

## Far Crag

**Condition info:** The sector that is nearest to the road is a fine and fairly steady little bouldering area in a quiet and pleasant location. It faces west and provides a number of very good problems. Ideal for a few hours or combined with other locations in the area.

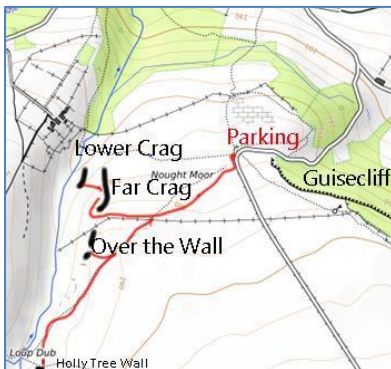
For those willing to explore a little, there are a number of blocks stretching up the Skrikes Valley. All areas are west facing and dry quickly. Landings are generally very good unless otherwise stated.



### **Parking and approach info:**

From the Nought Bank Info Point and Parking (as for Guisecliff YG 2012) go through the gate and take a path that leads left, first alongside the fence before striking off and uphill to a stile in the stone wall. For the main area follow the north side of the wall until overlooking the valley and the crag is just below facing Fox Crag (SE152637). Other areas are approached, either downhill into the valley or by following the path that leads onwards over the stile for 150m until rocks become obvious to the right. Holly Tree

Wall is further on and comes into view as you approach. It is easiest to leave the main track and strike across the hillside to it.



The main area consists of two walls separated by a rocky gully (useful descent). There is a nice slab below the walls and a couple of problems on other boulders.

### **Heather Top Wall**

On the left and obvious from the name.

#### **1/ Under Ling** Font 4+ \*

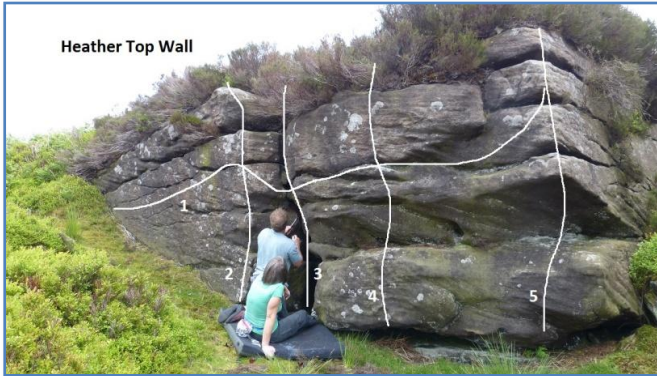
Nice L to R traverse of Heather Top Wall.

#### **2/ Erica** Font 3

Short rib with a tricky top-out.

#### **3/ Crack Ling** Font 4 \*

SDS then the crack to heathery finish.



*Helen Souter and Denis Gleeson tackling Crack Ling*

**4/ Haircut Required** Font 4 \*  
Fun exit – swimming in heather.

**5/ Bill Berry's Rib** Font 2 \*  
Good jams and a handful of heather!

**Undercut Slab**  
Again, obvious from the name.

**1/ Layback Rib** Font 3+  
Pull on and finish in the heather.

**2/ Press and Go** Font 5+ \*\*  
Excellent undercut mantel problem.

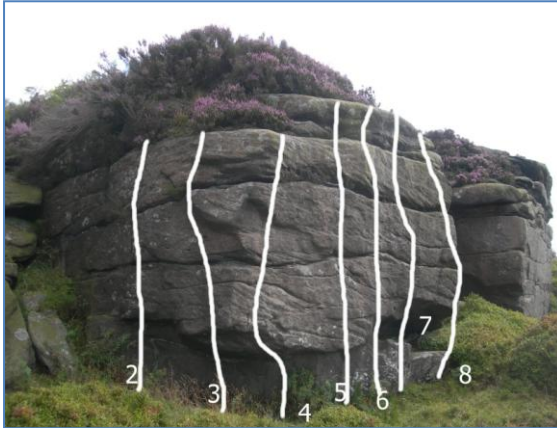


**3/ Where There's a Will There's a Way** Font 7b+ \*  
Traverse the obvious sloping break from R – L. A short version from after the crux is much easier but pleasant.

