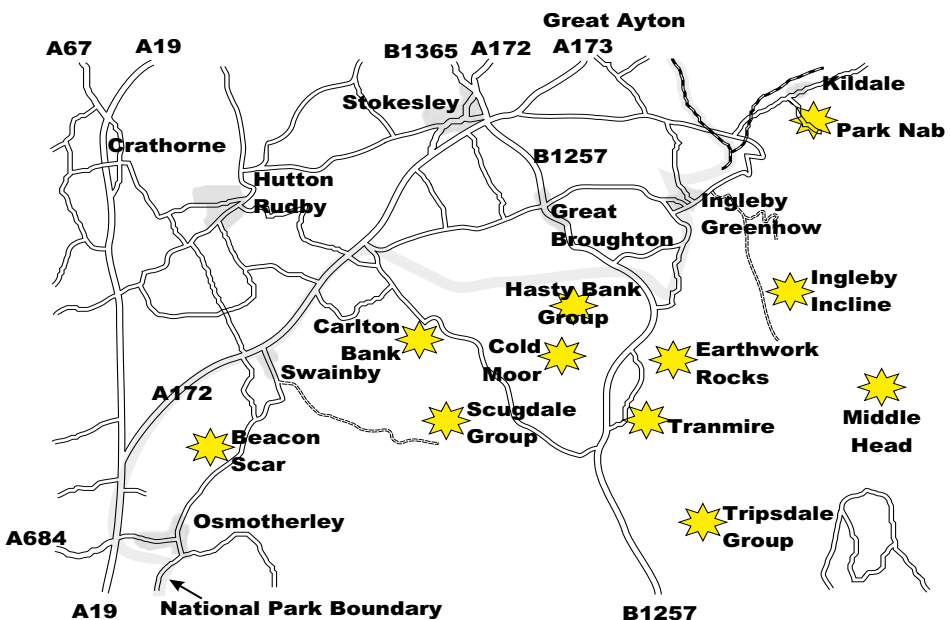
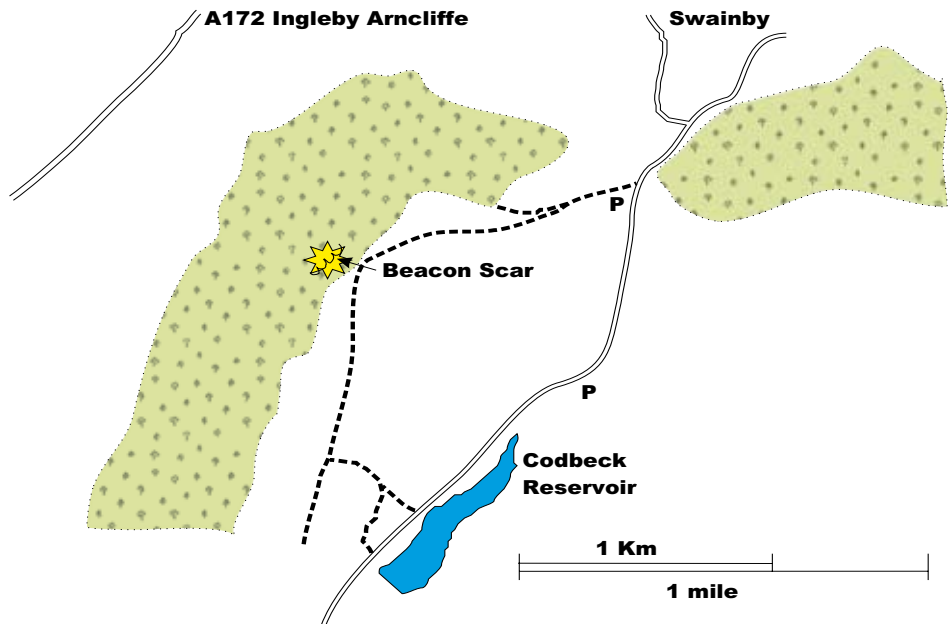


