



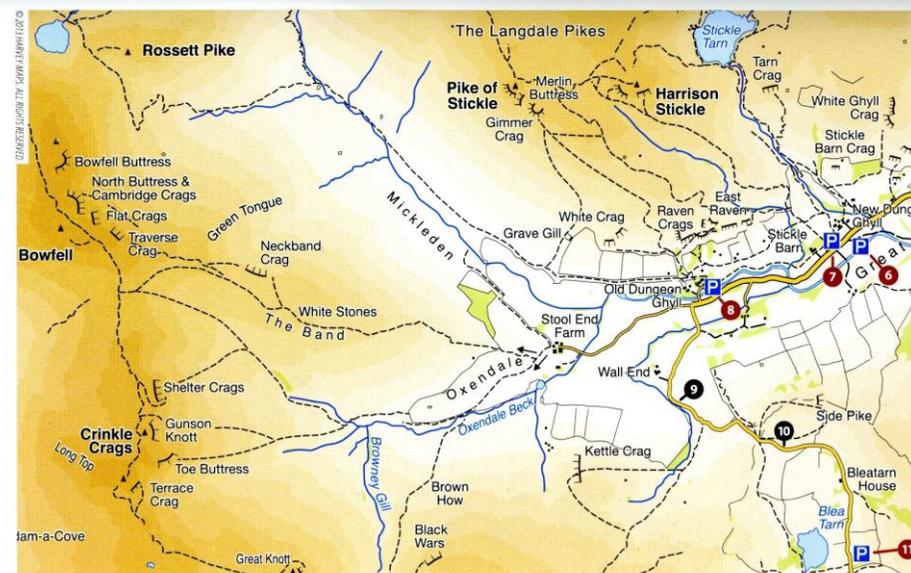
Lakeland Revival 2017



The Livesey/Lawrence Easy Day Out

In 1975 Pete Livesey was one of the best climbers in the world – on 3rd August he had “an easy day out” with Jill Lawrence climbing a series of classic rock routes around Langdale, including soloing a new variation on Bowfell Buttress Eliminate. Mere mortals may find this a bit tough as a one day expedition, the climbs on each crag form a good day out for most of us.

Route data is as follows: eight routes (6 at E1 or above) spread over three crags giving nearly 500m of high grade climbing plus about 9 miles of walking (running) and over 1200m of ascent. Conveniently the round finishes at a pub, just be careful not to miss last orders.

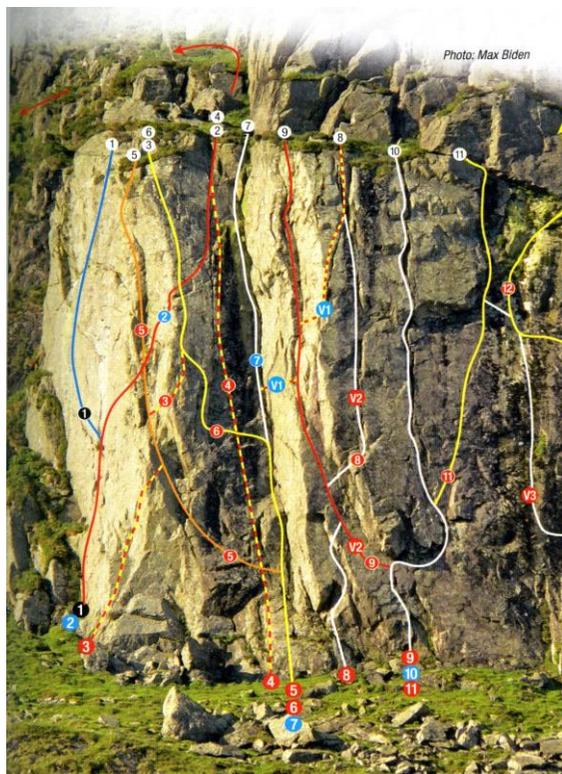


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Neckband Crag (N Facing NY 256 062)

Approach From Old Dungeon Ghyll Hotel follow the path past Stool End Farm then walk up *The Band* until the path levels out. Search carefully to find an indistinct path that branches off right before going anticlockwise around the summit knoll of the band before heading down steeply to the left end of the crag. The three routes are at the left end of the crag.

