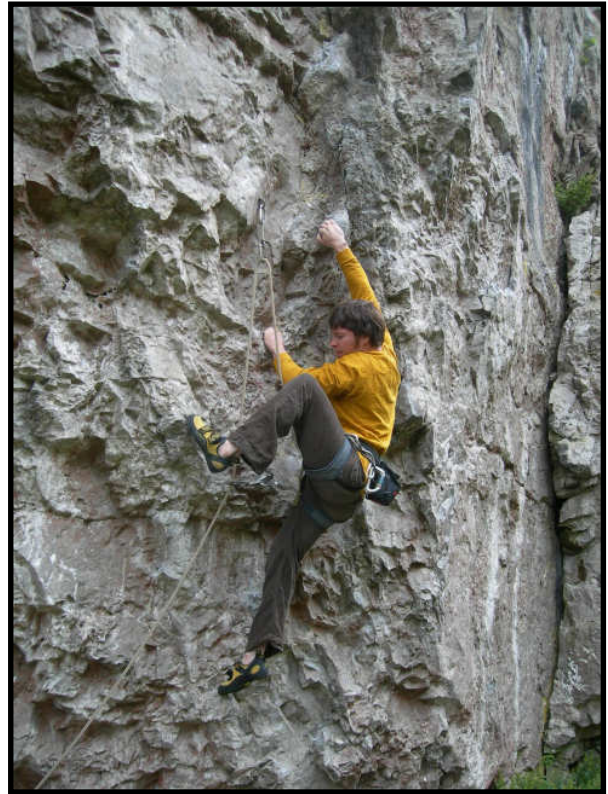


**TROLLER'S
GILL MINI
GUIDE**
**Paul Clarke &
Dave Musgrove.**

**Diagrams by
Nigel Baker**



Sean Murphy gets to grips with The Jim Grin

Introduction

Trollers is a fine location and can often be dry when all other limestone in the area is sopping wet. How this happens is a mystery, as is the fact that it looks merely vertical whilst in reality it steeply overhangs. Since the publication of the 2005 YMC Guide, this fine crag has seen major developments, with a doubling in the number of routes, making a mini-guide seem sensible. All of the old and new routes are listed here but their history is not – suffice it to say that, in the past; the Barleys, Raine, Berzins, Sowden, Burnell, Cummins, Ryan, Smith, Musgrove and Baker all made significant contributions. Those routes done since publication of the guide have first ascent details in this script. Another reason for this mini-guide is that many of the older climbs have shed significant holds or even large blocks making most now harder (but a few actually easier). Sometime ago the pegs and threads were replaced with bolts moving the crag ethic towards sport climbing. The bolting system applied at this time has been found to be suspect, especially given the friable nature of some of the rock and, with the support of the BMC and YBF, all have been re-bolted.

The star ratings and grades on the newer routes tend to be those given by the first ascensionist – and so should be treated with care. That being said, the popularity of sport climbing in Yorkshire has ensured that many rapid repeats have at least begun to form a consensus.



Sean Murphy on The Jim Grin

SITUATION AND CHARACTER The Gill is situated 2.5 kilometres north-east of Appletreewick, and 1 kilometre north of Parcevall Hall near the hamlet of Middle Skyreholme. It is a pleasant spot with the climbing concentrated on both sides of a gorge and a lesser buttress, **Old Man's Scar**, facing south to the right of the gorge entrance. The gently-impending **Main Wall** of the gorge is on the left as you approach and so faces east into the morning sun and contains the best climbs. It frequently stay dry in the rain and rarely seeps so is often in condition during the most surprising periods of poor weather but the position can create a wind tunnel effect on stormy days Also, beware hot days after the local marksmen have been shooting rabbits! The opposite **Right Wall** gets more sun but surprisingly takes longer to dry out.

APPROACHES AND ACCESS The best approach is from the village of Middle Skyreholme and just before the entrance to Parcevall Hall which is well sign-posted from the Barden Bridge to Appletreewick road. Limited parking is available on verges on the left just before the bridge that crosses the small stream and gives access to the hall. Further parking is available further back along the road – in the lane that branches off. There is a small cafe with a nice garden setting on the left just over the bridge. It is open (usually after 11:00am) during the spring, summer and autumn.

