

Thrang Crag

Eco Wonderer
PC Bennett



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Thrang Crag

OS Ref: **NY 319 057**

Alt: **160m**

Situated on the north side of Chapel Stile. This area of fellside provides a variety of natural outcrops and quarried faces giving opportunities for trad climbing, sport routes and bouldering.

Overall view of the fellside above Chapel Stile is in the FRCC Langdale guide 2013. There is limited parking around Chapel Stile. There is also a regular bus service up and down the valley.

Refreshment is available at the Wainwright Inn as well as the Brambles Cafe above the Langdale Cooperative Village Store.

Grades

1

3

3

20

14

26

Approach

From the village walk up the short road leftwards beneath the church, and follow the track beyond into the quarry. 100m past the gate, a branch rightwards leads beneath Thrang Crag Buttress, a larger outcrop of natural appearance. Flagstone Quarry is a small bay hidden at the east end of this track. The Quarry Section is reached by continuing along the main approach track. The bouldering circuit is spread across 500m of the fellside. From [Raven Crag](#), [Walthwaite](#), the east end of the bouldering circuit can be reached from the path up the west side of Megs Gill; otherwise walk back towards the church.

Quarry Section (NY 318 055)

 5 mins Aspect: **South East** 

Introduction

This small overhanging amphitheatre is unmistakable at the extreme left end of the quarry workings. It provides sport routes on radically overhanging slate (and all that that implies).

Topo in FRCC Guidebooks Langdale 2013 and Lakes Sport and Slate 2020.

Approach

From Chapel Stile walk up the short road leftwards beneath the church and follow track beyond.

① Left-Hand Line F6c 9m ★

Starting as for [Hello Helen](#) and finishing with a hard move.

② Hello Helen F7b+ 10m ★★

A good-looking line up the main corner forming the left side of the back wall, via an initial hanging slab, to a crux at the final bolt. Sportingly bolted with a serious feel.

2.07.1990 D Birkett, V McLelland

③ Keep On Keeping On F8a+ 9m ★★

Straightens out [Scared Rabbit](#) to take the back wall direct. Climb two moves up [Scared Rabbit](#) then levitate up the middle of the wall. Titanium fingers a definite advantage.

29.06.1991 D Birkett

④ Scared Rabbit F7a+ 12m ★★

Start at a right-slanting ramp-groove just right of the centre of the back wall. Relatively straightforward climbing up the groove until a line of holds leads left to the lower-off. Easier said than done.

June 1989 D Birkett

Flagstone Quarry

 5 mins Aspect: **South East** 

Introduction

This is the quarry tucked away at the end of the right fork in the approach path from the church.

① Revival E5 6b 20m ★

The east-facing wall behind the ash tree provides hard climbing on apparently good rock, but with dubious protection. Start in the centre of the wall and work diagonally right on easy ground to a fin-like rib pierced by a borehole (fiddly thread). Move back left and power up to a big jug at two-thirds height. Sky hook at the ready, take a deep breath and finish rightwards.

21.06.2002 M Thomas

Thrang Crag Buttress



Introduction

This buttress stands above the fork in the approach path and is easily recognisable by an obvious left-to-right slanting ramp immediately right of two vertical faults, and its fiercely steep right-hand arête.

Topo in FRCC Langdale guide 2013

Descent

Easily round to the right. The routes are described from right to left. Belays at the top are well back from the edge.

1 Beatnik E6 6b † New 16m

Start to the left of *Pollster*. Go straight up the wall to the overlap and join *Pollster* middle section for gear. Place a sling over a spike just below the chimney and step back down. Cross the slab to a good hold below the headwall and take this heading rightwards on small holds and side pulls to an obvious undercut; a hard move gains the right arête and the top

11.04.2014 P Holder, C Naylor

2 Recount HVS 4c 19m

Takes the conspicuous pod-like corner on the left side of the crag. Start as for *Bryson's Picnic*. It can be started direct but this is unpleasantly steep and loose. Follow the ramp leftwards to the second break in the overhang. Climb up through this and across into the corner which is ascended by some vigorous climbing.

9.06.1983 R Graham, A Hyslop

3 Pollster E1 5a 16m

Follow *Bryson's Picnic* to where it goes off right and then continue up the central faultline direct.

