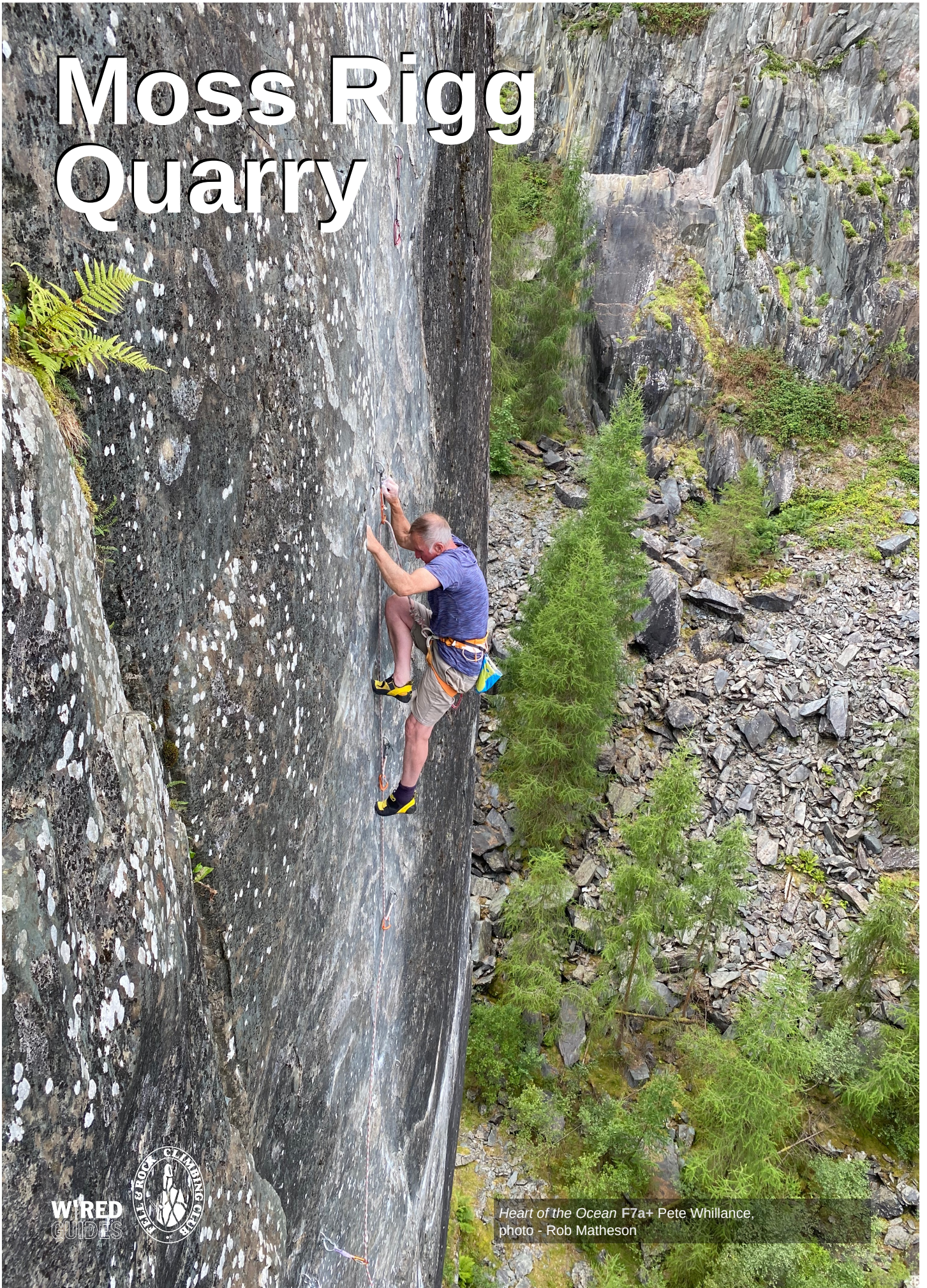


Moss Rigg Quarry



WIRED
GUIDES



Heart of the Ocean F7a+ Pete Whillance,
photo - Rob Matheson

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. 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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Moss Rigg Quarry

OS Ref: **NY 312 025**

Alt: **180m**

Rock: **Slate**

This massive quarry has been rediscovered and widely developed (around 30 new sports routes) in recent years and has already become a popular venue. Although care is needed in some places, there are many new climbing areas here with very good rock and high quality routes. The quarry is very sheltered with several areas facing south and south-east making them fast-drying and an excellent destination in poor weather.

