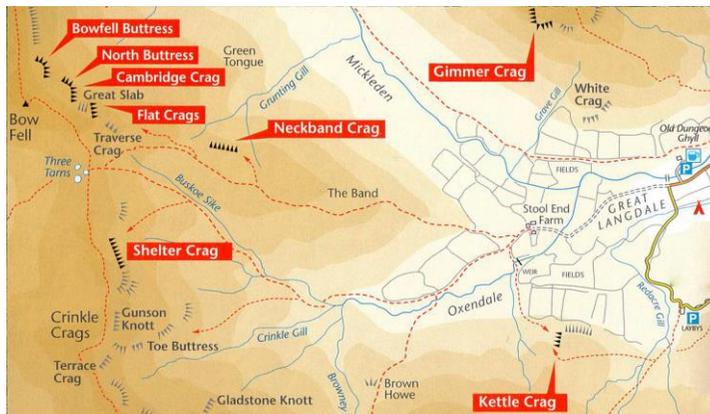
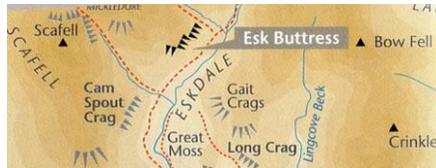
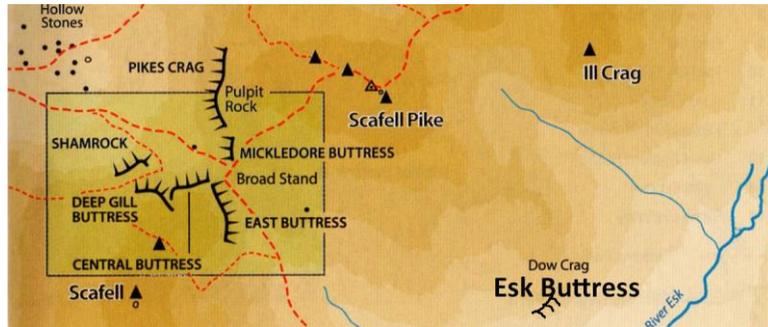


Dolphin Day: crag location maps

These are not a substitute for a “proper” map and the skill to use it!



Warning

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Lakeland Revival 2017



A day out with Dolphin

Arthur Dolphin burst onto the climbing scene at the end of the 1940s and was involved in the first ascent of many classic hard routes. Sadly he was killed on the Dent du Géant in the Alps in 1953; who knows what he would have achieved had he not lost his life at such an early age? The following four routes give 80% of a clear indication of his skill and daring. What happened to the other 20%? In 1997 the classic (and Hard Rock tick) *Deer Bield Buttress* (E1 5b) collapsed; the only positive to come out of this disaster is that your legs are saved the additional walking from Gimmer to Fasedale.

Logistics

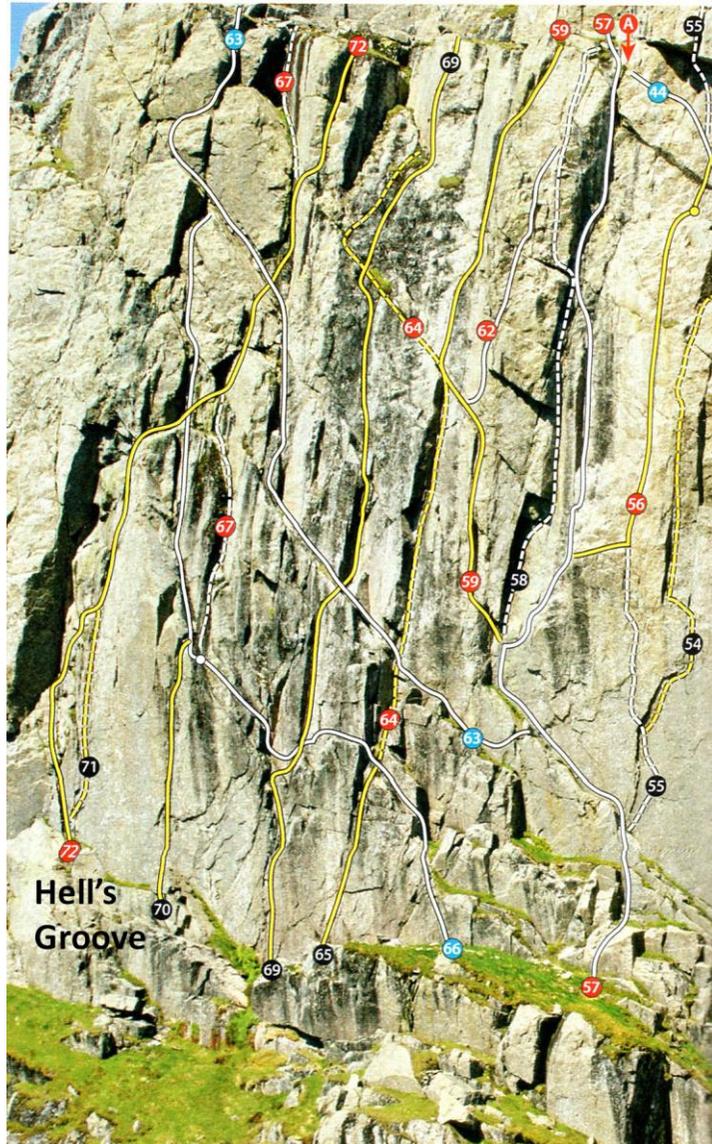
It is best if the team can be dropped off at the start and collected from the end – thus saving the need to return to collect a car. It is great to start with a bivouac, next to a spring on the Eskdale side of Mickledore, with a view of East Buttress in the early morning sunshine.

