

Wild Boar Fell



Radical Prolapse E1 5b
FA Katie McKay
Main Wall - Wild Boar Fell
photo - Mark Gaddes

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You are the sole judge of conditions, the suitability of any chosen route, the ability of the party and you take sole responsibility for your actions.

Rock is a dynamic medium and rockfalls are frequent. In the mountains the weather changes quickly, climbs change unpredictably; blocks, flakes and holds become loose and fall off, rock becomes vegetated and dirty, in situ gear deteriorates or disappears. Even a minor change can have a dramatic effect on the difficulty or seriousness of a route. There can be no presumption that any given climb will be found in the condition described. It is therefore essential that climbers judge the seriousness or difficulty of any route before committing themselves.

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Wild Boar Fell

OS Ref: **SD 763 990**

Alt: **700m**

Rock: **Gritstone**

Grades

36

18

6

Situated in a stunning location is this collection of gritstone buttresses, on the eastern slopes of Wild Boar Fell above Mallerstang, at the head of the Eden Valley and in the Yorkshire Dales National Park.

The buttresses are of generally good quality gritstone up to 15m in height. However, no matter how good the rock, the climbs have had so few ascents that there is bound to be some loose rock in places. It's a great place to climb as long as you don't expect rock that has been cleaned by the passage of many hands and feet!

The south-easterly aspect means the crag gets the sun from early morning till into the afternoon and is sheltered from prevailing westerly winds. The buttresses are scattered across the hillside.

The main crag of [Blackbed Scar](#) is just south of The Nab, with a prominent grassy Amphitheatre splitting the crag.

Further south are more buttresses and [High White Scar](#) below the columns of stone men.

Belay stakes are in place above some buttresses (use at your own risk), but there are alternative natural gear cracks and blocks above most buttresses. Views are impressive and you may be lucky enough to look down upon a steam special on the Settle-Carlisle Line.

The climbs have had very few ascents and many have not been on-sighted, so the grades are approximate. When in doubt, the higher grade has been listed.

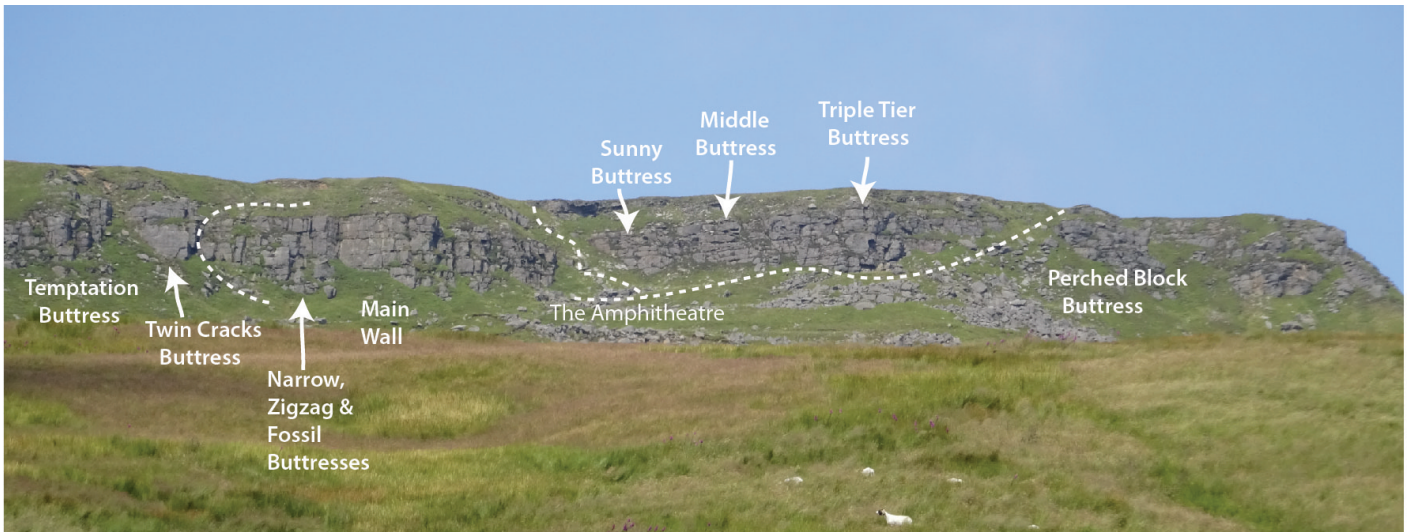
The climbs are described in relation to the various buttresses going from right to left with the routes on the buttresses described from left to right.

