

Dave Heselden on Edge Lane, E5 5c (page 109). Photo: Pete O'Donovan.

The Millstone Area

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'This is the first Gritstone guide to a piton climbing ground. It thus marks a new stage in Peakland climbing. Previously artificial aids have been frowned upon when used on the older traditional Gritstone Edges, but Millstone has no tradition, its magnificent walls are not for the free climbing purist.'

Eric Byne, luckily getting it quite wrong,
Further Developments in the Peak District, 1957



Millstone Edge

OS Ref. SK 248801 to SK 248807

altitude 340m

by Niall Grimes

Millstone Edge, with its endless towering angularity, is rightfully one of the most popular crags in the Peak.

The Climbing

Routes: Brilliant, with over 200 climbs. Millstone routes feel tall and exposed for their grades. The rock is usually almost vertical, and sometimes overhanging, and its smooth walls are split by numerous natural finger, hand and fist cracks. As well as this are the characteristic pegged-out cracks which give thrilling, positive finger-lock climbing. The other characteristic features of Millstone are the right-angled corners and arêtes that zigzag along the entire length of the crag, giving either strenuous bridging routes or perfect, bold arêtes. Slab climbers will

have slim pickings. The climbing tends to be more positive than on more weathered gritstone crags, a fact that makes the crag popular for visiting climbers unused to the more normal roundness of natural grit. Also, the positive crack-lines tend to be easy to protect, something else that obviously appeals to gritstone visitors. **Bouldering:** Not masses, although there are a few of the Peak's classic testpieces here.

Conditions and Aspect

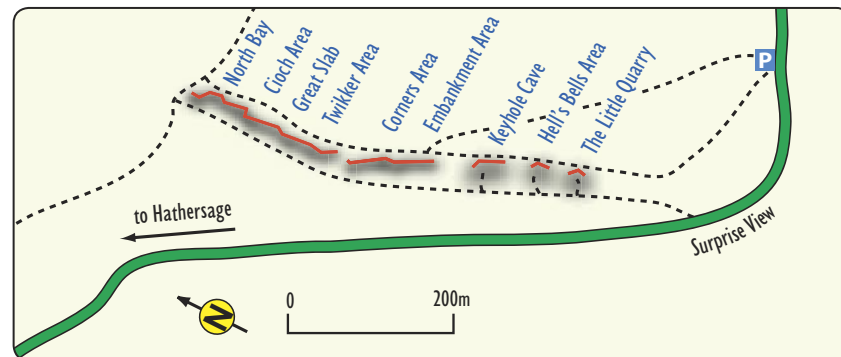
Millstone sits proudly on the hill overlooking Hathersage. It faces west, and the majority of its walls get lots of sun from the early afternoon. These faces are clean and sound and dry quickly. However, due to the zigzag nature, many walls face north and get little sun, providing welcome shade in the heat (especially around North Bay), although they stay quite green in winter.

The crag

is climbable all year round, although on cold grey days, it can feel a bit bleak. On wet days, the Keyhole Cave area stays remarkably dry. It is a beautiful place to spend a summer evening.

Parking and Approach

Park in the large pay & display car park above the crag on the A623. Take one of the paths across the moor to the crag. The areas are reached in 10 minutes. An alternative approach, especially if visiting the north end, is to park in limited parking on the road that leads down from Higgar Tor. Follow a scenic path through the birch trees to the crag.



North Bay Area

This area represents the northernmost extremity of the crag. Its tall towering walls are steep, and a good number of high-quality lines force their way here. The routes have a big feel about them, and will seem challenging for their grade. The area gets less sun than other areas, with the Brimstone wall only receiving sun late in summer evenings. This makes it cold in winter, but a good option for a warm summer. **Descent:** A path comes down under the Brimstone wall, or between North Bay and the Cioch areas.

- 1 **Brindle** VS 4c 1957-65
8m The wide crack is best appreciated from the ground.
- 2 **Scrimsel** VS 4c 1957-65
12m Climb this baby, which will push the major muscle groups to the limit, until a constriction

Public transport: The First 272 bus from Sheffield to Castleton stops by the pay & display car park. For train travellers, take the Sheffield to Manchester train, alight in Hathersage, and walk up the hill in the direction of Sheffield to the crag in 25 minutes.

Access

Voluntary restrictions to access are agreed annually if ravens or peregrines nest here. Please look out for signs during the nesting season. Any restrictions are regularly reviewed and lifted once the birds have fledged, at which time the signs will be removed.

again allows good jams. Finish on more conventional holds.

- 3 **Brimstone** E1 5b ★★ 1957-65/73
13m An absolute corker up the fine overhanging crack-line, which will have you as pumped as you're ever likely to get on an E1.
- 4 **Satan's Slit** E1 5b 1964
13m The wide kinky crack has an especially pressing move low down. ● Leaving no hold unheld, **Anything is Possible in Cartoons**, E4 6b (1988), traverses right from the kink on Satan's Slit, past a peg, crux, then into and up Gates of Mordor.
- 5 **Gates of Mordor** E3 5c ★★★ 1969
15m A genuine thunderpump. Climb the groove to its end at half-height. Above this, attack the very steep thin hand crack, where you will most likely be glad of the perfect protection.





- 6 Hacklespur** HVS 5b 1957-65
15m The wide chimney/groove. ● **Pin Prick**, E2 5c (1957-65), is a poor route up the crack system to the left.
- 7 Cauldron Crack** E3 5c ★ 1957-65/76
15m Good chunky climbing. The right side of the arête is followed, hollow but mellow, to a jug beneath the overhang. Swing left to gain and follow the nut-friendly crack to the top.
- 8 Freight Train** E4 6a ★ 1988
15m Very Gogarth. From the overhang on Cauldron Crack, lurch right past an 'iffy' peg (good wires to the left), to gain the overly-exposed arête. Claw round right to gain a good peg, and a sense of relief. Easier above.
- 9 Estremo** HVS 5a ★★★ 1957-65
16m An obvious wide fissure snakes up the left wall of the corner. Climb this with all hands on deck as far as a niche. From here climb the quick corner above in a position of refreshing exposure.
- 10 Gimbals** HVS 5a ★ 1957-65/76
18m Ascend the technical crack in the corner as far as a niche. Step right and tackle the bulging wall aiming for the skylight.
- 11 London Pride** E5 6b, 5c ★★★ 1957-65/76
 An adventurous journey, with a fairly out-there feel.
1.15m Climb the peg-scarred crack until a traverse is made under the roof of the arête. Belay there on old bolts and other protection. (A hanging rope may also provide some comfort.)
2.10m Traverse steeply right for 4m on biggish holds to a crack. Pull up into this, cross the overhang and finish easily.
- 12 Which way up Mr. Rothko** E5 6b ★ 1988
16m Tough climbing with adequate protection. From the belay of London Pride, pull up and left into a shallow hanging groove. This is climbed desperately, past 3 peg runners.
- 13 Mother's Pride** E6 6b ★★★ 2001
24m A superb hybrid route doing the first pitch of



- 14 Perplexity** E6 6b ★★★ 1957-65/84
24m A superb climb, taking a stately line up the domineering arête. Boulder up the arête to the first bulge, and a nut. Crux moves up and left lead to improving holds immediately over the second bulge and so to the overhang. Good protection can be had there from old bolts, nuts and cams. Climb the groove and wall above.
- 15 Plexity** HVS 5a ★★★ 1957
22m A big route for the HVS leader, with thrilling, tough and exposed climbing all the way. Climb the steep crack up the centre of the wall as far as a recess. From here, an unhelpfully sized crack is gained by stepping right then back left above the overhang, and followed rapidly to the top of the mountain. The excursion can be avoided by gaining the finish-crack directly above the niche at a stiff 5b.
- 16 Remembrance Day** VS 4b ★ 1959-61
20m Jam joyously up the wide crack in the main corner of the bay, passing a ledge.
- 17 Day Dream** VS 4c ★ 1957-65
20m A technically interesting route based on the clean arête just right of Remembrance Day. Climb this with good protection to a grass ledge. Follow a shallow corner to the summit.
- 18 Rainy Day** VS 4b 1957-65
20m The corner-crack to the left of the dark recess has not one, but two grass mantelshelves.
- 19 Southern Comfort** E3 5c ★ 1957-65/76
22m Very Cumbrian. From the right end of the ledge, take a direct line up the dark groove above; good steep moves. Beware loose rock near the top. ● A right-trending hand-traverse from the ledge has been climbed, **Owzaboutthaththen**, E4 6b (1988), following a line of pockets into Saville Street.

20 Commix E2 5c ★★★ 1957-65/76
20m Very fine and well-protected climbing with a trying crux. From 3m up Southern Comfort, move right to a crack. Follow this steeply until a mantelshelf-type manoeuvre leads to better holds then a ledge and an easier, though hollow, finish. Much better than it looks.

21 Toploader E7 6c ★★★ 2001
28m Top-notch cranking up the smooth wall. Climb the thin peg-scarred crack. Carry on past several pegs up and slightly right to a semi-rest and a junction with Saville Street. Move back left from here and climb past bolts to the top. ● This supersedes the route **Scumline**, E5 6b ★ (1969/84), which, after the start, trended left to the previous climb.

22 Bohemian Grove VII (7a)
 Slippery wall climbing just right of, and avoiding, the arête.

23 Drifter E7 6c ★★ 2000
9m Hard climbing above dubious gear, packing a fair punch for its short length. The grooved arête is followed with difficulty to sandy pockets and protection. Continue up the left side of the arête to a hideously sloping finish.

24 Saville Street E3 6a ★★★ 1957-65/75
28m A tough Millstone classic with continually forceful climbing and adequate protection centred on the thin crack. A short awkward crack gains a ledge. From here, follow the fine crack to the overhang. A very determined attitude is now needed to gain a standing position on the ledge above and an easier finish. Hard for E3, and 6a.

25 Soho Sally E1 5b ★ 1975
28m Climb a flake crack to a grassy ledge. Make a committing series of moves left and up into a very shallow groove and a runner. More trying moves lead left to the airy arête, and so to easier ground. Protection for the groove is not fantastic, and the prudent leader will carry RPs.

Several lines have been claimed on the broken rock to the right (**Chaos** and **Derision**, 1957-65 and **Spider Crack** and **The Web**, 1951-57), although Mother Nature is making a much stronger claim. R.I.P.

