

Goliath's Area

This is the left-hand of the two sections that make up the Plantation crags which lie at the centre of the edge. The two great showcase buttresses in this section, the commanding series of corners and arêtes that surround *Goliath's Groove*, and Tower Buttress, easily dominate the vicinity. The other crags hereabouts also offer quality every bit as good as these two main ones, with the Wall End Slab, the *Fina* area, Strangler Buttress and Overhanging Wall crags all hosting enough started routes to keep you happily cranking till the cows come home. Magic stuff. **OS Ref SK241884**

Approach: Easy. Stroll up from the Plantation Path from the Plantation (Hollin Bank) parking in 10 minutes.

Outlook Buttress Area

The quality starts to get a bit more compact in this area with a constant series of high-quality, distinct buttresses, each with its own character. The first of these is Outlook Buttress.

1 The Introvert E2 5c 1984

8m Climb the dark, left-facing wall of the buttress, starting up a short crack, then trending left on blind flakes. ● Just left is a short VDiff chimney problem.

2 Outlook Buttress HVS 5b ★ 1964-76

10m Start on the north-facing wall of the buttress and traverse the wide, rounded break with some difficulty to reach an arête. Follow this to the top in a pleasantly exposed position.

3 Tying the Knot E3 6a 1990

9m Starting just to the left of the blunt arête, use a flake to gain the traverse line of *Outlook Buttress*, then continue up the steep wall on slopers in a fine position.

4 Look Before You Leap E1 5c-6c 1983

8m The centre of the face is ascended starting with a well-protected, height-dependent, jump move.

5 Outlook Layback S4b ★ 1923-51

7m The corner-crack can be solved by some pleasantly technical moves, or the usual deep flagellation.

6 A Thousand Natural Shocks HVS 5c 1984

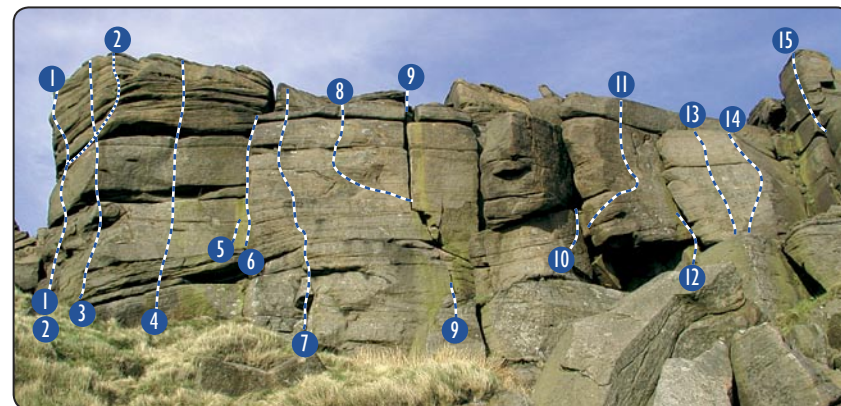
6m From the ledge, layback the sharp arête to the right on its left-hand side. ● Highball V2, although a catcher will be of some help.

7 Weather Report E6 6b ★★ 1984

9m A gripping route that follows a shallow groove and the centre of the wall. It uses a paltry set of holds, and has minimal protection, and has seen at least one painful deck-out from the final moves.

8 Nordes with Attitude E4 6c 1989

9m With a runner in *Outlook Crack*, foot-traverse a horizontal break leftwards for 2m, enter a scoop and reach the top by a desperate undercut move.



9 Outlook Crack VS 4c ★ 1961-63

8m The perfectly-formed crack is gained from the right and followed steeply. The crack section is quite short, but will feel a lot longer if you can't jam.

10 Outlook Chimney VS 5a ★ 1961-63

7m The steep undercut chimney has an awkward entry and a difficult exit. Full value.

11 I Didn't Get Where I Am Today E2 5b ★★ 1984

8m An elegant, unprotected climb with inventive moves on pensive holds. From the base of *Outlook Chimney*, swing steeply up and right to the centre of the face. Climb this past a sloping break.

12 Lookout Flake S4b ★ 1961-63

7m Great moves up the undercut flake lead to a tricky, sloping exit. The corner (Mod) just right and the chimney (Diff) right again give awkward problems.

13 Shard HVS 5b 1997

7m The smooth slab: ● highball V1.

14 Splinter HVS 5b 1985

7m Balance rightwards up a blunt rib to a small ledge and finish with difficulty: ● highball V1.

15 Rebel Yell VS 4c 2003

10m The arête, mainly on its left-hand side, with an increasingly precarious series of mantelshelves; a bit artificial. The top arête is easier than it looks.

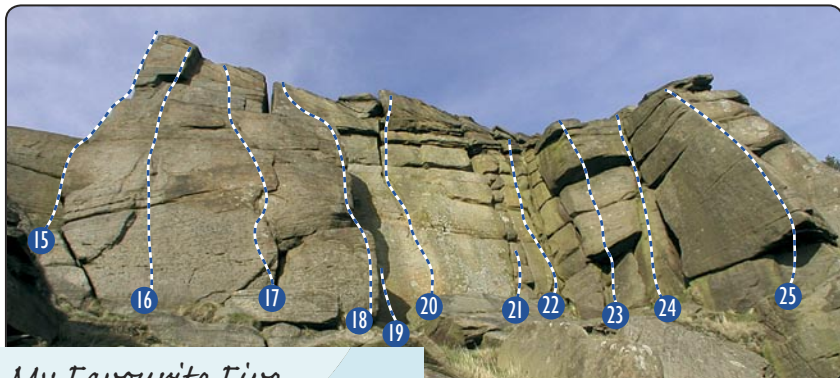
16 Tales of Yankee Power E1 5c 1984

10m Climb the centre of the wall to the left of the flakes passing a thin horizontal break with difficulty.

17 Flaky Wall E1 5b 1964-76

10m A worrying route. Gain creaky flakes just right of the centre of the block and use these to move left. Move up via a long reach for the top.





My Favourite Five

Allen Williams

Gargoyle Buttress, VS Why does it feel almost Alpine? Maybe it's the way it twists around the buttress, threading a line of weakness through some intimidating angles. It is an adventure and there is a sense of discovery to the route. Anyway, it is best led with a good friend and with as many ropes and runners as you can find, because it will accommodate both of you and all of them.

Morrison's Redoubt, EI A fantastic solo. If you get past the first few moves, the rest unravels perfectly. Each move gets progressively easier, but never easy, and every one is different. It's like discovering the quiet person in the corner has the most interesting things to say, in a crowded and noisy room.

Cave Arête Direct Start, 6a I've been climbing this since my first visit. It seemed furtive then, sneaking off to play around on the steepness, with only a chalk bag and boots, not to mention traversing off the ledge, and although I knew it was off the radar, I also knew it gave me the most pleasure.

White Wand, E5 This is like an opening page of a book. It is as beautiful to climb as it is to look at. I love the moment after the crux when you realize that you can't go back, but you'll be okay because the rest is easy, then the heady rush up that edge. A work of art.

Shirley's Shining Temple, E5 This is my desert island choice. I've yet to top out, not for want of trying. I'm hoping, much like my other choices, that once past the hard initial moves the upper section will ease and I'll drift up over those subtle folds into the clouds...

18 Bastille EI 5b 1992
10m Make an awkward move to get on to a block under the right-hand arête of the face and continue up the left-hand side of the arête above.

19 Shaky Gully S 1992
8m The corner. Finish up the short crack just left.

20 Amphitheatre Face VS 5a/c 1923-51
8m Gain the ledge by a thin move or more often, a massive leap. Continue more easily up the pleasant jamming crack. Best gained from the left for anyone whose knuckles don't drag on the ground.

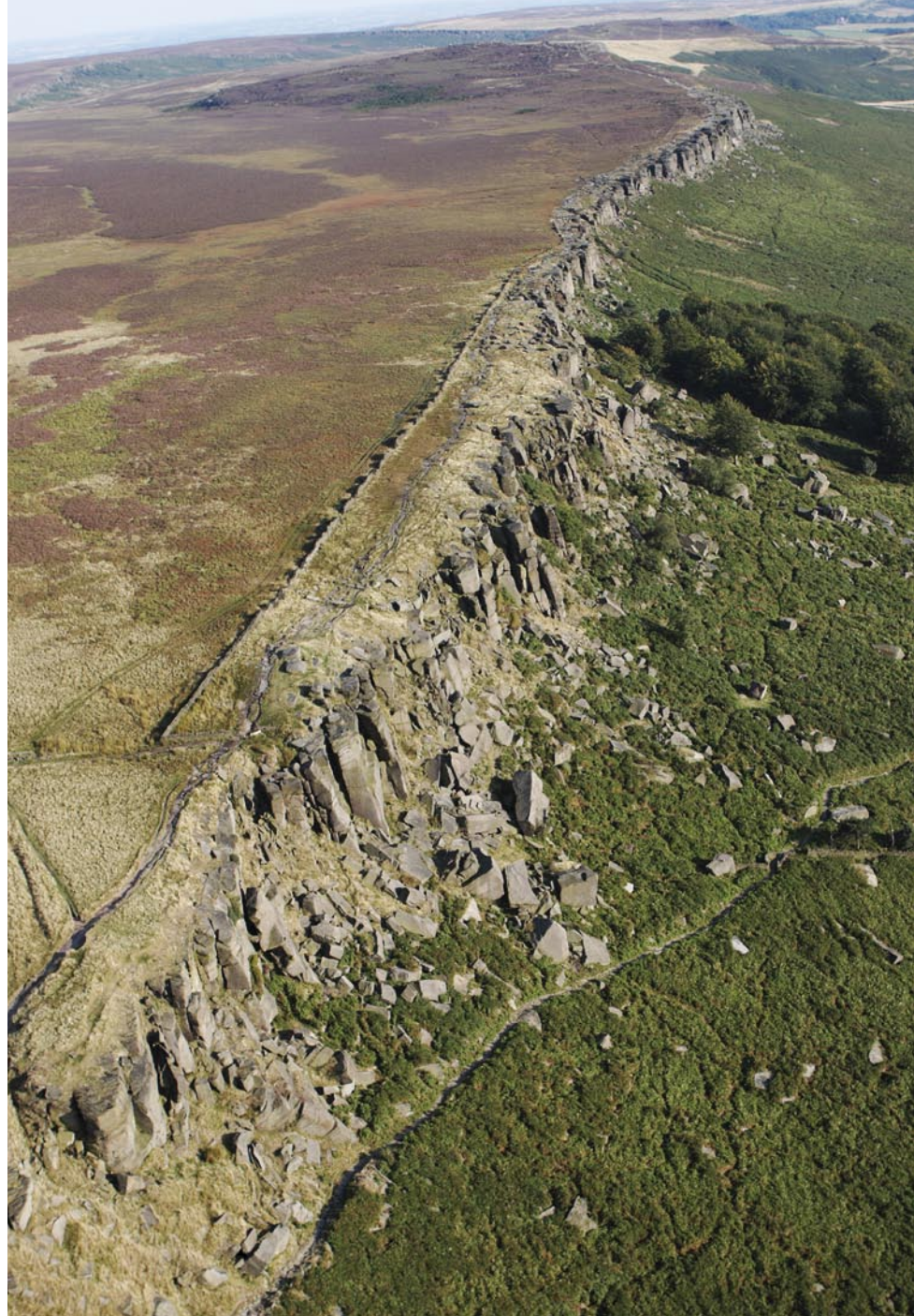
21 Ladder Cracks VD ★ 1912-14
8m A steep route with good holds and protection, which climbs the parallel ladder-like cracks.

