

CRAG HILL

O.S. Sheet 92 NY995162
 Aspect South
 Altitude 306m
 Approach Time 2 minutes

Mod - Severe	0
HS - HVS	0
E1 - E3	0
E4 and above	0
Bouldering	51

History

Although there were signs of earlier activity, the first records of climbing on Crag Hill was by Steve Crowe, Karin Magog and Bob Bennett during 1996. Further consolidation took place with a visit on 30 November 1996 when Andrew & John Earl, Tommy Smith, Michael and Mark Thomas returned with Karin Magog and Steve Crowe. Tom Newman and Ryan Plews added the *Hidden Roof*. Mark Buxton, Andrew Yeadon and Harry Roberts filled the many remaining gaps.

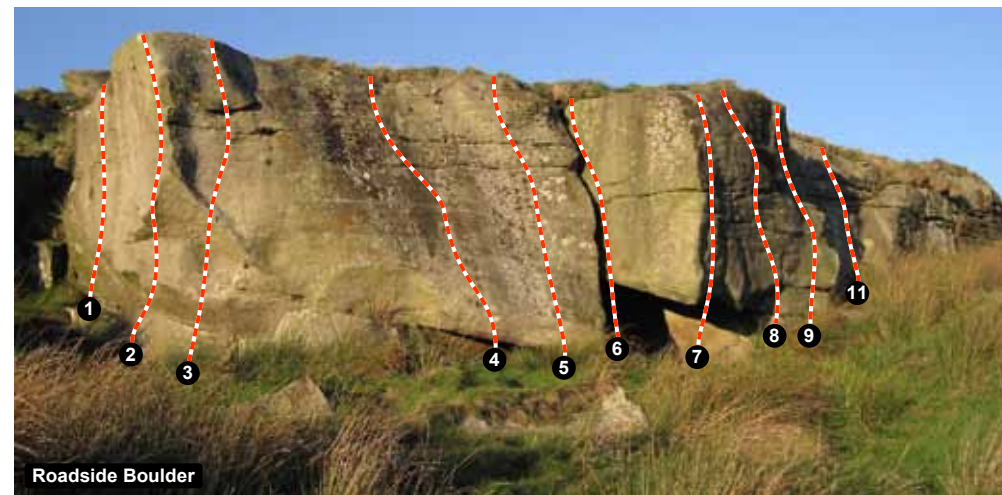
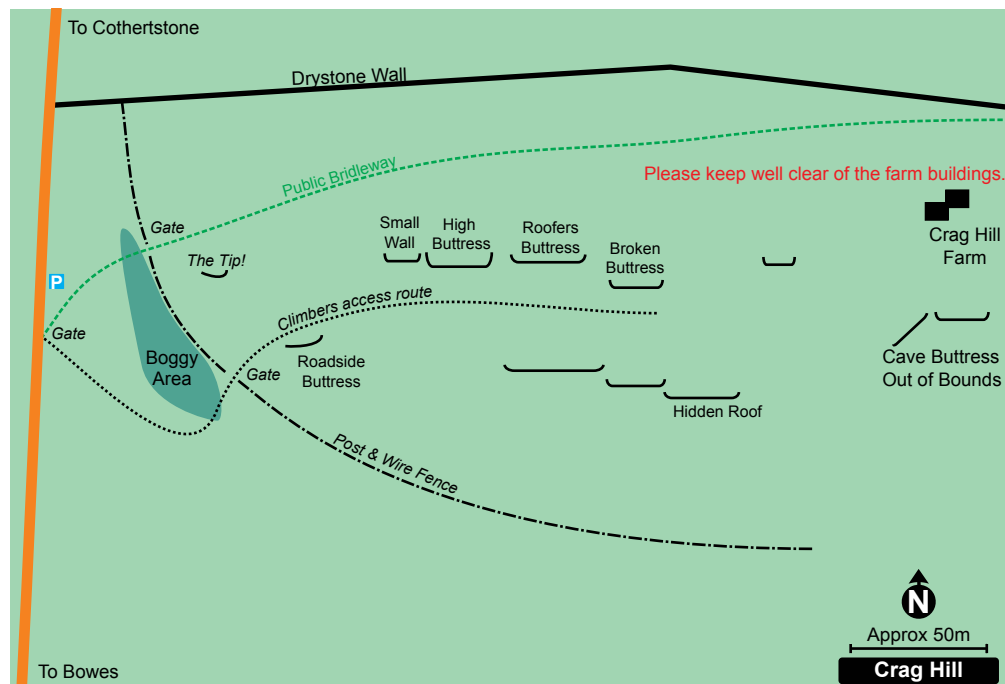
Situation and Character

This small and accessible south-facing crag overlooks Deepdale and can be clearly seen just east of the minor road when travelling from Bowes to Cothertstone. Although the routes are short the landings are generally good and the crag is a useful evening venue.