Care should be taken when approach the base of the buttresses and also when traversing along the top when descending.

Approach

Enter the Mallerstang valley on the B6259 from the south via Garsdale or from the north via Kirkby Stephen. There is parking for a few cars opposite the access track to Hazelgill Farm. GR SW 783 997. Take this track, the Pennine Bridleway, left of the house going straight up the field and under the railway. Follow the track gradually upwards to a col at 550m. Here a path heads south along the ridge, steepening to a substantial cairn on The Nab.

From the cairn on The Nab summit, [Perched Block Arête](#) is visible to the right. Walk 30m south to find two small circular ponds and head rightwards down an easy grassy slope to reach the right (looking outwards) edge of the buttress. A few metres down the grassy gully, take a faint sheep trod, past several small cairns. It traverses at a fairly high level, gradually descending to reach the base of [Triple Tier Buttress](#), at the right-angled corner of [Born Again](#). Scramble down a step or two and round the corner; the Amphitheatre will come into view. An alternative, perhaps easier to find, but steeper, descent may be made down the large grassy right-angled bay that is the Amphitheatre. It is about 150m on from the cairn.



Wild Boar Fell - Overview

Blackbed Scar North

60 mins Aspect: **South East**

Introduction

This is the area north (right) of the Amphitheatre.

Perched Block Buttress

Introduction

This is below the right end of the path, which descends from around The Nab.



Wild Boar Fell - Perched Block Buttress

1 Wonderloaf VS 4c † New 5m

Climb the awkward diagonal gash to stand on the spiky block. Step across onto the horizontal crack and traverse right to a comfortable ledge, from which it is possible to reach the top, by moving left. A miniature, but worthwhile, gritstone climb.

21.05.2023 Mark Gaddes

2 Brioche HS 4b † New 6m

Short, but sweet. Climb the arête that forms the left edge of the buttress, first on its right and then stepping left onto the protruding ledge, from which it is possible to climb the arête on its left side.

13.05.2023 Mark Gaddes

3 Crusty S 4a † New 10m

Climb just left of a right-facing flake in the lower wall and then a prominent crack in the headwall, a few metres right of [Brioche](#).

13.05.2023 Mark Gaddes

4 Upper Crust VS 4c † New 10m

With the help of the right-facing flake, make progress up the wall just right of the flake and then climb the fine impending headwall by some pleasing moves.

13.05.2023 Mark Gaddes

5 The Three Hares S 4a † New 10m

Across the wide gully, about 6m right of [Upper Crust](#), seek out the steep short wall and continue up the blocky arête above.

13.05.2023 Mark Gaddes

6 Perched Block Arête VD 4a † New 6m

Climb the upper arête on its left side. One good move.

11.09.2022 Mark Gaddes, Jude Gaddes

Another 50 m rightwards, past a buttress with a steep orange wall is:

7 Nab Arête M † New 7m

Start at the lowest part of the heavily featured arête that eventually leads to the Nab. Climb the arête with an optional excursion onto the wall on the left to finish.