Beacon Scar



BEACON SCAR



BEACON SCAR

O.S. Sheet 99 NZ460998
 (Actually it is very inconveniently on the join of three sheets, 93, 99 and 100)
 Aspect North West
 Altitude 287m
 Approach Time 20 minutes

Mod - Severe	18
HS - HVS	13
E1 - E3	7
E4 and above	1
Bouldering	0

History

The first recorded activity was in 1957 by John Clark and Norman Thompson, who added *Sunnyside* and *Alligator Crawl* as well as other routes on Scarth Wood Buttress. John Hickman and Maurice Wilson were also active during these early developments, climbing *Sunset*, and its companion routes on Arncliffe Slab. Terry Sullivan climbed the impressive *Gehenna* in 1959 and its neighbouring three star route, *Beacon Buttress* in 1960. Both routes were fine achievements and very bold leads as the protection was nothing more than a single soft steel piton in each, (it is worth remembering that nuts and camming devices had not been invented!). In late 1960 Allan Austin paid a visit on the invitation of Terry Sullivan, led *Gehenna* without using the peg and promptly confirmed its quality. Austin mentioned his visit to Brian Evans and it was not long before Evans and his party had snatched the excellent *Party Line*. Mike Railton visited Beacon Scar in 1965 and succeeded where many had failed, by climbing the testing *Nail File*. At about the same time Bill Tate accompanied by John Phillips ascended the superb *Mongol* using two points of aid whilst Tony Meekle engineered his way up the artificial route *The Boss*. Tony Marr added *Plexor* and the *Direct Start to Alligator Crawl* during 1966.

The publication of a new climber's guide to the area in 1970 sparked off renewed interest in the crag. The first to contribute was Mike Readshaw with *Flying Trapeze* in 1971. In 1972 Denis Lee, Dave Ladkin, John Earl and Hugh Banner visited the crag and led *Tremor* without the sling for aid to claim the first free ascent. Development then slowed until early 1979 when Paul Ingham renewed interest in the crag by first climbing *Mongol* without its points of aid and then added a variation finish to the same climb. A few weeks later Ingham returned with Alan Taylor to produce the very bold *Yellow Peril*, and then with Tony Marr added *Skateboard*, *North Arête* and *Haunted Hero's*. Kelvin Neal, accompanied by Alan Moss, finished off a very productive year by leading his test piece *Epicentre*.

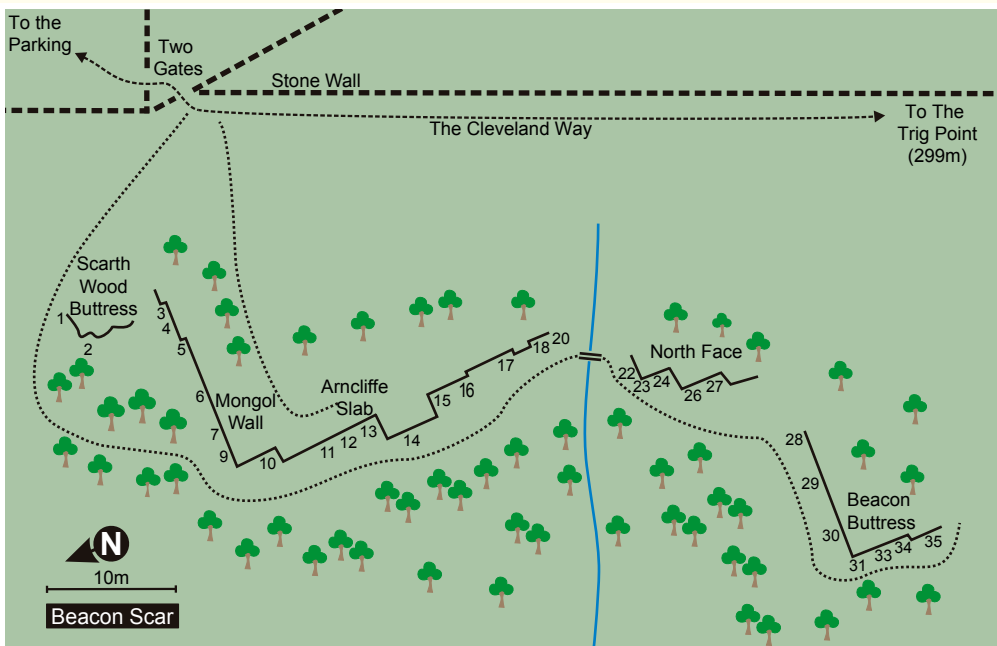
Developments dried up once again and it was not until 1991 that *Walking on Sunshine* was added by a first ascensionist whose name was indecipherable. Then in 1993 Steve Findlay and Chris Shorter contributed the hardest route on the crag to date when they enjoyed *A Last Fling*, just prior to Steve leaving the area. They also added *Mythical Pinnacle* to Scarth Wood Pinnacle at the same time. To date no further new climbs have been reported although the crag is far from worked out.

