

Karin Magog on 83. The Superb Scoop (Font 4+) Photo: Steve Crowe

SUNNY BROW BOULDERS - LOUPS' HILL

OS Landranger Sheet: 92

Map Ref: NY972176 (Easterly Group) to NY968174 (Far Crag)

Aspect: South

Altitude: 340m

Approach: 30 minutes

Mod - Severe	0
HS - HVS	0
E1 - E3	0
E4 and above	0
Bouldering	97

History

The present level of development results from visit by Alan Dougherty, Kevin Flint and Paul Johnson during summer 2002. Dougherty and Flint had previously visited circa 2000, when several problems were recorded and no evidence of previous climbing was noted. Steve Crowe visited in September 2002 and again in 2004 with Karin Magog and added a few problems and freed one top roped line. Mark Buxton added many more problems in 2008.

Situation and Character

A south facing collection of Gritstone boulders and buttresses, up to 5m high, spread along some 600m of moor side. The Grit is generally of good quality but care needs to be taken with lichen (brushing has been kept to a minimum) and with the odd friable hold along iron rich bands. Many of the landings are good but there are some real ankle crunchers so beware - a bouldering mat is advised. Bracken between the boulders can be irksome but the bases of most problems are clear. Midges can be a nuisance when the wind drops. Generally the bouldering is of good quality and the ambience and outlook excellent, especially as an evening venue. Many of the problems finish with rounded mantelshelves that can feel precarious if the top is lichenous.

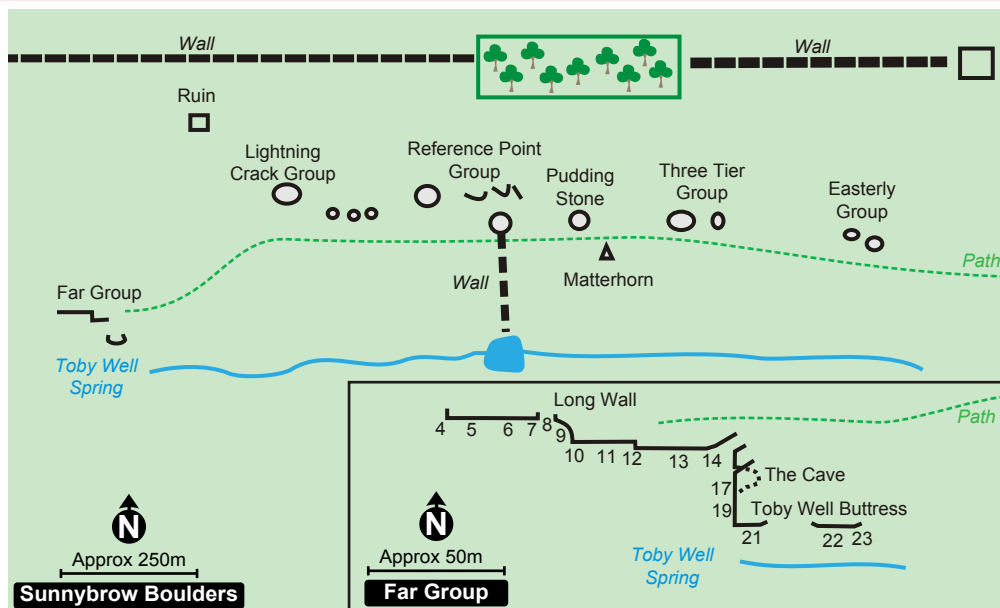
Access and Approaches

Note: Both the approaches and the boulders lie within the Danger Area of the Battle Hill Firing Range. Do not enter when red flags are flying.

Taking the minor road from Cotherstone to Bowes room should be found to park a couple of cars tidily on the north side of North Gill Bridge (GR 996175). Immediately to the south of the bridge a Public Footpath sign points westwards along a well-defined track. This can be followed, passing a gate/style at a sheepfold, for a couple of kilometres to the ruined farmstead at East Loups'. Just beyond East Loups', the tumbled down wall on the left (south) can be passed, descending slightly from the ridge track way, and the *Easterly Group* should be visible just ahead. This approach is 2.3km and takes about half an hour. It should be noted that the boulders are not visible until one is quite close.

