Peak NE POKKETZ Chris Craggs and Alan James

A rock climbing guidebook to selected easier routes on the eastern gritstone edges of the Peak District

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This page: The Link (E1 5b) - page 65 - at Stanage.

Cover: Tony Payne on Louisiana Rib (VS 4c) - page 65 - at Stanage. Photos: Chris Cragge

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An evening ascent of Robin Hood's Right-hand Buttress Direct (HS 4a) - page 69 - on Stanage. Photo: Chris Craggs

The gritstone edges of the Peak District are probably the most popular climbing area in the world. Stanage, Burbage, Millstone and the other superb crags in the area are visited by climbers operating at all levels but, in particular, are frequently used as great places to get started and 'learn the ropes'. The height of the crags and plethora of excellent quality routes across the easier grades mean that there is likely to be something for everyone who visits, whether they are a complete beginner or relatively experienced visitor looking for brilliant routes in the VS to HVS range.

The POKKETZ Guide

This POKKETZ book is designed as a compact, pocket-sized introductory guide which contains everything you need to get going. The routes covered represent the very best on offer in the grade range up to HVS and we have even included a few E1s and E2s to aim for if you find the rest of the routes a bit easy. What you don't get are the harder routes and the buttresses with less good quality routes; it is just the best of the best stripped down and presented in this compact and affordable package.

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Introduction

Mountain Rescue

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

Dial 999 and ask for 'POLICE - MOUNTAIN RESCUE'

All mountain rescue incidents in the Peak District area fall under the responsibility of Derbyshire Constabulary. If in any doubt request Derbyshire Police Operations Room.

Edale Mountain Rescue Team - www.edalemountainrescue.co.uk

Peak District Mountain Rescue Organisation - www.pdmro.org.uk

Access

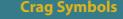
Most of the crags in this guidebook have no major access problems and all that is required to ensure continued freedom of access is a responsible approach otherwise the freedoms already won could be so easily lost. Infrequently access restrictions (signs will normally be posted) do occur mainly due either to nesting birds, or because of potential fire hazards, although in both these cases a balance is usually struck. In recent years the two main areas affected by nesting birds have been Stanage and Millstone, during the nesting period between mid-March and the end of June. In both cases the restrictions have been marked by signs at the crag, and lifted as soon as reasonably possible. Climbers have had a very good reputation over the years in respecting these restrictions.

If you do encounter access problems, contact the BMC at *The British Mountaineering Council*, 177-179

Burton Road, West Didsbury, Manchester, M20 2BB - www.thebmc.co.uk

Guidebook Footnote - The inclusion of a climbing area in this book does not mean that you have a right of access or the right to climb upon it. The descriptions 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.

Route Symbols

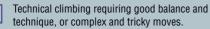




1 to 3 stars indicating the best routes.

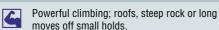


Angle of the approach walk to the crag with approximate time.





Approximate time that the crag is in the direct sun (when it is shining!)





The rock can get green and damp in winter and early spring.



Sustained climbing; either lots of hard moves or pumpy positions for placing gear.



A crag offering some shelter from the wind.

Crag Popularity



Fingery climbing with significant small holds on the hard sections



Deserted - Currently under-used and quiet. May have a long walk-in and/or less good routes.



Typical rounded gritstone holds and sloping breaks.



Quiet - Less popular sections on major crags, or good buttresses with long walk-ins.



A long reach is helpful or even essential for one or more of the moves.

Fluttery climbing with big fall potential and scary



Busy - Places you will seldom be alone, especially at weekends. Good routes and easy access.



Graunchy climbing; wide cracks or thrutchy moves (not specifically for hand and fist jams).

Crowded - The most popular sections of the best crags. Classic routes and lots of people.

run-outs.

(S) High Neb

Gear and Grades 6

On the vast majority of routes in this guide there is no fixed gear so everything you need to protect your ascent will have to be carried up the crag. This style of climbing is known as 'traditional' or 'trad' climbing.

