

Sharp Haw

(aka Sharphaw or Sharp Haw and Flasby Fell)

Sharp Haw is the pointy-topped peak clearly seen to the north east of the A65 when driving between Skipton and Gargrave. The area of moorland beyond is known as Flasby Fell with several more rounded tops and lots of scattered boulders. All the known, developed climbing concentrated on the subsidiary ridges and slopes below Sharp Haw on the south western side is included here.

Twenty seven routes and problems were documented in the connoisseur's crags section of the 1998 YG guide and several boulder problems were covered in Steve Dunning's Total Climbing bouldering guide (2011), however neither guide fully did justice to this extensive and varied area. Vol 2 of the new YMC definitive guide gives a much better flavour of the variety on offer but unfortunately the full potential only really came to light at the 11th hour of the proofreading stage for this volume in the autumn of 2014. After guidebook deadlines were passed the number of recorded boulder problems almost doubled in a couple of months.

All new problems and craglets are described in the same sequence as the new guide to avoid confusion. The crag can however be neatly split into 2 distinct sectors **The Tarn Area** to the west of the boundary wall that runs down from the summit and **The Ridge Area** covering the ridge, valley and broken moorland edge to the east of the wall (the area usually encountered first if following the guidebook approach).

THE TARN AREA

FRESH ACRES This is essentially a collection of boulders along the moor edge many of which were connected by and formed part of a long dry stone boundary wall along the top edge of the recently felled plantation.

Spike Boulder *This is the first (or last) high block along the boundary of the moor edge about 200 metres west of, and below the tarn. Easily identified by the iron spike stuck on top.*

Pussy Riot Font 4+ (VS 5a). The Arete is quite high but gets easier near the top.

Sakhalin Font 3 (S 4b). The wall just right of the arete.

Cornerstone Boulder *40m right of Spike Boulder (and also with the remains of old spikes above it) is this clean block which forms a huge cornerstone to the old dry stone wall.*

1 Bilberry Cap Font 3+. The left wall to bilberry breaks.

2 Crack and Slap Font 4 Gain a jam and undercut at the top of the crack. Slap right and step up.



3 Jam and Slap Font 4+. SDS and follow the crack to finish as the last route

4 The Cornerstone Font 5. SDS then attempt to climb the wall direct, rocking onto the right arete when the hand-holds disappear.

Alcove Block *Above the Cornerstone but set down in a hollow with the drystone wall prominent on its left.*



1 Easy Arete Font 1. The very pleasant slabby rib on the left of the wall.

2 Highball Heaven Font 4+ (E1 5a). The steepening slab to a good finishing jug and precarious mantel finish.

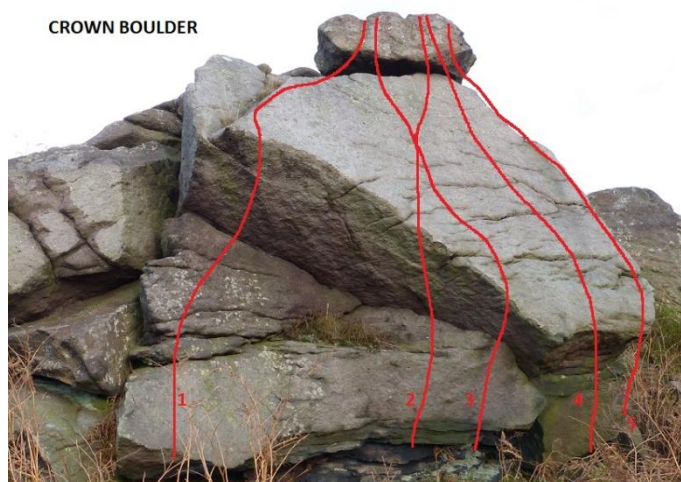
3 The Crack or Not Font 3+ (S 4b). A steeper start leads to good holds just right of the top crack.

Crown Boulder *This excellent free-standing boulder is above the wall a few metres above the Alcove Block. A smaller crown shaped block sits atop. Low or sitting starts are available for each problem and probably add half a grade.*

1 Imperial State Font 3+. The left wing stepping right.

2 Cullinan Font 5. A small round pocket is gained with the right hand. Span for the top break with the left.

3 Koh-I-Nur Font 5. The same pocket is gained with the left hand. A bigger span and/or fancy footwork is required to get established this time.



4 The Orb Font 5. The undercut wall is gained and climbed just left of the arete.

5 The Sceptre Font 4+. The right rib is tough to start.

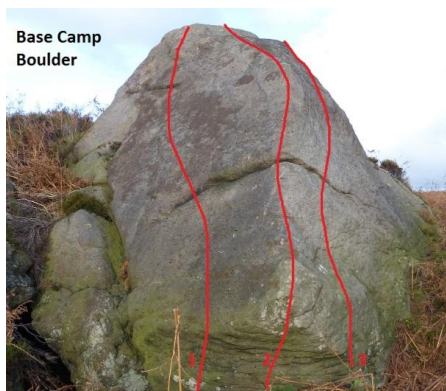
Rough Diamond Block. *Between Crown and Base Camp boulders is an overhanging block.*

1 Pearler Font 6a+. Pull over with difficulty from a standing start.

2 Diamond in the Rough Font 6b+. SDS on the right and traverse left to the same finish.



Base Camp Boulder *A good central point to dump gear and begin your exploration of this area with a handful of friendly warm-ups.*



1 Brown Slab Font 4. Left of the central rib without recourse to it.

2 West Ridge Font 2. Pad directly up the central rib.

3 Slabtastic Font 2+. Just right of the rib without touching it. Even easier further right.

Fresh Acres Main *A more continuous set of clean blocks below the wall leading rightwards into the first of the remaining pine trees along the more edge. From Gilgamesh onwards refer to topos in the new guide.*

Curver Font 3+. A shallow groove in the block about ten metres left of Gilgamesh.

