



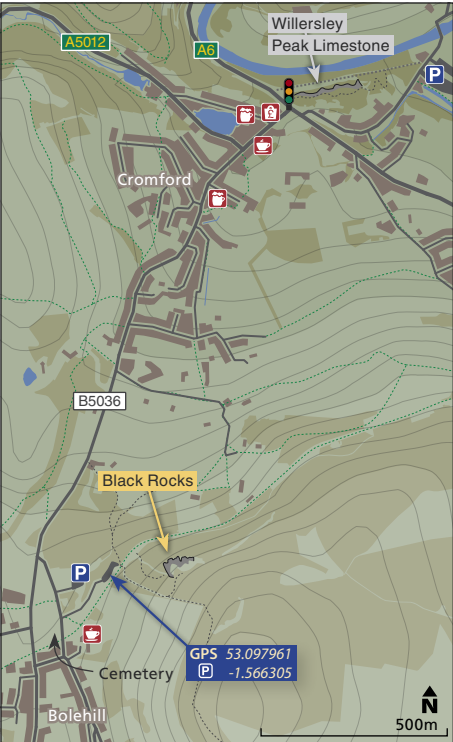
Black Rocks is a neglected cliff, sitting above Cromford and not far from the limestone crags of High Tor and Willersley. The cliff has a selection of lower grade climbs, some good mid-grade routes and a whole bunch of the hard stuff up the bald aretes, slabs and walls. It is lacking in the lower extreme grades but there is the ultra-classic sideways shuffler of *Promontory Traverse* as compensation. The rock is very even-textured gritstone, almost devoid of big pebbles and often smoother than elsewhere. This gives climbing that is often strenuous, precarious and rounded in the extreme, with many flaring breaks and sloping holds. Getting your hands on a full set of cams is a good idea before a visit.

Approach

The crag is 1km south of Cromford, which is 3km south of Matlock. From lights on the A6 turn south into Cromford and follow the B5036 uphill, forking left onto a minor road after 1.3km. Two left turns lead into the Black Rocks parking (Pay and Display), the upper is (a bit) nearer the rocks and sometimes has an ice cream van.

Conditions

The crag overlooks the Derwent Valley and the Matlock area. Much of the cliff faces north and tends to be green and ranky after poor weather and all winter. In contrast the west-facing *Birch Tree Wall* dries quickly and is in condition for much of the year. The position on top of a hill means that it is exposed to the wind. WARNING - beware of BROKEN GLASS.



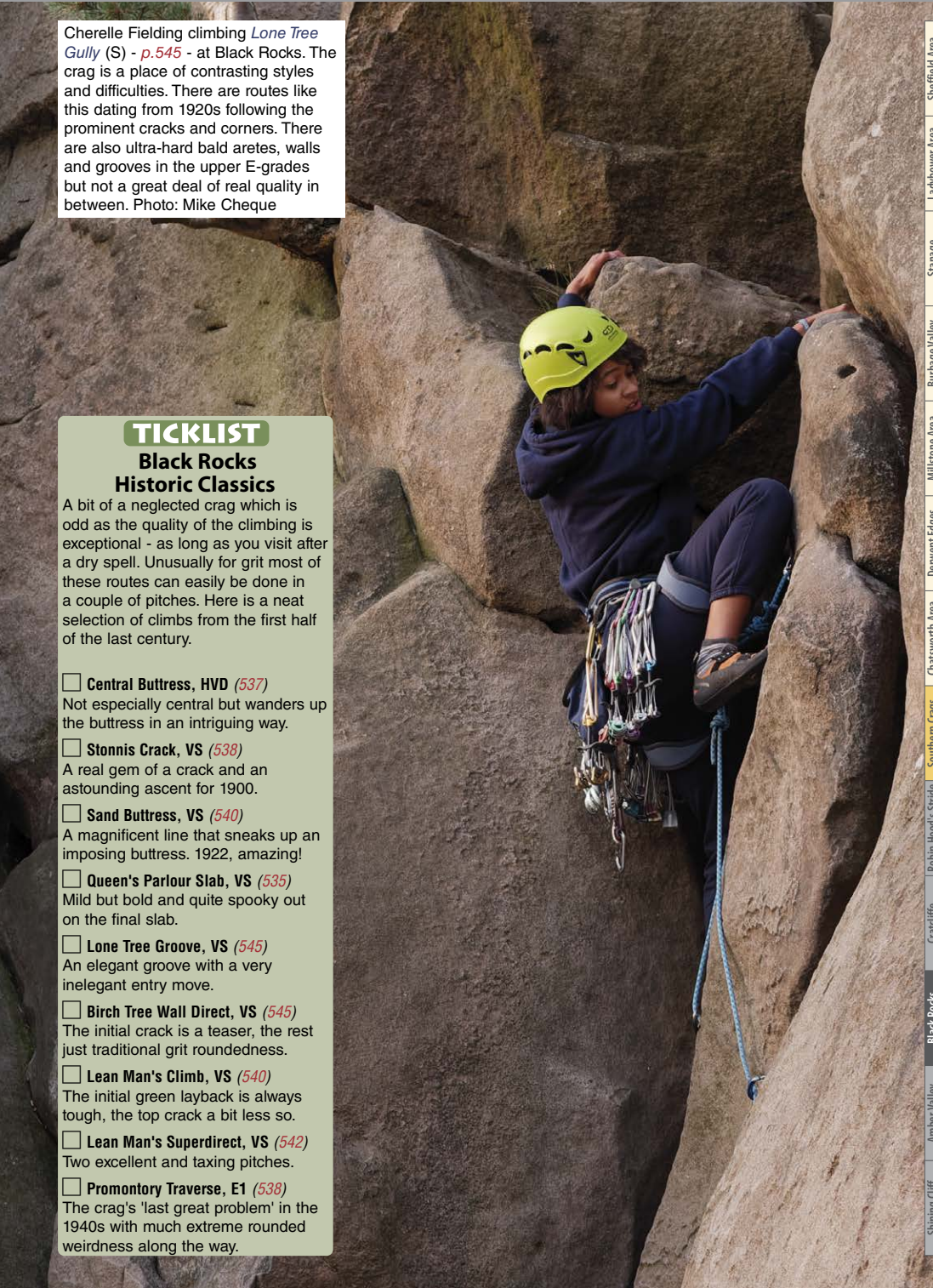
Cherelle Fielding climbing *Lone Tree Gully* (S) - p.545 - at Black Rocks. The crag is a place of contrasting styles and difficulties. There are routes like this dating from 1920s following the prominent cracks and corners. There are also ultra-hard bald aretes, walls and grooves in the upper E-grades but not a great deal of real quality in between. Photo: Mike Cheque

TICKLIST

Black Rocks
Historic Classics

A bit of a neglected crag which is odd as the quality of the climbing is exceptional - as long as you visit after a dry spell. Unusually for grit most of these routes can easily be done in a couple of pitches. Here is a neat selection of climbs from the first half of the last century.

