

Gowbarrow Boulders



Gowbarrow Boulders

Grades



A selection of boulders and faces along the western side of Gowbarrow on the fellside above Aira Force and Cascade waterfalls.

A delightful location at its best on a spring evening. Later in the year, bracken will make moving between the various areas very troublesome.

The boulders are widely scattered across the fellside.

Approach

Parking is best at the Higher car park, on the road between lakeside road at Aira Force and Dockray. It is also possible to park at the Lower car park.

Needless to say there is a small car park fee for parking at the car park - small amount for the fun to be had on the boulders.

There is a track down from the Upper car park which takes one to a gate - on the left is the Upper (Cascade) Bridge over the river. Once over the beck, a track goes down right to the Middle Bridge over the beck.

Ulls Table area is best approached from the village of Dockray and parking next to the bridge there. Between the Pandemic Wall area and the Main Area (Victory Boulder etc) there is a barbed wire fence. Please do not climb this but go back down to the path and walk down to the gate through the fence then back up.

East side of Aira Beck



Gowbarrow Boulders - East overview

Up and Atom Buttreass

Introduction

This is composed of a steep impressive wall (Lower Wall) and a small buttress on the right (Upper Buttreass)

Approach

From the Middle Bridge over Aira Beck, climb the stone steps eastwards, then turn right. After about 50m, go through the first gate you get to then turn up the faint path on your left. Where the fence bears left, continue directly up the fellside. After 200m you will see some rocks on a mound 20m to the left of the path; the buttress is below these rocks amongst silver birch trees.



Gowbarrow Boulders - Up and Atom Buttreass

1 Pointless aren't they all ? * f4+ †



Sit start - up the black streak left of *Opening Weekend*.

2023 Tony Mawer

2 Openings Weekend f4

The left hand line on the tall wall. A tricky start leads to good holds trending slightly left up high.
Highball 4 or lowball VS

27.02.2022 Duncan Campbell

3 Van Aert f5

The central line through flakes up high. Another tricky start leads to cool flakes and laybacks higher up.

Highball 5 or lowball E1

27.02.2022 Duncan Campbell

4 Jakobsen f4+

The green crack on the right of the tall wall. Tricky moves lead to easier climbing up high.

327.02.2022 Duncan Campbell

5 Myosin f6B

Sit start at the tree stump.

30.05.2020 L Kerrs

6 Actin f5+

Sit start on the massive triangular bloc round from *Butt Monkeys*.

30.05.2020 S Solomon

7 Anal Dwelling Buttress Monkeys f5+

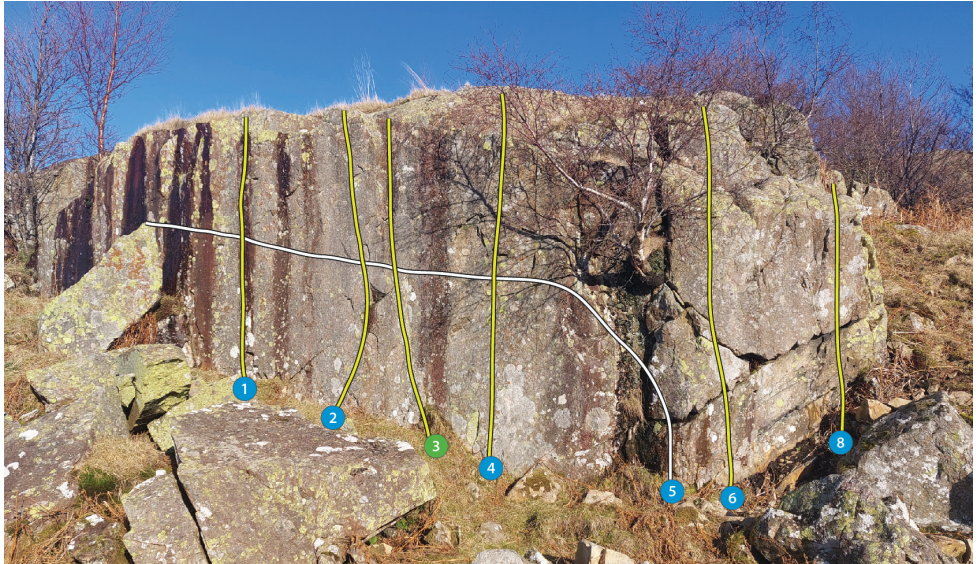
Sit start on the right, up the small roof.

