

Brough Scar



Brough Diamond FA
Steph Marshall
photo Ron Kenyon

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You climb at your own risk. Climbing is a dangerous activity carrying the risk of serious injury or death. If you climb, the presumption is that you are aware of and accept these risks together with responsibility for your activities and your safety.

You are the sole judge of conditions, the suitability of any chosen route, the ability of the party and you take sole responsibility for your actions.

Rock is a dynamic medium and rockfalls are frequent. In the mountains the weather changes quickly, climbs change unpredictably; blocks, flakes and holds become loose and fall off, rock becomes vegetated and dirty, in situ gear deteriorates or disappears. Even a minor change can have a dramatic effect on the difficulty or seriousness of a route. There can be no presumption that any given climb will be found in the condition described. It is therefore essential that climbers judge the seriousness or difficulty of any route before committing themselves.

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Brough Scar

OS Ref: NY 795 165

Alt: 380m

Brough Scar is the name given to the area of limestone escarpments high up on Musgrave Fell to the north of the A66 near Brough. These escarpments look attractive and are often remarked upon by climbers driving past. However, on closer inspection, the crags, although reasonably continuous, lack any height in all but a few places.

In 1984 a small band of very young and very keen lads, inspired by Robin Curley, paid a visit to the crag and developed it over the next twelve months. These climbs were often protected by nylon cord, which in due time rotted, and were steep and hard but never became popular.

In 2021 permission was gained from the landowner for the bolting of the routes on the crags. A campaign was initiated and the existing routes were retrobolted, with some minor variations to take account of the rock, and new routes have been established.

Being close to the A66, it is a useful venue when passing by this way.

The crag is in a stunning location with views south over to Mallerstang and the Howgills, at the head of the Eden Valley.

Grades

8

7

3

Approach

From the village of Brough, adjacent to the A66: at the west end of Brough Main Street, a road is signposted to Helbeck Quarry. Follow this road uphill for about 2km until a large quarry is reached on the left and park here. A track leads past the quarry entrance and uphill for nearly a kilometre. After passing through a gate, a small quarry marks the junction of another track. Leave the main track and follow the left-hand track along the fellside, passing under a number of buttresses, for about 200m. Just past the last scree slope, climb up a grassy bank and the compact face of [Main Buttress](#) will be seen on the hillside across to the left and follow the slope steeply to its base.

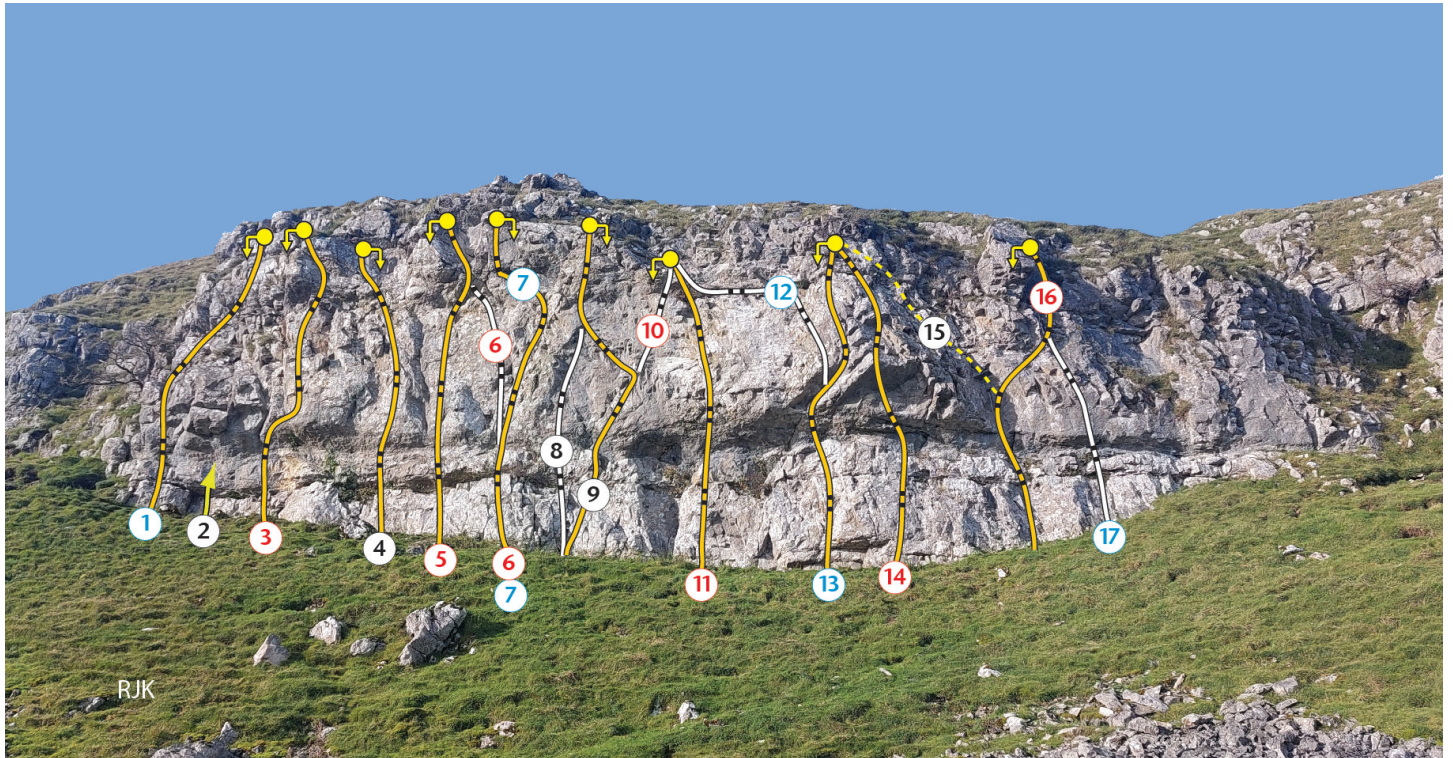
The crag is on Access Land just south of the Warcop Army Range. There is often a red flag flying, by the track near the car park, to indicate that there are exercises on the range. The crag is however well outside the range and not affected by the activities on the range or any access restrictions.