- ☐ **Central Buttress, HVD (537)**
Not especially central but wanders up the buttress in an intriguing way.
- ☐ **Stonnis Crack, VS (538)**
A real gem of a crack and an astounding ascent for 1900.
- ☐ **Sand Buttress, VS (540)**
A magnificent line that sneaks up an imposing buttress. 1922, amazing!
- ☐ **Queen's Parlour Slab, VS (535)**
Mild but bold and quite spooky out on the final slab.
- ☐ **Lone Tree Groove, VS (545)**
An elegant groove with a very inelegant entry move.
- ☐ **Birch Tree Wall Direct, VS (545)**
The initial crack is a teaser, the rest just traditional grit roundedness.
- ☐ **Lean Man's Climb, VS (540)**
The initial green layback is always tough, the top crack a bit less so.
- ☐ **Lean Man's Superdirect, VS (542)**
Two excellent and taxing pitches.
- ☐ **Promontory Traverse, E1 (538)**
The crag's 'last great problem' in the 1940s with much extreme rounded weirdness along the way.



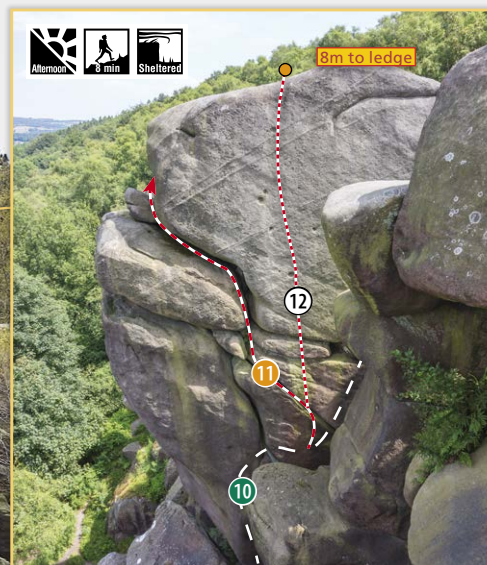


Queen's Parlour

The far left-hand end of the crag has some nice lower grade routes, a couple of which are popular with groups hence the trashed state of the cliff base. The place was popular way back, at the height of the polluting Industrial Revolution - it must have been cleaner than it is now!

Approach (map and overview p.532) - Go left past the towering Promontory to a clearing under the face.

Warning - this part of the crag is one of the main areas where rubbish is thrown from the cliff top. Be aware of the possibility of glass on ledges and missiles from above.



1 Hush VS 4b
The arete and slab just to the left of the descent gully.

2 East Crack S 3c
Start on the left below a left-facing groove high on the crag. Climb a grotty crack, and continue until it is possible to enter the wide final crack - knee jams and big gear help here.
FA. John Laycock 1913

3 Mental Pygmy E3 6a
The beckoning roof-crack high on the buttress, battle up this to a perplexing exit. Tiny but taxing and often dirty.
FA. Steve Bancroft 1976

4 New Year Buttress S 4a
A poor vegetated start up the groove leads to better climbing with an exposed final pull into the scoop right of the prow on jugs. Beware broken glass on the ledges.

5 Queen's Parlour Slab VS 4b
This ancient classic still feels bold. Climb the easy slab until the projecting buttress to the right can be reached by a short traverse. Balance up this to a final sketchy move or sneak off right if you are too short.
FA. Bernard Simmonds 1939

6 Queen's Parlour Gully VD
The gully left of the big overhangs is polished and hard when damp. Pass either side of the block (easier to the right) to reach the chimney - stance? Continue up the rift on big chipped holds, to a choice of exits. The route is an odd mixture of polished holds and vegetation - and the final chimney smells.
FA. J.W. Puttrell 1890

7 Original Route HVD 3c
Another smelly one. Start as for *Queen's Parlour Gully* (or more direct - a grubby 4b) and slant right - more big chipped holds - to a possible stance below the chimney. Climb to a recess then take the awkward through-route. Sneak off left or, alternatively, finish up the hard and polished crack springing from the recess - 4c.
FA. J.W. Puttrell 1890

8 Queen's Parlour Chimney HS 4b
Follow *Original Route* but back-and-foot the exposed outer part of the chimney to ledges and a right-slanting exit. An astoundingly wild ascent for its day and still very intimidating.
FA. J.W. Puttrell 1890

9 Dyno Might E7 6b
The bold arete on its right-hand side via a couple of dynos, linked by a couple of mantels. Poor protection.
FA. James Pearson 2003

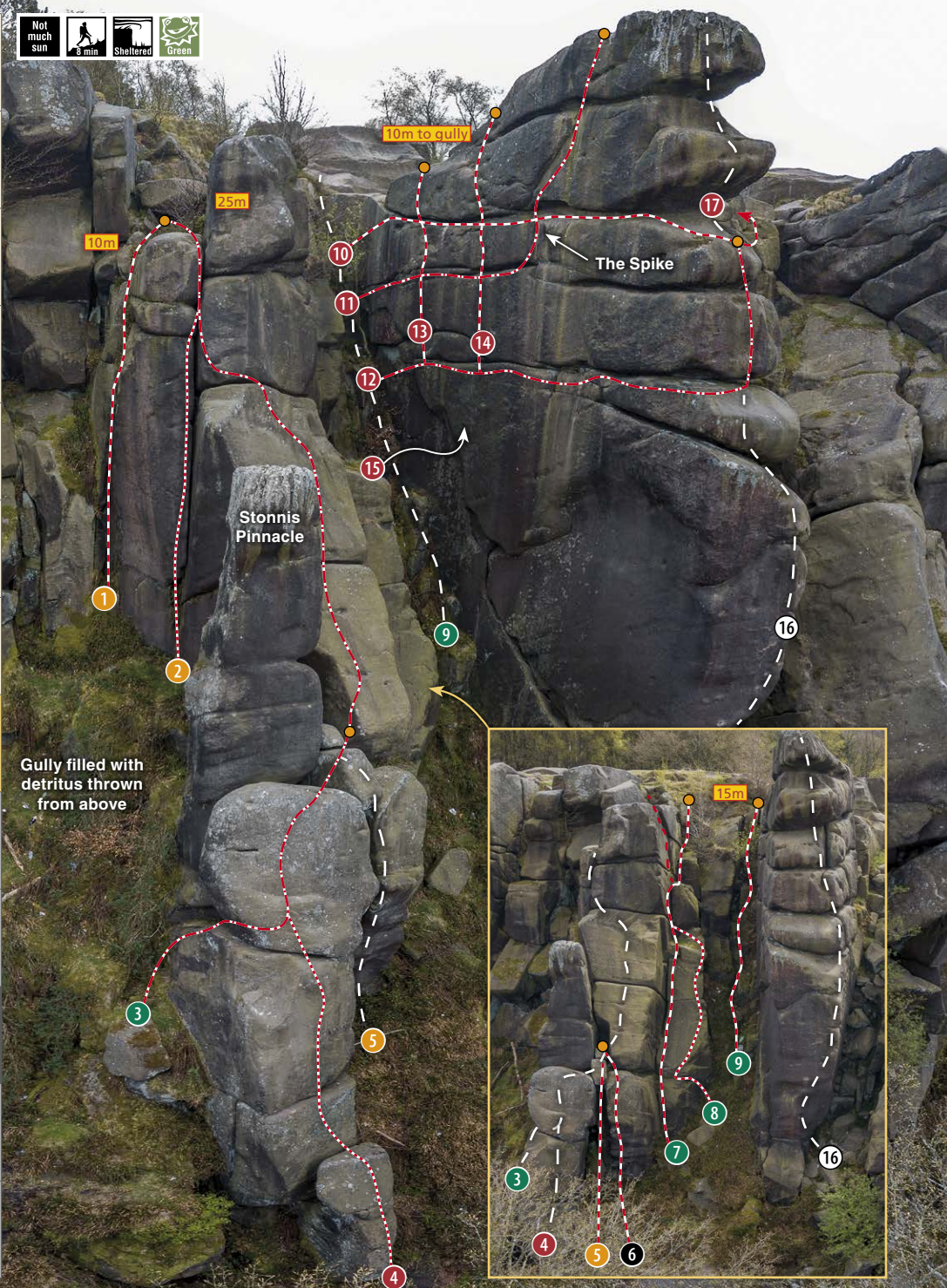
10 Pine Tree Gully Diff
The pine-less rift in the left-hand side of the wide gully improves and eases with height. Back-and-footing is one way of doing it.
FA. John Laycock 1913

11 The Raunge HS 4b
Scramble up *Pine Tree Gully* then climb the crack in the side-wall of the gully, traversing the horizontal break. Awkward and poorly protected but quite hard to fall out of!