Runners

The wide breaks and cracks make gritstone an ideal place for Friends and other camming devices, Hexes are a cheaper alternative though they are a little less versatile. Wires will be found most useful for the narrower cracks. Many old routes which were bold and unprotected leads in their day are now relatively safe with modern protection. The photo illustrates a typical general gritstone rack. It consists of a set of wires and a range of Friends. One or two slings may also be found useful on some routes and often on the cliff-top belays.



Ropes

Most grit routes are short enough to be climbed on a single 10mm or 11mm rope. The exceptions to this are routes which wander around in which case use 2 x 9mm half-ropes or use one rope doubled.

Beyond these essentials you may find useful, a 'poker' for loosening recalcitrant gear, tape for bandaging your hands before, or after, they are wrecked by some savage crack; a tooth brush for cleaning small holds; and a bouldering mat is welcome on those unprotected starts.

British 'Trad' Grade

1) Adjectival grade (Diff, VDiff, Severe, Hard Severe (HS), Very Severe (VS), Hard Very Severe (HVS), E1 and upwards).

How well protected a route is, how sustained and a general indication of the level of difficulty of the whole route.

2) Technical grade (4a, 4b, 4c,..... to 7b). The difficulty of the hardest single move.

Bold Routes - Some gritstone routes have limited protection and you can find yourself in serious situations. This should be clear from the text but please make sure you use your own skill and judgment as to whether you will be able to safely complete a chosen climb. A bold E2 may only feel like a Sport grade 6a on a top-rope but it is a very different proposition as a lead or solo.

British Trad Grade	Sport Grade	UIAA	USA
Mod	1	- 1	5.1
Moderate Diff	_ 2		5.2
Difficult	2+	III	5.3
Very Difficult Hard Very	3-	III+	5.4
Difficult	3	- IV+	5.5
Severe HS BOLD	_3 <u>+</u> _	-V	5.6
Hard Severe 4a	4	v	5.7
Very Severe BOLD	4+	_V+	5.8
BOLD SAFE HVS	5	VI-	5.9
5a 5b	5+	VI	5.10a
E1 BOLD SAFE	6a	VI+	5.10b
SĂFE E2	6a+	VII-	5.10c
6a SAFE	6b	VII	5.10d

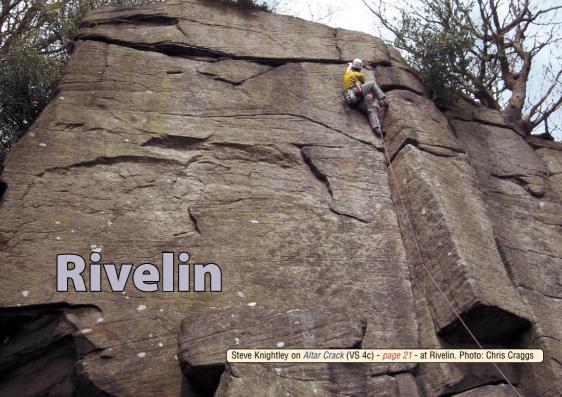
Colour Coding

The routes are all given a colour-coded dot corresponding to a grade band.

Green Routes - Everything at grade Severe and under. Good routes to start on.

Orange Routes - Hard Severe to HVS inclusive. General ticking routes for those with more experience, a large range of excellent routes is available across this band.

Red Routes - E1 to E3 inclusive. Routes for the experienced and keen climber. A small selection of the best of these routes are included in this book for you to aspire to.



The simple approach and the fact that it is inside the Sheffield city boundary makes Rivelin a popular 'quick-hit' crag. It is possibility to finish work and nip out for an ascent of *The Needle* before the sun sets, or grab the opportunity of a beautiful winter's day to do a bunch of classics whilst the friction is good. Rivelin no longer plays second fiddle to some of its more illustrious brethren, and overall the place is well worth several trips.

Trees grow almost up to the cliff face offering shelter on windy days but making the place green in the depths of winter, although the Needle stands proud of the trees and is less affected. The clearing of some of the trees that used to shade the cliff has improved both the views and the general state of the rock.

Access

The felling of trees below the edge has caused access problems in the past. Additionally the owner has requested that the crag is not to be used by organised groups.