Situation and Character

Overlooking the small village of Ingleby Arncliffe and easily seen from the A19, this impressive crag is host to some of the area's best climbs. Although many of the routes can be climbed all year round, the rocks can take quite a few days to dry after rain and it is best considered a summer crag. The climbs and outlook have improved dramatically after forestry work during 1995 cleared a number of trees on and around the crag.

Access and Approaches

The best approach is to gain the Swainby - Osmotherly road from either the A172 or A19 and to park just south of the cattle grid at a small parking place (NGR 473003) at a junction with the Cleveland Way. Follow the Cleveland Way South West, ignoring any paths leading off to the right, until meeting a stonewall. Pass through two gates in quick succession and immediately take the small path leading northwest through the woods. This leads to a small viewpoint above Scarth Wood Buttress. A steep path leads down to the right (north).



The Climbs

The first rock encountered is the small broken buttress with a slab at half height and some mature trees growing from it, this is: -

Scarth Wood Buttress

1. Penguin Crack 8m D

Start in the corner of the gully opposite the ivy wall. Climb straight up on good holds.

NA Thompson, J. Clark 1957

2. Sunnyside Direct 8m VS 4b

Start just to the left of the chockstone and twin cracks, at a prominent groove. Climb this with interest to gain the slab. Finish up the corner on the left.

T Sullivan 1960

Sunnyside (D) Tree Gully (M) and Honeysuckle Chimney (M) all started to the right but were lost following a huge rockfall in 2005. All were first climbed by *NA Thompson, J Clark 1957*

Mongol Wall

The next climbs start 10m further right across the broad steep gully, close to a large boulder.

3. Alligator Crawl Direct Start 14m VS 4b

Start 4m left of the large boulder and climb the corner crack to finish up the chimney above.

Tony Marr, Ken Jackson 1966

4. After Hours 13m VS 4b

Start 2m right of the direct start to *Alligator Crawl*. Climb the crack system, cross *Alligator Crawl* and continue direct to the top.

Alan Taylor, Paul Ingham 28th April 1979

5. Alligator Crawl 17m VD

Behind the large boulder is a wide crack, which is followed to a ledge. Traverse left along the ledge and up the narrow slab and final chimney.

