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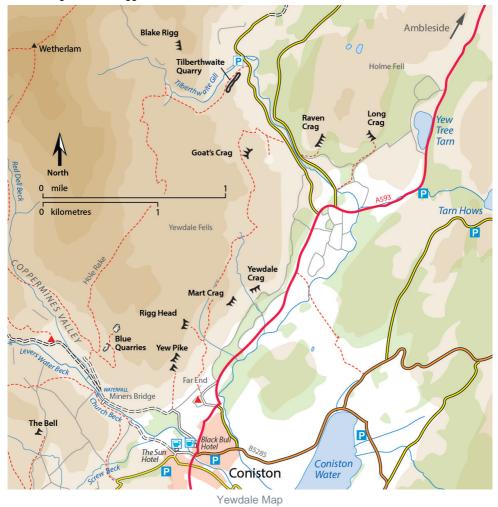
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Yewdale

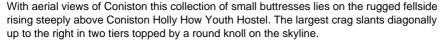
Dirty, disregarded dystopia... Towering tantalisingly above the trees on the rough northern side of the valley, overlooking the main Coniston to Ambleside road are a series of impressive crags. You would imagine that the climbing matches the promise. Generally sunny, close to the road and with a great outlook this proximity betrays the steepness of the approaches, verdant impenetrable woods, dirty rock and unreliable protection. Perseverance will find rough rock with the added benefit that you are unlikely to meet anyone else climbing. This is a valley for extreme esoterica and incorrigible route baggers.



Yew Pike

OS Ref: SD 302 984

Alt: 310m



Grades







Approach

From the Coppermines Road where it crosses the cattle grid. A grassy trod, virtually impossible to locate in long bracken, runs up and diagonally rightwards, at one point threading its way between boulders on a green shelf, Pate Bield. The boulders offer a variety of middle grade problems with forgiving landings. Continue up scree, bearing slightly right and steepening below the second band of cliffs.

Lower Tier

Introduction

There's potential for more routes here, if only it wasn't so dirty and vegetated! And with little prospect of becoming popular it is probably best to leave nature alone.

Two unpleasant routes are known - Rudyard Grooves 30m S [1960's] and Grooved Wall 25m HS [1961].

Slabby Buttress

Lat/Lng: 57.471584103291, -11.707668942398

Introduction

A natural climbing wall for medium grade climbers, with reliable protection and belays on a clean pillar of rough rock, undercut across its base. The ground below the crag falls steeply away with a cam placement available for a belay.



Yew Crag - Slabby Buttress



Sunshine Arête VS 4c † 30m



A rewarding climb. Start 2m left of lowest point of the buttress at a short clean crack. Climb the crack for 3m, moving up and right onto the left edge of the buttress. Follow the arête in a great position.

19.04.2009 M Scrowston, J Loxham



Sunshine Boys S 30m



An excellent climb on rough rock. Strenuously left over a bulge in to the start of a crack which is followed on excellent holds to the top.

26.04.1993 AH Greenbank, FE Davies



Walter Matthau VS 4b 20m

Pleasant climbing up the steep central corner. Make an awkward move into the base of the corner. Surmount the bulge and immediately step right onto a good foothold on the rib. Climb this to a mantelshelf; finish up the easy crack.

19.05.1993 AH Greenbank, FE Davies



George Burns VS 5a 18m



A tough-looking line taking the jutting wall at the right-hand end of the buttress. A large handhold helps the steep initial moves from the steeply shelving fellside onto the wall. Continue up steeply then climb through a breach in the roof to the glacis above and final short wall; belay on the ledge above.

19.05.1993 AH Greenbank, FE Davies

Upper Tier

Approach

The Upper Tier lies above the descent from Slabby Buttress



Yew Crag - Upper Tier



Longhorn S 55m



A dismal route, starting from a partly detached block at the left-hand end of the crag. Climb a dirty groove and continue up cracked slabs.



