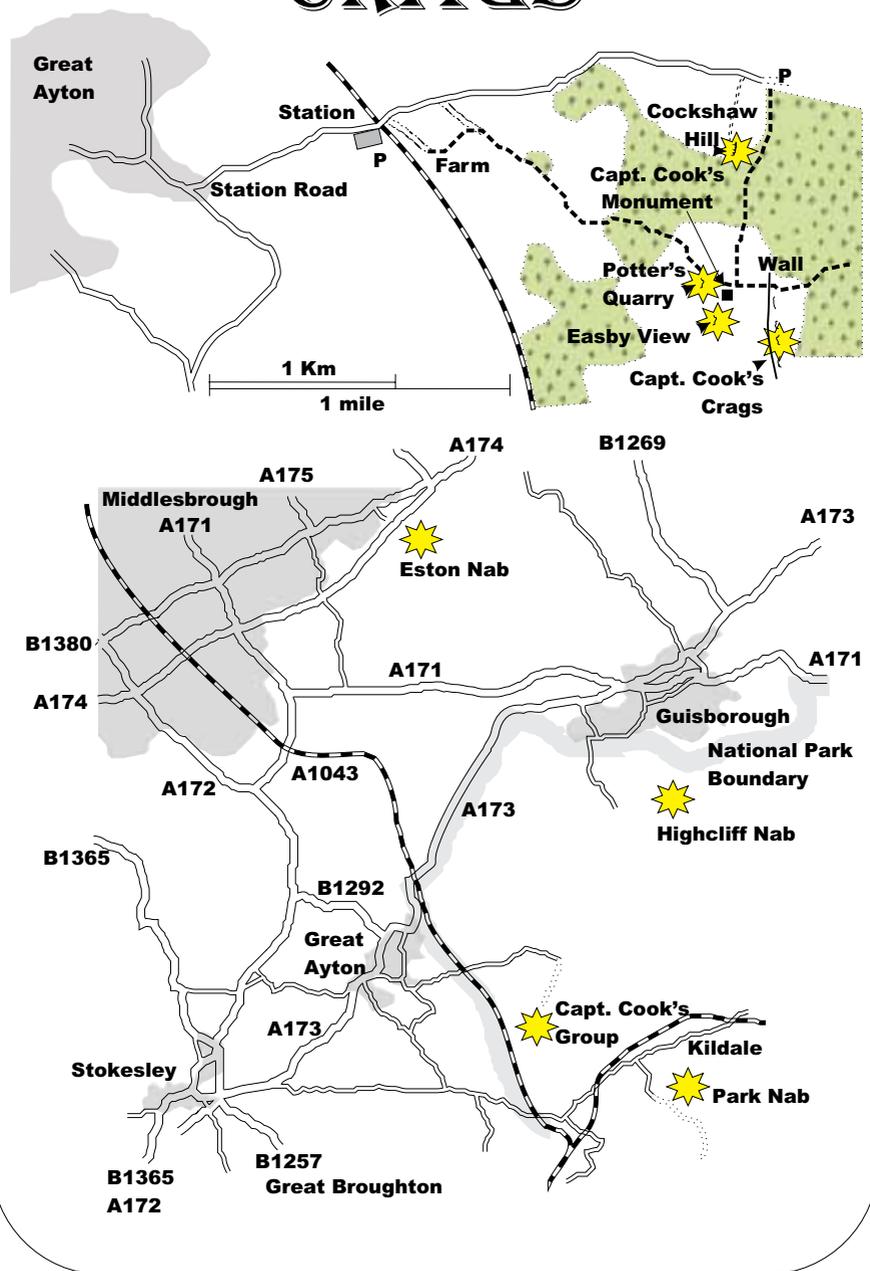


CAPT. COOK'S CRAGS



CAPTAIN COOK'S AREA, EASBY MOOR

OS Landranger Sheet 93

Cockshaw Hill	NZ589107	West Facing	Altitude 250m
Potter's Quarry	NZ589101	SW Facing	Altitude 310m
Easby View	NZ591097	SW Facing	Altitude 290m
Cook's Crags	NZ592098	SE Facing	Altitude 310m

