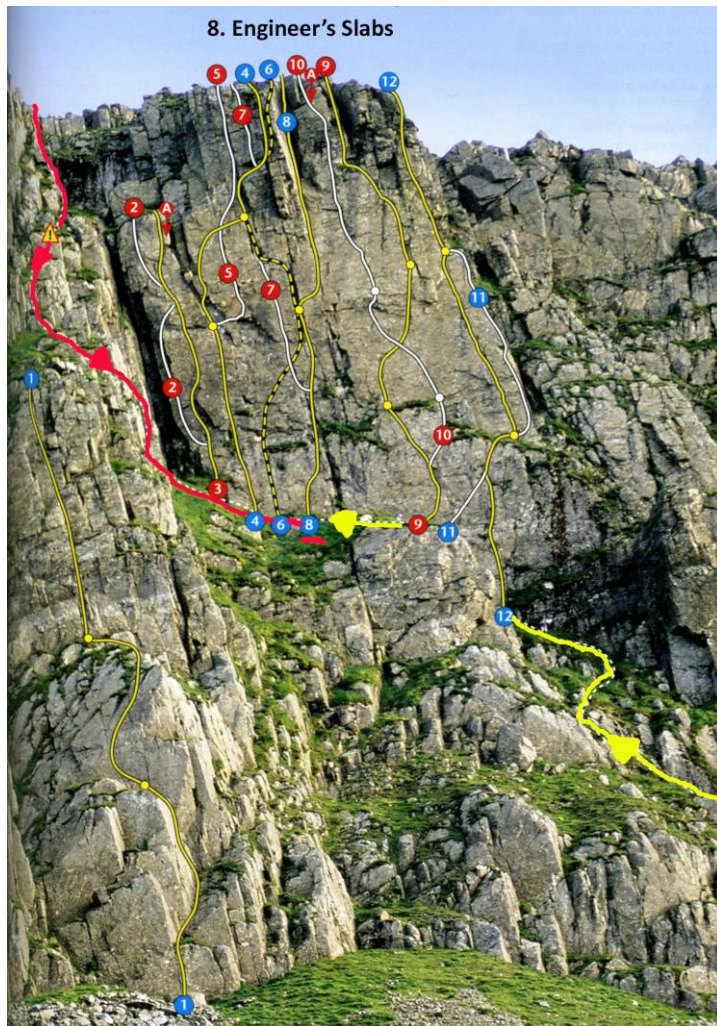




The yellow line shows the approach from below while the red line shows the approach from above.

Time permitting a good alternative to *Easy Sheep Route* is to follow route 1 on the Photodiagram, *Sledgate Ridge*, 75m, MVS 4b **. The way is fairly obvious and a full description to support the Photodiagram is unnecessary.

Warning

You climb at your own risk. 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. 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. 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. While every effort is made to present accurate information, the information provided on this route card is compiled from a number of sources, it may contain errors and so should not be relied upon. Neither the FRCC, Arc'teryx nor anyone involved with the production of this card can be held responsible for any omissions or mistakes, nor liable for any personal or third party injuries or damage, howsoever caused, arising from its use. **Copyright FRCC, may not be reproduced without prior permission**



Lakeland Revival 2017



1

The Wasdale Round, day 2 (or the afternoon routes!): Great Gable Enchainement

Introduction: This brilliant combination of routes gives a guided tour through the birthplace of English rock climbing taking in some historically important climbs in the HS – VS range.

Navigation: Good navigation skills and/or prior knowledge of the crags are needed to complete this combination of climbs which starts by following The Climber's Path across the SW flank of Great Gable.

Starting from Styhead Pass a short walk leads to Kern Knotts (NY 215 096) and **Innominate Crack, VS 4b**. The Climbers' Path now climbs steadily across the SW slopes of Great Gable to an awe inspiring wall rising above a large red scree shoot (Great Hell Gate). This is **Tophet Wall, HS** (NY 212 098)

