# Eastern Grit



Text and topos by Chris Craggs and Alan James Other photography as credited Edited by Alan James Printed in Europe LF Book Services Limited Distributed by Cordee (cordee.co.uk)

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#### Fax63 - ISBN 978 1 873341 83 4

**Cover:** JJ on *Five Finger Exercise* (E2) - *p.527* - at Cratcliffe. Photo: Jon Butters **This page:** Liam Halsey on *Edge Lane* (E5) - *p.351* at Millstone. Photo: Mike Hutton

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60

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#### Ethan Walker at the top of the bold start of The Archangel (E3) - p.201 - at the Goliath's Groove area of Stanage. Photo: Mike Hutton

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The Peak District was the UK's first National Park (1951) and nowadays is one of the most visited in the world. Around twenty million people live within an hour's drive and it gets around thirteen million visitors a year. The central limestone core is ringed by a ragged edge of gritstone that generally faces towards the centre of the park. The eastern side of this ring of rock is formed by a thirty mile broken banner that runs from Wharncliffe, north of Sheffield, all the way down to Shining Cliff, south of Matlock. The nucleus of this consists of the classic Gritstone edges, including the ever-popular cliffs of Stanage, Burbage, Froggatt, Curbar and Birchen. There are many lesser outcrops worth exploring, plus a rather fine set of quarries, which are virtually all in west-facing hill-top situations. Escape from the western side of the city is easy and great sunsets are a given - there is little wonder that Sheffield has become the home of so many climbers.

I first climbed on Stanage in 1968, waking early from a cold night's camping at North Lees and wandering up to gaze at the shadowy ribbon of backlit rock running away in both directions. I can still recall the joy of those first explorations almost 50 years on. We spent the first day doing classics such as *Martello Buttress* and *Inverted V*, dodging squally showers along the way. That was followed by a day whacking pegs into Millstone's hairline cracks - it was allowed - even compulsory back then. I was smitten and moved to Sheffield in 1970 to start a fifty year love affair with 'The Grit'.

Even back then, these cliffs and their short, intense climbs had a bigger place in the mythology of UK climbing than their size might otherwise suggest. Easy access and perfect rock has created a playground for bold and talented climbers and a place for the rest of us to learn our trade and test our abilities. As time has passed ever more people have been introduced to the world of gritstone climbing and all its wonderful weirdness, at some of the most popular climbing venues on the planet. From a small start with a few hardy pioneers over a hundred years ago, gritstone has become the rock of choice for many - a recent question on UKClimbing revealed that that 21 of the 25 most ticked routes in the UK up to VS are on Eastern Grit!

My involvement with Peak District guidebooks goes back well over 30 years, meaning I have had the long-term pleasure of combining my main obsessions - climbing, photograph and writing. These fantastic cliffs now have another guidebook which we hope will give you as much pleasure and inspiration as it has given us when working on it.

Chris Craggs, March 2022

Pete Bridgewood committing to the run-out at the top of *Moon Walk* (E4) - *p.427* - on Moon Buttress at Curbar. Photo: Mike Hutton

#### The Book

6

The arrival of Peak Gritstone East back in 2001 changed climbing guidebooks forever. Marking lines on full-colour photographs of the cliffs proved to be a revolutionary approach breathtaking in both its simplicity and effectiveness. In 2006 we produced Eastern Grit which had a hundred extra pages and 900 more climbs. Then in 2014 another new edition expanded the coverage to a massive 560 pages, almost twice the thickness of the original 2001 book, and including 4050 routes. This time we have only added 16 pages but we have manage to include another 255 routes taking the total to 4305.

Peak Gritstone East was photographed with a 3 megapixel camera which was the height of technology back in 2001. This time around the crag photography was done using a combination of a 45.7 megapixel SLR and a 24 megapixel drone. The majority of the crags have been re-photographed and are now mostly as clear and easy to use as you could possibly wish for. However, we have said this before and each time we think we have reached a peak in what the technology can offer, something happens to move things along again. I have no idea how we can improve things for the 5th edition of Eastern Grit however we will keep looking for improvements.

#### **Other Guidebooks**

There are some other guides by different publishers which complement the Rockfax series of books. Most are produced by the British Mountaineering Council and contain in-depth listings of routes for all the crags covered.

#### Froggatt to Black Rocks (BMC 2010)

Froggatt, Curbar, Birchen, Cratcliffe, Black Rocks and lots of minor stuff around Matlock.

#### Stanage (BMC 2007)

A single book for Stanage with all the routes and bouldering.

#### Burbage, Millstone and Beyond (BMC 2005)

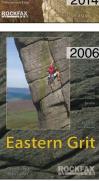
Burbage Valley, Millstone, Lawrencefield, Rivelin, Derwent, Bamford, Wharncliffe. Includes bouldering.

There are also three other selected climbs guides to the gritstone edges from Wired, Vertebrate Graphics and Pete O'Donovan. Never has there been so much choice and some cynics said that the 2001 Peak Gritstone East Rockfax was going to be the death of guidebooks!

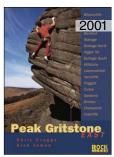
#### **Guidebook Footnote**

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.





**Eastern Gri** 





#### **Rockfax Guides**

There are three Rockfax books that complement the coverage in this one. With all four books you will have all the best climbing over the whole Peak area (gritstone, limestone and bouldering) plus you get Lancashire and Merseyside thrown in!

#### Peak Bouldering (2014)

The Peak Bouldering Rockfax covers a huge area, including all the main bouldering venues of the Peak District. It includes thousands of problems including many more low-grade problems than have ever been documented before. There are bouldering circuits for problems at f4+ and under, and at f5+ and below.

There is some overlap with this Eastern Grit book for the bouldering which is on, or very close to, the main edges. In these cases the problems are covered in both books and given bouldering grades in this book. In other places references have been included this book pointing to bouldering areas given full coverage in the Peak Bouldering book.

A new edition is being worked on and should be available in 2023.

#### Peak Limestone (2020)

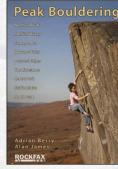
This massive single-volume guidebook to Peak Limestone follows three previous editions starting way back in 1992. The book includes detailed coverage of the classic venues of Stoney, Cheedale and Water-cum-Jolly and the southern crags around Matlock, Dovedale and the Manifold, plus the ever popular sport climbs in the many bolted quarries. It is supported by a Rockfax Digital version that expands the coverage with 18 extra minor crags.

