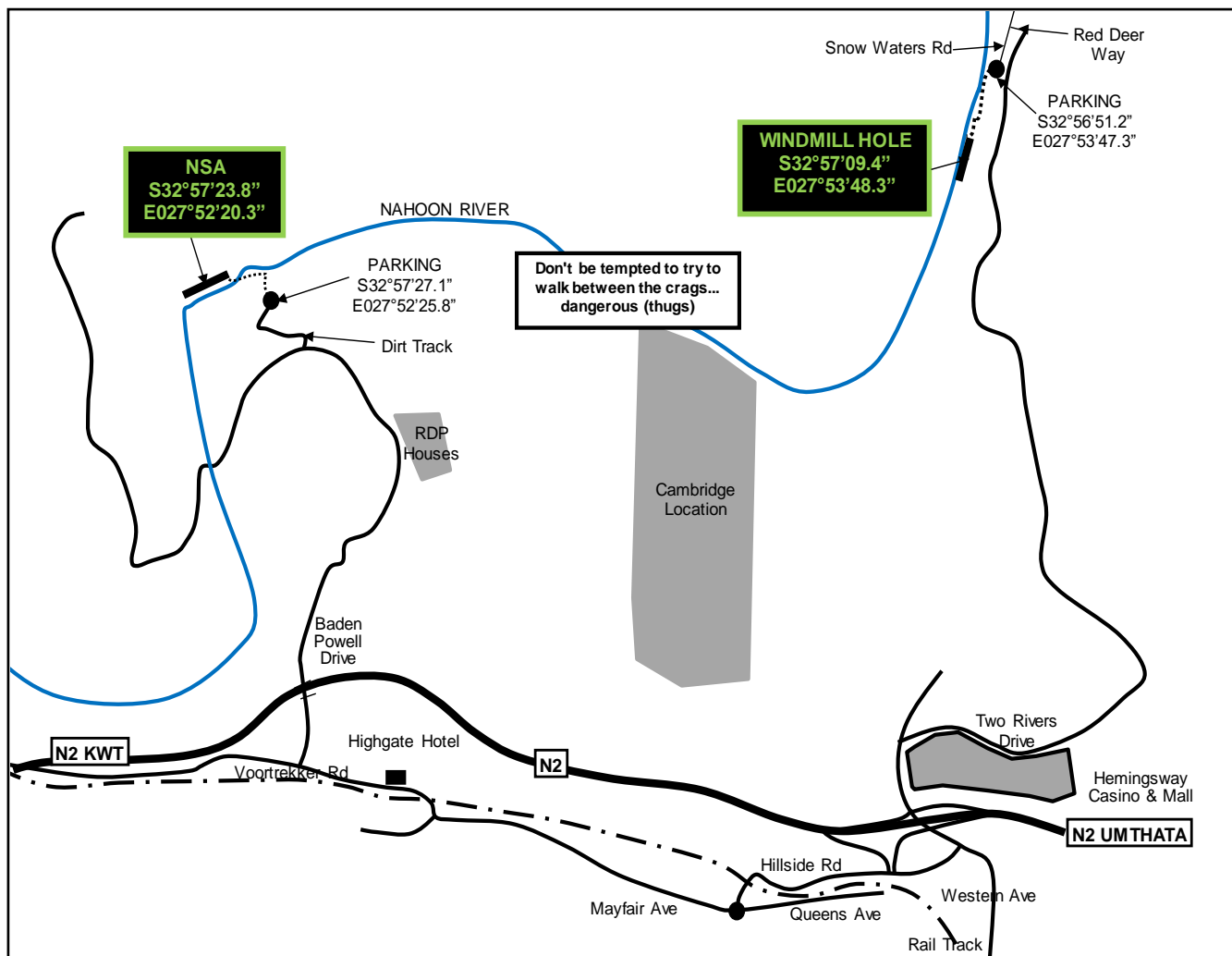
As this is a web based guide it can be considered a work in progress. It is easy to change. So please send missing details, corrections, additions & adjustments to info@easterncaperockclimbing.co.za . All information will be greatly appreciated.

DIRECTIONS: From the N2 take the Western Ave turn off. Turn right towards Cambridge. At the rail bridge intersection, turn right. Go past the Cambridge Town Hall. Take the RH fork under the rail bridge. Soon after the Highgate Hotel, turn right into Baden Powell Drive. Drive down for about 1.5km, then turn right onto a vague dirt track that leads to a vague car park. Park. Follow a path through dense bush to the river, walk upstream for about 100m, cross over riverbed to the prominent white/grey rock face.



WALK IN: +-300m, 3 - 5 min of flat path. After heavy rain the Nahoon River rises, sometimes quickly. Take care! Don't take any chances. Please take a machete to help keep the path clear.

TIME & WEATHER: Shaded from 10H00 in summer. All day shade in winter which can be cold. Good crag all year. Fairly sheltered from the wind & dries fairly quickly.