Little Lower Wall: The next routes lie on the series of low walls running left from the level below Plexity. At the far left of these is a flat wall. Round left from here, facing Stanage, is a flat slab whose left arête is currently the last great problem on the edge. Get to it. ● Going back to the last flat wall, the short left arête is VS 5a, ● and the twin cracks just right are VS 5b. Another 20m right is a taller flat wall;

26 Salinela Sunset E4 6a 1987
10m A bold solo up the clean left arête of the wall. ● The wall just right is climbed by **Fat and Jealous**, E5 6c † (1989), although the peg used on the first ascent is now missing.

The shorter walls to the right and left give some scrambling.

The Cioch Area

This is one of the more friendly areas of the crag, named after the prominent cracked 'spike' in the middle of the wall. It is very open, and less steep than you tend to get elsewhere at Millstone. Some of the rock on the unpopular routes is a bit delicate, although the better routes are all well-travelled.
Descent: A path skirts this section on its left.

'As far as is known,

the first climber to practice his art on this impressive and commanding escarpment was the late George Bower during the early 1920s. He confessed to ascending an odd route at the Surprise end of the edge, and then after inspecting the tremendous blank walls that reared above him, "raised his hat and retreated to Stanage in good order".'

Eric Byne,
1965 Sheffield-Froggatt Guide



Mike Lea making the first ascent of his dark neo-classic, Toploader, E7 6c (opposite page), one of the safer routes of this grade on grit. Photo: David Simmonite.



The rock to the left is somewhat overgrown, and contained ● **Slack Alice**, E1 5c (1982), the thin crack through a bulge and ● **Bamboozle**, VS 4c (1957-65), taking the groove and overhang then moving diagonally right to a rib, and to the right. ● **Dolorous Gard**, E2 5b (1982), is the undercut arête on its left. ● **Fluted Corner**, HS 4b (1957-65), is the grassy corner.

27 February Fox E2 5b ★ traditional
12m Make a series of long reaches up flat holds 2m left of the arête. Highly enjoyable.

28 March Hare E3 5c ★ ★ 1957-65/75
14m The left arête of the flat wall; the climbing is far from easy, with the crux at half-height.

29 April Arête HVS 4c ★ 1957-65
16m A Master's Edge for the enthusiast. From the ledge, climb the main arête. A fine sense of exposure is felt, especially during the crux mantelshelf. The crack to the right is VS. ● The old aided start up the flake below has been freed at a dirty 6b (1970s).

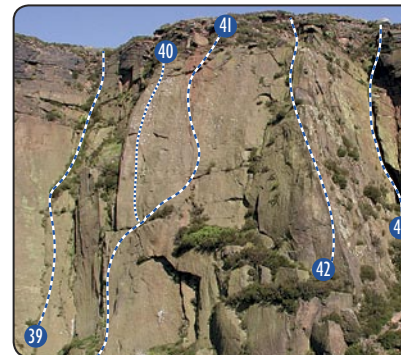
30 Dextrous Hare E3 5c ★ ★ 1957-65/76
16m A fine route which climbs the sneaky little pegged wall left of Dexterity. It is not uncommon for one's heart to murmur on the moves left to the hanging corner. RPs useful.

31 Dexterity E1 5b ★ ★ 1957
20m The splitter crack will test leaders' biceps to the limit. Superb, straight-in jamming leads exhaustingly to a slap-in-the-face crux at the top. Those of lesser moral fibre have been known to scurry out left below this, but you wouldn't do that, would you?

32 Cioch Corner S 1956
22m Climb the corner left of the Cioch to the ledge, then climb any of the easier finishes to the top.

33 Mayday HVS 5a ★ 1957-65
22m A technical exercise up the arête of the Cioch. Not a brilliant line, but fine moves nonetheless.

34 Supra Direct HVS 5b ★ 1957-65/75
20m Climb the peg-scarred crack on the front of



the Cioch, with a couple of thin pulls, as far as the ledge. Finish more easily above.

35 The Hacker VS 4c ★ 1983
20m Follow the little pegged crack just right of Supra Direct as it curves right to a ledge. Move up a corner and then follow the steep, cracked arête as much on its right-hand side as your mood allows.

36 Close Shave HVD 4a ★ 1956
30m A good route following the sweeping groove formed at the right side of the Cioch. From the ledge, finish up the back corner.

37 Boomerang S 1957-65
24m The easiest route up the steep wall is unfortunately loose and dirty. It climbs leftwards until half-height, then slightly rightwards to a ledge. Traverse right and finish up the corner. ● Alternatively, for **Cioch Diagonal**, HVD (1956), continue left to the big ledge then climb the wall left of the corner.

38 Brumal VS 4c 1956-65
22m Climb the steep crack above the rightwards slanting section of Boomerang.

39 Eskimo Blue Day VS 4c 1971
17m One of the best mixed routes on Millstone, featuring superb dirty crack climbing in its first half and peerless turf action on its second. Climb the corner direct. ● **Strait Jacket**, E5 6b † (1989), climbs the steep slab just left to a nut placement. From this, move left and finish direct. ● **Cornerstone Climb**, HS 4a (1971), is the crack right of

'Here the **piton** and **etrier** can be used without shame; no raised eyebrows or supercilious glances will be cast at the ringing sound of hammer on peg, for here, on these great smooth exposed walls, no one could sense a defilement which could be felt on such natural edges as Stange and Gardoms.'

Peter Biven, **Further Developments in the Peak District**, 1957

Eskimo Blue Day. ● **Shamrot**, S (1957-65), is the dirty crack just right again.

40 Only Just E1 5a ★ 1959
15m Gain the ledge and climb the clean open groove to the left of the wall. The climbing is easy, but protection limited. (Side-runners sometimes used in Eartha.)

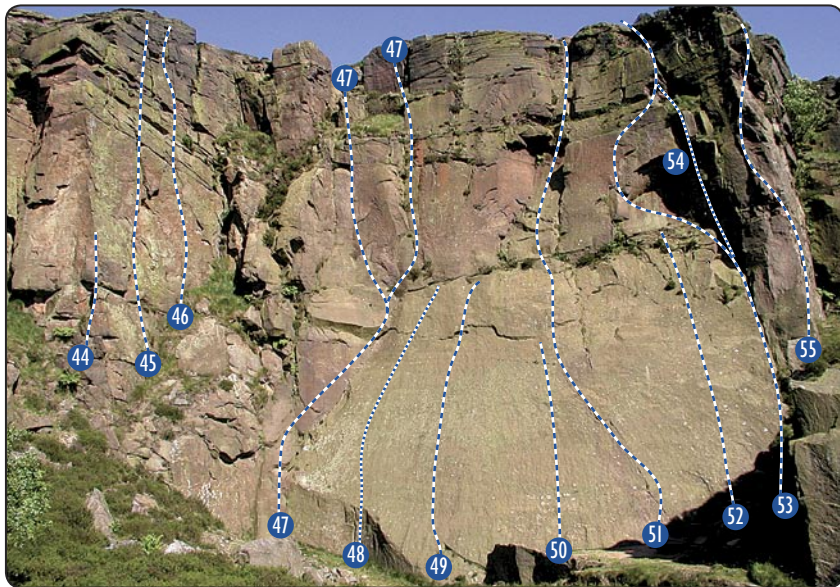
41 Eartha HS 4b ★ ★ 1957
16m Fine climbing up the attractive flake system in the centre of the slab. It is gained by climbing delicately up near the left side of the lower wall. Among the best HSs on the edge.

● **Slime Crime**, E4 6a (1983), is the slippery slab on the right of the upper crack. ● **Bowling Green**, VD (1959), is a wide, shallow groove right again.

42 F. A. T. D. HS 4a ★ 1969
13m A good, bold route taking the main arête.

Round to the right is a crumbling wall, with a corner 10m right of the arête.

43 Dune Flake VS 4a 1957-65
12m Left of the corner, layback the dramatic ear of rock. Care needed near the top. ● The dangerously loose crack to the right is **Dune Crack**, VS 4a (1957-65). ● The thin crack system 2m left is **Sudden Impact**, E1 5b (1984). (And there's a clue in the name.) ● **Flakey Pastry** and ● **Rough Puff** (1957-65), both cover the unattractive ground to the left, at HS.



44 The Pittsburgh Enigma E4 5c 1985
15m A good line based on the arête, though the rock is a little brittle. Climb to a peg, then gain a second one on the left, and finish direct.

To the right is a forked crack with a projecting block at 12m.

45 Wuthering Crack HVS 5a 1957-65
18m Delve into the obvious wide crack on the left, and muscle up to a steepening. Jam up the left side of the projecting block, beefy, to a respite on the ledge. Finish more easily.

46 Evening Premiere VS 4c ★ 1976
19m Good steep crack climbing. Climb the thin crack on steep jams and finger locks. After getting stood on the horizontal breaks, avoid the loose finish up the blocky crack by heading for the final crack on the last climb. Another direct finish has been claimed as **Evening Premier Direct Finish**, E1 5b (2002), climbing directly up the wall above the initial crack. ● The corner to the right is **Creaking Corner**, HS 4b, ● and right again is **Crumbling Corner**, HS 4a (both 1957-65).

The Great Slab

This is the big sheet of quarried grit, containing the only real slab climbs at Millstone. Fans of rockovers will enjoy routes of all grades from HS to E6. Some of the climbs are virtually solos, and many climbers have taken the slide down the entire height of the slab. In this event, you may wish to have a fire-extinguisher handy, as the friction generated could easily send your feet up in flames. The rock above and around the slab is of a more suspect nature, and requires some care. **Descent:** Take the path left of the Cioch area.

47 Svelt HVS 5a ★ 1962
20m The smooth corner has a couple of slippery bulges. From the top of the slab trend left and up a steep juggy corner. The original line took the open corner to the right, but this is usually dirty.

● **Crumbling Cracks**, HS (1957-65), is the shallow groove left of the last route. ● A girdle, **Gibbering Heap of Puss**, E3 5c (1984), follows Svelte to the roof, then traverses right past the large hold on The Snivelling Shit to finish across Sex Dwarves and down Cake Walk.

48 The Psycho Path E6 6b ★ 2000
10m Non-existent and widely spaced holds lead up the flawless slab, to a high crux. Unprotected. ● This route bears strong resemblance to **Velvet**, which climbed the slab 2m right of Svelt, but escaped into the corner at a lower level, at E2 5c (1984). E2 leaders would do well to note this small but significant difference.

49 The Snivelling Shit E5 6a ★★ 1977
10m This unique test of nerve and footwork climbs the bald slab on the smallest of holds, aiming for a deep slot and an easier finish. Strangely classic.

