



The Roaches 1

*"I have generally found that things get better,
the further west one goes..."*

Oscar Wilde.

Ed Hill on the second pitch of Peter Harding's 1946 masterpiece, Valkyrie (page 59). With the hardest climbing now behind him, the climber can enjoy the exposure of the final tower of the essential Roaches VS.
Photo: James Maddison.

The Roaches

A gothic cathedral of a crag; a place of pilgrimage for disciples of fist-jamming and pebble-pulling, a site of ritual observance for devout boulderers. The Roaches is steeped in a history that reaches from the pioneers of gritstone climbing, through the Golden Age of jamming, to state of the art testpieces. It has enclosed misty cloisters and airy pinnacles and terrifying gargoyles; the sketchiest of nail-biting slabs, the most carnivorous of cracks and the wildest of roofs. This wealth of development and diversity of styles has resulted in classic routes over the full spectrum of grades. Here the most accessible and enjoyable of VDiffs may be found within metres of the most uncompromising E8s. All this with water-colour pastoral views, and all within an hour's drive of the Potteries and Manchester.

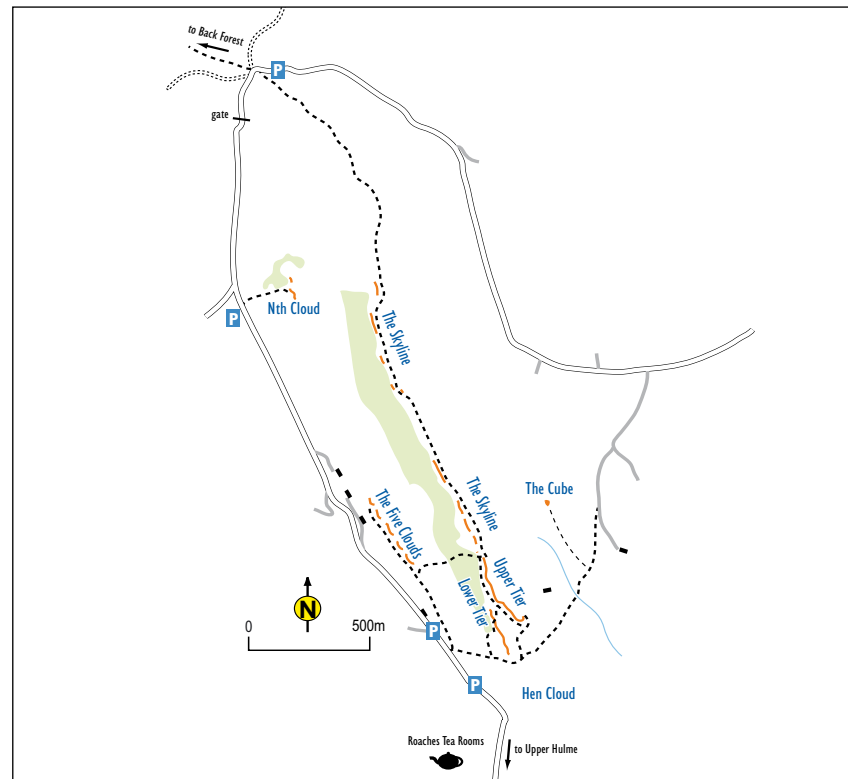
Access

The land is currently owned by the Peak District National Park Authority and there is generally open access to all climbing areas. However, access to areas of surrounding open moorland, especially to the east of the Upper Tier, Skyline, and Five Clouds is discouraged apart from using the obvious public footpaths. These areas are some of the few remaining quiet locations for wildlife, particularly

ground-nesting birds between March and July in any year. This is relevant for access to the Cube, which should be approached via footpaths from the south-east (i.e. from the right-hand side of the Upper Tier), and not directly from the path to the Skyline. The other rule relates to bouldering on the Hard Very Far Skyline area. A local understanding has been arrived at that there should be no bouldering on the friable buttresses above the main path from Roach End. Occasional local bird restrictions may be in place at Five Clouds, Nth Cloud, and the Upper Tier. These will be clearly signposted on site as well as published in the BMC's website (www.thebmc.co.uk) under the Regional Access Database which is amended immediately changes take place. Peregrines have occupied a ledge in the 'Humdinger' area in recent years before moving on to Hen Cloud. Any necessary restrictions will be placed on site and onto the BMC RAD site. If you speak Peregrine then encourage the birds to continue to use Hen Cloud as it is a lot less restrictive on climbing and bouldering.

Parking & approach

For the main areas of the Roaches and Five Clouds, park in the lay-bys on the road below the crag. Parking outside the marked areas (including in front

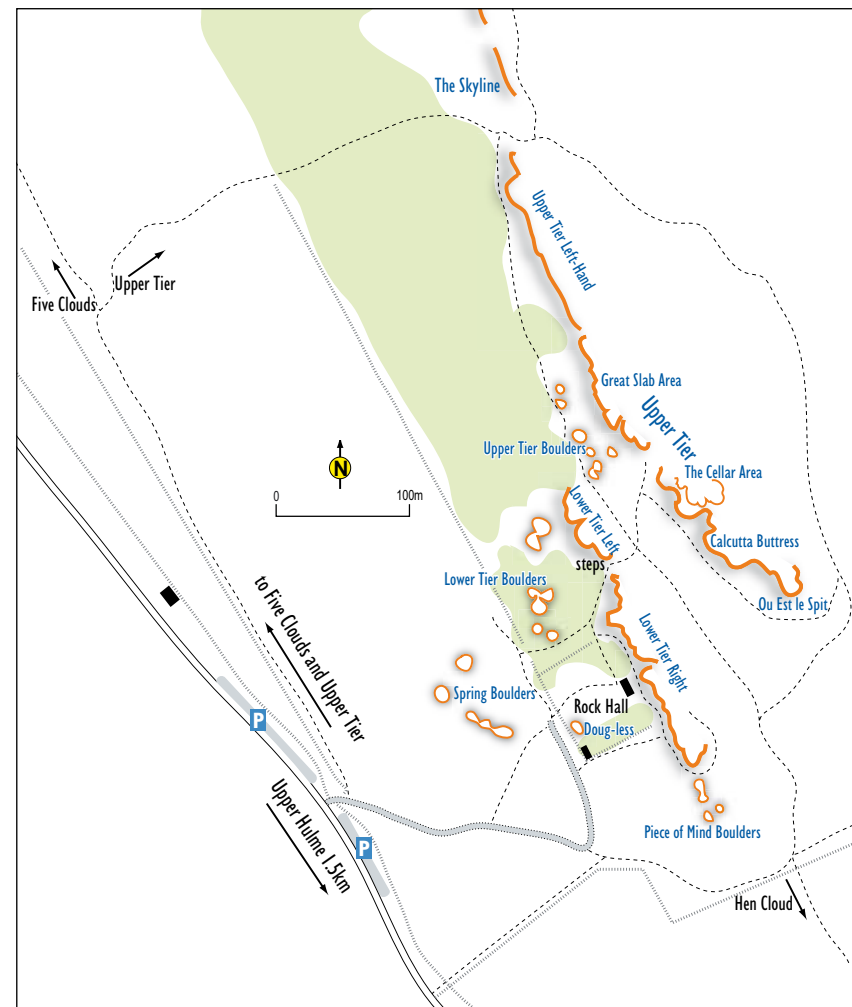




Climbers lost among the boulder backwash of the final spillings of the Lower Tier as the mighty bastions of Valkyrie Buttress and Kestrel Buttress diminish into the smaller slabbier buttresses beyond, and finally into the gentle Piece of Mind Boulders. Climbers can be seen on Commander Energy, while two lost souls pray for salvation. Photo: Jon Read.

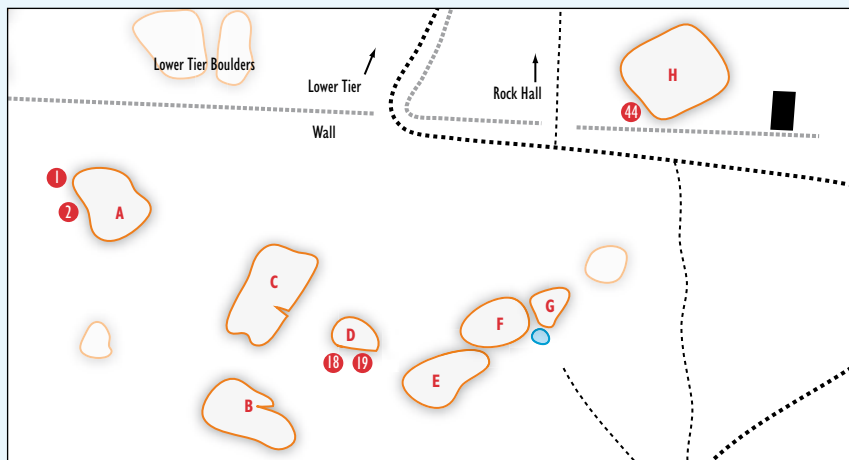
of the cottage) will almost certainly result in a fine. The police do not tolerate any partial blocking of the highway and local residents are reporting contraventions. Access is needed for locals and emergency vehicles at all times. Theft from vehicles at the Roaches and other isolated parking locations is still a problem. Leave nothing on show. For The Very Far and Hard Very Far Skyline areas a quicker approach is to park at Roach End. Follow the lane

north under the Five Clouds through a gate (please close behind you), and over a cattle grid (parking just north of the grid and round the bend. Do not park in the lanes leading west and north as this can impede the farmer's vehicles and animal movements. A well-engineered path leads up the ridge to the trig point (10 minutes). From here, the Hard Very Far Skyline and bouldering areas are within 5 minute's easy walk.



Spring Boulders

The first rock arrived at on the walk up is a collection of fine boulders on the left of the path. This is a fairly good circuit with a good mix of slabby pebble-pulling testpieces as well as the usual Roaches brutality. It tends to be very boggy under lots of the problems, and extremely boggy under some, in which case you may want to borrow a friend's bouldering mat. The slabs on Boulder F are a great place to learn to smear, while falling off the offwidth on Boulder C is a great place to learn to swim.



A: The Fly Boulder

1 The Fly V4 (6a)

The overhanging prow on the farthest boulder. Starting low on the flake is V7 (6c).

2 The Lurch V5 (6b)

Attain and ascend the hanging scoop right of the prow with all guns blazing.

B: The Ramp Boulder

3 The Ramp VI (5c)

4 Ramphole of the Roaches V2 (6a)

Move up and mantel from the shallow hole.

5 Flakes V0 (5b)

The flaky arête.



6 Pod 'n' up V2 (5c)

Move up from the left end of the pod on the back of the boulder.

C: Shothole Boulder

7 Violence V2 (5c)

Scurry up the beautiful scoop.

8 Impotence V2 (5c)

The blunt nose direct.



9 Lout VI (5b)

Ledge to slopy toput.

10 Seconds Out VI (5b)

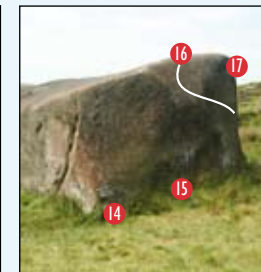
The offwidth will suit those with a strong work ethic. Climbing the left arête itself is V2 (5c).

11 Skinned Rabbit V6 (6b)

You will be. Move up from the shotholes to a rounded toput.

12 The Grind V4 (6b)

If you enjoyed the Skinned Rabbit... Hole, flake and toput. A sit-start makes it V6, mainly because of the weight of your wet pants.



13 Arête on Left V6 (6b)

14 Arête on Right V5 (6b)

15 Mr Nice V4 (6b)

Hurdle the dark sidewall to the right using a single chipped foothold.

16 Mr Left V5 (6b)

From the arête to the right, pull out left into the scoop and go up. A direct start to this looks impossible, but then again, they said that about time travel.

17 Arête on Left V3 (5c)

The arête all the way.



Sarah Warburton on Spring Slab, V7 (page 41). Photo: Adam Long.



