



# FROGGATT EDGE



OS Grid Ref: SK 249 763 Altitude: 280m

Top-quality gritstone climbing, perhaps only eclipsed by the mighty Stanage. With a rich diversity of climbing styles and grades, the numerous classic lines offer an experience among the best to be found on gritstone.

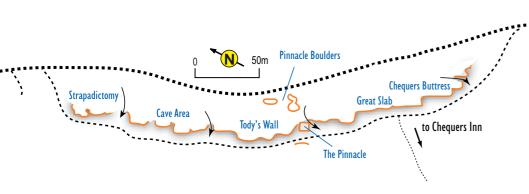
The fine grit is of immaculate quality, with virtually every climb taking perfectly solid rock, giving home to some of the country's most sought after ticks. These range from protected Moderates to poorly protected E9s. With most of the routes clocking in at reasonable grades. Arguably Froggatt's greatest showpiece is the Great Slab, containing perhaps the highest concentration of top-quality slab climbs anywhere on grit. Whilst these are mainly sparsely protected, there are plenty of better protected slab, wall and crack climbs on offer at all grades.

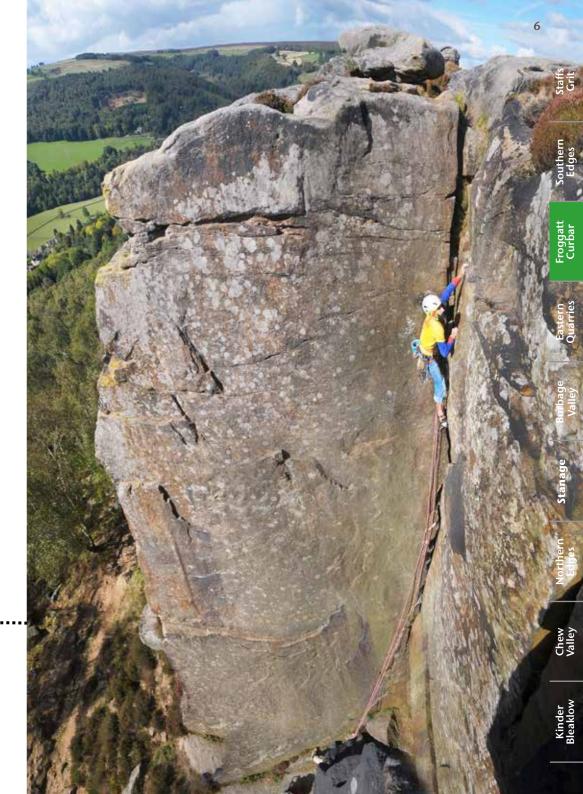
This southwest-facing magnificent edge stands proud above the Derwent Valley. It is a virtually continuous face of clean and quick-drying rock. Due to its sunny aspect, and excellent spread of routes, the crag is very popular throughout the year. Though it can be very hot on summer afternoons and evenings.

Approach: There are two main approaches, both from the A625 The most popular approach is along the path, which starts from the White Gate (OS Ref. SK 254 776) about 500m south of The Grouse Inn on a long sweeping bend in the road. Parking is available at the National Trust Pay & Display car park just below the Inn. Parking is also possible alongside the road just north of the gate.

From the White Gate, the track leads for 750m to a kissing gate; the crag starts 500m south of this gate, 150m after a left turn in the path, with an easy descent past Strapiombo Buttress. An easier descent can be made at the southern end of the edge down the broad gap between the Froggatt and Curbar Edges.

An alternative approach is via a footpath starting just below the Chequers Inn. Up to 6 cars can be parked in the small layby in the bend 75m south of the inn. There is also an area immediately south of the Chequers Inn where up to 6 cars can be parked. Important – please do not park in the pub car park, unless you pop in to buy a drink. Although this is a slightly quicker approach, it is steeper and lacks the superb views of the top path. A good warm up on cold days, the path emerges beneath the Downhill Racer area of the crag.





#### STRAPADICTOMY BUTTRESS

The crag starts proper with a bunch of confident, rounded classics. Scrambling descemts are possible to the left and right..