NA Thompson, J Clark 1957

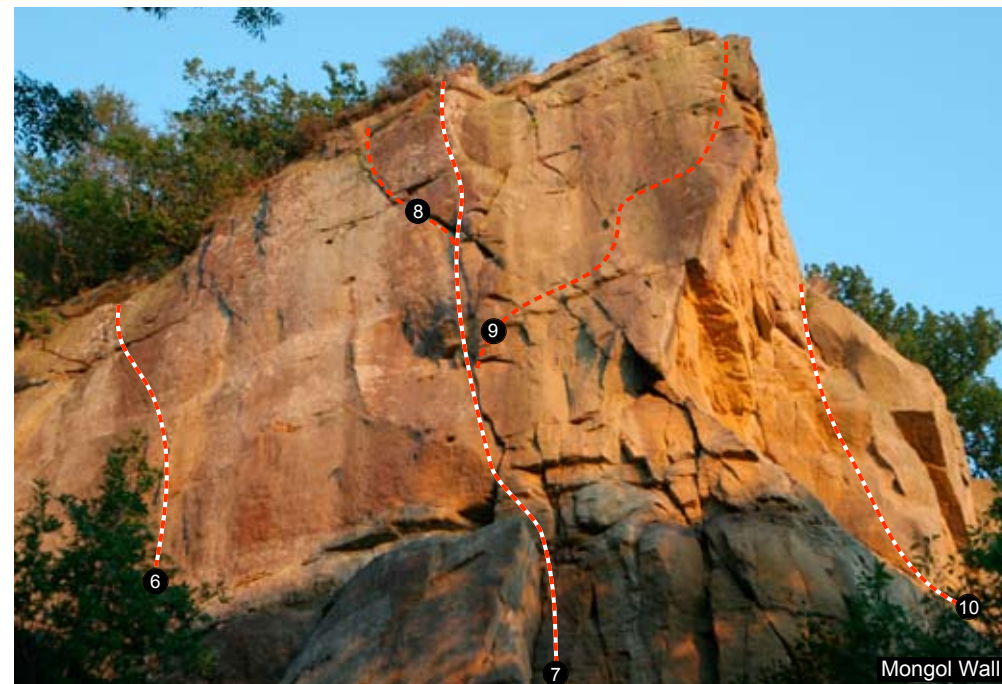
To the right is an impressive yellow wall.

6. Yellow Peril 17m E3 6a

Climbs a slanting groove and crack on the wall left of *Mongol*. Climb the groove with a difficult move to get established on a rounded ledge. Continue up a crack. Bold and not well protected.

Paul Ingham, Alan Taylor 28th April 1979

About 10m right of the large boulder is an impressive Y shaped crack, which is *Mongol*.



7. Mongol 25m E2 5c ***

Climb the steep crack system until hard moves lead to a ledge high on the right. Continue up the arete or groove above. A superb climb, steep and strenuous but well protected.

F.A. Bill Tate, John Phillips 1965 (2pts. of aid).

F.F.A. Paul Ingham, Alan Taylor 21st April 1979

8. Mongol Variation Finish E2 5c *

Follow the obvious left fork of the Y shaped crack. Harder than the normal finish, also steep and strenuous.

Paul Ingham, Alan Taylor, Dave Wilson 28th April 1979

9. A Last Fling 25m E5 6a

Start up *Mongol* then make hard moves right above an in situ peg to a shallow groove. Move up this to gain good holds which lead right to a spectacular position on the undercut arete. Finish powerfully up this.

Steve Findlay, Chris Shorter 1993 "A Last Fling was actually called "Fat Bastard's Last Fling" by Steve (there were arguments about the position of the apostrophe!) but it was censored by a sensitive soul by the time it first appeared in print." Chris Shorter

Immediately around the arête is an impressive sculptured wall of soft sandstone. One route has been climbed up the obvious crack line at E2 5b. (Rick Graham 1975) but it is not recommended for health reasons!

Further to the right is the unmistakable Boss, an awesome rock bulge. Just to its left is a large prominent slab split by four good lines.

Arncliffe Slab

The large slab flanking the left of *The Boss*.

10. Sunset 20m HVD *

Start 2m from the left edge of the slab. Climb onto a shelf at the foot of the slab then up to an obvious protection slot, trend left then up the edge to finish up the final groove on the left. Poorly protected.

John Hickman, Maurice Wilson 1957

11. Evensong 20m D

Start from a rock embedded in the roots of a tree. Climb the short/wide crack onto the block, continue up the groove. Finish directly up the wall.

John Hickman, Maurice Wilson 1957

12. Vespers 17m D

The crack 2m right of *Evensong* is climbed finishing either side of the protruding block.

John Hickman, Maurice Wilson 1957

13. Matins 17m D

Climb the corner to the left of *The Boss*.

