

Wild Boar Fell - Blackbed Scar



Katie McKay on the first ascent of **Radical Prolapse** E1 5b

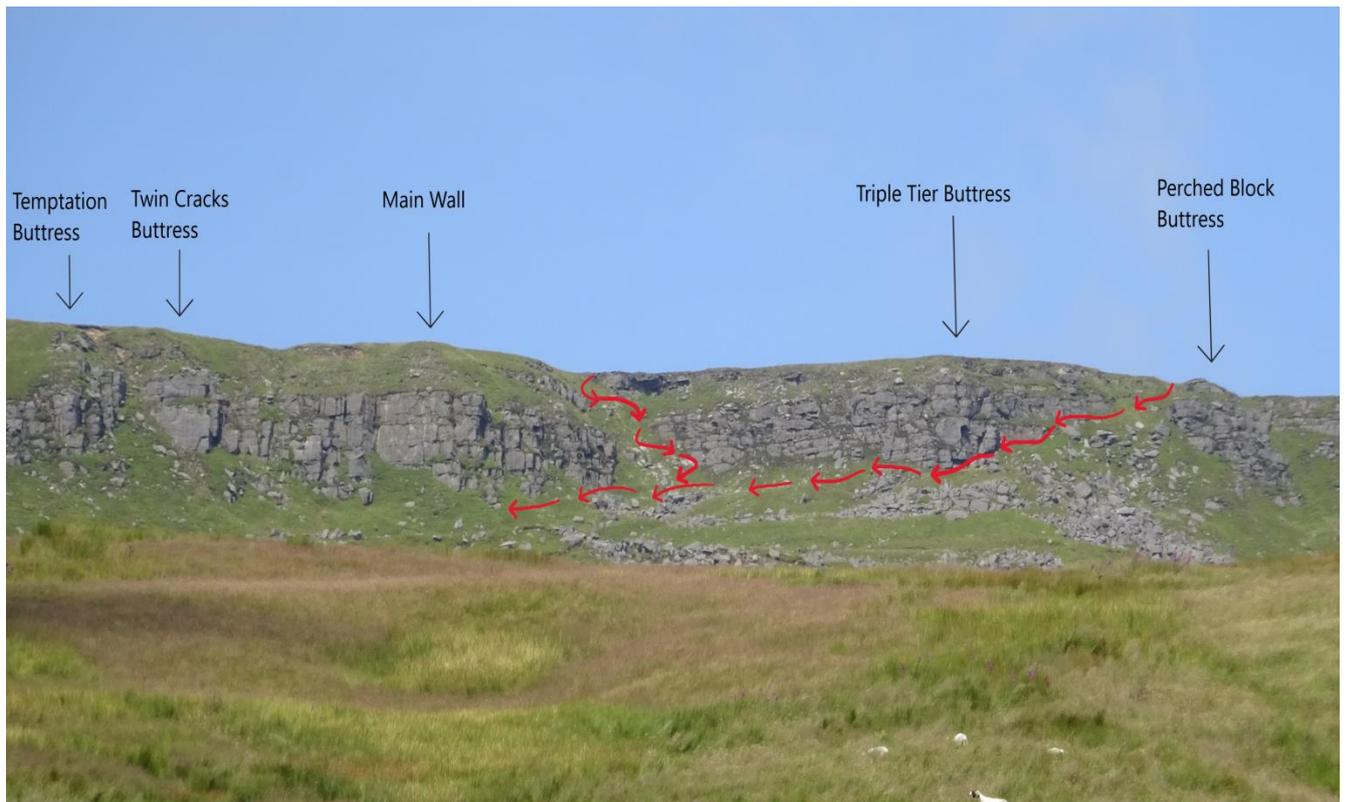
Situated at an altitude of 700m, in a stunning location, on the eastern slopes of Wild Boar Fell above Mallerstang, Yorkshire Dales National Park, is a collection of gritstone buttresses up to 15m high. GR 763 990.

Approach. Enter the Mallerstang valley on the B6259 from the south via Garsdale or from the north via Kirkby Stephen. There is parking for a few cars opposite the access track to Hazelgill Farm. GR 783 997. Take this track, the Pennine Bridleway, left of the house go straight up the field and under the railway and follow the track gradually upwards to a col at 550m. Here a path heads south along the ridge, steepening to a substantial cairn on The Nab. (One hour from the parking spot).

From the cairn on The Nab summit, perched block arête is visible to the right. Walk 30m south to find two small circular ponds and head rightwards down an easy grassy slope to reach the right (looking outwards) edge of the buttress. A few metres down the grassy gully take a faint sheep trod, past several small cairns. It traverses at a fairly high level, gradually descending to reach the base of **Triple Tier Buttress**, at the right angled corner of **Born Again**. Scramble down a step or two and round the corner; the Amphitheatre will come into view).

