

Rhobell y big

O.S. ref 782282 Alt: 500m Approach time 40-60 mins

This rocky peak north of Coed y Brenin takes a certain kind of patience to get to, although the drive through the forest and moorland walk-in are pleasant enough. Follow signs to the hamlet of Abergwair through the forest from the south. From the west, head past Trawsfynydd Holiday village and head east, ignoring the turn off to Llanullwchlyn.

There is ample parking at a grassy spot on the road junction (O.S. Ref. 768286). It is suggested to take the dead-end road east to *Cwm yr Allt-lwyd* 'til it cuts down sharply over the river. A footpath sign points along the river (possible parking spot on the left), but cut straight off on the little-used grassy track on the right. At the top of its zig-zags, bear right across the hillside to the stream valley. Follow it upwards to the stile. After a few minutes on the thin path, drop down to the right past the knoll and stream to the base of the peak. A large enclosure on the eastern side is most likely reached first, and is a good reference point.

This approach enables you to follow the sun around the hillside with the rock. An easy descent from *The Plateau* area (and quicker, alternative approach) is to follow the obvious boundary heading NW across access land to the stream (gate) leading back to the road at the obvious ruined barn. The whole approach is on *access land*. Mostly good landings.

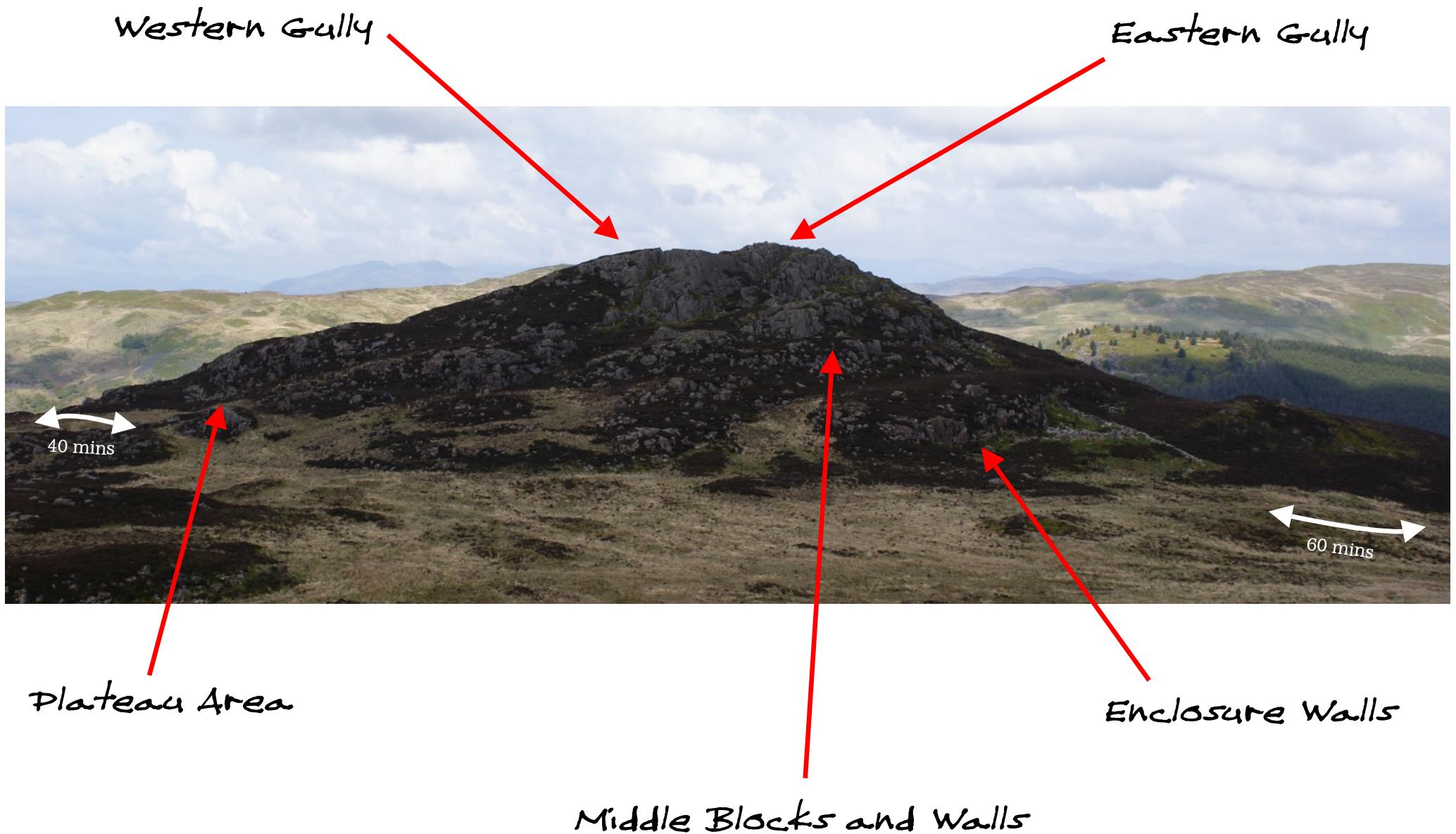


The striking rocky peak of *Rhobell y big* from its Northern approach.

This lovely venue suits those who enjoy a day out exploring a high quantity of high quality easy & mid-grade bouldering. However, the wild & isolated location makes it unsuitable for a group of total beginners.

The rock appears to be a pyroclastic tuff. Quick-drying, rough and clean, it does not tend towards natural edges, but it is amazing how much the little pebbles can give you!