Mod - Severe	41
HS - HVS	5
E1 - E3	11
E4 and above	0
Bouldering	52

History

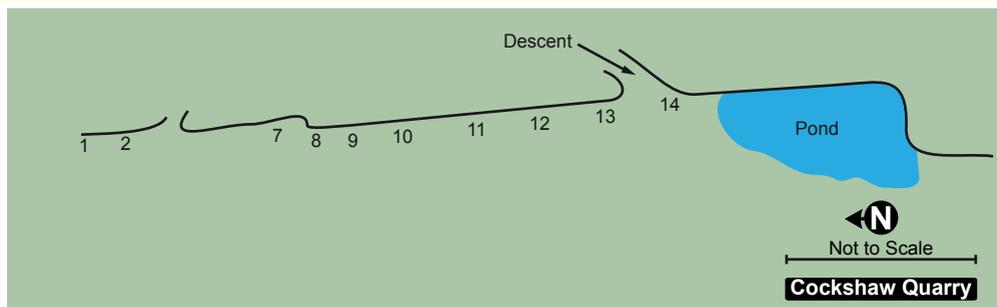
The earliest record of climbing in this area dates back to visits by the Barker brothers to Potter's Quarry during the 1930s. (They also recorded climbs at Whetstone Nab GR 588103 at about the same time). In 1957 Geoff Fixter and Eric Marr discovered Cook's Crags where they spent a full day exploring and scrambling on the boulders. They decided to try their hand at "real" rock climbing, returning the following weekend with the legendary sisal rope and nailed boots. Over the next three years whilst teaching themselves to climb they added over twenty five routes, a contribution which includes nearly every current VS climb on the crag. The crag had to wait until 1978 for the next developments when Tony McLean free climbed the previously pegged line of Stirrup. This was followed in 1979 by Paul Ingham's ascents of The Nose accompanied by Tony Marr and Sundancer by Nick Dixon, Pete Whitfield 1981. The number of routes at Cockshaw Hill surged from 6 to 20 between 1985-89. Karl Telfer started the rout with a free ascent of Morning Wall and the addition of New Day. Stu Ferguson and Richard Davies in one day added a further 10 routes, including Mercury and Mind Release. Dave Wilson and M Bowyer added a Left Hand Finish to Morning Wall in October of 1989. A Laing, D McKinney and Tony Marr added more routes to Cooks Crag in 1990's including The Gibber, Men's Zone and Forty Years On. Tony returned again early in 1999 to add The Watchman and several easier climbs around The Nose Area. Alan Taylor closed the latest activities with his problem, Alan's Wall at the same time. In February 1999 Tony Marr revisited Easby View Quarry after a gap of forty years. Tony with older brother Eric had explored the quarry in 1959 climbing one of the cracks with pegs but they had not reported their activities at that time. The visit in 1999 allowed Tony to free-climb the peg crack and add some short problems.

Situation and Character

Surrounding Captain Cook's Monument on Easby Moor are numerous outcrops and small quarries. It is their accessibility and short routes/problems combined with reasonable landings and west facing aspect rather than the quality of the climbing, that give them the stature they have earned from the local climbers. The four most important venues are described. Cockshaw Quarry and Easby View Quarry all catch the evening sun and provide interesting bouldering up to about 5c in standard on rock up to 7m high. The rock of Potter's Quarry is of reasonable quality above generally good landings, whereas Cockshaw Hill probably has the poorest rock of any crag in this guide. Easby View Quarry is small, with a mix of rock of reasonable quality with sandy sections. To the south east of Cook's Monument is the natural sandstone outcrop of Cook's Crags. The rocks have a reputation for being slow to come into condition after winter and while this may be true of the eastern end, the west faces of The Nose Buttress, The Pinnacle area and The Boulder can be enjoyed on a mild winter's day. Although small, there are a number of interesting problems and the crags are perhaps best enjoyed as a short afternoon/evening venue.

Access and Approaches

From the North follow the A19 and take the A174 then the A172 until a left turn onto the B1292 leads towards Great Ayton. From the South take the A172 at the Cleveland Tontine, and ignoring the sign to Great Ayton, continue round the Stokesley by-pass in the direction of Middlesbrough, joining the route from the North by turning right on to the B1229. Turn left at the Tee junction and follow the A172 for about 300 metres. Turn right and follow signs for Great Ayton Railway Station but continue up the hill past the station. The broken rocks of Cockshaw Hill will soon appear of the right, just before the steep S bend. Parking is possible just over the col but continue past the cattle grid to where a large plantation appears on the right at a junction with the Cleveland Way. Park here. (Continuing down hill for about two miles will lead to Kildale and Park Nab crag. Beware: this is a gated road with farm traffic!) The remaining outcrops; Potters Quarry, Easby View and Cook's Crag, are all situated only a few minutes beyond Captain Cook's Monument. Cockshaw Hill is much nearer to the road.



COCKSHAW HILL

Cockshaw Hill can be found by following a footpath that contours the hill south west from the car park. About 100m west of the cattle grid on the south side of the road is a gate. Go through the gate and then follow the track that takes a rising contour south and the quarry will be reached in a few minutes. All the recorded climbing is to the left (north) of the small pond. The best line, Morning Wall, starts in a small corner about 20m left of the pond. Further left is the uninviting chimney/crack of Sooty and Sweep. All the descriptions and gradings at Cockshaw Hill are those of the first ascensionists, mainly Richard Davies, Karl Telfer and F Ferguson.

The climbs are described from left to right.

1. Honey Pot 8m D

The wall left of the chimney passing a bush.

2. Sooty and Sweep 8m D

Climb the prominent chimney.

3. Paralysis 10m HVS 5b

Climb the edge of the wall right of the chimney, Pull round the bulge and continue more easily to the top.