#### Western Grit (2009)

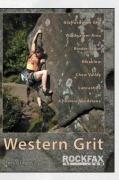
The current edition of the original award-winning 2003 Western Grit guidebook. It ranges from the popular Staffordshire gritstone edges of the Roaches, Hen Cloud and Ramshaw up onto the remote Kinder and Bleaklow moorland crags. Also included are the superb Chew Valley edges, the best of the Lancashire crags and the fine sandstone buttress of Helsby, Pex Hill and Frodsham in Merseyside.

#### Rockfax Print Publications - rockfax.com Rockfax Digital - rockfax.digital











#### Rockfax Digital Eastern Grit 11

#### Eastern Grit Rockfax Digital 10

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



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dering classic. Head up the nprotected 'question-mark' slab

ts top left-hand corner. The ercut groove here is tricky to

nter (good gear) and leads to an ed slab. Head right to a ledg

1 HVD 4:

S Flying Buttress

The heart of Rockfax Digital is the crag and route information covering 'areas' which correspond roughly 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



Download on the

App Store

MTT M

be able to read the descriptions and see the topos and maps. There is plenty of free content available without subscription, enabling you to get a really good impression of what Rockfax Digital is like without shelling out any money.

Eastern

Grit

Lake

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 around 21,000 crags worldwide. The map also displays all the 4,000+ listings from the UKClimbing Directory of climbing walls, outdoor shops, climbing clubs, outdoor-specific accommodation and instructors and guides, amongst others.

#### How to Subscribe

Go to **rockfax.digital** to find links to download the app and create an account. You can then test the app and use the free content or set up a subscription for full access. Scan the QR code to the right for more information.



#### **UKC Loabooks**

A popular method of logging your climbing is to use the UKClimbing.com logbooks system. This database has more than half a million routes on over 21,500 crags. So far, over 52,000 users have recorded more than 8.4 million ascents! To set up your own logbook just register at 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 guality 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 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.

	Route Symbols
	A good route which is well worth the effort.
<b>[2]</b>	A very good route, one of the best on the crag.
③	A brilliant route, one of the best in the area.
<b>X</b>	Technical climbing requiring good balance and technique, or complex and tricky moves.
4	Powerful climbing; roofs, steep rock, low lock-o or long moves off small holds.
	Sustained climbing; either lots of hard moves or steep rock giving pumpy climbing.
7	Fingery climbing with significant small holds on the hard sections.
	Fluttery climbing with long fall potential or a sca run-out.
	A long reach is helpful, or even essential, for on or more of the moves.
	A dynamic move ('dyno') may be required.
<b>;</b> ;	Some loose rock may be encountered.
N	The route has rounded holds typical of gritstone
	Graunchy climbing - wide cracks or awkward an thrutchy moves.
	A sit-down start for a boulder problem.
	Crag Symbols
14 min	Angle of the approach walk to the crag with the approximate approach time.
Lots of sun	Approximate time that the crag is in the sun (when it is shining).
Windy	The crag is exposed and may be cold especially the wind is blowing.
Sheltered	The crag can offer shelter from the wind. Can be suntrap - good in winter, bad when hot.
Seepage 1	The crag suffers from seepage. It may be wet an unclimbable after prolonged periods of rain.
Green	The rock can be green and slimey after wet weather and early in the year.
	The crag/buttress has an annual restriction due nesting birds - check the crag information.
	<b>Deserted -</b> Currently under-used and usually qui Fewer good routes or remote and smaller areas.
<b></b>	<b>Quiet -</b> Less popular sections on major crags, or good buttresses with awkward approaches.

Busy - Places you will seldom be alone, especially

Crowded - The most popular sections of the most

at weekends. Good routes and easy access.

popular crags which are always busy.

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**Topo Key** height Unequipped belay Route featured on another topo Variation pitch Buttress on another page (see route page description) Map Kev



This is the fourth iteration of Eastern Grit - the first edition that we (myself and Alan James) produced in 2001 was very much the guidebook that broke the mould and set the standard for years to come. Checking back it looks a little old fashioned, and thin now (288 vs 576 pages) but its legacy is clearly visible.

Working on this has been a treat; visiting old venues to check and rephotograph the crags, plus

repeating old classics with good friends; Graham and Dan Parkes, Steve Cunnington and Colin Binks.

The Rockfax/UKC team have been great - Alan James's editing skills and Stephen (FB) Horne's superb 'scripts' have helped make this look as good as it does. Alan also taught me to fly a drone which has allowed us to produced some amazing crag shots of places that were particularly difficult to photograph - who says you can't teach an old dog new tricks?

As ever Sherri Davy has been by my side, supporter, belayer, accountant and barber - we actually got married in June last year after a 30 year engagement; thanks for sticking with me.

Chris Craggs, March 2022

We owe a debt of thanks to all those who have contributed to the documentation of climbing on the Eastern Edges. Whether this be through work on older guidebooks, or diligent crag moderators on UKClimbing, your efforts are very much appreciated.

For this book we have once again worked with a number of superb photographers. We are grateful to Mike Hutton (see right), Mike Cheque, Anthony Roberts and Nick Brown for their photos.

Once again Chris Craggs has come through with the goods, 21 years on since our first collaboration. I am very grateful to both Chris and Sherri for their excellent work making this fourth edition of Eastern Grit the biggest and best ever.

Alan James, March 2022



Chris on Esso Extra (E1) -

p.207 - at Stanage in 1978.

for their support. Awesome Walls - Page 2 awesomewalls.co.uk

> Britsh Mountaineering Council - Inside back cover thebmc.co.uk

We are grateful to the following

Edelrid - p.29 edelrid.com

Mammut - p.19 mammut.ch

> Montane - p.43 montane.com

Mountain Equipment - Inside front cover mountain-equipment.co.uk

Outside - Outside Back Cover outside.co.uk

Petzl - Back cover flap petzl.com

Rock On - p.33 rockonclimbing.co.uk

Wild Country - *p.41* wildcountry.com

> Special thanks go to Mike Hutton who set himself the task of getting as many great photos for this book as he could. All we did was point him in the right direction and we were rewarded with more brilliant photos than we could use. In this one he has managed to self-timer the dramatic *Gargoyle Flake* (VS) - p.126 - at Bamford. A much-taken photograph but seldom as good as this version. Photo: Self-timer

