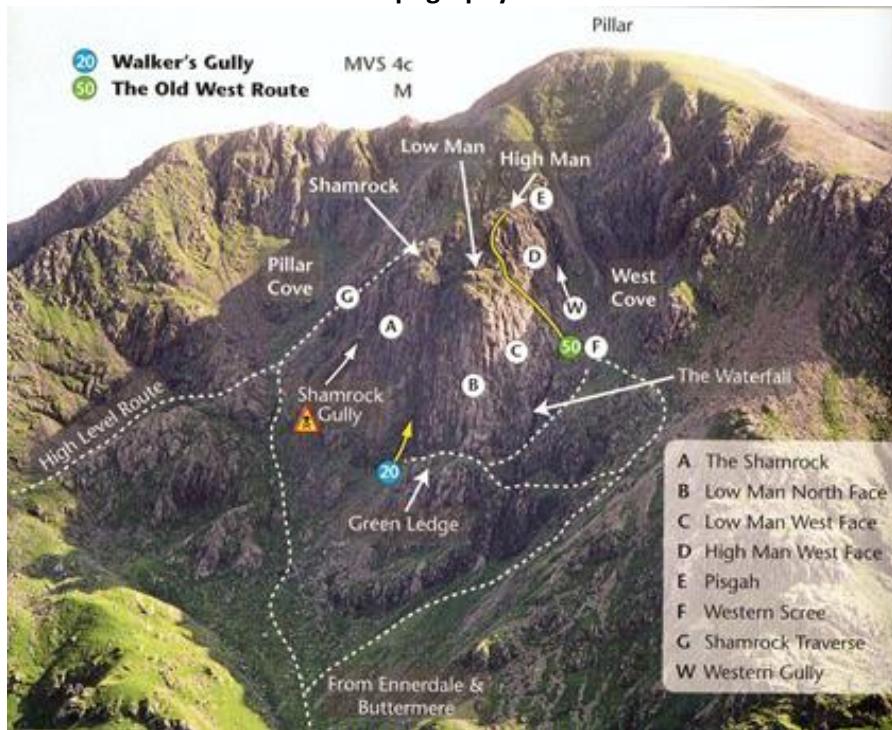


The overall topography of Pillar Rock



The usual point of arrival is below the *N Face* in the area of the deeply cut *Walker's Gully* (a classic *** MVS from 1899, if you like that sort of thing). To the left of this gully lies *Shamrock* – a large broken crag with some superb climbing between big ledges. To the right of the gully lies the *North Face*. A terrace called *Green Ledge* separates the *N Face* from the broken and vegetated rock below. The *N Face* climbs finish on the lower summit of *The Rock* (*Low Man*). The true summit (*High Man*) can be reached from *Low Man* by an easy scramble up the final section of *The Old West Route*. *High Man* is a true summit; the descent involves 50m of easy scrambling (or a 25m abseil for those with no sense of tradition) The *West Face* looks down Ennerdale and is split by an easy diagonal ramp line *The Old West Route*. The *West Face of Low Man* lies below and left of this ramp while the *West Face of High Man* lies above and to its right.

Warning: The terrain around the waterfall below the West Face of Low Man is treacherous and best avoided.

Warning

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Lakeland Revival 2017



Hidden Classics: North-West Climb & South-West Climbs, 217m MVS 4b *** Pillar Rock, Ennerdale

Introduction

Pillar Rock (NY 172 125) (*aka The Rock*) is a large, complex and remote mountain crag composed of superb rough rock and looking out over the wilds of upper Ennerdale. There is no easy or short approach, you will need to expend considerable energy just getting to the bottom of your route; in return you will be rewarded with superb climbing in a fabulous location. Good all round mountain skills are a pre-requisite for climbing here if you are to get to the crag, find your way around and up it and get off its top before nightfall. Don't forget your map, compass, sac you can climb with, comfy rock shoes and sandwiches; a day on Pillar is always full on!

Usual approaches

There are three usual approaches, up Ennerdale, from Wasdale or from Buttermere; all take at least 2 hours. It is assumed that you can use a map and compass!