30.05.2020 S Solomon

Weeping Styan

Approach

This is the copper-coloured dark-striped face 100m up from [Up an Atom Buttre](#), and 100m below and right of [Aira Bloc](#)



Gowbarrow Boulders - Weeping Styan

1 1 f5

Sit start with feet on left block, up the copper streak.

14.04.2020 L Kerrs

2 2 f5+

Standing from the down-pointing triangle.

14.04.2020 L Kerrs

3 3 f4

Sit start up the dihedral.

14.04.2020 L Kerrs

4 Followspot Operator f6A

Sit start on the stone throw for pinch or crack, follow the lichen.

14.04.2020 L Kerrs

5 Styan Traverse f6A †



Start at the tree at the right end of the wall and traverse left, with hands below the top, finishing standing on the pointed boulder.

28.04.2023 Tony Mawer

6 Dharma Bums f5+

To the right of the tree, Sit start in the crack.

30.05.2020 L Kerrs

7 Herdwick Hump f5

On the right of [Weeping Styan](#). From a standing start climb around the right-hand side of the birch tree. There's a good side pull around the arête.

17.04.2022 Attic Sports

8 Mossy Fingers f6A

On the right of [Weeping Styan](#), start with both hands on the mossy undercling with feet on the small slab directly beneath it. Move right and top out on the right-hand side of the arete.

17.04.2022 Attic Sports

Aira Bloc / Sharkstooth / The Fin Area

Introduction

This is a cluster of boulders, to the right of a stream. On the left is [Aira Bloc](#); to its right is [Sharkstooth](#) and in front is [The Fin](#).

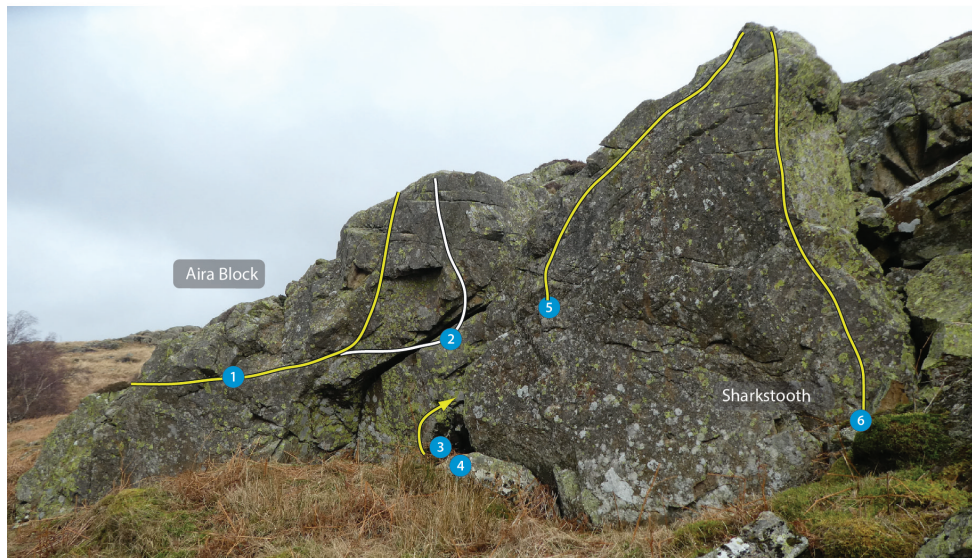
Approach

This is located well up the fellside up and left of [Up an Atom Buttress](#). Approach as for [Up and Atom Buttress](#) but follow by the fence leftwards and up to just before a stream. Continue upwards and you will see a cluster of boulders up an rightwards - this is the area.



