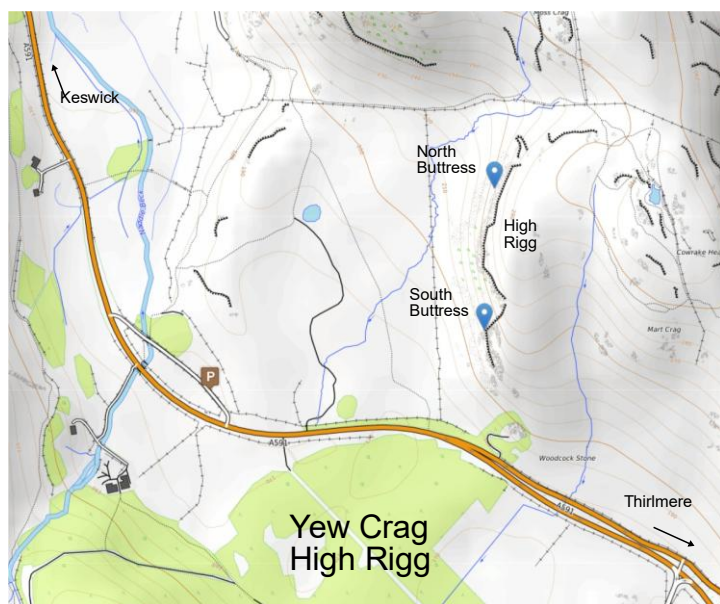


Yew Crag, High Rigg: North Buttress

(NY 3074 2096) Alt 180m



Situated on the western side of High Rigg, Thirlmere, Yew Crag was climbed on in the 1960s and 1980s but omitted from the last FRCC Eastern Crag's guide due to its overgrown state. The crag was cleaned and redeveloped in the 2020s.

If you are climbing the routes in one pitch beware of rope drag. It is worth carrying a few tape slings for runners. Any mention of Friend sizes in the route descriptions refers to the original single axle cams, not the modern double axle ones. There are three bolts at the top of the crag; these were used for cleaning the routes as there were no natural anchors.

Approach: Park in the large layby on the left, some 3¾ miles out of Keswick on the A591 Keswick to Ambleside road, and a few hundred metres before the start of the dual carriageway (NY 3016 2054). Go through the gate on the left and follow the wide track to another gate, then head up right to gain the top of a low ridge. The crag can be seen from here being the left-hand and tallest of a line of crags on the opposite hillside. Turn left and follow the low ridge to a point about 50m from a stone wall, then turn right and head for another low ridge. Once on this ridge turn right and after about 70m (the best point to view the whole crag) go down to a stone wall and cross it via a wire fence repair. Stride across the watercourse and zigzag up the hillside to the crag (20 minutes). In high summer the bracken is quite tall making access more difficult.

Descent: The best descent is down a wide open grassy gully on the left, about 50m from the top of the climbs.

The climbs are described from left to right, the first few being on the wall to the left of the yew-filled groove in the centre of the crag.

1 Crossfire 40m VS ★

Start below a wide crack.

1 10m 4c Climb up for 2m, step left then go up the wall to a curving crack. Follow this to reach the tree-covered ledge. Belay on the third tree along this ledge.

2 30m 4c The easy wall leads to the groove, then continue up to the block. Step off this

and follow the fine finger-crack to easy ground.

FA W Young, C Downer 13.09.2024 Alt

2 Myth 42m MVS

Start below the wide crack.

1 12m 4b Climb to the wide crack, then follow this to the tree-covered ledge. Belay on the third tree along this ledge.

2 30m 4b The easy wall and groove lead up to the block, then continue up the right-trending line.

FA P Ross, J Lee 25.04.1965

3 The Bodkin 42m HVS ★★

Start 2m right of [Myth](#).

1 14m 4c Climb the groove for 4m before moving left to the tree-covered ledge. Belay on the first tree.

2 28m 5a Climb the steep crack/groove direct to a difficult move right onto the wall; good gear here. A bold move up the arête leads to twin cracks. Follow these to easier ground.

FA C Downer, W Young, C Fowler, D Sperry 13.10.2022

4 Lost Arrow 40m E1 ★★

Start as for [The Bodkin](#).

1 28m 5b Climb the groove for 4m then up right to a block (good gear). Stand on this (good Friend 2.5 up right in a pocket). Small but good holds lead into the groove and a peg (in place). Move up for a few moves before moving left into a crack. Continue up on good holds past a niche before moving right to a belay ledge with a peg (in place). (The original route went straight up to the top rather than moving right to the belay ledge. This has not been cleaned).