Approach

The quarry may be approached from Tilberthwaite or Hodge Close. Both ways take 20 minutes.

Tilberthwaite: From the A593 Ambleside - Coniston road take the Tilberthwaite turn (acute right if approaching from the north) and park at a large car park below Tilberthwaite Quarry. Walk north along the road passing through the farm. Take the gated bridleway branching up to the left and follow this, steeply at first, for about 1km, until it levels out. After the last gate, at a fingerpost, follow the footpath to the right heading right towards the wall and trees. Just over the wall, a smaller quarry can be seen. Keep walking along the wall round a small knoll. Sensibly pass through a short wooden fenced section of the drystone wall to reach the east-facing side of the quarry rim.

From [Hodge Close](#) walk north to the cottages then west along the track descending through the quarries to the track between High Tilberthwaite and Little Langdale. Turn left/south towards High Tilberthwaite and right at the first junction (gated) following an ascending track passing crumbling quarry buildings to the quarry rim at a handy viewing platform lined by large blocks of slate. Most of the different climbing areas, as indicated on the overview photodiagram, can be seen from here and are described travelling anticlockwise from this point.

Descent

There are descent routes at both ends of the quarry (see photodiagram) but the northern access route, marked by an unusual square cairn at its top and a safety rope handrail, is the best for most of the new climbing areas. Some of the scree slopes are still fairly unstable so, as with all quarries, the advice is to take care.