① Strapiombante 8m E1 5b ★★ A chunky, easily protected climb. Follow the zigzag crack on good holds. Make a tricky exit leftwards, or finish direct. Highy satisfying.

Dave Brearly, Paul Nunn, 1962

2 Strapadictomy 9m E5 6a \*\*\*
One of the most unforgettable routes on grit.
Boulder up the cheeky arête to the break. Crucify your way out to the flake on the arête and pull desperately up into a layback position.
Now gun for the top.
John Allen, Steve Bancroft, 1976

**Strapiombo** 9m E1 5b ★ The classic roof crack is the scene of many a mêlée. Traverse stylishly outwards until the easier finishing groove is gained, with relief. Don Whillans, Joe Brown, 1956

4 English Overhang 9m VS 4c ★
The friable flake to the right is gingerly used to gain the flared crack, which is followed direct.

Dave Gregory, Charles Darley, 1978

Scarper's Triangle 9m E15b ★ Climb a steep groove in the middle of the outside face, then press on boldly, direct up a crack.

John Fearon, Dave Gregory, 1957

Strapacictomy

**6** Oss Nob 9m E4 6a

The bold arête, climbed on its right-hand side.

Colin Banton (solo), 1978

6 Page Lives

✓ Left Flake Crack 8m S 4a ★
The corner crack to the right is a fine test in jamming skills but is sadly becoming polished.

(3) **Right Flake Crack** 8m HS 4b The crack widens awkwardly towards the top. Wilf White, Slim Sorrell, 1949

Parallel Piped 8m E3 5c ★ The left arête of the slab has a couple of quick, smeary moves. Easier for the tall. Graham Hoey (solo), 1986

**® Benign Lives** 7m E6 6c ★★ A good tick for people who can think on their feet. Smear up the middle of the slab direct (harder) or using a flake on the right (logical). Johnny Dawes, 1984

mild 9m E4 6b ★
From the start of Benign Lives, tiptoe along the slab then smear more easily up the arête.

| Julian Lines, 1992



#### **CAVE AREA**

Sixty metres right, past a small square buttress, is the chunky Cave area, This features the slabby, bold technicalities of Sunset Slab and steeper, quarries challenges around the cave itself.

**D** Science Friction 12m E6 6a ★
The left arête of the slab will appeal to lovers of long ground falls.

Mark Miller, Bill McKee, 1980

It's over 100 years since Puttrell first scaled this classic route. Go on, feel the history contained within this awkward crack.

James W Puttrell, Henry Bishop, C Douglas Yeomans, 1906

14 Sunset Slab 14m HVS 4b \*\*\*

Deservedly one of Froggatt's most famous routes. The first and the easiest in a long line of bold slabs along the crag. Follow the curving crack until it peters out. A smeary traverse leftwards leads to the base of a blind flake, up which faith and friction will be your only friends

**(Sundowner 12m E2 5a**A cracking bold finish to *Sunset Slab* on smears and poor pockets. HVS with side-runners to the right.

Joe Brown, Tony Hyde, Wilf White, 1948

Turret Crack 10m S 4a
The crack just right puts up a stern fight at its beginning and end.

Don Chapman, Nat Allen, 1948

**North Gully Descent:** Immediately right of Turret Crack the gully provides a polished way down, with just a slightly awkward move to start the descent.

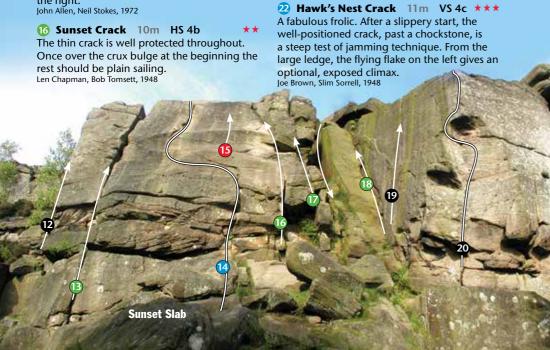
(B) Slab and Crack 8m HD

The ramp in the corner to the right provides a worthwhile though polished outing.