Horn Route HVS 4c 40m

A bold lead up the centre of the main wall on flat clean holds with spaced protection. Start a few metres below and left of the concave wall. Climb directly to a detached block at 6m. Move up high into a left-slanting scoop before stepping left onto the edge of the wall (crux). Continue directly to the top on lichenous rock.

1954 LA Montgomery, J Richards



Graeme's Cheesecake HVS 5a 35m

A bold route with gear well below the crux. Start 1m right of *Horn Route*. Climb up to a detached block at 6m. Delicately move up and right to a tiny spike. Traverse right past this (crux), up to ledges and a finish up the obvious wide crack above.

R Pugh, F Bowra



Raging Horn E3 5c 20m



A sustained pitch on good rock starting from a conspicuous crack to the right of the concave wall. Slow to dry; small wires are needed but awkward to place. Climb the crack on sloping holds to the overhang. Step left with difficulty to a good hold, then follow twin cracks above to finish. 5.05.1993 J Bumby

Rigg Head

OS Ref: **SD 302 988**

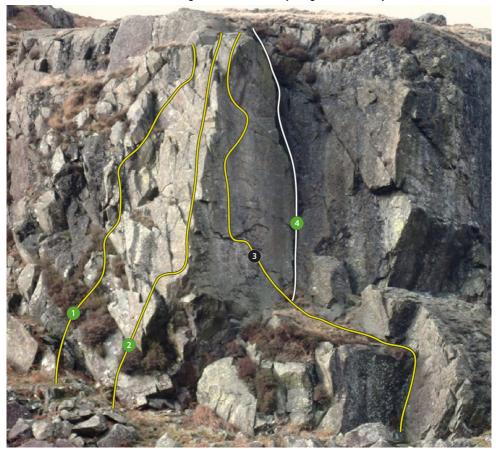
Alt: 290m



A small square buttress with a couple of worthwhile routes.

Approach

From the end of the metalled Coppermines Road turn right through the gate on to the track behind the Youth Hostel and then left at the finger-post on to the Rigg Head Beck path, which can be buried in bracken in summer. The crag can soon be seen jutting out on the skyline.



Rigg Head

20 min Aspect: South East 🔌

Lat/Lng: 57.519686198032, -11.552582492025



Interesting Crack HD 15m

Start behind a large boulder embedded in the fellside and follow the line of weakness into the wide broken chimney and so to the top.

08.1917 W Whinnerah, G Basterfield, S Wright



La'al Willie S 4a 16m

An exciting excursion, starting 8m left of *Trinity Crack* just left of overhang. Climb heathery cracks and ledges for 4m until it is possible to traverse easily right to the arête. Climb the arête to the top. 04.01.1992 A Phizacklea, JL Holden



Wilderness Disco E4 6a 15m

A technical climb with *in situ* gear on the wall to the left of *Trinity Crack*. From the grass ledge move diagonally left (cam) undercut up right (poor peg in situ). Reach a good handhold (poor RP); a hard move diagonally right leads to better holds (peg placement). Move left (poor peg placement) to the arête.

16.08.1997 I Wilson



Trinity Crack HS 20m

An old classic. The prominent corner gives a climb of great character. If the bottom tier is vegetated the route can be started by walking in from the right. A short right-angled groove leads to the grass ledge below the main corner. Climb this by tight chimneying, or whatever technique works, to the top.

08.1917 W Whinnerah, G Basterfield, S Wright

Hidden Crag

OS Ref: SD 304 986

Alt: 190m



Approach

It lies 200m left of Mart Crag at a slightly lower level, and is almost hidden from view by a large tree. Strike directly up the hillside towards the crag from the path leading to Mart Crag.

20 min Aspect: South East

Lat/Lng: 57.526678066396, -11.218499005568



Crack Behind the Tree above Coniston E5 6b † 12m

One of the steepest routes of its length in the Lakes. Start behind the tree at the left-hand end of the crag. Avoid the obvious friable crack by using jugs on the left wall. The short groove provides the crux (peg).