Access and Approaches

Driving from Bowes towards Cothertstone the boulders will soon be seen on the right. Park in a lay-by on the right, just north of the public bridleway. From the road cross the field trending slightly right, down hill, towards a gate in the wire fence. The Roadside Boulder is easily seen from here. A faint path leads above The Roadside Boulder towards the main buttress. Please keep a low profile.

As of 2006 access had been agreed on a provisional basis which requires climbers to avoid lambing time. No climbing between January & April inclusive [lambing period]. No groups under instruction. Do not phone the farmer. Remove all litter. Strictly No Dogs. Check the BMC regional Access Database for the latest situation.

**The Climbs**

The climbs are described from left to right.

Roadside Boulder

All three arêtes on this boulder are interesting.

1. First Wall Font 3

The wall left of the first impressive arête.

2. Roadside Arête Font 6a+ ***

Interesting moves follow the left arête through out. The sitting start is **Font 6b**.

3. Font 6a **

The line of pockets just right of the arête should lead to the short flake and then the top.

4. Impossible Slab Font 6a+ *

Smear and slap on to the slab about 1m left of the crack.

5. Easy Slab Font 3

The right most edge of the slab, without bridging beyond the crack.

6. Central Crack Font 2

Climb the corner crack.

7. Central Arête Font 6a+ **

Start up the central arête, then move right at half height to gain a good ledge and then the top.

8. Font 6a *

The centre of the wall moving slightly right to finish.

9. Third Arête Font 3+ *

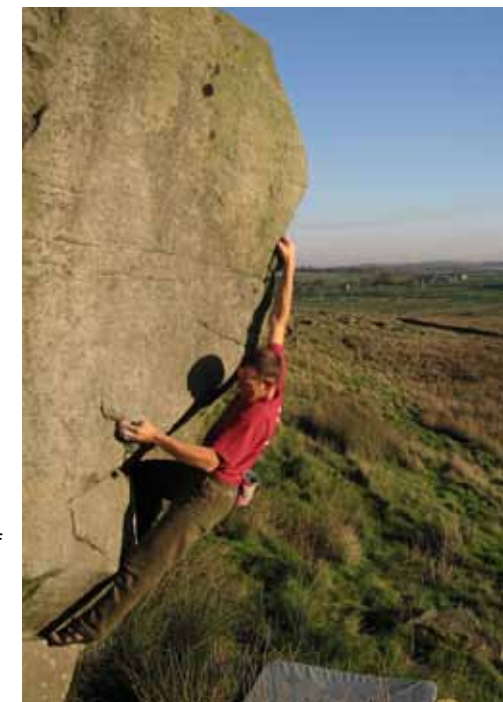
The third arête provides a series of mantelshelf moves.

10. Font 2+

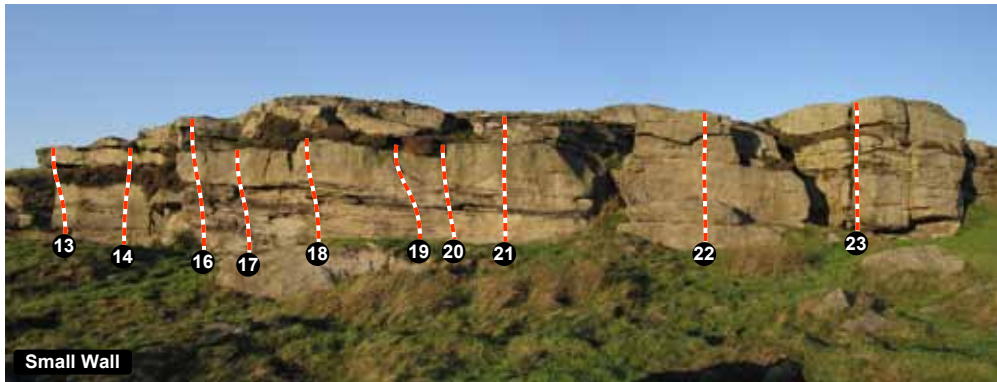
Layback the corner crack.

