

Crow Stones, Derwent Valley

by Paul Durkin

OS ref SK170970

alt. 500m

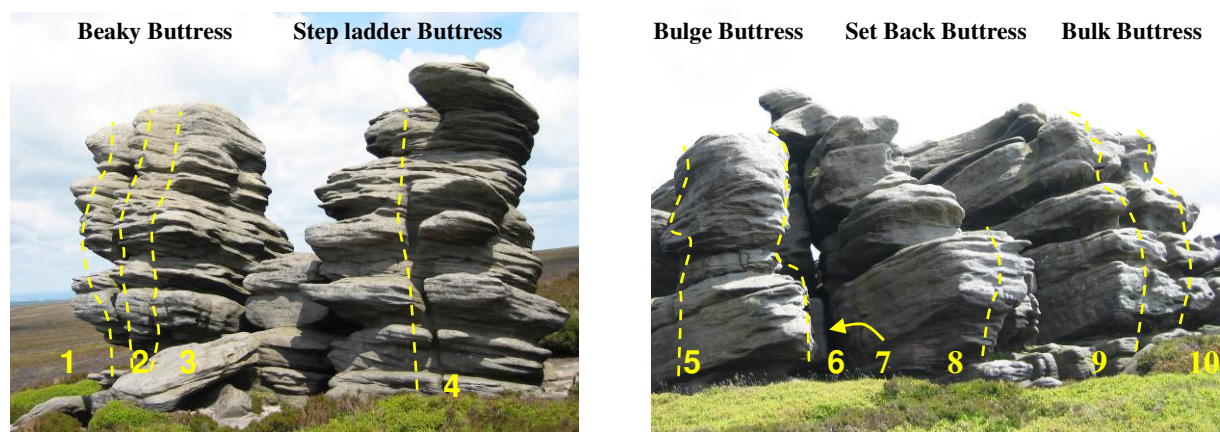
The edge comprises good quality moorland grit that has probably never been seriously assessed before the work undertaken for this guide – or at least no records have been found. The edge consists of three tiers of buttresses that are generally sound clean course grained gritstone with climbs varying in length from 3m to 8m. The rock enjoys the sun from late morning and is quick to dry out. None of the routes are particularly high in the technical grades but the situation and quality of climbs make it a good day out.

Conditions and aspect: Lots of sun throughout the day. The edge is largely west facing with fantastic views down the Derwent valley to the south and Bleaklow to the west. **Routes and bouldering:** over 40 problems from Diff to 6a. The lines are mainly boulder problems but there are a number of routes for which you may wish to use a rope. **Parking and approach:** Vehicular access is either from the south from the A57 at Ladybower, or, from the north from the A628(T) just west of the Flouch roundabout.

From the south (A57) take the turnoff to the Derwent Valley, drive for about 2.5miles north to the visitor centre at Fairholmes. You then have two alternatives – on Mondays – Fridays continue northwards for another 5 miles to Kings Tree where parking is available at the bus turnaround, or, at weekends park at Fairholmes (or one of the free parking areas before reaching Fairholmes) and catch the 222 bus to Kings Tree. The bus service is half hourly and originates at Bamford Station starting at 09:20am – beware, the last bus leaves Kings Tree at 6:00pm. Follow the track northwards past Slippery Stones to the attractive 17th century pack horse bridge, relocated in 1959 from the now flooded valley. Continue northward until you can turn right up the clough between Crow Stones edge and Bull Stones. Follow the track all the way to the skyline at an altitude of 500m, then head north again towards a group of stones visible on the skyline – you've arrived! An hour and a half from the car park at Kings Tree to the stones.

From the north, park just east of the 'Dog & Partridge' off the A628 at Milton Lodge, taking care not to block the road or any vehicular entrances. Continue on foot down Hordron Road about 1.5m taking the right fork heading for a single storey stone building in its own stonewalled courtyard. Skirt around the building continuing on the track down the steep hill to a wooden footbridge in the valley bottom. Take a deep breath and then follow the track southwards steeply up the left side of the clough, past shooting butts and then a further mile until the Crow Stones can be seen on the skyline. Either plough across the moors (hard work!) or take the path left to Outer Edge then turn right to the stones. About 5miles, 1¼hrs and plenty of sweat. **Access:** The buttresses are in open countryside on CRoW land.