The venue is described from right to left, or East to West, presuming most visitors will want to follow the sun during the day.

Enclosure Walls

1 The Sound of Silence 5a

S. Hobbs 30/11/22

The detached pillar is climbed easily when using both left & right edges.

2 Vulture 5b+

S. Hobbs 3/5/23

The right edge from the obvious double hold is a great line. Pull on from sitting if desired.

On the right wall is:

3 Toolkit 5c

S. Hobbs 19/4/23

A fun & quirky route, utilising all manner of climbing techniques. Start at the obvious double-handhold, swing 'round to the good jamming-crack, then 'cut loose' up the left edge of the very thin top wall (which gives the route its grade) to pull over at its apex.



4 Big Slab 4c

S. Hobbs, P. Hobbs 19/4/23

The tall slab has been soloed, but is lichenous & not recommended.

5 The Rise of Skywalker 5b+

S. Hobbs 19/4/23

Climb the central rib direct, without bridging to the large ramp. A good extension is to start at the slab on the left, traversing along a smaller foot-ramp with good side-pulls.

6 The Force Awakens 4a

S. Hobbs 19/4/23

Pad up the large ramp on the right and finish direct on big holds. It can also be linked with the traverse at 4b+



Fun moves on Toolbox!



Steve Hobbs on *The Rise of Skywalker*

The Pinnacle of Success

A little further right, and just before the large enclosure, is:

The Pinnacle of Success 5c/6b

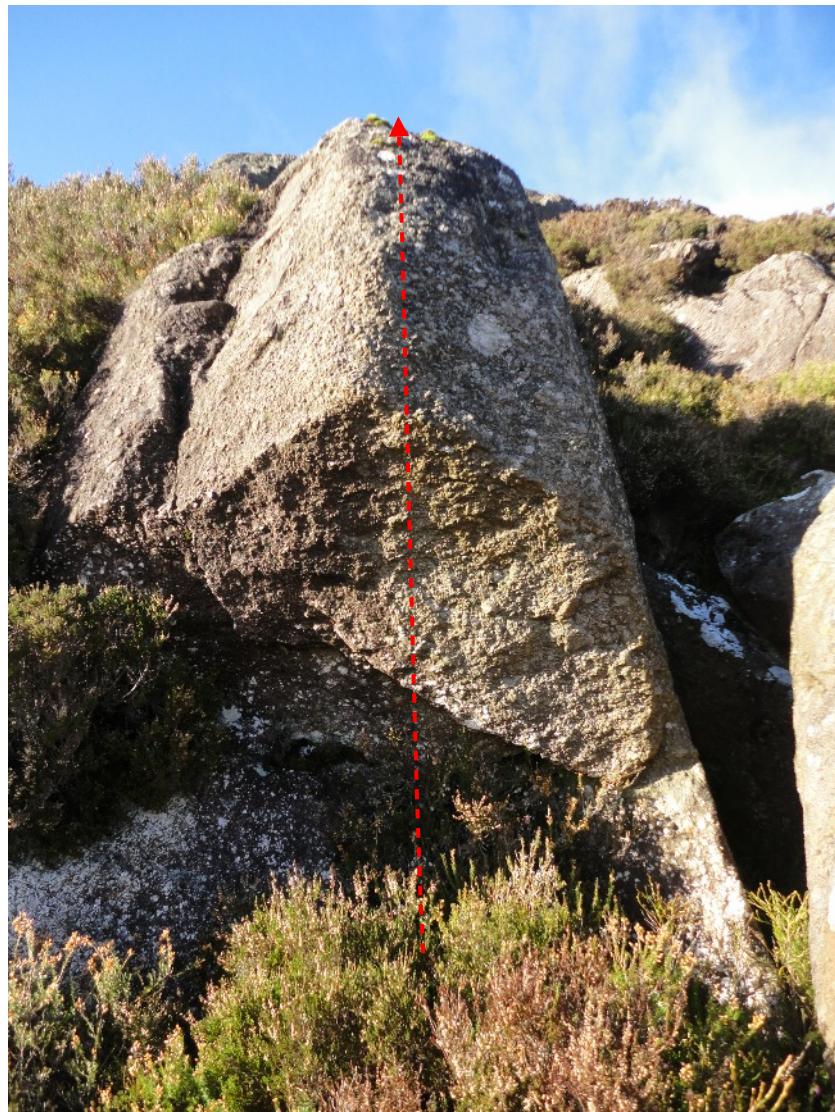
S. Hobbs 19/4/23

A stiff pull-on with tiny footholds leads to massive jugs at the top. Using the left edge brings the grade down to 5c.



