

Egerton Quarry

Trad: 246 (D to E8)

Aspect: All directions **Sunshine:** All day **Grid ref:** SD 719143

Conditions: Sheltered, Jurassic, mostly clean, ferny in summer

Best for: Steep quarry classics across the grades **Approach:** 10 minutes

A big quarry with great walls on many of its sides. There are loads of strong lines and fine routes to be had. It has a particular feel about it and the land on the quarry floor almost feels like a prehistoric nature reserve. Think hooting owls and mysterious water mammals. It's not huge so it is easy to visit lots of areas, although it is possible to get lost on these ventures. Some of the climbs here are among the best in Lancashire. The rock is usually very good, although parts of it can become green or overgrown.

Since the previous guidebook, there has been an explosion of new routes and although most have not yet had many ascents, some are certainly destined to become classics.

The Climbing

Big leads on cracks, corners, walls and arêtes. Grades go from VD to E8 but the quality really kicks in at VS and above. There is a fantastic bunch of E5 arêtes. Generally, the routes have a good bit of height about them.

Conditions and Aspect

As a result of the quarry's layout, there are always some climbs to be found in the sunshine, if there is any, though the best area, Wood Butress, has a shady aspect. In summer, some of the areas can become very ferny underfoot making access a pain. Wood Butress, The Prow and the Red Wall to Renaissance areas, with many of the crag's best routes, are always accessible. The pool by The Prow means that the area can be midgy in summer.

Bouldering

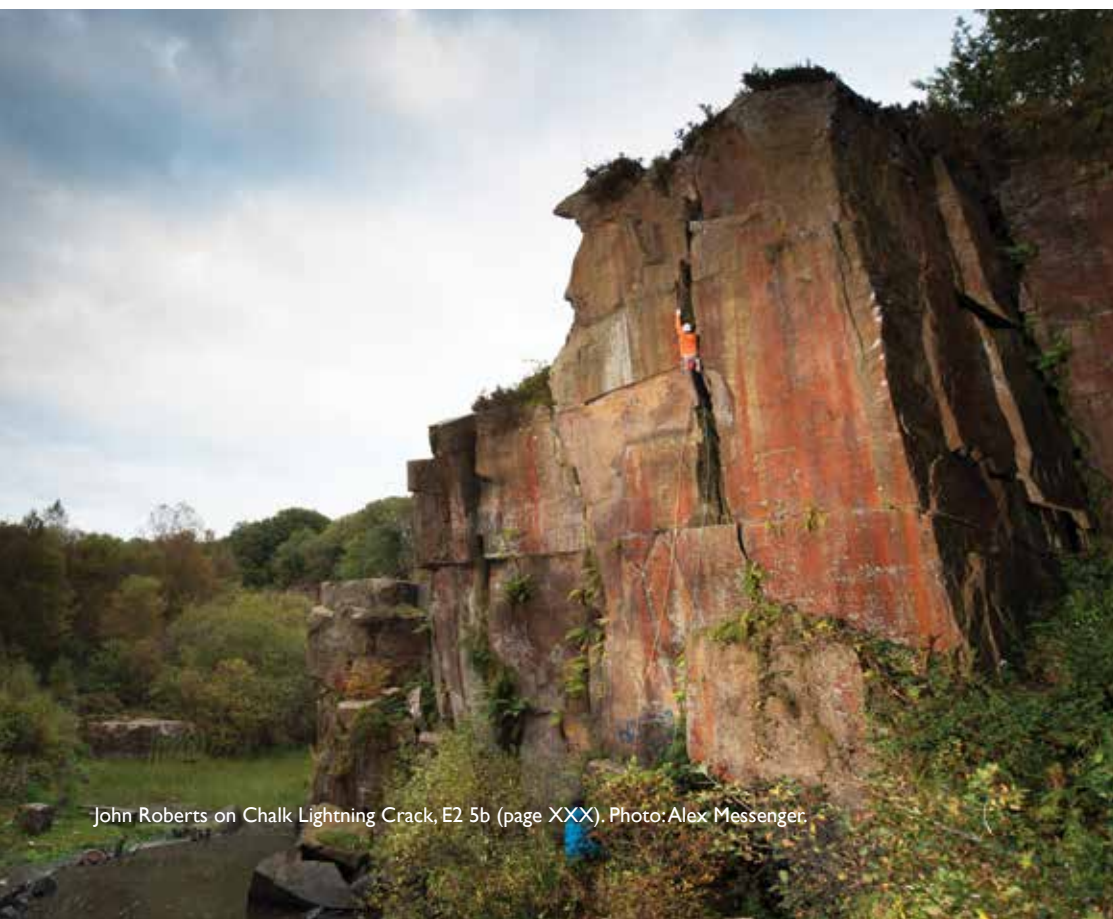
The Lancashire Bouldering guide lists 25 problems from Font 3 to Font 7B+. The majority of these are around the Bridge Area where the vertical quarried walls deliver some technical challenges.

Access

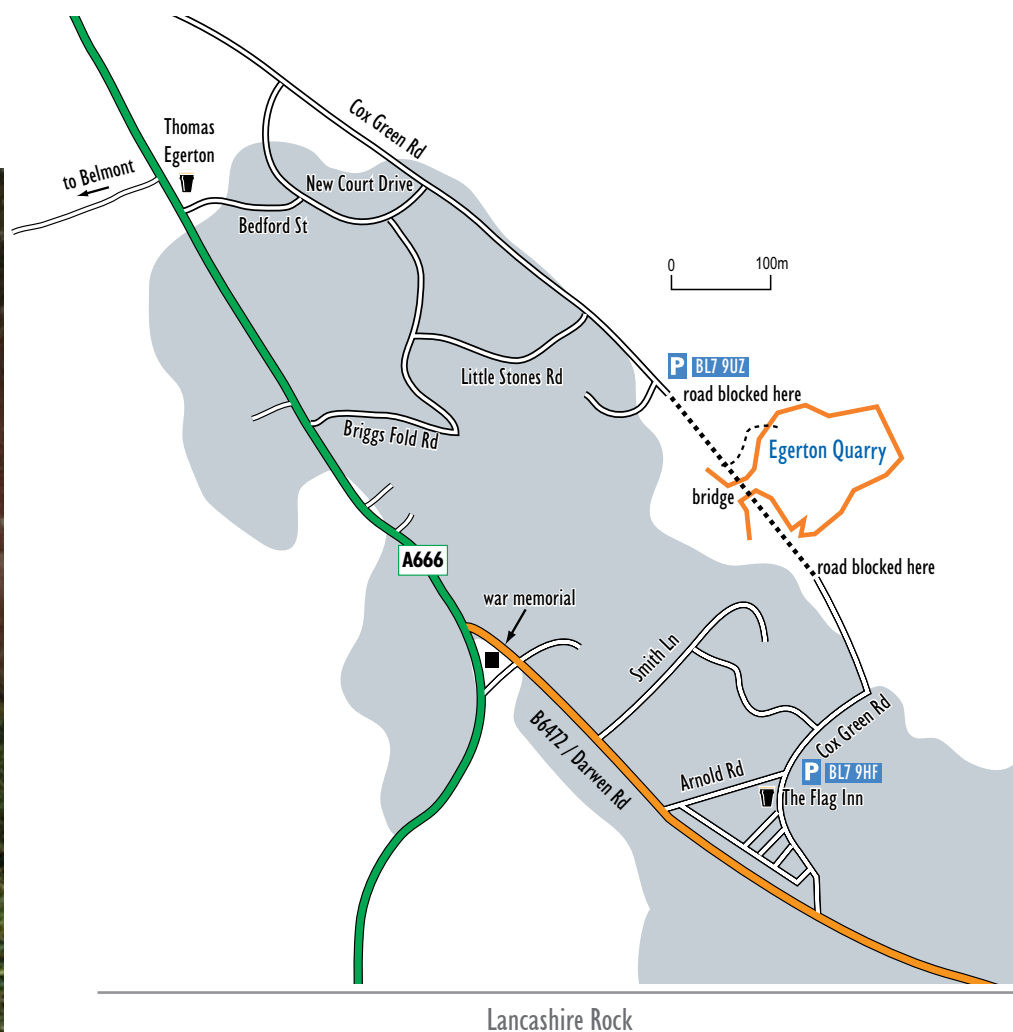
The quarry lies on Open Access land and (up to the bridge) is owned by David Robinson, who has a positive attitude towards climbing. David is happy for climbers to climb at their own risk in the quarry. However, climbers must not climb past the fence in the area previously known as Graftiti Wall.

Parking and Approach

The crag is approached from near the war memorial at the junction of the A666 Blackburn Road and the B6472 Darwen Rd. Follow the map to park at either end of the blocked section of Cox Green Rd. The blocked section forms a footpath that crosses a bridge. Just north of the bridge there is a quarry track, blocked by boulders. Follow this track.