22 Ladder Corner M 1961-63
8m The congested corner.

23 Tears and Guts E2 6a 1990
8m Climb the narrow undercut wall pulling over the initial roof. Continue via two breaks to finish directly over the difficult, overhanging nose.

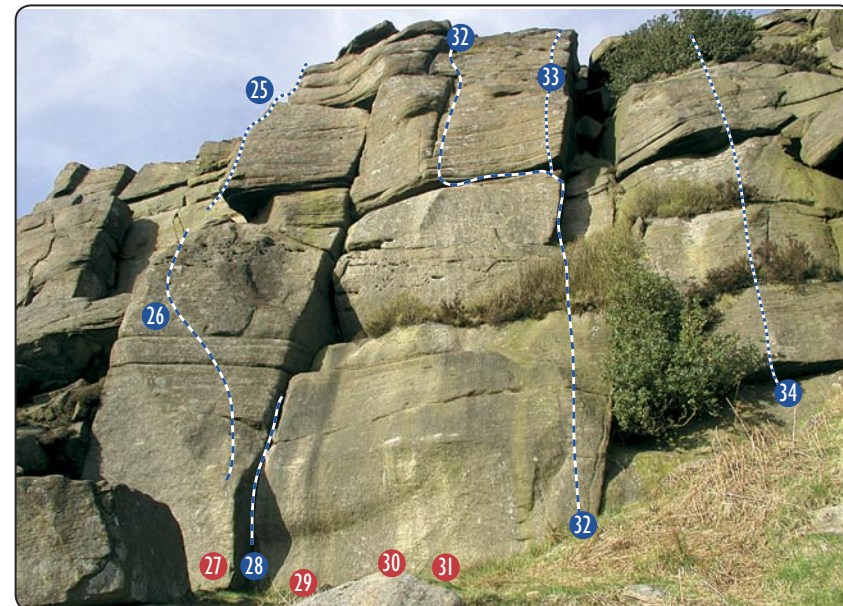
24 Whimper S 4a 1992
7m The open corner-crack to the right.

Right: John Beatty's breathtaking photo reveals the Outlook Buttress, the Goliath's area and the Grand Hotel boulders: beyond that the Plantation, while beyond that the cliff stretches off majestically and forever across the dreamy folds of landscape.





A solo climber making the tricky moves around the blobby flake on the lower, E2 5b, section of Wall End Slab Direct (page 111). This is a good point at which to spare a thought for our climbing ancestors, as this was first led in 1930 by Frank Elliott. Respect. Photo: Pete O'Donovan.



Fern Crack

A pair of fine buttresses lie to the right, containing a fistful of high-calibre slab routes across a good spread of grades. The first contains the mighty *Fern Crack*.

25 Argus E2 5b ★

1977

8m An exposed highball problem, although if you do fall off and go the entire height of the crag, you will have earned your E2. Starting from a ledge on the left, layback the arête in a somewhat dramatic fashion on its left-hand side. It can also be climbed on its slabby side at a similar grade.

26 Silk E6 6c ★★

1984

16m A brutal boulder problem leads to the thinnest of thin slab climbing above. Powerfully overcome the lower bulge, avoiding the crack, then trend up and left on smears and tiny pebbles to poor but gradually improving holds. A wicked highball.

27 Silk Start V7 (6c)

The start of the route gives a fantastic problem in its own right ☉. The sit start is V9 (7a).

28 Fern Crack VS 5a ★★★

1923-51

16m A splendid crack-climb with tough, awkward sections and good rests. Climb the steep, slippery crack to a ledge. Make a tricky move to enter the wider upper crack and blast on heavenwards, as the angels sing.

29 Polished Bump V7 (6c)

The very polished bulge just right of the crack.

30 Help the Aged V7 (6c)

Fierce climbing from the long sloper, giving one of the classic tests of slappy power on the crag. ☉

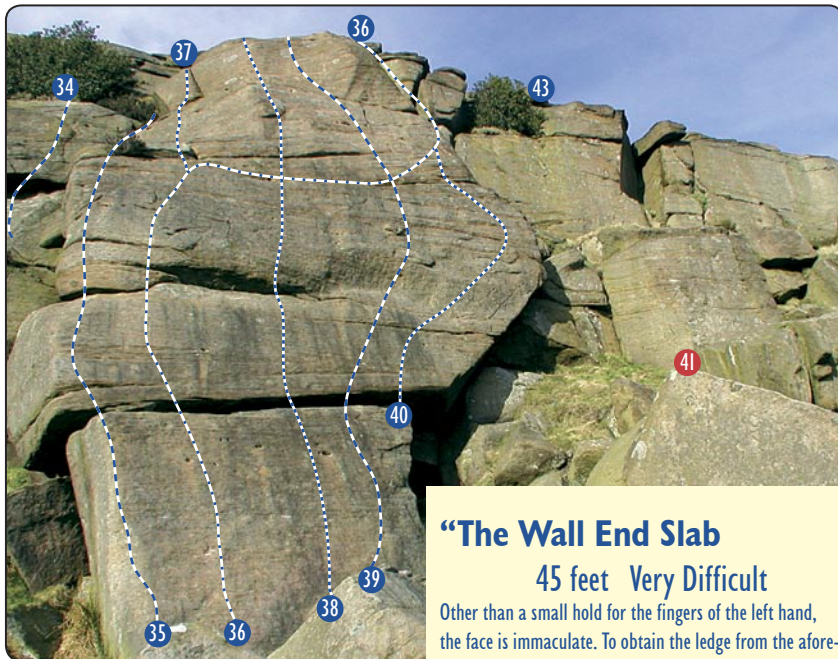
31 Help Right-Hand V8 (6c)

A similar, and slightly harder problem just right.

32 Fern Groove E2.5c ★★★

1961-63

17m Powerful, perplexing and pressing climbing based around the fine hanging groove. Climb the lower slab and arête to the break. Swing leftwards along this and battle into the groove (crux) above. Once established, climb the incipient crack with continued difficulty. High in the grade: *photo page 340*.



“The Wall End Slab 45 feet Very Difficult

Other than a small hold for the fingers of the left hand, the face is immaculate. To obtain the ledge from the aforementioned fingerhold is an acrobatic business calculated to entertain. Move out by the ledge to the left corner and ascend by the corner to a broad stance. Then step down a distance of about two feet and traverse out to the right. Two-thirds across the face the foot groove plays out and there is the fancy move of the climb. Two small holds, about on the waist line, give the steady grip necessary to enable the right foot to be thrown well out and up to a toe hold level with the hips. Rise on that to, change feet, and continue on the traverse to the right edge and finish to the top by the outside corner.”

The Sheffield Area Guide, 1951

33 Smash Your Glasses E5 6b ★★ 1988
9m Broody and aggressive, like a town centre on a wet Friday night. Follow *Fern Groove* to the break. Runners protect the crucial moves over the bulge but higher up the arête is still quite naughty. ● Gaining the upper arête from the gully to the right gives a poor route, *Spartacaid*, E1 5b (1981).

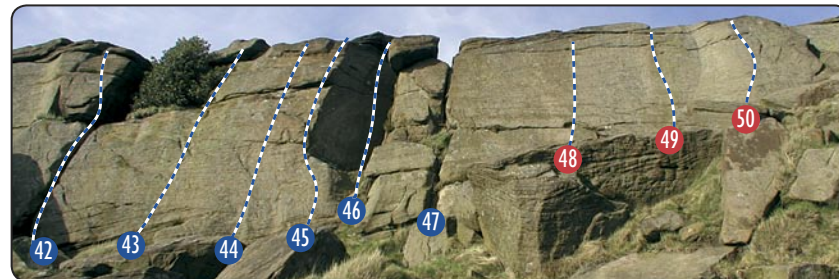
34 Toothcomb VS 4c 1988
12m The overgrown buttress has two grass fields, a small rock bulge and a hollybush to finish.

Wall End Slab

To the right is the famous Wall End Slab, with its historic classics, as well as a fair few modern companions squeezed in to keep them company.

35 Virginia Calling HVS 5a 1995
14m The left-hand arête of the slab is climbed throughout with the final rounded section providing the crux. *Bridge's Variation* makes the best finish.

36 Wall End Slab VS 5a ★★★ 1919-23
22m A devious but venerable classic. Climb the tricky lower slab (●), then press on over the bulges to reach a large triangular ledge. Step down and traverse rightwards across the slab to reach the right arête. Follow the right-hand side of the arête to the top. Protection is spaced, although the upper moves are never as hard as those to leave the ground.



37 Bridge's Variation VS 5a ★ 1930s
14m Follow the regular route to its triangular ledge and then climb the crack that rises from the back of this to the top of the slab. Stride across the gap to the main face and finish up this.

38 Wall End Slab Super Duper Direct E3 5c ★ 1991
14m A good route, despite a squeezed-in appearance. Climb the centre of the lower slab and then continue over the middle of the bulge above on pleasantly surprising pockets. The final broad rib is the main challenge of the route. A nut in the crack to the left reduces the grade to a less harrowing E2.

39 Wall End Slab Direct E3 5c ★★★ 1930/85
15m The ancient direct start to *Wall End Slab* – an astounding effort for 1930 – is combined with a newer direct finish to give a good bold route. Climb the lower slab to a break. Continue boldly with great moves to pass an undercut flake, and gain *Wall End Slab*. (This gives a good E2 5b in itself.) Continue carefully up the scoop in the steepening final wall, a long way from any runners: *photo page 108*.

40 Pure, White and Deadly E2 5c 1982
14m A serious route up the right-hand arête of the slab. Start steeply then continue delicately following the edge of the slab to eventually join the easy upper section of *Wall End Slab*.

41 Wall End Grab V3 (6a)
Climb the rib passing a sloper with raw power. ●

Ten metres right, at a higher level, is a V-groove with a jammed stone at its top. Left of this is a taller wall with a holly at its top left corner.

42 Impure, Grey and Mildly Threatening S 4b 2001
6m Climb the crack and wall to the left and tackle the block above as direct as possible. A good micro-route on surprising holds.

43 Narlavision HVS 5b 1984
7m Climb the wall with some pressing moves and little pro, passing immediately right of the holly.

44 Standing Around Trying VS 5a 1993
7m The wall just to the left of the arête. Barely independent.

45 Sittin' here Drinkin' HVS 5b 1993
7m The right-hand arête of the wall has a few fun, steep pulls.

46 Jammed Stone Chimney HD 1961-63
8m The chimney.

47 Doesn'tneedaweed HVD 2001
6m The vegetated crack to the right of *Jammed Stone Chimney* goes with interest on clean holds.