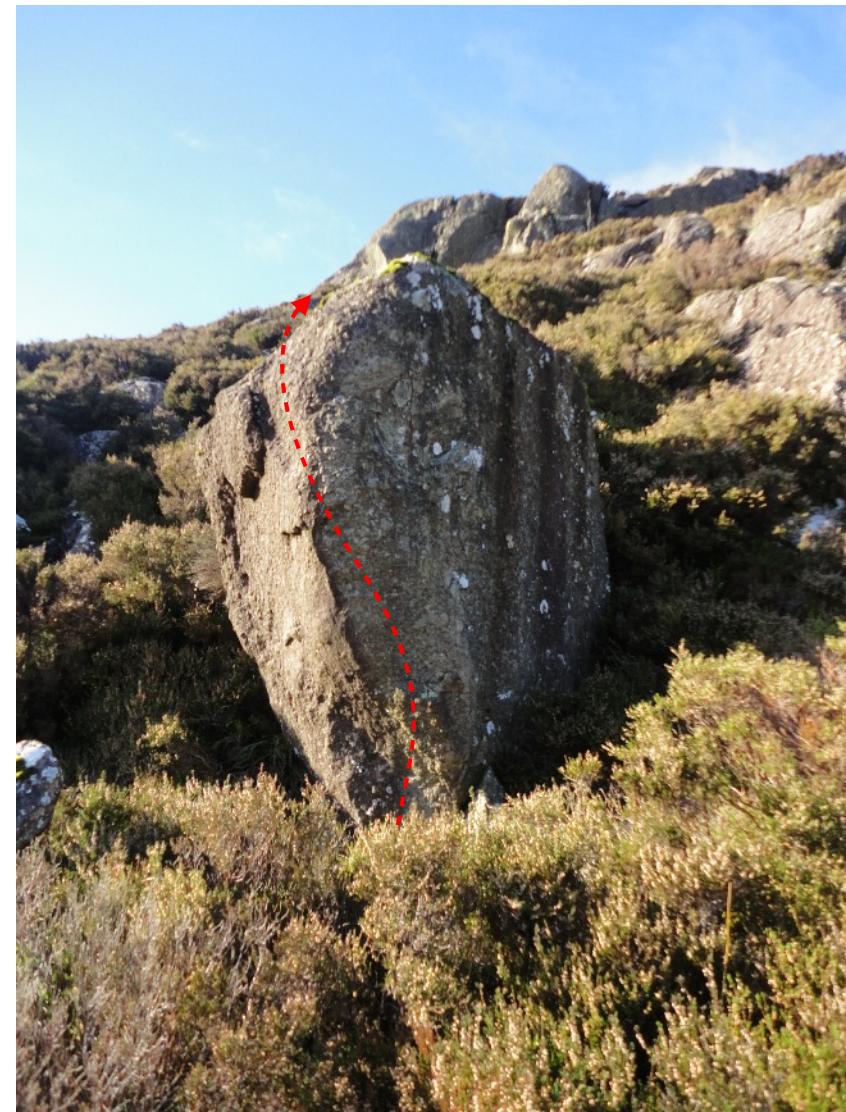
Middle Blocks and Walls





Relaxation Station 4c S. Hobbs 19/4/23

The barrel-shaped undercut block 'goes' at a much easier grade than expected. Start from sitting, hands on massive undercut. Thereafter, handholds are small but adequate.



Leave some for Us 5b S. Hobbs 30/11/22

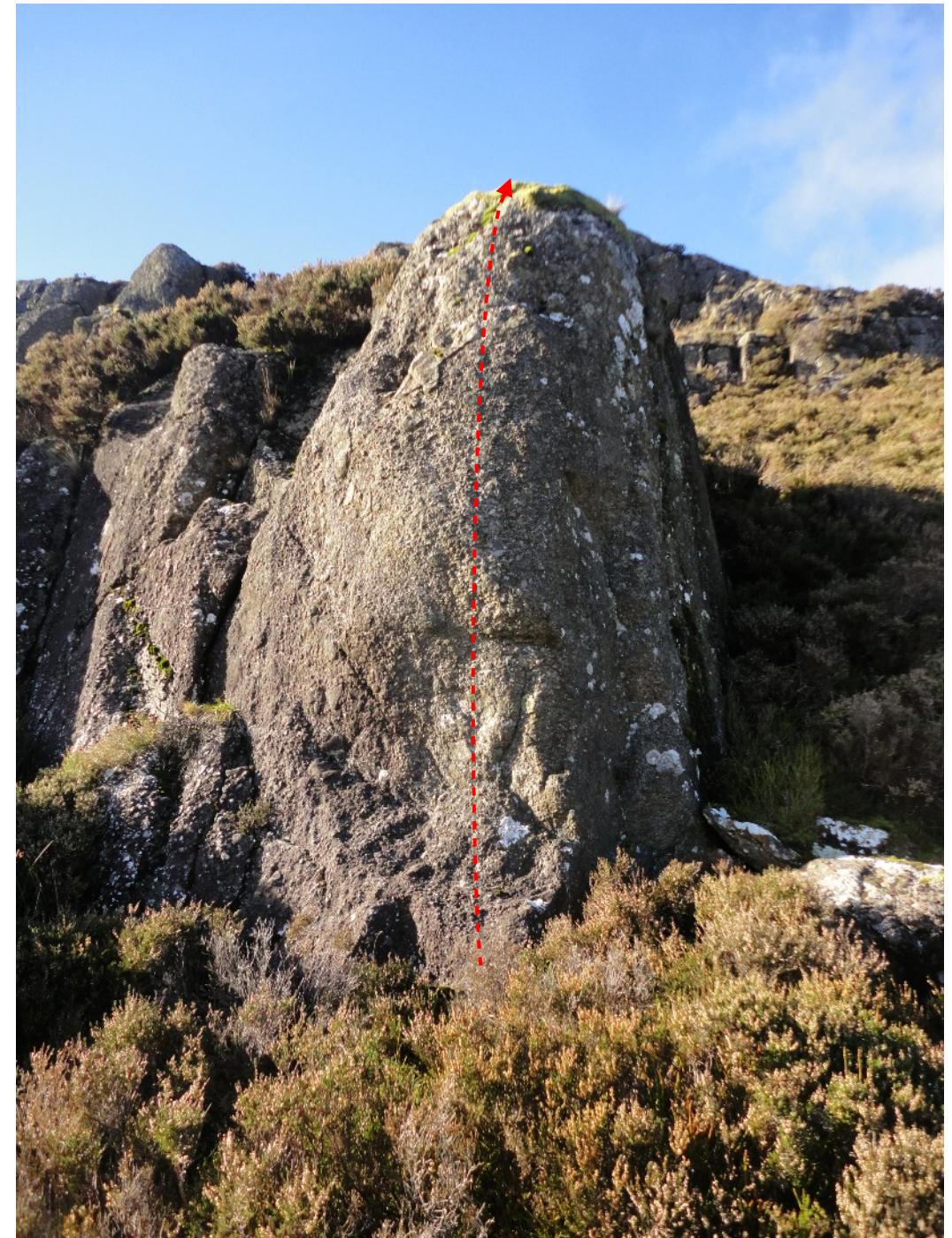
From a crouch-start below the prominent rock-scar.