It is also possible to approach from Goldsborough (from where the boulders are hidden from view) by aiming for the gate (GR 964175) where the previously mentioned track (now marked on maps as a Public Bridleway) meets the open moor, near a solitary pine tree. Via the suggested approach, the *Easterly Group* of 3m high boulders will be met first. The *Three -tier Boulder* is 90m to the west, with the *Cantilever Stone* just 5m to its east. Along the same line, 25m to the west is found the *Two-tier Boulder* and 30m beyond the *Pudding Stone*. A further 30m to the west lies the *Reference Point Group*, which is situated where a stonewall runs up the hillside from a pond. Just 5m west of the *Reference Point Group* lie the *Three Sisters Boulders* and 35m further west the obviously cleaved *Lightning Crack Group*, with three smaller boulders in between. The *Far Crag* is 200m further west, and slightly lower down, in a small valley where the Toby Well spring emerges and comprises (from east to west) *Toby Well Buttress*, *The Cave*, *The Long Traverse Wall* and, finally, the *Far Undercut Boulder*. A good way to appreciate the general layout is to follow the cart track below the boulders and bracken. This extends to beyond the *Reference Point* stonewall before eventually fading into a sheep trod.

The climbs are described from left to right facing the crag. Many variations on the described problems can be worked out.



FAR GROUP

Far Undercut Boulder

1. Flying Lichen Font 4+
SS under the ledge on the left side of the prow and mantel onto the front of the ledge.

2. Contortionist's Arête Font 4+
Climb the left side of the right arête of the prow. A high step to start.

3. Contortionist's Arête - Right Side Font 4+
The right side of the arête.

Long Wall

The following problems are all about 3m high.

4. Left Arête Font 3
Climb the left arête.

5. The Wall Font 4+
Climb the wall.

6. The Wall Font 4+
Climb the wall.

7. The Steps Font 2
Climb left of *Bilberry Crack*.

8. Bilberry Crack Font 3+
Climb the wide crack. Tasty!

9. The West Wall Font 4+
Climb the west facing wall.

10. The Arête Font 4+
Climb the arête.

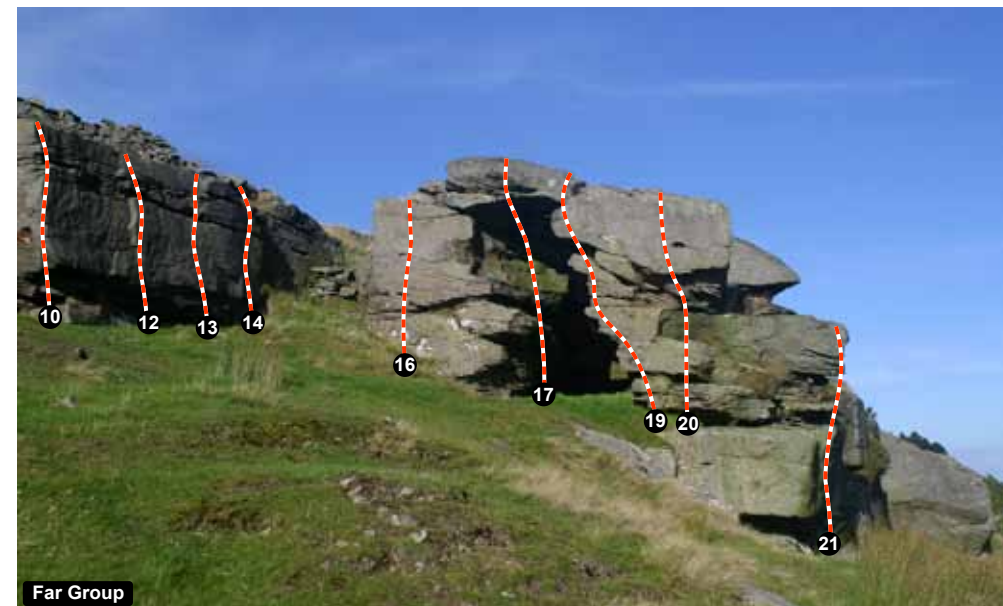
11. Eliminate Font 4

12. Wall and Ledge Font 3
The wall via little ledge 2m right.

13. Central Wall Font 4
The wall 1m further right.

14. Loose Wall Font 4
The wall 1m right again (beware loose stone wall at top)

15. The Long Traverse 14m Font 5 *
Sustained and strenuous. Traverse the obvious break from left to right across both buttresses. Beware of the odd friable pocket.