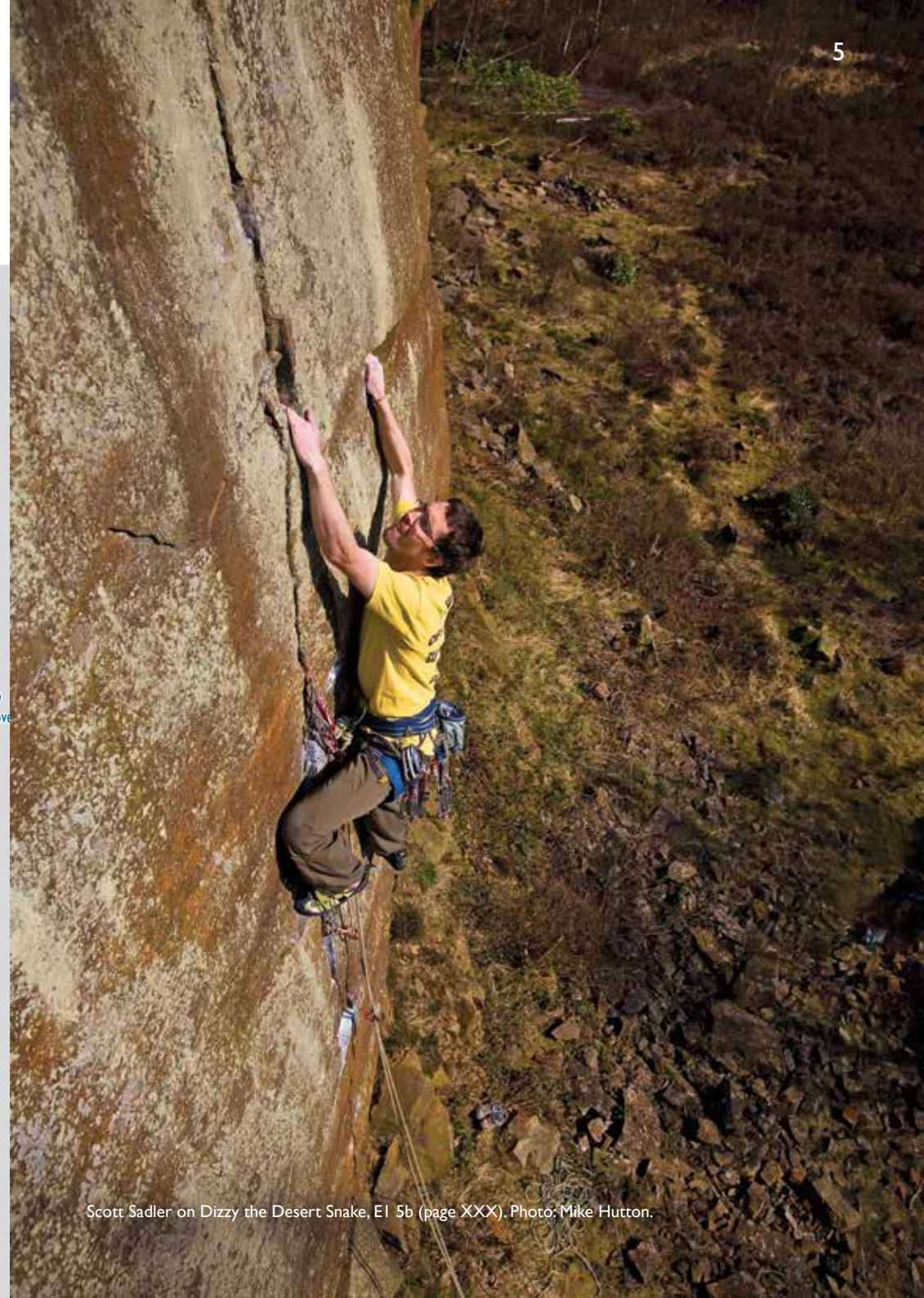
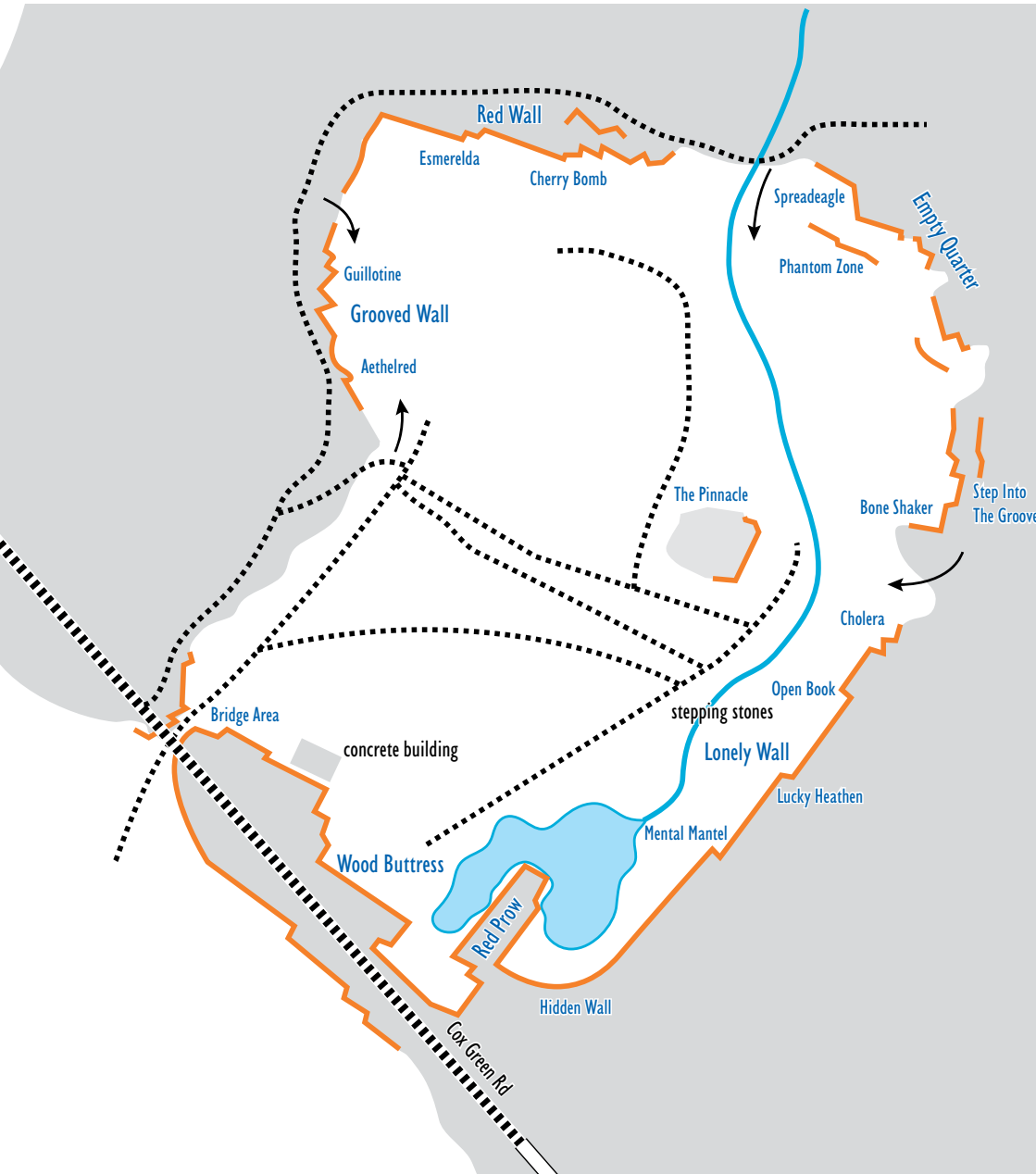


John Roberts on Chalk Lightning Crack, E2 5b (page XXX). Photo: Alex Messenger



After about 40m turn right at some more boulders on another path, that leads down into the quarry and a flatter area where several other tracks and paths join. This is Six Ways. About eight metres up from this point a path leads round to Grooved Walls. The natural continuation of this path curves up slightly to a viewpoint, whilst the more direct continuation is a small, very steep path that leads across a swamp to Red Wall. The next two paths on the

right lead down to The Pinnacle and the Stepping Stones respectively. Part way down the first of these paths just past a derelict concrete building, another path on the left provides the best way to Red Wall. The last track (in a clockwise direction) leads back towards the Bridge Area. Wood Buttress and The Prow are best reached by taking the path towards the Stepping Stones and then turning right at an obvious track at the bottom.



Scott Sadler on Dizzy the Desert Snake, E1 5b (page XXX). Photo: Mike Hutton.

Grooved Walls

This is a very worthwhile area offering a variety of climbing, but the conditions need to be right. Best visited on summer mornings, when it will get the sun. Approaches can sometimes be a bit overgrown and jungle-like, although abseil approaches are very easily accessible by staying on the path that leads round the top of the quarry.

1 Flagellator VD 2009
13m The blocky gully that runs to the left of a drill mark.

2 Fuzzy Bees E3 5c 2007
15m Climb the thin leftward trending crack then pass the top overhang on its left edge.

3 Touché Turtle HS 2007
14m The vertical crack just right.

4 Trumpton S 4a 1978
14m Climb the groove and the deep crack on its right.

5 Aethelred E2 5b ★ 1978
15m Good climbing up the poorly-protected right arête.

6 Aethelred Groove HS 4b ★ 1998
14m Climb the second deep V-groove using the wide crack in the left wall.

7 The Creaking Fossil HVS 4c 1986
14m Climb the blunt right arête of the V-groove via an unattractive, fern-filled crack.

