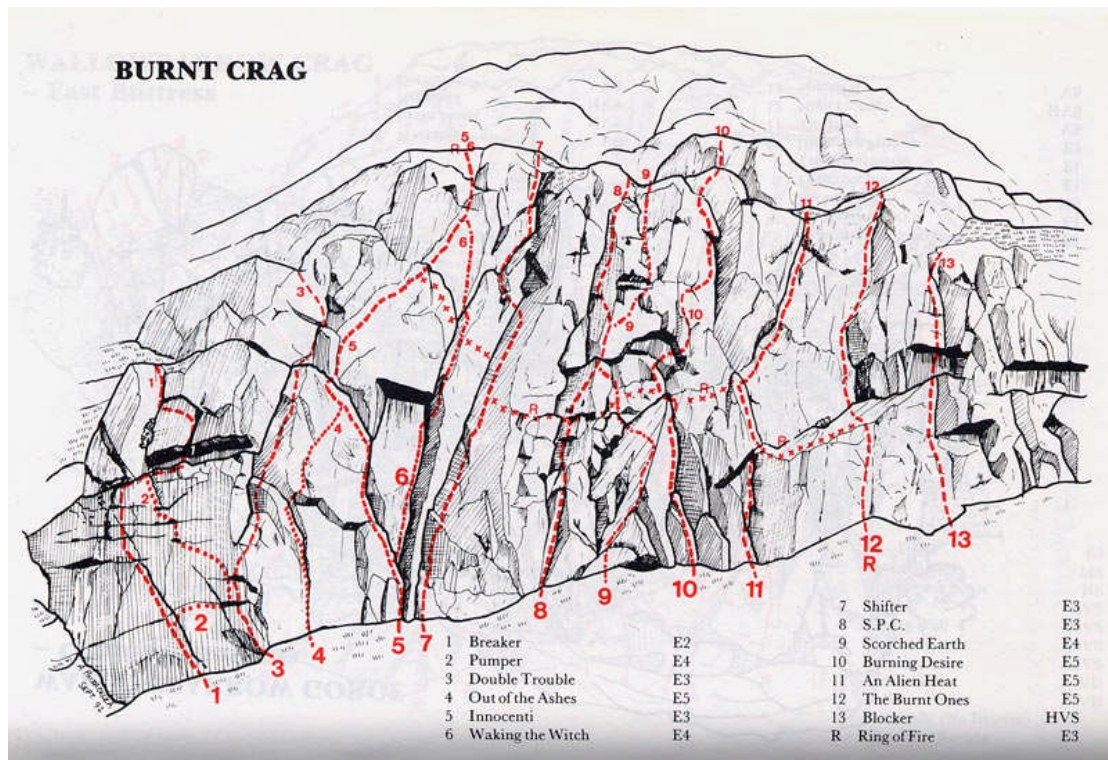




Burnt Crag

(243 991)
Alt 350m
South Facing

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This is definitely the best crag in the valley for the hard climber. It offers fine lines on steep, compact rock and being south facing it dries quickly, except for a couple of short-lived seepage lines in the grooves. Burnt Crag lies mid-way between the outlet of Seathwaite Tarn and Troutal Farm, and can be picked out as the largest wall of rock at the upper right-hand side of Little Blake Rigg. A horizontal line of overhangs crossing the crag at mid-height will aid identification.

The best approach is to park by the cattle grid south of Troutal, and follow the track alongside the wall through several gates then strike rightwards up the hillside, aiming for a gate in the wall which is hidden by a small knoll. The crag lies diagonally leftwards up the fellside from here (20 minutes).

The main feature of the crag is a slanting, right-facing corner in the centre, which is the line of Shifter. The routes are described from left to right. There is an easy descent on both sides of the crag.

Breaker 24 m E2 1983

A good strenuous route up the steep left wall of the crag.

(5c). Climb the left-slanting diagonal crack, then the wall via breaks to a chockstone below a prow of rock. Traverse right along a ledge to a small cave. Pull back left using the large flake above to finish up a groove.

Pumper 26 m E4 1993

A very strenuous route which weaves up the wall between Breaker and Double Trouble.

(5c). Climb the initial diagonal crack of Breaker to the obvious horizontal break, traverse right across this to reach the first slot on Double Trouble. Pull up past the second slot to a peg where fingery moves left lead to good jugs and a thread, continue quickly using a short flake to reach the cave on Breaker. Finish up that route.

**** Double Trouble** 27 m E3 1979

A fine but unyielding climb that starts below the right arête of the overhanging left-hand wall of the crag, about 9 metres left of Shifter.