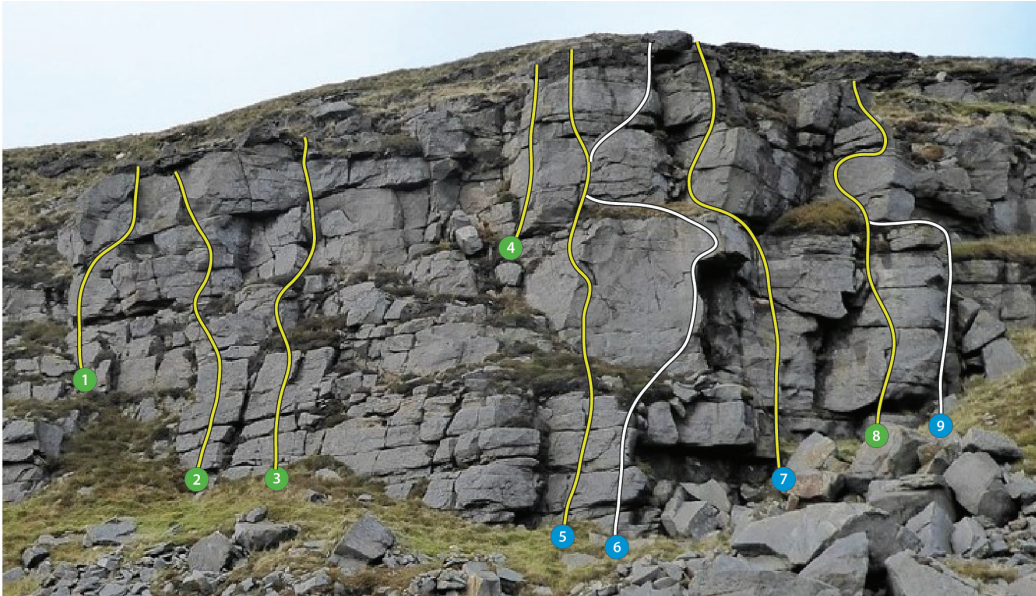
21.05.2023 Mark Gaddes, John Proud

8 Last Rites VD † New 7m

Above [Nab Arête](#) is an attractive piece of rock with a perched block, just below the cairn on the Nab. Climb the lower subsidiary nose and then step right to climb the wide crack, with a step left onto the nose to finish.

21.05.2023 Mark Gaddes

Triple Tier Buttress



Wild Boar Fell - Triple Tier Buttress

1 Lady Eleanor S 4a † New 8m ★

Climb up to the large flake and layback into the prominent right-facing corner on the far left-hand side of the buttress.

12.07.2022 Ian M Smith, Mark Gaddes

2 Shake Holes S 4a † New 10m

Scramble up, aiming for a crack a metre left of the triangular roof, high on the crag. Climb the crack and then the flake crack which leads leftwards to a small flat roof that it is possible to pull over.

15.06.2022 Mark Gaddes, Jude Gaddes

3 Scriddles VD † New 15m

Start below the triangular roof high on the crag. Climb the horizontally stratified wall just left of a crack. Then climb the broken crack one metre right of the triangular roof.

15.06.2022 Mark Gaddes, Jude Gaddes

4 Right Hip VD † New 8m

Scramble up to the left-hand side of upper tier of [Triple Tier Buttress](#). Climb the extreme left of the buttress, taking a line left of [Triple Tier Buttress](#), with a semi-mantelshelf move at half-height.

25.09.2022 M Gaddes, Ian M Smith

5 Triple Tier Buttress MVS 4b New 20m ★★

Climb the tricky right wall of the corner that forms the lowest point of the buttress and then go delicately up the left edge of the second tier and finally, the crack immediately above, in the third tier, trending leftwards.

15.06.2022 Mark Gaddes, Jude Gaddes

6 I Don't Mean to Boar You HVS 5a † New 20m ★

Climb the edge a metre or two right of [Triple Tier Buttress](#) and then the right edge of the second tier, with a long reach right for a cam slot. Join [Triple Tier Buttress](#) for a few moves up the third tier, before moving right and finishing just left of the chimney.

18.09.2024 Stephen Reid, Mark Gaddes

7 Mabel VS 4c † New 16m ★

Around the corner and up from the last climb, is a right-facing flake crack. Climb this and then the corner containing the obvious layback crack, until it is possible to traverse left onto the protruding spike. Climb the steep corner on the left for a metre or two, until it is possible to pull out rightwards onto the arête which is followed pleasantly to the top.

13.08.2022 Mark Gaddes, John Proud

8 First Born HS 4b † New 15m ★

Gain the flake crack (a metre left of the arête that defines the right edge of the buttress). From its right, reach the larger flake crack above and left. Climb this to a large ledge. Step left, then rejoin the arête on its left-hand side, aiming to step right onto a ledge on the arête itself, before returning leftwards to face the final steep crack.

15.06.2022 Mark Gaddes, Jude Gaddes

The first ascensionist had met his first born's, first born two days earlier

9 Born Again VS 4c † New 15m ★

Just past the arête is a right-angled corner which is climbed to the large ledge. Step left and finish up [First Born](#). Mark Gaddes 21.05.2023

Middle Buttress

Introduction

Though short, the climbs on this buttress are worthwhile.



Wild Boar Fell - Middle Buttress

1 John's Problem S 4a/4b † New 7m

Climb the short wall, below and left of [Contiguous Callum](#) and then up the obvious left-facing corner above.