9.06.1983 A Hyslop, R Graham

4 Bryson's Picnic E3 5c 19m

Climbs the good-looking rampline breaking out right from the middle of *Pollster*. Start at the right-hand side of the crag at the foot of a prominent easy ramp/break running left. Climb along the ramp to a break in the overhangs. Reach for a jug (runners) or, if you don't have a big ape index, a pleasant 2m traverse left then back right gains the jug. Step horizontally right onto the ramp, very precarious, and continue delicately to its end. Climb up slightly right to finish.

10.06.1983 A Hyslop, I Williamson, A Phizacklea

5 Thesis E4 6b 16m

A fierce and acrobatic line taking the right-hand prow of the crag. A direct start looks possible but is not known to have been climbed. From the mossy ledge on the right, rock-over onto the sloping ledge. Dyno for a big jug (crux) and move more easily to the top.

16.03.2000 M Thomas, C Badcock

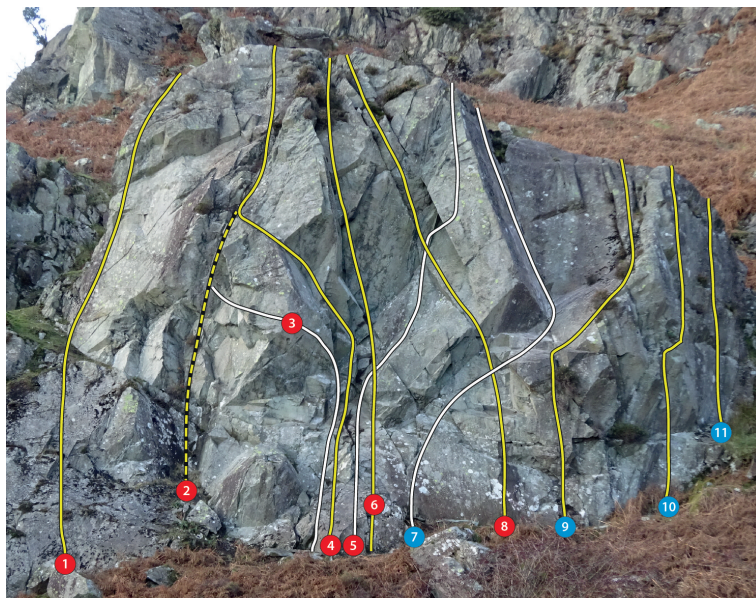
Thrang Crag East

 10 mins Aspect: **South East** 

Introduction

(NY 319 057)

This is a small semi-quarried buttress 20m up and right of [Thrang Crag Buttress](#). It offers short but sustained pitches on good south-facing rock and only minutes from the Pub or cafe!



Thrang Crag East

1 Birkett View **E2 5b** 12m

Bold due to lack of protection. The left edge of the crag. Start up easy slab to a ledge. Climb the right side of arête forming the left edge of the crag. Grade assumes keeping to the wall. The first move could be 5c for shorties or 5a for taller than 185cm.

26.02.2019 R Graham, T Rogers

2 Maybe **E2 5a** 12m

Bold due to lack of protection. The direct start to [Frantic](#) up the impending wide scoop. It suddenly gets awkward, strenuous, blind and runout at the worst point for a fall!

26.02.2019 R Graham, T Rogers

3 Three Wise Monkeys **E3 5c** 15m



The overhanging prow left of [Frantic](#). Clip the peg on [Frantic](#) (hidden). Step back down and left. Make a reachy Kendal Wall-yellow-circuit-style-move up left to a bendy flake (sling) and repeat x 2. The wise belayer will step to one side, cover their eyes and see no evil.

5.07.2020 M Bagness, J Exley

4 Frantic E1 5b 12m



Start 1m left of the V-groove in the centre of the crag. A steep wall leads to a small ledge in an overhung niche. Move boldly up and left to big exposure and "thank god" holds. Finish up the cracked wall.

13.11.2016 M Scrowston, PC Bennett

5 Frunobulax E1 5b 11m

Climb the large open groove and short rightwards-slanting slab to access a steep overhung V-groove. A committing move up and right leads to good finishing holds

24.11.2016 PC Bennett, M Scrowston

6 Sandbag Groove E2 5b 12m



The V groove between *Frantic* and *Frunobulax*. This central groove line, avoided by both routes, has more helpful holds than appearances suggest.

A crack has been cleaned to reveal a runner placement right where you want it (on the crux), probably now **E1 5b**.