Rounded Prow

Anything for Sore Fingers, Doc? 5a

S. Hobbs 30/11/22

The front face of the tall prow is surprisingly amenable.



Tall Crag

Above lies a high crag that currently has two easy solos:

Happy Daze 4b S. Hobbs 30/11/22

A lovely solo up the obvious weakness in the main face, on good holds.

Sunshine Solo 3 S. Hobbs 30/11/22

The enjoyable stepped rib on the right of the crag.



Eastern Walls - Top Blocks and Walls





1 *Edges and Ledges* 6a

P. Hobbs 3/5/23

A very distinct route that has particularly good, delicate climbing.

2 *Chicken Head* 5b

S. Hobbs 30/11/22

The line on the right, via the pebble to positive holds on a flake is a bit scruffy.

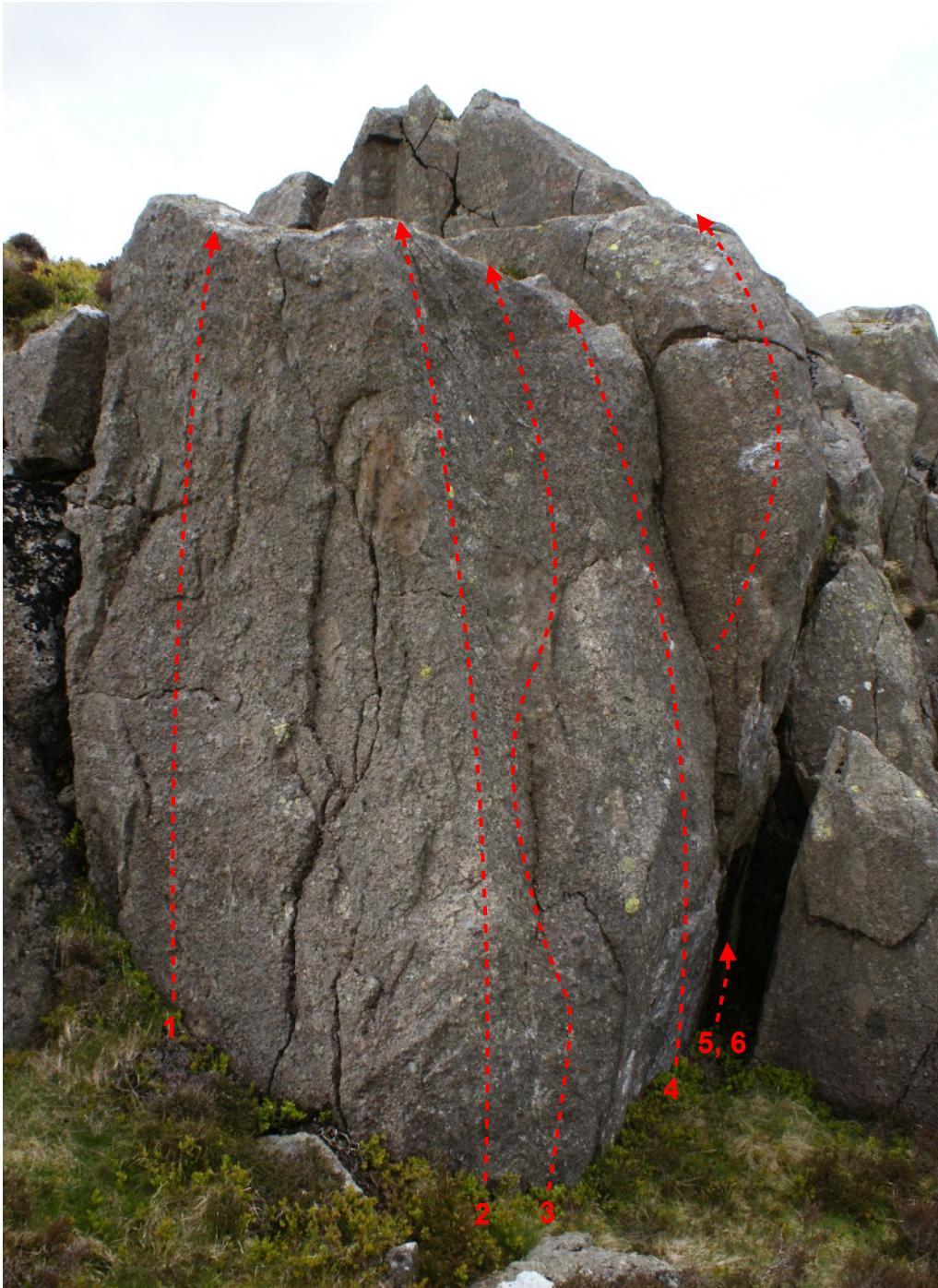


Easy Arete 3 S. Hobbs 3/5/23

Follow the left arete pleasantly to a rock-over/mantle finish.