19.05.2024 Mark Gaddes, John Proud

2 Calmly Callum HS 4b † New 8m

Climb up to the vertical finger crack that splits a diamond-shaped roof. Step calmly left to reach a wider crack, which is followed to the top. A direct start, ([Contiguous Callum](#) S 4a/4b 6m), moving straight up to the second crack, is also good.

13.08.2022 Mark Gaddes, John Proud

Proud's first visit and the first of many lines that he was to spot and clean over the coming years. A knee injury restricted his climbing, but did not prevent him from playing a major role in the development of the crag.

Sunny Buttress

Introduction

This is just to the right of the grass bank dropping into the Amphitheatre.



Wild Boar Fell - Sunny Buttress

1 Testing Positive S 4a † New 10m

A few metres left of the lowest point of the buttress; take the cleanest line up the slabs. Finish up the headwall, just left of the spiky block, making good use of it.

23.09.2022 Mark Gaddes, John Proud

2 BC Was Here HVD † New 12m

From the lowest point of the buttress, climb the cracks to the final wall then escape up a groove on the right.

23.09.2022 Mark Gaddes, John Proud

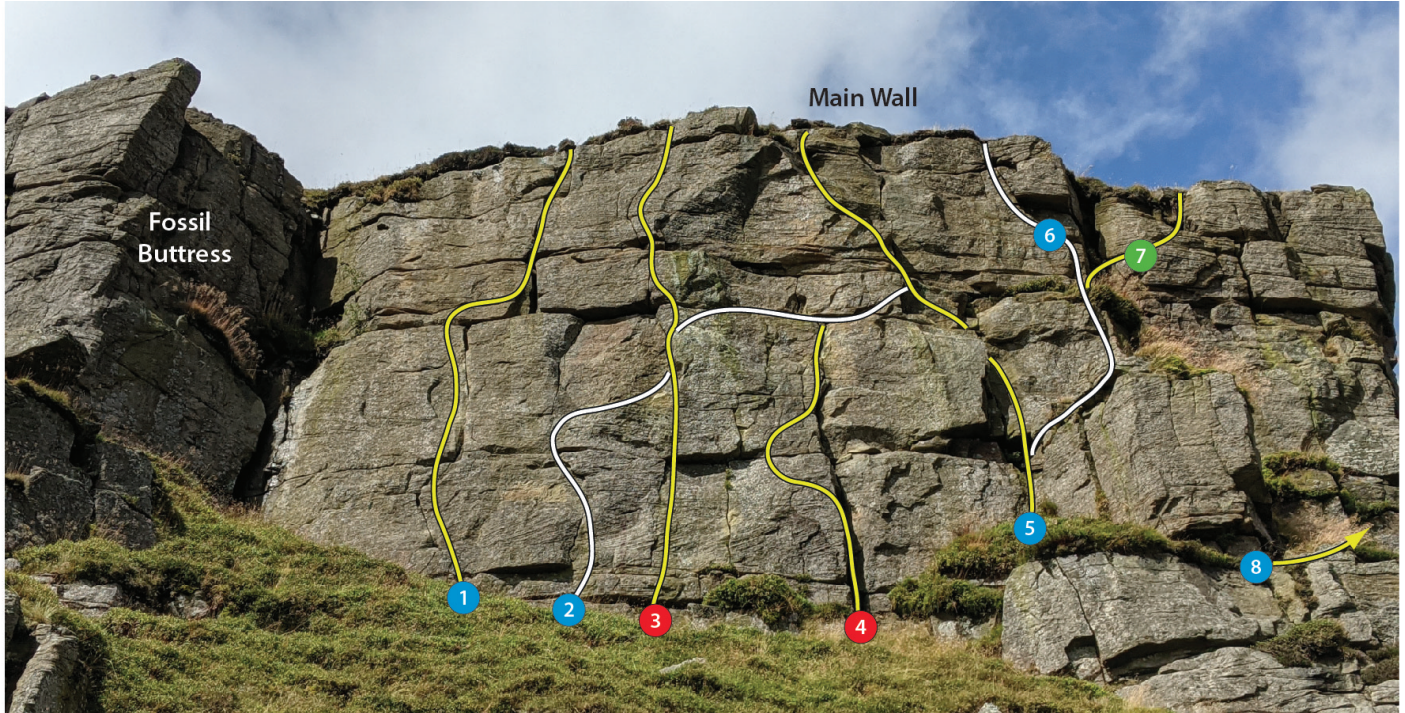
Blackbed Scar South - Main Wall

Introduction

This is the fine wall to the left of the Amphitheatre. Between this wall and the Amphitheatre are some steep wide uninviting cracks and some buttresses of good rock.