15.06.1990 T Walkington



Fabian E4 6a † 12m

Start 3m right of the previous route. A groove leads (in-situ wire) to a cramped ledge at 6m. Step left and continue up the groove and steep wall to a high step onto the slab above. Alternatively swing right from the ledge onto a slab for an easier finish.

09.071990 T Walkington

The slabby buttress above Hidden Crag gives two routes; **Left Arête** [60m D 1998 R Graham] and **Central Scoop** [60m VD 1998 R Graham]. Approach by scrambing to the start of *Crack Behind the Tree above Coniston*, then move left onto the hillside and scramble to the start of the routes.

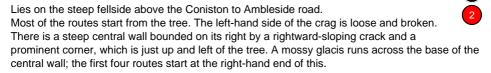


Grades

Mart Crag

OS Ref: SD 305 989

Alt: 200m



Approach

From the point where the road emerges from Whins Wood. Parking here. Walk through the woods and climb the drystone wall then a steep diagonal route leads to the crag. Step right below the crag to a perch behind the tree.

Mini-guide to Yewdale



Mart Crag

30 min Aspect: South East 🔌

Lat/Lng: 57.56532704762, -11.060254358723



Boulder Buttress HVS 5a 49m



Enjoyable in parts but vegetated.

- **1 24m 4b** Traverse horizontally left across the delicate mossy glacis for 8m. A short corner leads onto a slab, now continue trending leftwards below the central wall to a sloping ledge.
- **2 12m 5a** Climb the corner for about 5m to a ledge. Make a bold delicate traverse rightwards to a large grass terrace.
- 3 13m 4c Climb over the bulge into a steep groove; finish up the groove.

05.04.1969 JA Austin, R Valentine, DG Varley



The Mutant King meets the Humanoid E5 6a 30m

A very direct and difficult line. Four metres left of *The Bride* climb straight up the wall crossing *The Bride* (runners) and continue (Rock 2) up the very clean stunning arête.



The Bride E2 5c 45m

This steep bold route, clean in places, follows the flake across the central wall.

- 1 33m 5c From the start of the glacis, follow an awkward left-slanting gangway to the flake. Climb the flake to its top, step left, and continue up the difficult moss-coated crack to reach a large grass ledge.
- 2 12m The broken open groove behind the belay.

07.07.1976 CW Brown, B McKinley



Diamond Buttress HVS 5a 37m

An interesting climb, though rather mossy in places. From the glacis, as for *The Bride*.

- 1 12m 5a Climb the narrow left-slanting gangway for about 5m, until a shallow scoop on the steep wall to the right can be entered and climbed to a grass ledge below the corner (old peg).
- 2 12m Climb the very mossy slab on the right of the recess and step left onto a glacis.
- 3 13m 4b Finish up the steep cracks above.

20.04.1969 JA Austin, M Mortimer, AH Greenbank



Clean Sweep E3 5c 41m

A bold climb with sketchy protection tackling the prominent corner which starts halfway up the centre of the crag. Start below a steep blunt rib, just left of the tree.

- 1 13m 5b The poorly protected steep rib and short V-groove lead to the grass ledge of *Diamond Buttress*.
- 2 15m 5c Climb the steep corner behind the belay with some difficulty (small wires) to a large ledge.
- 3 13m 4b A short slab and groove provide an easier finish.

28.04.1985 K Phizacklea, J Daly



Caravan Slab VS 4b 36m



Dire as, apart from the first 10m, this route suffers from an unusually lush covering of moss. Start directly behind the tree. Follow the rightward slanting slab and continuation grooves.

05.04.1969 JA Austin, R Valentine, DG Varley



Little Gem VS 4c 23m



Unpleasant climbing up a flared slot to the right of a mossy corner, about 15m to the right of *Caravan Slab*.

The slot is reached by climbing diagonally leftwards past heather patches. Avoid the dirty first section on the right and exit rightwards to finish.