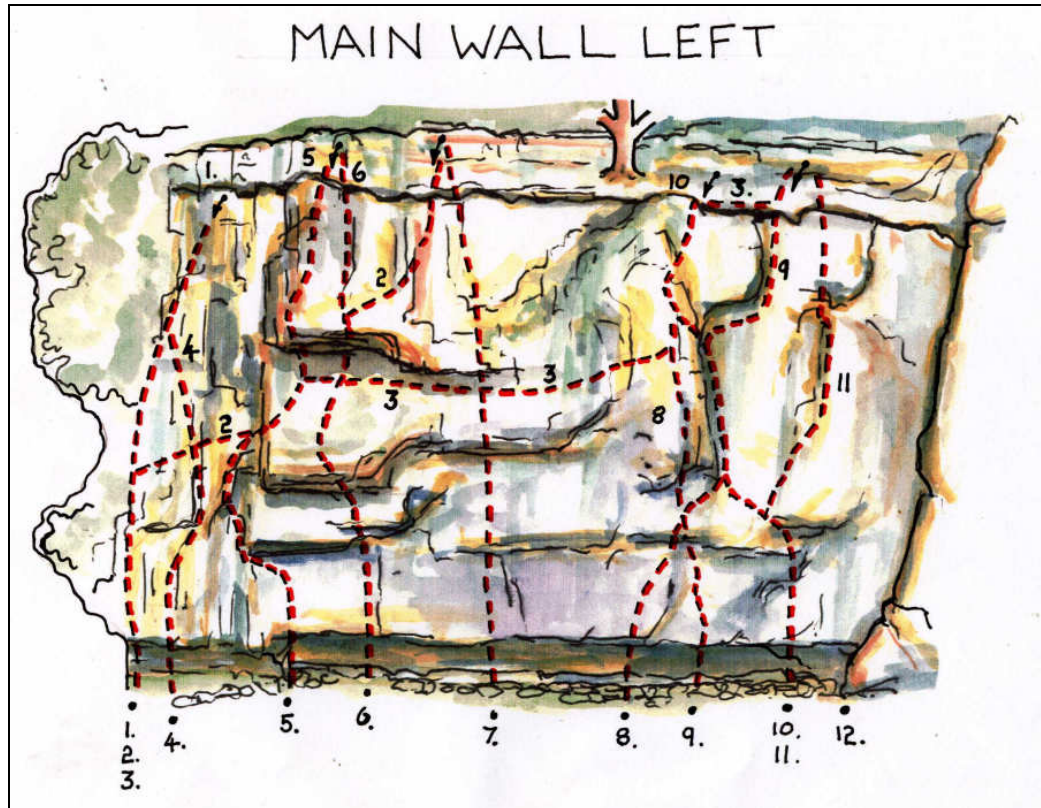
From the bridge, go through the gate follow the footpath northwards. Skyreholme Beck is on your right. Follow the footpath past an old dam to where the valley opens out. Several small crags can be seen on the opposite side. The largest one at the valley head is Old Man's Crag. The path forks where a smaller valley branches to the left. Take the right-hand path still following the streambed and cross a stile to gain the entrance of the narrow and unpromising looking gorge. Follow its usually dry bed until the Left Wall is seen on the left (15 minutes from the road). Note – it is often possible to climb when the gorge is blocked off by a raging torrent. If access is difficult in the streambed a grassy approach can be made across either hillside.

The cost of replacement and of establishing new routes has been great and you might consider making a contribution if you are using this supplement. Cheques should be made payable to The Yorkshire Bolt Fund and sent to Dave Musgrove at 11, Wynmore Avenue, Bramhope, Leeds, LS16 9DD. A Paypal account will be found on the Leeds Wall website. Cheques are preferable since Paypal always take a cut. The Bolt Fund has two sections; replacement and new routes. If you would prefer your donation to go to only one of these then please inform Dave.

WARNING: Climbing and mountaineering are activities with a danger of personal injury or death. Participants in these activities should be aware of and accept these risks and be responsible for their own actions and involvement.
 Many of these climbs have had few ascents. Whilst care has been taken, the authors accept no responsibility for the accuracy of the descriptions or towards those choosing to attempt any of these routes – to do so is your choice.

THE CLIMBS
MAIN WALL LEFT

The climbs are described from left to right starting on the main wall. The first feature is a loose diagonal groove that could probably be climbed at a grade of 'suicidal severe'. The top of the groove used to contain the yew tree that protected the now miss-named and long redundant All Weather Pitch, and provided a natural lower-off.



1 All Weather Extra 13m F5+

Start 2 metres right of the start of the loose groove from the obvious ledge. Pull over the bulge on good holds and move up to a flake. Climb this and good holds on the left before stepping right to the 4th bolt on Shaggy Dog Story and gain the upper reaches of the loose groove to a new lower-off.