Relaxed Rib 4a S. Hobbs 30/11/22

This minor route still has some nice layaway moves at the start.



1 *Wannabe* 3 S. Hobbs 30/11/22

Much easier than *The Plantation's 'Deliverance'*! Semi-mantle the top-out.

2 *Prize Rib* 4a S. Hobbs 30/11/22

A similar top-out.

3 *(Every crag needs a) Scoop Face* 4c S. Hobbs 30/11/22

Gain the scoop and pad up to a mantle finish. An easy classic of the crag!

4 *No more Scares, Please!* 6a S. Hobbs 30/11/22

Technical climbing with holds on the face & rib on the left.

5 *Good Craic* 5b+ S. Hobbs 30/11/22

The steep line, using a variety of crack & face holds.

6 *Humpty Dumpty* 5b+ S. Hobbs 17/5/23

Start up *Good Craic*, then swing boldly right to finish up the high wall above the big rock. Serious.

Summit Rocks



The pyramid



This pyramidal boulder serves as a useful landmark and an easy introduction to this kind of rock.

Pyramid-Bag 4a S. Hobbs 30/11/22
Straight up the middle.

Gonna need the Teabag-Tongs Tonight 3 S. Hobbs 30/11/22
The easy, enjoyable right edge.

Broken Rocks



Seen at Stanage 5c

S. Hobbs 3/5/23

The high, blank wall via hands on the lovely rough left edge, feet on small pebbles, is a classic of the crag! Aim for the good flake-crack over the top.

Eastern Gully



Eastern Gully has a lot of rock. Whilst the many cracks give obvious lines, they are considered too close together to give quality bouldering. However one reasonable line is recorded on the far right.

Bye-bye, Beanie! 5b+

S. Hobbs 3/5/23

Start direct (avoiding the little groove up on the left), but then bear left at half-height to finish at the top crack.

A hard direct finish is an obvious challenge.



A attractive small, technical bulging wall up and right of the slab. Perfect rock.
A short route on the left gives:

1 *Mineral Value 4c*

S. Hobbs 30/11/22

The grade is given for the top-out. Curious sharp rock.

2 *Chimney Climb 6a*

S. Hobbs 3/5/23

Start at the obvious big flat pebble and pull up to a good hold just below the top. Don't fall in the wide crack below!

3 *The Serpent 5b*

S. Hobbs 30/11/22

Another obvious flathold to rock-over onto slabby ground.

Big Slab



The Quickening 3 S. Hobbs 30/11/22

The large area of slab gives enjoyable, easy soloing. Pad up the slab with good handholds. A calm approach is still needed where the angle steepens slightly near the top.

Tech wall



Above is a small wall to the left of the big slab.

1 Hidden Wall 5c S. Hobbs 30/11/22
Lovely technical climbing.

And on the lower level:

2 The 'big' Reveal 5c
S. Hobbs 7/12/22
Edge climbing leads to the good hold in the shallow groove, then easy climbing up the flake block for the high finish.

PROJECT - The back of the shallow scoop looks very hard.

3 Forcing the Lift Doors 4b
S. Hobbs 30/11/22
The line of the steep crack has some enjoyable opposition moves.

4 Little & Large 5b+
S. Hobbs 30/11/22
The wall to the right has a combination of both large and intricate holds, including the two pockets.

Western Gully Area



There's Gold in them thar Hills 5b+

S. Hobbs 30/11/22

Stretch for the good handhold, with feet on tiny pebbles.

The Pinnacle



Steady Eddie 4b S. Hobbs 30/11/22

The easy rib on the left has an awkward bulging finish.

Strange Scoop 5a S. Hobbs/P. Hobbs 7/12/22

Pulling into and climbing the insecure groove with use of the good left edge at this grade. Escape left to avoid the desperate direct top-out. Rather 'unsatisfactory'.

Western Gully Walls



1 *Velcro Wall* 5b S. Hobbs 7/12/22

The wall without use of the big crack on the right. Head for the top two sidepulls and a generous foothold that brings the grade right down for the otherwise sketchy pebble-pulling top-out!

2 *Titch* 5b+ S. Hobbs 30/11/22

A couple of nice moves up the short wall.

3 *Practise Route* 3c S. Hobbs 30/11/22

Gain the small ledge and step left to finish up the slabby rib.

4 *A Little Bit on the Side* 4c S. Hobbs 30/11/22

Up to the overlap and commit to the top wall.

