

GREAT WOLFREY by Paul Clarke (based on YMC Yorkshire Gritstone and Yorkshiregrit .com)

SITUATION AND

CHARACTER N.G.R. 063674

A wonderfully isolated and lonely crag at the heart of Appletreewick Moor. It is one of the truly 'out there' crags in Yorkshire and the approach is long but not unpleasant if the correct line is followed. The rock is a very good quality gritstone, similar in feel to that at Slipstones. Despite its isolation and probably due to its south-



facing aspect the routes stay remarkably clean. There are some superb lines across a range of grades and their rarity value adds a sense of achievement. Only a few routes would need to be cleaned prior to an ascent. Some of the routes are bold to start, which adds to the feeling of isolation - and it is a long hobble back to the car. A mat will be found useful. The crag itself varies in height from six to fifteen metres and there is a boulder-field for those who are mad on the pad.

The major features are the three central towers: **Left Tower**, **Central Tower** and the right hand one which is free standing and known as **North Pinnacle**. To the left of the Towers the crag continues but degenerates after a hundred metres into small buttresses. There are also two huge blocks, the left-hand block is situated in front and just left of the three towers, this is the **North Boulder**. Approximately one hundred metres right of North Boulder is the second huge block, **South Boulder**, this guards the entrance to an open bay. Behind South Boulder is a buttress split by two cracks, this is **Great Wolfrey Buttress**. Right again is a slim pinnacle, **South Pinnacle**, which is attached to the main crag by a jammed boulder that forms a natural arch.



APPROACHES AND ACCESS The crag is undoubtedly on access land though the barbed wire, locked gates and unhelpful signs makes this hard to believe. Ample parking is available at the Grimwith Water Nature Reserve car park, approached from the Grassington to Pateley Bridge road near Hebden. The crag you can see from here is Wigstones so don't be fooled. Great Wolfrey is out of view and is approached via the right-hand of the two obvious valleys you will see at the far left corner of the reservoir

From the car park approach by walking across the dam and follow a good path round the lake until crossing the second bridge (over Gate Up Gill). From this point an gated track can be seen following the hillside about 100 metres above the stream. Cross the barbed wire/gate and follow the track to quarry workings, passing the old water wheel foundations and

the 'four second' shaft. Continue through the grouse pens and pass through a narrow gate. From just across the little stream climb out of the valley up a shale slope and, once on level ground again, the crag can be seen across the moor. The approach takes about an hour depending on how much gear you carry and how much is left back in the car. If the weather has been damp approach the crag towards the right-hand end as this is the driest.

HISTORY Great Wolfrey has enjoyed the unique position of being left to a few hardy climbers with an exploratory nature. Sidney Waterfall and friends climbed on the crag during the forties and Jim Walton paid several visits in the early fifties but nothing was recorded. In 1952 Brian Evans and Philip Leese laid siege to the crag whilst camping at its base. During their stay they climbed some nineteen routes including the excellent Great Wolfrey Buttress. For the next twenty years visitors were discouraged but, in the mid seventies, Ken Wood climbed the prominent arête above the plaque known as Walter's Rib and John Eastham climbed Werewolf in 1980. The advent of the eighties saw a scramble for rock in Yorkshire and in relative terms the crag became popular with regular forays by John McKenzie who on one of his visits made the unfortunate mistake of letting go, the penalty was a slow and painful retreat. Martin Berzins, Chris Sowden and Tony Burnell visited the crag in 1988 and climbed several testing routes including, Little Red Riding Hood, A Company of Wolves, In Memoriam and Sheep's Clothing. Other fine additions were Ashley Cowell's Rib and the impressive Wolf at the Door by the strong team of Mike Hammil and John Yeats. After that time, the fences got higher and the 'Private' notices more prominent and relatively few pioneers took up the challenge. Dave Musgrove Junior failed to notice the signs a few times however while checking the crag for the guide and added a few routes including The Duke and Bone People.

