

**THORGILL CRAG**

OS Landranger Sheet: 94

Map Ref: SE713959

Aspect: North East

Altitude: 260m

Approach: 25 minutes

Mod - Severe	10
HS - HVS	6
E1 - E3	0
E4 and above	0
Bouldering	0

**History**

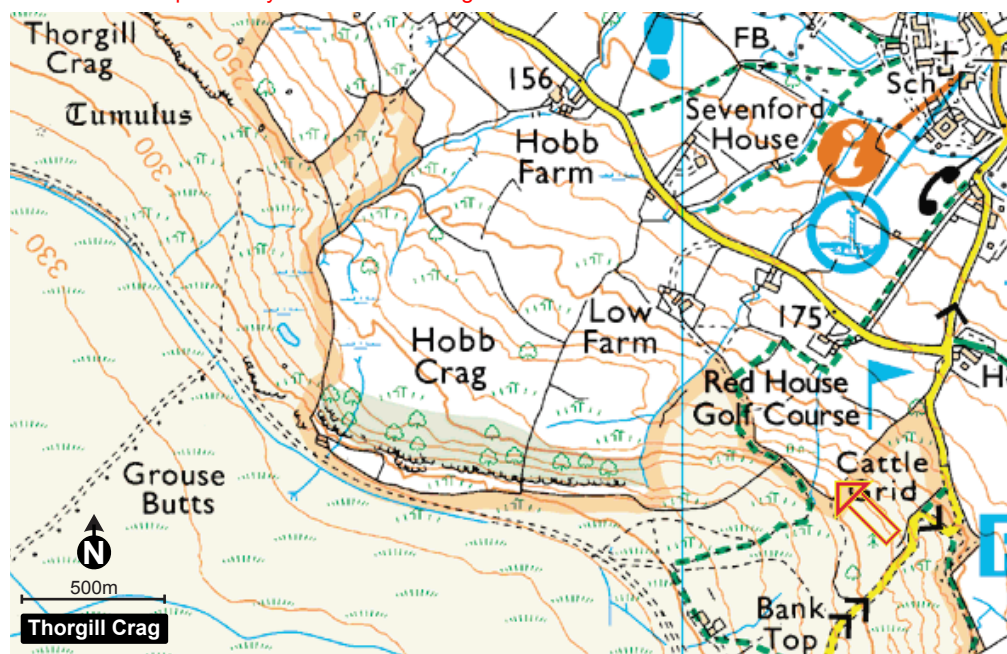
The first recorded climbs were made around 1960 by D.W and H.L. Stembridge, I. Carr, Maurice Wilson, John Hickman, and Bill Lofthouse, all members of the Cleveland Mountaineering Club. A route called *Rowan Tree Wall* was climbed by Bill Lofthouse at this time, unfortunately no details exists so it has been impossible to include a route description. Vic Tosh climbed *Thunder Rock* with his brother Mike in 1961. The next reported activity was by Tony and Eric Marr who added a couple of worthwhile climbs during 1969 while route checking for the 1970 guide book. Pete Whillance made a flying visit during 1971, climbing two difficult problems solo, *Banjaxed* and *Roof Route*. No further routes were reported until 1979 when Paul Ingham and Tony Marr added two technical climbs, *Friends* and *The Knife*. Despite the crag enjoying increased traffic throughout the 1980s to the present day, no new climbs have been reported.

**Situation and Character**

Thorgill Crag lies on the south-west side of Rosedale. The rocks are in an attractive setting and extend for about 300m.

**Access and Approaches**

The farmer below the crag is opposed to climbers crossing his land and has put up notices to this effect. An alternative approach - less likely to cause problems and suggested to the landowner - would be to take the road from Rosedale Abbey leading to Hutton le Hole up a steep bank. Follow the old railway track along the moor top northwest for about a mile and descend to the top of the crag. However at the time of writing no permission to climb has been given, and anyone asked to leave should do so and report the situation to the BMC access officer. **The crag should be avoided for the months April to July because of nesting birds.**

**The Climbs**

The first climb is on a prominent buttress, split by a crack at the left-hand edge of the crag.

**1. Last Crack 5m HVD**

The last buttress on the left of the crag is split by a crack. Climb the wall left of the crack to a ledge, an awkward move into the crack leads to the top.

**Variation Severe**

The crack can be gained and climbed from the right.

*Both 1960s.*

**2. Vee Corner 4m VD**

Start around the corner 3m right of the last crack.

*1960s.*

**3. Friends 10m HVS 5b**

On the buttress right of *Vee Corner* lays an obvious open groove. Climb the open groove and go direct to the top of the crag.

*Paul Ingham, Tony Marr 27<sup>th</sup> August 1979. The climb was named after the "new fangled" camming devices they were using for protection that day.*

**4. Square Groove 5m VD**

About 25m right of *Vee Corner* is a square groove above a large boulder. Climb the groove to a tree, step around to the left and gain the top.

*1960s.*

**5. Jungle Corner 5m M**

The obvious overgrown corner 15m right of *Square Groove*.

*1960s.*

**6. Thunder Rock 10m VS 5a**

Start 3m right of *Jungle Corner* in the middle of the wall. Ascend the wall by an awkward move and a series of mantleshelves.

*Vic and Mike Tosh 1961*

**7. The Knife 8m HVS 5b**

Climbs the sharp arête right of *Thunder Rock*.

*Paul Ingham, Tony Marr 27<sup>th</sup> August 1979*

**8. Sip 7m HD**

Start 3m right of *Thunder Rock*. Climb the wall to finish at an oak embedded in the rock.

*1960s.*

**9. Corn Flake - Left Hand 7m S**

The obvious crack line 15m right of *Sip*. Climb past a holly bush.

*Tony Marr, Eric Marr July 1969*

**10. Corn Flake - Right Hand 8m VS 4c \***

Climb the flake and crack above, 3m, right of the left-hand crack.

*Tony Marr, Eric Marr July 1969*

**11. Tough Nut 8m S**

Starts at the base of chimney 3m right of the above route. A hard start leads into the chimney which is followed throughout.

*Tony Marr, Eric Marr July 1969.*

**12. Rosedale Buttress Ordinary 15m D**

*Rosedale Buttress* is the large buttress which in profile resembles a nose. The ordinary route starts about 5m left of the lowest rocks. Ascend direct with care.

*Maurice Wilson, D.L. Stembridge Circa 1960*

**13. Rosedale Buttress Direct 15m HD**

Starts just right of the ordinary route. Climb diagonally right to the nose, then follow the crest of the nose to the top. Pleasant.

*John Hickman, H.L. Stembridge Circa 1960*

**14. Banjaxed 13m HVS 5b**

Start just right of the nose. Scramble up for about 2m to an obvious horizontal crack. Hand traverse this for a few feet to a vertical crack. Ascend this to the arête of *Rosedale Buttress Direct*.

*Pete Whillance (solo) 1971.*

**15. Rambler's Ridge 15m S**

The isolated rib of rock around the corner right of *Rosedale Buttress*. Climb the groove in the corner for 6m to a stance, belay. Move right to gain the rib which is climbed mainly on its right face to the top.

*D.W. Stembridge, I. Carr, Maurice Wilson Circa 1960*

**16. Roof Route HVS 5a**

A prominent overhang to the right of the last route.

*Pete Whillance (solo) 1971*