



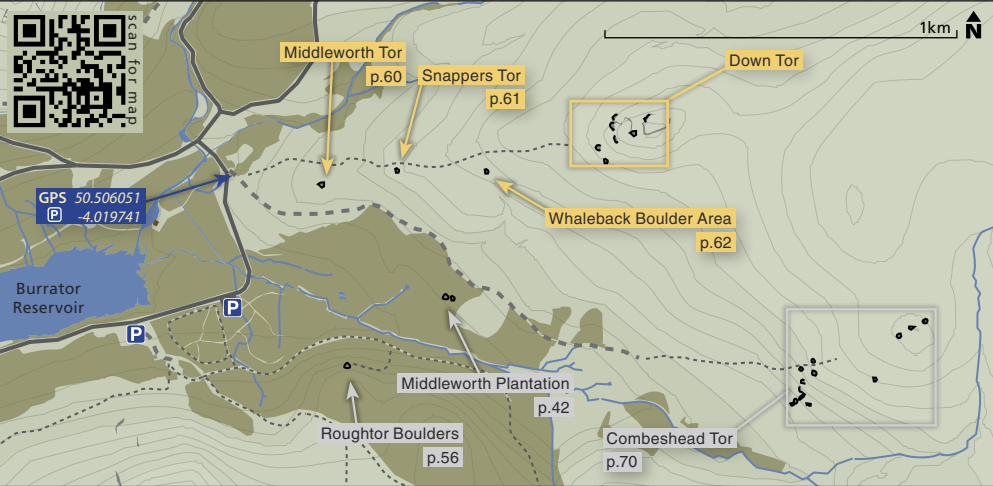
This vast area sprawls eastwards from Middleworth Tor which is a 250m walk from the parking at Norsworthy Bridge. The main tor lures you in from afar with the promise of infinite bouldering possibilities. Whilst on arrival it may appear less impressive, closer inspection reveals a plethora of climbable features. It is justifiably one of Dartmoor's most popular venues for the low-to-mid grade operator and has the added benefit of beautiful views west to the bleak open moor and south to the picturesque Burrator Reservoir.

Approach

From the large Norsworthy Bridge parking area at the far eastern end of Burrator Reservoir a track leads uphill to the south west. Turn immediately left off this and walk eastwards across a field. Middleworth Tor is about 250m along the path, Snappers Tor about 450m, Whaleback Boulders about 750m, and Down Tor proper, 1km. Approaches for each area are described individually.

Conditions

While the areas on the approach (Middleworth Tor and Snappers Tor) are relatively sheltered the bouldering further along at Whaleback Boulders and Down Tor is fairly exposed to the prevailing wind. Some shelter can be had on the lower areas of the tor during a cold easterly.



Dave Henderson on *Drystone Edge (f5)* - p.62 - at the Whaleback Boulder Area, Down Tor. The prominent tor in the middle distance is Leather Tor, Dartmoor's answer to Snowdonia's Tryfan! Photo: Carrie Hill





Middleworth Tor

This small area does not have a great deal to go at but it is very convenient for those short on time or as a stop-off to warm up.

**Approach** - This is the first area you arrive at, about 250m from Norsworthy Bridge parking, found to the right of the main path, over a wall by some trees.