Ripples Font 3. The wall and rib just right of Curver and left of the gully/corner.

1 Gilgamesh Font 4. Flake above the suppository stump. Best not to slip off!

1a Siduri Left Font 6a. Eliminate between the flake and the crimpy original using tiny scooped pockets.

2 Siduri Font 5. Crimpy knobbles high up are crucial.

3 Enkidu Font 3 Bigger holds on the right.

4 Shivling Font 3. Left-hand line.

5 Myrrhine Font 3. Right-hand line. SDS is Font 5.

6 Humbaba Font 5. (SDS 6a). Head up and right over small ledges.

7 Altai Font 4+. SDS from orange flake. Font 3 standing.

8 Ushant Font 5. Small green slab avoiding big holds on right.

8a Ushall Font 4 Same slab using the big holds on the right!

9 Syrene Font 3. Slab behind the tree.

10 Surprise Font 3. The slab just right.

11 Acheron Font 3. The slab just left of the overhang.

12 Silk Road Font 5+. Traverse from Acheron to Kamchatka.

13 Same Old Rock Font 4. Arête's left-hand side (Font 6a+ from sitting)

14 Cornish Font 6a. Arête's right-hand side.

15 Kirghiz Light Font 6a. Up the dimples. Good.

16 Kamchatka Font 4. Wall with undercut flake.

The Fin *A very fine boulder with an impressive left rib and central wall. Situated just above the Fresh Acres main edge and down and left of the iconic Lone Boulder..*



1 Nigel's Slab Font 1 (Diff). The green slab is easy but quite high and a good test of balance if climbed 'no hands'!

2 Rocker F6a+. A blinkered sitting start and rock-over left from the foot of the fin onto the slab.

3 The Fin Font 6a. A classic hanging rib and high hand-traverse to a scary but juggy finish.

4 The Wall Font 6b. The improbable looking central wall with a crimpy rock-over or huge dyno!

5 Easy Way Font 3. More conventional climbing up the breaks right of centre.

Boundary Slab *The East facing block at the back of the Lone boulder and close to the fence. It offers several excellent slab problems and an easy crack on the right hand side.*



1 Apex Arete Font 3. Climb out of the small overhung alcove on the left and straight up the easier blunt rib above.

2 Fence Post Font 4+. Direct up the left side of the slab.

3 Close to the Wire Font 5. The centre of the slab past the right end of the diagonal break.

4 Barbed with Envy Font 6a. The right side of the slab with a tenuous rock-over.

5 Strung Out Font 6a. A diagonal L to R traverse without recourse to handholds in the upper break.

6 Lowansoft Crack Font 3. The Crack is just as its name implies when compared with its better known neighbour on the Lone Boulder!

The Lone Boulder *Now somewhat misnamed but this iconic block containing by far the hardest problems on the crag, is the last significant boulder in this group. There have been no additions or amendments since the guidebook script was written so not duplicated here*

The lower edge continues intermittently partially immersed in trees below the tarn itself as far as the boundary wall. The blocks here are rather esoteric and have not inspired any recent new development.

TARN CRAG

This is the most prominent buttress directly above the small tarn. Most of the obvious routes are documented in the new guide but the following just missed the deadline.

Greenhorn 15m VS 4c A rising traverse from the foot of The Green Groove to the finish of Getting the Horn. *Dave Musgrove (solo) 19.8.14*

Bilberry Buttress 10m S 4a The slim Pillar direct, right of Right-hand Crack. *Ken Suggett (solo) 19.8.14*

Where the Fuquawi F6b+. The left edge of the big tilted block a few metres up and right of the main buttress. *Paul Clarke, John Hunt 19.8.14*

The Beak F4. Rock-over and climb onto the front of the tilted block from the bottom left corner. *Dave Musgrove 19.8.14*

The Leaning Block *This block which is close to the boundary wall is featured in the new guide but this only identifies 3 lines.*

