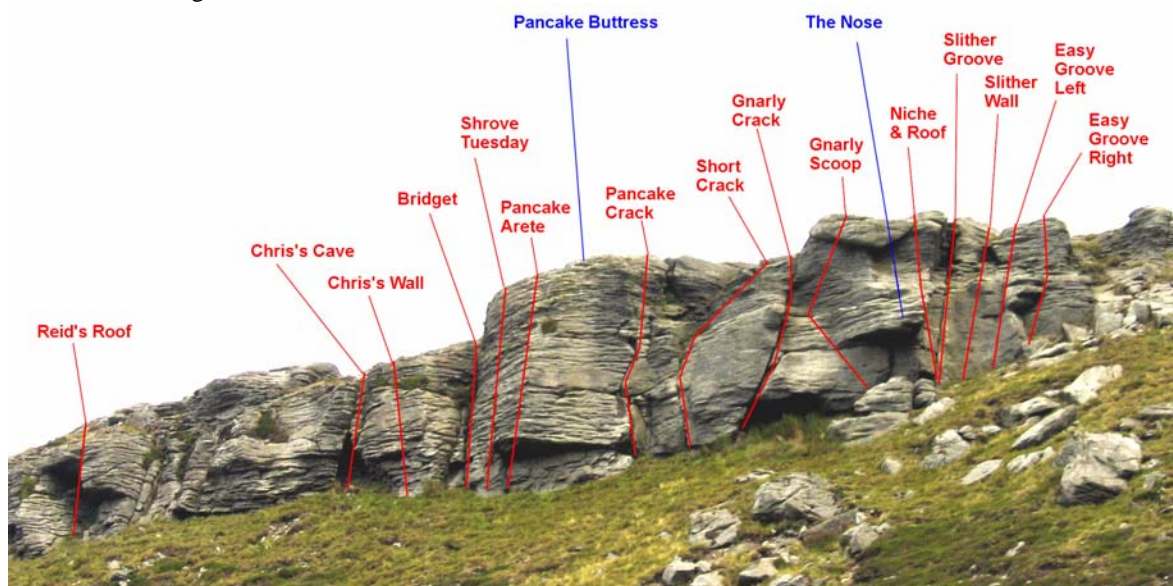


Lops Wath (GR NY844017) Alt:490m

This small south-west facing roadside gritstone crag is situated in Birkdale near the summit of the B6270 Kirkby Stephen to Thwaite road. The crag is very obvious and it seems most likely that it will have been climbed on in the past, but, as no record has been found, the climbs have been named and graded. The crag is nowhere more than 7 metres high and is of good quality, though it can be a bit over “gritty”. The climbs are described from right to left.



1. **Easy Groove** (D) The short crack groove at the right end of the crag is climbable by two options.
2. **Slither Wall** (VS 4c) The short wall, without recourse to *Slither Groove*.
3. **Slither Groove** (VS 4c) The corner crack is harder than it looks.
4. **Niche and Roof** (HS)* Start up *Slither Groove* and pull onto the top of the *Nose* on the left. Climb the bulge above via a crack.
5. **Gnarly Scoop** (HVS 5a)* Start on the left-hand boulder under the *Nose*. Traverse leftward and upwards to gain the ledge. Climb the bulge above to a fine finish.
6. **Gnarly Crack** (VS 5b)* The obvious right-slanting crack has a very awkward (not to mention painful) start, but soon eases.
7. **Short Crack** (S) Would be better (and easier) if it wasn't full of heather.
Pancake Buttress is the main buttress of the crag and features lots of pancake-like holds. It is probably climbable anywhere at VS-HVS.
8. **Pancake Crack** (HS)* The crack on the right of the buttress.
9. **Pancake Arête** (MVS 4c)* The arête direct with an awkward pull to start.
10. **Shrove Tuesday** (MVS 4b)* Climb the crack just left of the arête and continue up the wall.
11. **Bridget** (MS) The heathery groove on the left of *Pancake Buttress*. Do as the girl says!
12. **Chris's Wall** (VS 5a) The short wall to the left.
13. **Chris's Cave** (VD) The small cave and crack.
14. **Reid's Roof** (MS) The little big roof, climbed via the crack on the right.

Lots of other short problems can be climbed in the area of *Chris's Cave* and *Reid's Roof*, and further left.

The routes recorded were all soloed by Stephen Reid and/or Chris King on 29th July 2004.



Photo: Chris King on Pancake Arête.