4. New Day 10m HVS 5b

Start as for Paralysis, trend right to finish up *Morning Wall*.

5. X Offender 8m E2 5c

Climb the left side of the wall, left of *Primary Contact*.

6. Primary Contact 8m E2 5c

The wall left of *Morning Wall*, is climbed in its centre to finish up a difficult scoop on the right.

7. Morning Wall 10m E2 5c

Starts in the small corner about 20m left of the

pond. Climb the steep crack line and leave it by a difficult move to the right near the top. Stake belay. The Left Hand Finish is HVS 5a.

8. The Boys are Back in Town 10m E1 5b

Tackles the wall right of Morning Wall.

9. Mind Release 10m E2 6a

The wall right of *The Boys* is climbed to finish up a corner.

10. Cut and Run 8m E1 5c

From the right side of the wall jump for a hold below the break, pull round the overhang and step right to finish.

11. Mercury 8m HVS 5b

Reach the break right of *Cut and Run*, climb the bulge and follow holds left and up.

12. Moving South 7m HVS 5a

The wall right of *Mercury*.

13. Book Stress 6m S

The wall right of *Moving South*.

To the right is broken rock and an easy descent ramp. To the right again is the pond.

14. Divers' Corner 14m MS

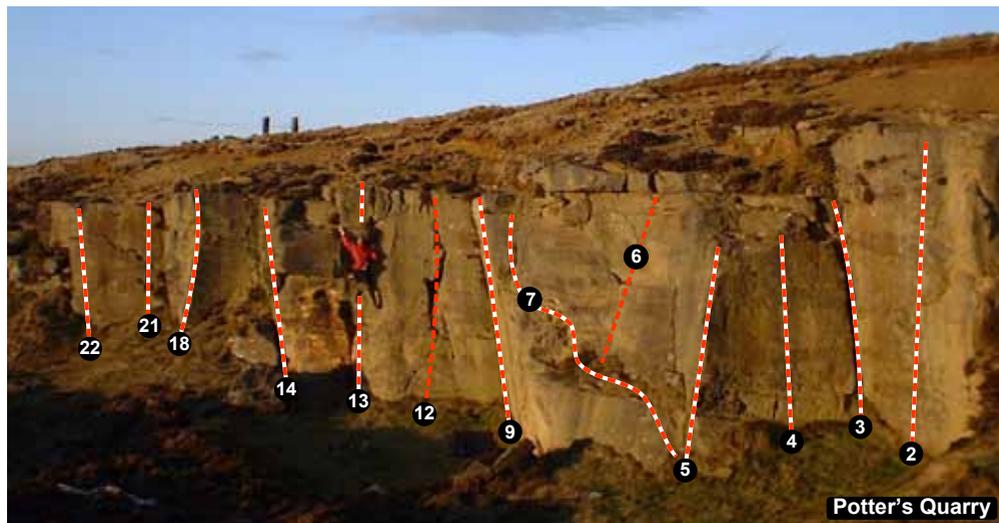
Start at the left side of the pond and gain horizontal ledges leading rightwards. Follow these to below a square cut corner. Climb this.

15. Cries in the Air 10m HVS 5a

Climb the black slab above *Divers' Corner* trending right.

16. The Problem Traverse Ungradeable

A low level- traverse starting at *Sooty and Sweep* and traversing rightwards to finish just before pond. The crux is surviving the fragile holds after *Morning Wall*.



POTTER'S QUARRY

Although quite small this is the best of the quarries, catching the evening sun and providing interesting bouldering up to about 5c in standard in a pleasant situation with a superb outlook. The rock is basically vertical up to 7m high and of reasonable quality. From the car park follow the obvious broad path of the Cleveland Way south to reach Captain Cook's Monument in about 20 minutes. The quarry is about 200m WNW of Cooks Monument, and lies below the stone gate posts that can be seen near the moor edge when looking from the monument. The climbs are described from right to left.

1. First Arête S

Climb the first short arête.

2. First of Many 6m HVS 5b *

Ascends the wall at the right of the crag. Climb the bulge on pockets then continue to the top with difficulty.

3. Square Corner Crack 6m D

The obvious corner to the left.

4. Cook's Wall 6m S

Climb the wall to the left on small holds.

5. Cooks Rib 6m D **

The obvious ridge to the left of *Cooks Wall*.

6. Endeavour 6m VD

Start at the foot of the last climb. Climb the wall trending leftwards to a ledge, then back diagonally rightwards to the top.

7. Resolution Corner 8m HD

Start at the foot of *Cooks Rib*. Gain a wide ledge trending left to an exposed arête; make an awkward move left into a sloping groove, which leads more easily to the top.

8. Resolution Direct 5m S

Start 3m left of the rib and climb direct to the final groove.

9. Borboletta 6m E1 5c **

Climb the overhanging wall between *Resolution* and the corner of *Stretch*. Technical start with a bold finish. Strenuous.