*James Turnbull on Where There's a Will*

### Left Wall

On a boulder just left of the left wall(back of Undercut Slab) is an overhanging prow that provides the first problem –



#### 1/ The Prow -

Font4+

Starts sitting in the hole.

On the left side of the main block is:

#### 2/ Far East Font 2

The crack/flake from sitting or standing. Bale or step right to avoid the heather cornice.

#### 3/ Far North Font 6b+ \*

Left side of arête. From deep under the overhang pull out on side-pulls and onwards.

#### 4/ Far West Font 6b+ \*

Similar low start then right side of arête. (Line is also on next diagram).

#### 5/ Tales from the Far Side Font 6a+ \*

SDS Tough pull then breaks. Font 4 from standing.

#### 6/ A Far Cry Font 6a \*

SDS on left side of the cutaway.

#### 7/ Far Country Font3+ \*

From standing or laying in the cutaway – you choose.

#### 8/ FArête Font 3 \*

The arête.

#### 9/ Far Side Wall Font 2

Pleasant side wall.

#### 10/ Farscape Font 5+

Traverse the low break left to right

#### 11/ Old Fart Font 4

A L-R traverse of the Left Wall block using the highest break for hands. Start on the very left on an obvious flake; finish anywhere once on the right wall.

The harder problems can be done from standing at about Font 3

### Right Wall

#### 10/ Long Ago, Far Away

Font 6a+ \*

Out of the cave and slightly right to finish (or all the way to arête).

#### 11/ Far Out

Font 4+ \*

SDS

Arete. Font 3+ from

standing.

#### 12/ A Far Off Place

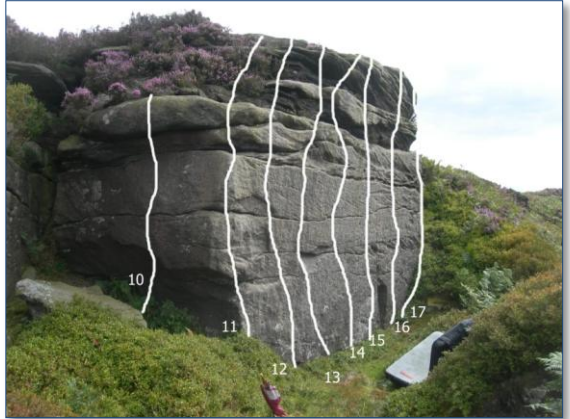
Font 3+

From standing. A contrived SDS is possible.

#### 13/ A Far, Far Better Thing

Font 6a \*\*

SDS Left side of triangular cutaway in first break. Font 4+ from standing.



*James Davies on A Far, Far Better Thing*

#### 14/ In a Galaxy.....

Font 5 \*

Just right of same cutaway.

#### 15/ A Far Shore

Font 5+ \*\*

Start right hand in low niche. Font 4+ from standing.

#### 16/ This Far and No Further?

Font 6a \*

Start left hand in low niche. Font 5

standing.

#### 17/ Gone Too Far?

Font 3

Right arête.

#### 18/ Far from Finished

Font 3

Slight wall on the right.

#### 19/ Farlong

Font 4 \*

Traverse the 4<sup>th</sup> break

#### 20/ Third Break

Font 5+ \*

#### 21/ Low Break Traverse

Font 6c \*

A tough R-L traverse using the first and second breaks.

#### 22/ Far Monty

Font 6c+ \*

21 – 20 – 19 Arm work.

### Far Crag Slab

The obvious tilted block below provides some steady but stimulating slab tests and a couple of steep cracks.