Parking

Tilberthwaite
Parking



Parking

Moss Rigg, Hodge
Close CP

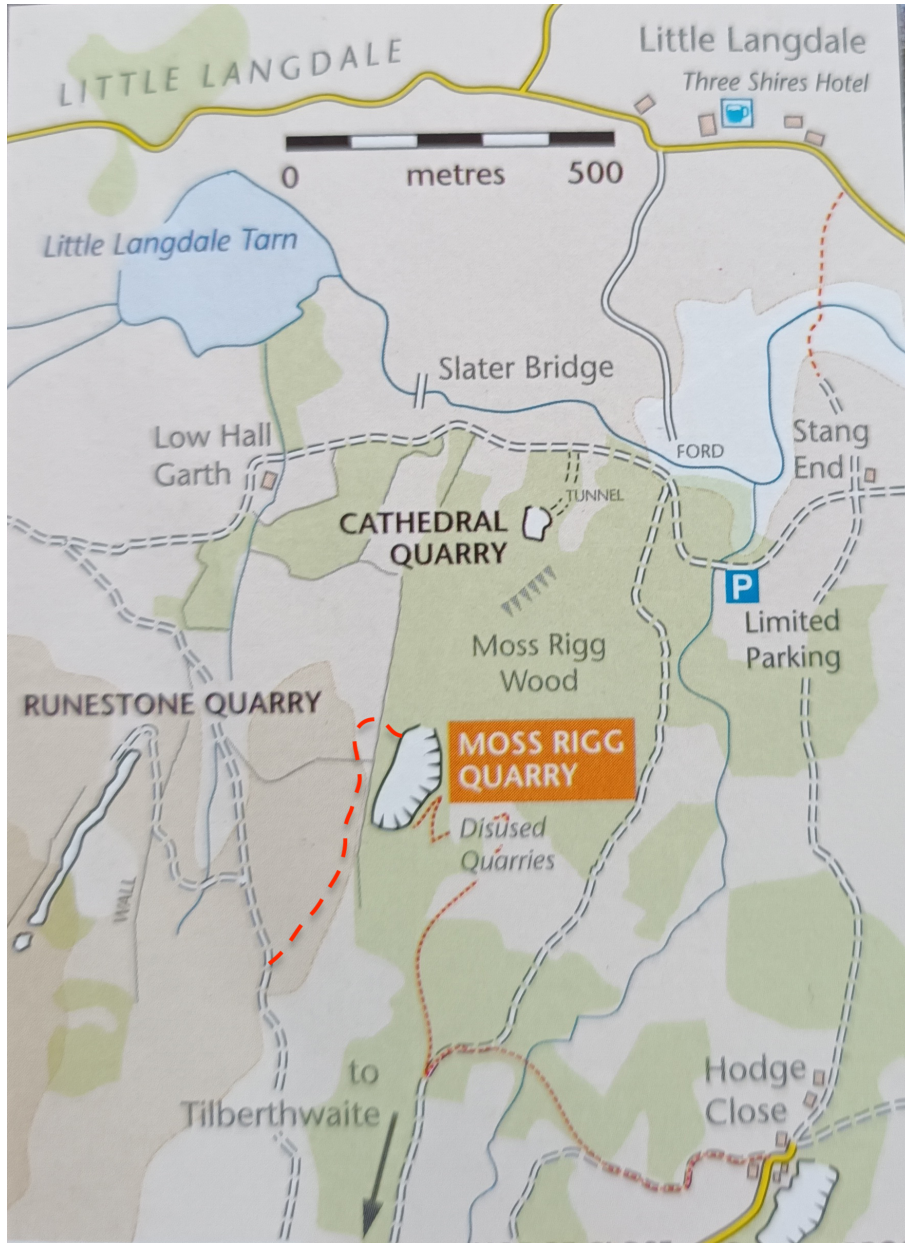
Grades

3

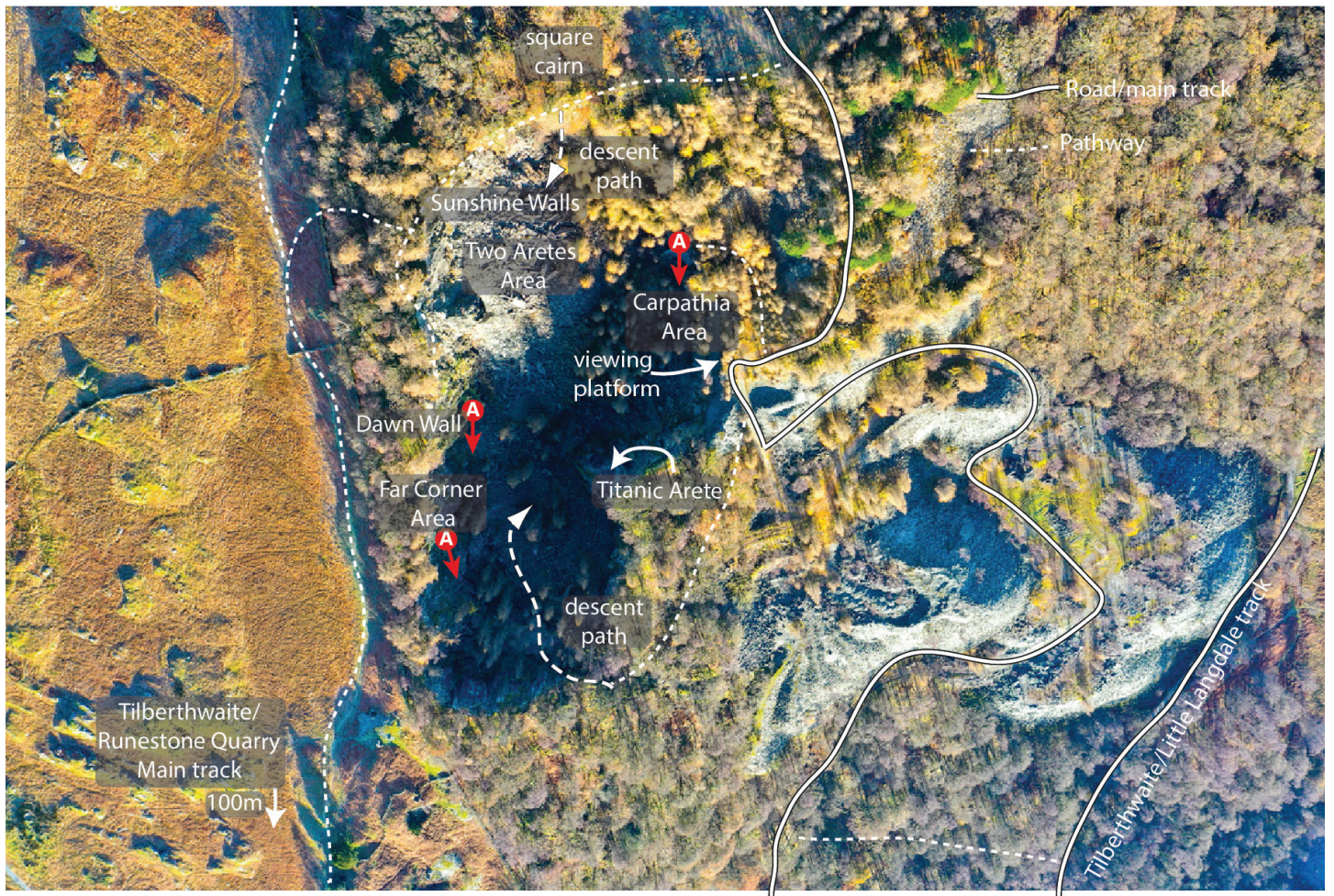
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15

