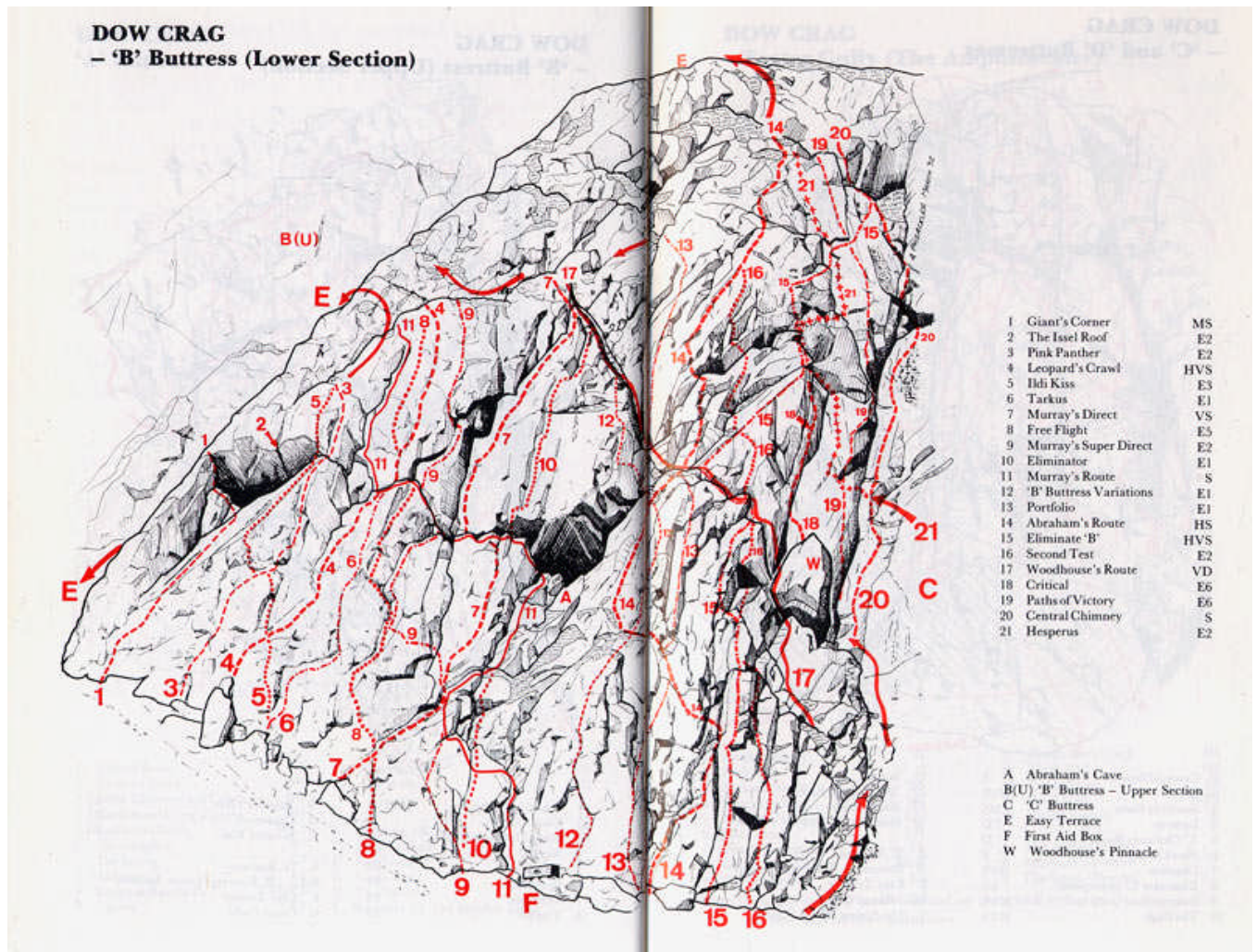


DOW CRAG PART 2 (REQUIRES PART 1 FOR INTRO)

'B' Buttress (Lower Section)

This section of the crag lies below Easy Terrace, which is used for descent from all the routes on this wall. The first route starts 12 metres right of the foot of Easy Terrace, by an extensive slab capped by an overhang.



* **Giant's Corner** 24m MS 1920

A short but interesting route up the left-hand corner of the slab. Start directly below the corner.

Move across the initial steep wall from the left on small polished holds to reach the foot of the slab. Follow this to a good horizontal flake below the overhang. Pull left onto the pillar and exit leftwards on large shiny holds.

The Isel Roof 26m E2 1977

This route pulls through the overhang 6 metres right of Giant's Corner using a notorious finger-chewing crack! Start at the foot of the wall, just left of Pink Panther.

1 20m (5a). Climb the wall directly to a crack. Gain the slab and continue via a tufted crack to belay below a crack in the capping roof.

2 6m (6a). Climb directly through the roof, using the crack, to an awkward landing on the slab above. (The belly-flop, accompanied by colourful language, is a much favoured technique). Belay immediately. A short scramble leads to Easy Terrace.

***** Pink Panther** 40m E2 1973

An excellent diagonal line up the immaculate Leopard's Crawl wall, with fingery climbing and adequate protection. Start about 7 metres right of Giant's Corner, where a fragile spike sits against the wall.

(5c). From the spike, step right onto the wall and climb a scoop to reach a slight depression in the middle of the face. Move right beneath steeper rocks to reach a truncated spike below a rounded bulge. Stand on this with difficulty and enter a groove on the right. Climb this to its top and then pull out left on to a slab below The Issel Roof. Skirt round the right-hand end of this and climb a scoop to easier ground.

***** Leopard's Crawl** 48m HVS 1947

Superb open climbing on perfect rock. A masterpiece of its generation and one of Jim Birkett's finest routes. It starts 11 metres right of Giant's Corner, where a large flake is propped against the wall.

1 28m (5a). Step up from the block and traverse right to better holds. A short ascent then leads to a crack on the left of a brown crinkly wall. Cross this delicately rightwards and enter the base of a scoop. Climb the scoop, which is awkward and not well protected, to a ledge below the top corner crack of Murray's Route.

2 20m (4c). Traverse right along the flake system and then climb a shallow groove in the wall above to easier ground.

*** Ildi Kiss** 43m E3 1992

A route of similar character to Rough, taking a direct line up the wall, cutting through the previous two routes. Some fine climbing, with a bold start. Begin as for Tarkus.

(6a). From the small bulge at 3 metres (Skyhook runner in pocket above), pull up and slightly left to reach good holds on Leopard's Crawl, below the crack. Follow the crack into a small niche and exit leftwards into the slight depression on Pink Panther. A hard move left through the bulging wall above leads to a good flake hold and the slab immediately below The Issel Roof. Stand on the spike at the right-hand end of the roof and finish awkwardly up a short crack above, about 2 metres left of the final scoop of Pink Panther.

**** Tarkus** 53m E1 1972

A thoroughly enjoyable route, with a variety of delicate, strenuous and exposed climbing up the wall right of Leopard's Crawl. Start off a little ledge a couple of metres below and to the right of the bridged block of Leopard's Crawl.

1 33m (5b). Step boldly right on to the steep wall to reach a small flat-topped flake in a shallow groove and move up with haste to a horizontal break. Traverse right to a little ledge below an obvious steep crack. Climb this and the wall above, trending leftwards to reach the ledge below the top corner of Murray's Route.

2 20m (4c). Pitch 2 of Leopard's Crawl.

Variation Direct Start E3 1975

(6a). An obvious entry directly below the steep crackline, involving a long reach through a break in the bulge.

Rough 40m E4 1975

A contrived and rather difficult climb, forcing an impertinent line through three other routes. Begin as for the Direct Start to Tarkus.

(6a). Climb up to the overlap at 5 metres and then pull out leftwards using a right-facing side hold set in the centre of a bulging wall. A hard move gains the traverse line of Tarkus below the steeper rock. (Most people start up Tarkus Direct, reducing the overall grade to E3). From the undercut flakes above, pull up leftwards to reach the brown crinkly wall on Leopard's Crawl. Continue up the steep groove on the left (Pink Panther). This is followed out left and then rightwards past the overhang, to the top.

***** Murray's Direct** 48m VS 1922

An excellent route which finishes up the capped, right facing corner high above the rescue box. It is a combination of three old variations on Murray's Route, each pitch retaining its own history and character, creating a justly popular climb. Start at a vertical embedded flake about 14 metres left of the start of Murray's Route, just right of the Direct Start to Tarkus.