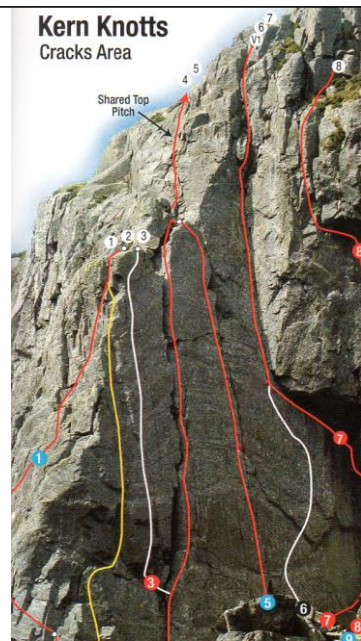
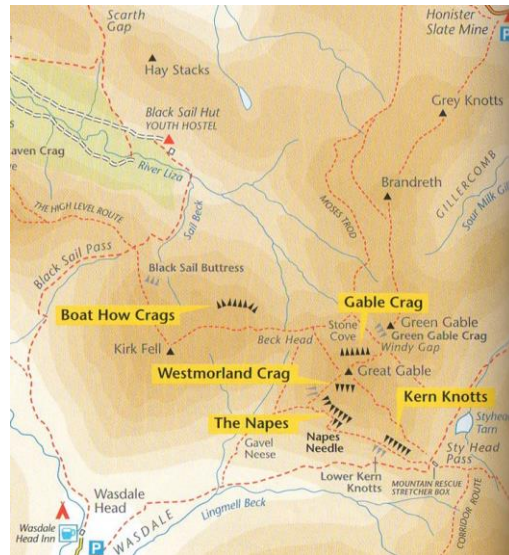
Continuing beyond Great Hell Gate the The Climber's Path joins the lower part of Needle Gully. Up this, past a chockstone, until a scramble out left leads to The Dress Circle (ledges below a steep wall which give the classic view of Napes Needle). An impressive arête rises from the left side of The Dress Circle; this is the impressive **Eagle's Nest Ridge Direct MVS 4a** (NY 210 099). Above this arête easier climbing leads to the fellside above the crags and at the top of Great Hell Gate. Westmorland's Crags are clearly visible a little further up the hillside (NY 211 102).

Head for the lowest point of these crags and the well-marked start of *Pinnacle Ridge* which bounds central gully on its left side. The left side of the wall overlooking central gully holds our next route **R&R Special VS 4c** which finishes beside Westmorland's Cairn which offers a classic view down Wasdale to the Irish Sea. Then on to the summit of Great Gable which is close by; you have done well to get this far. It is a fair hike down but if you are keen to get in some more walking and rock miles **Engineer's Slab VS 4c** is waiting for you on the other side of the fell overlooking upper Ennerdale (details later).

Outline Map of the Great Gable section of the Wasdale Round (Enchainement).

Styhead Pass can be reached with equal ease (about 1 hour) from either Wasdale Head or Seathwaite in Borrowdale.

For those trying the full Wasdale Round the pass will have been reached by the Corridor Route from Scafell Pike. Styhead tarn is a lovely place to bivi if you, as many mortals will, choose to split The Wasdale Round into two days



A few minutes walking along the path that leads slightly north of west from the pass leads to Kern Knotts and our first route on Great Gable.

5 Innominate Crack 20m VS 4b ***

CS Bower, B Beetham, JB Wilton – 9 Apr 1921

The thinner right hand crack is more amenable than its neighbour on the left. Either finish up the polished slab above the block (this adds a further 20m of climbing) or abseil off.

Our final route lies on the Ennerdale face of Great Gable; this is a high north facing crag which takes some time to dry. When dry it is a sensational place to climb – especially in the late afternoon/evening when it gets the sun. The Engineer's Slabs is a misnomer as it is not a slab but a wall; unfortunately it lies among a lot of broken and vegetated ledges so is difficult to reach.

The top of the slab is close to the summit of Great Gable, an approach from above will involve less walking but is only advised for those familiar with the crag. In which case an abseil or descent of the awkward ledges of the upper part of *Easy Sheep Walk* are suitable.

The safest approach is from below by the ledges of *Easy Sheep Walk* (M, care, rope up if necessary). This does involve a fair bit more walking than approaching from above. From the summit of Great Gable descend either the path heading North West towards Beck Head or that heading North East to Wind Gap until you meet the good path that runs just below the crags. Follow this to below the Engineer's Slab. Photo on Page 8

8 Engineer's Slabs

60m

VS 4c

FG Balcombe, JA Shepherd, CJA Cooper-6 Jun 1934

An outstanding Lakeland climb of great character, taking the obvious crack and groove-line up the centre of the wall. At the time of its first ascent this was a futuristic route tackling a wall with few if any ledges. The route enjoys the evening sun and is a perfect way to finish the day.