**1 Big Flake** ..... **f3+**  
The large flake on the left.

**2 Flared Starfish** ..... **f5+**  
The wall using the arete for left hand and flared cracks for right.

**3 Flared Cracks** ..... **f4**  
The central line is a short problem but potentially a longer fall.

**4 Tricky Arete** ..... **f5+**  
The short right arete on either side.

**5 High Block Wall** ..... **f4+**  
Up the middle of the wall.

**6 High Block Easy Arete** ..... **f4**  
The arete.

**7 James Blunt Arete** ..... **f5+**  
The blunt arete around to the right, finishing on the right.

*A small flat-topped boulder in front of the high block.*

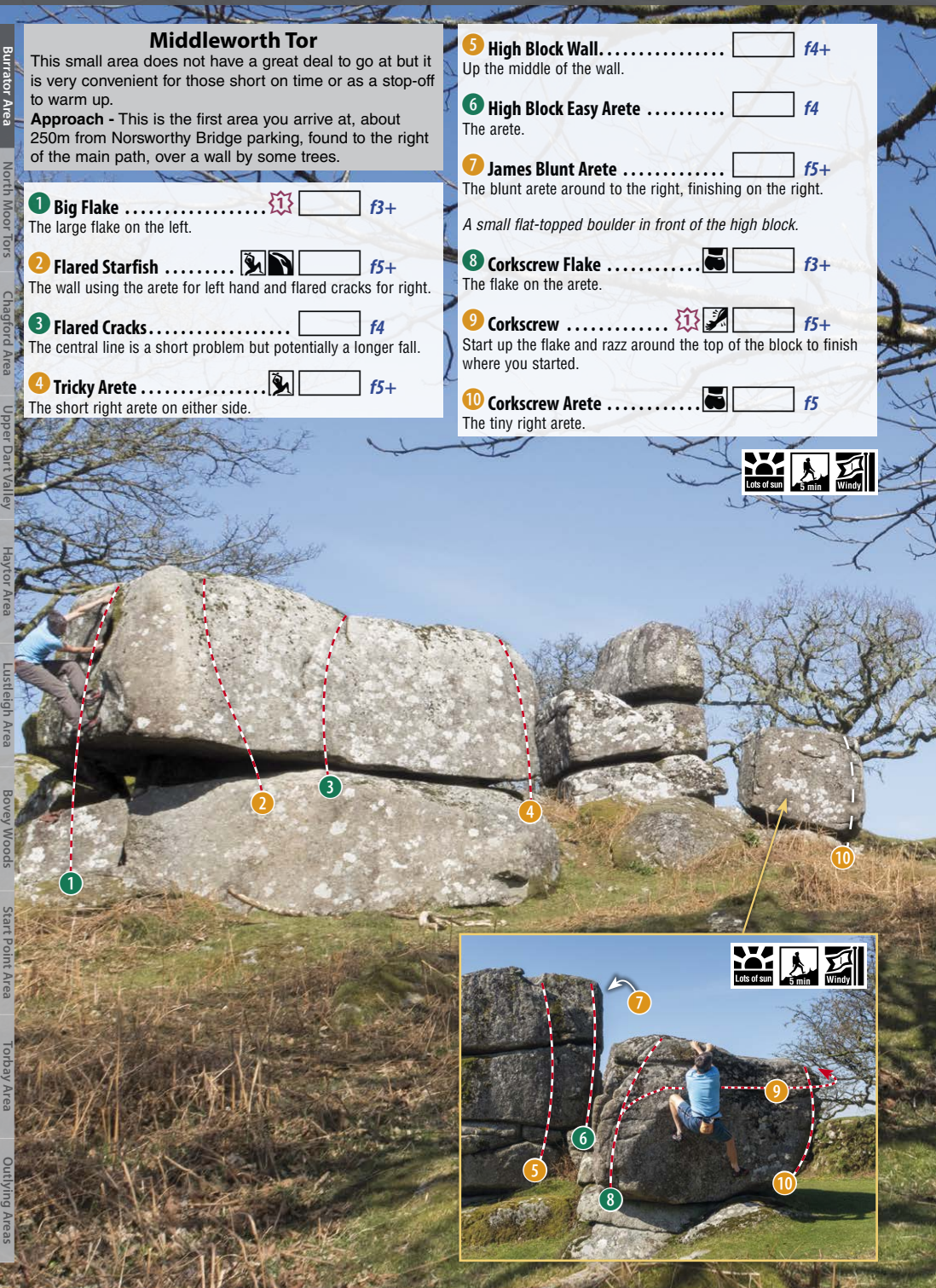
**8 Corkscrew Flake** ..... **f3+**  
The flake on the arete.

