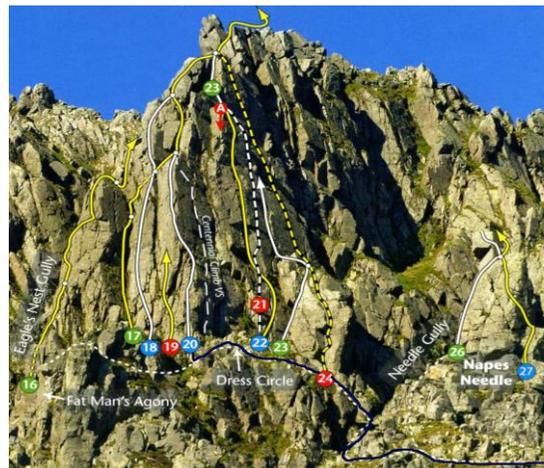


**Some History:** Climbed on a cold April day in 1892 this was a quantum leap forward in difficulty and style. Unlike most climbs of the times, *Eagle's Nest Ridge Direct* tackles an open and frighteningly exposed rib lacking significant ledges. Godfrey Solly led the route, *on-sight and* wearing nailed boots, there was no protection. At one point his second had climb up to just below him so he could overcome a difficult section by climbing onto their shoulders! They were reluctant to write the route up but eventually decided to record it with the warning that no one should attempt it without prior inspection.



**Think:** What would they have achieved if they had the use of modern ropes and protection?

**20 Eagle's Nest Ridge Direct** **110m** **MVS 4a** **\*\*\***

GA Solly, WC Slingsby, GP Baker, WA Brigg –Apr 15 1892  
P2-4 GA Solly, M Schintz - Apr 1892

The ascent of the blunt arête overlooking the Dress Circle was an amazing achievement for 1892.

**1 45m 4a** From directly below the arête steep climbing rightwards on good holds leads to a ledge. Gain the arête up on the left using two parallel cracks, climb it past the Eagle's Nest, Crow's Nest and a bold slab to a good ledge. Belay in the corner.

Either abseil off or, better, finish up *Eagle's Nest Ridge Ordinary* (D).

**2 12m** The awkward chimney above is followed by the ridge on the left.

**3 18m** A chimney on the left is followed by scrambling up broken rocks to the foot of a tower.

**4 35m** Pull up the short steep crack to an exposed rock ledge and move right into the boulder-choked chimney. Follow the scratches and scramble along the ridge.

At the end of the ridge there are three options,

- descend Great Hell Gate to re-join the Climbers Path leading back to Styhead,
- to return to Wasdale descend Little Hell Gate and follow the track down to the steep spur called Gavel Neese – after descending this you may feel like you have Gavel Neese!
- for a mountain day continue to the summit and a choice of descents

**Warning**

You climb at your own risk. You are the sole judge of conditions, the suitability of any chosen route, the ability of the party and you take sole responsibility for your actions. Climbing is a dangerous activity carrying the risk of serious injury or death. If you climb the presumption is that you are aware of and accept these risks together with responsibility for your activities and your safety. There can be no presumption that any given climb will be found in the condition described. It is therefore essential that climbers judge the seriousness or difficulty of any route before committing themselves. While every effort is made to present accurate information, the information provided on this route card is compiled from a number of sources, it may contain errors and so should not be relied upon. Neither the FRCC, Arc'teryx nor anyone involved with the production of this card can be held responsible for any omissions or mistakes, nor liable for any personal or third party injuries or damage, howsoever caused, arising from its use. **Copyright FRCC, may not be reproduced without prior permission**



**Lakeland Revival 2017**



**Trevor's pick of the week. Walking in the footsteps of giants.**

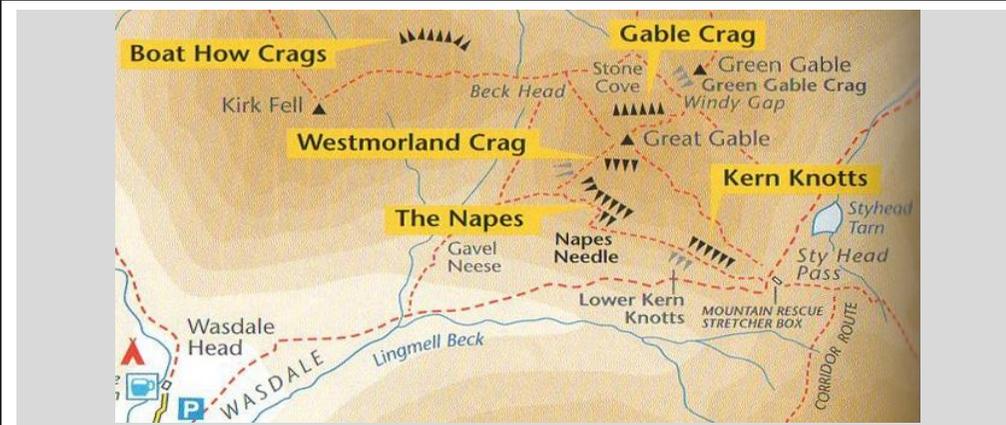
**A great day on Great Gable**

**Introduction:** A cracking combination of sunny routes at the birthplace of English rock climbing; these were cutting edge when first climbed and to this day, demand respect.

