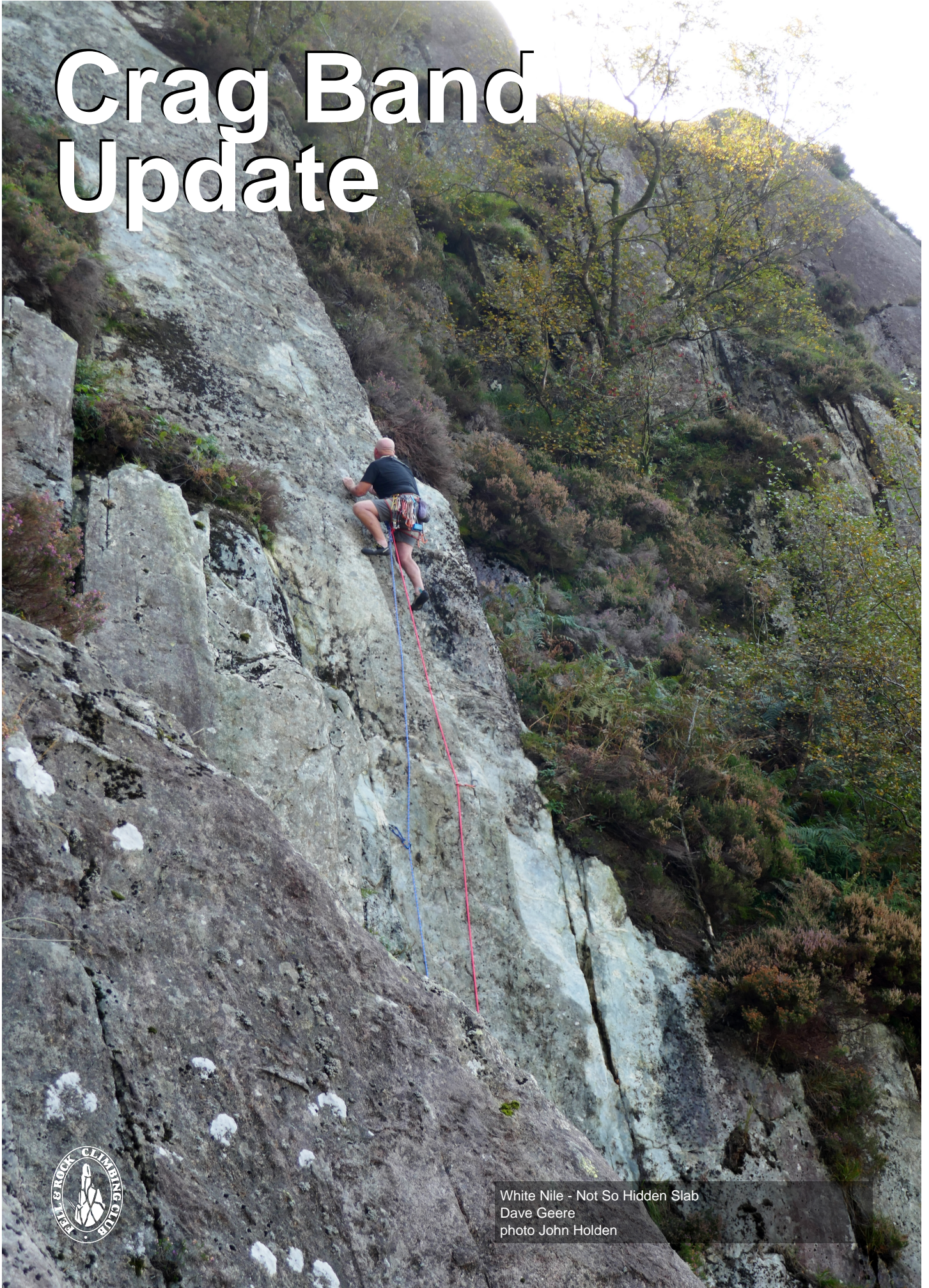


Crag Band Update



White Nile - Not So Hidden Slab
Dave Geere
photo John Holden

WARNING

You climb at your own risk. Climbing is a dangerous activity carrying the risk of serious injury or death. If you climb, the presumption is that you are aware of and accept these risks together with responsibility for your activities and your safety. 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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Crag Band Update

Grades

6

6

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Cat Crag

Introduction

This sunny south-facing crag provides a good venue for the easier grade climber. It is located just beneath the summit of the peak north of [Crag Band](#) and about 100m up right from [Henry's Cat Wall](#).

Approach

SD 2408 9825

Follow the [Crag Band](#) approach as follows:- Coming from the south the parking area is some 400m past a cattle grid where the road rises. Follow the left-hand path east descending into woods and turning north up the valley to cross a footbridge over Tarn Beck. Continue uphill following the track across boggy ground, through a gate, then head leftwards across the fell towards the toe of the rocks, by a drystone wall. Then drop down beneath the toe of the buttress taken by The Band, follow the drystone wall up and cross it at its top then traverse the fellside left into the gully line before scrambling steeply up the slopes to the crag. (45 minutes).



Cat Crag LHS

The first two routes start beneath the short wall at the lowest left end of the crag.

1 Cat o'Nine Tails 37m HS 4a † New

Climb the steep cracked corner then trend up left to some large blocks (belay option). Climb the wall left of the blocks and its continuation rib line heading up rightwards to a heather ledge. Climb a short overhanging flaky crack then easier ground to the top.