10. Poison Letter 6m E1 5c

A variation finish to *Borboletta*, finishing slightly right on small pockets.

11. Stretch 6m VS 5a

Climb the crack in the wall immediately right of the corner.

12. Zigzag 6m VS 4c

Start 1m left of the corner. Climb the obvious crack.

13. Potter's Wall 6m VS 4c

Start 3m left of the corner. Climb a line of cracks and blocks almost to the top. Gain the ledge on the left.

14. Jumping Jack Flash 6m HVS 5b

Thug up the overhung groove 2m left of *Potters Wall*. Awkward.

15. B.K. Wall 5m HVS 5b

Start from the imbedded block at the initials B.K. Climb the wall to finish at the top of the groove of *Jumping Jack Flash*.

Tony Marr 5/11/2000

Two metres left is the inscription G.B.G.

16. G.B.G. 5m VS 5a *

Ascend the wall past *G.B.G.*, and the obvious pocket, directly to the top.

17. Friendly Gully 5m M

Climb the obvious gully, left of *G.B.G.*, past a large ledge at about half height.

18. Friendly Ridge 5m M *

Follow the distinctive ridge about 2m left of the gully.

19. Friendly Wall 4m HS 4b

Trend leftwards across the wall, from the foot of *Friendly Ridge*.

20. Tot 5m VD

Climb the corner 2m left of friendly ridge.

21. Flanged Wall 5m S 4b

From the corner of *Tot*, the wall on the left leads to the arête and a mantelshelf finish.

22. Flanged Wall Direct 3m S 4c

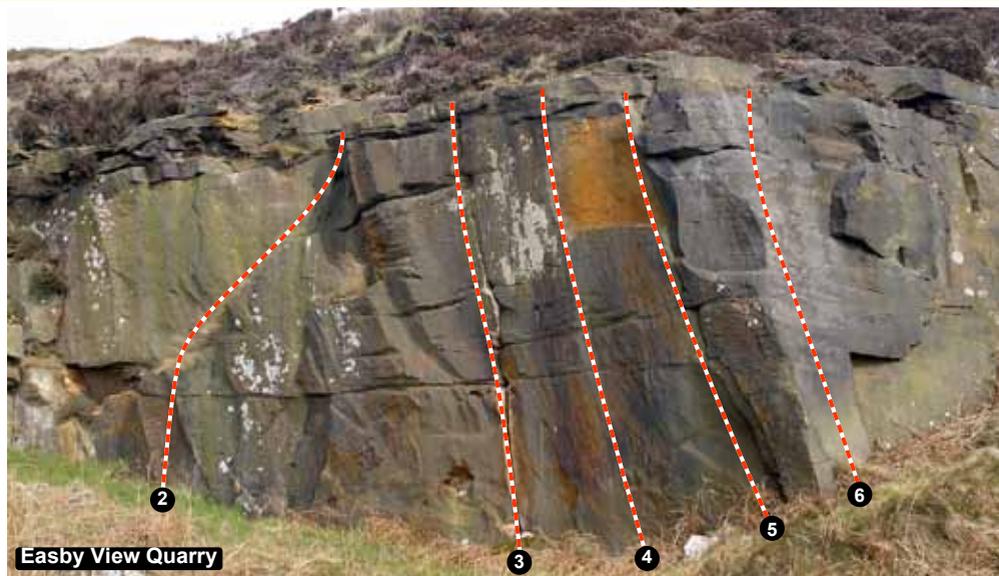
Climb direct to the arête on small holds.

About 150 m to the right of Potter's Quarry is another quarry. This reaches a height of 4m and offers pleasant bouldering. The only recorded problem is the arête at the far right-hand side of quarry:

23. Fixter's Folly 4m VS 5a

Climb the arête to a tricky finish. Poor landing.





Easby View Quarry

This small quarry is about 320m S.S.E of Captain Cook's Monument and few metres below the main footpath which slants down the hill (a small holly bush above the quarry is a useful marker). The routes reach a maximum height of 5m, and offer a few lower grade problems in a quiet spot with a superb outlook. The climbs are described left to right. Eric and Tony Marr climbed some lines here in the 1960's. All but *Falco* were climbed by Dave McKinney and John Yates in the late 1980s.

1. Bewit 4m VD

The slabby arête on the left side of the quarry.

2. Lure 5m VD

Gain the obvious shelf on the left side of the main wall and follow the ramp rightwards.

3. Hawkeye 5m 4c

Ascend the old peg crack with interest. Sandy jamming!

4. Falco 5m 5a

Climb the wall and rock scar just right of *Hawkeye*.

5. Eyasses 5m 4c

The crack in the arête.

6. Jesses 4m VD

The arête on its slabby right side.

Just to the right is Easy Crack, a convenient descent route.

A few metres to the right, is a smooth compact wall.

7. Gyr 5m 5a

Gain a small shelf then climb the centre of the smooth wall. Delicate.