11. Font 1

The wall to the right.



Steve Crowe 2. Roadside Arête (Font 6a+) Photo: Karin Magog



Small Wall

Small Wall

About 50m beyond the Roadside Boulder.

12. Square Roof Font 4

SS under the roof at the far left of the buttress and lunge for the arête.

13. Pointed Roof Font 3+

SS just to the right of the next scrappy corner. Finish via a crimp on the overlapping arête.

14. Heather Band Font 3+

SS at the wall to the right and follow the line of a blind flake to a dyno past the heather band.

15. Stepped Roof Font 4

Over the juggy stepped roof near the broken corner to the right.

16. Midget Arête Font 3+

SS up the next small arête.

17. Scoop Font 3+

SS on small boulder. Mantel into the scoop to the right of the previous arête.

18. Layback Corner Font 3+

SS. The small corner to the right.

19. Curved Flake Font 4

SS with hands in the large break. Up via the curved, blind flake just left of [Heather Corner](#).

20. Heather Corner Font 3+

SS. Layback the scrappy corner to the right.

21. Short Wall Dyno Font 4

Right of [Heather Corner](#) are two low breaks. Sit start with hands in the upper break. Dyno for the top.

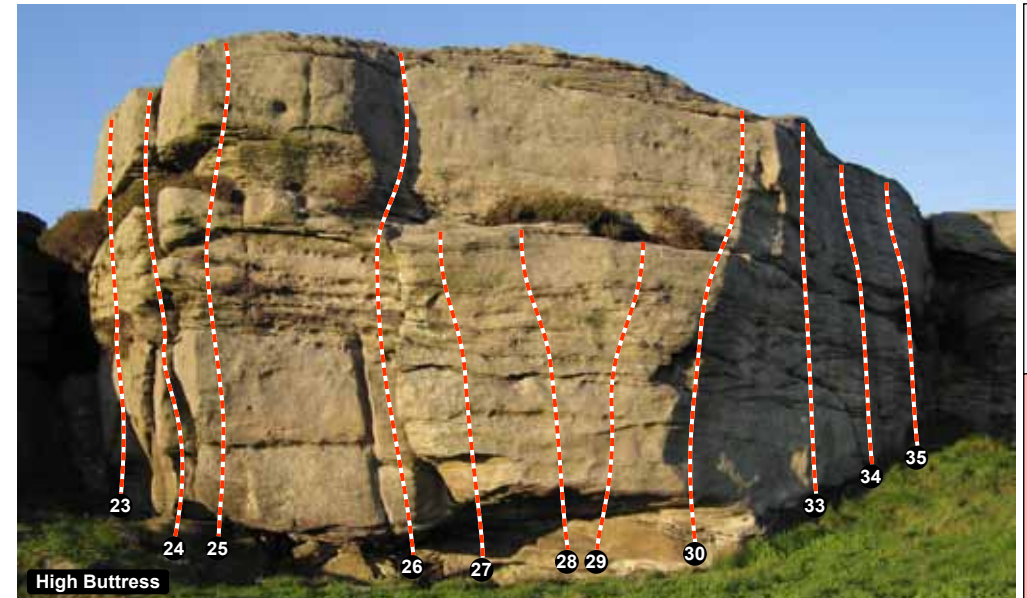
Just between the short walls and the High Buttress is a buttress with a large ledge at waist height and an obvious undercut top.

22. Graham the Turtle Font 4+

Climb onto the ledge then through the high point of the buttress the crux being a fingery pull over the top.



Andrew Yeadon on 22. [Graham the Turtle Font 4+](#)
Photo: Andrew Yeadon Collection



High Buttress

High Buttress

This is the highest buttress and the rock is impeccable.

23. Gully Wall Font 3+

Start on the wall to the left of the big crack. Fight past the heather to a good finishing crack.

24. Font 3

The crack.

25. Font 4

The arête without using the crack to the left. The sitting start is a good test at 6a.

26. Font 4 **

The corner/flake to the ledge, then the small flake to the top. Sitting start is 4+.

27. Font 6a+

From a sitting start climb the wall immediately right of the corner on slopers to the ledge.