1 Cycle (or walk) up Ennerdale from Bowness Knott car park (NY 109 153) (leave no valuables in the car) until you cross a bridge over the river in the valley bottom (at NY 176 132) almost directly below *The Rock*. A steep pull leads from the forest road to below the *N Face*. To access the *W Face* slog up the laborious scree slopes bounding the right side of *The Rock* until you can head left to the foot of the face.

2 From Gatesgarth Farm in Buttermere (NY 194 150) walk over Scarth Gap Pass (NY 189 133), descend diagonally right to reach the valley floor below *The Rock* and a junction with the Ennerdale approach.

3 From Wasdale Head (NY 186 088) follow the path to Black Sail Pass (NY 192 114), turn left and follow the Pillar fell path passing a small knoll (Looking Stead), just beyond this a small cairn on the right (NY 184 117) marks the start of the superb High level Route which contours across the hillside past a prominent cairn (Robinson's Cairn) to arrive below *The N Face* of *The Rock*.

Read topography notes at the back page of this booklet

Finding North-West Climb

The usual point of arrival is below the *N Face* in the area of the deeply cut *Walker's Gully* (a classic *** MVS from 1899, if you like that sort of thing).

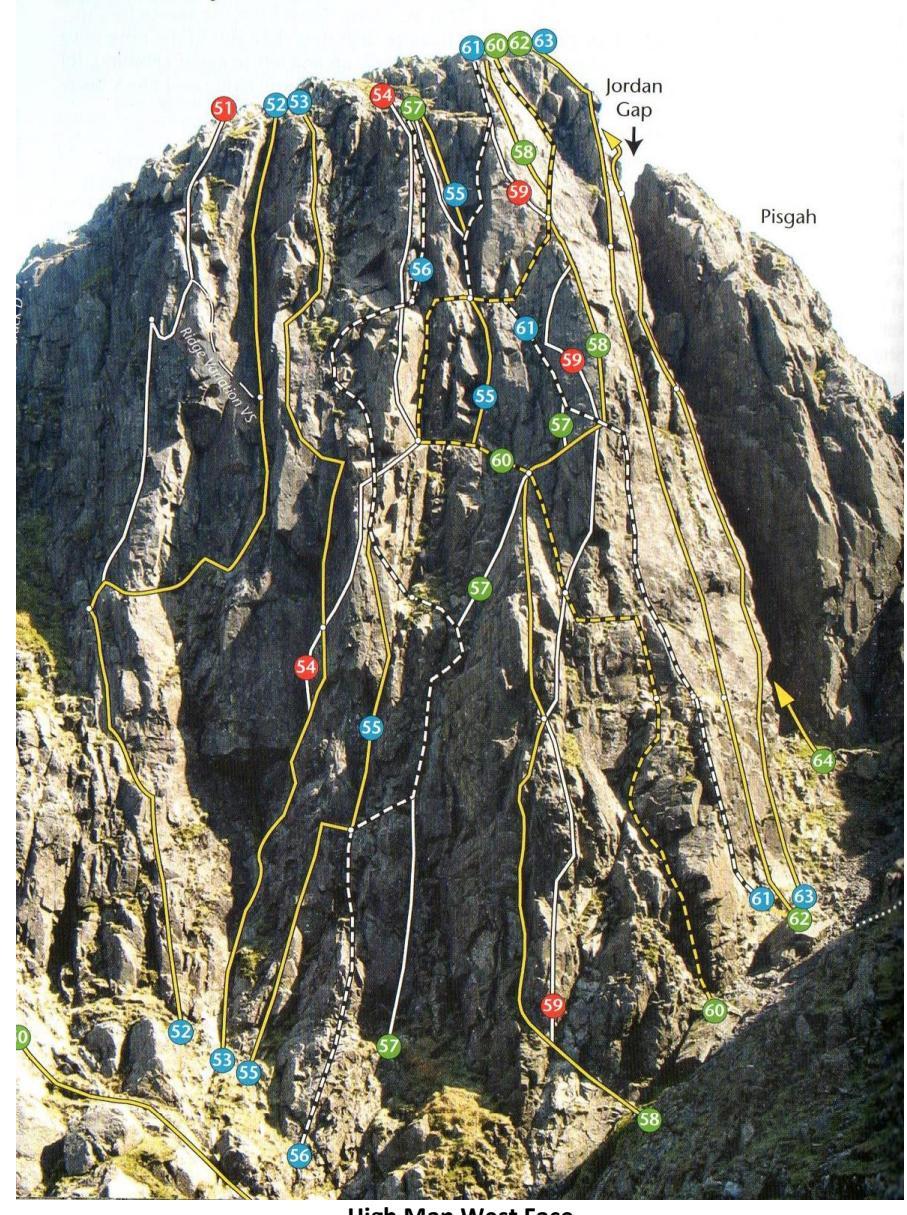
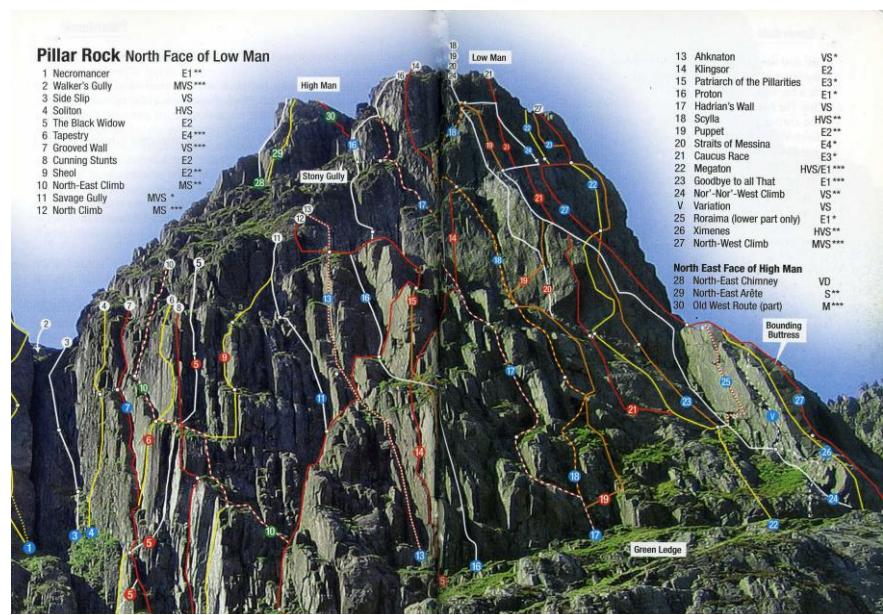
The start of ***NW Climb*** lies towards the right hand end of *Green Ledge*, a convenient terrace that separates the main crag from the broken and vegetated rock below. The climb finishes at the lower summit of *The Rock* (Low Man).