- 1 12m (4c). Tiger Traverse. From the top of the flake, move right on sloping holds until an outward shelving slab can be gained and followed delicately rightwards to a ledge below an open corner.
- 2 10m (4b). The Link Pitch. Step right and climb the wall above the perched flake until the horizontal hand-traverse flake on Murray's Route is reached. Move left to belay on a small ledge below the final steep corner.
- 3 26m (4c). Climb the crack, using a good old-fashioned strenuous layback, until a diagonal line can be followed rightwards below the overhang. Keep moving right until an exit can be made up cracks to easier ground. Scramble diagonally left to reach Easy Terrace.

*** Free Flight** 48 m E5 1993

A steep, fingery line which forces a direct entry into the groove on pitch 2 of Murray's Super Direct. Start a couple of metres right of the flake which marks the starting point of Murray's Direct Route.

(6b). Climb a thin left-facing flake in the steep wall to join The Tiger Traverse ramp. Continue directly to good holds and 2 pegs, then make a difficult move up and left using an undercut flake to reach a large, hollow jug. Step right and pull precariously right into the base of the groove on Murray's Super Direct, climb the groove and pull out left at its top onto a blunt arête. A shallow grooveline is followed slightly rightwards in the steep wall above until it joins the large flake traverse on Murray's Route. Above lies the open groove which is pitch 2 of Leopard's Crawl. Move onto a small spike on the left-hand side of this groove and pull directly over the bulge on the left to reach the final slab.

Astrakhan 42m E2 1982

An interesting but contrived eliminate which mainly follows the steep left wall of Murray's Direct. Start just right of the flake of Murray's Direct.

- 1 9m (5c). Climb slightly rightwards into the centre of the steep wall and then ascend directly to below a slim overlap. An awkward move over this gains the Tiger Traverse. Move right to belay below the corner.
- 2 12m (5c). Climb the corner-line easily until the superb slanting crack in the left wall can be reached at the earliest opportunity. Climb this on excellent jams to belays on Murray's Route.
- 3 21m (5c). Move up the short chimney on the left and pull into the overhung niche above (as for Murray's Super Direct). Climb directly out of the right-hand side to gain the blunt rib above (hard). Follow this carefully to reach easier ground.

Born Free 50m E1 1977

An anti-social climb on a busy day. This is a low right to left traverse of the Leopard's Crawl wall. It utilizes sections of many of the routes on this wall and is only worthwhile if they have already been completed. However, both the climbing and the rock are very good.

- 1 30m (5b). Start up Murray's Super Direct and follow it to below the steep crack at the top of the hanging groove on pitch 2. Traverse left at this height, crossing Tarkus (above the steep crack), to join Leopard's Crawl just below the final scoop on pitch 1 of that route. Step down and cross the brown wall to a hanging belay in the crack.
- 2 20m (5a). Traverse left across a ledge and step up to reach Pink Panther. Move out left, crossing the wall below the slab of The Issel Roof to finish up Giant's Corner.

**** Murray's Super Direct** 48m E2 1974

A rather fine route, taking the steep groovelines in the wall left of Murray's Direct. Start a couple of metres left of Murray's Route

below a left-slanting crack.

1 12m (5b). Climb the slim gangway just left of the crack until the slab above can be gained. Belay on the highest ledge above at the foot of the open corner.

2 12m (5b). Cross the steep wall on the left, above a small roof, to gain a hanging groove. Follow this to a rightward slanting crack which is climbed strenuously through the bulge to belays on Murray's Route.

3 24m (5b). Climb the flake forming a chimney out left, and from its top pull into a small overhung recess. Swing right round the edge onto the steep left wall of the corner above the belay. Move up right until below the overhangs, where a long reach left enables the easy finishing slabs to be reached.

Eliminator 48m E1 1969

The only route so far to breach the large overhangs above the cave on Abraham's Route. Start just left of Murray's Route at the obvious crack.

1 24m (4b). Climb the crack, crossing the slab of Murray's Route and continue in that line via a niche to easier ground. Belay in the large cave above.

2 24m (5b). The aim is the obvious groove above the left-hand side of the large overhang. Pull over the overhang and awkwardly secure oneself in the groove. Step right, immediately, into another groove and follow this to easier ground.

***** Murray's Route** 74m S 1918

One of the greatest classics in the Lakes, weaving up an impressive area of rock with the most delightful situations. Start just left of the first-aid box at an open 'V' chimney.

1 23m. Climb the chimney to an overhanging wall, and then cross the polished slab on the left with difficulty (crux) to a crack. Continue under the bulging rock, round a corner and up to a ledge. The best belays are to be found on the large ledge directly below the corner.

2 12m. Traverse rightwards over the obvious detached flake and follow the arête above for a few moves before stepping right into a short chimney. Climb this and the blocks above to a comfortable stance in a large cave (Abraham's Cave).

3 21m. Exit leftwards up the fine steep crack and traverse horizontally to a possible belay below the steep final corner of Murray's Direct. Climb the short flake chimney in the left wall and swing along the exposed flake line, descending slightly to a stance below a flake, about 2 metres right of a steep corner.

4 18m. Move up the good flake above which is followed leftwards into the corner. Climb the wide crack above which leads awkwardly to a ledge. From there a 'V' groove on the left leads towards Easy Terrace.

Variation The Simian Exit 14m HS 1925

From the belay below the final pitch, swing out leftwards across the steep corner to a small ledge at the right end of the long slab (junction with Pink Panther). Either ascend the steep wall above and scramble to Easy Terrace, or continue below the roof and finish up Giant's Corner.

*** 'B' Buttress Variations** 50m E1 1972

An interesting route with some intimidating climbing. Start just right of the first aid box, beneath a thin right-slanting crack.

1 24m (5b). The initial crack is not very sympathetic to short people, but leads to a flat hold. Move from there up and left to better holds. Layback up the leftwards-impending crack and continue up the groove to a small ledge, then climb an easier groove to a grass ledge.

2 14m (4a). Follow the right-hand of two shallow grooves in the wall above to reach the grass terrace on Woodhouse's Route. Belay in the dark recess at the left end.

3 12m (5b). The steep wall on the left is traversed delicately along a narrow ledge, until an airy mantelshelf can be made onto a small ledge on the arête. A shallow groove above maintains the interest to the top.

Variation Start Rock It To Russia E1

(5b). Climb the rounded steep rib just right of Murray's Route for 6 metres before traversing the awkward ledge line rightwards to join the upper part of pitch 1. A final pitch was added just left of the top pitch of Abraham's Route.

Madam 55m HVS 1967

A good start and finish make this a worthwhile route. The first two pitches were originally a variation start to Eliminate 'B'. Start just left of Abraham's Route below a steep arête.

1 22m (5a). Step leftwards onto the steep rib just above a low overhang, and climb it on side holds for about 7 metres before moving left across the wall into a shallow groove. Follow this to a grass ledge on Abraham's Route.

2 14m (4a). The wall above contains several shallow grooves. Follow the rib on the right-hand edge to a belay on Woodhouse's Route, in the corner on the left.

3 19m (5a). An interesting left-slanting groove in the steep wall, just left of the wide crack of Woodhouse's Route, leads airily to a ledge. Climb the easy arête above.

*** Portfolio** 54m E1 1992

A good route following the long, shallow right-facing groove easily visible from the ground. Start as for Madam.

1 34m (5b). Follow the rib of Madam for 7 metres and then step right onto a little rock ledge. Follow a shallow right-trending groove which leads to the long shallow groove. This is climbed to the terrace on Woodhouse's Route. Belay in the dark corner on the left.

2 20m (5c). A thin pitch. Start just right of the vertical corner crack (the variation finish to Woodhouse's Route) and follow a very shallow grooveline directly up the steep wall to where it eases. Continue to grass ledges. Scramble off leftwards.

*** Abraham's Route** 62m HS 1903

A fine classic route of increasing interest. Start up a wide broken groove, which is the first easy break right of the first aid box.

1 13m. Climb the rightwards trending groove to some grass ledges. Continue up the groove to a recess. Belay on the right.

2 12m. Step onto a rock ledge on the right and stride back left across the recess to follow fairly easy rocks up and leftwards to the middle of a long grassy ledge. (This ledge runs leftwards into an open cave known as Abraham's Cave. Here the original line followed the easy slabs up and right out of the cave).

