

# Peak Bouldering

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Cover: Shauna Coxsey, *Renegade Master* (f7C+)  
- p.296 - at Froggatt. Photo: Nick Brown  
This page: Andi Turner, *Felder's Corner* (f6B)  
- p.617 - at Curbar. Photo: Mike Hutton

This book belongs to:







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Bouldering means different things to different people. Some find joy in seeking out intense, hard problems in hidden locations, others spend sessions with friends, working at their limits to tick mutual goals. Others have a more relaxed approach, ticking as many problems in a circuit as possible, just for the joy of movement and being in a beautiful location.

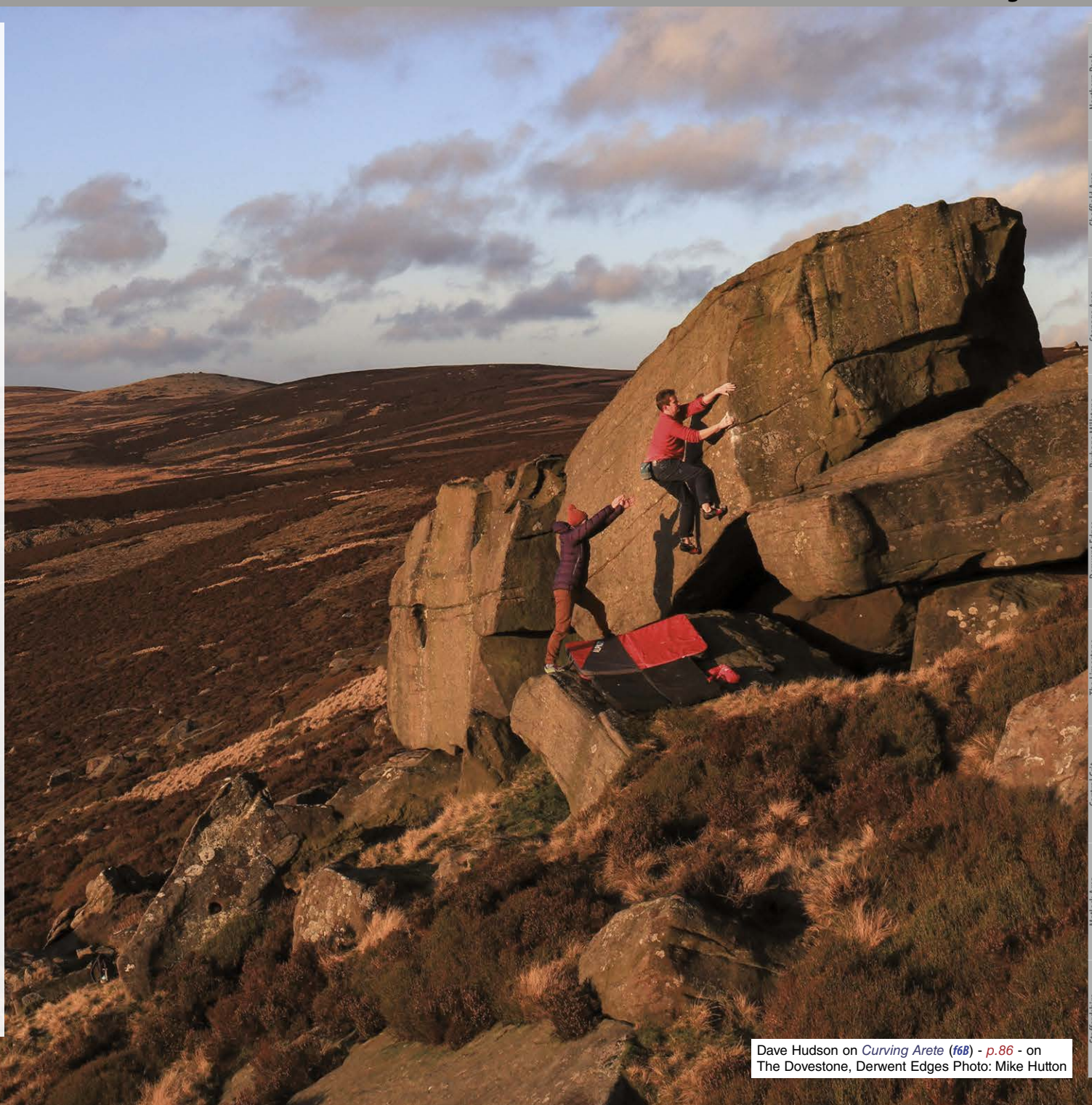
With a variety of crags and easy access, all this is possible in the Peak area. The main attractions stretch from the delightful boulder-field of Wimberry in the northwest, to the distant Shining Cliff in the southeast. In between are the famous gritstone edges that run from the moors above Derwent reservoirs through Stanage, Burbage, Millstone, Froggatt, Curbar, Gardom's southwards to Birchen. These edges are the most popular locations and have the greatest concentration of quality bouldering.

The central area has limestone crags and smaller outcrops which offer bouldering of a particular style - usually intense and powerful and at a high difficulty level including some of the hardest problems around. An extra attraction in the central Peak is the beautiful gritstone area with Cratcliffe Tor and Robin Hood's Stride at its centre. This offers gritstone bouldering of a different character to the wilder and more exposed edges.

For some, the most dramatic gritstone is not the eastern edges but the stunning outcrops around the Roaches and Ramshaw in Staffordshire. These are of similar character to the eastern edges with just as high a concentration of quality problems.

The book doesn't cover all of the bouldering on offer in the Peak - that would be almost impossible for a single book. A lot of extra areas are included on the Digital version of this book which is also where new developments will be added. There will also be problems that no-one will ever document - the ones you make up with your friends while enjoying a great session; the ones where you eliminate the obvious holds and create something intense and difficult but also a little bizarre. That is the beauty of bouldering and the Peak area is one of the best places in the country to enjoy it.

Whether you are looking to make your first steps outside on a friendly Green circuit at Bamford (p.124), or planning your attempts on *Honey Badger* (f8C) at Badger Cove (p.403), this book has what you need to locate assess and inspire you to achieve your goals.



Dave Hudson on *Curving Arete* (f6B) - p.86 - on The Dovestone, Derwent Edges Photo: Mike Hutton



## Problem Names

When we published the first Peak Bouldering Rockfax guidebook in 1998, we took the liberty of naming certain problems to aid navigation. Since then, several other guidebooks have been published, more new names have been introduced, and it has become apparent that it is essential to give every problem a name to avoid confusion between different information sources. This is also essential to ease online searching on UKClimbing Logbook.

Where un-named problems have been given names, it is usually just a descriptive name only and not an attempt to claim a first ascent. If you think you climbed a problem first and named a problem then report it on UKClimbing Logbooks so that the crag moderator can look at it and get it changed if necessary.

## First Ascents

Many of the problems in this book have been climbed for years and who did what first is impossible to establish. In the last twenty years more problems have been claimed by individuals and some of this information has been documented although it is still relatively incomplete. The true record of exactly who climbed what, and when, is likely to never be achieved for bouldering since much of it was never properly documented at the time. In this book we have included first ascent names where known for problems at *f7A* and above, and for a few key historical problems at easier grades. Sometimes these include the year when they were climbed. This is far from exhaustive and there will be many first ascent names missed. Please feed back any information you have through UKClimbing Logbooks.

## New Problems

If you climb what you think is a new problem then please upload it to UKClimbing Logbooks where it can then be checked by a crag moderator to verify it. Please give as much information as you can including its position relative to existing problems. There is also a facility to add a photo-topo if you wish.

New problems are always best added by the first ascensionist since they are most knowledgeable. Even if the first ascensionist doesn't add the new problem, it is likely to be added by someone repeating it trying to keep their UKClimbing Logbook up to date. Problems not added to UKClimbing Logbooks may well take a lot longer to appear in any digital update or future printed book.

Minor variations and link-ups are fine for UKClimbing Logbooks but problems of this nature may only get a brief mention, or no mention at all, in future print and digital coverage.

## Sit-start or Stand-up?

Sit-starts are very popular often adding significant climbing to a problem making something trivial into a worthwhile challenge. At other times they can be slightly annoying and pointless additions to a problem that was good enough on its own in the first place.

In this book we have made an assessment on how to record a problem opting for the best and most popular option, with the alternative stand or sit version usually being given a grade in the description. Occasionally both stand and sit versions are recorded where both are popular and get climbed.



Shauna Coxsey on *The Captain* (*f7A*) - *p.298* - on Boulder Ridge at Froggatt. Photo: Dave Parry



### The Book

Bouldering in the Peak District only really started being documented in its own right back in 1994 with Allen Williams' first book. Since then there have been numerous new books, from various publishers, which have tried to keep up with the dramatic pace of development.

Back in 1998 the first Rockfax guidebook to Peak Bouldering appeared, authored by Allen Williams and Alan James. It had around 1600 problems in 38 separate locations. This latest book has 4800+ discrete problems, many including minor variations, in 57 locations. In addition to this, there are around 1000 more problems that only appear in Rockfax Digital for reasons of space.

The development is ongoing and there are plenty of quality problems being found in new areas, and minor areas that have not yet been documented. New problems are also continually being added to existing areas, boosted by the astonishing rise in the abilities of the top boulderers, and the increasing number of people operating at these dizzying grades.

### Rockfax Digital

Everything in this book appears on Rockfax Digital - see p.10 for more information on Rockfax Digital.

The dark grey flag to the right is used to indicate areas, or single boulders, that are to be included in Rockfax Digital at the time of writing. Since Rockfax Digital is ongoing, there will be many additional areas and boulders that aren't given a grey flag in this book.