1 Small Steps Font 2. The easy ramp.

2 Tiny Pockets Font 4. Step up to the tiny pockets and horizontal break.

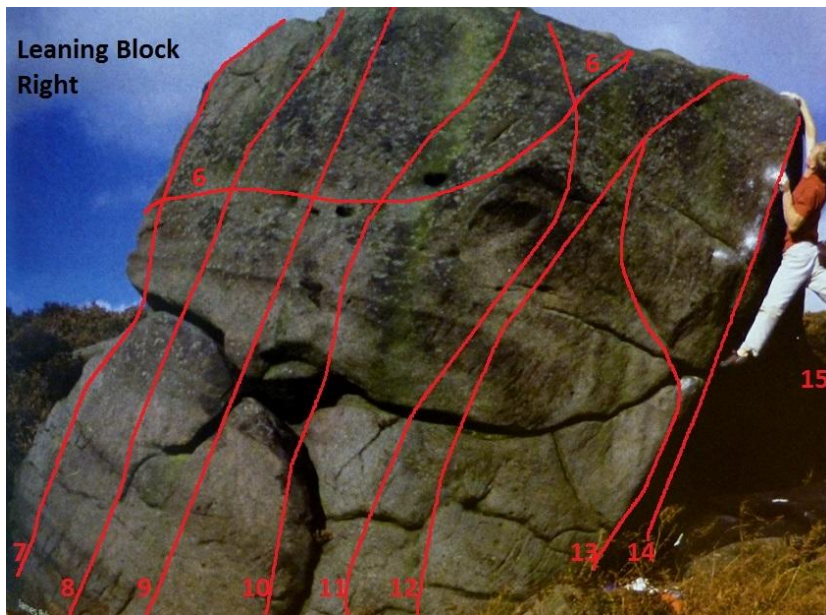
3 Pockets Only Font 6a. Gain the top without the horizontals.

4 Pockets Right Font 6a+. Even tinier pockets just left of the crack.

5 Micro Crack Font 3+. Maybe harder for the short?

6 Tip Toe Font 5+. A low traverse which can be continued at a higher level around on the front face.





7 Leaning Arete F3+. The obvious slabby left arete.

8 Leaning Block Slab F4. The Slab just left of centre (No 19 in new guide)

9 Leaning Right Font 4. Central line (between 19 and 20 in new guide)

10 The Bulging Slab Font 3. Easiest line just right. (No 20 in new guide)

11 Bulging Right Font 4. Steeper line just right of Bulging Slab but joining it at the top.

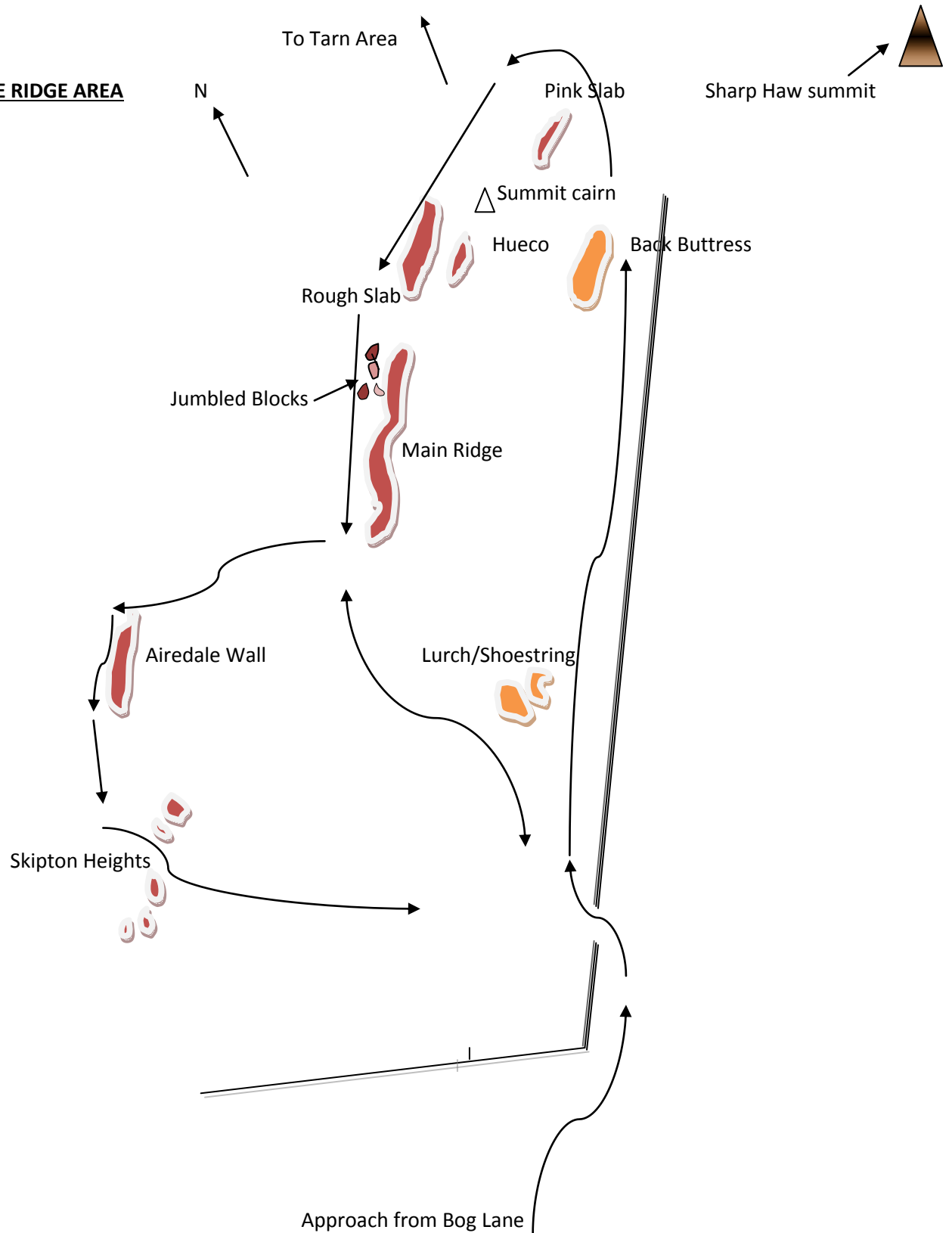
12 The Easel Font 5. Move right from Bulging Right to the finishing holds on Leaning Block Art.

