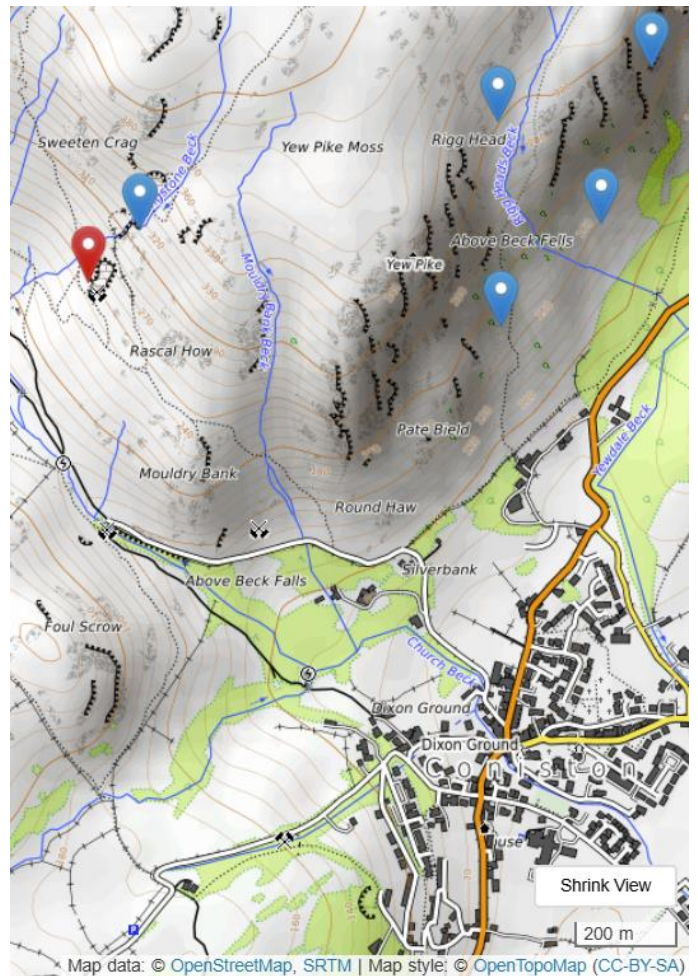


Blue Quarries



(SD 2940 9850) Alt 380m South-West facing

These quarries have been completely resurrected during 2024 and 2025, having suffered from many years of neglect by climbers. This was partly attributable to antiquated (often home-made) in situ equipment or generally inadequate protection, plus a number of fairly substantial rock-falls. All of the routes have now been fully inspected, re-cleaned and re-bolted to modern sports climbing standards. The materials for this work were provided by the Cumbria Bolt Fund.

Some of the older lines have been omitted, modified or completely re-routed to avoid any areas of suspect rock. Quite a few new lines have also been added.

Caution: Despite all the cleaning activity there is still some loose rock about and the scree slopes also need care.

Cumbria Bolt Fund

The Cumbria Bolt Fund was established in 2007 to help fund and manage the replacement and development of protection bolts and lower-offs throughout Cumbria and surrounding areas. Many of the bolts in Cumbrian crags were placed in the 80s and 90s and were in a dangerous state and in need of replacement. Some have been replaced already however there are many still awaiting our attention. This work isn't cheap as it demands time, effort and cash. The Cumbria Bolt Fund is funded entirely by donations from the public and partner organisations like the BMC, FRCC, Rockfax and Lakeland Climbing Wall Foundation. This is why we need your support to continue our work. Donations to the bolt fund can be made through the website:- www.cumbriaboltfund.co.uk



Approach: Take the road between the Black Bull and Co-op and park. Walk up the track steeply north towards the Coppermines and take the right-hand fork up the fellside avoiding turnings to the left. The track becomes grassy and after an S bend leave the track to walk up a spoil heap to arrive at the Low Quarry marked by a prominent cube of rock. High Blue Quarry is further up and is entered along an old sled track. The climbs are situated on the back and right walls.

Conditions: Most of the walls in these quarries face South or West providing an ideal afternoon or evening sports climbing venue.



High Blue Quarry

The impressively steep back wall is flanked on its right by a sweep of slabs. The **Right-Hand Slabs** tend to dry quite quickly though the **Main Wall** can suffer from seepage after prolonged bad weather.

Main Wall

1 Blue Riband 15m f6a ★

Start in the top left-hand corner of the back wall, at the highest point of the spoil heaps. Climb a short crack to gain the prominent right slanting slab and follow this to where it narrows. Make an awkward entry into the base of the higher gangway and up this to a heather ledge and lower-off.