### Key Previous Guides

**Bouldering in the Peak District** - Allen Williams (*OTE 1994*)

**Peak Plus - Bouldering in the Peak District Vol II**

- Jason Myers (*OTE 1995*)

**Peak Bouldering**

- Allen Williams and Alan James (*Rockfax 1998*)

**Peak District : Bouldering**

- Rupert Davies and Jon Barton (*Vertebrate Publishing 2004*)

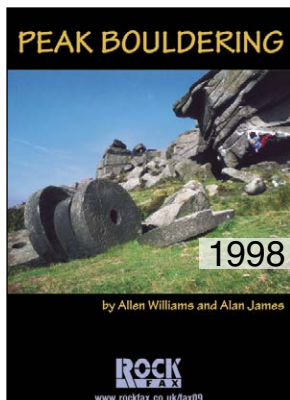
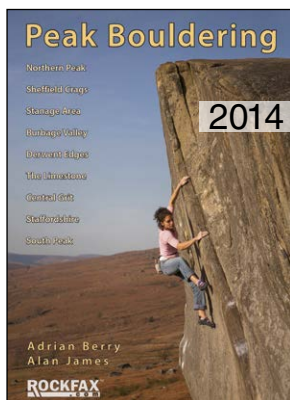
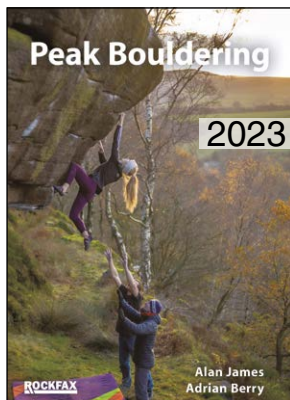
**Peak District Bouldering** - Rupert Davies, John Coefield and Jon Barton (*Vertebrate Publishing 2011*)

**BMC Peak Area Guidebooks**

- Various authors (*BMC 2004 to 2017*)

### Guidebook Footnote

The inclusion of a climbing area in this guidebook does not mean that you have a right of access or the right to climb upon it. The descriptions of routes within this guide are recorded for historical reasons only and no reliance should be placed on the accuracy of the description. The grades set in this guide are a fair assessment of the difficulty of the climbs. Climbers who attempt a route of a particular standard should use their own judgment as to whether they are proficient enough to tackle that route. This book is not a substitute for experience and proper judgment. The authors, publisher and distributors of this book do not recognise any liability for injury or damage caused to, or by, climbers, third parties, or property arising from such persons seeking reliance on this guidebook as an assurance for their own safety.



Molly Thompson-Smith on *Famous Grouse* (f7B+) - p.206 - at Burbage West. Photo: Sam Pratt

Northern Peak

Sheffield Area

Stanage Area

Burbage Millstone

Derwent Edges

The Limestone

Central Grit

Matlock Area

Staffordshire

Northern Peak

Sheffield Area

Stanage Area

Burbage Millstone

Derwent Edges

The Limestone

Central Grit

Matlock Area

Staffordshire



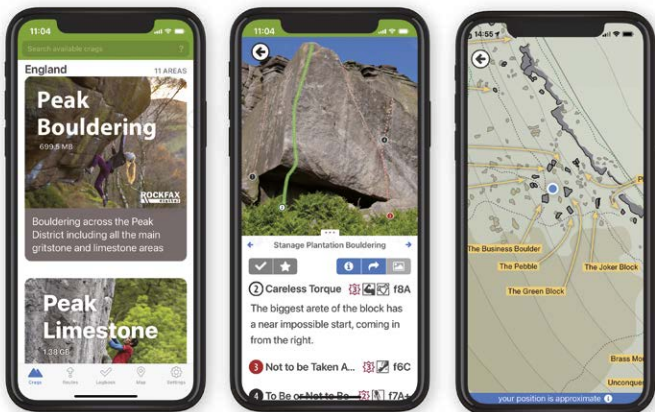
Rockfax Digital brings 30 current Rockfax print publications together with the UKC Logbooks, adds some digital-only content and presents it in a user-friendly package for use on mobile devices.



The heart of Rockfax Digital is the crag and route information covering 'areas' which roughly correspond to the printed guidebooks. The main data is sold by subscription so that you purchase access to everything for a period of time, from a month to a year. Once you are subscribed, you will have everything on Rockfax Digital for the duration. You can download the main data and store it on your device so you don't need any signal to be able to read the descriptions and see the topos and maps. There is plenty of free content available without a subscription, enabling you to get a really good impression of what Rockfax Digital is like without shelling out any money.



Rockfax Digital is available as an app which is free to download and incredibly useful in its own right. It contains a detailed crag map linked to the UKClimbing crags database with basic information and route lists for crags worldwide. The map also displays all the 3,800+ listings from the UKClimbing Directory of climbing walls, outdoor shops, climbing clubs, outdoor-specific accommodation and instructors and guides, amongst others.



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Go to [rockfax.digital](http://rockfax.digital) to find links to download the app and create an account. New users can subscribe and get 7 days free. Just scan the code >



**UKC Logbooks**

A popular method of logging your climbing is to use the [UKClimbing.com](http://UKClimbing.com) logbooks system. This database has more than half a million routes on over 22,800 crags. So far, over 59,000 users have recorded more than 9.5 million ascents! To set up your own logbook, just register at [UKClimbing.com](http://UKClimbing.com) and click on the logbook tab. You will be able to record every ascent you make, when you did it, what style you climbed it in and who you did it with. Each entry has a place for your own notes. You can also add your vote to the grade/star system which is used by guidebook writers to get opinions on grades and quality of routes. The logbook can be private, public or restricted to your own climbing partners only.

Rockfax Digital can be linked to your [UKClimbing.com](http://UKClimbing.com) user account and logbook so that you can record your activity while at the crag. To do this you will need a 3G/4G/5G data connection. You can also look at the UKC logbooks to see if anyone has climbed your chosen route recently to check on conditions.



Frances Bensley on *Boyager (f7A+)* - p.226 - at Burbage North. Photo: Dave Parry

Northern Peak

Sheffield Area

Stangage Area

Burbage Millstone

Derwent Edges

The Limestone

Central Grit

Matlock Area

Staffordshire

Northern Peak

Sheffield Area

Stangage Area

Burbage Millstone

Derwent Edges

The Limestone

Central Grit

Matlock Area

Staffordshire



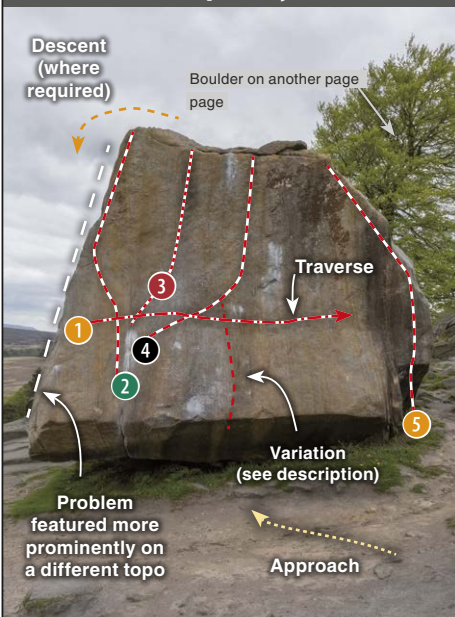
### Route Symbols

- A good route which is well worth the effort.
- A very good route, one of the best on the crag.
- A brilliant route, one of the best in the area.
- A bouldering circuit - Green or Orange - see p.39.
- Powerful climbing; roofs, steep rock, low lock-offs or long moves off small holds.
- Sustained climbing; either lots of hard moves (including on slabs) or pumpy traverses.
- Fingery climbing with significant small holds on the hard sections.
- A highball problem or one with a bad landing.
- A long reach is helpful, or even essential, for one or more of the moves.
- A dynamic move ('dyno') may be required.
- A sit-down start is required at this grade.
- Graunchy climbing. Wide cracks or thrutchy moves (not specifically for hand and fist cracks).
- Technical climbing. Not used in this book since most of the problems are technical.
- Rounded climbing. Not used in this book since most gritstone problems have rounded moves.

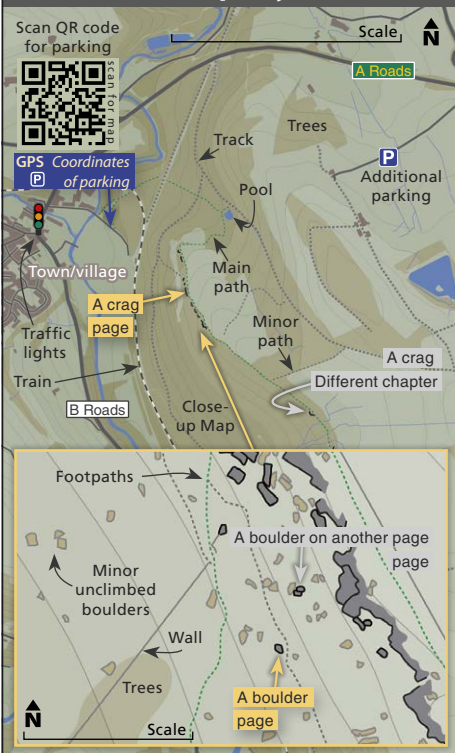
### Crag Symbols

- Angle of the approach walk to the crag with the approximate approach time.
- Approximate time that the crag is in the sun (when it is shining).
- The crag is exposed and may be cold especially if the wind is blowing.
- The crag can offer shelter from the wind. Can be a suntrap - good in winter, bad when hot.
- The boulder suffers from seepage.
- The boulder may offer dry climbing in the rain.
- The rock can be green and dirty after prolonged rain and/or in the colder months.
- Deserted** - Currently under-used and usually quiet. Less good bouldering or remote and small areas.
- Quiet** - Less popular sections on major areas, or good boulders with awkward approaches.
- Busy** - Places you will seldom be alone, especially at weekends. Good bouldering and easy access.
- Crowded** - The most popular sections of the most popular areas which are always busy.