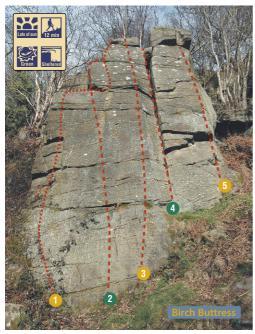
Approach (SK279872)

The crag looks south over the Rivelin Valley, above the A57, on the western side of Sheffield. The best parking is the free car park on the far side of the dam at Rivelin Reservoir. Walk back to the main road and take the path opposite that runs towards



the cliff then veers right through a damp area into the trees, rising gently. At a marker post take the left fork rising more steeply. Continue up the hill, ignoring any paths leading off right, and you will emerge by the Needle. This is easier to follow in the summer when the vegetation covers many of the minor paths through the trees.





Birch Buttress

Tucked away on the far left-hand side of the natural edge is this pleasant slabby buttress. It tends to be green early in the year.

Approach - Follow a vague, undulating path leftwards from White House Buttress.

1	Birch Bark	?	HS 4a
	The left arete of the face		hit dirty Δ

10m. The left arete of the face, the start is usually a bit dirty. At the level of the ledge traverse right for a tricky finish.

Onn't Birch the Doc. (2) Don't Birch the Doc. (2) Don't Birch the Doc. (3) Don't Birch the Doc. (4) Don't Birch the Birch

4 Birch Crack VDiff

which is a grade harder if the nearby crack is ignored!

10m. The compelling wide crack has useful holds on the face, large gear is needed to protect it well. The finish is awkward.

5 Birch

Birch

HVS 5h

10m. The balancy right arete has a tricky upper section on rounded holds. Finish up the fluting.

White House Buttress

A secluded buttress with set of good old-fashioned crack climbs that don't see much traffic and so tend to be rather green. This is one of the most sheltered buttresses on the whole cliff.

Approach (See map on page 14) - From Kremlin Krack area, a vague path leads leftwards though the trees to the buttress which is well hidden in the trees.

Red's Slab... VS 4a
12m. Climb the awkward lower arete then move
right and balance up the centre of the face. A sling
on the stump up and left is the only possible runner.

lowering the grade and grip factor.

12m. Climb onto the ledge then continue via a good old-fashioned battle (old clothes are best). A worthwhile route that would benefit from a hit more traffic

Birch Buttress - 80m

Senator's Gully...... \$\$\overline{\pi}\$ S 4a

14m. The deep chimney leads to a ledge. If this is damp the groove on the left and a short traverse right offer an alternative. From the large ledge (possible stance) a tricky move on small footholds leads to easy ground.

🕕 Ray Crack 🏗 🌽 🔙 VS :

8m. The short crack is more awkward than it looks.

relin Bamford (S) High Neb (S) (S) Popular Burbage N Burbage S Higgar Tor Millstone Yarndiffe





Kremlin Crack and Rodney's Dilemma

The left-hand end of the main part of the cliff is a bay bounded by some low-angled slabs. The routes here are sheltered; the twin chimneys are safe struggles whereas the arete to the right is more open and airy. To the right is a buttress with a collection of easier climbs **Approach (See map on page 14)** - From the point where the path arrives at the crag, scramble up some blocks and walk left

is a buttress with a collection of easier climbs Approach (See map on page 14) - From the point where the path arrives at the crag, scramble up some blocks and walk left.	10m. The main groove improves with height. The crux moves are right at the top where the crack widens.
Kremlin Krack . 22	6 Solitaire
2 Scarlett's Chimney . VS 4b 14m. The chimney on the right side of the hanging rib is an altogether easier affair than its neighbour though it is still a struggle to get established in. Only HS for chimney gurus!	Isolation
Left Under	10m. The groove and steep crack has good holds and runners.
Left Edge	Pious Flake

left of Kremlin Krack

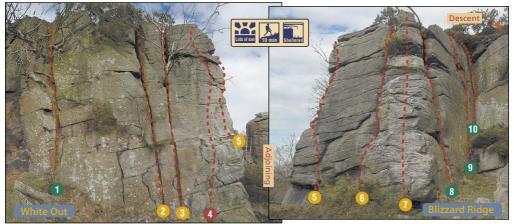
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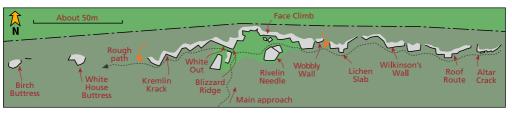
a rather bold feel about them though tiny wires might help.