(An alternative, perhaps easier to find, but steeper, descent may be made down the large grassy right angled bay that is the amphitheatre. It is about 150m on from the cairn.)





Character. The buttresses are of generally good quality gritstone up to 15m in height. However, no matter how good the rock, the climbs have had so few ascents that there is bound to be some loose rock in places. It's a great place to climb, as long as you don't expect rock that has been cleaned by the passage of many hands and feet!

The southeastly aspect means the crag gets the sun from early morning and is sheltered from prevailing westerly winds. The buttresses are scattered across the hillside in both directions from the amphitheatre.

Belay stakes are in place above some (use at your own risk), but there are alternative natural gear cracks and blocks above most buttresses. Views are impressive and you may be lucky enough to look down upon a steam special on the Settle-Carlisle Line.

The climbs have had very few ascents and **many have not been onsighted**, so the grades are approximate. When in doubt, the higher grade has been listed.

Since the amphitheatre is the natural starting point, the buttresses are described first left to right, (looking up) from the amphitheatre, then right to left for the buttresses south of the amphitheatre. The climbs are described left to right.

SUNNY BUTTRESS.



1. Testing Positive S 4a 10m

A few metres left of the lowest point of the buttress; take the cleanest line up the slabs. Finish up the headwall, just left of the spiky block, making good use of it.

2. BC Was Here HVD 12m

From the lowest point of the buttress, climb the cracks to the final wall, then escape up a groove on the right.

TRIPLE TIER BUTTRESS.



1. Lady Eleanor S 4a 8m *

Climb up to the large flake and layback into the prominent right facing corner on the far left hand side of the buttress.

2. Shake Holes S 4a 10m

Scramble up, aiming for a crack a metre left of the triangular roof, high on the crag. Climb the crack and then the flake crack which leads leftwards to a small flat roof that it is possible to pull over.

3. Scridbles V Diff 15m Start below the triangular roof high on the crag. Climb the horizontally stratified wall just left of a crack. Then climb the broken crack one metre right of the triangular roof.

4. Right Hip V Diff 8m

Scramble up to the left hand side of upper tier of triple tier buttress. Climb the extreme left of the buttress, taking a line left of the climb TTB, with a semi-mantleshelf move at half height.

5. Triple Tier Buttress MVS 4b 20m **

Climb the tricky right wall of the corner, that forms the lowest point of the buttress and then go delicately up the left edge of the second tier and finally, the crack immediately above, in the third tier, trending leftwards.

6. I Don't Mean to Boar You HVS 5a 20m *

Climb the right edge of the corner, a couple of metres right of **Triple Tier Buttress**. Now climb the right edge of the second tier, with a stretch to reach the cam slot on the overhang. On the third tier, climb the obvious crack (as **Triple Tier Buttress** does) for a few metres until it is possible to step right and finish up the buttress a little left of the chimney.

7. Mabel VS 4c 16m*

Around the corner and up from the last climb, is a right facing flake crack. Climb this and then the corner containing the obvious layback crack, until it is possible to traverse left onto the protruding spike. Climb the steep corner on the left for a metre or two, until it is possible to pull out rightwards onto the arête, which is followed pleasantly to the top.

8. First Born HS 4b 15m*

Gain the flake crack, (a metre left of the arête that defines the right edge of the buttress), from its right, to reach the larger flake crack above and left. Climb this to a large ledge. Step left, then rejoin the arête on its LHS, aiming to step right onto a ledge on the arête itself, before returning leftwards to face the final steep crack.



Mark Gaddes on **Triple Tier Buttress MVS 4b**

9. Born Again VS 4c * 15m

Just past the arête is a right angled corner, which is climbed to the large ledge. Step left and finish up First Born.

40 or 50m rightwards is: **Perched Block Buttress.**



1. Wonderloaf VS 4c 5m

Climb the awkward diagonal gash to stand on the spiky block. Step across onto the horizontal crack and traverse right to a comfortable ledge, from which it is possible to reach the top, by moving left. A miniature, but worthwhile, gritstone climb.

2. Brioche HS 4b 6m

Short, but sweet. Climb the arête that forms the left edge of the buttress, first on its right and then stepping left onto the protruding ledge, from which it is possible to climb the arête on its left side.

3. Crusty S 4a 10m

Climb just left of a right facing flake in the lower wall and then a prominent crack in the head wall, a few metres right of Brioche.

4. Upper Crust VS 4c 10m

With the help of the right facing flake, make progress up the wall just right of the flake and then climb the fine impending headwall by some pleasing moves.

5. The Three Hares S 4a 10m

Across the wide gully, about 6m right of Upper Crust, seek out the steep short wall and continue up the blocky arete above.

6. Perched Block Arête V Diff 4a 6m

Climb the upper arête on its left side. One good move!