Descent

Traverse left, looking in, and descend a grassy gully and slab.



Wild Boar Fell - Main Wall

1 Hey Jude HVS 5a New 13m ★★

The inviting crack on the left side of main wall. A hold on the wall, left of the straight vertical crack, may prove useful before pulling back right into the niche at half-height and forging on to the top

1.09.2022 Mark Gaddes

2 Flakey HVS 5a † New 15m ★

Climb the thin flake crack in the centre of main wall, first trending left then back right to the large layback flake at half-height. From the top of this, traverse rightwards into [Proudly Done](#) which is followed as it traverses right to finish up [A Reet Good Knees Up](#).

23.09.2023 Rich McKay, Mark Gaddes

3 Radical Prolapse E1 5b † New 13m ★★

Start a metre right of [Flakey](#) and take a straight line up the crag to reach the thin curving crack in the headwall.

28.07.2024 Katie McKay, Joe Dobson, Rich McKay

4 Proudly Done E1 5b † New 13m ★★

Climb the steep crack in the pod at the right side of the wall, with a brief diversion into the subsidiary crack to its left after 2 or 3m of climbing. When the main crack ends, traverse carefully right to finish up [A Reet Good Knees Up](#).

11.09.2022 Mark Gaddes

5 A Reet Good Knees Up HVS 5a New 15m ★

Climb up easily behind the pinnacle and then follow a left-trending ramp, finishing up the wall a metre or so from the end of the ramp.

1.09.2022 Mark Gaddes

6 Finley's Reach VS 4c † New 14m ★

From the bilberry ledge on [Finley's Flake](#), step up to the left and then reach up to the base of the left-facing corner crack, 1m from the right edge of main wall proper.

28.07.2022 Mark Gaddes, Jude Gaddes

7 Finley's Flake S 4a † New 15m

Climb up easily behind the square pinnacle on the right of [Main Wall](#). From the top of the pinnacle, climb the flake crack on the right into the embrace of the sturdy bilberry plants on the ledge above. Step right to climb a corner and top out by stepping right again into a further corner.

28.07.2022 Mark Gaddes, Jude Gaddes

8 **Reveal Day VS 4c** † **New** 10m

Head for the evil-looking slanting off-width round to the right of [Main Wall](#), but climb the cracks a metre right of the off-width, turning the overhang on its right before stepping back into the corner.

18.09.2024 Mark Gaddes, Stephen Reid.

9 **Too Big For Your Boots HS 4b** † **New** 12m

This is on the buttress left of [Assault Course](#). Interesting climbing up the arête between two short corners. At the top of the arête, step 2m right and ascend the wall above diagonally, using a stepped flake, to reach a hand-sized vertical crack

