

Kirkstone Butress

OS Ref: NY 400 085

Character: The rock is generally good, especially in its upper half and houses some of the roughest and sharpest rock in the district. Although only 25m high, there is a big crag feel, coupled with excellent views and all the sunshine that's going. The buttress can be seen from the Kirkstone Inn car park and is not to be confused with Kirkstone Crag (Eastern Crag p197).

Situation: located 150m below and right of Kilnshaw Chimney on the upper right of the crag is an impressive open book corner easily seen from the car park, and to its left is a splendid rectangular wall. At the top of the crag lies a large erratic boulder, which makes an immaculate belay, although there are adequate belays nearer the top of the climbs.

Approach

Follow the Red Screes path for some 150m to where three erratic boulders are perched on a rock plinth on the right, close to the path. Turn right by the boulders and follow a small rising indeterminate sheep trod for another 150m to an undulating grass and rock terrace. From here the crag lies 100m up and right, reached by a diagonal traverse rightwards crossing a scree and boulders.

Grades

7

4

2



Parking (car park)

Kirkstone Pass Car Park

TRADITIONAL Level 10 mins SOUTH-EAST facing 🌞





1 Wrinkle Ridge S † **New** 18m

The short rough cracked ridge that bounds the left edge of the crag. Start from a grass ledge directly below the ridge. A short crack leads to a large ledge. Follow a right-slanting crack to finish up a short slab.

9.10.2016 F Scrowston, M Scrowston

2 Loose Woman S † **New** 16m

A companion route to [Wrinkle Ridge](#) following the obvious groove right of the that route. Climb the right slanting groove until perched upon a large spike, pull up left to finish up the short steep wall.

14.08.2020 F Scrowston, M Scrowston

3 Boreas HVS 5a † **New** 24m

A good route that feels greater than its height, accepting the challenge of the overhangs at the left end of the crag. Start 2m left of [Deviant](#) below a shallow groove. Follow the cracked groove to an overhang, pull up steeply to gain good holds below a second overhang. Commit up left (crux) via a small pocket to a fine finishing jug.

26.11.2018 M Scrowston, PC Bennett

4 Deviant VS 4c † **New** 25m

An excellent but deviant line, which makes sense when on the route. Start at the left end of the crag, at a vertical broken groove with a triangular overhang at 2/3 height. Climb the steep groove on good holds for 4m to a rounded flake (runner). Make a long horizontal stride left into a corner groove and flake crack. Make a few moves up these, before climbing up and left into a hidden corner. Follow the rugged slab on the right to the top.

25.08.2013 M Scrowston, PC Bennett

5 Conformist E2 5c † **New** 23m

Start as for [Deviant](#). Climb the steep groove to the overhang. A committing move right gains better holds; pull up steeply left, excellent holds lead to the big ledge above

6 **WWTD** E1 † **New** 25m

A direct line starting up [Nocturnalist](#) and finishing up [Conformist](#). A short quite pokey link pitch despite every hold being a full hand jug. Climb the left side of the [Nocturnalist](#) groove until a long reach left gains the right-hand variation to [Conformist](#). A contrived independent finish is possible up the thin crack on the right, but this has not yet been fully cleaned.

4.09.2014 R Graham

7 **Nocturnalist** HVS † **New** 23m ★

Some bold and energetic climbing with good protection. Start 2m right of [Deviant](#) at a rightwards-leaning open groove, with a holly tree near the top. Climb the groove to a steep slab; ascend this with difficulty to gain a small ledge below the holly tree and the narrow chimney above. Athletic moves up its right edge (crux) gain magnificent "thank god" finishing holds.

7.07.2013 M Scrowston, J Loxham

8 **Sophistry** MVS 4b † **New** 25m

Start 3m left of [Sky Waller](#) at a short V groove. Climb the groove moving right to gain a hanging slab, follow the slab, and the right trending cracks above that terminate at a steep headwall. A hand traverse right gives access to the right hand arête, climb this (crux) to finish up the broken wall above.

14.08.2020 M Scrowston, F Scrowston

9 **Sky Waller** S † **New** 22m ★

An interesting and satisfying climb with good protection. Start 6m right of [Nocturnalist](#) at a small bay. Climb the wall and groove above for 5m to a ledge. Step left to ascend a short corner groove, before moving right into the obvious corner above. Followed this to finish on the left of a mini dry stone wall.

7.07.2013 M Scrowston, J Loxham

10 **Sereno** HVS † **New** 25m ★★

The superb upper wall is worth the walk alone. It is sustained but adequately protected by small runners. Start 7m right of [Sky Waller](#) beside an embedded spike. Move up the wall to gain a left-slanting groove; follow this and the short corner above to gain the base of the wall. Ascend the wall by sustained climbing, first trending left, then directly up for a few moves, before trending right (crux) to reach the small V-groove at the top of the wall; all on amazing rock with some very sharp holds!

26.07.2013 M Scrowston, J Loxham

11 **RNM** HVS 5a † **New** 25m

A well-protected direct line up the left side of the [Sereno](#) headwall. Start directly below the headwall and climb just left of a dubious flake/block over easy partly-gardened grassy ledges. A couple of thin moves start the headwall then a series of good handrails lead to the finish of [Sereno](#). Possible to avoid the crux by traversing in higher and an easier finish is possible left of the last bit of [Sereno](#).

04.09.2014 R Graham

12 **Isorhythm** VS 4b/c † **New** 25m ★

Another excellent route. Start 1m right of [Sereno](#), at the right end of the crag, by a short (3m) left-facing open corner. Climb the corner for 3m, before moving up and left onto a slab and into a short corner. Ascend this to gain a grass ledge. Move left into the superb open-book corner and climb it directly on immaculately rough rock to the top. Ace.

26.07.2013 M Scrowston, J Loxham

13 **Kirkstone Passive** S † **New** 25m ★

Another worthwhile route with some massive sharp holds on the upper section. Start 1m right of [Isorhythm](#) at an easy gangway. Ascend the gangway to reach a thin right-facing corner crack. This is climbed to a thin corner groove which is tackled directly to gain rock ledges. Climb the headwall enjoyably to the top.

3.09.2016 F Scrowston, M Scrowston