D: Little Summit

18 Summit Arête V0– (4b)

The slabby arête of the small boulder.

19 Slab to Summit V0– (5a)

The slab to the right to the highest point.

E: Bog Boulder

A good boulder although some of the problems on the front have a sponge factor.

20 Bog Arête Left V0– (4a)

21 Bog Arête Right V3 (6a)

22 Pebbles and Seam V2 (6a)

Tinkle up the steep slab past a seam.

23 Bog Monster V2 (5c)

Climb the top features to a featureless top. Climbers who have fallen into the incredible sponge below this route have reappeared in Peking. Ⓞ

24 Bog Standard VI (5c)

Layback the shallow flake to a rounded top. Ⓞ

On the back of the boulder:

25 Bog Slab V0– (4c)

Climb the slab to the finish of the next problem.

26 Poxy V0– (4a)

Follow the line of shallow pockles. Ⓞ

27 The Swinger V0 (5a)

Use a rounded hold to gain the fantastic porthole, then use this to swing left onto the slab.

28 Back Wall VI (5b)

Climb the short wall using undercuts and sidepulls.

29 Boo Meringue VI (5b)

A ramble. Step onto the arête of Problem 20 then make a smeary low-level traverse to the left arête. Swing up then hand traverse the top on deep holes to regain Problem 20. Move up or down from here. Ⓞ

F: Spring Boulder

A super-classic slab with some of the best smearing problems at the Roaches. The landings are usually fairly dry, unless you fall into the spring, of course.

30 Spring Slab V7 (6b)

The left side of the slab, on pocks 'n' pebbles, has become harder over the years: see photo on page 39. A very thin time can be had traversing the invisible seam from left to right: **Boba's Traverse** V7 (6c).

31 C3PO V6 (6b)

Climb the slab to the right on buttery smears. Ⓞ

32 Boba Fett V8 (6c)

Climb the tallest part of the slab on nothings. A smearing masterpiece. Avoiding the arête completely earns you a V9 (7a) tick.

33 Bobarête V7 (6b)

Skedaddle right to the arête and climb this. Worryingly placed above a watery hole.

On the back of the boulder is:

34 Sprung V3 (6a)

From a sit start on the sidepull jug, move up and use the seam and the groove to gain the summit.

35 Sprat V0+ (5a)

From the same sit start, groove up and right to the top of the boulder. Ⓞ

36 Sprite V0 (5a)

The layback arête to the right, on its left.

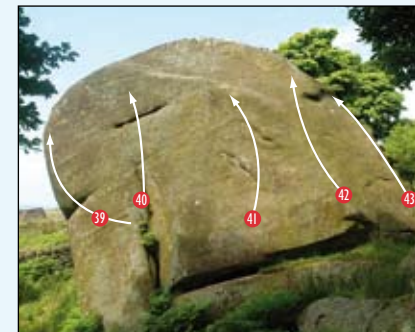
G: Little Boulder

37 Spring Roll Left V2 (6a)

A quick shimmy over the blunt nose just right.

38 Spring Roll V0 (5a)

Climb the short arête on its right.



H: The Dougless Boulder

A great big boulder just inside the walls of the cottage with a fistful of burly highballs. Some of the problems here may require brushing first.

39 Particle Exchange V6 (E4 6b)

From the crack, step left on a brushed foothold and gain the arête. This will feel a lot harder if it is at all dirty, so it may be worth brushing first.

40 Doug-less V4 (E3 6a)

Climb the crack to the horizontal feature, and mantel it. Getting on for being a route.

41 The Rumour V7 (6c)

A bit of a classic following the wall to the right of the crack past the ripples.

42 Sketchy Rib V2 (5c)

The slabby rib to the right.

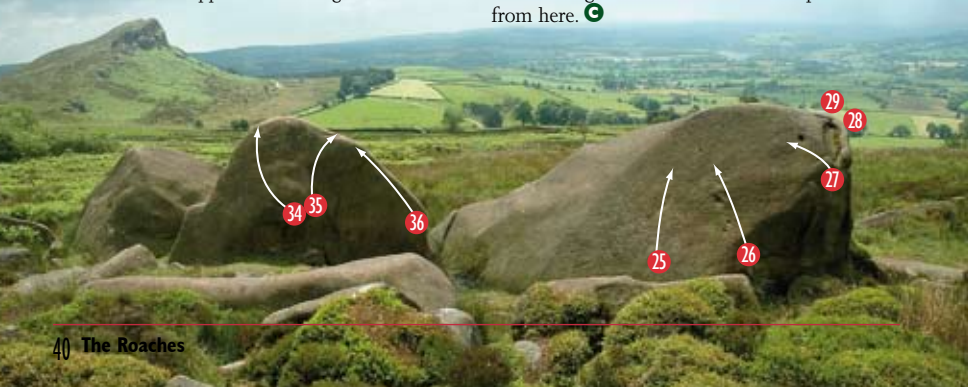
43 Slabby Arête V0– (4b)

The more defined arête just right again.

On the opposite side of the boulder:

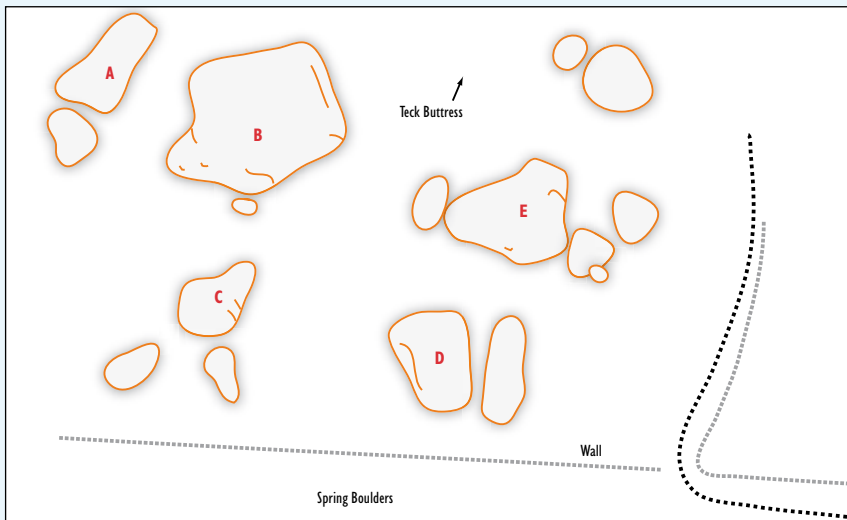
44 Scratchy Scoop V3 (E1 6a)

The slabby scoop to the right of the chippy steps. Ⓞ



Lower Tier Boulders

More boulders lie just across the wall in the form of the classic and popular Lower Tier Boulders, nestled among the larch trees below Teck Crack. A bit of everything at all grades. Good shelter and quick drying. Popular.



A: Blister Slab

1 Left Slab V0– (4c)
The left line on the slab. Ⓢ

2 Slab 2 V0– (4a)
An easier, left-trending line.

3 Blister's Sister V0+ (5a)
A smeary line just left of the blisters.

4 Blister Slab VI (5c)
Press it out on a sloping, chest-height hold to gain the protruding dimples above direct. Technical.

5 Back Slab Right V0– (4b)
The right-hand line.

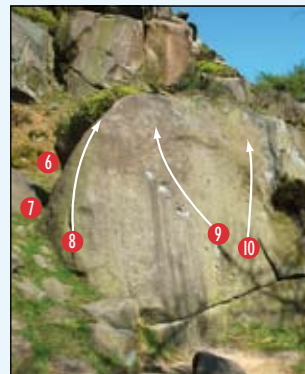
B: The Big Block

6 Black Nook Slab V0– (4c)
The quick slab right of the damp groove.

7 Black Nook Arête V0– (5a)
The slabby, pebbly arête to the right.

8 Pockets Arête V0 (5b)
Climb the blunt end of the boulder. Ⓢ

9 Three Pocket Slab V3 (6a)
Climb the slab on shallow pockets. A committing step up at the top rounds off a memorable classic. Ⓢ



10 Parental Duties V8 (6c)
The steep slab directly above the first foot pocket, avoiding the foot-ledge out right.

11 Big Block Gully V0– (4a)

12 Bow Crack V2 (5c)
The diagonal crack with tricky laybacking and sketchy smearing.

13 Flake Arête V0 (V5 5a)
The mountaineers' route, with a big feel. Climb the big arête on its left with strenuous and smeary undercutting, technical all the way.

14 Big Block Arête V0 (4c)
An easier and less bold version swings onto the right side of the arête then up to good jams. Ⓢ

15 The Undercut Traverse V4 (6a)
Traverse the undercut rightwards. While it's not very hard, you will almost certainly skid off it.

16 Stretch and Mantel V5 (6b)
A beauty. Gaining the boss on the lip is the crux, but manteling out the top is a real test of confidence. Ⓢ

17 Undercut Dyno V7 (6b)
Some wild turbonics from the undercut to the boss on the lip.

18 Stretch Left V4 (6a)
From the arête, stretch left to the boss and mantel.



19 Classic Arête V0 (5a)
The flaky right arête. Lots of good variants are available by omitting holds. Ⓢ

The Full Girdle, V5 (6b), starts with a reverse of The Undercut Traverse and traverse the entire boulder leftwards, a few feet above the ground to finish up Black Nook Slab or Tarzanning across the hanging garden to complete the full link up.

C: Twin Flakes

20 Heinous Mantel V5 (6b)
Bust a move on the rounded sloping nose.

21 The Uppercut V4 (6a)
Tenuous undercutting of the thinner upper flake. A good V3 (6a) using the arête.

22 The Undercutter V3 (6a)
Tenuous uppercutting of the under flake. Starting low on the good hold is a wee bit harder.





23 The Grasper V0 (5a)

From the big flake, go up and left along the edge. Ⓢ

D: Pine Tree Slab

24 Boss Slab V0 (5a)

The gentle slab. Good sport can be had jumping onto this one from the boulder behind and climbing no-handed; quite hard. Ⓢ

25 Pine Slab V0+ (5a)

The thinner slab just left of the crack. Again, a good no-hander, and again, can be leapt onto from the boulder behind before climbing it handleless. The 'touch-down' is not as hard as on Boss Slab. Ⓢ

26 Pine Crack V0- (4a)

27 Up Chips V0- (4b)

The fun line of holds. The squeezey slab to the left is V2 (5c).

28 The Arch V0- (5a)

Climb through the centre of the arch.

29 Pine Arête V0- (4c)

The nice slabby arête.

30 Pine Arête Right V0 (5a)

It's a wee bit steeper on the right.

31 Green Slab V3 (6a)

The tallest part of the slab between the flake and the arête.

