The Wainstones is one of the original climbing venues of the North York Moors, the old guys were attracted by the twinned mini-towers of the Needle and the Steeple as well as the superb aspect of the craq. Over a hundred years on, the place is still well worth a visit. There is a good spread of grades to go at, the rock is excellent hard

Wainstones

	Star	144	1	120
Mod to S	9	12	2	1
HS to HVS	9	10	2	-
E1 to E3	4	6	2	2
E4 and up	1	4	-	-

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sandstone and the setting is a delight. Despite all the attractions the Wainstones are a lot less popular than they used to be, maybe it is a fashion thing.

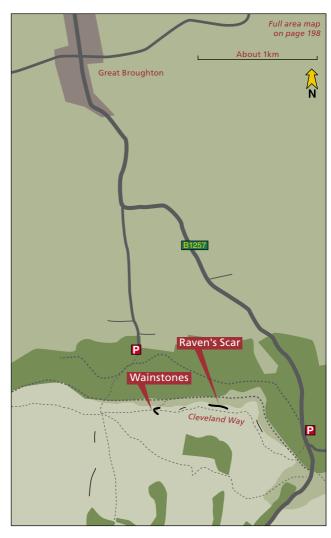
### **Conditions**

The main section of the crag faces south west and gets loads of sunshine and wind a-plenty too. The left-hand side of the craq is equally exposed to the wind but only gets the sun late in the afternoon in the summer. The whole crag takes little drainage and dries rapidly after rain.

# Approach

There are two commonly used approaches, a short and brutal one, and a more leisurely version. For the former, head out of Great Broughton and take the minor road off a bend just south of the village. Drive straight towards the hills and park carefully at the end of the lane. A good track winds steeply up through the forest until a fence on the edge of the open moor is reached. Cross this and flog up the final steep slope to the cliff. Alternatively, park in the large car park near the top of Hasty Bank, on the B1257, Cross the road and follow either the steep path through the trees or the Cleveland Way path a little further up the road. Either way soon reaches a good track that undulates west through the upper edge of the trees, passing under Raven's Scar to intersect the other approach right under the Wainstones.

It is also possible to climb up the ridge and follow the flagged path along the crest (Cleveland Way), passing above Raven's Scar, to arrive on top of the cliff. This is the preferred route to take home because of the stunning views.









routes are short and they don't get much sunshine so tend to be green. Good on hot days though. 💶 Broughton Ridge. . . . . . . . **VDiff** 6m. Hop onto the polished arete from the left. Direct is 5a. Bench Mark Crack.... HS 4h 7m. The short corner is tricky. FA Arthur Barker late 1920s E1 6a 7m. The tiny groove just right is almost always green. FA. Paul Ingham 1982 4 Psycho Syndicate . . 🕮 🐧 💃 E4 6b 8m. The desperate wall via a couple of peg scars. FA. Paul Ingham 1984 Tiny's Arete Direct . . . . 🕮 💃 HVS 5h

8m. The taxing arete is started from the left.

Tiny's Dilemma Direct . . 🥨 🐧

🚺 Tiny's Dilemma ...... 💢

🔞 Morning Wall . . . . . . . . . . 🎎

onto a good foothold. Continue direct.

finish through the notch above.

8m. Climb the wall avoiding the crack to the right.

8m. Climb the cracked corner until it is possible to stride left

6m. Balance up the centre of the delicate slab to a ledge and

FA. Chris Shorter 1977

**Broughton Buttress** 

The left-hand side of the cliff is the least popular, the

**VDiff** 9m. A widening chimney to the ledge, move left under the roof to join the final moves of Tiny's Dilemma. The Sheep Walk is the wide slanting gully that splits the cliff at this point. The next routes are at the top right side of the gully. u Green Wall 5m. Climb the wall (steep) using a thin crack. Often less green than it looks. FA. Bill Dell 1958 🛈 Sheep Walk Slab . . . . . 🕮 8m. A diagonal traverse heading up and right to finish up the short chimney on the right. FA. Arthur Barker late 1920s Flake, Wall and Crack . . . . . 6m. Start from a flake protruding from the lower end of the Sheep Walk. Clamber onto a ledge then climb the cracks above. 🔞 Solomon's Porch. . . . . . . . . 🌌 6m. Start around the arete at the wide crack. Climb this until the arete on the left can be reached for a finish. A start up the arete is about the same grade. FA. Phillip Horne 1945 6m. Leap and lurch up the arete just to the right. Loss of a holds has made this harder than it used to be.