13 Portrait Font 6a+. Sitting start below Leaning Block Art but move up and left.

14 Leaning Block Art Font 7a+. As current guide.

15 Thinners Font 5. Hand traverse the rounded top edge from the far right to a tricky top-out just left of the arete.

THE RIDGE AREA



The Lurch/Shoestring Boulders These two blocks are described in the new guidebook towards the end of the text but in reality are the first blocks to be seen on the normal approach from Bog Lane. They face east and on first sight look a little less appealing than the rest of the boulders. However when conditions are right they provide some excellent little problems.



1 Shoestring Font 4+ (SDS 6a) Excellent leftwards trending line.

2 Boot Lace Font 5+ (SDS 6a+) Straight up the left side of the hanging rib.

3 Super Cecil Font 5 (SDS 6a+) From the starting cave, pull on and step around right to an excellent highball finish on improving holds.

3a Slingsby Font 6a+ SDS Keep low to gain cracks in the bulge. Then up to join Cecil.

4 Eddie Font 6c SDS as for Slingsby but keep traversing low and right.

5 Mighty Bitey Font 6b+ At the back of the Shoestring block in the cave, SDS fridge hugging up the block until you can match a good, flat hold on the left then slap wildly to the top. Ed Bailey 22.6.2014



1 Left in the Lurch Font 4 The left arete and upper slab.

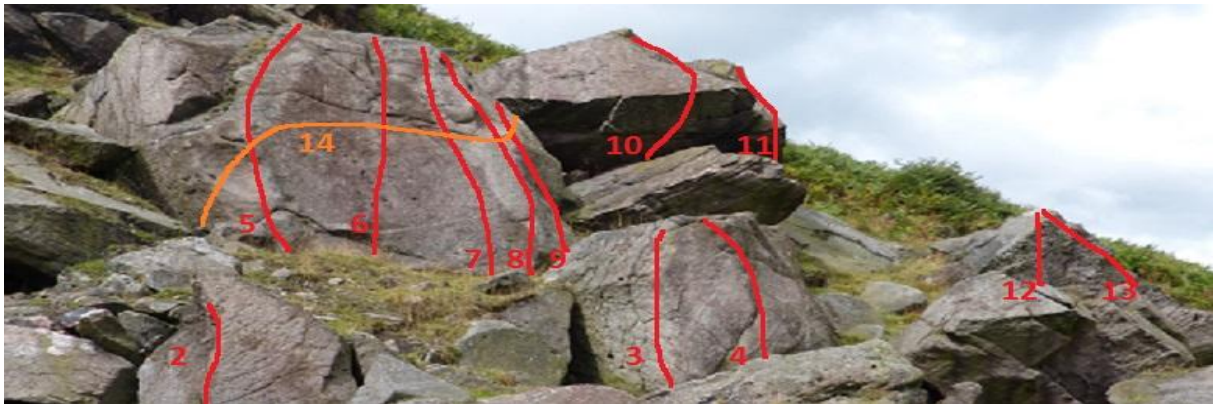
2 Lurch Font 5. Up the centre and over the roof. (A contrived SDS pushes the grade to 6a+)

3 Right in the Lurch Font 3+. The right arete and upper wall.

4 Leftover Font 5. Traverse left to right below the roof.

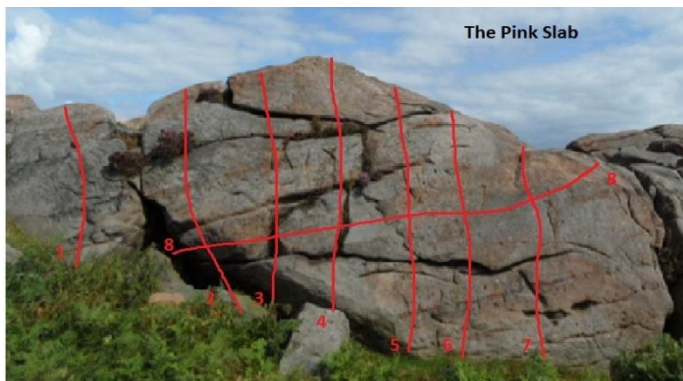
5 You Rang Font 6c. A technical left to right low traverse.