8 Sideline VD • 2011
15m Step left onto a large 'poised' block, then continue up the rib to the top.

9 Adam's Groove HS 4a 2011
14m The deep groove, finishing on the right.

10 Adam's Wall HS 4a 2009
15m Climb a short chimney to a ledge on the right, then move up to a triangular niche on the arête. Make a hard step up to a small ledge and finish direct.

11 Brush Off VD 2009
15m Climb the right side of obvious blocks to a ledge, then continue to the top of a three block pedestal and finish up the deep crack.

12 Deeper and Deeper HS 2009
15m After an awkward start, climb the deep chimney on the left of the detached pillar and finish on the right.



13 Letter-box HVS 5a ★ 1997
15m Pleasant climbing up the front face of the detached pillar. A problem start leads to good holds up the wide face of the detached tower.

14 Headspin Cleft VS 5a 1998
12m Climb the wall to the V-groove behind the pillar, then continue straight up this. **All in the Mind**, E2 5b (1997), steps right at a ledge below the V-groove, then step right to gain the arête and follow this to the top.

15 Vlad the Impaler S 4a 1998
12m The blocky groove.

16 Walking on Glass E4 6b ★ 1996
15m An excellent climb offering strenuous and technical, but well protected climbing. Climb to the prominent square-cut overhang at mid-height on the right, step left on to a block, then climb directly up (peg at a small overlap). Undercut the overlap rightwards (peg) and finish direct, slapping wildly up the right arête.

17 Cutting Edge VS 4c 1998
13m Scramble over ledges and finish up the wide crack.

18 Black Arm S 4a 1998
11m The deep corner groove.

19 New Groove HS 4b 1998
12m Follow the right-leading groove in the centre of the wall, past a small overlap.

20 Sparkin' Bush HVS 5a ★ 1996
15m Surmount the initial bulge, and place good protection in the left crack, then continue up the face on hidden holds. A surprisingly good route.

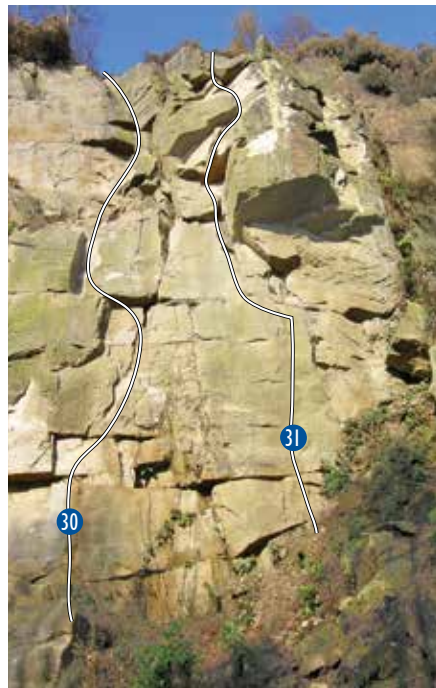
21 Blue Strawberry S 4a 1996
12m Climb the centre of the detached tower.

22 Chopper Chimney S 4a 1996
12m The crack/chimney behind the detached tower. Finish up the blunt arête on the right.

23 Guillotine E3 5c ★★★ 1981
13m Climb the finger crack past a peapod with a wedged block at its top. A classic struggle, but low in its grade.

24 The Cutter VS 4c 1996
13m The corner.





25 That's Life VS 4c 1983
14m Climb the corner and finish on the right.

26 Shudabindun E1 5b ★ 1996
15m Climb the slabby scoop to a very thin crack, then follow this to an easier finish.

27 Sham '69 VS 4c ★ Pre-1979
15m The corner provides some excellent hand jamming.

28 Big Mouth VS 4c 1996
10m Climb broken cracks in the steep wall.

29 Right Cheek HVS 5a 2009
10m The vertical crack at the right.

30 Cialis VS 4c 2007
10m Climb a short crack, then step left and move up to a larger ledge. Finish up the hanging groove on the right.

31 Viagra VS 4c 2007
10m Climb the wall to a tree stump and continue to a small roof. Step right, then finish direct. Can be a little stiff in places. **Rough Diamond**, E2 5b ★ (2007), tackles the roof at its widest point, very satisfying.

32 Tower and Ridge S 2007
15m Start across the short gully on the right up the front of a small tower and follow the short ridge to finish up the short left arête.

33 Flatface HVS 5a 2007
12m Start up easy ground to finish pleasantly up the centre of the flat wall on incut holds. Protection is limited.

34 Lucky Louise HS 4c 2007
12m Climb the obvious corner groove, trending slightly right, then finish direct. **Lucky Louise Left-hand**, HS 4c ★ (2007), move left at five metres along a good foot-ledge, then finish up the juggy rock steps above.

35 Moderately Loose M 2007
12m Despite a little loose rock, the climb provides a pleasant juggy amble.

36 Open Groove HS 4a 2007
12m Climb the corner groove.

37 Open Arête E2 5b 2007
12m Start up the slim groove and then finish up the arête.

38 Clamtrap VS 4c 2007
12m The prominent V-groove.



39 Little Wing E1 5b 2007
12m The short flying arête.

40 Offwidth HS 2007
12m Climb the wide crack.

41 Two Niche Climb HVS 5a 2007
13m Layback into the first niche, then step right into a smaller niche and finish up the rib.

42 The 15 Moons of Uranus HVS 5a 2007
13m Climb up a large square block to a good ledge gradually trending right to finish.

43 The 16 Jugs of Love D ★ 2007
13m Much better than appearances suggest. This jug ladder route provides quick access to the top of Red Wall.





Red Wall

Probably the quickest drying part of the quarry, which can be a real sun trap. Good climbs, steep and sustained.

- 44 Quasimodo** E4 6a 2007
11m Climb up to a large roof (protection can be arranged round to the left) then move back into the cave. Finish directly through the overhang and rightwards after the lip to end by a sloping mantelshelf.
- 45 Needle Stick** HVS 4c 1997
11m Climb a flake crack to a ledge, then finish up a line of flat-topped flakes.
- 46 Dicktrot II – The Movie** E2 5c ★ 1985
14m Climb the wide, but indefinite, crack.
- 47 Mumbled Prayer** E3 6a ★★ 1985
16m Good climbing up the crack (peg) past the left side of a ledge. **Photo opposite. XXX**
- 48 The Eleventh Hour** E4 6a ★★ 1985
17m Steep and sustained climbing gives a powerful route.

Follow twin cracks which lead to a ledge, then continue up the shallow groove and headwall.

- 49 Red Wall Direct** E1 5b ★ 1990
17m Climb the wide crack. **Photo opposite. XXX**
 - 50 Esmeralda** HVS 5a ★ 1976
15m Climb the blocky crack, then finish up a short corner. Belays well back.
 - 51 By Hook or by Crook** HS 4b 1998
14m Climb the groove to the second large ledge. Mantel, then finish up a short crack in the top block. **Variation Finish**, 4a, swing left and finish up a wide crack.
 - 52 Three Pint Primer** VS 4b 1998
13m Climb the right-hand arête using a flake crack.
- To the right the ground level rises and the next route climbs a small blocky pedestal at a higher level.*
- 53 Snail Trail** HS 4a ★ 2007
11m A pleasant route following the outward-facing end of the blocky pedestal.

Niall Grimes on Mumbled Prayer, E3 6a (page XXX). Photo: Alex Messenger.

**54 Good Stuff** VD 2007

11m The short blocky corner.

55 Tom Traubert's Blues VS 4c ★ 2007

11m Climb the thin twin cracks just right of the corner.

56 Why Climb Left? VS 4c 1978

13m Make an interesting mantel, then trend left to finish.

57 Why Climb Right? VS 4c 197813m From the initial mantel on *Why Climb Left?*, traverse right and up to finish.**58 Third Time Lucky** E3 5c ★ 1997

15m A pleasant and technical slab route with a good landing. Climb a hairline crack until a move right brings a good footledge. Traverse left, then mantel and make a thin pull to gain the ledge above.

59 Not Exactly a Classic VS 4c 2007

15m Climb the broken crack.