POTENTIAL: All the projects are opened now & there is very little scope for new lines. But there is always one more, this has been proved time & again.

GENERAL: 79 routes; 61 bolted routes, 18 trad lines & 10 boulder problems. Flat base & close to East London.

ROCK TYPE: Mix of mud stone & silt stone. Smooth & often covered in a white fungus. Fairly brittle. Vertical.

HISTORY: NSA emerged at a time when you could see the New South Africa in progress – new schools, houses etc...in the nearby Cambridge Location. This has developed into an embarrassingly political theme that makes even Keith James blush. The first phase of development at NSA began in July 2000. Chief instigator was Jochen Gantert, an engineering student from Stuttgart, Germany. Whilst studying at Daimler Chrysler in East London he was desperate to find something close enough to climb after work. On the day NSA was discovered, we started by checking out & opening a route in the Nahoon River Estuary, this was a tiny crag that is visible from the bar in the Blue Lagoon Hotel. This route was super-crap (see Nato Crag). I convinced the party to retreat & we went looking for a crag that I remember seeing on a Scout camp at Gillwood. It was a huge mission to get to NSA, we started out by cutting a highway through the reeds from the causeway, then changed to the current access path.



NSA was seriously covered in veg when it was first discovered. Many of the routes could not even be seen for the jungle. A lot of time was spent clearing veg & dropping loose blocks.

The first route to be opened was *Legends of the Fall*. Originally called *Wild Coffee Tree*, but was renamed *Legends of the Fall* after Michael Johnson took a major fall from about 10m up, landing flat on his back & putting a deep dent in his helmet, but with no major injuries.

The first line bolted was *Star Dust*. Unbelievable that this non-prominent line was the first sport line. After 13 routes, NSA was deemed climbed out, with no potential for any more new lines. The face over the rock pile had been discovered, but was deemed too loose & vegetated to be any good. This has become the most popular sector, with a high density of worthwhile lines.

For a few years all was quiet. The *Buffalo Bastards* were busy with *The Hog*, *Morgan Bay* & *The Buffalo*. Garvin Jacobs was injured from a fall he took from *Truth and Reconciliation*...crushed 2 disks in his spine.

The bulk of development began in 2002. Many of the routes were bolted after work with a static & jumars...often into the night...followed by big nights at Bernies Cigar Bar. The second phase of development has transformed NSA into the most bolted crag in the Eastern Cape. *Kalashnikov Culture*, one of the last routes to be bolted, but probably the best at NSA. Amazing to see, what was not first seen & yet becomes the best. The latest line was opened in November 2013. NSA has seen its fair share of well-known climber visitors. Greg Childs, Keith James, Ed February, Paul Brouard, & Adam Ondra are those that spring to mind. There is an old piton on the crag. Perhaps, a mystery climber from the dark ages of Eastern Cape climbing? There is no known history of climbing at NSA pre-2000.

HAZARDS:

Loose Rock: There is a fair amount of loose rock that is still coming off the routes, as well as tons lying loose on top. Wear your helmet... it's a smart thing to do! Chicks dig helmets!

Crime: NSA has the potential to become a crime area. Four vehicles have been broken into thus far (November 2013). NSA is isolated enough to be considered very dangerous when proximity to human traffic & dwelling is taken into consideration. A machete may come in handy for more than just the path. Take tear gas! Take care...especially if there are women in the party. No couples on their own! Bigger groups are better.

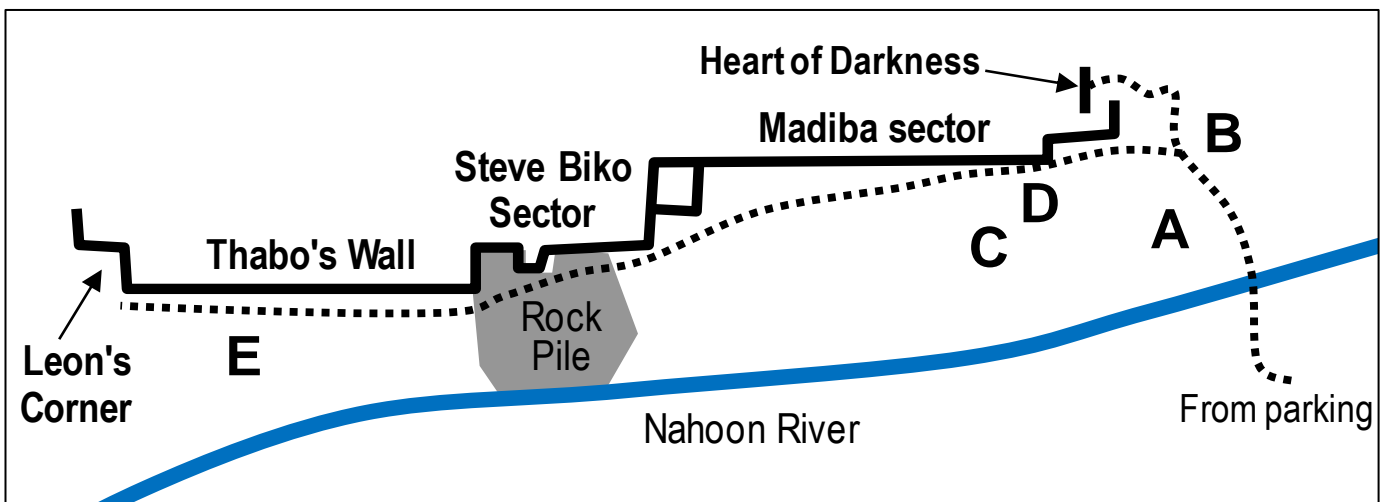
Snakes: Not really. But a few puffadders have been spotted over the years.