12



Moss Rigg map



Moss Rigg overview

Carpathia Area

Introduction

Tucked away in the NE corner of the quarry and somewhat obscured from view by trees is the [Carpathia Area](#). The left-hand side is dominated by a massive square tower/pinnacle block sitting on top of broken slabs and with a huge, unstable looking cave at its base.

Approach

The routes can be approached via the [Sunshine Walls](#) descent and then by following a rough path through the trees close to the quarry walls. Alternatively, the top can be easily reached through trees 20m north of the viewing platform on arrival at the quarry rim. A rough path leaves the main track and leads down leftwards and behind the pinnacle block to a large grass terrace. Abseil from bolt belays to the starts of routes 3 – 7 (avoid going over the loose-looking cave).

Descent



Moss Rigg Carpathia

Immediately right of the base of the descent gully is a small area of cleaned slabs that provide the first two climbs.

① Different Drum F5a+ 9m

Take the left-hand line up the slab then move across right and up to finish at the lower-off. Some fragile holds.

24.03.2024 D Geere, P Whillance

2 Stone Poneys F6a 10m

Start a few metres right at a slim groove. Up this for a couple of moves then left onto the slab and direct over a small overlap to better holds. Continue to the lower off (as for [Different Drum](#)).

24.03.2024 D Geere, P Whillance

50m further right is the main [Carpathia](#) area.

3 Bow Wave Arête F5a+ 15m

Takes the left edge of the slab, some 8m left of the big unstable-looking cave. Start from blocks on the left side of the obvious arête. Easily up for a few metres then climb a short groove and make an awkward step up right to gain the arête. Follow the right side of the arête to reach some broken ledges (or take the obvious horizontal foot ledge and traverse rightwards to reach the bolt belays and starts of routes 5 and 6). Finish over large blocks to gain the terrace. Bolt belays on the right.

23.10.2023 P Whillance, K Phizacklea

4 Carpathia Corner E2 5c 20m

Start from blocks 2m right of the [Bow Wave Arête](#), below a ragged right slanting crack. Follow the crack easily to reach broken ledges. Continue up a short corner and pull up right onto a good ledge. Climb a thin crack and slim groove in the left edge of the wall to the top. (The grade is for the final 6m only).

15.07.2021 J Cootes

5 The Blue Riband F6c † 12m

Takes the left side of the front face of the pinnacle block. Start up routes 3 or 4 then foot traverse a ledge rightwards (or abseil in from the bolt belays on the terrace) to reach bolt belays below the upper face of the pinnacle. Climb the wall above the belays, just right of a slight groove then continue up and leftwards on small holds to gain the arête and so the big ledge. Move across right and pull over the final leaning wall on large jugs.

26.02.2024 P Whillance, K Phizacklea

6 Saxonia F6b+ 12m

Takes a line up the right side of the pinnacle face. Climb a short ramp rightwards then make an awkward move up to gain better holds. Continue up to where the wall steepens and use a thin flake on the left to reach the big ledge. Finish up the wall above, as for [The Blue Riband](#)

26.02.2024 P Whillance, K Phizacklea

7 Vanishing Point F6c 20m

Some 30m further right beyond the cave, is a slanting diagonal slab cutting up leftwards through a band of overhangs.

Start at the base of this slab sandwiched between overlaps. Climb the slab leftwards until stopped by overhangs. Pull up leftwards to good holds on the lip and make a tricky move to get established on the slab above. Continue up the slab to a lower-off.