The right-hand side of the slab offers a gritty descent route for the

suitably competent. The alternative is the steep grassy gully to the







White	Out and	d Rlizza	rd Ridae
wille	Out and	u biizzai	iu niuue

A fine arete gives one of the cliff's classic HVS routes, albeit a bit of a bold one. There are several worthwhile easier crack climbs here too, none need to be done in a snowstorm - unless you really want to!

8m. Good climbing to the woodwork and a tricky little finish up the continuation crack above

HS 4h 12m. The left-hand of the near parallel cracks was a good effort

for its day. A huge cam or two will be found useful by most. The gorse bushes can be a pain in more ways than one!

Gardener's Pleasure . . . 🏗 📳

12m. The widening right-hand crack is better. Large gear is needed for the middle section and the finish is a bit of a grovel luuverly! When the tree finally goes it will be really tough!

4 White Out F1 5c 14m. The centre of the left-hand wall avoiding the tendency to

drift too far towards the arete as much as possible. Follow the cracks leftwards for the hest finish

😈 Blizzard Ridge 🛂 🕅 HVS 5a **16m.** The juggy lower wall leads left to the fine bold upper arete.

superb and photogenic. The central section is bold putting the route at the upper end of the grade.

Jonathan's Chimney . . . 🔯 🄏 🛭 12m. The angular rift is more of groove and is awkward to enter - try laybacking facing right. Once established it eases a little.

VS 4c 12m. The rib between the chimneys is climbed on rounded holds and is poorly protected where it matters.

👪 David's Chimney. 🔯

10m. Another chimney that isn't one! A slightly awkward tussle early on and a stretch near the top though there is plenty of gear available. A good one to learn on perhaps.

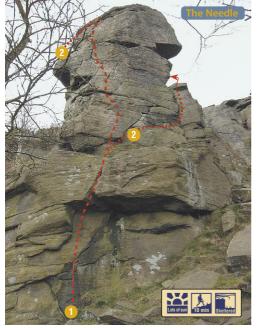
9 Layback Crack 🕮 8m. The clean-cut crack left of the groove bounding the wall can

be laybacked though other techniques work. It was popular wayback - hence the polish. Oft used as a descent by the competent.

HVD 8m. The main angle of the bay is surprisingly sustained, and leads

to a sneaky exit out to the left to avoid the prickles.





The Needle

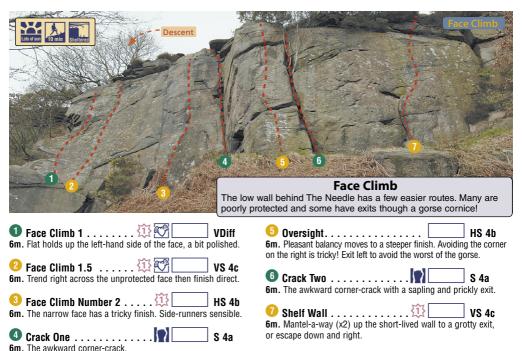
Standing proudly in front of Rivelin Edge is the fine obelisk of the Rivelin Needle, one of grit's more inaccessible summits. *Croton Oil* is a 'must-do' classic and *Spiral Route* is almost as good. Both climbs arrive at the small ledge of the Notch from where the 'rickety-flake' leads to the summit. This flake needs handling with great care and the placing of runners behind it is a bad idea.

Descent - From its shelving top a short abseil (from a chipped notch or old chains) is the easiest method of escape. A tyrolean to the main edge is the scariest!