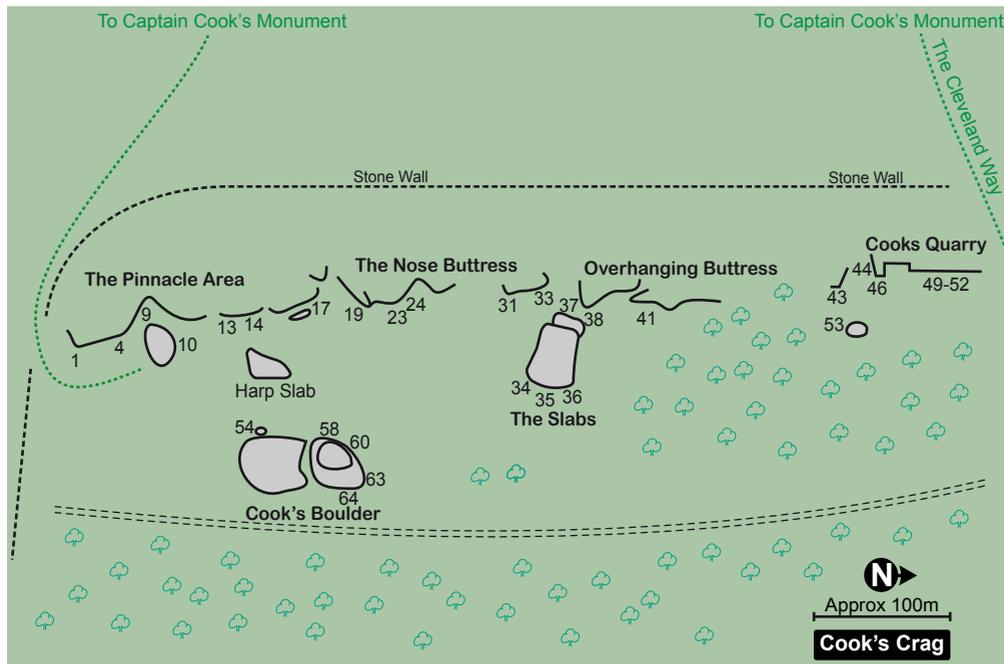
8. Wild Side 4m S

The awkward chimney.

9. Antz 4m HS

The last recorded line.





Cook's Crag

From the car park follow the obvious broad path of the Cleveland Way south to reach Captain Cook's Monument in about 20 minutes (as for Potters Quarry). Leave the Cleveland Way to continue southeast from the monument to where the crag will soon appear on the left through a gap in a wall. The first rocks encountered are...

The Pinnacle Area

1. Easby Corner 5m Font 3+

Climb the left side of the arête at the extreme left hand end of the crag.

2. Arty Farty 5m Font 4+

A good eliminate up the wall between *Easby Corner* and *Deviation*.

3. Deviation Direct Finish 5m Font 4

Gain the two holes in the groove, and then continue direct to the top, via a small flake for the right hand.

4. Deviation 5m Font 3+ *

Gain the flake in the groove, and then make a difficult step up and right to a ledge, which is followed by a mantelshelf to the top.

4a. Hula Hawke E1 6a (Font 6b)

Climb through the bulge direct.

5. Fibre Optic 5m Font 4b

Start at the nose right of *Deviation* and left of the well-named *Greasy Wall*. Climb the edge of the slab then pull left, around the arête to finish at a good pocket on the lip.

6. Greasy Wall 5m Font 3

Follow the left (west) wall of the vee alcove. Start about 2m right of the arête, of *Fibre Optic*, and climb the middle of the wall on indifferent holds.

7. Lambert's Wall 5m Font 3

Climb the right hand line of greasy wall on small pockets.

8. Short Wall 4m Font 1+ (D)

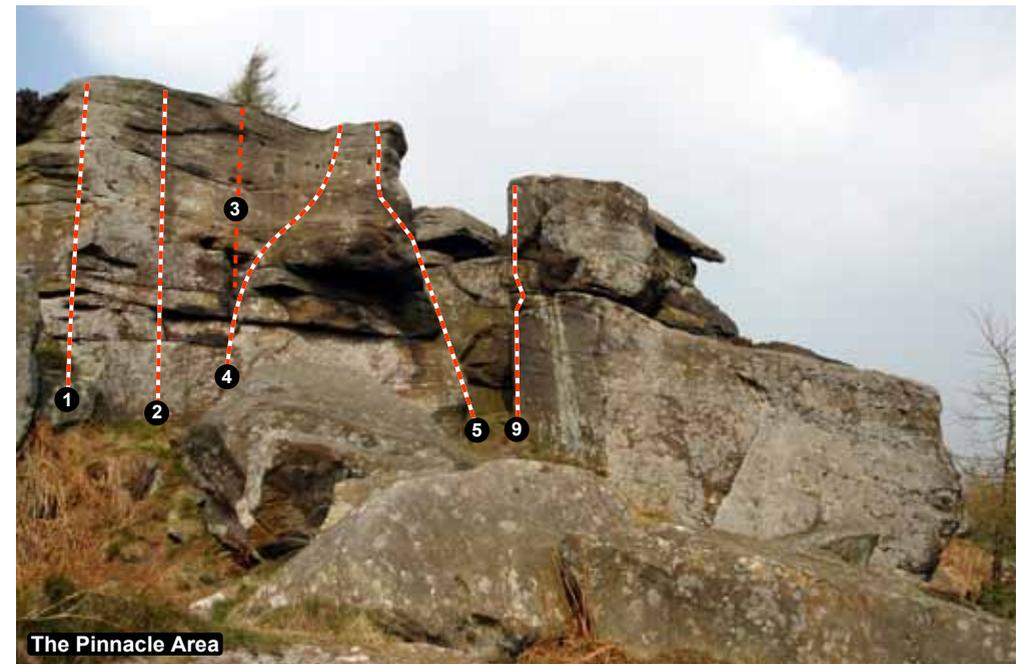
The clean, right wall of the alcove can be climbed via a diagonal crack.