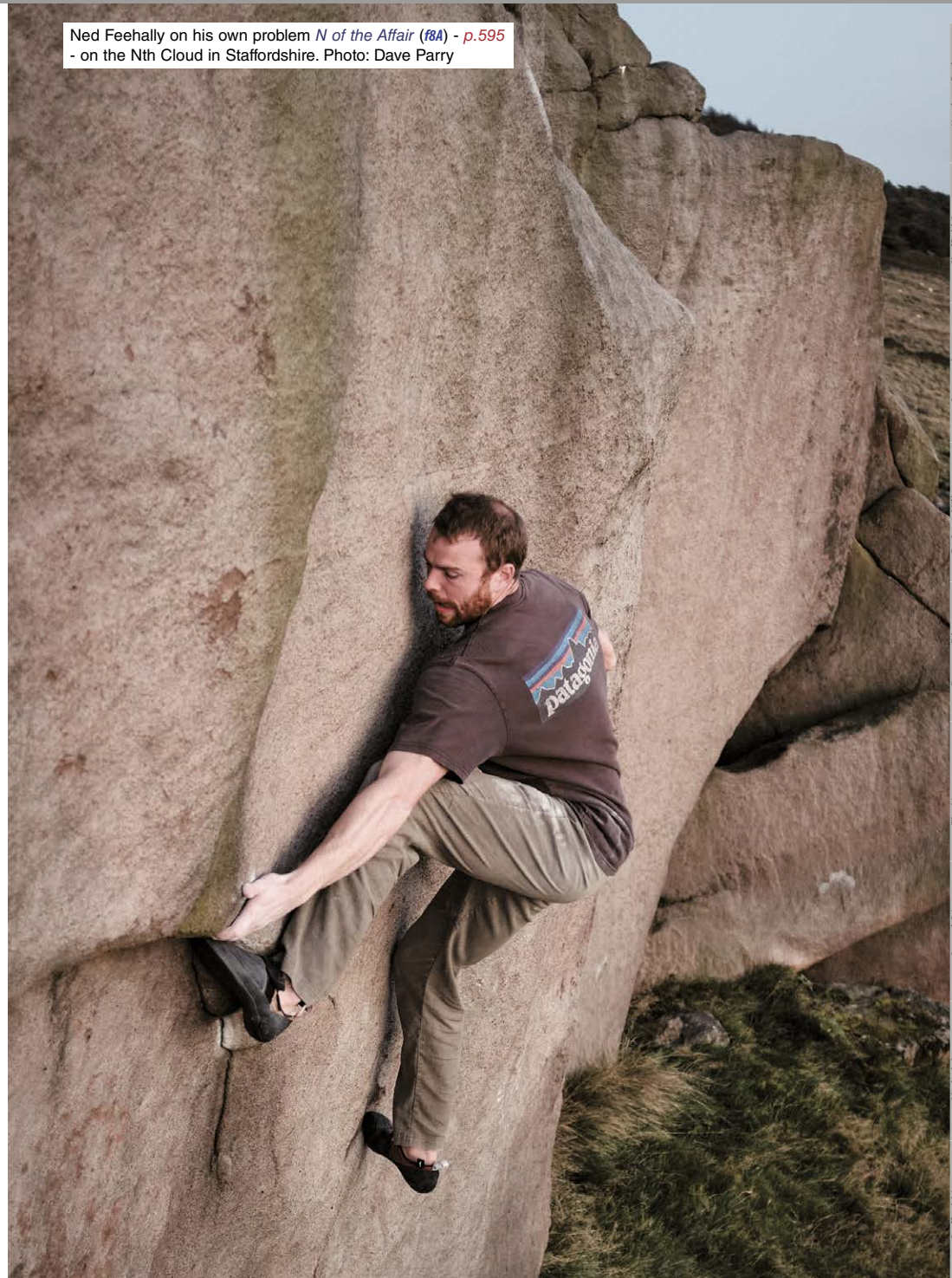
### Topo Key



### Map Key



Ned Feehally on his own problem *N of the Affair (f8A)* - p.595 - on the Nth Cloud in Staffordshire. Photo: Dave Parry





I have been lucky enough to work with some extremely knowledgeable Peak boulderers while putting together this book. Jon Fullwood has been a tremendous help from the beginning with his incredible in-depth knowledge. Having said that, he has also been the main contributor to making it an even harder task owing to his ability to keep finding brilliant new boulders often in the most obscure and difficult-to-document locations.

After a chance meeting at Burbage North, great assistance has also been given by Dave Parry who helped during the later stages walking crags, proofing and supplying crag and action photos.

Similar invaluable feedback has come from the prolific Marc Bellingall who has an unparalleled knowledge of the southern areas, and Andi Turner who went through the Staffordshire section.

Thanks also to Andy Banks, Dave Mason and Ned Feehally for their specific help on some very specialist areas.

We have also had great feedback from Mark Rankine, Nick Priestley, Tom Appleby, Ethan Walker, Carlos Allouchi, Sam Lawson and Jim Pope.

The previous edition of this book was put together in conjunction with Adrian Berry who has since moved to live in France and wasn't able to help with this new version. That book provided a great foundation for this one and I am grateful to Adrian for his work.

This book takes much of its information from many different sources and we are extremely grateful to everyone who has helped contribute to the documentation of bouldering in the Peak District over the years. The key previous guidebooks are listed on page 6.

The action photographs have come from a number of people. Mike Hutton has once again allowed access to his extensive collection and made numerous trips to get photos at obscure locations to help get the coverage we needed. Thanks also to Sam Pratt, Marsha Balaeva, Will Rupp, Sam Taylor, Penny Orr and Claire Aspinall for their photos.

The UKClimbing team have been very much involved with this book. Rob Greenwood and Nick Brown in particular have helped at all stages with feedback and action photos. Thanks to Tim Hill for his help with the advertisers. On the technical side of things Martin McKenna, Stephen Horne, John McKenna, Andy Ovens and Paul Phillips look after the invaluable Rockfax Digital and UKClimbing Logbook systems.

Thanks to my climbing partners, Dominic Green in particular who has diligently helped test various circuits across the Peak area.

Thanks are also due to proofreaders Rebecca Ting and David Boothroyd who have been great especially considering that a lot has been at the last minute.

On a personal level this has been one of the hardest books I have ever put together. Not only is it the equal biggest Rockfax ever, I have also had to combine authoring and sub-editing - perhaps not something to be advised! This added to rupturing my patella tendon in my left knee four months prior publication hasn't made the final stages any easier. I am grateful to my family for tolerating the intense period of work with someone hobbling around for much of the time on one leg!

We are grateful to the following for their support.

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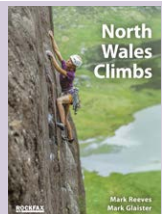
**The North Face** - p.37  
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Alan James, July 2023

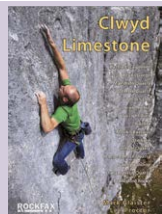
Alan James climbing the magnificent *G-Thang* (f6B+) - p.373 - on Gardom's South. Photo: Nick Brown



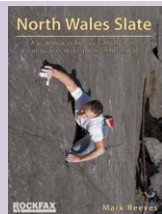




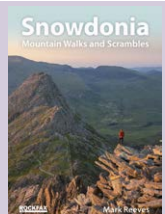
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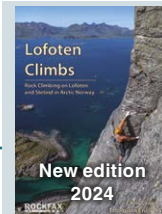


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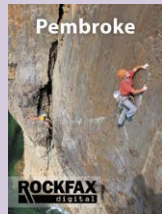
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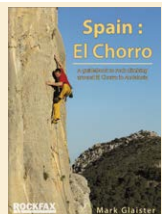


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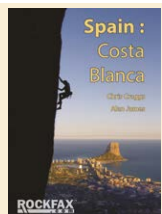
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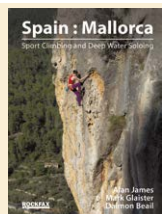
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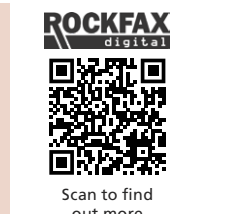
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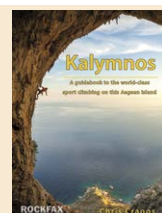
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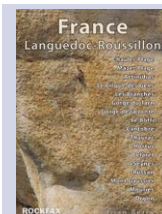


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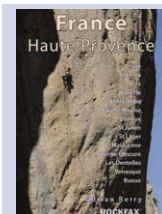
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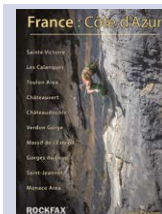
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France: Lang.Roussillon  
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Digital has extra content



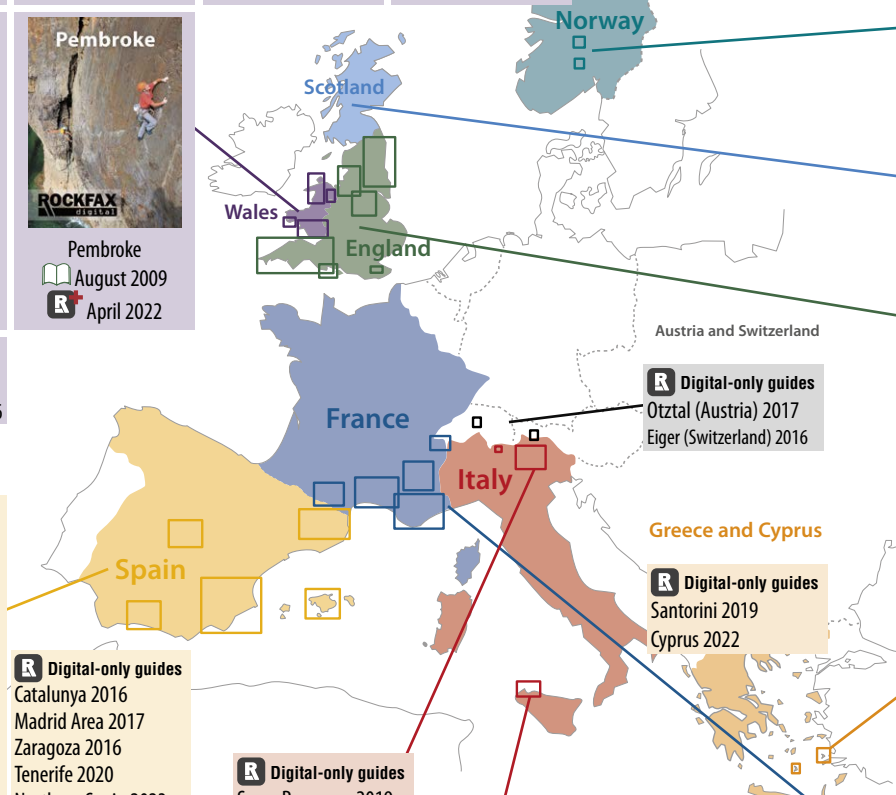
France: Haute Provence  
December 2009  
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France: Côte d'Azur  
February 2017  
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Chamonix  
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# Peak Bouldering Logistics



Rob Greenwood on the superb *Trackside (7A)* - p.337 - on the Trackside Boulder at Curbar Field. Photo: Alan James



### Mountain Rescue

In the event of an accident requiring the assistance of Mountain Rescue:

#### Dial 112 and ask for 'POLICE - MOUNTAIN RESCUE'

This is very important since just asking for 'Police' will redirect you to a switchboard which could be a long way from your current location. This can cause delays in the rescue procedure as the authorities try and track down where the injured party is. Asking for 'Mountain Rescue' will immediately redirect you to people who know the area well.

### When to Go

Peak Bouldering can offer something on most days of the year. Crisp winter conditions are ideal for the harder problems on gritstone but can make more leisurely bouldering awkward when the ground is horribly boggy and north-facing walls are green and wet. Spring can offer perfect conditions when the ground dries out, it isn't too hot and the previous year's vegetation has fallen back. As spring turns to summer, it gets easier to find dry conditions but it can start getting a bit too hot on the exposed spots. The accursed bracken starts taking a hold through May and, by the end of June, it is usually head-high on many areas. In these conditions navigation between boulders in the less-travelled areas can be impossible with the additional threat of ticks. Once the summer arrives, many areas are too hot but shade can be found on certain crags, or a trip to the higher moorland boulders is in order where there may well be a cooling breeze. As summer turns to autumn, good dry conditions in cooler temperatures are easier to find but the bracken remains a persistent problem well into October and November. The other much anticipated event is when snow falls and builds into deep drifts at the base of the main edges. In these conditions snowballing becomes an enticing prospect enabling safe landings to be constructed - see p.32.