**Rockfax Publications** 14

Western Grit

Western Grit

April 2009

R April 2009

Peak Bouldering

May 2014

R May 2014

**Dorset Boulderin** 

Dorset Bouldering

May 2014

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Lake

Lake District Climbs

November 2019

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Eastern Grit

May 2022

**R** May 2022

Southern Sandstone

September 2017

R September 2017

Northern England

Elebruary 2008

R February 2008

Peak Limestone

Peak Limestone

**U** June 2020

R November 2021

Dorset

**III** July 2021

**R** July 2021

France : Haute Provence

December 2009

R December 2009

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France : Côte d'Azur

February 2017

Rebruary 2017

Dorset

15

Northern Limestone

January 2015

LT January 2015

New edition

West Country Climbs

**I** ate 2022

R Late 2022

Deep Water

**Deep Water** 

**III** June 2007

R In other books

Chamonix

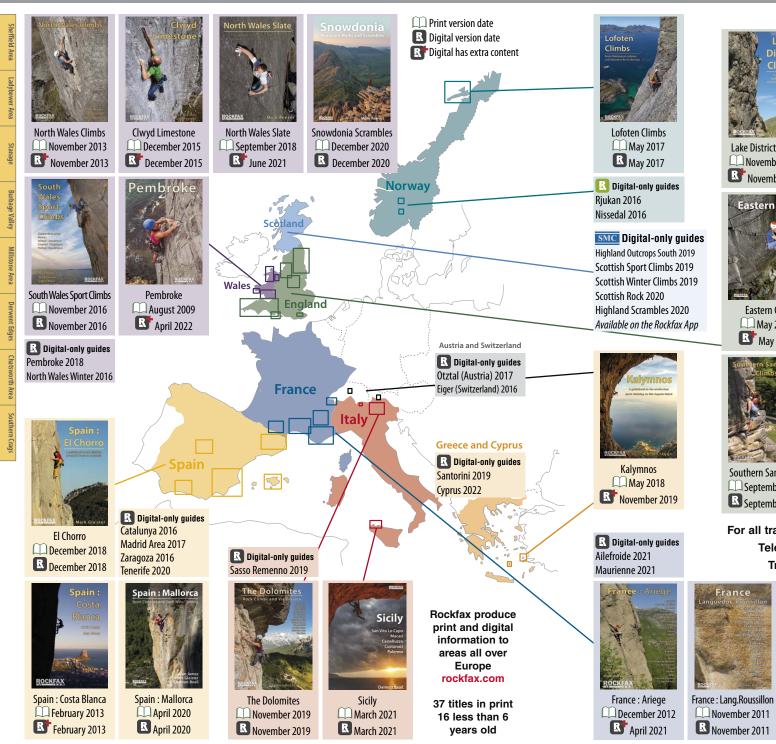
New edition

Chamonix

Summer 2022

R Summer 2022

ROCKEA



# Eastern Grit Logistics

Amy Lipschultz hanging out above the difficulties on the majestic *The Link* (E1) - *p.240* - a direct on *Congo Corner* on Mississippi Buttress on Stanage Popular. The route was co-author Chris Craggs' finest new route (out of 140+) on the edge - one benefit of a long obsession with Stanage. 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

Eastern Grit can offer something for the diligent explorer on most days of the year; there is nearly always a vehicle or two parked at the Popular End of Stanage even on the most miserable of days. Crisp winter conditions are ideal for the harder routes, whereas spring can offer perfect conditions when the crags and ground dry out and it isn't too hot. Once the summer arrives, shade can usually be found by making an early start. Alternatively consider heading up to the higher edges where there is often a cooling breeze, although midges can be a problem. In the autumn the rain causes the greening of the lower cliffs but good conditions can often be found on the more exposed edges. A cloud inversion filling the Derwent Valley is guite a common experience with the long cold nights of late autumn and into the winter, making for superb conditions on Froggatt and Curbar.

On cold winter days Rivelin is a good bet. During wetter weather crags such as Wharncliffe and Agden are worth considering - not only are they both quick to dry but they also lie to the east of the main hills so benefit from a rain-shadow effect.

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



# Always there

Trust your partner. Solve problems together. A bond built through climbing is the strongest of all. This partnership started 160 years ago with Mammut's first climbing ropes. It has evolved to a full climbing collection, designed to the highest specifications of safety, durability and freedom of movement. We're always there. We've got you - now trust the process and reach your potential.

mammut.com

MAMMU1

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, Millstone and Lawrencefield, or south to Tegness and 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. The best website for finding train information is **thetrainline.com**.

### Buses 目

Bus coverage for the Peak District is reasonable. The best website is **traveline.info**. Also useful is **travelsouthyorkshire.com** for buses in and around Sheffield.

#### From Sheffield

Wharncliffe - No. 57 to Stocksbridge.

**Rivelin, Dovestone Tor, Stanage North and Bamford -** No. 244/273/274 via Crosspool, Rivelin Dams and Bamford.

**Stanage Plantation -** No. 51 to Lodge Moor (a 1 hour walk, but it's a frequent bus service). **Burbage Valley, Millstone and Lawrencefield -** No. 272 to Castleton via Fox House and No. 65 to Buxton via Fox House and Grindleford.

Burbage Valley, Yarncliffe, Froggatt - No. 240 to Bakewell. Baslow and Gardom's - No. 218 to Buxton via Bakewell.

From Chesterfield **Birchen, Chatsworth -** No. 170 to Bakewell.

From Matlock Cratcliffe - No. 172 to Bakewell.

From Derby **Black Rocks -** No. 6.1 to Wirksworth and Matlock.

#### **Satellite Navigation**

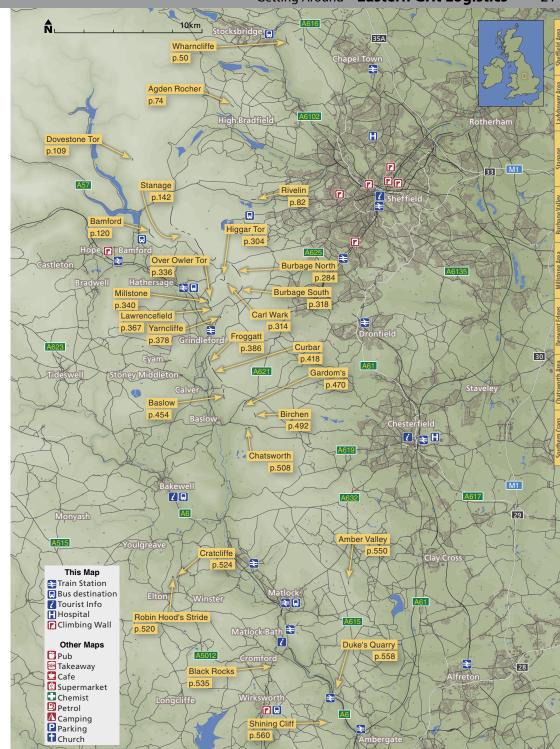
GPS 53.276935 1.661346 Precise GPS location and QR code (right). Just point your phone at the QR code and open in your chosen navigation app to take you direct to the parking spots.



