



Almscliff



It doesn't get much better than this. Wonderful evening light and delightful climbing. Richard Connors on the much coveted classic of **Z Climb Eliminate** (E1 5b). Page 68
Photo: Mike Hutton

‘Rock of Ages, cleft for me’

From the Hymm by Augustus Montague Toplady, 1775

almscliff

by Richard Connors and James Ibbertson

OS Ref: SE 268 490

Altitude: 198m

The crown of Yorkshire gritstone rising out of lush green fields north of Leeds. Glorious Almscliff. Celebrated by many, loathed by some, utterly unmissable. Of spiritual significance since ancient times, 'The Cliff' continues to provide a natural altar for the ritual summoning of power. Easily accessible and quick to dry, Almscliff has attracted climbers for very many decades. The result is an incredible density of quality routes; almost every square metre of rock has been climbed, often in multiple ways. There are classic routes across the grades for the visitor and an infinity of eliminates for aficionados.

The Climbing: The 174 routes can be surprisingly steep, exposed and just plain knackered – even the short ones. Learn to jam, or VS can feel like E2. There's not much for the slab climber, though insecure rounded grovelling can be found if you seek to avoid the abundance of positive holds and good rock. Both safe and bold routes exist across the grade range; some of the best lines are micro routes, now usually enjoyed as highballs. The bouldering is as good as the routes, with 181 problems covering a range of styles, though the test-pieces have a tendency to be powerful and crimpy on undercut blocks or buttresses. Absolute beginners may struggle with the recorded bouldering (the good stuff kicks off at Font 5) but there's entertainment to be found for all.

Conditions and Aspect: Great conditions exist year-round, from crisp winter friction to last light on idyllic summer evenings. The crag is totally exposed to the wind and dries very quickly. Patchy rain often blows past leaving Almscliff dry while showers sweep down Wharfedale, wetting Ilkley and Caley. On windy days shelter may be found in the boulders, on Black Wall, or

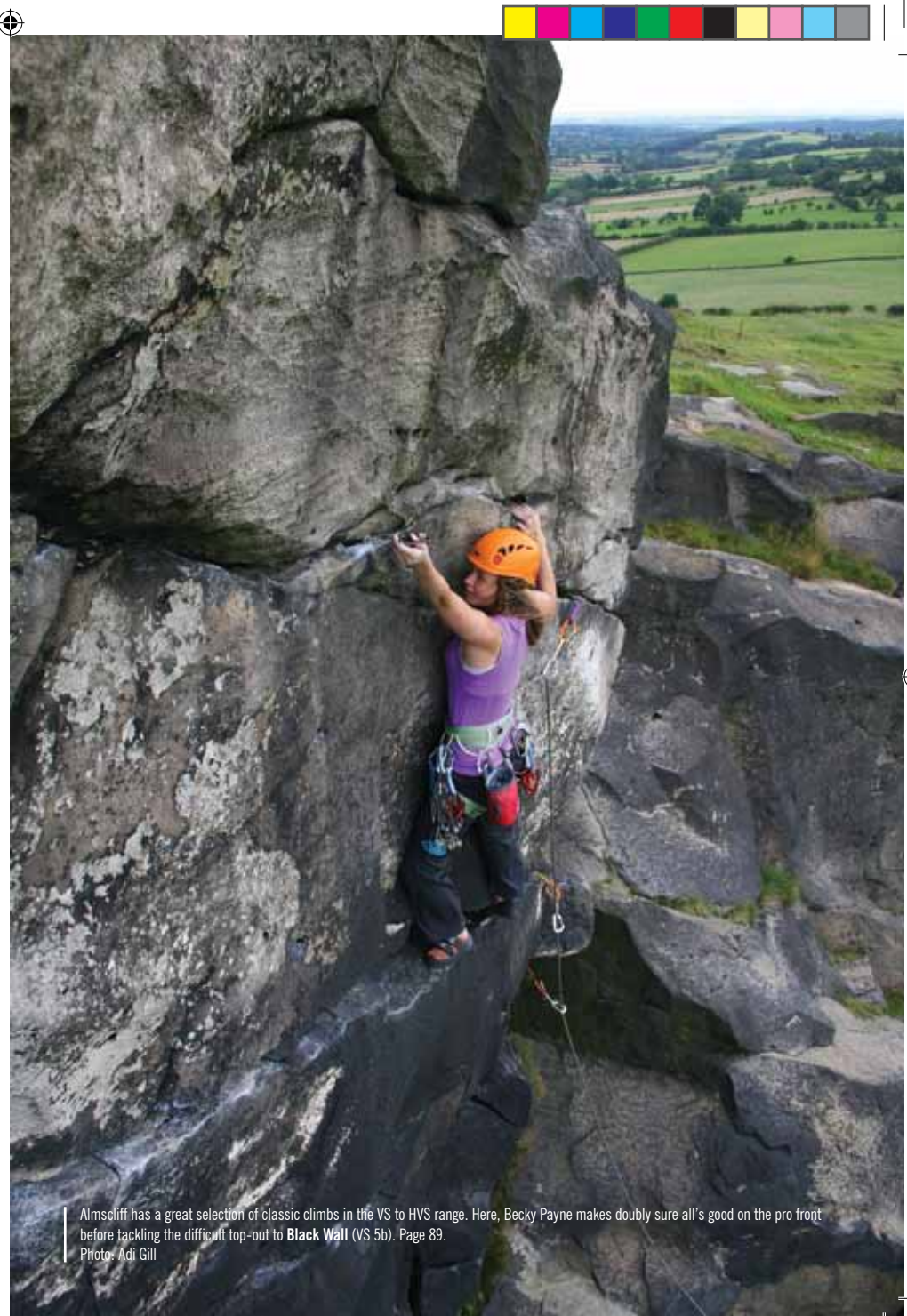
in North Gully. Don't be put off by any greenness on the North West Face; it is only the routes at the very far left (beyond Cup & Saucer and in the descent gully) that can become unpleasant after wet weather. In winter the foot of Black Wall may become a foetid pool, but this can be negotiated. Greasy hair-ridden polish in odd places and widespread exuberant defecations are usually due to cows rather than feral local climbers.

Parking and Approach: Twelve miles north of Leeds city centre, the village of Huby sits on the A658 midway between Otley and Harrogate. If approaching from Otley, at the centre of Huby is a crossroads with Weeton signposted to the south-east, and Stainburn to the north-west. Turn toward Stainburn up Strait Lane, then left at the T-junction into Crag Lane. This road becomes Merrybank Lane and after 1 mile the crag comes into view with parking available along the roadside below the western end of the crag and in a lay-by at the corner of the road (**Parking GPS: 53.937617, -1.597424**).

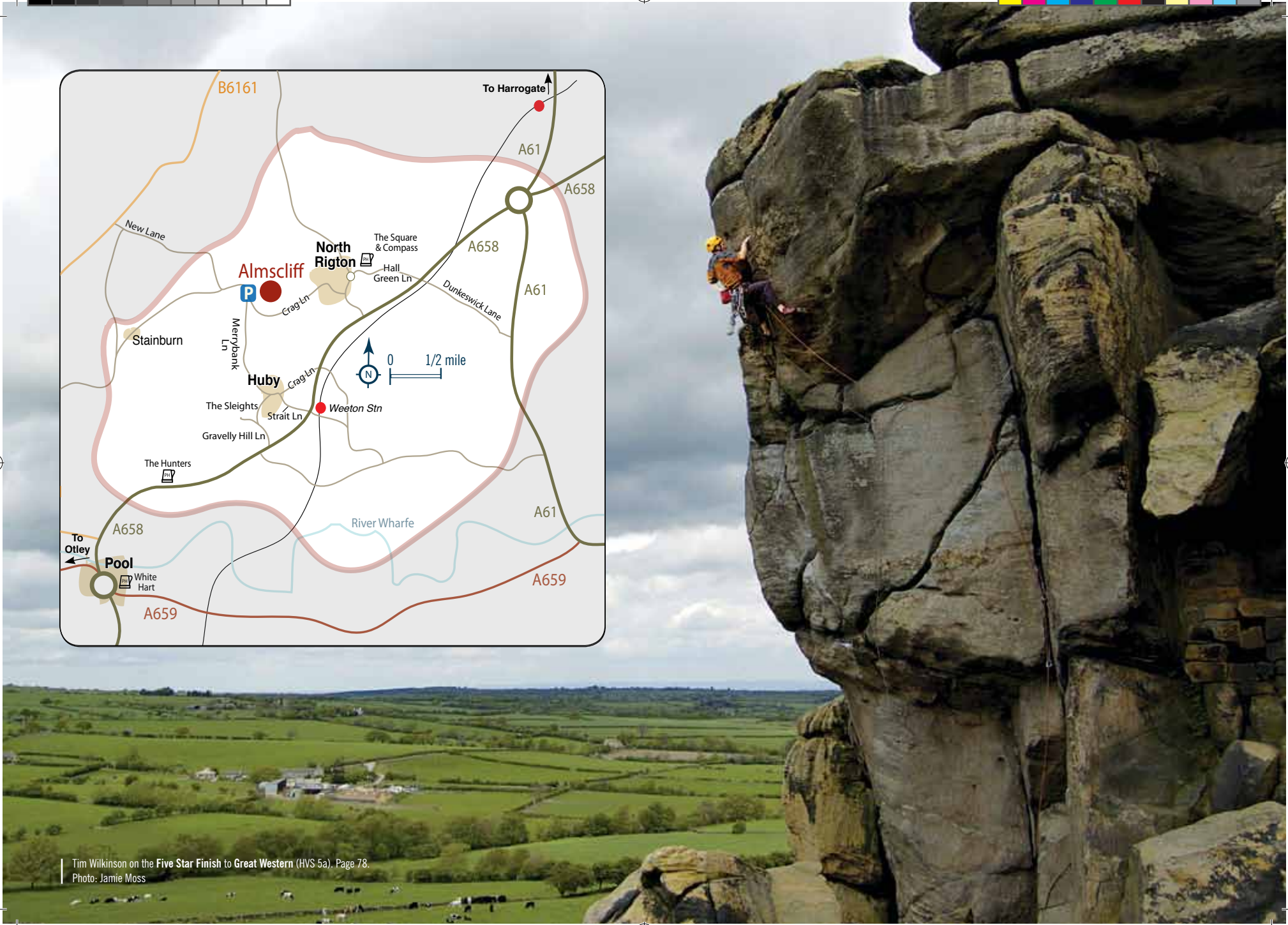
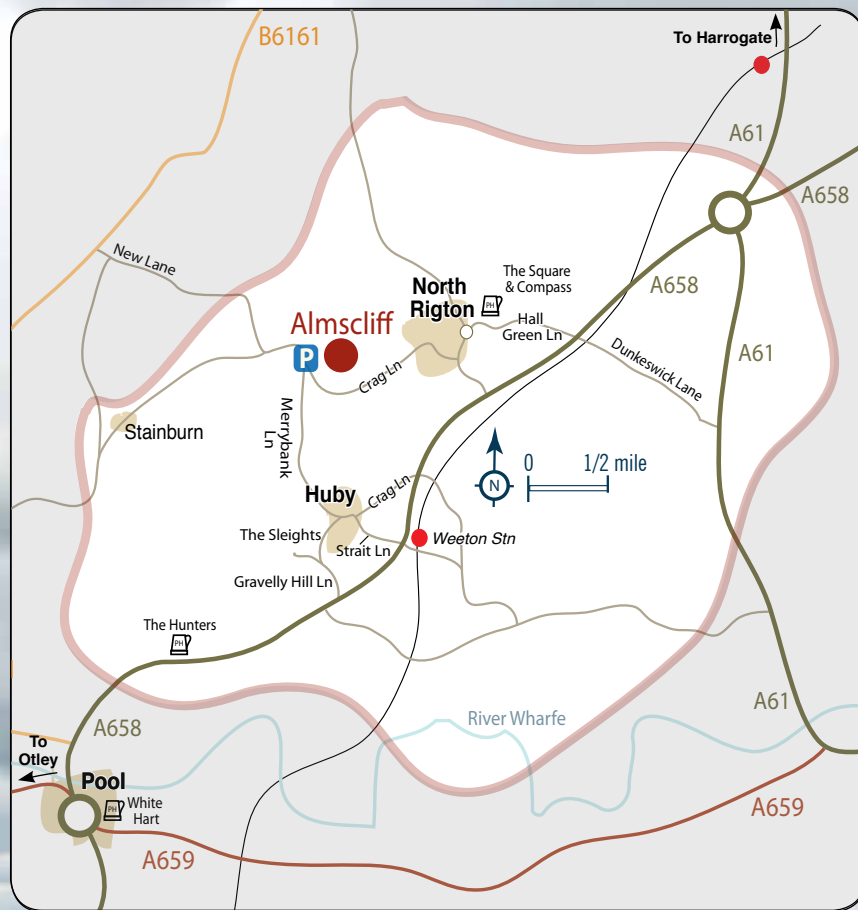
If approaching from Harrogate on the A658, turn right onto Hall Green Lane (signed to North Rigton and the Square and Compass pub). At the mini-roundabout, just past the pub, turn left onto Church Hill then second right, Crag Lane. Follow Crag Lane for 1 mile and turn right at the T-junction. The parking is on the right.