50 Greasy Chips VS 4b ★ traditional
10m An alternative start to the next route can be made up a line of chips. Unprotected. ● The slab to the left is **Election Special**, E4 6b (1987), using side-runners.

51 The Great Slab HS 4b ★★ 1952/57
28m A good big route, with an adventurous feel. Climb the thin left-trending crack with slippery difficulty to the top of the slab. From here, climb straight up via a wide crack and a careful top-out, as the rock is a little hollow at the top.

52 Sex Dwarves E3 6b 1982
10m Painfully thin climbing up the slab on razor blades and polished smears leads to the break. Escape here. ● A thinner line just left is **Dino**, E4 6b (1984). If you liked Sex Dwarves, you'll love this. Begin as for that route but move left to climb a line parallel with Great Slab.

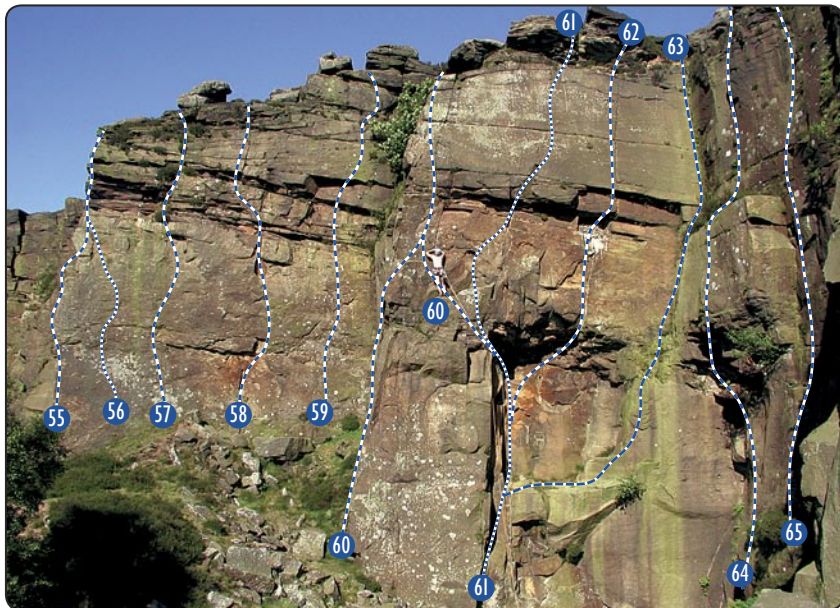
53 Lorica VS 4c ★ 1957-65
20m Climb a crack to the top of the slab. Above and left is a right-curving flake. Follow this, then the hand crack above. ● An alternative, **Cake Walk**, HS (1957-65), continues left to the top of Great Slab.

54 Bun Run HVS 5a 1969
20m Follow Lorica to the top of the slab. Gain a hanging corner to the right and follow this steeply to a final wide crack.

55 Windrête E2 5b ★★ 1969
14m The left arête of this wall, climbed face on, is a pretty full-on affair. Some gear can be had at a



Andi Turner on Great West Road, E2 5b, 5b (page 109). Photo: David Simmonite.



third height, and while this will cover the crux, it still feels a long and lonely way to the top. On a more positive note, it is neither strenuous nor pumpy, which allows you plenty of time to worry about each move. A very fine climb.

Twikker Area

In the next couple of bays, the cliff steepens up again, and gives lots of good, forceful climbs. The rock is not always perfect, but the quality of the lines easily makes up for this. **Descent:** Scramble down between Billingsgate and The Corners Area.

56 Breeze Mugger E5 6b 1990
 15m Boulder up to a deep slot and good wire. Above, bold fingery climbing leads upwards before easier moves lead left to a finish up Windrête.

57 Meeze Brugger E5 6b ★ 1984
 15m Crimpy fear up the steep crispy wall. Pass a break, then boulder up to an isolated jug, and worrying wire. More trying moves gain easy, but loose ground.

58 Eros HVS 5a ★ ★ 1957-69
 15m Pummel up the rough and ramshackle flake in the centre of the wall with great joy and care. Fine chunky climbing in a great position.

59 Frank Sinatra Bows Out E5 6b 1987
 15m Tough, worrying wall climbing. Climb the wall to a massive peg and cam. Hard climbing above this leads to a scrabbly ledge where you can either traverse off or continue up the slightly loose wall above. ● To the right, **Acheron**, VS 4c (1963), is the main corner. ● **Mean to Me**, HVS 5b (1980), takes the shallow groove and the left side of the arête.

60 Lyon's Corner House HVS 5a ★ ★ ★ 1956/57-65
 30m A fantastic rock climb up the fine arête. Climb the arête direct, starting just to the left, with technical finger locking as far as the half-height ledge, then fine, open, balancy climbing above using the arête and shelving wall. ● The original route started as for Erb before traversing left to the arête. This way is less direct, but has more climbing and an equally fine sense of exposure.



61 Erb E2 5c ★ ★ 1957-75
 28m Another good route, serving up a delightful smorgasbord of strenuous thuggery and delicate technicality, sometimes both on the same plate. From the floor of the cave, climb the left-hand corner and exit onto a stance on the left. From here, a line leads up and right to a hungry gash in the lip of the roof. Beef through this to a rest, then still surprisingly difficult going to the top.

62 Twikker E3 5c ★ ★ ★ 1956/75
 28m This awesomely steep route gives one of the best E3 challenges on the edge. It takes the big roof crack, both exhausting and exciting, and then continues to a niche below an overlap. A disappointingly difficult manoeuvre over this on pin scars leads more easily to the top. A large bird often builds a large nest in the cave on this climb. This can be unsightly, but, amazingly, doesn't really get in the way. Two starts have been climbed up the lower flake (5c) and wall (6b).

63 Lubric HVS 5b 1957-65
 30m From the recess, climb the major, stepped right-hand corner.

64 Pinstone Street E2 5c ★ 1956/69-78
 28m Climb a peg-scarred corner then the overhang, to a ledge. Follow the easier crack system all the way to the top.

65 Diamond Groove HVS 5a 1957-65
 30m Open moves lead up into the groove, whence a struggle leads one onto another ledge. Finish up the easier cracked wall above. The ramshackle wall to the right contains three poor efforts. ● **Shady Wall**, VS 4c (1957-65), climbs to a grassy ledge, continues past a niche then follows a groove on the left. ● Going right and climbing the cracked tower is **Helliconia Spring**, HVS 5a (1983). ● The gash to the right is **Black Crack**, S (1963).

66 Flapjack VS 4b ★ 1956
 24m Climb the stepped feature, until a mantelshelf gains the ledge. From here, a series of bold stretches leads up the shallowest of grooves as far as another ledge, whereupon a quick move leads to the top. ● The left edge of the slab above the ledge is **Optimus**, E1 5a (1978), a fine, bold climb that unfortunately is often green. ● **Neatfeat**, VS 5b (1977), is a fine little problem taking the lower arête on its right.

67 S.S.S. VS 4b 1957-65
18m The stepped corner has good bridging moves.

68 Winter's Grip E6 6b ★ 1983
17m Fine, scary climbing up the arête. A couple of hopeful blade pegs can be hand-placed *en route*.

69 Keelhaul VS 4c 1957-65
15m Gain the flake from below and climb it. Finish on the right, as the direct is a little loose. ● **Crusty Corner**, S (1957-65), is the crack in the corner to the right. Unfortunately the crust has gone stale.

70 Quiddity HVS 5a ★ 1957-65
16m The steep rib right of the corner is a good technical challenge with just about adequate protection. ● The groove on the right leading to this route is **Findus**, HVS 5b (1983).

71 Billingsgate E1 5b ★★ 1951-57/69
18m The big open groove has solid rock and gives highly absorbing technical climbing. It can be adequately protected by small wires. ● A poor eliminate, **Sea Creature**, E4 6a (1984), climbed the thin crack to the right then moved left into the corner.

72 Piledriver E3 5c † 1976
16m The big arête, climbed on its right, has been damaged by rockfall, and has probably not been ascended since. It has reputedly been climbed on its left at 6b/c. The unstable rock to its right has been climbed on, named and graded, but these passages can hardly be seen as routes. ● The loose chimney of **Mopsy**, ungradeable (1957-65), bounds this section on its right.)

The Corners Area

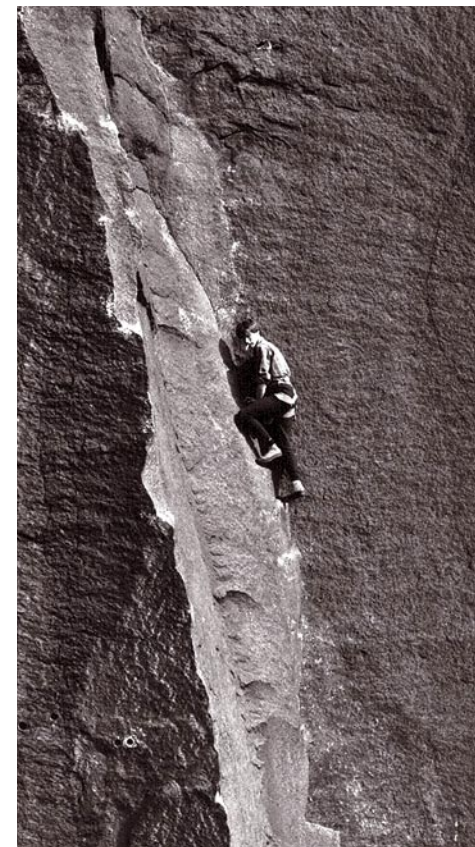
Classic Millstone terrain now, with a long stretch of flawless corners and arêtes. The rock quality here is generally perfect, and some of the finest challenges in the Peak, from VS to E7, lie within the next hundred metres. The routes are steep and often very bold, and follow the most brutal of lines. **Descent:** A path comes down the spur left of Stone Dri.

The routes begin with a square-cut bay on the left, characterised by a deep crack in its right corner. The next climb follows the left corner of the bay.

73 Stone Dri E2 6a ★ 1976/78
15m The tight left-hand corner has most of its difficulties packed into a short section passing some satisfactory nuts above the ledge. ● The shot-holes and flake to the left is **Nib-Nob**, HVS 5b (1982).