**9 Corkscrew** ..... **f5+**  
Start up the flake and razz around the top of the block to finish where you started.

**10 Corkscrew Arete** ..... **f5**  
The tiny right arete.



Burror Area  
North Moor Tors  
Chagford Area  
Upper Dart Valley  
Haytor Area  
Lustleigh Area  
Bovey Woods  
Start Point Area  
Torbay Area  
Outlying Areas



Snappers Tor

Another minor venue although it is a bit meatier than Middleworth Tor. Worthwhile mainly as a stop-off or if short on time. Apart from the *Face in Profile* block, the problems here are high, a bit lichenous and dangerous - the sensible may wish to take a rope.

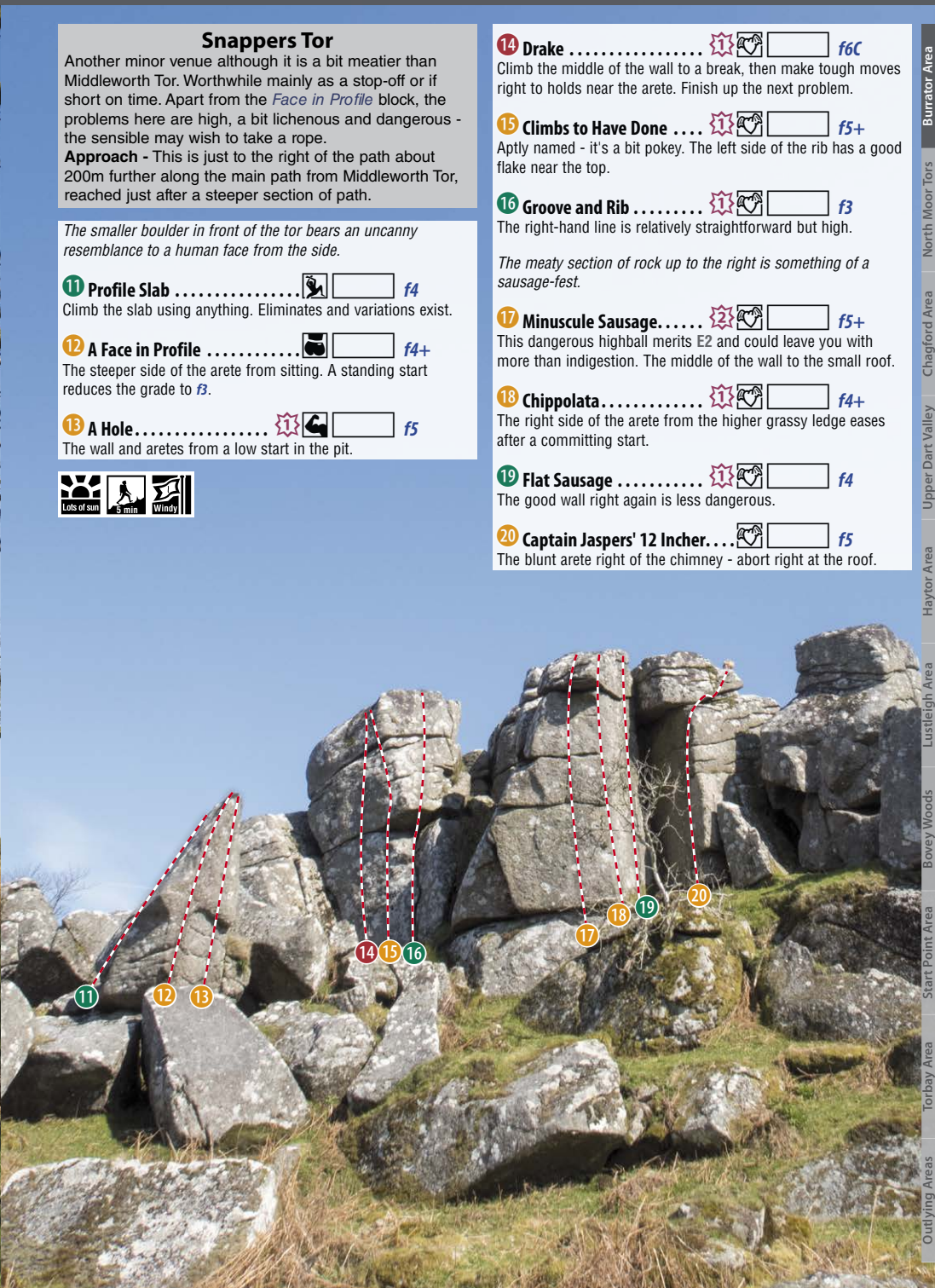
**Approach** - This is just to the right of the path about 200m further along the main path from Middleworth Tor, reached just after a steeper section of path.