#### Tourist Information 🚺

If you are short of ideas of what to do on a wet day or need some accommodation, take a look at the **visitpeakdistrict.com**. This web site contains much more useful information than it is possible to include in these pages.

There are Tourist Information Centres in Sheffield, Buxton, Castleton, Bakewell, Cromford, Middleton and Matlock marked on the maps with a small blue 'i' symbol.



#### Accommodation

Useful websites for different types of accommodation are:

#### peakdistrictonline.co.uk

ukclimbing.com/listings Youth Hostels - There are numerous Youth Hostels in the Peak District, check out

#### yha.org.uk

### Camping 🚺

There are many more campsites than these two popular ones here.

#### Stanage - North Lees Camp Site Birley Lane, Hathersage (p.141).

Tel: 01433 650838 The most popular climbers' campsite in the

## area - booking will be needed at busy times.

**Baslow - Eric Byne Memorial Campsite** Below Birchen Edge, off the A619 (p.490). A rudimentary site (no vehicles allowed) but it is in a central (and very quiet) location.

#### More on the following listings sites. ukclimbing.com/listings/accommodation/ coolcamping.co.uk campsites.co.uk

## Pubs 📴

Pubs are an integral part of the climbing experience for many. The Peak District is blessed with many fine hostelries 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 forums.

The Strines Inn (p.108) - A very old pub. Decent food and good for Dovestone Tor. The Anglers Rest (p.118) - At Bamford. Owned by members of the local community. A good variety of beers, and excellent food. The Norfolk Arms - Ringinglow, for homewardbound Sheffielders. Busy and often has events but good food and beer.

The Scotsmans Pack - Hathersage, good for Stanage. Within walking distance of the North Lees campsite. Good beer and food. Fox House (p.317) - 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 (p.384) - Above the parking area for Froggatt. Good food and popular with climbers.

Chequers Inn (p.384) - Below Froggatt. Good food and ale plus a beer garden. **Robin Hood Inn** (p.490) - By the parking for Birchen. Not a great pub but convenient. The Miners Standard (p.518) - Nice pub near Cratcliffe with great food. The Druid Inn (p.518) - In Birchover, handy for Cratcliffe. Good food.



Outside Main Road, Hathersage. Tel: 01433 631111 outside.co.uk Very large store with climbing equipment department and in-store cafe. See outside back cover

#### Rock On

Mile End, London. Tel: 0208 9815066 Craggy Island, Guildford, Tel: 01483 565635 rockonclimbing.co.uk Great shops at two popular climbing walls. Get your gear before you travel. See p.33

#### Alpkit - Main Road, Hathersage. Crag X - 45 Mowbray Street, Sheffield. Go Outdoors - Hill Street, Sheffield. Go Outdoors - Main Road, Hathersage. Hitch 'n' Hike - Mytham Bridge, Hope Valley.

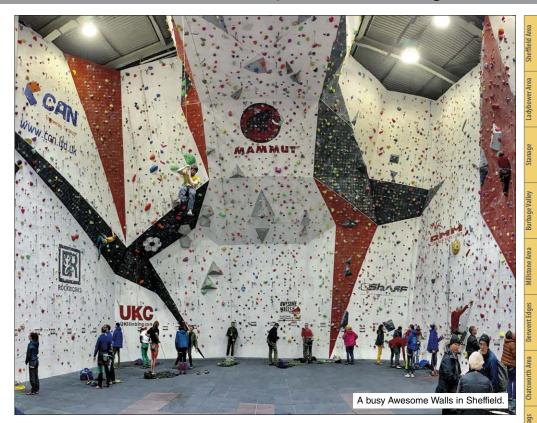
More shops listed at ukclimbing.com/listings/outdoor\_shops/

#### 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. Palmers Cafe - By the traffic lights at Calver crossroads. Popular with cyclists and climbers. Nice and central for the Derwent Valley section of Eastern Grit.



#### **Climbing Walls**

Climbing walls are an essential part of climbing and there are many in the Peak Area that come into their own in the winter when the crags are out of condition. They can also be great places to head at other times if you want to work on your stamina or power!

#### **Awesome Walls Sheffield** Garter Street, Sheffield.

Tel: 0114 244 6622 awesomewalls.co.uk

Large dedicated climbing centre awarded 'National Performance Centre' by the BMC. 105 lines, 7 auto-belays, two bouldering areas, Lattice Board, plentiful parking. See p.2

Awesome Walls Stoke Sefton Road. Stoke-on-Trent. Tel: 01782 341919 awesomewalls.co.uk Large bouldering wall with 900 sqm of surface on two floors and a training area. See p.2

#### Awesome Walls Stockport The Engine House, Stockport. Tel: 0161 494 9949 awesomewalls.co.uk Large dedicated climbing centre with a 23.5m wall. 74 lines and bouldering area. See p.2

The Climbing Works - Sheffield Climbing Hangar- Sheffield The Depot - Sheffield The Foundry - Sheffield The Matrix - Sheffield Adventure Hub - Hope Valley Wirksworth Leisure Centre - Wirksworth For more walls and information check ukclimbing.com/listings/climbing walls/

# Eastern Grit Climbing Information

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27

#### **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.

Some general guidelines:

- 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
- 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/** 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.

British Mountaineering Council, 177-179 Burton Road, Manchester, M20 2BB. Tel: 0870 010 4878 Web: thebmc.co.uk Email: office@thebmc.co.uk



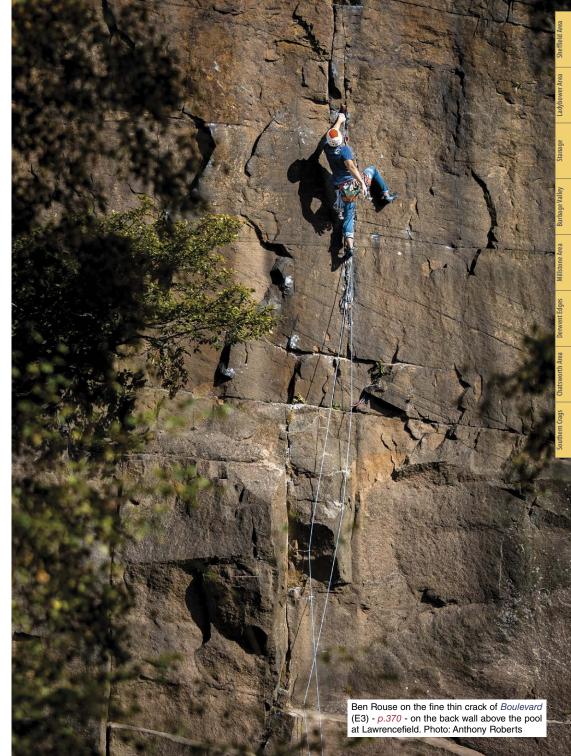
The National Trust sign at Yarncliffe Quarry

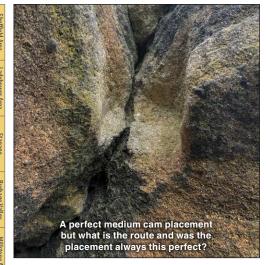
#### Parking

All the crags in this book have parking areas which are 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. In some cases parking may involve you spending some money in one of the Pay and Display parking areas.