32 Pine Martin V0 (5b)

The flake. Try it one-handed. Ⓢ

E: Greener Boulder



33 The Green Greenie V1 (5c)

Mantel out from the start of the traverse. Ⓢ

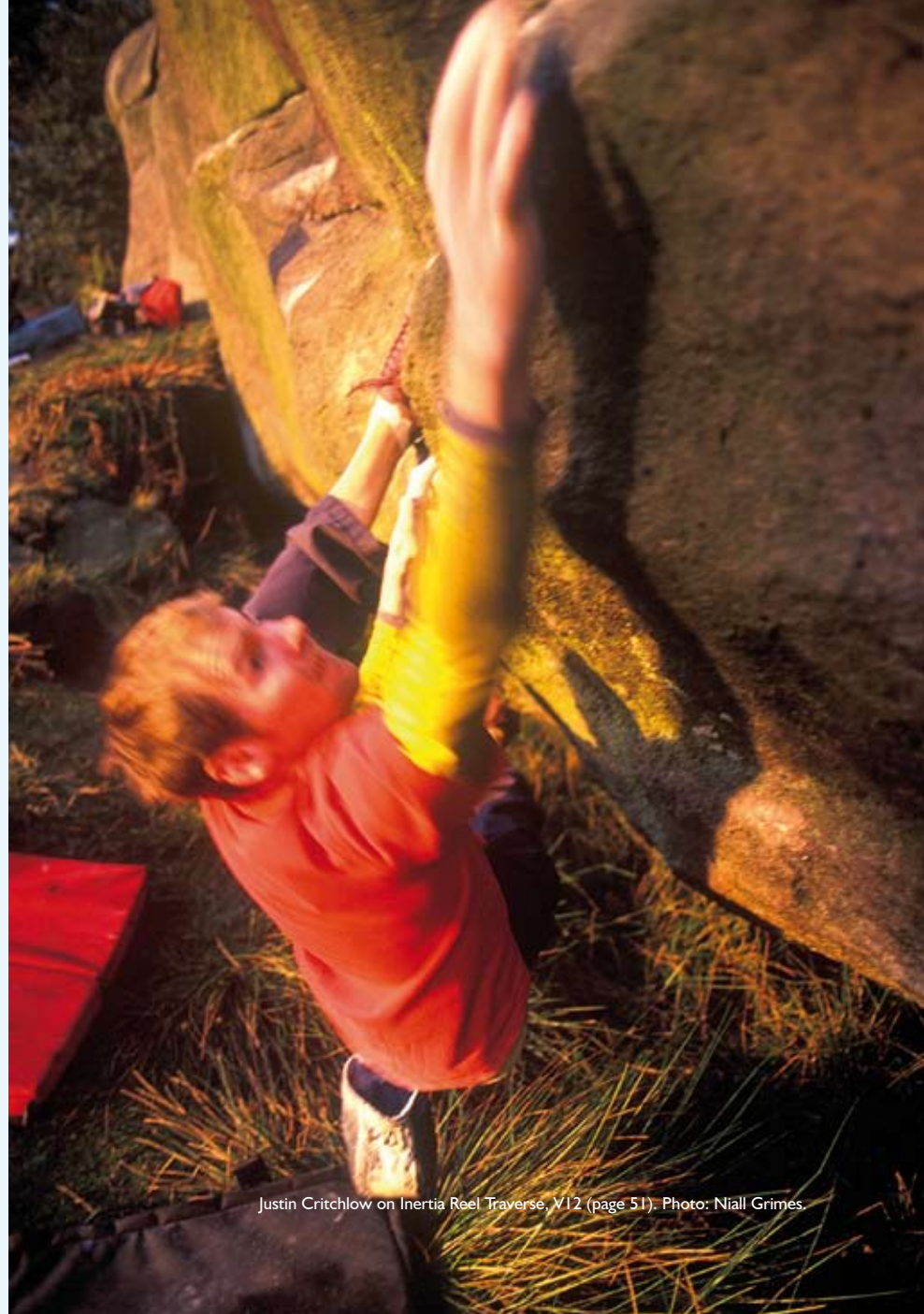
34 The Greener Traverse V3 (5c)

Traverse the finger-rail from left to right, with a bit of a lunge at the end. A sitting start off the poor crimps is V4 (6b).

35 Greenerête V4 (6b)

The arête from a sit start.

44 Bouldering at the Roaches



Justin Critchlow on Inertia Reel Traverse, V12 (page 51). Photo: Niall Grimes.

The Lower Tier

by Andi Turner

O.S. Ref. SK006622

Altitude: 400m a.s.l.

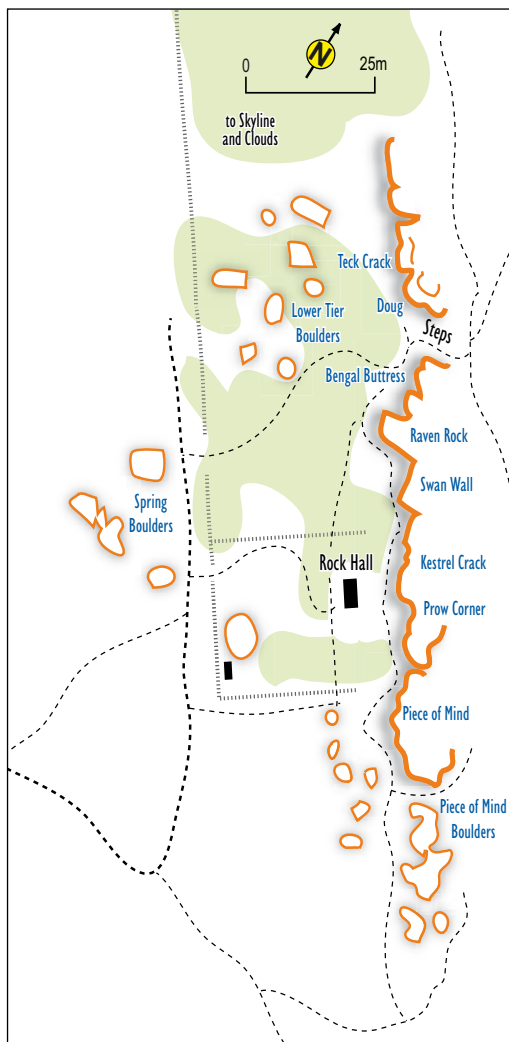
Fiercely classic climbing with top notch routes of all grades. The crag is made up of a run of smooth pebble-dashed slabs on the left side, and a series of jutting prows on the main, right-hand side. The two are divided by a set of steps running to the Upper Tier.

Conditions & aspect

The Lower Tier tends to be fairly sheltered, not being as high up the ridge, and with many trees nearby to break the wind. This shelter also makes some of the faces slow to dry and sometimes green, although, surprisingly, this green doesn't always effect the climbing. Faces south-west, getting sun from afternoon onwards.

Approach

A horrendous 5 minute march is needed from the main car-park.



Climbers having a little damp green fun on Prow Cracks, HD (page 67). The right-hand end of the Lower Tier has a good array of well-protected cracks and corners in the low grades and is an excellent venue to hone leading skills. Photo: Niall Grimes.



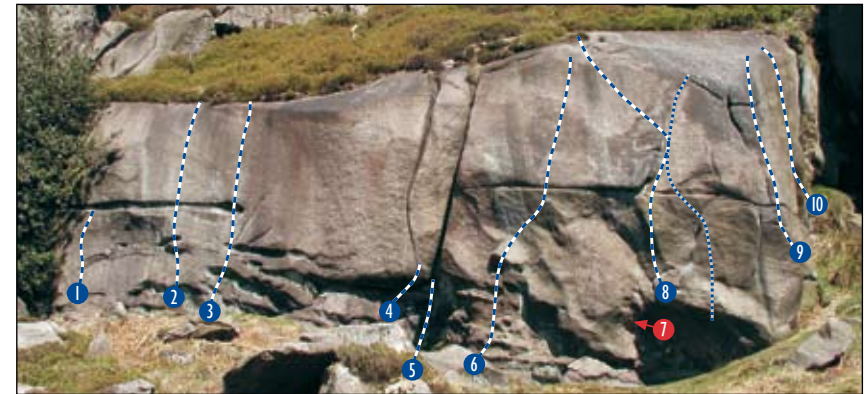
The Left-Hand Section

The main path leads up through the larches towards the steps to the Upper Tier. To the left, above the popular bouldering circuit, stands an impressive set of buttresses, sometimes slabby above, but always fiercely steep at their base. Here is the highest concentration of hard routes to be found at the Roaches. This, combined with the popularity of this area with boulderers, means that the lower sections of many of the routes here are frequently well-chalked: the upper sections less so! The climbing offers a satisfying balance of the strenuous and the tenuous, with more than a dash of the bold.

About 20m beyond the left-hand end of the main wall is a small buttress consisting of a jumble of

boulders, with a characteristic stunted tree growing at their base. This holds **Beware Coconuts** (VS 4b, 1995), climbing the arête and squirming between branches to reach the top. Just to the left of the edge proper is a small cave with an obvious prow above, providing two short routes. **Burrito Deluxe** (E3 5c, 1979) is quite a serious little climb up the green left-hand wall of the prow from a grassy ledge. **National Hero** (E2 5c, 1978) climbs out of the right-hand side of the cave and up the right-hand side of the prow. The left-hand end of the first main buttress is marked by a vigorous holly tree, which conceals a secret way to the top for the thick-skinned.

Above: Doug Moller, Lord and King of the Roaches – axeman, poet, royalty – stands before his one-time home, Rock Hall. Photo: John Beatty.



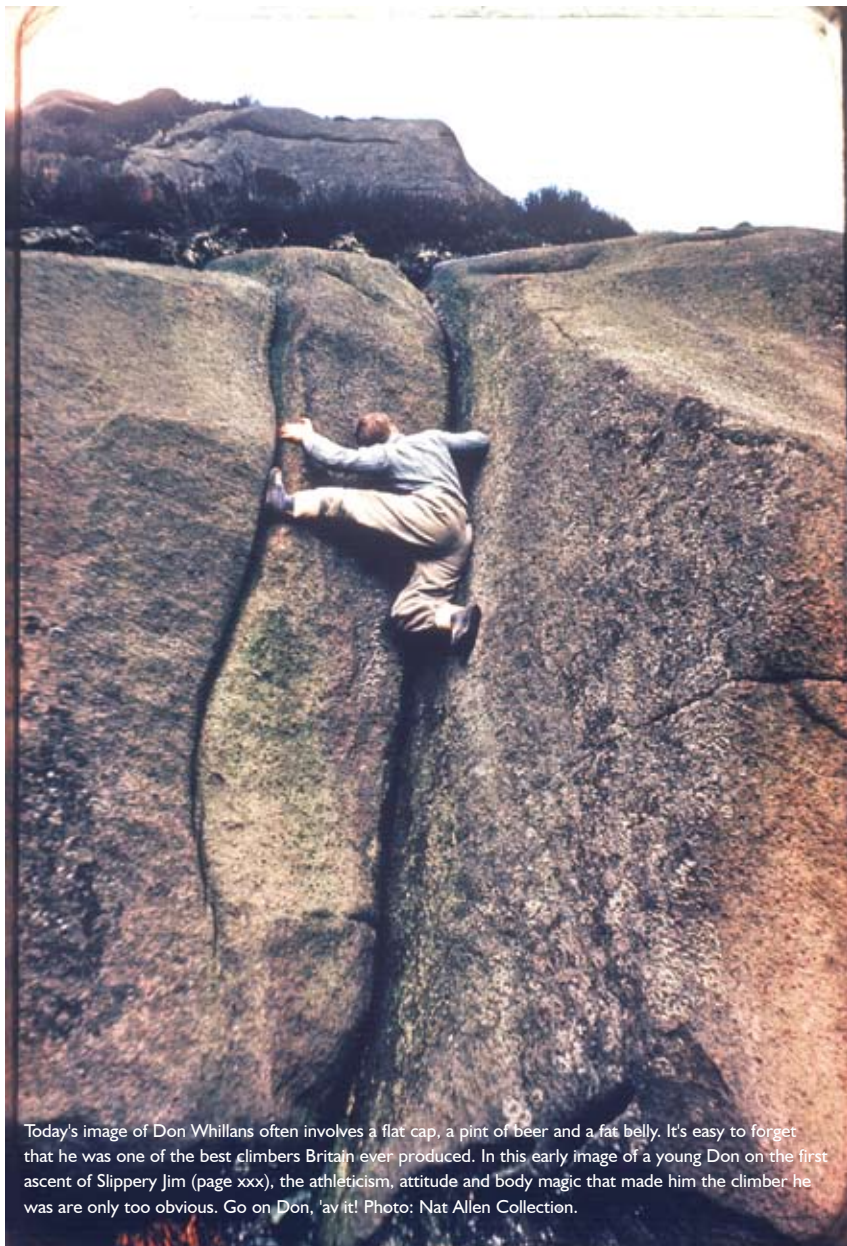
- 1 Snap, Crackle and Andy Popp** E1 5c 1987
7m Climb the left-hand end of the wall, just to the right of the holly. Full leathers may be required to avoid being fatally mauled!
- 2 Apache Dawn** E5 6c ★★ 1993
8m From the middle of the pod, climb directly up on pebbles to a shallow divot and top out. Intimidating and intense: highball V7.
- 3 Catastrophe Internationale** E5 6b ★★ 1985
8m Pure pebble climbing at an uncomfortable height. From the pod, choose your pebbles. The objective is a rounded boss on the right, just below the top followed by an entertaining pull over on trustworthy heather: highball V6.
- 4 Slippery Jim** HVS 5a ★ 1958
7m Climb the corner crack to its heathery conclusion. A Rock and Ice classic: see photo on page 50.
- 5 Bareback Rider** E4 6b ★★ 1980
8m Ron Fawcett's favourite E3! Try to avoid being thrown from the technical and bouldery arête before an awkward mantelshelf gains the sloping rib. Continue airily up the slab: highball V4.
- 6 K.P. Nuts** E6 7a 1989
8m A technical, nerve-racking and, so far, unrepeatable Nadin testpiece. Climb the wall and make a

technical rockover to gain the slab above using the peanut-shaped pebbles. Compose yourself and float up the slab above to join Ascent of Man at the finish.