Back Butress *An east facing but clean collection of boulders about 300 metres beyond Lurch/Shoestring in the bottom of the shallow valley*



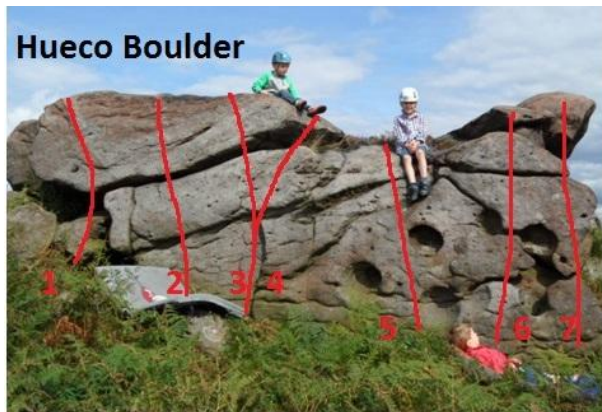
- 1 Back to Basics** Font 3. Short scruffy rib at lower left of this cluster (not illustrated). (SDS F6a+).
- 2 Backhander** Font 5+. Hang the short rail in block right of 'Basics'. Pop and grovel!
- 3 Limber Up** Font 6b. SDS Left rib of block below big slab
- 4 Lumber Support** Font 4. Short lower wall below the big slab.
- 5 Left Back** Font 2+. Easy left rib of big slab.
- 6 Back Slabber** Font 3+. Excellent main line up big slab via small pockets and upper flake.
- 7 Centre Back** Font 4+. Eliminate just right of Centre Back without pockets or flake on the left or rib on the right.
- 8 Back Bone** Font 4. The blunt rib with only the scoop and top pockets allowed for hands.
- 9 Right Back** Font 2+. Right side of slabby rib.
- 10 Back Off** Font 3+. Pull over the high overlap on the right.
- 11 Hanging Arete** Font 5. The high flying arete above the glaci is easier than it looks when climbed on the left.
- 12 The Apex** Font 5. SDS below the Apex
- 13 The Triangle** Font 3. Start low on the right, traverse left to the apex and pull over.
- 14 There and Back** Font 4. Traverse the slab at half height either way.

The Pink Slab and Heuco Boulder *Two boulders, great for kids and beginners but the quality of these climbs will raise anyone's spirit.* Gain the high ridge overlooking Gargrave. The high cairn pictured below is a good reference point: If approaching direct along the ridge from the east Hueco Boulder is just before the cairn and The Pink Slab is just beyond it.



- 1 Olly's Wall** Font 1 The short left hand slab.
- 2 Left Edge** Font 3 The left edge of the main wall.
- 3 Triangle** Font 2 From the triangular cut-out.
- 4 Craksenbreks** Font 2 The cracks and breaks to a long reach finish.
- 5 Will's Eliminate** Font 3 Just right of the cracks.
- 6 Undercutter** Font 3+ Just right again from the big undercut. Balancy.
- 7 Flakes of Shallow** Font 3 Link the shallow flakes.
- 8 Long Traverse** Font 3+ Traverse right all the way across the main slab.

The Hueco Boulder *An obvious, well featured block on the top path along the ridge just east of the cairn. Nice and low. Use sit starts if you've attained near adult height.*



- 1 Boing** Font 3 Span for the top from the break.
- 2 Slash** Font 2 Break, diagonal pocket, top. No corner allowed.
- 3 Little Corner** Font 2+ Start at the little corner. Climb direct.
- 4 Cutting Corners** Font 2 From the corner, trend right to finish in the lower centre.

- 5 Huecos** Font 1 Climb those huecos – just too good.
- 6 Mad Sculptor** Font 2 The sculpted wall direct over the top triangular block.
- 7 End Arête** Font 2+ The arête using only the left edge of the features.
- 8 Full Traverse** Font 3 Traverse right to finish up the end. Hardest in the middle.

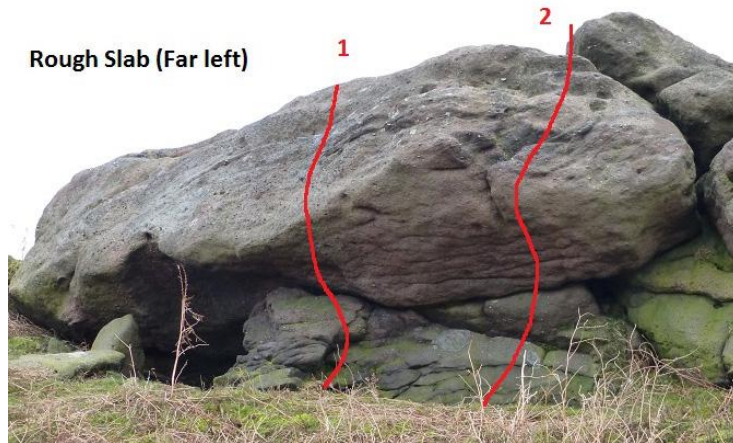
Just around the corner is one for the dads ...



- 9 'Alf 'Ard** Font 5+ Hang the lowest shelf and traverse powerfully left to a gritty top out.

The Main Ridge (Rough Slab)

The main Edge as described on page 710 of the new guide starts just below the cairn on the ridge between the Hueco and Pink Slab boulders. The first section has a couple of very low roof problems.