60 Dizzy the Desert Snake E1 5b ★ 198515m Long reaches lead to a thin crux, a testing, thin crack. Gain the thin crack by a jug on the left and continue to a large platform. Finish up the wall. **Photo on page XXX.****61 Petzl Logic** E3 5c ★ 2007

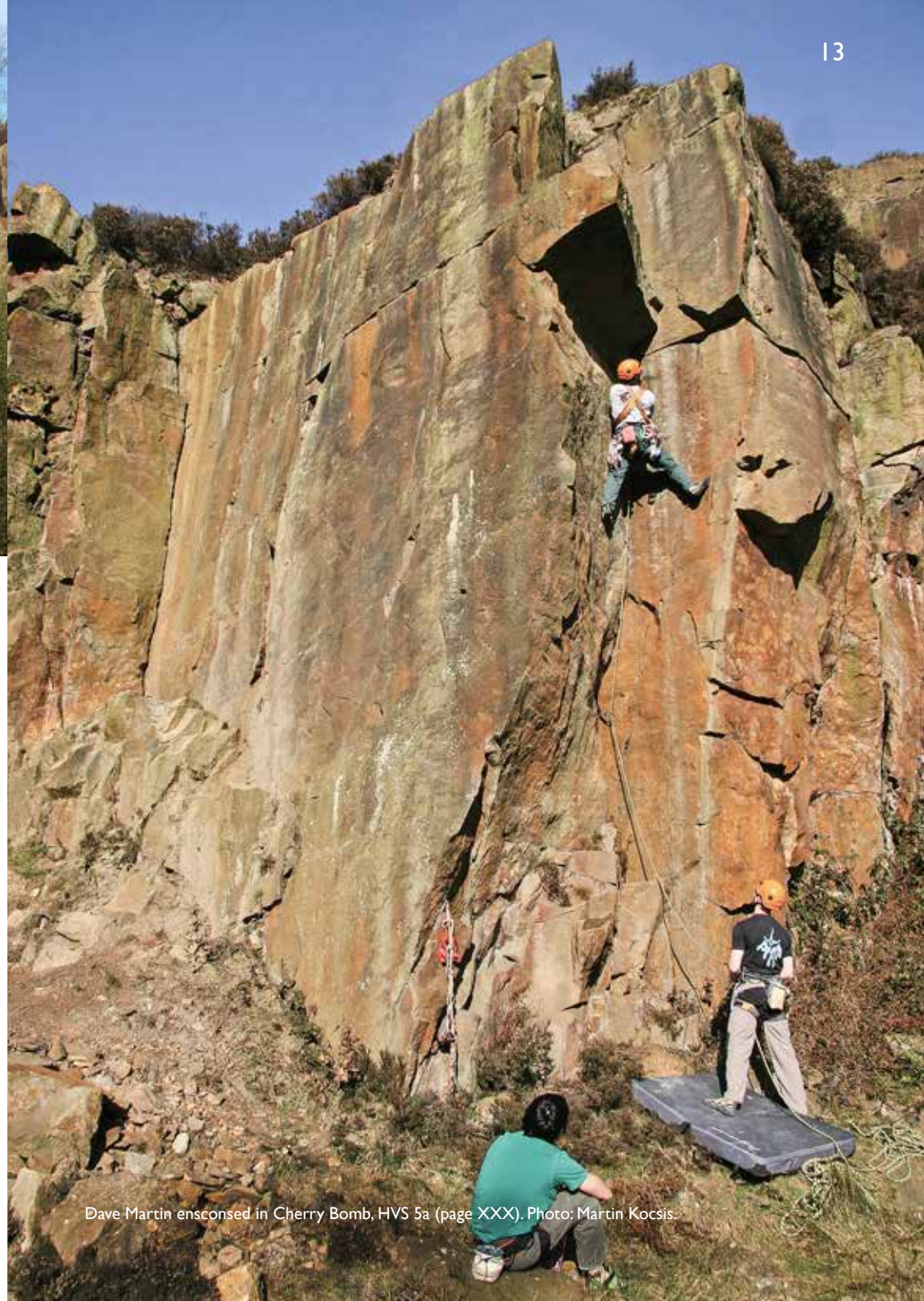
15m Climb the left side of the arête.

62 Desert Dust HS 4b 1985

15m Climb the corner and finish up a wide crack.

63 Malvinas HS 4b ★ 1982

15m Sink your jams into this one! Climb the wall to



Dave Martin ensconsed in Cherry Bomb, HVS 5a (page XXX). Photo: Martin Kocsis.



reach the base of an obvious deep corner, then finish up the right-leaning corner. **Centre of Gravity**, HS 4b (1997), is a left-hand finish up the arête.

64 Dodger S 4a ★ 1996
15m The deep crack/groove, dodging the loose blocks.

65 State of Awareness HVS 5a 1997
12m Climb the groove until a step left enables a ledge on the arête to be gained. Continue up the arête.

66 Think Light VS 4c 1997
15m Climb up the other side of the block and continue up the flake and groove above.

67 Wormhole HVS 4c 1990
15m Climb the wall via a curious drill-hole, then the shallow corner groove above. Worth doing, if only to inspect the wormhole.

68 Crack VD 1990
15m Climb the easy wall.

69 The Razor's Edge VS 4b 1997
10m The short knife-edged arête is a bit spooky, owing to the brittle nature of the edge.

Cherry Bomb Area

More open, clean and quick-drying rock. Sunny morning till evening.

70 Corner Jam VS 4c ★ 2006
10m Enjoyable jamming up the corner. Exit right at the top.

71 Nocturnal Crack VS 4c ★★ 2006
10m Climb a short groove and the crack above.

72 Jammed Blocks Crack VS 4c 2006
10m The deep crack.

73 Silk Cut E2 5c ★ 1986
10m Good fun. Climb a thin crack to a horizontal break, then step right to gain another crack, and finish up this.

74 Satin Sapphire E3 5c ★★★ 1978
14m The first of Egerton's superb arêtes. This is a must-do. The fine curving arête is climbed in its entirety. A serious and sustained route.

75 Cherry Bomb HVS 5a ★★★ 1977
14m An excellent route, one of Lancashire's best, taking the corner and roof. Once above the overhang, finish on the left arête. A fine exercise in bridging. The roof proves easier than it first appears. **Photo on page XXX.**



76 Brightside Revisited E3 6a ★★★ 1997
18m Reminiscent of the Froggatt classic. Just below the roof, step right round the arête, and follow the horizontal break to a good handjam. Finish direct up the wall (crux).

77 Boomerang E8 6c ★★★ 2006
18m The hardest arête in the quarry. Climb the arête direct all the way, with no side-runners.

78 Planet of the Apes HVS 5a 1997
12m Climb the flake crack just left of the next corner.

79 Whitewater Rafting VS 4b ★ 1998
15m Follow a flaky crack to a small ledge at mid-height. Climb up and go right to a large ledge on the arête, then step left in an exposed position and use a flake to finish.

80 Proper Gander VS 4b 1996
12m The blunt, stepped arête, starting on its right.

81 Red Shift VS 4c 1979-83
12m Start just right of the arête, at a block and climb the shallow groove. Finish via a flake on the left.

82 Renaissance E5 6a ★★★ 1996
14m One of the best arêtes in the county, with sustained climbing protected by a single, healthy-looking peg. The first ascent started on the slab down and left, although this

quickly leads to a point where it is hard not to step right to the heathery ledge. Committing moves gain the peg, then a few pulls lead to the summit.

83 Old Creaky VS 4c ★ 2007
8m A worthwhile route up the flake on excellent finger jams, then layback the overlap and finish up the crack.

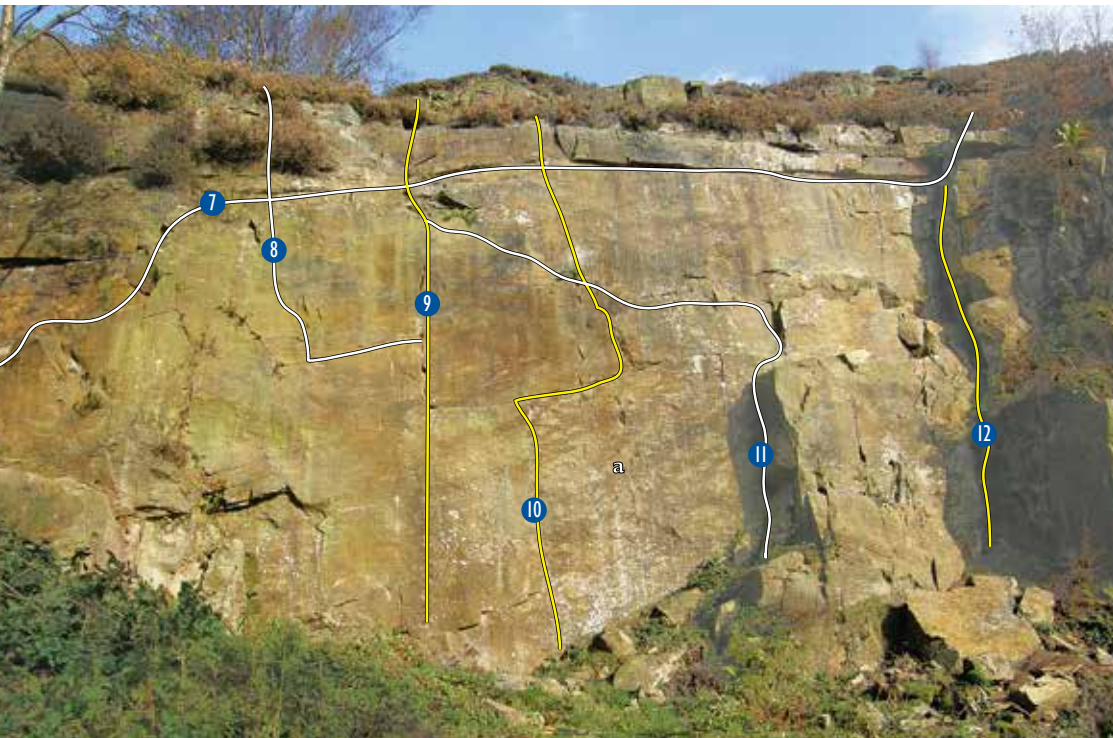
84 Spare Rib VS 4c 2007
7m Climb the very blunt rib.

85 Groovy Mantle Baby E2 5c ★ 2007
7m Pull up onto the wall on big holds, mantle the ledge to gain a good hold via a long reach and finish direct up a slight groove.