20.04.1969 JA Austin, M Mortimer, J Mortimer, AH Greenbank

Orange Wall

Grades



Between Mart Crag and Yewdale Crag, and just right of the cascades, a short overhanging orange coloured wall may be found.

30 min Aspect: South East 🔌



Allen Exit E3 5c 9m

A steep strenuous pitch climbing the left-hand arête of the overhanging wall, protected by a No.4 cam. Climb up just left of the arête for 4m, then pull right and follow the arête to the top. 07.1993 G Sutcliffe, T Henson



Agent Orange E3 5c † 15m

Climb the orange groove on the right of the overhanging wall.

6.08.1984 M France, J Evan

Yewdale Crag

OS Ref: SD 309 991

Alt: 190m

A steep, apparently slabby, outcrop on an elevated spur with idyllic views. The crag lies just above the Coniston to Ambleside road, about 1½ km north of Coniston.

Grades





Approach

Park in Coniston; walk north along the road on the footpath. It is probably best to visually locate the crag before parking. Leaving the path, a steep approach up the fellside brings one to a comfortable haven beneath the main overhangs of the crag. Worthwhile for a short day or evening.

Descent

Descent is to the left (south).



Yewdale Crag

20 min Aspect: South East 🔌

Lat/Lng: 57.629143352773, -10.403022228178



Starstruck E1 5b 42m



An entertaining route which is strenuous and bold in places, but never technically exacting. Start 5m right of the highest point of the rake, below a steep crack which splits the overhangs above.

1 15m 5b Pull over the introductory bulge to gain the crack. Follow it rightwards through the roof on good holds, until a final move lands one on the slab above. Traverse the slab rightwards for 6m to a recess.

2 27m 5b Move up and across the slab and continue diagonally rightwards to good holds beneath a bulge. Make a long reach leftwards, over the bulge, and continue up walls following a rising traverse line.

17.05.1978 I Cooksey, M Danson



Dusk VS 4b 39m



A good route which gives exciting climbing up steep rock on excellent holds. Start beneath the right-hand end of the band of overhangs and follow an indistinct groove which slants up to the right.

1 30 m 4b The initial wall is climbed via a steep groove to a mossy slab and sapling; move right, then up to a ledge beneath the groove. Follow this on good holds to a steep move over a bulge and easier ground. Belay on ledges to the right.

2 9 m The slabs above.

31.08.1966 D Miller, D Kirby



Dawn VS 4c 39m

A rather pointless route, starting from a grass ledge 9m right of *Dusk*. Pull directly into a short mossy right-facing corner, formed by a detached block and swing out left. Move up and back right across a slab and pull up to a bulge. Follow a gangway diagonally right for a couple of metres until a move can be made leftwards into a groove. Follow this over a prominent dark overhang to easier ground.

Autumn 1968 JR Martindale, KG Williams



Original Route \$ 42m



A poor vegetated route. Follows a line some 20m right of *Dawn*. Climb to a birch tree at 10m, move up and right then back left, avoiding bulges, and back right along a mossy slab.

31.03.1962 L Bell, D Jewell, D Miller

A large vegetated buttress lies about 200m to the right and higher up the fellside than Yewdale Crag. It is bounded on its left by an overgrown gully: Truly a botanist's paradise.



Creeping Jane HVS 5a 45m

This poor route follows a groove to the right of the large overhang. Start at the left side of the buttress. From some birch trees, traverse to the right for a couple of metres and then move up and traverse delicately to the left across the slab to gain the groove. (Poor thread; peg just above to the right.) Follow the groove, passing over an overlap, to a long ledge. Climb the obvious clean groove to tree belays.

Variation start 18m A couple of metres up the gully from the original start, the mossy slab can be climbed, trending left (old peg), to reach the long ledge (thread and peg).