**Navigation:** Good route finding or prior knowledge of the crags is needed to maximise the pleasure from this selection of climbs which are accessed from the Climber's Path which cuts across the SW flank of Great Gable from Styhead Pass (NY 218 094) towards Beck Head (NY 205 107 – un-named on OS 1:50,000 maps).

Styhead Pass can be reached from Wasdale Head or Seathwaite in Borrowdale in just over an hour. From the pass a short walk leads to Kern Knotts (NY 215 096), it would be a shame to miss *Innominate Crack, VS 4b*. The Climbers' Path now climbs steadily across the SW slopes of Great Gable to an awe inspiring wall rising above a large red scree shoot (Great Hell Gate). This is *Tophet Wall, HS* (NY 212 098)

Beyond Great Hell Gate the Climber's Path joins the lower part of *Needle Gully*. Up this, past a chockstone, until a scramble out left leads to the Dress Circle (ledges below a steep wall from which you see the classic view of Napes Needle). An impressive arête rises from the left side of the Dress Circle; this is *Eagle's Nest Ridge Direct MVS 4a* (NY 210 099).



**5 Innominate Crack 20m VS 4b \*\*\***

CS Bower, B Beetham, JB Wilton – 9 Apr 1921

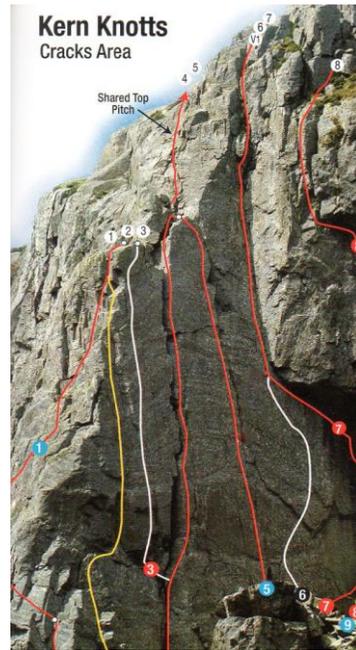
*"Rubbers and strong fingers essential"*

(H S Gross author of the 1925 Great Gable guide)

The thinner right hand crack gives a superb and varied climb which is more cooperative than its neighbour on the left. Either finish up the polished slab above or abseil off.

The left hand crack is *Kern Knotts Crack* first climbed in 1897 (24 years before *Innominate Crack*) by OG Jones and graded S, subsequently it has climbed up the grades and most was recently upgraded to HVS!

If you have time why not get up close and personal with Kern Knotts Crack? This route was probably the first to be subject to detailed inspection, including top roping, prior to its first ascent – how modern. Just remember not to hide in the depths of the crack in the hope that the difficulties will go away.



**10 Tophet Wall 75m HS \*\*\***

Simply magnificent - it has few peers - unequivocally the greatest mountain route of its grade in the Lake District.

HM Kelly, REW Pritchard - Jul 1923

**1 20m** Climb the wall just right of the steep crack until a step left can be made into the crack which is followed to a ledge. An ascending traverse right to a good ledge at the foot of a short dark wall

**2 17m** The short and bold wall to a broken ledge. Traverse left and climb a groove to a slab, spike belay on the right.

**3 38m** A fantastic pitch! Semi hand-traverse 10m right in a sensational position to a crack and climb it to a small ledge then follow the crack up rightwards. Climb the small pinnacle on the right, step left into the crack which is followed to a thrilling pull out right onto a flake. Easier climbing up the wall leads to a belay at the start of the scramble descent to Hell's Gate Screens. This is known as Back Stair Case Descent and requires care.

**Some History.** Tophet Wall is home to routes of all grades from HS to E9, amazingly the original route found a steady way through terrain taken by mid to high E grade routes. Harry Kelly was a prolific explorer in the years after The First World War; his legacy is a collection of magnificent routes (up to HVS 5b), of which Tophet Wall is only one; check some of the others out. Initially he missed out the first pitch by traversing in from the right along easy ledges. The direct start was then attempted without success.

A couple of years later another team were busy discussing the feasibility of the direct start when, to their surprise/amazement, as they talked Maurice de Selincourt set off and soloed it! Action speaks louder than words.



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