Nat Allen, Don Chapman, 1948

**Soul Doubt** 11m E8 6c The incredibly bold sidewall, direct, passing the base of the ramp.

2) Holly Groove 11m VS 4c The twin-cracked corner is a fine climb. Slim Sorrell, Nat Allen, 1948





Climb Hawk's Nest Crack to the chockstone, then traverse delicately right to finish up Cave Crack. An enjoyable little combo.

Dave Fooks, Alan Haigh, 2005

② Cave Crack 11m E2 5c ★★★
Summon all your reserves! This strenuous
route is a thuggish way up the archetypal
gritstone roof-crack leaving the left side of the
cave. Easy if you can do it, desperate if you
can't; either way, a massive cam is useful.
loe Brown, Slim Sorrell, 1950

Deep fun. Starting from the back left-hand corner of the cave, layback up to gain a 'Journey to the centre of the Earth' type passage leading into Swimmer's Chimney. From just below the top of this, squeeze back leftwards to finish. Best soloed.

A bold and balancey climb, top of the grade, a Whillans special. Surmount the bulge to gain a small ledge. A hard move brings easier climbing but no protection. From the ledge move off rightwards, or tackle the direct finish (more 5c) through the intimidating roofs.

Don Whillans, 1958

Swimmer's Chimney 12m S 4a
The polished chimney is quite a classic of its
type and not easy at all.
James W Puttrell, 1900s

23 **Brightside** 14m E2 5c \*\*:
A great wall climb with good protection. Go up *Swimmer's Chimney* for 3m to small gear in the arête. Step down and make thin moves

down and rightwards to reach slanting finger slots in the centre of the wall. Long moves on good slopey edges, direct up the wall, remain. Phil Burke, Paul Nunn, John Sheard, 1980

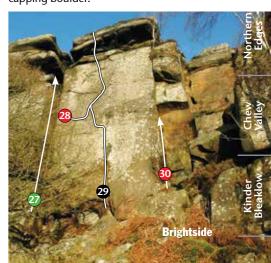
② **Greedy Pig** 13m E5 6b ★ A right-hand start to *Brightside*. Battle up the steep thin crack before scurrying into Brightside at the earliest opportunity.

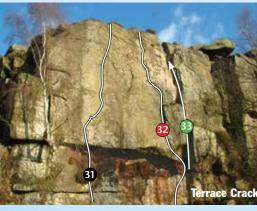
Paul Mitchell. 1981

Avalanche 11m E2 6a
The square-cut groove is tough for 6a. Getting your feet over the mid-height roof gives a despicably technical crux, fortunately well protected by small wires.

E Emery, (aid), 1967. FFA, John Allen, 1975.

**Avalanche Descent:** The rocks to the right allow a scrambley descent starting beneath a capping boulder.





The centre wall demands. After a protectable crux, move rightwards and soldier on up the imposing wall on gradually improving holds. Dominic Lee, 1981

The Gully Joke 15m E3 5c

Climb the flake and groove, usually with a side-runner in *Terrace Crack*. From a ledge place small wires in the crack on the right and launch out leftwards and up on hidden holds. John Allen, Steve Bancroft, Mark Stokes, 1975

The crack to the right provides a juggy start and thought-provoking finish and some good protection. Well worthwhile, despite being sandy in parts.

Freda Rylett, Jack Macleod, 1940s

Tody's Wall

#### **TODY'S WALL AREA**

To the right is a tall clean buttress peppered with good slab climbs across the grades. The routes are deservedly popular, with some famous low and mid-grade classics.

C.M.C. Slab 10m HVS 5b

The narrow eliminate slab right of the arête is gained awkwardly, and climbed up its centre by great moves, placing gear in the next route (E2 without side-runners).

Members of the Castle Mountaineering Club, 1960s

4 Classic and perhaps the most popular routes on the edge. A good start for beginners learning the art of jamming. Climb the thin lower crack, then blast up the joyous crack just to the right. Once over the polished crux bulge at the start the rest is simply delightful.

Dick Brown, 1940s

Ratbag 9m E2 5b

Another bold slab climb. Step out from

Heather Wall and climb the slab between the arête and the upper crack of *Tody's Wall*. HVS with side-runners.