- 7 Traverse of Man** V2 (5c)
Start in the cave below the next route and traverse left, into the corner, then all the way to the holly. The first section alone, into the corner, is V0+ (5a). Ⓞ
- 8 Ascent of Man** E3 6a ★★ ★ 1974
10m Welcome to pebble pulling. Make a hard move to reach a good break and then the fine flake above: a V2 in its own right Ⓞ Place wobbly runners and make a committing step left onto the pebbly ramp. Mantel onto the top as soon as you dare.

An independent right-hand start slapping up the twin ribs (V4), combined with a direct finish using the (from this side) even wobblier runners, is the very worthwhile **Ascent of Woman** (E4 6a, trad).

- 9 Days of Future Passed** E3 6b ★ 1974
9m The arête of the buttress has a powerful start (or jump) and a belly-flop finish with baffling rounded side-pulls in between.
- 10 The Aspirant** E3 5c 1978
8m From the pedestal at the base of the left wall of the gully, make a surprisingly committing move to the obvious hold and then exit carefully onto the rib above.



Today's image of Don Whillans often involves a flat cap, a pint of beer and a fat belly. It's easy to forget that he was one of the best climbers Britain ever produced. In this early image of a young Don on the first ascent of Slippery Jim (page xxx), the athleticism, attitude and body magic that made him the climber he was are only too obvious. Go on Don, 'av it! Photo: Nat Allen Collection.



11 Ackit HVS 5b ★★★

1958

15m The hanging corner. A strenuous start and then some tough laybacking lead to a welcome rest below the tricky final bulge above, which often fails to get the deft technique it deserves. A great leveller!

12 Just for Today E6 7a †

1994

9m A desperate eliminate, starting as for Barriers then taking the slab just to the left, with runners in Ackit.

13 Barriers in Time E6 6b ★★★

1983

16m The impressive stepped arête marked a major breakthrough for its time and is still an unforgettable lead today. Climb the scalloped wall to the second break and protection. Proceed thoughtfully to the top via the rounded arête as the runners recede alarmingly. Traverse left into Ackit at the top.

14 Inertia Reel Traverse VI2 (7a)

Moffatt's awesome traverse is as hard as they come, and sees few repeats. Traverse the all-sloping shelf from left to right: [see photo on page 45](#).

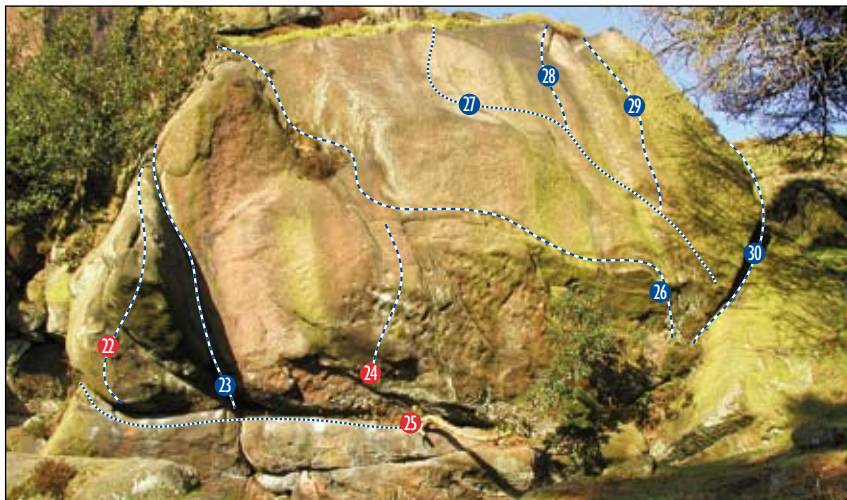
15 Ant Lives V6 (6b)

A gruesome mantel off the lower shelf to gain the sloping ledge above. Originally topped out on the right, adding a grade or two.

16 Sunday at Chapel E6 6c ★

1988

9m The lower arête of Barriers in Time, climbed on its right-hand side starting from Ant Lives, via a crazed series of slaps, using a side runner in Ackit. Once on the ledge simply escape down towards the belay below the crack on Teck Crack.

**17 Inertia Reel** V7 (6c)

A Dawes classic starting just left of the vague nose. Undercut, bridge, palm and dyno to gain the ledge. Desperate. The sit start, **Turbo**, is all too obvious and obviously all too hard: V10 (7a).

18 Teck Crack Direct V5 (6b)

Quick moves across the sloping shelf leads to desperate lunges to better holds by the blind crack. Up this to the terrace. **Thud** V8 (6c) is a unique low start. Pull on with hands in a low undercut and a round dish (feet on back wall), then swing up and gain the shelf of the direct with your feet. Do all you can to re-establish conventional mode and continue. Helmet advised.

19 Teck Crack Super-Direct V9 (6c)

Levitate up the cruel seam. Six-footers only need apply!

20 The Dignity of Labour V6 (6b)

Step off the boulder and traverse left until dynamic moves up lead to an intimidating mantel using a square pebble. An adventurous landing may mean the original E3 is still deserved.

21 Teck Crack HVS 5b ★★★

1958

26m A fantastic sandbag, with steep laybacking in

an impressive situation; a Lower Tier classic. Start from the big ledge (best gained up the ramshackle gully below and right). Commit to the crack fully and it will succumb. Finish up the continuation crack to a historic bolt and seat belay.

22 Skydivin' V5 (6b)

Jump from the boulder and gain the nose. Continue up this. **A Modest Proposal** V6 (6b), gains the same finish by slapping out from the break below, via the left-hand prow. The roof crack has been climbed at E3 6a (V5), reputedly by Joe Brown.

23 Lightning Crack HVS 5b, 4c ★

1958

1. 8m After a puzzling entry, layback the crack to reach a tree.

2. 12m Move up behind the tree and climb the triangular wall behind. Climb up to the sloping ledge and either finish direct or, better still, by a leftward rising pod.

24 Mushin' V10 (7a)

Ben Moon's brutal direct start to Pindles Numb. Start from the break, move up to undercuts then power outwards on sloping dishes to a junction with Pindles. Most boulderers will jump off from here.

25 The Boozy Traverse V8 (6b)

From the holly, traverse left, finishing with a very pumpy sloping section.

26 Pindles Numb E4 6b

1984

11m Hand-traverse the handrail with increasing difficulty, until it is possible to pull desperately into the groove above: highball V5.

27 Crystal Grazer E5 6a ★

1982

11m From the ramp, pull up left until standing on the lip of the overhang. Foot traverse past a shallow groove until it is possible to move up and gain the obvious hold directly above the holly. Unprotected.

28 A Fist Full of Crystals E6 6b ★★★

1983

12m Brilliant, balancy and bold climbing on smears and pebbles. Start as for Crystal Grazer as far as the groove. Climb this and either step left onto a finishing foothold or continue direct. Surmounting the overhang to gain the groove directly is **Heredity** (E6 6c, 1989).

29 Doug E8 6c ★

1986

12m A historic route, the country's first E8. Hard, blind and unprotected pebble-pulling up the shallow scoop at the right-hand side of the slab. Start as for the two previous routes but then climb immediately up the right-hand side of the front face of the buttress to finish up the hanging scoop.