The Pinnacle

The next three climbs and a traverse are on the pinnacle itself.

9. The Other Way 5m Font 3+

Start on the west side of the pinnacle. A long reach to a notch in the horizontal break enables the thin crack to be followed. Good climbing.



The Pinnacle Area

10. The Pinnacle Nose 5m VD

Start in the back of the alcove. Climb the arête via the projection and the wall above.

11. The Easy Way 5m D

Start in the gully on the right (east) of the pinnacle. Climb the zigzag crack. This is also the normal descent.

12. Trickster 15m Font 6a

A traverse of the base of The Pinnacle. Start and finish at *The Easy Way*.

Long Low Wall

A few metres to the right of The Pinnacle is a long low wall, which is undercut at its right end and hosts some short problems:

13. Slap and Hang It 3m Font 5+

Start 2m to the left of *Alan's Wall*. Gain the obvious small shelf by a dynamic move and if you can "hang it" finish direct.

14. Alan's Wall 4m Font 5+ *

Start at the undercut wall and climb the obvious slanting fault with interest.

Across the narrow gully is a smooth arête this is:

15. Pimple Picking 4m Font 6a

Hard moves up the knobby arête.

Below Long Low Wall is a Harp Shaped Slab, with a warm up traverse across the north and west faces, and two short powerful **Font 4+** boulder problems on the south face.

A few metres further right of Long Low Wall and just around the corner of the buttress is:

Pobble Wall.

The next route starts close to its left-hand side from the lowest point.

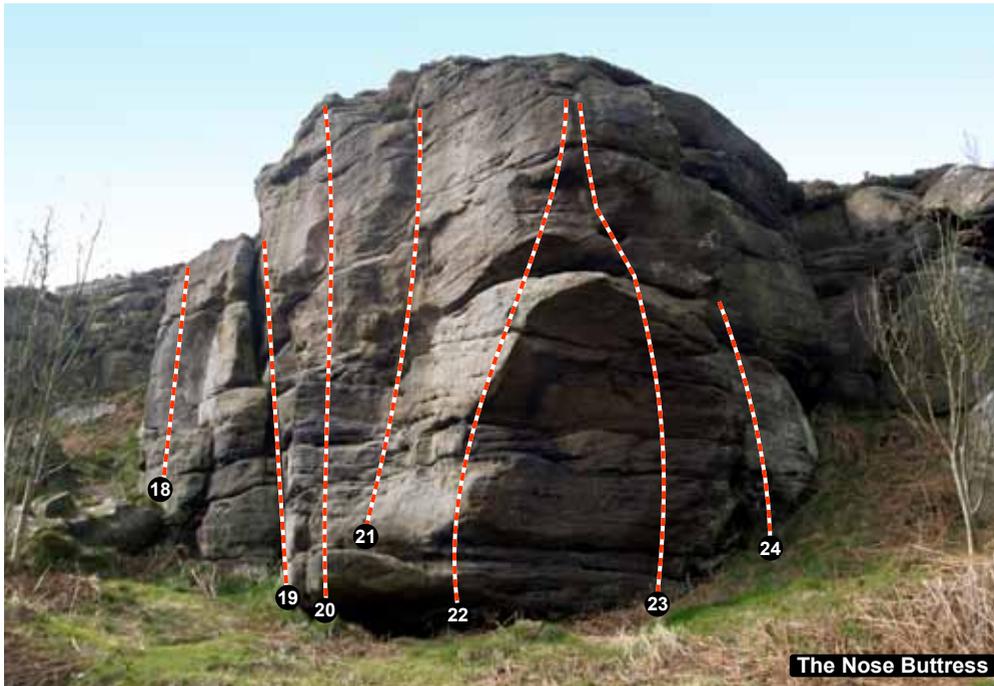
16. Stone Cold 6m Font 3

Start from the embedded boulder. Climb the wall direct to finish up a shallow depression.