3 13m. Climb the very shallow open groove on the left side of the steep wall above. Easier rocks then lead to the grass terrace on Woodhouse's Route.

4 24m (4a). The original way followed Pilgrim's Progress up the slab on the right and then traversed back left under the overhangs to break through at their left-hand end. This point is more logically reached directly up a series of short grooves and walls to a ledge below a blocky spike, towards the left end of the overhangs. The step left onto a slab is not easy, but good small holds lead to a spike, where a gangway/groove continues rightwards to the crest of the buttress. An easy pitch leads up to Easy Terrace.

*** Eliminate 'B'** 90m HVS 1922

A long and interesting climb wandering up the right edge of 'B' Buttress. Saves its best until last with the classic traverse of Central Wall to finish. Start just right of Abraham's Route, behind an embedded flat-topped block.

1 21m (5a). Climb the thin crack behind the block. Continue up the groove to an arête, which is climbed directly to a good rock ledge.

2 20m (4c). Climb the thin crack above to reach some detached blocks. Climb the rib immediately left of the large overhang until it is possible to step right onto an exposed slab. Cross this to an easier groove which leads up to a ledge on Woodhouse's Route.

3 16m. Walk left and then climb easily left up the slab (Pilgrim's Progress). Belay on the left of a block below the impending wall known as Giant Grim (excellent exposed view of Central Chimney).

4 13m (4c). Step off the block and climb the steep wall to easy ground (possible belays). Traverse round to the right to belay below a crack forming the left side of a pillar.

5 20m (5a). Step right onto the rib and move round to a ledge with a loose block, next to Central Wall. Step across to a blunt spike below an overlap, and pull up rightwards, with difficulty, to gain footholds above. Step right into the shallow corner and climb this, moving right at the top to easier ground. Continue back leftwards to the top.

Second Test 61m E2 1992

A varied climb which takes the formidable obstacle of the prominent triangular overhang about 8 metres left of Woodhouse's Pinnacle. Start just right of Eliminate 'B', below a thin crack running up through a little roof 5 metres above the start.

1 25m (5a). Climb the crack through the roof onto the slab above. Trend left and follow the right-hand edge of the blocky arête above directly to the rock ledge on Eliminate 'B'. Climb the thin crack above to belay on the blocky ledge below the large overhang.

2 20m (5c). Follow the crack through the roof, past a superb jug, to a difficult finish onto the slab above. A short groove leads to the slanting trough of Woodhouse's Route and then pull up to a ledge on the left. Above is a bulging wall with a shallow undercut groove. Climb the groove awkwardly to easy ground. Belay on a grass ledge on the left.

3 16m (5b). Climb directly through a short bulge to gain a slab below a steep wall containing twin shallow grooves. Pull into the left-hand groove and continue steeply to a loose spike on the lip above. Pull onto the upper slab and follow this rightwards to join the top section of Abraham's Route. (The twin grooves in the steep wall have been followed rightwards to finish just left of the Giant Grim. They are dirty and unprotected and not in keeping with the rest of the route).

*** Woodhouse's Route** 57m VD 1905

A good old-fashioned route, which is very efficient at removing skin from exposed knees! Starting from below and left of Woodhouse's Pinnacle, it follows a diagonal line leftwards across the buttress. Scramble up 25 metres from the foot of Central Chimney to a well worn platform below a wide groove with a block at its base.

1 20m. The easy groove leads to a steep crack on the left, which is climbed to the crevasse behind the pinnacle (stance). The slanting chimney is entered awkwardly and climbed to a ledge and belays. The ledge system is followed leftwards to a deep recess.

2 22m. The wall on the left is climbed, with the right foot in the deep crack, to a grass ledge. Climb the arête on the left to a large terrace. Easy Terrace is reached by scrambling. The climb may be lengthened as follows; walk right to a prominent belay block and then follow the crackline in the wall above for 10 metres. Finish up the steep little wall to the left of a projecting block.

Variation Finish HS

This is the vertical crack in the right-hand corner of the deep recess at the top of pitch 1.

2a 10m. Climb the crack; the first few metres are strenuous, but good finishing holds lead to easier ground.

3a 9m. Climb over a difficult projecting corner and follow easier rock to a stance. Scrambling leads to Easy Terrace.

*** Pincher Martin** 23m E5 1979

An intimidating climb, which gains the hanging groove in the headwall above and left of Woodhouse's Pinnacle. Scramble up to the crevasse behind the pinnacle.

(6a). Step off the pinnacle to a good flake on the left wall. Climb steeply up and leftwards past a peg to reach a jug, where an ape-like swing leaves no option but to scuttle out left to the arête and a resting place. A short left facing flake is reached from the right, where an utterly committing move up the steep wall leads to a tiny spike in the base of the hanging groove. Pull up and move round the left rib to salvation. Belay on the large block above. (Start up pitch 4 of Eliminate 'B' to finish, but continue directly to Easy Terrace).

**** Critical 22m E6 1992**

A brilliant route following the hideously overhanging crack above Woodhouse's Pinnacle. A must for the specialists of overhanging climbing walls!

(6c). Start up Pincher Martin to the first peg. Follow the crackline rightwards, using a pocket out right of the second peg to reach a semi-rest on the little ramp. Finish up the easier crack on the left, which gives an inverted (6a) move to finish. Belay up right.

N.B. On the first ascent two nuts were preplaced; a Walnut 4 between the pegs and a Rock 9 just below the little ramp. The route was then 'red-pointed', with the leader carrying gear for the upper crack (Rocks 2 and 7). This information has been given here not to condemn the ethics or tactics used of those involved in the first ascent, but to clarify the situation for future ascensionists who should at least strive to equal this level of achievement.

**** Close To Critical 47m E4 1982**

Despite being overshadowed by its more recent neighbours, this climb still needs a cool head and deserves respect. It follows the handsome open corner behind Woodhouse's Pinnacle, which is reached by scrambling up the lower part of Central Chimney.

1 27m (6b). Step off the pinnacle to a good flake on the steep left wall. (It is possible to place a runner out right in a blind slot, under instructions from the second on the pinnacle). Climb the groove precariously, past two pegs, to reach an easing of the angle where it joins Hesperus. Exit out of the upper left-hand corner to a belay on the Capstan block.

2 20m (5c). Step off the right-hand side of the block onto the bulging wall and climb directly through the traverse line of Hesperus to ledges. Scramble up to Easy Terrace.

***** The Shinning Path 28m E5 1992**

A superb route up the steep wall above the right-hand edge of Woodhouse's Pinnacle. Five pegs show the line; take six tie-offs, a Friend 2 and a Rock 6 – sport climbing on a mountain crag! The first peg is very low and could easily be overlooked.

(6b). Bridge up the right edge of the pinnacle until it is possible to establish oneself on the wall. Climb up, with a particularly desperate move past the fourth peg, to reach the crux pocket of Hesperus. Finish leftwards up the short corner below the headwall (as for Hesperus).

***** Paths of Victory 59 m E6 1993**

This exhilarating and extremely fingery route is the logical extension to The Shinning Path, linking it to the upper slabs of Adhara. It is described as climbed on the first ascent as a single pitch; the half-way ledge on Sirius provides a convenient break for those who don't possess 60 metre ropes. Start up The Shinning Path.

(6c). Follow The Shinning Path to the junction with Hesperus. Where Hesperus swings left, step right to a poor peg and pull straight over the bulge using the right-hand pocket to become established on the featureless wall above. Traverse right with difficulty to reach a finger edge near the arête overlooking Central Chimney (peg). One further hard move leads to the diagonal ramp of Sirius with much relief! Step right onto the upper slabs and clip the peg on Adhara, then continue directly up the centre of the slab, pulling over the upper overlap, to finish as for Adhara.

* **Hesperus** 54m E2 1973

Steep and strenuous climbing, winding a way up the steep walls to the left of Central Chimney. Start up Central Chimney.

1 32m (5c). Climb the chimney, passing a smooth section to a ledge at 10 metres. Gain the obvious small overhung ledge on the left wall, then step down left from here onto the face. Climb up to a small fragile pocket and move left with difficulty to better holds. Follow the corner above, pulling out awkwardly leftwards onto a large sloping ledge (top of pitch 3, Eliminate 'B').

2 22m (5a). From the top of the right-hand block above (the Capstan), climb a couple of metres up the wall until it is possible to step down and rightwards onto an exposed traverse line. Follow this for 5 metres on good holds to easier ground. Continue directly to reach Easy Terrace.