CRoW has opened access again and the crag has started to be visited again by both 'routers' and boulderers. Paul Clarke and friends have added some good lines in recent years. With these visits has come a rediscovery of the excellent quality of the climbing and the splendid setting, both of which make this a special place and well worth the effort of getting away from Almscliffe for at least a day.

Crag and route descriptions based on YMC Yorkshire Gritstone & [www. theleedswall.co.uk](http://www.theleedswall.co.uk). Bouldering descriptions courtesy of yorkshiregrit.com

THE CRAG Routes and Problems are described from left to right, the first four being located on a small buttress some way left of **North Boulder**. The main feature of the buttress is the striking layback crack on its front face.

Leapfrog Buttress



Bluster Arse Vessel 6m E1 *

6b Climb the short but attractive wall left of Autumn Gold by a series of technical and then bold moves to the top.

Autumn Gold 6m VS *

4c Climb the layback crack.

Alternative Arête 6m VS *

5a Climb the right arête of the front face.

Leapfrogger 6m VD *

4a In the right wall of the buttress is a widening crack complete with chockstones. Climb the crack, the main difficulty being leapfrogging over the chockstone at half height.

Grove Time 5m D *

Climb the shallow groove in the right wall before the buttress is absorbed by the hillside.

The next climbs are on the steep arête between the previous buttress and the rocking-stone.

Tea-Cake Wall 5m VS

5a The wall to the left of Winter Of Discontent.

Winter Of Discontent 6m VS *

4c Climb the steep arête utilising flakes on its left side.

Summer Of 76 6m VS

5b The wall immediately right of Winter Of Discontent. Start on the right and trend left to finish just left of the arête on a thin flake.



Rocking Stone Buttress

The next two routes are below the rocking-stone which is the next obvious feature to the right.

Rock 'n' Roll 6m M

Climb the corner below and left of the rocking-stone.

The Duke 6m HVS *

5b The arête directly below the rocking stone.

Pedestal Area

5 metres right of the rocking stone is a wall with an obvious pedestal at its base.

Pedestal Arête 5m VS

5a Stand on the pedestal two metres above the ground. Climb up and left to the arête before reaching the top.

Alternative Arête 6m S *

4a Climb the right arête of the buttress.

The open gully is a useful means of descent.

Chockstone Crack 5m M

The crack, chockfull of stones in the right wall of the gully.



Chockstone Wall 6m VS

4b The narrow wall left of the chimney.

North Chimney 7m VD

Climb the obvious chimney just left of the buttress with a band of small roofs.

Bone People 7m E2 *

5c Climb the right arête of North Chimney on the right side throughout.

North South Divide 15m E1 **

5b Climb North Chimney for about four metres. Move rightwards round the arête onto the face, follow the break for about three metres and pull over the small roof using good holds, continue up the shallow corner to the top.

Crock Around The Block 7m E3

6a Start about one and a half metres right of the arête formed by North Chimney. Climb the wall with difficulty to reach the hand rail and a runner. Continue straight up to the top.

In the corner is an open chimney, stepped on the right. It can be climb via the steps and exit through the cave to the right or squeeze up the narrow chimney to the left.

Left Tower



Wolfschmidt 9m E3 **

6a An intimidating route up the first big face on the crag. Start below the steps forming the right edge of the chimney above, leave the ground with difficulty and move up and right to gain poor breaks. Continue up to a shallow 'V' and then move rightwards to the top.

Moon Madness 11m E5 **

6b The direct start to Werewolf leads to the roof on the arête. Move up and swing left across the obvious line until the better flakes are gained. Move up and rightwards to finish.

Werewolf 9m E4 ***

5c Bold and beautiful, a superb arête climb. Take a full set of RPs. Start at the flake right of the arête as for Wolf At The Door. Move up and left to the arête, go left round the arête and up the wall. Move back right to gain the arête below an obvious fin. Layback up the fin to finish.

Wolf At The Door 9m E4 **

6a This routes climbs the wall and roof above the start of Werewolf. Start up the flake just right of the arête and continue up to the roof and a crucial, though hard to place, runner. Pull round the roof (crux) via powerful moves on sloping holds to reach the top.

