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eGuides

Waberthwaite Quarry

Lower Eskdale

Information and images provided by Pete Whillance

Warning

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, this is particularly true of quarries such as Waberthwaite. These recently developed routes have had few ascents to date (July 2026) so some suspect rock may remain, remember that even a minor change can have a significant 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 users of this eGuide judge the seriousness or difficulty of any route before committing themselves.

While every effort is made to present accurate information, the descriptions, grades and comments provided in this eGuide are compiled from a number of sources and have not been checked. They may contain errors, are subjective or may have changed and should not be relied on. Neither the FRCC nor anyone involved with the production of this supplement can be held responsible for any inaccuracies, omissions or mistakes, nor liable for any personal or third party injuries or damage, howsoever caused, arising from the use of this information.

Published by The Fell and Rock Climbing Club of the English Lake District Limited.
Industrial and Provident Societies Reg. 30506 R

OS Ref: SD 113 944

Alt: 50m

Aspect: Various

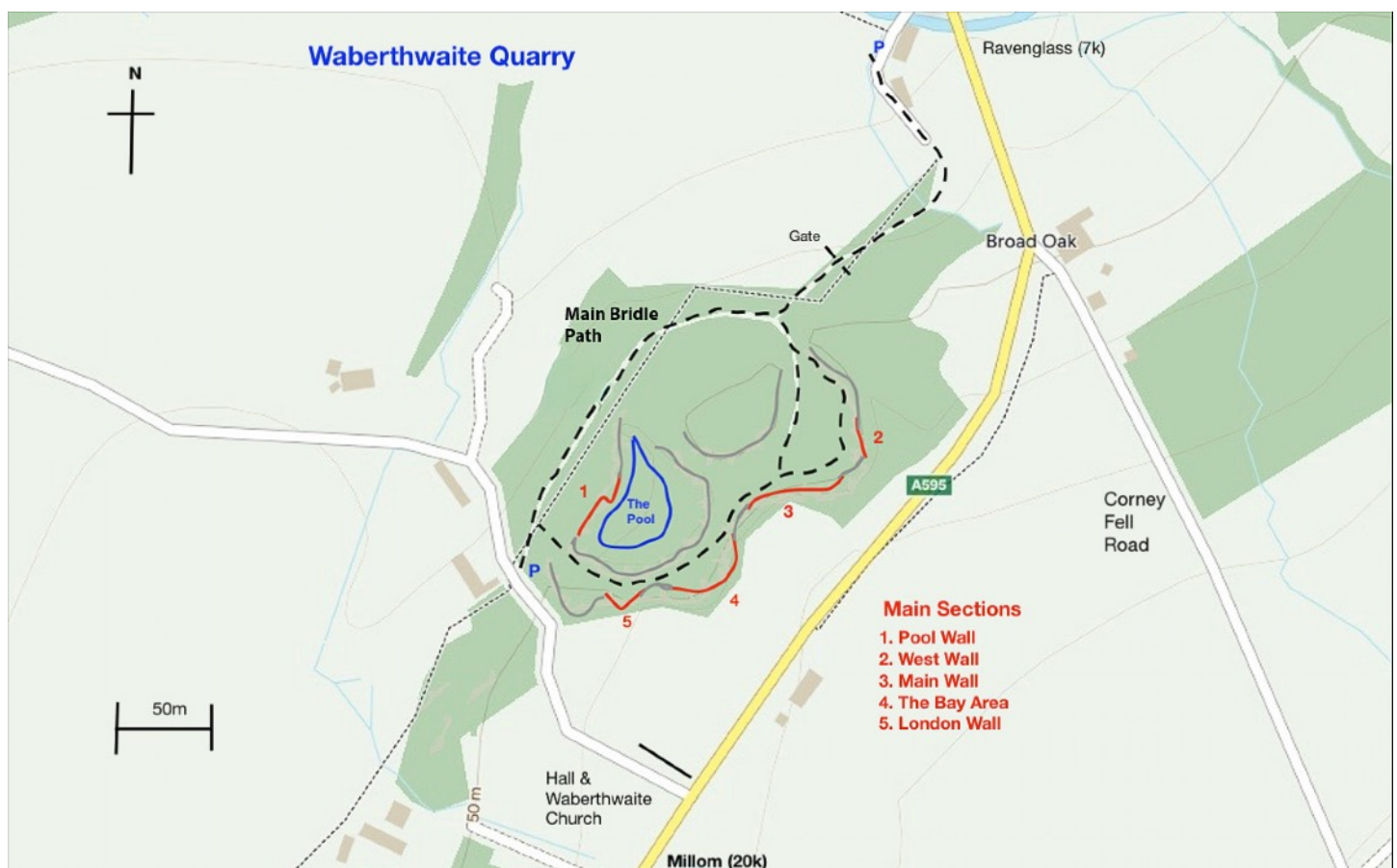
Introduction:

This granite quarry is situated on the south side of the River Esk estuary, near to Waberthwaite and opposite Muncaster Castle. It lies hidden in Broad Oak Wood (the local name of the quarry) close to the junction of the Corney Fell road and the main coastal A595. From the A595, approach by following a minor road signed to Hall, Waberthwaite Church, steeply downhill for a short distance to a bridle path opening on the right. **Parking is very limited and if the quarry become popular this may become a major issue so please park with consideration so no issues arise. There is limited parking for 2/3 cars inside the entrance, please leave adequate access for horses. Discreet parking is also available in Broad Oak hamlet at the other end of the main bridle path.**

The quarry is quite large and complex with its base largely overgrown by small trees, which can make locating the different climbing sections here a little tricky. The main pathways however tend to follow a circular walk around the quarry and are marked on the map.

Historical:

Quarrying operations ceased here in 1946 and apart from five climbs recorded in the early eighties the place has remained deserted and left for nature to take over. During the winter of 2025 and spring 2026 the quarry received a major makeover and now has over 40 Sport climbs between 7m and 30m in length and covering a wide range of grades. All the routes are fully equipped and have lower offs. The rock is generally good but still needs care in places, and by moving between climbing areas it's possible to stay in the sun all day. The climbing sections and routes are described clockwise (left to right) starting from **Pool Wall**, the nearest section to the Southern parking place, just inside the entrance to the main bridle path. (NB. This order however doesn't indicate the quickest approach to all the different sections – see the map).



Pool Wall (SE Facing)

This section of wall lies at a slightly lower level than the other buttresses. Leave the main bridle path on the right some 30m from the parking place (just 15m beyond the usual right hand path turning into the quarry) and make a brief foray through trees to emerge at the top of the face (3 mins walk). The best descent is at the left end of the crag (facing out). The opposite, closer end is also a possible descent but less pleasant as it was once used for tipping. Climbs are often in the sun till around 2pm.



1 Hey Sancho! 8m 6b+ ★ 3 Pool Shark 9m 6b+ 5 Black Ball Game 10m 6c+ ★★
2 White Magic 9m 6c ★ 4 The Green Dragon 9m 6b+ ★

1 Hey Sancho!

8m

F6b+ ★

P Whillance, J Daly 23.03.2026

Takes the first intermittent crack line at the far left end of the wall. Climb the steep crack via finger slots and the wall above to join a vague ramp. Move up left to a lower off. (4B+L)

2 White Magic

9m

F6c ★

P Whillance 14.06.2026

Start 2m right of *Hey Sancho!* at a thin flake crack line. Climb the flakes to reach better holds then the white wall above rending rightwards and up to a lower off. (5B+L).