74 Crew Cut HVS 4c ★★ 1963
20m The salivating fissure. Medieval thrutching, or bold laybacking, leads past a chockstone to a lifesaver ledge. With loins suitably girded, attack the upper crack, passing another chockstone *en route*. The whole voyage feels particularly brave without the aid of an oversized cam or two. From the ledge, escape left, or, better, do one of the following:

Below: Just in case you thought it wasn't dangerous enough already – try doing it in a VWhillans harness and smoking a fag! Loz Francome on Green Death, E5 6b (page 109). Photo: Brian Cropper.



The Corners – A History

The 1965 *Sheffield-Froggatt* guidebook makes a quick mention of what has now become the Corners Area: “The blank walls to the left of Knightsbridge have seen borings and bolting – a practice many ardent fans of artificial climbing decry when no line exists up the crag” – evidence that, at the time, the thought of free climbing these corners and arêtes was beyond imagination.

This soon changed. In 1969, when Tom Proctor, partnered by Keith Myhill, forced the stunning Green Death up the blank central corner, to give a route very much at the cutting edge for its time. On the first ascent, Proctor, one of the most powerful climbers of the era, nicknamed The Hydraulic Man, placed a peg. This came out with a gentle nudge, and for a second ascent, which was televised and rocketed The Hydraulic Man to instant fame, he drilled out a hole and cemented in a good peg. A despicable act and one for which many later climbers have been grateful for. Proctor returned once again to make the first winter ascent in heavily iced conditions. Myhill, also returned some time later “on a glorious shimmering summer’s day” for a lead, although, as he had spent an enjoyable morning in the boozier, unfortunately fell off from below the peg resulting in three months in traction.

Proctor, with Geoff Birtles, next turned his attention to the sharp arête to the left of the corner, and top roped this with intentions on a solo. Before he could, however, and in one of the most impressive climbing achievements of the decade, Alan ‘Richard’ McHardy, steamed in and made an on sight ascent of the climb. Steve Bancroft, one of a group of seconds on the climb, recalls it as “definitely the boldest ascent I have ever seen, by a long way. On the crux [final] moves, McHardy was only hanging on by his knees and his entire body was going into convulsions.” McHardy had placed a peg in the half-height shot hole, but this offered very much ‘token’ protection. The problem of protection was later overcome by one notable local climber. After a claim of an early repeat, a photograph emerged showing the hero on lead, with an abseil rope hanging down with a series of loops in it, into which the leader had clipped his rope. Now why didn’t McHardy think of that?

Next up were Proctor and Birtles again, who had their eyes set on the upper arête on the right of the bay. For some reason, this was gained when Birtles led Green Death to the peg, then pendulumed from there to gain the upper, easy

section of the sharp arête on the right. This led to the ledge, where Proctor took over to produce Great Arête, a climb so frightening that the Hydraulic Man “put his hard hat on for the first time in years”. ‘Nuff said!

This left the square-cut arête beneath Great Arête, and this began to see action in the competitive era of the early 1980s. At this time, Jerry Moffatt, the new pretender, was battling it out with the established hero, Ron Fawcett, for dominance on British Rock. As one of the finest unclimbed lines around, the Millstone Arête was an obvious target for the two climbers. Moffatt, after much effort, finally succeeded in top roping the line without tension. Having spent some time previously in the US along with top American climber, John Bachar, Moffatt had adopted Bachar’s philosophy that if you top roped a climb, to go back and lead it was unfair, the only decent thing being to solo it. A combination of this risky philosophy and Jerry’s belief that he was the only person capable of climbing the line, left an open goal.

Ron Fawcett had spent the autumn of 1983 nursing a broken wrist, and later in the year, recovery left him keener than ever. Sensing his years at the top were nearing an end, he wanted to make a mark. “It was something I was desperate to do. I had looked at it before Jerry, but [the challenge] spurred me on.” Fawcett abseiled the line and practised the moves and, on December 29th, when any sensible person was in front of the telly burping up turkey sandwiches, led the route. After his successful top roping of the route, Moffatt had publicly declared that ‘only a true Master could solo this route on sight’. Fawcett had no choice over a route name – Master’s Edge was born.

Since that date, Master’s Edge has become the consummate hard route on grit, with all the grandeur, history, difficulty and boldness that such a title demands. Repeats only followed from the most talented of climbers such as Mark Leach and Shaun Hutson, who climbed the route after abseil inspection. Martin Atkinson climbed the route ground-up and gives a graphic account of long falls from below the protection, and thundering into the hard ground below, eased only by a layer of Karrimat. The late great Wolfgang Gullich broke his back falling off the climb and more than one person have broken their ankles. In the Hard Grit revolution of the early ’90s, extensive top rope practice and bouldering mats threw the route open to the masses. Others then made better style ascents, until finally, in 2004, the talented young Liam Halsey finally closed the book on the climb by doing the long awaited on sight flash.



Nic Sellers climbing Master’s Edge on sight, managing it with only one fall. A fine effort, lad. Photo: Adam Long.



A choice of worthwhile second pitches for Crew Cut is available from the birch ledge. ● **Yourolympus**, HVS 4c (1969), starts near the left arête, climbs a heathery crack rightwards to a slopy shelf in the middle of the wall, then traverses the shelf left to the

arête, to finish boldly up this. ● **Myolympus**, HVS 5a (1969), starts just left of the corner (Xanadu), and boulders up to a left trending flake-line. Trend left to meet Yourolympus and continue up the thin crack directly above with some difficulty.

75 Under Doctor's Orders E2 5c ★ 1951-57/87
20m Good climbing, bold and forceful. The arête and crack right of Crew Cut are followed past a peg to slopy shelves and a rest. Climb the thin crack above until it is possible to swing out right onto a ledge. Mantleshelf to glory.

76 Jealous Pensioner E4 5c ★ 1978
20m Ascend the centre of the shot-peppered wall as far as a narrow ledge. From a standing position on this, climb the upper wall using a blank flake to the next ledge (hard for shorties). Protection can be had at foot level, but the move is still a heart-stopper.

77 Xanadu E4 6a ★ ★ 1969/74
35m Technical wizardry up the overly-blank corner at the back of the bay. Gruesome bridging off the ledge leads to a little shelf. Further desperation lands one on a good ledge. The corner above can be followed as a second pitch at HVS, with a possible finish along the wide break near the top.

78 The Trumpton Anarchist E6 6b ★ 1988
12m Great moves up the lonely wall above Xanadu. From the ledge, move right, clip some pegs, then sequence out the right-trending feature, passing possible small cam placements *en route* to the ledge on Great West Road.

79 Adios Amigo E5 6b ★ ★ 1985
15m Unique cranking up the big flat wall. From the ledge at the bottom of the Xanadu corner, a lengthy lean or a gymnastic jump rightwards gains shot-holes in the middle of the wall. *'Ascend these then crank like a disease to a nothing finger edge from which a bucket can be reached.'*

80 Great West Road E2 5b, 5b ★ ★ ★ 1956/69/75
 Two contrasting pitches, one strenuous and well-protected, the other bold and delicate, combine to produce a route every bit as classic as its exalted neighbours. Both pitches would probably merit E2 by themselves, the second being high in that grade.

1. 19m The clean peg-scarred groove is followed, with a strenuous layback leading to a perfect belay ledge. An easier alternative skirts the layback to the left.

2. 19m The superbly-positioned arête directly above is followed past an old bolt (gulp) to a ledge and a bit of a heart-stopping finish.

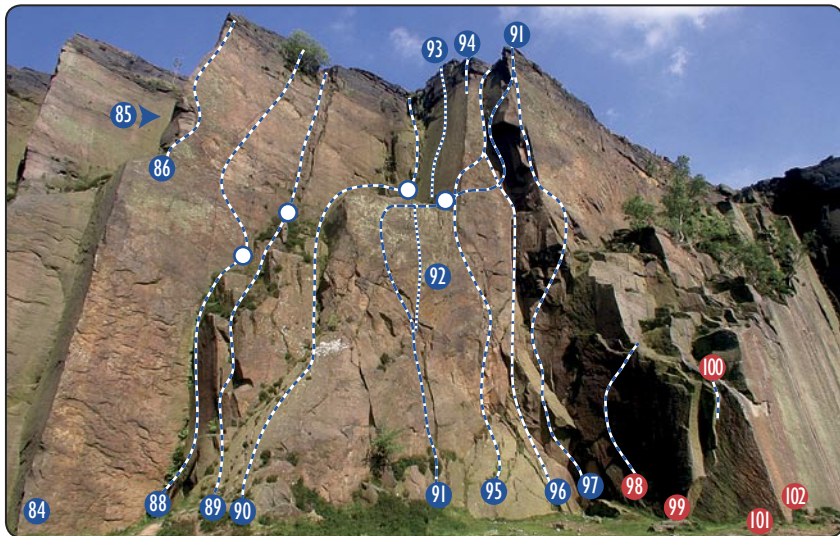
81 Edge Lane E5 5c ★ ★ ★ 1974
18m You can boulder about on this one for years, but some day you're going to leave the ground knowing the only way is up. Then God help you. The square-cut arête bounding the left side of Green Death is followed, calmly if possible, to a crux at the top. Nowhere is the climbing more than 5b/c and the crux is only the crux because it is at the top.

82 Green Death E5 6b ★ ★ ★ 1969
18m The all-too-well-named corner provides a stern test of technique and commitment, and as such, is avoided by most. The 6b bit comes right off the deck, although a running jump would also be a fair way of accessing good flat holds a few feet up. From here, a series of surprisingly good holds soon gets one into danger. A bulge in the corner marks the 5c crux, after which positive holds allow a peg to be clipped on the right wall. Above this, while the climbing is still technical, life seems somehow sweeter...

● The shallow scoop just left of the corner has been claimed as **Stranger Breaks Right**, E6 6b (1994). Follow the line of scooped overlaps, trying very hard to avoid the easy corner. Where it becomes difficult, join Green Death. A ruthless rejection of any ideals of line and quality.

83 Green Death Superdirect V8 (7a)
 The classic bridging testpiece up the blank corner. ● **The Left-Hand Start**, V3 (6a), traverses in from the start of Edge Lane. ● **The Green Death Start**, V4 (6b), climbs tiny edges between the corner and the arête (the normal start to the route).

84 Master's Edge E7 6b ★ ★ ★ 1983
18m Fawcett's masterpiece. The stunning square-cut arête gives one of the finest hard challenges in the Peak, with sustained difficult climbing and painfully limited protection combining to produce an unforgettable lead. Increasingly difficult moves lead up to shot holes at half-height (protection) from where more increasingly difficult moves lead to a heart-stopping lunge for a flat jug at the top. A fast belayer may be needed to protect this section. Incidentally, the arête has been top roped on its left-hand side – *one handed* – by... guess who?