26.09.2022 P Whillance, K Phizacklea

Sunshine Walls

Aspect: **S** 

Introduction

As one might expect from the name, these walls are at the far northern end of the quarry, face due south, get plenty of sunshine and dry quickly. They are relatively easy to access down a tree-covered scree gully (see overview photodiagram) and the descent is marked by a distinctive square cairn at the top. There is a hand-line in place for safety. From the bottom of the descent gully, the [Sunshine Walls](#) stretch leftwards, rising uphill with the boulder and grass-strewn base.



Moss Rigg Quarry Sunshine Walls

The first route starts at the top of the boulder and grass slope and uses the first pitch of [Scorchio](#).

① Solar Power F6b 22m



Takes the first pitch of [Scorchio](#) to reach the base of an overhanging crack in the upper wall.

1 14m F5a+ Climb the initial slab and corner crack of [Scorchio](#) to ledges then go up leftwards to bolt belays below an obvious overhanging crack.

2 8m F6b Follow the strenuous crack rightwards to a lower-off or finish direct.

10.10.2022 P Whillance, A Towse

② Scorchio F5+ 22m



Takes a prominent left-slanting corner crack. From the highest point of the boulder slope, scramble up steep grass and a short wall to reach the base of a pink right-slanting groove ([Some Like it Hot](#)). Traverse left and up a slab to reach the start of the corner crack. Follow this leftwards past an awkward overlap and up to ledges before dog-legging back right to follow a slim groove to a lower-off or the top.

10.10.2022 P Whillance, A Towse

③ Some Like it Hot F6b 18m



Start as for [Scorchio](#) to reach the base of a steep corner and a pink right-slanting groove. Climb an initial corner to gain the groove and follow this steeply rightwards to an overhung ledge. Pull over the bulge then continue up till an awkward move left gives better holds that lead up leftwards to the lower-off.

29.09.2022 P Whillance, A Towse, R Bartlett

The next 3 routes begin some 10m up the slope from the base of the descent route. A prominent feature hereabouts is a rust-coloured corner in the lower wall. The first climb starts 6m left of this at a left-slanting short corner.

④ Triple Echo F6b+ 20m



Go up the easy left-slanting corner and short groove above to reach a good ledge below a leaning wall. Climb the steep wall to a ledge then another awkward wall on the left to gain a bay below a left-trending half-pipe borehole. Steeply up this moving left to better holds and the lower-off.

11.04.2024 P Whillance, R Tunnah, S Quinn

5 **Go! F7b** † 18m



Takes the steep wall left of [Bring Me Sunshine](#). Start as for [Bring Me Sunshine](#) and climb its initial wall, just right of the prominent rust-coloured corner, to reach a big ledge. Step up a groove on the right, as for the next route, but then traverse the wall steeply left to a block. Climb the leaning wall rightwards via a slanting break then up to a slight groove and better holds. Continue to the lower-off.

23.10.2023 K Phizacklea, T Mawer

6 **Bring Me Sunshine F6a+** 18m



Takes the easiest line on the overhanging main wall. Start as for [Go!](#) to reach the big ledge and move across right to below a steep groove. Up this a few metres then pull right into another groove and up right again to reach a slabby shelf and the lower-off.

26.09.2022 P Whillance, K Phizacklea

Two Arêtes Area

Aspect: E/SE ☀️☔

Introduction

This area adjoins the [Sunshine Walls](#), being higher up the same slope and across to its left. It is dominated by two big arêtes and with a broken fan of steep grooves and corners in between. Descend as for [Sunshine Walls](#) then go up leftwards over the boulder-strewn slopes with care (or abseil in direct). To the left of the lighter-coloured left hand arête is a belt of grey, easier angled slabs, The Apron. There are three routes here that share a common lower-off point some 8m below the top of the quarry.

Approach

From the square cairn, follow the [Sunshine Walls](#) descent (rope *in-situ*) then carefully negotiate loose slate spoil to reach pleasant sun-soaked gravelly ledges below the climbs.



Moss Rigg Two Aretes

① Look Slab Walker F6a 18m



Takes the obvious line of weakness near the left-hand edge of the slabs. Climb a broken crack leftwards for 4m then pull up right to ledges. Follow another crackline leading leftwards until awkward moves right can be made to gain the base of a short steep corner. Climb this to ledges and the lower-off.