26.04.2017 R Graham, T Rogers

7 Frenzy HVS 5a 12m



The conspicuous hanging slab on the right side of the buttress. Start at a short slab 3m right of *Frantic*. Climb the slab, traverse diagonally right to an awkward move onto a good ledge in the corner. Enjoy the fine hanging slab above.

13.11.2016 PC Bennett, M Scrowston

8 Triple Whammy E2 5b/c 12m

The left-slanting direct line crossing *Frenzy* and *Frunobulax*. Start just left of *Friction* and finish just right of *Sandbag Groove*. Take doubles in Friend 1.5 and 1.75/green Dragons.

6.10.2017 R Graham, T Rogers

9 Friction VS 4c 11m

Start 2m left of *Global Warming* below a thin V-groove. Climb the short, steep crack on good holds to emerge at a junction with *Frenzy*. Move right up a gentle slab to finish up a groove in the steep wall.

13.08.2017 M Scrowston

10 Global Warming VS 4c 10m



A short sharp route up the right-hand flying rib. Start at a small recess below a thin right slanting crack. Steep climbing passing a good spike leads to excellent holds in a left-slanting crack, swing right and follow the steep wall and leftwards -trending ramp to gain the crest of the rib.

4.01.2017 M Scrowston

11 Sunrise VS 5a 10m

The wall right of *Global Warming*.

26.02.2019 T Rogers, R Graham

Thrang Crag West

 15 mins Aspect: South  

Introduction

(NY 318 056)

Comprises three small buttress above and left of [Thrang Crag](#). They enjoy easy access and all the sun that Langdale has to offer; most importantly they are in clear view of the pub. All routes are worthwhile, some are very good.

Belays can be engineered above most routes. There are also some large boulders that can be utilised further up the fellside.

Approach

As for [Thrang Crag Buttress](#) then just keep going up hill then leftwards after passing [Thrang Crag East](#).

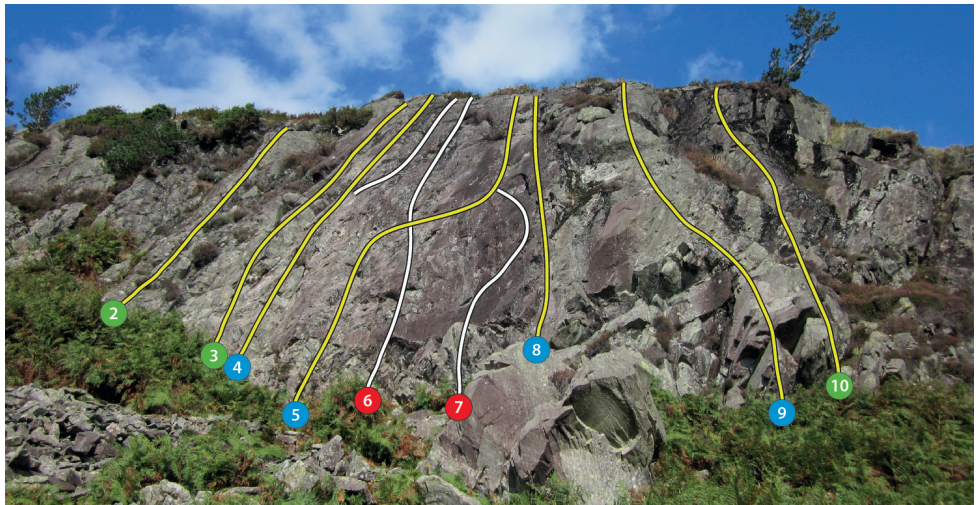
Descent

This is possible down either side of the crag. To the left, closely follow the top of a broken crag passing behind a large oak tree to access a short steep gully. More easily to the right of the right-hand buttress.

1 End Game S 11m

Takes a little pillar located on an isolated buttress 10m left of the descent gully. Start at the lowest point of the pillar left of a juniper bush. Take a direct line on good holds to finish right of another juniper bush

17.03.2016 M Scrowston



Thrang Crag West LHS

Left Buttress

2 Dust Bunny D 15m

Climb the obvious short rough pillar 3m left of the left edge of the buttress.

12.09.2014 C Scrowston, M Scrowston

3 Clone S 16m

Climb the right-slanting groove at the left end of the buttress to a small bulge, step up and left to follow the rough slab above.