Main Buttress

SPORT (FRENCH) Uphill 20 mins SOUTH facing 

Introduction

This buttress offers the best climbing on the Scar and presents a very compact face guarded at its base by a belt of bulges and overhangs. Although only short, it gives steep fingery and usually strenuous climbing.



Brough Scar

① Brough Stuff F5a New 12m

Climb the groove on the left of the buttress with awkward move round the overlap. Then move up right and finish up to the right.

12.10.2023 R Kenyon, C Newman, P Gunn

② Project - still to bolt

Possible line just right of Brough Stuff

③ Boogey Down F6c+ 12m

Some of the initial rock has come away to change the character of this route. Starting below the first break, move up to clip the bolt to the left. Overcome the overlap to gain holds before clipping the bolt on the right. Continue upwards, then rightwards to finish over overlaps to lower off on a hanging slab.

1984 R Curley and Pals

Originally E1 6a and moved left up the prow to finish.

First led with bolts by P Gunn - 23.10.2023

④ Dynamo Hum F7a+ 12m

Where the bulge eases, extend up with a hard move over the bulge, off two poor holds, to a jug. Easier climbing leads directly to the top.

1984 R Curley and Pals

Originally E4 6b - rebolted in 2022. First led with bolts by P Gunn - 2.06.2022

⑤ Arty Farty F6c 12m

Start below the fine slim left-trending groove, one metre right of an embedded block. The groove is guarded by a bulge at head-height. Climb the groove until it meets a bulging headwall then move right and up to the corner.

1984 R Curley and Pals

Originally E2 5c - rebolted in 2022. The large block originally left of the finish is now at the bottom of the crag

⑥ Magic's Wand F6b+ 12m

This starts as for *Necromancer* but continue straight up a groove/corner to gain a slab and finish as for *Arty Farty*.

1984 R Curley and Pals

Originally E3 6a.. Originally finished left of the block now at the base of the crag.

⑦ Necromancer F6a+ 12m

Start below the most obvious groove and climb this to finish up the square-cut hanging corner.

1984 R Curley and Pals

Originally E1 5b - rebolted in 2021.

8 Platinum Hard F7b+ New 12m

A harder and more direct version on "the diamond" which does not use any holds, at the start, on [Brough Diamond](#). Use a good crimp for left hand and obvious right hand hold to gain a poor high pinch hold with the left.

3.06.2022 P Gunn

9 Brough Diamond F7a+ New 12m

Overcome the the overlap, as for [Roxanne Shante](#), then climb "the diamond" and finish up the overhang.

2022 S Marshall, T Mawer

[Roxanne Shante](#) E3 6a 1984. This climbed to a first thread and continued past another thread runner and finish directly over a roof, taking care with the holds. Not bolted due to nature of rock.

10 Roxanne Shante - Chicken Variation F7a 12m

Start up [Brough Diamond](#) then continue diagonal rightwards to the lower off to the top of [Style of the Street](#).

1984 R Curley and Pals

Originally E3 6a which went to the second thread on [Roxanne Shante](#) and escaped rightwards to a tiny rowan.. The bolted line appears lower than the original line. Bolted line first climbed by T Mawer and S Marshall

11 Style of the Street F6c+ 10m

This very fine route requires strength in reserve once the initial bulge is overcome. Start at a white pillar just right of a little clean-cut corner. Climb up to and across the roof to a good hold. Reach through for a jug and finish up the wall above.

