

SUMMARY REPORT: BRITISH KHUMBU ALPINE EXPED.

NEPAL: KHUMBU VALLEY 5 Oct. to 10 Nov. 1992

Members: Andy MacNae and Jon Lincoln.

We flew into Lukla and from there walked into Namche Bazaar arriving on Oct 10. This early part of October suffered from very poor weather and alot of powder was laid down. This put our first objective-Kwangde's North Face out of condition and so we moved on to Lobuje. The weather was still unsettled and so we trekked over the Chola La to Gokyo. After a couple of days we returned to Lobuje via the obscure Chola Col (5690m). We now turned our attentions to the N.E. Flank of Lobuje East (6100m). We attempted to approach via the Lobuje Glacier but found that route too threatened by stone and icefall. Next we tried to reach the face via the Bibler Freer ridge. We gained col 5400m on the ridge from where we hoped to move right onto the face but unfortunatly the route didn't link up.

A little dispirited and uninspired by easier established routes on Lobuje we moved again this time to Imja Tse (6189m). We climbed the S.W. Ridge from a bivvi at 5400m. Ascent and descent were compleated in a day. The route had some good climbing and plenty of loose rock. Alpine grade D. Although we can find no record of an ascent of this route I am pretty sure that it has been climbed before, it is a very obvious line.

The walk out to Jiri took us six days, a hard slog.

All in all a good trip in which alot of ground was covered. It demonstrated to us the potential for climbing multiple routes in areas such as the Khumbu. In retrospect we were a little early to take full advantage of the excellent November weather. Unfortunatly we were limited to a five week trip and considering the length of the walk in/out more time would have been very useful (allowing a second attempt at Kwangde perhaps).

The trip was done very much on the cheap-total cost being c£2300.