Huff-Puff Chimney 8m M

The Chimney immediately right of Wolf at the Door.

Hangover Crack 9m S

The green crack in the corner, strenuous for its grade.

Hangover Chimney 9m M

One metre right is another chimney/wide crack

Central Tower

To the right of Hangover Chimney is a pale green wall and on its right the fine arête of Walter's Rib.

Shades Of Green 9m E3

6a Start by climbing the thin crack just right of the arête formed by the previous route. The use of the crack and some dirty holds enables the ledge to be gained. Move right and finish up the wide crack.

A Wolf in the Wild 10m E3 *

Start just left of Walter's Rib – on the rib itself.

6a/b Directly up the rib until a hard move left gains the obvious flake on the wall. A stiff pull gains the better holds on Shades of Green and the break. Finish up the short wall.



Walter's Rib 9m E2 ***

A moorland classic

5c Sometimes known as Brown's Rib, climb the superb arête. Start by using holds and the groove just to the left of the plaque. Step right at the top.

Angua 10m E3

6a A desperate variation continuing up the starting groove of Walter's Rib. Finish direct.

In Memoriam 9m E4 **

6a Start about two metres right of the plaque. Climb the centre of the wall using ledges and layaways (in that order) to gain the wide horizontal break at six metres. Runners are now available but, as you've done all the hard climbing, somewhat irrelevant. Finish up the crack on the left.

Arvel Chimney 9m D

Climb over the jammed blocks into the chimney. Now thrutch your way up and over the chockstones.

Grand Defiance 12m E2 *

Good but in need of a proper cleaning. A sustained and quite serious route.
5b The narrow groove just right of Arvel Chimney.



**John Hunt – Starting
Walter's Rib**

North Pinnacle

To the right of the buttress with the plaque is a huge detached block. The corner at the junction of the gullies provides the easiest way off the top. Alternatively the centre of the back wall can be descended at V. Diff.



Company is climbed on green ripples. Finish up the wide crack.

Cowell's Rib 9m E3 **

5c Climb the left arête of the front face of the pinnacle moving right at the break to gain the obvious flakes.

The Wilderness Years 11m E4 **

6a Climb the line of inverted flakes to gain the break. Step right along this and go up the rippled wall directly above the thin crack of Little Red Riding Hood.

Little Red Riding Hood 9m E5 ***

6b Takes the wall and ever-so-thin crack just left of the ever-so-green streak. Crawl up the face using the thin crack (Clog 1 on first ascent) and whatever comes to hand. A small Berzin's style leap allows the break to be gained. Finish more easily through the niche on the right.

A Company Of Wolves 9m E5 ***

6b Climb the overhanging arête at the right hand end of the face with a long reach for the break, as difficult as it looks and somewhat gymnastic.

Bad Company 9m E1 **

5b Start on the block at the entrance to the wide gully behind North Buttress. Climb the arête using edges and knobles to gain the horizontal break, swing left in a fine position and finish up the short vertical crack splitting the top centre of the block.

Limited Company 9m VS

4c The wall only just to the right of Bad

Loyalty Wall

The clean double wall to the right, split by the very obvious Loyalty Crack

Good Friends 8m HVS *

5b The thin crack direct opposite Bad Company at the back of the bay. A pleasant and safe route when clean.

To the right of North Pinnacle is a small buttress with a crack splitting the centre.



Lipslick Wall 10m HVS *

5c Take the wall left of Deception direct via a stone 'mouth' and exit up the middle crack.

Deception 6m VS

4c Climb the wall to a ledge on the left. From the ledge climb the left hand of three cracks to finish.

Loyalty Crack 8m S *

4b Climb the wide crack in the centre of the buttress. **Loyalty Crack Continuation** is a nice continuation up the short wall on the left at the top of the crack at about the same grade.