Toby Well Buttress

16. Left Wall Font 3+
SS Climb up the wall to the left of the cave entrance, via a pocket.

17. The Cave Entrance Font 3
Bridge the cave to exit to right.

18. Filthy Elastrator Font 4
The back wall of the cave. A dirty start then good crimps. No bridging.

19. The Steep Edge Font 4
The right edge of cave to exit as for *The Cave*.

20. The Right Wall Font 4
Wall to right, finish via a pocket.

21. TW Left-Hand Font 3+
Right-hand crack/overlap.

22. TW Right-Hand Font 3
Left-hand flake/crack.

23. Square-Cut Flake VD
Follow the feature at the right end of the buttress, right of the flake/crack.





Lightning Crack & Three Sisters Boulders **First Sister Boulder**

Lightning Conductor Boulder

The boulder uphill from the Lightning Crack Boulder

24. Left Rib Font 3

Climb the rib.

25. Left Slab Eliminate Font 4

The slab between *Left Rib* and *Central Corner Crack*.

26. Central Corner Crack Font 2+

Climb the crack.

27. Right Slab Eliminate Font 4

The slab between *Right Arête* and *Central Corner Crack*.

28. Right Arête Font 2+

Climb the arête.

Little Brother Boulder

The boulder 8m left of the First Sister Boulder has two roofs on it's south side.

29. Little Brother Roof Font 4

Low start hanging from the lower roof. Mantel the upper roof.

30. Nosy Sister Font 2+

The east arête. Up the Noses.

31. Juggy Sister Font 4

SS up south arête. Finish on jugs.

32. Sister Slab Left Font 1+

Climb the left side of the slab.

33. Sister's Crack Font 1+

Climb the crack.

34. Sister's Slab Right Font 1+

Climb the right side of the slab.

Second Sister Boulder

35. Rough Sister Font 4

SS just right of the left arête. No arête allowed.