Start just left of a groove in the middle of the face.

1 26m 4c The wall leads past a small pinnacle to the foot of a crack. Climb the crack for 5m to twin cracks on the right which lead to a chimney and sentry box.

2 34m 4c Traverse right for 2m into a crack and climb this for 8m to a ledge, followed by a layback crack to a good ledge. The chimney above gives access to the groove that leads to the top. Many teams avoid the classic delights of this final groove by following the left-hand finish up the jagged crack on its left wall. This leads to the arête and a junction *Interloper* at the spike, then up the ridge above - but doesn't entitle you to tick the route!

Warning

You climb at your own risk. 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. 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. 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. While every effort is made to present accurate information, the information provided on this route card is compiled from a number of sources, it may contain errors and so should not be relied upon. Neither the FRCC, Arc'teryx nor anyone involved with the production of this card can be held responsible for any omissions or mistakes, nor liable for any personal or third party injuries or damage, howsoever caused, arising from its use. **Copyright FRCC, may not be reproduced without prior permission**

8. R & R Special**38m****VS 4c ****

SJH Reid, C Read (alt) A Gladstone2003

A delightful little eliminate taking the wall left of a prominent wide crack in the centre of Cairn Buttress. Exposed climbing on perfect rock with excellent protection finishing at Westmorland's Cairn and its amazing view..

1 18m 4c Follow the right-slanting crack for 3 metres then step left and pull directly over the roof on excellent holds. Go straight up the wall above, crossing a right-slanting crack/groove-line, direct to a huge pinnacle belay.

20m 4b Start just right of a large block and climb the right arête of the wall behind to below a cracked prow. Climb the prow direct then take any line up the wall behind.

**10 Tophet Wall****75m****HS*********

HM Kelly, REW Pritchard - Jul 1923

Simply magnificent - it has few peers - unequivocally the greatest mountain route of its grade in the Lake District. (Photodiagram p4)

1 20m Climb the wall just right of the steep crack until a step left can be made into the crack which is followed to a ledge. An ascending traverse right to a good ledge at the foot of a short dark wall

2 17m The short and bold wall to a broken ledge. Traverse left and climb a groove to a slab, spike belay on the right.

3 38m A fantastic pitch! Semi hand-traverse 10m right in a sensational position to a crack and climb it to a small ledge then follow the crack up rightwards. Climb the small pinnacle on the right, step left into the crack which is followed to a thrilling pull out right onto a flake. Easier climbing up the wall leads to a belay at the start of the scramble descent to Hell's Gate Screens.

20 Eagle's Nest Ridge Direct**110m****MVS 4a*********

GA Solly, WC Slingsby, GP Baker, WA Brigg - Apr 15 1892

P2-4 GA Solly, M Schintz - Apr 1892

The ascent of the blunt arête overlooking the Dress Circle was an amazing achievement for 1892. (Photodiagram p5)

1 45m 4a From directly below the arête steep climbing rightwards on good holds leads to a ledge. Gain the arête up on the left using two parallel cracks, climb it past the Eagle's Nest, Crow's Nest and a bold slab to a good ledge. Belay in the corner.

2 12m The awkward chimney above is followed by the ridge on the left.