Temperature °C	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Average Max Temp (°C)	6	6	9	10	14	17	20	19	15	12	8	5
Average Min Temp (°C)	1	1	3	3	6	9	11	11	8	6	3	1
Average Rain Days/month	9	10	8	6	6	5	6	6	7	7	8	6



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Theo Moore enjoying a perfect February day on *Fishy (f4)* - p.327 - in Little Quarry at Curbar Edge. Photo: Mike Hutton



### Getting Around

The easiest way to access most of the crags in this book is by car and the approaches are written assuming you are using one.

### Trains

There is a regular service from Sheffield and Manchester to Grindleford. A long but pleasant walk leads up the Padley Gorge to Burbage South and Millstone, or south to Froggatt. Some trains also stop at Bamford station which again allows a longish walk (1.5 miles) through the village and on to Bamford Edge. The same distance again will reach Stanage. It is also possible to get the train to Matlock Bath for Black Rocks and Ambergate for Shining Cliff although both will be quite long walks. On the western crags, trains are less useful although New Mills Torrs is a possible venue.

The best website for finding train information is [thetrainline.com](http://thetrainline.com).

### Buses

Bus coverage for the Peak District is reasonable. The best website is [traveline.info](http://traveline.info).

### Satellite Navigation

The parking spots on the close-up maps are indicated with a precise GPS location and QR code (right). Just point your phone at the QR code and open in your chosen navigation app to take you direct to the parking spots.



GPS 53.355538  
-1.659986

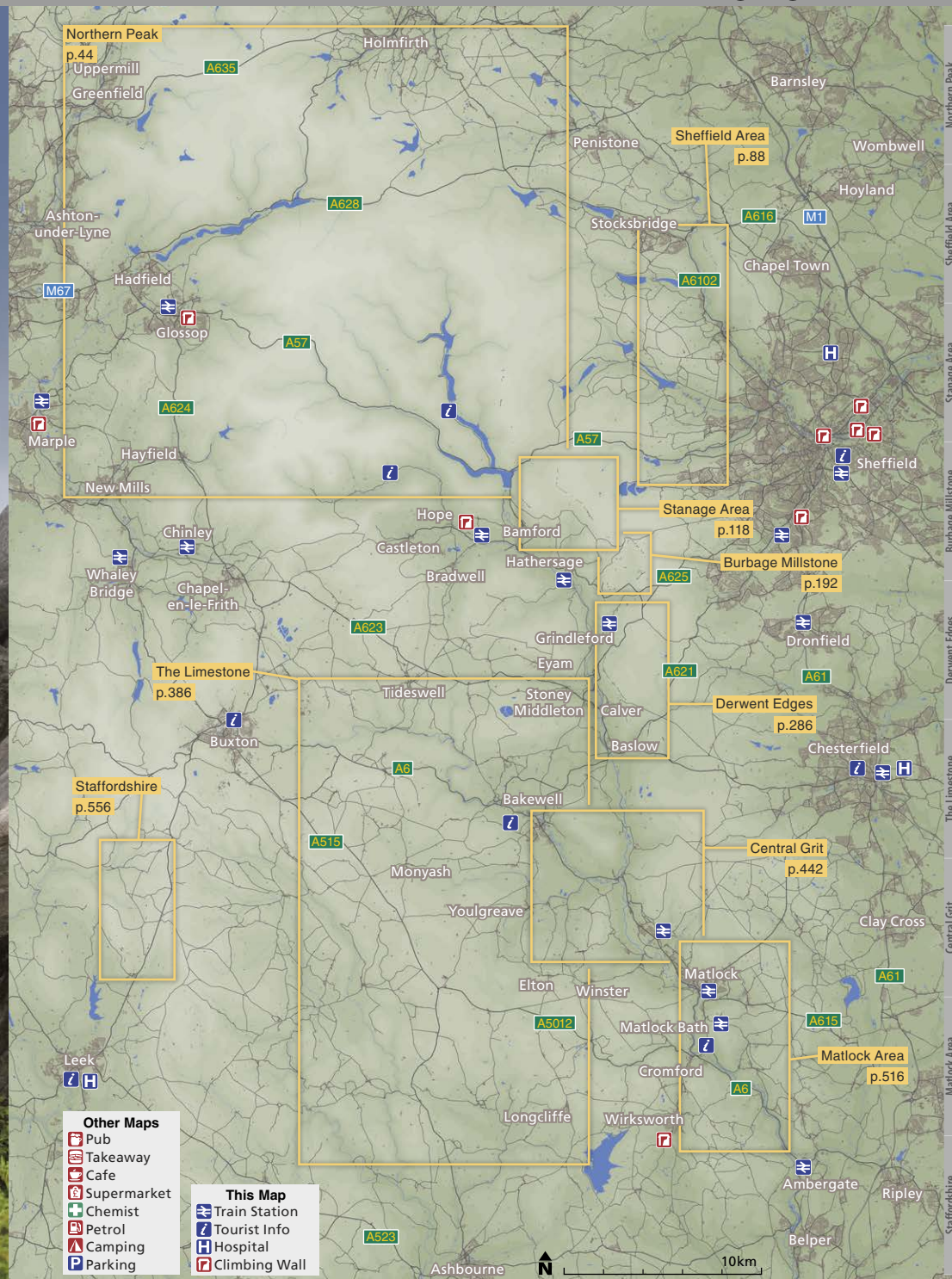
### Tourist Information

If you are short of ideas of what to do on a wet day or need some accommodation, take a look at [visitpeakdistrict.com](http://visitpeakdistrict.com). This contains much more useful information than it is possible to include in these pages.

There are Tourist Information Centres marked on the maps with a small blue 'i' symbol.



"Look no hands!" - Rob Greenwood testing his shoe friction on *Beauty f60* - p.135 - on Stanage North. Photo: Rob Greenwood Collection



Northern Peak

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Stanage Area

Burbage Millstone

Derwent Edges

The Limestone

Central Grit

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## Accommodation

Useful websites for different types of accommodation are:

[peakdistrictonline.co.uk](http://peakdistrictonline.co.uk)  
[ukclimbing.com/listings](http://ukclimbing.com/listings)

**Youth Hostels** - There are numerous Youth Hostels in the Peak District, check out [yha.org.uk](http://yha.org.uk)

## Camping

There are many campsites scattered throughout the area, from small and basic to very plush. Some are marked on the maps with the symbol above.

[ukclimbing.com/listings](http://ukclimbing.com/listings)  
[coolcamping.co.uk](http://coolcamping.co.uk)  
[campsites.co.uk](http://campsites.co.uk)

## Pubs

Pubs are an integral part of the climbing experience for many. The Peak District is blessed with many fine hostleries which make great locations for an après-climb pint where you can discuss the highs and lows of your day. A few are listed below as recommended by readers of the [UKClimbing.com](http://UKClimbing.com) forums.

**The Strines Inn** (p.79) - A very old pub. Decent food and good for Dovestone Tor.

**The Anglers Rest** (p.120) - At Bamford. Owned by members of the local community. A good variety of beers, and excellent food.

**The Norfolk Arms** - Ringinglow, for homeward-bound Sheffields. Busy and often has events but good food and beer.

**The Scotsman's Pack** - Hathersage, good for Stanage. Within walking distance of the North Lees campsite. Good beer and food.

**Fox House** (p.233) - Always busy but very convenient for Burbage South and others.

**The Millstone** - Below Millstone! Friendly staff and well-kept ale. Overnight parking allowed if you have a pint and a breakfast.

**The Grouse Inn** - Above the parking area for Froggatt. Good food and popular with climbers.

**Chequers Inn** (p.291) - Below Froggatt. Good food and ale plus a beer garden.

**The Sir William** - In Grindleford. Great pub owned by climbers - [thesirwilliam.co.uk](http://thesirwilliam.co.uk)

**Robin Hood Inn** (p.355) - By the parking for Birchen. Not a great pub but convenient.

**The Moon** (p.392) - A once legendary climbing pub in Stoney Middleton.

**The Anglers Rest** (p.409) - Passed on the way to Raven Tor.

**The Monsal Head** (p.416) - Great pub above the Monsal viaduct and good for Rubicon.

**The Miners Standard** - Nice pub in Winster, near Cratcliffe, with great food.

**The Druid Inn** (p.484) - In Birchover, handy for Cratcliffe. Good food.

**Ye Olde Rock Inn** (p.559) - In Upper Hulme on the approach to the Roaches.

## Outdoor Shops

### Outside

Main Road, Hathersage.

Tel: 01433 631111

[outside.co.uk](http://outside.co.uk)

Very large store with climbing equipment department and in-store cafe.

*See opposite*

### Rock On

Mile End, London. Tel: 0208 9815066

Craggy Island, Guildford, Tel: 01483 565635

[rockonclimbing.co.uk](http://rockonclimbing.co.uk)

Great shops at two popular climbing walls.

Get your gear before you travel.

*See back cover flap*

**Alpkit** - Main Road, Hathersage.

**Go Outdoors** - Hill Street, Sheffield.

**Go Outdoors** - Main Road, Hathersage.

**Jo Royal Outdoor** - 6 Market Place, Buxton.

More shops listed at -

[ukclimbing.com/listings/outdoor\\_shops/](http://ukclimbing.com/listings/outdoor_shops/)

## Cafes

There are plenty of tea shops and cafes but three used by climbers are:

**Grindleford Station Cafe** - Just off the B6001 through Grindleford. Popular with climbers and walkers.

**Outside Cafe** - Above Outside in the centre of Hathersage. Excellent cafe with good food.

**Roaches Tea Room** - Passed on approach to the Roaches. Also offers all-day parking.



**Outside**  
outside.co.uk

**Climbing Shop & Café**



Arona Morrison climbing 'Patiently Waiting' 7A at Stanage Plantation  
Photo: Sam Lawson

**Outside**  
Main Road, Hathersage  
Derbyshire, S32 1BB  
01433 651936

**A hub for climbers since 1987**



### Bouldering Walls

There are plenty of bouldering walls in the area which are well worth a visit for training or when the weather is bad. Most of the bigger dedicated climbing centres also have extensive bouldering sections alongside their leading areas.