Almost certainly all climbed before by Tony Barley in his prime but not previously recorded. Re-established by Dave Musgrove August 2014 but becoming green again.



*Ben Clarke goes Old School*

#### 1/ Left Crack Font 4+

The left hand crack and wall beside from a sitter.

#### 2/ Old School Font 5+

From sitter below RH crack climb both cracks on jams and/or side-pulls.

#### 3/ Left Arete Font 5

Nice padding using the left edge.



#### 4/ Leftish Font 5

Similar padding without the left edge.

#### 5/ Nidderdale

**Special** Font 5+  
Direct line just left of centre. Pokey finish!

#### 6/ Barley's

**Bequest** Font 3+  
Classic central line trending right.

#### 7/ Slab Master's Wall

Font 4+ From the foot of the arête trend left and up to a smear/stretch or jump finish.

#### 8/ Intro Arete Font 2+

Easy right arete.

### 9/ Nought Moor? Font 4

Just when you think there's 'Nought' left try there's always a traverse.

On the boulder below are two problems:

### Lower Wall Riser Font 5

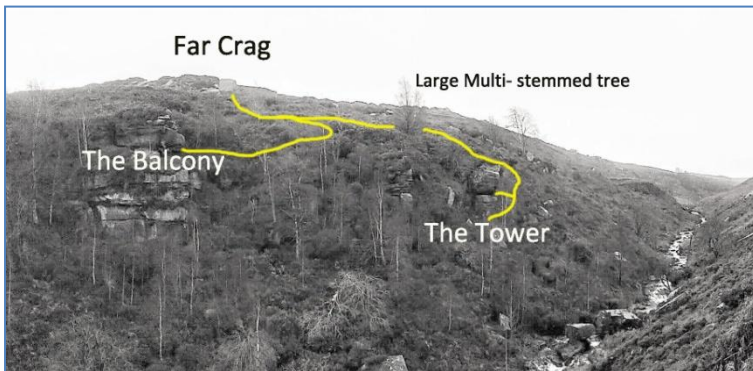
SDS. Traverse the well featured break rightwards to the apex.

### Apex Direct Font 5

SDS. Jam the lowest break and battle over the bulges

### Lower Crag

Hidden amongst deep bilberry, bracken and heather in the valley below the main area is a cluster of big and small blocks where the distinction between problems and routes can become a blurred. ***There are man-eating holes so approach carefully.*** The rock is very good and there are a few intense, and one excellent, test pieces. However, the area is best avoided once the bracken is high.



**Approach:** From the big block below Far Crag Slab head straight downhill. A multi-stemmed big tree comes into view. The Balcony is down and right (facing out) from here and The Tower is to its left.

### The Balcony

There are several layers of rock here but the first developed is the highest one above a substantial terrace – though you wouldn't want to drop and miss it. Having been done some time ago the top-outs will need a clean and you are left to discover at will.

### The Tower

The Tower is a fine lump of grit that feels a lot bigger than is evident from its height and the problems may best be considered as routes. Be careful at the top of The Tower. It is separated from the hillside by a very deep cleft that is hidden in the bilberry. The multi-stemmed tree and a loop over a block just right can be used to make a belay.

Descent is to the left (facing out). Drop down through bilberry. The first problem is on the front face and is well worth seeking out.



### Front Face

**All Along the Watchtower** 9m  
6b+/c (E5/6 6b) \*\*\*

Climb the steady rib to the big break. From the obvious slot (possible big cam) make a long move using a toe wedge to good holds and gain the lip. A tenuous landing on the slab follows (make sure it is clean).

### Right Wall

The right wall has undercut ledges making for a less-than-ideal landing zone.



#### 1/ Project

From the good undercut tackle sloping small crimps to eventually gain improving holds.

#### 2/ Right Wall Left 6c \*

A small side-pull slot allows crimps to be gained. Rock leftwards to more of the same and a pull past slopers to a good hold used to top out.

#### 3/ Right Wall Right 6c

Same start. reach slopers to gain the top.