Summer 1972 MR Myers, CW Brown

Raven Crag

OS Ref: SD 312 002

Alt: 200m

This steep compact sheltered wall of fairly sound rock lies close to the road - sounds ideal. Deterred by a lusty layer of moss, deceptive steepness and unreliable protection it is undeniably disconcerting, unpopular with climbers and justifiably neglected. Added to this, during the nesting season climbing here can be restricted.



RAD



Grades





There is scope with a considerable amount of unclimbed rock, so there may yet be a revival at Raven. The best view point is from some boulders across the scree to the right.

There is often a bird nesting restriction on this crag, please check the BMC RAD or the FRCC website for latest access information.

Approach

The lower section of the crag slants diagonally up the hillside and is impressively steep, with many overhanging sections. The upper section lies back at an easier angle, which makes it a more suitable home for the grass and heather.

The crag is situated to the right of a prominent ridge, <u>The Ridge</u> a classic scramble, which guards the entrance to the valley leading to Tilberthwaite and Hodge Close.

Descent

Walk uphill until the crag peters out and walk round to the base.



Raven Crag

20 min Aspect: South East 🔌 👃

Lat/Lng: 56.860106444758, -9.8828170635315



The Ridge M 120m



The rough rocky ridge starting just above the road is a superb scramble, and an ideal place to introduce the fundamental techniques of climbing. Difficulties can be found or avoided at will.



Chrysalis HS 57m



Dirty. Start at the left (lower) end of the crag, below an obvious clean cut gangway which slants up to the right.

- 1 15m Gain the gangway and follow it until a step down to a grass ledge with a small tree can be made.
- **2 18m** Step back on to the gangway and traverse horizontally left for 5m across the steep wall, to a spiky arête. Follow this to a grassy recess, and take the small gangway on the right, then climb directly to a grass ledge.
- **3 15m** Climb up into the corner above until it is possible to move right (crux). Ascend more easily to a grass ledge and a larger ledge 6m higher.
- 4 9m Climb the wall at the back of the ledge via a break that inclines to the right.

07.05.1966 D Miller, D Kirby



Josie's Jog VS 4c 54m

The meat of this climb is the steep bold wall with a black niche, left of a steep corner, above and left of a holly tree. Start behind the tree.

- 1 27m 4c Climb diagonally left to reach a large grass ledge. Tackle the wall, moving rightwards into the niche. Exit steeply, and follow holds up and left, round the corner, to a ledge.
- **2 15m** Move right, round the corner, using the detached flake; continue directly to large ledges (as for *Chrysalis* pitch 3).
- 3 12m From the right-hand end of the ledge, climb the arête to a terrace.

July 1964 M Stanton, J Connell



Tarantula VS 4c 45m

Wanders around searching for easier ground. Start behind the holly as for Josies Jog.

- **1 18m 4b** Ascend diagonally left to a grass ledge, and pull over a bulge into a shallow corner. Move up and step right to a ledge, then traverse horizontally right below the overhanging wall into the grassy groove of *Cobra*. Belay on the large block to the right.
- 2 15m 4c Move left and climb the groove to a steep headwall, with a nest on the right. Climb left across an exposed diagonal break. Belay on ledges above.
- 3 12m The corner to higher ledges.

05.03.1960 AC Cain. D Francis



Scary Canary E7 6c

An intimidating line with some wild and powerful climbing on the overhanging wall between *Electrolysis* and *Josie's Jog*. Head up and left to the base of the wall. Arrange protection here (there isn't much), before committing upwards to a conspicuous horizontal slot (small cam). A very hard sequence up the wall (passing an expanding flake - microwires) is made to less steep ground giving a pleasant finish. Belay on a tree.

2019 C Matheson

6 Electrolysis HVS 5a 54m

Start directly above the holly tree on the grass terrace. Belay out right on Cobra.

1 30m 4b. Climb up mossy slabs on the left of a light-coloured wall until they steepen, then traverse diagonally right, crossing *Cobra*, to belay on the far side of an obvious large block.

2 24m 5a. Step off the block and climb flakes to a short steep wall, then finish up the right edge of a square-cut chimney.