12 Moonchild E7 6c
Break left from *Pine Tree Gully* and climb the pale wall.
FA. Toby Bentham 2006

13 Birch Tree Climb S 4a
The slot in the high buttress is approached direct then threaded.
FA. John Laycock 1913

14 Pirate's Staircase M
Amble up the right wall of the gully.



Central Buttress

The attractive slabby face of Central Buttress with the tooth of the Stonnis Pinnacle is home to a classic VD and some neglected crack climbs. A quick ascent (and descent) of the Pinnacle is straightforward at VD.

Approach (map and overview p.532) - From the West Face, walk left until just past the towering Promontory.

1 Green Crack HVS 5a

Well-named, short lived but hard work and almost always dirty.
FA. Tony Moulam 1945

2 Black Crack VS 4c

The cleaner right-hand crack gives good jamming or laybacking. Well protected and excellent when dry - a fine physical pitch.
FA. George Bower 1923

3 Central Buttress HVD 3c

A classic outing up the tallest buttress on the cliff. Start left of the buttress at grassy ledges. Traverse right along the break to the front face and climb polished holds to the notch by the pinnacle (a quick ascent is the norm) and a stance on a big boulder. A more direct version up the flake-crack is an option. Continue up the centre of the slab to steeper ground then traverse left at one of two levels to a short jamming crack - the final section of *Black Crack*.
FA. Morley Wood 1923

The Promontory

The jutting prow of the Promontory is one of the tallest buttresses on grit and has an interesting set of climbs; the oddity of *Promontory Traverse* is a 'must-do' and it is worth a quick look at *Meshuga* before shaking your head and walking away, suitably stunned. The gloomy northeast-facing wall of the Promontory has some good routes though they tend to be green and lichenous for most of the year; when dry there is some fine climbing on rounded holds and flaring breaks to be had.

Approach (map and overview p.532) - From the West Face, walk left to the towering Promontory.

10 Prominent Tory Reverse ... E2 5c

A different slant on the classic traverse - worthwhile but somewhat worrying.

1) 5c, 15m. Traverse the highest break out to the spike and make a hard move to reach the belay out on the nose.
2) 5c, 15m. Continue at the same level (delicate) via the very rounded break to easy ground - a scary pitch to follow.

FA. Chris Craggs, Colin Blinks (alts) 1992

11 Firebird E2 5c

Start along the central break then climb up to the spike on *Promontory Traverse*, then finish up the pumpy layback flake and short finger-crumph above. The only one on this wall to ever get done.

FA. Dave Humphries 1977

4 Central Buttress Direct E1 5a

The front face of the lower buttress is balancy, reachy bold and green. A great effort for its day.

FA. Bernard Simmonds 1938

5 Central Buttress Chimney ... VS 5a

The narrowing-chimney is grassy to start and tough - though safe - at the blocked exit. Join and finish up *Central Buttress*.

FA. Bernard Simmonds 1938

6 Soft Rush E6 6a

The overhanging pillar right of the chimney.

FA. Jon Fullwood 2011

7 Blind Man's Crack HVD 4a

A awkward groove in the right-hand wall of *Central Buttress* which is tricky to start and (a bit) easier above. A direct finish up the wall and crack above the final ledge is VS 5a.

FA. Henry Bishop 1913

8 Blind Man's Buttress HVD 4a

Traverse the break out left from the gully to *BMC*, move right to the edge and climb this, green, to a finish up a crack on the left.

FA. J.Cotterill 1925

9 Left Promontory Gully Diff 3a

The deep gully to an exit on the right up a short, slippery corner.

12 Rope Trick E2 5c

Traverse the lowest break to the arete by strenuous jamming and no footholds. Lassoing the spike on *Promontory Traverse* alleviates the need to place runners on the crucial part of the route and is more like E1 5c. Pull onto the ledge on the nose awkwardly, to a possible belay. The best way on is by the exposed and awkward *Easy Exit* up the crest of the buttress.

FA. Roy Leeming 1969

13 Vikings in a Sea of Sweat E2 5c

A rarely repeated route up the breaks in the wall above the start of the traverse of *Rope Trick*.

FA. John Allen 1986

14 Longships E2 5c

Low in the grade for lanky jamming aficionados, others will find it desperate. Traverse the break to where it stops being double, then climb the reachy wall and rounded wall to a finish up the wall right of *Promontory Traverse*, or escape off left.

FA. Gary Gibson 1981

15 The Bounder E1 7a

With a pre-flicked rope over the spike, leap the void, latch and climb past the poor pocket then choose a route up the wall.

FA. Johnny Dawes 1996. Well named, the grade is a bit odd!



16 Meshuga E9 6c

A major route following the blunt overhanging prow, up the front face of the Promontory, above an evil landing. It gives sustained, dynamic and blind moves between some reasonably positive holds and some unreasonably sloping ones. Start beneath the pocket on the front face. Once above this, a nasty slap around the arete for a hidden dish leads to the famous knee-move - not needed unless you've got long inflexible legs. A final worrying stretch for the break (hard for the short) gains protection and easier ground.

FA. Seb Grieve 1997

17 Easy Exit..... E1 5a

The direct escape from the stance on the nose gives a short pitch in an astounding position. It can be reached by a number of climbs but *Promontory Traverse* probably makes most sense.

FA. Peter Harding 1949

18 A Day at the Prom E4 6b

The beckoning crack is gained by a wild flop/dyno from the other side of the gully (pre-placed, pre-clipped gear), then sprint up the crack to easier ground. Still awaits a clean lead, go and have a look to see why - gulp.

FA. John Allen 1988

Stonnis Buttress

More typical Black Rocks fare; good beefy Orange Spot cracks interspersed with desperate blank walls and rounded aretes. There is less in the way of easier stuff though the Stonnis routes are worth a look if you don't mind a bit of polished rock.

Approach (map and overview p.532) - From the West Face walk left to an open bay.

22 Right Promontory Gully M

The deep rift over a series of big boulders. A mild scramble but surprisingly clean and a decent intro to climbing for the timid.

23 Silicosis E2 5c

The hanging flake, tough mantel and green slab in the right wall of the gully never get done.

24 Stonnis Arete Variations VD 4a

Interesting variations on the ancient classic.

- 1) 4a, 14m. Start round to the left and climb easy rock to the base of a steep slab formed by a huge leaning block on the *Stonnis Arete*. Climb this (crux - hollow holds) to a stance and belay on a ledge over to the right on the other side of the ridge.
- 2) 12m. Head up the easy-angled groove below the ridge (big gear) to a steep and wide crack, just above the final easy groove.

19 Kitkat..... E3 6a

Teeter across the green shelf to reach *Promontory Traverse* then climb the side-wall, by a series of long reaches linking rounded holds, to a final grasping exit. Typical gritstone requiring large cams to protect.