FA A Phizacklea, M Lynch, J L Holden 29.09.1991 (at E1 5b) Retro-bolted: P Whillance, J Whillance 06.03.2025

2 Great Western 24m f6c+ ★

A counter diagonal line to *Blue Riband*. Start some 10m further down the slope at a short slabby groove. Easily up this for a few metres then pull over a tricky bulge leftwards onto a slab. Climb this delicately leftwards to reach better holds at a rib and junction with *Blue Riband*. Follow this for a

few metres onto the narrow section then pull out left into a crack and thin corner line that leads to the heather ledge and lower-off on *Blue Riband*. Climb the steep flake crack in the wall directly above to reach a shelf and horizontal break. Move left to the base of a slim groove in the nose and up this with difficulty to reach the lower-off at the top.

FA Pete Whillance, Keith Phizacklea 06.05.2025

3 Blue Steel 22m f6c ★★

Start as for *Great Western* at a short slabby groove. Easily up this for a couple of metres then move across right and climb a short rib till a step back left can be made into a scoop in the slab. Pull up rightwards onto the steeper wall above and climb this going slightly leftwards to reach a flake crack line that leads up past the left side of the prominent overhang. Bridge up a steep corner above till a difficult move out right can be made onto the nose above the overhang. Continue more easily up leftwards to the lower-off.

FA A Phizacklea, J L Holden 21.09.1991 (at E2 5c) Retrobolted: K Phizacklea, P Whillance 06.03.2025

Impoverished Pioneers 23m E2 5c X

This route no longer exists due to the collapse of a rib and groove system below the roof. Shame, great name!

FA A Phizacklea, J L Holden 21.09.1991

4 Sirius 25m f6c ★★

Start 6m down the slope to the right of *Blue Steel* at a big boulder leaning against the face. Climb the groove directly above the boulder to where it narrows and bends rightwards. Follow the thin delicate groove past 3 bolts to where the wall steepens. Make unlikely-looking moves leftwards and climb the wall trending left on widely spaced holds to reach good ledges. Step up the rib on the left to reach the lower-off.

FA Pete Whillance, Keith Phizacklea 04.05.2025

5 Blue Remembered Hills 25m f6c+ ★

Start 3m down to the right at a slight corner, as for *Blue Moon*. Make some steep pulls to reach the obvious traverse line on the right, as for *Blue Moon*. Step left and pull over the overlap leftwards to reach broken ledges on *The Original Start*. Move up right to a blank looking groove and overlap. Climb the thin layback crack in the left wall of the groove to a drill hole then move right and follow a

steep open groove to a grassy ledge with a small tree. Continue up to enter a deep V-groove and after a few metres use holds on the right wall to exit. Bolt belay 4m back just beyond the fence.

FA A Phizacklea, M Lynch, J L Holden 29.09.1991

5a The Original Start f5a

Avoids the difficult new start. From the big boulder start of Sirius step right and follow an easy groove rightwards to the broken ledges.

FA A Phizacklea, M Lynch, J L Holden 29.09.1991

6 Blue Moon 25m f6c ★★

Start as for the last route at a slight corner at the left end of the impressive overhanging wall. Make some steep pulls to reach the obvious traverse line above the overhanging wall (by the second bolt). Traverse the tricky sloping gangway to reach a larger slab. Cross this to a shot hole and up to ledges above. Climb directly up the wall to reach a large flake crack that leads leftwards to the lower-off below the roof.

FA A Phizacklea, A Rowell, J L Holden 27.10.1991

7 The 300 Spartans 36m f6b

Takes a left-trending diagonal line across the face. Start below a steep right slanting crack and slim groove immediately right of the impressively overhanging wall.

1) 24m 6c Easily up over blocks to the start of the crack and follow this steeply to good ledges on the right. Move up to large hollow flake holds then cross the rib on the left with difficulty to gain a sloping shelf. Climb the wall to a standing position on an open horizontal shot hole then make awkward moves left via more open shot holes to join *Blue Moon* at the wall below the large flake crack that leads to the lower-off or belay.

2) 12m 6b+ Climb the slab leftwards to reach holds in a break on the hanging rib. Follow this with steep pull-ups to gain a slim groove, then step left and move up into the final deep V-groove of *Blue Remembered Hills*. Up this to the top, bolt belay 4m back just beyond the fence.

FA A Phizacklea, A H Greenbank 28.09.1991

Right-hand Slabs

8 Blue Movie 23m f6b ★

Tricky slab climbing on excellent rock. Start in the corner 2m right of *The 300 Spartans*, high on the left-hand side of the slabs. Climb the corner for 8m then step right and make an intimidating rising traverse rightwards across the slab, above the overhangs.



Continue delicately up to the overhang barrier and step right to a lower-off.

FA A Phizacklea, J L Holden 26.08.1991 (at E2 5c)

Retrobolted: P Whillance, A Towse 09.03.2025

Palmer's Performance 22m f5c ★ X

The flake crack and overhang on this route are now unstable and best avoided. The start has been utilised by *Pied Wagtail*.