Another 50 m rightwards, past a buttress with a steep orange wall is:

7. Nab Arête Moderate 7m

Start at the lowest part of the heavily featured arête that eventually leads to the Nab. Climb the arête, with an optional excursion onto the wall on the left to finish.

8. Last Rites V Diff 7m

Above Nab Arête is an attractive piece of rock with a perched block, just below the cairn on the Nab. Climb the lower subsidiary nose and then step right to climb the wide crack, with a step left onto the nose to finish.

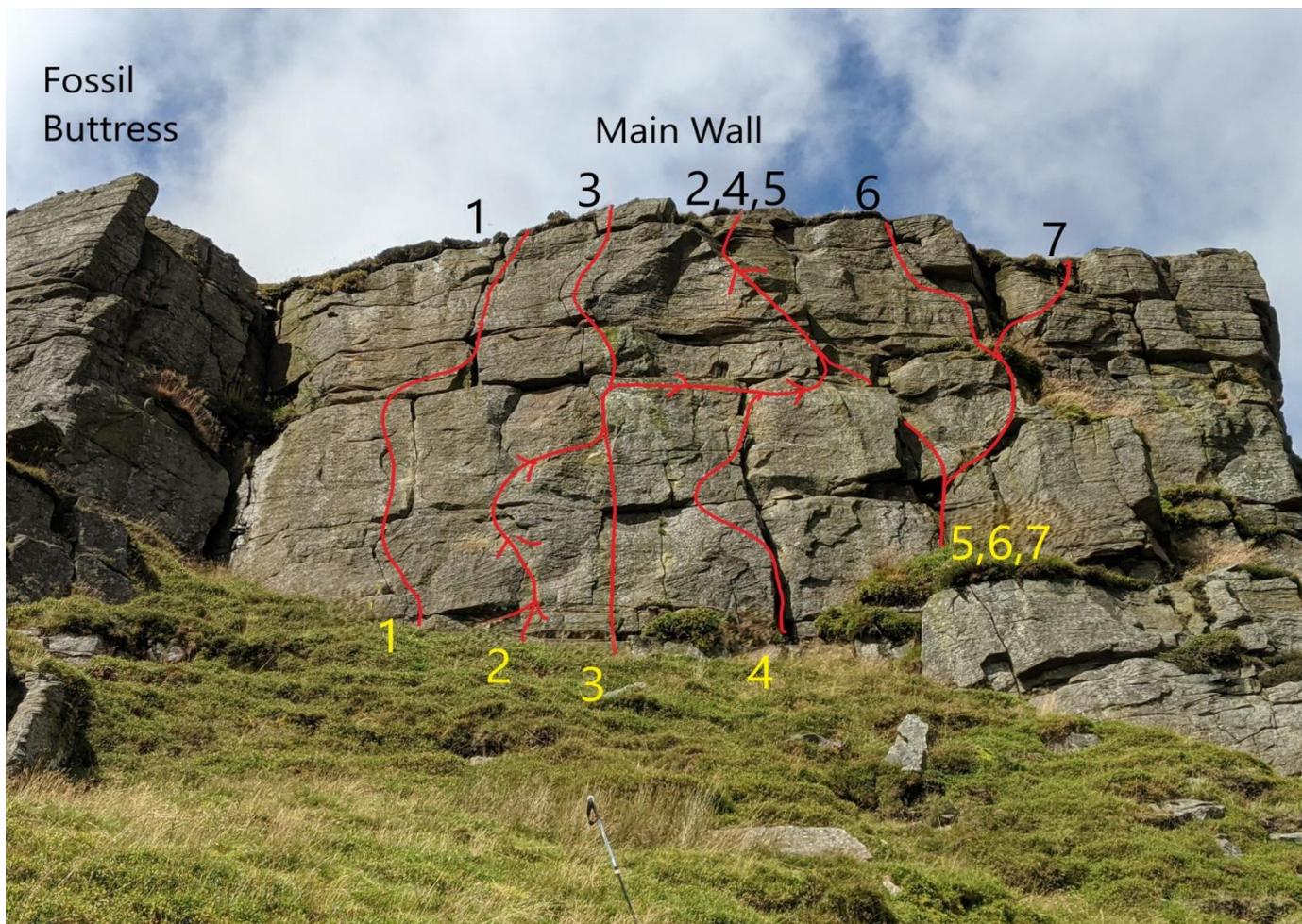
(a more attractive, direct route up the nose looks possible, but has not been climbed yet)

Wild Boar Fell - Blackbed Scar

(Climbs south of the amphitheatre)

Grading. The climbs have had very few ascents and **many have not been onsighted**, so the grades are approximate. When in doubt, the higher grade has been listed.

The buttresses are described from right to left and the climbs from left to right.



1. Hey Jude HVS 5a 13m **

The inviting crack on the left side of main wall. A hold on the wall, left of the straight vertical crack, may prove useful, before pulling back right into the niche at half height and forging on to the top.