Start from one of the Wasdale Head car parks, either beside campsite (NY 182 075) or nearer the hotel (NY 187 085). Follow the Scafell Pike path but continue over Mickledore and down to the bivi site. Other starting points are available e.g. from near Cockley Beck (NY 243 177) by Mosedale, up Eskdale from the base of Hardknott pass (NY 212 012)

After Hell's Groove return to the bivi site then descend the stream of Cam Spout, passing waterfalls and into Eskdale; head left (NE), Esk Buttress and Trespasser Groove are soon visible on the left.

Next stop Bowfell. If you are familiar with this part of the lakes you can probably follow a shorter route, however the following is much easier to follow if a bit longer. Walk up Eskdale to Esk Hause (NY 232 081) then follow the path over Esk Pike (NY 237 075) through Ore Gap (NY 240 072) to Bowfell (NY 245 065). *Sword of Damocles* lies NE of the summit and can be reached either by descending by The Great Slab or the scree to the left of *Bowfell Buttress*.

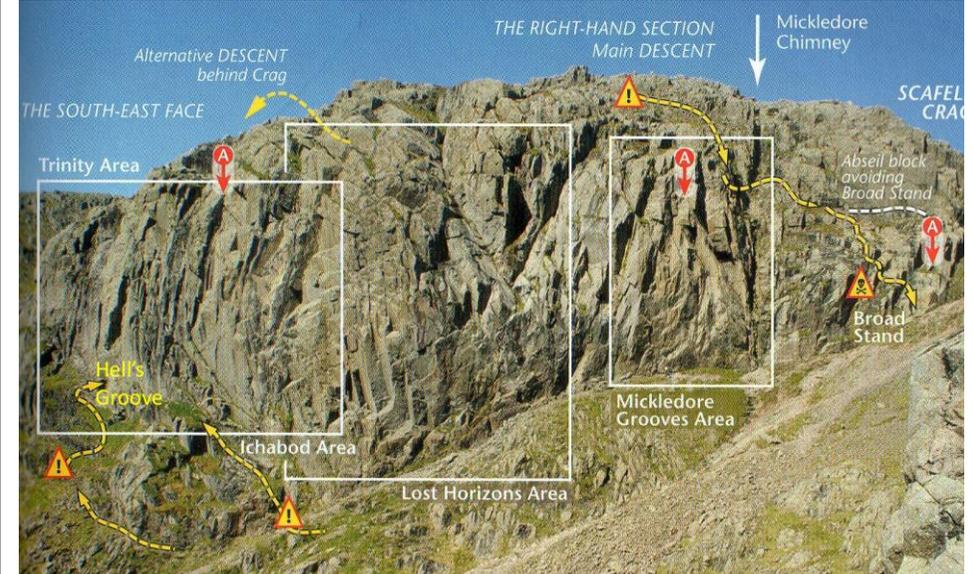
Getting to Gimmer – sorry legs, there is no easy way, descend into Mickleden and then flog up the unrelenting hillside to the foot of the crag.