28. Font 7a *

From the poor sloper in the centre of the wall and tiny crimp for left hand to ledge.

29. Font 6b+

Sitting start to sloper with LH continue slightly right to ledge.

30. Font 4

The arête. A sitting start on thin flake/edge is 4+.

31. Font 6a+

Low-level traverse on slopers from right to left.

32. Font 6b+

A very low level traverse on slopers from right to left.

33. Font 4+

The wall just right of the arête via undercut pocket.

34. Font 3+

The crack in the wall.

35. Thin Crack Font 3

Up the crack from the low niche.

36. Font 4

A left to right traverse finish up the right hand wall.

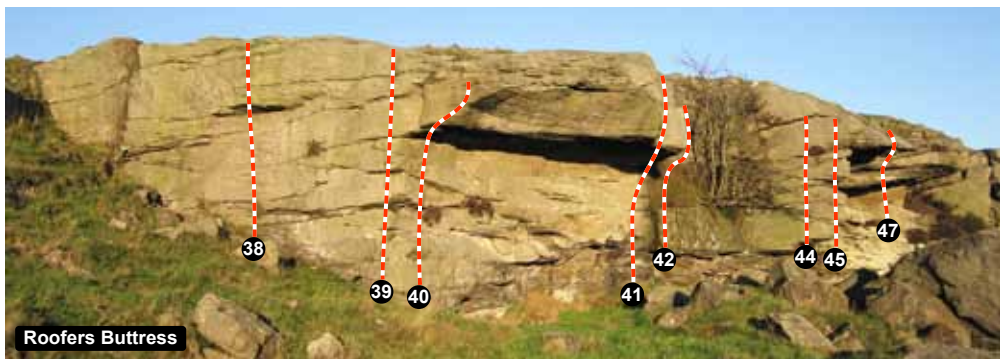
Just right of High Buttress is a tiered overhang:

37. Pancake Overhang Font 4

Direct through the middle of the overhang.

Hidden Roof

There is a hidden roof/cave somewhere below High Buttress but you can't spot it from above. Tom Newman has climbed a Font 7a problem that crosses the roof.



Roofers Buttress

Roofers Buttress

About 15m east is High Buttress.

38. Font 3+

Start beneath the bulge/overlap and climb it direct.

39. Font 2+

The wall just left of the huge capping roof.

40. Left Arête Font 5+

From the ledge reach for a rounded hold on the arête and continue to the top.

41. Font 6a+ *

Step off the boulder and tackle the hanging scoop. Serious.

42. Hanging Arête Font 6c **

The hanging arête starting from the next boulder right.

43. Font 5+

From beneath the roof move left to gain and climb the hanging arête.

44. Font 2+

Across the central alcove and behind a small tree is a wall.

45. Ridgeway Font 4 **

The sharp arête direct. The SS is **Font 6a**.

46. Under the Eaves Font 4

Climb the corner then traverse left under the roof to finish on the top of *Ridgeway*.

47. On the Tiles Font 4+

Climb directly to the weakness through the roof and pull over on a dubious flake.

48. Linkup Font 5+

SS up *Ridgeway* traverse the roof right to finish up *On the Tiles*.



Karin Magog 46. Under the Eaves (Font 4) Photo: Steve Crowe



Broken Buttress

Scoop Buttress

Broken Buttress

A few metres further east is a broken buttress

49. Font 4

The left arête in the back of the bay.

Scoop Buttress**50. The Edge Font 5+**

The short arête on the next boulder. The sitting start is **6a**.

51. The Bulge Font 5+

The bulge between the arête and the scoop, step off the block.

52. The Scoop Font 4+

The easy looking scoop. The sitting start is **6c**.

53. The Blank Slab Font 5+

The slab immediately right of the scoop, start with undercut.

54. Traverse Font 6b+

Low-level traverse on crimps below the roof to finish up the left arête.

On the east side of Scoop Buttress is:

55. Trench Arête Font 3+

SS. The broken arête on the uphill side of the trench entrance.

About 100m east is an interesting arête (**Font 3**), on the right edge of a shattered buttress.

Below Crag Hill Farm is an 8m high buttress with four good routes and a small cave at the top.

The farmer has requested that climbers avoid climbing on this buttress.



Steve Crowe 53. The Blank Slab (Font 5+) Photo: Karin Magog