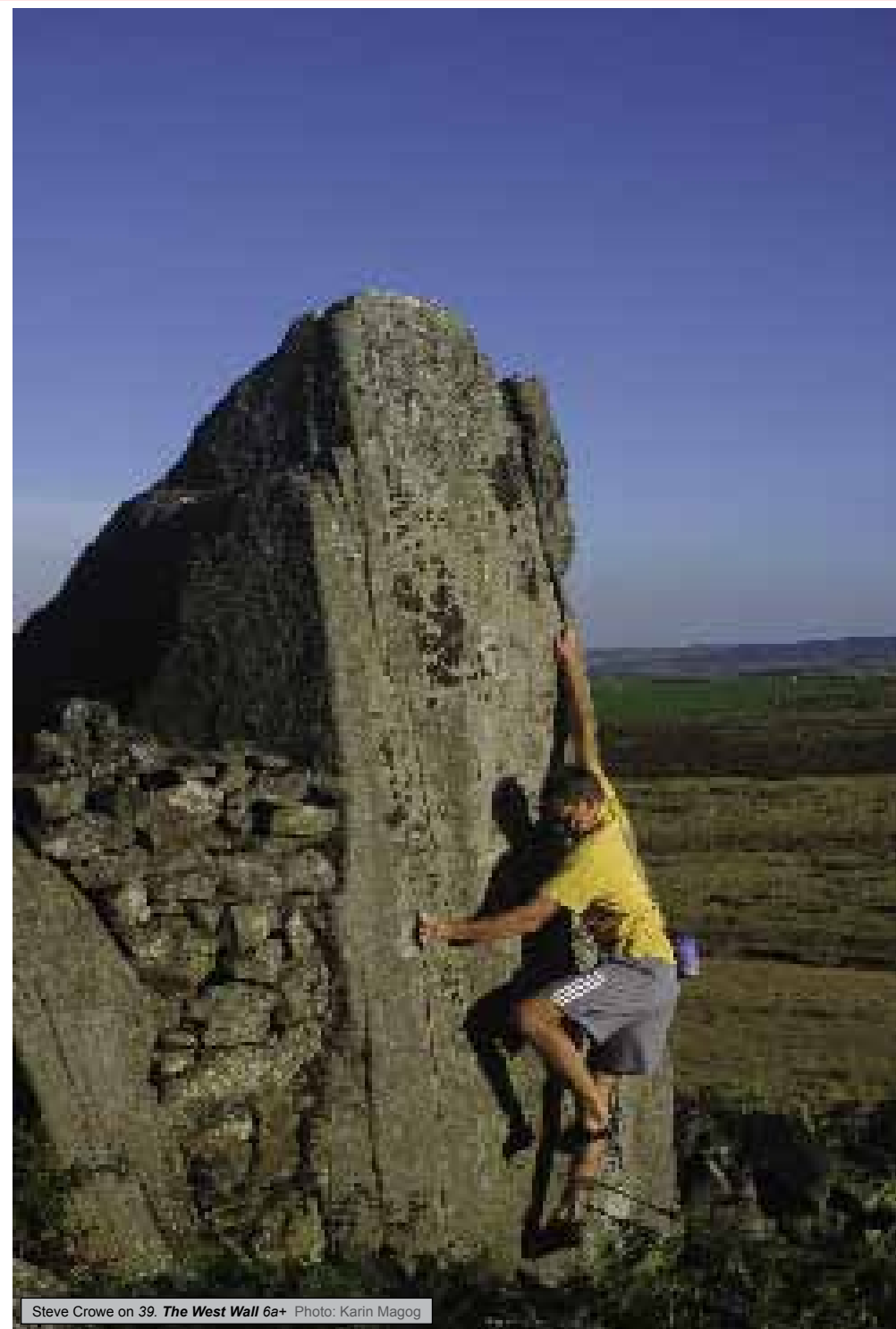
Third Sister Boulder

36. Sister's Slot Font 1+

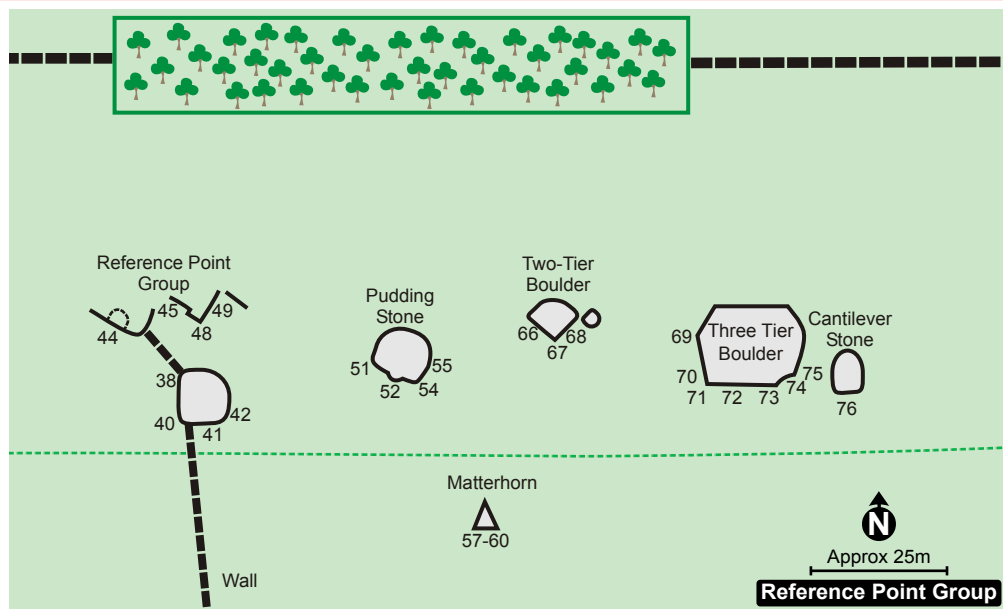
Climb past the slot on the left side of the boulder.

37. Easy Sister Font 1+

Climb past the flake on the right side of the boulder.



Steve Crowe on 39. *The West Wall 6a+* Photo: Karin Magog



REFERENCE POINT GROUP

Just 5m west of the stone wall lie the Three Sisters Boulders and 35m further west the obviously cleaved Lightning Crack Group, with three smaller boulders in between.

The Sheepfold

This group has various bits of stonewall making a sheepfold. The first problems are found on the down slope boulder:

38. Left Edge Font 4+

Use the left edge for left hand.

39. West Wall Font 6a+ *

The wall direct using the good slot for the right hand but neither arête.