*The smaller boulder in front of the tor bears an uncanny resemblance to a human face from the side.*

**11 Profile Slab** ..... **f4**  
Climb the slab using anything. Eliminates and variations exist.

**12 A Face in Profile** ..... **f4+**  
The steeper side of the arete from sitting. A standing start reduces the grade to **f3**.

**13 A Hole** ..... **f5**  
The wall and aretes from a low start in the pit.



**14 Drake** ..... **f6C**  
Climb the middle of the wall to a break, then make tough moves right to holds near the arete. Finish up the next problem.

**15 Climbs to Have Done** .... **f5+**  
Aptly named - it's a bit poky. The left side of the rib has a good flake near the top.

**16 Groove and Rib** ..... **f3**  
The right-hand line is relatively straightforward but high.

*The meaty section of rock up to the right is something of a sausage-fest.*

**17 Minuscule Sausage** ..... **f5+**  
This dangerous highball merits E2 and could leave you with more than indigestion. The middle of the wall to the small roof.

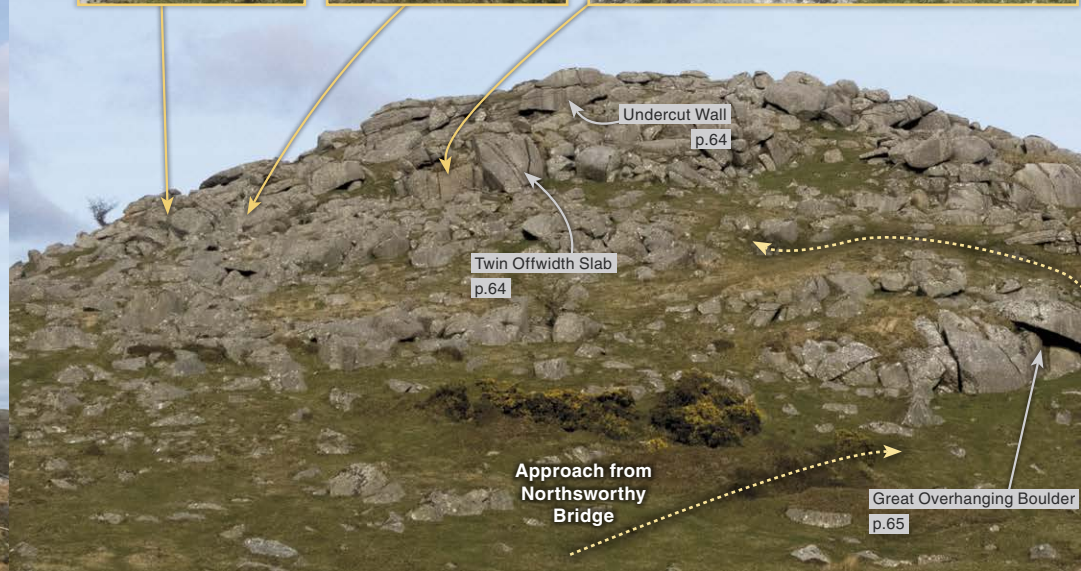
**18 Chippolata** ..... **f4+**  
The right side of the arete from the higher grassy ledge eases after a committing start.

