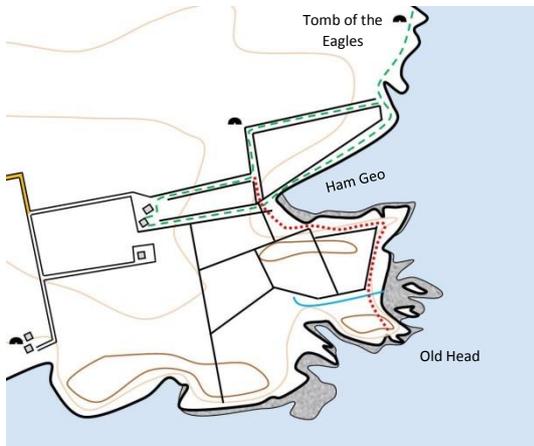


Tomb of the Eagles – Old Head



Marked on OS maps as Old Head (and Old Skerries) the buttress is on the most south easterly tip of Orkney. Park at the Tomb of the Eagles museum (do not park at the Tomb of the Otter / Skerries Bistro unless solely to visit / eat there) and feel free to make a contribution either by visiting the short exhibition or gift shop.

Approach from the Tomb of the Eagles return path before taking the coastal path along the south side of the largest inlet 'Ham Geo'. Continue as far south as possible and after crossing a small stream the area is visible to the left, marked by two triangle shaped buttresses (Skerries) flanked to the right (looking out) by a third square buttress. The climbs are described from left to right, looking inwards). Grid Reference: 470 835.



Swimming in the whole area is not advised, even around the Skerries on the north side, as the convergence of the two oceans means that there are extremely strong currents.

The first route is tidal and best approached by descending behind the squarer southern buttress. Here there is an outstanding fishing ledge.

Old Head Route E2 ****

(5c) An excellent route, tackling the obvious groove. Start the corner on the tidal ledge. Arrange a small friend and step right to climb the steep wall on big holds. Easy moves lead to a capping roof with a crack. Gain this with difficulty using a hanging rib to the left. The upper groove maintains technical interest, before a final layback up the flake. Simon Litchfield & Franco Cookson (2nd August 2017)

The following route is non-tidal (unless you fall) and is best approached by carefully scrambling down the north side of the southern-most buttress.



The Overfall E6 **

(6a) The centre of the prominent lightly overhanging black wall provides a bold "micro"-route. Carefully lash a belayer / spotter to the midway ledge and tackle the face on crimps. The climbing is good and never technically desperate but the fall potential is double its length and almost certainly painful and wet. Simon Litchfield & Franco Cookson (2nd August 2017)

It should be noted that there have been a number of developments in the Tomb of the Eagles area. These have been well documented on: <http://www.orkney-seastacks.co.uk/TOTE%20crag.htm>