86 Battle of the Bulge HVS 5b ★★★ 2007
8m A short, action-packed gem. Climb the diagonal crack with good jams, then layback through the bulge. Stake belay.

87 Short Sharp Shock E2 5c ★ 2007
8m Good gear and a perfect hand jam build up confidence to attack the steep arête.

88 Edgelet E1 5c ★ 2007
7m Climb the short problem wall on positive edges.



The Empty Quarter

The Empty Quarter is a series of walls that face generally west to south-west and get the late afternoon sun. The more extensive Lower Tier comprises three separate sections, with plenty of good climbing on each.

Upper Tier: This is located at the top of a grassy bank directly above Phantom Wall. There are two approaches (a) From the top path, continue straight on at the point where the path bends left towards the golf course just after crossing the stream at a wooden walkway; (b) From the quarry floor, follow a path that starts just on the Phantom Wall side of the stream and go up, then right.

1 Spreadeagle S 4a 1997
8m From the centre of the slab at the left of the area, take a diagonal line leftwards, passing some rapidly fading graffiti in the form of a bird with outstretched wings. **Eagle**, S 4b, is a direct.

The blunt rib from the centre of the slab is **Birdie**, HVS 5a (2016); the groove on its right is **Tee Off**, HS 4b (2016). **Handicap**, HVS 5b (2016), follows the right edge of the slab to an overlap (peg), then finish left past a niche.

2 Lost in Egerton VS 4c 1998

10m Start 10m to the right and climb the narrow rib just left of a steep slab. Surprising.

3 Dribbles E1 5c 1986

10m Two metres farther right climb the thin crack in the clean slab to a poor finish.

4 Cancer VS 4b 1982

9m Climb the crack at the right edge of the slab until level with a tight, left-facing chimney. Then either finish up the chimney, or the continuation groove on the left.

5 Premature Burial S 2007

9m Or impossible - depending on your girth. The route is identified by a pale blue cross painted on the wall just to its right. Reach the slot via a prominent, nebbled rib, then squirm through it.

6 Step into the Groove E2 5c ★ 1996

10m About 90m farther right, where the ledge widens. Start just left of the final arête and climb to the right side of a small overlap, then finish up the wall above.



Phantom Wall: Steep and sustained climbing. It is the first rock encountered when approaching from the Cherry Bomb area.

7 Dan Air E3 5b ★★ 2007

20m A worthwhile rightwards traverse across Phantom Wall. Start at a large ledge and follow this to the large break just below the top of the buttress. Hand traverse the smooth break with increasing anxiety to welcome gear in the corner, then finish up this.

8 Phantom Zone Left-hand E3 6a ★★★ 1986

10m A good climb that breaks out left from *Phantom Zone*. Climb the problematic wall via the hairline crack in its centre to good finger jams and gear in the crack above. Follow the traverse-line leading leftwards, until an airy rockover can be made, to a finish up the wall.

9 Phantom Zone E2 6a ★★ 1986

9m Instead of traversing, finish direct with a short but tricky layback.

10 Tasty E4 6b 1989

9m Climb the first very faint crack to a horizontal crack, then move right and finish direct. **Return of the Native**, E1 5c (1986) is a direct start.

11 Crack and Jugs HS ★★ 2007

20m Climb the corner crack, then hand traverse left on good jugs and make a rockover onto the ledge. Continue up obvious flakes to another ledge and then finish easily.

12 ER E1 5b ★ 2007

20m A leftwards traverse across the main break of *Dan Air*. Start below the final corner of *Dan Air*. Follow this to the corner just below the top. Start the hand traverse

with a well protected crux, then continue to the end of the first rock encountered when approaching from the Cherry Bomb area. Finish easily up *Crack and Jugs*.

Streaked Wall: This lies 25m farther right at a higher level.

13 Deep Blue Day E1 5b ★ 2007

20m Climb the left side of the arête to reach a horizontal break, then follow this rightwards until, just past *Broken Arrow*, it is possible to finish up a short slab.

14 Street Legal E2 5c 1998

9m Climb the right-hand side of the arête, with good protection on the crux.

15 Double or Quits E1 5b 1998

9m Climb the wall past blocks and an interesting mantelshelf. Protection is limited.

16 Vulture E1 5b 1998

9m Climb the right-hand side of the blocks, then step right and continue delicately on widely spaced holds. Poor protection.

17 Enter the Elephant HVS 5a ★ 2007

9m Attack the deep, wide fissure with a variety of snug jams, good fun, not too tricky and well protected.

18 Broken Arrow E2 5b ★★ 2007

11m Climb the slab on small edges directly to the break. Layback through the overlap at a small notch in the lip to gain the break of *Deep Blue Day* and finish direct.



Far End: 30m right again, this more continuous section of rock offers lots of standard quarry climbs, but there are also some pleasant surprises.

- 19 Forgotten Roof** VS 4c 2011
12m Gain the deep groove and move right at a diagonal flake. Break through the overhang at the obvious notch, to reach a slightly sloping ledge, with a good handhold well back. Finish up the short arête. Tree belay well back.
- 20 Monkey Trick** VS 5a 1992
12m Climb the obvious corner crack and overhanging headwall past an obvious thread.
- 21 Pipistrelle** E3 5b 2007
12m Climb thin, left-leaning cracks past the crux, to eventually reach good protection. Exit left at the top through enjoyable, juggy, overhanging ground.
- 22 Organ Grinder** HVS 5b ★ 1998
12m Gain the groove by an awkward, balancy move, then continue more easily on widely spaced footholds.
- 23 Empty Arête** HVS 5a 1998
11m Climb the arête on its right on widely-spaced holds, then step right using an 'interesting' block and continue via a very short chimney.
- 24 Crack Attack** HVS 5a ★ 2007
11m Climb the wall directly to the corner.

- 25 Tubeway Army** VS 4c 2007
11m Follow the line of an impressive drill hole, remembering to look down at the top of the tube. Strangely satisfying.
- 26 The Perfect Arm Bar** VS 4c 2007
10m Climb twin cracks in a groove.
- 27 Solid Air** E3 6a ★ ★ 2007
12m Excellent climbing with good protection. Climb the blank wall, just left of a thin crack, direct (peg). Move left to gain thin cracks, which are followed to the top.
- 28 Air Head** E2 5b 2007
12m Climb the stepped arête direct to the large ledge. From a small ledge up and left, finish up a crack-cum-groove.
- 29 Space Between my Ears** VS 4c ★ 1977
12m Climb the crack on the right of the arête to gain a large, sloping ledge, then continue up the groove until it is possible to move onto the left arête and climb this and the crack above.
- 30 Swamp Dog** VS 4c ★ 1998
10m After an awkward start, pleasant bridging up the next corner leads past an overlap.
- 31 Alvin's Wild West Rodeo Show** S 4a 1998
10m Follow a crack at the right side of the block, then step left and finish up cracks.



- 32 Precious Cargo** E3 5c ★ ★ 1998
10m A difficult couple of moves up the left-hand side of the arête lead to an enjoyable finish in a fine position.
- 33 Kamikaze Coconut** HS 4b ★ Pre-1979
9m The deep corner.
- 34 Slim Pickings** E3 6a ★ 2007
9m Climb the technically demanding, slabby arête, with gear in *Kamikaze Coconut*.
- 35 My Newt Route** HS 4a ★ 2007
9m The steep crack.
- 36 Lazy Bones** S 4a 1998
12m Start ten metres right and slightly forward of the rest of the rock and climb the obvious arête on juggy holds.
- 37 Bone Shaker** VS 4c 1998
12m Climb the deep flake crack immediately right.
- 38 Just for the Finger Jam** S 4a 1998
10m Start eight metres right. Climb the thin finger-crack with big ledges on the left and finish over a block.

Empty Quarter Descent: There is an easy descent slope just to the right.

Lonely Wall Area

These are the walls that start about 80m right of the Empty Quarter made up of Cholera Area and Lonely Wall itself. The best descent is via the *Empty Quarter Descent* to the left of the area.

Cholera Area: A fine collection of climbs.

- 39 Day of the Lumberjacks** E1 5b 2007
8m Climb a flake crack, then finish up the arête.
- 40 Hanging Rib** VS 4c 2007
8m Five metres right is a short jamming crack leading to a hanging rib.
- 41 Small Hours** E4 5c ★ ★ 2007
10m Scramble up easy ledges to the protectionless arête, then climb this on its righthand side.
- 42 The Last Hurdle** E2 5b ★ ★ 2007
9m The arête a metre right of a short, deep chimney at the top. Climb this, with the top move proving to be the crux, for all but the short.
- 43 Cholera** HVS 5a ★ ★ 1988
9m Climb cracks past a sentry box to a sloping mantle-shelf finish. Not as easy as it looks.



44 Terminal Velocity E6 6b ★★ 2004

14m Climb the rib to a ledge on the left side of the arête (cams in corner and micro-wires preplaced in the crack on the arête). From the footledge, swing onto the overhanging righthand side and ascend this until a blind slap can be made for the crack around the arête. Technical moves up the arête lead to a large sloping ledge that is mantled.

45 Cracker HVS 5a 1996

46 Summer Lightning E5 6b ★★ 1996

14m Climb a thin crack (three pegs and a cam placement), then the leaning wall above, using the right arête, before a move left leads on to the final slab. A strenuous effort.