John Hickman, Maurice Wilson 1957



Karin Magog taking on the classic extreme at Beacon Scar 7. *Mongol Wall (E2 5c)* Photo: Steve Crowe

Next is the first of two aid climbs in this guide

14. The Boss 25m A2 *

Start beneath the huge overhang. Free climb to the roof (HVS 5a), cross this on bolts, then continue free to the top. (Note: the bolts currently in place are the originals, which are in very poor condition).

Tony Meekle 1965

15. Nail File 20m HVS 5b *

Starting under the roof at a small cave. Climb the crack then the impressive corner immediately right of *The Boss*. A strenuous climb that can now be well protected with large camming devices. Superb climbing and high in its grade.

Mike Railton 1965

16. Party Line 20m VS 4b **

Climb the short corner 3m right of *Nail File*. Move left to a junction with *Nail File*, then climb diagonally right over a bulge to another ledge and continue to the top. An excellent route with good positions. Protection is sparse on the upper section, which can also be dirty after rain.

Brian Evans and party 1963

17. Plexor 17m E1 5b

Climb the corner to the wide crack splitting the overhang. Gain the small ledge above then finish up the sandy crack.

Tony Marr, Ken Jackson 1966

18. Stump Corner 13m VD

Climb the steep slab a few feet right of *Plexor*. Climb to a ledge below a short corner and climb this to an awkward exit.

John Hickman, Maurice Wilson 1958

19. Walking on Sunshine 12m S

The narrow slab between *Stump Corner* and *Stump Crack*.

Signature indecipherable! 9th July 1991

20. Stump Crack 10m D

The tree filled crack a few feet right of *Stump Corner* may prove difficult to climb.

John Hickman Maurice Wilson 1958

21. The Flying Trapeze 50m VS 4c

A high level girdle of *The Boss*.

4a 17m Start to the left of *The Boss* up the left end of the slab, as for *Sunset*, then climb across the slab to belay 5m below the top of the corner of *Matins*.

4c 23m Move out right above the lip of the overhang to a good foothold on the edge.

Move on to the slab and cross it to a good spike. Pendulum from the spike to *Nail File* and descend slightly to belay. Brilliant!

4b 10m Finish diagonally right over a bracket as for *Party line*. Good rope technique, and a competent second are essential.

Mike Readshaw 1971

To the right a rickety bridge leads over the watercourse.

About 10m right of the central watercourse is the striking line of *North Arête*.

North Face

22. Routon Ridge 13m S

Start 10m right of the watercourse on the left flank of *North Arête*. Climb a crack choked by a tree to a good stance. Move leftwards to an incline, which is climbed on small holds.

Pre 1960 Unknown

23. North Arête 13m VS 5a

Gain the prominent arête right of *Routon Ridge* from the left and follow it direct to the top. Poorly protected.

Tony Marr, Paul Ingham 7th May 1979

24. Birch Wall 13m S

Start on the right flank of the ridge in a shallow corner. Ledges lead diagonally right to a slab. Traverse left to a groove and up this to the top.

Pre 1960 Unknown

25. Dead Wood Slabs 12m S

Same start as *Birch Wall*, climb the lower slab on small holds, then climb the upper slab on the right.

Pre 1960 Unknown

26. Skateboard 10m VS 4c *

Climbs the slab and then the arête 3m left of *Skaters' Corner*. Start up a shallow scoop and move up left to the arête then to a pocket hold, step onto the ledge then back left to escape. A fine route with poor protection.

Paul Ingham, Tony Marr 7th May 1979

27. Skaters' Corner 10m HS 4b *

The corner 7m right of *Dead Wood Slabs*. Follow this to finish on the left. Good climbing but unfortunately often dirty.

Pre 1960 Unknown

Beacon Buttress

The vegetated groove at the left end of the buttress is *Excavator (D)*. It doesn't warrant attention, the variation start however does.

Tony Marr 7th May 1979 (Ascended and cleaned to allow the variation start to be climbed).

28. Excavator Variation Start 11m HVS 5b *

The fine leftward trending finger crack unfortunately leads into the groove. Continue DOWN the groove to regain the ground.