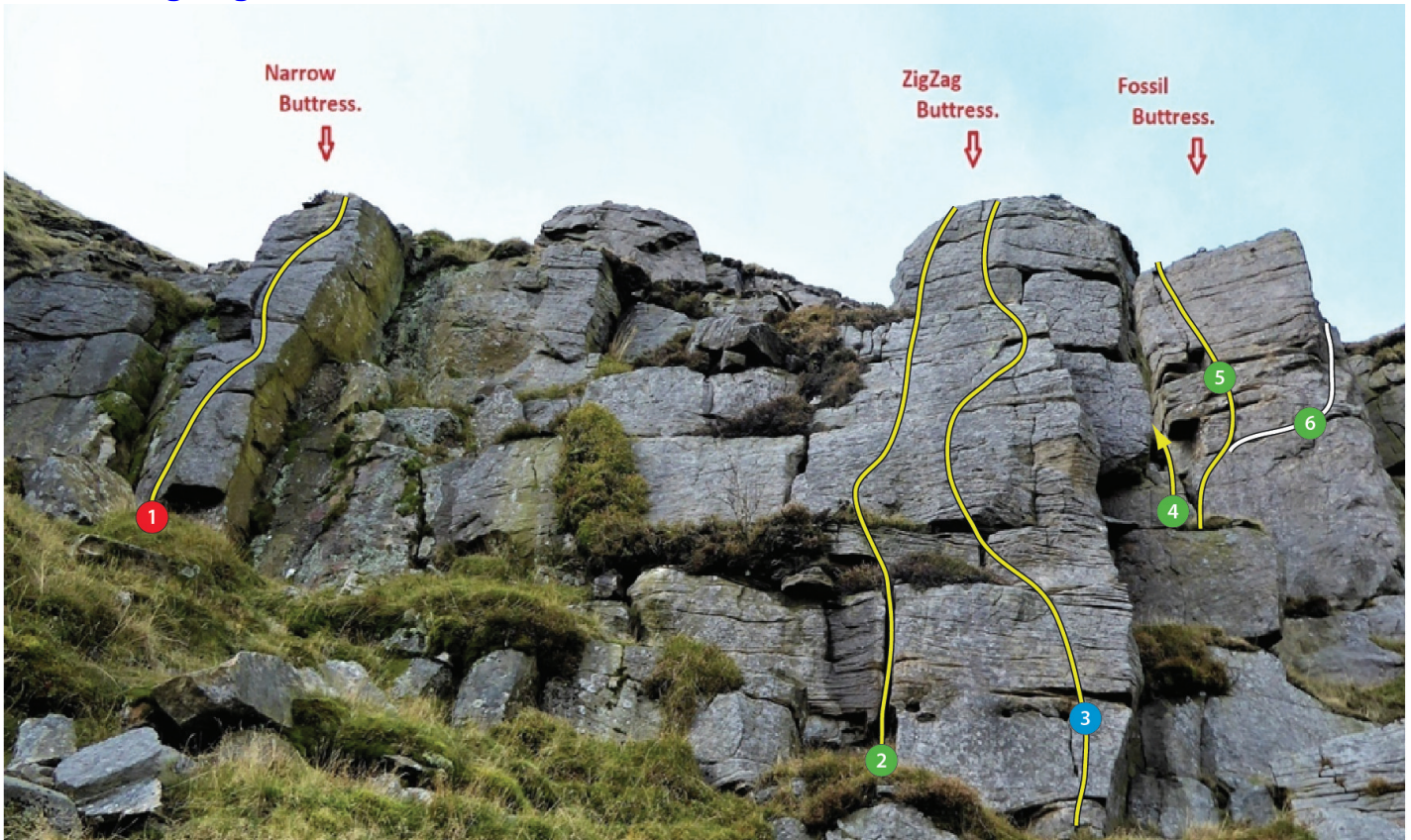
19.05.2024 Mark Gaddes, John Proud

10 **Assault Course S 4a** † **New** 12m

In two parts, up the first piece of climbable rock, left of the Amphitheatre. Climb the right edge of the steep pocketed wall to a mossy ledge. Scramble up to the second tier and climb the steep groove to the right of a fine wall.

28.07.2022 Mark Gaddes, Jude Gaddes

Narrow, Zig Zag & Fossil Buttresses



Wild Boar Fell - Narrow, Zigzag & Fossil Buttresses

Narrow Buttress

This is narrow square rib about 10m further left and slightly higher than [Zig Zag Buttress](#).

1 **Narrow Buttress** E1 5b † **New** 7m



The front face of the buttress provides good climbing on immaculate rock.

16.08.2023 Mark Gaddes

Zig Zag Buttress

A slabby buttress, low down and left of [Main Wall](#)..

2 **Straight Line** MS † **New** 10m

Climb the wide cracks on the left of the buttress to a ledge at 2m, then tiptoe straight up the slab, just right of the crackline. Finish easily up the left side of the headwall.

8.10.2022 Mark Gaddes, John Proud

3 **Zig Zag** VS 4c **New** 12m



Place gear and climb the right edge of the tricky pocketed wall. From the ledge, step left and then up and leftwards onto the slab. Zig zag back right again, making for the small flake which then leads to the large ledge. A heave up the headwall, taking a line a little left of centre, is all that remains.

2.07.2022 Mark Gaddes, Jude Gaddes

Fossil Buttress

Immediately left of the [Main Wall](#). Belay stake and gear well back.