** **Central Chimney** 53m S 1897

An old classic climb which remains popular. Takes the obvious right facing crack/chimney line between 'B' and 'C' Buttresses. Start by scrambling up easy ground to a large ledge on the right of Woodhouse's Pinnacle.

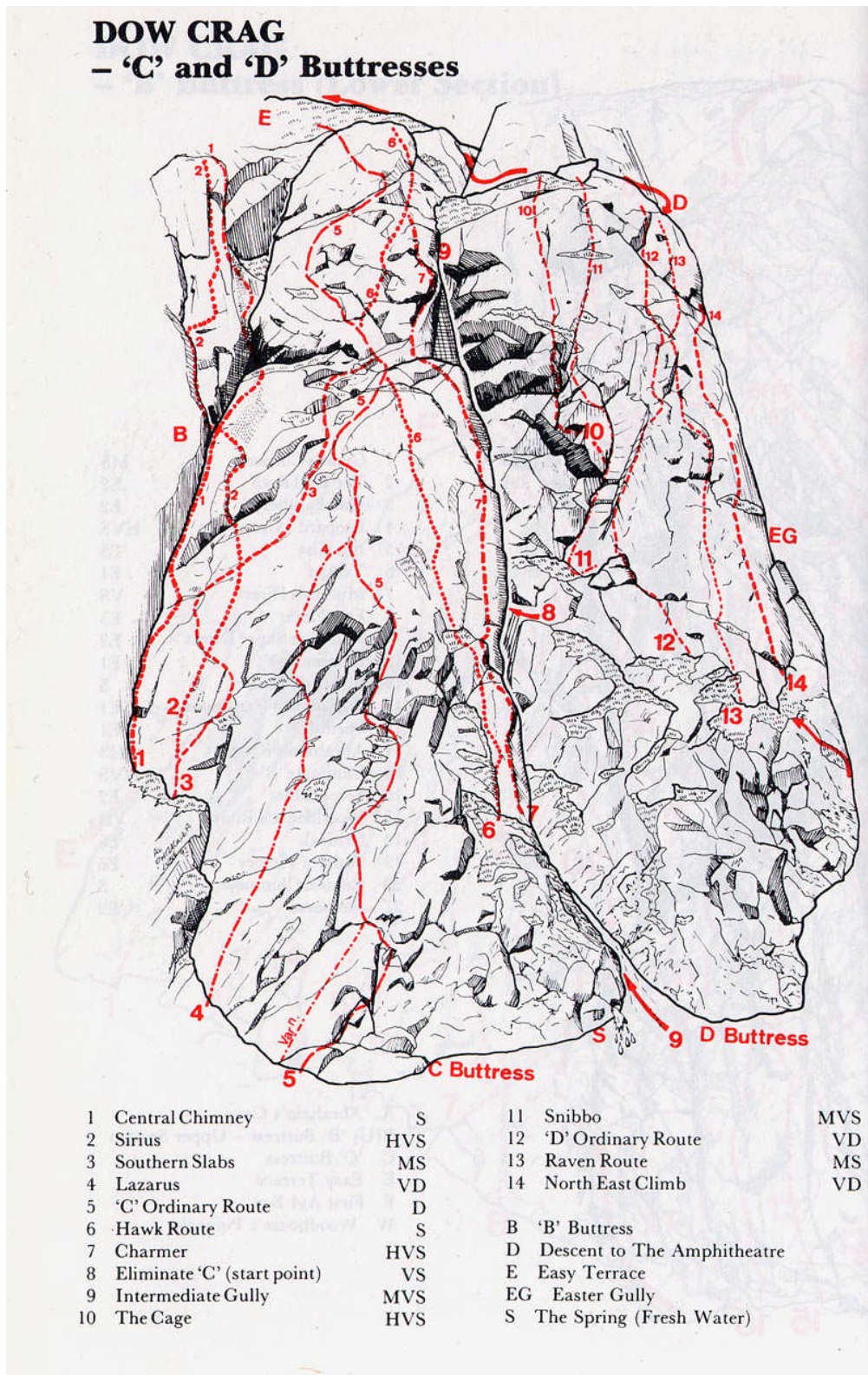
1 25m. Climb the initial crack using holds on the right wall, with an awkward smooth section at 9 metres. Continue up the chimney, over a slight bulge to a belay in a recess above some wedged blocks. (The pitch can be split by taking a belay after the smooth section, 3 metres to the right of the crack).

2 10m. Follow the rib on the right wall, then back left into a conspicuous cave left of a line of overhangs, where care with loose rock is needed.

3 18m. Exit awkwardly leftwards out of the cave to ledges above. (Belay possible). Follow grass leftwards to more suitable belays. Easy Terrace is reached by scrambling further up and left.

'C' Buttress

The rounded slabby buttress right of 'B' Buttress. The foot of 'C' Buttress is actually the lowest point of Dow Crag. (Water is available just a few metres right of this point – a small but constant flow out of a crack in the rock. Absolute nectar!). All the routes end on Easy Terrace, which is followed leftwards for the descent.



**** Sirius** 57m HVS 1963

An enjoyable climb, starting with a new first pitch up the slabs right of Central Chimney, before gaining some exposed positions on the steep wall to the left of Central Chimney. Start at the same point as Southern Slabs. (Originally started at the top of pitch 1 of Central Chimney).

1 24m (5a). Climb the quartz wall direct, just right of a quartz stalactite, to gain easier slabs above. Continue straight up, parallel to Central Chimney to a line of overhangs. Pull into a hanging groove above the centre of these and then step left to a belay at the top of pitch 1 of Central Chimney.

2 13m (5a). Climb the groove on the left wall above the wedged blocks. Entering the groove is not easy – it requires a bold and aggressive approach, but a small rock ledge on the left is soon reached. Continue up the groove more easily to sloping ledges beneath an overhanging wall. (Excellent belay in the crack).

3 20m (5a). A delightfully airy pitch. Traverse to the right beneath an overhang, at first slightly upwards, then delicately downwards to reach a small ledge. Step right and climb the wall just left of the black moss, to grassy ledges above Central Chimney. (Care needed to protect the second). Easy Terrace is easily reached up to the left.

Adhara 54m E4 1991

The upper pitch of this thin route climbs directly up the Central Wall to the left of Central Chimney. Start as for Sirius.

1 24m (5a). As for Sirius.

2 30m (6a). Step out left into the grooveline of Sirius. After about 6 metres pull onto the undercut wall, up and right of here, to gain a peg. Step right delicately to enter a hanging niche, directly above the belay. Climb out of the apex of the niche with difficulty and follow the slabby wall directly to a right facing corner high above. Step left and follow the centre of the headwall to the top.

*** Southern Slabs** 40m MS 1920

Between Central Chimney and the ridge of 'C' Ordinary Route is a sweep of quartz-splashed slabs, which are taken by this delightful route. Begin by scrambling up towards the foot of Central Chimney. Belay on the right, below the quartz marked slab.

1 18m. A pleasant upward traverse to the right leads to a small grass ledge. Move up for a couple of metres, then follow a line of flakes leftwards across the slab to a series of rock ledges (just right of Central Chimney).

2 22m. From the belay, traverse delicately right for about 9 metres. Climb the slabs directly, keeping left of the crowds on 'C' Ordinary Route. A couple of metres up is a well scratched rock ledge, just below the 'large slab' on the 'C' Ordinary Route. Move left and climb the mossy slab to reach a grass ledge and belay. Go right and finish up 'C' Ordinary Route.

Variation

The detour into Central Chimney can be avoided by climbing the slabs directly above the initial small grass ledge to rejoin pitch 2 at the end of the 9 metre traverse. This is slightly harder than the normal way.

Lazarus 38m VD 1923

Pleasant climbing, taking a line just left of the prominent overhang half way up 'C' Buttress. Start in a rocky recess around to the left of the toe of the buttress, at the foot of the grassy scramble to Central Chimney.

1 20m. Climb directly up the clean slabs on good holds to reach a grass ledge about 9 metres below the overhang.

2 18m Continue directly over easy rocks to a ledge immediately below the overhang. Move up to the left edge of the roof and step boldly left, using small positive holds, onto the wall above. After a short ascent step right across an awkward sloping slab, where easier climbing leads to a stance on 'C' Ordinary Route.