**19 Flat Sausage** ..... **f4**  
The good wall right again is less dangerous.

**20 Captain Jaspers' 12 Incher** .... **f5**  
The blunt arete right of the chimney - abort right at the roof.

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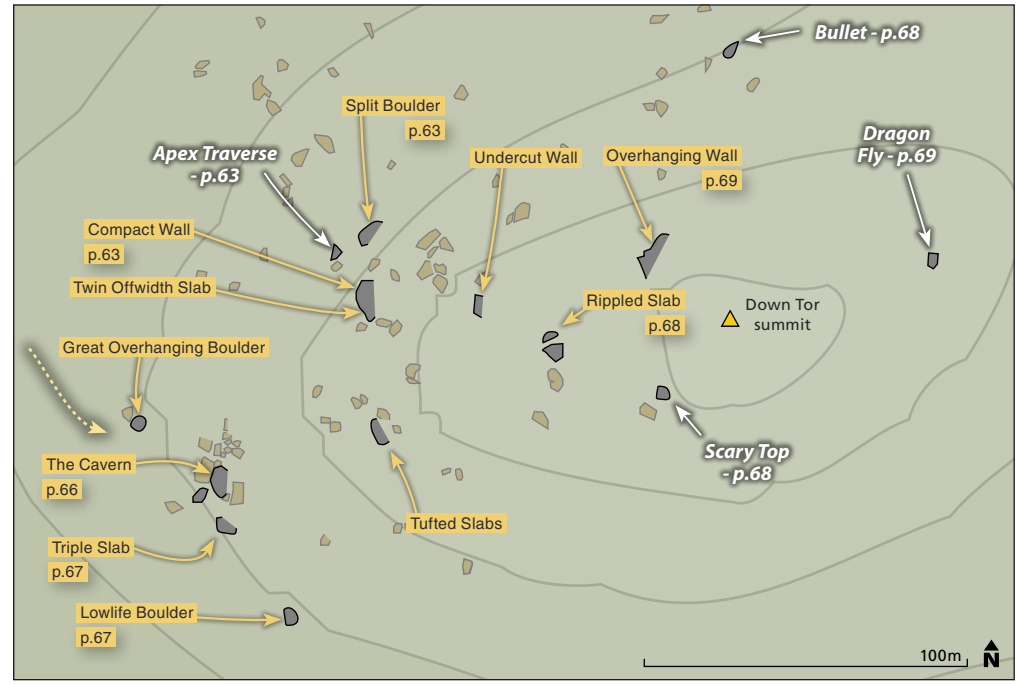
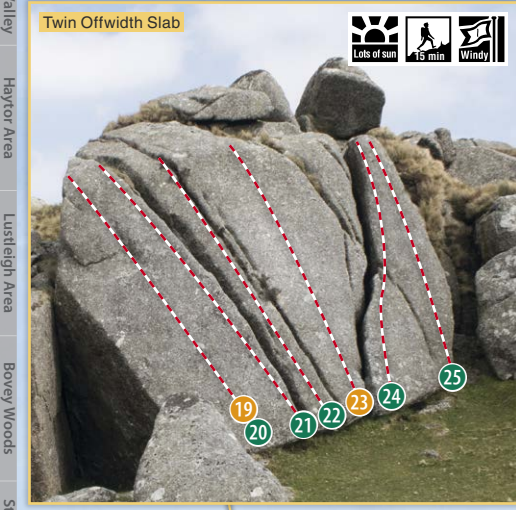
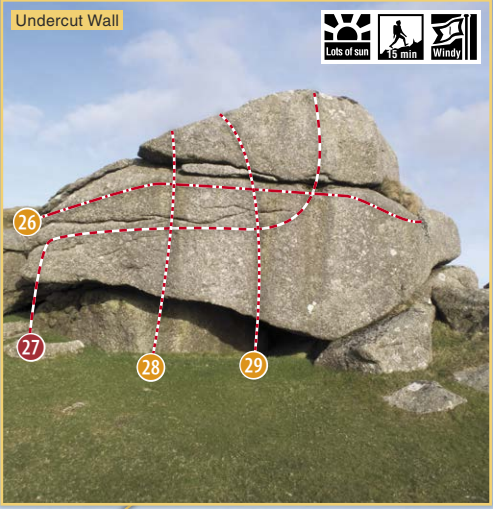