48 The Prince V6 (6b)
Stand on the flake and attain the top.

49 Bunny Wailer V5 (6b)
Balance up just left of the smooth groove, passing two shallow pocks. A lovely problem. ●

50 Mo Tucker VI (5b)
The rib just right of the groove has a tricky exit. ●

Goliath's Descent: An easy descent for this area can be made via the slope to the right, immediately left of the next section.

Goliath's Area – A History

At the centre of the crag, the cracks and arêtes that sit either side of Goliath's Groove are arguably amongst the finest pieces of architecture on grit. With lines this inspirational, it's not surprising that the routes here have the history to match.

Hollybush Gully Right is proper Stanage royalty, a gift to the world from none other than Jimmy Puttrell, the first ever gentleman to explore the rocks of the Peak District. It is not hard to imagine how this area stood out on an otherwise virgin edge, as our man opened the account on a vast number of crags in the dying years of the 19th century. The gully's left-hand twin was added almost twenty years later by a team of devotees led by Henry Bishop, in the twilight before the First World War changed the face of the land for a generation. Both these climbs were recorded in the first ever guide to Stanage by FC Aldous, appearing in the Rucksack Club Journal, Volume 2. At the time there were only 31 routes on the crag.

As the years come and go, Stanage sits majestically as first one great war, then another rages across Europe. In the years immediately after the end of hostilities in 1945, climbers once again start to dribble out onto the edge. One of the first to venture forth was Peter Harding, the leading light of the Stonnis Mountaineering Club. The club held several meets at Stanage in conjunction with the Leeds University Climbing Club, highlights of which included Arthur Dolphin's solo of Kirkus's Corner, wearing a pair of clinker nailed boots, and Harding's on sight lead of his famous finish to Cave Innominate. However, Harding's main event was of course his lead of the incredible, snaking grooveline in the centre of the centre of Stanage.

The Doncaster brothers from Sheffield had already led the wide lower section of what was to become Goliath's Groove many years earlier, before traversing right to finish up a crack in the middle of the face. This ascent attracted little attention, however, despite the fact that this section is what modern climbers consider to be the crux – indeed, the vagueness of

first ascent date '1930s-1940s' – suggests that it was not considered a major event. However, Harding's lead of the groove in its entirety cemented the routes position in gritstone's Hall of Fame.

In September 1947, Harding had been at the crag with the master of falling off Stanage, Alf Bridge, running an army training course. A fellow instructor, David Sampson, pointed the groove out to Harding, and suggested he tried it. Harding then led "A truly great climb, led without any running belays but with a good second man – Nobby Milward." Harding had thrutched the groove, but Sampson, who went on to follow the lead "laybacked the crack all the way so he was pronounced a veritable Goliath by his friends. So the groove received its name".

Next we turn our eyes to the immaculate arête to the left of Goliath's, a line dubbed Saul's Arête before it was ever led. Don Whillans had top-roped this line in 1954, albeit with "a little support from the rope". Rumour also has it that he also had a little support from a bicycle's rubber inner tube between his knees for grip, but this rumour is unconfirmed. However, Ed Drummond did the obvious thing in 1973, when he took on the challenge and produced The Archangel, one of grit's best and boldest lines (see *Loving on the Edge* for Ed's account of this).

If you snooze you lose, and while Drummond scored an ace with his ascent of The Archangel, he lost out badly a couple of years later. The fine, sharp arête between the two Hollybush Gullies was an obvious challenge. In July 1975, Drummond cleanly top-roped the route in the morning, and returned in the evening to solo the route. He named his prize Wind. However, unknown to him, Drummond's great 'rival', John Allen, the new star, the Shirley Temple of the mid-70s Gritstone Renaissance, had nipped in in the afternoon and had top-roped and soloed the route himself. White Wand. It is fitting, considering Allen's place in climbing and what he achieved in the era, that the route bears his name.

That left one. The arête right of Goliath's is considerably steeper than The Archangel, and considerably blunter than White Wand. It was the obvious Last Great Problem of the era, so much so that it had acquired a name long before its ascent: Ulysses' Bow. The great and the good of the day tried it but the combination of protectionless climbing and desperately tenuous smears, upon which the boot of the day, the EB, could gain little purchase thwarted all attempts. One of the great legends of British climbing, Pete Livesey, solved one of these problems in his characteristically cheeky way by 'leading' the climb with a runner high in Goliath's. Even the ethically progressive Pete wouldn't claim an ascent for this, however, and the line stood, plump and unplucked.

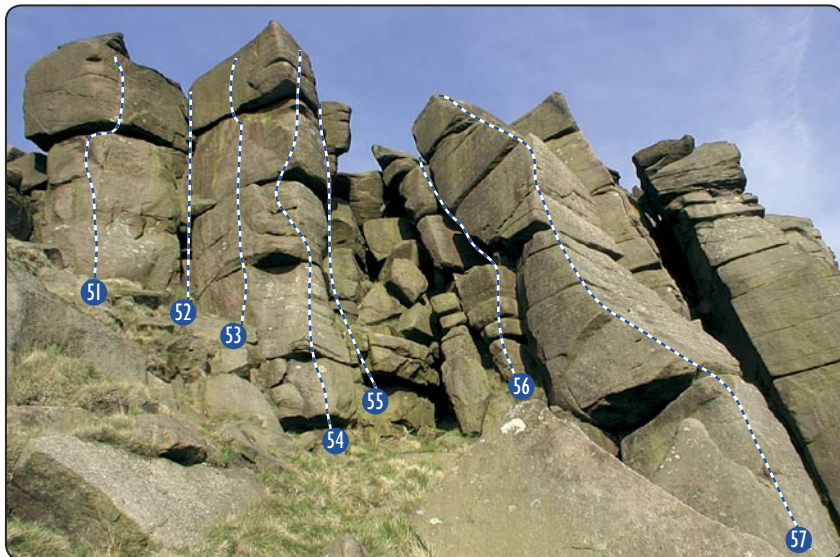
In 1983 Jerry Moffatt was one of the rising stars of climbing with a determination to be the best, and with the talent to match. However, he also had an ace up his sleeve in the form of the latest generation of rock boots to hit climbing. Boreal Fires soon became known as 'stickies', and made the previously impossible, possible. Using his secret weapons, as well as "a good deal of technique, cool and top-rope practise," Ulysses was born and Moffatt had the crown.

A couple of final postscripts were still to come. Ed Drummond once again did the obvious, under the noses of everyone, by climbing The Archangel on its right side. Thought by many to be better than the left-hand version, Don is longer, purer and harder. Much more significant, however, and a prophetic event way ahead of its time, was an ascent of Ulysses by Johnny Dawes in 1983. Dawes was to go on to set gritstone on fire, but when he climbed Ulysses on sight, those in the know were gobsmacked. Almost exactly a year after the route was at the cutting edge, climbed only after extensive rehearsal, it had been nonchalantly soloed first go. It would be years before this sort of performance would be matched.

The three great arêtes of Stanage were now climbed, as well as the great cracks that surrounded them. Each generation had written its history in stone, and now this small area gives a cross-section of climbing ability that encompasses almost a hundred years.



History in the making, Peter Harding on the first ascent of Goliath's Groove, 1947.
Photo: Ernest Phillips.