24.10.2024 J Daly

2 Cat Flap 37m VD † New

Start 3m right of [Cat o'Nine Tails](#). Up a short groove to a glacis then a short wall on the right to gain easy ground. Above is a vague rib line which is followed up rightwards to a heather ledge where a short steep pull gains a ledge above with a large perched flake. Climb the groove and slab behind the flake.

24.10.2024 J Daly

3 Catnap 25m VD † New

Starts beneath a slabby wall at a slightly higher level to the right. Climb an easy shallow groove and rocks directly above until beneath a very steep headwall then pull up left to gain the top of the rib of [Cat Flap](#). Finish as for that route.

9.11.2024 J Daly

4 Katmandu 25m S † New

Start 2m right of [Catnap](#). Climb the centre of the stepped slab/wall then trend up rightwards to climb a prominent vertical finger crack in the headwall above to gain the heather ledge. Pull up to the perched flake and finish as for [Cat Flap](#). Variation start -The cracked arête on the right is harder.

24.10.2024 J Daly



Cat Crag RHS

Further up to the right is a short steep wall with an obvious crackline up its left side.

5 Pussy Galore 14m HVS 5a † New

The crackline is climbed direct with a steep precarious start. Near the top, step right to finish up another short steep crack.

27.10.2024 J Daly, A Phizacklea

6 Catastrophe 14m VS 4c † New

Start 4m right of [Pussy Galore](#). Climb a short crack to gain a slab which leads to the base of a steep square-cut corner. Climb it with trepidation and a long lunge for an obvious flake up to the right; continue steeply up the crack above.

27.10.2024 A Phizacklea, J Daly

7 Cats Eye 14m S † New

Start 2m right of [Catastrophe](#). Climb a series of short steep walls directly.

9.11.2024 J Daly

Further right, a 4m high block has a wide crack on its left. The next route starts 2m right of the crack.

8 The Abyssinian 14m VD † New

Pull onto and follow a low ramp rightwards then make some steep pulls upwards until a hanging flake can be cautiously followed up left to gain the top. Belay well back.

9.11.2024 J Daly

Not So Hidden Slab

Introduction

Lies up and left from the toe of the buttress and is reached by following the wall, crossing it where it meets the crag. Faces north-west.

Approach

As Duddon & Wrynose guide p117 to the toe of the buttress.

Coming from the south the parking area is some 400m past a cattle grid where the road rises. Follow the left-hand path east descending into woods and turning north up the valley to cross a footbridge over Tarn Beck. Continue uphill following the track across boggy ground, through a gate, then head leftwards across the fell towards the toe of the rocks, by a drystone wall.

Descent

Abseil from a sling at the top of [White Nile](#) (in situ at the time of writing).



Not So Hidden Slab LHS

1 Blue Danube 40m HVS 5a † New

A good route taking the large slab right of [Theraband](#). Climb an awkward stepped corner to the slab. Move up to its right edge and follow it with increasing trepidation to a hidden block below a grassledge. A rising leftward waltz gains a corner system which leads, with interest, to the top.

19.09.2024 D Geere, J Daly, JL Holden

2 Tower of Babel 42m HVS 5a † New

Trad' training for Sport climbers!

Start just right of [Blue Danube](#), the first corner of which can be used as a chicken out alternative start.

1 17m 4c Climb the wide crack between two huge flakes to gain a standing position on the top flake (large slings advised), then traverse left past some easy steps and climb a smooth slab to its top where a step right gains a tree stump belay.

2 25m 5a Climb the slab above direct exiting just left of a heather clump. A short blocky edge above leads to a ledge beneath the top slab which is climbed delicately up its right hand side. Nut belays up a grassy ramp on the left.

5.10.2024 J Daly, K Phizacklea



3 White Nile 38m HVS 5a † New

The magnificent white slab is a crag classic

1 30m 5a Start the slab initially on the left stepping right at 4m to a good foothold. Take a more-or-less direct line to cracked blocks which lead more steeply to a grass ledge.

2 8m 4c The slabby pillar behind leads to the in situ abseil sling.

18.09.2024 D Geere, K Phizacklea



Not So Hidden Slab RHS

4 Gas Street Basin 36m VS 5a † New

Varied climbing starting 10m left of the wall at a prominent crack.

1 12m 4c Climb the crack to a tree; heather ledges lead up rightwards to a belay below the 2nd slab tier.

2 12m 4b From a prominent foothold on the left climb the slab, initially rightwards before ascending more easily to the top. Ledges lead left to a grassy bay below a slabby pillar.

3 12m 5a Climb the pillar on its right side for 3m, move to the left and ascend delicately to the top. Large block belay 7m further back on the ridge.

22.09.2024 D Geere, J Daly

5 Bingley 3 36m E2 5b † New

A very good route giving three outstanding pitches starting 3m left of the wall at a slab capped by a small tree.

1 12m 5b Climb the slab on its right until it is possible to step left into the first break, rock up to quartz holds and gain the tree. Belay in the corner above the heather patch.

2 12m 5b Climb the delicate slab on the left to an overlap and follow the crack above to a ledge and belay below a large hanging flake.

3 12m 5a The hanging flake and the cracked slab above. Large block belay 7m further back on the ridge

22.09.2024 D Geere, J Daly

6 Doobietron 36m E1 5b † New

An entertaining route starting 1m left of the wall.

1 24m 5a Climb the slab to an overhang pulling over via a large crack to a ledge below a large flake. Step onto the flake from the left and ascend with interest to a belay below a thin corner in the slab above.

2 12m 5b Climb the thin corner and delicate slab above. Trend more easily up and left to join the crack of *Bingley 3* at the top. Large block belay 7m further back on the ridge.

5.10.2024 D Geere, K Phizacklea, J Daly