Tony Marr 7th February 1999

17. Pobble Wall 7m Font 2 (VD)

Climb the sculptured wall right of *Stone Cold*, to finish up the short corner.



The Nose Buttress

To the right of the gully is the highest buttress on the escarpment offering some of the best climbs.

18. The Corner 6m HS 4b *

Climb the smooth looking rib to the left of the prominent flake of *Two Tier Crack*.

19. Two Tier Crack 8m S *

To the left of *The Nose* is a prominent flake crack splitting the face. Start below the crack in a shallow corner. Climb the awkward corner and even more awkward crack above.

The next four climbs are all bold and poorly protected!

20. Cookie 8m E1 5b *

Start just right of *Two Tier Crack* and two metres left of *Sundancer*. Climb via the small scoop directly to the top.

To the left of the overhang is a large triangular ledge which makes a comfortable seat!

21. Sundancer 8m E3 5c **

There is a flake leading to a small groove. Gain it from the left with difficulty then make awkward and bold moves to the top.

Nick Dixon, Pete Whitfield 1981

22. Winter Warmers 8m E2 5c **

Start at the left end of the overhanging wall, immediately right of the obvious ledge. Climb the left edge of the overhanging wall to arrive at the break 1m left of the obvious hole. Continue with difficult moves up the arête, moving right onto a slab to finish.

Steve Crowe

23. The Nose 9m E2 5b ***

Start directly under the obvious nose. Climb the overhanging wall, moving left to a hole. Step left, and then climb the arête as for *Winter Warmers*, moving right onto a slab.

Paul Ingham, Tony Marr 1979

This arête looks good but is it ever dry?

24. Cook's Corner 8m 4c

The obvious corner crack to the right of *The Nose* is often damp but worth the effort.

25. Endeavour 8m 4c

The lichenous wall right of the obvious corner crack (*Cook's Corner*).

26. Green Crack 6m HVD

The obvious crack just right of *Endeavour*.

27. Green Man 5m HD

Climb the corner right of the last route to join the finish to *Rufus*.

28. Rufu 5m M

Start from a heather ledge below a projecting roof. Climb the slab and turn the roof on the left.

29. Dead Tree Arête 6m S

Start just right of *Rufus* and climb the stepped arête around the roof to exit awkwardly onto the slab.

30. Dead Tree Crack 6m S

Ascend the crack behind the old tree stump. Worthwhile.

About 50m of bush whacking to the right are two prominent slabs lying at a gentle angle like a fallen stack of playing cards. There are three routes on the lower one. Above and just to the left of *The Slabs* is *Veranda Buttress*. Above and to the right of the slabs is the *Overhanging Buttress*. This east facing area is slow to come into condition after poor weather.

Veranda Buttress

The next climb starts just left of a tree in front of the wall

31. Out of Reach 4m Font 5+

Start under the bulge to the left of *Skulduggery*. Pull over the bulge to gain the pocket. Exit up the blunt rib on the left. Strenuous.

Tony Marr 6th July 1997

32. Skulduggery 4m Font 5 *

Start at the left end of the wall in front of a tree. Climb the sculptured wall on fragile edges with increasing difficulty. (The exit is the crux!).

Tony Marr 6th July 1997

33. Dirty Tackle 5m Font 3+

Start at the right end of the wall. A good starting hold followed by a long reach enables a curving edge to be reached. Step up and left to escape via the dirty corner.

Tony Marr 6th July 1997

The Slab

The easy angled slab lies below *Veranda Buttress*.

34. The Slab - Left-hand 10m D

Climb the left hand side of the slab more easily after an awkward start.

35. The Slab - Centre 10m VD

Start in a shallow depression in the middle of the slab. Climb the bulge direct and continue to the top.

36. The Slab - Right Edge 10m D

A reasonable route up the right hand side of the slab.

Overhanging Buttress

Just right of *The Slab* is a small undercut buttress.

37. Wasps Are OK Really 5m Font 5+ *

Start left of *Stirrup*. A hard pull gains a good hold on the arête, up which it finishes.

38. Stirrup 5m Font 5

Follow the blunt nose of the overhang on poor rounded holds.

39. Flanker 5m VD

Climb the hanging scoop right of the overhang, passing a small ledge.

40. Flake Wall 5m VD

Climb the wall to gain the short ramp, just to the left of a small gully.

The next route is on the boulder that abuts the wall.

41. Gibber 5m Font 5+

To the right of *Flake Wall* is a curving arête. Climb the arête by its left side until it is possible to pull right onto the final slab.

Tony Marr 6th July 1997

42. Brittle Band 5m Font 2 (VD)

A traverse of the overhang. Starts beneath the overhang crossing the steep wall to finish in the gully on the right.

About 30m east of *Overhanging Buttress* / *The Slab* area is a quarry.



Cook's Quarry

The first climb is to be found on the small buttress at the extreme left-hand side of the quarry.

43. The Watchman 5m Font 5+ *

Ascend the overhanging arête direct.