**The Routes (numbers refer to the photo diagram)**

- | Route Name | Length | Grade | Year |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|------------------|-------------|
| 5 Aragorn | 40m | E3 5c ** | 1971 |
| An excellent pitch with interesting, exposed and varied climbing. Start in the large corner (as for <i>Mithrandir</i> (HVS 5a ***, #7). Follow the corner for about 4m. Traverse the undercut slab left to a spike at the base of large niche on the arête. Pull into the niche and either exit direct up leftwards into an easier groove or move left round the rib and climb it to the same point. Climb the groove and finish up the thought-provoking continuation crack which slants left to the top. | | | |
| 9 Gillette Direct | 35m | E2 5c *** | 1968 |
| A brilliant, well protected route up the compelling line of narrow, hanging grooves in the right wall of the large corner (<i>Mithrandir</i> , #7). Start right of the line at a ragged crack below a band of overhangs at 5m. Climb the crack to the overhang and good runners (thread). Protected by these, traverse left onto the slab and enter the groove with difficulty. Continue delicately to a small ledge. Gain a better ledge and climb the steepening groove above to good finishing cracks in the final bulge. | | | |
| 10 Razor Crack | 35m (or 72m) | E1 5a *** | 1966 |
| A classic first pitch which climbs the superb crackline up the slabby wall right of the big corner taking in several impressive overlaps. Technically low in its grade but with strenuous and sustained climbing; good protection and resting places. Start as for <i>Gillette Direct</i> at the ragged crack. The crack is immediately strenuous to the overhang at 5m. Traverse right beneath this until a thin crack enables a pull over and moves back left into the wider, main crack. Follow this over several overlaps and the odd jammed flake to the top where you can sink thankfully amongst the bilberries.
Walk off to the left unless you are very keen, in which case you can follow the second pitch (37m 4c). Climb the wide crack on the right. Step back left across a steep slab. Follow easier angled rock to finish just inside the left-hand skyline. | | | |

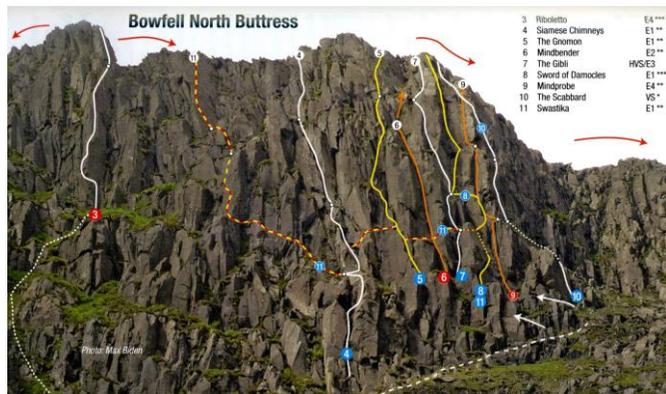
To continue in Livesey's footsteps you now need to return to the main path up *The Band*.

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Bowfell North Buttress (NE NY 246 066)

Continue up *The Band* beyond *Neckband Crag*, rather than heading to the obvious col take the path up the ridge on the right, after a steep section of scree follow the exposed and undulating "*Climbers' Traverse*" below a line of outcrops to *Flat Crag*, keep close under the right end of this crag and traverse the foot of the obvious *Great Slab* to reach a permanent spring known as *The Waterspout*. The North Buttress lies up and right.



8 Sword of Damocles 56m E1 5b * 1952**

A classic route from the 1950s, 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.

Bowfell Buttress

This buttress lies across the wide scree fan to the right of North Buttress



7 Bowfell Buttress Eliminate 108m E2 5b **

A good route, low in its grade but containing some bold climbing on pitches 1 and 4. It was the first to tackle the *White Wall* which it skirts on its left-hand side before making a fine traverse across it to the right. Start below the right-hand of the cracks which split the smooth wall forming the foot of the crag.

- 1 25m 5b The crack is harder than it looks and has no protection until the difficulties ease at a niche after 5m. Step right and continue more easily to a grassy ledge 5m left of a long slim groove.
- 1 25m 4c Climb the groove direct to a belay below the polished crack of *Bowfell Buttress*.
- 2 23m 4c Step down right and climb the deep V-groove to a ledge below a steep wall, the *White Wall*, (a logical belay point for those wishing to combine the rest of this pitch with pitch 4).C limb the corner on the left for 3m before swinging back right onto the steep wall above. Go up easier rock to a small niche on the left. (The corner can be avoided by climbing a good crack 1m to the right direct at 5c)
- 3 12 m 5b Climb boldly up the smooth white wall heading for a short thin crack slanting up left which leads to a fine narrow ledge.
- 4 30m 5b it seems most fitting to use *The Livesey Finish* (V1 on topo). Climb the obvious break through the overhangs to the summit.