John Allen, Steve Donnelly, Steve Bancroft, 1974

Another of Froggatt's classics – never has grovelling been so much fun. From the centre of the bay climb to a projecting block. Somehow gain the top slab and finish with whatever dignity remains up the fine crack above.

Joe Brown, Slim Sorrell, 1948

Brilliant slab action that can be combined with the start of Tody's to give one of the best E1s on the edge. From the ledge on the right, climb the centre of the slab. Protection feels distant when tackling the maze of slopey pockets towards the top.

D Warriner, G Johnson, 1969

Silver Crack 10m HS 4c Starting just right, climb directly to the forkedlightning crack which is followed on everwidening jams and joyous thrashing.

40 **Soft Option** 10m HD Climb the extreme left-hand side of the slab and the upper wall. Nothing special.

**(1) Two-Sided Triangle** 11m E1 5b ★ Climb the slab immediately right of the shallow groove using some shallow slopey pockets. Gary Gibson, 1978

One of the great slab climbs on grit, guaranteed to give you a buzz. The route is at the bottom of its grade, although the top 4c slab can easily reduce strongmen to tears and raise muttered calls for top ropes. Climb up the lower slab to a weird pocket (runner). Delicate crux moves lead up and right to a sloping shelf. Pad straight up to finish.

Joe Brown, Wilf White, Tony Hyde, 1948

The sister route is considerably harder, and just as dangerous. Climb rightwards (but not too far right) through the steep ground, before gathering your thoughts, moving leftwards and pressing on up the committing upper slab. The Direct Start is E4 5c, involving a Tody's Wall-type manoeuvre. John Allen, Neil Stokes, 1972. Direct, Gary Gibson, 1978

Grey Slab 13m HS 4a

Butch moves on big holds lead up the right side of the slab until a large ledge is reached. The crack above is difficult to protect, difficult to climb, but seems even more difficult to fall out of!

Jack Macleod, Freda Rylett, 1940s

Three Pebble Slab

#### **RIGHT-HAND AREA**

The right-hand area is the showpiece of the crag, where a hundred metres of quarried walls and slabs hold a peerless collection of testpieces across the grades. This starts with the famous Froggatt Pinnacle, perhaps the finest pinnacle on grit, then past many slabs climbs, both bold and safe, and finishing with the last natural hurrah by Chequers Buttress. All routes are clean and quick-drying.

There is a convenient scrambly descent behind the pinnacle and a very easy one at the end of the craq.

45 Valkyrie 20m HVS 5a, 5a

'The' essential mid-grade tick on the crag with two contrasting pitches and a wonderfully positioned belay. Pummel up the jam-crack then hand traverse right to a belay on the arête. Step right again and go up to a short crack, then move left on to the sloping nose and more easily to the summit (bolt belay). Joe Brown, Wilf White, 1949

46 Narcissus 9m E6 6b

The lower arête of the pinnacle is home to one of the best routes of its grade on grit with sustained, hard bouldering all the way. Finish

up Valkyrie or traverse off. Steve Bancroft, 1976

Froggatt Pinnacle

4 Oedipus! Ring Your Mother 9m E4 6b

Proctor's bold testpiece. From the gully, make a fierce, fingery traverse leftwards along the thin break to good holds near the arête. From here, climb the blind flake in the wall above, with an ankle-worrying stretch for the ledge. Finish up Valkyrie. The direct start is easier. Tom Proctor, 1968

Pinnacle Gully Descent: Scramble down the gully at the back of the pinnacle then slither down the final rocks.

Back of the Pinnacle: The next routes start by scrambling up the start of the gully. They are based on the backmost arête, opposite Narcissus.