2 Cross Breeding 20m F6c+ **

A good diagonal. Clip the first 2 bolts on All Weather Extra and move right to the third on Shaggy Dog. Cross the Angelic groove and up the rib, stepping right to join Spent Youth below its final bulge. Cross this and step immediately right again to the final bolt on Smouldering. Up this to its lower-off.
 14.10.07 Paul Farrish, Dave Musgrove

3 Never Look Back 30m F7a+ ***

A fine link pitch going all the way across the left wall. Nowhere desperate but with constantly interesting climbing. Follow Cross Breeding to below the roof on Spent Youth. Traverse the break past Smouldering Globules after which a fine sequence leads up and across to the ramp of Angel Dust. Move up steeply to clip the new belay but swing across the horizontal break to a good foothold. Pull up and right to gain the belay of Cold Turkey.
 29.04.08 Paul Clarke, Keith Morgan.

4 Shaggy Dog Story 13m F6c+ *

A short but intense and technical pitch climbing the wall into and then back out of the shallow groove of Angelic Upstart. Climb up from the right end of the ledge on left-hand layaways and after clipping the 3rd bolt, step right by the second bolt across to a good spike in the groove (it is also possible to climb directly past the bolts). Moves up and, back left join All Weather Extra at the fourth bolt for an easier finish on less stable rock

5 Angelic Upstart 15m F7a **

Bolts on Spent Youth, Shaggy Dog Story and Cross Breeding had begun the bolting of this route. Recently fully bolted with the additions of a direct start and new finish. Pull up to the roof then left and up into the groove. Now follow Cross Breeding to the rest and a steep finish over the roof then up the rib to the belay of Spent Youth. The old finish is up the very loose upper groove to the belay on All Weather Extra.
New variations - Feb 08 Musgrove, Baker, Clarke

6 Spent Youth 15m F7b+ **

A popular route that was always tough for the grade (7b) and is now harder due to broken holds. The fingery wall leads to better holds below the first roof. Swing left and use a good but sharp hold to initiate more hard moves over the roof and up the scooped wall and a rest below the second roof. Bulges to the right lead strenuously but on good holds to some wall moves and a lower-off.

7 Smouldering Globules of Lust 16m F7c **

A rather fine route, low in the grade but with a hard crux. Start right of Spent Youth at an obvious flake. Use the flake to initiate hard moves that lead to the roof at a good side-hold. Long reaches cross the bulge to gain good holds and a ledge. The wall above and slightly left leads to the bolt belay. It is possible to follow the loose ramp to the right of the final wall but this is not as good and surprisingly awkward.

Very old bolts on the wall behind the small tree mark the line of an old project – ‘Open Season’ tentatively graded F8b. It is yours if you want it. To the right is a hanging rib and shallow groove. Two possible starts lead to a very obvious flat hold

8 Angel Heart 16m F7c/7c+ *

The blunt arête above the start of Hoodoo Guru leads to the final ramp of Angel Dust. The grade depends on which of the two starts is used and how direct one climbs - although it is pretty tough for a move or few!

9 Hoodoo Guru 16m F7b **

Recently repaired to re-establish this route. It now has two possible starts both of which gain the obvious flat hold. The original on the left is the hardest but the right-hand perhaps best. Steep moves lead to the roof and up right to gain the obvious corner of Angel Dust which is follow to its resting place. Reach out right to the diagonal overlap that leads to a steep finish. Bolt belay shared with Cold Turkey.

10 Angel Dust 16m F7a+ **

A fine climb. Start to the right of the obvious corner/groove and just left of The Big Crack. Climb to below a small roof and then make a long reach up and left to gain a narrow ledge. From a standing position on this move left into the white corner/groove. Bridge up it until a ramp can be followed to spike and then a swing right to a hanging belay. The old belay is marked by the slings on the big tree on the left

If you succeed on the above and are sure you want to kick the habit, try:

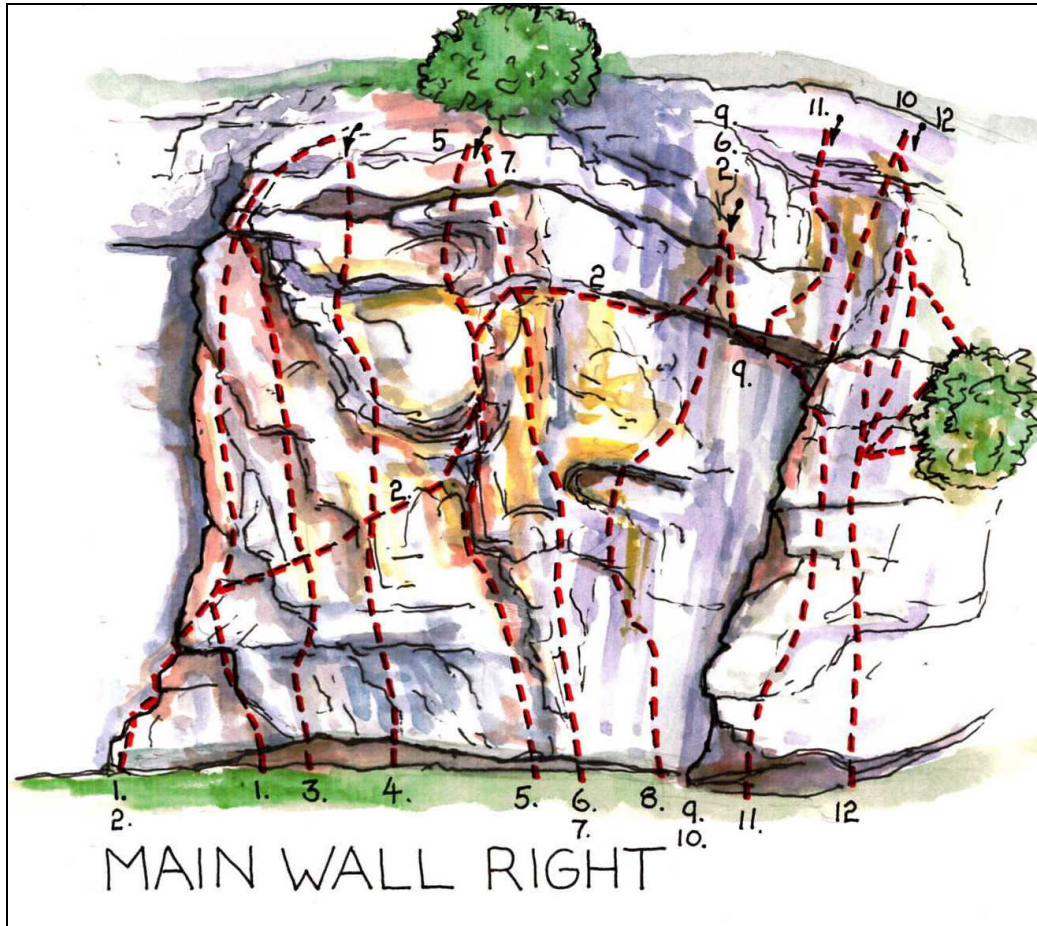
11 Cold Turkey 16m 7b+ **

Very low in the grade but now harder at the top and quite sustained. Start as for Angel Dust to the narrow ledge then pull up and right to gain better holds and a rest. Blocks that once adorned the wall above have gone and a difficult few pulls are needed to gain the break. From here a good crack leads to a double bolt belay.



MAIN WALL RIGHT

Bouldering: There are some fine, ever-dry, and steep boulder problems to the right including a series of traverses from the Big Crack to Brute. The rocky nature of the base makes a pad especially useful. All of the starts of the routes are good problems and there are an infinite number of eliminates and sit-down starts.



0 The Big Crack 18m E1 (or VS – you decide) **
5a/b Some might say this is a classic of its type. Steep, strenuous, and awkward; but fun if you like that sort of thing.

1 The Jack Flap 16m F6b+ *
Climb Big Crack for 3 metres and move carefully right above the overlap to clip the second bolt. Continue direct up the right side of the arête without recourse to bridging into or across the chimney (but everyone does). Pull steeply right over the top overhang on good holds in the finishing corner of Angel Delight, to a lower-off. **The Cinder Toffee Start** (F6c+) climbs over the lower bulge direct via a crumbly hanging corner.

2 Sweet Nothing 22m F7a+ ***
An amazingly satisfying climb. It is steep and your arms will ache!
A rising traverse of the main face starting at The Big Crack. Climb The Big Crack for 6 metres until it is possible to move right to the good hold on Angel Delight. Move right across the rib, horizontally right to Jim Grin then follow this to its ledge. Traverse right again along the finish of Barguest.
Also – continued to finish across Brute and up Eau de Lapin by Roy Healey 26.10.07

3 Angel Delight 18m F7a **
A sweet climb that deserves more popularity – perhaps now ensured by the new bolts. It is quite high in the grade. Move up and left to gain a good hold, then, before strength *desserts* you, move right and cream up the vague rib to hard moves onto a hanging slab below the upper bulges and a good rest on undercuts. Continue left and around the hanging corner to good holds and a lower-off.