24.08.2012 M Scrowston

4 Mitosis VS 4b 17m



A good route with a choice of exits. Start 2m right of [Clone](#) at the second groove. Follow the groove to a short steep slab; bold moves via finger pockets lead to better holds and the cracked slab above. An alternative finish is possible by traversing right from above the short slab up an obvious diagonal line.

9.08.2014 M Scrowston, PC Bennett

5 Random Drift HVS 5a 22m



Excellent climbing with sustained interest. Start at the third groove in the centre of the buttress. Ascend the groove for 5m to a steepening. Make a committing rising traverse right and follow the fine rough slabs above.

9.09.2014 M Scrowston, PC Bennett

6 Direct Route E1 5b 20m



A direct line crossing the traverse of [Random Drift](#). Start 1.5 metres right of [Random Drift](#) and climb straight up until past the traverse line then trend slightly left to the top.

25.03.2018 T Rogers, R Graham

7 Germ - Free E1 5a/b 20m

Scramble onto a grass topped pillar between [Direct Route](#) and [Cocaine Katie](#). Step onto the black wall and follow the ramp up right to a spike just left of [Cocaine Katie](#). Make a move up, then stride left into a niche to join [Random Drift](#) at the end of the traverse. Finish up [Random Drift](#).

11.06.2022 J Read, C Reading, N Foster.

8 Cocaine Katie E1 5a/b 21m

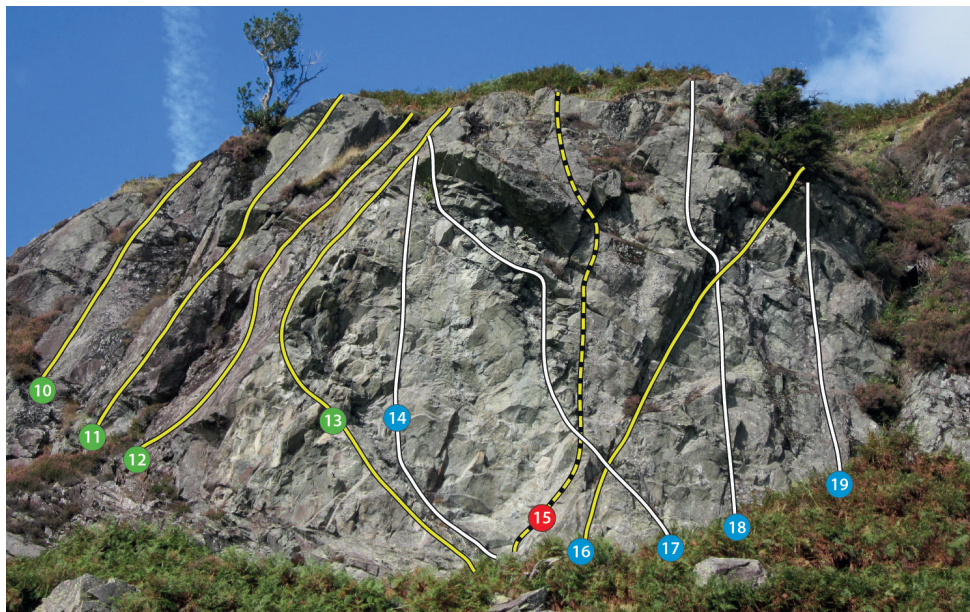
An intimidating start leads to more relaxed climbing above. Start at a recess 5m right of [Random Drift](#) below a short steep groove. Ascend the groove and pull up left to surmount a bulge; move up rightwards passing some dubious blocks. Follow a direct line passing an overhang at its left edge.

18.06.2015 PC Bennett, M Scrowston

9 Gene Genie MVS 4b 18m

A pleasant route. Start below a small triangular overhang on a protruding ridge at the right side of the buttress. Steep climbing leads to a good ledge; step left above a large overhang and follow the wall and slabs above.

27.09.2014 M Scrowston, H Scowston



Thrang Crag West - Central

10 Nurture HS 22m

A pleasant route that takes the broken arête right of [Gene Genie](#). A rambling start leads to better climbing above. Start in a small bay right of a prominent rock fin 3m right of [Gene Genie](#). Climb the broken rib for 6m, step right across a short black slab and move up passing some fine circular rock art to access the arête. Follow the arête to finish left of the crag top holly tree.