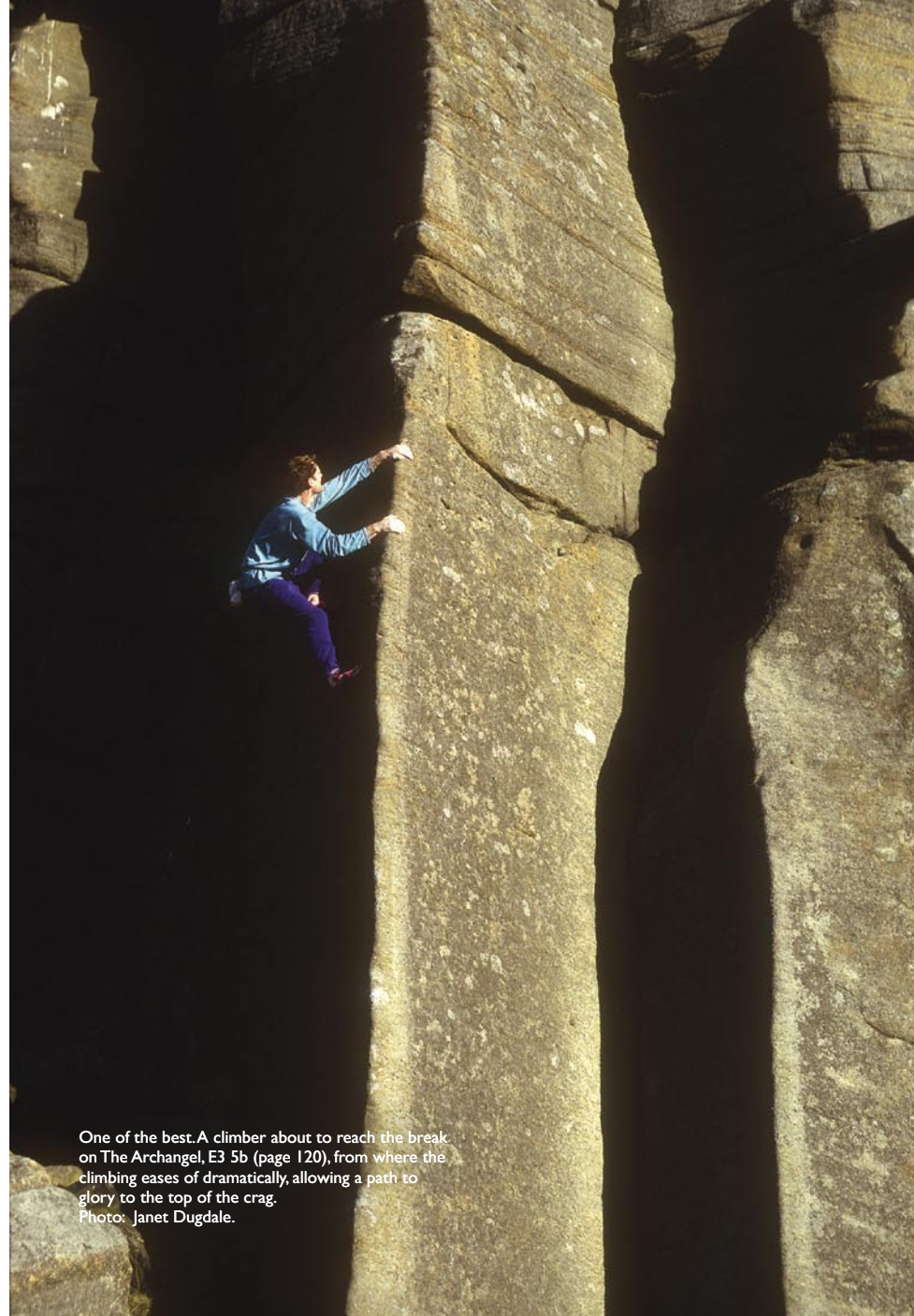


Goliath's Groove Area

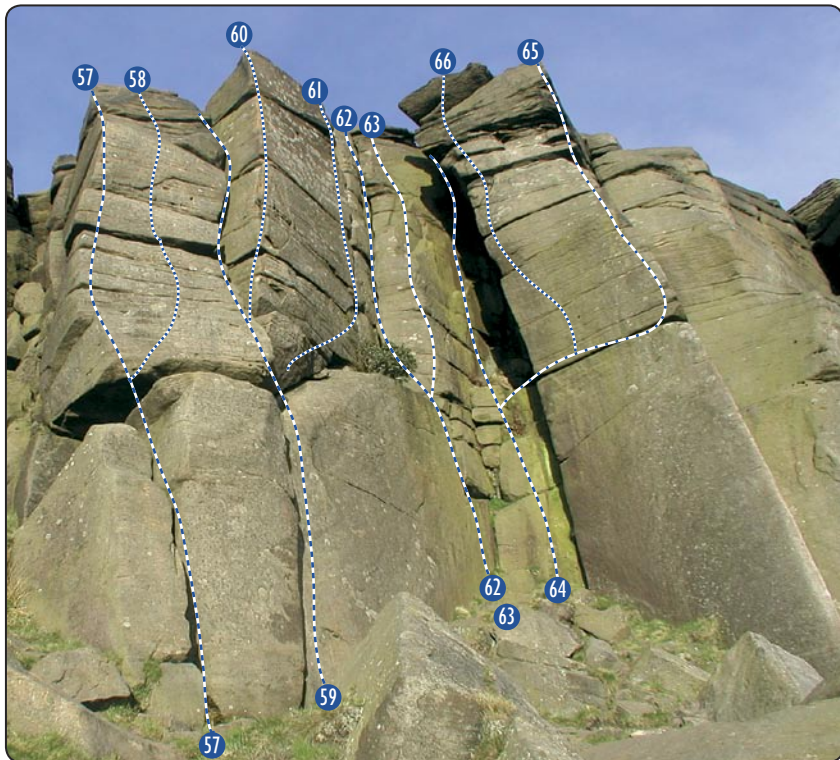
Now we're talking. One of the best parts of the entire edge, the collection of stunning corners and grooves that make up the Goliath's Area provide some of the finest and most historic routes on the edge, where flawless technique and boldness will allow the classic routes, from VDiff to E6, to be climbed.

- 51 Mate** E1 5b 1992
7m Climb the blunt rib and make long reaches to a black hole and then a break. Swing right around the arête and step left to climb the final wall directly.
- 52 Cheque** VD 1992
7m The short corner.
- 53 Frankie Ferocious** E3 6a 1999
7m Climb the centre of the narrow wall to a break. Extend for the top and a very difficult finish.
- 54 Giro** E2 5c ★ 1982
9m The narrow buttress is climbed via a rib, a short ramp and a swing rightwards below the final roof, where an extended reach for the top provides the crux.

- 55 P.O. Crack** VS 4c 1961-63
8m A bit of a brute, this one, in the nicest possible way. The gully has a widening crack in its left-hand wall. Climb to this passing a variety of obstacles to finish awkwardly through an overhang.
- 56 Slanting Chimney** HS 4b 1961-63
10m The blocky leftward-slanting crackline. The lower section leads easily over blocks to where the deeper leaning upper section provides the fun and games.
- 57 The Coign** HS 4b ★★ 1958
16m The left arête of the slabby wall is a fine route; the climbing is never too bad, but there are a couple of tasty run-outs culminating in a salacious stretch over the final bulge.
- 58 Outlook Slab** VS 5a ★ 1978
16m Although a bit eliminate, being in some ways the arête without using the arête, it is still an enjoyable climb on good rock. From the top of the short crack, press on directly with pleasant climbing, to a well-protected, though baffling, crux move where things steepen up.



One of the best. A climber about to reach the break on The Archangel, E3 5b (page 120), from where the climbing eases off dramatically, allowing a path to glory to the top of the crag.
Photo: Janet Dugdale.



59 Wall End Crack 54b ★ 1919-23
16m A good, raunchy crack-climb. Start up the fabulous hand-crack (or the wider crack to the left, at 4a), then follow the wider fissure direct.

60 Death and Night and Blood E1 5b ★ 1978
18m The dramatic name might be most apt for our shorter climbing friends. From *Wall End Crack*, climb the exposed arête, passing a rickety flake, to a final precarious section. A high side-runner in *Wall End Crack* reduces the grade to HVS.

61 Wall End Flake Crack VS 4c ★★ 1919-23
20m A great climb in a tight position. Climb the initial crack of the last route until it is possible to traverse right up the sloping ramp to the foot of the two flakes. Climb the left-hand flake by well-protected laybacking and jamming.

62 Wall End Holly Tree Crack HS 4b ★ 1923-57
18m The right-hand of these two flakes can be reached by the thin, scratched crack below and is then followed by pleasant jamming and bridging.

63 I Never Said It Was Any Good E1 5b 1989
18m From the scratched crack on the last route, continue up the wall above on shelving holds.

64 Helfenstein's Struggle VD ★★ 1930s
20m The wide rift has a good historical pedigree, featuring a hellish final squeeze that says more about your eating habits than your technical ability. Climb the cleft to the large boulder which corks the rift. Either squeeze through the rat-hole that gripped Helfenstein like a vice, or ignore the historically correct approach and make a harder and unlikely-looking outside exit on the right. Great fun.

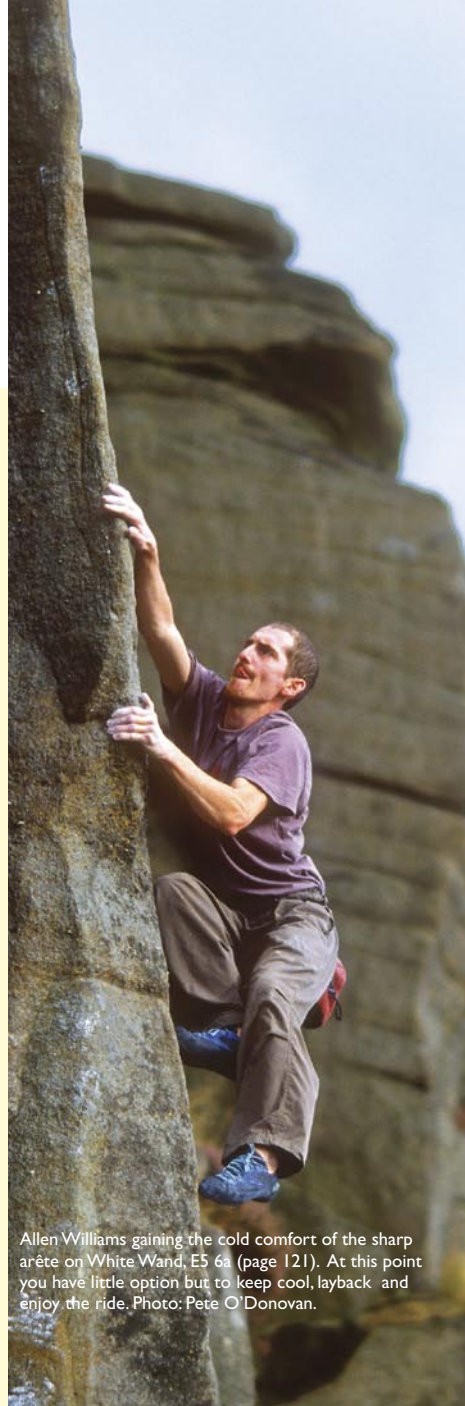
65 Saul's Arête VS 4b ★ 1965
22m The original approach to the upper section of *The Archangel* provides devious access to the final arête, gained by a traverse out from *Helfenstein's* along the horizontal break

66 Dark Angel E2 5b ★ 1986
21m Start as for *Helfenstein's* but hand-traverse the break rightwards until one can gain a standing position using a small pocket. Gain the left-hand arête as soon as possible and follow it to the top.

Who the hell was Helfenstein?

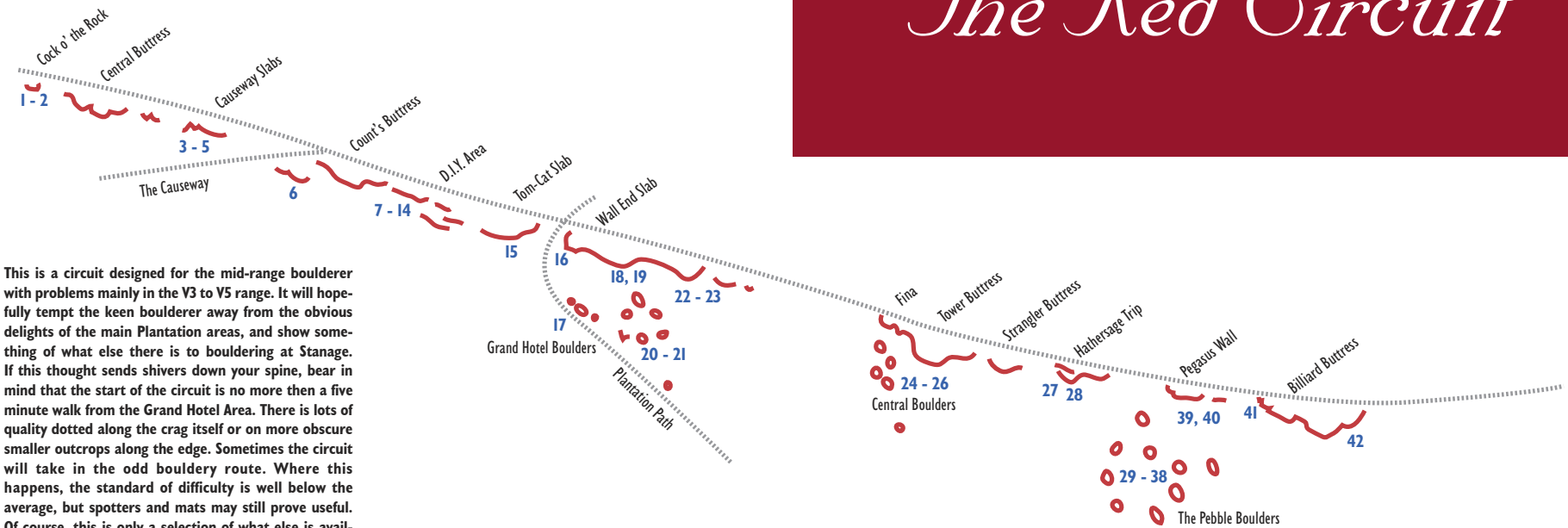
"Helfenstein was a Swiss engineer whom Aldous brought to Stanage with our party. He was a very slim man and gave the impression of being rather a nervous and excitable person; nevertheless he climbed quite well until we came to try this gully. Aldous, after several attempts, admitted defeat, but not so Helfenstein, who insisted on trying to force a way through the narrow hole at the top, and consequently jammed so firmly that he could move neither up nor down. Violent struggles but served to wedge him the tighter until eventually he began to splutter and went quite blue in the face. We pulled and tugged him by his coat collar and the free part of his arms (the lower part of his body up to the elbows was completely jammed in the hole) but could not move him. Finally Aldous threaded a rope under his arm pits so giving us something solid to pull at; and at last, after much effort, he was pulled clear. After some while he recovered but did not climb any more that day nor on any future occasion."

