

# Benny Beg Mini Guide

## July 2003

### Benny Beg

The Costa Blanca comes to Scotland! At last Scotland has a very accessible and well bolted low to middle grade Sport Climbing venue. At present the grades range from 3 – 6a+ and the close and well-considered spacing and placing of the bolts especially on the easier grades has meant that they are appropriate for beginners and kids.

The crag is made of Quartz-Dolerite and faces South, South East, getting the sun all day until early evening. Muthill and Crieff are well sheltered by the Ochils and Ben Chonzie and Ben Vorlich, meaning that it is often surprisingly dry even when pouring in the central belt. The crag dries very quickly after rain.

### Bolting Benny Beg

The Benny Beg area is managed by a charitable trust for the good of the community and the conservation of the wildlife and special site of scientific interest. The ponds are a SSSI for rare aquatic plants. Perth and Kinross Ranger service help maintain the area as well looking after the nature trail walk, the benches and path clearance etc. The landowner and local businesses recognise the value of the crag for climbers and are tolerant of the style of climbing that has been adopted on the crag.

### Grading

The routes have all been given a French Sport Climbing Grade.

### Style of Climbing

A word of warning to newcomers to Benny Beg rock, the seeming abundance of huge holds, belies their often rounded and frictionless properties. Combined with the steep nature of the crag, little in-cuts, sneaky side-pulls and bulges, Benny Beg can and will give a thoroughly enjoyable pump!

### Equipment required

A 30-metre rope, 10 quickdraws, and your usual safety kit are more than enough for the sport routes.

### First Ascents and History

Undoubtedly Benny Beg has been climbed on for years using a combination of top roping and traditional methods but was never considered worthy of inclusion in any of the SMC Guidebooks to Scotland. At the moment it is only known that Kevin Howett on-sight soloed most of the lines on the highest part of the crag between 1989 and 1990. The crag is still used most frequently by centres and local climbers and it is hoped that the good will between fellow climbers will continue, working around and with each other. As more information is sent to me on the history of climbing here, I will update this section until we have a clear picture of the past. The routes have been named, graded and claimed by the person who made the First Bolted Ascent. The first 21 bolted routes were done between the 25 June – 10 July 2003. New routes should be reported in the route logbook at the Ceramic Experience.

### Disclaimer

The writers of this mini guide would like to point all climbers at Benny Beg to read the BMC's Participation Statement found in all of their publications as well as to their advice on the use of bolts for climbing. Using the bolts is a personal responsibility. You should check and assess the bolts before using them and ensure that you are certain they are fit for the purpose intended.

Neither the person that placed the bolts or Drummond Estates is responsible for any injury caused to self or possessions whilst climbing at Benny Beg. The usual climbing precautions and safety techniques should be employed when climbing sport routes. The bolts are Camp Hangers with 10mm Trubolt expanders and have been placed by amateur local climbers adhering to manufacturers best practice and in good faith, but bolts can and do fail, especially through corrosion over time. The rock in places is loose and changes stability on a regular basis. Remove loose rock with care. Belayer's and climbers may wish to wear helmets. Loose bolts can either be reported to Scott Muir on 01764 681506, logged in the routes book or re-tightened using the spanner, both left at the Ceramic Experience.

### Local Facilities

Benny Beg is the ultimate crag venue, offering a diverse range of local attractions to keep everyone amused. At the crag itself is the Benny Beg Nursery, offering a great range of gardening and outdoor products, The Ceramic Experience, offering ceramics painting and firing, kids inside play area, events, kids and adult parties and not to forget the local Café. Try the giant Chocolate Muffins! The Smiddy, which has been their for over 200 years still makes impressive gates and metal wear and the pottery has a great selection of unique products.

Also locally, 300m back up the road towards Stirling is Drummond Castle Gardens,

They are the most impressive stately gardens in Scotland. Heading towards Crieff you have Stuart Crystal and the Visitors Centre with the new singing and dancing 'Drovers' show. Locally, is the Famous Grouse Experience at the Glen Turret Distillery and plenty of other shops, places to eat and sleep and fuel. Muthill also has a Tea Shop, and the Muthill Village Hotel offers a great selection of Bar Meals and well looked after Real Ales, the only real ales available for miles! The beer garden is very relaxing after a hard days cragging.

### Parking and Access

The local businesses and Drummond Estates have asked all climbers to please park considerately in the space provided through the farm gate 100m North on the right, past the main entrance as you approach from Stirling. The gate is often shut and care should be taken on the fast stretch of road whilst opening the gate and on leaving. If this car park is full, then considerate parking is permitted as far from the businesses in the main car park as possible. Please do not park on the main road.

The crag is clearly visible and reached in a tiring 2 minutes from the car park

### Toilet Facilities

The cliff has no public toilets but the Ceramic Experience has toilets for its customers! – Please do not abuse this. A visit is in itself a great excuse to stop and reward yourself with some of their fantastic tea and cakes.

### Litter

All litter must be removed from the crag and disposed of at home. Please help to keep the area clean by removing any other litter found. Dog owners in the area are terrible for letting their dogs foul on or near the path, especially under the crags! With a show of intolerance for this, the situation may improve with time. There is a dog poo bin at the main gate.