48 Chapman's Crack 11m HS 4b From the arête, traverse a shelf leftwards to a mantel leading to a tricky finishing crack. Len Chapman, Bob Tomsett, 1948

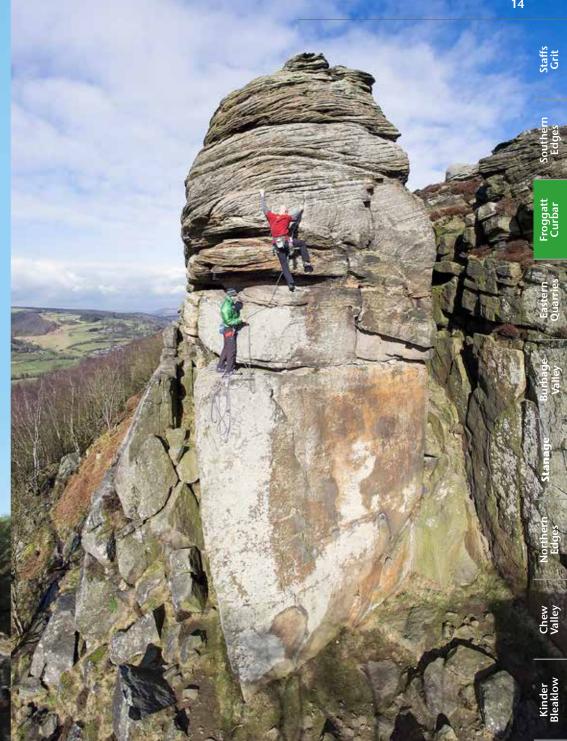
49 Route One 8m VS 5a Henry Bishop's original route goes direct from the start of Chapman's Crack via an awkward mantel.

Henry Bishop, Douglas Yeomans, 1912

50 Diamond Crack 8m HS 4b The polished cracks in the centre of the wall are climbed by some fierce jamming, with increasing difficulty, but excellent protection throughout.

Henry Bishop, Douglas Yeomans, 1913

**51 Corner Crack** 9m HD The corner-crack from a crux start.





52 Left Broken 9m VS 5a

Don't underestimate the awkwardness of this short, frustrating climb. Tussle with the initial groove/chimney before finishing more easily. Slim Sorrell, Nat Allen, 1953

G Broken Crack 9m VS 5a ★★
Another Joe Brown route; a well-protected brute. The slanting crack really packs its punch in the top half, where a choice is to be made.
To jam or to layback, that is the question?

Joe Brown, Wiff White, Slim Sorrell, 1948

Gain the halfway ledge in the centre of the buttress, then move right through a scoop, to finish in a groove on the arête. A butch route for the grade.

RE Davies, RA Brown, 1945

From the ledge, continue directly up the wall with some fine climbing.

Nat Allen, Don Chapman, 1948

**50 Performing Flea** 9m HVS 5a The bold right arête tackled on either side. Matt Boyer (solo), 1985

Congestion Crack 10m HS 4c
The slim groove bounding the steep slab.
Nat Allen, Slim Sorrell, Wilf White, J Morgan, 1948

A good introduction to the harder slabs, with a low crux. From the block, gain a narrow ledge then make crux pulls (very reachy) to better holds. At the steepening, swing right to finish. Paul Gray (1pt), 1968. FFA, Al Rouse, 1969

Downhill Racer 14m E4 6a \*\*\*
Livesey's infamous creation, tracing a lonely and uncompromising line up the right side of the slab. From the right side of the slab, climb up and left to make desperate moves to get stood on a thin break. Follow better holds along a ramp, until a final committing move to the top.

Pete Livesey, Alex Livesey 1977

③ Slab Recess 18m D

The most popular beginner's route on the crag. Climb Gamma for a few metres before strolling leftwards to the base of a large flake. A short layback past this brings easier ground, finishing leftwards.

Sandy Alton, J Morgan, 1948

**Gamma 12m HD**A great beginer's route following the crack.
Nat Allen, Wilf White, 1951

Allen's Slab 19m S 4a \*:
A great climb – technical and balancey – just don't expect too much protection. From Gamma follow the diagonal break to a ledge. Continue delicately right to finish on good holds just left of Trapeze Direct.

Nat Allen, Wilf White, 1951

A popular VS lead, containing mainly easy climbing, with only one source of well-protected difficulty. Follow the large crack direct. Wilf White, Chuck Cook, 1948

Follow Trapeze 14m VD
Follow Trapeze Direct to the bulge, thank goodness you're not heading straight up, and traverse right to a short left-trending groove. Excellent climbing through steep ground, on more than adequate holds.

RE Davies, RA Brown, 1945

66 Nursery Slab 9m M

The aptly named broken rocks at the left side of the large expanse of slabs.