Sheep's Clothing 8m E2 *

6a/b Climbs the wall right of Loyalty Crack. Levitate up the wall on mediocre holds to gain a small recess at four metres. Move up and right to a blind crack, mantelshelf to finish.

Recess Area

This consists of two bays separated by a sharp block and a square leaning block to its right.

The Fang V1 *

The front of the sharp block to an obvious fang. From sitting it is V2

Recess Arête 7m S

4b The obvious arête ending in a scoop in the bay to the right of, and behind, Sheep's Clothing buttress.

To the right is the leaning block.

Perfectly Gasless 7m E1/V3

6a The left edge of the block. A slap to a flat hold leads to the crux and eventually a glaxis top-out.

The next 3 routes are on the left wall of the large bay behind South Boulder.

Flow Arête 6m HVS

5c Blunt arête just left of Foxy. Start using 2 sidepulls (no standing on the boulder) and follow the arête to the niche.

Foxy 6m VS

Climb the thin crack left of Got It In One then step right to a ledge to finish.

Got It In One 6m HVS

5b Climb the wall awkwardly using a poor horizontal break to gain a good break. Continue up blind vertical cracks to finish.

Great Wolfrey Buttress

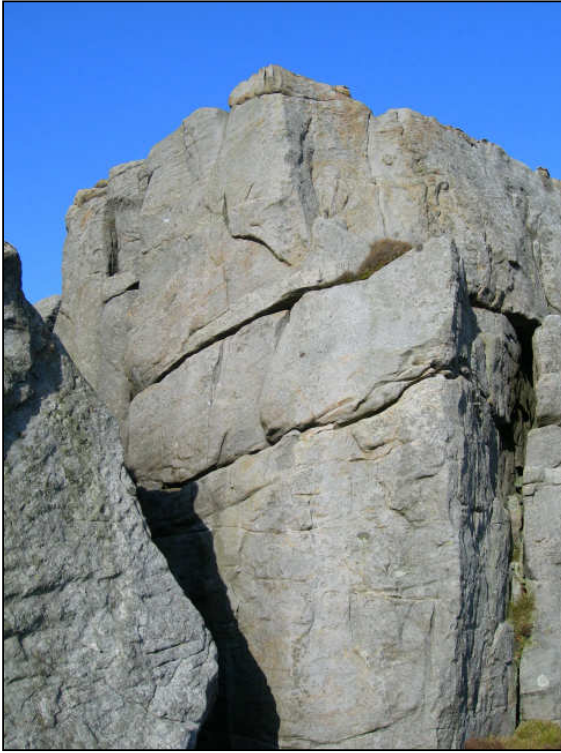
A fine piece of rock though rather hidden behind the South Boulder. There are two parallel vertical cracks on the left and a buttress crossed by two breaks

Left Wolfrey Crack 10m VS

4c The left-hand of the two cracks making limited use of the right.

Wolfrey Crack Indirect 10m S

Climb the right hand crack until an obvious short traverse leads into the left hand one. Climb this to the top.



Wolfrey Crack Direct 10m VS

5a Go direct instead of stepping left

Great Wolfrey Buttress 9m HVS ***

5a A classic grit route. Start just right of the parallel cracks in the gully. Pull up into the first horizontal break. Go along it and up the vertical crack to the second break. Move across to gain the glacis and a mantelshelf onto the ledge. Finish up the crack in the wall above.

Wolverine 11m E3/4 ***

A fine and varied route. Start to the right of Great Wolfrey Buttress.

6a/b Climb the wall slightly leftwards, passing the two horizontal breaks until a tricky step up gains the left rib. Place gear high in the crack of Wolfrey Crack Direct and either step back right to climb the upper wall using a rounded edge out right or (much easier) follow the crack.

Holly Tree Hover 9m HVS *

5a Climb the blunt arête direct to the ledge on Great Wolfrey Buttress, finish as for that route.

Above Average Age 8m MVS

4b The wall right of Holly Tree Hover, finishing up a flake crack right of GW Buttress

Holly Bush Crack 7m D **

Climb the crack no longer has a holly bush growing near its base.