4 Haslam 15m 7b+ **
The excellent technical wall just right of Angel Delight. Climb past the right-hand side of the projecting block and follow the bolts with increasing difficulty to an exit left to a rest below the final bulge on Angel Delight. A hard couple of moves lead rightwards over the bulge to a thin break, another crimp pull and eventually the belay of the last route. It is also possible to make an exit rightwards to the belay of the Jim Grin.

5 The Jim Grin 15m 7a+ ***

A very good and pumpy route. Low in the grade. Climb the wall to gain the very obvious left-leaning flake. Follow it to a steep pull out right to gain a projecting ledge. Move slightly to the left and make crux moves to a bolt belay. An easier alternative from the ledge is to finish as for Barguest Direct.

6 Barguest 20m F7a **

Tough moves separated by good rests – though there is now the direct the original is still the best. Start just to the right of The Jim Grin making hard moves to gain better holds on the vague rib. Long reaches lead to the easing below the bulge and a shallow, inhabited cave. Move up and steeply left to the ledge of Jim Grin. Now traverse boldly (?) right along the break to jugs and a steep pull up to the bolt belay on White Zone.

7 Barguest Direct 16m F7a **

Tricky and tough for F7a. Follow Barguest to the ledge on Jim Grin. From the ledge a steep finish up and then left leads to the bolt belay of Jim Grin.

8 The White Zone 15m F7b/7b+ *

A short hard section rather imbalances this climb but it is worthwhile. Start in or just left of the corner on the right. Conceive a hard move up then leftwards and so back right to gain the good holds below the bulge in the shallow cave (It is also possible to take an eliminate line following the yellow streak to the right side of the cave). The bolt above the cave may seem hard to clip (position dictated by the quality of the rock). The sequence up the rib above can be desperate on first acquaintance as the holds are difficult to spot from below. Gain a standing position in the obvious pod and a direct finish up the wall to the bolt belay above the end of the Barguest traverse.

BRUTE BUTTRESS

9 Brute 20m E1 *

5b Start in the corner and take the slanting flake crack past an old stump until the line becomes steep. A horizontal traverse then leads left with some difficulty for a couple of metres to better holds and an easier finish at the bolt belay of White Zone. The original climbed out to the trees – you may wish to lower-off.

10 Brute Direct 19m E1 *

5b Start as for Brute but continue all the way up the flake to its end and onto the wall (bolt on Yew Can Do) finishing by stepping steeply leftwards at the top to gain good holds and a new lower-off that is rather hidden from below.

11 Eau de Lapin 18m F6c+ *

Climbs the protruding buttress to the right of Brute's starting corner and then goes up the fine wall above the start of its traverse. Start just to the right of the corner and gain the shallow groove. Move up easily to the break. A butch move off an undercut begins the upper wall (and easier option is to step across as for Brute and pull up further left) then fingery moves above add to the interest. August 2007 Dave Musgrove (Originally started up YCD - New start 03.05.08 Dave Musgrove)

12 Yew Can Do 18m F6a+ **

The best 'easy' route on the crag and a good warm-up. It has several fun options on the upper wall just left of the Yew tree. Start over the bulge and climb easy rock to a ledge. From the ledge use side-pulls to swing right onto the compact wall and good holds below the next bolt. Reach left to good but hidden holds just right of the ramp of Brute Direct. A couple of stiff pulls gain the wall, the finishing moves of Brute Direct and lower-off. Harder eliminates from left to right are; **Yew Can Stretch** –6c and eliminates the holds on the rib near Brute Direct by a long reach; **Yew Can Jump** –7a, a big leap up and right then another back left and **Yew Can Bridge** – the only one using the tree F6b+. Yew can choose! 26.4.08 Dave Musgrove (YCD & YCB), Paul Clarke (YCS & YCJ), Keith Morgan, Nigel Baker

13 Swanky Swallow 54m E4/5 *

A high-level, complete traverse of the main wall. Existing bolt runners provide well-spaced protection on the first 3 pitches but a few wires are required on pitches 4 & 5. Not marked on the diagram.