#### Dogs

All the moorland areas in this book are grazed by sheep and as such make an unsuitable destination for domestic dogs. If you do take your best friend on a climbing trip, please make sure it is tied up and on good behaviour.





#### Erosion

The increased popularity of climbing and bouldering has caused crag-base erosion especially under routes used by groups and around popular boulders. This can be limited by using bouldering mats and being aware of where you are standing when queuing for routes. Also, grass can grow back, as it has on some crags which have become less popular in recent years. Unfortunately rock eroded by over-use of holds and gear placements will never grow back. Climbers can only limit this by never using stiff bristled or wire brushes. If you find particularly bad examples then report it on UKClimbing.com.

#### Chalk

Overuse of chalk also has impact on the rock and looks unsightly. The practice of using chalk tick marks to indicate moves is popular when bouldering. 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.

#### **Rock Damage**

There is no reason to try to improve holds on any routes on grit. Cams can be very effective at accidentally levering loose flakes so please think before you place them behind anything which sounds a bit hollow. Damage to routes sometimes also happens when attempting to retrieve stuck gear. Runners that get stuck are usually poorly placed, so think before you place it. If a runner does get properly jammed it may be better leaving it for someone who can get it out without wrecking the rock.

#### Group Usage

The nationwide network of indoor walls has introduced a new generation to climbing. As these climbers develop, many look to move outdoors which has resulted in a significant increase in courses offered by instructors, schools and outdoor centres. This is a good thing but it has lead to some problems on the popular edges.

- Monopolisation of popular classic routes at busy times.

- The use of inappropriate and dirty footwear leading to bad erosion damage to holds.

- Putting people on climbs that are too hard for them leading rock being damaged while they scrabble around on the rope.

- Sending a convoy of folks abseiling down popular lines causing significant erosion.

- Repeated use of the same venues. Places like the left-hand end of the Black Rocks and the first bay at Yarncliffe Quarry are showing serious signs of environmental degradation.

The effects of overuse need to be considered by all visitors to the craqs. If you must visit the cliffs in a large group, please consider other climbers.

- Keep your kit in one area and avoid monopolising popular routes for long periods. - Arrange yourselves into several small groups rather than one large one. - Pull your ropes down when they are not being used so that others can climb.



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#### 30 Eastern Grit Climbing Gear

Almost all the routes in this guide have no fixed gear so everything you need has to be carried with you. It is always worth taking a bit of time to scan a route to envisage the runner placements that might be available. It may seem obvious but wide cracks need big runners so starting up an off-width with a bunch of small wires doesn't make any more sense than setting off up a blank slab with a set of big cams, "just in case"!

#### Runners

Many old routes which were bold and unprotected leads in their day are now relatively safe with modern protection. A typical general gritstone rack will consist of a set of wires and a range of cams; the wide breaks and many cracks make gritstone ideal for camming devices. Hexes are a cheaper alternative though they are less versatile and are much noisier! Wires are useful for the narrow cracks plus a couple of slings for threads and for lassoing blocks and boulders at the cliff-top belays. For harder routes, micro-wires, tiny cams and other more advanced devices may be essential.

#### Ropes

Most grit routes are short enough to be climbed on a single rope, or a triple-rated rope. The exceptions are routes which wander around in which case you need two half-ropes, or you can use one rope doubled up - colour confusion guaranteed.

#### **Other Gear**

Beyond these essentials you may also find useful: a poker for (gently) removing stubborn gear; tape for bandaging your hands before, or after, they are wrecked by some savage crack; a soft brush for brushing smaller holds on hard routes. A bouldering mat can be very welcome on unprotected starts. The only other thing you need is in your hands now!



The British Trad Grade is probably never more appropriately used than it is on gritstone. Some gritstone routes have limited protection and you can find yourself in some very serious situations, especially on the harder climbs. 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.

#### Trad Grade

1) Adjectival grade (Diff, VD, HVD, Severe, Hard Severe (HS), Very Severe (VS), Hard Very Severe (HVS), E1 to E10).

An overall picture of the route including how well protected it is, how sustained, and a general indication of the level of difficulty of the whole route.

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

#### Colour Coding

The routes are all given a colour-coded dot corresponding to a grade band. The colour represents a level that a climber should be happy at, hence sport routes tend to be technically harder than the equivalent coloured trad routes because the climber doesn't need to worry about the protection. **Green Spots** Beginners - everything at grade **Severe and under**.

Orange Spots Experienced - HS to HVS General ticking routes. Red Spots Advanced - E1 to E3 The next level to push yourself on.

Black Spots Expert - E4 to E6

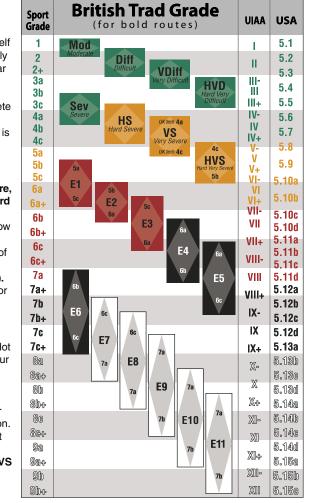
Hard routes for dedicated climbers.

White Spots Elite - E7 / 8a and above. The hardest routes for the world's best climbers.

#### **Bouldering Grades**

The boulder problems in this book are given a Font Grade, which is the system established in Fontainbleau in France. This is now regarded by most British climbers as the best system for grading boulder problems and routes climbed using a 'highball approach' (see next page). The table below shows the approximate conversion between Font grades, V grades (the alternative bouldering grade system) and UK Technical grades which are mentioned above and used in this book for the routes.