The previous routes can be escaped from via the dirty corner at the back of the ledge at V Diff. But if you're still in the mood...

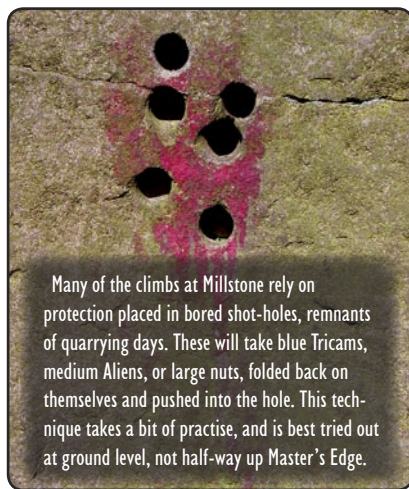
85 The Bad and the Beautiful E7 6b ★★★ 1987
15m 'You can fall, but you'd better not bounce!' One of the best hard routes on grit, despite its shy setting. The blind flake on the wall left of Great Arête is climbed with increasing difficulty until a desperate and irreversible move leads to a ledge and an easier finish. Utterly committing.

86 Great Arête E5 5c ★★★ 1974
16m If you still have anything left after the lower routes, then a superb second pitch follows the hulking continuation of the Master's Edge arête. From the ledge follow the sharp arête, mainly on its right side, to an easing at half-height. The climbing is fairly steady, and while not quite the chop-route that the grade would suggest, it is unlikely that the leader's personality would ever be the same again in the event of a fall.

87 Stranger in Paradise E5 6a † 1994
16m An ability to avoid holds and protection may be needed for this narrow voyage up the wall between Knightsbridge and Great Arête. Start for

Knightsbridge and climb the wall passing a sloping ledge. A pathetic excuse for a climb.

88 Knightsbridge E2 5b, 5c ★★★ 1951-57/73
35m An absolutely fabulous climb, which is, somehow, both sustained and cruxy – work that one out! Climb the lower corner (often overgrown), or



Many of the climbs at Millstone rely on protection placed in bored shot-holes, remnants of quarrying days. These will take blue Tricams, medium Aliens, or large nuts, folded back on themselves and pushed into the hole. This technique takes a bit of practise, and is best tried out at ground level, not half-way up Master's Edge.

scramble up The Scoop. Climb the thin pegged-out crack above via interesting moves on perfect rock, to an easing just short of the top. Good protection can be earned in the form of many small wires.

89 Scoop Crack VS 4b ★ 1957-65
32m Climb a shallow corner in the arête then the crack above the ledge.

90 The Scoop D 1951-57
35m Disjointed climbing with some good positions up the slab, ledges and corner with a bold finish.

91 Detour E2 5c ★ 1975
40m A phenomenally indirect line, but one that finds some good climbing along the way. Climb slabby rock and a thin crack above to the ledge and possible belay. From here, move into, and follow, Great North Road until established over the little overhang; a straddle right gains good finishing holds on the arête.

92 The Hunter House Road Toad E5 6b ★ 1985
15m This takes the significantly thinner crack right of Detour. The two *in-situ* pegs are old, but good, and can be backed up by small wires.

93 Clock People E6 6c ★ 1984
15m The miniscule slotted crack on the flat wall left of Watling Street. A desperate start leads to a good hand-jam slot. Continue up the absorbing line on spaced and positive holds. Well-protected by a mountain of micro wires.

94 Watling Street E2 5b ★★ 1957-65
15m The square-cut arête is an overlooked gem, with balancey moves on good holds. Marred by its proximity to the corner in its upper reaches, although some will be glad of the protection this offers.

95 By-Pass HVS 5a ★ 1963
40m Climb the wide crack, past a salvo of loose blocks to a big ledge. From the ledge traverse right to the corner and continue up this.

96 Great North Road HVS 5a ★★★ 1956/57
35m This, the Cenotaph Corner of grit, climbs the fantastic stepped corner. Everything that HVS should be, and then some.

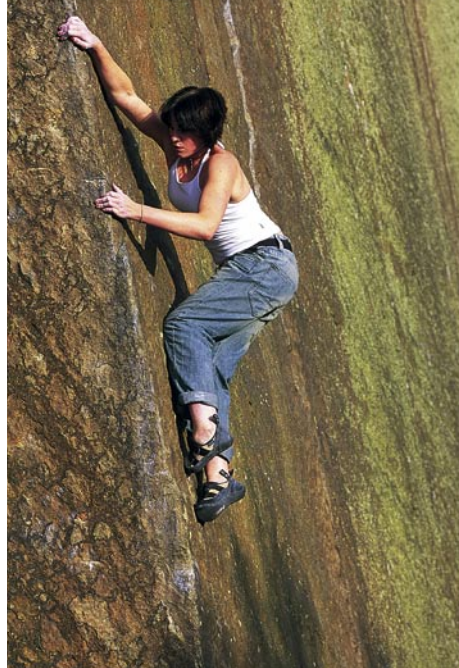
97 Quality Street E5 6b, 6a ★ 1983
30m Climb onto the smooth ramp with difficulty. Climb it then move directly up to the ledge. Belay. Climb the arête above to reach a small groove. Go up this then move left at the lip of the capping roof to finish direct.

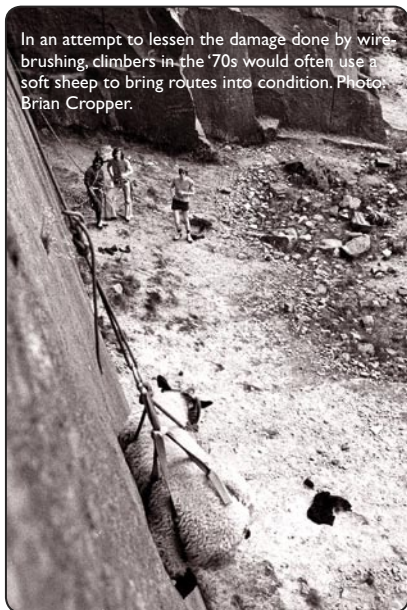
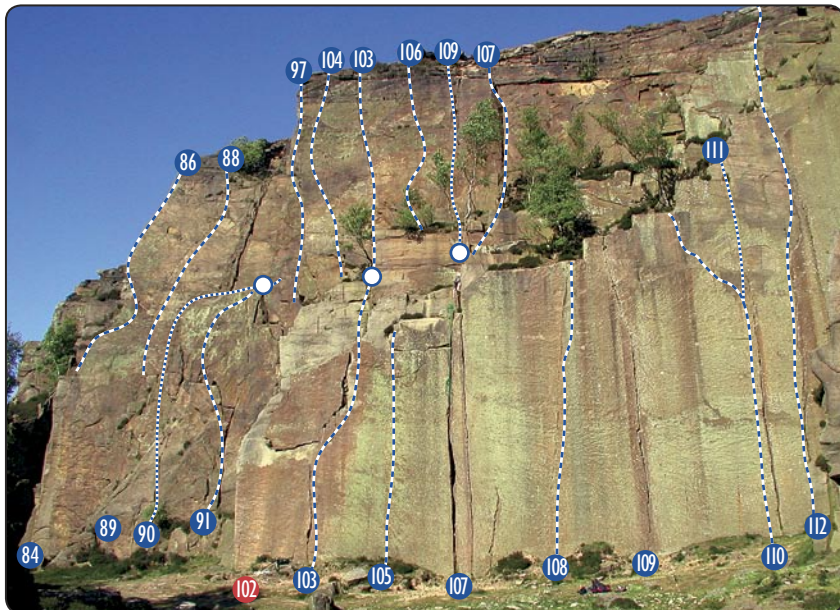
98 Deaf Dog VI (HVS 5b)
The big flake.

99 Master Chef V8 (6c)
The superb hanging arête. A sit-start is V9. ● **Hic Up Pick Up** is an eccentric problem on the sloper just right of Master Chef. Hang footless from the woeful sloper and say 'Hic Up Pick Up'. Far out.

100 Technical Baiter VI (HVS 5b)
The big fun flake, used as a descent by boulders.

Loz Hudson on Technical Master, V4 (overleaf), one of the Peak's most celebrated boulder problems. Photo: David Simmonite.





In an attempt to lessen the damage done by wire brushing, climbers in the '70s would often use a soft sheep to bring routes into condition. Photo: Brian Cropper.

101 Technical Master Left-Hand V5 (6b)
Latback the arête with the help of the crack.

102 Technical Master V4 (6b)
A flawless test of technique following the angular arête on its right. Has been climbed one-handed, and in Reeboks (see the *Stone Monkey* video).

Embankment Wall Area

The quality continues in this area, starting with a sheer, cracked slab, well-dotted with peg cracks. This was named after its resemblance to the Thames Embankment in London. Some individual pitches exist on the upper wall, as well as some second pitches to those on the lower wall. However, you may well prefer to pick 'n' mix your first and second pitches, as there is no particular logic to the original pairings.

103 Embankment Route 1 E2 4c, 5c ★ 1957-65/75
27m Follow the short crack to a horizontal flake, then swing awkwardly right and up past a helpful iron bar (VS in its own right). Belay. On the upper wall follow the tricky peg crack (the E2 bit).

104 Blind Bat E4 5c ★★ 1965-72/76
20m A protected crux is followed by tense wall climbing. Begin by placing a side-runner a few metres up the second pitch of Embankment Route 1. (Oi, Not that far!) Go back down and climb the wall direct to the peg. Pass this with a hard move. From flat holds, continue reverently to the top.

105 10,000 Maniacs/Elm Street E8 6c ★ 1994
10m Horrifically thin, steep slab climbing up the blankness between the cracks with the barest minimum of holds, and much less protection.

106 Who Wants the World? E5 6a 1981
10m Climb the steep wall. The initial moves are hard, reachy and poorly protected, which is a shame, as the open climbing above is very enjoyable.

107 Embankment Route 2 VS 4c, 4b ★★ 1957-65
25m Twin cracks, big brother and little brother, lead to the belay ledge. Using little brother alone is HVS 5a. On the upper wall, climb the right-facing corner.

108 Scritto's Republic E7 6c ★★ 1951-78/82
15m Hard, thin and technical. The seam was never pegged hard enough to become an Embankment Route; instead it is a searing test of technique and finger strength. Climb the seam on shallow pocks. The crux is in the first half, and tiny gear can protect the still difficult upper section.