4 **Trilobite** S 4a † **New** 7m

Climb the wall just left of the wide crack of [Ammonite](#) and then the wide layback crack above

28.07.2024 Mark Gaddes, Rich McKay

5 **Ammonite** HS 4b **New** 10m



Climb the square-cut off-width, on the left of the buttress, until it is possible to step right onto the front of the buttress. Climb the flakes and the thin crack above.

12.07.2022 Mark Gaddes, Ian M Smith

6 **The Nautilus Variation** HS 4b † **New** 12m



Begin up [Ammonite](#) and then traverse rightwards across the buttress at half-height, before climbing the steep groove just right of the arête.

23.09.2022 Rich McKay, Mark Gaddes

Twin Crack Buttress

Introduction

An impressive shield of rock up left with some bold slab climbs.



Wild Boar Fell - Twin Crack Buttress

1 Gemini Arête HS 4b † New 8m ★

Climb the left edge of the buttress, in two stages.

9.08.2024 Mark Gaddes, Martin Hancock

2 Twin Cracks S 4b † New 12m ★

Start below and 1m right of the twin cracks on the left of the buttress. Step up right and then back left into the twin cracks, which are followed to a large ledge. (A line that finishes slightly right of the twin cracks gives better climbing). From the large ledge step a metre or so right and climb the steep flake crack in the headwall.

2.07.2022 Mark Gaddes, Jude Gaddes

3 Aphex Twin E1 5a † New 12m ★

Step off the boulder and climb the steep slab, veering left at the top to avoid too much of a bilberry bush finish. Finish up the steep flake crack.

28.07.2024 Katie McKay

4 Naked Mole Rat E1 5a † New 12m ★

Good climbing up the arête that forms the right side of the buttress, turning the initial overhang on its left. Finish up the wrinkled arête.

28.07.2024 Joe Dobson

5 Fetch the Crowbar VS 4c † New 12m

Good steep climbing up the right-angled corner immediately round to the right of the front of the buttress, but it may not be worth the candle. Beware of the flake that forms the right side of the top metre of the corner. Best to step left to avoid touching it – it's huge and of doubtful stability, although it has resisted the attentions of a crowbar. Finish up the chimney in the headwall or the pleasant wrinkled arête to its right.

29.05.2023 Mark Gaddes, Rich McKay

6 Building Blocks HS 4b † New 12m

A little grubby, but worthwhile. Round to the right, on the north-east facing wall of the buttress is a grid of cubic blocks 4m above the ground. Climb the awkward fist-sized crack, behind the flake, in the centre of the lower wall on the right, to reach a substantial ledge. Step left and climb the thin curving crack and flake above to reach the lower right corner of the grid of blocks. Now take a diagonal right to left line across the grid of blocks, to emerge at a large ledge. Climb the pleasing wrinkled arête above, from its left.

Variation: S Ignore the fist-sized crack by stepping up on its left, then traverse right along the substantial ledge to the arête which is climbed to a mossy ledge which can be followed back leftwards to the grid of blocks.

16.08.2023 Mark Gaddes

Temptation Buttress

Introduction

The left skyline is the impressive [Temptation Buttress](#). There is a belay stake a few metres back.



Wild Boar Fell - Temptation Buttress

1 Chasing the Sun VS 4c † New 8m

A satisfying climb. Start as for [Nimble](#), but use the blocky flake to reach a layback crack, left and above the block. There is a wobbly block in the layback crack, but it is easily avoided.

13.11.2022 Mark Gaddes

2 Nimble HVS 5a † New 8m

The left side of the steep south-facing wall to a dynamic move past the right side of the flaky block at half-height, to gain the ledge and then straight on up the centre of the buttress.

13.11.2022 Mark Gaddes

3 Snap Dragon E2 5b † New 12m

Well-protected, thought-provoking climbing, requiring good rope work. Surmount the projecting blocks on right arête then move up the wall above, to reach the horizontal crack, at half-height. Traverse left, to join [Nimble](#) at the flakey block. Make a dynamic move up and rightwards, as [Nimble](#) does, to reach the comfortable ledge. Now traverse excitingly rightwards, to finish up the arête. (The creaky rectangular flake at 3m adds excitement, moderated by the good gear that can be placed elsewhere, before you lay a hand or foot on it. However, your belayer will probably thank you for positioning them out of the line of fire of the flake). A direct line looks possible.