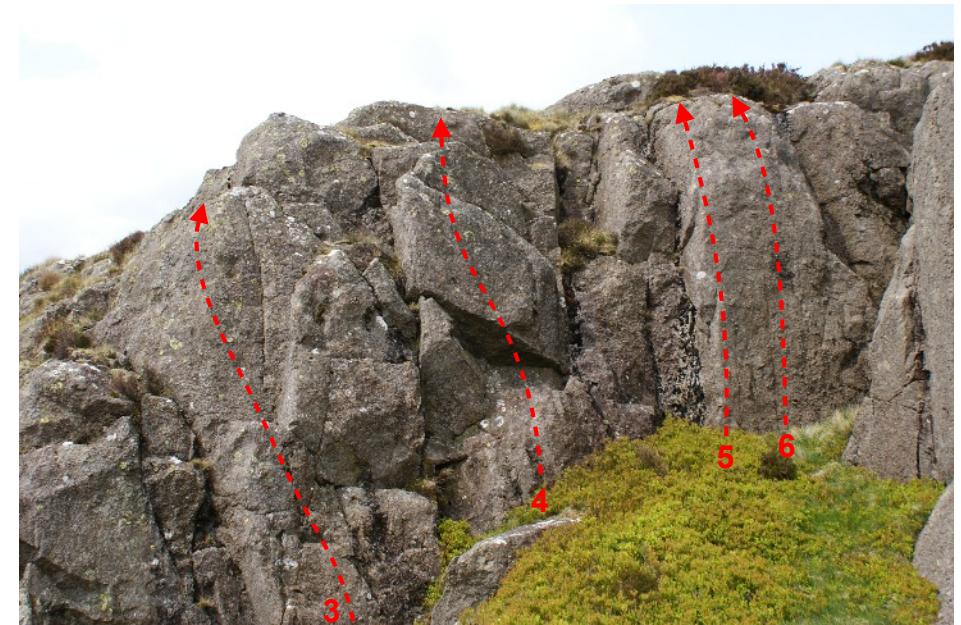
The slabby wall to the right gives two quality lines:

5 *I Only Boulder On Wednesdays* 6a S. Hobbs 30/11/22

Hands on the left arete only.

6 *And We Found What We Were Looking For* 6b S. Hobbs 30/11/22

Thinly up the wall. The jug on the top left is in.



King Wall



1 Rib & Wall 3 S. Hobbs 30/11/22

2 Servants' Staircase 2 S. Hobbs 30/11/22

3 Coronation Chicken 5b+ S. Hobbs 7/12/22
A lovely route that ventures onto the main face but uses the positive edge of the previous route. Thin for footholds in places.

4 King Wall 5c S. Hobbs 21/5/23
Good moves up the middle of the wall, without using the side edges. A hard pull-on on the right leads to the finger slot, good holds on the top-left and a committing heathery exit. Other good, hard variations on the start may be possible.

5 Alarmist Chunterings 5b+
S. Hobbs 21/5/23
Follow the right edge of the wall via the big flathold & good finger-slot in the horizontal break to a reasonable top-out.

6 The Pebbled Path 6a S. Hobbs 30/11/22
Thin climbing up the rib to the left of an embedded flake.

7 Last in Line 4c S. Hobbs 30/11/22
The wall to the right of the flake on good holds.



Paul Hobbs on *Coronation Chicken*, King Wall

Queen Wall



1 *Don't Tell the King* 6b

S. Hobbs 30/11/22

Following the shallow diagonal ramp, using nothing on the left at this grade. A perfect line.

2 *Line of Succession* 4a

S. Hobbs 30/11/22

Straight up the wall on good holds.

3 *All Fingers & Thumbs* 5b

S. Hobbs 30/11/22

Step out left above the ramp.

4 *First Snow* 5c

S. Hobbs 7/12/22

Directly up the middle of the wall gives high & classy climbing. The edge of the groove on the top-right can be used if strength is failing!

5 *Queen Wall* 5c

S. Hobbs 21/5/23

Start up the faint rib to the jug at half-height, use a couple of holds on the left to reach good holds at the top and finish direct. The purest line up the rib deserves to be climbed at about 6c for the short.