FA. Charles French 1991

20 Promontory Traverse E1 5b

A classic graunch; well protected and quite bizarre though not too difficult for those used to gritstone weirdness.

- 1) 5b, 14m. Traverse the lowest break to a vertical slot and wriggle up this with difficulty. Shuffle out to the arete (harassing for the short) to a fine stance and awkward belays.
- 2) 5b, 14m. Roll off the upper ledge and use a tiny pocket to lunge for the spike. Continue left then pull up onto a short ramp back to the cliff top. The original line, the break in the north wall is sometimes followed all the way to the gully by mistake.

FA. Peter Harding 1945

21 Twisted Smile E1 5b

From the start of *Promontory Traverse*, climb up the wall to the contorted mouth, then finish direct.

FA. Sean Golden 1977

25 Stonnis Arete S 4a

A fine climb but very polished in places. Climb the front of the buttress, first right up a slippery groove then left up a short V-chimney. Traverse left past a sharp rib and round the arete to climb the steep slab formed by a huge block to good ledges at the base of a slabby arete, or go direct up a wide crack - awkward and HS 4b. Step onto the ridge then 'a cheval' or hand traverse this (poor protection) to the final easy walls and a finish up a short groove.

FA. Henry Bishop 1900

26 The Eighth Fold..... E6 6c

The roof and hanging rib. Small gear can be placed in the thin slot out right from the start of *Ladykiller Peak*.

FA. Jon Fullwood 2011

27 Ladykiller Peak E3 6b

The tough hanging flake leads to the break and a delicate finish.

FA. Andy Barker, Martin Veale, Chris Craggs 1992

28 Fireworks for the Blind E4 6a

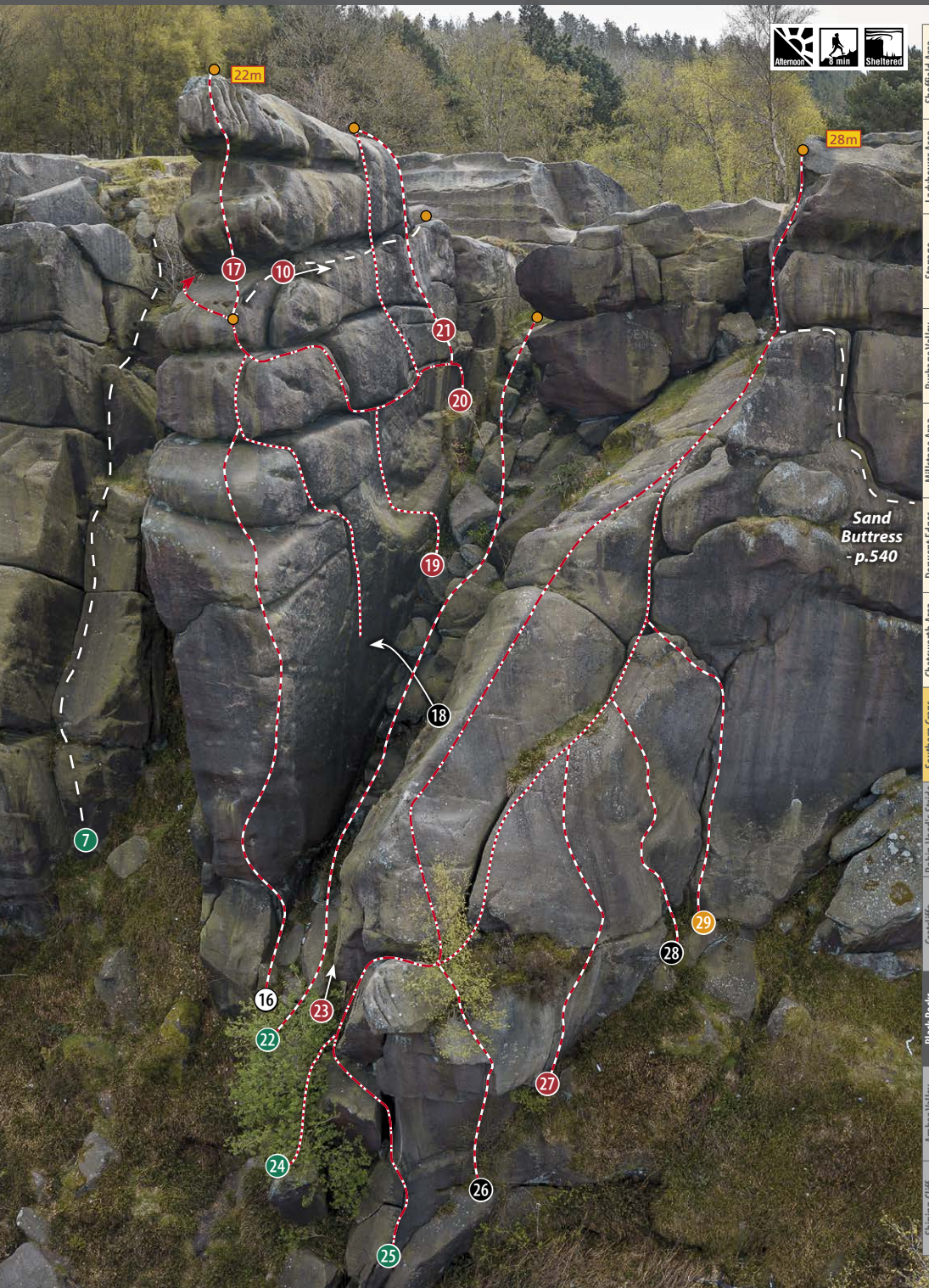
The scoopy green slab left of the crack has a few useful and well-spaced holds, and no runners.

FA. Paul Mitchell 1986

29 Stonnis Crack VS 4b

This fine crack was left out of the earliest guides as it was thought to be unjustifiably dangerous! Now it gives good climbing to an awkward and rapid exit left. Much harder if you can't jam, but then it wouldn't it?

FA. J.W.Puttrell 1900





Sand Buttress and Lean Man's Climb

Two imposing buttresses with a couple of outstanding efforts from the 1920s - just dwell on that for a moment - and a selection of much harder routes added down the years since - those old guys certainly started something. **Approach (map and overview p.532)** - From the West Face walk left to the two tall buttresses round the corner.