Star Ratings

- ★ Good route at this crag.
- ★★ Good route in the area.
- ★★★ Classic route in this province.
- No star Reasonable to bollocks.

Abbreviations & Symbols

- Bolted sport route
- Project / In progress
- T Trad route, natural gear
- 6B Number of bolts
- C Chains or top anchors
- Chains or top anchors
- P Piton
- RB Removable bolt
- Afternoon Shade
- Morning Shade
- Shade all day
- Sun all day
- Dappled shade all day
- Can be climbed in wet weather



Heart of Darkness



This is the small face set quite high above the river bed on the downstream side.

1. Wacko – 15

Climb the easy broken line to the R.

Allen Luck & Derek Marshall June 2003 (T)

2. Light in the Black – 20

The top moves are sweet!

Derek Marshall & Craig Bester July 2003 (4B&C)

3. The Highlander – 21 ★

Bolted by Derek the Monster Marshall.

Craig Bester & Derek Marshall July 2003 (6B&C)

4. Wrapped in Rock – 19

Up the obvious chimney.

Allen Luck & Derek Marshall June 2003 (T)

5. Heart of Darkness – 20 ★

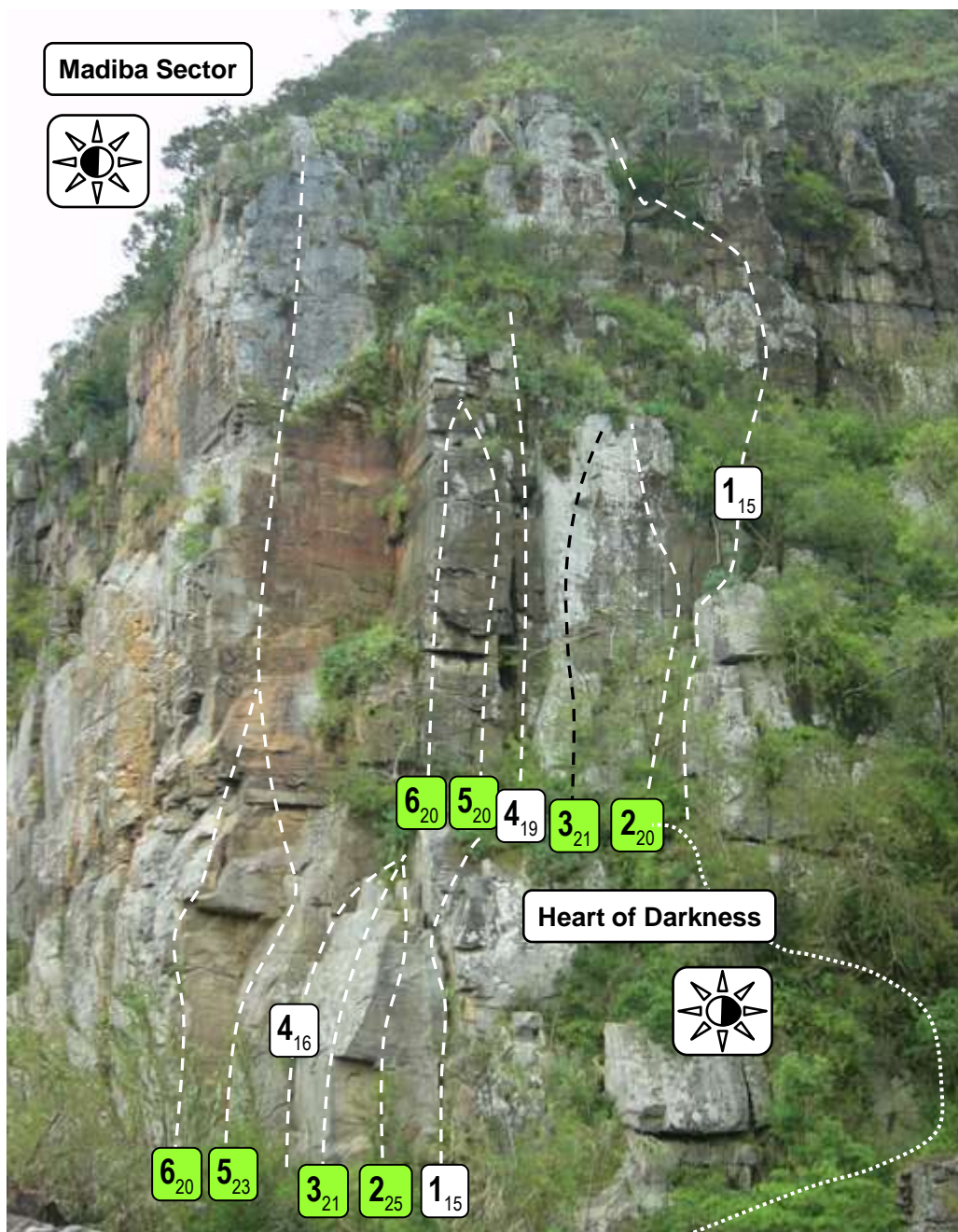
RH arête.