47 Alchemy VS 4c 1996

14m Follow a line just to the right of the groove, then use a drill-hole to make a step into the groove near the top.

48 Dude Ranch VS 4c 2006

14m Climb a crack in the right side of the short buttress to reach the large ledge. Step down from the left side of this and climb the crack immediately right of *Alchemy*, passing a small roof near the top. **Squamish Chief**, HVS 5b ★ (2006), takes the thin finger jamming crack that rises from the left side of the ledge. **Over the Back**, VS 4c ★ (2006), is the hand jamming crack from the centre. **Scrunge**, VS 4c (2006), takes the wide crack on the right.

49 Rowdy Roddy Peeper HVS 5b 2006

14m Climb a short arête and the wide crack on its right to a ledge. Finish up the short headwall on good holds.

50 Mud Honey E2 5b ★ 2006

14m Gain the cave, then leave this by a jamming crack and move slightly left to gain a large ledge. Finish direct.

51 Blond Witch HVS 4c ★ 2009

14m It may be a struggle to find the jugs, but they are there. Take a line past a niche, then move left to finish.



52 The Great Valerio E3 5b ★ 2006

14m Climb the centre of a narrow buttress on good holds. A large cam in the cleft protects the crux. Finish direct.

53 The Open Book E1 5b ★ 1998

14m A series of mantelshelves lead to a groove. Climb this and pull over the overhang in a sensational position.

Lonely Wall: This area has become somewhat neglected.

54 Lucky Heather E4 5c ★★ 1986

9m A bold proposition, which has seen many top-rope rescues and snivelling traverses off to the banking. Boulder up the left side of the left arête of the red wall, then swing right to a gripping heathery finish.

55 Welcome to the Jungle E4 5c ★★ 2005

9m Quality climbing. From the first ledge on *Lucky Heather*, swing round the arête and step right. Climb direct (pegs), then step right again to finish.

56 Running on Empty E5 6b ★ 2005

9m Climb the crack and continue up the crack above. At the break move left to clip the pegs on *Welcome...* then move back right and make a balancy rockover to finish.

57 Nasty Little Lonely HVS 5a 1979-83

17m Climb loose pillars to reach a disintegrating ledge. A traverse left leads to a fine finish up a groove. Serious.

58 Mental Mantel E2 5b ★ 1986

18m Start in the centre of the clean wall, at a small arrow

and climb to a difficult mantel on to sloping ledges. Step left around the arête and finish up the short crack.

59 The Water Margin HVS 5a ★ 1998

18m Follow a flaky groove to a ledge, then traverse up and right to a deep corner. Step back left to a ragged crack and follow this, trending left up the leaning top wall.

60 Surfin' Bird E3 5b ★★ 1996

15m Ascend via cracks and ledges to a large ledge beneath prominent roofs. Surmount the lower roof at its centre, trending slightly left above the next overhang in a wild position on good holds to a superb finish.

61 Changing of the Guard E3 5c ★ 1998

15m Climb the steep wall (peg). Make a long reach rightwards to a crack and climb this (crux) to gain a groove, then move left across a large ledge to the base of a thin crack. Finish up this on good finger jams.

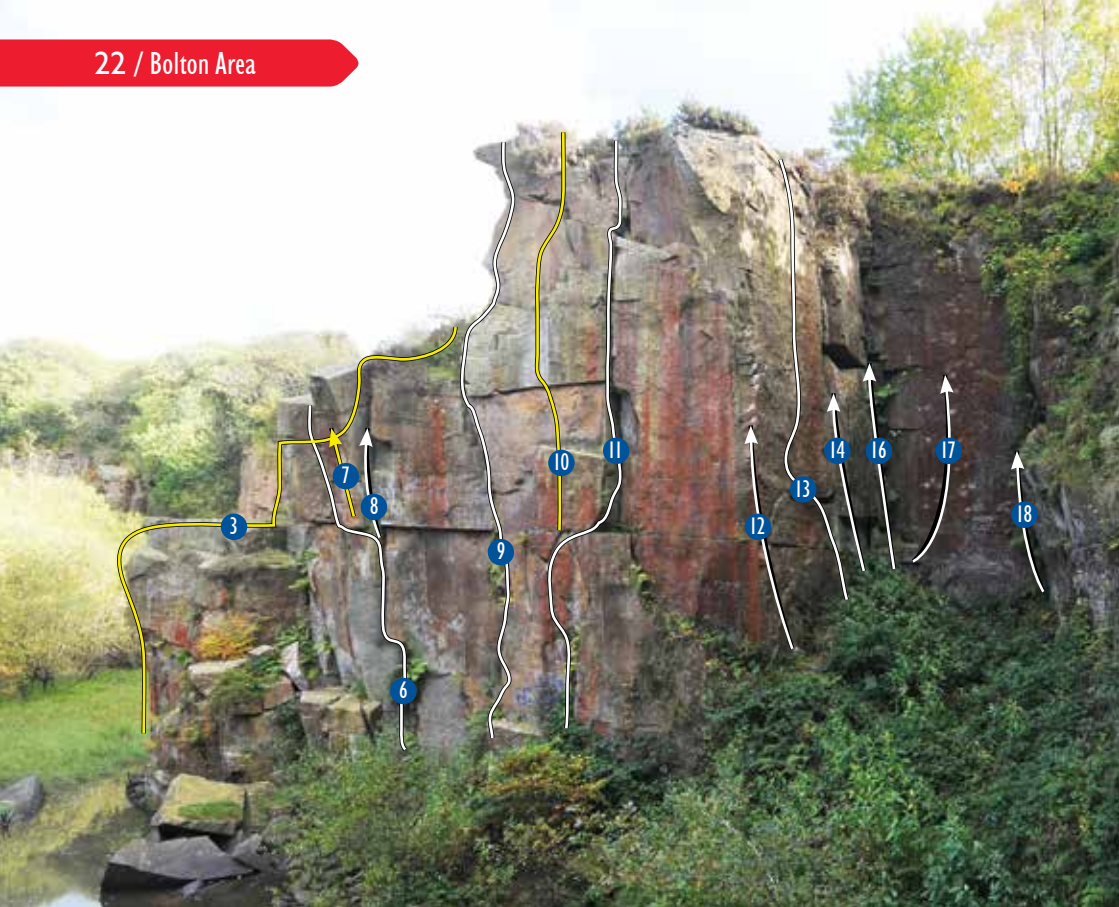
62 Long Distance Runner E3 5c ★ 1993

15m Another, if slightly easier, Egerton arête, which is both technical and exciting. Ascend the blunt arête and crack (peg) on the right.

63 Initiation E2 5c ★ 1979

15m Climb the obvious crack.

Hidden Wall: Hidden behind the Red Prow and about 20m right of *Initiation*, is a short, steep wall, which rises directly out of the pool to a tree-covered terrace. **Bombing Basil**, E1 5b (1997), climbs the short wall via two niches.



Red Prow

The prow of rock with a pool on three sides is well worthwhile for visitors climbing at VS and above. The main face gets some evening sun. **Descent:** Walk round and descend as for Wood Buttress.

- 1 Red Prow Original** VS 4b 1975
21m Situated round the back of the Red Prow. When the pool is full the start can be reached by abseil. Start in the corner and climb a rib to a thin crack, then follow this to a ledge. Step right and go up the crack above to a ledge and large blocks, then finish easily up a ramp on the left.
- 2 Stringbiff** VS 4c 1986
37m Climb the left arête on the end of the Red Prow, then the continuation arête and finish up the easy ramp left of the *Field of Dreams*.
- 3 The Field of Dreams** E1 5b, 5a, 5a ★★★ 1996
An enjoyable expedition with interesting and varied

climbing on each pitch. The start is reached by a short traverse from *Omelette*, when the pond is low, or by abseiling in from the diving board above Pitch 1.

- 1. 10m** Climb the right-hand arête on the end of Red Prow to a belay on The Diving Board, below a dogleg crack in the wall above.
- 2. 10m** Climb the dogleg crack, then traverse airily, rightwards round the arête into a corner. Climb this and belay below the formidable overhang.
- 3. 10m** Climb the right-hand arête on its left, then swing right to finish over the overhanging arête.
- 4 Acme Surplus Overhang** E2 5a 1986
6m An exciting route through the middle of the roof on the top of Red Prow, starting from the upper ledge (the one above The Diving Board).
- 5 Rhythm of the Heat** E1 5c 1984
8m Climb easily to the right side of The Diving Board, then spring up the dogleg crack in the wall above, continuing direct where the crack sneaks off left.