Spring 1979 A Hyslop, J Hyslop



An exposed outing, climbing up the steep central section of the crag. Start on the grass terrace above the holly and 8m to the right, below an obvious grassy grooveline, next to a good nut belay.

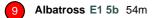
1 30m 4c Climb the groove until it steepens into a corner near the top. Follow the obvious traverse line to the right, on large flat holds, until a steep wall leads to a small ledge near a nest.

2 12m 5a Follow the line rightwards, past a sapling below the bulges, until some bold moves can be made through the only break, to reach a grassy terrace.

Aug 1959 AC Cain, M Tweed, P Shotton, E Tweed



The first section of *Cobra* combined with the finish of *Tarantula* gives a direct way up the crag, following the obvious diagonal grassy break.



A poor strenuous route. Start on a mossy ledge, just below and left of some red paint daubings on a smooth black wall 6m above the ledge.

- 1 18m 5b Ascend directly, until beneath an overhanging groove. Swing left across to a heathery hand-traverse to reach a ledge with a birch tree.
- **2 13m 5a** Climb the groove behind, trending right to a ledge. Step down right to a break in the overhangs and move up to grass ledges.
- **3** 23m Climb the wall behind, on the right of a square overhang on the arête, to gain a ledge. The bulging wall leads to the top (often wet).

14.06.1972 TW Birkett, MR Myers



Very steep and strenuous, and mercifully, short. Start as for *Albatross*. Climb to overhanging rock. Step right and climb the wall directly using a thin crack just right of the obvious black overhanging groove (peg) to a flake on *Beautiful Loosers*. Traverse left a couple of metres and climb the groove directly to reach the top.

Summer 1979 D Barr, A Hyslop



Beautiful Loosers E2 5c 36m

An exposed traverse across the steepest part of the crag, requiring a bold approach rather than technical competence. Start below the red paint daubings as for *Albatross*.

- **1 18m 4c** Scramble to the V-groove, which leads to the paint. At the top of the groove, step to the right on to a large sloping ledge. Walk a couple of metres right, until it is possible to move up to a similar ledge (old peg).
- **2 18m 5c** From the left end of the ledge, traverse leftwards, and up into a niche below the overhangs. Now traverse strenuously leftwards (peg) to gain a niche with a large loose block in the floor. Easier climbing leads to the top.

Apr 1974 A Liddell, G Tinnings (1 pa) FFA J Lamb 28.04.1974



Head Over Heels E2 5c 36m

A steep pitch with some atmosphere, which rises directly from the stance at the top of pitch 1 of Beautiful Loosers. Start 6m right of Beautiful Loosers.

- 1 12m 5a Up the dirty overlapping walls to the sloping ledge on *Beautiful Loosers*; continue right to the belay. P1 of *Beautiful Loosers* gives cleaner and better climbing.
- **2 24m 5c** Climb the left-slanting groove by following a steep crack (peg) to a junction with the traverse of *The Lemming*. Climb the steep mossy scoop above.

01.08.1978 D Knighton (1 pa) FFA D Knighton



The Lemming HVS 5a 39m

Good climbing, taking a left-slanting traverse line starting at a small birch tree 18m right of *Beautiful Losers*. Climb up past the tree and left to a sloping gangway; follow this to a steep wall. Climb directly to a ledge below an overhanging niche. Move left, and up a steep little wall to a crack on the left. Step down and across to mossy ledges which lead to an arête. Finish up this.

05.06.1973 MR Myers, CW Brown



The Asp VS 4c 51m



This dirty route follows a right slanting break, rising from the start of *The Lemming*.

- **1 21m 4c** From the tree, traverse 5m left to the foot of a groove. Climb this, moving right at the top onto a wide slab. Move over an overlap into a recessed slab: Belay down to the right.
- **2 20m 4b** Step right, and follow the right-slanting break, until it gets steep. Move left to a small ledge and climb the vague groove above to a large ledge.
- 3 10m The wall to easy ground.