Font Grade	f2	f2+	ß	ß+	f4	f4+	f5	f5+	f6A	f6A+	f6B	f6B+	f6C	f6C+	f7A	f7A+	f7B	f7B+	f7C	f7C+	<i>1</i> 34	1994) I Alth	ßB	ÆÐ+	æ
V Grade		VB		VO-	VO	V0+	V1	V2	v	3	۷	4	v	5	V6	V7	v	8	V9	V10	0/11	1/12	1713	171/3	V/15
UK Tech Grade	3b	3c	4a	4b	4c	5a	5b	5c		ба			6b				e	ic			7a				



Bouldering pads have changed the way people approach hard gritstone routes. What used to be a bold solo, sometimes practised on a top-rope, is now more often done ground-up above a stack of pads with spotters gathered around. This has led to a significant increase in the number of ascents some routes get. Bold climbs that used to get two or three leads/solos a year can now receive ten ascents in an afternoon when the conditions (plus the number of pads and spotters) are right.

#### **Highball Grades**

This change in approach has led to a debate as to which is the correct style, and what grade is appropriate. This is a routes book so, in general, we have given route grades. For routes which tend to see a lot of bouldering style 'highball' ascents, we have mentioned the accepted Font grade in the route description. In other places, shorter routes, which are virtually exclusively soloed or bouldered above pads, are given straight Font grades (see p.31 for a conversion table).

As a further complication, there is also the 'snowball' grade. After heavy snow huge drifts build up under the edges and some very bold routes become much more amenable challenges with levelled out snow platforms covered with bouldering pads underneath them. There are some routes which only get highball ascents under these conditions and this is also mentioned in the descriptions.

> Jerome Mowat 'highballing' *El Vino Collapso* (E5/f68+) - *p.441* - above pads and a spotter. Photo: Mike Hutton

Will Odell on Strapiombante at Froggatt

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#### Eastern Grit Climbing Ticklists 34

Working your way through a ticklist is one of climbing's esoteric spin-off activities that is great fun. It is an indicator of your progress through the grades and gives you an excuse (if one was ever needed) to visit new areas.

Rockfax books have had a long history of high-quality ticklists that always prove very popular. These ticklists, and many more, appear in the UKC logbooks so you can tick them in the books and log them online. After some discussion we have removed the Top 50 rating as this was causing a noticeable honevpot effect - the 500+ routes in the Eastern Grit Tick List (pages 38-42) should help spread things around a bit.

We have also included 27 ticklists spread across the full spectrum of Eastern Grit. geographically and grade-wise. There is even a ticklist of ticklists - so that is 28 to go at! Finish that lot and you can consider yourself an aficionado and a damn good climber too!



#### TICKLIST **Peaks and Pinnacles**

There are a surprising number of mini peaks and decent-sized pinnacles scattered along the Eastern edges, varying from simple scrambles, to summits that need climbing ability of up to VS. Here is a baker's dozen of some of the most interesting in roughly ascending order of difficulty.

The Promontory (537) Black Rocks - only a walk but super-exposed. Three Ships (map - 490) Birchen - three easy ticks for the price of one.

Over Owler Tor (336) A great viewpoint over the Burbage arena.

Higgar Tor (306) Mantel up the northeast corner - short and easy but leads to a great island in the sky.

Mother Cap (map - 339) A tricky rounded scramble or some harder bouldering.

**Bel Ami** (445) Curbar - best as a mini summit finish to the VS route. Prow Bock (50)

Wharncliffe - Inside Boute, Diff is the easiest line

Tegness Pinnacle (386) Tegness Quarry - Original Route, Diff is the way.

Weasel Pinnacle (520) Robin Hood's Stride - Letter Route, Diff.

Stonnis Pinnacle (537) Black Rocks - usually done with Central Buttress, HVD.

Inaccessible Pinnacle (521) Robin Hood's Stride - Short Climb. VD.

Rivelin Needle (94) Spiral Route, VS is the easiest option, abseil off.

Froggatt Pinnacle (404) Valkyrie, HVS is the choice route although you can get up the back on Route One, VS 5a. Abseil descent.

### TICKLIST

A Graded List of the Ticklists Is it possible to have too many ticklists? If you think not, here is a real challenge; try working your way through this lot.

Lawrencefield Taster: VD - VS (369). 5 routes. Wharncliffe Hoary Classics: S - VS (63). 6 routes. Peaks and Pinnacles: up to VS (opposite). 13 routes. Stanage Orange Spot Heaven: HS - HVS (243). 12 routes. Baslow Bits and Bobs: Diff - HVS (453). 7 routes. Bamford Brilliance: HS - HVS (119). 5 routes. Best of Birchen: Mod - HVS (491). 12 routes. Crack School Part: 1 VD - HVS (37). 25 routes. Rivelin Mid-grade Gems: VS - E1 (81). 6 routes. Gardom's Classics: HVD - E1 (477). 6 routes. Never Been to Agden: S - E1 (75). 7 routes. Turningstone Tempters: S - E1 (551). 4 routes. Black Rocks Historic Classics: HVD - E1 (533). 9 routes. Rivelin Cracks: VD - E2 (105). 7 routes. Burbage North Belles: HS - E2 (295), 6 routes. Higgar Tor Abrasive Testers: VS - E2 (305). 2 routes. Cratcliffe Classics: HVS - E3 (523). 6 routes. Chatsworth Choice Cuts: VD - E3 (507). 11 routes. Froggatt - the Cracks: HVD - E3 (397). 14 routes. Stanage Original and Best Top Ten: E1 - E3 (181). 10 routes. Gardom's E3s: E3 (481). 4 routes. Millstone Crackers: VS - E5 (363). 11 routes. Crack School Part 2: E1 - E5 (37). 25 routes. Froggatt - the Slabs: Diff - E7 (407). 14 routes. Curbar Crush: HS - E9 (429). 17 routes. Burbage South Stoppers: E7 - E10 (333), 9 routes.

> Beautiful rock in a fine situation. Tom Goldsmith on The Crease (E1) - p.129 - at Bamford. Photo: Mike Cheque

#### 36 Eastern Grit Climbing Ticklists

#### TICKLIST Crack School - Part 1

Jamming - favourite technique or bugbear - whichever way you feel you can't ignore the classics listed below. These should give you a good grounding in the technique, though you can always try laybacking them.