Feeling puffed yet?

Now there is a tough walk to get to Gimmer Crag! There are various choices, the long way via Rossett Pike and Stake Pass not as steep or the brutal short way by descending Rossett Ghyll then flogging directly up to Gimmer. Not an easy choice

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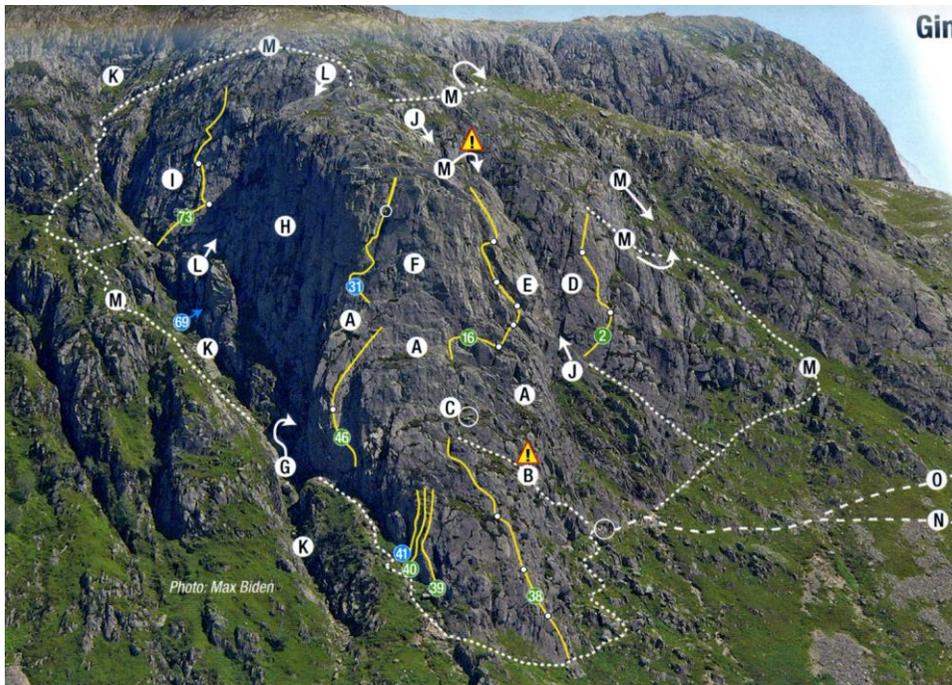
Gimmer Crag (NY 277 070, S& E)

After all of those shady N facing routes welcome to sunny Gimmer!
 This is a complex and popular crag, accessing the routes often involves some exposed scrambling. 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.

Take care not to inconvenience or endanger anyone climbing on the (very) popular and classic routes below the abseil station.

Finding the routes

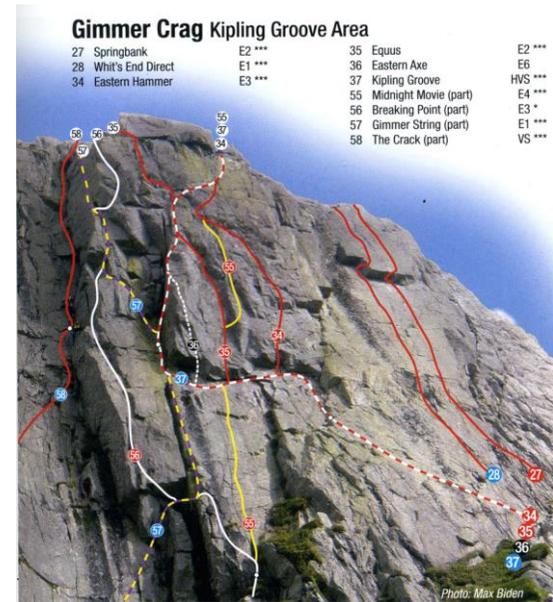
Unlike the previous crags getting to the bottom of the routes involves a lot more time and effort compared to, for example, Neckband Crag. It is, perhaps, easiest to head first for *Gimmer Crack* and *Gimmer String*, which start at the same point in the area marked **G** on the overview photodiagram. Having done one of the pair it is easy to return to the start using the left hand descent path marked **M** on the plan (avoid the steep and loose Junipall Gully (**L**)). After completing the second route it is easy to abseil down the front face to *Ash Tree Ledge (A-A)* from which you access Kipling Groove; a fitting finale to the day!