- A slab above and left of the Great Overhanging Boulder.
- 19 Pooh Slab** ..... **f5+**  
The slab without using either arete - eliminate but good.
- 20 Pooh Slab Avec Right Arete** ..... **f3+**  
An easier version uses the edge of the crack to the right.
- 21 Left Hand Offwidth** ..... **f3**  
The body-rasping crack is probably best for spectators.
- 22 Heather Crack** ..... **f3**  
A botanist's delight to the right.
- 23 Heather Slab** ..... **f5**  
A pleasing little problem up the slab.
- 24 Right Hand Offwidth** ..... **f3**  
Get involved in the crack.
- 25 Pinnacle Slab** ..... **f3**  
The slab to the right.

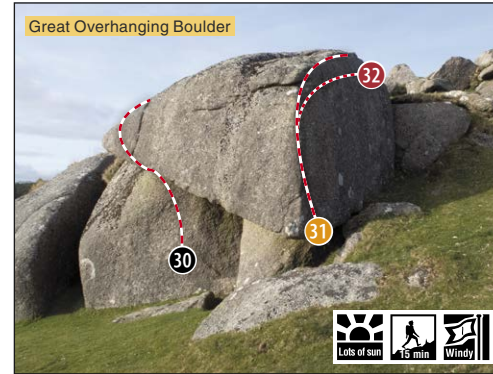
- Walking further up the hill above the Twin Offwidth Slab leads to a decent and impressive wall.
- 26 Wafer Route** ..... **f5**  
Start up the left, honk it along the break and finish where you can step off.
- 27 Undercut Wall Low Traverse** ..... **f6B+**  
Sit start on the left, stretch out to the nose then traverse the lower break rightward until you can move up into the wider break then finish direct.
- 28 Jug Route** ..... **f5**  
The left line up the wall, finishing leftward.
- 29 Wafer Route** ..... **f5**  
The wall to the right, finishing leftward.



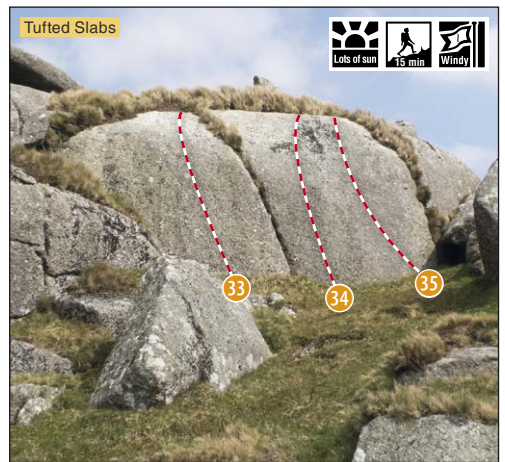
A prominent bit of rock which is the first boulderable feature you arrive at when approaching from Norsworthy Bridge.

Above the Great Overhanging Boulder are some grass topped slabs with a trio of problems.

- 30 Great Overhang** ..... **f7A+**  
A challenging problem comes out from the crack at the back of the roof; there's a handy foot jam and a difficult to control swing. Good luck!
- 31 East Face Top Traverse** ..... **f5**  
Climb the arete and then traverse the top rightward.
- 32 East Face Traverse** ..... **f6A**  
The arete and then traverse the slab rightward from the break.
- The slabby east face of the block is home to a few up and sideways possibilities, left for your own re-invention.