- 1 13m F6c+ Start up Shaggy Dog story and climb to its belay.
- 2 8m F5 Step round corner make a nice easy hand traverse, past bolt on Spent Youth to the belay tree of Angel Heart – or hanging bolt belay on the right.
- 3 10m 5b/c Step down and right, follow more good handholds but not much for feet with good moves to an obvious rest. Well protected by bolts from climbs hereabouts. Where the crack thins out layback up a flake, hand traverse from here across The Big Crack and belay at bolts above Haslam.
- 4 15m 6a/b Climb from here across to clip the belay bolts of The Jim Grin, step down slightly and make hard moves across to a good small hold, then step down to Brute. Reverse this climb, to the ledge with the tree. Belay. A bold pitch to second!
- 4 8m 5b Climb Brute Direct to finish on top of the crag. Dan (Tom) Fleming and Ben Thackeray (alt leads)



Sean Murphy on The Barguest

DOG'S BREAKFAST WALL

A recently developed area. Despite the unpromising appearance it does have a few worthwhile routes.

1 Dog's Breakfast 10m F5

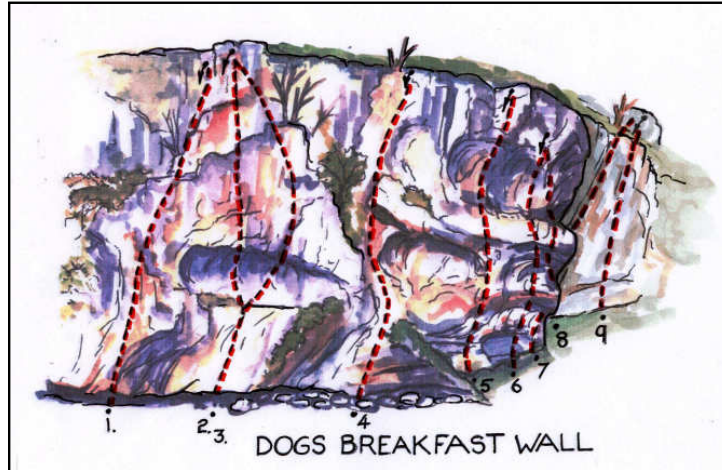
Up the gorge from Brute is a clean wall broken by a ledge and bulge. Start just left of this from a block above a step in the streambed. Pull across the void and up to a ledge. Continue to a small tree and up a steep but easy groove to a lower-off. The easiest route at Troller's Gill but with some dubious rock.

4.8.05 Dave Musgrove, Tony Barley, Paul Clarke, Nigel Baker

2 Spectral Hound 12m F6c+ *

Climb easily to the bulge at half height. This is passed on the left to give a tricky crux leading to better holds

29.7.05 Dave Musgrove, Nigel Baker



3 It's a Dogs (After) Life 12m F6a *

As for Spectral Hound but take the flakes on the right of the wall before trending back leftwards to the same belay.

2.8.05 Dave Musgrove, Paul Clarke, Ashley Hardwell, John Hunt

4 Barking Mad 10m F5+

A semi-detached flaky pillar leads rightwards over an overlap to a ledge then a bulging finish just below and right of a stunted tree. The rock is not above suspicion – take care!

25.10.07 Dave Musgrove, Paul Farrish, John Hunt, Nigel Baker

5 Korean Canine Kebab 10m F6b+ *

Further up the gorge, just above the obvious chute. Climb the obvious shallow groove over three bulges.

20.10.07 Dave Campbell, Dave Musgrove

6 Bad to the Bone 9m F6c+ *

The wall, flake and bulge just to the right.

21.10.07 Nigel Baker, Keith Morgan

7 Wild Rover 9m F6b+

Up the rib to good hold and rock into the scoop. Move left and get over the bulge onto the ledge! Lower-off the belay on the left as for Bad

23.10.07 Nigel Baker, John Hunt

Just across the grassy gully/corner are two more routes.

8 Barking up the Wrong Tree 9m F5

A diagonal line just right of the gully behind the Elder. Climb the initial bulge then pass the Holly to the lower-off above the terrace just right of the Ash.

8.8.08 Dave Musgrove

9 Jack the Russell 8m F6a+

Short, but not without a bite! The final route on the left side of the gorge climbs a steep shallow scoop to a lower off above the grassy terrace.

16/7/08 Dave Musgrove, Nigel Baker

HELL FIRE CORNER

On the opposite bank and slightly upstream of the Right Wall (up the glacia-like stream bed) is a steep overhung corner/cave with a few steep routes on dusty but excellent rock. Since cleaned they have been neglected but are worth the effort.

1 Dogged Determination 11m

F7a *

The left hand line with a tough start to ledges and a step right to a fine finish.

29.7.05 Keith Morgan, Paul Clarke, Dave Musgrove, Nigel Baker

2 Let Sleeping Dogs Lie 11m

F7a/7a+ *

A direct start to the last route. Pull to the break, step right to big holds and climb the grey wall to gain the last bolt on Dogged Determination.