Gimmer Crag Overview

- A Ash Tree Ledges
 - B Bilberry Chute approach
 - C Perched blocks
 - D Main Wall
 - E South-East Face
 - F West Face
 - G Lower North-West Face
 - H North-West Face
 - I Pallid Slabs
 - J South-East Gully
 - K North-West Gully
 - L Junipall Gully
 - M Descent routes
 - N Approach from Stickle Barn car park
 - O Approach from Old Dungeon Ghyll car park
-
- 2 Main Wall Climb
 - 16 'B' Route
 - 31 'F' Route
 - 38 Prelude
 - 39 Interlude
 - 40 Cartwheel
 - 41 Gambol
 - 46 Ash Tree Slabs
 - 69 Ray Parker is Innocent
 - 73 Pallid Slabs

- VD **
- S ***
- VS ***
- D
- VD *
- S *
- VS *
- VD ***
- VS *
- S **



Gimmer Crag Kipling Groove Area

- 27 Springbank
- 28 Whit's End Direct
- 34 Eastern Hammer
- E2 ***
- E1 ***
- E3 ***
- 35 Equus
- 36 Eastern Axe
- 37 Kipling Groove
- 55 Midnight Movie (part)
- 56 Breaking Point (part)
- 57 Gimmer String (part)
- 58 The Crack (part)
- E2 ***
- E6
- HVS ***
- E4 ***
- E3 *
- E1 ***
- VS ***

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Langdale Enchainment: The Livesey/Lawrence Easy Day Out.

Gimmer String 77m E1 5b *** 1963

A brilliant combination of pitches, strung together to provide varied and enjoyable climbing in exposed situations. Low in its grade but with difficulty increasing as height is gained. Start as for *The Crack*.

1 25m 4b The first pitch of *The Crack*.

2 25m 4c Traverse right to the top of a pinnacle spike beneath a roof and step right to below the wide crack. Pull awkwardly into it and continue to the stance on *Kipling Groove*.

27m 5b Climb straight up for a short way to some dubious blocks, then traverse left to a small ledge on the rib which is both undercut and overhung. Climb a thin crack on the right of the rib for about 5m, until a difficult pull leads round to the other side of the rib overlooking *The Crack*. Climb the arête trending left to a thin crack, which leads up a short problematic wall until forced out right to an abrupt finish.

The Crack 74 m VS 4c *** 1928

The obvious great corner cleaving the crag from top to bottom. A combination of a fine natural line, exposed and sustained climbing and excellent rock make this one of Lakeland's grandest crack climbs, undoubtedly deserving its classic status. Start at the foot of an easy angled corner, which rises to a beautiful hand jam crack.

1 26m 4c Scramble into the corner and climb the clean-cut crack until a delicate traverse across the left wall leads to the foot of a short groove. Climb this to a ledge and pedestal belay. (An infrequently taken and strenuous alternative to the traverse is to continue up the crack for 3m before traversing left to the belay.)

2 26m 4c Climb the thin cracks above the belay to gain the horizontal break (the *Mantelshelf*) which leads left to a large ledge at 8 metres. A hard pull up on the steep ridge leads to better holds and then an easy traverse back right into the crack. This is the *Sentry Box*. A strenuous pull out of this leads to a good ledge up on the right - *The Bower*.

3 22m 4c The deep corner-crack is followed to the top giving a sustained pitch with a problematic overhang en-route.

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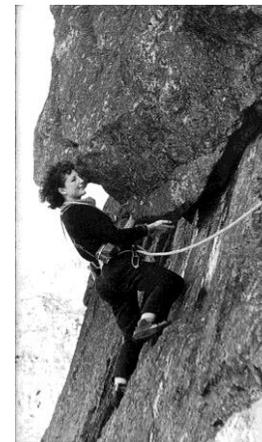
Our final route starts from the Ash Tree Ledges (which are devoid of trees). These are marked **A** on the overview diagram and can be reached either by a scramble up easy ledges, marked **B** on the overview photo – this needs care, there is a large and unforgiving drop below you, or by abseil down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

Kipling Groove 52 m HVS 5a *** 1948

A magnificent and popular classic route taking an impressive, '*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 ***, one to do if you still have energy left after KG, go one better than Livesey!).

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.



Angela Faller (now Soper) laden down with gear on the underclings of Kipling Groove in the early 70's (or late 60's). Photo Ian Roper, FRCC Archive.

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. A first class pitch.

All you need to do now is not miss last orders in the Stickle Barn or New DG, if you left your car at the ODG you will need to walk back for it, there are phone no's for taxis beside the pub payphone (no mobile signal).

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