### Sales of this Guide

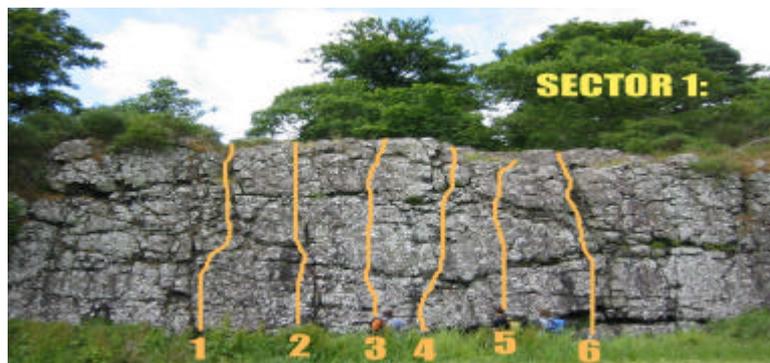
The cost of this mini guide will go back into, maintaining and improving the climbs and the crag and other associated activities.

### Centre use of Bolts

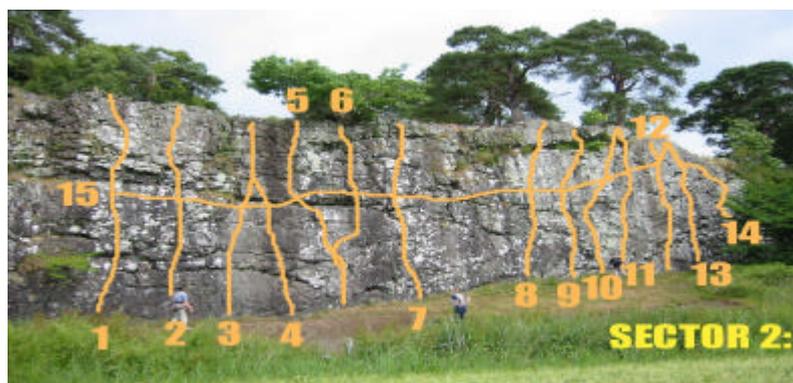
Check the suitability of the anchors before using them. If in doubt always back them up with protection from another natural source (the trees). As yet no centre abseiling or top bolts have been placed.

## The Routes

The routes have been described in two sectors from left to right. Starting with the first and lowest section reached as you approach from the Car Park.



1	Bill and Benny the Flower Pot Men	F3	Bolted for beginners and kids – a fine little outing	FBA - R Howett July 2003
2	Benydorm	F5	Think of the sun and climb like the wind.	FBA - S Muir July 2003
3	Driven Round the Benny'd	F5+	A fingery move leads quickly to better holds	FBA - S Muir July 2003
4	Benny and the Banshee's	F4	An out of balance move will either have you screaming or rocking to the top	FBA - S Muir July 2003
5	Benny Hill	F5+	Deceptive, short but very enjoyable.	FBA - S Muir July 2003
6	United Colours of Bennyton	F3	Another fine outing bolted for beginners and kids	FBA - R Howett July 2003



1	New Beginning	F5	No better place to start. A good place to learn to read Benny Bogs strange rock.	FBA - S Muir June 2003
2	Beguile	F5	Good sustained climbing leads to an exciting finish	FBA - S Muir June 2003
3	The Spanner	F5	Join Benny's Black streak at the 3 <sup>rd</sup> Bolt and finish up this	FBA - S Muir June 2003
4	Benny's Black Streak	F5+	Great wall climbing leads to a romp to the lower-offs. Excellent	FBA - S Muir June 2003
5	Lady Willoughby	F4	A fantastic Outing up the curving break and short corner	FBA - S Muir June 2003
6	Beg to Differ	F5+	Clip the first bolt of Lady Willoughby and step right to the bolt beside the obvious Plaque, climb straight up to the lower off beneath the tree.	FBA - S Muir June 2003
7	Beg'tastic	F5	A few tricky moves leaves the arms feeling a little tired	FBA - S Muir June 2003
8	Benny Lane	F6a	Continuous sustained interest and one of the best routes here.	FBA - S Muir June 2003
9	Ally's in Wonderland	F3+	A great introduction to Sector two being steep, rounded and very well bolted.	FBA - A Muir June 2003
10	The Beg Issue	F4	Climb into the niche before blasting up right to the lower off on the beggar	FBA - S Muir June 2003
11	The Beggar	F6a	Beg for mercy powering up the left side of the bulge	FBA - S Muir June 2003
12	Beggar's Banquet	F6a	Feast yourself on a full course of steep Benny Beg Wall climbing. Don't forget the desert	FBA - S Muir June 2003
13	The Smiddy	F6a	If you've done the rest - your arms will feel like steel and only the 200 + year old Smiddy will pound them back to working order	FBA - S Muir June 2003
14	Begone	F5	Time for a well earned Cake and Coffee stop at the Car Park or a pint of real ale in the Muthill Village Hotel	FBA - S Muir June 2003
15	Beg Pardon Take 16 Quickdraws!	F5+	A truly antisocial outing, but one of the best routes here! Climb to the Second bolt on New Beginning, step down and traverse right passing the 3 <sup>rd</sup> bolt on Benny's Black Streak. Step up and clip the 3 <sup>rd</sup> Bolt on Lady Willoughby and continue past Beg'tastic to a lone bolt beneath the large overgrown Crack in the middle of the sector. Keep traversing right clipping the 4 <sup>th</sup> Bolt on Ally's in Wonderland to the last bolt on The Smiddy. Climb straight up to the lower off with relief.	FBA - K Kelly July 2003