6 *Winter Pullover* 6b

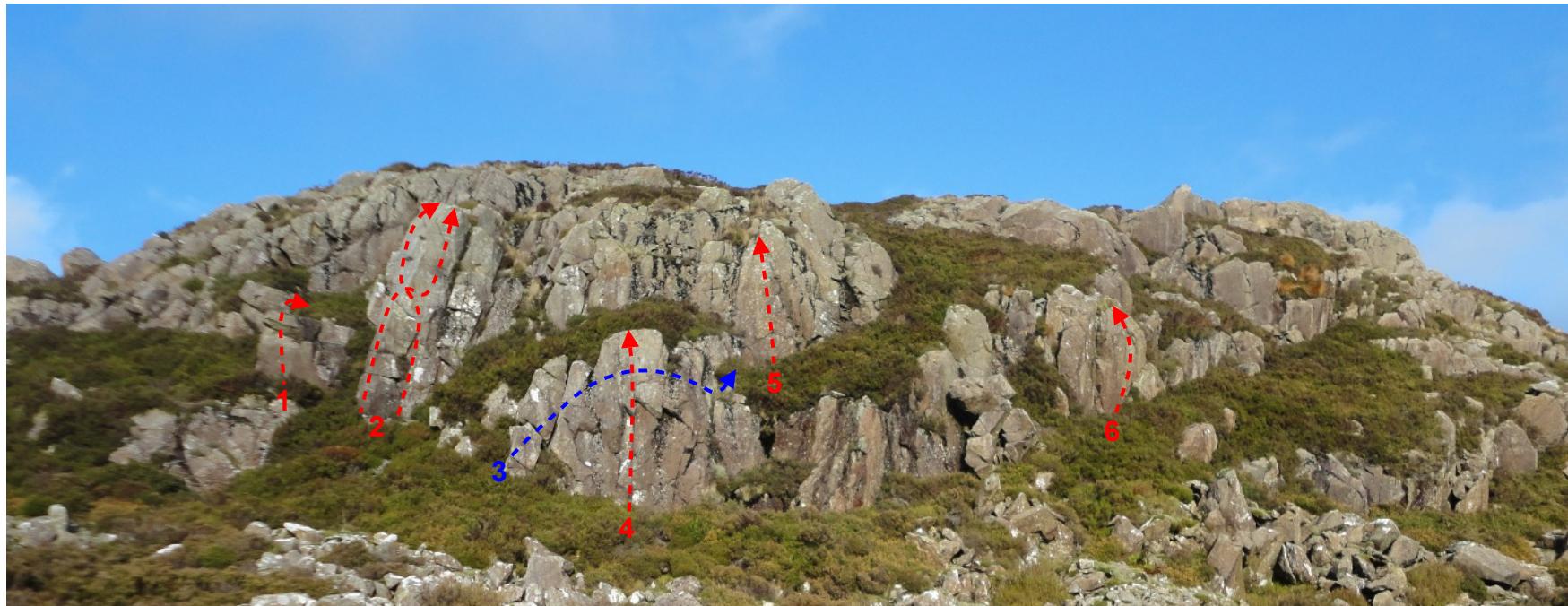
S. Hobbs 7/12/22

Pad up the optional ramp to the short technical wall, standing on tiny holds to go for the top. Hard to protect.



Steve Hobbs on *All Fingers & Thumbs*, Queen Wall

Plateau Area



1 Pancake 4c S. Hobbs 21/5/23

A fun pull over the tiny overhang. The top is 'as flat as a...'

2 Flower Power 4b/5a S. Hobbs 21/5/23

There are two 'interchangeable' solo-lines on the high tower. Gain the half-height ledge either by the pleasant slab on the left (Y. Borel, 21/5/23) or more steeply up the cracks further right. Then either take the smoother rock on the left at 4b or seriously up the front face at 5a.

3 The Bear 3c Y. Borel 21/5/23

Start at the bottom left of the rock and traverse easily & airily across the obvious break at two-thirds height.

4 M is for 'Mind the Heather' 4a S. Hobbs 21/5/23

Start below the obvious M-shape and climb the tall wall direct to a 'traditional' finish. Be careful - the right half of the 'M' is formed by a loose block!

5 Oberland 4a Y. Borel 21/5/23

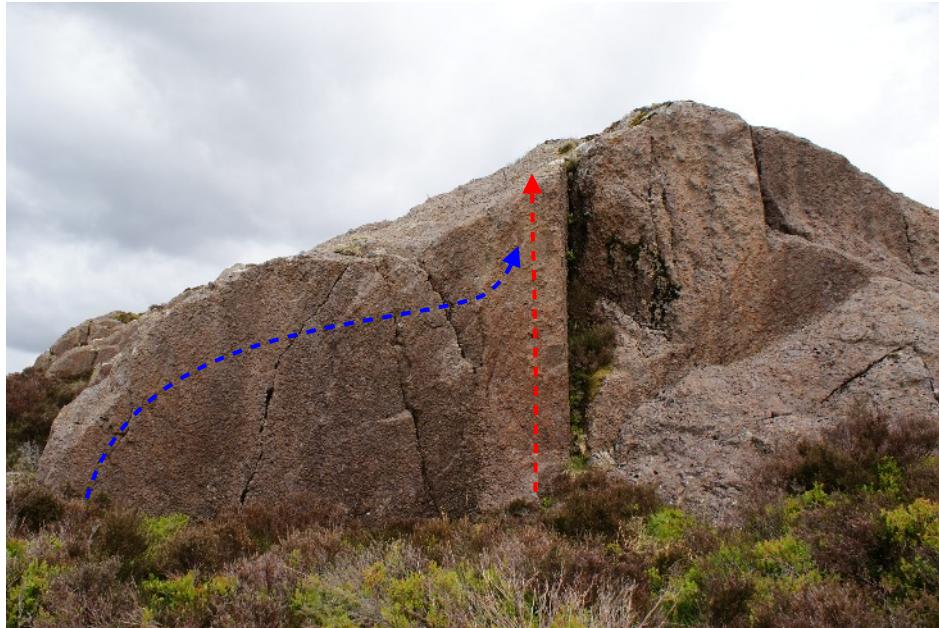
Steadily up the next level on good holds, above a slopey heather base.

6 Getaway Driver 5c S. Hobbs 21/5/23

Pull onto the slightly leaning wall from sitting, with generous holds on the edges and top.

Three Orange Triangles

Three short, attractive triangular walls of perfect rock mark the limit of the climbing area and give a handful of nice lines.



The lowest of the walls gives two quality little lines:

Sleeping Beauty 4c Y. Borel 21/5/23

Climb the obvious arete on its left-hand side.

Done from sitting at 5b (S. Hobbs 21/5/23).

Yona Likes Gardening 5b+ S. Hobbs 21/5/23

Traverse the top edge with barely any footholds, to finish up *Sleeping Beauty*.