15.04.2015 F Scrowston, M Scrowston

Reference is made to "circular rock art" in this route descriptions. Is it really circular rock art? Believed that they are geologic features (volcanic "bombs" landing in liquid/or unconsolidated hot lava or volcanic dust?). Were they to be prehistoric or even not modern "rock art" would they not be remarkable? In any case they are visually striking if perhaps not very unusual in Lake District volcanics.

Central Buttress

A steep one-time quarried crag topped by a conspicuous overhang

11 Genetic Equilibrium S 4a 18m

An escapable but pleasant line that ascends the hanging slab directly below an obvious large detached block and crag top holly. Start just left of [Old Genes](#). Follow shattered rock to a heather ledge and sapling. From directly behind the small tree, pull up steeply to gain a rightwards-sloping ramp leading to the large detached block. Step left and ascend the fine steep wall to finish just right of the holly.

1.04.2018 F Scrowston, M Scrowston

12 Old Genes S 14m

The short hanging slab on the left of the overhanging buttress. Scramble up left to gain the slab; bold climbing up the short slab leads to a steep wall with good holds.

6.10.2014 M Scrowston, C Earnshaw

13 Norman's Route S 17m

An exciting trip with wild exposure. Climbed on a wet day in Walsh shoes; the reason it took so long to return for further adventures. Start at the centre of the overhung buttress at a left-slanting ramp. Follow the ramp on large holds to gain the left arête, pull up to access a slab and follow its right edge.

5.09.2009 M Scrowston

14 Not the Norm VS 4c 18m

Another steep and exciting addition to this fine little crag. Start as for [Norman's Route](#) at the left-slanting ramp. Ascend the ramp for 3m. Commit to the steep wall above and follow a direct line of large hand holds to exit at the left end of the capping overhang.

16.03.2015 M Scrowston, D Till

15 Selfish Gene E1 5b 17m

Climb a short rightwards-slanting ramp in the centre of the buttress. Ascend the steep wall direct on large holds to a good ledge. Pull up steeply to surmount the bulge right of the large overhang, step left to finish.

25.09.2014 PC Bennett, M Scrowston

16 Natural Selection HVS 5a 23m

The striking rightwards-slanting faultline that dissects the length of the crag. Start 2m right of [Selfish Gene](#). Steep climbing gives access to a sloping ledge; continue steeply up the ramp passing a junction with [Evolution](#) to finish by wrestling with the yew tree.

2.10.2014 M Scrowston, PC Bennett

17 A Dream of White Houses HVS 20m

A fine exciting adventure that takes the obvious dark left-slanting ramp under the large overhang. Start as for [Evolution](#); follow the diagonal juggy ramp leftwards passing a small wobbly block directly below the capping roof. An exposed traverse left leads to a junction with [Not the Norm](#) at the left end of the overhang.

4.06.2015 M Scrowston, PC Bennett

18 Evolution HVS 4c 16m

Start 3m right of [Natural Selection](#) at a thin right slanting crack. Climb the steep wall on big holds to a large ledge. Direct up another steep wall to a shattered overhang, move left to finish up yet another steep wall.

16.09.2014 M Scrowston, P Kear

19 Mutation VS 4c 15m

Another steep and bold route. Start at the right end of the buttress. Climb the steep wall on good holds, right of a mossy streak, to a large ledge. More steep climbing and big holds to finish right of the yew tree.

25.09.2014 M Scrowston, PC Bennett



Thrang Crag West RHS

Right Buttress

A rambling buttress that contains four surprisingly interesting, traditional style routes

20 Full Circle S 24m

Follow the crest of the bulging buttress then snake upwards utilising the best of the clean rock and passing some circular rock art to some large ledges. Step left onto a large flake to exit via the steep head wall.

12.09.2014 M Scrowston, C Scrowston

Reference is made to "circular rock art" in this route descriptions. Is it really circular rock art ? Believed that they are geologic features (volcanic "bombs" landing in liquid/or unconsolidated hot lava or volcanic dust?). Were they to be prehistoric or even not modern "rock art" would they not be remarkable? In any case they are visually striking if perhaps not very unusual in Lake District volcanics.

21 Elemental S 23m

Start just left of a hawthorn tree. Gain the right-slanting groove and follow it steeply passing some small ledges; easier climbing above leads to a large grassy terrace. Step down to a spike by a small rowan (possible belay). Ascend the bulging wall above then move left over broken ledges to finish up the short wall.