Even if it is very busy, **do not** block gates. Leave room for very big tractors to gain access to the fields. **Do not park outside Crag Farm below the crag.**

Access: Please stick to the described approach paths on the maps below. Do not climb 'the trousers' boulder standing alone in the field below the crag – yes, that's the one with 'keep off' painted on it.



Almscliff has a great selection of classic climbs in the VS to HVS range. Here, Becky Payne makes doubly sure all's good on the pro front before tackling the difficult top-out to **Black Wall** (VS 5b). Page 89.
Photo: Adi Gill



Tim Wilkinson on the Five Star Finish to Great Western (HVS 5a), Page 78.
 Photo: Jamie Moss



1	End Boulder	11	Matterhorn
2	Overhanging Nose	12	MK Wall
3	West Cave Group	13	Wall Boulder
4	Everest Boulder	14	Pinnacle
5	Flying Arête	15	The Egg
6	The Virgin	16	Z Climb
7	Big Roof	17	Great Western
8	The Keel	18	Zig Zag Direct
9	The Wedge	19	The Rift
10	Ed's Dyno	20	Demon Wall

High Man

South Face / Black Wall

Low Man

Approach From
Parking

To South Cave

'Trousers' Boulder -
no climbing

ALMSCLIFF - Low Man

The Matterhorn

The pointy boulder almost touching the crag has a clean vertical face and an arête problem which is just magic.

17 Fractal Font 7b

The smooth wall with a bounce-start at the black undercut, up the thin black seam. The wall to the left is Font 6a.

Tom Peckitt March 2006

18 Matterhorn Ridge Font 5 (HVS 5b)

The fantastic imposing highball arête. The powerful direct sit-down start is Font 7b+, and the (a) sit-down start traversing in along the thin crack from out left is Font 7a.

The dark slabby east face of The Matterhorn has a clutch of reasonable problems, the best being the arête of *Matterhorn Ridge* taken on the right side (Font 4+).

19 Piggott's Stride VS 4c 8m ★★

An adventure. Ascend The Matterhorn boulder. Look across the gap to the blunt nose of the crag, then look down; how long are your legs? Stride across the chasm then make a frightening pull to bring all remaining limbs across. Scamper up and right to the ledge for a lie down. Finish up *Whisky Crack*.

Claude Dean Frankland, Fred Piggott pre-1923

20 Chiasmata Font 8a

Extreme fridge hugging directly up the blunt prow. A pad anchored to The Matterhorn is advisable.

Steve Dunning 2003

21 V Crack HVS 6a 8m ★★

Powerful pulls with perfect protection. Direct up the hanging crack (stepping from the ledge in the chimney is missing the point). Highball Font 6b to the break.

Arthur Dolphin, David Varley, John Cook 29th November 1942

22 Square Chimney & Whisky Crack MVS 4b 15m ★★★

Two healthy courses of gritstone. Cooly back-and-foot (or desperately slide and grovel) up the eponymous chimney to earn perfect jams up the finishing crack. Beware gear lifting out in the chimney.

SC:Ingle, Dent, Gray, Calvert pre-1900; WC:Fred Botterill pre-1912

23 Whisky Wall E3 5b 15m ★★

A wandering climb with lovely moves and just about enough protection. Climb to the big ledge. Balance up to gain pockets leading leftwards and better holds just right of *Whisky Crack* (a side runner in the crack here is advisable, but probably only earns you E2). Step up and back right to finish up good holds.

John Syrett, Al Manson 28th April 1973

24 Whisky Wall Direct E4 6a 15m ★

A bold outing up the centre of the wall above the big, hit-table ledge. Climb direct using the pockets and a series of long reaches. Squeezed in to the right is (b) *Wharfedale Wall* (E5 6c) which requires side runners in *Fluted Crack*, and the ability to ignore the ledges of *Fluted Columns*.

Unknown ✦

25 Spirit Level E2 5c 17m

From near the top of *Whisky Crack*, traverse rightward, along the second break down, to finish up *Fluted Columns*.

Pete Brown, Pete Thistle 5th August 1997

26 Fluted Crack S 4b 14m ★

A little route with a big feel to it. Very airy bridging made comfortable with multiple large cams to protect.

27 Fluted Columns HVD 13m ★★★

Plain lovely. Climb ledge-to-ledge to reach the columns, taking care to arrange protection as you go. Take a breath and set off over the bulge to find it's not as bad as you feared. An eliminate start can be found up the right wall of *Fluted Crack*, called *Fluted Rib* (HVS 5b). [Photo page 55](#).

Ingle, Dent, Gray, Calvert pre-1900 ✦

28 Pinnacle Flake Climb S 4a 12m ★

Step up to the huge flake. An extraordinarily ungainly move left leads to a staircase of flakes. Can be started direct (c) (VS 5a); harder if you avoid straying right to grab the flake.

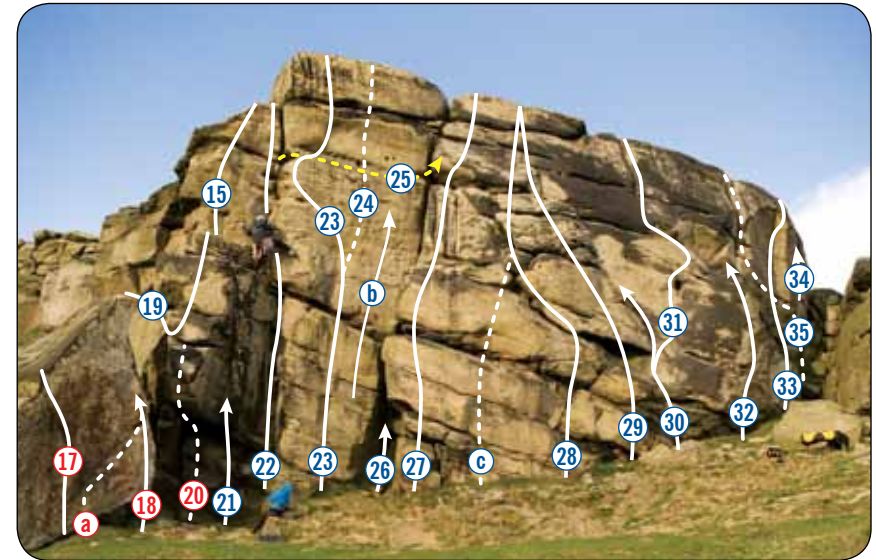
Unknown pre-1912 ✦

29 Pinnacle Direct S 4a 12m

An awkward start leads to fiddly gear and a delicate finish. Only worth Severe if you avoid the flake of *LME' Way*.

Dave Musgrove & The Almscliff All Stars 1997

Low Man - ALMSCLIFF



30 Low Man Easy Way D 13m ★

Follow the gully and the easiest way to the top. Its entrance is often marked with an in-situ beginner puzzling over how to start. [Photo on page 39](#).

William Cecil Slingsby and friends c1870

31 Stew Pot HVD 11m ★

Struggle off the ground then climb past the 'stew pot' to finish up the incipient crack or the delicate slab. Great gear if you look for it.

Ingle, Dent, Gray, Calvert pre-1900

32 Something's Cooking E2 6a 11m ★

Serves up a fine technical highball/solo above a rocky landing (Font 6b). Escape right.

Dave Musgrove jnr (FRA, solo) 1st February 1998

33 Yorkshire Puddin' E2 5c 7m ★★

The elegant groove is a serious proposition. Save plenty of gravy for the top (and don't look down).

Al Manson, Pete Kitson March 1973

34 Roast Beef E2 6a 5m ★

The shallow scoop leads to a long reach and insecure

finish. Best to not fall off, even with the sandy cam placement. The wall just right can be climbed past a small pocket but is pointlessly escapable.

Jerry Peel (solo) September 1985

35 Kiernan's Traverse & Rough Crack S 4a 9m ★

Follow the break leftwards on jams, then ascend the crack with a huge smile in a great position. It's all over too soon. Can be started direct (VD 3c). Belay options are underwhelming at the top.

Leonard Kiernan (solo) 1931

36 The Low Man Girdle S 4a 30m

Take the path of least resistance at this grade from *Rough Crack* to the finish of *V Chimney & Traverse* and belay on the ledge below *Whisky Crack*.



Your climbs here are little inlaid jewels.

Legendary 1960s American Yosemite pioneer, Royal Robbins, on a visit to Almscliff and asked how the climbs compared to his local granite skyscrapers.

ALMSCLIFF - Great Western

55 The Wall of Horrors E3 6a 18m ★★★

This is what you came for; the second of the big E3s and what a corker. A powerful boulder problem start gets the juices flowing. Yard up the crack, slam cams in the deep horizontal break and get ready to pull down with everything you've got left. Bloody magic. **The Horror of Walls** uses the same start and finish but climbs the wall out left. Climbing to the dish is a must-do (Font 6b) problem in its own right. [Photo on cover and page 674.](#)

Allan Austin (solo) 28th June 1961 ◆

56 All Quiet E4 6a 25m ★★★

The ultimate power endurance workout. Up *Wall of Horrors* to the horizontal break, traverse rightwards under the roof across *Western Front* and up the diagonal crack into the finish of *Crack of Doom* before your forearms explode.

Pete Livesey, Al Manson 27th June 1974

57 Every Man Has His Niche E4 6b 6m

Gain the niche, then exit by traversing out right on slopers to regain the ground, or mantelshelf with some commitment into *The Ems Telegram*. Climbing all the way into **The Niche** is worth Font 5+ in its own right.

P. Greenland, A. Burnell, C. Sowden 1987; Pre-1912 (*The Niche*)

58 The Ems Telegram E5 6b 20m ★★

Another quality pumpfest. Boldly sneak up leftwards to the obvious pocket and lay one on for the handrail. Scoot left under the overlap to the base of the bottomless curving crack. Dig deep and power up this on wilting arms to the finish of *The Wall of Horrors*. You beast!

Mike Hammill c1977

59 Leaf Climb HVD 4a 20m

A historical oddity. Climb the crack in the crevasse back up to ground level (no bridging). Nip round the rib to the right and ascend *West Chimney*, following jugs to the top.

William Cecil Slingsby and friends c1870

60 Western Front E3 5c 13m ★★★

Simply one of the best grit routes anywhere, making up the trinity of outstanding E3s. Steep but straightforward climbing leads to the Y-junction where things get ugly. Karate chop into the crack with all your might, grit your teeth and hang on. All at once the jugs are at hand

and it's in the bag. Sneaky ascents using balance and technique have been reported, but this sort of behaviour shouldn't be encouraged. [Photo on previous page.](#)

Allan Austin (solo) 9th July 1958

61 Great Western HVS 5a 15m ★★★

The much heralded classic of the crag and a good, honest, knacker fight. Layback up the corner to good gear and the realisation it's not a place to rest. Along the handrail the footholds end but the jugs keep coming. Gasp up into the niche for a cramped rest. Head out right in a phenomenal position along the crenulated break, using tiny footholds on the brink of the void. Sink into glorious jams and top out with a huge grin (known as the **Five Star Finish**). Or, (a) for the **Original** exit, from the niche stand up awkwardly and finish direct up the crack. Another alternative finish is via **Pocket Variant** without use of the two cracks. [Photo on page 29 and 61.](#)

Arthur Dolphin, Robert Heap 19th September 1943

62 No Mans Land E2 5b 20m ★★

If you're not tired at the end of the *Great Western* traverse, press on underneath the prow until lovely crozzly rock leads up and left to the top. Known as **Over The Top** when used as a finish to *Western Front* (a combination probably worth E4).

Tony Marr, Mike Tooke 1st September 1991

63 Grand Illusion E3 6a 12m ★★★

An improbable powerful line helped by a l-o-n-g reach. Excellent gear in the roof and on the traverse. Gain the obvious dish on the blunt lip and pull hard, up left to the pucker in the headwall. One more move to the finishing crack of *Great Western*. [Photo on page 83.](#)

Charles Cook 1979

64 Megadoom E5 6b 12m ★★★

Maximum exposure in the shortest distance. Climb up the corner-crack and straight out the widest part of the roof to a good hold on the lip. Stay calm and head directly up the rib. Finishing up the flutings out right is (b) **Impending Doom** (E4 6a ★).

Pete Brown, Andi Turner, Stuart Purvis 11th October 1997 ◆



ALMSCLIFF - The Rift



81 Si's Arête Font 7a+

Clamp up slopers on the blunt arête from a sit-down start.

Simon Pantou ♦

82 Hobgoblin E2 5c 11m ★★

Start as for *Clematis*. A tough leftward traverse leads to the obvious two-finger pocket in a stunning position, then sandy finishing holds.

Andy Wild, Dave Musgrove 1st April 1983

83 Clematis E2 5c 10m ★★

Positive holds and lovely moves lead steeply to the break. Span out left and low from the large pocket and shuffle off, or stand tall and take the (a) **Nelly-Moser Finish** (E3 6a).