Paul Ingham, Tony Marr 7th May 1979

29. Gehenna 13m HVS 5a ***

A contender for the best crack climb in the area. Strenuous but well protected climbing following the crack in its entirety. More testing since the demise of the block and high in its grade; those that can't jam may think E1 appropriate!

*FA Terry Sullivan, John Monaghan.
February 1959. (1 Peg for protection only).
Gehenna (a place of perpetual torture).
2nd Ascent Allan Austin Late 1960*

30. Haunted Hero's 14m HVS 5a

Climb the wall on the right via a shallow groove line, which leads into the route *Beacon Buttress*. Finish up this.

Paul Ingham, Tony Marr 3rd July 1979

31. Beacon Buttress 14m HVS 5a **

Just round the arête from *Gehenna* is a slab below a corner. Climb the slab and corner



to a ledge, swing around the prow to another ledge on the right and a difficult finish. It is also possible to continue at the same grade up the groove passing some dubious flakes. A superb natural line, high in its grade with only adequate protection.

Terry Sullivan 1960 (1 peg for protection)

32. Epicentre 13m E3 6a

Start just right of *Beacon Buttress*. Initial protection is taken in the flake of *Tremor*. Climb the slab until a long reach leftwards gains a slot just right of the arête. Pull up onto a small resting foothold. Move diagonally leftwards up the hanging slab in an exposed position to a small ledge below the left hand of two grooves. Continue up this groove to the top. A problematic route with good positions. This route can also be enjoyed at E2 5b by starting up the crack of *Tremor* and stepping left onto the hanging slab.

*Kelvin Neal, Alan Moss September 1979
Variation Start Paul Ingham, Tony Marr,
Dave Wilson April 1980.*

33. Tremor 13m E2 5b **

Start in the alcove 3m right of *Beacon Buttress*. Climb the steep crack system issuing from the left side of the alcove. Strenuous.

*F.A. Tony Marr, Eric Marr 14th May 1968
(Sling for aid)
F.F.A. Denis Lee, Dave Ladkin, John Earl and Hugh
Banner, Summer 1972*

34. Green Wall 10m VS 4c

Follow the groove forming the right side of the alcove to the slab above. Continue up the cracks that run diagonally right to the top.

Tony Marr, Eric Marr 4th June 1966

35. The Groove 10m HS 4b

Start in a groove 2m right of the alcove. Climb the groove passing the bulge on the left then follow cracks to the top.

Tony Marr, Eric Marr 4th June 1966

36. Solo Wall 9m E2 5c

The short steep wall to the right leads with difficulty to a dirty slab above. The climb is unprotected and requires a confident approach. Paul Ingham, Allan Taylor, Ian Dunn