1 Discombobulator E5 6c

Climb the hanging scoop above *Stonnis Crack* rightwards with great difficulty to flutings (a big cam gets in the way a bit). Crimp through the bulges above to easy ground.
FA. Andy Barker 1986

2 Caught Smiling.... E6 7a

Leap from the boulder to a sloper and use a sandy pocket to climb the prow above. A far distant side-runner in *Stonnis Crack* gives little in the way of comfort.
FA. Richard Heap 1998

3 Sand Buttress VS 4c

Excellent steep climbing up the imposing buttress. Tackle the steepening crack left of the deep gully to its end then hand traverse out left to a ledge. Climb more steep cracks to another ledge then finish through the bulge directly above. A tougher finish is to traverse back to the right arete and finish up the awkward undercut groove there - HVS 5b.
FA. Fred Pigott 1920

4 Untoward..... E5 6b

The disappearing crack above the start of *Sand Buttress* leads to hard moves up the arete (holds round right) and an easier finish.
FA. Johnny Dawes 1986

5 Sand Gully Diff

A grubby route up the rift, with a choice of lines - sandy and often littered with bottles and cans hurled from the cliff top by escapees from t'city! An odd right-hand exit creeps along a ledge below the cliff top - HVD 4a.
FA. J.W.Puttrell 1890

6 Camel Hot E6 6b

Good small cams protect the hanging arete which features hard slapping (or a jump) to a sloping break and then tricky laybacking up the fine arete. It will usually need cleaning, or a proper summer, to be in condition.
FA. Johnny Shephard 1986

7 The Indirect Start..... E2 6a

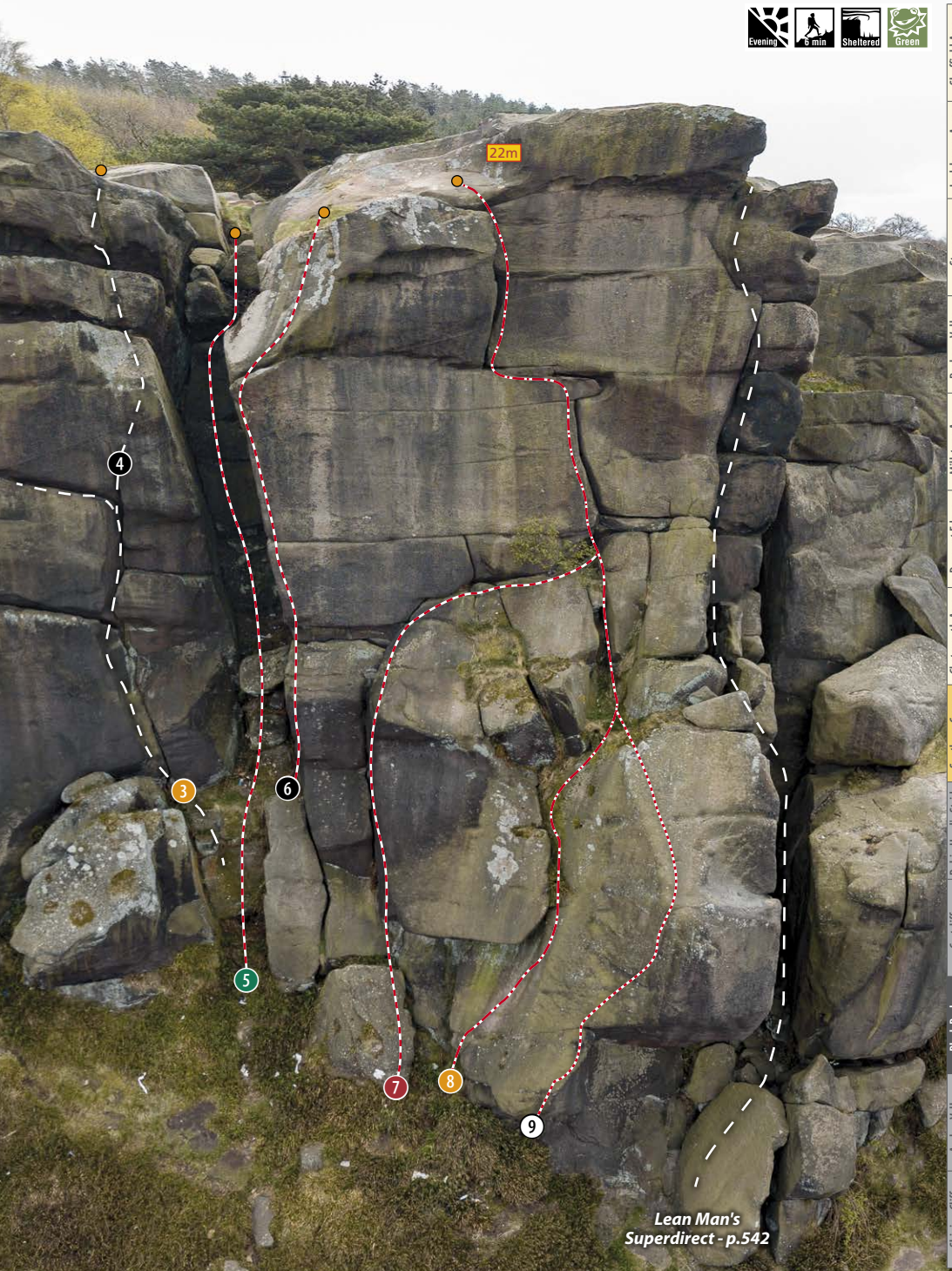
The baffling leaning corner runs out at an impossible wall, so escape right to *Lean Man's Climb*; a tough cookie.
FA. John Allen 1976

8 Lean Man's Climb VS 5a

Tackle the awkward and slippery elephant's-ear layback (crux?) to good ledges. Climb the wall leftwards on the superb zig-zag crack into a final steep groove. Beware of glass on the ledges.
FA. Fred Pigott 1920. FA. (flake start) Eric Byne 1933

9 Feeding the Pony E8 6c

The desperate slab right of *Lean Man's* has great moves - four of them in a row. Originally done with a big hex side-runner at E7 and said to be easier for the tall.
FA. Mike Weeks 1990s. FA. Ben Heason (without side-runner) 2000s