3 Pool Shark

9m

F6b+

J Daly, P Whillance 28.03.2026

Towards the middle of the long wall is a line of large embedded flakes. Climb easily up the left side of the flakes and move up left to a big broken ledge. Pull up steeply rightwards to reach a good ledge followed

by a difficult mantle-shelf move to gain a standing position and the lower off. (4B+L)

4 The Green Dragon

9m

F6b+ ★

P Whillance, J Daly 06.04.2026

Takes a green left facing groove 2m right of *Pool Shark*. Start at the embedded flakes directly below the groove line. Pull up to ledges and climb the steepening groove with interest to reach the square cut overhang. Move out right and up to a lower off. (4B+L)

5 Black Ball Game

10m

F6c/+ ★★

P Whillance 12.05.2026

Perhaps the most impressive looking route on this wall takes the centre of the prominent buttress a few metres right of *The Green Dragon*. Start 2m right of the previous route and go up easily to below an overlap. Climb the wall with difficulty to reach a break. Continue up the thin crack in the centre of the strenuous wall above to a lower off. (4B+L)

The steep corner to the right contains some very poor rock. Just around the arête from this however is a short slab of excellent granite – **End Slab**.



6 Royal Iris 10m 5 9 The Slot Machine 7m 6c+ ★★
7 The Orange Order 7m 6a+ 10 Purple Haze 7m 6c
8 The Pink Puzzler 7m 6b ★

End Slab (SE Facing)

6 Royal Iris 10m F5

D Geere, J Daly, P Whillance 28.03.2026

Takes the broken slab just right of the arête. Start on the rib and weave a way up the slab on fragile rock to a lower off. (4B+L)

The cleaned slab to the right has 4 short but good quality routes.

7 The Orange Order 7m F6a+

P Whillance, J Daly 21.03.2026

Start up the left edge of the slab moving rightwards to follow the very thin crack to a lower off on the right. (3B + L)

8 The Pink Puzzler 7m F6b *

P Whillance, J Daly 21.03.2026

Start 2m right of the last route and pull up into a right slanting break. Move up this till holds above allow the upper break to be reached. Continue up and then left more easily to the lower off on *The Orange Order*. (3B+L)

8 The Pink Puzzler Variation Start – start 2m further right in the centre of the slab and climb trending leftwards past the lower break to join the original at mid height)

9 The Slot Machine 7m F6c+ **

P Whillance, J Daly 23.03.2026

Just right of the centre of the slab is a thin slotted crack line. Follow this with increasing difficulty to reach the upper break. Pull up and rightwards to a lower off. (3B+L)

10 Purple Haze 7m F6c

P Whillance, J Daly 21.03.2026

Takes the right hand side of the slab starting at a slightly higher ledge. Delicate climbing up the slab to reach an overlap then tricky moves over this to gain the upper break. Go up awkwardly leftwards across the wall to the lower off on *Slot Machine* or up the arête to the top. (3B+L)

The West Wall (WSW Facing)

Take the main bridle path from the Southern parking spot for some 200m to an obvious, and often wet, entrance into the quarry (if you reach a closed gate you've passed it!). Keep the marsh to your right side and follow a rough path below broken crags to reach the clean West Wall. Steep right slanting grooves abound (gets the sun from midday to dusk).



1 Battle of the Bulge 11m 6c
2 Way Out West 12m 6b+ **
3 Wicked Witch of the West 13m 6c **
4 Dave's Groove (Project) 14m 6b? **
5 Jenga 15m 6a **
6 Fork Lightning Crack 16m 6b+ *

1 Battle of the Bulge 11m F6c

J Daly, K Phizacklea 10.04.2026

On the left side of the crag is a big open groove with a slabby right wall. This is *Way Out West*. The first route on West Wall shares its start at the base of this groove. Climb up leftwards across a slab to below a steep bulge guarding entrance to a right leaning groove. Make a hard pull over the bulge and up the groove to a lower off. (5B+L)

2 Way Out West 12m F6b+ **

P Whillance, J Daly, K Phizacklea 10.04.2026

Climbs the intriguing open groove rightwards with bridging and layaways. Surprisingly steep, but the holds just keep coming. (5B+L)

3 Wicked Witch of the West 13m F6c **

P Whillance, K Phizacklea 07.05.2026

Start just right of the previous climbs and move up easily right to the base of a prominent crack line. Climb the steep crack to an awkward pull out left onto a slabby shelf. Continue up the groove and move across left to the lower off on *Way Out West*. (5B+L)

4 Project - Dave's Groove 14m F6b ???

Takes the steep right slanting groove to a small tree. Climb up right to the lower off on *Jenga*.