1984 R Curley and Pals

Originally E4 6b - retrobolted in 2023.

12 Cuttin' Left F6b New 11m

Start as for [Cuttin' Herbie](#) and overcome the overlap. Clip the third bolt, on [Cuttin' Herbie](#), with a long sling, then finish up the wall on the left to the lower off at the top of [Style of the Street](#).

23.10.2023 P Gunn, D Mouat

13 Cuttin' Herbie F6b 10m

Sensational roof climbing. Start below an obvious slanting handrail which cuts through the roof from left to right. Gain the handrail and jug part way up the groove, then make a long reach for jugs above lip. Gain the groove/pillar on the right and finish up rightwards.

1984 R Curley and Pals

Originally E1 5b - retrobolted in 2023. Original finish along the break to the left. First led with bolts by P Gunn, C Newman - 12.10.2023

14 Break Boy Beats F6c † New 10m

Start below the prow and surmount this, using holds to the left, with interest then finish up the wall above.

23.10.2023 P Gunn, D Mouat

15 Brough and Tumble - Project - still to bolt †

Groove up and left from [Perfect Dog](#).

16 Perfect Dog F6b+ New

Left-hand entry to [Almost Perfect Dog](#)

17 Almost Perfect Dog F6a+ New

Start up just right of the bolt line to gain the edge then up and leftwards to an easier finish. A direct start is more difficult.

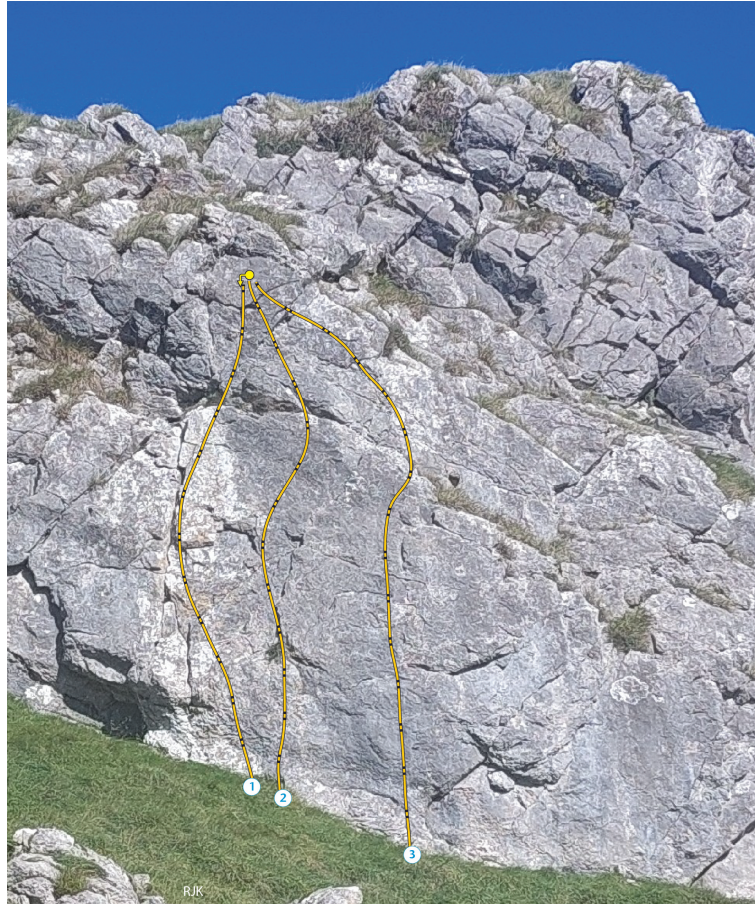
18 Girdle Traverse - Project †

Possible girdle starting up [Brough Stuff](#) and finish at the top of [Cuttin' Herbie](#). Could be interesting around [Brough Diamond](#) area.

Right-hand Butress

Introduction

Overlooking the approach there is a lot of rock but most is not suitable for rock climbing. Further searching may find more routes but so far the only part which is worthwhile is at the very left-hand end of this area and about 100m to the right of the [Main Butress](#) where there is a short but impressive section of rock with the following routes.



Brough Scar Right-Hand Butress

① **Autumn Colours** F5c † **New** 6m

Climb up left of the bolt line using the crack and gain the lower off direct.

7.11.2023 R Kenyon

② **Keep the Plates Spinning** F5c † **New** 6m

Gain the layaway crack, right of the bolts and make your way to the lower off.

7.11.2023 R Kenyon

③ **Coming Up 50!** F6a † **New** 6m

Quite an awkward start - gain the good incut just left of the layaway and continue finishing more or less as [Keep the Plates Spinning](#). A line from the right passing the first bolt was tried but the foot holds collapsed. This way would be interesting and a long reach useful.

7.11.2023 R Kenyon

The EVMC is 50 on 13th December 2023 !