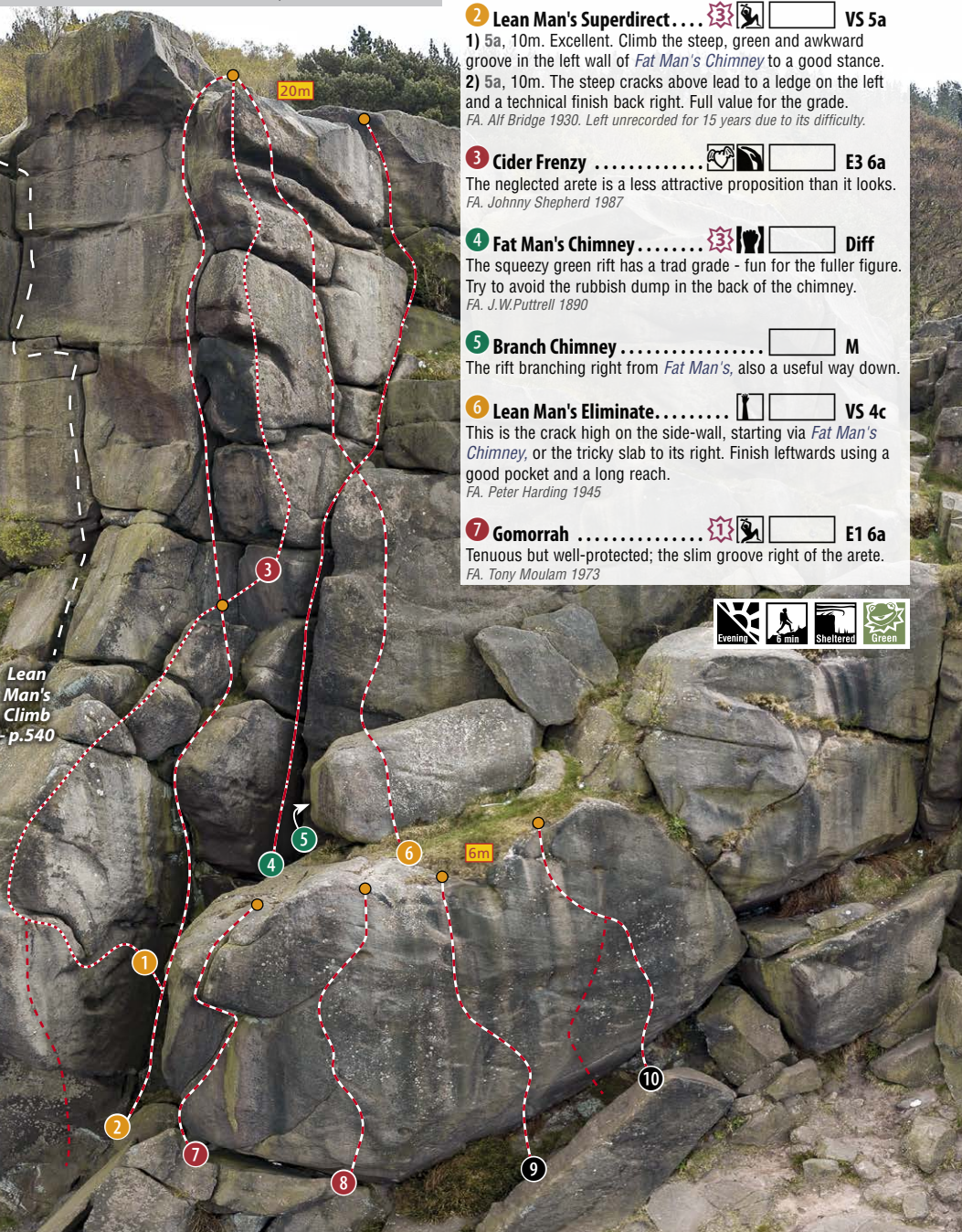




Sheffield Area
Ladybower Area
Stanage
Burbage Valley
Millstone Area
Derwent Edges
Chatsworth Area
Southern Crags
Robin Hood's Stride
Cratcliffe
Black Rocks
Amber Valley
Shining Cliff

Fat Man's Area

A series of bold or very bold faces split by arduous wide cracks. Few of the routes see many ascents; they are either too scary or too much like hard work.
Approach (map p.532) - From the West Face walk left under the block that is home to *Gaia*, round the corner.



Lean Man's Climb p.540

- 1

The Superstitious Start ... HVS 5b

From inside the gully, start up *Lean Man's Superdirect* and cross the left wall - hard to start - to a hanging crack and mantelshelf finale. A direct start is *Unlucky for Some*, E3 6a.
FA. Peter Harding Friday 13th May 1949
- 2

Lean Man's Superdirect ... VS 5a

1) 5a, 10m. Excellent. Climb the steep, green and awkward groove in the left wall of *Fat Man's Chimney* to a good stance.
2) 5a, 10m. The steep cracks above lead to a ledge on the left and a technical finish back right. Full value for the grade.
FA. Alf Bridge 1930. Left unrecorded for 15 years due to its difficulty.
- 3

Cider Frenzy ... E3 6a

The neglected arete is a less attractive proposition than it looks.
FA. Johnny Shepherd 1987
- 4

Fat Man's Chimney ... Diff

The squeeze green rift has a trad grade - fun for the fuller figure. Try to avoid the rubbish dump in the back of the chimney.
FA. J.W.Puttrell 1890
- 5

Branch Chimney ... M

The rift branching right from *Fat Man's*, also a useful way down.
- 6

Lean Man's Eliminate ... VS 4c

This is the crack high on the side-wall, starting via *Fat Man's Chimney*, or the tricky slab to its right. Finish leftwards using a good pocket and a long reach.
FA. Peter Harding 1945
- 7

Gomorrah ... E1 6a

Tenuous but well-protected; the slim groove right of the arete.
FA. Tony Moulam 1973



- 8

The Sprain ... E2 5b

Access the hanging ramp from the block and climb the pocketed wall above. Small cam protection in the thin crack.
- 9

Liquid Abs ... E5 6b

Gain the good pocket then move left and climb on poor holds.
FA. Andy Barker 1986
- 10

Badmotorfinger ... E5 6c

Dyno to the mono in the wall, then step left to finish - hard. A left-hand start is even harder - *Goodmotorfinger*, E5 6c.
FA. Mark Turnbull 1994 . FA (Goodmotorfinger) Ned Feehally 2011
- 11

Twin Cracks ... S 4b

The twin cracks in the groove, reached via steep corner.
- 12

Curtain Call ... E2 5b

Climb a flake to the base of a slab then follow the polished (and chipped) pockets up its centre until holds lead up and left - bold!
- 13

Finale Wall Direct ... E3 5b

From the upper slab stride boldly out right - exposed - and climb the pockets to the top. Not too hard, but very fluttery!
- 14

Cybertron Mission ... E6 6b

The bald, blunt, bold arete from the big flake - scary!
FA. Rob Mirlin 1994



- 15

Lawyer's Chimney ... S 4b

The left chimney, finish rightwards by floundering onto the slab or direct HS 4c. A tight rat-hole is the third option. The next route provides a useful continuation.
FA. Henry Bishop 1913
- 16

Chancery Slab ... VS 4c

The polished flutes and pockets up the short face above the col between the west and north faces. The easy slot just right is *Chancery Groove, M*.
FA. Morley Wood 1923
- 17

Our Kid ... E4 5c

Bridge the gap then bail right to access the scritty hanging slab. Climb this rightwards, then centrally and with no gear!
FA. John Allen 1989
- 18

Slanted and Enchanted ... E6 6b

From runners on the jammed stone, bridge out and swing left to gain pockets, the arete and a sketchy finish.
FA. Mark Turnbull 1994
- 19