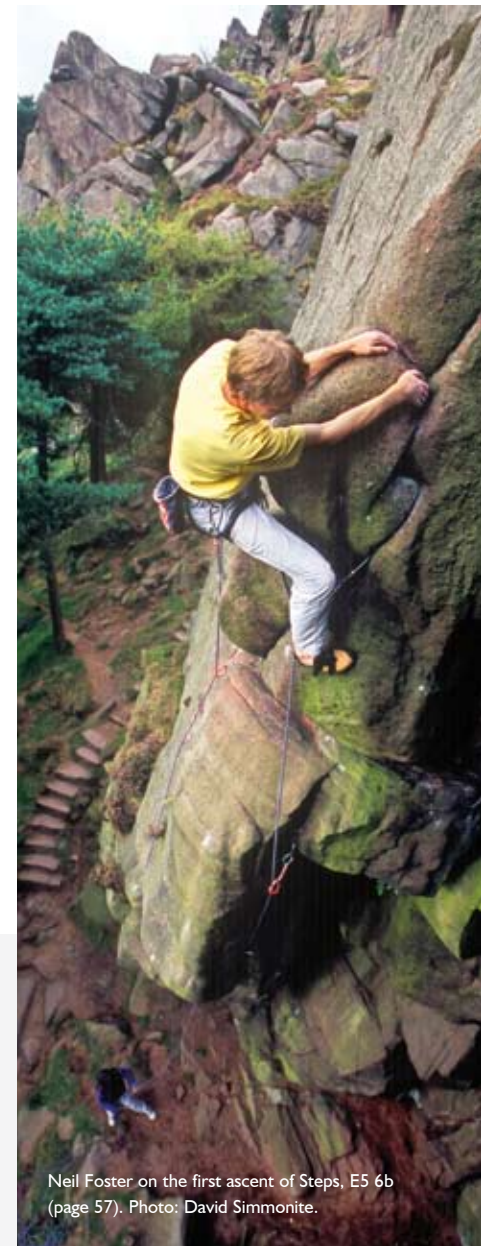
30 Fred's Café V5 5a

1978

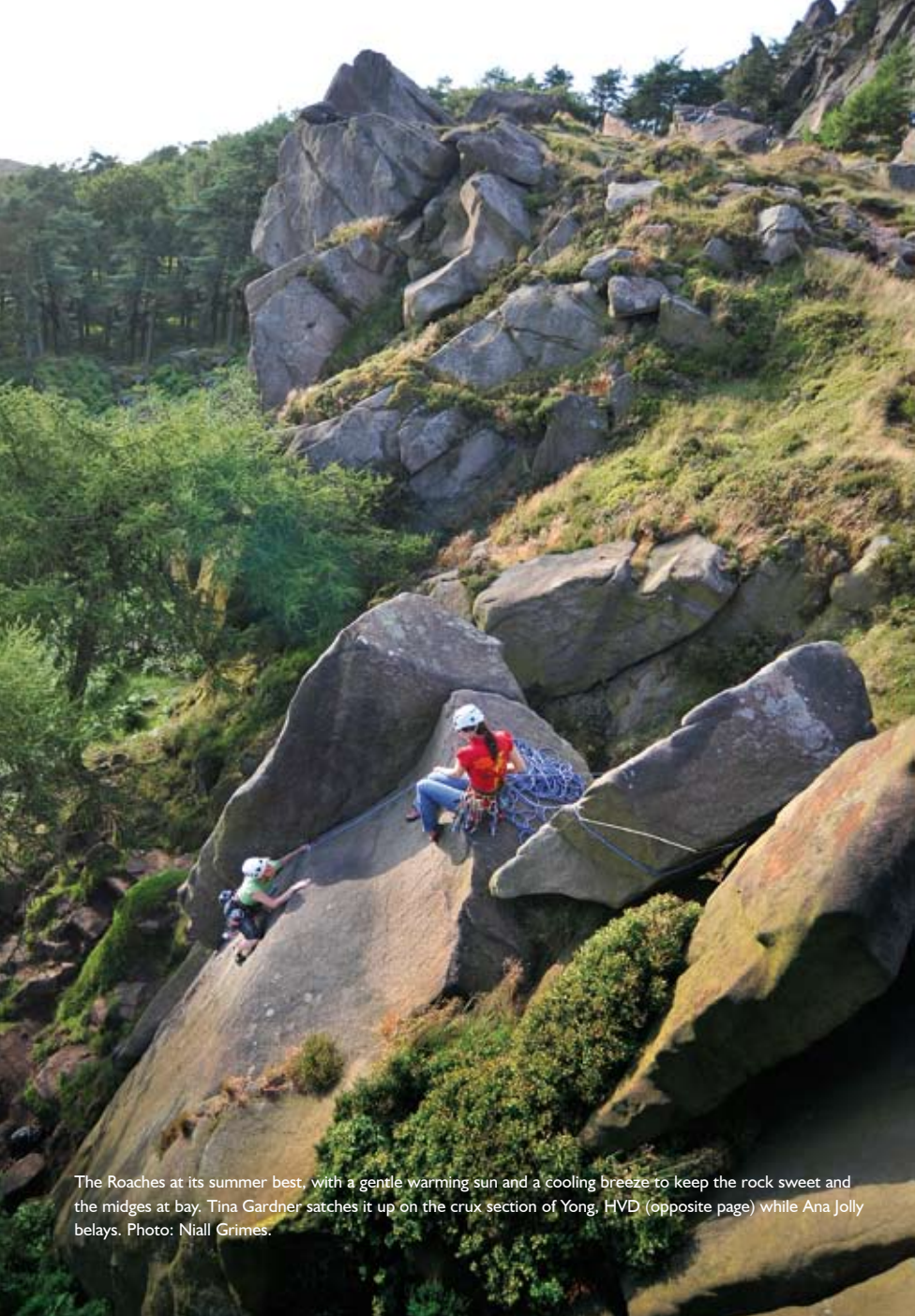
12m A green climb up the rightward-slanting crack at the right side of the buttress, finishing leftwards up flakes.

The Lower Tier steps

and the pathway along the ridge were built in 1860, along what is possibly a Roman causeway. On August 23rd, 1872, the steps were used by the Duke and Duchess of Teck and Prince Francis to gain the upper tier for a picnic. A seat was carved into the rock for the Duchess, and railings put in place for safety.



Neil Foster on the first ascent of Steps, E5 6b (page 57). Photo: David Simmonite.



The Roaches at its summer best, with a gentle warming sun and a cooling breeze to keep the rock sweet and the midges at bay. Tina Gardner satches it up on the crux section of Yong, HVD (opposite page) while Ana Jolly belays. Photo: Niall Grimes.



The Right-Hand Section

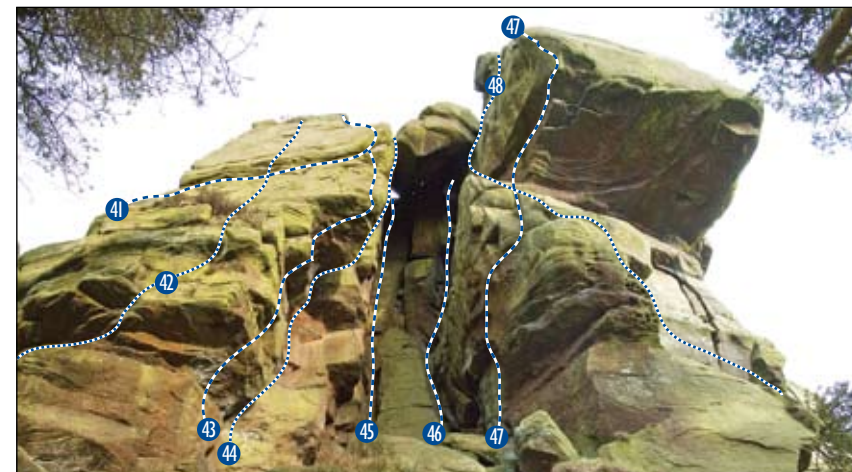
The first route starts immediately right of the steps.

- 31 Yong Arête** S ★ 1957-68
7m An interesting route climbing the blunt rib. Protection arrives too late for the leader, but may be appreciated by the second.
- 32 Poisonous Python** E2 5b 1978
8m The innocent-looking curving cracks through the overlap give some surprisingly difficult climbing. A good variation pulls out right to the arête, once over the overlap, to finish up this.
- 33 Yong** HVD 4a ★ 1957-68
9m The crack in the shallow corner is climbed on superb jams throughout, and is excellently protected. A perfect route for beginners: *see photo opposite*.
- 34 Something Better Change** E2 5b 1978
9m The chipped slab right of Yong is climbed direct. Good. A side-runner reduces the grade to HVS.

- 35 Wisecrack** VS 4c 1957-68
8m The slanting crack in the left side of the buttress.
- 36 Hypothesis** E1 5b ★★ 1968
10m The excellent cracked arête is technical, sustained and only just protectable.
- 37 Destination Earth** E6 6b ★ 1984
12m The centre of the front face is consistently hard, with a particularly testing crux at 7m.
- 38 Cannonball Crack** S 4b pre-1913
11m Slither up the crack in the left face, until a move left onto a boulder allows the top to be gained.
- 39 Graffiti** E1 5b 1978
15m Climb the arête until a move left gains a slim corner, which is climbed to the crack above and then to the top.
- 40 Dorothy's Dilemma** E1 5a ★★ 1951
18m Climb the exposed arête in its entirety by a series of absorbing moves in a serious situation.



Niall Grimes on the crux of Northern Comfort, E6 6c (page 59) on the first ascent. Photo: Richard Harland.



41 Bengal Buttress HVS 4c ★★ 1913–24

30m An inspired production from ancient times, being exposed, delicate and, even today, having disheartening protection. It takes a meandering, but logical line up the front of the buttress. Move up to a grassy ledge, then go right up to a break, runners. Move up to gain an airy position on the right of the arête where a trying move leads to the top of Raven Rock Gully. Step left and go up the short crack.

42 Schoolies E4 5c 1978

22m A dangerous and artificial line up the front of the buttress. Reachy roof moves gain a ledge. Continue boldly up the slab until crux moves gain easier-angled rock.

Raven Rock

To the right, a fine tower stands proud from the crag. It gives magnificent routes of all grades and although the climbs tend to be steep, by devious and inventive route-finding they usually manage to weave their wonderful ways upwards by guile rather than brute force.

43 Steps E5 6b ★ 2003

23m Starting 2m left of Crack of Gloom, pull straight around the big roof, then climb to reach a break. Step left and climb a short left-facing corner,

then traverse out along the lip of the big roof to gain the flake, which is followed to a wide shelf. Finish up the rib above: see photo on page 53.

44 Crack of Gloom E2 5b ★★ 1958

23m A superb, dark and shadowy climb, with a character all its own, taking the mighty gloomy looming crack in the left wall of the recess, exiting left around the chockstone in a great position.

45 Raven Rock Gully Left-Hand VS 4b 1969

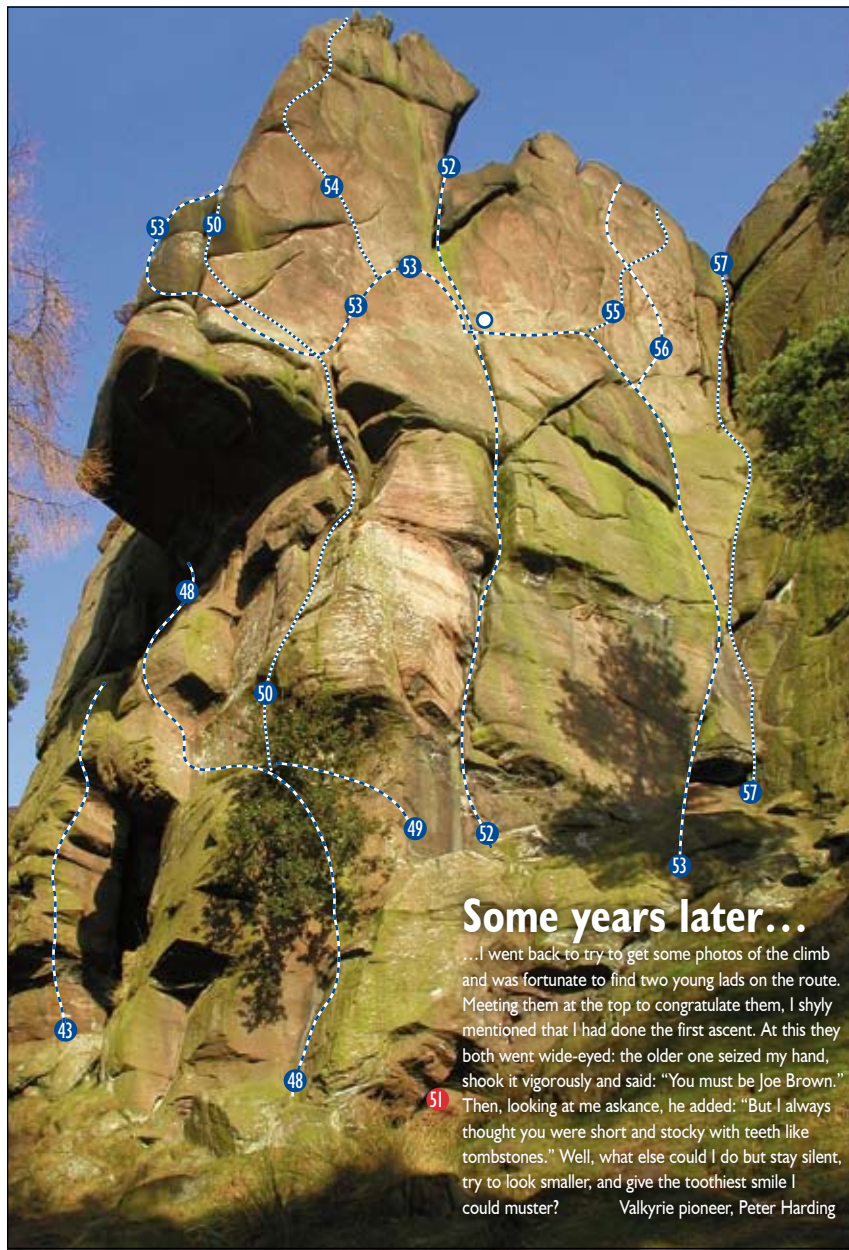
20m Ascend cracks and grooves in the left side of the gully, exiting through the skylight above. Good.

46 Raven Rock Gully D ★ 1901

20m A filthy climb, popular with deviants for over a century. An absolute must! Follow the flakes in the back of the gully until it is possible to squirm through the manhole above. The steep crack in the wall to the right is **Swinger** (VS 4c, pre-1973) which can be used as a direct start to Via Dolorosa.

47 Sidewinder E5 6a 1980

25m A wild route up the hanging arête above the overhang. Possibly unrepeated. From the gully, hand-traverse right to climb the shallow groove in the blunt arête. Climb the left-hand side of the huge roof via the dubious protruding flake then make a long reach to gain a vertical flake on the wall.



Some years later...

...I went back to try to get some photos of the climb and was fortunate to find two young lads on the route. Meeting them at the top to congratulate them, I shyly mentioned that I had done the first ascent. At this they both went wide-eyed: the older one seized my hand, shook it vigorously and said: "You must be Joe Brown." Then, looking at me askance, he added: "But I always thought you were short and stocky with teeth like tombstones." Well, what else could I do but stay silent, try to look smaller, and give the toothiest smile I could muster? Valkyrie pioneer, Peter Harding

48 Via Dolorosa VS 4c, 4a, 4c ★★★ 1913–24

33m A great historic climb, one of the very best of its grade in the area.