#### Awesome Walls

Sheffield - Stoke-on-Trent - Stockport  
[awesomewalls.co.uk](http://awesomewalls.co.uk)

Large dedicated climbing centres. Sheffield is a 'National Performance Centre'.  
*See p.2*

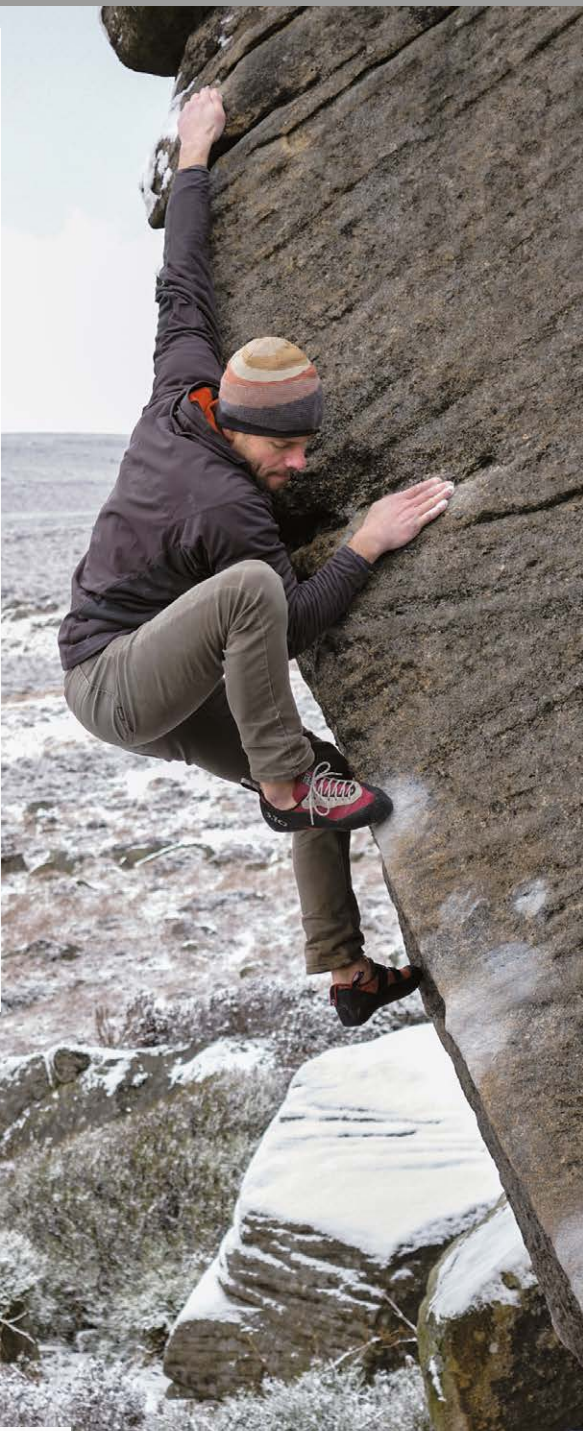
#### Parthian Climbing

Manchester

[parthianclimbing.com](http://parthianclimbing.com)

Large dedicated climbing centre.  
Also in Harrogate, Reading, Southampton and London  
*See opposite*

- Rope Race - Marple
  - Glossop Leisure Centre - Glossop
  - The Climbing Works - Sheffield
  - Climbing Hangar - Sheffield
  - The Depot - Sheffield
  - The Foundry - Sheffield
  - Adventure Hub - Hope Valley
  - Wirksworth Leisure Centre - Wirksworth
- For more walls and information check [ukclimbing.com/listings/climbing\\_walls/](http://ukclimbing.com/listings/climbing_walls/)



Adam Long grabbing some crisp winter conditions on *Thick End of the Wedge (f8A)* - p.239 - on Burbage South. Photo: Dave Parry



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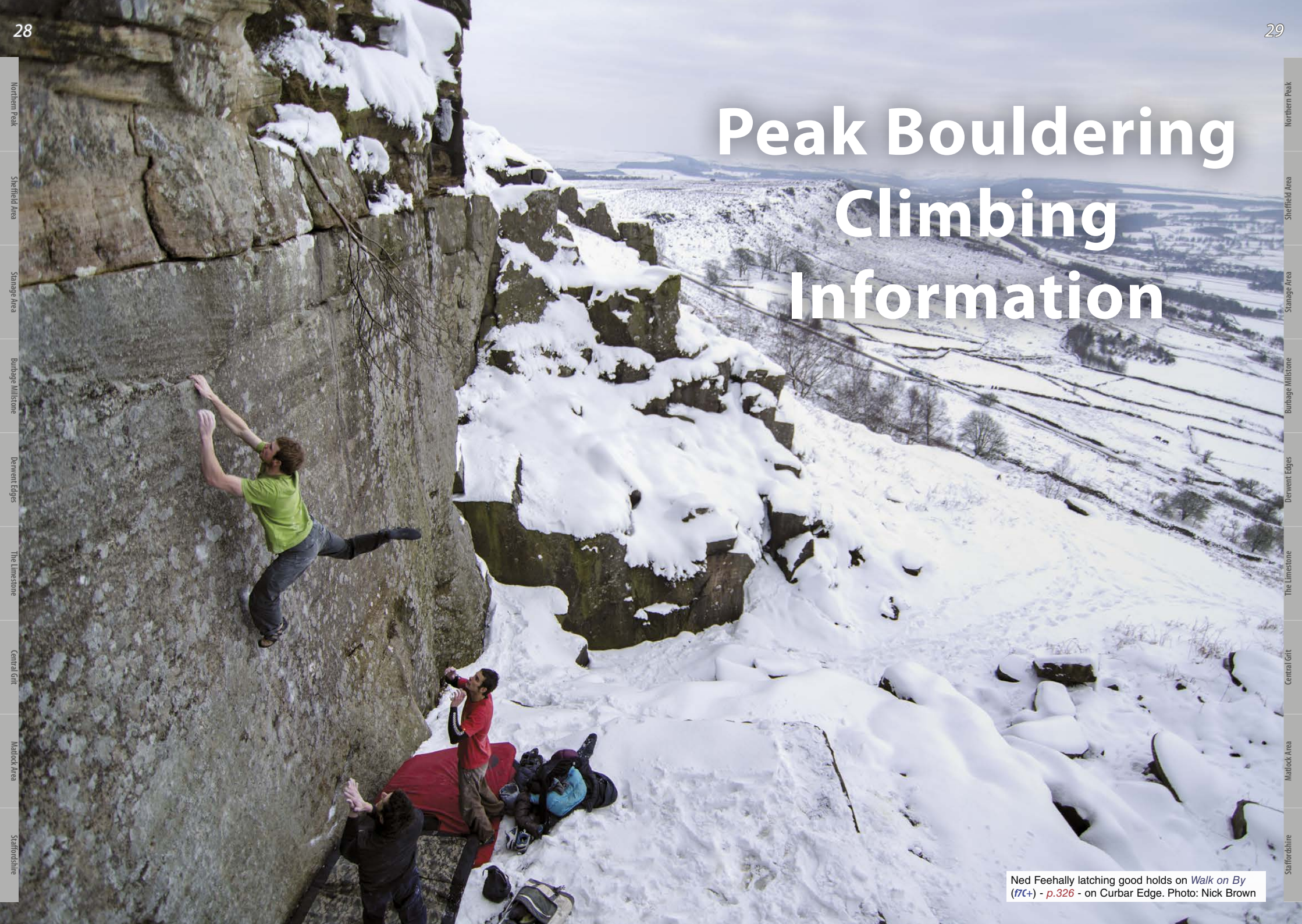
Central Grit

Mastlock Area

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# Peak Bouldering Climbing Information



Ned Feehally latching good holds on *Walk on By* (7C+) - p.326 - on Curbar Edge. Photo: Nick Brown



## General Behaviour

Rock climbing has become ever more popular, increasing numbers of people want access to the cliffs and the pressures on the crag environment have never been greater.

- Don't light fires or use barbecues.
- Close gates after you go through them.
- Park sensibly as described in this book.
- Don't stray from the popular paths.
- Don't disturb animals.
- Use less chalk.
- Don't use wire brushes.
- Gently brush off excess chalk.
- Take your litter home.
- Go before you go!

## Access

The majority of crags in this book have been climbed on for many years and we are lucky to enjoy largely unrestricted access to them. In a few cases there may be temporary restrictions because of nesting birds, or high fire risk. These are detailed in the text, and/or should be indicated by signs on the approach to the crags.

## The BMC

Access arrangements can change and we recommend that, when unsure, you use the BMC Regional Access Database to check what the current situation is. You can check RAD here - [thebmc.co.uk/modules/RAD/](http://thebmc.co.uk/modules/RAD/) or install the BMC RAD app from your iOS or Android app store. If you do encounter problems, contact the BMC Access and Conservation representative. They are always happy to discuss problems, and often their involvement at an early stage can defuse a situation before it escalates into a serious access dispute.



BMC RAD app

**British Mountaineering Council,**  
177-179 Burton Road,  
Manchester, M20 2BB.  
Tel: 0870 010 4878  
Web: [thebmc.co.uk](http://thebmc.co.uk)  
Email: [office@thebmc.co.uk](mailto:office@thebmc.co.uk)

## Ground Erosion

The popularity of climbing and bouldering has led to an increase in crag-base erosion especially around popular boulders. This can be limited by using bouldering mats and widening the number of areas you visit. Avoid dragging pads along the ground which contributes to erosion.

## Rock Erosion

Rock erosion is a more serious problem since rock will never grow back. On popular grit problems the hard surface layer can give way to soft sandy rock underneath which erodes far more quickly. This has happened on well used holds, in breaks of softer rock and where heel hooks are used a lot. Ultimately this wear and tear is only going to get worse but there are several ways we can minimise and slow it down.

- Never climb when the rock is damp.
- Only brush holds gently with a soft brush.
- Ensure that your shoes are clean and free from mud, grit and dirt.