Top Tier



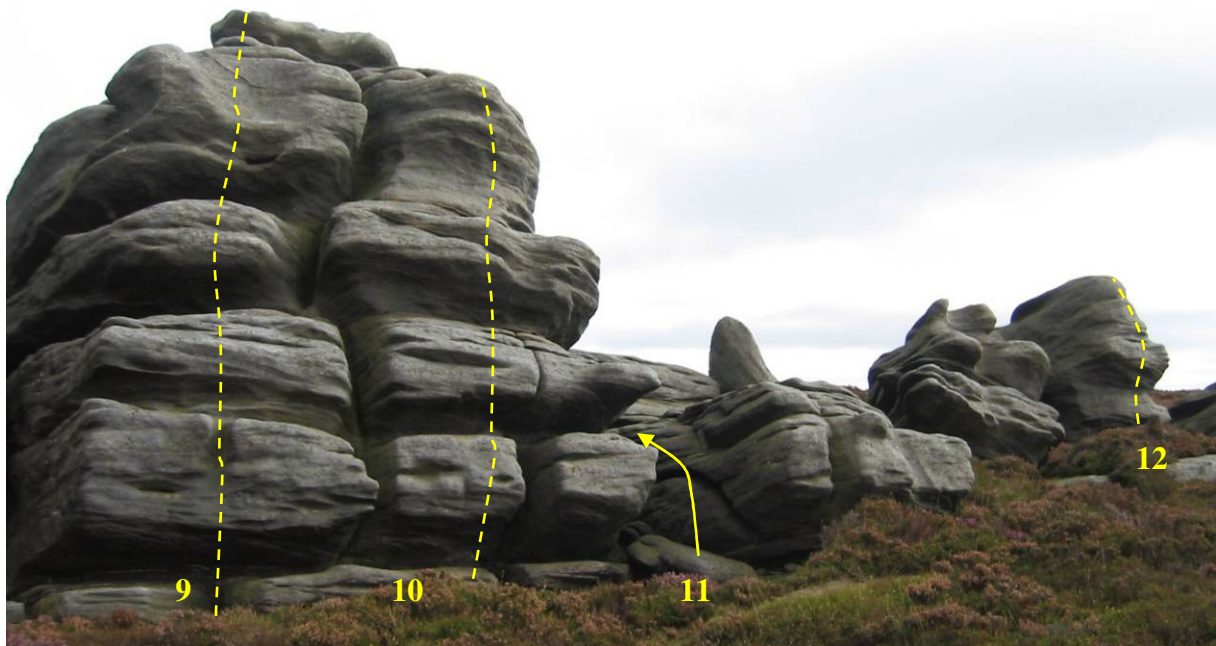
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|----|-------------------------------|------|
| 1. | Beaky 5a | 2009 |
| | 7m the front of the left fin. | |
| 2. | 7m 4b | 2009 |
| 3. | 7m 4b | 2009 |

- 4. Diff 2009
- 6m anywhere up the front of these easy angled blocks.
- 5. 4m 5a 2009
- 6. Bulge 4m 5a 2009
- 7. 4m 4c 2009

Right side up the flute

- 8. 3m 4c 2009
- 9. 6m 5a 2009
- 10. 6m 4c 2009

The right side of the arête also gives a 4c line.



- 11. 6m 4b Right side of the buttress on slabs right of a crack, 2009
- 12. 3m 5b 2009

Top Tier – Back and Side



- 13. **Green Step** 6a 2009
- 3m Make a hard move on the right side of the arête.
- 14. **Brown wall** 3m 4b 2009
- 15. 7m 5b 2009

Step ladder Buttress

Beaky Buttress



- 16. 8m 5b 2009
- 17. **Pedestal** 5b 2009
- 8m Gain the pedestal via an overhanging wall. Step up onto the wall to scary moves to the top.



Green Step 6a, Malc Baxter, still got it at 69!