Photo on previous page.

Eric Lillie, Ian Brimrose October 1969 ♦

84 Oubliette E2 6a 8m ★

Really packs it in. Follow generous holds left then make some hard pulls up the groove. Walk off if you've had enough (the original way) or finish as for (a) using the huge pocket for your left hand.

Eric Lillie, Ian Brimrose October 1969

85 Daisy Chain E3 6b 7m

Hard pulls on friable edges bring the rounded sandy ledge within reach.

Pete Kitson (solo) 8th June 1985

86 Tight Chimney M 7m

Well named – don't take a rack! Climbed most easily deep in the bowels of the crag. Sticking to the outside and finishing left of the chockstone is worth Severe.

William Cecil Slingsby and friends c.1870

87 Constipation Crack VS 5a 7m

A desperate pull brings the loose chockstone within reach. Exit up and right, or follow the (b) original and tougher left-hand finish through the V-notch. (c) **Suppository Wall** (Font 5+) is a serious climb above the prominent boulder.

Unknown pre-1969; Pete Brown 17th June 1997 (Supp' Wall)

88 Rift Crack VS 5a 7m ★

Short and fun. At the top search around - there is a finishing hold somewhere, set well back.

Unknown pre-1969

89 Yorkshire Relish VS 4c 6m

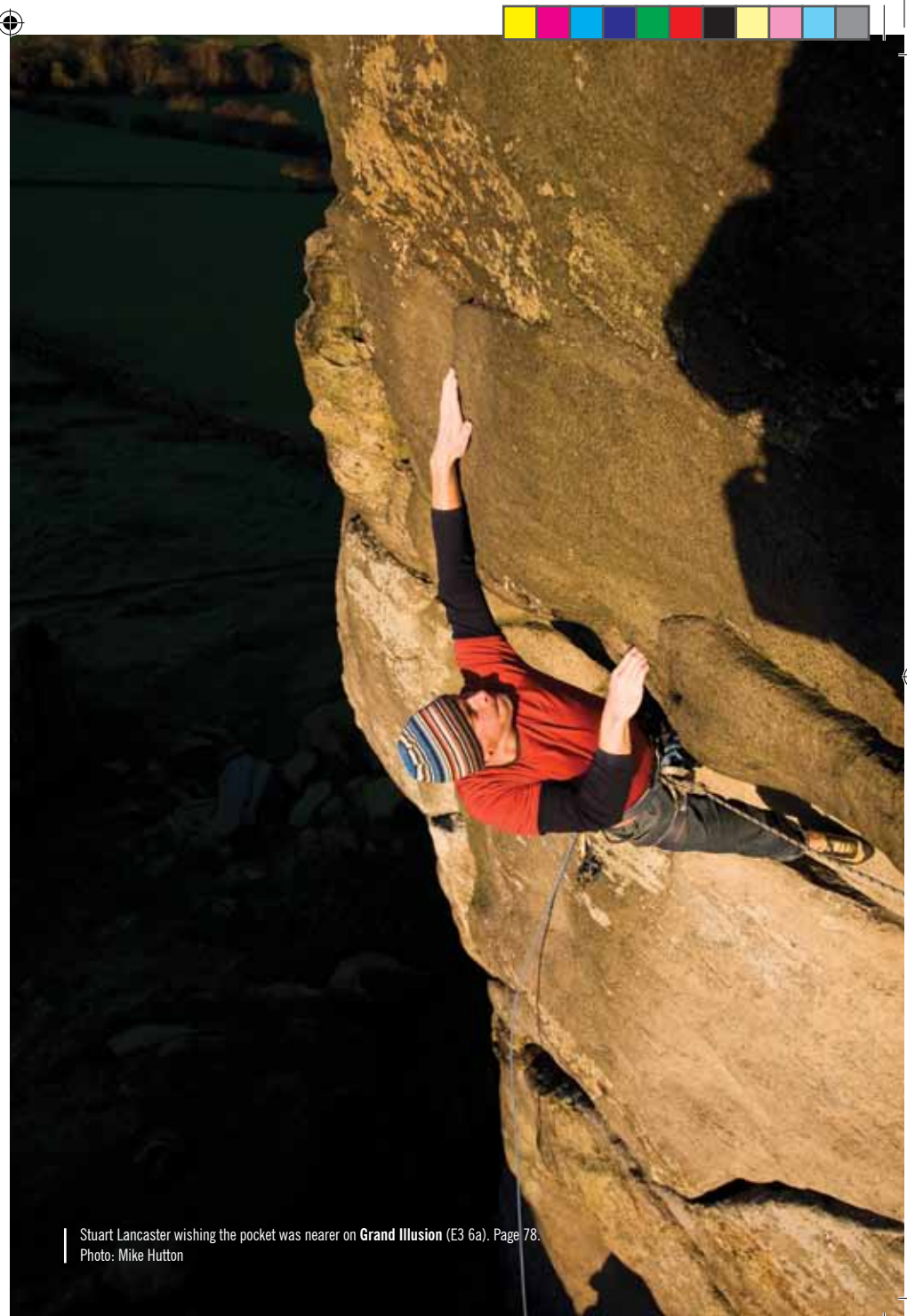
Even shorter. Climb the surprisingly awkward wide crack.

Tony Marr, Mike Tooke, Alan Taylor 22nd August 1999

90 Emmaus Road E2 5c 25m ★

A high traverse of The Rift where butch beginnings lead to a technical finish. Start from standing on the wall and traverse left along the obvious roundedness and head for the finish of *Hobgoblin*.

Robin Nicholson, Andy McCue 29th January 2010 (FRA)



Stuart Lancaster wishing the pocket was nearer on **Grand Illusion** (E3 6a). Page 78.
Photo: Mike Hutton



caley

by Steve Dunning and Adi Gill

OS Ref. Roadside: SE 229 445
OS Ref. Main Crag: SE 224 445

Altitude: 170m

Caley. Simply brilliant. A stellar venue that deserves all the superlatives you can throw at it, and then some. It is a crag of immaculate quality, offering a plethora of classic boulder problems and magnificent routes. Both newcomer and connoisseur will enjoy arguably the finest bouldering circuit in the UK. Almscliff may have the brutal routes and vicious boulders, but Caley is home to the finest lines on perfect rock.

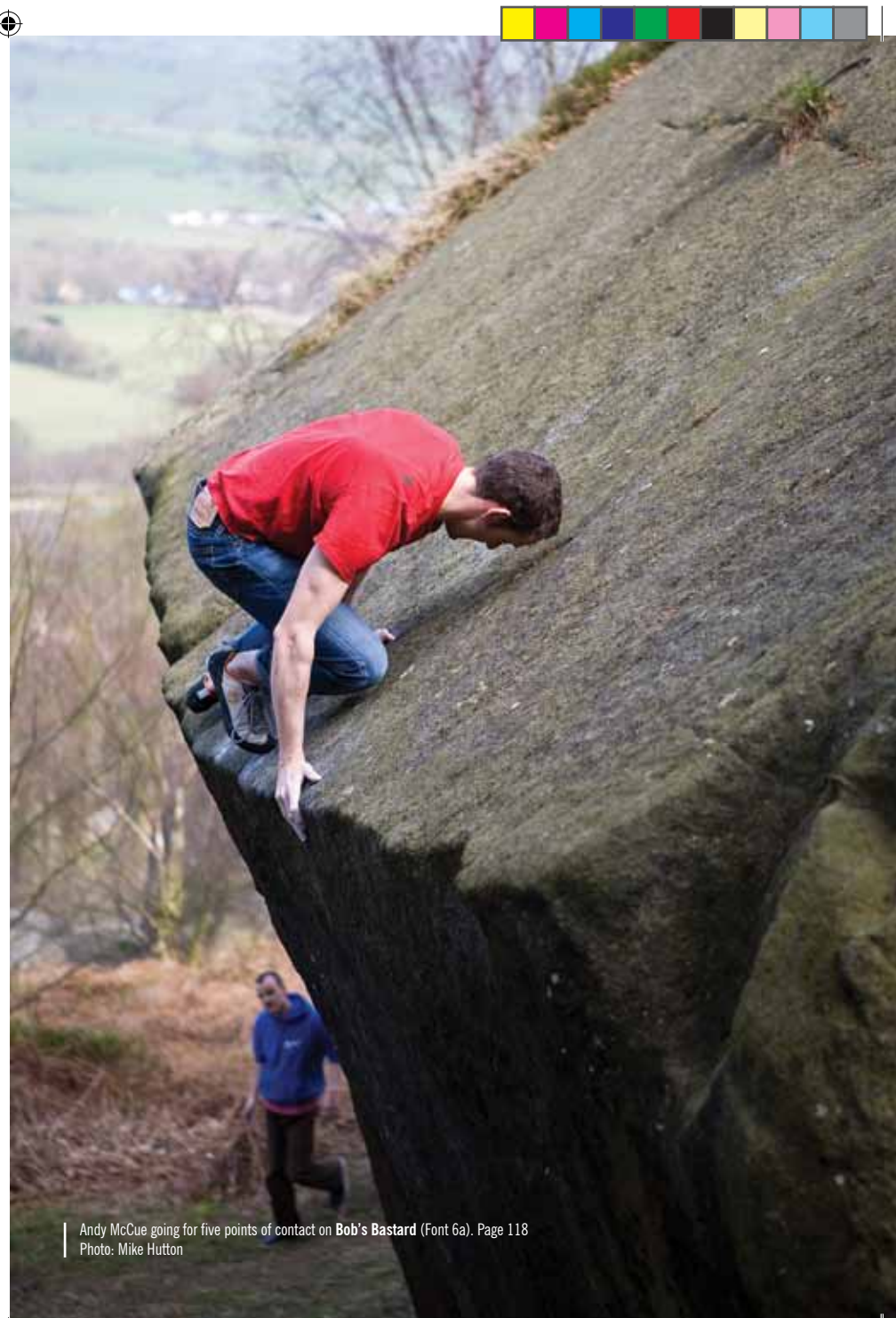
The crag is split into two distinct sections; the **Roadside Boulders** and **The Main Crag**.

Roadside Boulders: A wonderful bracken hillside filled with brilliant boulders and behemoth blocks. Perhaps no area in the country exemplifies the development of our great game as much as Caley Roadside. Described in the 1957 guide as 'no more than a convenient practise ground for climbers of the Leeds district' it has become a modern day Mecca for the global bouldering fraternity, who make the pilgrimage for the subtlest of eliminates. How times have changed. On this spot Yorkshire's master technicians pushed the boundaries and left their mark in solid rock. Dolphin, Manson, Fawcett, Dunne, Swann, Dunning – the head boys of the Gritstone class of each era – all worked their magic here. So yes, the place has pedigree but don't be intimidated, for if nothing else, the Roadside is an everyman crag, with mint problems throughout the grades on pretty much every boulder. Perhaps Manson said it best, '*from on top of any convenient position, elevated enough to give a commanding panorama, take a good look around. Many boulders will be seen. Go forth and climb them. Do not forsake or scorn even the smallest*'. Quite.