- 6 Omelette** VS 4c 1996
12m Climb a crack until it is possible to move left and finish up the deep crack bounding the tower on its left.
- 7 Falling off the Edge of the World** E3 5c ★★★ 1996
12m The outrageously leaning block succumbs to the fast, furious and bold approach. Start up *Omelette* then climb direct up the centre of the leaning block. A small cam protects the top move.
- 8 Gnat Attack** VS 4c 1984
12m Start up *Omelette* then climb the right-hand crack.
- 9 Roadrunner Pinnacle** HVS 4c ★ 1996
15m Climb the thin crack and chimney that lead directly to the top arête of the Red Prow on excellent jugs. At the top of the chimney move boldly right to finish in a superb position up the right-hand side of the arête. Photogenic.
- 10 Don't Stop Believing** E2 5c ★ 1986
15m Climb the short wall to a crack, then follow this past a sloping mantelshelf (crux) and the break above (cams). Attack the wall above, trending right at the top.
- 11 Chalk Lightning Crack** E2 5b ★★★ 1976
15m A classic thrutch-and-grope up the offwidth crack splitting the centre of the top buttress. Good protection, but it is still a thought-provoking lead. **Photo opposite. XXX**
- 12 Nobody Wept for Alec Trench** E5 6a ★★★ 1982
14m Undoubtedly the centrepiece of the quarry, and one of the finest arêtes on Lancashire gritstone. Ascend the striking arête, starting on the right. Then continue (past two pegs of dubious worth) to a thrilling finish on sloping holds.
- 13 Ice Cool Acid Test** E4 6a ★★★ 1982
14m Superb wall climbing. Climb to a ledge below a small overlap, then step left to a foothold above the overlap. Continue straight up the exposed wall, passing a peg on the right at two-thirds-height. A large cam in *White Out*, might inspire confidence to tackle the initial overlap.
- 14 White Out** HS 4b ★★ 1975
12m The enticing wide crack that splits the back wall. Take care at the top, but the jamming is irresistible.
- 15 Specific Gravity** E3 5c 1993
2m Climb the wall left of the corner stepping in from the right above the first overhang (peg).
- 16 Dust at Dusk** S 4a 1976
12m The deep left-hand corner.
- 17 Vortex** E8 6c ★ 1999
12m A difficult route with a very hard (and desperately reachy) move that may be paddable. Step right onto the wall, then curve up (two pegs), then take a direct line until it is possible to step left onto good finishing holds.
- 18 Each Way Nudger** E3 6b ★ 1982
12m The overhung corner facing Red Prow. Desperate bridging moves lead to a long, blind reach over a bulge before easier ground is reached.
- The Amphitheatre:** Shady and a bit overgrown.
- 19 Brittle-Fingers** E1 5b 1987
12m Start right of the overhung corner and climb a crack to gain a very short, bottomless groove that is level with the mid-height ledge at the end of the Terrace. Pass this to finish up the arête above on its left-hand side.
- 20 Fathomathon** E2 5b 1987
8m Start two metres farther right and climb the wall to a good though doubtful jug, then make an 'all-out-mega-span' and climb direct to join *Amphitheatre Terrace*.
- 21 Bob Bandits** HVS 5b 1987
16m Climb the offwidth crack to the left side of the ledge. Step left, then back right onto the rib above and continue. **Right-hand Start**, VS 4c (2003), takes the weakness that leads to the top of the offwidth crack.
- 22 Amphitheatre Direct** VS 4c 2003
17m A disappointing climb.
- 23 Life During Wartime** HVS 5b ★★ 1981
18m This climb bursts into life with an exposed and unprotected traverse into a fine position on the top wall. After the traverse the protection is good. From the ancient peg on *Amphitheatre Direct*, pass two small ledges on the right wall, then move up and right to a large ledge. Traverse right to gain a thin crack and finish up this.
- 24 Peace Dividend** VS 4c ★★ 2003
18m A pleasant excursion that crosses some exposed ground. Despite appearances to the contrary, the holds keep coming. Climb the wall to reach the large ledge (peg). Climb the blunt rib to the horizontal break, then make a long reach to a small hold, step left to finish. **Matless**, E3 6a (2016), reaches the mid-height ledge via the wall and a short groove on the left.
- 25 Amphitheatre Terrace** VD 1976
21m The obvious ledge that splits the back wall from right to left, is gained at its right end (peg). Traverse left until it is possible to finish.



26 Saffron E1 5b
15m Climb the wall via a crack system.

1996 up a crack through the overhang until a jug on the right arête can be reached, then finish easily.

27 Spindrift VS 4c
14m From the left side of the bottom ledge, climb directly

1996 **28 Windchill** HS 4b
14m Follow the groove to a large sycamore, struggle past the tree, then finish up the corner.



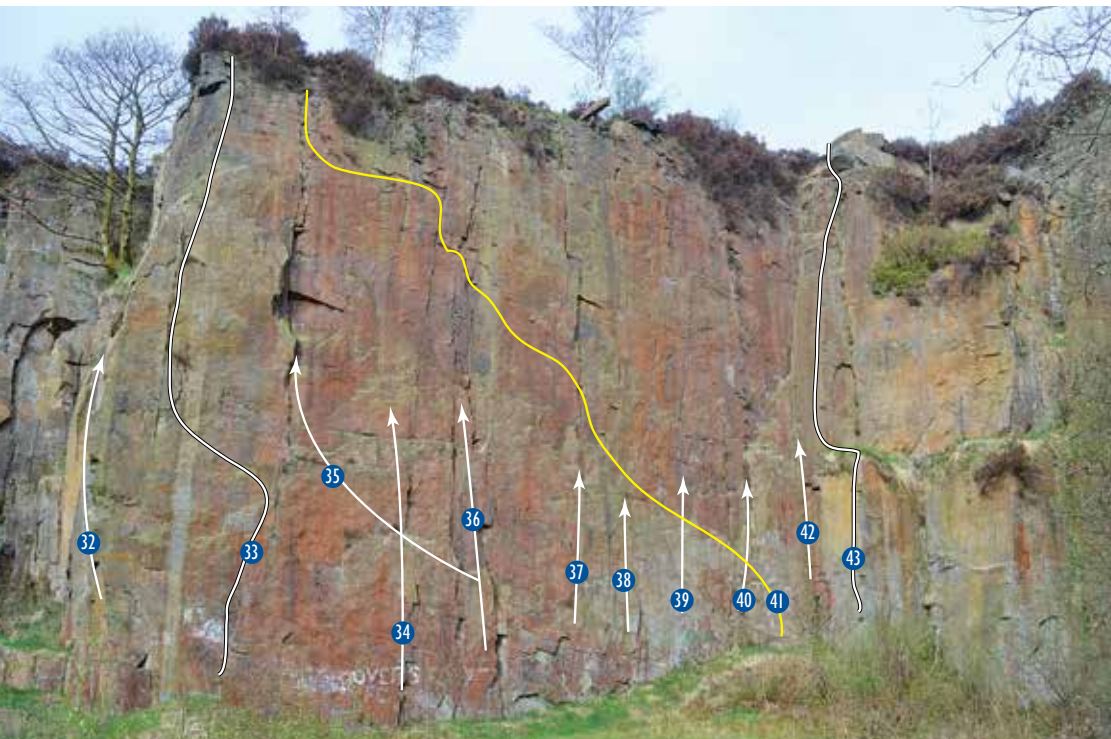
29 Spin VS 4c
16m Step right into an obvious scoop and follow this to a ledge containing the large tree. Either climb up the tree then step across to the top, or continue up the wall directly above the top of the scoop (can be a little dirty).

30 Zoot Chute VS 4b ★★
16m A pleasant route that covers some impressive ground for its grade. Climb the recessed slab, then move right across a large ledge and finish up the wall above (peg).
Shoot the Zoot. VS 4c ★ (2010): Instead of moving right, continue direct, up a crack, to the top.

31 The Reaper E6 6c ★★★
15m Another excellent, but rather grim, route up the wall right of *Zoot Chute*. Climb the wall (peg), then move right to gain a vague, crescent-shaped groove and desperate moves up the thin slab above which lead to a welcome ledge.



Dan Middleton on God save the Queen, HVS 5a (page XXX). Photo: Niall Grimes.



Wood Buttress

This section of rock is somewhat reminiscent of Chimney Buttress at Wilton. It is a steep, cracked wall jam packed with goodies. **Descent:** The best descent from these routes and climbs on the Red Prow, involves an interesting route down through the derelict concrete buildings on the right, or an abseil from above *God Save the Queen*.

32 I Shot Jason King E5 6b ★★★ 1979-83
18m Another excellent arête. Climb the left arête of the buttress, which eases in its upper reaches.

33 Confusion E3 5c 1987-90
20m Climb the wall at a blind crack until it is possible to move delicately left and up to reach a thin crack right of the arête. Climb this and then finish up *I Shot Jason King*.

34 Lubalin E2 5b ★ 1983
17m Follow the crackline, then step left to place protection. Return to the crack and continue up the centre of the headwall to a thin crack, which leads to the top.

35 Ten Minutes Before the Worm VS 4c ★ 1976
20m Gain a small niche just above ground level and con-

tinue until it is possible to follow an obvious line of ledges that leads leftwards to a niche. Move past a peg to the arête, then go back right to finish. A direct start is possible from *Lubalin* at 5b.

36 God Save the Queen HVS 5a ★★★ 1975-79
17m All stand and start! Follow the crackline to the top. **Photo on page XXX.**

37 Gallows Pole HVS 5a ★★★ 1976
17m There's nothing hanging about this classic. A typical gritstone quarry climb that combines good moves and interesting positions. Follow a vague crackline to finish just left of the pole which overlaps the top of the crag.

38 Niff-Niff the Guinea Pig E3 5b ★★ 1979-83
17m Another classic Lancashire route name. Climb the wall/crack to finish just right of the pole.