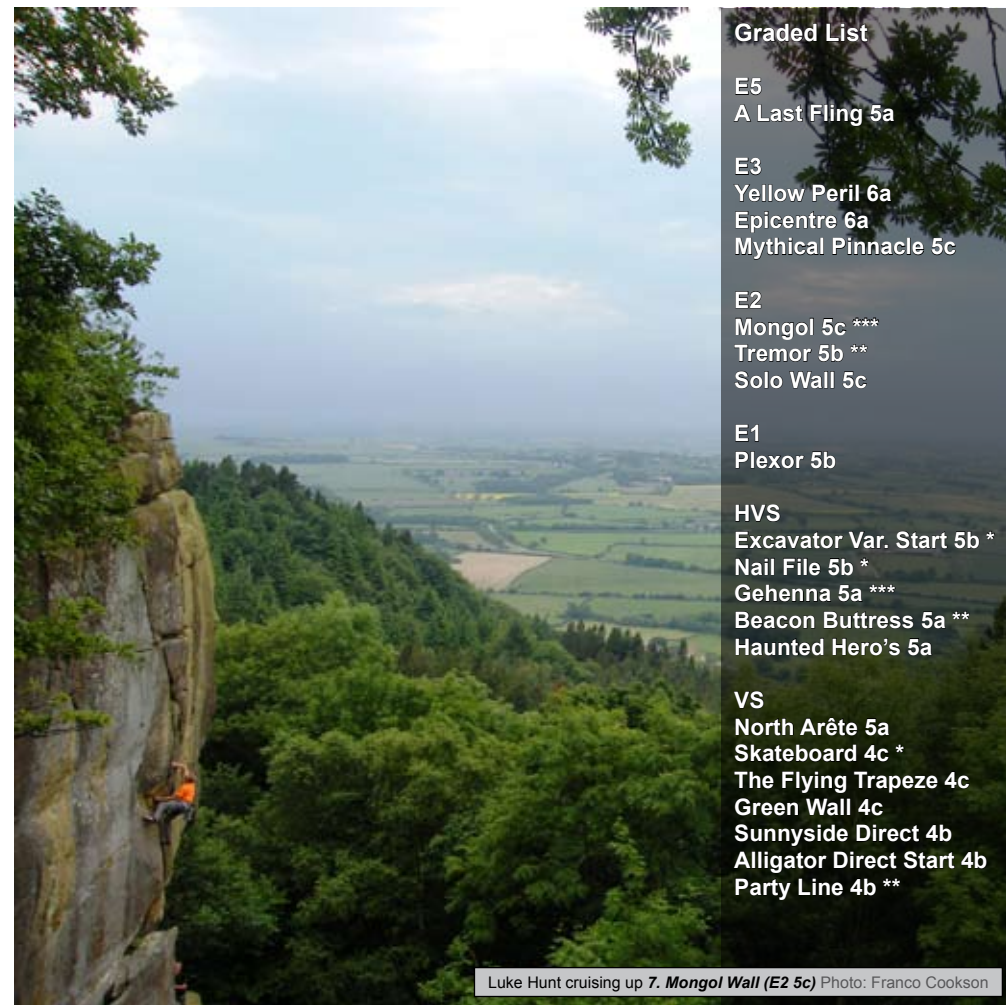
7th May 1979 (all solo) Originally graded VS!

15m further to the right is Worm Hill Buttress, this is heavily vegetated but one route has been recorded, *Helter- Skelter (Moderate)* up the slabby left side. Lying further right are more vegetated rock outcrops, some climbing has taken place here but nothing was recorded.

Scarth Wood Pinnacle

OS Map Reference: NZ463003

This isolated pinnacle is in Scarth Wood, 500m to the north east of Beacon Scar. It has three recorded routes. The pinnacle once had an open aspect and was reasonably clean, unfortunately it is now surrounded by a mature forest, which prevents the rock from drying quickly, and the climbs therefore are often green and greasy. Approach as for Beacon Scar but on arriving at the stonewall **do not** pass through the gate but follow the wall to the right for approximately 250m to another gate in the wall. Pass through the gate and follow the descending track for 150m to where a horizontal break leads to the right, follow this and after about 30m the top of the pinnacle should be visible just below the track.

**1. The Original Route 11m D**

Start in a chimney in front of the pinnacle. It leads up and through to the rear of the pinnacle. Sloping holds lead to the summit.

Maurice Wilson, John Hickman 1957

2. Mythical Pinnacle 10m E3 5c

Climb the front face of the pinnacle. Poorly protected and bold.

Steve Findlay, Chris Shorter 3rd July 1993

3. Mordicus 10m S

Start just left of the chimney of *The Original Route*. Gain the obvious broad crack and follow it with interest to a dirty shelf, finish up the short wall.

Tony Marr (Solo) September 1993

Graded List

E5
A Last Fling 5a

E3
Yellow Peril 6a
Epicentre 6a
Mythical Pinnacle 5c

E2
Mongol 5c ***
Tremor 5b **
Solo Wall 5c

E1
Plexor 5b

HVS
Excavator Var. Start 5b *
Nail File 5b *
Gehenna 5a ***
Beacon Buttress 5a **
Haunted Hero's 5a

VS
North Arête 5a
Skateboard 4c *
The Flying Trapeze 4c
Green Wall 4c
Sunnyside Direct 4b
Alligator Direct Start 4b
Party Line 4b **