2. Flakey HVS 5a 15m *

Climb the thin flake crack in the centre of main wall, first trending left, then back right to the large layback flake at half height. From the top of this, traverse rightwards into **Proudly Done** which is followed as it traverses right to finish up **A Reet Good Knees Up**.

3. Radical Prolapse E1 5b 13m **

Start a metre right of **Flakey** and take a straight line up the crag to reach the thin curving crack in the headwall.

4. Proudly Done E1 5b 13m **

Start at the steep crack in the pod at the right side of the wall. Step left from half way up the pod and head for a subsidiary crack, a few metres left of the main crack, before making a move up and then traversing back right into the main crack. When the main crack ends, traverse carefully right to finish up **A Reet Good Knees Up**.

5. A Reet Good Knees Up HVS 5a 15m *.

Climb up easily behind the pinnacle and then follow a left trending ramp, finishing up the wall a metre or so from the end of the ramp.

6. Finley's Reach VS 4c 14m*

From the bilberry ledge on Finley's Flake, step up to the left and then reach up to the base of the left facing corner crack, 1m from the right edge of main wall proper.

7. Finley's Flake S 4a 15m

Climb up easily behind the square pinnacle on the right of main wall. From the top of the pinnacle climb the flake crack on the right into the embrace of the

sturdy bilberry plants on the ledge above. Step right to climb a corner and top out by stepping right again into a further corner.

8. **Reveal Day VS 4c 10m**

Head up towards the evil looking, slanting off width around the right from main wall, but climb the cracks and corner a metre right of the evil off width instead. The initial overhang is turned on its right, before stepping back into the corner.

9. **Too Big For Your Boots HS 4b 12m**

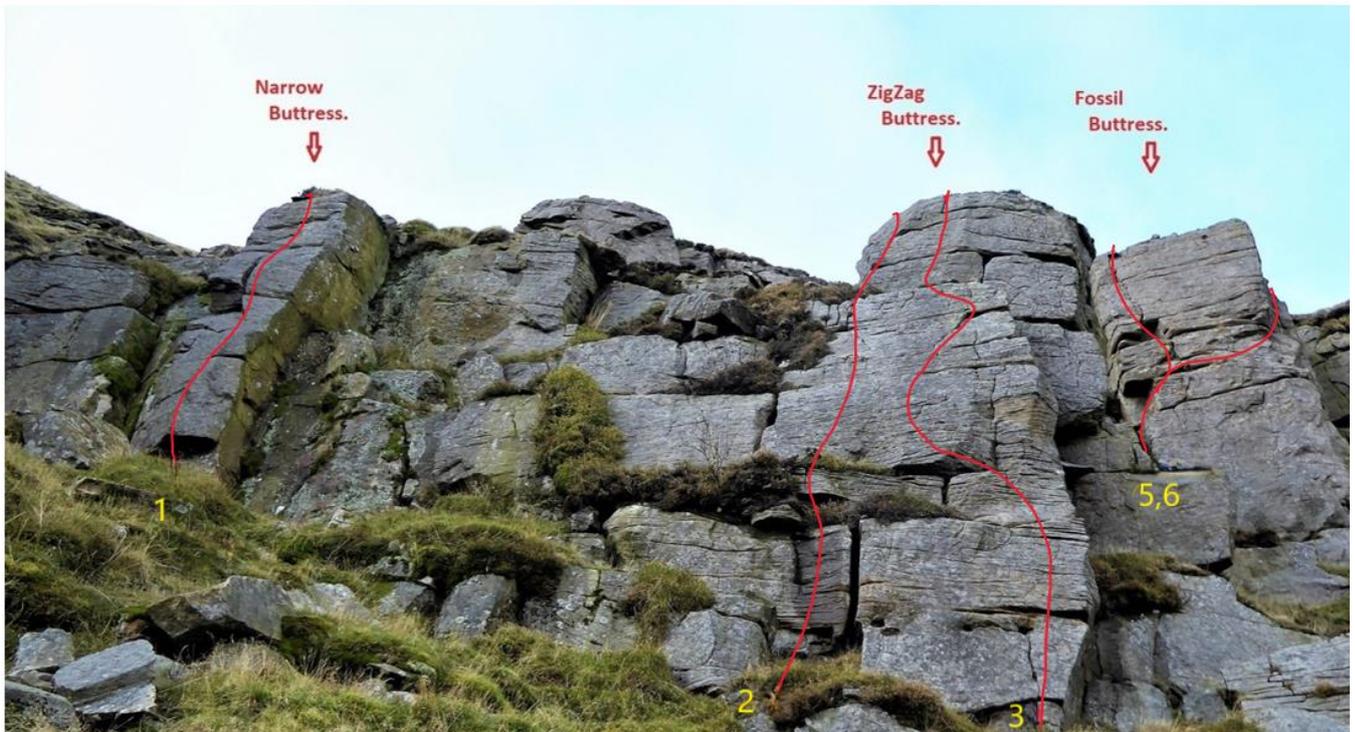
On the next buttres left of **Assault Course**. Interesting climbing up the arête between two short corners. At the top of the arête, step 2m right and ascend the wall above diagonally, using a stepped flake, to reach a hand sized vertical crack.