Derek Marshall & Craig Bester July 2003 (6B&C)

6. Between Good and Evil – 20 ★

LH arête using the same line of bolts as *Heart of Darkness*.

Derek Marshall & Craig Bester July 2003 (6B&C)



Madiba Sector



1. Wrapped in Stone – 15

2. Umona – 25

3. Ubuntu – 21 ★

4. How Many Tears – 16

The short perfect open book.

5. German Invaders – 23 ★★★

6. African Dictators – 20 ★

7. South African Oppressors – 24 ★

8. British Steel – 25 ★★

9. Land Scandal – 21 ★

10. Steven's Sixteen – 21

Allen Luck & Derek Marshall June 2003 (T)

Derek Marshall & Craig Bester July 2003 (4B&C)

Derek Marshall & Craig Bester Jan 2003 (4B&C)

Derek Marshall & Craig Bester Dec 2002 (T&C)

Jochen Gantert & Derek Marshall Sept 2000 (14B&C)

Derek Marshall & Craig Bester Jan 2003 (14B&C)

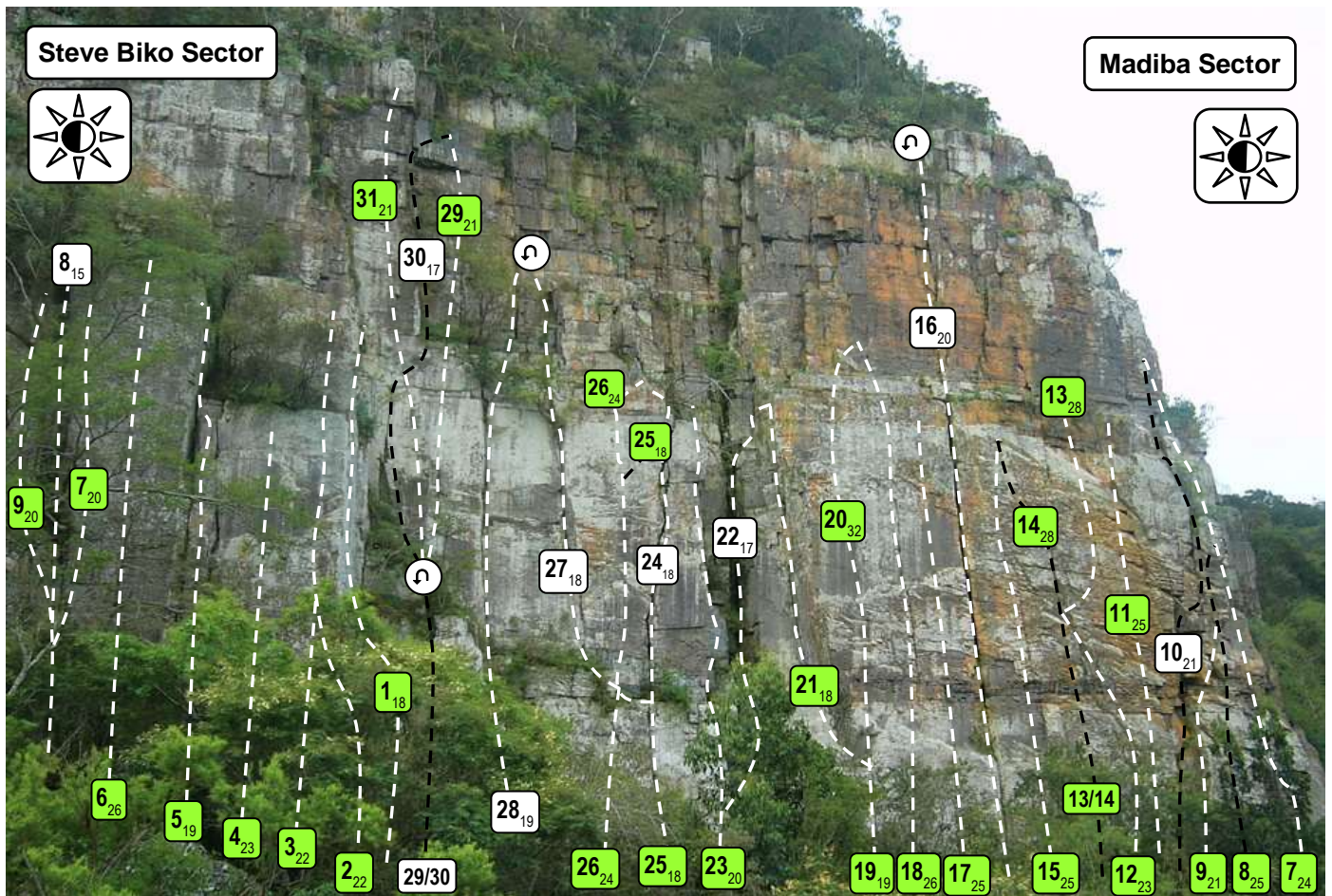
Derek Marshall & Kendyl Kunhardt Jan 2001 (11B&C)