109 Embankment Route 3 E1 5b, 5b ★★ 1957-65/70/75
25m The perfect peg crack leads past two pitons to the terrace, belay. Straightforward Millstone quality, making up for the sore feet. The second pitch takes a short steep crack just left of a shallow right-facing corner of Embankment 2.

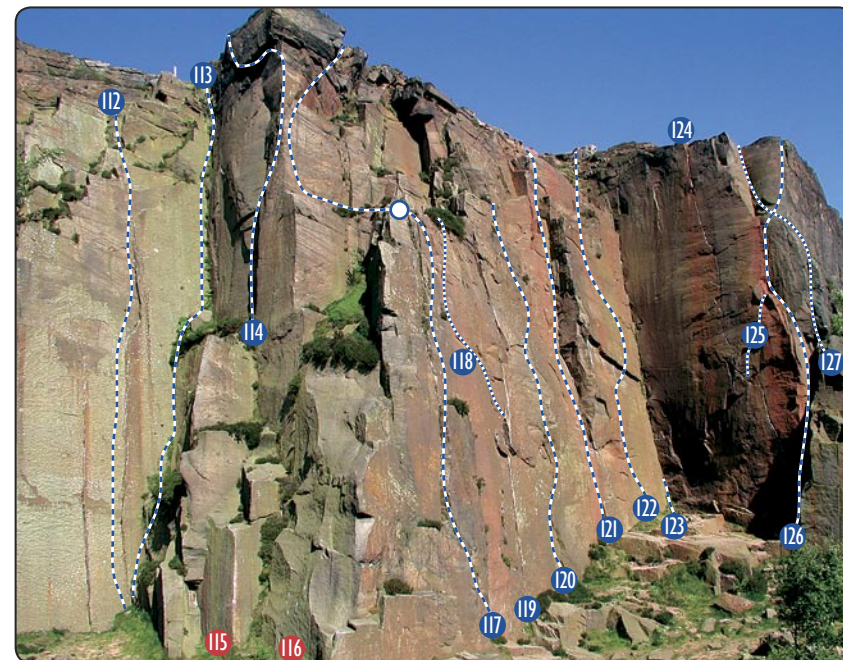
110 Time for Tea E3 5c ★★ 1974
20m Further right is one of the wall's few natural cracklines, which the quarrymen forgot to complete. So, climb the crack, and with good gear at its apex, move confidently left to a ledge in the middle of the wall. From here, balancey, open climbing on flat holds leads up and left to the summit. Short people would prefer to upgrade this one, but tough. ● **Time for Tea Original** attained Embankment Route 4 from the top of the crack, E1 5b ★★ (1974).



Phil Robins high on Embankment Route 4, E1 5b (overleaf), possibly the most varied and interesting of the Embankment routes. Photo: Pete O'Donovan.



With the desperate mantelshelf now below, the leader is now tackling the more technical and delicate upper corner on Great Portland Street, HVS 5b (overleaf), one of Millstone's many outstanding routes at this grade. Photo: Pete © Donovan.



- 111 Tea for Two** E4 6a ★★ 1982
20m Emotionally, much like doing a double tour of duty in Vietnam. From the terminus of the crack on Time for Tea, career directly upwards via thin moves to the top. A route to clear the cobwebs. Superb.
- 112 Embankment Route 4** E1 5b ★★★ 1951-57/75
22m As good an example of peg-pocketeering as gritstone has to offer. Climb the tall crack, straight-forward at first, then with a frisky scuffle near the base of the vague groove. This leads less strenuously to a final crack and then the top.
- 113 Whitehall** HVS 5a ★★ 1951-57/69
25m The major corner at the back of the bay is climbed direct, providing a fine test of laybacking technique.
- 114 Lotto** E1 5c ★ 1957-65/75
25m Varied climbing in an exposed position. Ascend a faint groove which curves up, past a thin section, to the arête. Swing right to follow Covent Garden.
- 115 Little Lotto Arête** V2 (5c)
At the roof, go back left along the wide break and beef the overhang at a slotted crack. A better, harder and more independent variation, ● **Lotto Direct**, E3 5c ★★ (traditional), avoids Covent Garden by laybacking the arête on the left until stood on a little ledge. From here, finger-traverse a flake leftward to the middle of the black wall, whence a committing move up gains the original finishing crack. The climbing is lonely but positive.
- 116 Seventies Style Wall** V4 (6a)
A technical exercise up the quarried crimps.
- 117 Covent Garden** VS 4b, 4b ★★ 1956
25m A scrappy first pitch is more than made up for by the delightfully exposed second pitch. Climb easy ledges and a pedestal to a big ledge. An alternative follows the arête just to the left. Belay. Cross a narrow terrace to the left arête. Balance up this with glee to a slightly hollow finish.

Millstone > Embankment Wall Area

● The walls have been girdled from Covent Garden to Badly Bred; **London Marathon**, E5 6c, 6b, (1988). Totally desperate.

118 Scruples E5 6b † 1987
22m Climb Bond Street until established in the first sentry box. Move left to climb a bulge and slab. A crucial peg runner used on the first ascent is missing.

119 Bond Street HVS 5a ★★★ 1951-57
22m Cancel your trip to Yosemite; this Millstone classic has it all on your doorstep. The perfectly-formed hand-jamming crack is simply superb, marred only by not being ten times longer. Scramble off the finishing ledge or do the lovely second pitch of Covent Garden.

120 Monopoly E7 6b ★ 1983/84
21m A very bold line following the shallow features up the wall. A skyhook may offer some protection, but the chances are that if you fall off, you won't be passing 'Go' anymore.

121 Great Portland Street HVS 5b ★★★ 1951-57/63
20m Yawn! Not another brilliant HVS? This one ascends the fine groove to the left of White Wall. This delicate bridging is unfortunately guarded by a desperate mantelshelf manoeuvre, a bit like getting out of an overhanging swimming pool, and harder than anything on Regent Street.

● **The Impetus for Stranger Faeces**, E5 5c (1994), climbs the perched arête to the right, although unfortunately it is mostly within easy reach of the corner.

122 White Wall E5 6b ★★ 1969/76
22m A worthy sister route to London Wall takes the pegged crack in the smooth face left of The Mall. While not quite as fine, being less sustained, it still has great climbing and impressive situations. Climb steadily up kinked cracks until a desperate move gains a standing position below the overlap. From here, thrilling cranking over the small roof leads to a piton and less difficult climbing to finish.

123 The Mall VS 4c ★★★ 1951-57/57
22m Heave-ho your way up the big chunky corner. This contains a lot of climbing, all of it enjoyable, although it can be sandy in the post-monsoon.

124 London Wall E5 6a ★★★ 1956/75
22m The London Wall of the Peak! This classic product of the '70s free climbing revolution is also one of the best lines on grit. Finger lock your way up the searing pocket-studded seam with never-ending difficulty. One of the greatest trophies on gritstone.

125 Urban Sprawl E6 6b 1997
22m Relatively safe climbing at the grade, although very physical. Having clipped the pegs on London Wall, crank rightwards and upwards to reach the easy groove leading to Badly Bred.

126 Badly Bred E1 5c 1977
24m From the chimney, step left and climb to a large ledge. From here, climb the tricky right arête with some trepidation.

127 Lambeth Chimney HS 4b ★ 1951-57
22m Follow the broken chimney, then the easy arête above, until an exacting straddle to the left gains a smart little groove leading to the top.

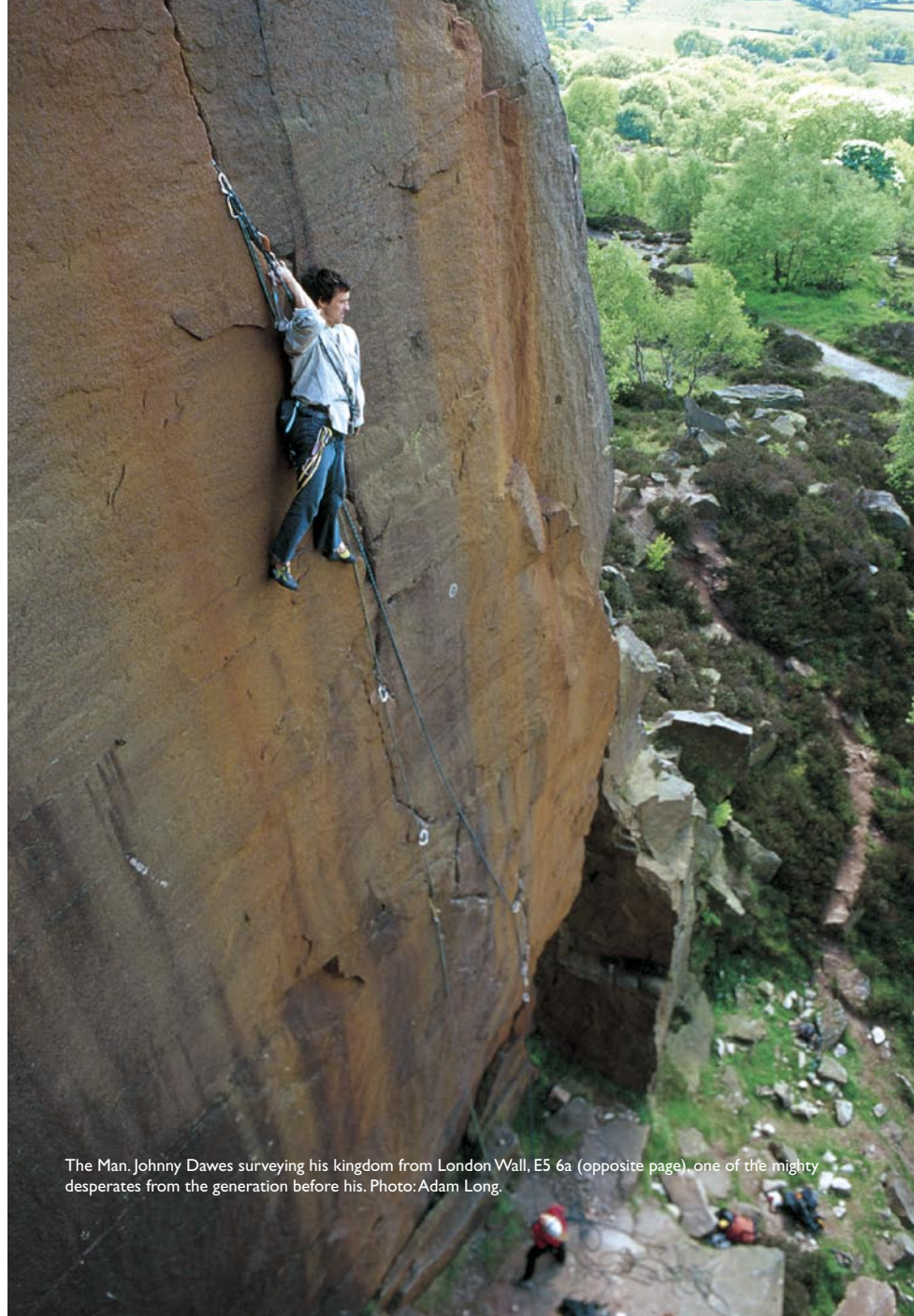
The Keyhole Cave Area

This is one of the great venues in the Peak, with a great collection of searing, vertical crack-lines to suit all levels. The routes are long, pumpy and unforgettable. The wall gets lots of sun and dries extremely quickly if it ever does get wet. It is worth being careful on the tops of the routes as the soil is loose. This is an important note for belayers. The first section of wall, on the left, is not quite as fine as the main area, but is worthwhile all the same. **Descent:** Scramble down the corner in the far right-hand corner of the bay.