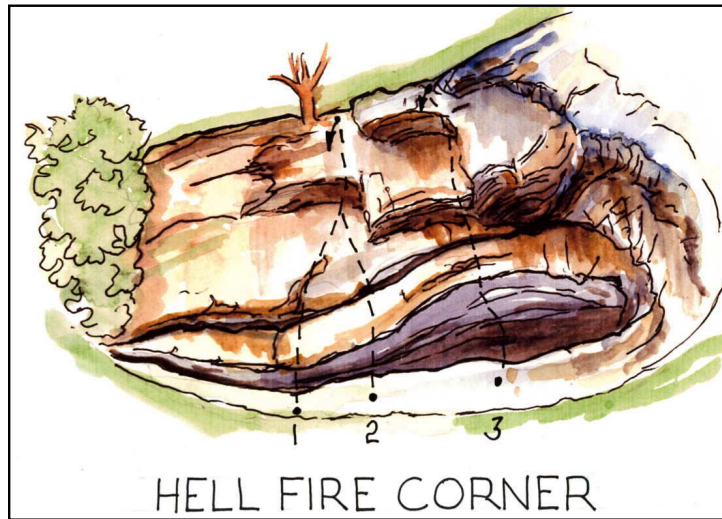
31.7.05 Paul Clarke.

3 Howling in the Hills 11m

F7a/7a+ **

The right-hand line takes the centre of the first roof using a leap (and if necessary a small pile of stones!). Powerful moves lead to a small niche and then a steep finish to gain a sloping ledge above the next bulge. The third clip is tough – easier once this is in place.

29.7.05 Paul Clarke.



THE RIGHT WALL

The next climbs are on the shorter wall on the opposite side of the gorge from the Dog's Breakfast Area.

1 Puppy Power 6m F7a *

Start at the left end of the Right Wall below a bulging rib.

A short wall leads to blocks and a testing bulge. Gain the slab above and a lower-off.

31.7.05 Nigel Baker

Just to right of a hanging rib where an obvious traverse goes across to a cave. The smooth wall of Baby Beaker lies below and slightly left of the cave.

2 A Taste of Armageddon 12m E2 *

5a Bold, but not technically difficult and on surprisingly solid rock Climb to a ledge below the roof and traverse right past a small cave(peg) to below the next bulge. Pull up to good holds above this and finish more easily. A direct start up the vague line 3 metres to the right is much harder.

3 Red Setter 9m F6c *

Start right of Puppy Power at the next line of bolts (with red glue). An awkward start crosses the first traverse of A Taste of Armageddon and gains access to the overhanging red wall. A short powerful sequence leads to good, hidden holds on the ledge above

18.07.08. Nigel Baker, Paul Clarke

4 Baby Beaker 9m E4

6b Climb the tough wall moving slightly rightwards to the small cave at half height. Move left to a peg runner (missing at present) then finish on the left through the bulges passing an old peg.

5 Heir of the Dog 9m F7a+ *

Fun - and tougher than it looks.

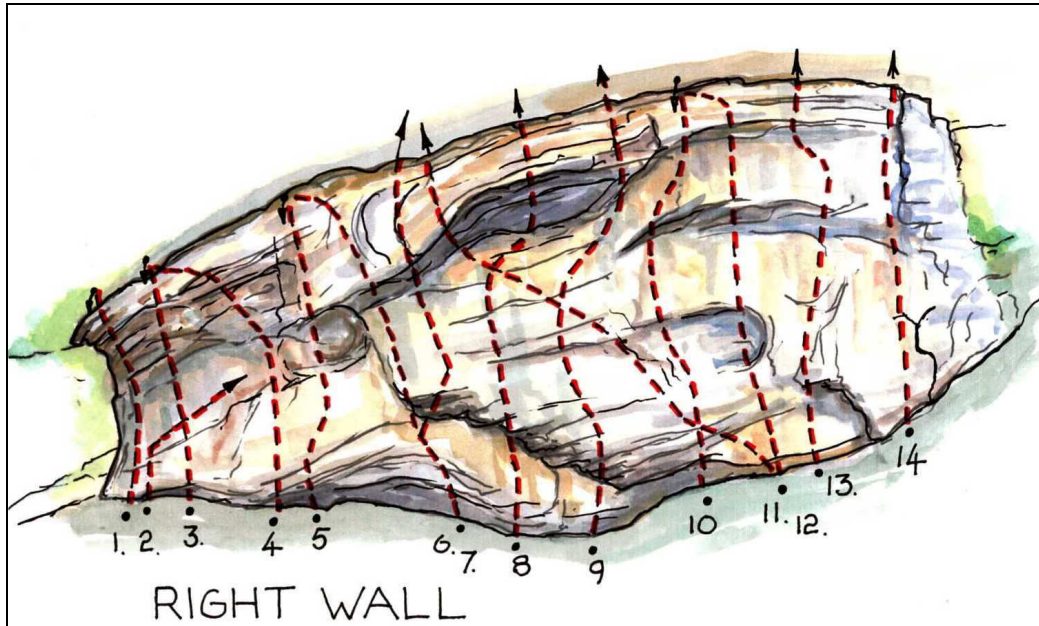
A fingery start gains the cave and a rest. Pull up the steep wall above via undercuts and blind slaps to a lower-off.