26.01.2024 K Phizacklea, D Geere, P Whillance

② Jabba the Padda F6b 18m



Takes the central line, starting just right of the previous route. Easily up for a few metres to a thin crack that leads to a triangular-shaped ledge. Move up diagonally leftwards to reach another very thin crack in the slab. Climb this delicately to gain sloping ledges below a steep open groove and up this past some hollow-sounding flakes to a ledge and the lower-off on the left.

26.01.2024 P Whillance, K Phizacklea, D Geere

③ Hands Solo F5+ 20m



Start 3m right of [Jabba the Padda](#). Climb a ragged crack rightwards to the base of a prominent left-slanting ramp. Follow this to a junction with Jabba the Padda below its steep open groove. Move up then pull rightwards into another groove and climb this, exiting left near its top to gain ledges that lead left across to the lower-off.

26.01.2024 P Whillance, D Geere, K Phizacklea

④ Comedy Corner F6c 20m



Start at the very highest point of scree between the two arêtes and below an overhanging inverted V-corner. Bridge the dark corner and pull up steeply leftwards onto a ramp. Follow the ramp passing a bulge to below the final steep corner. Strenuous climbing up this leads to a lower-off or the top.

14.04.2024 P Whillance, S Quinn

⑤ Too Steep for a Slab F7a 20m



Takes the grey slabby wall right of a broken loose-looking groove (that provides the finish of [Slater](#)). Start 5m right of [Comedy Corner](#) at a weakness in the middle of the grey wall. Pull up and step left to gain a thin crack and follow this faint line to meet the [Slater](#) traverse. Continue direct up the wall to join the crux and final moves of [Heicke Dreschler](#).

16.04.2024 P Whillance

6 Slater E3 5c 23m

Start 1m right of [Too Steep for a Slab](#) at a right-trending crack. Climb the thin crack and scoop in the wall rightwards to gain the arête. Go up this a few metres to a big ledge and possible bolt belays (junction with the next 2 routes). Step up and traverse horizontally left across the wall to reach the loose corner. Climb this and the right wall gingerly past some dubious-looking blocks to the top.

15.07.2021 J Cootes.

7 Heicke Dreschler F6c+ 33m

Takes the big grey right-hand arête, starting well down the scree slope at a prominent band of white-coloured slate. Towards the left side of this band is a right-slanting flake/groove line. Steep moves up to the flake and rightwards a few metres then direct to gain a ledge on the arête. Follow the arête past some interesting bulges to reach a big ledge (and possible bolt belays) below the final prow. Move up the prow a few metres to a good hold then pull left onto the slabby wall. Climb this on small holds to the lower-off or the top.

22.10.2023 K Phizacklea, PWhillance

8 Tunnel Vision F6b+ 38m

Takes the right-hand side of the arête. Start 7m further down the scree slope, towards the bottom of the white slate scar area. Reach up to good flake holds and climb up rightwards to gain ledges on the arête. Easily up the right side of the arête for a few metres then follow a thin crack leading rightwards up the slab and over a bulge to ledges. Climb the continuation groove slightly leftwards to big ledges below the headwall (belay available here to avoid rope drag). Climb the steep corner above, finishing through the tunnel or around it depending on personal girth!

5.11.2023 P Whillance, K Phizacklea

Dawn Wall



Introduction

This wall lies directly opposite the [Titanic Arête Area](#) and constitutes the top tier of the quarry only. It consists of deceptively steep grooves and corners in its upper sections and is identifiable by a distinctive W-shaped slab on its top right side.

Approach

Approach is by abseil only to reach two slightly staggered flat grass ledges running along the base (head for the left-hand ledge for routes 2, 3 & 4, right-hand ledge for 5, 6 & 7). Both these ledges have bolt belay stations. All the climbs can be finished by topping out, though most have a lower-off as well.



Moss Rigg Dawn Wall

① Morning Has Broken F7a+ 20m



Takes an overhanging thin groove and arête at the far left end of the wall. Abseil down the line of the route to a good ledge and bolt belay at a slightly lower level than the other routes. Move up to the overhanging wall and climb it via a slim groove exiting right to gain a good ledge below the arête. Climb the right side of the arête for a few metres till difficult moves left can be made around the arête and up the wall to gain better holds and the top.

