

# Upper Kern Knotts (Raven Crag)

Situated directly above [Kern Knotts](#), this micro-crag has good rock and a lovely outlook above a pleasant flat grassy gearing up/picnic area. The crag was used by the Victorian pioneers but little has been recorded until now.

Grades

14

6

1

## Approach

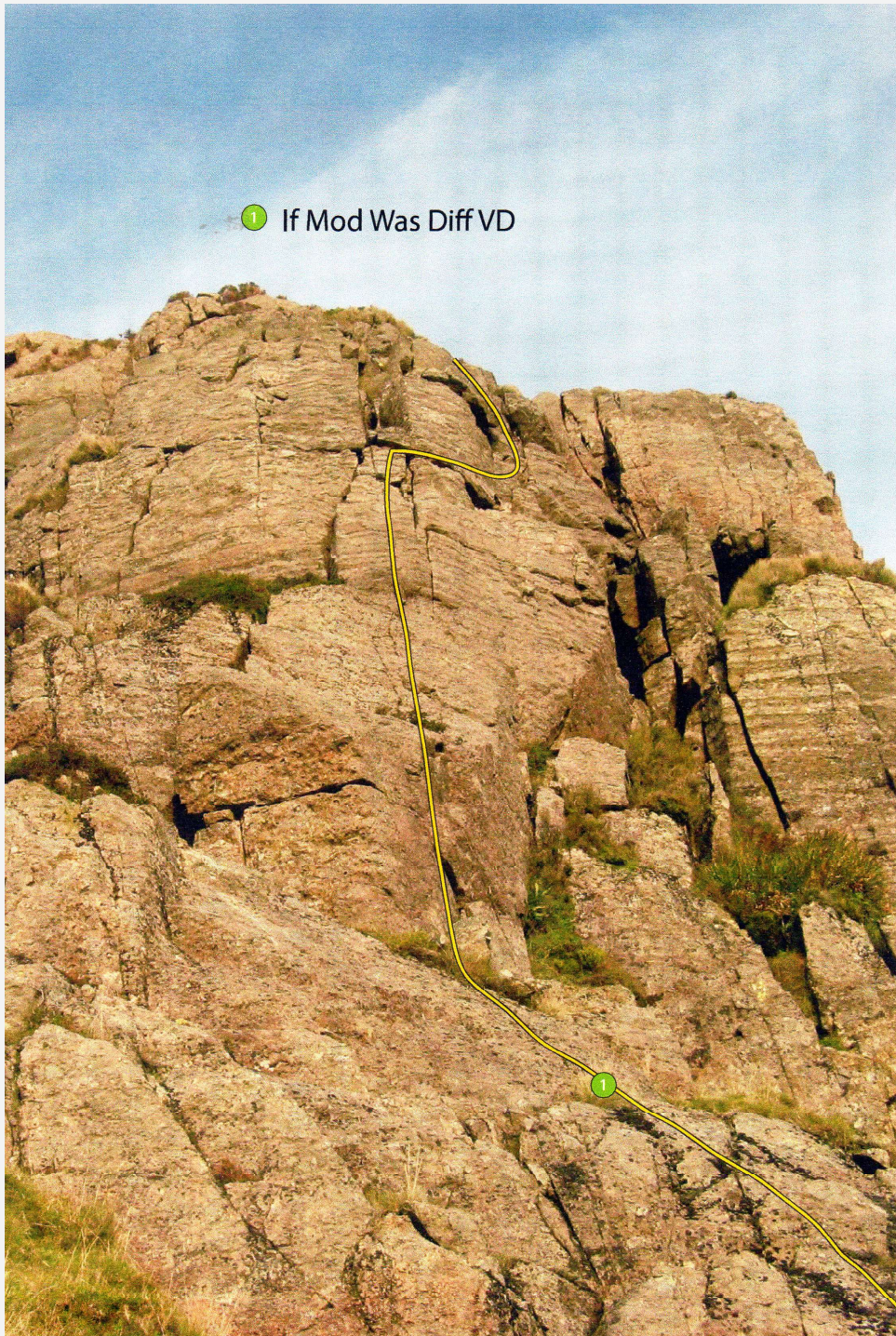
It is easily reached by following the main Great Gable path from Styhead until the first small rocky knoll on the left is passed. Here a vague rising diagonal path on large scree, marked with occasional cairns, leads across the hillside, up a short grassy gully and round a rocky rib to the right end of the crag.

## Far Far Left-Hand Buttress

Uphill 100 min SOUTH-WEST facing 🌞

## Introduction

A long way to the left of the Main Area! Many other short possibilities exist hereabouts



Upper Kern Knott Crag - If Mod is Diff



**1 If Mod was Diff** VD † **New** 20m

Lovely rock and steep in parts. Easy slabs lead to an upright flake just right of a prow. Stand on the flake to gain a platform and go up the thin crack in the wall to a hand-traverse right under a shield. Finish up the rib above.

19.10.2007 | Grimshaw, SJH Reid

## Main Area - Left Hand Section

Uphill 100 mins SOUTH-WEST facing 🌞

### Introduction

This buttress lies directly above [Kern Knotts](#).

The left-hand side of the Left-Hand Buttress is marked by a chimney with an off-width chimney/crack to its right. In the centre of the buttress is a deeply set back chimney/gully.