5 Jenga 15m F6a **

D Geere, P Whillance 22.03.2026

Takes the next prominent line with blocks stacked in another right slanting groove. Climb the groove over a small overlap and up rightwards to a lower off. (6B+L)

6 Fork Lightning Crack 16m F6b+ *

J Daly, P Whillance 06.04.2026

Start just down and right of *Jenga*. Go easily up over large blocks to the flake crack on the right side of the arête. Climb this with increasing difficulty to a good horizontal break. Step right and up the wall then back left and up to the lower off on *Jenga* (5B+L).

Main Wall

Dynamite Slab Area

1 Original Route 20m S
M. Holliday, D. Phizacklea 03.1981
The easy corner bordering the left side of the big slab.

2 Dynamite Slab 30m F6a ***
A Phizacklea, D J McIntosh 06.07.1981
Re-cleaned and retro-bolted as a sport route, D Geere & P Whillance April 2026
The classic of the quarry. Start at a short corner at the left hand end of the 1000 boreholes! Move up onto the slab and make a long gradually rising traverse rightwards above the overhangs to near the arête, then up to a big ledge. Step right and climb a slim groove and rib (crux) to a scoop and lower off on the right. (take care with the rope over edges when lowering off). (8B+L)

3 Money for God's Sake (The Direct Finish) 25m F6b+ *
P Whillance, J Daly 27.04 2026
From two thirds of the way across the *Dynamite Slab* traverse, move up to a narrow overlap. Climb the steep slab above (avoiding obvious big holds further right) past 3 bolts to a tricky finish and the lower off. Somewhat artificial, but good climbing.

4 Wild Cherry 20m F6a **
D Geere, P Whillance 24.04 2026
Starts just right of *Dynamite Slab* at another short groove. Up this onto the main slab by a large bore hole. Climb the slab right of a dubious looking thin flake then awkward moves back left over it to a ledge. Move immediately right onto the steep buttress where good holds lead to a lower off. (8B+L).

5 Hayabusa 20m F6a+ **
D Geere, J Daly 15.06.2026
A parallel route to the last climb, some 3m further right, taking the thin curving flake in the upper slab.

6 Dynamite Slab - The Direct Start 20m F6b+ **
B Phizacklea, K Phizacklea, J Daly 06.07.1981
(Re-cleaned and retro-bolted P Whillance April 2026)
Begins around the corner on the steeper right hand face of *Dynamite Slab*. Start on the edge at the right hand end of the boreholes. Climb the slab to the third bolt then swing across left to a large ledge on the arête. Continue up to join the original route.

7 The Smear Test 20m F6c **
P Whillance, J Daly 02.05.2026
Start as for *Dynamite Slab - The Direct Start*. Climb this to its third bolt then continue delicately up the slab rightwards to reach a short groove. Up this to join *Dynamite Slab* at its slim groove finish. (8B+L)



1 Original Route 25m Severe
2 Dynamite Slab 36m 6a ***
3 Money for God's Sake (The Direct Finish) 25m 6b+ *
4 Wild Cherry 20m 6a **
5 Hayabusa 20m 6a+ **
6 The Direct Start 20m 6b+ **
7 The Smear Test 20m 6c **

Main Section

8 Pick of the Litter 20m F7a **

K Phizacklea 30.04.2026

Takes the unlikely looking hanging V groove on the right hand side of the slab, right of *The Smear Test*. Climb an initial groove to reach a big hanging flake on the left and layback this to gain a ledge above the V groove. Pull up over a steep scooped wall to a good ledge then up the short rib and wall to a lower off. (7B+L)

9 A Day in the Life 20m F6b+/6c **

P Whillance, J Daly 08.05.2026

Takes the next groove system, a few metres to the right. Go up easily to a large ledge on the right. Climb the steep wall to a small overlap and pull over to gain the corner above. Continue up this exiting right at the top onto ledges. Move up to a flake handrail, traverse across left to gain a rib and up this to a lower off. (8B+L).