(6a). Step off the boulder and climb across the steep wall, past two horizontal slots (Friends) to a niche. Up this, then a difficult groove above leads to the top.

Out of the Ashes 30 m E5 1985

A bold eliminate route. Start below a thin crack just right of Double Trouble.

(6b). Climb the relentlessly stubborn crack until it curves leftwards to finish at a superb spike on the edge of the niche of Double Trouble. Climb up to a very thin cracked spike above, then use a prominent downward pointing flake on the nose out right to reach a good hold. Continue up, then cross the dirty wall on the right to join Innocenti by the heathery patch.

**** Innocenti** 30 m E3 1979

A good sustained climb up a thin left-trending flake which starts below a square cut corner, capped by an overhang, 2 metres left of Shifter.

(6a). Using a flake, awkwardly enter a shallow niche, then follow the strenuous flake crack out leftwards until a resting foothold can be reached on the left wall. Move up to a patch of heather, then follow a slanting line back right above the big overhang; where a good sharp flake continues in the same direction through the final bulge.

*** Waking the Witch** 29 m E4 1985

A brilliant route (once the start dries up) taking the leg-pumping corner below the roof. Start up Innocenti.

(6b). Bridge into the groove and precariously climb it to the overhang. Pull out right and follow the easier continuation to a resting place. Either climb the cracked headwall above directly or via a detour out left (slightly easier).

***** Shifter** 30 m E3 1979

An excellent climb, strenuous but well protected. Start below the central rightwards-facing corner.

(6a). A steep crack leads to a small ledge at the foot of the corner. Burn up this, passing a thin section to reach the upper bulge, pull out left and finish up the final groove.

* **S.P.C.** 28 m E3 1979

The shallow corner, parallel to, and just right of Shifter. A good one-move climb, which could leave you smouldering with frustration.

(5c). Climb a steep wall to good holds and enter the main grooveline. Up this to a bulge, then pull out right to stand on a small protruding nose below the upper corner (tiny wires). Using small flakes on the right rib, pull back into the corner and finish directly with ease.

* **Scorched Earth** 30 m E4 1989

A pleasantly delicate route starting at a protruding block just right of S.P.C.

(6a). Pass the block to reach the base of a smooth rightwards-trending ramp and climb this using a vague rib on its right edge to reach a peg runner. Cross the ramp leftwards to a large block, and pull up to the overhangs above. Step on another block on the left, and using a tiny flake on the edge of the S.P.C. groove, pull out right above the overhang to good holds and finish direct.

*** **Burning Desire** 30 m E5 1989

A scorcher! Start below a steep pink groove 8 metres right of Shifter.

(6b). Enter the groove using a large flake, and climb it to good holds where it peters out. Traverse slightly left and move up to the overhang (peg), then step right and stretch up for a flat hold in the small groove immediately to the right. Stand on this and finally drift delicately right to enter the prominent bottomless groove which leads easily to the top.

Variation

(6a). From the overhang, pull over it slightly leftwards to reach a good break, and continue directly up the wall to finish as for Scorched Earth.

** **An Alien Heat** 26 m E5 1989

Another blistering route starting below the left-hand end of a sloping glacis, which is about 6 metres up the crag. A large selection of small wires is essential.

(6b). Climb the groove to the glacis and follow a shallow corner above its left end to where the rock bulges. Difficult climbing slightly rightwards leads to a jug at the foot of a right-facing groove, finish up this. Small wires essential.

* **The Burnt Ones** 20 m E5 1985

This fine route takes the open corner above the right-hand end of the sloping glacis, about 20 metres right of Shifter.

(6b). Climb a slabby groove to gain the glacis directly below the corner. A bold, strenuous move up this using a painful pocket leads to a left-facing flake in the corner, which is followed to the top.

Blocker 15 m HVS 1979

(5b). Just right of The Burnt Ones is a blocky overhang. Pull directly over this and step left, finishing up a thin crack.

Ring of Fire 55 m E3 1989

This right to left traverse provides some entertaining climbing across the right-hand half of the crag. Start as The Burnt Ones.

- 1 30 m (5c). Climb onto the glacié and stroll down to its lowest point. Climb a shallow corner above to reach a line of good holds that lead slightly downwards to join Burning Desire. Step left and up to a peg below the overhang, and continue leftwards below this to reach a large flake, belay by a heathery ledge in the groove of S.P.C.
- 2 25 m (6a). From the large flake, pull into the corner of Shifter and climb this until a quartz jug on the left arête can be reached. Swing round the arête to a groove (this is a few metres below the point where Shifter moves left) and follow a ramp to reach the finishing holds of Innocenti.