40. SW Arête Font 4+

Without stepping on the low stonewall.

41. Mantelshelf Font 4+

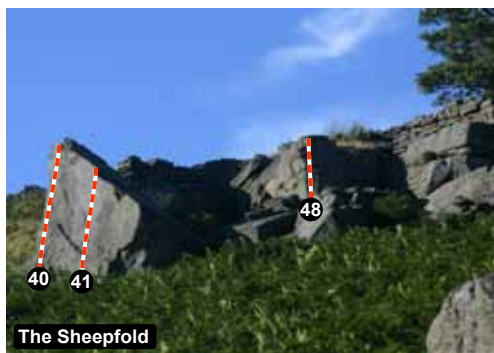
Mantelshelf wall to right of previous problem.

42. Mantelshelf Font 5

Right of east arête - mantel (no arête). 5/5+ depending on line.

43. Mantelshelf Font 4

Mantel 2m right of the previous problem.



The Buttress at the Back

is mostly inside the sheepfold.

44. The Cave Font 5+

SS. - exit the cave via hand-jam and continue by brutal thrutching in crack, or more elegantly, on the outside. The left side only (6a).

45. Wet Wall Font 4+

The wall left of *The Groove*.

46. The Groove Font 4+

Groove to jam/mantle 3m to left of obvious arête. Serious.

47. The Wall Font 4+

Wall between previous problem and the arête.

48. Bulging Arête Font 4+ *

Fun moves up the bulging arête.

49. The Wall Font 4+

The wall to the right of the arête.

50. Traverse Font 4+

Traverse the obvious break. (harder variations possible on lower lines)

Pudding Stone

About 30m east is a 4m high section with good landings.

51. Font 4

The wall left of the the prow.

52. Prominent Prow Font 4+ *

Tackle the bulge direct or slightly easier follow the groove to left.

53. The Crack Font 5+

The crack leads to an awkward finish.

54. Arête Font 5/5+

The LH side is 5, the RH side is harder 5+.

55. The Slab Font 5+ *

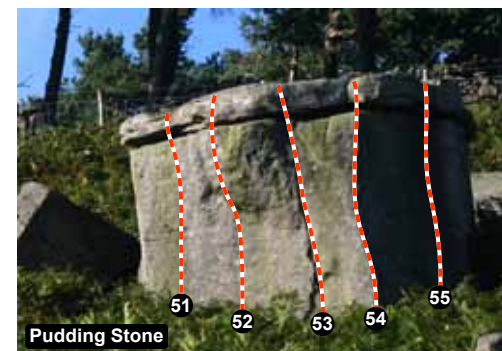
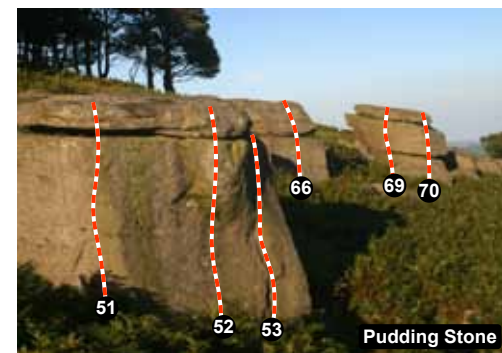
Thin slab to right of arête.

56. The 14m Traverse Font 5

The obvious horizontal crack line. Long and strenuous.



Steve Crowe on 48. Bulging Arête (Font 4) Photo: Karin Magog



Matterhorn Boulder**57. Left Arête Font 3**

Right-hand start is 4+.

58. Superdirect Font 6a+

The wall direct to high runnel on the right.

59. Right Arête Font 4+

The right arête only for hands.

60. The East Face Font 4

Climb the slabby east face using a side-pull just to the right of the arête (no use of arête).

The Split Boulder

South west and downhill from the Matterhorn Boulder

61. North Arête Font 4+

SS. Hug the arête and lunge for the top.

Just right is...

62. The Split Font 3

SS. Jam the crack.

Right of *The Split* is a sloping square ledge.

63. Square Ledge Font 3+

Climb through this. No arête.

Joey's Slab

West of The Split Boulder is a boulder with a slab so easy a hound made the first ascent.

64. Joey's Arête Font 4

The leaning west arête via a SS and a two finger pocket.

65. Joey's Jug Font 4

SS. Pull up using the flake and small shallow pocket. Finish on a jug. Much harder if you can't reach the flake from the start.