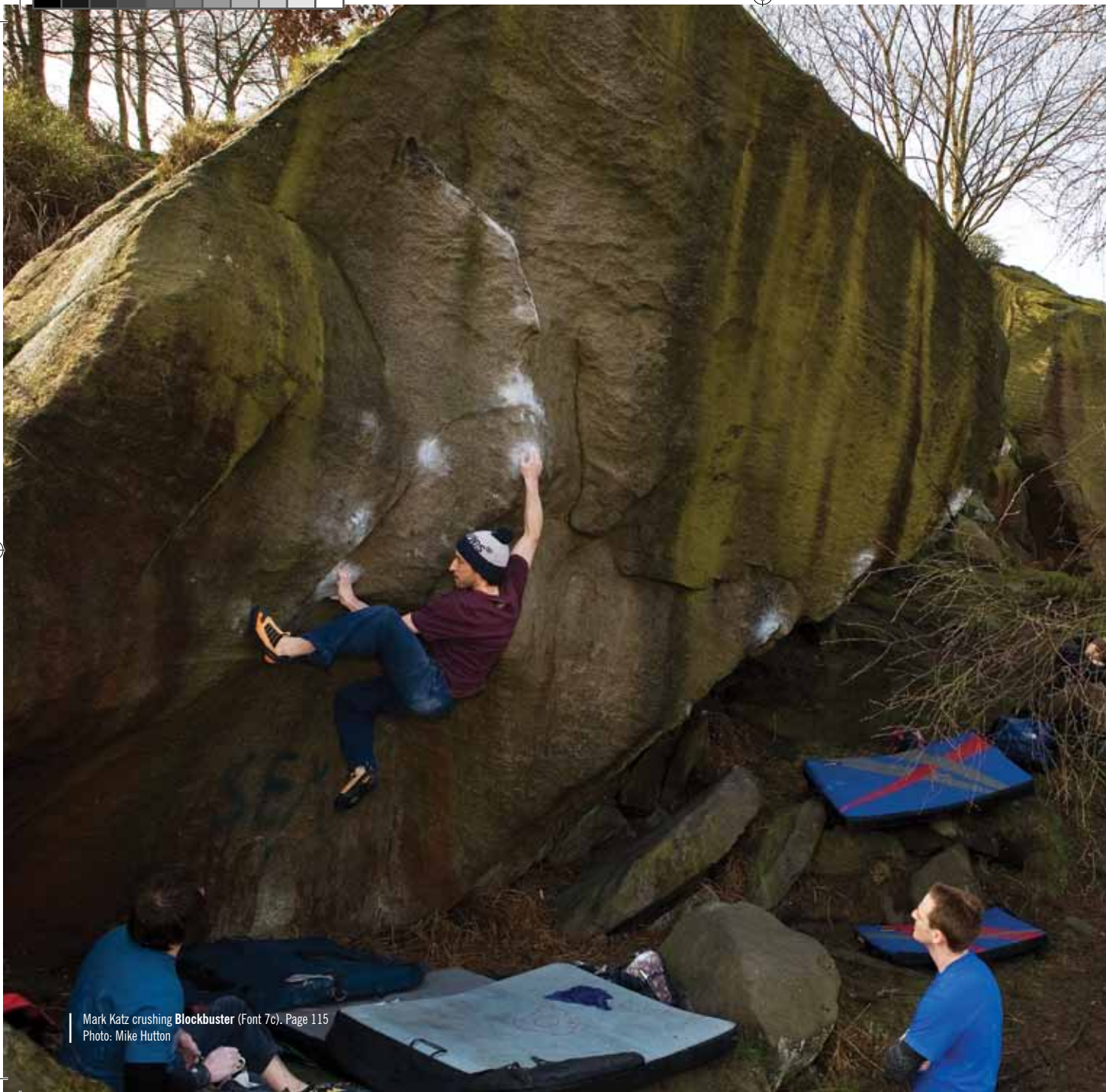
The Main Crag: A different experience altogether. Described here in two sections, namely (a) the Path-side and Uphill Crag and (b) the Downhill bouldering circuit. The former is the prime area for the keen router, with the main concentration of climbing warranting a rope and a rack. The area is overlooked by the iconic and much coveted knife-edge arête of *High Noon* and has classic routes from Severe through to E8. Highball aficionados won't be disappointed, with plenty to tempt the bold and the brave, although the landings leave something to be desired in a couple of places. The downhill area is a serene wooded wonderland littered with boulders. A great area for problems throughout the grade range, with excellent landings and the added enjoyment of the treasure hunt through the forest for the next block on the circuit.

Conditions and Aspect: The whole crag is predominantly north facing and as a consequence is not so fast drying, nor as clean as 'Gods own crag' across the valley. Typically the crag comes into condition in spring and autumn. Summer climbing is possible but getting between the Roadside Boulders can be a real fern thrash at this time of year. The more exposed boulders stay in good nick throughout the winter months though erosion at Caley is accelerated when climbs are attempted in damp conditions.

The Climbing: The climbing is on perfect, natural gritstone attaining a maximum height of 15m, with plenty teetering on the highball/route threshold. All styles are catered for within the expanse of the two main areas, although it's a place tailored more to the thinking climber than the thug.



Andy McCue going for five points of contact on **Bob's Bastard** (Font 6a). Page 118
Photo: Mike Hutton



Mark Katz crushing **Blockbuster** (Font 7c). Page 115
Photo: Mike Hutton

Blockbuster - **GALEY**

Blockbuster

Twenty metres up the hill, above Thin Slab, sees the start of an amazing run of some of the best bouldering around and the focus of enthusiasts of the hard.

8 Blockbuster Font 7c

Another class act. A problem with a number of possible starts depending on height, finger fatness and your opinions of French (jump) starts. Starting low on the pocket and flatty is worth Font 7c; jumping for the slopy rail is Font 7b. Finally from sitting on the left is (a) **Northern Soul** (Font 7c+). **Photo opposite.**

Ron Fawcett 1980s; Christian Durkin 1990s (Northern Soul)

9 Zoo York Font 8a

The magnificent jutting arête has climbing to match. Perhaps the benchmark for Font 8a and a rite of passage for the aspiring bouldering wad. Has been flashed. Go from a sit-down start with two hands on the low undercut.

Christian Durkin 2000 ◆

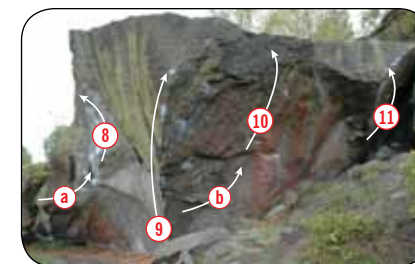
10 Guacamole Font 7c

A real nasty little number. From good finger jugs stretch to the poor edge before making a massive spring for the unbelievably sharp lip. The sit-down start (b) **Salsa Start**, comes in from the start of *Zoo York* and bumps the grade up to Font 7c+.

Chris Davies Nov 2004; Mark Katz Oct 2005 (sit-down start)

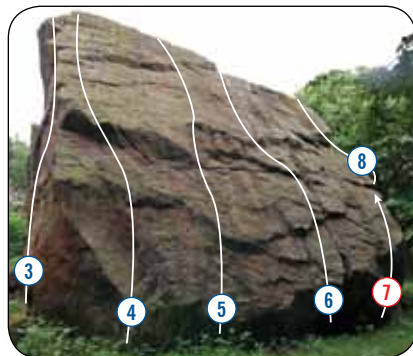
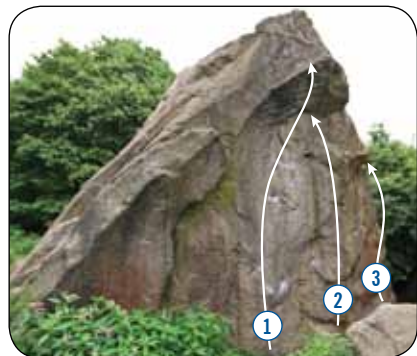
11 Ju Ju Club Font 7b+

Physical and involved. A rare chance to execute a 'bicycle move' on this class problem. Go from a sit-down start or as low as you can go on the sidepulls.





CALEY - The Sugarloaf



The Main Crag

This area is described for those approaching from the lower lay-by on the A660. The track is followed west from the gate for 400m with the prominent Sugarloaf boulder soon coming into view on your right and Suckers Wall boulder on your left.

Path-side and Uphill Crag

The Sugarloaf

A mini mountain sitting proudly amid a world of wood and grit. This path-side easy-angled slab is a great spot to get your eye in and can be climbed anywhere at around Mod (also the descent route). The entire block can be girdled at various levels. Routes start on the steep east face.

1 Angel's Wall HVS 5a 7m ★★★

The prominent front face of the boulder is a classic Caley challenge. Starting on the left make meaty moves on positive holds to gain a little respite before the final roof is tackled at its apex. The direct start is a popular Font 6a variant. **Photo opposite.**

Arthur Dolphin pre-1953

2 Angel's Wing E1 5c 7m

Eliminate, but worthwhile climbing tracking a parallel line just left of the arête. Finish as for *Angel's Wall*.

Dave Musgrove late 1970s

3 Plantation Ridge VS 4c 8m ★

The arête starting with a swing from the left.

Nancy Heron, Denys Fisher c1944

4 Plantation Wall HVS 5b 8m ★★

Not as popular as its visibly superior neighbours, nevertheless a superb technical trip up the face just out of reach of the left arête.

Dave Musgrove (solo) 1975

5 The Can E2 5c 8m ★

A rather bold proposition with a tricky move getting established above the overlap.

Mike Hammill 1976

6 Central Route VS 5a 8m ★★

A cracking route that takes a snaking line up the slab, just right of centre.

7 Cavity Font 6a

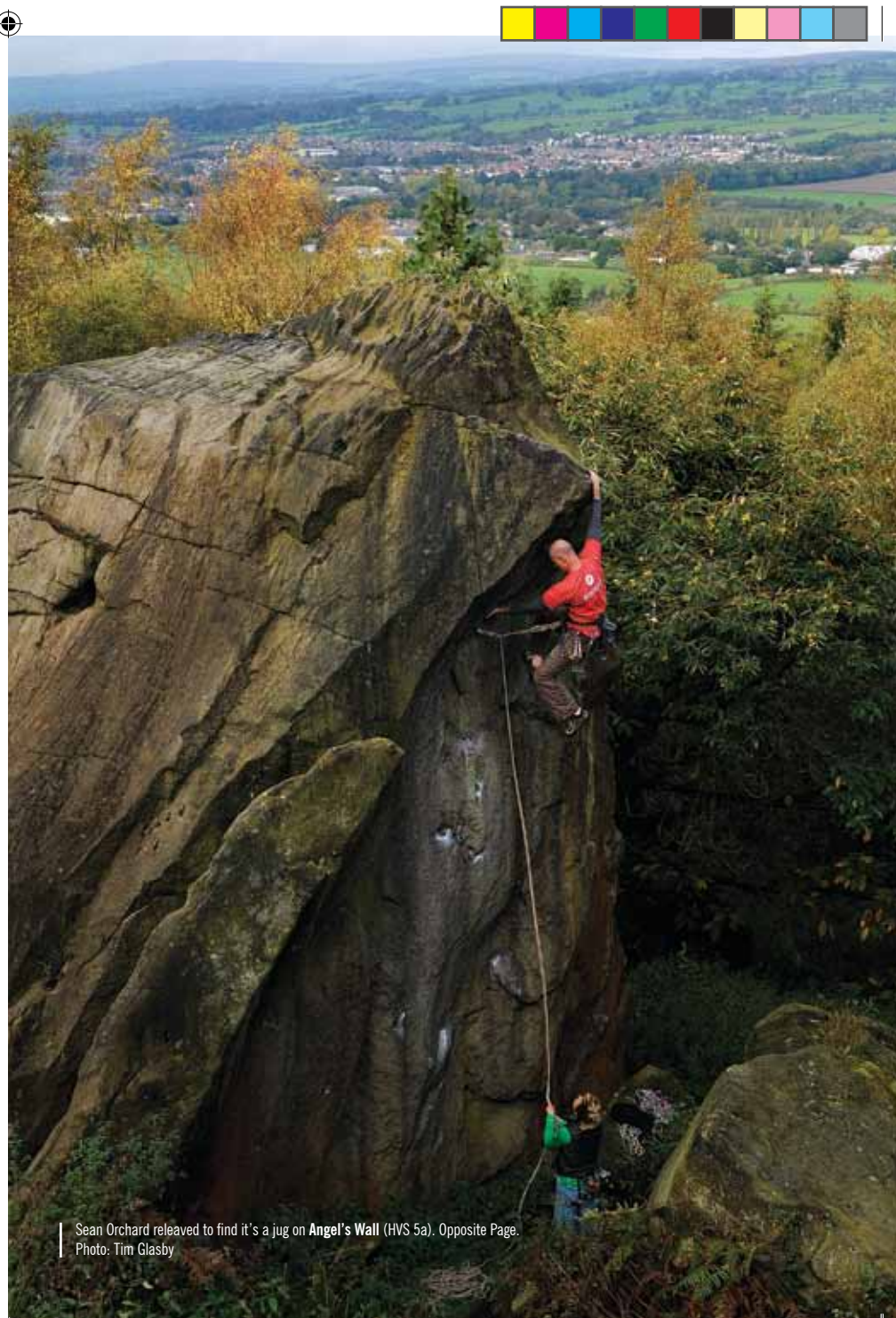
The direct start to *Sweet Tooth*.

8 Sweet Tooth HVS 5b 7m ★

Starting on the boulder move up to the break before stepping left onto the slab and finishing direct.

9 Route 3 HS 4c 7m ★

An awkward customer with an elusive hold. Once the rising break is reached a certain amount of cunning is required to unlock the easiest sequence. Highball Font 4.



Sean Orchard relieved to find it's a jug on **Angel's Wall** (HVS 5a). Opposite Page.
Photo: Tim Glasby



brimham

by **Jim Croft** with bouldering by **Dave Cowl**

OS Ref: SE 209 637

Altitude: 295m

A huge theme park of a crag; an inspirational land filled with everything a climber needs to graduate in the school of hard knocks that is the Gritstone Academy. Delicate slabs, bold walls, irksome offwidths and a profusion of steep, hand jamming cracks all add to the spice of the climbing here. Excellent VDiffs rub shoulders with some of the boldest sloping horror show E7s on the planet. Technical nail-biting highballs mingle with gentle padding problems in a beautiful moorland setting high above the Nidderdale valley.