Getting to South - West Climb

From Low Man descend the easy and well-marked rake that descends across the West Face to reach the scree below the *W face of High Man*.

If necessary the upper summit (High Man) can be reached by an easy scramble up the final section of *The Old West Route*.

High Man is a true summit; the descent involves 50m of easy scrambling (or a 25m abseil for those with no sense of tradition).



High Man West Face

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34. North-West Climb**130m****MVS 4b*********

FW Botterill, L Oppenheimer, A Botterill, H Taylor - Jun 1906

An amazing achievement for 1906! A fine route, its upper pitches find a neat way through some impressive terrain. Start at the right-hand end of *Green Ledge*, at an obvious rightwards-slanting short gangway.

1 20m Climb the gangway to a ledge and follow a chimney for 10m to a slab. Avoid the continuation by a traverse left across the slab to belay at the foot of a much wider chimney.

2 36m 4a The wide chimney is taken direct to finish on a grassy slab in a corner. Up a short crack onto the crest of the buttress on the left and follow another crack up this until the angle eases at a Terrace. Cross rightwards for 9m to belay at the base of a smooth slab.

3 25m 4b The slab and a short grassy corner lead to a grassy ledge under a prominent steep V-groove. Traverse leftwards around a rib and climb up into the first of a series of three recesses. Carry on up into a second recess with a dubious pointed spike, a solid blunt spike, and a loose but threadable pebble in a short corner.