Derek Marshall & Craig Bester April 2003 (10B&C)

Derek Marshall & Craig Bester 2005 (9B&C)

Jochen Gantert & Derek Marshall 2001 (T&C)

Start in easy looking open book. Follow the logical crack break to the chains of *British Steel*.



11. Violence and Bloodshed – 25 ★

12. Africa Renaissance – 23 ★★

13. Screaming at Whores – 28 ★★

Start using the same bolts as *Screaming at War*. Finish up the LH line of bolts.

14. Screaming at War – 28 ★

15. Nobel Peace Prize – 25 ★

Derek the Monster Marshall.

16. Prayer Prevails – 20 ★★★

The most prominent natural line at NSA. Easy moves to off width. Big cams a must. When Garvin originally tried to climb this line, a huge wooden nut was made from solid oak boards glued together & shaped to fit the crack.

17. The Seventh War – 25 ★

18. Cry Freedom – 26 ★

Derek Marshall & Allen Luck June 2003 (9B&C)

Derek Marshall & Craig Bester Jan 2003 (9B&C)

Martin Renz & Morne van der Mescht (11B&C)

Martin Renz & Derek Marshall Nov 2002 (10B&C)

Martin Renz & Derek Marshall 2002 (8B&C)

Garvin Jacobs & Mie Elsen 2001 (T&C)

Derek Marshall & Craig Bester Jan 2004 (6B&C)

Martin Renz & Derek Marshall Oct 2002 (9B&C)



Derek the Monster Marshall.

● **19. Puss Klap – 19**

Craig Bester & Derek Marshall July 2003 (5B&C)

● **20. Go High – 33 ★★**

Adam & Mirislav Ondra 16 July 2009 (9B&C)

This is the smooth extension of *Puss Klap*, that was bolted by Martin Renz. This was Adam Ondra's first route in Africa at the start of the Eastern Cape Rock & Road in 2009. He landed, went to Garvin's house to drop off his luggage & have a coffee. He walked in, warmed up on *Nobel Peace Prize*, which he fell off, but did not bother to send. He opened *Go High* on his second go. 45 minutes car park to car park. We were on the walk-in to Mary at 15H30. Martin got the second ascent 20 Aug 2009, this was after working a hard day at Mercedes.

● **21. Truth and Reconciliation – 18**

Derek Marshall & Garvin Jacobs 2000 (8B&C)

Climb the face moves using first 2 bolts of *Puss Klap* to gain ledge. Traverse L into L facing open book. Retro-bolted by Garvin Jacobs.

22. Gravy Train – 17

Allen Luck & Derek Marshall Nov 2002 (T&C)

Climb crack to gain ledge. Up the nasty veg gully. Traverse R to chains of *Truth and Reconciliation*.

● **23. Criminal Intent – 20 ★**

Garvin Jacobs & William Lesley Jan 2005 (8B&C)

24. Last Green Waterfall – 18

Jochen Gantert & Derek Marshall 2000 (T&C)

Start in open book with brown bolts for protection. Then right up prominent crack. This was a green waterfall before all the veg was macheted off.

● **25. Pawns will be Pawns – 18**

Derek Marshall & Jochen Gantert 2000 (6B&C)

Start in open book. At the top move right using top moves of *Last Green Waterfall*.

● **26. Calamari Steak – 24**

Morne van der Mescht & Derek Marshall 2000 (7B&C)

Start left of open book. Then up *Pawns will be Pawns*. Dyno at the top. Derek the Monster Marshall.

27. Lover of My Soul – 18

Derek Marshall & Kendyl Kunhardt 2000 (T,1B&C)

Start in open book as for *Last Green Waterfall*. Climb the crack to the L, onto ledge, past the bolt, onto block.

28. Doctor Stein – 19

Derek Marshall & Jochen Gantert 2000 (T,1B&C)

Start in dirty off width open book. Awesome crack to ledge. Then use same top chains as *Lover of my Soul*.

