



## The Cove / Vertical.Nature.Base.

Shipsides, D. (Author), & Batts, S. (Author). (2012). The Cove / Vertical.Nature.Base.. Performance  
<http://verticalnaturebase.blogspot.com/>

[Link to publication record in Ulster University Research Portal](#)

### **Publication Status:**

Published (in print/issue): 11/10/2012

### **Document Version**

Author Accepted version

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# Vertical. Nature. Base.

A collaborative project by Echo Echo's Steve Batts and artist Dan Shippides. Based at a Donegal coastal climbing location and a city exhibition base, V.N.B. is a residential experimental climbing / art / dance project that investigates the contrasting and comparable notions of climbing as sport and climbing as creative engagement. Interested people can join the camp in September (details tba) for various activities and camping. This blog is an insight into V.N.B.'s creative development.

Wednesday, 14 September 2011

TOPOPHILE / TOPOPHOBE - SEP 2011

**Topophile / Topophobe HVS 5a**



One outcome from the cove was a new route... It's not listed in the Donegal guidebook or on the donegal climbing website database so it's mine to claim - unless anyone knows otherwise in which case please let me know as I'd love to share notes.

Haven't got a name for it yet: playing around "Topophobia topophilia" but I have some other ideas too.

It's a strange climb - looks quite easy from the front angle - then from the side you realise it's very overhanging. Then when you get on it you realise there's less holds, loose flakes and patchy gear.

Anyway I got up it but not without a world of pain when my foot hold crumbled and foot slipped way above any gear leaving a tendon wrenching move to somewhere vaguely safe and gearable...

I'm hesitantly grading it HVS 5a - but is possibly VS4a. It's quite tough though and with my injury it seemed pretty serious. I think seriousness alone makes it more daunting than a VS.

Update Aug 2011

VNB project flyer

Background info

Background info

Blog Archive

- ▼ 2011 (26)
  - ▼ September (13)
    - [New Ground](#)
    - [VNB exhibition Walk thru video](#)
    - [TRANSITION - SEP 2011](#)
    - [re-re-re-flections](#)
    - [TOPOPHOBE REFLECTIONS - SEP 2011](#)
    - [TOPOPHILE / TOPOPHOBE - SEP 2011](#)
    - [SURFACE PRESENCE 2 - SEP 2011](#)
    - [SURFACE PRESENCE - SEP 2011](#)
    - [THE PLATFORM - SEP 2011](#)
    - [SURFACE RESPONSE - SEP 2011](#)
    - [AN ACCOMMODATION - SEP 2011](#)
    - [HAMNATARRUTTIBADGIEE - SEP 2011](#)
    - [NOT THE FIRST DANCE HERE - SEP 2011](#)
  - ▶ August (1)
  - ▶ June (3)
  - ▶ May (3)
  - ▶ April (2)
  - ▶ March (1)
  - ▶ January (3)
- ▶ 2010 (3)

► 2009 (5)



Here's my topo description:

### Topophile / Topophobe 16m HVS 5a

The 3rd and overhanging corner seaward from the arch.  
 More strenuous than it looks.  
 Belay at low tide or from a hanging belay on middle slab (also avoids any potential rockfall)  
 Bridge and layback the corner.  
 Better gear nearer the top.  
 The large worrismatic sounding fin is best avoided if possible.  
 Some friable rock on left wall.  
 Love Hate.

D Shippies with Steve Batts (Echo Echo Dance) Sep 2011



I wrote this in my tent that night – it's quite raw, narrowly focused and reductive – but saying that perhaps less is more? It's just from when things got painful.

low

## Further Links & Funders

Echo Echo Dance Theatre Company

Dan Shippies

Legacy Trust UK

Arts Council of Northern Ireland

## Dan's related projects

Elastic Frontiers

Radical Architecture

Rochers a Fontainebleau

Touchstone Testpiece

T5 field cinema

Shippies and Beggs Projects

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## Twitter Updates

- Lots of Sunday Session photos on our fb profile- thanks Audrey and Rory! <https://t.co/Ki83wDgM> <http://t.co/77mWnkil> about 17 hours ago
- Lots of exciting things happening this year to keep up to date through our monthly e-newsletters. Free to sign up... <http://t.co/c13bCFbR> 4 days ago
- Would like to pass a viral 'hey!' to everyone on our social networks :) Feel free to pass it on... 6 days ago
- Thanks ML x @marielouisemuir @FriendsBalletNI @MaidenVoyageDance @dqdance theatre 6 days ago

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tide

high enough above gear

committing

reach

bridge bridge

search up right arm

toe hold crumble slip

left arm rumbling glitching tearing zzzzssszzzz

feels socket pulling out weight on

stop swing relax fuck

find feet brace

find right hand hold

find right hand hold found

shift weight

lengthen arm to bones

searing pain lightening

blue electric blue wow

keep grip make move

up pull even if it's loose

good ok brace legs and back

relax pain out oooooow

compose compose

gear gear

need gear here

looks ok

nut loose 4 out of 10

friend in crack 5 out of 10

friend in crack 7 out of 10 maybe 8

safer

what about that pain? Hmmm

not nice

wait wait

move pelvis up

big right ledge

find left hand hold

pain use it pain use it hold

move up

right holds  
shuffle over the top  
safe  
examine pain don't  
brutal nice route  
bad pain

Posted by Dan at 13:59 

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