It is more convenient to descend 'C' Buttress from this point than to follow the hordes up to Easy Terrace.

***** 'C' Ordinary Route** 100m D 1904

A classic of its grade. This is probably the most popular route on the crag, and rightly so. The climb becomes much more difficult under cold and wet conditions, and it has been known for ill-equipped parties to get into trouble. It has been cynically suggested that any route description is superfluous as, "if the rock's not polished, you're off route", although many variations are in fact possible. Start just left of the lowest point of the buttress.

- 1 15m. Follow the flake crack up to a protruding block and then pass just left of three small triangular overhangs up the crest of the buttress to the top of a long flake. The slab on the left is a pleasant variation.
- 2 16m. Follow the slabby scoop, leading to easier ground. Scrambling leads to a big ledge, with a fallen flake lying on it, below a steep wall.
- 3 10m. From the left end of the ledge follow a scoop up right to a ledge (the steep wall can be climbed direct but is harder).
- 4 16m. Trend back left across the slabs to reach a ledge on the edge of the buttress. Follow this directly to another large ledge.
- 5 13m. Step onto a large slab above which leads rightwards to ledges. Continue to the one at the top of Branch Chimney, which has spectacular views into Intermediate Gully.
- 6 13m. The flake system in the steeper wall on the left is obvious. This leads leftwards, under a prow, followed by an awkward and exposed crack to its top. A stance and belay exist up and right.
- 7 17m. Move right along the slabs to a good ledge. Follow a gangway rightwards round a bulge to another ledge. Pull up to the left and traverse horizontally left until easy rocks lead to Easy Terrace.

*** Hawk Route** 52m S 1917

A pleasant route up the clean slabs right of 'C' Ordinary Route. Start by scrambling 15 metres up the lower part of Intermediate Gully and onto the grass ledges on the left, to reach the foot of a steep slab.

- 1 13m. Climb the slab rightwards, close to the gully edge. Move back left below a steeper section and follow the obvious cracked blocks to a ledge. Block belay on the left.
- 2 21m. Climb the wall above and just left of the block directly to a good rock ledge. Step right and climb the steep wall on good holds to large ledges on 'C' Ordinary Route. Belay up and right, overlooking Branch Chimney.
- 3 18m. Follow the flake line on 'C' Ordinary Route leftwards for a short way before pulling over a steep wall to reach a shallow recess. Move up and right, over a bulge to a slab, which leads to a ledge. Pull over the final short steep crack above to reach Easy Terrace.

*** Charmer** 52m HVS 1992

A fine open route taking the steep arête just left of Intermediate Gully. Start 10 metres up the bed of the gully, where a series of curving scoops lie on the left wall.

- 1 16m (4b). Climb the scooped slab to a short right facing corner overlooking the gully, which leads to a grass ledge.
- 2 24m (5a). Traverse right to reach the foot of the arête. Climb this direct on good holds to boldly reach a ledge on the arête at 12 metres. (This is on pitch 1 of Eliminate 'C'). Move up to a grass ledge and follow the easier rib above to a belay, where Branch Chimney meets 'C' Ordinary Route.
- 3 12m (5a). Directly above is a steep hanging corner, just to the right of a large nose of rock. Climb this past some awkward shelving holds to reach a ledge on 'C' Ordinary Route. Scramble up to Easy Terrace.

**** Eliminate 'C'** 46m VS 1922

A very enjoyable route, providing delicate climbing in an exposed position high on the left of Intermediate Gully. Start from the large ledge at the top of pitch 1 of the Intermediate Gully.

- 1 14m (4c). Climb the slab out leftwards, using a diagonal (often greasy) crack beneath an overlap to start. Step left onto the wall to reach a small ledge. An awkward traverse left leads to an exposed ledge on the arête. Climb a crack above to reach a grass ledge.
- 2 12m (4a). A shallow groove on the right leads up the wall above and around the arête on the right. Follow this easily to reach the large ledge on 'C' Ordinary Route, which overlooks Branch Chimney.
- 3 20m (4c). Move into the steep corner on the right. Traverse delicately right across the rough wall to reach an obvious (and slightly loose) spike on the arête overlooking Intermediate Gully – an exciting position! Climb up the arête to a gangway which runs back left towards easier ground and ledges. Scramble up 'C' Ordinary Route to Easy Terrace.

Branch Chimney 15m VD 1905

A narrow slab which leads from Intermediate Gully to the crest of 'C' Buttress. Hardly worthwhile (as it starts above the top of pitch 2 of Intermediate Gully) except as an escape from further punishment in the Gully. It can be reached easily from behind the detached block on 'D' Ordinary Route.

Climb the slab and crack, the initial 5 metres being the hardest.

**** Intermediate Gully** 52m MVS 1895

The deep cut crack separating 'C' and 'D' Buttresses. This is one of the greatest classic struggles in the Lakes. Despite the advances in equipment since the last century, the Gully still retains its reputation for difficulty, especially when wet. Begin by scrambling about 30 metres up the lower section of the Gully to a cave beneath the first pitch.

- 1 9m (4a). Climb the awkward crack and the right wall of a short chimney to a large ledge.
- 2 8m (4b). The troublesome chockstone above is climbed direct. Continue more easily to a ledge and a belay on the right.
- 3 21m (4a). The wide crack leads strenuously to easier ground. When it steepens again, climb the left wall to a recess below a jammed chockstone.
- 4 5m (4b). Another unsympathetic chockstone leads with considerable difficulty to a deep cave.
- 5 9m. From a small ledge on the right, stride left into a groove on the left wall. Follow a crack to Easy Terrace.

The gully can be continued to the summit of the mountain, however this is of little interest to the climber.

'D' Buttress

This is the conical buttress which swings round on the right-hand end to form part of Easter Gully. Most of the routes start by scrambling up the grass ledges from the right.

Descent. The easiest descent is made by striking across leftwards to reach a well worn platform at the right-hand end of Easy Terrace. This is followed leftwards. Alternatively, a fault line runs rightwards from the top of the buttress down towards The Amphitheatre of Easter Gully. This descent should only be taken if one wishes to climb a route starting from there (see The Scoop for details).

The Cage 30m HVS 1971

This rarely climbed route follows the hanging 'V' groove that cuts through the stacked overhangs right of Intermediate Gully. Start up Snibbo.

(5b). Climb the groove of Snibbo for a few metres. Cross the mossy wall on the left, above the overhang, to gain the hanging groove. A short difficult section leads to easier ground.

Snibbo 36m MVS1971

A poor climb which makes use of the dirty curving groove to the right of the stacked overhangs. Start from behind the detached block on 'D' Ordinary Route.

(4b). Step left from the block and climb the groove (awkward and dirty where it curves leftwards) to easier slabs above.

*** 'D' Ordinary Route** 52m VD 1904

A good buttress climb, open and clean, but not as fine nor as continuous as 'C' Ordinary Route. Start on a grass shelf in the centre of the buttress, below some steep slabs. This is reached by scrambling 30 metres from the foot of the buttress. Excellent flake belay.

- 1 10m. Climb the steep slab on the left, moving further left to belay behind a large detached block.
- 2 20m. Step off the large block with difficulty and continue up the right side of the arête to a ledge. Climb the slab above, and move right to ledges and belays a few metres higher in a recess.
- 3 12m. Climb a shallow groove on good holds for 7 metres, then traverse horizontally right along ledges and up to a stance overlooking Easter Gully.
- 4 10m. Scramble up and left to Easy Terrace.

Variation Falcon Variation 23m VD 1912

Start a couple of metres right of the Ordinary Route.

- 1a Climb the wall on good holds to a large obvious block above a narrow rock ledge. Step left and climb the groove until moves further left lead to 'D' Ordinary Route. This is followed right to a belay at the top of pitch 2.

*** Raven Route** 36m MS 1921

A pleasant climb up the walls to the right of 'D' Ordinary Route. Start 6 metres right of the embedded flake below 'D' Ordinary Route.

- 1 20m. The steep slab is climbed directly to a ledge. Step right and climb the wall via a shallow groove and bulge to a slab. This leads to a recess on the left.
- 2 16m. Climb directly to another recess (junction with 'D' Ordinary Route) which is vacated by a difficult wall on the right. Easy ground leads to a ledge at the top of Blizzard Chimney. Scrambling leads to Easy Terrace.

North East Climb 43m VD 1920

A pleasant enough outing up the well defined rib running up the buttress from the foot of Easter Gully.