FA. Tony Marr 1968

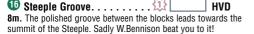
15 Humpty Dumpty . . . . . . . . . . 6m. From a finger-shaped block, climb the short slab then the sweet jamming crack above.

FA. Phillip Horne 1945

HVS 5a







9m. From the top of the blocks climb the centre of the steep tower with increasing difficulty. Bold - avoiding the arete is hard.

# Steeple Chimney . . . . . 🎎

9m. Use blocks to enter the chimney splitting the south face of the Steeple. Inside is secure but a thrash, outside is less of a battle but bolder

# 8m. Sketch up the centre of the face right of the chimney until the

ledge on the arete can be reached. Finish up the arete. FA. Tony Marr 1979.

Chop Yat Ridge. . . . 
\$\mathbb{M}\$ 8m. Start at the foot of the west ridge of the Steeple. Climb the ridge to a horizontal break at 3m, then move right and climb the steep fingery face to easier ground.

Mod 7m. The easy polished groove to the right of Chop Yat Ridge leads to a junction with the upper part of Steeple Groove. FA. Maurice Wilson 1957

Between the Steeple and the Needle is Needle Gap, the rest of the routes described here are on the Needle.

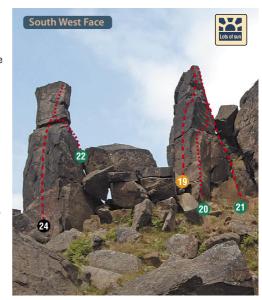
Diff 8m. From below the huge block, climb the arete to a ledge. Move left and climb the south face - polished. Beware, the descent is problematical.

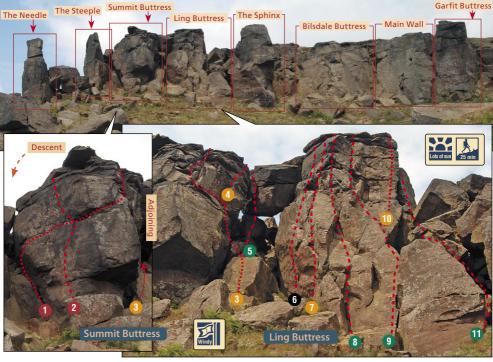
FA. Arthur Barker 1928

FA. B.Mankin 1955

🚳 North Route . . . 🕸 🌌 8m. Climb a thin flake and make a long reach to pass the awkward bulge (flat holds and bold), continue using the sharp arete. FA. Brian Evans 1959







# Summit Buttress and Ling Buttress

The main south west-facing section of the Wainstones starts with a couple of nice buttresses, one steep and undercut and the other more slabby.

💶 Summit Crisis . . . . 🗯 📢 🦨



12m. Climb the deep groove then finger traverse the thin crack rightwards to the good holds on Bird Lime. Continue right to the arete and finish up (or down) Little Bo-Peep.

FA. Tony Marr 1997

🥝 Bird Lime . . . . . . 🏗 🐧



8m. From atop a jutting block, pull onto the wall and climb rightwards (brittle flakes) to a pocket. Head leftwards to the top. Bold!

FA. Miles Mosely 1965

Little Bo-Peep . . . . . . . . 😂 🌌



12m. Excellent and airy. Climb the block in the gully then step up and traverse left out to the far arete; the tall can reach a useful foothold, the short will have to dangle. Finish up an exposed shallow groove. FA. Tony Evenett 1951

8m. Follow Little Bo-Peep to the start of its traverse. Gird your loins then head up the steep shallow groove above. Short lived but strenuous and graded Severe for years.

😈 Cantilever . . . . . . . . . . . . 🎎

8m. Climb up the slab in the gully (as for the previous climbs) then continue up and over the outside of the big chockstone.

8m. The desperate leaning wall of the gully is climbed using a series of shallow undercut finger-flakes. Finish up the arete. FA. Ian Dunn 1978. Named after Chris Shorter's tumble from the last move when a hold snapped. Fortunately (!) he landed on his sister who slept below.

Ling Arete .....

8m. The right arete of Peel Out, on its left side, via a series of small steps. Awkward and with poor protection until a good jug marks the start of easier climbing.

FA. Franco Cookson 2007

🚯 Ling Buttress . . . . . . . . . 😫 💃

10m. Climb into an A-shaped niche, stride awkwardly out of this onto the arete on the left then continue up this. A good climb, sustained and well protected. A direct version is a little harder. FA. Arthur Barker late 1920s

10m. Start in a right-slanting corner at the base of the buttress. Climb the corner and a short tricky groove (harder if the big ledge is avoided) then trend left to finish up the short steep and awkward crack to a shelving exit.