10 The Waberthwaite Sausage 19m F6b+ *

J Daly, K Phizacklea 30.04.2026

Start just left of *Witch Hunt*. At the first bolt, step left, straddle the sausage (protruding flake) and from the corner crack above pull left into the prominent V groove, up this and the overhanging V recess above to a lower off. A long quick draw is useful. (9B+L).

11 Witch Hunt 24m F6c **

A Phizacklea, I Greenwood 04.07.1981

Re-cleaned and Retro-bolted, K Phizacklea April 2026

Climbs the obvious capped corner and groove line above, some 3m left of the arête of *Moonlighting*. Climb a short buttress up into the corner. Bridge up and make a tricky move out left to gain the arête. Move up into an open groove and follow this to a lower off on the left. (7B+L).

12 Moonlighting 24m F7a ***

P Whillance, D Armstrong (var) 17.04.1983

(Re-cleaned and Retro-bolted K Phizacklea April 2026)

The prominent arête at the left end of the big wall. Start up its left side to gain the edge and follow this with difficulty past an old peg to gain a halfway ledge. Continue up passing the right hand side of some large blocks to another ledge on the left then up a slab rightwards to a lower off. Excellent. (7B+L).

13 Waberthwaite Wall 24m F6c+ ***

P Whillance, N Wharton 14.06.2026

Takes the left hand side of the big wall. Start 4m right of the arête. Climb up past a borehole to the start of a small left slanting overlap. Up this for a few metres then pull over and climb the steep wall above stepping left to a rest ledge on *Moonlighting*. Step back right and climb the wall trending rightwards to reach the base of a short orange groove. Move back left onto the wall and up a slab to the lower off. Another very good route. (9B+L)



- 2 Dynamite Slab 36m 6a ★★★★★
- 6 The Direct Start 20m 6b+ ★★★★★
- 7 The Smear Test 20m 6c ★★★★★
- 8 Pick of the Litter 20m 7a ★★★★★
- 9 A Day in the Life 20m 6c ★★★★★

- 10 The Waberthwaite Sausage 19m 6b+ ★★★★★
- 11 Witch Hunt 24m 6c ★★★★★
- 12 Moonlighting 24m 7a ★★★★★
- 13 Waberthwaite Wall 24m 6c+ ★★★★★



12 Moonlighting 24m 7a ★★★
13 Waberiwaite Wall 24m 6c+ ★★★
14 Granola Flake 22m 6b ★★
15 Broad Oak Crack 22m 6b ★★

14 Granola Flake

22m F6b ★★

K Phizacklea, J Daly 19.04.2026

Climbs the big obvious flake crack at the right hand end of the big wall. Start by a tree stump and up a broken buttress to reach the base of the big flake crack. A steep layback leads to better holds and up to gain a good hold on the top of huge jammed block. Move immediately right and up here to avoid the loose groove above. Gain the arête on the right and up this to a lower off. (6B+L).

15 Broad Oak Crack

22m F6b ★★

K Phizacklea, P Whillance 10.04.2026

Just to the right of *Granola Flake*, a steep thin crack leads into an easier angled V groove. Climb the broken buttress (as for *Granola Flake*) to the start of the crack and up this to gain the V groove above. Make a couple of awkward moves left to a foothold on the arête and up this to the *Granola Flake* lower off. (6B+L).

8m right of *Granola Flake* is a broken buttress with a short, very steep wall in its lower section.

16 Little Gem

9m F6c *

J Daly 15.05.2026

Climb rightwards across a slab to gain an arête and up this to a ledge below an overhanging wall. Pull up with difficulty to gain the finishing ledge above and reach right to a lower off. (4B+L).

The Prow

10m further along is a big hanging buttress with the unmistakable feature of The Prow. The first two routes are on the left side of this prow.