Alf Schaaning remembering 1912



Allen Williams gaining the cold comfort of the sharp arête on White Wand, E5 6a (page 121). At this point you have little option but to keep cool, layback and enjoy the ride. Photo: Pete O'Donovan.

The Red Circuit



This is a circuit designed for the mid-range boulderer with problems mainly in the V3 to V5 range. It will hopefully tempt the keen boulderer away from the obvious delights of the main Plantation areas, and show something of what else there is to bouldering at Stanage. If this thought sends shivers down your spine, bear in mind that the start of the circuit is no more than a five minute walk from the Grand Hotel Area. There is lots of quality dotted along the crag itself or on more obscure smaller outcrops along the edge. Sometimes the circuit will take in the odd bouldery route. Where this happens, the standard of difficulty is well below the average, but spotters and mats may still prove useful. Of course, this is only a selection of what else is available, so keep your eyes out along the way.

The Problems

p 78			
1 Cock Crack	(77)	12 Scoop de Grass	(57)
2 Historical Arête	(80)	13 D.I.Y.	(66)
p 82 - 84		14 Sithee	(70)
3 Beakey Direct	(123)	15 Surprise Arête Start	(82*)
4 The Skid	(130)	Boulder up the left arête of the wall then escape down the easy cracks to the left.	
5 Miss Sunshine	(131)	p 104	
p 88		16 A Thousand Natural Shocks	(6)
6 Fierce Wall	(6)	p 137	
p 95 - 101		17 Wavelength	(6)
7 Amoeba on the Edge of Time	(45)	p III	
8 The Anomalous Snail	(49)	18 Wall End Grab	(41)
9 Sharpner	(54)	19 Bunny Wailer	(49)
10 Kitcat	(51)	p 139 - 144	
11 The Bell	(53)	20 Crescent Arête	(13)
		21 Shelf Route	(43)
		p 124	
		22 Pullover	(92)
		23 Woolly Pully	(93)

p 150 - 151			
24 Cock's Comb	(I)	32 Crozzle Arête	(21)
25 Lone Scoop	(9)	33 Low Lip Traverse	(25)
26 Lone Ranger	(II)	34 A B Top	(7)
p 134 - 135		35 Pebble Arête	(54)
27 Quicksilver	(167)	36 Pebbledash	(65)
28 Fulcrum Start	(178*)	37 Ledge Lurch	(64)
Do the initial crack section from a sit start.		38 Dope Mantel	(45)
p 155 - 165		p 173 - 180	
29 Steep Traverse Arête	(37*)	39 Zero Point	(17)
Do the final section of the traverse, from hanging the lip.		40 Fork Handles	(19)
30 The Hourglass	(35)	41 Rubber 'Ose	(20)
31 No Bulls	(28)	42 Between the Two	(46)



67 The Archangel E3 5b ★★★ 1972
20m One of the great rites of passage for any ambitious gritstoner, where only total commitment and faith in one's technique will bring forth unforgettable success. Switch your brain off, then follow the flawless arête on its left side. Any doubting or faltering will be severely punished. Magnificent: *photo on page 115*.

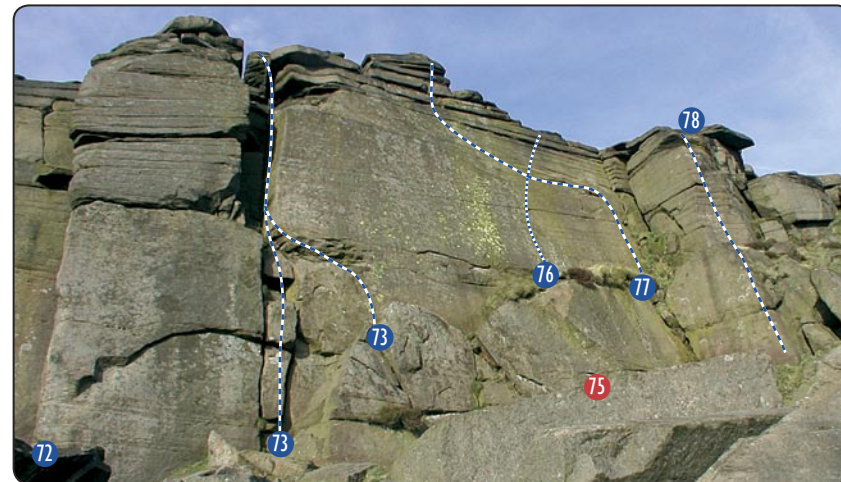
68 Don E4 5c ★★★ 1985
21m A fine piece of climbing forever doomed to live in the shadow of its superb opposite. Layback the arête of *The Archangel* on its right side. A bit harder than the original, and it feels longer: *photo on front cover*.

69 Goliath's Groove HVS 5a ★★★ 1947
21m The snaking groove-line is one of Stanage's gems, and gives a good test of a climber's gritstone savvy. Shuffle up the wide lower crack with or without elegance – hideous fun – to gain a breather on

the right. Now move left and climb the 'crux' upper groove with relative ease and a refreshing sense of exposure. Avoiding the upper section is **Doncaster's Route**, HVS 5a ★ (1930s–46), which goes right to a short, thin crack: *photo on page 113*.

70 Ulysses E6 6b ★★★ 1983
20m The epitome of hard gritstone arêtes, requiring good technique, deft footwork and total commitment. Layback the ever-steepening arête on its right, with each move getting harder than the last, with a crux pull to gain the mid-height scoop. Finish easily: *photo on page xxxi*.

71 Holly Bush Gully Left HS 4b ★★ 1912–14
20m A good route up a classy big line, although it can be a bit green at the bottom. Start up the left-hand crack passing the exposed chockstone to gain the easy upper section of the gully. Either move left to the a short crack as for *Doncaster's Route*, or squeeze through a skylight.



72 White Wand E5 6a ★★★ 1975
23m John Allen's great addition to Stanage completes this trio of sublime arêtes, and is the most technically interesting of the three. Start up some easy rock. Now switch on the magic. Style up and left towards the sharp arête – the moves to gain this giving some of the finest moments on grit. Layback this with relative ease but significant terror to gain the ledge above. The upper arête is a formality: *photo on page 117*.

Leaps and Bounds, E1 5b (1982), gains the easier upper arête from *Holly Bush Gully Right*.

73 Holly Bush Gully Right D ★★ 1890–1903
20m The Puttrell-vintage gully contains joyous climbing deep in its heart. The gully is reached either by climbing the twin cracks (VD), or by an exciting traverse from the blocks on the right.

74 The Wall End Traverse VS 4c ★ 1946–51
70m A tortuous girdle, with comfortable stances. Climb *Holly Bush Gully Right* to the deep upper section and traverse left along a ledge and round the corner to *Holly Bush Gully Left*. Follow the ledge out leftwards and descend a short section of *Doncaster's Route* to the stance on *Goliath's Groove*. Follow the break round the corner, or the groove, to a point above the bulge and traverses round to gain

the upper section of *Helfenstein's Struggle*. Descend the gully and move out leftwards to gain the upper end of a ramp which is descended to reach and finish up *Wall End Crack*.

75 Fairy Groove VS (6b)
A committing problem up the shallow slanting groove is a hidden gem. A bit scary.

76 Gnome Man's Land E5 6b ★ 1984
20m A hard eliminate that crosses *Fairy Steps*. From a belay on the grassy ledge, gain the obvious, prominent hold from the left and move up (crux) passing the centre of the ledge system and pressing on directly to the top.

77 Fairy Steps VS 4a ★★ 1961–63
15m A great voyage across the vast wall. From the corner (VD), teeter dizzily leftwards across the narrow ledge, until a line of better holds leads to the top. Bold, but simple, but take some micro-protection if you have it: *photo on next page*.

78 Double Act HVS 5c 1991
12m Just right, a short jutting prow is split into two tiers. Both tiers offer technical moves. Attaining a standing position on the mid-way break proves to be the crux. ● Climbing the top arête on its left is **Michael's Legacy**, E1 5c (2004).

Modern protection may have tamed it somewhat, but Fairy Steps, VS (previous page) is still a wild ride for the 4a merchant with a good head for heights: Pete Finklaire climbing. Photo: Nick Smith.



Pullover Area

Here's a happy little scattering of pocket-sized buttresses giving good bouldering and some tasty micro-routes.

79 Spur Slab D ★

1923-51

11m Hop on to the easy-angled slab from the left and move up and right to a ledge. Continue up the flaky corner to the top of the block. ● For **Spur Slab Left-Hand**, HD (2001), start in the same place, but continue up the left side of the slab and finish up the wall left of the crack.

80 Left Spur V8 (6c)

Move desperately up from low jugs to gain a left-facing flake just over the lip. Now, with a high left foot, press it out for all you're worth, to easier ground.

81 Right Spur V5 (6b)

A brilliant problem taking the easier right-hand line. Gain the square-cut groove from the jugs below and surmount the bulge with some excitement. ●

The juggy traverse itself, going from left to right and finishing up the tricky rib below *Hot Spur* is **Spur Traverse**, V6 (6b).

82 Hot Spur HS 4c ★

1992

11m Step across onto the slab and climb a groove and the arête above. A more direct start is 5b.

83 Stirrup S 4a

1992

11m Take the centre of the wall to reach a short, wide crack. Continue upwards to the summit of the block and a finish up the wall behind. ● The arête and left just right give two fun Diff problems.

84 Ride Him Cowboy VS 5a

1991

14m Climb the centre of the slab to reach a thin overlap. Layback the right-hand arête to a ledge and finish up a scoop in a tower.

85 Corduroy VS 4c

1992

8m Climb the right edge of the slab until a step across the chimney can be made. Finish up the left-hand arête of the upper slab of *Living at the Speed*.

86 Pressure Drop V9 (E3 7a)

A nastily thin line up the left side of the slab that will have you looking enviously at the ladder of jugs that is *Satin*.

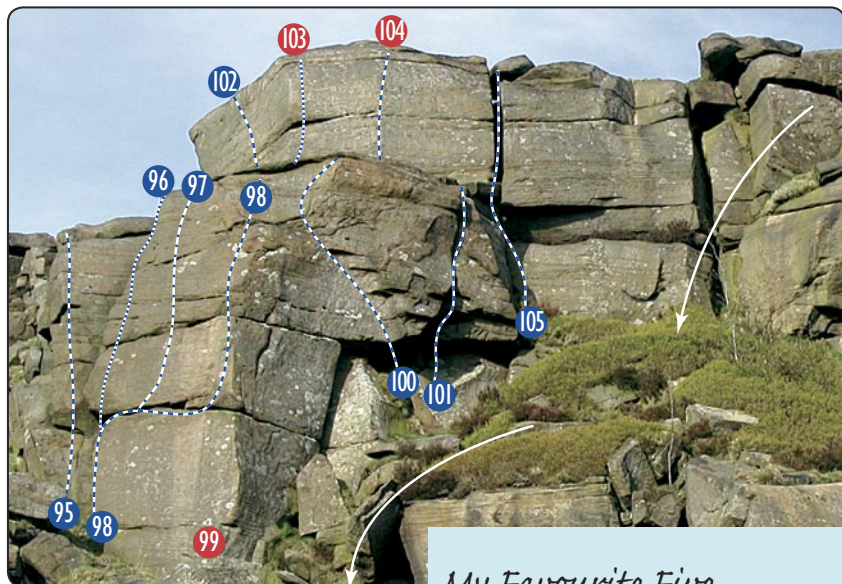
87 Satin V6 (E3 6b)

A piece of technical wizardry to awaken the senses. Smear and rock up the steep slab past the overlap, to gain the horizontal break. Escape from here, up or down. ●

88 Living at the Speed E1 5b ★

1979

9m A fine little exercise with a fun and fluttery finale. From the chimney, hand-traverse leftwards into the centre of the slab and continue delicately to the top.