● **29. Stardust – 21**

Jochen Gantert & Graem Copley 2000 (7B&C)

Using the same first pitch as *German Line*. This is the bolted line running to the right.

30. German Line – 17

Jochen Gantert & Derek Marshall 2000 (T&C)

Pitch 1 - 13 Easy climbing to very veg ledge and chains.

Pitch 2 –17 Up steps to open book. Move R to chains.

● **31. Election Day Blues – 21**

Garvin Jacobs & Petr. Pretorius 07.05.2014 (7B&C)

Steve Biko Sector



- **1. Doctor, Doctor – 18 ★★** Derek Marshall & Kendyl Kunhardt Jan 2001 (6B&C)
 - **2. Welcome Home NATO Spy – 22 ★★** Jochen Gantert & Derek Marshall Jan 2001 (6B&C)
 - **3. German Bastard – 22 ★★** Derek Marshall & Craig Bester July 2003 (7B&C)
 - **4. African Mama – 23 ★★★** Martin Rehm & Derek Marshall Jan 2001 (7B&C)
 - **5. Legends of the Fall – 19 ★** Derek Marshall & Jochen Gantert July 2000 (7B&C)
- Prominent trad crack. Retro-bolted by Derek the Monster Marshall in 2011.
- **6. Haue Baloo – 28 ★★** Martin Renz & Derek Marshall March 2001 (7B&C)
- Sponsored by Rhodes University Mountain Club.
- **7. It's My Culture – 20** Derek Marshall & William Lesley 17.11.2013 (9B&C)
- 8 Allegations – 15** Derek Marshall & Craig Bester June 2003 (T&2B)
- This is the nasty, rooted line that goes into the chimney between *It's My Culture* & *Day Walker*.
- **9. Day Walker – 20** Derek Marshall & William Lesley 17.11.2013 (8B&C)
- The roots are all in. More root than rock.
- 10. Justice for All – 19** Derek Marshall & Craig Bester June 2003 (T)
- Start to the R of free-standing pillar. Climb the off width to the top of the pillar. Climb the three cracks to gain & top out in the bush. Walk off over *Thabo's Wall*.
- 11. The Struggle - 19** Derek Marshall & Craig Bester June 2003 (T)
- Starting to L of pillar up the chimney to top. Then up three cracks.
- **12. Red Line Divide – 29 ★★** Martin Renz & William Lesley Feb 2005 (6B&C)
- Derek the Monster Marshall.
- 13. Mein Kampf – 20** Derek Marshall & Craig Bester July 2003 (T)
- Up the tricky open book. Abseil from trees.
- **14. 'n Boer Maak a Plan – 22 ★** Derek Marshall & William Lesley 13.05.2012 (7B&C)
 - **15. Easy Skanking – 27 ★** Morne van der Mescht & Dricus Bezuidenhout Nov 2004 (5B&C)
- Bolted by Derek the Monster Marshall.



Thabo's Wall



● **1. Steel Meets Steel – 25**

Juan-drax & Derek Marshall 19.11.2011 (11B&C)

Bolted by Derek Marshall.

● **2. Bush Pig Root – 16**

Allen Luck & Derek Marshall Feb 2002 (T)

Climb roots & trees into the big open book.

● **3. Promises, Promises! – 20**

Derek Marshall & Craig Bester July 2003 (5B&C)

● **4. Pirates of Plolokwane – 18**

Derek Marshall & Terence Trevaskis 05.09.2009 (6B&C)

● **5. Injalo – 19 ★★**

Derek Marshall & Gavin Peckham Dec 2002 (7B&C)

● **6. Great Expectations – 20 ★**

Derek Marshall & Craig Bester July 2003 (5B&C)

● **7. High Hopes – 25 ★**

Kevan Watkins & Derek Marshall 05.09.2009 (4B&C)

This is the extension of Great Expectations. Derek the Monster Marshall.

● **8. Total Onslaught – 20 ★★**

Derek Marshall & Craig Bester Oct 2002 (8B&C)

● **9. Affirmative Action – 21 ★★★**

Derek Marshall & Craig Bester Mar 2002 (11B&C)

● **10. Kalashnikov Culture – 22 ★★★**

Derek Marshall & Craig Bester NOV 2003 (13B&C)

● **11. Empowerment – 20 ★**

Derek Marshall & Craig Bester Jan 2003 (7B&C)

● **12. Equity – 21★**

Derek Marshall & Craig Bester Jan 2003 (7B&C)

● **13. Kontravierende – 19**

Derek Marshall & William Lesley 13.05.2012 (9B&C)

● **14. Quiet Diplomacy – 18**

Derek Marshall & Craig Bester Jan 2003 (5B&C)

● **15. Blue Jeans and Violence – 23 ★**

Derek Marshall & Craig Bester Jan 2003 (6B&C)

● **16. Mr Delivery – 17**

Derek Marshall & Kendyl Kunhardt Feb 2001 (4&C)

Opened with natural gear, retro bolted by Derek the Monster Marshall in 2011.