FA. Jack Devenport 1939

10m. Follow Groove and Crack until it starts to head left. From here continue straight up the left-hand side of the steep arete.

Talcon Rib.......

Diff

10m. Up the right side of the slabby rib to ledges, then head up and left to finish up the short narrow chimney in the right wall of *Ling Buttress*.

The Sphinx



The Sphinx

The central feature of the face is the jutting headstone of the Sphinx. There are a couple of real classics here plus some less popular outings. Surprisingly, and unlike most rocks named after a Sphinx, this really does look like one, and from both sides too.

The Direct Start . . . 🗯 E2 5c 10m. The wall with the mouth feature provides a technical direct start to either of the next pair of routes.

FA. John Cheesmond 1960

2 West Sphinx Climb . 🔯 💯 💃 11m. From under the nose, move up left to below the overhang (poor improvised gear) and make a hard pull over. Move up to reach a thin horizontal crack and runners. Teeter left along this then escape up the arete.

FA. Harry Hall 1959

3 West Sphinx Direct . 50 🖾 🕻

**10m.** Superb bold and engrossing, and only a bit harder than the 1959 original version. Follow the bold start to West Sphinx Climb as far as the thin horizontal crack. Make a long move up to a pocket then slink off right to the forehead slab. Substantially harder for the short, especially the reach for the eye.

FA. Paul Ingham 1979

🗗 Black Knight. . . . . . . . . . 🔌 🖾 10m. A desperately technical outing that scales the chin via the peg-scarred crack that forms the 'Douglas dimple'.

FFA. Steve Brown (2 peg runners) 1986

10m. Pull into the hanging groove right of the chin then move slightly right and head up the wall by sustained fingery climbing. FFA. Paul Ingham (1 peg runner) 1979

5 Terrorist ..... 🗯 🌽 🥂 🐯

📵 Walk on the Wild Side. . 🅰 🐧 E3 5c 10m. A squeezed line up a short capped groove. Climb the groove and up the face (fingery and harrowing) to reach a flake. Sprint up this to the break (runners!) then finish straight up the face.

FA. Martin Parker 1992 East Sphinx Direct . . . . 🕮 📢 10m. Pull up to the hanging crack in the centre of the South Face

and climb it and the wider continuation. Head up this to the crest and the airy summit. All over after the first few moves. FA. Harry Hall 1959

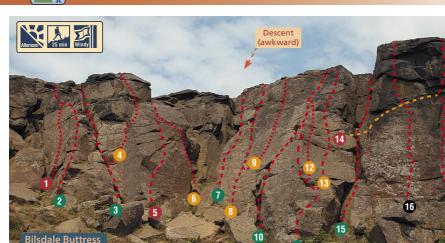
10m. Slight but pleasant. Start from a block in the gully and shuf-

fle left along the ledges to a good crack, which leads to a spike and the top.

9 Sphinx Nose Traverse . . . . [50] 14m. Excellent, a real midget gem. Follow East Sphinx Climb (or

East Sphinx Direct) but traverse left, heading for the eye, on a continually surprising set of holds, onto the exposed arete hanging in space. Step round onto the forehead and reach for the flutings. Lovely stuff. Photo on page 192 and 213. FA. Cliff Fielding 1954





Main Wall

#### Bilsdale Buttress and Main Wall

Another pair of pleasant buttresses with a collection of worthwhile lower grade routes in a sunny sheltered situation. As might be expected they are popular.

💶 Jackdaw Wall. . . . . . 🔃 🔀 🖾 E2 6a 7m. The smooth wall is climbed leftwards from a fingery layaway. The landing is poor, as is the gear.

🛂 Jackdaw Ridge . . . . . . . . . 🎎 10m. Follow the ridge (not much gear) until ledges lead leftwards.

③ Jackdaw Gully . . . . . . . . . . ↓↓; 10m. The left-slanting groove gives a good beginners' pitch.