6.10.2014 M Scrowston, C Earnshaw

22 Echo HS 23m

An alternative and exciting start to *Elemental*. Start 6m right of *Elemental* and 2m right of the hawthorn tree, below an overhanging wall just left of a broken groove. Steep climbing passing a mini-hawthorn; swing left on big holds to gain a good ledge. Follow the rough wall and slabs above to a junction with *Elemental* at the flake belay.

11.04.2017 M Scrowston, P Kear

23 Scorchio S 18m

A pleasant route up the gentle slab with a steep finish. Start by a hawthorn tree 15 m right of *Elemental* at the extreme right end of the buttress. Climb up leftwards behind the hawthorn to gain the slab. Follow the slab to a steepening, step left and ascend the steep wall on large holds.

29.05.2016 F Scrowston, M Scrowston

Tower of Power

 15 mins Aspect: South  

Introduction

This is the obvious pillar left of a mini-quarry. This small, esoteric crag is worth the short approach walk if only to experience the excellent rock of the headwall.

Approach

As for [Thrang Crag East](#) - continue uphill via a path on the right-hand side of a small beck.



Thrang - Tower of Power LHS

1 Tower of Power S  **New** 18m



Start below the pillar. A scruffy start leads to a fine finish and juniper belay.

A direct start to [Tower of Power](#) was climbed on a shunt via the steep triangular slab to its right, but is still awaiting a free ascent.

8.01.2019 M Scrowston

2 Edge Hog HS † **New** 20m

An interesting if slightly contrived line that seeks out the best of the available rock. Start at a right-slanting groove just left of [Seving Groove](#). Climb the groove until confronted by a heather barrier. Step left and pull up the gently overhanging wall on surprisingly big holds to a grassy ledge. From behind the decaying tree, enjoy the headwall via small pockets on immaculate rock.

23.10.2019 M Scrowston
Solo

3 Seving Groove VD † **New** 16m

Start at a distinct groove on the right-hand side of the bay to the right of [Tower of Power](#). Follow the groove to a juniper lower off.

27.08.2019 PC Bennett, D Baker

4 Reluctant Exit S † **New** 20m

Another short, low grade addition to the crag with a choice of exits. Start up and right of [Seving Groove](#). A short wall leads to a large ledge.

Variations -

Direct Finish (VD) The broken wall above to a small oak tree.

EU Finish (S) Layaway the right arête.

20.01.2020 F Scrowston, M Scrowston



Thrang - Tower of Power RHS

Two short routes have been climbed on the small isolated buttress 50m right (east) of the [Tower of](#)

Power.

5 Just Because VD † New 9m

A short and poorly-protected two-tiered wall 2m left of *Isolation* was climbed for completion.

22.07.2020 M Scrowston, M Withers

6 Isolation MVS 4b † New 12m

Start in the centre of the buttress by a large protruding spike. Climb the steep wall leftwards on large holds to gain a thin vertical crack. A high step up leads to plentiful juniper belays.

22.07.2020 M Scrowston, M Withers

Upper East Crag

 15 mins Aspect: **South**  

Introduction

NY 322058

More Thrang-related fun and adventures from the fellside that keeps giving. The Dawn Wall of Chapel Stile, slightly smaller in stature than its namesake, however it too receives the first rays of the sun and holds on to them for most of the day. It has the advantage of being closer to the pub than anything in Yosemite and as far as we can tell there are no bears.

Approach

The crag comprises of several small buttresses above a scree slope some 50m above and to the right of the [Tower of Power](#) area and can be easily identified by an oak tree standing above the centre of the crag.



Thrang Crag Upper East LHS

1 Low Impact MVS  **New** 9m



The short steep wall and vertical crack at the left end of the crag.

19.05.2021 M Scrowston, PC Bennett

2 High Impact S  **New** 9m

Start just right of [Low Impact](#) climb the centre of the overlap and climb almost direct to the top.

Mini-guide to Thrang Crag

1.06.2021 PC Bennett
Solo

3 Frack Off S † New 9m

A bold direct route up the bulging wall left of [Rebalancing](#).

27.05.2021 PC Bennett, M Scrowston

4 Rebalancing HS † New 13m

A fine little traverse start at the first right-slanting groove. Climb the groove for 2m then a hand traverse left leads to a mantelshelf finish.