Gowbarrow Boulders - Aira Block Area

Aira Bloc



Gowbarrow Boulders - Aira Block and Sharkstooth

1 The Whale f6A

On the bloc uphill to the left of [Aira Bloc](#). Sit start on the left, traverse right into the underclings and top out on the right of the slot. This allows use of the lower detached boulder for feet.

25.05.2020 S Solomon

2 Ahab f6A+ ★

Similar to [The Whale](#) - on the bloc uphill to the left of [Aira Bloc](#). Sit start on the left, traverse right into the underclings and top out on the right of the slot. **But** this does not allow use of the lower detached boulder for feet.

30.05.2020 Simon Young

3 Blowhole f5

Sit start up to top jugs and across to far right, top out at far right

30.05.2020 Sam Owen

4 Making the Escape f5+

Sit start in the little overhand/cave below the end of [Ahab](#). Start with hands on the detached lower block in the break, then head straight up. no holds left of hanging corner (hanging corner looks loose)

30.05.2020 Simon Young

Sharkstooth

5 First Sighting f6B



Left arête of the [Sharksfin](#) boulder, follow the whole way, no early top outs.

30.05.2020 Simon Young

6 Right Arête f5

Sit start on the right arête.

14.04.2020 L Kerrs

The Fin

Introduction

The obvious freestanding boulder, below the [Aira Bloc](#) and [Sharkstooth](#)



Gowbarrow Boulders - The Fin

1 Fin Arête f6B †



Sit start the obvious undercut left arête of [The Fin](#) boulder. Climb directly up into the finish of [Riding the Wave](#), keeping on the right side of the arête all the way to the top.

24.05.2023 Andy Healey

2 Riding the Wave f6B+



Start on the far right, traverse the lip using holds on the lip and below, until you get to the arête then head direct up.

8.06.2020 Simon Young
Line first found and tried by W.Lord.

3 Pneuma f6C

Sit start both hands in the crack to the right of [Riding the Wave](#). Starting with your hand on the arête lowers the grade...

8.06.2020 L Kerrs

Beck Styan

Approach

Approach as for [Up and Atom Buttress](#) but follow by the fence leftwards and up to a stream. The boulder is just on the left of the stream down the hill from [Victory Boulder](#).

There is a double-headed boulder to the left of the [Beck Styan](#) for the more adventurous.



Gowbarrow Boulders - Beck Styan

1 Left Arête f5+

Sit start - arête only for hands.

8.05.2020 L Kerrs

2 Sombrero f6A

Sit Start on the left follow the ledge and top out before reaching [Where The Wild Roses Grow](#).

30.05.2020 L Kerrs

3 Middle f5+

Sit start straight up.

8.05.2020 L Kerrs

4 Eliza Day f6B



Sit start as for *Where the Wild Rose Grow* and climb the lip leftwards to the apex of the boulder.

5 Where the Wild Roses Grow f6A

Sit start on the right arête trending left as you get higher.

8.05.2020 L Kerrs

Victory Boulder

Introduction

Boulder with an obvious incut V at the top of a crack



Gowbarrow Boulders - Victory Boulder

1 Santa's Eyebrows f6C



Sit start on the left of the bloc up to the two crimps on the slab, avoiding the mossy ledge. Exit left

8.06.2020 L Kerrs

2 Three Steps To Victory f2

Easy climb using big steps just left of *Calamity Crack*.

23.03.2020 Simon Young

3 Calamity Crack f5

Crack to the left of the main V-crack, f5 but easy if you can jam, follow up and exit left

23.05.2020 Will Lord

4 Victory V f6B



The obvious line of the boulder, the V-crack. Start in the crack climb up to the V then use the V and holds to the right to get over.