39 Naff-Naff The Route E2 5b 1986
17m Climb the crack.

40 Bag of Bones HVS 4c 1979-83
15m Climb the flake crack immediately left of the corner and finish up the crack.



41 The Disappearing Chip Buttie Traverse E1 5b ★ 1985
18m

A rising right-to-left traverse across Wood Buttress. Start just left of *Wednesday Corner*, move up, and traverse diagonally left (peg). Continue into *God Save the Queen*, move left and climb up for a couple of metres to an exit left along a stiff finger traverse into *Ten Minutes Before* etc. Worm up that route to finish.

42 Wednesday Corner VS 4b ★ 1976
15m The long corner groove moving right at the top.

43 One Minute to Midnight E3 5c ★ 1985
15m Climb the technical, sharp-edged arête to a ledge, then follow the slightly easier upper arête.

44 Insipidity VS 4c ★★ 1976
15m Ascend the short corner, then move and climb the impressive corner groove, moving left to finish.

45 Field of Screams E2 5b 1996
16m Climb the short arête, then traverse to the middle of the blank-looking wall above and climb this on improving holds, to finish.

46 Dickie's Meadow HS 4a 1975
17m The obvious corner and groove above.

47 Temptation E2 6b 1986
18m Climb the narrow wall by a faint groove and near the top move right to finish. Side runners in *Dickie's Meadow*.

48 The Money Shot E5 6b ★★★ 2005
18m Climb the left edge of the arête (pegs on the left). Continue to a precarious layback finish up the left side of the arête.

49 The Lamb Lies Down on Broadway E4 6a 1984
18m Avoids the real issues that *Money Shot* tackles head on. Start as for *Money Shot*, but after a few metres, keep to the right to reach the large grassy ledge. Then from the first peg on *Neighbourhood*, return to the arête and finish on its right side.

50 Dicktrot E1 5c 1979-83
8m Climb the thin crack to a pod finish.

51 Shaky Flakes S 4a 1979-83
6m Climb the right-hand side of the short wall.

52 Neighbourhood Threat HVS 5a 1979-83
10m From a higher ledge just below the concrete building, climb the flake and crack just right of the arête.



Bridge Area

This is an unusual area of shorter quarried walls that lie under the road. They give technical challenges. The rock is quick drying and some parts stay dry in the rain. It is where the majority of Egerton's bouldering lies. The first routes lie round the left-hand side of the arête.

53 Dipper E2 5c 1996
10m Failure means potential impalement. Start at the third spike to the right of the concrete building and climb the wall past another metal spike.

54 Natural Victim VS 4c 1996
10m Climb the wall immediately right of two square-cut spikes, passing an obvious orange scar, to reach a small triangular niche at the top.

55 Ludwig S 4a 1996
10m Climb the groove just left of the arête.

56 Feeding the Rat HVS 5a ★ 1996
10m The arête is climbed on its right to a direct finish on small, but positive, holds.

57 Rat Trap S ★ 2003
11m Climb easily to the foot of a short corner, then continue past some small, but good ledges up the right-hand wall of the corner.

58 Just Out S 4a ★ 1978
9m Climb the vague arête and the narrow wall immediately right of the corner, (peg near the top).

59 Twilight Crack S 4a 1975
9m The thin crack two metres to the right.

60 Bridge Crack VS 5a ★ Pre-1979
12m A unique situation and good climbing combine to make this a climb a must. Climb the jamming crack to the roof, then hand-traverse or crawl left to finish.

61 Cleft Climb VS 4c 1979-83
10m Climb the cleft to the stone walling.

62 Markova S 4a Pre-1979
9m The deep groove.

63 Thin Crack HS 4b 1974
9m Climb the crack past an iron spike.

64 Broken Toe HVS 5a Pre-1993
9m Climb a thin crack to a very poor top.

To the right the rock is somewhat fractured, but some 50m farther right at a deep corner there three more routes.

65 Socialist Millionaire S 4a 1998
14m Climb the corner to a large ledge, then follow stepped ledges rightwards to finish.

66 Gollum HVS 5b 1996
12m Climb the centre of the problematic wall to a slot and a good runner. Tricky moves up and right lead to a juggy finish (5c for the short). The top crux can be snivelingly avoided on the left.

67 Stolen Goods E4 6a 1993
12m Climb the arête on its right side to the roof (peg), where a swing round the arête leads to an easier finish.



Bridge Area – Blackburn Side

68 Colgy HS 4b Pre-1993
9m Climb the crack immediately left of the left arête.

69 The Arête VS 5b Pre-1979
6m The problem arête at the left end of the Bridge Area.

70 Wide Crack VD 1975
8m The crack below the edge of the bridge.

71 Toots E2 5c 1996
8m The blunt arête under the bridge that starts at a small upward-pointing, metal spike. Abseil descent.

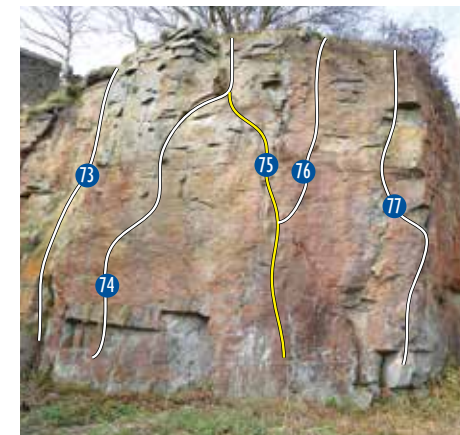
72 The Nose VS 4c ★ 1979-83
8m Climb the bulging nose on good holds; abseil descent.

73 Wiad S 4a 1996; 2003
11m The dirty jamming crack. **Wiad Variation**, VD (2003), follows a right-leading ramp.

74 Hydrophobia E1 5b 1980
11m Follow holds on the blunt arête until it is possible to step right to a small ledge. Then ascend flakes until a long stride right can be made to gain the finishing groove.

75 Rabid HVS 5a 1980
12m Climb to the prominent iron spike then veer left.

76 No Screws in Skem E1 5b 1985
12m From the iron spike, step up right, then back left and finish direct on widely spaced holds.



77 Black Dog E1 5c ★ 1980
12m Climb a leaning crack on the arête, then move left and finish up the thin crack.

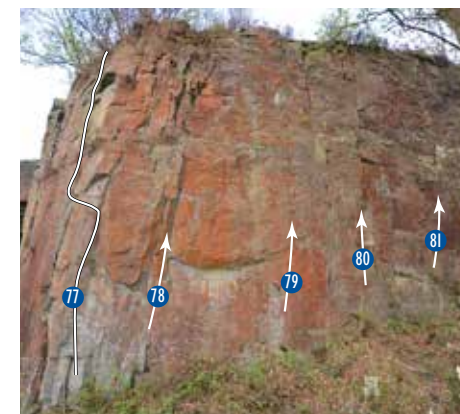
78 The Beauty of Poison E1 5b 1984
12m The shattered crack, with a short groove.

79 The Wiggles Memorial Route E3 6a 2006
10m A direct line up the wall.

80 Ceremony VS 5a ★ ★ Pre-1979
10m Looks a bit unlikely for its grade, but gives delightful climbing on good, hidden holds.

81 Green Thoughts HS 4b Pre-1979
9m Climb the crack above the left side of a sloping ledge.

82 The Darker Side of Elephants HVS 4c 2006
9m Climb a flake and crack, finishing with a tricky mantelshelf.



The Pinnacle

The central hub of rock in the middle of the quarry .

- 1 Baby Bouncer** Font 6A ★ 2007
- 2 Gold Rush** Font 6A ★★ 2007
- 3 Twister** Font 3 2007
- 4 Jugula** VS 5a ★ 2007
12m Climb the short juggy arête, then follow the ridge to the top of the pinnacle.
- 5 Short Wall** VS 4c ★ 2007
12m Climb the wall on stepped holds.
- 6 Swastika Wall** HVS 5b ★ 2007
10m Take a direct line past an obvious ledge.
- 7 Faithhealer** E3 6a ★★ 2007
10m The thin crack.
- 8 Like a Rolling Stone** E3 5c ★ 2007
10m The slim corner has a tricky exit on the right.
- 9 Natural Grit** E2 5b 2007
10m Climb a short flake, then rockover and step right onto another sloping ledge. From the left side of this climb the wall to a good ledge with a perplexing exit.

- 10 Pile of Grit** VD 2007
10m Gain the sloping ledge on *Natural Grit*, then trend back right up a broken wall.
- 11 Stepped Arête** VD 2007
10m Easy rock steps steepen to form a short arête. Finish up this.
- 12 Left Cheek** VS 5a ★ 2007
10m The crack in the steep wall four metres right is followed to a niche in the wall, move left and finish delicately.
- 13 Creature from the Black Lagoon** VS 5a ★★ 2007
10m Start from a small niche and climb the centre of the wall.
- 14 New Order** VD ★ 2007
10m Climb the crack a metre right to the large ledge. Finish on the arête.
- The easy-angled steps on the right provide an easy descent route.
- 15 Childs Play** D 2007
10m Start just right of a boulder on the floor and make a quick layback to gain big flat ledges that are followed to the top.
- 16 Veeline** VD 2007
10m The V-groove at the right hand end of the wall.



Lancashire Rock



Jim Rogers riding high on Red Wall Direct, E1 5b (page XXX). Photo: Paul Evans.