The next two routes share a common start at the hanging left facing corner.

6 Leads United 10m F6c+ *

Pull up then step left below the bulge to layaways leading up to the break. Pull through the overhang into a short corner and climb up to a horizontal crack just below the fringe. Swing left along this to the lower-off of Heir of the Dog.

04.08.05 Nigel Baker, Paul Clarke, Dave Musgrove



7 Trivial Pursuit 9m E3 *

6a A good route when clean, and a virtual clip-up.

Pull up to the roof (peg) step right and pull over (peg). Easily to the next roof. Step over this leftwards (peg on the right). It is best to avoid vegetation by finishing up to the left (thread)

The next feature is a more pronounced roof, higher on the wall and further to the right

8 Book Up 8m E3

6a Start below the left end of the roof and climb direct to it. Step to the right and pull through the centre of the roof to finish.

9 Epilogue 9m E3 *

5c From below the right end of the roof climb the slab first left and then right to a ledge. Turn the roof on the right to gain good finishing jugs.

10 Booker Prize 9m F6c **

A direct line, starting with a slight bulge and crossing Book Ends. Above this a tricky wall leads to better holds before step moves to the right of the roof lead to a lower-off that is out of sight over the top.
17.11.07 Nigel Baker

11 Writers' Block 9m F6c+ **

A direct line just to the right and above the block at the start of Book Ends. Easily at first then steeper climbing leads to the upper overlap. A couple of stiff pulls gains better holds. Move left to the Booker Prize lower-off.
29.04.08 Nigel Baker

12 Book Ends 12m E2 *

5c A rising traverse left from a small block on the ground below the wall. The climb joins Epilogue at the ledge below the roof but finishes steeply out left.

13 Tough Titty 8m E3 *

6b Start from the Book Ends block and climb the steep wall direct to a peg runner. Rock over left to reach the top. A move right reduces the grade to 6a

14 Sour Grapes 8m HVS

5a Start 1 metre right of the block at a triangular arch. Climb the wall direct to a short finishing crack.

Chris Cross V7 **

A good low level boulder traverse crosses this wall from left to right – starting near Leads United.
FA May 08 Chris Hall.

PUMPKIN/FRICTION AREA

The line of the wall now drops back and continues at a slightly higher level. Ten metres right of Sour Grapes is a shallow cave.

1 The Man Who Makes The Sun Cries For Rain 8m E1

5c Climb the centre of the large roof, and the wall above just left of Overdue

2 Overdue 8m HVS

5c Pull up right from the cave and climb the upper wall direct.

3 Pumpkin Pie 9m F5+ *

A more direct and bolted version of Pumpkin to a lower-off to the left of the tree.

08.08.08 Dave Musgrove, Nick Dalzell

4 Pumpkin 10m HVS *

Superseded by the previous route

5b Start just right of the overhang of Overdue, below a prominent block. Climb up and pass the block on the right and continue to the hawthorn at the top.

5 Short Story 8m F5 *

Nice moves just left of the grassy ramp to a lower-off by the hawthorn.

08.08.08 Dave Musgrove, Nick Dalzell

To the right is a fine slab.

6 Fiction Slab 12m HVS ***

5a A quality route. Climb the superb slab direct, only stepping right at the very top to belay above the corner.

7 Mistaken Identity 12m VS *

5a The hanging corner is gained by difficult moves on the lower wall, but excellent holds and jams give easier climbing above.

8 A Matter Of Fact 12m VS

4c The wall to the right of Mistaken Identity is climbed straight up at first, and then trending left, to ledges. Finish direct to a peg and nut belay.

An illustration of the stay-dry nature of the Main Wall!

Notes/New routes