89 Central Reservation HVD 1996
8m The block-filled chimney.

90 The Mark Devalued VS 4b 1992
7m Take the left-hand arête of the slab, finishing directly. Occasional use of the edge of the chimney to the left is difficult to avoid at the grade, especially in the lower section. ● Avoiding the arête altogether is **Marked Up**, HVS 5b (1996).

91 Mark's Slab VS 5a 1978
10m From 3m up the chimney, tiptoe out right and ascend the slab just to the left of the central rib.

92 Pullover HVS 5b ★★ 1958
8m A bouldery delight. Use the left of two jammed flakes to move up and leftwards to attain a standing position. Follow the easy slab above via a large pocket and horizontal breaks: ● highball V1.

93 Woolly Pully HVS 6a ★ 1991
8m Some gut-busting, gurn-pulling manoeuvres are required to succeed on this climb. Start at the right-hand of the jammed flakes and go directly over the bulge to enter a shallow scoop: ● highball V3.

My Favourite Five

Ian Carr

Chair, BMC Guidebook Committee

Fern Crack, VS A 1923 struggle, one of the few consistently wider cracks on the edge. You can never get tired of climbing classic cracks.

Fina, HVS A hidden oft-overlooked gem. A strenuous jamming traverse, arête moves, and a stiff rock-over into a break; what more do you want in a grit route?

Kirkus's Corner, EI Take your hat off to Colin in 1934. Dynamic, isolated then bold and delicate. The rope is a waste of time, a party piece solo.

Millsom's Minion, EI Another historically important route. Go do it without the cam on the arête. Get the pocket with the wrong hand and it suddenly becomes desperate. Think about Millsom in 1962 in bendy boots or Richard McHardy's solo fall and broken leg.

Goosey Goosey Gander, E5 One of the few protected 6as on Stanage. The moves around the upper bulge are exquisite. Smears, undercuts, finger locks, layaways and, of course, a very long reach. All this within the crux sequence. The fabled summer of '76, a Gabe Regan classic.

94 Roll Neck VS 5a 1992
8m From a block, pull awkwardly leftwards on to the slab and follow it more easily.

Fina Area

Before the thrusting delights of Tower Buttress lie a few steep walls stretching from the *Fina* routes on the left to *Tower Gully* on the right. Although not the biggest routes in the area, they still manage to have every inch covered in quality.

95 Three Steps to Heaven S 1996
12m Climb the buttress to the left of *Fina*.

96 Unleaded S 1992
9m From the start of *Fina* continue direct by the crack and the right-hand side of the upper arête.

97 Worth Travelling Four Hundred Miles For? EI 5c 1996
12m No. Start up *Fina*'s initial crack, (or direct just right, at 6a) and swing right and ascend the centre of the face above via some very reaches moves.

98 Fina HVS 5b ★★ 1958
15m A smashing climb, following a series of neat moves with solid protection. Follow the juggy hand-traverse right to the arête, then savour the sequences leading up the wall and arête above. Mighty fine, Miss Jane, mighty fine.

99 Four Star VS (E3 6b) 1958
A brilliant direct start to *Fina* climbing the lower arête to an easy escape left. Reasonably secure with a mat and spotter. ●

100 Hot and Bothered E3 6b 1989
9m Start as for *Centaur* but at 3m move left with difficulty to a ledge on the left arête. Finish up this. On the first ascent a 'side-runner' was placed in the top of *Centaur*'.

101 Centaur E2 5c ★★ 1958
8m A true beast – a powerful and extremely technical route, requiring stacks of inventive climbing ability, and the first of many testing wide crack routes in this area. From the cave, battle up to the narrowing, where difficulties turn gargantuan.

The next routes are on the short wall above *Centaur*.

102 A Day Without Pay E5 6b ★ 1989
5m Climb the short, steep wall above the void. This is paddable, making the route *almost* a boulder problem: V5.

103 Louis the Loon V3 (E2 6a) 1989
The right side of the arête, with a terrible landing.

104 Sky Bouldering V6 (E3 6c) 1989
The blunt rib above the ledge: spotters advised if you want to avoid a quick inspection of *Centaur*. ●

105 Additive Chimney HS 4b ★ 1961-63
10m The easiest of the big cracks in this area is still a whole-hearted affair. Enter the chimney and get to work. You will be a better climber at the top of this than you were at the bottom. ● The chimney right again is **Lead Free**, HVD (traditional).

Additive Descent: A scrambly descent is possible down the grassy ramps to the right.

106 Stealth VS 4c 1992
12m Trend left up the slab to a wide horizontal break and climb the narrow rib above finishing over a big block.

107 Cinturato EI 5b ★★ 1967
14m A fine little buzz. After a tricky start, climb the slabby arête to a delicate final move. Essentially unprotected, although a belayer high on the slope to the left gives some comfort (only HVS like this).

108 Grace and Danger E6 6c ★★ 1986
15m A quick and technical route in a worrying position. Climb the wall past a tiny overlap and a pocket to a rounded hold (can be dirty, and may be worth giving a quick brush). Continue more easily to join *Cinturato*.

109 Darkness Falling E6 6c ★ 1999
15m The tasty scoop right of *Grace and Danger*. Begin up the gully, and with runners placed in a block to the right, balance up the scoop to a sloping hold. Another leftwards rockover brings good holds and easy ground.



110 **Esso Extra** E1 5b ★ 1957
 17m Once a route only for the elite and now just another rather tough E1. Climb up into the square-cut cave, then swing left and pull into a cramped niche with difficulty. It is also possible, and easier, to swing farther left and enter the niche from the left but that is not really cricket. From the niche, jam the short-lived but strenuous overhanging crack.

111 **Waterloo Branch** VS 4c ★ 1923-51
 14m The left-hand line in the gully has a hard and steep exit, where the chimney closes, and is guaranteed to break a sweat. It may be worth being careful of a doggy-looking block as you reach the ledge.

112 **Tower Gully** HS 4b ★★ 1923-51
 14m An atmospheric and intriguing climb, taking the more spectacular, better and easier right-hand branch of the gully, initially up an awkward chimney/crack to ledges, and then on up the impressively overhanging corner above. Make an exposed exit left at the top.

113 **Tower Crack** HVS 5a ★★★ 1950
 24m The leaning corner-crack is as good a test of hand-jamming as you'll get in the area. Well protected but fierce – very 1950s. Jam the crack to a testing grope onto the ledge. Possible belay. Traverse up and right along the wide break finish on the ledge round on the front face.

114 **Tower Chimney** E1 5b ★★★ 1933
 20m This bell-bottomed brute offers the willing and adventurous an almost Tolkienesque adventure. Climb the easier lower section to the mid-height chamber. Now it's time to get old fashioned. A full-bodied approach encompassing much back-and-forthing and thrutching will gain the narrower upper section and an easier exit. Good gear is available in the depths of the recess if you have large cams.

“Tower Crack, Very Severe
 The middle pitch is very strenuous and is harder in rubbers than Goliath's Groove is in nails.”
Further Developments on Gritstone, 1957

115 **Tower Chimney and Face** VS 4c 1951-64
 28m A route for twin ropes and thoughtful extension. Start up *Tower Chimney*. Swing rightwards around the arête using the parallel breaks and finish up the big flake.

116 **Flight of Ideas** E6 7a ★★★ 1994
 22m A great route – obscenely technical but with good runners below the crucial upper arête. Climb up past a crusty overlap to a horizontal break. Move left and climb the ever-more-holdless arête to a heart-stopping finale, which gives one of the most outrageous and technical sequences on the edge.

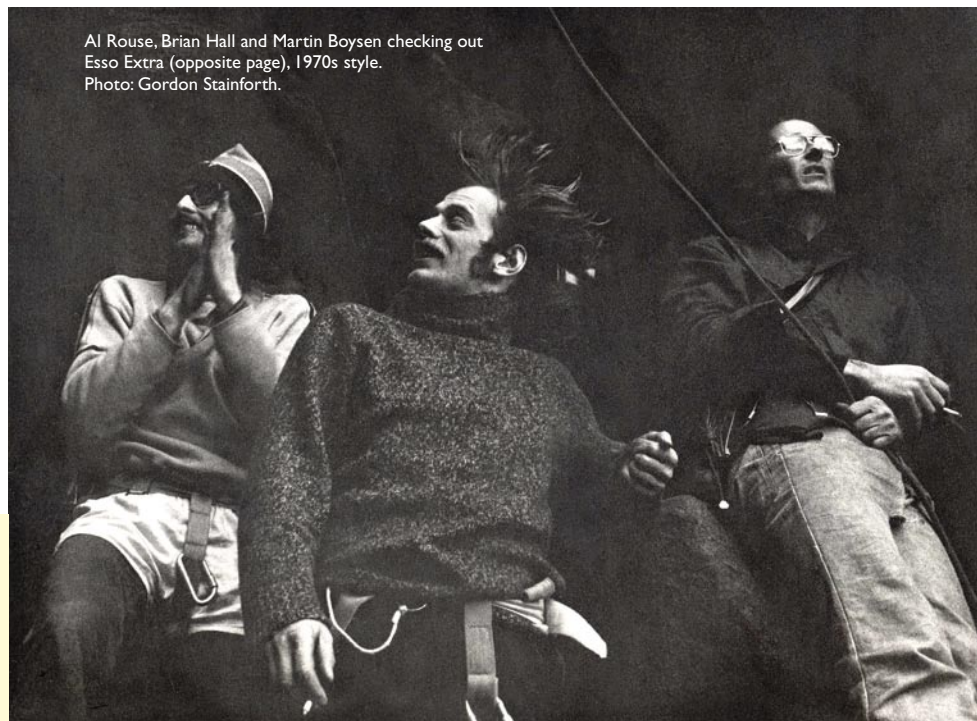
117 **Indian Summer** E6 6c ★ 1986
 25m A direct route up the left-hand side of the face lacks a real line. Follow *Flight of Ideas* to the first horizontal break. Use sandy edges and what pebbles remain, to reach the upper break. Move slightly left and finish up the demanding and almost vertical wall above on minute holds. A line of crimps closer to the big flake on the upper wall is more like E5 6b, but feels annoyingly close to the flake.