- 1. 8m** Ascend a narrow glassy slab (hard, and almost becoming unpleasantly polished), then move up left through the holly to reach a ledge.
- 2. 10m** Traverse left to the rib and follow a short crack, then a slab around to the left. Belay at a block.
- 3. 15m** Climb boldly up right to a flake. Surmount this then move right round the arête and go up to the top. Sit down and enjoy the view.

49 Via Dolorosa Variations HS 4a ★★ traditional

By avoiding the polished corner (starting on the higher ledge on the right), and finishing left into Raven Rock Gully to avoid the last pitch, this superb climb can be enjoyed at a much lower standard.

Cold Bone Forgotten (E3 6b, 1988) climbs the lower roof left of Via Dolorosa with a runner in the tree.

50 Valkyrie Direct HVS 5b ★★ 1951

25m A superb climb in a supreme setting, taking a steep direct line through the parent route. A good gritstone fight. Force a steep line straight up to the left side of the Valkyrie flake. From here, step left, and finish up the obstinate crack to join Valkyrie.

51 The Gutter V7 (6b)

Start in undercuts at the back of the cave and come out to slap up the angular arête up and left.

52 Matinee HVS 5a,5b ★★★ 1951

23m A magnificent, and very testing, exercise in jamming, this climb takes the huge, beautifully ugly crack, which splits the right-hand face of Raven Rock.

- 1. 15m** Climb the sometimes green crack on glorious jams to a belay on the fine ledge (The Crevasse).
- 2. 8m** Continue up the widening crack to the final bulge. Technicians will elegantly side-step this, but for mortals much humiliating floundering awaits.

53 Valkyrie VS 4b, 4c ★★★ 1946

38m Simply one of the best routes on gritstone – intricate, exposed and varied, and while it is only VS, it definitely climbs through HVS territory.

- 1. 15m** Follow the corner then traverse left to a fine belay on the Crevasse. A nondescript pitch, also

"At what is now the hard move

Peter paused for several minutes because the face was mossy and the finger holds were choked with soil and moss. He shouted for Veronica to pass him his penknife which was lowered down on a rope. He scratched the moss away, closed the knife, without more ado carried on to the top."

Bowden Black on the first ascent of Valkyrie

quite polished, the start of Pebbledash making for a much more sustained and interesting beginning.

- 2. 23m** Climb up and over and down the huge flake until an awkward move left (all very thrilling) brings generally easier climbing up the front of the buttress. Careful ropework advised, especially to protect the second: *see photo on page 32*.

The next routes all start from Valkyrie's Crevasse stance.

54 Northern Comfort E6 6c ★★ 1996

10m Technical and slappy climbing with a safe fall-out zone. From the crest of the Valkyrie flake, climb diagonally leftwards to reach a rounded notch on the arête (crux). Pull back right and follow the easier flake to the top.: *see photo on page 56*

55 Licence to Run E4 6a ★★★ 1980

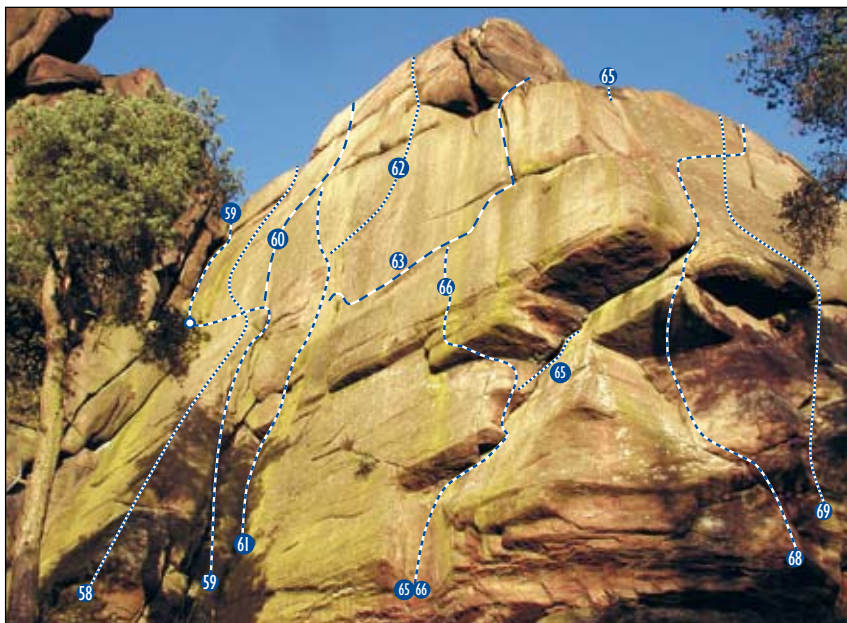
10m A fingery wall climb with some obscure moves. Protection is good but exhausting to place. From the stance, climb up and right to follow a layback flake until it is possible to break out right to another flake. Tricky moves up and right gain a finishing jug.

56 Licence to Lust E4 6a ★ 1987

10m Climb the wall to the right of Licence to Run to its second smaller flake. Step left and follow the thin crack-line to the top. A direct line linking the start of Licence to Run to the finish of this route is **Licence to Kill**, E4 6b (2000).

57 Valkyrie Corner HS 4b ★ traditional

25m The major corner. Follow it all the way, or escape through the tunnel or, better, climb the flake on the left to the top. The ramp trending up and right also make a fine finish, easy but exposed.



The Swan Wall

The steep wall to the right features perfect grit and a collection of routes generally marked by fierce fingery cranking, usually with a bit of heart-fluttering thrown in as well.

58 Eugene's Axe E2 5c 1979

20m Climb the arête to the cracks above (very high side-runner in Pebbledash at this grade). Use these to gain a ramp, and finish up this.

59 Pebbledash HVS 5a, 4b ★ 1969

1. 12m Climb the chimney and crack to a junction with the previous route. Scamper across the slab leftwards to the sanctuary of a belay ledge in the corner.
2. 9m The flake, corner or ramp above (or Valkyrie).

60 Secrets of Dance E4 6a ★ 1984

20m Follow Pebbledash to the crack above. From here, gain and follow the finger-ramp above. Finish via pockets and breaks. Not overly protected once out of the crack, but the climbing does ease, a little.

60 The Roaches

61 Against the Grain E6 7a ★★★ 1985

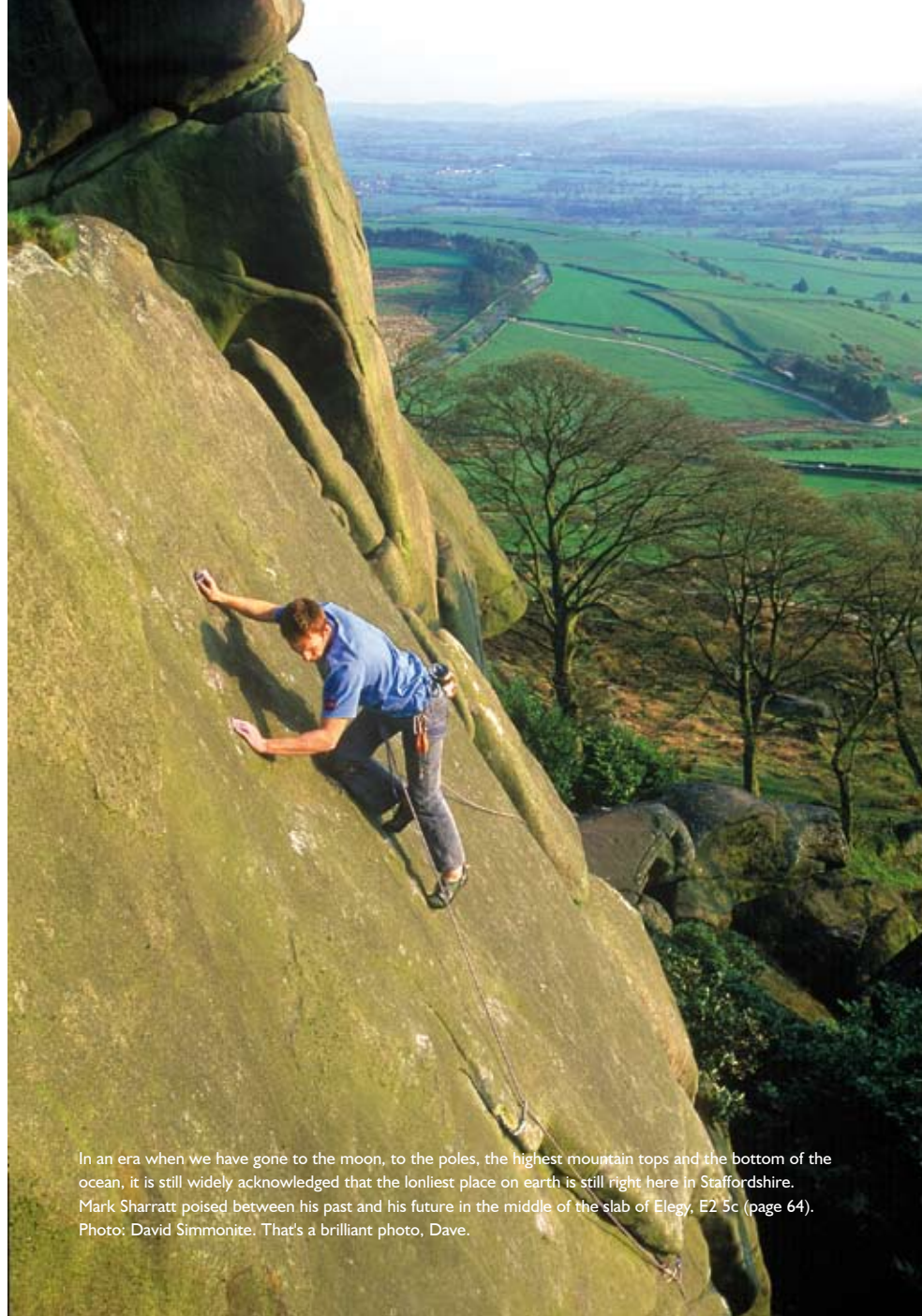
20m A stunning fingery sequence above a relatively safe fallout zone. Easy ground leads to good cracks. From the cracks, step leftwards and make a desperate sequence of increasingly difficult moves on tiny edges diagonally leftwards to gain the sloping ramp on Secrets of Dance. Finish up this.

62 Thing on a Spring E6 7a ★★★ 1986

20m One of Simon Nadin's most technical creations with some of the hardest climbing in Staffordshire. From the cracks step right onto the ramp and foot traverse this to its end. Now compose yourself, and pop for the sloping break above. From here, romp confidently to the top: *see photo on page 29*.

63 The Swan E3 5c ★★★ 1969

24m Manageable climbing in outrageous positions makes this a memorable lead. From the cracks (high runners), finger traverse out right. The footholds diminish as the handholds get bigger, culminating in a tough rockover to gain the rounded break. Follow the wide crack above to the top.



In an era when we have gone to the moon, to the poles, the highest mountain tops and the bottom of the ocean, it is still widely acknowledged that the lonliest place on earth is still right here in Staffordshire. Mark Sharratt poised between his past and his future in the middle of the slab of Elegy, E2 5c (page 64). Photo: David Simmonite. That's a brilliant photo, Dave.



A climber on Fledgling's Climb, S 4a. This is one of the easier classics of the Lower Tier although, with its bold and sloping lower section, one that's best enjoyed in nice dry conditions (page 64).
Photo: Niall Grimes.

64 Up The Swanee E4 5c ★ 1971
22m As for The Swan, but using the handholds for footholds across the traverse. Delicate.

65 The Mincer HVS 5b ★★★ 1951
20m Steep jamming with a tough reputation. Climb the crack through the stepped overhangs. The overhang is the crux and will reduce all but the most adept to a flailing display of appalling technique. All that remains is the wide crack above.

66 Swan Bank E4 5c 1981
20m From The Mincer, move left to a flake and then go directly up to the wide crack above. Not well-protected, and involving the hard move up on The Swan.