Rich Mckay on the first ascent of **Flakey** HVS 5a

10 . Assault Course S 4a 12m In two parts, up the first piece of climbable rock, left of the amphitheatre. Climb the right edge of the steep pocketed wall to a mossy ledge. Scramble up to the second tier and climb the corner right of the fine head wall.

Fossil, Zig Zag and Narrow Buttresses



1. Narrow Buttress E1 5b 7m *

The front face of the buttress provides good climbing on immaculate rock.

ZIG ZAG BUTTRESS.

A slabby buttress, left again and lower.

2. Straight Line MS 10m

Climb the wide cracks on the left of the buttress to a ledge at 2m, then tiptoe straight up the slab, just right of the crackline. Finish easily up the left side of the headwall.

3. Zig Zag VS 4c 12m *

Place gear and climb the right edge of the tricky pocketed wall. From the ledge step left and then up and leftwards onto the slab. Zig zag back right again, making for the small flake, which then leads to the large ledge. A heave up the headwall, taking a line a little left of centre, is all that remains.

FOSSIL BUTTRESS.

(Immediately left of main wall. Belay stake and gear well back)

4. Trilobite S 4a 7m

Climb the wall just left of the wide crack **of Ammonite** and then the wide layback crack above

5. Ammonite S 4b 10m *

Climb the square cut off width, on the left of the buttress, until it is possible to step right onto the front of the buttress. Climb the flakes and the thin crack above.

6. The Nautilus Variation HS 4b 12m *

Begin up Ammonite and then traverse rightwards across the buttress at half height, before climbing the steep groove just right of the arête.



TWIN CRACKS BUTTRESS. An impressive shield of rock next left.

1. Gemini Arete HS 4b 8m *

Climb the left edge of the buttress, in two stages.

2. Twin Cracks S 4b 12m *

Start below and 1m right of the twin cracks on the left of the buttress. Step up right and then back left into the twin cracks, which are then followed, to a large ledge. (A line that finishes slightly right of the twin cracks gives better climbing). From the large ledge step a meter or so right and climb the steep flake crack in the headwall.

3. Aphex Twin E1 5a 12m *

Step off the boulder and climb the steep slab, veering left at the top to avoid too much of a bilberry bush finish. Finish up the steep flake crack.

4. Naked Mole Rat * E1 5a 12m

Good climbing, up the arête that forms the right side of the buttress, turning the initial overhang on its left. Finish up the wrinkled arête.

5. Fetch the Crowbar VS 4c 12m

Good steep climbing up the right angled corner immediately round to the right of the front of the buttress, but it may not be worth the candle. Beware of the flake that forms the right side of the top metre of the corner. Best to step left to avoid touching it – it's huge and of doubtful stability, although it has resisted the attentions of a crowbar. Finish up the chimney in the headwall or the pleasant wrinkled arête to its right.