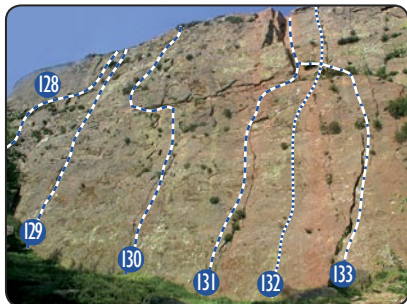
Crusty Wall: The first routes are on the crusty wall just right of Lambeth Chimney.

128 Old Kent Road D 1951-57
25m More of a risky ramble than a rock climb. At the left end of the wall, move up to a good ledge. Follow this rightwards to a flake chimney and up, taking as many stances along the way as you wish.

129 Alopecia HVS 5a 1957-65
18m A thin crack a few metres right of a large flake, leads to a non-finish. ● **Brittle Road to Freedom**, E1 5b (1976), is the random wall just right, putting



The Man. Johnny Dawes surveying his kingdom from London Wall, E5 6a (opposite page), one of the mighty desperates from the generation before his. Photo: Adam Long.



yourself in as much or as little danger as your mood demands.

130 Petticoat Lane HVS 4b ★ 1956
 25m A route requiring a steady leader, given its spaced gear and sometimes hollow rock. For the same reasons it is also a rewarding lead. Climb a thin crack to a break at a steepening. Traverse 4m left and climb the wall to a ledge. A long rightward diagonal leads, with some anxiety, to the plateau.

131 Bow Street HVS 5b 1956/67
 20m Climb a crack below the corner to a little roof then escape right. Continuing direct is more like a nasty E4.

132 Metal Rash E1 5b 1978
 25m Climb the wall and vague crack to the ledge. Finish up the thin crack directly above.

“I’d be careful

on that slope above the Keyhole Cave. I remember once I led Coventry Street and got to the top of the crag. I was going up the slope to the belay, when I stood on a big flake, and suddenly it started sliding back down toward the edge, with me on it. I was sort of surfing backwards towards the edge, and all I could think was that I only had one RP in that top wall, miles down. I must have slid down about eight feet, and then it just came to a stop, and I was able to just stand off. But I would be careful up there.”

Tony Ryan

133 Brixton Road VD ★ 1951-57
 20m Climb the ledged crack to a cracked ledge. Move left and climb the shallow corner., taking care with some loose scree near the top. ● Ekel, S (1957-65), is the horrible corner to the right.

134 Skywalk VS 4b ★ 1957-65
 25m A drastically exposed voyage for the grade (although with easy climbing) that will have you sleeping with the light on for weeks. Gain the highest ledge on the arête (go up Brixton Road and turn right), take a deep breath, and traverse right along the face on positive holds to finish up Oxford Street.

135 The Economist E6 6b ★ 2004
 20m An alternative start to the next climb takes the curving flake which trends right to meet Adam Smith’s... at the peg. Bold, powerful climbing.

136 Adam Smith’s Invisible Hand E6 6b ★★★ 1984
 20m At last! Sport climbing without the safety. The arête is climbed, desperately, past three pieces of industrial archaeology. By the top one, swing left (crux) around the arête, and climb the wall on better holds to a peg. Slightly easier climbing leads to much easier climbing.

137 The Rack E5 6a ★ 1957-65/82
 13m Crimps and cranks its way up the steep wall left of Oxford Street. Follow holds slightly right, (possible gear in Oxford Street). Work back up and left, heading eventually to a peg, and then sanctuary in the cave. Bold, but at least it’s positive. Has been done without gear in Oxford Street at a very mild E6.

The next routes climb to the cave via friendly crack-lines and then reach the top of the wall by more challenging means. Many climbers tend to lower off from an in-situ spike in the sandy cave. This will obviously change the grade and most definitely lessen the experience. Note: This spike is an unknown entity; use it at your own discretion.

138 Oxford Street E3 5a, 6b ★ 1956/69
 22m A lovely HVS crack followed by a classic roof struggle. Superb, steep hand-jamming leads to the sandy cave. Beef over the roof crack to the right then



mince up the easy wall above. The difficult section is phenomenally well-protected. ● Littleheath Road, E3 5c (1976), is the bombed out crack through the roof to the left. Stay away!

139 The Keyhole Traverse up to V8 (6c)
 Don your best lycra, biggest chalk bag and stiffest Firés for this sterling test of good old fashioned crimping. Starting from Oxford Street, crimp your way sharply rightwards as far as you can, picking up V grades with every crack that you pass.

140 Piccadilly Circus E2 5a, 5c ★ 1957-65/76
 25m Two contrasting pitches combine to yield the easiest way up the wall. Climb the delightful natural finger crack to a landing in the sandy cave (● a great HVS 5a by itself). Belay. From here, beetle leftwards to a thin crack which leads to a ledge. Exciting while it lasts. Finish up Skywalk.

141 Coventry Street E5 6b ★★★ 1956/76
 22m Now, let’s see if you can climb finger-cracks! After an encouraging start, poor fingertip jams and

critically unhelpful footholds lead to a desperate lunge for the ledge. Here, having clipped various artefacts, including one of the Peak District’s few Bong runners, muscle over the roof crack with determination, and wobble directly to the top. Doing the bottom section alone and lowering off gets E4, but isn’t *real* E4. (Oh yes it is!)

142 Jermyn Street E5 6a ★ ★ 1956/75
 25m A big adventurous route only marred by sandy sections and an indirect line. Climb the crack and groove into the cave. Move right and scuff your way up the right arête of the cave, placing a wire along the way. Hand-traverse the lip leftwards, (good Friend 1), and pull into a standing position on the more solid rock above the cave. From here migrate into the relative security of Coventry Street and finish. Better than anything on Gogarth.

● **The Direct Finish**, E5 6b † (1984), carries on up the headwall above the sandy arête to finish via twin thin cracks. Seldom repeated, and perhaps affected by the loss of holds and gear placements.

143 Regent Street E2 5c ★★★ 1956/68
 20m Quite simply one of the best Extremes in the Peak, with superb protection and sufficient rests making up for its uncompromising steepness; as such it probably holds the same position in Derbyshire as Left Wall holds in Wales, although the walk in is easier. Follow twin cracks past a cheeky move. More delicate climbing leads up and right to below the headwall crack. From here an onslaught of savage cranking on perfect finger locks leads to a gasping point below an easier finish. Unforgettable.

● **Transmetropolitan**, E3 5c (1988), is a traverse from Regent Street to the top of The Rack. ● **Keyhole Cops**, E2 5a, 5c (1973) traverses the wall, from Oriol to Skywalk, above the level of the two caves.

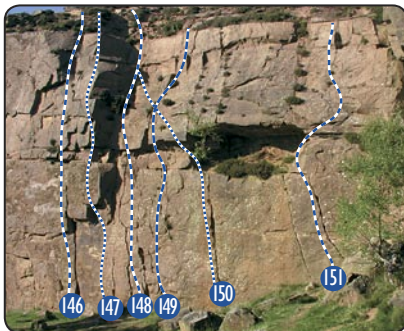
144 Regent Street Direct Start E3 5c ★ 1975
 20m The slender groove that runs directly to the upper crack provides a very worthwhile, and harder, start to the classic. Pressing moves over the initial bulge are followed by exciting, though protectable, moves up the groove. An illogical upper section took the ramp right of the top crack. ● A poor climinate has also been climbed to the left of Regent Street. ● **Appletree Yard**, E4 6a (1988), uses side-runners.

145 Wall Street Crash E5 6b ★ 1983
 20m This climbs the blank wall on unique iron rugosities. Start up the thin crack. When this finishes, a desperate sequence of crimps will lead the technically adept to a break where the climb runs out of steam. Finish by the easiest line which will most likely be a pre-placed absiel rope. Originally protected by old bolts, which have now been replaced by (fairly good) pegs.

146 Shaftesbury Avenue HVS 5a ★ 1956/67
 20m Bovine jams lead up the straight, wide crack to an overhang. Climb steeply over this. Enjoyable open climbing now leads to the summit.

147 The Whore HVS 5b ★ 1975
 20m Follow cracks to the little overhung corner. Overcome this strenuously, good solid 5b, then steep finger locking leads to an easier finish.

148 Gimcrack VS 4c ★★★ 1962
 24m Romp delightfully up the jamming crack and



finish up the corner above. The slope above this is mildly biodegradable. Beware.

149 At-a-Cliff VS 4c 1977
 25m The hand and finger crack leads to the niche in the overhang at half-height. Power through this to an easier finish. ● **Wings of Steel**, E3 5c † (1979), is a non-line just right.

150 Happy Wanderer VS 4c 1957-65
 25m Climb the narrow crack with some difficulty to the left end of the cave. Traverse left and finish up Gimcrack, avoiding any sand skiing.