20.07.2023 K Phizacklea, P Whillance

② Living Daylights F6c 18m



From the bolt belays go left to the far end of the ledge to start. Pull up left into a groove line and up this to a big ledge. Continue up then back rightwards to below a hanging arête. Climb a ramp leftwards to reach the final crux corner and up this strenuously to the top.

3.05.2023 P Whillance, K Phizacklea

③ Twilight Zone F6b 18m



Start just left of the bolt belays and climb a stepped groove leftwards to a big grassy ledge. Climb the steep wall on the left to gain the arête then follow ledges up leftwards till awkward moves back right can be made to gain a slab at the base of a steep corner. Up this to finish.

26.01.2023 P Whillance, K Phizacklea

4 Dawn Chorus F6c+ 18m

The slim central corner provides an excellent pitch, strenuous and technical. Start immediately right of the belays. Move up to a ledge then continue easily trending leftwards to below an overhanging wall. Move up right to the base of the corner and follow this throughout using the steep crack in its left wall to reach the lower-off on the slab above.

3.05.2023 P Whillance, K Phizacklea

The final three routes start from the right hand grassy ledge, directly below the big W-shaped slab.

5 Wake Up Call F6b+ 18m

Start at a slight groove 4m left of the bolt belays. Climb this and continue up leftwards to reach a blank-looking overhanging groove. Up this pulling out right to gain good ledges. Climb the steep corner above exiting left onto the slab, then easily up right to the lower-off.

29.06.2023 P Whillance, K Phizacklea

6 Morning Glory F6c+ 18m

Takes the slim groove in the arête right of [Wake Up Call](#). Start as for [Wake Up Call](#) and climb the slight groove to the first bolt then move up right onto a slab below an overhanging wall. Pull across right into a thin groove and up this to a good ledge on the right below a steep slim groove in the arête. Exposed and technical climbing up this leads to the slab above. Easily up leftwards to the lower-off on [Wake Up Call](#).

9.05.2023 P Whillance, K Phizacklea

7 Early Riser F6a 20m

A good warm up route taking the obvious stepped groove line up the right-hand side of the wall. From the bolt belays, go right a few metres to start near the right-hand end of the ledge. Step up and follow a pleasant left-trending ramp to where it meets a steeper wall. Climb a short steep groove on the right and pull up to gain the slabby stepped groove line. Follow this delicately right to reach better ledges then go up another short steep groove to gain another slab and rightwards again to finish easily by a tree.

26.01.2023 P Whillance, K Phizacklea

Some 75m left of [Dawn Wall](#), and very visible from the Viewing Platform, is a stand-alone buttress in the upper part of the quarry with a striking pink-coloured corner system – The Far Corner Area. Abseil down the line of the corner to a big ledge and bolt belays.

The Far Corner

F6c 24m ** Start up an easy groove on the left to gain the first wide ledge. Climb the blank-looking corner with a tricky move to get established then up to an overlap. Thin moves up the corner above lead to good holds on the right (or an easier/lesser alternative is to swing onto the arête on the right and climb a subsidiary groove to the same point, 6b). Pull over the overlap and continue up the corner to another overhang. Awkward moves over this to gain a flake crack then up a more broken groove to finish on the right. Care needed with the final holds.

Titanic Arete Area

25 mins Aspect: W/NW 
 Lat/Lng: [54.41360000856046](#), [-3.0603053916659064](#)

Introduction

The imperious soaring wall on the south east side of the quarry has testing routes of great quality.

Approach

The easiest approach is via an old access track in the NW corner of the quarry, contouring around and down to reach the screes (see photodiagram). Alternatively, make a 50m abseil down the line of [Train Crazy Boys](#) or scramble across the quarry floor from the northern descent.



Moss Rigg Titanic Arete

1 Borrowdale Lads' Day Out E1 5b 22m

Only the first pitch (5b) still survives and this is in a very dirty and loose state. The second pitch fell down in a huge rock fall some years ago. Not recommended. The first pitch takes the prominent groove and crack line to the left of the arête, leading to a ledge at the top of a free standing pillar. New bolt belays are now in place here (as part of [Heart of the Ocean](#)).