Middle Tier

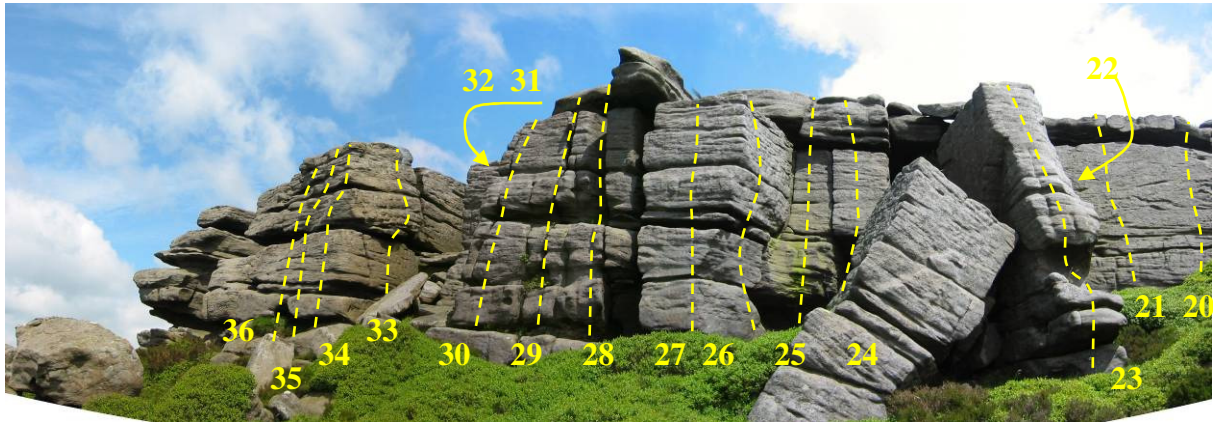
The middle tier looks inviting but unfortunately is not high enough to provide many problems - two have been done on the left end of the main section. The 'Rocking Stone' at the left end of the tier is quite impressive but totally unsafe.



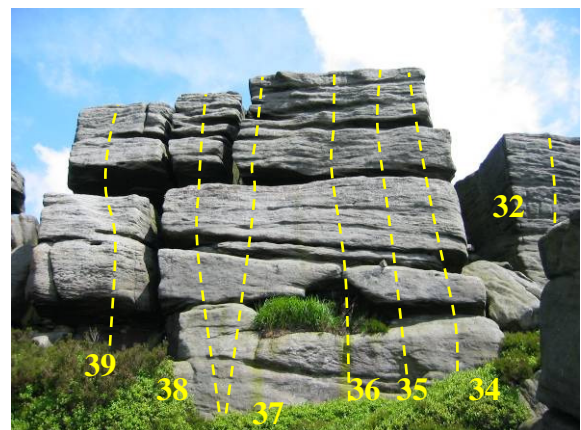
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|-----|----|------|
| 18. | 5a | 2009 |
| 19. | 4c | 2009 |

Bottom Tier

The bottom tier is a boulderer's delight – over twenty lines have been climbed with undoubtedly room to squeeze some more in. The bottom tier benefits from being more sheltered from the wind and dries out rapidly. Some 10m in front of route 23 is a steep 3m high slab – the left edge is 4c, the middle 5b.



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|-----|---|------|------|
| 20. | 4m | 4a | 2009 |
| 21. | 4m | 4b | 2009 |
| 22. | Tempter | 5b | 2009 |
| 4m | The wall without using the left arête. | | |
| 23. | 5m | 4b | 2009 |
| 24. | 4m | 4b | 2009 |
| 25. | 4m | Diff | 2009 |
| 26. | Hanging around | 5c | 2009 |
| 4m | The overhanging wall just right of the arête with the critical hold on the arête. | | |
| 27. | 4m | 4a | 2009 |
| 28. | 4m | 4a | 2009 |



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|-----|---|----|------|
| 29. | 4m | 4a | 2009 |
| 30. | 4m | 4a | 2009 |
| 31. | Green Fingers | 5a | 2009 |
| 4m | The middle of the green wall | | |
| 32. | Teeterer | 5a | 2009 |
| 4m | Reach for the top without using either the left arête or the right crack line | | |
| 33. | Go on! | 5a | 2009 |
| 4m | The right wall of the buttress between the arête and the crack line. | | |
| 34. | 5m | 4b | 2009 |
| 35. | 5m | 4c | 2009 |

- 36. **Grassy Hole** VS 4c 2009
5m Straight up!
- 37. 5m 4b 2009
- 38. 5m 4a 2009
- 39. **High Stepper** 5a 2009
5m Not as hard as it appears with a bit of thinking!
- 40. **Boulder Trundle** 5a 2009
4m The short arête and wall above trending slightly right for a hidden top bucket.
- 41. 4m 5b 2009
- 42. 6m 5c 2009



Paul Durkin, first ascent of route 34, 4b

25m left of the lower tier is a 3m high slab – traverse from right to left (without the edges) at **5b**.

First Ascents

2009, 16th September 18 to 40, Paul Durkin and Malcolm Baxter, all solo except Grassy Hole led by MB.

2009, 27th September 1 to 17, 41, 42, Paul Durkin, Simon Royston, Malc Baxter and Matt Rhodes, all solo.

The rock needs little in the way of cleaning other than cursory brushing.