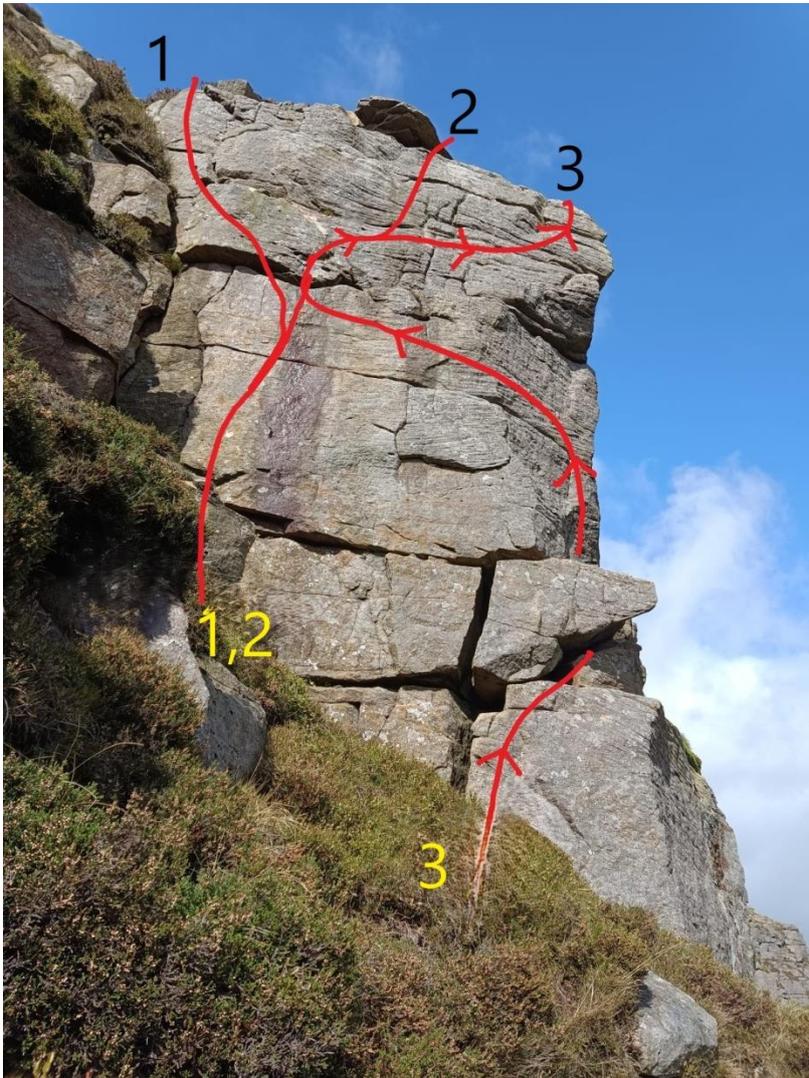
6. Building Blocks HS 4b 12m

A little grubby, but worthwhile. Round to the right, on the north east facing wall of the buttress is a grid of cubic blocks 4m above the ground. Climb the awkward fist sized crack, behind the flake, in the centre of the lower wall on the right, to reach a substantial ledge. Step left and climb the thin curving crack and flake above to reach the lower right corner of the grid of blocks. Now take a diagonal right to left line across the grid of blocks, to emerge at a large ledge. Climb the pleasing wrinkled arête above, from its left.

(Variation: Severe. Ignore the fist sized crack by stepping up on its left, then traverse right along the substantial ledge to the arête, which is climbed to a mossy ledge which can be followed back leftwards to the grid of blocks).

The left skyline is the impressive **TEMPTATION BUTTRESS**

(There is a belay stake a few metres back).



1. Chasing the Sun VS 4c 8m

A satisfying climb. Start as for Nimble, but use the blocky flake to reach a layback crack, left and above the block. There is a wobbly block in the layback crack, but it is easily avoided.

2. Nimble HVS 5a* 8m

The left side of the steep south facing wall, to a dynamic move past the right side of the flaky block at half height, to gain the ledge and then straight on up the centre of the buttress

3. Snap Dragon E1/E2 5b ** 12m

Well protected, thought provoking climbing, requiring good rope work. Surmount the projecting blocks on right arête, then move up the wall above, to reach the horizontal crack, at half height. Traverse left, to join **Nimble** at the flakey block. Make a dynamic move up and rightwards, as **Nimble** does, to reach the comfortable ledge. Now traverse excitingly rightwards, to a finish up the arête. (The creaky rectangular flake at 3m adds excitement, moderated by the good gear that can be placed elsewhere, before you lay a hand or foot on it. However, your belayer will probably thank you for positioning them out of the line of fire of the flake!). A direct line looks possible!

Nimble Dragon makes a worthwhile HVS 5a *. Start up **Nimble** and finish up **Snap Dragon**)

30m farther left is a small compact buttress.

BEYOND TEMPTATION BUTTRESS.

1. **Bull's Eye.** D 5m. The left face
2. **For Nancy.** HVD 5m The blunt arête.
3. **Taking the knee.** VD 5m The right face.

About 60m further on (southwards) and slightly higher up the hillside is:
Bilberry Buttress. Recognizable by the central, fist-sized crack, undercut on its right side.

1. **Bilberry Jam** 5m S 4b

Good climbing up the fist sized crack.

Skyline Buttress. Another 30m or so further left and as the name suggests, at a higher level. It is a gently overhanging wall, with a prominent horizontal crack at about half height, which promises good bouldering, above good landings.

50m farther left at a lower level

TABLE TOP BUTTRESS.



1. Dinner Party 7m VS 4c. Satisfying, if a little thuggish, climbing up the hand sized slanting crack, round to the left, on the south face of the upper tier of the buttress. Continue up the tower above, to a good thread belay.

The crack on the upper left of the east face is about 5b/c, but it has not been led.

High White Scar

A series of buttresses of good rock scattered along the scar, underneath the columns of standing stones. Most of the climbs have not had a second ascent, so beware of loose rock.

Approach: From the third or fourth column of stones, counting from the far end (south), descend a steep grassy slope. Towards the bottom of your descent you should see the wrinkled gritstone features of zeroth buttress on your left. Turn right to reach first buttress.

Zeroth Buttress



1. Wrinkled Arete Diff 6m

Pleasant climbing, starting under the roof and continuing up the featured arête

First Buttress

1. Morris Dancing VS 4c 10m *

Good climbing up the steep flake crack in the wall 3m left of Nine men's Morris. Worth seeking out.