10.07.1990 P Ross, D Byne-Pearce, AH Greenbank

2 Heart of the Ocean F7a+ 56m



The second pitch takes a hanging crack in the wall around to the left of [Titanic Arête](#)'s original loose and scrappy first pitch. This now provides a more in keeping start to that climb as well. The upper pitches then tackle the imposing wall left of [Titanic Arête](#). An impressive and sustained outing.

1.8m F6a Start at the cave entrance some 5m left of the foot of the arête. Pull up through the right side of the cave to gain a left slanting ramp. Up this to broken ledges and back right to bolt belays below a steep wall. (this pitch can be avoided by scrambling in from the left.).

2 20m F6c Climb the wall diagonally rightwards on hollow flakes to reach undercuts below the crack. Follow the crack strenuously on awkward slots to gain a good ledge. Continue more easily up the crack and rib on the right to the ledge and bolt belays on [Titanic Arête](#).

3 8m F7a Step back down the arête and swing around onto the left wall. Follow a horizontal traverse line across the wall with some tricky hand changes and tiny footholds to reach a slight groove just before the big corner of [Borrowdale Lads' Day Out](#). Climb the slight groove to good flake holds and move across left to the pinnacle and bolt belays on [Borrowdale Lads'](#).

4 20m F7a+ Step down and back across the good flake holds to below the faint groove in the wall. Climb this on small pockets to reach a right-slanting break. Pull over this slightly rightwards then back left and up to gain better holds. Continue trending rightwards up the headwall to reach a bolt belay lower-off or finish by making a long step right to the arête and pulling up onto the last move of [Titanic Arête](#). A very good and technical pitch.

30.08.2023 P Whillance, K Phizacklea

3 **Titanic Arête F6c+** 52m



An excellent and atmospheric route. The original first pitch had a bad reputation for poor protection, loose rock and vegetation. Climbers regularly avoided it by abseiling in to the bolt belay ledge at half-height and just climbing the top pitch out again. It is now described with the more fitting [Heart of the Ocean](#) start.

1 8m F6a Start at the cave entrance some 5m left of the foot of the arête. Pull up through the right side of the cave to gain a left-slanting ramp. Up this to broken ledges and back right to bolt belays below a steep wall. (This pitch can be avoided by scrambling in from the left.)

2 20m F6c Climb the wall diagonally rightwards on hollow flakes to reach undercuts below the crack. Follow the crack strenuously on awkward slots to gain a good ledge. Continue more easily up the crack and rib on the right to the ledge and bolt belays.

3 24m F6c+ Climb the right-hand side of the arête in a superb position. There is a short tricky section at mid-height by an ancient peg, but also these days by a good bolt runner!

The Original Start 3a 22m F6a Start at a short wall a few metres right of the arête. Climb the initial awkward wall to ledges and continue trending leftwards passing some small trees on their left. The loose rib above leads to ledges and bolt belays.

8.07.1990 P Ross, D Byne-Peare
Re-Bolted April 2018

4 **White Star Line F6c+** 50m



Takes the white slab and grooves between [Titanic Arête](#) and [Train Crazy Boys](#). Start 4m right of [Titanic Arête](#)'s **Original Start**.

1 24m F6c+ Climb a thin crack in a short wall to reach a good ledge. Go easily up a ramp rightwards then up broken rock to the foot of a large white slab. Climb the centre of the slab with a difficult move to reach a break. Continue to a ledge at its top then up broken ledges to bolt belays below a prominent corner.

2 26m F6b Move up and climb a smaller subsidiary groove on the right till a move back left can be made into the main corner above a large roof. Step left and follow an obvious crack in the slab to a good ledge and airy perch on the arête. The headwall is climbed first direct to good holds then leftwards via a slight groove to finish up a scoop in the wall.

10.09.2022 P. Whillance, A. Towse

5 **Train Crazy Boy F6b+** 45m



This route has recently been re-cleaned and re-bolted. It now represents a very much improved and safer proposition. Usually climbed in one long pitch, but can be split by a short traverse left to the belays on [White Star Line](#). Start 8m right of [White Star Line](#) at a cleaned area of rock. Easily up for a few metres then climb the slab left of a shallow corner and up over a small overlap. Continue up the wall trending slightly leftwards to reach a short smooth groove at 35m. Climb this and pull over the overhang rightwards onto the headwall. Awkward moves up this to the top.

22.02.1998 C Struthers, S Siddiqui (re-cleaned and re-bolted, K. Phizacklea 2024)