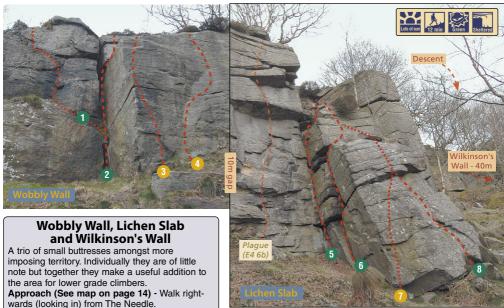
20m. A great classic, possibly the best route on the edge, featuring fine climbing and good protection throughout. From the centre of the south face climb a wide crack (often damp) then the wall trending left via a series of hidden finger cracks (good wires) to reach the Notch. Finish up the 'ricketv-flake' with care.

2 The Spiral Route..... 🕸 🌽 _____ VS 4

28m. A mini-expedition that does what it says on the tin! All in all, the easiest way to the summit, although it is not that easy. Start as for *Croton Oil* then move right to a crack, which leads to the ledges behind the tower, and the feeling that you are still on the ground. From the opposite end of the ledges hand traverse the horizontal break strenuously out right to gain the Notch and the 'rickety-flake' finish.



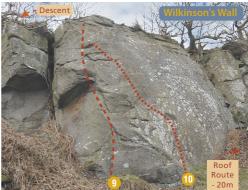




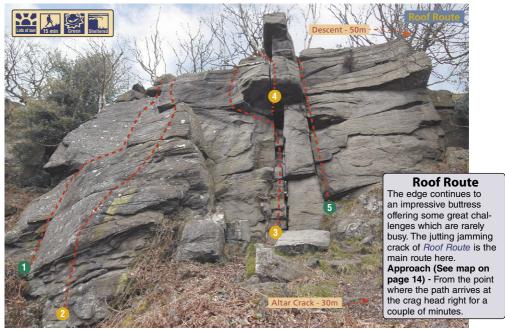
1 Ebenezer's Staircase VDiff 6m. A tricky move gains a ledge, a flake and a leftwards exit. A technical direct start (5b) is possible up the lower wall.
2 Deep Chimney
Fumf VS 5a 6m. The arete has a funny starting sequence but soon eases.
Wobbly Wall
Across the slope, past a descent route, is an imposing buttress with a slumped slab on its right-hand side.
The Crevice
6 The Slot
Chips and Peas

Rivelin

3 Lichen Slab
50m to the right is a short steep slab.
① Cocaine Place
Wilkinson's Wall
Descent Wilkinson's Wall









	, 6		Altar Crack
Renshaw's Re		(2)	HVD

O i	Renshav	v's Ren	nedy.	 . [2]	}	lVD
	. The fine				a tricky	start

10m. The centre of the slab left of the big overhang of Roof Route was a late discovery. The final rib is the crux, keep left.

HVS 5b 10m. Climb the pleasant shallow groove left of the jutting roof. Despite it brevity, it is hard for HVS and hard for 5b!

Altar Crack

The next buttress heading right along the edge features the impressive shallow corner crack of Altar Crack which is hard to ignore!

Roof Route..... 🔯 💪 📦 10m. A 'traditional' grit HVS, the leering roof crack is as good and as hard as it looks. Getting your hands round the lip is okay, then the problems begin. Not one to learn the mystical art on!

5 Root Route.

10m. An excellent sustained route up the groove to the right of the roof. Gaining the ledges early on is the crux for most.

10m. The clean-cut corner-crack is a VS with attitude, a route

from the days when men were men! With gear placed as high as possible, layback and jam with conviction and try not to pump out before the sanctuary of the horizontal break. Move right a short distance and belly-flop over the top. For those who are not pumped a leftward exit is not much harder. Photo on page 8.

HVS 5h

10m. The thin crack has perfect protection and superb finger jams but still manages to be surprisingly hard work. If you manage this one okay you are probably ready for your 1st E1!

📵 Vestry Chimney **VDiff** 8m. The tricky chimney with a worrying wobbling chockstone.