Two-Tier Boulder

This boulder has good landings.

66. Left Wall Font 5

Wall to left of arête.

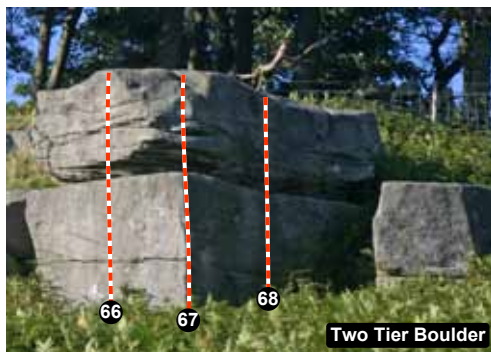
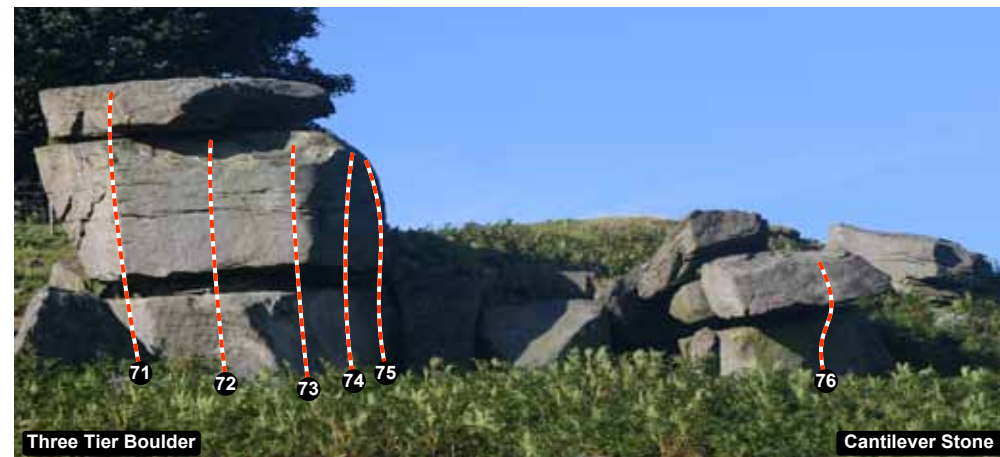
67. The Arête Font 3

The arête.

68. Right Wall Font 4+

The wall to the right is harder than it looks.

Another 25m further east is...

**Two Tier Boulder****Three Tier Boulder****Cantilever Stone****Three-Tier Boulder****69. Autumnal Arête Font 6a+**

The hanging arête on west face.

70. The Crack Font 4+

Crack to left of arête between west and south faces. Climb left of the arête via pocket. (Easier if you can reach the pocket from the ground!)

71. The Arête Font 4+ *

Climb the arête direct using tiny arrow shaped hold under overlap.

72. South Face Font 4+ *

Middle of south face, heel-hooking the obvious break.

73. The Arête Font 5+ *

Ascend the arête at corner of west and south faces. An easy start via an excellent undercling leads to a fingery finish.

74. The Scoop Font 5+ *

The obvious scoop to the right is harder than it looks. Get established on the horizontal break using a good undercling. Difficult moves, with tiny footholds, lead up the scoop.

75. The Bulge Font 6c

The slightly bulging wall to the right of *the scoop* is started without stepping on the adjacent boulder and leads to a thin and strenuous sequence. Top Roped. It is also possible (and perhaps more pleasant) to finish up leftwards away from the threatening leg breaker at a more reasonable 6a!

Cantilever Stone

Considered too dangerous. The team physicist made mutterings about loads and fulcrums and the team geologist pointed to the friable nature and minimal extent of the "supporting" rock. The engineer arrived some time later and after some initial tests decided it should be okay, with care.

76. A Question of Balance Font 6a+

The centre of the front face is surmounted with some trepidation!

Eight metres east and slightly downhill from A Question of Balance is...