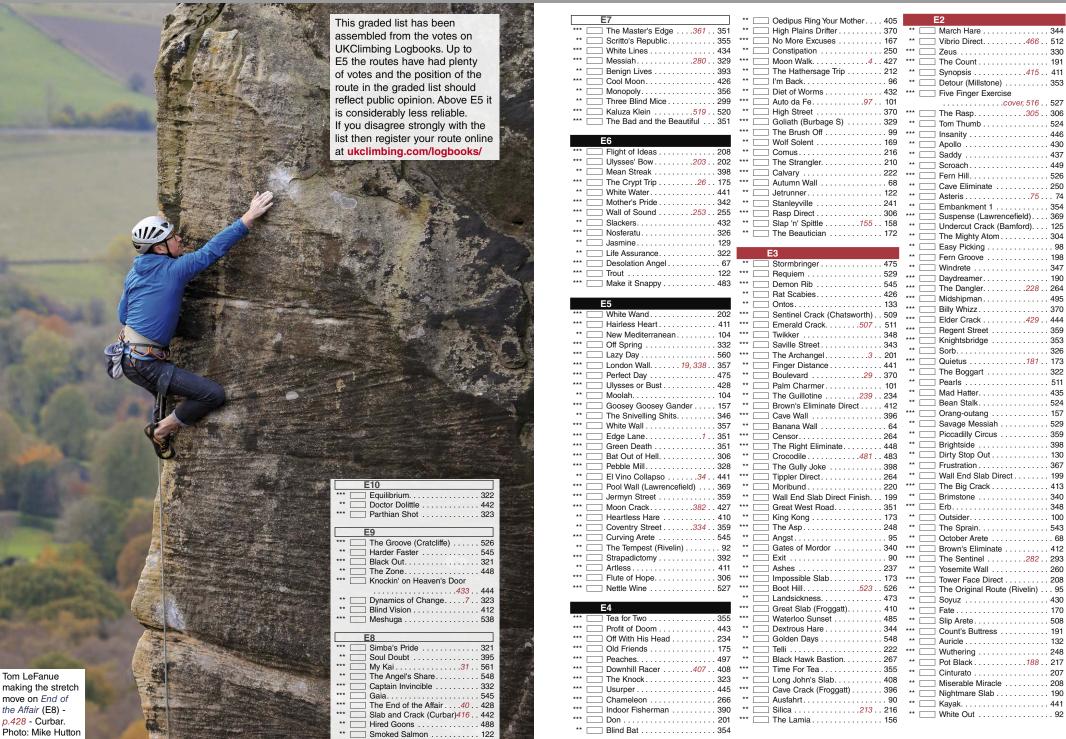
Kelly's Crack, VD (160). Mild but neat. Trafalgar Crack, VD (499). The start is tricky. Heather Wall, HVD (400). Just beautiful. N.M.C. Crack, HVD (486). Often green but tasty. Twisting Crack, S (172). Steep and juggy. Christmas Crack, HS (257). An Xmas cracker. Brooks' Layback, HS (298). Don't you dare layback. Paradise Wall, HS (216). Paradise? Probably. Amazon Crack, HS (299). Sweet and superb. Brown's Crack, HS (121). Best of its grade on Grit? Mutiny Crack, HS (289). The start is perplexing. Stonnis Crack, VS (538). Some solid jamming moves. Byne's Crack, VS (323). The best VS on Burbage. Hell Crack, VS (238). The initial bulge is steep. Cardinal's Crack, VS (379). Big fists help. Fern Crack, VS (198). The start is a slippery pig. Great Harry, VS (369). Wide and awkward at the top. The File, VS (307). A true test of your skill. Altar Crack, VS (104). Okay, you can layback this one. Birch Tree Wall Direct, VS (545). Thin and technical. Great Crack, HVS (558). Passing the lip is perplexing. Sorrell's Sorrow, HVS (427). Wide and withering. Terrazza Crack, HVS (156). A real HVS jamming crack. Zapple, HVS (381). Fingers to hands. Bond Street, HVS (356). A perfect quarry crack.

#### **TICKLIST** Crack School - Part 2

Okay, so you have should have made a good start by ticking a selection from Crack School - Part 1, now down to business with some real testers.

Goliath's Groove, HVS (201). The start is a struggle. Avalanche Wall, HVS (442). Feels like a Millstone route. Puppet Crack, HVS (509). The start needs a stiff pull. The Peapod, HVS (448). Which way to face, left or right? Tower Crack, HVS (208). Tough, though bridging helps. Dexterity, E1 (345). Go direct for the true pump. Embankment 3, E1 (355). A real ankle wrecker. The Vice, E1 (147). A jamming crack with teeth. **Castor, E1** (76). The best on this neglected crag? Deadbay Crack, E1 (422). Usually a greasy battle. The Unprintable, E1 (264). A right \*\*\*\*ing struggle. The Big Crack, E2 (413). Not quite as fierce as it looks. Regent Street, E2 (359). Finger-locking glory. Zeus, E2 (330). Sustained and pushy. Insanity, E2 (446). A tottering layback for most. Synopsis, E2 (411). Very unFroggatty. Elder Crack, E2 (444). Don't get stuck in too deep. The Dangler, E2 (364). Steep, wide, awkward - yummy. Billy Whizz, E2 (370). Skinny fingers help ... a lot! Gates of Mordor. E3 (340). Off-fingers and very steep. The Right Eliminate, E3 (448). 5.10a is about right. Sentinel Crack, E3 (509). Put your best fist forward. Saville Street, E3 (343). Save some 'umph' for the bulge. Goliath, E4 (329). Only short but such hard work. London Wall, E5 (357). The best crack climb in the UK!

Mary Catherine Eden makes the steep finishing moves of *Dexterity* (E1) - p.345 - one of many great crack climbs at Millstone. Photo: Mike Hutton



#### Graded List Eastern Grit Climbing 39

F<sub>2</sub>



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#### Eastern Grit Climbing Graded List 42

Sheffield Area

Ladyboy

Chat

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* 🔲 Heaven Crack
* Trapeze (Froggatt) 409
Emperor Flake Climb 514
* 🔲 Pulpit Groove
* David's Chimney 93
Black Hawk Traverse Left 267
* Prospero's Climb 147
* 🔲 Kelly's Crack 160
Hollybush Gully Right 202
<sup>*</sup> Dovestone Wall 112
Cueen's Parlour Gully 535
* Devil's Chimney