● **17. Wild Hearted Son – 23**

Derek Marshall & Craig Bester Feb 2003 (7B&C)

● **18. For the Fallen – 28 ★**

Martin Renz & Heidi Smulders May 2005 (7B&C)

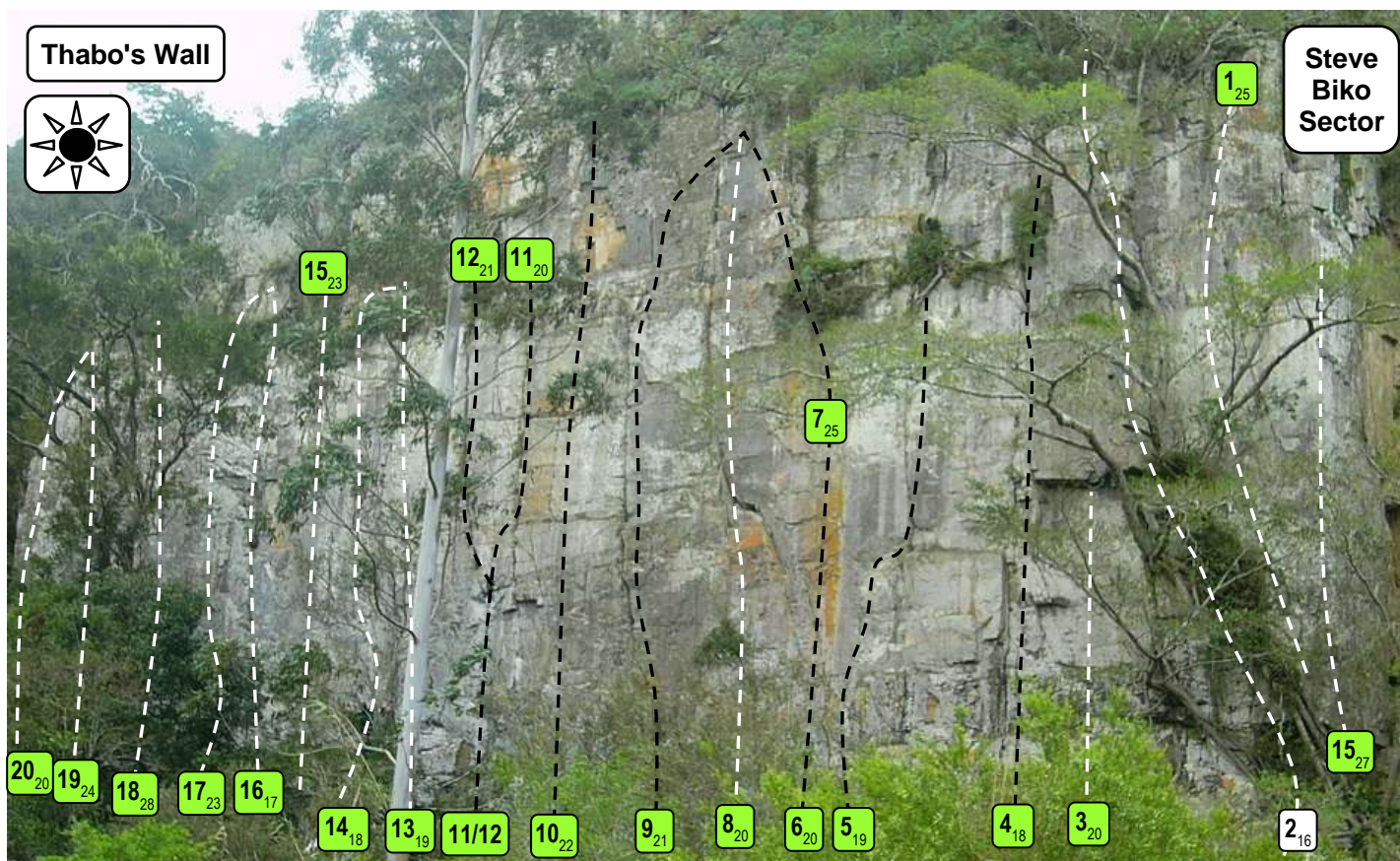
Derek the Monster Marshall.

● **19. Desolation Angel – 24 ★★★**

Derek Marshall & Craig Bester Dec 2003 (8B&C)

● **20. Blood of the Kings – 20 ★★★**

Craig Bester & Derek Marshall Jan 2003 (6B&C)



Leon's Corner



Around the corner on the upstream side of *Thabo's Wall* are a few short lines.

● **1. No Guts No Glory – 17 ★**

Allen Luck & Derek Marshall March 2003 (5B&C)

2. Exposed – 15

Derek Marshall & Craig Bester Sept 2001 (T)

Chimney, topping out in tree.