118 **B.P. Super** E3 5c 1956
 28m A devious and early attempt to climb the left-hand side of the face. Follow *Indian Summer* to the twin breaks. Swing right and finish up *Tower Face*.

119 **Tower Face** HVS 5a ★★★ 1933
 25m A popular Stanage classic with open climbing leading to the superb central flake. However, a brittle flake on the lower section means the climb should be treated with respect. Climb easily up to the hollow, right-facing flake. Move right to another flake at a lower (easier) or higher (better) level and move up to the break above. A short traverse allows the magnificent flake to be gained and swarmed up with great delight: *photo on page 130*.

120 **Tower Face Direct** E2 5b ★★ 1959
 25m The hard section may be very short, but it still gives a great thrill, as well as allowing the natural line of the face to be climbed. Follow the original climb, but avoid the excursion rightwards by trucking directly on with gasping grasping moves to reach the big beautiful flake.

Al Rouse, Brian Hall and Martin Boysen checking out Esso Extra (opposite page), 1970s style.
 Photo: Gordon Stainforth.





- 121 Scrole Not Dole** E5 6b 1984
25m From halfway along the traverse of *Tower Face*, head directly up the steep wall by sustained, thin climbing. Finish up a short crack.
- 122 Tower Face Indirect** VS 4c 1930s
25m Not much of a line, but it was the first and easiest ascent of the big flake. Climb the chimney and traverse leftwards to climb the central flake-line.
- 123 Tower Traverse** E1 4c, 5b, 5b ★ 1972
50m A long and involved journey best enjoyed by sociopaths on a busy bank holiday weekend. Start

up the *Indirect* and continue along the break to a stance in *Tower Chimney*. Climb the *Chimney* then hand-traverse the horizontal crack around into *Tower Crack* and go up to a ledge and stance. Cross the *Tower Gullies* and hand-traverse to *Esso Extra*, up which the route finishes.

124 Wrangler V4 (6a)
Down and left about 10m is a left-leaning boulder with a large pinch low on the left arête. From a squat start, get the pinch and low flake layback for the right. Rock out to a tiny crimp on the right then dyno for a good flake jug on the left.

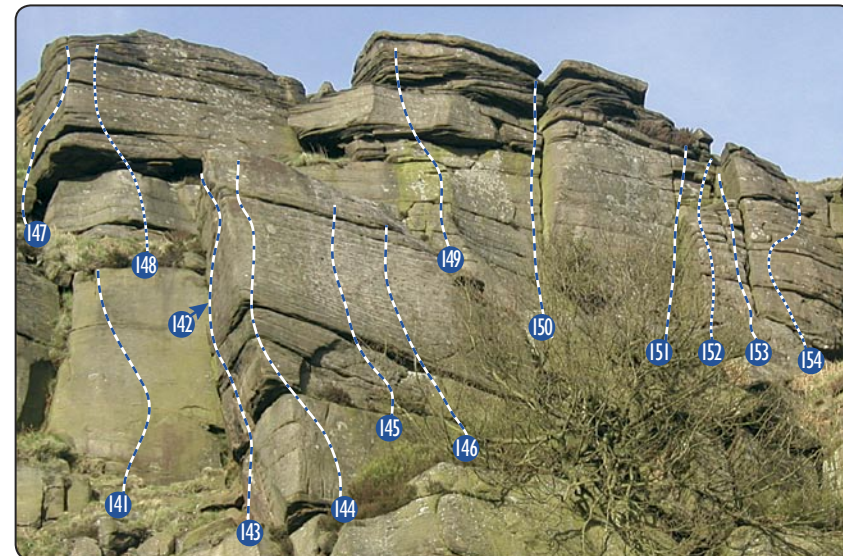
Nuke the Buttress: The next routes are on the squat little buttress just right.

- 125 Stretcher Case** E2 5c ★ 1981
11m The steep crack in the left wall is taken to the final break. Traverse rightwards around the arête for 3m and lurch for the top; reachy.
- 126 Scuppered** E4 6b ★ 1988
10m A fiercely physical little pitch. From the end of the ledge, move left along the break (runners). With feet pedalling pointlessly on the rock below, make grievously gruesome moves to stand up in the break on the right side of the arête. Having arrived, war-torn and brutalised at the next break, finish direct with less difficulty.
- 127 Invisible Maniac** E3 6b ★ 1996
8m A direct and unlikely highball that will test the major muscle groups somewhat. Start from the ledge. A fearsome mantelshelf allows access to pockets and eventually the break of *Nuke the Midges*.
- 128 Nuke the Midges** E1 5c ★ 1977
10m A delicate start is followed by a frisky finale on this fun route. Start at the right-hand side up easy ledges. Traverse left on a break (tricky for the short) to a hard move up to gain a big flat jug. Mantelshelf on this to reach the top.
- Tower Buttress Upper Tier:** These are the short walls above *Tower Face*, gained by a scramble up just right of *Nuke the Midges*. Running out to the left is a narrow ledge that is actually the top of the *Tower Buttress*. Starting from this are several small but hard and worthwhile offerings in a relatively remote setting as well as one unidentified route: Friction XS 6c 'the slab at the top of *Tower Face*' (A Berry 5.94) which is likely to be one of the next few routes.
- 129 Miserable Miracle** E2 5b ★ 1976
7m The left-hand arête of the face, from the ledge, features unprotected and exposed moves on slopers.
- 130 Four Star, E10, 7b** E5 6c 1999
6m Starting 1m left of the ledge of *Nihilistic Narl*, climb the centre of the left-hand side of the slab trending rightwards past a poor pocket.

- 131 Nihilistic Narl** E5 6b ★ 1984
6m From the centre of the ledge climb the obvious brushed slab on tiny edges. Reachy and scary despite its diminutive size.
- 132 The Descrittalizer** E5 6b 1999
6m From 1m right of the *Nihilistic Narl* ledge, climb the slab straight up to a pair of nice crimps.
- 133 Scrittalacious** E4 6a 1999
6m Just right of *The Descrittalizer*, gain the ledge then climb the slab and small roof above directly.
- 134 Terrace Gully** HVD 4a 1961-63
8m Climb the steep, often wet, corner.
- 135 The Chute** HS 4b 1961-63
10m Ascend the steep corner to a ledge and continue up the awkward wide fissure just to the right.
- 136 Scapa Flow** E6 6c ★ ★ 1992
10m The smooth wall is approached from the left where a way through the initial bulges can be found. Climb to the lip (small cams) and make a long move to a small niche. Move right from this (crux) to gain a standing position in the centre of the wall. Continue by trending rightwards with more difficulty and pebble-pulling to a break and an easier finish.
- 137 Dreadnought** E7 7a ★ ★ 1999
10m In the centre of the wall, and with protection as for *Scapa Flow*, make a desperate move over the undercut to stand on the large foothold. Using pebbles gain the next break by extremely frightening moves. The upper section relents somewhat.
- 138 The Mangler** E1 5c ★ ★ 1959
10m Whillanstastic. The wide, undercut crack is a real climbing delight, and is only slightly easier than *Centaur*. Overcome the roof (technical and inventive) to get established in the wide crack and an easier finish. A runner in *Crescent* is fair at this grade.
- 139 Crescent** VS 5a ★ 1959
10m The curving, well-protected crack.
- 140 Foetus on The Eiger** E1 6a 1988
10m The wall to the right (side-runners). Poor.



Dave Parry treading carefully up the magnificent Tower Face, HVS 5a (page 127), one of the biggest bastions of rock on the edge.
Photo: John Coefield.



Strangler Buttress Area

Just across the gully from the main Tower Buttress is the slabby Strangler Buttress. The first route is on the smaller slab to its left.

- 141 Swooper** E5 6b 1984
6m Bold and unclean. Start in the centre of the slab and trend leftwards, to finish near the left-hand edge. The finish is often sandy and vegetated due to the gradual collapse of the ledge above.
- 142 Hares and Graces** E4 6b † 1995
6m Right of *Swooper* is a 3m hanging slab. From below step onto it, move to a crimp and sloping rib then dyno to the smooth top. Bold.
- 143 Neutrons For Old** E2 5c ★ 1981
13m A good, shy climb. From the lowest point of the side-wall of the tower, follow cracks to the left-hand arête. Make committing moves rightwards to finish up the right-hand arête in a good position.
- 144 The Strangler** E4 5c ★★ 1977
12m A bold route, without being nasty, making this a good introduction to the classic grit grade. Climb

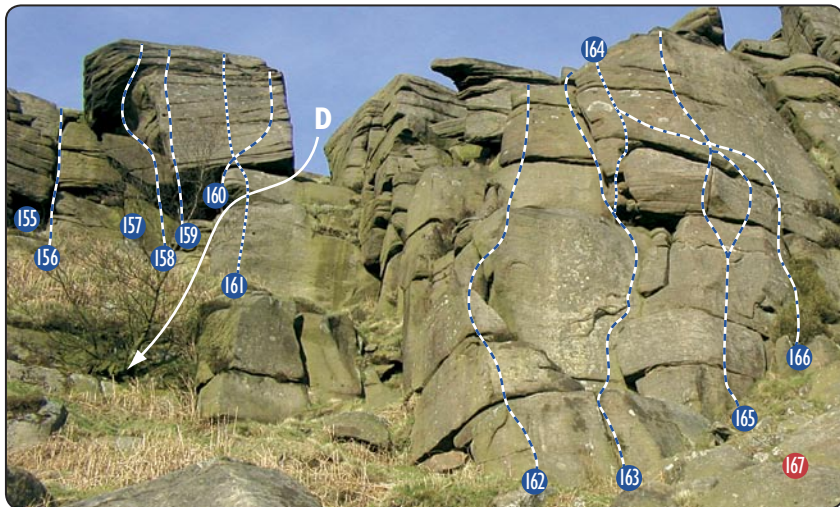
the left-hand arête of the front face all the way. The smeary crux, some way above good pro, is memorable: *photo on page 133*.

- 145 Skidoo** E6 6b ★ 1985
12m The slab, 2m right of the arête, is climbed directly and provides a frightening challenge. A long reach is very useful and a steady nerve essential.
- 146 Skidoo** E6 6b 1997
12m Climb the slab 2m right of *Skidoo* from a cut-away and passing three small pockets. First climbed in mistake for *Skidoo* hence the name.

Strangler Buttress Upper Tier: The routes above the main slab are mostly accessed by scrambling round to the right.

- 147 Grooved Arête** S 1961-63
8m Starting round to the left of the arête, move right and climb the nicely exposed arête to the top.
- 148 Anji** VS 4c ★ 1970
10m Start 3m to the right of the arête and climb a short wall to the overlap, move up and left to finish just right of the arête.

Goliath's Area – The Strangler



149 **Obstinance** VS 4c 1960
14m To the right, at a slightly lower level on the terrace, is a buttress with a hollybush at the foot of a groove. Climb the cracked, heathery slab 5m to the left, to an overlap. Go over this and make a long reach to gain the arête. ● Following this route to the overlap before moving right to a Z-shaped crack leading to the top is **Slab and Crack**, VS 5a (1958).

150 **Gardener's Groove** HS 4b 1960
10m Struggle past the painfully-positioned hollybush and climb the pleasant corner. ● The left-trending slab to the left is **Sustenance**, HVS 5a (1996), which finishes directly over the roof.