## Chalk

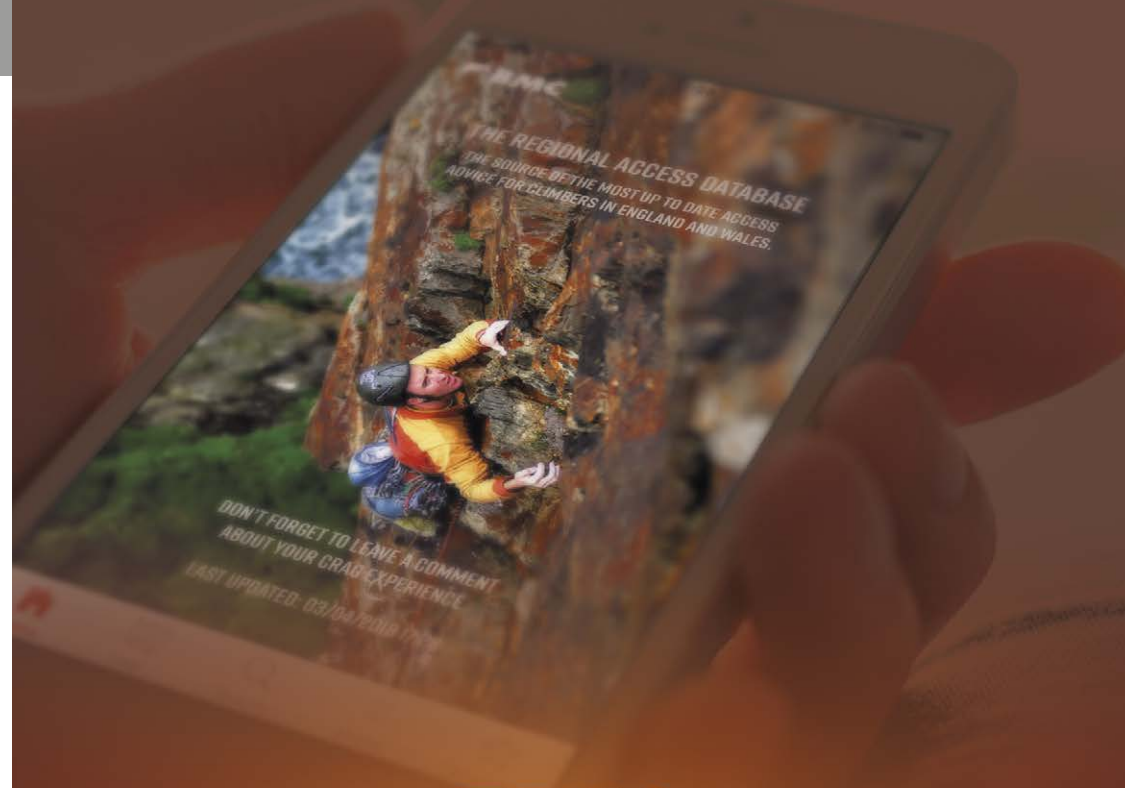
Overuse of chalk has impact on the rock and looks unsightly. The practice of using chalk tick marks to indicate moves is popular. If you do this then please brush the marks off after you have finished.

## Fire Risk

There is often an elevated risk of moorland fires in high summer; these always cause extensive damage to the peat moors and wildlife. You should never use disposable barbecues, make campfires or carelessly discard cigarettes and matches. PLEASE be extra careful when it is hot/dry/windy.

## Parking

All the crags in this book have described parking areas indicated with GPS coordinates and QR codes on the maps. Please use these parking areas! If there is one thing above all others that annoys landowners, it is having their drive/field blocked by someone's car.



**BMC**

**RAD APP** (REGIONAL ACCESS DATABASE)

The source of the most up to date access advice  
for climbers in England and Wales

[thebmc.co.uk/rad](http://thebmc.co.uk/rad)







Make sure you have enough pads with you. Photo: Alan James

### Safety

Part of the enjoyment of bouldering comes from experiencing the same pleasure of moving over rock as climbing longer routes, but without the encumbrance of gear and the dangers associated with roped climbing. That's not to say that there are no dangers. Indeed, it often seems that climbers are more likely to receive minor injuries from bouldering than any other branch of the sport. Knowing how to moderate these dangers by landing safely, using mats correctly, how to spot properly and knowing your limits are the keys to staying safe.

### Bouldering Mats

Bouldering mats (or pads) have gone a long way towards making falling from boulder problems safer and have dramatically increased the popularity and difficulty levels achieved in the sport. They soften the impact, can be used to level uneven landings and protect from awkward blocks and other obstacles. Bouldering mats are not a guarantee of safety - to start with you have to actually land on one. Even the biggest of mats is unlikely to cover all the possible landing sites and, the higher you climb, the wider the potential landing area becomes. If you are using multiple mats it is usually wiser to cover a wider area, paying attention to joining up the edges - landing on the edge of a mat is a recipe for an ankle injury. Try to keep the landing area flat and resist the temptation to put one more mat in the middle which might present a further edge. For highball problems, multiple pads 'stacked' on top of each other can be used but watch out for edges and keep the landing area flat.

### Landing Safely

When landing it is all about correct use of your legs. A thick bouldering mat may give five centimetres of compression to reduce the impact of landing - your legs give you ten times that, but only if you bend them. Aim to land with your legs slightly bent and squat down to absorb the force of the fall through your leg muscles.

If the idea of jumping off onto mats from a couple of metres up makes you nervous then it is a good idea to practise this by jumping off from gradually greater heights when attempting a particular problem. Being relaxed mentally will allow you to avoid tensing up physically and possibly injuring yourself when you fall.

### Landing Zone

An uneven or sloping landing zone can make even the shortest of problems dangerous. Creating a level base to place your pad will significantly decrease the likelihood of injury. This can be done by using other smaller mats, or rucksacks or nearby small blocks. A common awkward landing is where the edge slopes away under the crag. In these cases there is little you can do apart from engage good spotters.

**Snowballing** - One of the best ways to level out a landing zone is to wait until there is a snow drift under a buttress. In these conditions you can carve out a level platform for your mats. This can be so effective that there are some problems that have only ever been 'snowballed' above a drift and await an ascent in more conventional conditions.

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INFO@BEYONDTHEEDGE.CO.UK

Tom Randall on Peeble Arete © Alex Ekins



## Spotting

There is an art to spotting well that is only learned through experience. The objective of spotting is to reduce the risk of injury to the climber; however, the first rule is to make sure you don't get hurt yourself.

There is a point above which spotting is merely an act of encouragement, and that point is probably a lot lower than many people think. You might feel the emotional need for a spot on highball problems, but if you fall from a good few metres up, your spotters won't be able to do anything (and will probably scatter - if they've got any sense). The point at which a spot is no longer effective depends on the relative size of the spotter and the climber. A general rule of thumb is that, if the climber is beyond reach, he/she is beyond spotting and it is more useful to adjust the positions of the mats than to try to spot. You may still be able to deflect them from blocks and obstacles.

In terms of technique, it is important to note that you're not trying to catch the climber. The aims are to keep them upright so they can land on their feet as much as possible, and to direct them towards a soft landing and away from hazards like rocks and tree stumps. To do this you need to be able to react rapidly to the falling climber. Having your hands almost in contact with the climber is ideal - and if they need reassurance you can tap them with your fingers so they know you're there. Take care to keep your thumbs out of the way to avoid injuring them when fielding the climber. Where you place your hands on their body depends on the steepness of the problem. The steeper the problem the higher up the back you need to spot and on a horizontal roof problem you will want your hands level with their shoulders. On vertical or slabby problems, there's not much point in trying to grab the climber's sides - they will slide straight through. This leaves only one place to grab - the bottom.

It is a good idea to communicate whether you wish to be spotted before setting off rather than getting into a panic when high up and yelling for spotters. When you fall into the trusty arms of your spotter, do them a favour and keep your arms up. The instinct is to maintain balance and prepare for impact by lowering your arms and sticking our elbows out - elbowing your friend in the face is not a good way to repay them for caring for you. In situations where you want to prevent someone from running/rolling off down a hill, consider using a spare bouldering mat as a sort of shield to stop them without causing you injury.

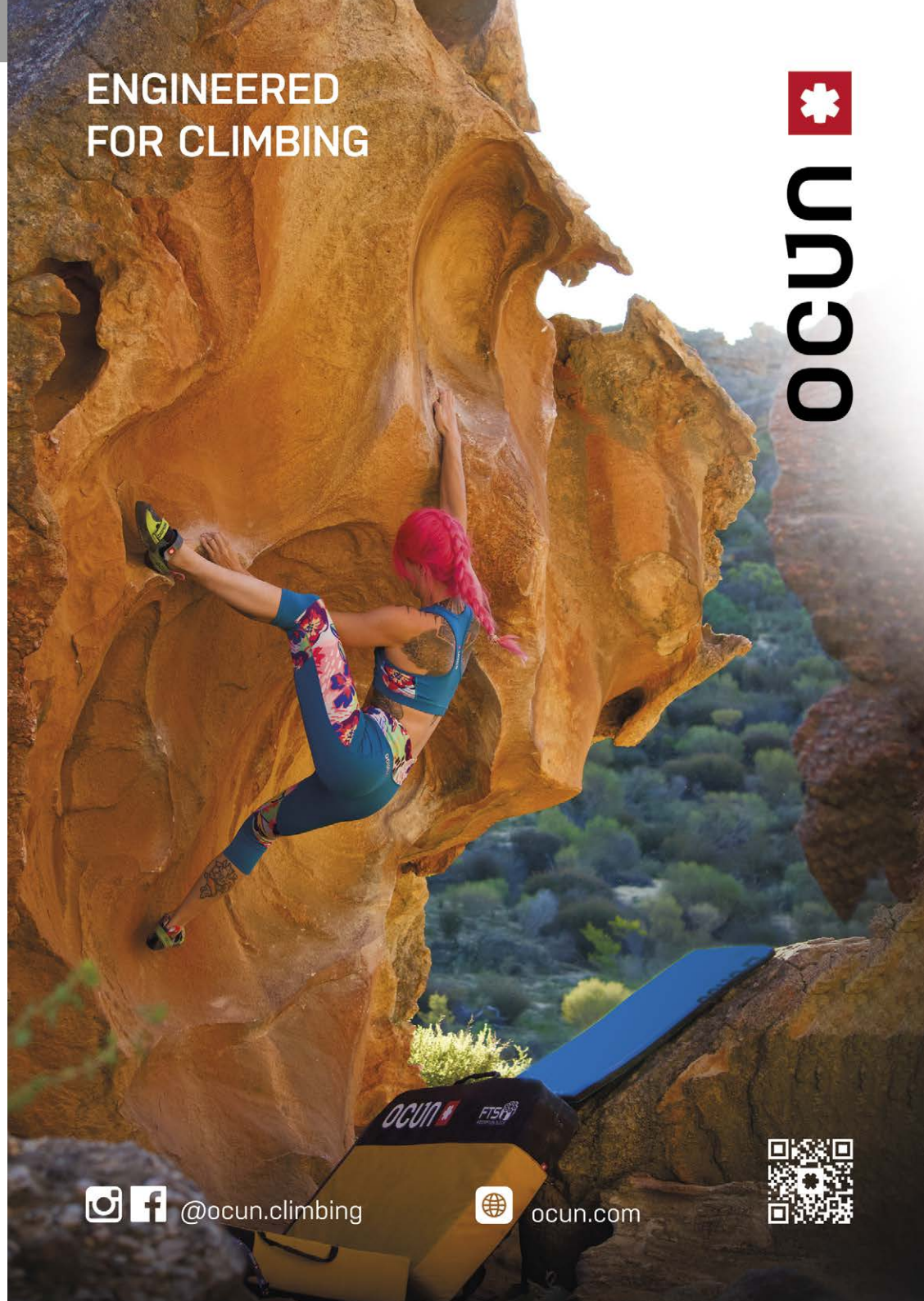


Nick Brown being spotted by Theo Moore on *Central Buttress Direct (f6c)* - p.140 - at Stanage. Photo: Rob Greenwood

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## Bouldering Grades

In this book the problems are graded using the well established **Font Grade**. This is written *f6A, f6A+, f6B, f6B+, ... to f8C* (with a capital letter to distinguish it from the similar looking sport route grade).