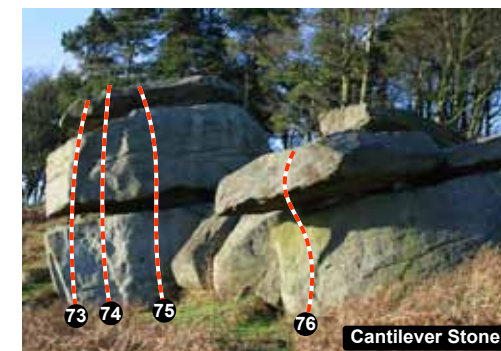
77. Sad Mouth Arête Font 3+

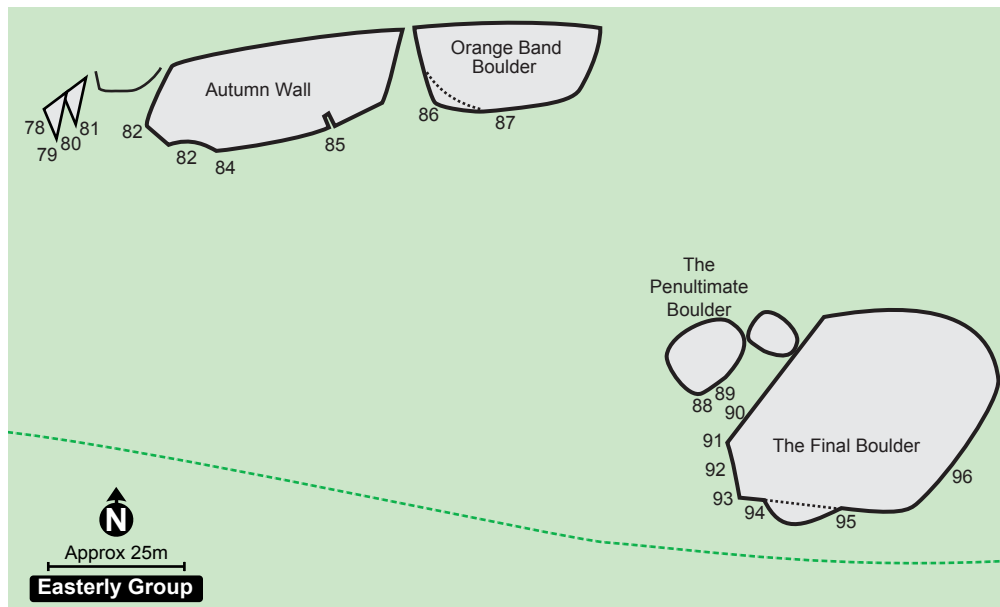
SS under the arête. Use the 'lips' to gain the jug at the top.

About 85m further east are the final boulders.



Steve Smith on 75. The Bulge (Font 6c) Photo: Steve Smith Coll.

**Cantilever Stone**



EASTERLY GROUP

The next small block provides three small problems and an entertaining traverse.

78. Parabola Font 4
SS. Heel hook and layback the curved feature.

79. Vertex Font 5+
SS. Traverse the top of the boulder from right to left and sweeping up hill.

80. Ledger Font 3
SS. Up via the left end of two ledges.

81. Bleached Humerus Font 3+
SS. The left side of the right arête.

Immediately right is Autumn Wall.



Autumn Wall and Orange Band Boulder

82. The Arête Font 3+

83. The Superb Scoop Font 4+ *
Superb technical moves.

84. The Undercut Font 5+ *
Another great problem.

85. The Crack Font 4+
Finger pocket to blind crack.

86. The Nose Font 4
Climb the undercut nose direct.

87. The Bulge Font 3
SS. Up via the left end of two ledges.

The Penultimate Boulder

This is the next boulder is to the right and downhill slightly.

88. South Bulge Font 3+
Direct up the bulge/arête.

89. Shinbuster Font 3+
Mantel onto the slab using a sloper and undercuts. No arête.

The Final Boulder

90. The Hole Font 3+
SS from the gap between the Penultimate and Final boulders. Use broken edges and an undercut jug in the hole, to a mantel.

91. The Little Arête Font 3+
The short arête from sitting.

92. South West Face Font 3+
SS. No arêtes.

93. The Main Arête Font 4 *
The fine arête.

94. Slopers Font 6b+
The sloping holds just right of the arête lead over the prow.

95. The Slot Font 6a+ *
Starting from the slot right of the prow to desperate mantel.

96. The Wall Font 5+
The wall to another desperate mantel finish.

97. Full Traverse Font 6a+ *
Start in the gap at the constriction, traverse the entire boulder.