- 1 16m. Directly up the rib, then a scoop, to a good stance.
- 2 9m. Climb up, then diagonally leftwards along a break to a grass ledge and shallow cave.
- 3 18m. Gain the grass ledges above the cave from the left. Traverse right and climb a crack to easier ground and a stance above Blizzard Chimney. Scrambling leads to Easy Terrace.

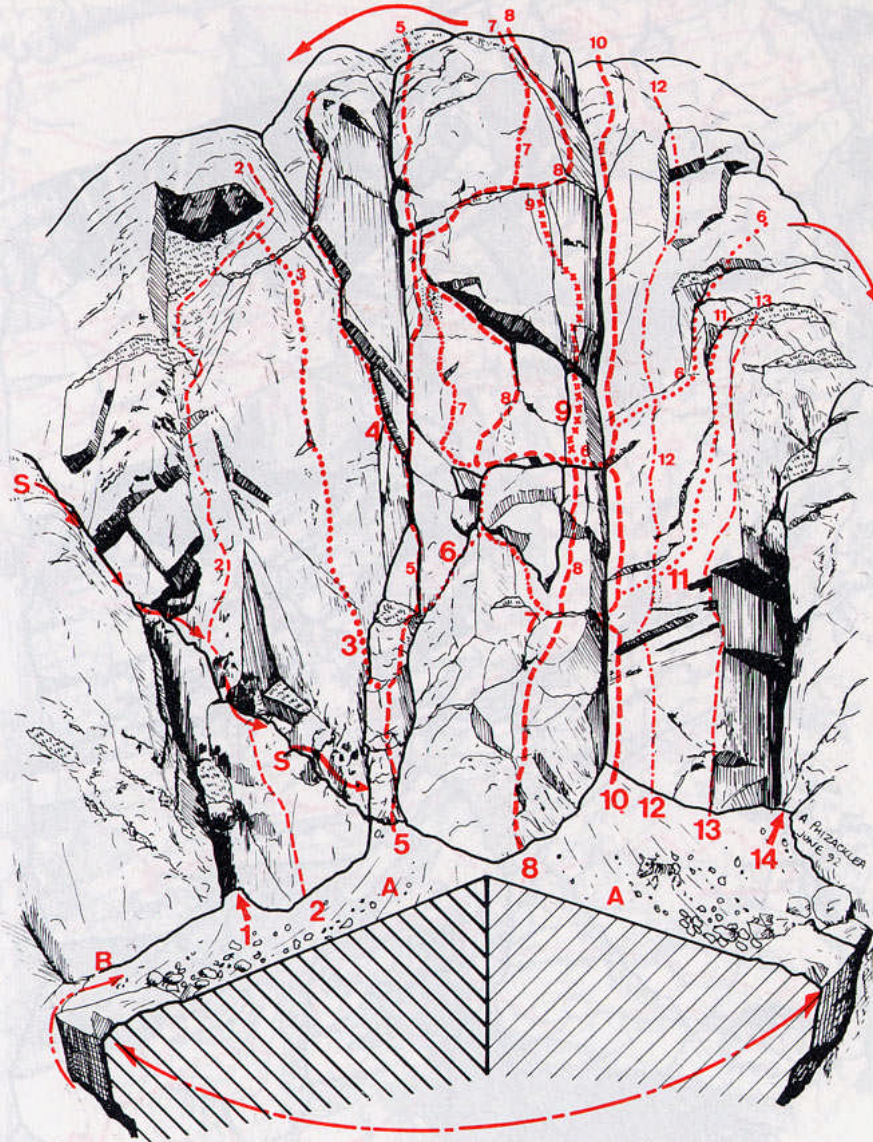
Easter Gully (The Amphitheatre)

Easter Gully divides 'D' and 'E' Buttresses and is, in section, like a vast funnel. At about 35 metres above the scree it is spanned by a huge chockstone, beyond which is The Amphitheatre, the starting point of many excellent routes of all degrees of difficulty. This chockstone can be surmounted by two routes, the easiest of which is on the left and is known as the Cave Pitch (M). The crack on the right is Severe. Care should be taken not to send loose stones or dead sheep (of which there are plenty) from The Amphitheatre onto climbers approaching from below.

Descents. From routes between Levitation and Hopkinson's Crack scramble up and left until a shallow grassy chimney leads down onto a broad grassy dome (the true top of 'D' Buttress). Walk right (looking out) into the easy top section of Intermediate Gully, and descend this to a well-worn platform on the right (looking out). This is the end of Easy Terrace which can be followed to the bottom of the crag. If you want to return to The Amphitheatre, walk left (looking out) from the well-worn platform, over a

pinnacle on 'D' Buttress to the top of South Chimney. This can be descended via an easy scoop on the left of the chimney back into The Amphitheatre.
 For routes finishing to the right of Hopkinson's Crack, it is best to traverse to the right across 'E' Buttress to descend via an easy grassy groove.

DOW CRAG – Easter Gully (The Amphitheatre)



- | | | | |
|-----------------------|-----|-----------------------|-----|
| 1 South Chimney | D | 10 Hopkinson's Crack | HS |
| 2 Levitation | S | 11 North Wall | HS |
| 3 National Health | E3 | 12 Easter Rising | E2 |
| 4 Murray's Crack | HS | 13 Black Wall | HVS |
| 5 Broadrick's Crack | HS | 14 Black Chimney | D |
| 6 Jones' Route | VD | | |
| 7 Dow Jones Index | E4 | A The Amphitheatre | |
| 8 Great Central Route | HVS | B Approach Scramble | |
| 9 The Norseman | E4 | S The Scoop (Descent) | |

Note: The bed of the gully has been opened out like a book to display the three walls of The Amphitheatre.

Blizzard Chimney 35m D 1910

A pleasant exit from The Amphitheatre.

Follow the obvious slabby V-groove leading on to 'D' Buttress, starting from just above the huge chockstone. Once on 'D' Buttress continue left to reach Easy Terrace.

Private High 22m HVS 1992

A delicate little line up the rounded rib just right of Blizzard Chimney.

(5a). Move onto a small spike and continue up the rib directly until a slight scoop just left of the overhang is reached. Pull up right above the overhang to reach easy ground above The Scoop.

Blizzard Ridge 27m MS 1921

A poor route.

Follow a grassy line diagonally leftwards from the foot of South Chimney to a ledge below and right of the overhang. Move up and right on mossy rock to reach easy ground.

South Chimney 18m D 1899

An old favourite cutting deeply into the left wall of The Amphitheatre.

Surmount the chockstone and follow the strenuous chimney, facing left, to finish over a bulge. Easy ground leads to Easy Terrace.

The Scoop 18m M 1880s

Only important as a means of descent, or as an easy escape from The Amphitheatre. Start right of South Chimney at the foot of Broadrick's Crack.

Follow the diagonal flake line across the steep wall on the left, passing a block, to reach the easy upper section of South Chimney.

Levitation 51m S 1947

Interesting enough. Starts between South Chimney and Broadrick's Crack.

- 1 12m. Climb steep and rounded rocks to a junction with The Scoop. Block belay.
- 2 18m. Move up and then back right and climb the steep wall into a groove. Follow this to a stance and block belay on the left.
- 3 21m. The groove leads to a grass terrace which is traversed leftwards to a gangway. Climb this to a small ledge at the left end of a large overhang. Surmount the overhang, move right and ascend to grass ledges.

*** National Health** 40m E3 1980

A fine challenging climb up the steep wall left of Broadrick's Crack which requires a degree of boldness, and membership of BUPA should one fail. Start 10 metres up Broadrick's Crack in a grassy bay.

- 1 28m (5c). Climb the wall left of the lower groove of Broadrick's Crack to a small groove and a poor spike. Move up and right to a good hold then make a hard move past the quartz splashes to a ledge. Continue up a slim light-coloured groove to a good ledge.
- 2 12m (4c). Climb the crack to below an overhang. Move right and follow a groove to the top.

Murray's Crack 52m HS 1918

The steep crack branching left out of Broadrick's Crack. Bold and awkward in places, but short.

- 1 25m. As for Broadrick's Crack pitches 1 and 2 to a small stance and thread belay.
- 2 18m. The wall on the left of the crack is climbed until an awkward niche near the top can be entered. Step left and continue right over grass ledges to belay below the right-hand groove above.
- 3 9m. Climb the groove to grassy ledges.