- 33 Tufted Left** ..... **f5+**  
The slab on the left will appeal to slab and tuft lovers alike.
- 34 Tufted Central** ..... **f5+**  
More slabby tuftedness up the middle.
- 35 Tufted Right** ..... **f5+**  
The right-hand slab completes an inspired trilogy of creative naming and descriptions.











*Moving across the hillside to the right of the Great Overhanging Boulder leads to The Cavern.*

**36 Step Up** .....     *f5*  
The face left of the arete features a step up!

**37 Pyramid Block Arete** ..... **1**  **f3+**  
Climbed on either side.





**38 Pyramid Block Right Arete ...**   **f5+**  
From a sit-start using big flakes, 'thrash' leftward to the apex.


**39 The Cavern**.....   **f5+**  
An esoteric problem. From a chimneyed position inside the cavern, fiddle your way out to the arete and top out above.



**40 Cavern Arete** .....    *f5*  
The left side of the arete from a low start. A standing start reduces the grade to *f5*.

**41 Cavern Arete Right.**   *f4+*  
The easier but inferior right side of the arete.



*Continuing rightward from the Pyramid Block are a few short slabs punctuated by cracks. The first problem follows a delightful crack to the left of the slabs.*

**42 Minging Crack.....**     **f5+**  
A real delight for lovers of the ming - the star is for its fetish appeal! It's often wet but, as luck would have it, it's still climbable if you're so inclined.

**43 The Nose** .....    *f5*  
Not to be confused with the El Cap classic.

**44 Left Hand Slab** .....   **f5+**  
Eliminate the crack at this grade.

45 Left Hand Crack .....  f3

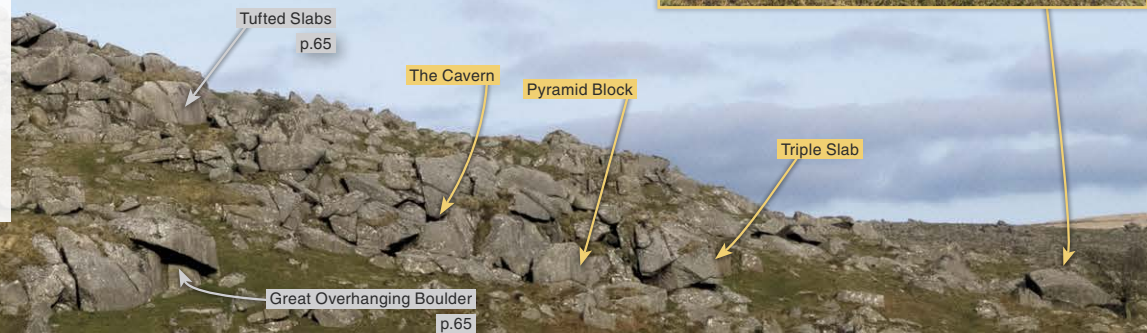
**46 Central Slab**.....   **f4+**  
Eliminate the cracks and finish leftward.

