



Seathwaite Buttress

(229 964)
Alt 150m
South Facing

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This is the small compact buttress, situated 500 metres north of Seathwaite Church from where it is seen rising enticingly above the trees. The approach is by a footpath leading from the church to Wallowbarrow Farm – abandoned just after crossing the beck for another path which strikes rightwards to easy slopes leading to the foot of the buttress. Easily accessible, the routes are popular and offer pleasant climbing on sound rock.

The climbs are described from left to right. Descent is to the left.

Practice Slabs

Round to the left of the main crag is a 10 metre high outcrop of clean rock with an obvious well-trodden base, particularly suitable for beginners. On the extreme left is a rounded rib with a crack snaking up it High Fibre (VS (4c), 1986). Right of this again is a wall crossed at 5 metres by a wide ledge and giving two routes both (4b). Right once more is a shorter, cleaner slab with two distinct lines at Very Difficult/Severe. The first main route, Cereal Killer, lies further right, on the main buttress.

Cereal Killer 27 m MVS 1990

Good open climbing up the noticeable rib high on the left side of the crag. Start just right of a large oak which roots itself near the base of the crag, just where the path meets the crag.

(4b). Climb past the tree, also passing a holly on a higher ledge and then follow a pair of twin cracks. At the overlap above, a short traverse left leads to the arête. Climb the left side of this to a headwall and a long reach.

* Snap 30 m D 1956

Distinctly pleasant climbing via the obvious crack and chimney to the right of Cereal Killer. Perfect for novices.

1 25 m. Follow Cereal Killer to the overlap, then move right along a flake and into a wide crack/chimney directly above the holly. Up this to belay at the top of the flat-topped pinnacle.

2 5 m. Step up and right onto a higher ledge and climb the short wall to the top.

* Alpen 29 m VS 1979

Makes use of earlier variations to give a worthwhile pitch up the edge of the prominent arête of the buttress – a fine climb indeed. Begin right of Cereal Killer at the right-hand of a pair of twin cracks, at a shallow corner.

1 24 m (4c). Climb the crack to the ledge on the left. Step boldly to the right and gain the edge. Follow this directly, and airily, to the top of the pinnacle.

2 5 m. Step left and pull into the obvious scoop which leads to the top.

** Crackle 33 m S 1956

An excellent route with nice moves and situations that climbs to the left of the main prow of the crag. Start by a holly at the base of the arête.

1 18 m. Climb the groove behind the holly to below the overhang and then move left on to the arête. Swing round the arête and climb to the small rock stance (crux). Follow ledges to the left and climb a wide, sloping crack (Snap) to a chimney which provides a belay.

2 10 m. Traverse back right across the slab to the arête and follow it to the top of the pinnacle.

3 5 m. Step left and pull into the scoop (Alpen) which leads to the top.

Variation Happy Jack VS

(4c). Climb the slab adjacent to the arête direct from the small rock stance on pitch 1.

*** Seathwaite Buttress Direct 26 m HVS 1956**

A fine steep pitch, starting as for Crackle.

1 21 m (5a). The groove in the arête behind the holly tree is followed to its top, then vacated leftwards. Climb the arête to the top of the pinnacle.

2 5 m. Step left and pull into the scoop above.

One Step Beyond 25 m E2 1987

An eliminate, starting on the right-hand side of the main buttress by a small cave below an overhung corner, above and right of Crackle.

1 20 m (5c). Climb the off-width crack above to reach a diagonal crack on the left wall. Follow this to the rib, which is climbed as direct as possible to the top of the pinnacle.

2 5 m. Step left into the scoop to gain the top.

Pop 24 m HS 1956

The steep off-width crack with a strenuous start, shared by One Step Beyond. Good.

1 10 m. Climb the crack to a small ledge and belay above the steep section.

2 14 m. Follow the crack and chimney, more easily, to the top of the pinnacle.

Continue to the top.

Ant 30 m S 1969

Aptly-named and unlikely to become popular, this route begins well round to the right of the crag, some 5 metres left of a stone wall.

1 14 m. Follow the centre of the mossy slab to a long, overgrown ledge. Belay to the left.

2 10 m. Climb a groove above the right-hand end of the ledge for two metres, then traverse diagonally right to a ledge and belays on the edge.

3 6 m. Step right onto the block and move diagonally right on good holds. A short slab above prolongs the climb.

A series of vile little climbs continue towards the right. First is **Mossy Corner** (20 m, S, 1959), a foul route taking the corner line right of Ant which passes through trees at the top; next being **Anteater** (22 m, VS, 1990) which start on top of the dry-stone wall and climbs directly above via the wall and arête right of Ant; finally **Shattered Chimney** (25 m, 1959) which still exists by some miracle of nature to the right of the last climb. The name says it all.

A wandering Girdle has been made at HS.