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SCAFELL: THE EAST BUTTRESS, NY 215 067, E FACING



72 Hell's Groove **68m** **E1 5b *****

P Greenwood, AR Dolphin - May 1952

A superb climb of great character. Starts on the left side of the crag, see photo-diagrams, care needed on the easy scrambling.

- 1 8m 5b** The problematic crack leads to a belay in the groove.
- 2 22m 5a** From the sloping ledge in the groove climb right into a crack and ascend to another sloping ledge. Continue to a further ledge with a block at its right-hand edge. A short wall and crack lead to the belay
- 3 12m 4b** Climb a crack in the wall to the right of the overhang to ledges. Continue directly into an amphitheatre and belay below a prominent green crack.
- 4 20 m 5a** Climb the overhanging crack above and continue to a small cave. Climb straight over the roof of this to the top. If this pitch is dank an easier (4a) option is: Climb to the top of a slab on the left, then traverse back right on a block to an easy finishing chimney.

Descent

Marked on the overview photo-diagram. If you use the right side descent it is much better (i.e. safer) to use the abseil to avoid the steep, award and shiny corner of Broad Stand.

ESKDALE: ESK BUTTRESS (Dow Crag on maps), NY 223 065 SE FACING

**19 Trespasser Groove 121m HVS 5a *****

AR Dolphin, D Hopkins - Sep 1952

A deservedly popular route which offers thuggy well protected climbing in the deep corner which bounds the superb Central Pillar on its right.

1 30m Climb clean slabs to finish onto heather on the right.

2 20m Make for the foot of the main corner.

3 27m 4c Ascend a slab then move left to climb the main corner to a tiny ledge and spike belay.

4 10m 5a Climb onto a ledge on the right wall of the corner; continue up a thin crack in the wall above to a large flake. Move up right to a good ledge.

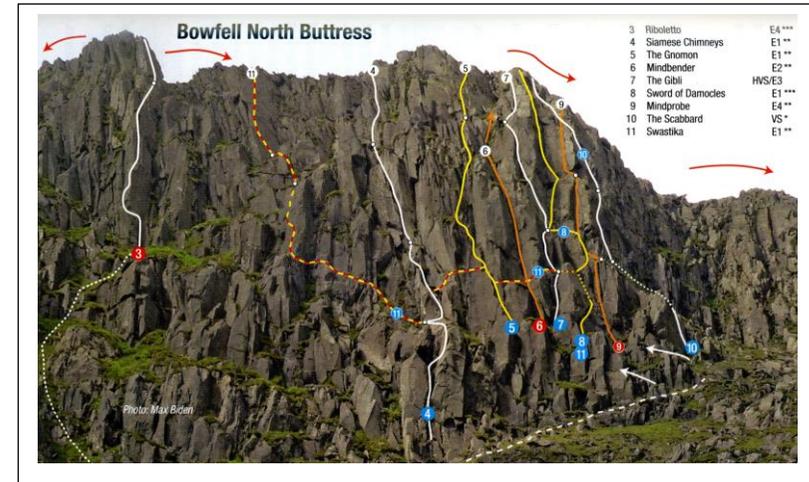
5 10m 5a A corner on the left is followed to an overhang; pull awkwardly up to the right and step across rightwards to better holds. Climb directly to *the Waiting Room*. (As the leader grapples with the next pitch you may understand why the belay is in *the Waiting Room*!)

6 24m 5a *Frankland's Crack* leads with difficulty onto a slab; finish up a steep crack out of the top left hand corner.

Descent

Head back from the cliff top the following indistinct path down left (facing in) until a short wall can be descended to a small stream and easy ground.

BOWFELL: NORTH BUTTRESS, NE NY 246 066, E FACING

**8 Sword of Damocles**

56m

E1 5b ***

PR Greenwood, AR Dolphin, D Hopkin - Aug 1952

A classic route which climbs the right-hand and largest of three grooves. The *Sword*, a wedged rock spike which gave the climb its name, has long since gone. Start from the ledge below the groove beneath a prominent, overhung curved crack, actually the base of a huge pinnacle.