Smear Test Slab

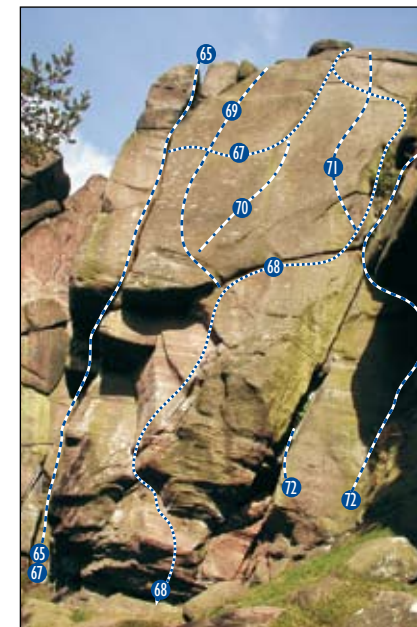
Thin smearing test-pieces mark out the climbing on this beautiful hanging slab, although the routes tend to be eliminates.

67 Smear Test E3 6a ★★ 1977
11m A good introduction to the harder slabs hereabouts. From The Mincer, traverse horizontally rightwards to finish up the bottomless crack. An independent start can be made up left from the start of Pincer joining The Mincer at the overhang.

68 Pincer VS 5a ★ 1957-68
20m A good bouldery start, but the top lacks direction. Follow the groove (crux) into Guano Gully. Ascend this until it is possible to step back left onto the slab to reach the bottomless crack.

69 Bloodstone E5 6b ★★ 1983
19m A good eliminate, with some exposed slab climbing. Climb Pincer, or the bouldery bulge to the right, to the roof and good gear. Make a hard move over the overlap, the 'kicking bird' move, then blast directly up the slab. Runners are placed low in The Mincer, and in the upper crack. **Kicking Bird** (E4 6a ★ 1978) is an earlier version that avoided the lower section of slab by climbing The Mincer.

70 Bloodspeed E6 6b ★★ 1984
19m Probably the best line on this beautiful slab. From the ledge, smear up to the salvation of the

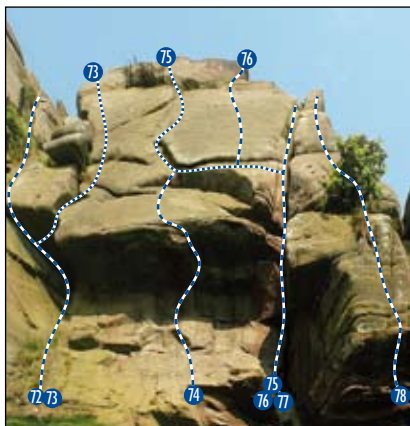


crack (to find it isn't a crack). Climb this or the slab on its right. Very blank and insecure throughout.

71 Cold Blood E5 6b ★★ 2006
13m A recent route that fills a gap as good as any on the slab. From the junction of Guano Gully and The Pincer, place gear in the good slot then rock up and left onto the slab. Continue direct up the slab, following a line to the right of the hanging crack.

72 Guano Gully HS 4b 1927
13m Start in the corner under the overhang. Follow this then undercut leftwards to gain the main upper corner. The direct start up the lower crack is VS 5a.

73 Mousey's Mistake E2 5b 1978
15m Climb Guano Gully, or its direct start, then pass the boulder / overhang on its right. Climb the left side of the slab above. Bold.



Elegy Slab

The hanging slab contains a gnarly classic and two contrasting desperates.

74 A Little Peculiar E7 7b ★ 1993
16m Unique. Cross the roof and make once-in-a-lifetime moves to get established on the slab above. Finish up Elegy.

75 Elegy E2 5c ★★★ 1960
16m An absorbing route of the utmost quality, with a tough crux followed by a sizzling runout. With high gear in The Bulger pull left around the bulge (technical crux). Follow the flake left to its end then climb the slab above on smears and slopers (psycho crux): see photo on page 61.

76 Clive Coolhead Realises the Excitement of Knowing You May Be the Author of Your Own Death is More Intense Than Orgasm E5 6b ★★★ 1983
16m Start as for Elegy, but once round the bulge establish yourself over the flake (crux) and climb the right of the slab above. Takes longer to memorise the name than to do the route! Gear is placed in The Bulger and the Elegy flake.

77 The Bulger VS 4c ★ 1951
16m The crack climbed throughout. More difficult than would first appear and strangely rewarding.

64 The Roaches

78 Dirty Wee Rouge E3 6a 2003
13m A narrow journey up the front of the pillar, taking the overhang direct and avoiding The Bulger.

79 Fledgling's Climb S 4a ★ 1927
13m A bold and balancy route. Good footwork is required to start the wall, which is followed first left, then back right, to finish up the arête above. Protection is awkward, and the route is precarious when damp, so fledglings beware: photo on page 62.

80 Wing Wing HS 4a traditional
9m A bolder variation on the last climb follows the groove in the middle of the wall before a couple of pulls gain the diagonal flake. Rock right onto the triangular ledge above to finish. Poorly protected.

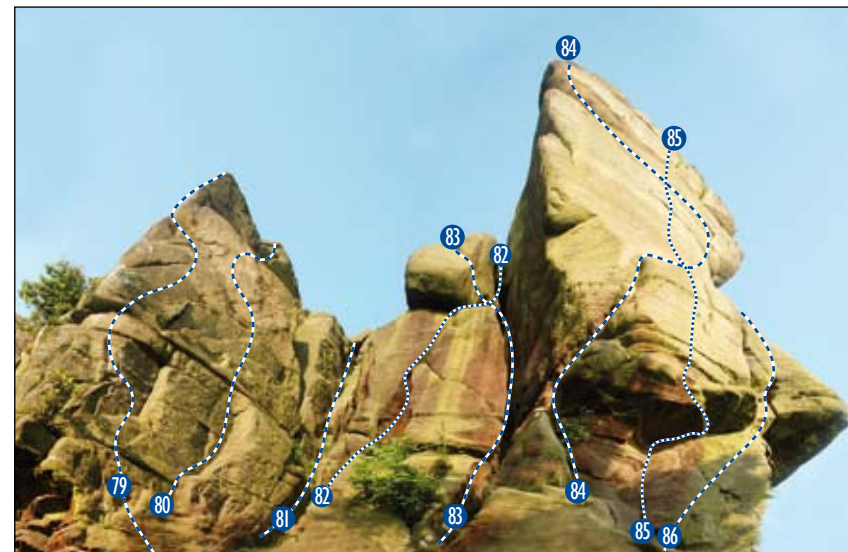
81 Little Chimney M 1949-51
9m The little chimney can provide a quick way down for the competent.

82 Battery Crack VS 4b 1968-73
10m The wide crack just right, with a taxing exit out of the sentry box. Finish up the chimney.

83 Lucas Chimney S 4a 1927
11m A good traditional thrutch up the wide chimney in the corner, swinging carefully left to finish.

"Routes like Elegy are easier to solo..."

...because you know where you stand. Although, there was that time in the 'seventies Phil Burke tried to solo it midweek. He got on the slab, got gripped, and just started screaming his head off, but, of course, there was nobody about. But then Dougie appeared at the top and looked over, and Burke was screaming, "Throw me a rope, quick!" Dougie disappeared, and when he came back, he tossed this loop of blue nylon rope down at Burke which tumbled down the slab and hit him – but Dougie hadn't tied it on to anything at the top, so the whole thing just snaked past Burke and fell to the ground, and so he just had to set off and shake his way to the top."
Ron Fawcett



Kestrel Buttress

The attractive slim buttress to the right, and just above the roof of Rock Hall, with a powerful crack-line cleaving its centre.

84 Hawkwing E1 5b ★★★ 1978
21m This weaves up the face giving reasonable, but sustained climbing, with protection that requires some care. Follow a curving crack-line rightwards onto the front face to join the wide crack (Kestrel Crack). Climb this for 2m then traverse back left via the parallel slanting cracks to finish up the left arête.

85 Carrion E3 5c ★ 1980
19m Good climbing, and while it is low in the grade technically, it has an exposed feel. Fun, protectable moves lead over the lower roof to gain the ledge on Hawkwing. Follow the centre of the face above via long stretches between nice rounded breaks. A meaner variation is **Poison Gift** (E4 6a, 1980). This follows Carrion to the ledge (where you might want to place a runner up and right). Gain the thin lower break, and crimp along this leftwards until a stretch gains the left arête (crux). Use this to get onto a good foothold, and a quick, easy finish.

86 Kestrel Crack HS 4b ★★★ 1913-24
20m A great rounded gritstone tester, varied and well-positioned. Just right is an impressive groove. Climb this with stiff gymnastic moves (or a wedge and a squirm) to gain a ledge. (It is possible, but harder, to gain this coming in from the right.) The grand upper crack is made harder or easier depending on which way you face.

87 Headless Horseman E1 5b 1978
20m From the chockstone of Kestrel Crack, move out right to climb the striking arête on its left side. Poorly protected..

88 Logical Progression E7 6c ★★★ 1998
18m An inventive solution to the challenge of the big blank wall. Make a desperate leftwards traverse of the lip to the obvious pockets (possible poor cam). Delicately rock up into these and finish more easily into Headless Horseman.

To the right of Logical Progression is a smooth wall which has so far only been breached by a 7a top rope problem up the blunt nose and arête below the small triangular roof. Watch this space...

The Roaches 65



89 Flimney 5 4a 1957–68
18m Although somewhat overgrown, the jungle bashing proves to be great fun. Climb a large flake left of the bushes and finish up the crack and corner behind.

90 The Death Knell E4 5c ★★ 1970
10m A bold route that deserves more attention. Climb the short arête until a good hold can be attained in the crack. Using this, get established on the upper wall (crux), then continue more easily using either the crack or the arête. The original version stepped left above the crux into cracks now choked with vegetation.

91 Rhodren HVS 5b ★★ 1958
11m A great climb taking the stepped corner, with constricted undercutting making it a good warm-up for The Mincer.

To the right is a fallen flake forming an interesting arch, which marks the starts of the next two routes.

92 Flake Chimney D ★ 1949–51
14m A great adventurous little route. Take the edge of the fallen flake, then 'walk the plank' into the corner on the right. The chimney leads to the top.

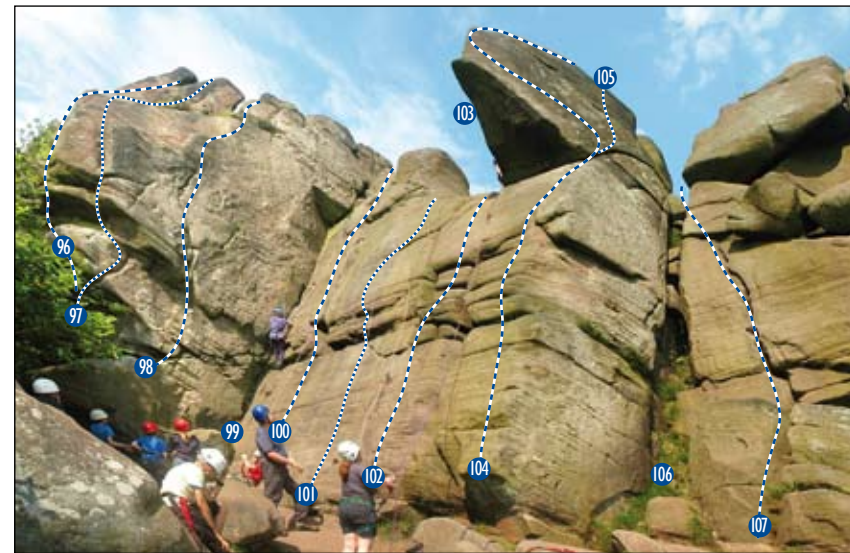
93 Straight Crack HS 4a 1957–68
10m Bridge against the flake to start, then climb the crack just right of Rhodren.

94 Punch E3 6b 1957–68
14m At the left end of the overhang to the right, behind an ominous rhododendron is a short hanging groove, which is, unfortunately, often very green. Pull into this (crux) and climb the cracks above. Only for the gritstone thug.