1 The Ducking Stool Font 3
Requires a rather contrived sitting start with jams in the low crack.

2 Nutter's Roof Font 5 SDS and then a high stepping rock-over.

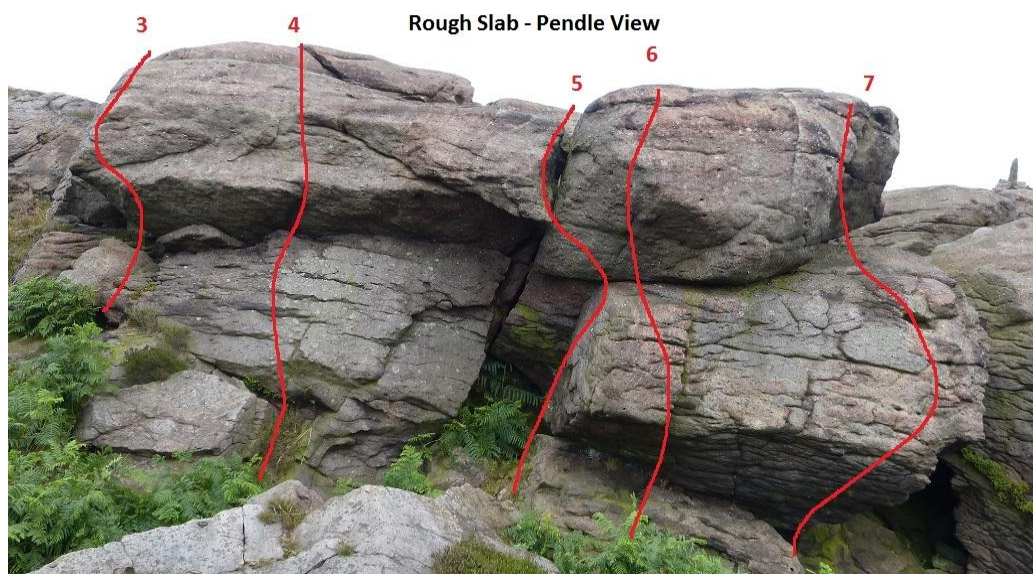
3 Old Demdike Font 5 The left rib needs well padding.

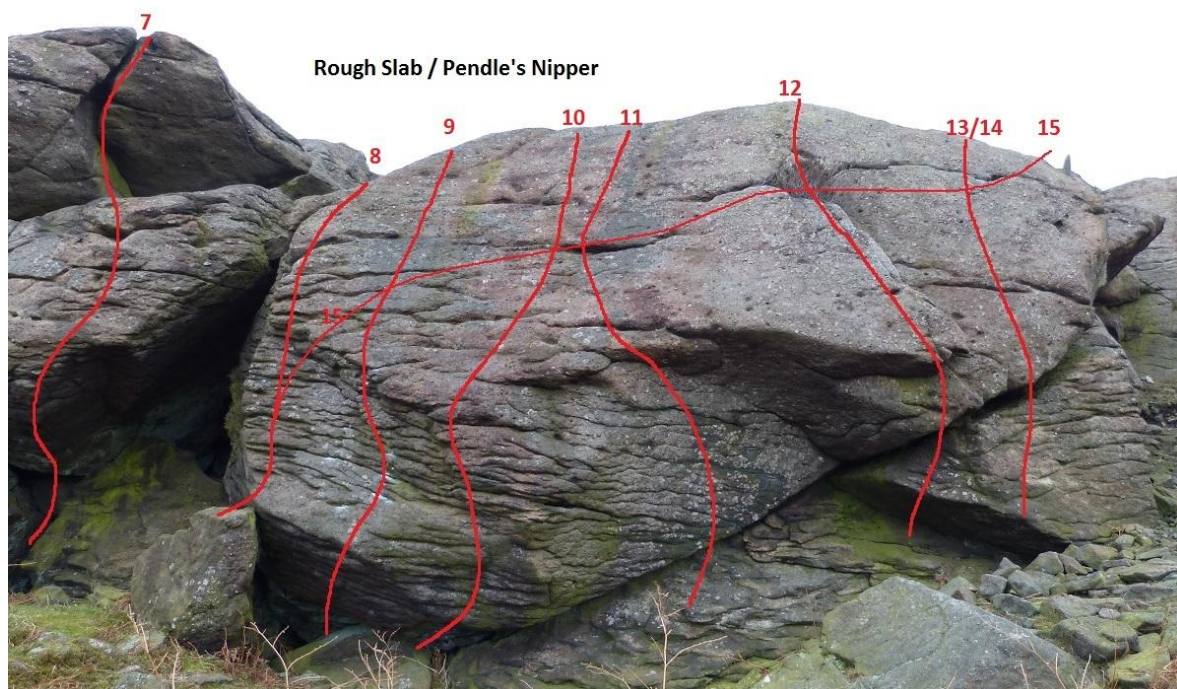
4 Pendle View Font 5 (HVS 5b) The centre of the bulging left wall has a worrying landing.