The top wall has another two good, compact lines:

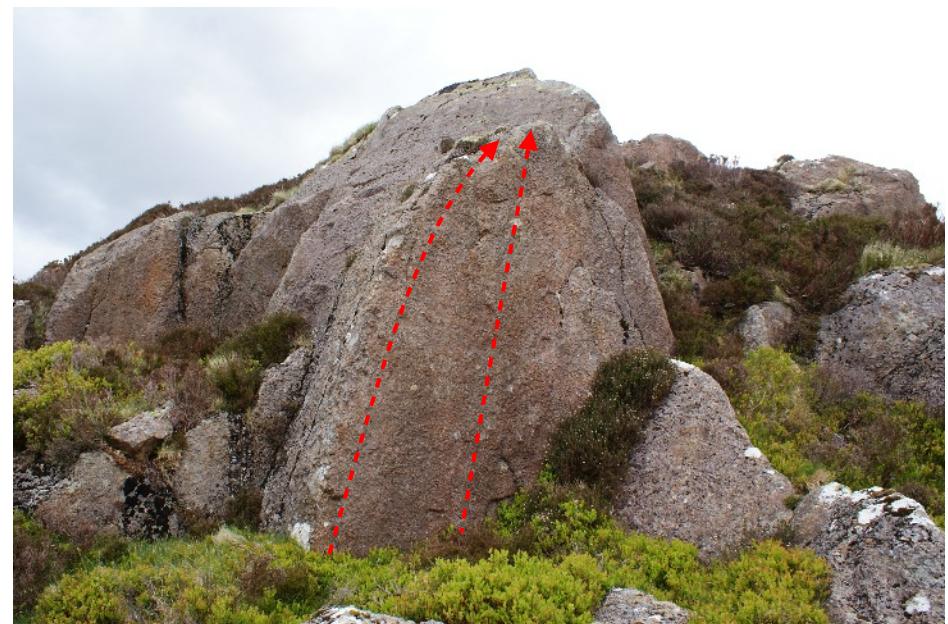
Arete of Doom - Just Kidding! 5b P. Hobbs 21/5/23

The curving arete on its right-hand side is actually very pleasant!

Fantastic Floor Space 5c S. Hobbs 21/5/23

Straight up the middle via the obvious good handhold.

Just above the triangular wall is a small slab. Part of its base is steeper and topped by a tiny, flat ledge. If facing left, this gives an easy, fun problem, named **Pete Mantleshelf** (P. Hobbs 21/5/23)





Yona Borel on *Sleeping Beauty*



The middle of the three small walls yields three worthwhile lines:

Cuckoo Wall 5b P. Hobbs 21/5/23

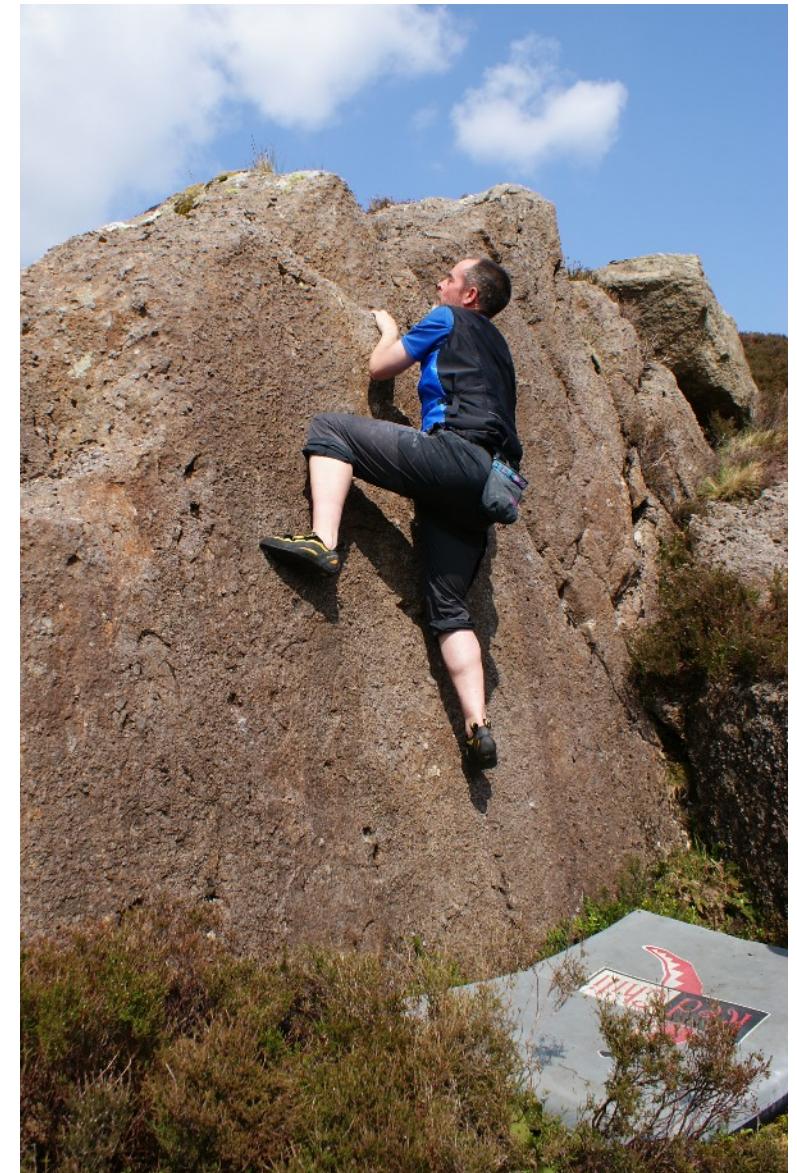
Good climbing up the short wall using the flake feature and small footholds throughout.

Gash Dash 5a P. Hobbs 21/5/23

Following the line of the diagonal crack feels rather out-of - balance.

Sunny Delight 5a S. Hobbs 21/5/23

Crossing the crack and heading directly up the last bit of rock gives better climbing than it looks.



Paul Hobbs on *Cuckoo Wall*