Jammed Stone Chimney ... VS 5a

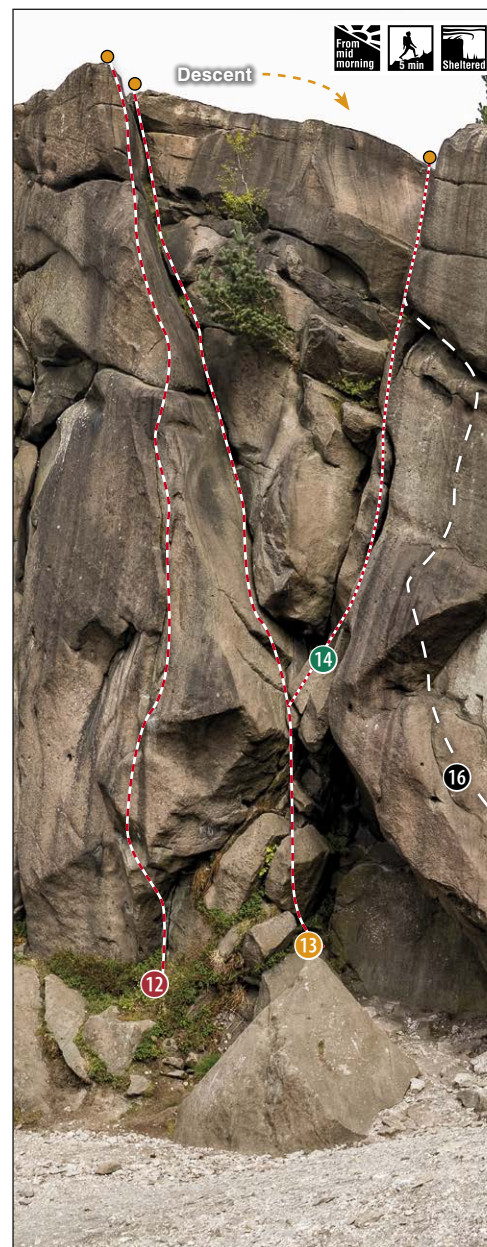
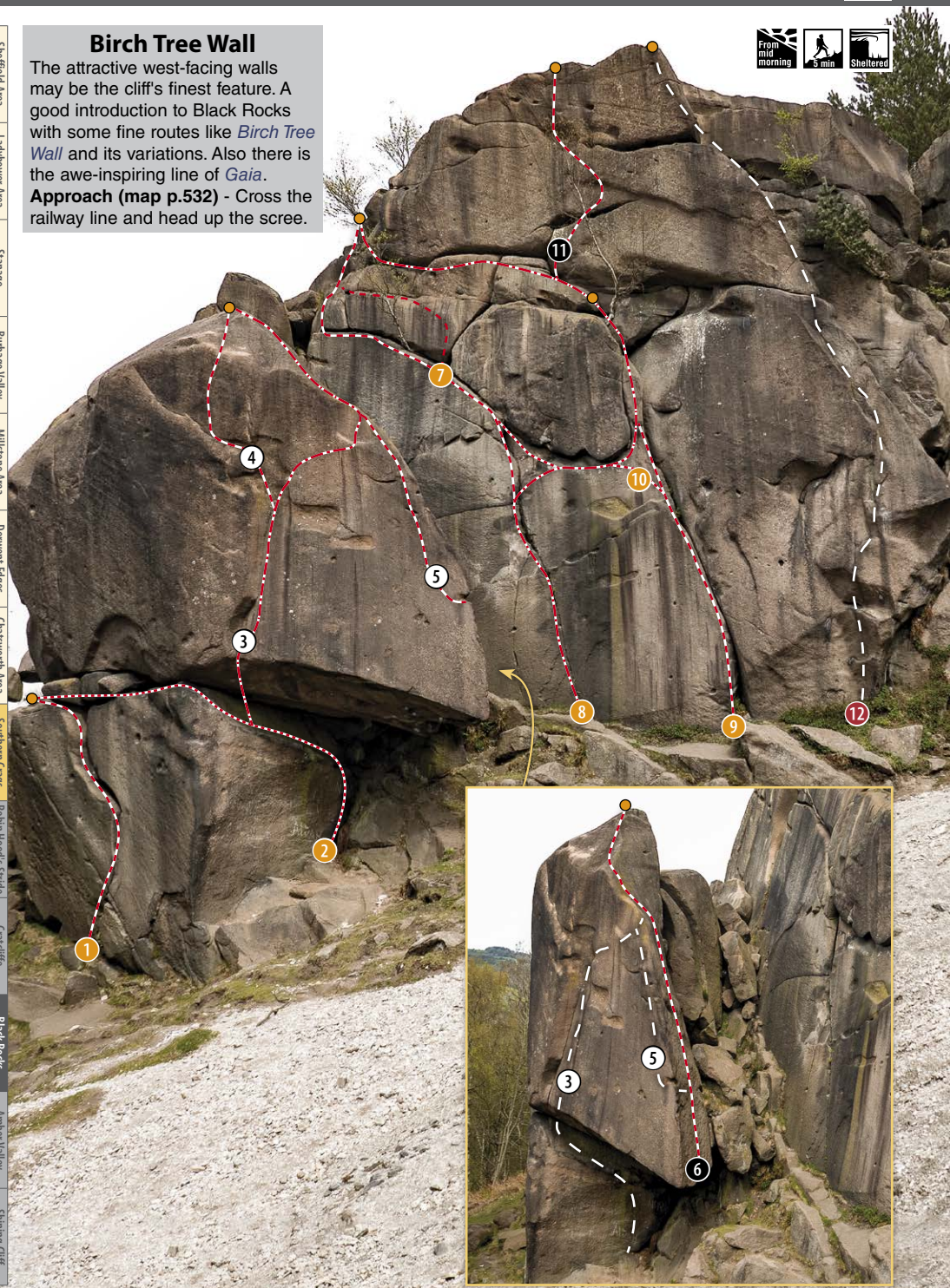
The chimney with the eponymous block is pretty much the expected battle, at half-height and again at the top.
FA. Henry Bishop 1913



Birch Tree Wall

The attractive west-facing walls may be the cliff's finest feature. A good introduction to Black Rocks with some fine routes like *Birch Tree Wall* and its variations. Also there is the awe-inspiring line of *Gaia*.

Approach (map p.532) - Cross the railway line and head up the scree.



1 Curved Crack HS 4b

The awkward kinked and polished crack has a tricky exit.
FA. Fred Pigott 1920

2 Kra S'Haon VS 4b

The crack below the huge block of *Gaia* is a route to nowhere. The reverse journey is *Noah's Ark* at the same grade.
FA. Dave Humphries 1977

3 Gaia E8 6c

Stunning and bold. The technical crux is getting into the groove - good gear - then superb moves gain a draining rest point at the top of the groove where even breathing feels precarious! Slopers out right lead to the psycho-crux pull onto the arete with a high kick for a toe-hook, much gusto and a strong will to live.
FA. Johnny Dawes 1986

4 Harder Faster E9 7a

Gaia's direct finish is harder than its parent and from this one you will definitely hit the ground - have no doubts.
FA. Charlie Woodburn 2000

5 Through the K-hole E7 6b

Start as for *Curving Arete* but swing round onto the outer face as soon as possible and layback above the huge drop. Good climbing but slightly artificial.
FA. Michael Garton 2001

6 Curving Arete E5 6b

Hop onto the undercut arete with great difficulty and then layback to safety. Unprotected - easier for tall, flexible climbers.
FA. Derek Bolger 1976

7 Birch Tree Variant VS 4c

The left-hand crack leads steeply to a poor rest. Follow the pumpy lowest crack out left to finish passing a useful tree, or easier (4c) step up and foot traverse along the same crack.
FA. Ivan Waller 1929

8 Birch Tree Wall VS 4c

1) 4c, 10m. Climb the thin and polished left-hand crack then move awkwardly right to a blocky groove leading to a stance.
2) 4c, 10m. Traverse the rounded breaks out left to easy ground. A high tree makes a useful belay for timid seconds.
FA. Jack London 1928.

9 Birch Tree Wall Direct. VS 5a

Climb the thin hand-crack into the blocky groove, then follow the original route throughout - a fine varied pitch.
FA. Ivan Waller 1928

10 Birch Tree Wall Variations .. HVS 5b

Join *Birch Tree Wall Direct* into the lower traverse of the *Variant*.

11 Birch Tree Wall Eliminate .. E4 6b

From *Birch Tree Wall* move right, bounce for the break then step back left and undercut for the top. Hard for the short.
FA. Derek Bolger 1978

12 Demon Rib E3 5c

The elegant rib is reachy and the landing is poor up to the flakes - small cams. Finish up the easier upper arete. Top end-ish.
FA. Peter Harding (shoulder for aid) 1949. An astounding ascent.

13 Lone Tree Groove VS 5a

The polished slanting groove is a swine to enter. Climb steeply to its base and then improvise; if all else fails try it on your back.
FA. Ivan Waller 1928

14 Lone Tree Gully S 4b

The deep groove gives steep awkward and slippery bridging.
Photo p.533.
FA. Fred Pigott 1920



15 Occam's Raisin..... E5 6b

A direct start to *Pseudonym* via a rounded pocket and sketchy slab - side runners protect.
FA. Jon Fullwood 2011.