Stars	Grad	le <i>Photo</i> Page		Billiard Buttress		Centre Stage	
*	S	20-foot Crack	★ HVS	Birch	⋆ VS	Chant, The	8
	VDiff	Adjacent Slab	HS	Birch Bark	★ HS	Chiming Crack	
***	VS	Altar Crack	** S	Birch Buttress	VS	Chimp's Corner	
***	HS	Amazon Crack (Burbage N)82 93		Birch Crack	★ HS	Chips and Peas	19
**	S	Amazon Crack (Stanage) 65	*** S	Bishop's Route 69		Christmas Crack	
	Mod	Amazon Gully	★★ HS	Black Hawk	S	Cioch Corner	
	S	Ammo	*** S	Black Hawk Hell Crack	⋆ VS	Cleft Wing	5
	VDiff	Anatomy		Black Hawk Traverse Left 75		Cleft Wing Superdirect	5
	Diff	Angle Crack	** Diff	Black Hawk Traverse Right 75	⋆ S	Close Shave	
		Angular Climb				Cocaine Place	
*		Another Turn		Bond Street	⋆ VS	Cock, The	10
*		Ant's Arete		Bosun's Slab		Cocktails	
*	S	Ant's Crack	⋆ VDiff	Boyd's Crack	★★ HS	Coign, The	5
*	HS	Ant's Wall		Bracken Crack 27	★★ HVS	Cold Turkey	6
*	E1	Aphid's Wall		Bramble Crack		Concave Slab	
**		April Arete	★ HS	Bright Eyed	VS	Confectioner, The	
***		April Crack		Brixton Road	*** HVS	Congo Corner	6
**		Ariel. The	HS	Broddle		Convex or Perplexed	3
	Diff	Artillery Corner		Brooks' Crack	S	Cool Groove	
*		Ash Tree Crack 89	★★ HS	Brooks' Layback 93		Corner Crack	
*	VS	Ash Tree Variations 89	*** HS	Brown's Crack	★★ VS	Cosmic Crack	
**	S	Ash Tree Wall 89		Burgess Buttress	★ HVS	Cotter, The	9
		Ash Trees Forever 89		Burgess Street	⋆⋆ VS	Covent Garden	11
*	VS	Austin's Variation	VS	Busy Day at Bamford 29		Crab Crawl Arete	3
*		Autumn Gold	★★ HVS	Butcher Crack 61	** S	Crab Crawl, The	
***	S	Balcony Buttress 66		Button Wall		Crack and Cave	
*		Bamford Buttress 29	*** VS	Byne's Crack	*** S	Crack and Corner	
**	HVS	Bamford Rib 29	★★ HS	Byne's Route		Crack One	
**		Bamford Wall	S	Cakestand	S	Crack Two	1
*	HVD	Baseless	★ HS	Caliban's Cave	VDiff	Cranberry Crack	8
	S	Beanpod	⋆ Diff	Capstone Chimney 79		Cranberry Wall	8
	VS	Beggar's Crack	⋆ VS	Cardinal's Arete 121	★ E1	Crease, The	
*		Bent Crack	⋆ VS	Cardinal's Slab		Crevice, The	
*	HS	Big Chimney Arete 91	HS	Cascara Crack		Crewcut	
	HS	Big Chimney, The 91		Castle Chimney		Croton Oil	
		Bilberry Arete 89	★★ HS	Castle Crack		Cue	
*		Bilberry Crack (Burbage North) 89	** S	Cave Buttress		Curse, The	
**		Bilberry Crack (Bamford) 24	⋆ S	Cave Buttress Right-hand 45	* S	Curved Crack	
		Bilberry Face 89	★★ VS	Central Trinity 71	★★ VDiff	Curving Chimney	5

Stars	Grad	le Photo	Page	*						***			Original	
*	VS	Curving Crack	25	**	HVS		The						a	
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	VS	Dover's Wall, Route 3		**	VS	Great Cr	ack		. 91	**			ılly Right	
	VS	Dover's Wall, Route 4		**	VS	Great Ha	arry		115					
	HS	Drainpipe, The		**	HVS	Great No	orth Road		109				kes	
**		Dunklev's Eliminate		**	E1	Great Pe	eter		115	* '	VS	Icv Crack		41
		Duo Crack Climb		**	HVS		ortland Street			***			Crack	
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