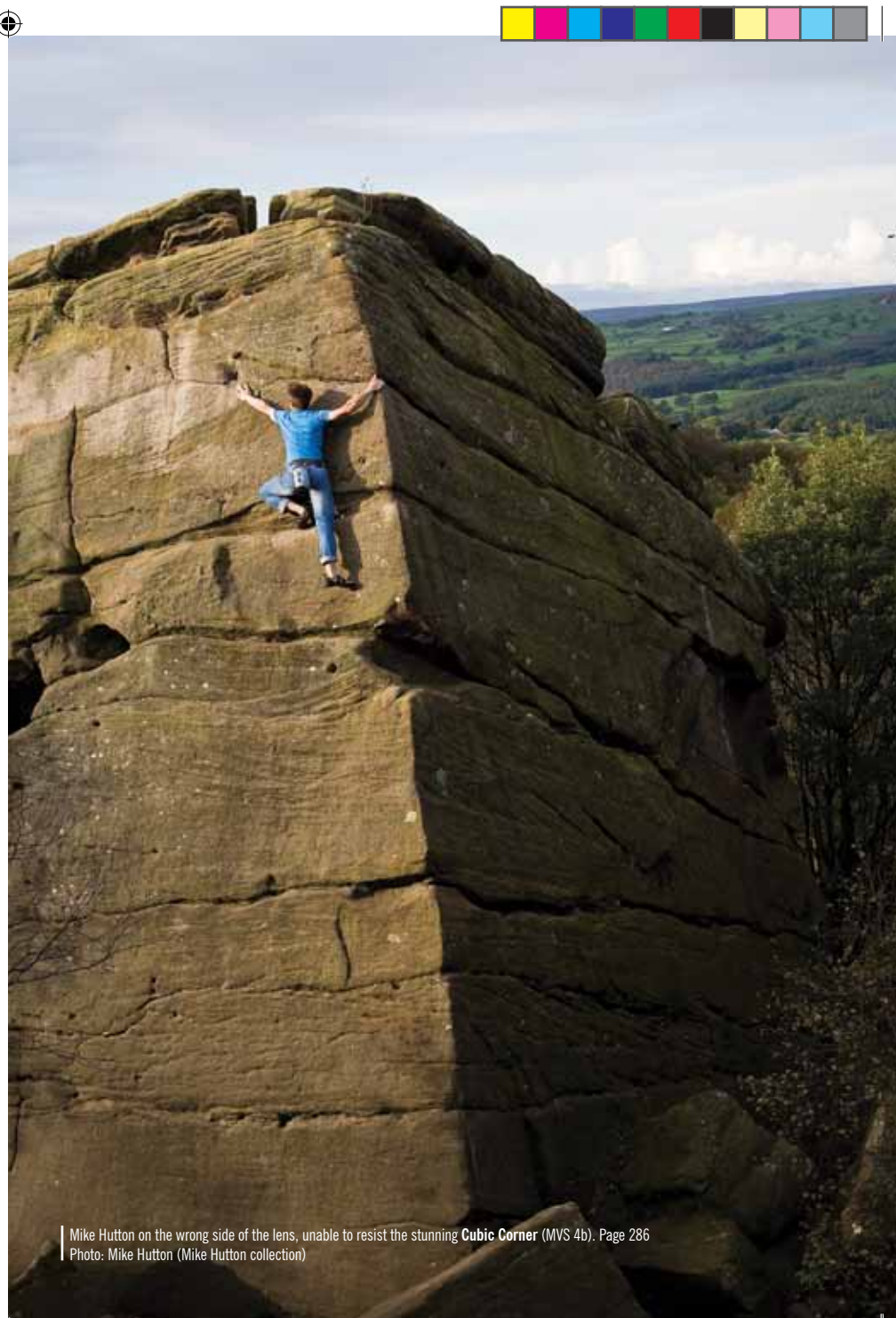
Nature has sculpted the rock formations of Brimham into a maze of weird and intriguing shapes; the many pinnacles and the secluded, yet extensive edge offers a lifetime's worth of climbing to cater for all abilities and tastes. Many of the rocks have their own character with names to match such as The Druid's Writing Desk, Cannon Rock, The Dancing Bear and 'The Frozen Boulderer' (typically found around the Hare's Head area). It's easy to get overwhelmed by the vastness of Brimham and navigating between the climbs can be challenging, especially if visiting for the first time. Study the maps, diagrams and photos in the following pages to ease the mind-blowing enormity of it all. Often things are closer than they seem.

Brimham is run by The National Trust (NT) and is popular with tourists. In fact, the place can be swarming with day-trippers on sunny summer weekends. Expect some rubber necking if you opt to climb on the obvious pinnacles between the car parks and the house. In return you'll likely get to enjoy the sight of an over-testosteroned teenage lad stranded atop one of the towers. The lower edge is the place to head for on days like this if you prefer

some peace and quiet. The NT also runs a café (open 11-5pm weekends and sometimes mid-week during holidays) next to the house, which provides drinks and snacks to keep sugar levels up.

The Climbing: With almost 500 routes and more bouldering than you can poke a toothbrush on a stick at (over 350 problems recorded here but the list is endless), there is something for everybody at Brimham; bold or safe, easy or hard, technical or strenuous. Beware the Brimham mantelshelf finish, it catches many off guard.

In the history of the game, whilst the big players in the grit scene, the Almscliff's and the Ilkley's, shouted their prowess from the hill tops, Brimham just got on with it. A proving ground, and a place of bold innovators who pushed gritstone development to its limits. Austin's *Frensis Direct* (E1), Syrett's *Picnic* (E2) and *Joker's Wall* (E4), Hammill's *Left Wall* (E5), Peel's *Gigglin' Crack* (E6), Dixon's *Tender Homecoming* (E8), all testify to the pedigree of the place and stand as milestones on a grit climber's progress through the ranks. Yet, cometh the hour, cometh the boulderer; significant developments over the past decade have propelled Brimham into the mainstream when it comes to bouldering, and there's a sense that it's only the beginning. Scattered far and wide amongst the monuments of Brimham's historic gritstone routes are a proliferation of problems, from Font 2 to Font 8a at the last count. Classics abound throughout the grades and the bouldering royalty have left some significant calling cards. *Pommel*, *Fantasy League*, *Titfield Thunderbolt*, *Pair in a Cubicle* – grief! The list is endless. It's time to get ticking.



Mike Hutton on the wrong side of the lens, unable to resist the stunning **Cubic Corner** (MVS 4b). Page 286
Photo: Mike Hutton (Mike Hutton collection)



The sting in the tail beckons on Desperation Crack (HVS 5b). Lucinder Whittaker prepares for the fight. Page 218
Photo: David Simmonite





120 Enigma E1 5b 12m ★★
A humdinger with a taxing finish for those who can't think with their feet. Climb up to the mid-height overhang and then right to the block. Commit to the wall, stepping left onto the ledge for a breather. Delicate padding up the shallow groove leads to safety. For the one-star (b) **Enigma Variation** (E1 5b) gain the ledge below the groove by a long reach for a jam crack.

Ken Wood, M. Biden, Mike Mortimer 16th October 1971 ◆

121 Birch Tree Wall Eliminate E1 5c 15m
A harder, blinkered variation on the original. Climb to the overhang and trend right into the groove. Move up and left to the foot of a second groove. Either cut right to the harder variation finish of *Birch Tree Wall*, or track left up the wall to a blunt tapering rib.

Tony Marr, Mike Tooke, Peter Shawcross 9th May 2004

122 Birch Tree Wall VS 4c 15m ★★ ★★
A justifiably well-trodden classic in a wonderful position. The top section is difficult to protect but it can be savoured if you keep cucumber cool. Claw your way up the shallow corner to the ledge on the nose. Canny exploration will reap rewards on the pro. Move left and tiptoe up the slanting groove to a choice of exits. Either continue up the groove or (slightly harder) step right (a) and enjoy the exposed rib with a tricky mantelshelf finish. For the one-star **Birch Tree Wall Direct Start** (E1 6b) take the wall below the scoop via an obvious pocket. Imagination helps.

Brian Evans, Allan Austin 20th Mar 1955; (DS: Al Manson 1978) ◆

123 Left-Wall Girdle HVS 5a 20m
Follow *Love Bug* to the arête and take the easiest line left across *Birch Tree Wall* to finish up *Black Bob*.

Mike Hammill, Paul Craven (alt) January 1981

124 Love Bug E1 5b 15m ★
An absorbing journey that can become a terror trip if both leader and second can't cope at this grade. Climb to the top of the crack in the left wall. Make tenuous moves on rounded holds left to the arête, which is boldly followed all the way on good holds to an exciting finish. For **Love Bug Variation Start** (HVS 5a) leave the crack almost immediately for a delicate traverse left to the arête at a lower level. For **Love Bug Direct Start** (E1 5b) take the right-hand side of the arête. **Photo on page 17.**

Tony Barley, Tony Roache 8th August 1970

125 Left Wall E5 6a 15m ★★ ★★
One of the best E5s in Yorkshire. A high octane fuelled joyride up the wall. Good pro early doors leads the unwitting into a false sense of security. Hold on tight cowboy, the upper wall can be a rough ride. After a steady start up the crack, step left to the thinner crack. Move up right to good holds and, with the strength sapping from the arms, push for the top. Awesome moves with a slapping finale. **Photo on page 265 and 267.**

Mike Hammill, Al Manson September 1977 ◆

126 Resurrection E6 6b 15m ★
A mind and body workout up the wall to the right. From the top of the boulder follow twisting grooves up the wall leftwards to join and finish as for the tough final move of *Left Wall*. Small wires and friends are available.

Dave Pegg 10th August 1989

127 ResErection E6 6c 15m ★
An independent direct line on *Resurrection*. From the boulder, hard climbing up and slightly rightwards leads to a small cam slot. Step slightly left and tackle the wall straight up to gear before finishing over the rounded bulge above.

Danny Coultrup September 2008

128 Lover's Leap Chimney S 4a 14m ★★
Full of character. Attack the polished crack and monkey over to the cave on the right (crux). A belay can be arranged here before continuing via the left-hand chimney. A possible scramble through the bowels of the cliff runs from the left side of the belay cave right through to near *Secret Crack* and is good for kids (with supervision).

Sidney Thompson pre-1937 ◆

129 Lover's Leap Chimney Right-Hand Variation HS 4b 14m ★★

A better and harder variant. Start as for the previous route but from the belay tackle the wide right-hand chimney. Taking the alternative S 4b start up the right of the boulder is independent and balances the climb nicely.

Caving up the twisting chimney deep within the right-hand cleft is **Lover's Rift** (Mod).

130 Close to Critical E3 5c 18m ★

Mopping up the gaps with some bold moves. Climb the left side of the boulder to enter the cave. Take the outside of the left chimney for about 4m to a good finger slot in the left wall. Traverse the wall on the break above *Love Bug* to finish up the arête of that route, or the ramp of *Birch Tree Wall*. An intermediate belay in the cave may reduce rope drag.

Tony Marr, Alan Taylor 26th March 2000

131 Ménage a Trois E3 6a 14m ★

A good climb with a bold final step. From the cave of *Lover's Leap Chimney* take the overhanging wall and arête, past difficult to place wires, between the more usual finishes of the parent route.

Phillipe Osborne (unseconded) 9th September 2001

132 Leap Frog E5 6a 12m

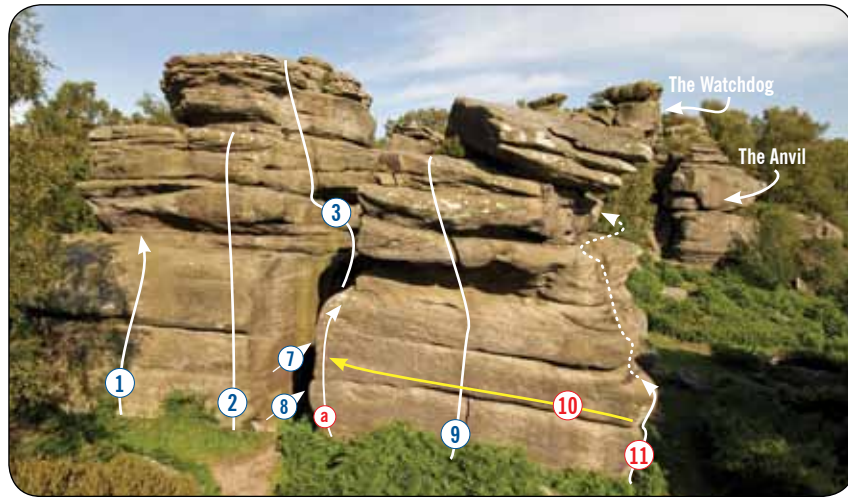
The left arête of the right wall. Climb the wall past a pocket to a ledge. The arête on the left provides serious technical climbing. Finish over the boulders above.

Jerry Peel, Dave Hollows, Tony Barley 1976

133 Ambidexter HVS 5a 12m

A contrived route that visits most of the crag. Grapple past the right side of the boulder at the back of the chimney and make a delicate traverse to the crack on *Right Wall*. Move up to the roof and traverse left to a belay (essential to reduce rope drag). Crawl up, out between the boulders and traverse left to the top of the climbs on the left wall for an unusual, exposed and spectacular finish.