16 Pseudonym E6 6b

An unprotected rockover gains the slab (easier for the short) then move up to the break (easier for the tall). Continue up the rounded arete above, gained from around the corner.
FA. Nick Plishko 1977

17 The Devil is in the Details.. E7 7a

Bounce up the wall above the break by "the biggest dyno on a gritstone route". Safe but as close to impossible as is possible.
FA. 'Tall' Tom Briggs 2003

18 Black Book Jon E7 6c

Climb the blunt rib on the wall to a sloping shelf (this is **Non Stick Vicar**, **f7B+**). Crozzley slopers lead leftwards to join *Fun Traverse* at its crux, but without its side-runners. *Photo opposite*.
FA. Pete Whittaker 2014

19 Fun Traverse E4 6b

Gritstone weirdness, hilarious and hideous in equal amounts - the pocketed traverse line is followed leftwards with difficulty, passing a useless set of rounded holes. Big cams help.
FA. Dave Humphries 1977

20 South Gully Rib VS 4c

Move left out of *South Gully* to a hanging slab then climb the tricky corner at its apex - an awkward beast.

21 South Gully HVD 4a

The final cleft in the cliff is polished and awkward.
FA. John Laycock 1913

22 South Corner HVS 5a

Up the chimney until the flake on the right can be reached. Swing round on this to a harrowing exit. Odd!
FA. Dave Humphries 1977

23 Bad Hair Day E4 6b

The old boulder problem up the arete (**f6B**) to the flakes and a breather. Continue via a solitary good hold to a hard exit.
FA. Percy Bishton 1998



24 The Runnel E3 6b

Balance up the slanting groove to a rounded exit. Unprotected.

25 Slab End M

The left-hand chipped and sandy staircase around the corner.

26 Slab End Right-hand Side VD

The right-hand side of slab end up the chips, moving slightly left to a tricky exit.



Pete Whittaker admirably illustrating the available gear on the first ascent of *Black Book Jon* (E7) - *opposite* - at Black Rocks. Photo: Mike Hutton



Sheffield Area
Ladybower Area
Stanage
Burbage Valley
Millstone Area
Derwent Edges
Chatsworth Area
Southern Crags
Robin Hood's Stride
Cratcliffe
Black Rocks
Amber Valley
Shining Cliff

- 1

Diagonal

S 5a
- The short slanting crack on the left is harder than it looks.
- 2

Shredded Feet

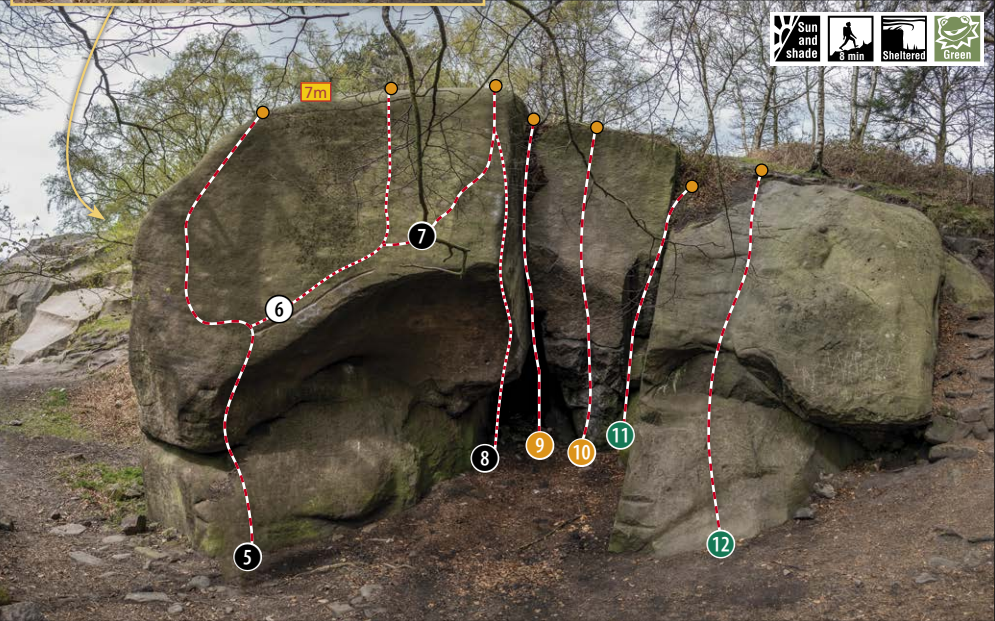
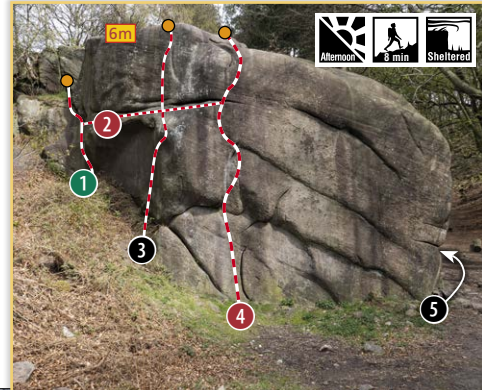
E3 6b
- The rounded break is hand-traversed at the limit of friction all the way to a finish up *Golden Days*. It feels more like 6c except on cool and crisp days.
- FA. John Allen 1976
- 3

Small Things

E6 6c
- Make a big jump to the flake below the bulge - *f7B*. Step left to flakes (gear) and make a massive dyno for the top.
- FA. Thomas de Gay 2001
- 4

Golden Days

E3 6b
- The thin flake in the blunt nose has a huge reach (wire) and then a sprint for the rounded top. A midget gem - *f6B+* above pads.
- FA. John Allen 1976



- 5

Jumping on a Beetle ..

E6 6c
- Round in the shade. Mantel onto the gutter - hard - then step left and make a delicate step up to the arete. *f7B* above mats.
- FA. Johnny Dawes 1994
- 6

The Angel's Share

E8 7a
- A desperate route up the centre of the slab with weird moves. Lack of holds on the blank slab require several rockovers with timed momentum from the previous rockover to make progress - ultimate Dawes. *f7C* above mats
- FA. Johnny Dawes 1994
- 7

Velvet Silence

E6 6c
- The original route on this slab - intense. Make the tough mantel onto the gutter and teeter right to the bald, bold blunt arete which is used to gain the top. *f7A* above mats.
- FA. Gabe Regan 1987
- 8

Make it Slappy

E6 6c
- Round in the recess climb the hanging left arete to a grasping exit on to the slab. Rarely done. *f7B+* above mats.
- FA. Simon Hunter 1994
- 9

Tree Crack

HVS 5b
- This wide crack is a bit of a hump and always grubby.
- 10

Excellent Socks

HVS 5b
- The tricky slab in the back of the recess.
- 11

Damp

S 4b
- The greasy angle to an awkward exit.
- 12

Dry

S 4a
- The slabby rib with an overlap really is the end of everything.

The Block

Behind the right-hand edge of the cliff, directly beyond the approach gully and tucked away in a little wooded valley, is the retiring buttress of The Block. This is home to a bunch of hard routes and a couple of easier ones. It is rarely busy, and the trees offer shade, though it can be green here after wet weather. **Approach (map p.532)** - From *Birch Tree Wall*, walk right and up into the open gully.

Adam Bailles smearing up *Jumping on a Beetle* (E6/*f7B*) - *opposite* - on the Block at Black Rocks. These are usually done as highballs above a stack of mats but the first ascents were all made by bold 80s climbers, particularly Gabe Regan and Johnny Dawes, just going for it. Photo: Mike Hutton

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