● **3. Last Man Standing – 18**

Derek & Juan-dray Marshall 03.11.2011 (7B&C)

● **4. Thrasher – 22 ★**

Derek Marshall & Craig Bester Aug 2001 (7B&C)

Retro bolted in 2011.

● **5. Never Surrender – 21 ★**

Derek Marshall & Craig Bester March 2003 (3&C)

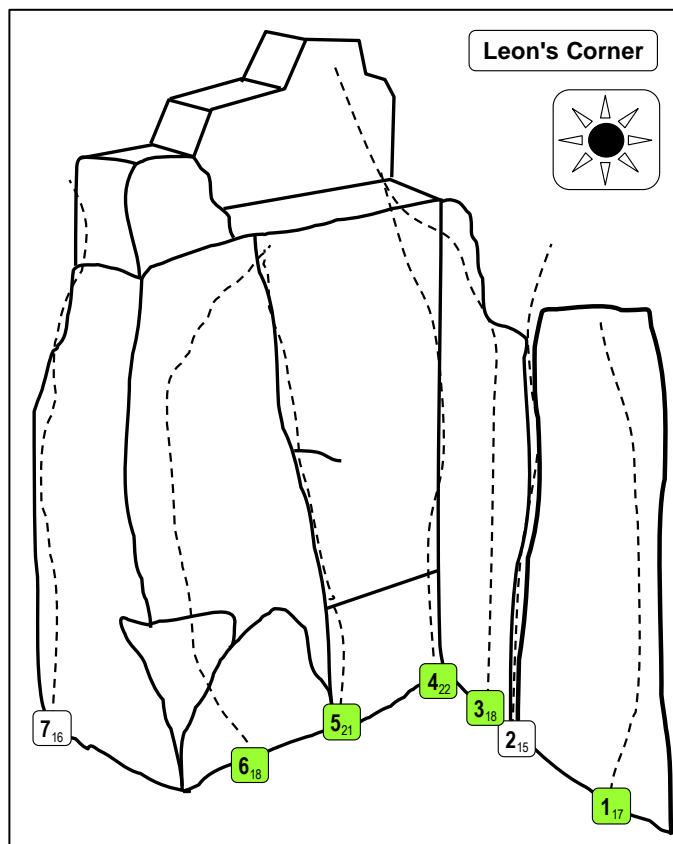
● **6. Blazing Gun – 18**

Derek Marshall & Craig Bester Jan 2003 (4B&C)

7. All Fall Down – 16

Allen Luck & Derek Marshall Nov 2002 (T)

Climb the nasty gully, open book.



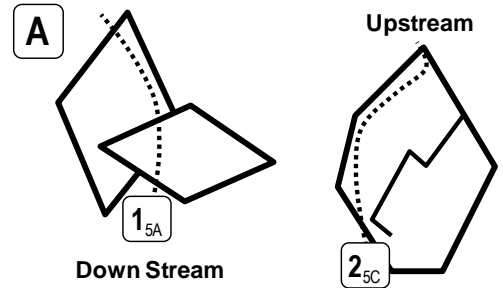
NSA Boulders



There are a few problems scattered on the boulders between NSA and the Nahoon River. Martin Renz was responsible for finding, clearing, cleaning & opening all of them. Most of the problems were born during Marty's university holidays or while interning at Daimler Chrysler.

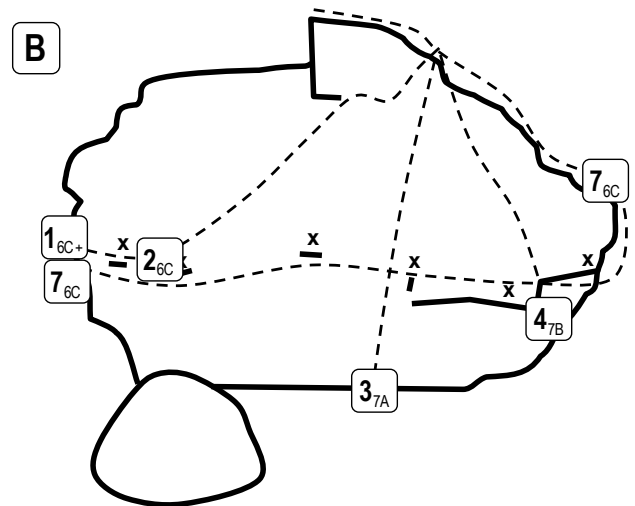
See NSA topo on page 3 for an idea of each boulder's location.

A. On the L of path in river bed.



B. On the RH side of the path before the crag starts. All are bum starts.

1. **Falling Timber Extension** – 6C+ Martin Renz
2. **Falling Timber** – 6C Martin Renz
3. **Slot Machine** – 7A Martin Renz
4. **Project Manager** – 7B Martin Renz
5. **Fools Traverse** – 6C Martin Renz



C. Smooth on the Move – 7A Martin Renz

D. Morris' Block – easy Derek Marshall

1. 5A - Travers from the L.
2. 5A - Up on RH arête.

E.
Easy Stuff