**47 Central Crack.....**  *f4*

**48 Right-hand Slab** .....  *f4*  
The slab on the right.

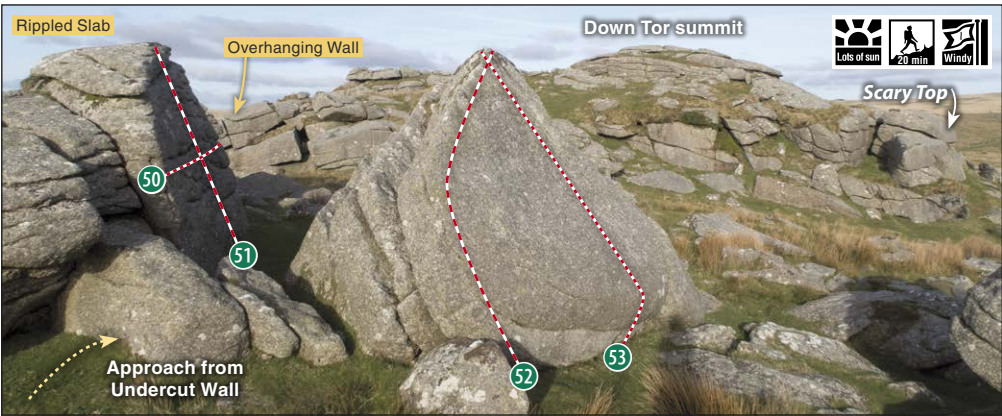
The next problem is found on a low block 30m to the right (south east) of the Triple Slab.

**49 Lowlife Traverse** . . .      **f6C**  
From the low flake gain and traverse the lip leftward to mantel on the left.





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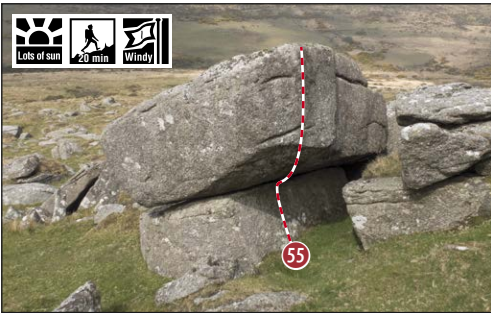
Facing the Undercut Wall walk rightward in the general direct of the tor summit.

- 50 Rippled Slab Traverse** ..... ☐ **f3+**  
Traverse the slab in either direction.
- 51 Rippled Slab** ..... ☐ **f3+**  
The pleasant slab can be tackled by various lines.

- 52 Pyramid Slab Arete** ..... ☐ **f3**  
The right side of the left arete provides a good easier line.
- 53 Pyramid Slab** ..... ☐ **f4**  
A tricky start to get onto the slab followed by easier padding.



- Facing Pyramid Slab, this is the high, stepped boulder over to the right.
- 54 Scary Top** ..... ☐ **f5**  
An enjoyable start leads to a frightening finish.



- 55 Bullet** ..... ☐ **f6A+**  
An excellent little problem. From jams in the low break gain a hold on the lip and finish above. *Photo p.40.*



30m north east of the Rippled Slab, on the other side of a grassy avenue, is the northwest-facing Overhanging Wall.

- 56 Pagan Poetry** ... ☐ **f7A**  
A tough left-to-right traverse starting along the low break then rising up to a hard finish on the right arete.
- 57 Mikey's Dyno** ..... ☐ **f6C**  
Climb from the low crack to a crimp/pocket about 2m right of the left arete.
- 58 Two Pint Murray** ..... ☐ **f6B**  
From good low holds in the break hang a left then follow positive holds to a troublesome finish.

- 59 Overhanging Wall**.... ☐ **f6A**  
Up the cracks in the right side of the wall using anything.
- 60 Overhanging Arete**..... ☐ **f6B**  
The arete on the right with the same finish as *Pagan Poetry*.
- 61 Inclusion** ..... ☐ **f5**  
A sharp landing which requires a few pads. The line right of the overhanging prow finishing leftward.
- 62 Dirty Cracks** ..... ☐ **f4+**  
The crack is for dirt bags only.
- 63 Rik's Little Arete** ..... ☐ **f5**  
Good moves but rather small. Sit start with feet on the block.



- The eastern side of the tor is home to quite a bit of rock, most of which is disappointing to the boulderer. There are a few problems dotted around the higher walls to the east side of the summit - left to your own discovery. *Dragon Fly* is a more significant problem and is found further down the hillside among a few more features the intrepid may be interested in.
- 64 Dragon Fly** ..... ☐ **f6C**  
An excellent problem although the top out tends to be a bit dirty. Sit start with a foot lock in the break.