

Shield and Easter Buttresses, Crowden Great Brook Valley

by Paul Durkin

OS ref SK063015

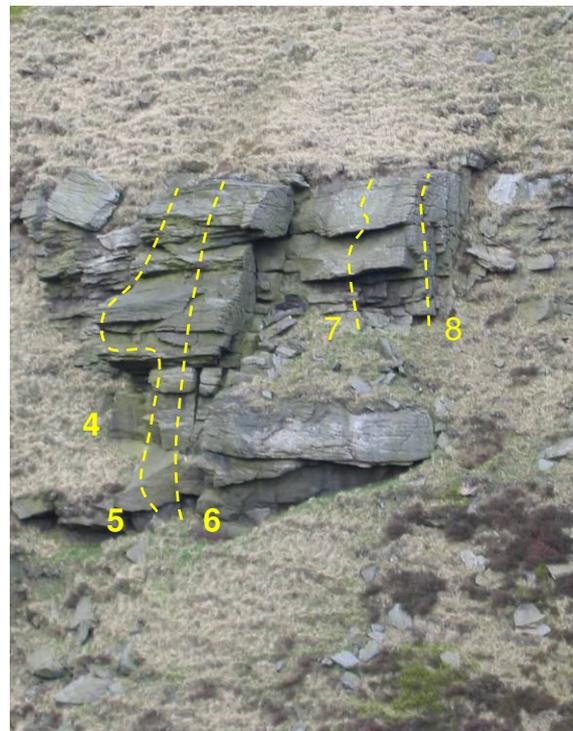
alt. 400m

These two buttresses are a delight to climb on, prime examples of good moorland grit. The buttresses are sound clean course grained gritstone with climbs varying in length from 5m to 14m. The rock basks in the sun for most of the day and is quick to dry out. None of the routes are particularly difficult but the situation and quality of climbs make it a good day out for any climber.

Conditions and aspect: Lots of sun throughout the day. Both crags are west facing with fantastic views of Laddow to the west and Crowden Castles to the north. **Routes and bouldering:** 8 routes from VD to E1. No specific boulder problems – the results of jumping off or a slip could lead to a change in your sport to sky diving into the brook below! Belays at the top of the routes are generally good. **Parking and approach:** Vehicular access is from the A628(T) at Crowden. Car park immediately on the left after leaving the A628(T). Follow the Pennine Way for a short distance then the valley bottom staying on the right side of Crowden Great Brook as if heading for Crowden Castles. Where the brook bends to the right below the grotty green River Buttress, continue for a further 200m where Shield Buttress can be seen some 30m up the hillside. Easter Buttress is a further 200m north at approximately the same contour line. Thirty to forty minutes from car park to the first buttress. **Access:** The buttresses are in open countryside on CRoW land.



Shield Buttress



Easter Buttress

Shield Buttress

- 1. Mace** VD 2009
6m The left side up to and past the wide crack.
- 2. Shield** VS 4c 2009
7m The middle over the small roof and past the hollow flake which somehow clings on to the face.
- 3. Cutlass** VS 4c 2009
6m The right side of the wall.

Easter Buttress

4. **Port Side** VD 2009

6m The wrinkled wall and arête on the left side of the buttress.

5. **Yardarm** VS 4c 2009

14m Step up off the block taking the left side of the narrow buttress. Go left along the roof lip to gain the large ledge to easier ground.

6. **Merlin** VD 2009

12m Start as for Yardarm, moving up the middle of the narrow buttress, continuing straight up – a good traditional climb.

7. **Lapwing** E1 5a 2009

5m The two small roofs taken directly in the middle to a grassy top.

8. **Linnet** VS 4c 2009

5m The wall and arête immediately on the right.



Paul Durkin, first ascent, Shield, VS



Paul Durkin, first ascent, Merlin, VD, Easter Buttress

First Ascents

2009 April **Mace** Malcolm Baxter, Simon Royston, Paul Durkin

Shield, Merlin, Linnet Paul Durkin, Malcolm Baxter, Simon Royston

Lapwing Paul Durkin solo

Cutlass, Yardarm Simon Royston, Paul Durkin, Malcolm Baxter

Port Side Simon Royston solo

The rock needed little in the way of cleaning, other than clumps of heather and grass from the tops, with some wire brushing undertaken as the routes were climbed. Easter Buttress yielded many a spectacular boulder trundle.