07.06.1970 N Allinson, NJ Soper, D Miller

To the right the crag now becomes very vegetated and broken.



The Girdle Traverse E2 5b 121m

Take a line from the top of pitch 1 of *Chrysalis*, following the traverse of *Tarantula* and *Cobra* (4c). Down and across the steep wall, reversing the hand-traverse of *Albatross* (5b), descend and follow pitch 1 of *Beautiful Losers* (4c) to the stance. Move right and ascend, crossing *The Lemming* to join *The Asp* (4c). The arête on the left of pitch 2 of *The Asp* is followed to the top (5a).

01.07.1972 MR Myers, TW Birkett, CW Brown

From the top of Raven Crag a small clean crag will be seen to the right, at about the same level,

Mini-guide to Yewdale

and a few minutes walk away. The following route climbs this.



Start up some boulders that lean against the foot of a quartz-marked rib.

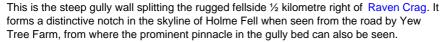
- 1 18m Climb the boulders and continue up the steep rocks to a big ledge and belay.
- 2 12m Scramble over ledges to the left.
- 3 12m A rising traverse to the left, onto the face, then straight up to the top.

24.04.1954 AM Wood-Johnson, C Egan, E Wood-Johnson

Long Crag

OS Ref: SD 316 005

Alt: 260m



Grades





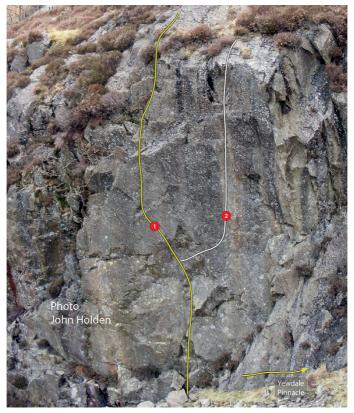


Approach

From the bridge at the start of the Hodge Close road. Pass through the gate just beyond the bridge and follow the wall on the right to a second gate, where the wall on the left leads to an entry into the woods. Walk right above the wall for 400m to a tiny beck, then follow this steeply to the crag.

20 min Aspect: EN

Lat/Lng: 56.926432073247, -9.237310154967



Long Crag LHS

Lemon Sole E2 5c 15m

The first route starts below a steep wall containing a little niche at 4m, about 16m left of the pinnacle.A bold fingery route.

Climb up into the niche, pull out left through the overlap to reach a sloping hold, then finish direct. Sep 1990 J Metcalf, I Cooksey, M Radtke, S Kaye



Another sparsely protected route. Enter the niche of *Lemon Sole*, then pull out right (peg). Climb steeply up the shallow groove above the niche to finish.

Sep 1990 J Metcalfe, M Radtke, I Cooksey, S Kaye

Mini-guide to Yewdale



Long Crag RHS

3 Troublesome Bloater E4 6a 12m

Behind the pinnacle is a sharp, prominent arête. Climb the left side of the arête (poor peg) to reach the easier-angled upper section. Rather committing.

Sep 1990 I Cooksey, J Metcalf, M Radtke, S Kaye

4 Niggeling Polyp E2 5c 12m

A right-hand start to the arête, utilizing two small slots left of Fishy Fingers.

Sept 1990 J Metcalf, V Metcalf

5 Fishy Fingers HVS 5a 13m

The delightful curving crack 2m right of the arête.

Sep 1990 J Metcalf, V Metcalf

6 Red Snapper E1 5b 12m

Pleasantly delicate. 5m right of the arête gain the protruding ledge at 2m, then climb the wall above (peg).

Sep 1990 J Metcalf, I Cooksey, M Radtke, S Kaye

Yewdale Pinnacle

Mini-guide to Yewdale

Yewdale Pinnacle All four arêtes of this square-based pyramid have been climbed; the hardest of these, facing down the gully, was originally graded Severe and strenuous. In more recent years the faces in between have been climbed, but few details are available.