

Great Whernside boulders

GR SE002739 at summit; GR SE001747 at northernmost point, marked as Blackfell Crags on OS maps.

Approach

Via hag dyke from centre of Kettlewell. 3.75km/2.5miles to summit of great Whernside, Yorkshire Dales.

Can also be approached from summit of Kettlewell / Leyburn road (N.B. this road is 1:4)

Character

High altitude bouldering. A collection of mostly west facing boulders from the summit of Great Whernside ranging north for roughly 1km (northernmost point marked on OS map as Blackfell Crags) The edge is exceptionally rough and coarse moorland gritstone, untouched, unpolished, but may need cleaning in certain parts. It comprises mainly slabs, walls and traverses with a few quality hard roof problems. Its westerly aspect catches the evening and mid-afternoon sun; the boulders are very exposed but afford splendid views of the Wharfe valley and surrounding district.

N.b. some of the landings demand the use of a mat/spotters.

The edge is split into three areas, area one being the summit boulders, area two marked on OS maps as Long Crags and area three marked as Blackfell Crags.

| No | Grade | Description |
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| Section 1 - Summit Boulders | | |
| 1 | 4c | 'Scary Monsters' Semi dyno from low jug to top, not using sidewall; mantle over. |
| 2 | 4b | Sit start to arête on left side. |
| 3 | 3b | 'Phoebe' Slabby west facing side of block, climb direct to highest point. |
| 4 | 4c | 'Exposed Roof' The exposed block on the summit facing west. Sit start from low sharp hold to left hand sloper, to top. |
| 5 | 4c | 'This be the (tra)Verse' right to left traverse of longest continuous buttress, finish up left arête. |
| 6 | 4a | Obvious arête. |
| 7 | 5b/c? | Project – sit start in cave, jugs to slopy crimps, mantle up over lip to finish direct. |
| 8 | 4c | 'Back Wall Traverse' Left to right traverse, hands on top. |
| 9 | 4b | 'Great Whernside Arête' sit start from slopy holds direct up arête to jug. |
| Section 2 – Long Crags (as marked on OS map) | | |
| 10 | 4a | Up centre of right hand wall. |
| 11 | 4b | 'Blunt Rib' Low start to blunt central rib via shallow pockets. |
| 12 | 4b | 'Captain Caveman' Low start to flake and top. |
| 13 | 4b | 'Monkey Arête' monkey up the arête. |

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| 14 | 4a | 'Crepe Suzette' Where vertical crack splits buttress, climb the left hand side from low start, past bush. |
| 15 | 4a | 'Pancakes for Tea' straight up centre of left hand wall, via shark fin flake and pocket. |
| 16 | 4a | 'Maple Syrup' Up the scoop to a horn, left of 'Pancakes for Tea'. |
| 17 | 4a | 'Dropped Scone' wide dirty arête. |
| Section 3 – Blackfell Crag (as marked on OS maps) | | |
| 18 | 5a/b | 'A Pact Amongst the Stones' sit start in cave from two sloping crimps; left to crimps on creaking flake (do not use as side pull). Slap up to slopy ledge, jam break, finish direct over balanced capstone. |
| 19 | 4b | 'The Girl Who Fell Through the Ice' Off sloping ledge direct over capstone roof via the obvious nose. |
| 20 | 4b | 'Demonique' Sitting start up the right arête via layback flake; grovel onto the top. |
| 21 | 5a/b? | Project – sitting start, small roof round back of main block. |

Martin Swithenbank, Clare Daněk 13 June 04