

# Middle Fell - Rough Crag

OS Ref: NY 153 082

Alt: 350m

Grades



This crag and all of its climbs were not included in the 2014 guidebook, for apparently good reasons. These details have been taken from the 1996 guide and have not been checked. Many short climbs have been made on the numerous small outcrops that are scattered across the slopes of Middle Fell, some have been recorded, others not. In an attempt to make some sense out of it all a selection of the better outcrops and routes has been included for those wishing to sample what is on offer. The surrounding rocks should not be assumed to be virgin, as many other less worthwhile climbs have been made. Rough Crag is the dark and seldom visited crag lies on the Netherbeck Face of Middlefell. Although the rock is rough and solid it is often buried under a carpet of moss which holds the moisture. The climbs themselves tend to be serious and inescapable.

## Approach

Park at the disused gravel pit or Netherbeck Bridge and follow the well-worn track up the left side of Netherbeck for 2 km, until a flat area just beyond the waterfall is reached prior to Sandy Gill. Leave the track and go up and back left over a boggy plateau followed by rough ground to the bottom of the crag, which has a deep-cut gully at its left-hand end, and a large square cut overhang on its right-hand side (approximately 1 1/4 hrs). Masochists can go directly up the fell and after 1.5 km be suitably rewarded.

## Descent

The climbs are described from left to right with the descents to the right via a sheep track.

Uphill NORTH EAST facing

### 1 Left Gully Arête S 73m

Climbs the left arête of [Rough Crag Gully](#) starting at the bottom of the gully.

1 22 m. Traverse up and left to gain a groove leading to a grassy platform. Pull up into the groove on the arete using a spike, then work up and left to a terrace.

2 35 m. Climb the broken arête above, passing a rowan to belay below a steep rib.

3 16 m. Up the grooved rib to the top.

1.04.1976 W E Pattison, A W Dunn

### 2 Rough Crag Gully HS 60m

The obvious deep cut gully at the left end of the crag. Vegetated, wet and nasty with an awkward crux.

1 32m Over a huge chockstone then easily up the gully to below the narrow vertical crux section. Strenuous moves eventually lead to good holds which allow a difficult pull up to a stance and belay on the right.

2 28m The right leaning gully above is climbed followed by easy slabs on the right, then back left to finish up a short gully.

1.03.1976 W E Pattison, A W Dunn

### 3 Right Gully Arête VS 4b 62m

Good open climbing, in spite of the moss, up the right arête of [Rough Crag Gully](#). Start just right of the gully below a steep mossy slab.

1 36m 4b Climb the slab until it forms a pinnacle. Step off this onto a cracked slab and go up to a bay below a groove. Traverse left onto the gully wall then make a high step up to below a slab that leads delicately up to an overlap. Pull right onto a rib then go up left across a slab to an arête. The scoop above leads to a terrace and tree belay.

2 26m Up a grooved ridge to the top.

9.05.1976 W E Pattison, A W Dunn

### 4 Icicle VS 4b 67m

A good route up the obvious crack line 5m right of [Right Gully Arête](#).

1 23m 4b Climb the crack past an awkward section, and then move out left to gain a series of ledges that lead back up right to a terrace below a bulging wall.

2 17m 4b From the left-hand end of the terrace step up left onto a large hold then bridge awkwardly up the gangway out right to another terrace and tree belay.

3 27m Finish up the grooved slab behind the tree and easy rocks to the top.

1.02.1976 W E Pattison, A W Dunn

### 5 Cheeky Charlie VS 4c 65m

10m up and right from [Rough Crag Gully](#) is an obvious, relatively clean, slanting V-groove. After the initial groove the route disappears under the moss. Start at the foot of the V-groove.

1 15m 4c Difficult moves up the groove are followed by a pull out left onto a platform. Step back right, across the groove and follow the break diagonally right past a niche to a spike belay.

2 12m 4b Climb the steep wall above the spike. Step left into a groove then go up and left to a ledge.

3 26m 4b Step down and right, then make an ascending traverse of the steep mossy wall on the right, crossing a bilberry ledge to gain a V-chimney. Climb the chimney.

4 12m Easy climbing to the top.

4.06.1978 W E Pattison, B Curley, J Bremner

### 6 Starters MVS 4a 35m

Immediately above the boggy plateau crossed on the approach to Rough Crag is a buttress with an obvious waterslide. The following route climbs the small buttress 4m right of this. Start below the steep little wall. Climb the wall working up from left to right to gain a crack leading to a heather ledge. The steep wall above is followed by an awkward mantelshelf out right to the top.

1.12.1975 W E Pattison, A W Dunn

A route of VS standard has been recorded up the broken ground above the finish of Starters and is mentioned for completeness only.

**7 Left Hand Buttress** VS 4b 32m

Approximately 100m above and right of the main buttress of Rough Crag is a band of rock with the following recorded route. Descents possible to the right or left. Start at an ash tree below a wall on the left-hand side of the crag.

**1** 20m 4b After a difficult start the wall is climbed to a terrace.

**2** 12m Easy rocks lead to the top.

1.06.1982 W E Pattison J Bremner

**8 Forked Lightening Crack** HVS 5a 35m

Approximately 100m above and right of the main buttress of Rough Crag is a band of rock with the following recorded route. Descents possible to the right or left. The obvious steep crack line 4m right of the right-hand buttress. Start at the sentry box.

**1** 20m 5a Climb the sentry box exiting right to gain the steep crack above and up this to a terrace.

**2** 15m 4b Climb the chimney crack 3m right to the top.

1.06.1982 W E Pattison, A W Dunn