Tony Barley, Robin Brown April 1973

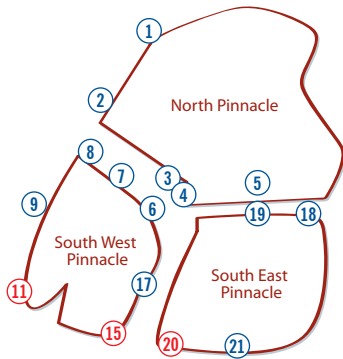


The North Pinnacle

1 Gordon's Wall E1 6a 12m
Climb the rounded bulges with a very long reach for the most appallingly sloping holds. (Font 6a+ to the scoop).
M. Berzins, B. Berzins, Gordon Higginson, J. Syrett 16th Oct 1976

2 Syrett's Rib E1 5b 12m ★
The blunt and rounded arête is followed in its entirety. (Font 6a to the ledge).
John Syrett 16th October 1976

Walk into the gully to the distinct crack on the left.



3 Lancet Crack VS 5a 12m ★★
A spectacular climb that keeps on coming. A yardstick tough Yorky VS, which can see the nonchalant getting plenty of air time. At the gully intersection, follow the corner-crack up and over the roof. Chimney specialists will outwit roof climbers every time.

Allan Austin, Brian Evans 24th April 1958 ♦

4 Stone Age Reveller E4 6b 12m ★★
The rib is climbed precariously on the right to good holds. A contorted pirouette onto the projecting nose may then just enable slopers to be reached at the top of the scoop above. Finish up right as for *Druids Reality*. If you're athletic enough, a hands-off bat hang can be executed on the nose for a breather...
Nigel Baker 22nd July 1997

Follow the gully toward the east exit (first exit if *Lancet Crack* is on the left). The following climb is in the centre of the face beneath the roof.

5 Druid's Reality HVS 5b 16m ★
The steep wall below the rock bridge is climbed to the roof. Traverse left in a ludicrous position to a short groove. Finish easily.
Alec Burns pre--1987 ♦



South-West Pinnacle

Return to the gully crossroads and start at the innermost arête (opposite *Lancet Crack*) and move round anti-clockwise. Belays are tricky for the easier routes: it's best to sling the undercut south-west nose (the obvious flake crack expands). Descent is also tricky, either roped or by down-climbing *Max Crax*.

6 Cleft Pinnacle HS 4b 12m ★
Using the arête and a couple of high steps, climb the left edge of the green slab to a rounded landing on the ledge. Trend left with interest up ledges to a mantel finish.
Pre-1957 ♦

7 Max Crax HS 4b 10m
Climb the crack in the centre of the wall to a useful pebble and a thin step to good holds. Finish more easily up a short crack in the top bulge on the right.
Dave Musgrove, Nigel Baker (FRA) 19th July 1997

8 Cleft Arête VS 5a 10m
The arête climbed on the left. The outside edge (a) **Cleft Butty** gives a good Font 5+ problem.
Gordon Higginson, Martin Berzins 16th October 1976

9 Womb with a View E1 5c 11m
Take the short crack in the centre of the west face. Continue to another short crack leading over the bulges.
G. Milner, D. Fitt 5th April 1988

10 Mirky Way Kid Font 6b+
Pumpy sloping traverse which links the arêtes.

11 Clingon Font 6c
Climb the arête to reach the sloping ledge. The original route (E1 6b) continued up the line of the arête finishing right at the top.
Alan Taylor, Tony Marr 18th September 2005

12 Jumper's Traverse Font 7a
A sloping traverse around the arête to finish at the far arête deep within the gully.

13 Murky Crack MVS 4c 10m
The overhanging crack is followed until it is possible to traverse right. (Font 4+ and also known as *Mirky Way*)
Allan Austin (solo) 2nd February 1958

14 Cleft Dyno Font 7a
Big moves. Savour the roundedness.



BRIMHAM - Roadside & Hare's Head

Roadside & Hare's Head

OS Ref: SE 214 633

A somewhat detached, yet condensed version of Brimham that will satisfy the adventurous type. An excellent bouldering area but certainly not an all season venue. In the summer, the ferns go above head height and you'd be bonkers to trek in here with a pad on your back. Each to their own though.

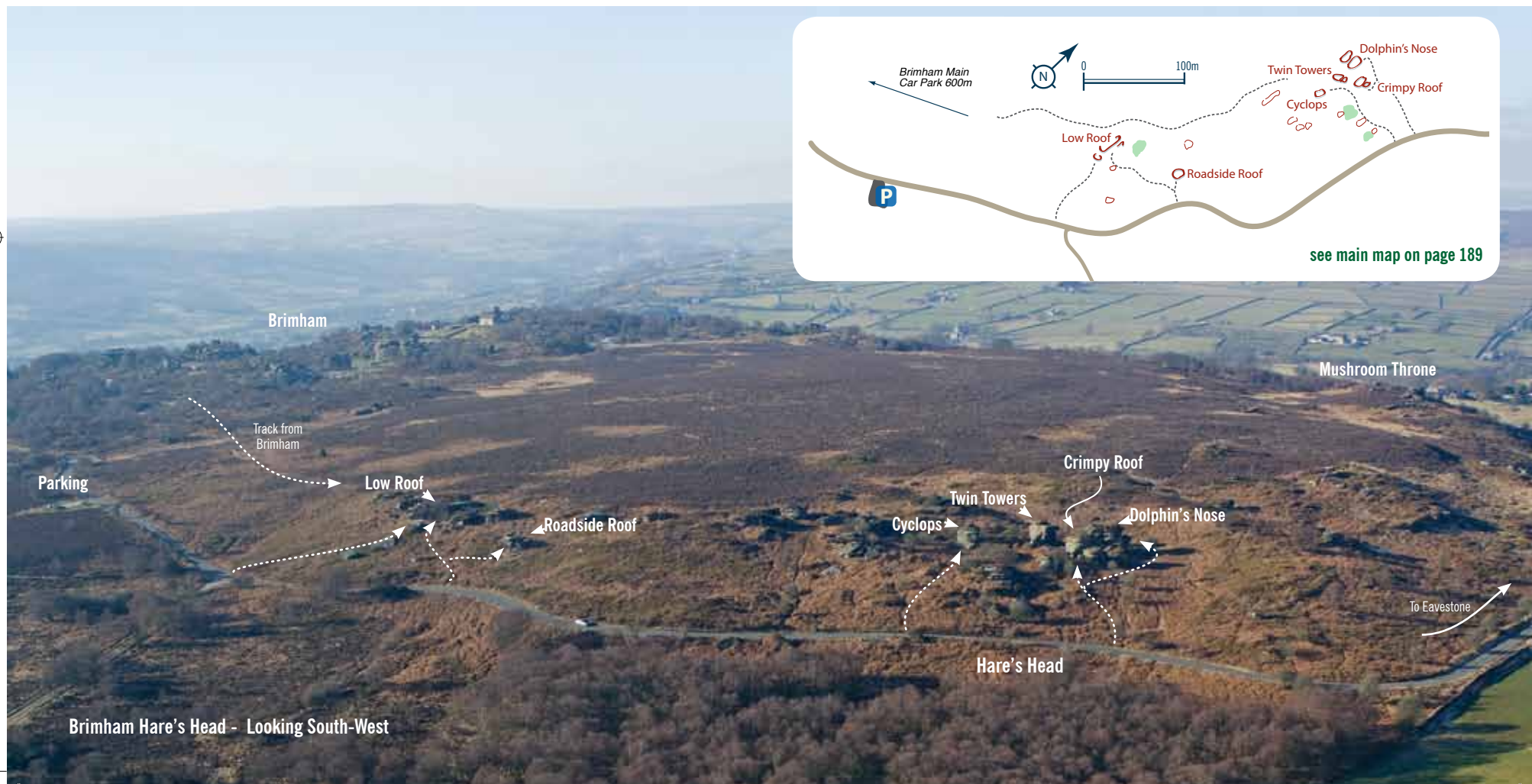
The routes here have not had many ascents so beware the odd loose hold. There's a wealth of problems in these outposts of Brimham, most documented in previous guides. The best and most solid are listed here.

Approach: The most straightforward approach is to walk north up the road. The best parking is a layby on the right and 600m up the road (north) from the entrance to the main car park. There is room for 6-8 cars but ensure no valuables are left on view here. From here, walk 200m

further up the road and the first outcrop of boulders (Low Roof and Roadside Roof) are clearly visible on the left. Follow faint tracks to reach these. If your destination is the Hare's Head area (Cyclops, Crimpy Roof, Dolphin's Nose, etc), continue along the road for a further 300m. The puff pastry pillars can be seen on the left just up from the road. Follow faint tracks that bring you out to the right of the outcrop.

Roadside & Hare's Head - BRIMHAM

If parked in the main car park, the corner can be cut to reach the road by taking the path which leads to the Brimham house but only as far as the overflow car park on the right. Go to the far right-hand corner (north-east) of the overspill car park and take the obvious track to Heart Shaped Slab that is clearly visible to the north-east. From the slab, take the track due east to the road. Take this north and follow the directions as for the layby approach mentioned above.

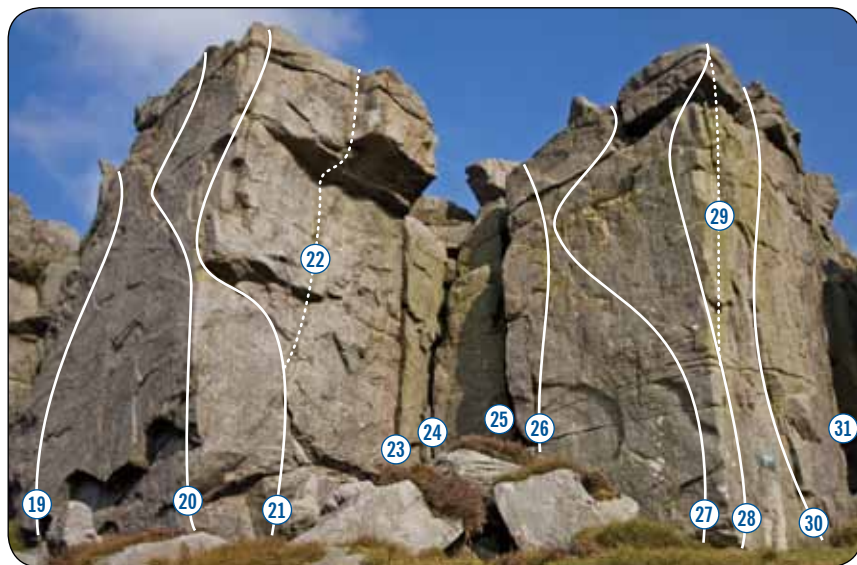


Brimham Hare's Head - Looking South-West





GREAT WOLFREY - Left & Central Tower



21 Werewolf E4 6a 9m ★★★

Bold, beautiful and 'airy'; a superb arête climb. Start up the flake to the roof then move left to the arête. Go round the arête and up the wall moving back right to gain the arête below a fin. Layback the fin to finish. Can be climbed direct at E5 6b.

John Eastham, Geoff Myers, John Myers 27th Sept 1980 ◆

22 Wolf at the Door E5 6a 9m ★★

A sheep in wolf's clothing? A one-move wonder? Some say it's low in the grade but we'll let you decide. A brilliant line up the middle of the face and through the big roof at the top of the wall. Start up the flake as for *Werewolf* to the small roof before heading up right for the main event of the upper roof and crucial, though hard to place and therefore not totally reliable, opposing runners. Power round the roof (crux) on sloping holds to reach the top.

Mike Hamill, John Yates 16th May 1986

23 Huff-Puff Chimney M 8m

Take a deep breath, then climb up the chimney.

Dave Musgrove Jnr and Snr (both solo) 30th Dec 1993 ◆

24 Hangover Crack HS 4b 9m

The green crack in the corner provides a tortuous struggle.

Brian Evans, Phillip Leese 1952

25 Hangover Chimney M 9m

To the right is another chimney-cum-crack.

Brian Evans, Phillip Leese 1952

Central Tower

To the right of *Hangover Chimney* is a pale green wall and on its right, above the plaque, the fine arête of *Walter's Rib*.

26 Shades of Green E2 5c 9m

Harder than it looks. The use of the crack, and often dry holds, enable the ledge to be gained. Finish up the short wall above.

John Mackenzie, Norman Hitch pre-1985

27 A Wolf in the Wild E3 6b 10m ★

Climb directly up the left side of *Walter's Rib* until a hungry move left gains the flake on the wall. A stiff pull gains the better holds on *Shades of Green* and the break. Move right and finish up the wide crack.

Paul Clarke 16th May 2006

28 Walter's Rib E2 5c 9m ★★★

An elegant feature providing a climb that rarely fails to please. Start by using holds and the groove on the right, then climb the superb arête stepping right at the top. Also known as **Brown's Rib**. **Photo on page 361.**

Ken Wood, Charles Dracup 17th June 1975

29 Angua E3 6a 10m ★

A desperate and vicious mutation continuing the starting groove of *Walter's Rib*. Finish direct.

Neil Herbert, Robin Ellis 18th April 1999 ◆

30 In Memoriam E5 6a 9m ★★

A lonely solo that could make a lasting impression. Climb the centre of the wall using edges and layaways to gain the wide horizontal break. Finish up the crack on the left.

Martin Berzins (solo) 16th October 1987

31 Arvel Chimney D 9m ★

A good old-fashioned line. Climb over the jammed blocks into the chimney. Now thrutch up and over the chockstones.