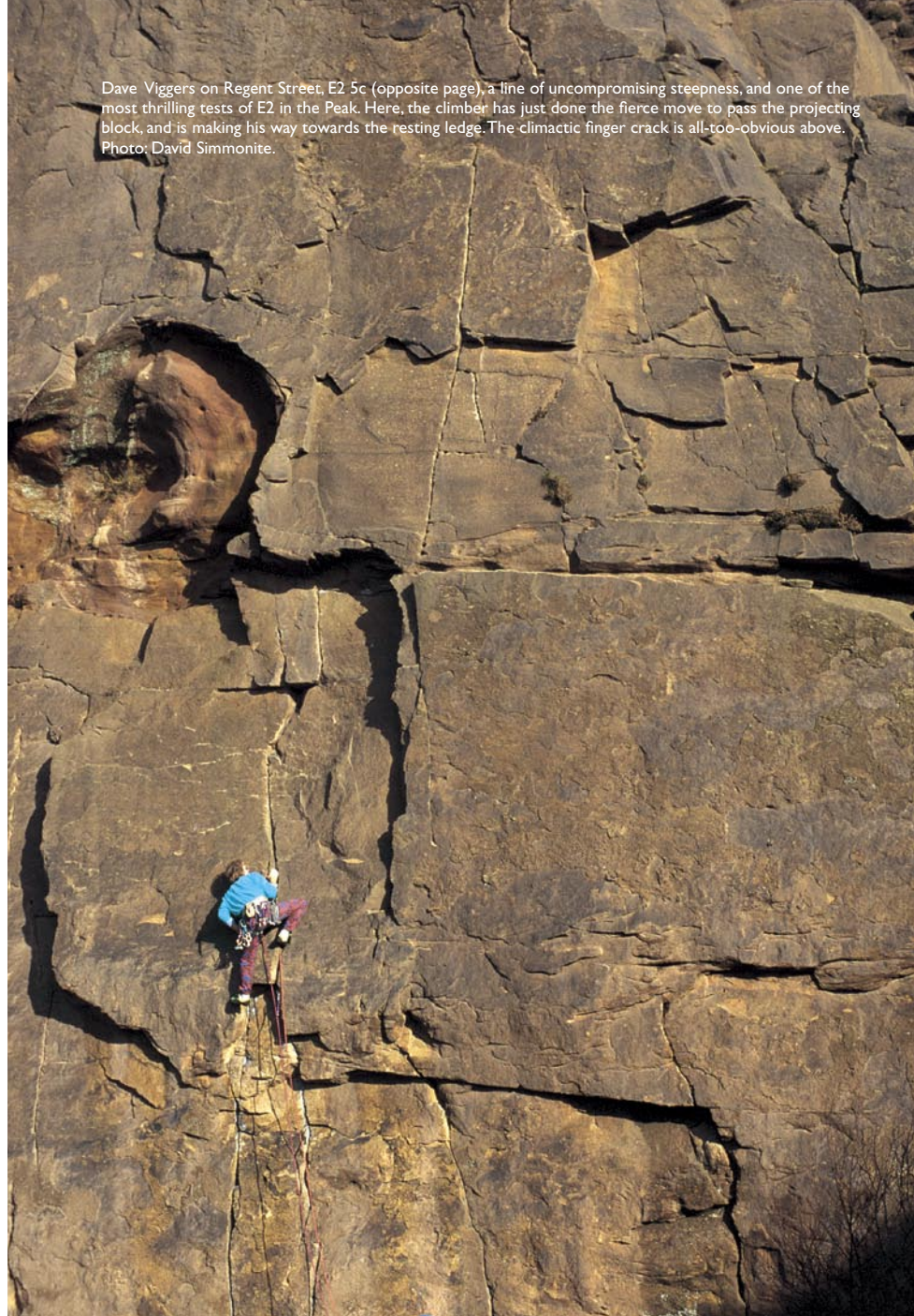
151 Oriol VS 5a ★ 1957-65
 15m The jamming crack has a stubborn section leading to the beach in the cave. Exit this right and climb pleasantly to the talus slope at the top. This slope is quite magnificent, and a good a place as any to practice one's step-cutting technique.

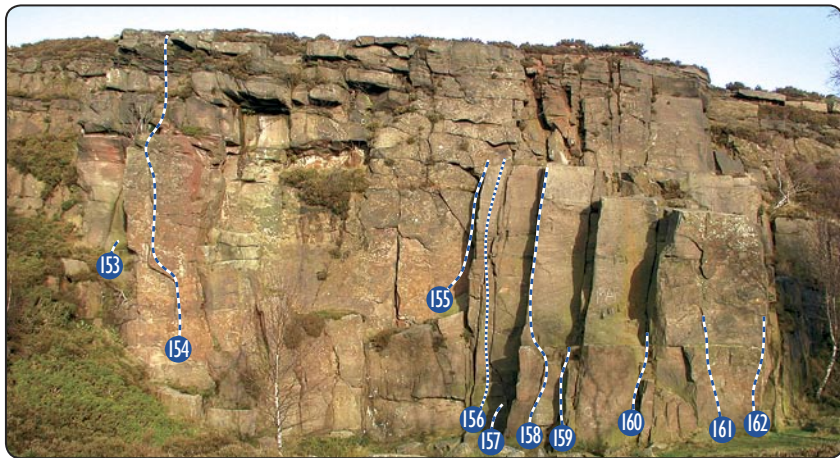
● The thin crack to the left, **Charing Cross Road**, HVS 5a (1956/67), gained the cave and then took any of the cracks above. ● The technical wall left again is **Wash and Brush Up**, E1 6b (1985). ● To the right, the poverty stricken corner-crack above the bottom of the descent is **Trio Crack**, S (1957-65). Earthy. Just right is the descent gully.

The next climb lies on the steep wall across the other side of the descent gully.

152 Pot Leg Wall V2 (HVS 5c) 1976
 A very fierce move up the steep little wall on peg holes. Finish easily. Good practise for Coventry Street.

Dave Viggers on Regent Street, E2 5c (opposite page), a line of uncompromising steepness, and one of the most thrilling tests of E2 in the Peak. Here, the climber has just done the fierce move to pass the projecting block, and is making his way towards the resting ledge. The climactic finger crack is all-too-obvious above. Photo: David Simmonite.





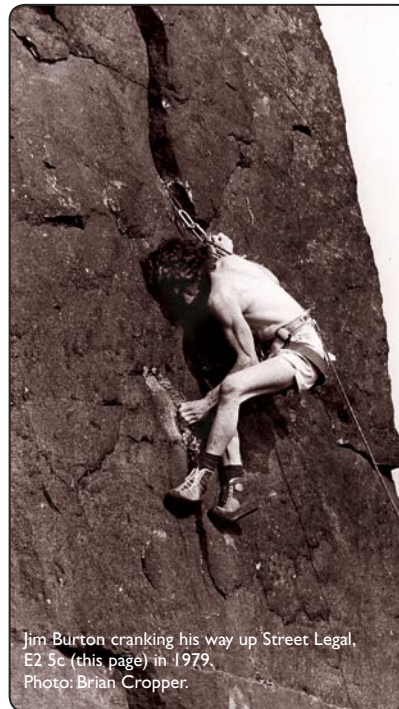
Mike Lee and Matt Rudkin making the steep moves onto the ledge on Chiming Cracks, HS 4b (this page), one of the small number of good easier routes to be found at Millstone. Photo: Nick Smith.



Hell's Bells Area

Some shorter, easier climbs are located in the next bay 30m to the right. The first routes are high on the left side, in the corner left of the narrow projecting buttress on the left.

- 153 Bent Crack** HS 4b 1963
6m Quite sustained climbing up the widening crack left of the corner. ● The corner itself is **Piper's Crack**, VD (1957-65).
- 154 Butter-ess** HVS 5b ★ 1959
8m The crack system on the front of the projecting buttress. ● The corner to the right is **Crossways**, S 4a (1957-65), having traversed the ledge from Flank Crack. ● The corner, with a direct start and finish is **Key's Climb**, HVS 5a (1957-65). ● The two cracks above the traverse are **Straight Leg**, VS 4b (now overgrown), ● and **Flared Bottom**, HVS 5a (both 1977).
- 155 Flank Crack** VD 1957-65
8m The short corner to the ledge. Walk off right or take the direct finish up the sandy wall at S.
- 156 Chiming Cracks** HS 4b ★ 1959-61
8m The steep cracks are short but pumpy.
- 157 Hell's Bells** HS 4b ★★ 1963
8m The best route hereabouts taking the tall



Jim Burton cranking his way up Street Legal, E2 5c (this page) in 1979. Photo: Brian Cropper.

- 162 Blood and Guts on Botty Street** E5 6b 1987
8m Hard and unprotected slapping up the right arête of the buttress.

The broken rock to the right gives a convenient descent. The shallow bay to the left again has two poor routes taking the two corners, ● **Fronk Crack**, VD, and ● **Crane Fly Climb**, S (both 1957-65), but hardly rank as routes in the modern idiom.

Wilfred's Wall: Another 10m right is another area of clean rock, with a smooth arching slab bounded on each side by deep cracks. ● The deep crack on the left of the slab is **Squeak**, VS 5b, (1959), which is especially good fun at the overhang. ● **Wilfred**, S (1957-65), avoids the crux by climbing the crack left of the overhang. ● **Annabella Superstella**, E2 6b (1986) is the thin slab just left of Wilfred. ● **Helping Hands**, E1 5b (1985), is the slab left of this, with slightly more holds, and a crux mantelshelf at two-thirds height. ● **Beneath the Pavement Lies the Beach**, E4 6a (1986), takes the centre of the smooth slab right of Wilfred. ● **Pip**, S (1959), is the crack right of the slab – a good honest thrutch.

The Little Quarry

corner. Sustained and well-protected, it deserves to be somewhere else. ● The right arête of the short upper wall makes a good bold finish at HS 4b.

- 158 Juniper** E1 5b 1978
8m The arête, with good balance moves. Often climbed with side-runners at HVS.
 - 159 Midrift** VD 1957-65
7m A good beginner's route up the short corner. ● The chimney up the short wall above is D.
 - 160 Giant's Steps** D 1957-65
8m A gentle frolic up large features. ● The crack systems in the upper wall are VD, providing a good finish.
 - 161 Street Legal** E2 5c ★ 1978
8m Climb the wall with stiff moves passing a hanging flake. Little protection until after the crux.
- The last climbs are to be found in the minor bay, about 70m from the road. It can be identified by a pointed boulder on a little hillock at the entrance. At the back left-hand side of the bay is some rock: ● **Fireworks**, V5 (6b), is a pointless and lethal problem up the slab above the big pointed boulder on the left; 5m right, climb the bulging crack and arête at V0 (5a); ● **Damage**, V4 (6a), is the arête above a careful landing; ● **Halloween**, V4 (6b), is the painfully thin face to the right; ● **Big Al**, V0 (5a), is the finger crack on the right. ● Facing these routes, on the opposite side of the quarry, is **Humpty Dumpty**, E1 5b (1995), taking the slab and crack left of the heathery corner-crack.