5 Rock-over Crack Font 4 gains the undercut Crack from the shelf on the right.

6 Hubble Bubble Font 5+ (E1 5b). The serious bulging nose right of the crack.

7 Pendle Witch Way Font 5+ is the undercut nose and easier upper crack.

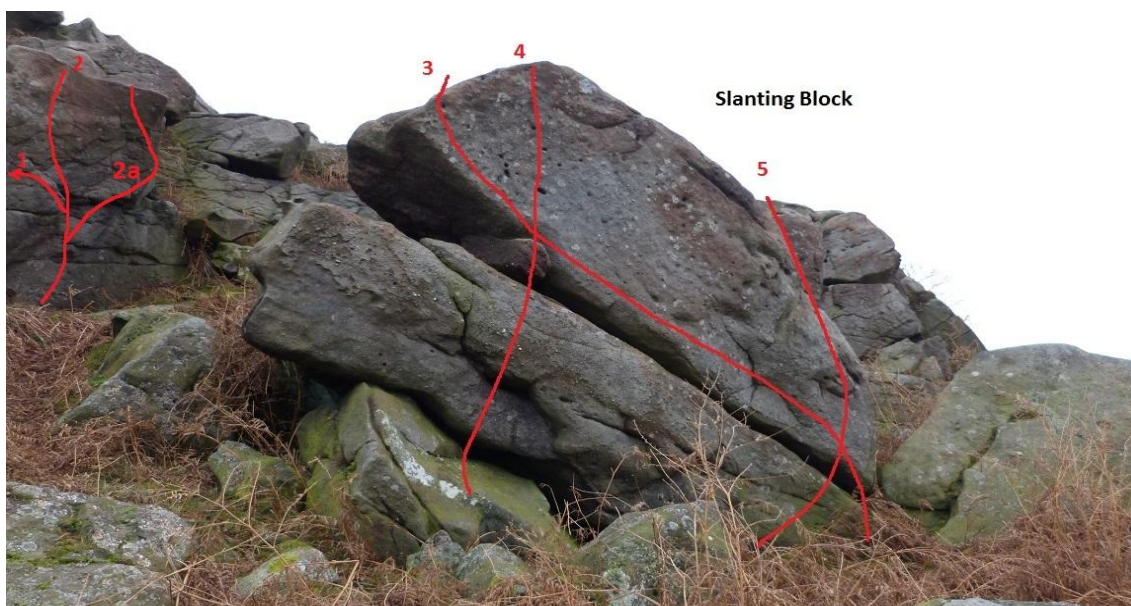




- 8 The Black Cat** Font 2+. Easily up the left rib from the block.
- 9 Pendle's Nipper** Font 4+. The wall right of the block from standing.
- 9a Squinting Lizzie** Font 6a+. The sitting start to Pendle's Nipper.
- 10 Rough Slab** Font 4. the nose of the buttress from standing.
- 10a Rough Justice** Font 6a. The sitting start to Rough Slab.
- 11 Old Chattox** Font 3. Swing left onto the slab from good holds
- 12 The Triangular Flake** Font 3+. Swings left over the roof.
- 13 Spotty Muldoon** Font 3 Using everything up the acned slab right of the Flake
- 14 Spotless Muldoon** Font 5. Eliminate the big foothold at the foot of the flake and the big pocket on the right.
- 15 Room on a Broom** Font 3 is a traverse of Rough Slab from bottom left to the top right.

The Main Edge (Jumbled Blocks)

Fifty metres down and right of Rough Slab is the start of the most concentrated area of climbing on the crag and probably the most popular for first time visitors. The most significant routes and problems appear in the main guide (pages 711/712 Routes 24 to 42) but several more problems have recently been recorded amongst the jumbled blocks at the left-hand end.



1 Wall Traverse Font 7a+. Route 24 in the main guide.

2 Wall Direct Font 6a+. Route 25 in the main guide

2a Wall Indirect Font 5+. SDS Avoid the big lurch by spanning right for the arete and then back to the top.

3 IMG 1982 Font 4. A delicate foot traverse of the slanting break

4 A Wee Nip Font. 4 Sitting start and up past jammed block.

5 Whisky Warmer Font 3+. The right edge.



6 Underhand Sitter Font 6a. Gain the centre of the slab from low on the left.

7 Understanding Font 5. The centre of the slab

8 Hands Up Font 5. The right arete is more awkward than it looks.

9 No Hands Special Font 5 (Font 1 with any more than 2 points of contact). A great balance problem. Use of knees, elbows and heads all invalidate the ascent

10 Seams Simple Font 4+ The frustratingly innocuous truncated slab gives a great little problem and/or much amusement to the onlookers.

11 Perched Block Left Font 3+. (Harder projects to the right?)

12 Trumpet Wall Font 3.

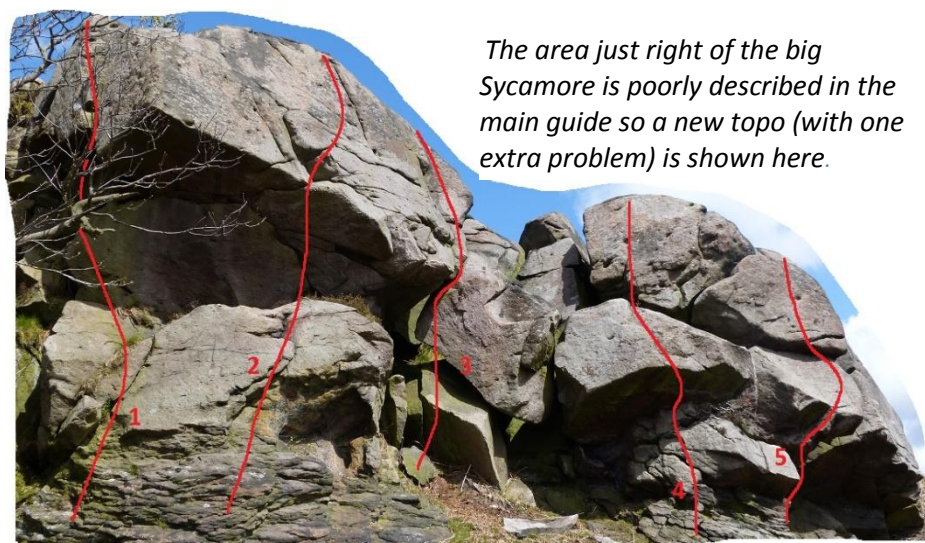
13 Fannyfare Font 4+. The left arete (26 in main guide).