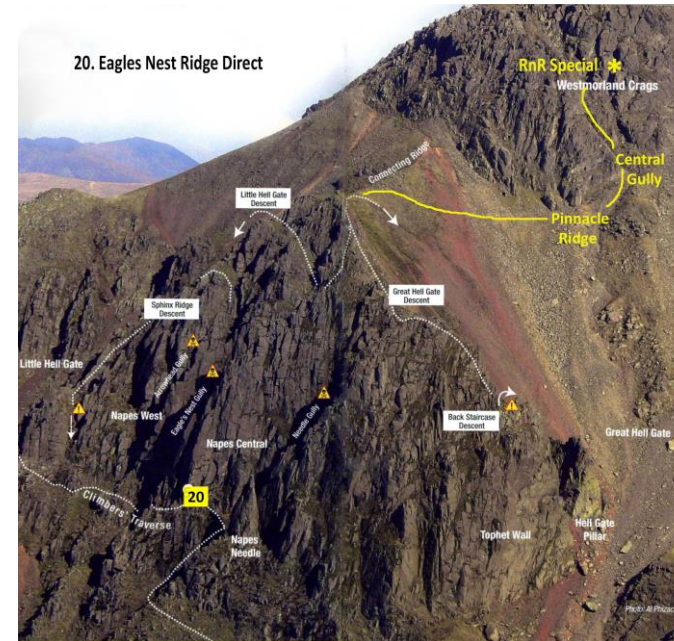
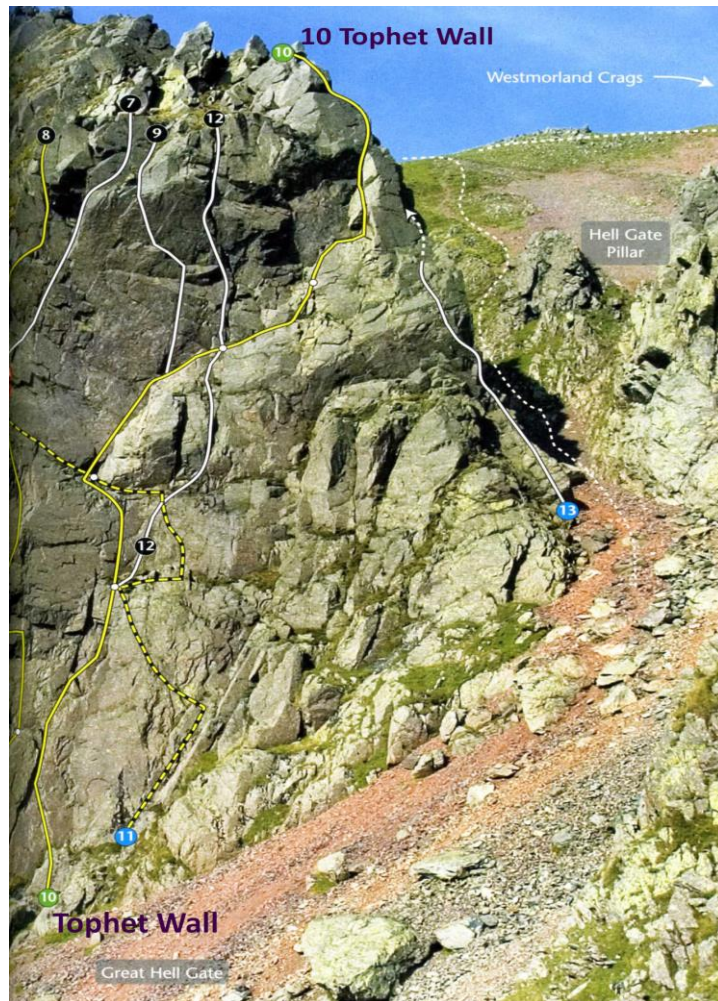
3 18m A chimney on the left is followed by scrambling up broken rocks to the foot of a tower.

4 35m Pull up the short steep crack to an exposed rock ledge and move right into the boulder-choked chimney. Follow the scratches and scramble along the ridge.

A Historical Note: A route that was years ahead of its time and almost certainly one of, if not actually the hardest route in Britain at the time. To get some sense of the original achievement leave the rope and rack behind, put on some builders boots and solo it! Don't forget to have someone soloing behind you so you can stand on their shoulders when the going gets tricky!

Warning

You climb at your own risk. 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. 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. 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. While every effort is made to present accurate information, the information provided on this route card is compiled from a number of sources, it may contain errors and so should not be relied upon. Neither the FRCC, Arc'teryx nor anyone involved with the production of this card can be held responsible for any omissions or mistakes, nor liable for any personal or third party injuries or damage, howsoever caused, arising from its use. **Copyright FRCC, may not be reproduced without prior permission**



The Napes overview.

This photo shows the relative positions of *Tophet Wall*, *Eagle's Nest Ridge Direct* and *R&R Special* on Westmorland Crags.

20. Eagle's Nest Ridge Direct.

Nb. The green route numbered 17 is called *Eagle's Nest Ridge Ordinary Route* or, more commonly, *West Chimney*. The *Direct* finishes along the final section of this easier route

Warning

You climb at your own risk. 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. 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. 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. While every effort is made to present accurate information, the information provided on this route card is compiled from a number of sources, it may contain errors and so should not be relied upon. Neither the FRCC, Arc'teryx nor anyone involved with the production of this card can be held responsible for any omissions or mistakes, nor liable for any personal or third party injuries or damage, howsoever caused, arising from its use. **Copyright FRCC, may not be reproduced without prior permission**