23.03.2020 Simon Young

5 Covid Blues f6B+

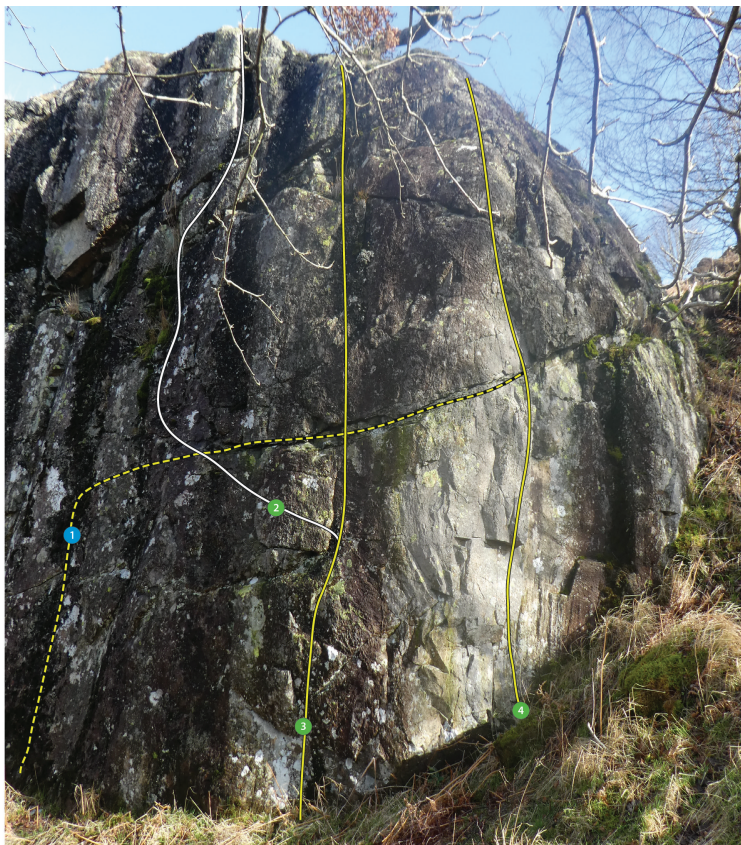
Sit start on the furthest right, up to the finger crack and top out through the large pocket.

4.04.2020 L Kerrs

Pandemic Wall

Introduction

This buttress is to be found if you walk over the higher bridge at the Cascade Falls, Once over bridge, head up the hillside and rightwards for about 100m and you will find this face in the trees. It has some writing carved into the wall, please do not climb on this or set routes on this as it may have some significance.



Gowbarrow Boulders - Pandemic Wall



1 Wash Your Hands f6A

Crackline traverse that starts at head height, hands in crack only, lots of undercuts, follow crack all the way and finish up [Panic Buy](#).

27.05.2020 Simon Young

2 Elbow Tap f4+

Start on square block again, traverse left for about 1m on obvious holds then up to ledge above, feels high at the top.

23.03.2020 Simon Young

3 Pandemic Wall f4+

First route set on wall. Start on big square hand hold at head height, finish straight up, no holds left of square block, using obvious side pull on left brings grade down to f4.

23.03.2020 Will Lord

4 Panic Buy f4+

To the right of [Pandemic Wall](#) start in the break at head height and holds around it, Straight up the rounded arête to nice holds for top out.

Sit start is f5.

23.03.2020 Will Lord



Gowbarrow Boulders - Pandemic Wall RHS

5 No Hands Slab f2

Up and to the right of the buttress there is a slab that is perfect for a warm up or a bit of no hands practice

23.03.2020 Simon Young

Ulls Table

Introduction

This area is well left of the Main Area and can be approach from either side.

Approach

The best approach is from Dockray. Follow the track to the main path up Gowbarrow Fell. There is a gate through a wall. At this point either follow the wall to the right to the stream and then follow the stream up the fellside to the buttress or head diagonal right to the stream and the buttress. It is also possible to bushwack across from the Main Area (Victory Boulder etc). Walk left above the fence, which eventually gives way into a wall. Keep going until you come out of the trees, then turn uphill, before a stream and across the rocky ground. The buttress is above the last of the trees lining the small stream.



Gowbarrow Boulders - Ulls Table

1 Ulls 1 f4

Sit start on the left on the chockstone next to the small overhang.

19.04.2020 L Kerrs

2 Ulls 2 f4

Sit start from the horizontal crack on the corner.

19.04.2020 L Kerrs

3 Cross-Legged f5+

Standing from the cross pocket straight up.

19.04.2020 L Kerrs

4 Ulls 4 f5+

Standing from the tear-drop shaped bloc, exiting right of the small silver birch. **Sit Start f6B**

19.04.2020 L Kerrs

5 Ulls 5 f4

Standing from the right side pull crossing the crack at the spike.