The Barton brothers, Guy and Claude, climbed two chimneys here on 27th Dec 1900, along with a man called Pain, who they describe as a "hopeless ass"! One would presumably have been Central Chimney and the other possibly Gaspard's Chimney or Thompson's Groove, ie 10 year's before the recorded ascents. Unfortunately they don't give further details.

### Descent

Descent is to the right.



Upper Kern Knotts (LHS)

**1 Giant's Steps** M † **New** 10m

Steep juggy climbing on superb rock, up the wall just left of the left-most chimney. ★

11.05.2008 SJH Reid

**2 Gaspard's Chimney** D † **New** 10m

The left-most chimney.

30.12.1910 G Sansom, AR Thomson, A Gaspard

**3 Pillarette** VS 4b † **New** 10m

Start up the off-width crack of [Samson's Squeeze](#) but soon swing left and climb the pillar between [Gaspard's Chimney](#) and the crack.

22.08.2007 SJH Reid, SA Baxendale

**4 Sansom's Squeeze** VD † **New** 10m

The second chimney from the left is more of an off-width crack than a chimney.

30.12.1910 G Sansom, AR Thomson, A Gaspard

**5 Blue Sky Thinking** HVS 5b † **New** 10m

To the right of the off-width crack of [Samson's Squeeze](#) and just left of the arête is a thin crack. Make hard moves up the wall to gain a slim stepped groove and follow this more easily to the top.

23.08.2007 SJH Reid, S Bailey, C King

**6 Stephally** MVS 4b † **New** 10m

Just right of the arête to the left of the chimney/gully of [Central Chimney](#) is a flake-crack/groove line. Climb the shallow groove until it ends just before the top when a pull left is made to a ledge on the arête. The crack on the left leads to the top.

**The Direct Finish** VS 4c

Continue straight up the wall.

08.08.2007 SJH Reid, SA Baxendale  
The Direct Finish SJH Reid - 11.05.2008

**7 Central Chimney** VD † **New** 10m

The tunnel-like chimney/gully in the centre of the buttress.

26.12.1893 OG Jones, JW Robinson, WH Fowler

**8 Thompson's Groove** D † **New** 10m

To the right of the [Central Chimney](#) is a V-groove and then an open groove. The deep V-groove.

30.12.1910 G Sansom, AR Thomson, A Gaspard

**9 Secret Seven** S † **New** 10m

Climb the open groove starting on the right and exiting rightwards.

**Left-Hand Way** MS. This has also been climbed starting on the left and finishing leftwards.

23.04.2007 SA Baxendale, SJH Reid  
Left-Hand Way - climbed on the same day by same team.

**10 Barn Conversion** E1 5b † **New** 10m

Just right again, an impending crack splits the face. Climb the sustained crack - a wonderful combination of jugs, jams and layback compressed into such a short distance

23.08.2007 C King, SJH Reid, S Bailey

**11 May the Moss be with You** S † **New** 10m

To the right again is a steep mossy wall broken on its left side by three shallow grooves. The left-hand groove, finishing leftwards up cleaner rock on the arête.

11.05.2008 SJH Reid

**12 Moss Bros** HS † **New** 10m

The central groove proves both a struggle for independence and a struggle.

11.05.2008 SJH Reid

**13 Another Fine Moss** VS 5a † **New** 10m

The right-hand groove involves a technical start laybacking up moss before yarding up mossy jugs to the top.

11.05.2008 SJH Reid

## Main Area - Right Hand Section

Uphill 100 mins SOUTH-WEST facing 🌞

### Introduction

This buttress lies to the right of the mossy central section and is split by a grassy gully. The slab on the left of this gully provides the longest climbs.





#### Upper Kern Knotts (RHS)

**1 Tom Blue Wall** HVS 5a † **New** 20m

Follow the thin crack/groove up the slab to an easing and climb more or less directly to the top.

27.08.2008

**2 Tom Blue Cracks** S † **New** 20m

The groove/cracks up the right side of the wall just left of the grassy gully. Step up leftwards, then straight up the buttress. Several variations have been done.

22.08.2007 SA Baxendale, SJH Reid

**3 Peasy** M † **New** 10m

The rib bounding the grassy gully on its right and starting at a large block spike.

22.08.2007 SJH Reid

**4 Green Friend** VD † **New** 20m

The groove just right of the grassy gully. When it eases, move up a few metres then step across the gully and climb a rounded rib on the left.

It can be started direct at S.

22.08.2007 SA Baxendale, SJH Reid

**5 Gordon Bennett** VD † **New** 10m

The obvious juggy groove just right of the smooth wall, on the right, has a definite crux at mid-height.

22.08.2007 SA Baxendale, SJH Reid

**6 Famous Five** VS 4b † **New** 10m

The slim mossy groove just right is better than it looks. Gain the groove via a crack just left of a pinnacle and climb it, first on the left, then on the right.

22.08.2007 SJH Reid, SA Baxendale

**7 The Climby Climb** VD † **New** 10m

Gain the top of a pinnacle via a short chimney/crack to its right. Make an awkward pull up from this to a ledge above and zig right, then left, to finish via a short corner.

22.08.2007 SA Baxendale, SJH Reid