2. Nine Men's Morris S 4a 12m

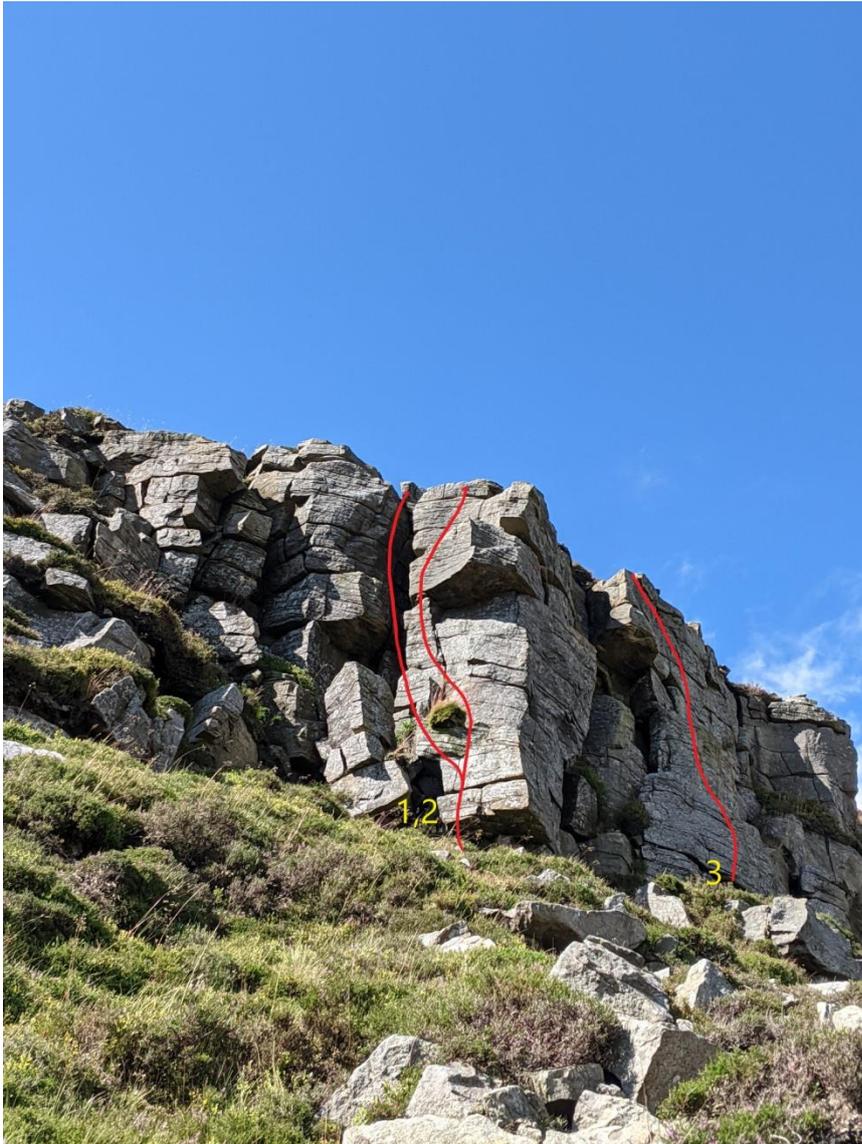
Interesting climbing up the left side of the buttress. Climb the open corner with a wide crack, to eventually stand on a pinnacle. Step back right onto the buttress proper and climb to a large ledge. Finish up the flakey crack in the right wall of the recess above.

3. Morris Minor V Diff 12m

Climb the crack 2m right of the square cut overhang to a bilberry covered ledge and then a short corner trending left to a second bilberry ledge and on up the buttress, continuing to trend left.



Second Buttress (about 50m further on and higher up the slope)



1. Second Chimney V Diff 8m

Climb the chimney, starting up **Time Flies**

2. Time Flies VS 4c 8m

Good climbing up the steep south face of the buttress, (without recourse to any of the rock across the chimney).

3. Just a Second S 4a/b 6m

Interesting and enjoyable climbing up the wall right of the main buttress. Step off the handy boulder and trend left to the top of the wall.

Third Butress



1. The Cleft V Diff 6m Pull through the small roof at the left edge of the butress, then trend right to climb the cleft.

Fourth Butress



1. Spiral Stairs V Diff 8m

Start at the left facing flake and spiral left round the butress, finishing partially in the chimney.

Bleakham Nook GR 797027

Approach: Park as for Pendragon Castle. Follow the bridleway up eastwards to the open access land; ascend with the fence on your left, then strike left towards the crag (40 mins).

The climbs are described left to right. There are two belay stakes, about a metre apart. The first two climbs are worthwhile, but are short and cover some of the same ground.