James W Puttrell, Henry Bishop, Douglas Yeomans, 1906

Technically harder than Hairless Heart, but a bit less scary. After a few thin moves, a small positive edge leads more easily to the break.

Steve Bancroft, John Allen 1975

■ Jugged Hare 13m E6 6a ★★
From Heartless, a delicate move right on poor holds leads to an uncomfortable position at the break. Another very worrying move allows better holds on the steep headwall to be gained.

Johnny Dawes, 1983

O The Great Slab 19m E3 5b ★★★
Joe Brown's sweeping line – first soloed on sight in Woolworths' pumps (think about that on the crux) – remains the classic of the slab.

Trend rightwards up the slab to a small, all-toocomfortable ledge. Cool your boots here, and grasp rightwards along a line of well-used footholds (crux) until awkward but juggy holds lead to the top and a great feeling of euphoria. Joe Brown, Wilf White, 1951

An exquisite and haunting pitch with no hiding places, guaranteed to scare the bejesus out of you. From the little ledge on The Great Slab, move up to the blank left-facing flake. Smear up this then quickly exit rightwards.

The bouldery slab has fabulous climbing, and has the safest crux. Gain a small ledge then make a series of decisive moves up the ramp to eventually gain the better holds at the end of the traverse on The Great Slab. Finish up this.

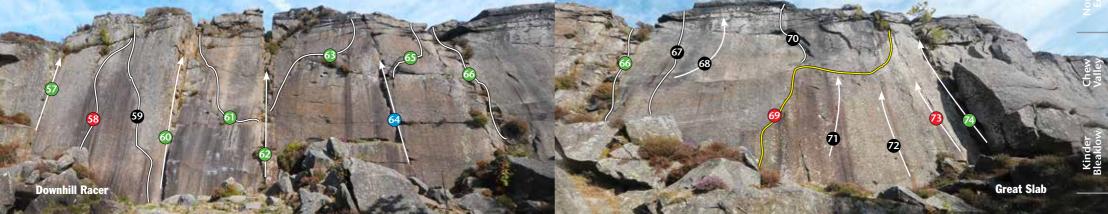
**Toy Boy** 15m E7 7a
"A route with no holds and long reaches in between." A ferocious solo.
Ron Fawcett. 1986

The once-pegged crack at the right side of the slab is a good climb, but with slightly awkward holds and fiddly protection. Awkwardly smooth and high in the grade.

Nat Allen, D Carnell, R Handley, (Piton Route, 5 pts). FFA, Steve

Nat Allen, Wilf White, 1951

Bancroft, John Allen, 1974



**75** Straight and Narrow 14m E3 6a ★★ Those liking 'barn door' laybacks will love the left arête. A committing move to reach the half-height ledge brings much-needed protection. The upper arête, on the right side, offers superb moves in an airy position. The left side is harder and bolder.

76 Brown's Eliminate 17m E2.5b ★★★ A great, bold wall climb from the Master with thoughtful, crimpy moves which, although bold, are still inside the safety net. From a few metres up the corner, traverse left to gain a big ledge (gear at foot level on the left arête). Thin moves, that are showing sign of wear, allow the wall right of the arête to be climbed on slowly-improving holds. Joe Brown, Slim Sorrell, Wilf White, 1948

77 Armageddon 14m E3 5c The harder, but well worthwhile sister route to Brown's Eliminate. A problem start left of the

corner leads to the ledge. Continue in a direct line, in an increasingly serious position, but on reasonably good holds. E2 with side-runners. Alec Burns, Andy Brown, T Wilkinson, 1977

78 Green Gut 13m S 4a

The fantastic corner line gives honest and classic bridging with a crux where it should be - near the top. Can give a real tussle if you don't think.