The **Font** system was established in the bouldering mecca Fontainebleau, is popular with the majority of boulderers and used by most climbing walls.

Another system is the **V Grade**. This is popular in the USA and has been used in previous bouldering guidebooks.

Historically boulder problems have also been graded using the **UK Technical Grade**. This is familiar to traditional climbers since it is also a key part of the **UK Traditional Grade**.

These grade systems attempt to measure the overall difficulty of a problem and they don't take account of the danger level of a highball problem, or one with a bad landing. The similarity means that the grades can be converted from one system to the other as shown in the table to the right.

### Route or Boulder Problem

Very high boulder problems are occasionally given route grades with a highball bouldering grade mentioned in the description. Some of these are traditional routes which are now usually climbed with a bouldering approach, others are short routes that can be added onto a mid-grade or easy bouldering circuit. For more on traditional grades, see

[rockfax.com/climbing-guides/grades/](http://rockfax.com/climbing-guides/grades/)

### Colour Codes

The problems are given a colour-coded dot corresponding to a grade band. The colour represents a level that a climber should be happy at, hence boulder problems tend to be technically harder than the equivalent coloured routes because the length of the climbing tends to be shorter and the climber doesn't need to worry about the protection, although obviously some highball problems can be extremely serious.

**Green Spots** *Beginners* - everything at grade *f4* and under.

**Orange Spots** *Experienced* - *f4+* to *f5+*. General ticking routes.

**Red Spots** *Advanced* - *f6A* to *f6C+*. The next level to push yourself on.

**Black Spots** *Expert* - *f7A* to *f7C+*. Hard routes for dedicated climbers.

**White Spots** *Elite* - *f8A* and above. The hardest problems for the world's best climbers.

**Circuit colours** - see p.38

Bouldering Grade		
Font	V Grade	UK Tech Grade
<i>f2</i>	<b>VB</b>	
<i>f3</i>	<b>V0-</b>	4a
<i>f3+</i>	<b>V0</b>	4b
<i>f4</i>	<b>V0</b>	4c
<i>f4+</i>	<b>V0+</b>	5a
<i>f5</i>	<b>V1</b>	5b
<i>f5+</i>	<b>V2</b>	5c
<i>f6A</i>	<b>V3</b>	6a
<i>f6A+</i>	<b>V3</b>	6a
<i>f6B</i>	<b>V4</b>	6b
<i>f6B+</i>	<b>V4</b>	6b
<i>f6C</i>	<b>V5</b>	6c
<i>f6C+</i>	<b>V5</b>	6c
<i>f7A</i>	<b>V6</b>	6c
<i>f7A+</i>	<b>V7</b>	6c
<i>f7B</i>	<b>V8</b>	6c
<i>f7B+</i>	<b>V8</b>	6c
<i>f7C</i>	<b>V9</b>	6c
<i>f7C+</i>	<b>V10</b>	6c
<i>f8A</i>	<b>V11</b>	7a
<i>f8A+</i>	<b>V12</b>	7a
<i>f8B</i>	<b>V13</b>	7a
<i>f8B+</i>	<b>V14</b>	7a
<i>f8C</i>	<b>V15</b>	7a

THE  
NORTH  
FACE

Climber: Molly Thompson-Smith  
Problem: Cleo's Edge - The Sphinx Area, Burbage North

Sam Pratt



**Circuits**

Bouldering circuits have long been popular amongst people wanting to get a lot of climbing done across an area. They are used as training, or just familiar routine circuits practised by frequent visitors. They can also be a great way to sample an area the first time you visit, and this is where the pre-defined Green and Orange circuits in this book come in.

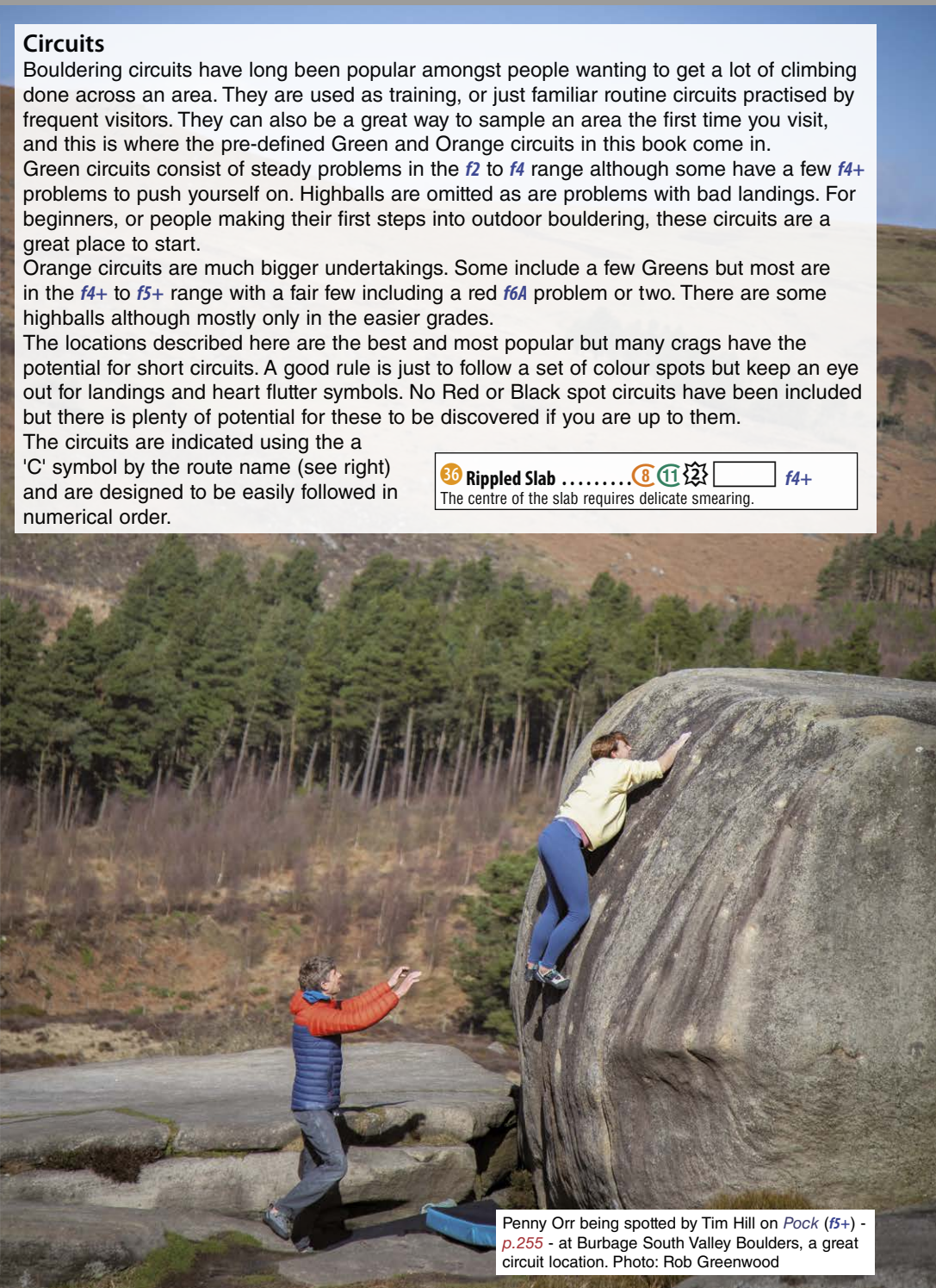
Green circuits consist of steady problems in the *f2* to *f4* range although some have a few *f4+* problems to push yourself on. Highballs are omitted as are problems with bad landings. For beginners, or people making their first steps into outdoor bouldering, these circuits are a great place to start.

Orange circuits are much bigger undertakings. Some include a few Greens but most are in the *f4+* to *f5+* range with a fair few including a red *f6A* problem or two. There are some highballs although mostly only in the easier grades.

The locations described here are the best and most popular but many crags have the potential for short circuits. A good rule is just to follow a set of colour spots but keep an eye out for landings and heart flutter symbols. No Red or Black spot circuits have been included but there is plenty of potential for these to be discovered if you are up to them.

The circuits are indicated using the a 'C' symbol by the route name (see right) and are designed to be easily followed in numerical order.

36 Rippled Slab ..... 8 11    *f4+*  
The centre of the slab requires delicate smearing.



Penny Orr being spotted by Tim Hill on *Pock (f5+)* - p.255 - at Burbage South Valley Boulders, a great circuit location. Photo: Rob Greenwood

Circuit	Problems	<i>f2/2+</i>	<i>f3</i>	<i>f3+</i>	<i>f4</i>	<i>f4+</i>	<i>f5</i>	<i>f5+</i>	<i>f6A</i>	Page
Wimberry	16		Wimberry Green							49
	21		Wimberry Orange							49
Back Tor	20		Back Tor Orange							74
Dovestone Tor	23		Dovestone Tor Orange							85
Bamford	26		Bamford Green							120
	15		Bamford Orange							120
Stanage North	15		Buckstone Causeway Green							143
	13		Buckstone Causeway Orange							143
Stanage Plantation	11		Crescent Arete Green							148
	22		Crescent Arete Orange							148
	18		Plantation Orange							160
Stanage Far Right	30		Stanage Far Right Green							182
	30		Stanage Far Right Orange							183
Higgar Tor	21		Higgar Tor Green							199
	16		Higgar Tor Orange							199
Burbage West	12		Burbage West Orange							209
Burbage North	27		Burbage North Green							214
	26		Burbage North Orange							214
Burbage South Valley	30		Burbage South Valley Green							254
	30		Burbage South Valley Orange							255
Millstone Area	20		Mother Owler Orange							274
Froggatt	17		Pinnacle Orange							306
Curbar Edge	23		Curbar Edge Orange							327
Curbar Field	10		Curbar Field Green							336
	18		Curbar Field Orange							336
Baslow	15		Baslow Orange							342
Birchen	18		Birchen Three Ships Green							383
Harborough	18		Harborough Green							439
Robin Hood's Stride	11		The Stride Green							452
	18		The Stride Orange							452
Cratcliffe	15		Cratcliffe Top Green							467
	21		Cratcliffe Orange							467
Roaches Lower	23		Roaches Lower Green							560
	18		Roaches Spring Lower Orange							560
Roaches Upper	17		Roaches Upper Green							574
	20		Roaches Upper Orange							574
The Skyline	23		Very Far Skyline Orange							588
Ramshaw	20		Ramshaw Orange							603
Newstones	22		Newstones Orange							611

Northern Peak  
Sheffield Area  
Stanage Area  
Burbage Millstone  
Derwent Edges  
The Limestone  
Central Grit  
Matlock Area  
Staffordshire