#### 4/ Right Wall Arête 6a+

The arête.

### Over The Wall

Just across the wall there are a couple of blocks. The main two are a low rounded block and a little 'tor'. Below and to both sides of these are other boulders.



#### Round Block

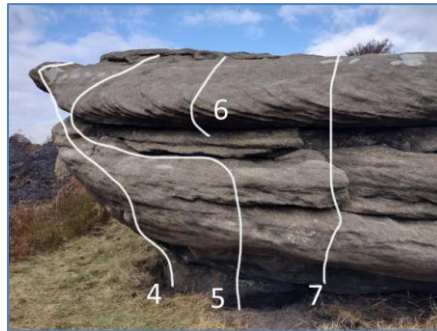
The round block is obvious by its name. The rock is a bit scrittly so a brush will be useful – as will cold conditions to add to and extend the problems. Over-use of mats will lower the grades.

Problems 1 and 2, **Crinkles** and **Crinkly** are found on the left wall, easy Font 2ish and start by pulls from obvious low jugs.

**3/ Round the Twist** Font 4 \*  
SDS Just left of arête.

**4/ Long Way Round** Font 6a \*  
SDS under arête, starting from small side-pull to sloping break. Pull up to use protruding nose.

**5/ Rounding Error** Font 7a \*  
SDS left hand using undercut pocket, right hand in undercut side-pull. Slap for slopers then trend left. Rock over using small slopers and avoiding the protruding nose



**6/ Round and Round** Font 5+  
Standing start to gain slab using side-pull.

**7/ Wounded Knee** Font 6a \*  
SDS at obvious big hold. Pull up and onto slab.

**8/ Round the Bend** Font 6b+ \*\*  
SDS from the big hold. Traverse, swinging leftwards to round the bend and finish at Crinkles.



*Paul Clarke on Round the Bend*

**9/ Round-Up** Font 5  
Onto slab from standing.

**10/ Frowned** Font 6b  
Step up and mantle (or fall off).

**11/ Boss and Over** Font 6a+ \*  
SDS then slap for the edge and use the round small boss to rock-over.



*Paul Clarke on Wounded Knee*

**3/ Wind** Font 2  
Left side of the front.

**4/ Whiff** Font 4  
SDS then left side of overhang

**5/ Woops** Font 5  
SDS then right side of overhang.

### Sapling Block

Roughly halfway between Far Tor and Holly Tree wall lies a block facing the stream with a small sapling growing from the central break. Jack Colbeck climbed 4 lines here: **Sapling Arête** Font 4, **Moss Top** Font 5, **Sapling Wall** Font 5 and **Right Arête** Font 4.