Nat Allen, Wilf White, 1948

79 Pedestal Crack 12m HVS 5a The long steep and awkward crack is climbed direct. The innocuous crux arrives whilst passing the overlap towards the top. Joe Brown, Nat Allen, 1948

80 The Big Crack 14m E2 5b A fine outing up the steep wide crack in the headwall. Gear is reasonable, which is more than can be said of the holds in the upper section. Butch moves on good slots lead to the base of the deep, dark crack. This succumbs to a somewhat different approach. Don Whillans (1pt), 1955. FFA, John Syrett, 1973

81) Stiff Cheese 13m E2 5c The short crack is short, but definitely stiff. Worth placing the awkward protection before committing to the crux moves onto the ledge. Finish up the easy groove as for the next route. Steve Bancroft (solo), 1974

82 Beech Nut 13m E1 5c A tough nut to crack. The increasingly difficult crack saps your energy, before handing out one final move to reach the ledge and easy finish up the groove.

Don Whillans, Nat Allen, 1951

83 Chequers Crack 12m HVS 5b A local testpiece. The smooth, though well protected crack succumbs to a combination of laybacks and jams. From a breather at the halfway ledge, the delightful upper crack is cruised on perfect jams.

84 Chequers Buttress 15m HVS 5a \*\*\* Pure joy, with exposure, protection and great moves: a route you'll do again and again. Follow the ramp rightwards, then traverse the wall up and left until a long, move brings a huge jug on the arête into reach. The spectacular finishing arête eases considerably. John Gosling, Mike Simpkins, 1962

85 Chequers Climb 18m VS 4c The original, and the true start of the Chequered history, combining the easy bits of Chequers Buttress and Crack with an exposed traverse. From the ledge on the buttress traverse under the roof to gain the delightful finish of the crack. Joe Brown, Wilf White, Nat Allen, Don Chapman, 1949

86 Bacteria Cafeteria 12m E1 5b ★★ An eliminate line, but with good climbing. From the foot of the ramp, follow a tiny groove, crossing the leftward traverse of Chequers Buttress, to finish up cracks right of

Gary Gibson, Jon Walker, Paul Bird, 1979

87 Solomon's Crack 14m VD Follow the starting ramp of Chequers Buttress to it's top. Finish up the corner above stepping right at the top. There are three harder variations at around S 4a: the wide 'Victorian' crack in the left wall; the overhanging top corner; or the deceptive slot on the right.

88 lankers Crack 10m HS 4b Very good climbing which presents a series of puzzles that can dispirit the unbeliever. Climb the blocky groove and wider undercut crack directly above. Jamming ability is a big plus for this route.

Joe Brown, Don Chapman, 1949

89 Jankers Groove 11m VS 4c Follow the last route to the roof then step right to take the next crack. If you keep your cool this one is a real soft touch; if you bury yourself in the back of the climb and ignore your feet, expect a struggle. Joe Brown, Don Chapman, 1949

90 Jankers End 14m VS 4b

Continue the traverse of Jankers Groove until once round the arête. (A direct start limits the fun too much.) From here a shallow groove is climbed before stepping back leftwards to finish up the slabby arête. Slim Sorrell, Nat Allen, 1949



## FROGGATT TO BLACK ROCKS

### The definitive gritstone guide

The range of crags that stretches from the mighty Curbar and Froggatt in the north to the fantastic oddness of Black Rocks in the south, is arguably the finest and most varied collection of outcrops on gritstone.

Everything is here, from big leads on mighty classics to tucked-away ticks on quiet wooded buttresses. From top-level highballs to gentle bouldering circuits. From Victorian tweed-wrecking classics to the latest nerve-testing desperates.

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Pick up the definitive guide for details of every route on the crags selected here as well as a great number of crags for users of this book who get the bug and want to find out more.

With full coverage of routes and boulder problems on crags from the Northern Area, (including Froggatt, Curbar, Yarncliffe, Tegness, Baslow, Gardom's, Birchen, Chatsworth), obscure gems in the Beeley-Matlock Area (including Harland Edge, Hall Moor Quarry and the Upper Matlock Quarries), gems in the Cratcliffe Area (Cratcliffe, Robin Hood's Stride, Eagle Tor, Rowtor Rocks and Stanton Moor), The Amber Valley crags (Eastwood, Turning Stone Edge, Cocking Tor), and finally the Cromford Area (starring Black Rocks, along with the shy joys of Bauston Tor, Robin Hood Quarries, Leashaw Brow, Chasecliffe and Shining Cliff).

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