Heather Groove 7m VD *

Just right of Holly Bush Crack is a shallow groove, climb the groove then step over the void and climb the slabby wall using some flakes to finish.

The Loser 9m MVS

4b Start right of Heather Groove below the obvious overhanging block. Climb up to this then move right to climb the crack formed by its right hand side. Walk off or finish easily up the short wall behind.



South Pinnacle

To the right of Great Wolfrey Butress is South Pinnacle. The Pinnacle is attached to the main crag by a jammed boulder forming an arch.



49a Somnolent Jack 6m HVS

5a The left arête of the South Pinnacle's West Face is climbed direct on breaks to a tricky finish.

West Face 6m HS **

4b Climb the narrow west face of the butress, easily at first, using horizontal breaks. A difficult move left allows the crack and good finishing holds to be gained. Climbing the right arête throughout gives a grade of VS 4c.

Slapstick Slab 7m HVS

5b The centre of the wall (??) on the next face of the South Pinnacle.

Corner And Traverse 6m D

4a Climb the eastern arête of the pinnacle for a few feet. Move left and climb the groove to the top

Arête Direct 6m V Diff

Start as for Corner and Traverse but instead of moving left, continue up the right side of the arête.

The Boulders - Great (and Little) Wolfrey

Good bouldering (particularly in the lower grades) has always been part of the attraction of a day at this crag. In the past many of the easier problems were climbed but left unrecorded. Many thanks to Yorkshiregrit.com & in particular Paul Clough for providing the information presented here.

Little Wolfrey

A small outcrop a few hundred metres north of the main edge. There are several easy walls and aretes here.

Loup Garou V2 *

The centre of a smooth wall in a bay in the middle of the edge. High.

Boulder 1

Two boulders next to each other, below Autumn Gold at the left end of the main crag.

Left Arete V1

From a sit-start.

Right Arete V1

Also from a sit-start.

Boulder 2

This boulder lies about thirty metres below the buttress containing North Chimney. There are around **ten** problems here up to V2, with good landings.

Nice Arete. V1 **

The nice arete on the right of the valley face

V1

The wall right of the crack.

Boulder 3

Thirty metres right of boulder 2, and a similar distance below the enormous North Boulder, is this large, slabby boulder with two cracks and a nice steep arete.

V0

The slab left of the crack.

Boulder 4

A small, flat-topped boulder just right of the previous boulder.

V1

The left arete of the boulder.

Boulder 5

Right of the previous boulder and slightly further down the hill, this boulder has a nice big slab with a good landing.

V0

The left side of the arete.

V0-

The slab just right of the arete.

North Boulder

A large boulder below the centre of the main edge. It has an impressive, overhanging left face.

Lichen Grope E2/V5 ***

A line of flakes and edges 4m left of Wolfsbane, finishing at a creaky flake. Highball and excellent

Wolfsbane V2 **

The cracked groove two metres left of the arete.

Around the arete is a smaller right face with a good close packed concentration of quite tough problems.

V1 *

The right side of the arete.

V5 **

Start right of the arete and follow shallow cracks and flakes to the top



Nice Arete – Paul Clough

"The peaty heather on top of this is amazingly comfy to lie down on & soak up the sun in summer. It would probably make a nice bivvy spot! There's some grotty problems possible on the back wall but it would be a crime to garden this for the sake of them".



Wolfsbane - Paul Clough

Jumpin Jack Flash V7 **

A wild dyno from the rail to the top.

Millionaire V8 **

Start right of the arete and go up rightwards via the rail and crimps. Excellent.

The Flakes V3 ***

Climb flakes just right of the centre of the face from a sit start.

V5

The right arete from a sit start

South Boulder

This boulder has a very big slabby face with several easy problems.

Silver Bullet V1 *

Climb the slab direct to the highest point.