2 12m 4b Climb straight up the wall to a steepening. Overcome this then climb more easily to a bolt belay.

FA K Telfer, S Telfer, S Kennedy 02.1982

5 The Fletcher Finish E2 ★★ ★

1 28m 5c As for [Lost Arrow](#) to the peg (in place) but continue straight up to another peg (in place). Difficult moves past this brings good holds and a belay on the right.

2 12m As for pitch 2 of [Lost Arrow](#).

FA C Downer, W Young 21.08.2022

6 The Yeoman 40m E2 ★★ ★

Start beside a large block.

1 28m 5b/c Climb the steep groove and head for the block on [Lost Arrow](#). Attain a standing position on the ledge above. Move slightly right then go back left passing a good but small flake (thin tape). Intricate climbing leads past two pegs (in place) and up to the belay (peg in place).

2 12m 4b As for [Lost Arrow](#).

FA C Downer, W Young, C Wornham 02.09.2022

7 Long Bow 40m HVS ★

Start beside a large block.

1 28m 5a Climb onto the block, step right, then go up the wall to a move left onto ledges. Continue directly, just left of the gully to the belay ledge (peg in place).

2 12m 4b As for [Lost Arrow](#).

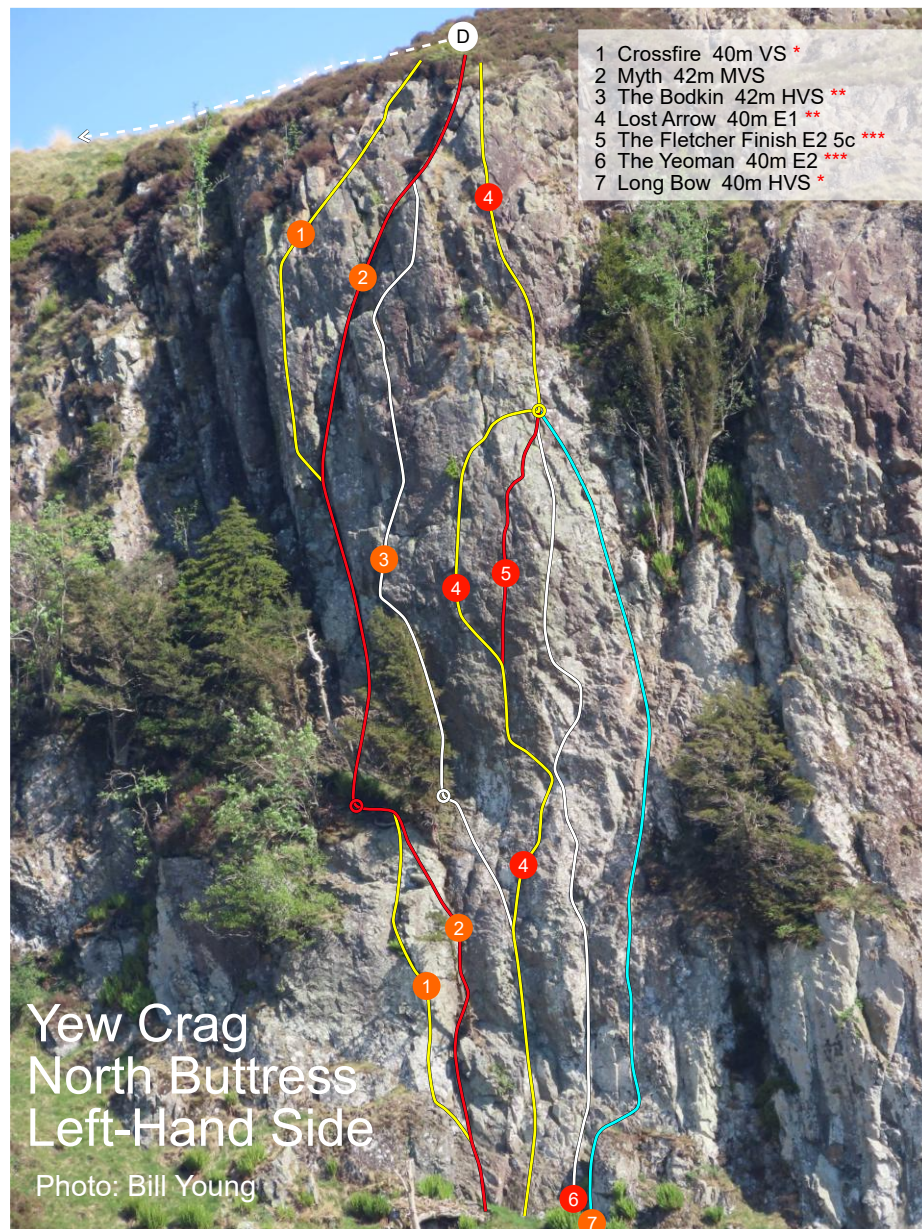
FA K Telfer, S Telfer, A Winter 02.1982

The remaining climbs lie to the right of the yew-filled groove.

8 Agincourt 55m E1 ★

Start at a short corner just right of the yew tree-filled groove.

1 20m 5a Climb the corner to a large flake. Traverse right, past a peg, onto the arête then go up into a groove/crack. At the top, pull onto the slab then climb easily to the belay ledge (peg in place). The original route started at more or less the same place, climbed the wall and the left edge of the groove (peg runner) then went up to the



same stance. This was E2 5c and has not been cleaned.

2 25m 5b Above is a shallow brown groove. Fantastic climbing up this leads to a traverse left to a spike on the arête. Bold moves diagonally rightwards lead to a break with good holds. Go up to a belay ledge below a short slanting crack.

3 10m Easily to the top.

FA K Telfer, G Telfer, A Winter 02.1982 FA new start
C Downer, W Young, G Lee 08.07.2022

9 Yew Crag Buttress 55m E2 ★★

Start 3m right of [Agincourt](#).

1 20m 5b Climb the steep corner to a ledge. From the left-hand side of the ledge climb the difficult slab on small holds to the belay (peg in place).

2 25m 5b Climb the shallow brown groove, as for [Agincourt](#), but continue up to the overhang. Bold moves through the niche lead to easier ground and the belay ledge below a short slanting crack.

