



Stonestar Crag

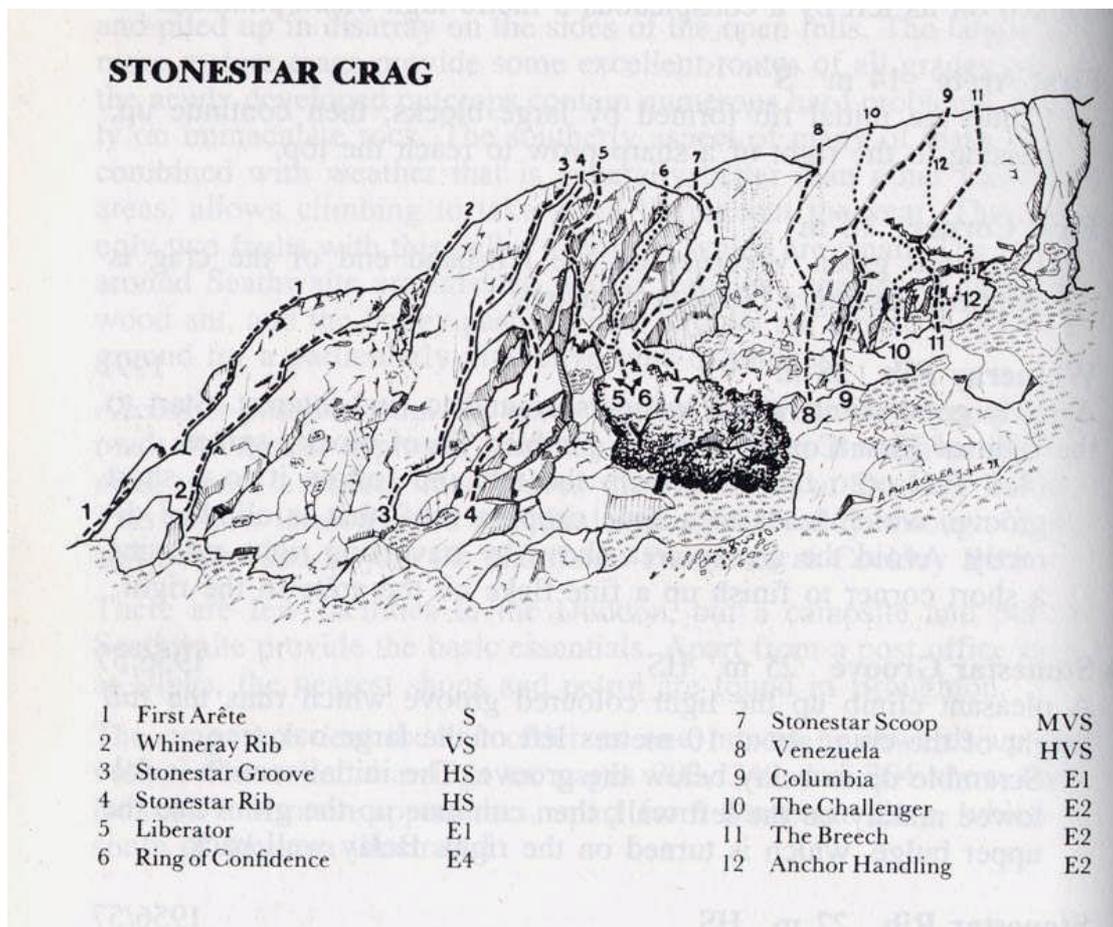
(203 907)
Alt 150m
South Facing

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This is the first large crag to be seen about 3 kilometres north of the Duddon Bridge turn-off when driving up the valley and is marked as Raven's Crag on O.S. maps. Not to be confused with Stonestar which is shown a half kilometre further north. An excellent crag for a half day or an evening's climbing. The routes, although short, are of good quality and dry quickly after rain, although some moisture is retained in the lichenous areas.

Park in a small quarry, 400 metres past the cattle grid directly below the crag. Approach directly up the open fellside, keeping to the right of the scree. (5 minutes).

The climbs are described from left to right, and the best descent is to the left.



On the extreme left-hand side of the crag the first route is a short rib flanked on its left by a conspicuous 3 metre high block/pinnacle.

First Arête 14 m S

Climb the initial rib formed by large blocks, then continue up, passing to the right of a sharp prow to reach the top.

First Corner 18 m S

The large green V-corner on the left-hand end of the crag is climbed, passing a block at 4 metres.

Whineray Rib 28 m VS 1991

A fairly good climb which wanders around to find interest. Start to the right of First Corner, above a jumbled rib of blocky spikes.

(4c). Pull onto the arête from the left and follow it to a short groove, which leads to a little capping roof, that is climbed directly. Avoid the grassy area above by traversing right, crossing a short corner to finish up a fine flake on the arête to the right.

* **Stonestar Groove** 25 m HS 1956/57

A pleasant climb up the light coloured groove which runs the full height of the crag, about 10 metres left of the large oak tree.