11.04.2021 M Scrowston
Solo

5 Rewilding S † New 12m

The second right slanting groove 4m right of [Low Impact](#). Climb the groove to exit between the crag top junipers.

25.05.2021 M Scrowston
Solo

6 Silent Spring HS † New 14m

Start below a right-trending wall 3m right of [Rewilding](#). Ascend the wall passing a small overhang to finish direct,

27.05.2021 M Scrowston
Solo

7 Eco Wanderer S † New 13m

Start 3m to the right, with a steep juggy wall and pleasant slab above.

30.04.2021 PC Bennett, M Scrowston

8 Eco Wonderer S † New 13m

A direct line right of [Eco Wanderer](#). Climb the wall and slab to finish rightwards up a hanging block.

19.05.2021 PC Bennett, M Scrowston

9 Turned Out Nice Again S † New 15m

Start below a short wall at the right end of the buttress. Pull up the wall to follow the slab above.

11.04.2021 M Scrowston
Solo

10 One World HVS 4c † New 15m

An interesting trip up the leaning prow. Start at the right-hand end of the buttress below the crag top oak tree. A short wall and layaway crack leads to a stance on the right; balance up left then right to gain the hanging slab, and utilise some secret holds on the right to ascend the final block.

27.05.2021 M Scrowston, PC Bennett



Thrang Crag Upper East RHS

11 Moments E2 5b † **New** 12m



Good climbing up the fine undercut slab right of the dark corner. A steep pull through the overlap then enjoy the slab above. (Small wires useful)

17.04.2021 M Scrowston, PC Bennett

12 Silent Feet VS 4c † **New** 14m



The fine wall left of [Tipping Point](#) groove. Move up the left side of the groove for 2m until a committing step left gives access to the clean slab above.

17.04.2021 M Scrowston, PC Bennett

13 Tipping Point 5a 5a † **New** 14m

Starts at the obvious groove right of [Silent Feet](#). It has a well-protected crux at half-height.

25.04.2023 M Scrowston, PC Bennett

14 Tasmin VS 4c † **New** 14m

Start 1m right of [Tipping Point](#). Climb directly right of the groove, moving right at 4m to follow the broken ridge above.

30.04.2021 PC Bennett, M Scrowston

15 Stray Thoughts HS † **New** 14m



The clean V-groove at the right end of the buttress. Climb the groove to a jammed block, step right to finish direct.

30.04.2021 M Scrowston, PC Bennett

16 Holly Day Wall MVS 4b † **New** 11m



The short enjoyable wall left of the holly tree.

4.04.2021 M Scrowston
Solo

17 Off the Grid HS  **New** 7m



An isolated buttress at the extreme right end of the crags provides a pleasant dash up the vertical crack.

19.05.2021 PC Bennett, M Scrowston

Chapel Stile Bouldering Circuit

 Aspect: **South**  

Introduction

Thrang Crag Quarry and the fellside to its east conceal a large number of tiny craglets and some boulders, many of which have provided entertainment since the 1990s. Problems are scattered and an enjoyable session and good work out can be had by linking them together.. They can provide year round fun, being generally south-facing and sheltered. The rock dries quickly, although some of the open fell ground may be boggy. Be warned that the circuit's layout on the fellside is complex and some venues may seem to appear and disappear at will, along with those in search of them.

Full details in FRCC Langdale guide 2013.

Copt Howe (NY 316 058)

 5 mins Aspect: **South**  

Introduction

An excellent variety of short routes and problems on the pike-like outcrop of superb rough rock which lies 150m up the fellside just beyond the rows of new and old terraced houses at the western extremity of Chapel Stile. Limited parking is available on the roadside beneath the crag, opposite a house called Thrang Close. A short walk up a well-worn path leads to the crags. This is a very popular training area with groups and it has suffered badly from erosion in recent years. As with many other areas in this guide, please treat it with particular respect.

The lowest section has some problems with undercut starts; the right-hand crack (5b) and a very low-level traverse (6a) being particularly good. The upper slabs recognisable by the red streak on their right are excellent, especially a grey slab in the centre and the red streak itself. Dozens of variations have been climbed here. The north side of the outcrop's summit knoll is rather less attractive than the slabs, but the main groove, Greenbank's Crack (S), and a traverse of the wall to its right on pockets are good.