HS 4b 9m. Climb the gully for a couple of metres then cross the right wall under the roof (small cams) making awkward moves out to the right to gain the security of a shallow groove. Finish up this. FA. Christopher Columb 1956

😈 The Bulge Super Direct . . . . 💹 E2 5b 8m. Start under the shallow groove and climb the wall on its right by technical and bold moves to slabbier ground. Sticking with the groove is Wilson's Groove a bold and precarious E3 6a. FA. Eric Penman 1959. FA. (Wilson's Groove) Dave Wilson 1982

VS 4c **9m.** From a block in the left branch of *Dusty Gully* climb the steep wall to a horizontal finger-crack. Traverse this leftwards past the bulge until an awkward step gains the slab. Heading straight up before the finger-traverse is The Bulge Direct, VS 4c. FA. Arthur Barker late 1920s

Dusty Gully is the twin forked rift and beyond this is Main Wall.

🚺 The Slab Climb Variation 🕮 🖾 9m. From an embedded flake climb straight up the edge of the slab with a tricky mantel, finish up steeper rock.

The Slab Climb. . . . 🎉 9m. A nice outing though protection is lacking. Climb the centre of the slab by at least one mantelshelf. Finish up a short groove.

**Garfit Buttress** 

Descent

9m. Start up The Slab Climb but branch right to a good foothold close to the next route. Continue by a decisive mantelshelf. FA. "An unknown climber from Halifax" 1959

10m. Start from a block and climb the prominent crack system to the top of the huge flake. Move up to a higher ledge and finish up a short shallow groove. Well worth doing.

FA. Arthur Barker late 1920s

Tidge Route...... 12m. Pull up to a ledge on the arete (phew - beefy) then continue to join the previous climb as it comes in from the left. FA. Jack Devenport 1939

🔱 Ridge Route Right-hand . . . 🔊 HVS 5a 12m. Pull onto the ledge as for *Ridge Route* then continue

laybacking up the right side of the arete throughout. Artificial, but it has its moments.

FA. Tony Marr 1972

🔞 Concave Wall . . . . . . . . 😫 💃 HVS 5b 11m. From the ledge on Ridge Route, step right into the centre of

the slab and climb direct by precarious climbing, with a particularly tricky move to get stood in the mid-height break. The break offers good gear (awkward to place) or a finger-hold. *Photo opposite*. FA. Stan Shout (1 peg runner) 1965

💶 Garfit Eliminate . . . . . . 🎎 🌠 E1 5b

18m. A wanderer, though with good moves and positions. Follow Concave Wall past its hard move, stride across the gully then climb diagonally across the steep face until the final steep crack of Virgin Wall offers an escape.

FA. Ken Jackson 1967

#### **Garfit Buttress**

The crag's last gasp is the tall steep tower of Garfit Buttress, home to some of the harder routes. The lack of protection on many climbs, and the capping roofs, ensure that some are exciting and exacting outings.

15 Mousehole Gully. . . . . . . . . Diff

10m. The awkward rift can be tackled at a variety of depths deeper is generally easier.

The Lemming Slab . Direction of the Lemming Slab . E4 5c 10m. The centre of the front face. Climb directly past two ledges, with a tricky move to reach a horizontal crack. Step slightly left (not as far as the arete) and climb direct to the second break and a projection. Continue in the same line by further hard moves.

Escaping out to the arete is a grade easier and less worthwhile. FA. Kelvin Neal 1990s. FA. (Direct Finish) Paul Ingham 1980

E2 5c

**10m.** Climb the shallow groove precariously on sloping holds to reach the overhang and runners, including a fat thread. Climb direct or slightly right to finish. The escape out right is a cop-out, otherwise the route is high in the grade.

FA. Terry Sullivan (3 pegs - well it was freezing) 1960 FFA. Tony Marr (finished to the right) 1965. FA. (Direct) Paul Ingham 1977 💶 Sesame . . . . . . . . 🗯

10m. Climb Ali Baba boldly to the overhang then follow the slanting rift rightwards to finish up a wide vertical crack FA. Terry Sullivan (in a blizzard!) 1960

🔱 Virgin Wall/Garfit Face . . . . . . | HVS 5a

8m. Start from the gully on the right edge of the buttress, stretch left for a flat hold then swing boldly onto the front face. Climb up to the wide vertical crack (Sesame) for a finish. Crossing the wall a little higher is easier and less exciting.

A Direct Start from the boulder is E1 5c.

FA. Johnny Clark 1956. The route's name was censored for many years how times change! FA. (Direct Start) Tony Marr 1980

The final routes are round to the right on the back of the block.

4 Lofty's Ease 6m. From a block, climb the right-hand side of the arete. Reachy.

4m. The centre of the short wall at the back of the buttress.

Below the crag is an extensive collection of boulders that have long been popular for whiling away the hours or honing techniques. Details of 40 of the best problems available here can be found in Climbing in North East England (2003).