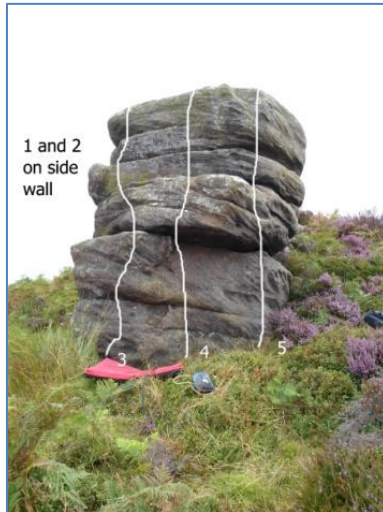


**12/ Nosing-Around** Font 5 \*  
SDS. Pull leftwards onto the sticking-out nose.

Over to the right is an obvious Tor/Block

### The Far Tor

**Number 1** and **Number 2**; are easy lines on the left side.

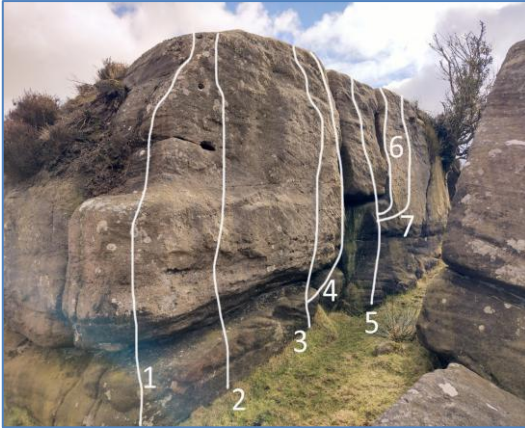


Another 300 metres up the valley is a nice short wall with a block in front and holly to the right. The obvious tor in the far distance is Rowantree Tor and that on the other side of the valley is Foulshaw Crag (see Unknownstones guides).

### Holly Tree Wall

#### 1/ Holly Arête Font 3

The left edge using the ledge.



#### 2/ Pockets Font 4 \*

Up the pockets on left side of the wall.

Is there a possibility using only the slanting edge?

#### 3/ Thin Wall Special

Font 6c – 7a \*

Short but sharp pull to crimps and pounce upwards. Very height dependent.

#### 4/ Arête Variation Font 6a+

Use the right edge of the wall.

#### 5/Squeeze Font 5 \*

SDS. From the break use the edges. There is a nice 5+ **Squeeze Variation** from the break and using the side-pull on the wall.

#### 6/ The Edge 4+ \*

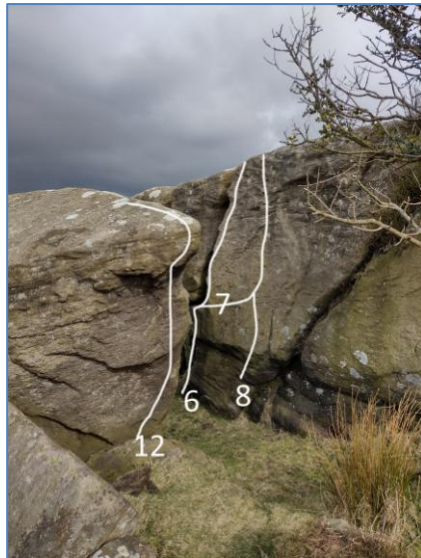
SDS. From the good break pull rightwards and use the right edge of the crack.

#### 7/ Holly Wall Left 6b+ \*

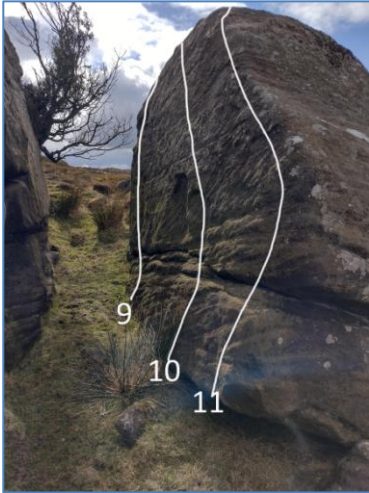
SDS. From the good break pull rightwards and don't use the right edge of the crack. Quite thin.

#### 8/ Holly Wall Left Direct Font 5 \*.

Direct from standing the wall is good.



The block has a rather green slab facing the main wall. The greenness doesn't affect the friction unless it is actually wet.



### 9/ Leftside Font 2

By the arête.

### 10/ Central Font 3

Pass some nice crimps.

### 11/ Rightside Font 3\*

Follow the right arête rocking rightwards at the top.

Around to the left on the south facing side is an overhanging arête (see picture on previous page).

### 12/ Hollyberry Font 6b+ \*\*

SDS using the arête and a side hold or crimp. Small but exquisite!

### 13/ Descent

The easiest way down is from the corner to the left and jump down onto the adjacent block.

There is a possibility of a dynamic leap from the main wall to the block or vice-versa. Only the brave need apply.

Around to the left is a groove and slab.

### 14/ The Groove Font 2

Climb the groove. Also a descent line.

### 15/ The Slab Font 2 \*

Step onto and climb the slab.