95 Choka E1 5c ★★ 1958
12m The large roof 3m right of Punch is overcome by gymnastic finger-jamming. Only the small detail of the offwidth above remains.

96 Stolen Days E2 5c 1996
10m Start on the bottom slab of Circuit Breaker. Step left onto the slab and climb it, trending leftwards to the top.

97 Circuit Breaker E3 6a 1980
10m From the crack, move immediately left to the arête and pull over the bulge. Place protection then climb the flake in the arête above to a pull over onto the slab.



98 Hunky Dory E3 6a ★★★ 1975
10m A steep Roaches classic that requires a bit of effort. Climb the snaking crack until it is possible to break out right onto the resting ledge. Continue up the bold wall to an easier-than-it-looks finish. It is also possible to finish left at the top of the crack by means of a less bold 6a mantel. **Fluorescent Stripper** (E3 6a, 1985), continues artificially up and rightwards from the resting ledge.

99 Prow Corner VD ★ 1957–68
12m The main corner is a good climb. Climb the tall crack and finish up the spectacular 'flying' crack.

100 Corner Cracks HVD 4a ★ traditional
10m A good variation on the last climb is to stick to the twin cracks on the right all the way, with a well-protected crux. All classic stuff.

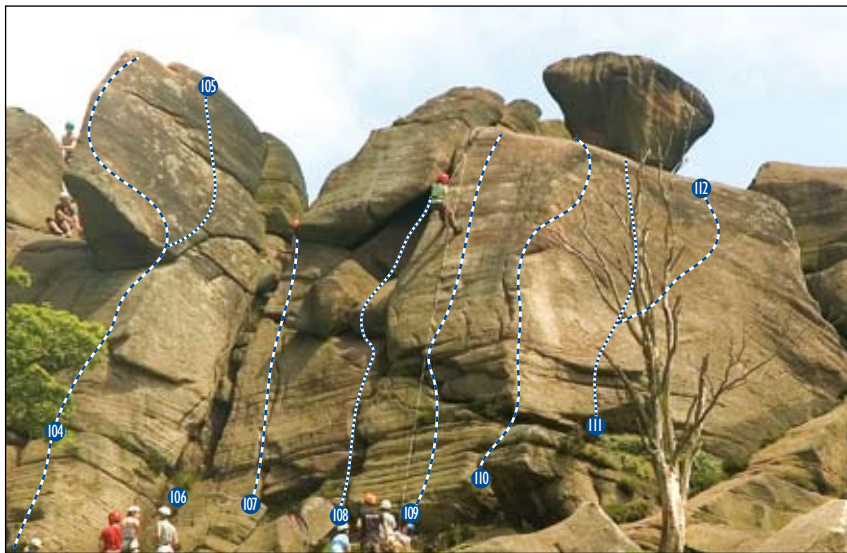
101 Chalkstorm E3 5c ★ 1977
10m A bold route requiring some concentration. Climb the centre of the slab on sloping holds and rockovers. Traditionally climbed with a side-runner, which reduces the grade to between HVS and E2 depending on how high you place it. The narrow slab just left has been climbed at 5c.

102 Prow Cracks HD ★ 1957–68
10m Ascend using both cracks and a variety of technique. If you can't jam, you'll need to bridge and if you can't bridge, then learn to smear. A good first lead. Either crack can be climbed independently at HVD. Both are good: see photo on page 47.

103 Voila 3 E4 6a 1989
8m An alarming route that gains the flying arête of the next route from the left, with a mighty span from Prow Cracks. Continue laybacking on the left to glory.

104 Commander Energy E2 5c ★★★ 1975
12m A route of tremendous exposure up the 'out there' arête. Climb the rounded right arête of the slab to the triangular roof. Pull over this on a good flake (spike runner) and layback dramatically up the flying arête above.

105 Sumo Cellulite E4 6a ★ 1989
12m For the same exposure, only without the holds, climb the upper slab to the right of Commander Energy's flying arête. From below the roof, teeter right up the curving crack, before a precarious step up gains a thin hold, then continue direct.

**106 Rocking Stone Gully** VD

traditional

8m The chunky corner to the right lives up to its name. Elegant semi-layback moves avoid the half-way grovel.

107 Captain Lethargy VD

traditional

8m Climb the well-formed crack right of the corner. Finish on the left.

108 Sifta's Quid HS 4c ★★

1968

9m An entertaining climb, with an entertaining history. Climb to the ledge. Now either climb out over the bulge, or for much more fun, squeeze through the tunnel by the huge boulder under the roof. The scene of much amusing thrutching, most of it 'on the spot'. A classic Roaches rite of passage. 🟢 The roof just to the left is breached by **Dougie Returns Home** (EI 5b, 1992).

109 Obsession Fatale E7 6b ★

1992

11m The unprotected centre of the slab is climbed direct to its utterly blank and unforgiving crux at the very top. Regularly abseiled, frequently top-roped and sometimes headpointed: however on-sight attempts have ended in North Staffordshire A&E on more than one occasion.

110 Piece of Mind E6 6b ★★★

1977

11m The blunt central arête is a very serious proposition demanding the cleanest of technique and the coolest of heads. Balance up via scoops until a precarious step right can be made onto a faith in friction foothold and so the top. One of the first routes of its type on gritstone, well ahead of its time. A direct finish has also been climbed at a similar grade, **The Emergency Exit**.

111 Final Destination E8 6c ★

2003

9m The steep slab, starting as for the next route and finishing just right of Piece of Mind. Like all the routes on this slab, it is utterly serious.

112 The Thin Air E5 6a ★★★

1980

9m Quality climbing on the right-hand side of the slab, above a serious landing. Starting in a scoop on the left, climb rightwards to a distinctive ripple whence an airy rockover gains the rounded and easily-fluffable top.

Lower Tier Girdle Traverses

The Golden Age of Girdle Traversing appears to have passed. In case it again becomes fashionable, the descriptions of three of the genre are included in all their original splendour.

113 The Girdle Traverse HVS 5a

1960

80m A wandering line but pleasant nonetheless. From almost the top of Bengal Buttress, traverse the chockstone and continue to join Valkyrie at the lip. Reverse this to the stance in the crevasse, then move right to the corner. Go up a short way, and move right across the great wall via high-level breaks. Descend into The Mincer and continue by a line almost at the top of the crag into The Bulger to finish.

114 The Underpass EI 5b

1968

50m A variant on the Girdle Traverse. From the end of the traverse on Bengal Buttress, reverse the crux of Crack of Gloom into the gully and pass rightwards beneath the chockstone into Raven Rock Gully. Continue the traverse round under the great overhang to meet Valkyrie Direct. Awkward moves gain Matinee which is followed almost to the top. Take the right-hand branch of the crack to finish.

115 The Super Girdle E4 5c, 6a, 5c ★

1980

45m Perhaps a hybrid, but still marvellous horizontal movement on the best of gritstone slabs.

1. 22m Follow The Swan, but continue at the same level to join The Mincer.

2. 11m Traverse Smear Test, place gear, then continue slightly downwards into Guano Gully by sustained tiptoeing.

3. 12m Move out again onto the Elegy slab, and traverse boldly across the slab horizontally to meet and finish up The Bulger. It is advised to step down and arrange protection in the flake of Elegy at half-way.

"Staffordshire was always a very important area for me.

I wasn't putting up the hardest routes there, but while I was doing my own first ascents around Sheffield, I would regularly go over to test myself against other peoples' routes, kind of like a gauge if you like, by which to measure myself, my own performance, my own routes. I remember one day doing Bloodspeed, Script for a Tear, A Fist Full of Crystals, Barriers, all E6s, all on-sight, then trying to finish off with Piece of Mind. I slipped off the last move and bounced all the way down the slab, then ran through the boulders, until my shoe lace caught on a tree root and stopped me. The lace probably saved my life."

Johnny Dawes

Piece of Mind Bouldering

A very quiet circuit with masses of problems. They mostly tend to be short and, while there is good variety, many tend to be of the 'roller' type, although there's a good selection of slabs and arêtes as well as a few oddments. It gets the sun from first thing to last. Generally clean, but with the lack of traffic some of the surfaces can be a bit biscuity. The first problem is on a boulder down near the wall surrounding Rock Hall.

1 Cottage Arête V2 (5c)

The square arête of the boulder just outside the wall, on its right-hand side. A nice V1 (5b) on its left.

2 Open Bum Cleft V3 (6a)

The swooping groove on a boulder to the right, facing Hen Cloud, will feel harder for the short.

On a slab, 10m right:

3 Sail Slab V0- (4a)

The gentle left edge of the slab.

4 Mantel and Pocket V0- (4b)

Udge over the bulge and follow the slab 2m left of the arête.

5 Sail Arête V0- (5a)

Start on the right and use a round hold to swing left onto the slab.

6 Sail Rib V0 (5a)

Pad up the vague arête.

7 Tittersworth Rib V2 (5c)

The tall arête behind the slab, climbed on either side. Done from a sitter on the right is V4 (6b).

8 Chips Ahoy VI (5b)

Sail directly up the slab from the first chip to a scary rounded top.

9 Ramp V0- (5a)

The wall facing Hen Cloud.

10 Potty V0- (4c)

Pull into the scoop.

11 Croissant Groove V2 (5c)

The groove on the low boulder facing Hen Cloud.

12 The Jams V2 (5c)

Way back again towards Piece of Mind is: The highball, left-hand crack line.

13 The Teacup V1 (5b)

The hanging slab on round flakes.

14 Twisted Crack V4 (6b)

The wide crack can be climbed on its left or right sides, or directly by deviants.

15 Off Work V2 (5c)

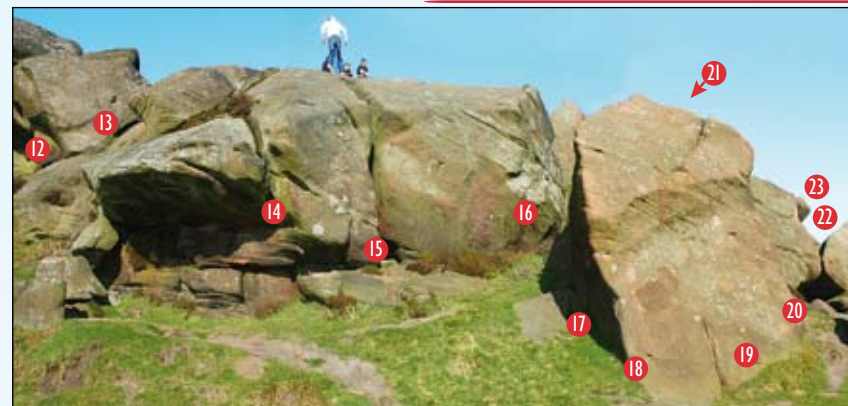
Surrender to the offwidth you swine!

16 Flake and Arête V2 (5c)

The nice arête with a reachy top.

17 Wildy's Arête V2 (6a)

The arête on its left. The sit-start is V5 (6b).



18 Wildy's Right V3 (6a)

A fine problem following the arête on its right.

19 Slab and Crack V0- (4c)

The slab and cracked bulge above. Finishing left, using the crack to rock onto the slab, is a good V1 (5b).

20 Jobby V0- (4b)

The easy arête on the right side of the boulder.

21 Micky V0- (4a)

The thin crack on the back of the boulder.

In the chasm behind is:

22 Scab V2 (5c)

Climb the feisty crack in the chasm between the boulders from a sitting start.

23 Buster V4 (6b)

From the jams at the bottom of Scab, reach up and right to a blind flake. Move up and continue along the lip to make a rollover at the end.

The next problems are based around the collection of boulders up and behind Piece of Mind that form a small square 'room'. They are sometimes a wee bit high. The first of these takes a very exposed rampline that leads leftwards around the leftmost boulder.

26 Crinkles Wall V5 (6b)

The very thin wall in the boulder room.

27 Rock Room Slab V1 (5b)

A quaint little slab on the opposite side of the room.

28 Annie's Egg V5 (E4 6a)

On the back of the boulder, jump across the gap to gain and climb the hanging scoop, and don't fall off.