17 Blockbuster

16m F6a

J Daly, D Geere, K Phizacklea 9.04.2026

Climb a stepped corner then work left along the top of some solid blocks to the crux right facing corner. Climb it then up to a lower off beneath the large tree. A pleasant route with a definite crux. (7B+L)

18 Love Potion Number 9

16m F6a+ *

P Whillance, J Daly, D Geere 21.03.2026

Start a few metres right at a slim groove and clean crack in a short wall. Climb this to a big ledge on the right. Step out left onto the rib and up this and some large blocks leading back rightwards across the wall. Continue up to a lower off. (6B+L).

19 R'n'P Springett

16m F7a+ *

K Phizacklea, C Plant 10.05.2026

Takes the right side of the prow. Go up an initial broken buttress to reach the start of an overhanging flake on the right. Climb this and its right wall to gain a ledge with a big downwards-pointing shot hole (left arête proves useful). Step up left and continue to a lower off. (6B+L).



17 Blockbuster 16m 6a
18 Love Potion Number 9 16m 6a+ ★
19 R'n'P Springett 16m 7a+ ★

The Bay Area

Some 20m further along the path the crags recede back into a wide wooded bay. This sector has several areas of climbing. The first encountered on the left hand side of **The Bay** has a number of reasonable grade climbs.

Dave's left hand Buttresses (4/5 routes projected?)

A short distance further on is a cleaned slab in the centre of The Bay Area. It is easily visible and accessed from the main path through a few trees.

Bay Slab

1 Ramp Art 7m F5 ★
P Whillance, D Geere 07.05.2026
The obvious left curving ramp line up the left side of the slab provides very good climbing. (3B+L).

2 Ramp it Up 8m F6b+ ★★
P Whillance, J Daly 04.05.2026
Takes the central line via a much thinner ramp. Start at a short wall below the right hand end of the ramp. Move up to gain a standing position on the ramp and follow it left to reach a good hold and up to the lower off. (3B+L).

3 Ramp Age 7m F6b
P Whillance, D Geere 07.05.2026
Start just right of *Ramp it Up*. Climb up easily rightwards for a few metres then step left and climb the steep buttress direct to a lower off. (3B+L).



1 Ramp Art 7m 5 ★ 2 Ramp it Up 8m 6b+ ★★ 3 Ramp Age 7m 6b

London Wall Area

Some 50m further along the track is another cleaned area of rock on the left. (This area is now very close to the Southern parking place and usually accessed from there in a couple of minutes). It consists of two distinct faces at right angles to each other. The slab that forms the left hand face has 3 routes.

1 Spiritual Home 7m F5+
D Geere, J Daly, P Whillance 04.05.2026
Takes the thin crack line up the left side of the slab. Awkward to start. (3B+L)

2 Devoid of Trouble 7m F6a
D Geere, P Whillance, J Daly 04.05.2026
Direct up the middle of the slab crossing a small overlap. (3B+L)

3 Tiny Dancer 7m F6b ★
D Geere, J Daly, P Whillance 04.05.2026
Start up a short crack then climb the thin right trending ramp line with some delicate moves to the lower off. (3B+L)

The much steeper right hand face resembles a pinnacle. It contains a number of crack lines and has 3 climbs.

4 Chelsea Dagger 7m F6b
P Whillance, J Daly 04.05.2026
Start from a block below the left side of the wall. Make steep moves up the wall to gain a flange and the prominent right trending crack to reach a lower off on the left. (3B+L)

5 London Wall 8m F6b ★
P Whillance 01.05.2026
Takes the obvious zigzag crack line up the centre of the wall. Start off a block and follow the cracks first rightwards then back leftwards to gain the main crack close to *Chelsea Dagger*. Finish up rightwards to a lower off. (3B+L)

6 Edgware Road 7m F6a
P Whillance, J Daly 21.03.2026
Climbs the rightmost crack, close to the edge, to reach a big ledge. Step across left to use the lower off on *London Wall*.



1 Spiritual Home 7m 5+ 2 Devoid of Trouble 7m 6a 3 Tiny Dancer 7m 6b ★



4 Chelsea Dagger 7m 6b 5 London Wall 8m 6b ★ 6 Edgware Road 7m 6a