Scramble up to belay below the groove. The initial section is followed mainly on the left wall, then continue up the groove to the upper bulge, which is turned on the right. Belay well back.

Stonestar Rib 22 m HS 1956/57

Pleasant open climbing which suffers from suspect rock in places.

The rib of large flakes to the right of the groove is followed direct, after ascending a large pinnacle to start.

Liberator 18 m E1 1989

A steep route with some loose rock. Start directly above the oak tree.

(5b). Climb lichenous rock to below a scoop (Stonestar Scoop). Step left and pull strenuously into a niche (peg), then continue directly to another peg by the left arête (junction with Stonestar Rib). Finish by moving right beneath the top bulge.

Ring of Confidence 20 m E4 1989

A committing route which follows the flakeline in the steep lime-green wall. Start as for Liberator.

(6a). Up Liberator to gain a good hold at the foot of the flake at 10 metres. Follow this slightly rightwards to a hollow block (gear available out to the right), then stretch up left to an undercut, and go for the top!

Stonestar Scoop 22 m MVS 1960's

Directly behind the oak tree is a lichenous scoop taken by this route. The lack of protection can be worrying if the line is not perfectly dry.

(4a). Start slightly right of the scoop, up a clean slab, then step left below the overhang and climb the scoop until a move right can be made onto the clean rib. Up this to a steep finish, pulling out left at the top.

Double Entendre 20 m E2 1991

An eliminate line up the clean streak to the right of Stonestar Scoop.

(5c). Follow Stonestar Scoop to a good hold below a square-cut overhang. Pull directly over this using a tiny groove to land on the rib of Stonestar Scoop. Step left, and bridge up the scoop using a thin crack in the steep left wall to reach some doubtful blocks. Pull across left from here to the top.

The black clean wall on the right has several very good wall climbs. The most obvious feature is the overlap in the centre, crossed by The Breech. Left, and below this is another overhang, which caps two grooves. The left-most groove is flanked by a rounded grey rib. The next route starts on a grass terrace below this, about 9 metres above and right of the oak.

Venezuela 24 m HVS 1968

Pleasant open climbing, slightly lichenous in parts.

(5a). Climb the rounded rib, past a little nook to a block runner at 9 metres. Traverse the wall on the left using a thin crack to gain another crackline with some difficulty. Follow this diagonally rightwards to the top.

**** Columbia** 27 m E1 1981

A superb wall climb with good protection from small wires. Start just right of Venezuela at a light-coloured groove.

(5b). Climb the right-hand of the twin grooves to the overhangs (doubtful block) and step left onto the upper wall. Follow the thin diagonal crack rightwards past a series of delicate moves to finish more easily.

*** The Challenger** 30 m E2 1989

A fairly contrived line which provides delicate climbing on the wall to the left of the overlap. Scramble above a smooth sloping boulder, just left of The Breech.

(5c). Pull over a small overhang to stand in the diagonal slots above. Step delicately rightwards to a good crack below the main overlap, then using the overlap, continue diagonally leftwards to reach Columbia with difficulty. Cross this route, and take a direct line up the wall past a small flat topped flake to finish.

*** The Breech** 27 m E2 1981

A good strenuous route which crosses the obvious overlap, starting directly below its right-hand side.

(5c). Climb easy ground, then a steep crack to the right-hand side of the overlap. Pull over rightwards and move boldly up the diagonal crack until it eases, where a direct line is taken to the top.

Anchor Handling 27 m E2 1989

This route starts at the same point as The Breech, and takes a counter-diagonal line above the overlap.

(5c). Follow The Breech to a good slot below the lower overhangs at 3 metres, then go right past a sapling to reach good holds above the overhang. Stand up on the headwall then traverse left to gain the crack of The Breech, and continue leftwards, just above the overlap to gain a good hold. Climb directly to the top, finishing at the same point as Columbia.

* **Teenage Mutant Hero Girdles** 47 m E2 1990

A rising traverse that improves to give a very good finish.

(5c). Climb Stonestar Groove until a wide crack on the right leads round the rib and across the wall to join Stonestar Scoop. Step right into a thin crack and move up to a small spike, then continue across into the crack of Columbia. Traverse delicately below the overlap to reach the crack of The Breech, climb this to the top.

Fifteen metres right of The Breech is a low slabby rib, with a tree on its right-hand side.

Here Comes the Rain (Again) 20 m MVS 1991

(4b). Ascend the rib to a green wall below a band of low overhangs. Pull over these and climb the nose above.

The lower stretch of the Duddon Valley is littered with dozens of small outcrops which are often used for bouldering. The largest of these, found close to the road ½ kilometre north of Hall Dunnerdale, was christened '**The Duddon School of Bouldering**' by its pioneers in the early 1960's. The prominent central flake crack is a classic at (5b), but most of the problems here require top-roping due to the poor landing at the foot of the crag.