Tony Marr 7th february 1999

The next climb traverses the wall left of the prow.

44. Cook's Wall 4m Font 3

Start 3m to the left of *Men's Zone* and trend rightwards across the wall to the ledge.

45. Marr's Attacks 5m Font 7a

An eliminate on the left wall without the ledges for hands and feet, from two small crimps, pop for a pocketed break, tricky footwork on the sword carving then pop for the top.

46. Men's Zone 6m Font 6a+ *

Starting on its left side, levitate up the left arête of the prow.

D McKinney 1990's

47. Captain Sausage Fingers 6m Font 6b **

Straight up the middle of the front face using sloping rails, starting with feet on the blocks. No use of either arête.

48. Forty Years On 5m Font 5

Climb the right edge of the buttress.

A Laing 1990's

About 6m further right is a cracked wall. None of the following actually top out due to the dense heather, instead they all escape right and down the right wall.

49. Crack One 6m D

Follow the wide zigzag crack to the dense heather at the top. Then reverse, or traverse right on good pockets to finish down the right wall.

50. Broken Crack 6m S

Climb the broken crack to the right of *Crack One*.

51. Crack Three 5m 4b

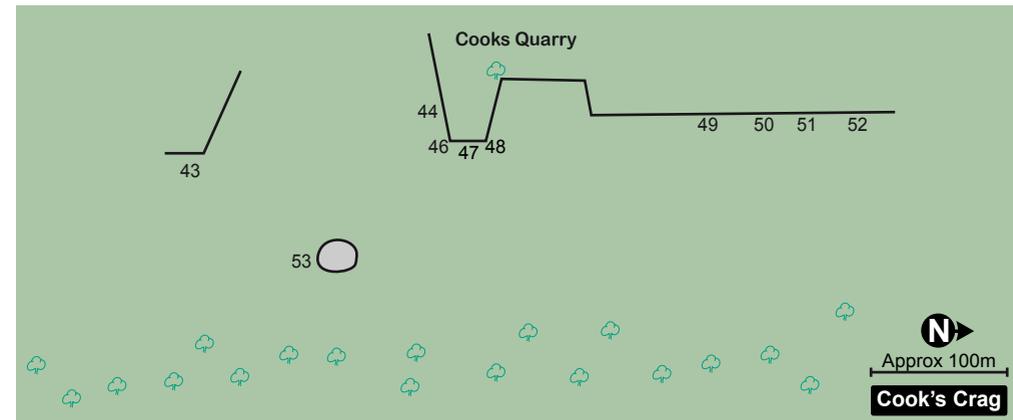
Follow the thin fingery crack to gain a second wide diagonal crack above. Continue straight up the wall on good pockets. Descend down the wall to the right.

52. Noble Fish 6m VD

Climb the wall above the inscription 'NOBLE' to the fish shaped pocket. Reach for the break and pull up to gain the top.

53. Submariner Font 6c+ ***

SS. Use the crack to to gain the next sloping shelf find the undercut scoop to get stood up and reach the side pocket on the right, top out from this.



Cook's Boulder

Below the main escarpment and directly below The Nose Buttress is a huge split boulder. It provides many problems and variations, only the more obvious lines are included here. The climbs are described clockwise starting from the side facing the main crag (the North West side).

54. Rampart 5m VD

Start from a small boulder 2m right of the chimney that divides the two main boulders. Step into a slanting crack on the wall. Follow it to a small corner and gain the slab above.

55. Green Slab 5m Font 3

Start immediately right of the chimney at an undercut slab. Gain the slab and continue, via a small shallow scoop, over the bulge to an awkward finish.

56. Chimney Variant 8m MS

Start 2m inside the chimney. Climb to the broad ledge on the left (east). Surmount the projecting nose on the right (west) by some strenuous moves up a shallow scoop.

57. Chimney Variant LH Finish 2m Font 4+

Tackle the tip of the nose left of the scoop on jugs. Serious.

58. Baldy 5m Font 3+

Start 3m left of the chimney at a scoop/ramp. Climb the bulge direct using pockets to the top.

59. Baldy's Traverse 7m Font 3+

Start as for *Baldy* but on reaching a horizontal break a few feet up traverse left using the horizontal crack to finish by an awkward pull just to the left of the summit block.

60. Nimrod 7m E2 6a

Start just around the corner to the left of *Baldy*. Gain two small crimps from a large ledge then pull up right to gain a sloping break. Work straight up through a break to a crimp to a crimp then top out. A large cam was used on the first ascent.

61. The Boulder Very Direct 6m Font 4+

The wall right of *The Boulder Direct* finishing over the summit block.

62. The Boulder Direct 4m Font 3+

Start 2m right of the left arête. Climb the steep wall direct to finish just left of the summit block.

63. The Boldest Yet 4m Font 5+

The short wall immediately right of the arête.

64. The Boulder Ordinary 4m VD

Gain the small ledge on the left of the arête then climb directly up the shallow vertical crack above.