*** Broadrick's Crack** 60m HS 1902

A good climb of its type following the obvious long crack on the left of The Amphitheatre. The stances are small.

- 1 16m. The easy section to a stance.
- 2 9m. Climb the narrow right-hand crack above to a small stance and thread belay below the steep section of the crack.
- 3 21m. The steep section ahead is followed into the chimney to an awkward belay below the chockstone.
- 4 14m. Surmount the chockstone and continue over another to a grassy trough with belays up to the right.

To the right of Broadrick's Crack is the impressive pillar taken by Great Central Route. The obvious blocky ledge at 25 metres is known as The Bandstand. The following route uses this to cut across the wall.

Jones' Route 42m VD 1898

A pleasant wandering route. Begin as for Broadrick's Crack.

- 1 27m. Climb Broadrick's Crack for 15 metres until cracks on the right can be followed, with a steep awkward finish onto The Bandstand.
- 2 15m. Cross The Bandstand to the right and step into Hopkinson's Crack. Continue traversing for 5 metres to the foot of a deceptively easy-looking scoop. Climb this to easy ground.

Dow Jones Index 55m E4 1992

Good steep climbing left of Great Central Route. Start up that route.

- 1 25m (5a). Climb Great Central Route to the ledge below the South America Crack. Step left onto a grassy ledge and follow the left-hand branch of the crack around the arête to join Jones' Route, which leads to The Bandstand.
- 2 24m (6a). From the pointed block on the left, step across to a diagonal crack and arrange gear in a thin crack above. Climb into a shallow scoop which leads boldly to a slight overhang. Pull out left using a superb pocket (essential skyhook runner), rocking over leftwards to reach small holds on the wall above (wire). Climb directly over the top onto an easy mossy slab which leads to Broadrick's Crack. Follow this for a couple of metres before pulling back right onto a ledge on the front of the pillar (on Great Central Route).
- 3 6m (6a). Just right of the centre of the bubbly wall above, reach some poor holds and boulder up to the top. Short climbers will have to take the arête on the right.

**** Great Central Route** 60m HVS 1919

A climb of great character up the imposing pillar in the centre of The Amphitheatre. A major breakthrough for its time – even with the use of combined tactics (a method still occasionally employed today!). A superb blend of strenuous and delicate climbing in a position of great exposure. Start at the foot of the pillar.

- 1 24m (5a). Climb the nose and the pleasant slabs rightwards to a ledge below a steep crack, 3 metres left of Hopkinson's Crack. This is the infamous South America Crack. Climb it strenuously, exiting left onto The Bandstand ledge.
- 2 24m (5b). As delicate as the previous pitch was strenuous. Start from the sloping left-hand side of the ledge, just left of a slight nose. Climb the thin crinkly wall to slightly better holds, move right, and up to a good little ledge (crux). Follow the crackline above to the large diagonal overhang. Traverse left under this, across the mossy slab to join Broadrick's Crack. Up this for a couple of metres, then step right onto a ledge on the front face of the pillar.
- 3 12m (4b). Traverse rightwards along the ledge and move round the grossly exposed corner (look down!). Finish up the pleasant slabs above.

Variations

If the wall is too bold for the old:-

2a (5a). Climb the vertical crack above the right end of The Bandstand. This leads to the diagonal overhang where a horizontal traverse left allows the main line to be rejoined.

For those both bold and old:-

2b (5b). Take the shallow scoop right of the slight nose, passing an obvious slot to reach the good ledge.

* **The Norseman** 57m E41979

Difficult climbing in a fine situation up the arête at the top of the central pillar. Start as for Great Central Route.

1 24m (5a). Pitch 1 of Great Central Route.

2 33m (6a). From the right end of the ledge a thin crack is followed to the diagonal overhang. Pull over this rightwards to a good rock ledge. The wall above to the peg runner is very committing. Move up again and step left around the arête. Climb the crack on the left side to easier ground.

*** **Hopkinson's Crack** 45m HS 1895

A superb old-fashioned crack climb taking the big corner on the right of The Amphitheatre.

1 15m. The crack is climbed directly to a good ledge on the left, below the South America Crack. Thread belay.

2 12m. Step back into the crack and continue with greater difficulty, exiting left onto The Bandstand ledge (phew!).

3 18m. Follow the wider crack directly to easier ground. (Some of the flake holds are not above suspicion).

North Wall 30m HS 1913

The diagonal line across the right wall above pitch 1 of Hopkinson's Crack.

1 15m. Pitch 1 of Hopkinson's Crack.

2 15m. Climb the crack to an obvious traverse line on the right wall. Traverse for 6 metres and follow the grooves up and rightwards to easier ground.

* **Easter Rising** 46m E2 1982

A direct line up the wall to the right of Hopkinson's Crack which gives continually interesting climbing. Start at the foot of Hopkinson's Crack.

1 25m (5c). Climb the wall on the right directly to an overlap (thread runner). Step left and surmount the overlap and smooth quartz wall above to ledges below a flake crack. Climb the wall 3 metres left of this crack, moving slightly left, to reach ledges and a belay above.

2 21m (5a). Move left into the vague crackline in the upper wall and follow it to the final hanging rib. Step right into the groove which leads to the top.

* **Black Wall** 30m HVS 1920

An enjoyable wall climb on a sunny day which follows the steep right-hand edge of the wall to the right of Hopkinson's Crack. This route, now well protected, was one of those that pushed forward the boundaries of what was once considered possible or justifiable.

(5a). Climb the steep little buttress on well-spaced holds to a rock ledge below an overhang. Move up to beneath the overhang and pull round the left side onto the wall above. Continue directly to ledges.

Black Chimney 25m D 1886

The short, deep chimney on the right wall of The Amphitheatre gives a climb of character.

1 10m. Climb up, facing right, to a large cave.

2 15m. Continue in the same vein outside the chockstone and the easier continuation to a final chockstone.

The area to the right of Black Chimney gives **Black Buttress** (21m, S, 1947).

'E' Buttress

This is the wide sprawling rock garden between Easter Gully and North Gully. The grassy nature of the buttress gives poor discontinuous routes. However, the rock that is exposed is solid and clean, and a couple of new routes have recently been added.

Left-Hand Route (Route 1) M 1886

Wanders up the rounded buttress to the right of Easter Gully. This route is only significant in that it was the first to be climbed on Dow. It can be used as a descent from the Black Wall routes.

Approximately 40 metres right of Easter Gully a wide grassy gully runs straight up the buttress. This is Route 2, a convenient descent for the following two routes.

Gimli 22m HS 1992

A short route on good rough rock. Start below a tufted crack in the slabby wall that faces the main crag, just up from the foot of Route 2.

Climb to the right of the crack and straight up the slab above to the top. Small belays.

Winstanley's Route 24m MS 1992

A pleasant route starting at the narrow entrance to Route 2.

Climb up and right onto the front of the buttress. Follow this directly to finish up a shallow groove running up and left.

Starting from the lowest point of 'E' Buttress about 100 metres past Easter Gully is:

Minor's Route 70m D 1918

A worthwhile alternative to the crowds on 'C' Ordinary.

Climb up and slightly right to a grassy terrace. Follow the edge of the gully on the right until the slabs vanish at a point where a grassy gully runs diagonally up from the left. Step left across the gap onto the main buttress and climb up to a huge field. Descend to the left. (The route originally continued to the summit using short isolated pitches).

Routes 3 and 4 climb the broken rocks on the right of the buttress, which overlook the edge of North Gully.

North Gully

This section of the crag has been much maligned and neglected in the past, to the extent that it was virtually ignored in the previous two editions of the guide. The accusations of loose and dirty rock only applies in certain areas, and where this applies it is indicated in the following descriptions.

The atmosphere, previously described as oppressive, is actually rather impressive, and the slabby right wall receives more sun than most other parts of Dow. It is not a popular venue, so prepare to have the place to yourself, even on a busy bank holiday.

North Gully is the large rift capped by overhangs about 250 metres right of Easter Gully. Scramble up the scree bed and leave your sacks on the grassy ledges on the right, just below the steeper rocks.

An abseil point has been set up at the top of the right wall (in 1991 – it will need replacing every few years), from where a 50 metre abseil just reaches the scree bed of the gully. Descents from other routes should be made carefully down the grassy buttresses on either side of the gully.