4 25m 4a *Lamb's Chimney*, quite bold. To the left of the undercut groove above are three vague grooves. To gain the first, traverse left to a nose and ascend it to Block Ledge. Climb the groove above and pull out left at its top. Stride immediately back right and go up to a belay below an impending crack.

5 24m 4b *Oppenheimer's Chimney* – Traverse rightwards under bulges and go up to the foot of another impending crack. After an awkward start it becomes more reasonable and easy scrambling then leads to the top of *Low Man*.

From here reverse the easy lower section of *The Old West Route* (Route 50 on topos) – the easy and well-marked scramble leading down to below the West face of High Man. *SW Climb* starts at the right side of this face.

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**Low Man North Face**

In case you missed the description of how to get from the top of *NW Climb* to the bottom of *SW Climb* it is repeated here.

From the top of Low Man reverse the easy lower section of *The Old West Route* (Route 50 on topos) – the easy and well-marked rake leading across and down the *West Face* to below the *West Face of High Man*. *SW Climb* starts at the right side of this face.

63. South-West Climb 75m MVS 4b ***

PI HR Pope, WB Brunskill - Sep 1911

P2 CF Holland RF Stobart, DE Pilley - Jul 1919

P3 HM Kelly, CF Holland, CC Crawford, NE Odell - Jul 1919

Another outstanding achievement from the early part of the 20th Century, this time from 1919. Delectable climbing on small but positive holds. The start at the extreme right side of the face and one metre left of the entrance to *West Jordan Gully*.

1. 35m 4b A short groove leads to a small ledge under a slab containing a deep-cut hold. Gain the hold from the left, move awkwardly right and continue up the slab to where it steepens. Pull up boldly on good holds which lead to a small ledge. Continue up the rib on the edge of the gully for another 10m to a good square ledge.
2. 22m 4b Traverse diagonally left for 3m, then step up, move back right onto the slab and climb it, keeping to the right until a slight steepening is reached. Climb boldly up the slab above until a short traverse right under a large block can be made, towards *Jordan Gap*, to a small stance. Quite a serious pitch.
3. 18m 4b Return under the block and climb a rib and short crack to the summit of High Man and a well-earned sit down.

Having rested take care descending from High Man, see the detailed notes on p3 of this booklet.

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GETTING TO THE TOP IS ONLY HALF THE STORY!

Getting down from the top of Low Man

The best descent from Low Man is to reverse the easy lower section of *The Old West Route* (Route 50 on topos) – the easy and well-marked scramble leading down to below the West face of High Man. This is useful if you have seriously underestimated the time needed to get to and climb *NW Climb* and feel there is insufficient time to complete the full expedition.

Getting down from the top of High Man

The normal descent is to reverse the well-marked and classic easy climb called *Slab and Notch* (50m M *** 1863). If in doubt ROPE UP! Alternatively abseil down the short wall into the gap behind *The Rock*, beware of the deep and steep gully (*West Jordan Gully*) on the west side of the gap.

***Slab and Notch* (in descent):**

From the summit move 10m north to find an obvious cleft and chimney splitting the East Face. Descend the chimney easily for a few metres, move left (facing in) onto a stepped slab. Down-climb to a good ledge leading left (facing in) to a short steep broken arête. Descend the arête for 5m to another ledge. From the ledge move left (facing in) to the Notch and descend either of the steep grooves beyond to gain the Slab. Traverse the Slab leftwards (facing in) and climb up its left edge slightly, then descend to an easy gully (*East Jordan Gully*) and thence join the main path up Pillar Fell (*Shamrock Traverse* – an obvious diagonal ramp marked G on the general topography photograph).

Returning to base

If you walked in from Wasdale Head the easiest way back is to continue up the path to the summit of Pillar Mountain and then follow the walkers' path down to Black Sail Pass and on to the pub for a well-earned drink.

To return to Ennerdale either go down *Shamrock Traverse* towards Robinson's Cairn before cutting back below *The Rock* to join the path from the valley. For those returning to Buttermere the walk up to Scarth Gap Pass isn't as bad as you might think – honest.