Sliver Surfer V0 *

The right arete

V1

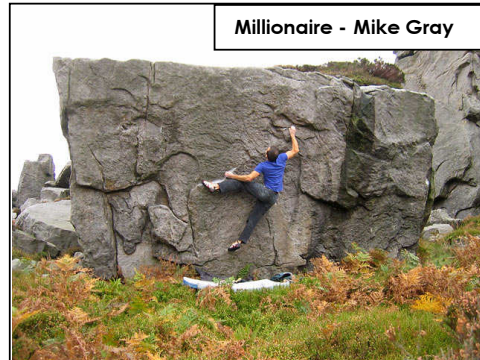
A mantel in the centre of the other side of the boulder.

Boulder 6

About twenty metres right of South Boulder and just past a small pinnacle is this boulder. There is one worthwhile problem here.

V2

The arete, using the flakes on the right



Millionaire - Mike Gray



The Flakes Pippa Whitehouse

First Ascent List

1940's	Sidney Waterfall and friends climbed on the crag
Circa 1950	Several cracks and chimneys climbed by Jim Walton, Brian Smith and Ed Thackeray
1952	Chockstone Crack, North Chimney, Hangover Crack & Chimney, Arête Chimney, Loyalty Crack, Wolfrey Crack Indirect, Great Wolfrey Buttress, Hollybush Crack, Heather Groove, West Face, Corner & Traverse Brian Evans, Phillip Leese
Nov 55	Deception Brian Evans, Allan Austin, Ashley Petts, Ernie Shepherd.
17. 6.75	Walter's Rib Ken Wood, Charles Dracup
27.9.80	Werewolf John Eastham, Geoff & John Myers <i>Mistakenly called What You Like in earlier guides</i>
1983	Cowell's Rib Ashley Cowell
Pre 1985	Shades Of Green John Mackenzie, Norman Hitch
23.10.85	Autumn Gold, Alternative Arête Glen Gorner, John Mackenzie Holly Tree Hover John Mackenzie, Glen Gorner
16.5.86	Wolf At The Door Mike Hammil, John Yates
16.10.87	In Memoriam Martin Berzins (solo)
23.10.87	Little Red Riding Hood Martin Berzins, Chris Sowden A Company of Wolves Martin Berzins (solo)
October 87	Sheep's Clothing .Chris Sowden, Tony Burnell, Martin Berzins This team were responsible for several other problems listed here but not recorded
6.11.88	Teacake Wall, Good Friends, Grand Defiance John Mackenzie, Rik Weld

Lipstick Wall Rik Weld, John Mackenzie
Slapstick Slab Rik Weld (solo)
 23.6.91 **Limited Company, Foxy** Bob Larkin (solo)
 30.12.93 **Huff-Puff Chimney** Dave and David Musgrove (solo)
Undoubtedly done before!
 29.10.95 **Recess Arête, Flow Arête, Summer Of '76** Malcolm Townsley (solo)
 19.6.96 **The Duke, Rock 'n' Roll** Dave Musgrove (Jnr) (solo).
 1996? **Bone People** Dave Musgrove (Jnr)
 18.4.99 **Angua** Neil Herbert, Robin Ellis
Above Average Age Robin Ellis, Neil Herbert
Somnolent Jack Neil Herbert, Robin Ellis
 16.9.00 **Bluster Arse Vessel** Rob Weston, Stuart Lancaster (both solo)
 June 05 **Loyalty Crack Continuation** Ben Barnard
 23.06.05 **The Loser** Ben Barnard (unseconded)
Arête Direct Ben Barnard (solo)
 April 06 **Wolfrey Crack Direct** Paul Clarke
 16.5.06 **Wolverine** Paul Clarke
A Wolf in the Wild Paul Clarke (solo)
 8.10.06 **Left Wolfrey Crack** John Hunt, Paul Clarke
Perfectly Gasless John Hunt, Paul Clarke
 12.4.07 **The Wilderness Years** Paul Clarke, Alan Cross
Moon Madness Paul Clarke
The Direct Start to Werewolf had been done before
 9.6.07 **The Fang** Paul Clarke, John Hunt
 Details of first ascents of the older boulder problems can be found at www.yorkshiregrit.com