1 23m 4c Climb the crack to enter the groove on the right. Move up easily to the foot of a groove behind the pinnacle. Go up the groove until a long stride right can be made to gain a ledge on the edge of the buttress; move up a little until a dramatic semi-hand traverse can be made leftwards across the groove to a stance on the left wall.

2 15m 5b Climb the groove (where the *Sword* was) passing to the left of an awkward bulging nose. Move right above this to a small stance, or continue:

3 18m 5a Climb the steep impressive flake crack to a resting place; continue up the crack, until a move right leads to easier climbing and the top.

Descent

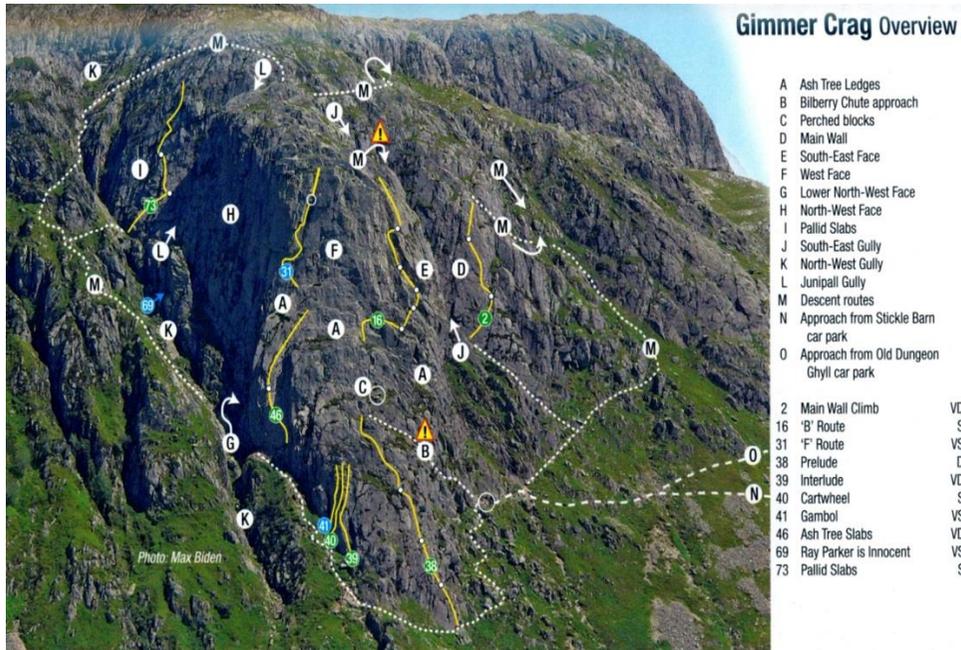
Either to the left or the right shown on the topo.

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GIMMER CRAG, NY 277 070, S FACING

This is a complex and popular crag, accessing the routes often involves some exposed scrambling, hence this more detailed information. The descent gullies are very steep and quite intimidating. Many people abseil down the front face of the crag from a chain abseil station situated above the middle of the face.



Our final route starts from the Ash Tree Ledges (which are devoid of trees). These are marked **A** on the overview photo diagram and can be reached either by a scramble up easy ledges, marked **B** – this needs care, there is a large and unforgiving drop below you.

All you need to do now is not miss last orders in the ODG, Stickle Barn or New DG!

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37 Kipling Groove

52 m

HVS 5a ***

AR Dolphin, JB Lockwood - May 1948

A magnificent and popular classic taking a steep, impressive, and 'Rudyard' line up the steep front face of the buttress. Start from the left end of *Ash Tree Ledges* almost directly below a superb corner crack (F Route, VS 4c ***)

1 10m Scramble up easily to a ledge below the overhangs.

2 11m 4c The much photographed undercling pitch. Move up to and traverse left beneath the roof to a crack which leads to an overhung recess. Care is required to avoid the rope snagging in the crack at the left end of the undercling.

3 31m 5a Climb the right wall of the recess past a dubious block to the overhang, step right onto the edge and follow a crack to a good resting place beneath the bulge. Pull up and across strenuously rightwards to reach a diagonal crack (crux) and continue to a horizontal crack. Traverse this right to a small ledge and ascend a crack to easier ground and the top. Brilliant.