1. Navicular VS 5a * 8m

Climb the wall to the overhang which is turned on its left.

2. Hogmany Hangover HS 4b * 8m

Climb the wall and turn the overhang on its right.

3. Heather's Embrace S 4a 8m

Climb the undercut buttress, immediately right of **Hogmany Hangover**, by pulling left through the first overhang. Continue up and left trying to avoid becoming too intimate with the heather and finish up the final wall just right of the finish of **Hogmany Hangover**.

4. First Footing S 4a 10m.

Climb the leaning blocks immediately left of the clean arête at the top of the crag, and then the arête itself.

First Ascents

The climbing on Wild Boar Fell was discovered in May 2022 by Mark and Jude Gaddes, who were following a Wainwright walking route, chosen because it would take them near what appeared to be a line of broken crags. They were walking, not climbing, as Mark had wrenched his shoulder a few weeks earlier, trying too hard on a new route on the eastern side of the valley. They returned on June 15th with a rope etc and could not believe what they found.

2022 15 Jun **First Born, Triple Tier Buttress, Scridbles,** Mark Gaddes, Jude Gaddes

Snake Holes

The first ascensionist had met his first born's, first born two days earlier

2022 2 Jul **Zig Zag, Twin Cracks** Mark Gaddes, Jude Gaddes

2022 12 Jul **Ammonite** Mark Gaddes, Ian M Smith

2022 12 Jul **Lady Eleanor** Ian M Smith, M Gaddes

2022 28 Jul **Assault Course, Finley's Flake,** Mark Gaddes, Jude Gaddes

Finley's Reach

2022 13 Aug **Calmly Callum, Mabel** Mark Gaddes, John Proud

Proud's first visit and the first of many lines that he was to spot and clean over the coming years. A knee injury restricted his climbing, but did not prevent him from playing a major role in the development of the crag.

2022 1 Sep **A Reet Good Knees Up, Hey Jude** Mark Gaddes

2022	11 Sep	Perched Block Arete	Mark Gaddes, Jude Gaddes
2022	11 Sep	Proudly Done	Mark Gaddes
2022	23 Sep	Nautilus Variation, Flakey	Rich Mckay, Mark Gaddes
2022	23 Sep	Testing Positive, BC was here	Mark Gaddes, John Proud
2022	25 Sep	Right Hip	Mark Gaddes, Ian M Smith
2022	8 Oct	Straight Line	Mark Gaddes, John Proud
2022	18 Oct	Taking the Knee, For Nancy, Bullseye	Mark Gaddes, Jude Gaddes, John Proud
2022	13 Nov	Chasing the Sun, Nimble	Mark Gaddes

Finally, some routes on temptation buttress; it was a photo of this buttress that had been used to tempt Proud to drive up from Longridge to visit Wild Boar.

2023	13 May	Brioche, Crusty, Upper Crust, The Three Hares,	Mark Gaddes
2023	21 May	Nab Arete, Born Again, Last Rites, Wonderloaf	Mark Gaddes, John Proud Mark Gaddes
2023	29 May	Fetch the Crowbar	Mark Gaddes, Rich McKay
		<i>Twin cracks Arete was also top roped, but not led</i>	
2023	7 Jul	Bilberry Jam, Dinner Party	Mark Gaddes
2023	16 Aug	Building Blocks, Narrow Buttress	Mark Gaddes
		<i>Narrow Buttress finally climbed, 9 months after it had first been top roped</i>	
2023	23 Sep	Snap Dragon	Mark Gaddes
2024	19 May	Too Big For Your Boots, John's Problem Contiguous Callum	Mark Gaddes, John Proud
2024	28 July	Radical Prolapse, Naked Mole Rat Aphex Twin	Katie McKay, Joe Dobson, Rich McKay Joe Dobson (solo) Katie McKay (Solo)

Trilobite

Mark Gaddes, Rich McKay

A conversation in a dentist's chair about climbing bears fruit; Katie and Joe make it to Crag X.

2024 9 Aug **Gemini Arete** Mark Gaddes, Martin Hancock

2024 18 Aug **Nine Men's Morris, Morris Minor** Mark Gaddes

Morris Dancing

Going public with Crag X delayed because good rock discovered on High White Scar

2024 24 Aug **Just a Second, Time Flies, Second Chimney** Mark Gaddes

2024 29 Aug **Wrinkled Arete, The Cleft, Spiral Stairs** Mark Gaddes

2024 19 Sep **I Don't mean to bore you** Stephen Reid, Mark Gaddes

Reveal Day

Mark Gaddes, Stephen Reid

Bleakham Nook

2019 1 Jan **Hogmany Hangover, First Footing** Mark Gaddes, Jude Gaddes

2022 30 April **Navicular, Heather's Embrace** Mark Gaddes

A navicular bone, shattered in a paragliding accident, caused the hiatus!