14 Aggrophobic Font 5. Right arete from Standing.

15 Aggro Sitter Font 6a+.



The big roof right of Showin' Fagin has been top-roped via a swing left from the crack on the right but as far as we know has not yet been led or soloed? The overhanging crack/corner itself can be climbed direct at Font 2+ (HVD). The right arete of Sycamore Slab is also excellent though very similar to the original slab and the same grade (Diff).



1 Gerrodonit MS 4a Chimney crack in upper wall behind the tree.

2 Owdyamissthis ** S 4a Classic easy micro-route up the front. A must-do!

3 Sideshow VD Bridge up to shallow groove and use arete.

4 Knees Up Font 5 Long span for good hold then try without knees!

5 Undercut Rib Font 5+ Without the left-hand low block climb the rib and wall above via pockets.

Airedale Wall (See 2014 YMC guidebook for full topo)

The obvious high horizontal across Airedale Wall has been traversed from left to right as **Aire on a G String** Font 5 and a lower level traverse, **Aire we Go** can be contrived at around Font 6a. On the end wall right of Super Jug Arete is Aire Pocket (Font 6a) and an easier version Deep Breath (Font 5) gaining the top edge on the right. Note: **Hospital Flake** is now thought to be Font 6a or 5+ with a little help from the side wall. Several Boulders have been removed from below parts of Airedale Wall and virtually all the original problems can now be done from sitters in the Font 6a/b grade range.



Around 60 metres right of Airedale Wall is a steep smooth block with a less than perfect landing this gives;

1 Aire Brush Font 5+. Up the centre.

2 Aire Net Font 4+ Up the right Arete.

Small boulders further right of more friable rock provide a few less satisfying problems. Not described here.

Skipton Heights and Impending Boulder



The view from the gate.

Skipton Heights Boulder



1 Left Arête Font 3 SD. The left arête.

2 Just Right Font 3 Just right without the arête.

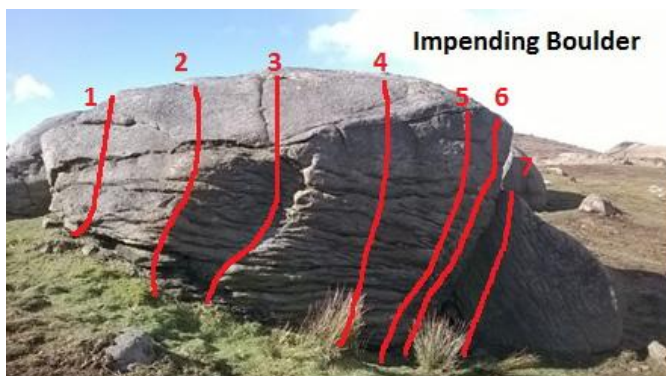
3 Just Right Sitter Font 4+ SD. Just right without the arête.

4 Centre Font 3 Up the middle from standing.

5 Breaking Curve Font 5+
Hang the curving break and finish with difficulty.

6 Demi Sec Font 6a+
Sit start on the arête and traverse up to the centre of the block.

7 Skipton Heights Font 6a
R-L Traverse. Stay below the top.



1 Slabular Font 1 The little slab on the left.

2 Slabalab Font 2 Middle Arête, then slab.

3 Urgent Crescent Font 4+ Curving groove and upper slab. Sit start.

The next problems are all sit starts, based around the overhanging end wall.

4 Rippled Flank Font 5 SD. Up the rippled side wall. Overhanging but holds abound.

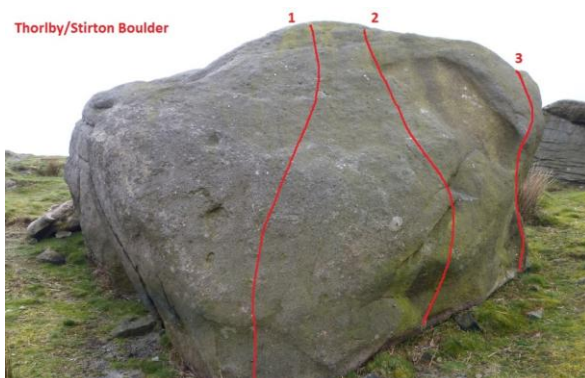
5 End Face Arête Font 6a SD. Bound up this feature with whatever comes to hand.

6 Pit face Font 6a+ SD. Stay strictly to the narrow end wall.

7 Bridger Font 3 Layback and bridge the little corner.

8 Impending Doom Font 6b+ The hanging right arete of the East wall.

A few metres right of Impending Boulder is this easier angled block.



1 Thorlby Font 2+. Slab from bottom left.

2 Stirton Font 2. Centre of slab.

3 Craven Heifer Font 3. SDS then up the right arete