North Gully – Ordinary Route 55m HS 1901

A dank and poor expedition. Start at the top of the scree where the gully bed steepens.

- 1 20m. The easy rocky gully leads to a grassy bay.
- 2 11m. Continue up to a green cave.
- 3 11m. Move out right delicately for 5 metres, then up to a ledge below some enormous overhangs. Trend back into the gully to belay below a crack.
- 4 13m. Climb the crack on the left to a ledge at 7 metres. Escape leftwards up a rough slab to reach a grass terrace on 'E' Buttress. Descend down here (Route 4).

North Gully – Broadrick's Route 58m HS 1900

Avoids the dank section of the gully on the left.

- 1 20m. As for the Ordinary Route.
- 2 25m. Climb the slab on the left to a small ledge and continue up a dirty groove. A rising traverse rightwards around a nose enables the Ordinary Route to be rejoined at the top of pitch 3.
- 3 13m. As pitch 4 of Ordinary Route.

To the right of the gully are some huge overhangs. The next route makes a flanking attack on these, starting from the grass bay at the top of pitch 1 of the North Gully.

High Life 32m E21991

The fairly poor start is compensated for by an exciting finish.

(5b). From a slight rocky rib in the back of the gully pull onto the right wall. A line of dirty grooves and cracks lead directly to the right-hand side of the brooding overhangs. Pull strenuously round the roof to enter a long slim groove, which is followed directly to the top and the abseil block.

Gate Crasher 36m E2 1991

A direct line through the Variation Finish to Pete's Party giving good clean and fairly sound climbing. Start in the grassy bay above pitch 1 of the North Gully.

- 1 25m (5b). From the lowest point of the grass climb diagonally up and right to a slight nose above the overhanging rock (as pitch 3 of Pete's Party). Climb the nose directly, past a grass ledge, until below a square-cut niche to the left of some small overhangs. Climb the niche directly to a good ledge and belay by a tiny sapling.
- 2 11m (4b). The crack above leads to a large pinnacle (detached but immovable). Pass this on the right to reach the abseil block.

Acid House 41m E4 1991

A good sustained trip, and with the exception of the first 10 metres, on excellent clean rock. Start as for Gate Crasher.

- 1 30m (6b). From the lowest point of the grass, traverse down and right across a slab until below the bulging rocks. Climb strenuously up into a short right-facing groove. After a couple of moves step right onto a clean wall, just left of the big groove of Quest. Climb this wall, past a rock ledge. Continue through a break in the small overhangs, moving left below the grass to reach a small mossy ledge. Climb up to the overhangs above, using the nose to the right of a square-cut niche. The fingery wall leads dynamically to a good horizontal slot, then a mossy slab leads to a belay on Gate Crasher.
- 2 11m (4b). As pitch 2 of Gate Crasher.

Pete's Party 56m VS 1959

A wandering line, picking out the dirtiest rock on the right wall. Now superseded by more recent routes, so only an outline is given here.

- 1 16m (4b). Pitch 1 of Quest.
- 2 9m (4b). Traverse left under the bulging rock to the grassy bed of the gully.
- 3 19m (4c). Follow pitch 1 of Gate Crasher to the nose. Step right into a grassy groove. Up this to the overhang, then back left and up to a flake belay (no stance).
- 4 12m (4a). Climb up right over mossy slabs to reach grass.

Variation Finish 28m VS

Start at the top of pitch 3.

- 4a 6m. Traverse left along ledges to the foot of a flake crack.
- 5a 11m (4c). Climb the flake crack, then move back right to a belay by a tiny sapling.
- 6a 11m (4b). As pitch 2 of Gate Crasher.

Quest 44m VS 1947

An interesting route up the deeply-cut groove in the right wall of the gully. The rock on pitch 1 needs some care. Start at the top of the scree, below the steepening bed of the gully.

- 1 16m (4b). Climb the wall on the right of the gully for 12 metres. Step left and continue up to a grass ledge below the groove.
- 2 17m (4b). Climb the groove, utilizing a crack in its right wall until it narrows. Step out right onto the edge and move up to a grass ledge. Continue up a short crack to reach a large ledge. (The original line took an inferior crack and groove about 6 metres to the right).
- 3 11m (4a). The arête above is climbed to an awkward finish (pitch 4 of North Wall).

North Wall 50m HS 1934

A wandering but pleasant climb on sound rock. Start from a detached flake, on a ledge on the right (under the steepening rock), about 15 metres below the point where the gully steepens up.

- 1 13m. Step onto the wall above the flake and trend left for 3 metres. Climb the wrinkly wall above, with an awkward move onto a grass ledge. A better belay can be found on a higher ledge.
- 2 12m. From the lowest point of the first ledge step out right to climb a crack in the wall, which leads leftwards. Finish up a rib to a block belay, above a mossy chimney.
- 3 14m. Climb the arête above to a rock ledge on the left. Continue diagonally left to reach a corner with a thin crack. The easier rocks on the right lead to a ledge below a sharp arête.
- 4 11m (4a). The arête above is climbed on small holds to an awkward finish.

Real Chimney (15m, M, 1907) is found about 25 metres right of North Gully, above a little grass buttress.

*** The Girdle Traverse** About 300m VS 1922

A long expedition (to say the least), which starts up Trident Route and crosses the entire crag to finish up North Wall in Easter Gully. Out of the many interesting pitches, the crossing of Central Wall is definitely the crux, and is probably worth HVS. The abseils add to the traditional character of The Girdle, but only the one on 'A' Buttress is absolutely necessary. The route is naturally divided into the individual buttresses of the crag and the description follows these divisions for the numbering of the pitches.

'A' Buttress

- 1 21m. Pitch 1 of Trident Route; then follow a grass ledge down round the corner to the right to belay on Gordon and Craig's Route.
- 2 16m (4a). Traverse horizontally right and make a descending traverse to gain the ledges beneath the very large overhangs. Traverse right to a good belay (The Waiting Room).

3 24m (4b). The groove of The Balrog is crossed by a descending traverse to the horizontal ledge line. Follow this rightwards to a large flake (Hyacinth Traverse). Continue to the Raven's Nest on Eliminate 'A'.

Abseil 24 metres down Eliminate 'A' and continue down into Great Gully.

'B' Buttress (Upper Section)

Can be avoided by moving straight to the lower section.

1 15m. Climb the crack on the left, as for Great Gully, and follow a ledge out of the gully to the right to belay on Broadrick's Route.

2 18m. Follow pitch 2 of Broadrick's Route diagonally rightwards, round the edge into an obvious corner. Descend to Giant's Crawl and belay. Abseil down the impending wall onto Easy Terrace. Cross this and find where Giant's Corner exits from below the large overhang.

'B' Buttress (Lower Section)

1 15m. Descend Giant's Corner and traverse the slab below the large overhang to the far end, block belay.

2 23m (4b). Make a difficult descent, round to the right, onto Murray's Route. The flake line is traversed rightwards. Go down a chimney, across again and down a steep crack into Abraham's Cave (pitch 3 of Murray's Route in reverse).

3 30m. Climb the steep wall on the right of the slab and easier rocks to a large terrace. Follow Pilgrim's Progress diagonally rightwards to the block belay below the impending wall of Giant Grim.

4 18m (4c). The steep wall from the top of the block, then move rightwards, to belays below a crack forming the left side of a pillar (pitch 4 of Eliminate 'B').

5 10m (5a). Follow pitch 5 of Eliminate 'B' across Central Wall, to the easier ground above the top of Central Chimney. A slightly easier variation is pitch 3 of Sirius, the start of which is 3 metres below the belay.

'C' Buttress

1 17m. Descend into the cave of Central Chimney and traverse horizontally rightwards to belay on 'C' Ordinary Route above Branch Chimney.

2 18m (4c). Pitch 3 of Eliminate 'C' is followed across the wall to the spike on the right and up the arête until a ledge leads into Intermediate Gully.

'D' Buttress/Easter Gully

1 15m. Step down and follow the flake line under the overhangs onto a projecting ledge of rock on the edge of the buttress. Continue to a stance on 'D' Ordinary Route.

2 12m. Descend 4 metres and traverse horizontally right into Blizzard Chimney.

3 12m. Climb out right and follow broken ledges which lead into South Chimney.

4 18m. Easy scrambling across Broadrick's Crack and slabs to a good belay at the foot of South America Crack.

5 15m. Move up Hopkinson's Crack and follow North Wall diagonally rightwards to ledges.