FA M Bagness, L Harrison 08.05.1991

Scallywag Slab 30m f6b ★ X

The overhang section in the upper part of this climb has collapsed leaving unstable blocks. The line has been re-routed as for *Pied Wagtail*.

FA M Bagness, L Harrison 08.05.1991

9 Pied Wagtail 25m f6a+ ★

A good slab climb that makes the most of the previous two routes hereabouts. Start at a triangular niche a couple of metres left of the obvious shallow crack and groove line of *A Slight Slate Escapade*. Climb the slab leftwards into a vague scoop. Move up and traverse back right to a faint crack-line, a metre left of the groove. Follow this, studiously avoiding better holds to the right,

till a short flake crack and pull out right leads to a good ledge and the lower-off on *A Slight Slate Escapade*.

FA Pete Whillance, Keith Phizacklea 06.03.2025

10 A Slight Slate Escapade 22m f5a

The prominent shallow groove and crack line. Follow this easily to half way then continue more steeply to good ledges on the left and a lower-off.

FA M Bagness, A H Greenbank 05.1991

Retrobolted: P Whillance, J Whillance 30.01.2025

11 Blue Bayou 20m f6a ★

Takes the greenish slab to the right of the last route. Delicate climbing up the centre of the slab, between breaks, leads to good ledges at two-thirds height. Traverse right and up a crack near the right edge to reach the lower-off.

FA M Lynch, A Phizacklea, J L Holden 29.09.1991

Retrobolted: P Whillance, J Whillance 30.01.2025

12 Caribbean Blue 23m f5c

Start a few metres down to the right, just left of the edge of the slab. Make a tricky move up and right to gain the arête. Follow the right edge of the slab to a grassy ledge at two-thirds height. Either move left and finish

as for *Blue Bayou* at the lower-off or scramble up rightwards to a crevasse below the middle of a head wall and climb the slim groove and crack line exiting right onto a slab to finish at the top.

FA Pete Whillance, Keith Phizacklea 06.03.2025

Low Blue Quarry

Following the collapse of the old *Rascal Wall*, the **Low Quarry** was omitted from the last guidebook. A number of the previous old routes have since been fully restored and re-bolted with a few new climbs added along the way.

Upper Slab

1 Gretel 13m f6b

Start from a large block at the lowest point of the **Upper Slab**. Move up leftwards to an obvious flake crack and up this to a horizontal break. Continue up the steep thin crack line above till a step right can be made to a cleaned finishing ledge. Lower-off above.

FA Pete Whillance, Keith Phizacklea 06.03.2025

2 Hansel 13m f6a+ ★

Start as for *Gretel* at the large block. Climb up and rightwards across the slab to reach a quartz vein then continue up trending slightly leftwards to meet the same finishing ledge and lower-off on *Gretel*.

FA Pete Whillance, Keith Phizacklea 06.03.2025

Cheeky Monkey Area

3 Cheeky Monkey 22m f6b ★

Start from a block on the left edge of the slab (up and left of the huge cave). Step across right then follow a tricky thin crack line to reach good ledges. Move left to the edge and continue up to a lower-off.

FA M Bagness, A H Greenbank 01.05.1991

Recleaned, rebolted P. Whillance, K. Phizacklea 02.04.2025

4 Young Rapsallion 22m f6c ★

Start as for *Cheeky Monkey*. Step right onto the slab then make a rising traverse right to reach a hidden pocket. Climb the faint groove/crack above with difficulty to better ledges. Move right onto a ledge below a vague rib and climb via scoops on its right side to a lower-off.

FA M Bagness, J Laverlock, D Sanderson

18.09.1991 Recleaned, rebolted P. Whillance, K. Phizacklea 02.04.2025



5 Artful Dodger 24m f6b+ ★★

Starts well right of the huge cave at a slabby left-trending ramp. Go easily up this and onto a slab. Move across left to a steeper wall, pull up to a ledge then swing wildly left around the arête to gain better holds above the cave. Follow the big corner crack and slab to reach a lower-off below the tree (or pull up through the tree to the top).

FA Pete Whillance, Keith Phizacklea 02.04.2025

Rascal Wall

The collapse of the old *Rascal Wall* left behind a short but impressive clean-cut face, but with an unfortunate sandy bank immediately above. Two climbs have been made finishing at separate lower-offs.

6 Wee Wiper Snapper 10m f6b+ ★

Takes the centre of the wall. Start by some old graffiti. Climb direct to an obvious good pocket. Continue on small holds trending slightly leftwards to reach a large yellow scar. Step across right and up to a lower-off.

FA Pete Whillance, Keith Phizacklea 19.05.2025

7 Tiny Tim 10m f6b+ ★

The right-hand crack and corner line proves to be harder than it looks.

FA Pete Whillance, Keith Phizacklea 19.05.2025