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40 Destination Planner		Circuits	Problems	up to f4	f4+ to f5+	f6A to f6C+	f7A to f7C+	f8A and up	Approach	Sun	Shelter	Dry in Rain	Seep-age	Green	Summary	Page
Northern Peak	Northern Peak	Wimberry	● ●	109	26	30	34	20	□	10 - 30 min					An extensive boulder-field spread across a steep hillside with many classics. Excellent for circuits, but can be exposed and cold.	48
		Hobson Moor Quarry		39	9	10	15	5	□	1 - 2 min					A roadside quarry with some excellent traverses and good vertical problems. A well-sheltered suntrap.	60
		New Mills Torrs		34	1	10	14	9	□	5 min					Some hard problems and traverses in a very sheltered urban setting with one ever-dry wall.	65
Sheffield Area	Northern Peak	Back Tor and Howshaw Tor	●	80	5	19	35	20	3	45 - 60 min					A wild and beautiful moorland crag with great bouldering on two distinct edges. Mostly north or northwest facing and can be wet underfoot.	70
		Derwent	●	85	6	38	31	11	□	15 - 45 min					Remote and wild rock formations on the beautiful moors. A long walk in, but good when in condition.	80
Sheffield Area	Sheffield Area	Wharnccliffe		70	2	12	31	25	2	25 - 40 min					A series of good areas spread along the edge in a wooded setting. Lots of more recent development but mostly in the higher grades.	92
		Rivelin		52	□	6	23	21	2	12 - 18 min					Some quality hard problems dotted along the main edge. Mostly in a wooded setting and good for dry winter days.	102
		Wyming Brook		22	□	2	5	14	1	10 - 15 min					A popular walkers' area close to Sheffield with some great buttresses in a heavily wooded valley. Often green and damp in the colder months.	110
		Bell Hagg		36	8	15	11	1	1	10 - 11 min					A north-facing edge on the outskirts of Sheffield. Nothing of any great quality, but quick and easy access.	115
Stangage Area	Stangage Area	Bamford	● ●	83	33	14	23	12	3	8 - 20 min					A beautiful edge with good bouldering including a great easier circuit and some quality harder problems. Usually busy with walkers.	122
		Stangage North	● ●	137	12	37	46	33	4	5 - 25 min					The most remote section of Stangage with a number of areas which are well spread out. Plenty of quality if you are prepared to walk a bit.	130
		Stangage Plantation	● ●	302	38	69	91	92	16	10 - 20 min					One of the most extensive areas in the book with many brilliant problems and some great circuits. Not great for beginners.	146
		Stangage Popular End		40	3	16	13	6	2	8 - 18 min					A combination of short routes and boulder problem starts on the busiest section of Stangage Edge.	176
		Stangage Far Right	● ●	145	32	45	48	20	□	6 - 15 min					Lots of great small areas dotted along the continuation of the main edge. Two excellent easier circuits and great for beginners.	182
Burbage Millstone	Burbage Millstone	Higgarr Tor	● ●	104	18	36	34	16	□	5 min					Some great bouldering spread around the small edge of the tor. Good for circuits. Some of the landings are bad.	196
		Burbage West	●	43	3	9	13	16	2	3 - 5 min					Good hard bouldering and a few top class problems. East facing, so it offers shade in the afternoon in the warmer months.	206
		Burbage North	● ●	222	37	53	69	54	9	2 - 22 min					An excellent edge with plenty of bouldering on the edge itself and on the blocks below. Good easier circuits.	212
		Burbage South Edge		164	9	31	61	53	6	5 - 20 min					Shady northwest-facing crag with some quality hard problems. Not good for circuits and some very bad landings.	234
		Burbage South Valley	● ●	160	43	68	36	12	□	20 min					One of the best boulder-fields around with some brilliant boulders and great easier circuits. Always busy when conditions are good.	254
Derwent Edges	Derwent Edges	Millstone Area	●	121	11	32	47	49	4	5 - 15 min					Some good natural blocks in the moorland area above Millstone, and a few problems on the quarried edge itself.	272
		Padley and Yarncliffe		3	□	□	□	3	1	1 - 5 min					Three classic hard problems in the Padley Gorge area.	289
		Froggatt	●	170	20	32	46	66	6	2 - 30 min					Some brilliant hard problems on the wooded area and main crag and easier offerings on the boulders above.	292
		Curbar Edge	●	151	22	38	60	33	3	3 - 30 min					Several locations spread along the edge including a couple of good circuits and a number of top standard classics.	312
		Curbar Field	● ●	102	9	28	25	36	4	5 - 8 min					One of the most popular areas with brilliant and popular problems in the field below Curbar Edge. A couple of short easier circuits.	330
		Baslow	●	109	5	26	36	44	□	8 - 20 min					A small edge and isolated block. Quite a bit of lower-grade bouldering on offer but it is mostly highball/soloing.	342
Staffordshire	Derwent Edges	Gardom's		154	5	23	61	57	8	5 - 25 min					A number of great boulders and areas on the edge itself, including two clusters at either end of concentrated quality. Can be green and damp.	356
		Birchen Edge	●	98	19	30	26	22	1	12 - 15 min					Hard bouldering on the edge and an easy circuit on the blocks above.	378
FULL TOTALS FOR BOOK			4756	578	1145	1553	1319	176		Faded symbol means only some of the routes are sheltered/windy/dry in the rain/ suffer seepage/green						



	Circuits	Problems	up to f4	f4+ to f5+	f6A to f6C+	f7A to f7C+	f8A and up		Approach	Sun	Shelter	Dry in Rain	Seep -age	Green	Summary	Page	
Northern Peak	The Limestone	Conies Dale	19	▬	▬	8	11	▬	25 min						A remote wall of steep bulging limestone with a good set of hard and powerful problems. An option in warm weather until late afternoon.	390	
		Stoney	80	1	9	22	42	6	10 min						Technical eliminates on polished limestone in a handful of locations on this historic crag. Not to everyone's taste.	394	
		Deep Dale	14	▬	▬	2	5	7	15 min						One cave in remote Deep Dale with some of the hardest problems in the Peak District. Sheltered and shady when in condition.	403	
		Blackwell Dale	46	▬	1	11	27	7	1 min						Three roadside walls with a few hard problems. They generally suffer from some seepage, although one section dries quickly.	405	
		Raven Tor	49	▬	▬	8	23	18	Roadside						Some of the hardest problems and traverses in the Peak. The rock is polished and often wet in winter. A suntrap at other times.	410	
		Rubicon	42	▬	▬	6	11	20	5	3 min						Hard problems and some difficult traverses in a suntrap. Often inaccessible in the winter when flooded.	418
		Taddington Dale	41	▬	▬	7	26	7	5 - 15 min						Two steep caves above the road in Taddington Dale. One very hard and one even harder. Well sheltered and shady in the summer.	424	
		Alport Area	39	▬	▬	8	13	17	1	2 min						Two contrasting venues - one vertical wall of highballs in a lovely location, another steep cave with some powerful problems.	430
		Dovedale	27	▬	▬	▬	▬	9	18	30 min						The latest super-steep limestone cave with lots of desperate problems, and link-ups at the highest standard.	436
Sheffield Area	Central Grit	Harborough Rocks	39	15	19	2	2	1	5 min						A nice limestone edge with short routes and problems. Mostly in the lower grades with a good green circuit.	439	
		Harland Edge	47	6	19	18	4	▬	15 - 35 min						An isolated edge with a small set of mid-grade problems. Never busy and a beautiful setting but difficult to get around due to limited paths.	446	
		Robin Hood's Stride	99	15	25	27	30	2	5 - 15 min						A beautiful cluster of varied boulders scattered around this small edge with some good circuits. Plenty for a long day.	452	
		Cratcliffe	134	18	33	37	45	1	8 - 20 min						A superb boulder-field with lower-grade problems and some quality hard bouldering on the edge and wooded area of the main crag.	464	
		Cliff-top Boulder	35	6	9	10	10	▬	15 - 20 min						A small crag with a good steep prow and walls either side. A limited set of problems, but some of high quality.	481	
		Rowtor Rocks	85	▬	14	38	31	2	2 - 4 min						A great location on a small tor with some fascinating rock formations and carvings. Excellent hard bouldering.	486	
		Stanton Moor	89	-	14	41	29	5	2 - 20 min						Several small clusters of blocks and edges around the moor. Plenty of high-quality problems.	496	
		Stanton in the Woods	94	13	16	50	15	▬	2 - 15 min						Close to Stanton Moor and hidden in the woods. Some green-looking blocks that deliver quality problems when in condition.	508	
		Strangely Area	Matlock Area	Matlock Quarries	56	9	15	20	10	2	2 - 4 min						Two small crags on the northern edge of the town of Matlock. A few good highball problems only.
The P	52			6	7	16	23	▬	10 min						A steep bulging wall of limestone almost on a public walk in Matlock. A number of intense and finery problems. Lots of link-ups and variations.	526	
Cocking Tor and Turningstone	65			1	12	32	19	1	10 - 30 min						Two east-facing edges in a picturesque valley. Mostly hard problems in amongst some dense vegetation. Often green and damp.	532	
Bradley Edge	82			5	8	31	31	7	5 - 8 min						An excellent edge with a series of good harder problems and an intense and popular eliminates wall.	540	
Black Rocks	49			7	12	14	16	▬	3 - 12 min						Three contrasting areas near the crag. Some lower-grade slabs, hard highball slabs and walls and a shorter boulder-field in the trees.	548	
Shining Cliff	25			2	6	12	5	▬	10 - 15 min						A small sheltered area with a limited set of good problems.	554	
Derwent Edges	Staffordshire	The Roaches	297	62	90	90	52	3	3 - 30 min						Superb and extensive bouldering on boulders and the edge. Excellent circuits and quality across the grades.	560	
		The Skyline	73	17	22	25	9	▬	25 - 40 min						Several beautiful and exposed locations above the Roaches with some good hard problems and circuits.	588	
		The Five Clouds	33	▬	5	10	14	4	12 - 18 min						A few isolated locations including one brilliant boulder. Can be combined easily with the Roaches.	595	
		Ramshaw	73	6	25	22	20	▬	2 - 10 min						An east-facing edge with a few good areas in the mid and high grades.	602	
		Newstones and Baldstones	83	11	21	36	14	▬	2 - 15 min						An excellent spot with good bouldering on the two edges and quality problems across the grade range. Mostly east-facing.	610	
		Gib Torr	18	▬	5	7	6	▬	1 min						A few high-quality problems on a small, east-facing crag.	619	
		Wolf Edge	36	5	16	13	2	▬	15 min						Isolated bouldering on a beautiful short edge with some good easier and mid-grade problems.	622	
FULL TOTALS FOR BOOK		4756	578	1145	1553	1319	176		Faded symbol means only some of the routes are sheltered/windy/dry in the rain/ suffer seepage/green								