151 **Compost Corner** D 1976-82
8m The green corner is climbed to a ledge and gives an enjoyable pitch.

152 **Percy's Prow** S 1976-82
8m Step off a boulder and climb the arête to the junction with the upper section of **Compost Corner**, up which the route finishes.

153 **Gardener's Crack** D ★ 1960
10m A very good climb following a series of challenging, wide cracks in a good setting.

154 **Pizza Slab** HS 4a ★ 1961-63
10m From the foot of **Gardener's Crack**, climb the slab on the right trending slightly right to finish up its centre. Bold and intense, although a runner in **Gardener's Crack** would seem like fair play.

155 **Cheapest Topping** VS 4c 1992
10m Start at the cutaway under the right-hand corner of the slab (a bit gritty). Climb delicately up the slab to join the final moves of **Poor Pizza**.

156 **Poor Pizza** D 1992
10m The short straight crack. ● The squeezed-in slab to just the right of this is **Nasty Green Dwarf**, VS 4c (1992).

157 **Paping About Like a Man With No Arms** VS 4c ★ 1989
8m A great name for an unsavoury route. Squirm through the left-hand of two narrow slits in the spacious chimney behind the **Small Dreams** block; probably ungradable. The right-hand slit is S 4a. Big persons need not apply.

158 **Gothic Armpit** E5 6b ★ 1998
10m Summed up in the name. Gain the obscure bottomless alcove by negotiating a hanging, black blade of rock. Exit rapidly rightwards from there

until it is possible to escape around the arête to reach easy ground; exciting stuff.

159 **Small Dreams** E2 6a ★ 1978
11m A little gem. Start under the left-hand edge of the slab and, after a difficult move through the overhang, follow the delicate left-hand arête to the top.

160 **Scorpion Slab** HS 4b ★ 1960
11m An airy little climb. Gain the midway ledge from the left and a move right to climb the right-hand arête of the slab without much protection.

Beneath the big block is a small clean slab.

161 **Big Screams** E1 5c ★ 1991
14m Starting from left of the arête a tricky boulder problem gains the slab at a pocket and soon eases to a VS standard above (unless you lack RPs and small cams).

Scorpion Slab Descent: Scramble down the easy gully to the right of the undercut slab of **Small Dreams**, then cut across below the base of the slab and reverse the bottom section of **Scorpion Slab**. This descent feels exposed, and may not be suitable for the inexperienced.

Mercury Crack Area

A complex jumble of blocks and small faces lie to the right.

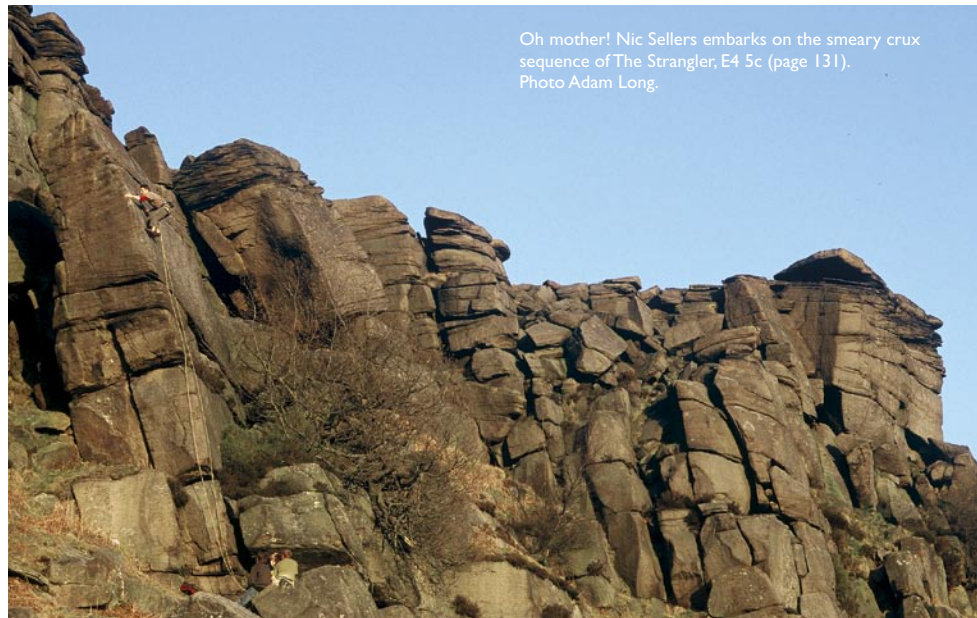
162 **Gripe Fruit Juice** HVS 5a 1991
14m Climb the blocky arête and the steeper arête above; not much to write home about. ● Climbing the blocky wall round to the left gives **Stacked Blocks**, VS 4b (1992).

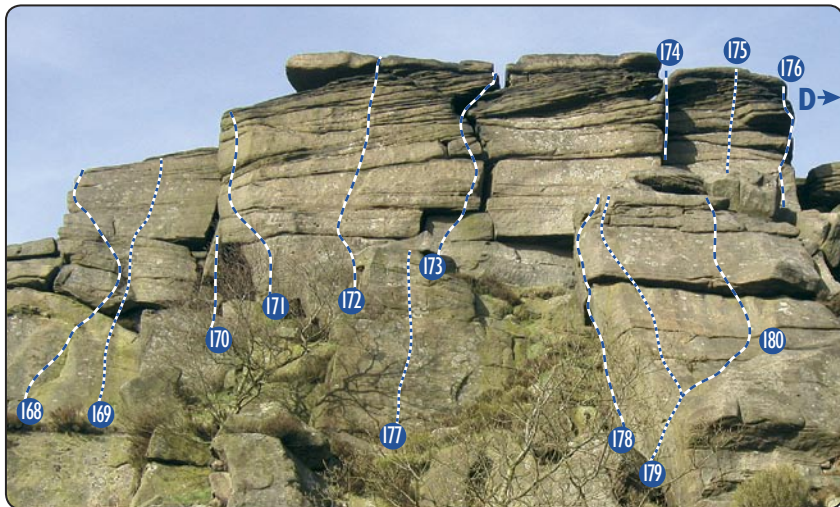
163 **Hercules Crack** HS 4b ★ 1923-51
14m Climb the flake-crack to a ledge and continue up the wider crack above. *'The upper continuation of the crack is wide enough to effect an entrance, but the curving side-walls are smooth and need Herculean strength to overcome them,'* – 1951 guide.

164 **Kinell** VS 5a 1996
14m From **Hercules Crack**, move out right to finish up the arête.

165 **Shelf Life** E2 5b ★ 1991
14m Climb a tricky wall to a bulge split by a thin crack. Head rightwards over this on sloping holds (or go directly at E4 6a) to gain a ledge then step back left and climb the upper wall directly.

Oh mother! Nic Sellers embarks on the smeary crux sequence of **The Strangler**, E4 5c (page 131). Photo Adam Long.





166 Fruitcake VS 4c 1997
 12m Climb the easy crack on the right-hand side of the buttress and traverse delicately leftwards along the shelf to a steeper finish up the left-hand arête.

Down and right, past some heathery cracks, is a short steep wall.

167 Quicksilver V3 (6a) 1989
 Climb the vertical wall to the right of the short upper arête. Using the arête makes it V0 (5a). Harder possibilities to the right. Ⓢ

Hathersage Trip Buttress

On a higher level is a series of steep walls and cracks.

168 Squally Showers VS 4c 1991
 14m Climb the green groove then continue straight up to gain a ledge. Finish up the pleasant arête.

169 The Edale Trip (Beyond Hope) E3 6a ★ 1991
 14m A bold and unappreciated climb with an exciting finale. Climb the slab keeping between the shallow groove and a large block, to reach a niche. Exit steeply from this to gain a good ledge. Step right and climb the precarious upper slab. Once committed the reason for the name becomes apparent.

170 Mercury Crack VD ★ 1923-51
 11m Start in the corner below the cave. Gain this and after an awkward move to exit it, climb the easier crack above. There is a fun HD variation up the crack just inside the cave, as well as a little caving delight back into the crag.

171 My Herald of Free Enterprise E6 6c ★ 1989
 10m The technical and serious arête with a distant, high crux, is gained from the right. A poor Friend 1½ may well prove crucial.

172 The Hathersage Trip E4 6a ★ ★ 1982
 10m A good, strenuous route up the centre of the steep wall, somewhat tamed now with modern protection. Start on the right but move left to climb the centre of the wall. Patience is needed to arrange the protection using camming devices and small wires.

173 Overhanging Crack HVS 5a ★ 1923-51
 10m The steep, wide crack is difficult to enter, strenuous and not that easy to escape from.

174 Corner Crack VS 5a ★ 1960
 8m The undercut crack is difficult to start – harder than the first moves of *Goliath's Groove* – but eases once established above the initial overlap.

175 National Breakdown E3 6c ★ 1987
 8m Climb the bulge and pocketed wall to the left of the flake. ● Highball V8, although it has a bit of a reputation for stopping good climbers dead. Possibly harder due to loss of pebbles.

176 Big Bob's Buzzer E1 5b 1982
 8m Climb the thin flake just left of the right-hand arête then continue up the overhanging rib above.

177 Mr Twitch E6 6b 1996
 7m Climb up the centre of the short slab.

178 Fulcrum HVS 5a 1976-82
 10m In the left-hand side-wall of the *See-Saw* slab is a thin crack (which makes a nice boulder problem in itself, especially from a sit start Ⓢ). Climb this and swing right to gain the wide, upper crack.

179 See-Saw VS 4c ★ 1960
 14m Start on a large block and swing right on to the arête and continue directly up the left-hand edge of the buttress, using the arête as required.

180 Margery Daw HVS 5b 1972-73
 14m Start as for the last climb, gaining the front face, before climbing the slight depression passing the centre of the overlap. There is an easier but less worthwhile right-hand start, as well as a direct.

Ten metres to the right, and 5m behind and left of The Pinnacle, is a short, clean slab.

181 Fun Solo VS 4c traditional
 6m The left arête gives a good little climb.

182 Solo Fun HS traditional
 6m The slab to the right.

The Pinnacle

Just right is one of the most distinctive landmarks on the edge, a fine pinnacle which contains a small number of uncompromising routes.

183 Crime E4 6a ★ 1986
 6m The left-hand side of the north-east arête gives good climbing and a better landing than its harder twin.



184 Punishment E5 6b ★ ★ 1986
 8m The same arête can be climbed on its right-hand side by a harrowing and sustained sequence above an unpleasant landing.

185 Unfamiliar E7 6c ★ ★ ★ 1992
 9m The front arête of the tower gives a ferocious, powerful yet elegant route. Boulder up the arête to the triangular block (gear), and a slightly easier finish. One of the best hard routes on Stanage and at the top end of the grade.

186 Walking the Whippet E3 5b ★ 1984
 8m The right-hand arête of the wall facing the car proves to be worthwhile and scary. Unprotected where it matters.

187 Savage E3 6a 1999
 6m The short arête on the block just up and right has a couple of long reaches: ● highball V3.