23.09.2023 Mark Gaddes

Nimble Dragon makes a worthwhile HVS 5a *. Start up [Nimble](#) and finish up [Snap Dragon](#).



Beyond Temptation & Table Top Buttresses

Introduction

30m further left of [Temptation Buttress](#) is this small compact buttress.

1 Bull's Eye D † New 5m

The left face

18.10.2022 Mark Gaddes, Jude Gaddes, John Proud

2 For Nancy HVD † New 5m

The blunt arête.

18.10.2022 Mark Gaddes, Jude Gaddes, John Proud

3 Taking the knee. VD † New 5m

The right face.

18.10.2022 Mark Gaddes, Jude Gaddes, John Proud

Bilberry Buttress

Introduction

This buttress is about 60m further left (southwards) from [Beyond Temptation Buttress](#) and slightly higher up the hillside. It is recognizable by the central, fist-sized crack, undercut on its right side.

1 Bilberry Jam S 4b † 5m

Good climbing up the fist sized crack.

7.07.2023 Mark Gaddes

Skyline Buttress

Introduction

This buttress is another 30m or so further left of [Bilberry Buttress](#) and as the name suggests, at a higher level. It is a gently overhanging wall, with a prominent horizontal crack at about half height, which promises good bouldering, above good landings.

Table Top Buttress

Introduction

This buttress is 50m further left of [Skyline Buttress](#), at a lower level

The crack on the upper left of the east face is about 5b/c, but it has not been led.

1 Dinner Party VS 4c † New 7m

Satisfying, if a little thuggish, climbing up the hand-sized slanting crack, round to the left, on the south face of the upper tier of the buttress. Continue up the tower above to a good thread belay

7.07.2023 Mark Gaddes

High White Scar

Introduction

A series of buttresses of good rock scattered along the scar, underneath the columns of standing stones. Most of the climbs have not had a second ascent, so beware of loose rock.

The buttresses are described from right to left.

Approach

From the third or fourth column of stones, counting from the far end (south), descend a steep grassy slope. Towards the bottom of your descent you should see the wrinkled gritstone features of [Zeroth Buttress](#) on your left. Turn right to reach first buttress.

Zeroth Buttress



Wild Boar Fell - Zeroth Buttress

1 **Wrinkled Arête D** † **New** 6m

Pleasant climbing, starting under the roof and continuing up the featured arête

29.08.2024 Mark Gaddes

First Buttrass



Wild Boar Fell - First Buttrass

1 **Morris Dancing** VS 4c † **New** 10m ★

Good climbing up the steep flake crack in the wall 3m left of *Nine Men's Morris*. Worth seeking out.

18.08.2024 Mark Gaddes

2 **Nine Men's Morris** S 4a † **New** 12m

Interesting climbing up the left side of the buttrass. Climb the open corner with a wide crack, to eventually stand on a pinnacle. Step back right onto the buttrass proper and climb to a large ledge. Finish up the flakey crack in the right wall of the recess above.

18.08.2024 Mark Gaddes

3 **Morris Minor** VD † **New** 12m

Climb the crack 2m right of the square cut overhang to a bilberry covered ledge and then a short corner trending left to a second bilberry ledge and on up the buttrass, continuing to trend left.

18.08.2024 Mark Gaddes

Second Buttress

Introduction

This is about 50m further on and higher up the slope.



Wild Boar Fell - Second Buttress

1 **Second Chimney** VD † **New** 8m

Climb the chimney, starting up *Time Flies*.

24.08.2024 Mark Gaddes

2 **Time Flies** VS 4c † **New** 8m

Good climbing up the steep south face of the buttress, without recourse to any of the rock across the chimney.

24.08.2024 Mark Gaddes

3 **Just a Second** S 4a/4b † **New** 6m

Interesting and enjoyable climbing up the wall right of the main buttress. Step off the handy boulder and trend left to the top of the wall.

24.08.2024 Mark Gaddes

Third Buttress



Wild Boar Fell - Third Buttress

1 The Cleft VD † New 6m

Pull through the small roof at the left edge of the buttress, then trend right to climb the cleft.

29.08.2024 Mark Gaddes

Fourth Buttress



Wild Boar Fell - Fourth Buttress

1 Spiral Stairs VD † New 8m

Start at the left-facing flake and spiral left round the buttress, finishing partially in the chimney.

29.08.2024 Mark Gaddes