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44	1	Destination Planner	Routes	up to S	HS to HVS	E1 to E3	E4 to E6	E7 up	Approach	Sun	Shelter	Green	Bouldering	Summary	Page
Sheffi	Area	Wharncliffe	208	64	66	57	20	1	20 - 40 min	Atterncon	Sheltered	Green	ព្	A short black outcrop overlooking Stocksbridge. Routes tend to be steep, fingery and hard. Bad landings are common.	50
Sheffield Area	ffield A	Agden Rocher	49	8	26	12	3		6 - 10 min	From mid morning	Sheltered	Green		A large and unstable cliff that adds something a different to the local mix. Care is needed when climbing here. The location is beautiful.	74
Ladyb	She	Rivelin	205	28	72	50	49	6	10 - 15 min	Atternson	Sheltered	Green	ព្	Within the Sheffield city boundary. South facing and quite low so a good bet for cold sunny days but hot in the summer. Can be green after rain.	82
ower Area	ver Area	Dovestone Tor	113	38	54	18	3		40 min	Atternson	Windy	Green	ព្	A wild and remote-feeling crag reached by the longest walk-in in the book. The superb setting makes it well worth a summer visit.	109
	Ladybov	Bamford	187	65	67	38	14	Ð	15 - 22 min	Atternson	Windy			A great setting above Ladybower Reservoir with a fine set of routes on a series of quality buttresses. Often busy with walkers enjoying the views.	120
stanage	a,	Stanage North	496	124	233	97	<b>£</b> 3	4	12 - 25 min	From mid morning	Windy	Green	ព្	North Stanage provides a neat contrast to the rest of the cliff with remote-feeling climbs that can be green in winter and is usually quiet.	144
Bu	tanag	Stanage Plantation	419	73	152	118	72	4	12 - 18 min	From mid morning	Windy		ß	The Plantation provides many and varied routes in a charming setting above the trees. Very popular with boulderers and route climbers.	190
rbage Vall		Stanage Popular	492	127	204	111	43	7	5 - 15 min	From mid morning	Windy	Green	ព្	The most popular crag in the Peak/UK/World - you will need to share it with others, but there is plenty to go round.	230
ey N	У	Burbage North	232	91	88	34	15	4	2 - 20 min	From mid morning	Windy		ព្	Plenty of short but good quality routes scattered along the edge. The left end can be very busy but walking right will ease the crowding.	284
Aillstone A	e Valle	Higgar Tor	84	26	34	12	12		5 - 6 min	Atternicon	Windy	Green	ព្	Only a small crag but the Leaning Block has a brilliant set of rough, tough and mighty steep climbs. The shorter walls are worth a visit.	304
Irea	Burbag	Carl Wark	31	15	8	5	3		20 min	Morning	Windy	Green	ព្	A minor outcrop with some morning sun which is rare for Eastern Grit. The more impressive northern sector is always dirty.	314
Derwent		Burbage South	174	33	55	35	31	20	8 - 20 min	Evening	Windy	Green	ព្	A set of generally short and shady buttresses and a couple of dingy quarries. Oddly it is home to many of grit's hardest offerings.	318
Edges		Over Owler Tor	21	6	10	5	-		10 min	Evening	Windy	Green	ព្	Only a small outcrop with a minor selection of climbs in a lovely breezy setting. A great spot to watch the sun go down.	336
Chatswor	ne Are	Millstone	162	12	64	43	ÐÐ	10	5 - 12 min	Atternicon	Sheltered	Green	ព្	The finest quarry in the UK with superb walls and soaring crack-lines. Once an aid venue, now home to a great set of free climbs.	340
th Area	Millsto	Lawrencefield	71	13	28	20	10		4 - 8 min	Atternoon	Sheltered	Green		Millstone's little sister, a tree-filled quarry with a fine set of steep routes around a green pond. Quite good for beginners.	367
Southe		Yarncliffe Quarry	33	5	20	4	4		1 - 2 min	Atternoon	Sheltered	Green	ព្	Another hole in the ground. The popular easy climbs in the first bay are very worn although there are better routes to the right.	378
rn Crags	Edges	Froggatt	216	36	56	53	54	17	<b>5</b> - 22 min	Atternoon	Windy	Green	ព្	Some excellent cracks and the best set of slabby routes in the Eastern Peak. The cracks are safe, the slabs aren't.	386
	went E	Curbar	307	42	102	88	57	18	3 - 20 min	Atternoon	Windy	Green	ព្	Curbar's reputation is well known; beefy cracks and serious face climbs means that visits here often involve memorable struggles.	418
	Der	Baslow	122	43	54	18	7		<b>5</b> - 20 min	Atternoon	Windy	Green	ព្	A small rambling crag which is often very quiet. Not much in the way of classics but a decent set of easier climbs.	454
	ı Area	Gardom's	167	31	67	41	18	10	10 - 25 min	Atternion	Sheltered	Green	Ma	Some jutting buttresses poking from a wooded bouldery hillside. Can be green and midgy when humid. Best after a dry spell.	470
	sworth	Birchen	184	96	60	22	6		10 - 15 min	From mid morning	Windy	Green	ព្	A popular spot with beginners and groups and often very busy. Some routes are polished, especially the starts.	492
	Chat	Chatsworth	71	22	18	25	6		8 - 10 min	Evening	Sheltered	Green	ĥ	A similar feel to Gardom's, neglected and a bit overgrown, although nice when the conditions are right and a good bet in hot weather.	508
		Robin Hood's Stride	18	6	7	1	2	2	6 - 7 min	Sun and shade	Sheltered	Green	ß.	Twin pinnacles in a superb rural setting. Popular with boulderers and walkers, but there is a pleasant set of climbs here too.	520
	St	Cratcliffe	56	9	16	16	14	1	10 min	Morning	Sheltered	Green	. No	Some superb soaring walls with arguably the most concentrated set of quality climbs in the Peak. Brilliant routes from HVS to E5.	524
	rn Crags	Black Rocks	109	26	26	24	23	10	<b>5</b> - 8 min	Atternoon	Sheltered	Green	ĥ	A dark crag with a contrasting set of climbs, some historical challenges and a fine set of modern desperates. Often green, watch for glass.	535
	Southern	Amber Valley	52	8	20	18	6		10 - 15 min	Morning	Sheltered	Green	ĥ	Three crags overlooking the Amber Valley. The main buttresses are proud of the shrubs and worth a look. Sheltered but can be vegetated.	550
		Duke's Quarry	2	-	1	•	-	1	5 min	Atternoon	Sheltered	Green		An extensive and gloomy quarry, though most of the routes are neglected and overgrown. We include the two classics.	558
		Shining Cliff	24	2	6	11	4	1	<b>1</b> 20 min	Lots of sun	Sheltered	Green	L	A very sheltered crag, a good bet on windy days and you will probably have the whole place to yourself.	560
		TOTALS	4305	1049	1614	976	547	119		Fad	ed symbo	I means ·	- only so	me of the routes are green - more limited bouldering.	

Chatsworth Area