Sit start f6A Start in the scoop to the left.

19.04.2020 L Kerrs

6 Ulls Crack f5

Sit start - hands in the crack.

19.04.2020 L Kerrs

7 Ulls 7 f4

Straight up from the start of *Ulls crack*.

25.05.2020 L Kerrs

8 Table Traverse f5+ †



Traverse from the right corner leftwards, with feet at about head height, and one tricky move in the middle, finishing at the furthest point

09.04.2023 Tony Mawer

9 Never Kissed a Tory f6B



On the separate bloc to the right of the main face. From the slopers to the arete to the diagonal ledge.

25.05.2020 L Kerrs

Just above Ulls Table is a cigar shaped boulder which gives an interesting traverse.



Gowbarrow Boulders - Ulls Sadle

10 Ulls Sadle f5+

80m uphill from [Ulls Table](#). Sit start on ledge and climb through scoop.

29.05.2020 L Kerrs

11 Ulls Pony Sadle f4+ †



Looks to be same route as Ulls Sadle. Directly above Ulls Table is a tiny saddle shaped section of rock. Sit start - matched on good ledge and reach for the top and over

09.04.2023 Tony Mawer



Gowbarrow Boulders - Ulls Slab

12 Ulls Slab f4+

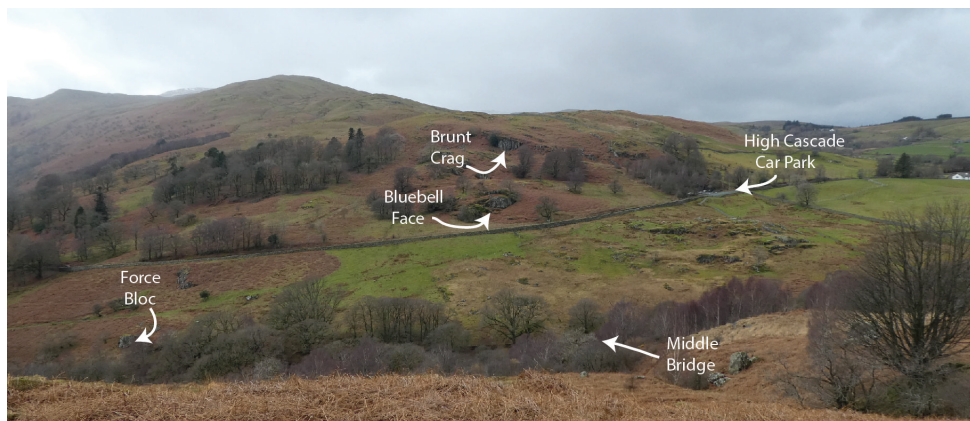
50m uphill from [Ulls Sadle](#). Climb centre of the main slab.

29.05.2020 L Kerrs

13 Ulls Amble f1

Climb the broken slab on the right.

West side of Aira Beck



Gowbarrow Boulders - West overview

Bluebell Face

Approach

This is in the same field as [Brunt Crag](#) and visible from the road 200m down from High Force car park.

1 [Iceland Moss](#) 3m f6A+ 

Sit Start to the left of the fallen tree, using only the holds with no moss, true eliminate!

9.09.2020 L. Kerrs

There is an interesting highball crackline up the wall to the right of [Iceland Moss](#) !

Force Bloc

Approach

From High Force car park either -

- walk down the track towards the Upper Bridge and just before the gate walk rightwards, by the wall for about 400m to a gate, just above the Middle Bridge. Don't go through but follow the path downhill, for about 80m, to a white lichen stone. The bloc is to your left or
- at the top of the track cross the field diagonally rightwards to arrive at the gate and continue rightwards to the bloc.

If coming from the main area or up Aira Beck, at the middle bridge go upstream for 20m then take the left fork to reach the gate. The bloc is down to the left.



Disturbance in the Force f6C+ †

Sit Start on the bottom bloc to the layaway, up through crimps to top out.

4.07.2020 L Kerrs