3 10m Easily to the top.

FA C Downer, W Young 23.08.2022

10 Free Flight 55m HVS ★★

Start 2m right of [Yew Crag Buttress](#) at the next groove

1 10m 5a Climb the groove on good holds to arrive at a large ledge. Belay recommended.

2 35m 5a Climb the short corner then continue up the obvious groove-line on the right to a chimney on the right of the overhang. Steep moves lead to easier ground and the belay ledge below a short slanting crack.

3 10m Easily to the top.

FA K Telfer, G Telfer 02.1982 alt leads

11 Rib Tickler 45m HVS ★

Start 2m right of [Free Flight](#) below a niche.

1 15m 4c Climb into the niche (good Friend 1 in slot). Bridge up on good holds and pull out left. Follow flakes to a large block belay below a left-leaning groove.

2 15m 5a Pull into the groove (good gear) and climb this to a protruding flake (good nuts above). Move horizontally right above the overhang in a fine position until it is possible to climb the slab more easily to a ledge and peg belay (in place).

3 15m Either of the two easy ways up the slab to the top and bolt belay.

FA C Downer, D Sperry 19.04.2022

11a Rib Tickler Direct HVS 5a

On pitch 2, instead of traversing right from the flake, continue straight up on good holds before moving right to the peg belay. Easier climbing but not as exciting.

FA C Downer, W Young, M MacKay 10.04.2025

12 Colin from Accounts 40m E2 ★

Start 4m right of *Rib Tickler* at a corner.

1 25m 5b Climb the corner then move right onto a ledge (possible tree belay). Follow a groove first left then right to below the overhang (peg in place). Above is a block with a crack down the side (1.5 Friend). Pull steeply out right onto a good foothold then go up and left to a slab on the right (good Friend 1.5). Follow the slab to peg belay (in place).

2 15m Either of the two easy ways up the slab to the top and bolt belay.

FA C Downer, W Young, D Sperry 21.05.2022

13 Cumbria Life 40m E1 ★

1 25m 5b Climb *Colin from Accounts* to the ledge. Move up rightwards to a corner (good gear here). Step down slightly (peg above in place) and pull onto the wall in a committing position, moving right to a good ledge. Continue up passing a couple of spikes to the



right end of an overhang. Tricky moves diagonally left soon bring easier climbing and a peg belay (in place).

2 15m Either of the two easy ways up the slab to the top and bolt belay.

FA W Young, C Downer 19.04.2024