Brian Evans, Phillip Leese 1952

32 Grand Defiance E2 5b 12m ★

Sustained and quite serious. The constricted groove just right of *Arvel Chimney* is a quality route when clean.

John Mackenzie, Rik Weld 6th November 1988

North Pinnacle

To the right is a huge detached block. The slight arête at the junction of the gullies provides the easiest way off the top – or why not jump the gap!

33 Cowell's Rib E3 5c 9m ★★

Steep and technical climbing makes this a fine excursion. Climb the left arête of the front face of the pinnacle moving right at the break to gain the flakes.

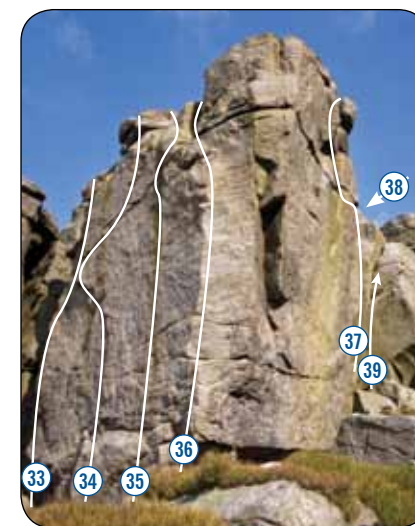
Ashley Cowell 1983

34 The Wilderness Years E4 6a 11m ★★

Bold to start and tricky to finish. Follow the line of inverted edges to gain the break. Step right along this and go up the rippled wall directly above the thin crack of *Little Red Riding Hood*.

Paul Clarke, Alan Cross 12th April 2007

North Pinnacle - GREAT WOLFREY



35 Little Red Riding Hood E6 6b 9m ★★★

What small holds you have... The wall and ever-so-thin crack next to the ever-so-green streak. Edge slowly up the face using the crack, hope and whatever else comes to hand to gain a flat hold. More hard moves and/or a Berzinian leap lead to a fairytale ending on the right (or the chop).

Martin Berzins, Chris Sowden 24th October 1987

36 A Company of Wolves E6 6b 9m ★★★

The compelling and overhanging rib at the right-hand end of the face takes the title of a gothic fantasy-horror. Progress is with increasing technical difficulty until the move to the break provides a test of strength and nerve.

Martin Berzins (solo) 24th October 1987

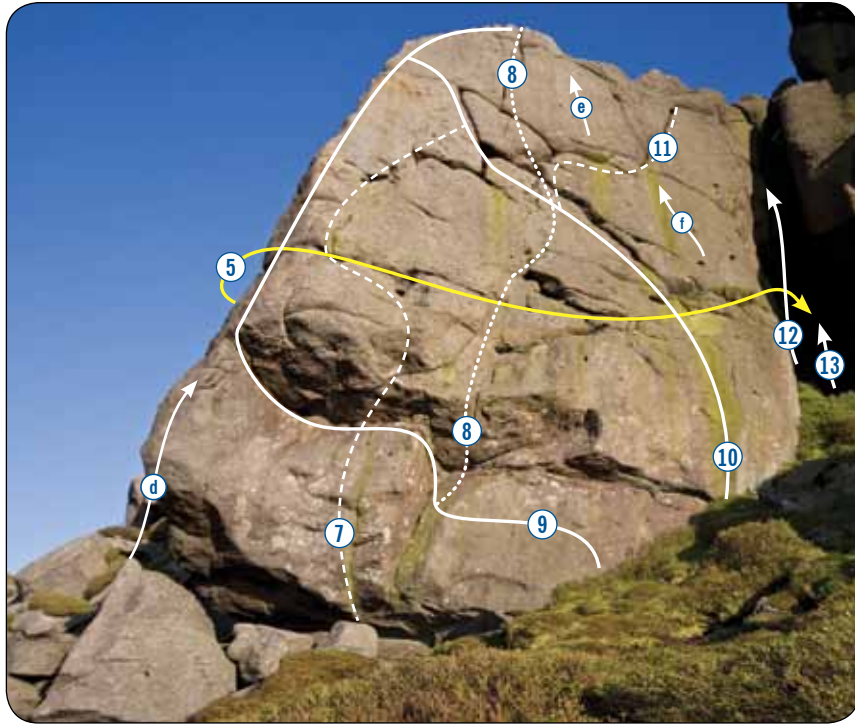
37 Bad Company E1 5b 9m ★★

Excellent rock (and roll). Start on the block at the entrance to the wide gully behind North Buttress. Climb confidently up the right side of the arête using thin edges and knob-bles to gain the horizontal break, swing around left in a fine position and finish up the vertical crack splitting the top centre of the block.

Martin Berzins, Chris Sowden, Tony Burnell 17th October 1987



SIMON'S SEAT - Arête Wall



8 Dog Lead HVS 5a 17m ★

A neat excursion up the wall and one which exposes any inadequacies in the climber's repertoire. From halfway along the *Arête Direct* traverse, yank hard up the crack and pockets in the overlap to reach the flake. Continue up the pocketed slab to the shallow vertical seam. A long reach, a helpful pocket out right and deft footwork brings the sanctuary of good jams and finishing flutings within reach. Daylight robbery for the tall at this grade.

Johnny Cutcliffe, Mark Darfield 20th April 1997

9 Arête Direct VS 4c 20m ★★★

An absolute corker of a climb with plenty of mileage, exceptional moves and in a fabulous position. Make a constricted traverse left to reach the arête (hold on for all your worth if howling a gale) and make bold high steps to an exposed climax. Big gear helps. **Photo on page 454.**

Allan Austin, Brian Evans, Frank Spence 30th August 1958 ◆

10 Arête Wall S 4a 16m ★

A cracking upward traverse line that takes the path of least resistance up the wall to the exposed finish on the arête. Start up the hill beneath the origins of the obvious leftward trending cracklines. Step up and follow these leftward to the arête and a spicy end.

Arnold & Sidney Waterfall, Bill Bowler Mid-1930s

11 Y-Front S 4a 12m ★★★

More crack-bashing entertainment. Make the initial moves of *Arête Wall* to the centre of the face. Scuttle up right and make taxing moves up the right-hand of the Y-shaped cracks to a crux exit. (e) A cheeky technical variation, **Gentleman's Support** (E1 5b) yards up the wall to the left. (f) **Brief Encounter** (VS 5a) tackles the wall direct with the aid of the two large pockets. Tiptoe up the left-hand crack to a rounded finish.

Brian Evans, A. Evans 17th July 1960

12 Chimney Wall S 4b 12m

Pick-and-mix frivolities teasing the right flank of the buttress and chimney jaws. Climb to the ledge and inch-up to its topmost part. Hand jam the green crack-cum-flake and, for the purists, go as for the original method and back and foot it with the use of the chimney's right wall for a few metres before ending back on the left wall.

Sidney Waterfall, W.J. Anderson 1949

13 Window Chimney D 13m

A troglodyte's delight! Answer the call of the beckoning abyss and follow any slight breeze that may indicate a way out (usually via the window above the chockstone). Finish direct or cut out left up the wall.

14 Clappers Crack E1 5b 10m

Grunt, grimace and gurn the butch crack in the roof to the ledge. Not worth hanging about on. Finish as for *Turret Crack*.

Allan Austin 30th August 1958

15 Turret Crack HVS 5a 20m ★★

A game of two halves – prepare to lose if you underperformed at jam school. Front crawl up the green crack to the good ledge (optional stance). Step left and continue the jam-fest to the top. VS for jam masters.

Allan Austin, Brian Evans, Frank Spence 30th August 1958 ◆

16 Panzer E3 6a 15m ★

A powerful and reachy affair straightening out *Turret Crack*. From the ledge, climb the wall and then fire the big guns to propel you over the bulge on pockets to the top.

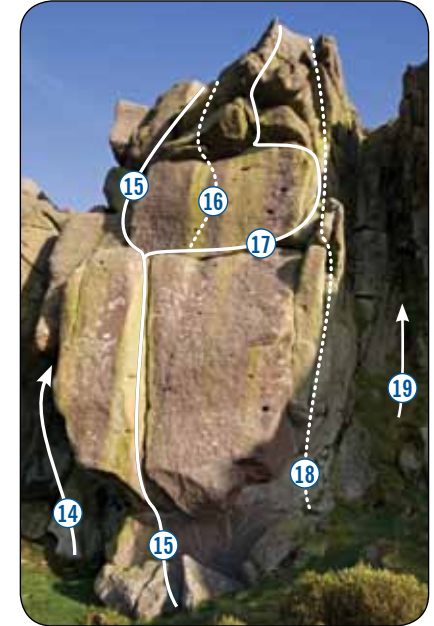
Nigel Baker, Dave Musgrove(snr) 11th July 1999

17 Outside Finish HVS 5b 20m ★★

A variation on his original line, but an altogether bolder and electrifying affair from the wise owl of grit. Climb *Turret Crack* to the ledge then traverse the horizontal break to the right arête. Move up and weave back left under the overhang. Breathe deep, grab the big holds and pull for all your worth over the bulges to victory. (Only take one rope if you're in training for pulling trucks at the World's Strongest Man contest).

Allan Austin 23rd July 1960

Turret Crack - SIMON'S SEAT



18 The Gunner E1 5c 20m

Gain the hanging radioactive ramp with difficulty and continue up to meet *Outside Finish*. Truck right and up to the sloping ledge before finishing up the short steep corner.

John Eastham, Geoff Myers, R. Pendleton 15th May 1988

19 Square Chimney VD 17m

An acquired taste. A pleasure for the traditionalist in a dry summer; a joy for the horticulturalist after a wet winter.

Pre-1920

20 Baggin's Variation VS 4c 17m

Little new climbing but allows those with an appetite for destruction to reach their doom on the dodgy finish of *Azimuth* with less hassle. Ascend *Square Chimney* for a few metres until it's possible to trend rightwards to join and finish up the groove line of *Azimuth*.

Tony Barley, Robin Barley June 1975



SLIPSTONES - Aerial Photo

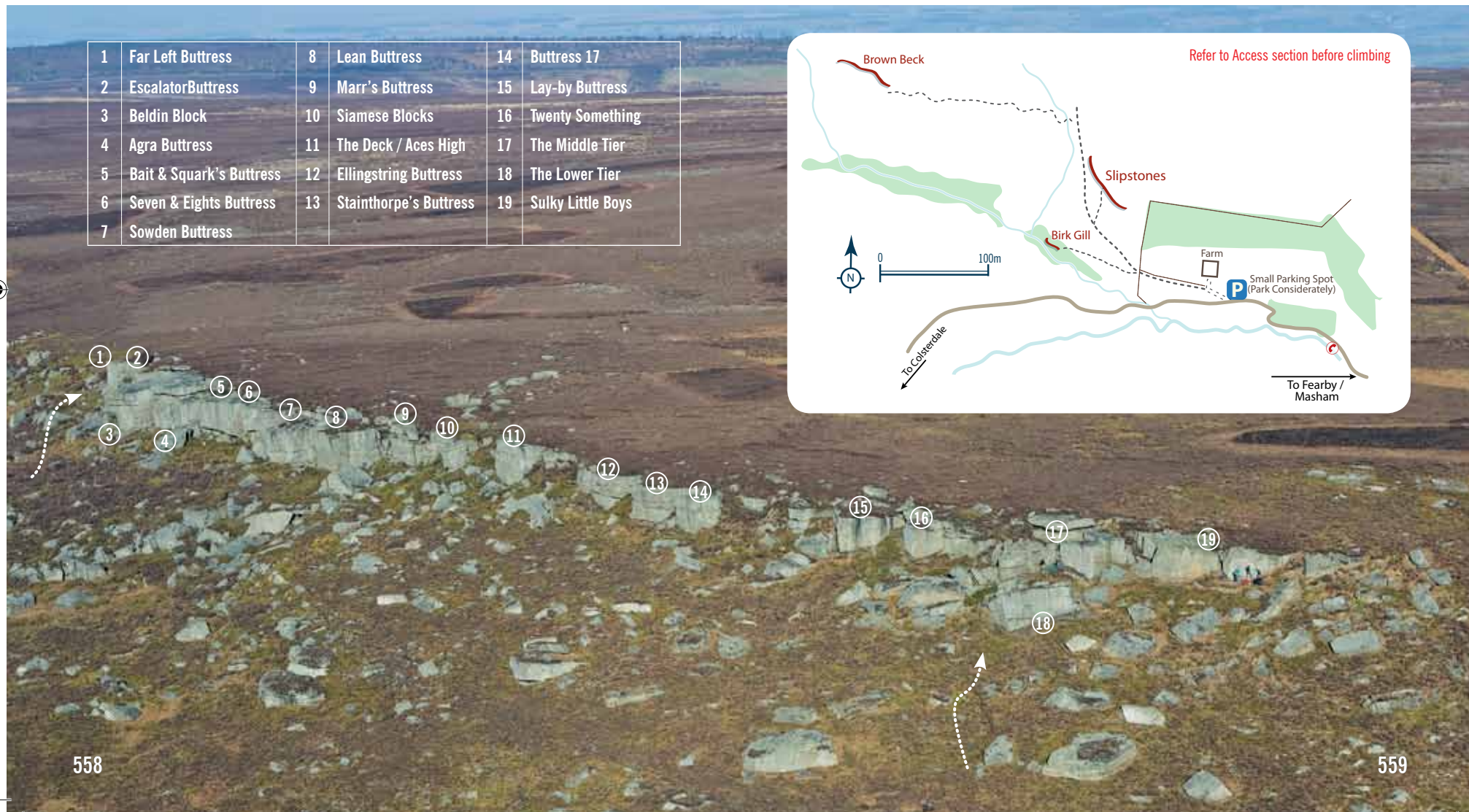
Parking and Approach: When heading north from Masham on the A6108 Leyburn Road, turn left onto Fearby Road signed to Fearby, Healey and Leighton (and the *Black Swan* – a good pub and campsite). After 3 miles and after passing through the villages of Fearby and Healey the road bends left to Leighton but on this bend is a single road on the right (dead-end sign) signed to Col-

sterdale. Take this. Follow this single road for 1.5 miles. Shortly after a red postbox and a red phonebox on the left the road takes a right-to-left hairpin and the parking is just after this on the right (**GPS: 54.228103,-1.77685**). Park considerately to maximise the number of cars for the lay-by and **do not block the access road to the farm.** (Alternatively there is further off-road parking a few min-

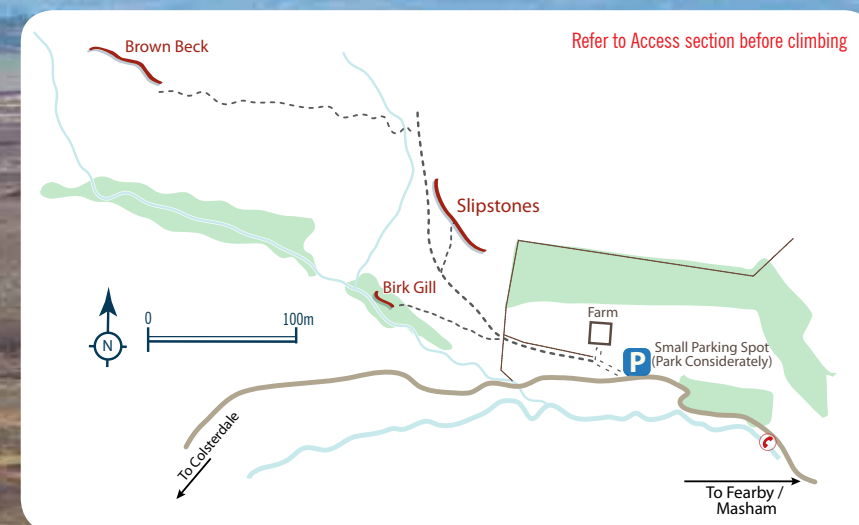
utes up the road (maximum 2-3 vehicles) or you can park back down the road, where the phone box is situated, if the main parking is full). Follow the track for 600m towards the farm but continue with the wall to the gate accessing the open moorland. To reach the far left of the crag follow the track and trench north-east for a further 700m where a faint path leads right for 100m through the

heather up to the edge and *Far Left Buttress*. Alternatively the right-hand side of the crag can be reached by turning right at the gate and following the wall. Both approaches are 20 and 15 minutes respectively from the lay-by.

Approach Map - SLIPSTONES



1	Far Left Buttress	8	Lean Buttress	14	Buttress 17
2	Escalator Buttress	9	Marr's Buttress	15	Lay-by Buttress
3	Beldin Block	10	Siamese Blocks	16	Twenty Something
4	Agra Buttress	11	The Deck / Aces High	17	The Middle Tier
5	Bait & Squark's Buttress	12	Ellingstring Buttress	18	The Lower Tier
6	Seven & Eights Buttress	13	Stainthorpe's Buttress	19	Sulky Little Boys
7	Sowden Buttress				





40 Beldin Direct E1 5b 8m ★
The imposing blunt arête up its right-hand side with a long reach to the second break via a sloping slot. Finish right up the large crack.

Alan Tylor, Tony Marr and Ken Jackson April 1975

41 Low Level Traverse WTF 100m ★★★
A brilliant low-level left-to-right traverse that stretches over six buttresses, rarely climbing more than a metre above the ground. Paul Ingham had successfully climbed the full traverse after climbing various sections with Tony Marr as individual winter training exercises, which started life in 1983. Paul thought he was quite generous giving the grade of HVS 5c. Truly satisfying, very strenuous and totally deserves the recognition. Also possible from right to left. There are two variations. The first (Font 7a+) is impressive and a difficult one to grade. Starting low on the left arête of *West Face Eliminate*, traverse the low break rightwards all the way across six buttresses to finish up *Dennis In Darlo*. The second, an easier variation, finishes earlier at the base of *Atomic* (Font 6b+).

42 Beldin Variation E1 5b 8m ★
A funky climb with adequate protection although originally soloed on the first ascent. From a large pocket, gain the first break. From a small undercut, make a strenuous reach for large break. Finish leftwards up the large crack.

Paul Ingham 15th March 1981

43 Beldin HVS 5b 10m ★★
A forearm-busting classic that follows the natural ramp line leftwards up the striking front face. Gain the break and finish leftwards up the large crack. Hang on in there.

Ken Jackson and Tony Marr 1968

44 Original Route HVS 5a 10m ★★★
Another fantastic pump fest with a real sting in the tail. Follow the ramp line to its end then climb out right to finish via the large flake. **Photo on page 552.**

Tony Marr and Eric Marr July 1964

45 Gollinglith E1 5b 8m ★★
A strenuous test of crack climbing which was soloed on the first ascent. Finish through the imposing flake.

Steve Wilson 1969 ◆

46 Tachyon E2 5c 8m ★
A difficult climb that takes the left-hand side of the arête. Once the last large break is reached, move right to finish up *Zoom*.

Alan Taylor and Tony Marr 9th May 1999

The follow climbs are located in the **East Alcove** of the Beldin Block.

47 Zoom HVS 5b 7m ★★★
An absolute must if you're visiting the crag. This classic climb starts right of the arête using the large undercut flake to your right. Gain the break from the small overlap and finish by laybacking the large flake crack leaving you in an awesome position.

Tony Marr, Eric Marr and Ken Jackson June 1966

48 Atomic E3 6a 7m ★★★
Your grit logbook is not complete without bagging this beauty. Technical but well-protected (some say E2...) and climbed easily enough with hot aches. Climb the centre of the wall to a tricky move to gain the break. Continue to a committing crux move way above.

Ian Dunn and Paul Ingham 17th April 1982

49 Atomic Right-Hand E3 6b 7m ★
Start as for *Atomic*. After halfway, move out right up the awkward, and very reachy, bold wall.

Hugh Harris and Ian Cummins 1994

50 Barnley Crack S 4a 7m ★
The satisfying and awkward left-hand corner crack with a reachy mid-height move.

Geoff Milburn and Peter Martin October 1960

51 Barnley Wall HS 4b 7m ★
A fun climb that takes the centre of the wall from a problematic start.

Steve Wilson June 1966

52 Ulfers Crack HVD 4a 7m ★★
A fabulous corner crack; almost as good as anything of its height on gritstone.

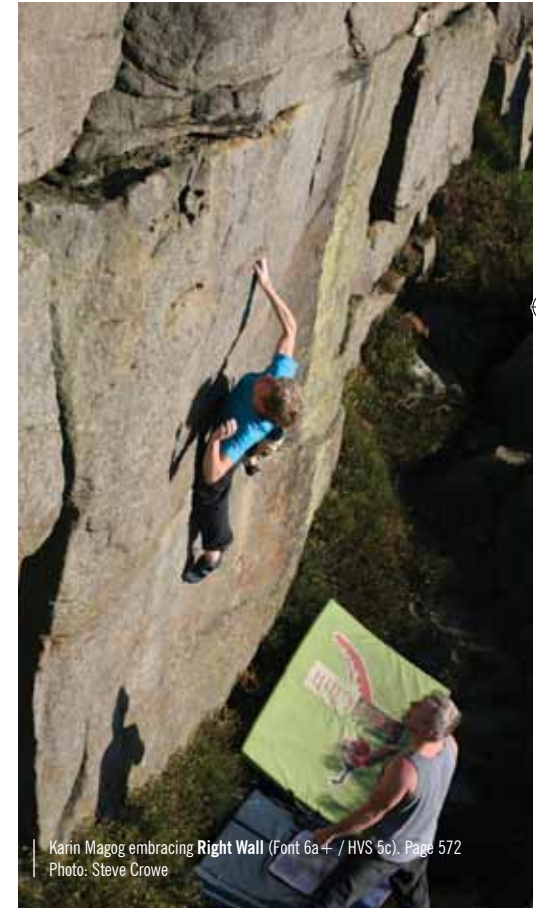
Geoff Milburn and Peter Martin October 1960

53 Forever Onward E1 5c 7m
The centre of the right wall in the East Alcove using the large pockets. Tackle the thin section to gain the large break. Finish direct up the blank wall.

Paul Ingham 1988

54 Timeless Divide Font 6a+ (E2 6a)
The blunt arête is climbed direct with a difficult start to gain the first break. Finish up the striking fin.

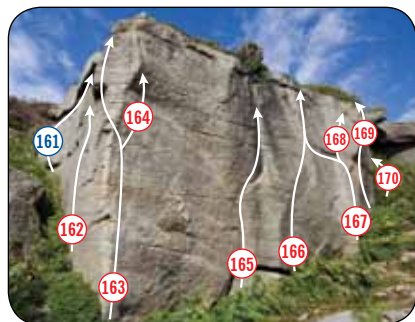
Paul Ingham 20th November 1983



Karin Magog embracing **Right Wall** (Font 6a+ / HVS 5c). Page 572
Photo: Steve Crowe



SLIPSTONES - Lay-by Buttress



Lay-by Buttress

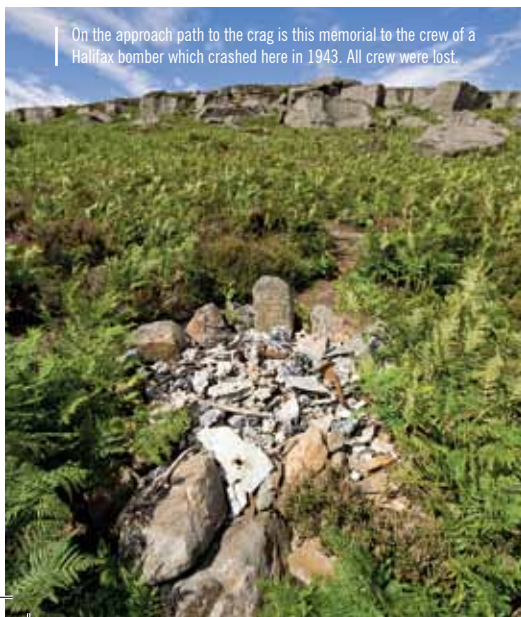
This is where things really start warming up for the boulderer. Line after line of quality climbing can be found here with the echoes of foul language coming predominantly from *Lay-by Arête*.

Just before the main *Lay-by* block, a small buttress is found and is home to two minor routes **Easy Mantelshelf** (Diff) on the front face and **Right Arête** (Font 3+).

161 Hand Traverse HD 6m

Starting on the far left of the upper break, shuffle rightwards quickly to improving holds and a wonder-jug finish.

Geoff Milburn 1960



On the approach path to the crag is this memorial to the crew of a Halifax bomber which crashed here in 1943. All crew were lost.

162 Rock Over Font 4

From the large break/ledge, climb up the shallow groove left of the arête.

Steve Crowe 1995

163 Lay-by Arête Font 7b+ (E2 6c)

A technical master that requires a delicate approach and a little patience. You could be the strongest boulderer around and this problem will shut you down - guaranteed.

Photo on page 557.

Paul Ingham 1985

164 Lay-by Arête Direct Font 7c (E3 7a)

A direct finish to this classic arête completes the chapter.

Ian Cummins 2001

165 Lay-by Font 6a

The often damp flake/crack is harder than it looks. Superb.

Alan Taylor 1976 ♦

166 Little Baldy Font 6c

Avoiding the flake to your left, this beauty follows very thin crimps with delicate footwork to the obvious bullet scar.

Ian Cummins 1985

167 Rock On Left-Hand Variation Font 6b+

Reach the obvious slot and traverse leftwards to reach the bullet scar of *Little Baldy*.

Paul Ingham 1981

168 Rock On Font 6a

Gain the obvious slot of this entertaining problem and commit to a tricky move to a good edge.

Paul Ingham 1980

169 Rock Off Font 5+

The small hanging arête is a tricky number.

Paul Ingham 1980

170 All Off Font 4+ (HVS 5a)

From the good low slot, gain the good hold at the top of the flake. Make a long move to finish.

Paul Ingham 1980



A young Rob Brown showing the elders how it's done on *Slanting Flake* (Font 4). Page 583.
Photo: Claire Graham

